

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh

**IMPLEMENTATION OF THE CONVENTION
ON
THE RIGHTS OF THE CHILD**

**Written replies of the Government of the People's Republic Of
Bangladesh to the list of issues (CRC/C/BGD/Q/5) prepared by
the Committee on the Rights of the Child in connection with
the consideration of the Fifth Periodic Report of Bangladesh
(CRC/C/BGD/Q/5)**

**IMPLEMENTATION OF THE CONVENTION
ON THE RIGHTS OF THE CHILD
IN BANGLADESH**

Part I

1. With reference to paragraph 24 of the State party report and previous recommendations, please provide information on whether the State party intends to withdraw its reservations to article 14, paragraph 1, and article 21 of the Convention.

The Government of Bangladesh is reviewing the issue of possible withdrawing of the reservation to Article 14 (paragraph 1). Article 39(1) and Article 41(1) of the Constitution of the People's Republic of Bangladesh guaranteed the rights of the child regarding freedom of thought, conscience and religion. The withdrawal of the reservation to Article 14 (paragraph 1) needs to change the mindset of the people in the society.

As regards possible withdrawing of the reservation to Article 21, measures are being taken to develop favorable public opinion to this effect, through involvement of the non-government and civil society organizations as well as mainstreaming media. Although the custody of the child in Bangladesh is decided by the Guardian Ward Act, 1890 which is enforced by the decision of the competent court. The Children Act, 2013 provides the provision of the alternate care of the unidentified child through parental care by someone who is not biological parent. The officials of the department of social services will monitor the status of the child. The adoption of such special arrangement for the custody of the child will help to the withdrawal of the reservation to the Article 21.

2. Please provide updated information on the current status of laws and policies pending review or adoption, including the new Education Act and the draft law on the administration of juvenile justice.

The Children Act, 2013 has already been enacted. The acts which are being reviewed and under process are stated below:

- The Education Act, 2015 (draft) by the ministry of education.
- The Child Marriage Restraint Act, 2015 (draft) by the ministry of women and children affairs.
- The Ban on Corporal Punishment Policy and Guideline, 2015 (draft).
- The Domestic Worker's Protection Policy 2015 (draft) by the ministry of labour and Employment.
- The Victim witness Protection Act, 2015 (draft) by the ministry of law, justice and Parliamentary affairs.
- The Children Rules, 2015 (draft) by the ministry of social welfare.
- The Cyber Protection Act, 2015 (draft)
- The National Corporate Social Responsibility for Children Policy, 2015 (draft).
- The Prevention and Suppression of Human Trafficking Act, 2012 (Draft).
- Overseas Employment and Migration Act, 2013.
- The Disable Persons Protection and Rights Act, 2013
- The Neurodevelopmental Disabled Persons Protection Trust Act, 2013.

The Children Act, 2013 provides safeguards for the administration of justice for children who come to contact with it (victims, witnesses and offenders) with due regard to the child's dignity, age, gender, incapacities, maturity and so on. Child affairs police officers and

separate courts are mandated to specifically deal with cases involving child victims, child witnesses and child offenders. For children accused or found guilty of having committed a criminal offence, the Act introduces diversions through family conferencing, alternatives to detention and non-custodial sentencing to ensure that the deprivation of liberty will be used as a measure of last resort and in the shortest period of time.

The Act further provides that children subjected to deprivation of liberty will not be allowed to associate with any adult persons in jail/prison. Although a child accused of offences like murder, rape, robbery or drug dealing on attaining 18 years may be transferred from Child Development Centers to jail even before the trial is complete, such a child should be kept in a separate ward from the adult prisoners or other under-trial prisoners. When the child is kept in a safe home, the law provides that the child should not be kept in the company of adults or any convicted child offender. The juvenile prisoner while staying in prison can take elementary and religious or ethical education. They can also contact their family or relatives through letters and physical visits at jail premises.

The Act provides that it is the duty of the probation officer to ensure legal representation of the child including legal aid through the District Legal Aid Committee. Moreover, no court should proceed with the trial of a child without ensuring legal representation on his behalf. If no legal counsel is appointed on behalf of a child, the juvenile court will appoint a lawyer from the panel of advocates of the District Legal Aid Committee or of the Supreme Court to conduct the case. If the lawyer engaged for the child is regularly absent from the court without reasonable excuse, or his negligence in conducting the case is apparent, the juvenile court may release the lawyer and may treat his behavior as misconduct and report him to the Chairman of the District Legal Aid Committee, the Bar Council and the concerned Bar Association.

The juvenile court is supposed to complete a trial within 360 days of the child's first appearance before the court. If the trial cannot be completed within this time limit, the court will be given another 60 days as grace period to complete the trial. If the trial is not concluded within the extended time limit, the court will discharge the child. Any appeal or revision has to be disposed of within 60 days from the date it will be filed.

Ministry of Home Affairs appointed 597 Child friendly police officers in police stations to provide specialized services as stipulated in Children Act, 2013. The Ministry Also introduced community policing programme for involving community people to protect rights of women and children as well as aware people regarding their rights.

3. Please provide information on measures taken to revise the mandate of the Ministry of Women and Children Affairs to strengthen its role in coordination, monitoring and advocacy by establishing a Children department within the Ministry, both at central and local levels.

Children's Wing has been established in Ministry of Women and Children Affairs. The strengthening of the wing is in progress. A proposal for setting up a new Department of Children Affairs, with field level presence up to the upazilla (sub-district) level, had been submitted with the Ministry of Public Administration. The two Ministries are currently in the process of consultations with regard to the proposals.

4. With reference to paragraph 7.5 of the State party report, please provide information on the activities undertaken by the Child Rights Committee in the area of children's rights. Please indicate whether this mechanism is provided with authority as well as sufficient financial and human resources to monitor and address violations of human rights. Please also inform the Committee of any progress achieved in

developing and adopting Standard Operating Procedures (SOP) for handling complaints of Children's rights violation.

In view of the priority attached to protection and promotion of child rights, the National Human Rights Commission has formulated a Committee relating to the matters of Child Rights, Child Labour and Anti-Trafficking. The Committee is chaired by the Full Time Member of the Commission and comprises three of its Honorary Members. In order to make its composition broad-based and representative, the Committee has co-opted a number of international and non-governmental organizations such as UNICEF, World Vision, Child Rights Governance Assembly, Save the Children and Plan Bangladesh. Representatives of the concerned Ministries of the Government are also invited to the Committee's meetings.

The Committee monitors the compliance of Bangladesh's national laws with the provisions of CRC, implementation of relevant UPR recommendations, submission of report to the UN Child Rights Committee, and general issues of concern including corporal punishment, juvenile justice, child marriage, child labour, sexual abuse of children, trafficking and exploitation of children. The Committee had made a number of recommendations for incorporation in the Children Act, 2013. The Committee also submitted its First Stakeholders Report on Child Rights in Bangladesh to the UN Child Rights Committee in October 2014.

The Child Rights Committee works as per the mandate given to it by the National Human Rights Commission. The Commission has developed a draft set of Standard Operating Procedures for dealing with complaints received from children or from adults making such complaints on their behalf. In principle, the Commission may use its existing mechanisms to deal with complaints received from or on behalf of children. The National Human Rights Commission developed draft Standard Operating Procedures (SOP) to guide its personnel in handling complaints made by children and/ or adults on their behalf.

In making complaints management system computerized, transparent, credible, responsive and accountable, NHRC has made remarkable progress during the year, 2012. A series of steps undertaken towards this end including among others, perpetrating and application distribution of a Standard Operating Procedures (SOP) Manual, a Template for Custodial Death Report and on-line Complaint Management system and so on.

Moreover, Government of Bangladesh and the government of India formed RRRI (Rescue, Recovery, Repatriation and Integration) Taskforce and this taskforce gradually developed their own Standard Operating Procedure to overcome the complex process of rescue-to-integration of trafficked victims in both countries. The Ministry of Home Affairs developed a Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) for smooth and on scheduled Rescue, Recovery, Repatriation and Integration (RRRI) of victims of Human Trafficking. A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) has also been drafted for strengthening and effectiveness of RRRI Task Force of Bangladesh and India considering the frequency of the crime in both countries.

Implemented activities of RRRI Task Force:

- Two days Training on 'Child Friendly Interview Skill (CFIS)' was organized for 500 Law Enforcement Officers (250 Police Officers and 250 Border Guard Bangladesh (BGB) personnel) with support of a joint project between UNICEF and Ministry of Home Affairs (MoHA).
- From 01, January – 31, December, 2014 RRRI Task Force/MoHA received **applications** for repatriation of **1821 trafficked victims** from different countries, especially from India. Out of them MoHA issued repatriation order for 970 victims and took initiatives for their safe return through diplomatic channel following the Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) with coordination of RRRI Task Force member's

organizations (GO/NGOs) in both countries. Besides, five (2 Female, 2 Minor Girls & 1 Male) Indians National/victims were sent back to their native country through the support of RRRRI Taskforce.

- Repatriated victims of trafficking were identified and made case management of them for providing livelihood supports through UNICEF's Cash support program with MoSW in order to stop re-victimization of human trafficking and ensure social safety and security. Those victims will get needful livelihood support through UNICEF-MoHA implemented "ATMM" project.
- The ministry has reviewed and published two modules "SHUNTE SHIKHA" for providing training to LEA on "Child Friendly Interview Skills" for the trainers and trainee. Last year, from 25 Nov to 06 Dec 2014 the Training of Trainers (ToT) was provided to 42 Law Enforcement Agencies (19 Police officers, 06 Coastguard officers, 17 Border Guard Bangladesh (BGB) Officials) with support of a joint project between UNICEF and MoHA.
- The Human Trafficking (Deterrence and Suppression) Act, 2012 was enacted.

The work on development of SOP is on progress. So far SOP on human trafficking (inclusive of trafficking in children) has been developed.

- A National Helpline Centre for Violence against Women and Children of the Multi-Sectoral Programme on Violence Against Women and Children runs a 24 hours toll-free helpline (10921). This helpline is accessed both from mobile and land phones. The centre provides various services, information's to the woman and child victims of violence, their relatives at the time of crisis. The center also guides the victims and their relatives on the legal provisions, existing services operated by the Government and Non-Government Organizations.
- Ministry of Social welfare with the support of UNICEF is reaming another helpline exclusively for children (1098).
- Toll Free Helpline Project for Women and Children in SAARC Member Countries is underway with the financial support of SAARC Development Fund (SDF). The major objective of the project is to support trafficked women and children in the SAARC countries.

5. Please provide updated information regarding the application of child sensitive budgeting framework when formulating the national budget.

Ministry of Finance placed the report titled 'Budget Thoughts for Children', first of its kind in Bangladesh, during budget session for FY 2015-16 in the Parliament. In formulation of the child budget, the five ministries directly related to the development of children have been divided in three categories. Health and family welfare ministry falls under the category one while the education, and primary and mass education ministries come under the category two. Social welfare, and women and children affairs ministries fall under category three. Nearly Tk 15.17 billion has been allocated for the health ministry 'as investment in child health'. The figure represents 4.13 percent of the entire budget. Over Tk 96.46 billion has been earmarked for the education ministry 'as investment for children'. In current FY's revised budget, it was a little over Tk 91.88 billion. The allocation for primary and mass education ministry has increased to over Tk 139.12 billion for the new FY from over Tk 110.26 billion of the current fiscal. The total allocation for the ministries under category two

accounts for 10.72 percent of the total outlay. Under category three, social welfare ministry gets more than Tk 4.65 billion 'as investment for protection, welfare and development of children. The allocation was over Tk 3.66 billion in the revised budget for the current FY. Tk 3.12 billion has been allocated for the women and children Affairs ministry. The figure was more than Tk 2.64 billion in the current FY. Child Sensitive budgeting framework project named 'strengthening capacity for child focused budgeting in Bangladesh' (SC-CFB) has been taken by the Ministry of Finance with the support of UNICEF.

6. Please indicate the steps taken to make statistical data on children available, published and accessible. Please also provide information on steps taken to establish a comprehensive and coordinated system of data collection on the implementation of the Convention and its two Optional Protocols.

The Government has undertaken initiatives to further streamline collection and publication of statistical data on children. Recently, an initiative has been taken to monitor and report on the effective coverage of social services for children, with technical assistance from UNICEF. A trial has been conducted in nine districts by young female enumerators using smart phones and a mobile-based application to record questionnaire-based interviews with households. Data is then visualised almost in real-time on online dashboards. Once fully operational, this system will facilitate timely evidence-based decision-making on resource allocation for children. As per population census, total number of population of age 0 to 18 years is 60797612, where male is 31273837 and female us 29523775.

Some tables with statistical data are given below:

Table 1. Disability rate per 1000 population by age and sex in 2012

| Age group | Both sex | Male | Female |
|-----------|----------|-------|--------|
| 0-4 | 2.60 | 2.87 | 2.31 |
| 5-9 | 4.73 | 5.10 | 4.34 |
| 10-14 | 6.49 | 7.62 | 5.33 |
| 15-59 | 8.82 | 10.09 | 7.50 |
| 60+ | 46.71 | 47.06 | 46.37 |
| Total | 10.05 | 11.01 | 9.05 |

Source: Report of the Sample Vital Registration System (SVRS) 2012, December 2014, BBS

Table 2 Proportion of real child worker (10-14 years) in 2011

| Division | Both sex | Male | Female |
|------------|----------|------|--------|
| Barisal | 4.4 | 7.4 | 1.2 |
| Chittagong | 5.3 | 8.2 | 2.2 |
| Dhaka | 8.0 | 11.0 | 4.8 |
| Khulna | 3.7 | 6.5 | 0.7 |
| Rajshahi | 5.0 | 8.6 | 1.0 |
| Rangpur | 4.5 | 7.5 | 1.2 |
| Sylhet | 7.5 | 12.6 | 2.0 |
| Total | 6.0 | 9.1 | 2.6 |

Source: Child Equity Atlas: Pockets of Social Deprivation in Bangladesh, July 2013, BBS, UNICEF, BIDS

Table 3. Early marriage of women 20-24 years of age, Bangladesh, 2012-2013

| Division | Percentage married before age 15 | Percentage married before age 18 |
|------------|----------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| Barisal | 14.1 | 53.6 |
| Chittagong | 9.9 | 42.6 |
| Dhaka | 18.9 | 51.5 |

| | | |
|----------|------|------|
| Khulna | 23.9 | 61.2 |
| Rajshahi | 27.1 | 65.2 |
| Rangpur | 23.7 | 62.2 |
| Sylhet | 7.4 | 30.2 |
| Total | 18.1 | 62.3 |

Source: Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey 2012-2013, BBS

Bangladesh has signed to Optional Protocols the first one was “Rights of the child on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography” in this regard Government of Bangladesh and the government of India formed RRRI (Rescue, Recovery, repatriation and Integration) Taskforce and this taskforce gradually developed their own Standard Operating Procedure to overcome the complex process of rescue-to-integration of trafficked victims in both countries. The Ministry of Home Affairs developed a Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) for smooth and on scheduled Rescue, Recovery, Repatriation and Integration (RRRI) of victims of Human Trafficking. The Rules of Procedures under the Prevention and Suppression of Human Trafficking Act, 2012 has been drafted and is going to be finalized soon with technical support of IOM which will be helpful to execute the law in ensuring punishment to the traffickers. The rules will be the guidelines for key stakeholders to execute the PSHT Act, 2012. After passing the rules, Bangladesh government will be able to take necessary steps to establish The Human Trafficking Prevention Fund, forming National Anti-Human Trafficking Authority, Unified Code of Conduct for Shelter homes will be accelerated. In fact, activities of key NPA implementing agencies will get momentum after approval of the rules.

The Second Optional Protocol was “Rights of child on the involvement of children in Armed Conflict”- there is no Armed Conflict is prevailing now.

7. Please provide updated information on measures taken to harmonize the existing legislation on the minimum age for marriage, and bring them in line with the definition of the child in the newly enacted Children Act.

In Bangladesh, the minimum age of marriage for male is 21 years and female is 18 years. As per the Children Act, 2013, the minimum age of a child is 18 years.

In a recent meeting, on 15 September 2014, the Cabinet reviewed the updated draft Child Marriage Restraint Act, 2015, which has been approved in principle. The draft law is now awaiting further examination and vetting by the Legislative and Parliamentary Affairs Division under the Ministry of Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs. The concerned Division works through an inter-ministerial committee to ensure compliance of national laws with Bangladesh’s international obligations, including with the relevant provisions of CRC.

8. Please provide information on measures taken to ensure the effective implementation of the Births and Deaths Registration Act and to comply with the Committee’s previous recommendations, to increase raising campaigns amongst parents, implementation of a mobile registration system to reach remote areas and national electronic birth registration system.

The Birth and Death Registration Act, 2013 (Amendment) provides a legal basis for the establishment of the Office of the Registrar General, a permanent structure overseeing birth

and death registrations. It is expected that the Office of Registrar General will start functioning.

In July 2014, the government issued a circular to oblige health personnel countrywide to facilitate birth registration of newborn through immunization program with an aim to increase the rate of birth registration.

An online Birth Registration Information System (BRIS), through UNICEF's support, has been put in place. The system enables around 5,000 local registrars nationwide and in embassies abroad to register birth and death and issue official certificates through a web-based application. The online system replaces manual birth and death registration. The system incorporates reporting features to monitor the progress of registration including the rate of registration within 45 days of birth as mandated by the Birth and Death Registration Act. As of April 2015, BRIS has captured more than 131 million birth records. The figure is a combination of birth records migrated from manual registration books and new registration entries. The Birth and Death Registration Department of the LGED has introduced a new ICT-based facility to check the authenticity of the birth records issued. The Government has declared that birth registration is free for working child, disable and refugee child.

9. Please clarify whether all forms of violence, including corporal punishment, is now explicitly prohibited in all settings and whether legislation condoning violence, such as the 1909 Whipping Act, has been repealed.

Meanwhile, the High Court Division of the Supreme Court had given a directive to ban corporal punishment of children, which was subsequently disseminated among all educational institutions through a circular issued by the Ministry of Education. The High Court Division had also given a directive to enact a law to ban corporal punishment against children, which is presently being worked on. It has been decided to cover all educational institutions and workplace in the draft law.

In addition, the Ministry of Education has been conducting nation-wide awareness campaign, including through the mass media, against corporal punishment against children. The media has been sensitized to give wide publicity to legal action taken against any alleged perpetrator of corporal punishment against children.

A Committee headed by Additional Secretary, Legislative and Parliamentary Affairs Division, Ministry of Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs is preparing a draft comprehensive law to impose a legal ban on all forms of violence against children (inclusive of corporal punishment of children). The aforementioned Committee under the Ministry of Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs is entrusted with the responsibility to recommend repeal, amendment or updating of any laws in conflict with the Constitution and Children Act, 2013. The Children Act, 2013 prohibits all forms of corporal punishment.

According to the Labour Act, 2006 the age of working child is fixed up at 14. The general philosophy of Labour law is to prohibit all forms of child labour. But due to socio-economic condition it is not possible to eliminate child labour completely from Bangladesh within shortest possible time. Child labour still prevails in agriculture and other formal /informal sectors. In this connection the National Child Labour Elimination policy, 2010 creates the area to constant vigilance over the working environment of the children to make it congenial. If a child is engaged in any activities, he should not be engaged in an insecure and unhealthy environment, he should not perform such work that creates undue pressure on his/her physical and psychological health and social status. Moreover, a child must not be engaged in any work that should hamper his or her dignity or reputation.

Through SAIEVAC Bangladesh, a series of consultations were held in Dhaka, Chittagong and Patuakhali districts to bring about further legal amendments to the existing laws on prevention of violence against children. The recommendations emanating from the consultations have been submitted to the Ministry of Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs in March 2014.

10. Please inform the Committee of measures taken to protect girls from sexual violence both within and outside of marriage. Please provide information on steps taken to criminalize marital rape regardless of age, to enforce the Dowry Prohibition Act 1980 and legislation prohibiting violence against women and girls under 18 years, and to ensure that victims have access to the resources necessary to benefit from these legal protections.

- The High Court in its judgment and directives on 14 May 2009 provided guidelines to prevent sexual harassment in workplaces and educational institutions.
- The Executive Magistrates were given power to take steps under section 509 of the Penal Code in the schedule of the Mobile Court Act, 2009 to prevent sexual harassment of the girls and women.
- The Inter-Ministerial Committee headed by Hon'ble Minister of state of the Ministry of Women and Children Affairs provides overall guidance to prevent dowry and to create awareness in this regard.
- The National Women Development Policy 2011, the women and children repression prevention act, 2000, the Dhaka metropolitan ordinance of 1976, the pornography act, 2012, the domestic violence (prevention and protection) act, 2010, and the penal code 1860 provide various provisions to prevent sexual violence against children.
- Child Marriage Restraint Act, 1929 was revised by ordinance in 1984. In a recent meeting (15.09.2014) of the Cabinet the draft Child Marriage Restraint Act, 2015 has been approved on principle.
- Measures are being taken to protect girls from sexual violence both within and outside marriage -
 - Awareness development program has been launched through the school teachers for prevention of sexual violence.
 - Peer education program has also been arranged.
 - Orientation program has been initiated for the gate keepers regarding sexual violence.
- No marital rape has been recorded so far.
- Circulars have been issued by MoWCA directing the Deputy Commissioners and Upazila Nirbahi Officers to strengthen the enforcement of child marriage restraint Act, 1929, Dowry Prohibition Act and arrange campaign to prevent involvement of children in political activities.
- All the Upazila Nirbahi Officers were requested on 20.10.2014 by Ministry of Women and Children Affairs to strengthen the enforcement of preventing Child Marriage, Dowry and to arrange campaign at local level.

11. Please provide updated information on the establishment of the national child protection system to ensure protection of children, including children without parental or family care, at national, district and upazila levels.

- National Council for Women and Children Development (NCWCD) headed by Hon'ble Prime Minister provide policy guidance towards safeguard and protection of the women and children.
- National Children Policy 2011 and the Children Act, 2013 provide various provisions for promotion of children safety and security. There is a provision in the Children Act, 2013 to formulate child Welfare Board at National, District and Upazila levels. The structure has been put on motion.
- There are 6 Baby Homes, 1 Day care center and 6 divisional Safe homes and 6 Disable and orphan children training and rehabilitation centers under the ministry of social welfare.
- The committees of district and upazila are "District violence against women and children committee" and "Upazila violence against women and children committee" headed by deputy commissioners and upazila Nirbahi Officers respectively.
- On 18 December 2014, Ministry of Women and Children Affairs circulated that in VGD Program (Vulnerable Group Development Program) 1% allocation to adolescent girls through an official circular of the ministry. The circular directed to include 1% school going extreme poor adolescent girls in each union who attend school regularly, do not marry off at an early age and not engage in hazardous work.
- The Ministry of Women and Children Affairs have been established, National forensic DNA Laboratory and seven divisional DNA laboratories in Rajshahi Medical College Hospital, Chittagong Medical College Hospital, MAG Osmani Medical College Hospital in Sylhet, Sher-e-Bangla Medical College Hospital in Barisal and Khulna Medical College Hospital under the auspices of Multi-Sectoral Program on Violence against Woman (MSP-VAW)

12. Please provide information on measures taken to develop community and family support programs in order to prevent the institutionalization of children. Please also inform the Committee of the measures taken or envisaged to (a) develop family-based alternative care; (b) regulate and supervise the conditions of admission and the living conditions in alternative care facilities; (c) reintegrate children separated from their parents and (d) protect all children deprived of a family environment.

To prevent unnecessary institutionalization of vulnerable children, the Children Act, 2013 introduced the provision to facilitate referral to parents programmes for providing counselling, financial and other required assistance. A full chapter on alternative care has been introduced in the Children Act, 2013 which reaffirms the principle of the Best Interests of the Child in any decision related to the placement of a child. Family or extended family options are given priority if not detrimental to the child.

In Children Act, 2013, there is a provisions to (a) develop family-based alternative care; (b) regulate and supervise the conditions of admission and the living conditions in alternative care facilities; (c) reintegrate children separated from their parents; and (d) protect all children deprived of a family environment. The Ministry of Social Welfare is also working to

finalize the Children Rules where the broad description to (a) develop family-based alternative care; (b) regulate and supervise the conditions of admission and the living conditions in alternative care facilities; (c) reintegrate children separated from their parents; and (d) protect all children deprived of a family environment are given.

Accordingly, the Department of Social Services, under the Ministry of Social Welfare, is implementing a project titled "Child Sensitive Social Protection", which is addressing the concerns of alternative care and listing conditions in alternative care for children separated from parents and children deprived of family care.

Ministry of Women and Children Affairs is also implementing "Enabling Environment for Child Rights (EECR)" Project where conditional cash transfer is given to most vulnerable children on 4 conditions like a) No child labour, b) No child marriage, c) must go to school and d) family based care. Beside this MoWCA is running Shishu Bikash Kendro (Child development center) is also running some Daycare centers, which is addressing the concern of alternative care. Ministry of Women and Children Affairs is also running some daycare centers. Which support and encourage working women those who are working outside of the home. Currently there are 32 Daycare centers running for the children of age 6 months to 6 years, 13 in Dhaka city and 5 in 5 divisional towns. In each 80 children are getting support at divisional town and in Dhaka city, every center can accommodate 60 children. Another Project provides daycare services to the young children of 6 months to 6 years age of the low and middle income working mothers to ensure them performing duties properly at their working places. This project provides balanced food, primary health care, pre-school education and indoor games and recreational facilities to the children to ensure their sound physical, social and mental growth. The main objective of the project is to provide safe daycare services to the children (6 months to 6 years) of lower and middle income working women. Ten daycare centers will be established in Dhaka Metropolitan city including Savar.

13. Please provide information on measures taken to prevent adolescent pregnancy and ensure access to quality reproductive health-related information and services.

The Ministry of Health and Family Welfare has developed a comprehensive Plan of Action for the period of 2011-2016 for Adolescent Reproductive and Sexual Health based on the 2014 National Reproductive Health Strategy. National Maternal Health Strategy 2014-2024: The strategy strongly endorse the provisions in Adolescent Reproductive Health Strategy 2006' and subsequent 'National Plan of Action 2011-2017' in ensuring access of adolescents focus on:

- Counseling and developing awareness of adolescents on personal hygienic practices, nutrition, puberty, anaemia, RTI/STI, unprotected sexual and reproductive health services, violence and sexual abuse;
- Train adolescents on SRH through peer groups;
- Syndromic management of RTI/STDs, awareness creation on HIV/AIDS and condom promotion for married adolescents;
- Providing consultation and treatment for some reproductive health related problems of adolescents;
- Full immunization of adolescent girls with five dose TT vaccination in coordination with EPI program;
- Carryout advocacy at community level for the gatekeepers of adolescents (parents/guardians, teachers, religious/community leaders etc)
- Develop and printing training manuals, guidelines, booklets regarding adolescent health;

- Initiation for making all service centers adolescent friendly in phases.

Beside this, some measures are taken to prevent adolescent pregnancy by mother which given below :

- Empowering adolescent girls and boys through organizing them in adolescent club for bringing positive changes within the communities. This program has been designed and being implemented since July/2011 and to be continued. Total program cost is 886.30 lakh taka and expenditure cost is 578.41 lakh taka. Total beneficiaries are 11,370 adolescents.
- Life skills based education on Adolescent Reproductive Health Services (ARHS), including sexual abuse and exploitation, are part of the school curriculum from class six to ten. Additional services include awareness development through teachers, peer education programmes and counseling by service providers.
- Awareness development program has been taken through the school teachers for prevention of adolescent pregnancy.
- Peer education program has been taken for adolescent group.
- Orientation program has been taken for the gate keepers regarding adolescent pregnancy.
- Counseling is being initiated to the adolescent group for prevention of adolescent pregnancy by service providers.

14. Please indicate the steps taken to put an end to the use of children in violent political demonstrations, which have resulted in death or serious injury of children.

Government of Bangladesh is fully aware of using children in violent political demonstrations. As a matter of fact the concern political parties who generally use the children in their programs may show their gesture in not to engage the children in fatal activities. The National Children Policy 2011 incorporates the following provisions: The children cannot be used in political activity, neither could they be lured nor compelled to be involved in such activity. The Children Act, 2013 incorporates the provisions i.e, any person, whether it is the person supervising the child or having charge of a child or not, who engages the child in terrorist activities under section 6 of the Anti-Terrorism Act, 2009 shall himself be deemed to have committed such terrorist activity and shall be punishable for such offence in the same way.

15. Please provide information on the growing trend of violence and armed rivalry in Chittagong Hill Tract, including data on child victims, as well as information on disarmament, demobilization and social reintegration assistance for children involved in the conflict.

There is inherent assumption in the question about 'growing trend of violence and armed rivalry' in the CHT, which is not backed by any evidence. There are occasional instances of tension and unrest in the region, which are at times used by certain quarters to give a communal dimension. It would be, however, unwarranted to consider the situation in the CHT as a conflict situation *per se*. In the aftermath of the CHT Peace Accord concluded in 1997, there has been no report of the involvement of children in armed conflicts in the area. As per the provisions of the Accord, the former combatants had gone through the DDR process, and had been rehabilitated through employment and education, as appropriate.

It is stated that trend of violence and armed rivalry in Khagrchari Hill district has decreased remarkably after the Peace Accord-1997, which was a great success of the then Prime

Minister Sheikh Hasina (the present PM also) and her Government. Still there are some armed rival groups non-registered parties like UPDF, JSS (Reformist).JSS (Main) etc. Through these organizations, especially UPDF and JSS (Reformist) are engaged with violence and armed rivalry, the involvement victimization of children and minors in such violence and armed rivalry are not remarkable.

16. Please provide information on progress achieved in the area of prevention of child trafficking, in particular, with regard to the signature of a Memorandum of Understanding between India and Bangladesh.

The Governments of Bangladesh and India cooperates on prevention of trafficking in persons, including women and children, through a bilateral institutional mechanism in place. The Joint Taskforce on Rescue, Recovery, Repatriation and Reintegration (RRRI) has developed a set of standard operating procedures for guiding cooperation on prevention of trafficking in person, including children. The RRRI Taskforce collaborates with NGOs particularly for the protection of victims of trafficking. The Ministry of Home Affairs maintains a database on child victims of trafficking, which is updated on a weekly basis.

A MoU on Rescue, Recovery, Repatriation and Integration (RRRI) of victims of human trafficking especially for women and children has already been signed during the visit of the Hon'ble Prime Minister of India HE Narendra Modi from 6 to 7 June, 2015 in Dhaka, both sides agreed on the followings:

- a) To take effective preventive measures in the respective countries including strengthening border controls, raising awareness and taking effective legal actions against traffickers, touts and agents involved in human trafficking;
- b) To strengthen bilateral cooperation with regard to mutual legal assistance, prosecution of persons involved in human trafficking and rescue, recovery, repatriation of victims of human trafficking;
- c) To conduct coordinated patrolling and strengthen other border management measures as agreed in the Coordinated Border Management Plan signed in 2011 in the presence of Honourable Home Ministers of both the countries;
- d) To expedite the process of nationality verification and confirmation and hold a Joint Workshop in New Delhi in the second half of 2014. It was also agreed that cases pending for verification of nationality from either countries for more than 1 year would be taken up on priority basis and the cases which are not resolved within the time frame, shall be escalated to higher authorities;
- e) To develop and share database on victims in the shelter homes and visit to shelter houses will be taken into consideration to facilitate and expedite the process;
- f) To set up more transit shelter homes along the India-Bangladesh border by both the Governments;
- g) To maintain and share the database on traffickers on regular basis;
- h) To regularly exchange information through the designated focal points in Ministry of Home Affairs in India (jcs@nic.in) and Bangladesh (knz2005@gmail.com) and copies of the communication would also be marked to other concerned agencies;
- i) To organize joint training and capacity building programmers in the prevention of human trafficking and combating organized crime for concerned agencies of both countries;
- j) To designate NGOs in India and Bangladesh for expediting process of rescue, repatriation and rehabilitation of the victims of human trafficking.

A Victim's Database on rescued and repatriated trafficked victims has been maintained by RRRI Task Force with joint support of MoHA and UNICEF funded project. Besides, Websites:

www.antitraffickingcell.gov.bd also has been being maintained and monitored by MoHA and also different agencies like Police Headquarters, BGB, MoEWOE, MoFA, MoWCA, MoSW have been maintaining individual website for coordinating activities and sharing information among agencies. A linkage among all relevant agencies website have also been made with RRRRI Task Force Website.

17. Please provide information on measures taken to ensure that refugee or asylum-seeking children are provided adequate advice, support, legal aid and counseling. Please provide information on whether children born in the State party to refugees inside and outside the two official camps are registered at birth. Please indicate any progress towards the ratification of the 1951 Refugee Convention and its 1967 Protocol.

The Government of Bangladesh has included children born to the Myanmar refugees living in the two registered camps in Kutupalong (Ukhiya) and Noapara (Teknaf) under the purview of compulsory birth registration. The current number of children in the two official camps is [to be obtained from RRRRC Office, Cox's Bazar].

The Ministry of Local Government, Rural Development and Cooperatives (M/o LGRDC) has taken measures to register all children in these two refugee camps in coordination with the Refugee Relief and Rehabilitation Commissioner's Office, Cox's Bazar and UNHCR. The Local Government Division under the M/o LGRDC has also waived the birth registration fees for children belonging to the Myanmar refugees. The Children belonging to the registered refugee camps are provided protection and assistance as per relevant international norms and standards, in collaboration with UNHCR and a host of local and international organizations working as partners.

The Government has taken a decision in principle to conduct a survey of undocumented Myanmar Nationals (mostly Muslims from Myanmar's Rakhine State, known as Rohingyas), including their children, living inside Bangladesh territory. The survey would help determine the approximate number and exact location/concentration of the undocumented Myanmar National, reportedly spread across different districts.

In the meantime, the Government has taken measures to streamline the provision of humanitarian assistance to the undocumented Myanmar Nationals, through the involvement of the International Organizations for Migration (IOM) and some local and international NGOs. The aforementioned survey would also help further customize the provision of humanitarian assistance to the concerned populations, as well as their host communities. Along with health care services, the Government has decided to extend family planning support to the target population.

Bangladesh is not a Party to the 1951 Refugee Convention and its 1967 additional Protocol. However, Bangladesh has all along adhered to the fundamentals of the international protection standards emanating from these two instruments. It needs to be flagged that Bangladesh has hosted a huge number of Myanmar Refugees for over three decades without sufficient international burden sharing and any meaningful international efforts to bring this protracted refugees situation to a feasible and sustainable solution.

18. Please provide information on measures taken to increase the minimum age of criminal responsibility in accordance with internationally accepted standards.

The Penal Code, 1860 provides that a child under 9 years of age has no criminal responsibility. However, the criminal responsibility of a child above 9 years of age and under 12 years of age has to be determined having regard to maturity of understanding to adjudge the nature and consequences of his conduct. In case, a child becomes subject to criminal liability, that child cannot be sentenced to death, imprisonment for life or even imprisonment of any length.

Part II

(a) New bills or laws and their respective regulations;

Laws:

1. The Children Act, 2013 has been enacted by the Parliament as Act No. 24 of 2013;
2. The Rights and Protection of PWDs Act, 2013 has been enacted by the Parliament as Act No. 39 of 2013;
3. The Protection of Neuro-Developmental Disability Trust Act, 2013 has been enacted by the parliament as Act No. 52 of 2013;
4. The Persons with Vagrant and Shelterless (Rehabilitation) Act, 2011 has been enacted by the parliament as Act No. 15 of 2011;
5. The Domestic Violence (Prevention and Protection) Acts, 2013;
6. The Deoxyribonucleic Acid (DNA) Act, 2014 ;
7. The Child Marriage Restraint Act, 2015(Draft);
8. The Education Act, 2015(Draft).

Regulations:

1. The Domestic Violence (Prevention and Protection) Rules, 2013,
2. The Children Rules, 2015(Draft) has been proposed;
3. The Rights and Protection of PWDs Rules, 2015(Draft) has been proposed;
4. The Protection of Neuro-Developmental Disability Trust Rules, 2015(Draft) has been proposed;
5. The Persons with Vagrant and Shelterless (Rehabilitation) Rules, 2015 (Draft) has been proposed;

(b) New institutions and their mandates or institutional reforms:

The Article 28(4) of the Constitution of the People's Republic of Bangladesh places particular emphasis on making specific provisions concerning the advancement of the children. National Children Policy 2011 ensures the rights of the children. Bangladesh has enacted new legislation for the benefit of its estimated 70 million children. The Children Act, 2013 has been enacted and the preamble to the, (henceforth referred to as 'the Act'), officially known as "Shishu Ain, 2013", states that it has been enacted for the purpose of implementing the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child. According to the Children Act, 2013, Children Court has been set up in every district headquarter and in every metropolitan area.

Children's Wing has been established in the Ministry of Women and Children Affairs. The strengthening of wing is in progress. A proposal for setting up a new Department of Children Affairs, with field level presence up to the upazila (sub-district) level, had been submitted with the Ministry of Public Administration. The two Ministries are currently in the process of consultations with regard to the proposals.

(c) Recently introduced policies, programmes and action plans and their scope and financing;

A child is defined in section 4 of Children Act, 2013 and includes anyone up to the 18 years. The government has formulated National Action Plan to Prevent Violence Against Women and Children 2013-2025. Comprehensive Early Childhood Care and Development Policy-2013. This Policy is adopted by the Government in November 2013 which addresses the

children from 0-8 years. The Operational and Implementation Plan of Action is under formulation through Early Learning for Child Development (2nd Phase Project) and A National Action Plan on Child Marriage by Ministry of Women and Children Affairs.

The National Child Labour Elimination Policy (NCLEP) 2010 is to prevent and eliminate child labour, especially hazardous forms of child labour. Minimum age for employment is set at 14 and no person under the age 18 years is allowed to be engaged in hazardous work. Following the National Child Labour Elimination Policy 2010, the government has adopted National Plan of Action (NPA) for Elimination Child Labour by 2016. The NPA has focused on nine strategic areas of interventions identified as follows: (1) Policy Implementation and Institutional Development, (2) Education, (3) Health and Nutrition, (4) Social Awareness Raising and Motivation, (5) Legislation and Enforcement, (6) Employment and Labour Market, (7) Prevention of Child Labour and Safety of Children Engaged in Labour, (8) Social and Family Reintegration and (9) Research and Training. For monitoring and evaluation of NPA national, divisional, district and upazila level councils/committees have been formed. The councils/committees are now working.

Bangladesh government has already revised the National Plan of Action (NPA) for Combating Human Trafficking 2012-14 to formulate NPA for the period of 2015-17 by adding some important issues. Numbers of consultation meetings have been held with divisional and national level stakeholders with support of Winrock International. In clause 9 of the NPA stated that Counter Trafficking Committees will be formed at all unions of the country especially in trafficking prone districts. As such in 2014, union level Counter Trafficking Committee (CTC) has already been formed in many upazillas of border districts. Bangladesh government is continuously trying to improve legal frameworks to comply with International Instruments on the issues related to human trafficking. International Labour Organization (ILO) is working in partnership with Ministry of Expatriates' Welfare and Overseas to promote safe migration in order to prevent human trafficking. Moreover, the Ministry is also trying to lessen migration cost for the migrants to reduce vulnerability of migration at pre-departure as well as post-departure stage.

(d) Please recent ratifications of human rights instruments.

Bangladesh ratified the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities on 30 November 2007. Bangladesh also acceded to the Optional Protocol to the Convention on 12 May 2008.

Bangladesh acceded to the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of their Families on 24 August 2011.

Part III

19. Please provide consolidated budget information for the last three years on budget lines regarding children and social sectors, by indicating the percentage of each budget line in terms of the total national budget and gross national product and geographic allocation.

Children Focus in the Ministry of Women and Children Affairs¹

| Description | 2013-14 | 2012-13 | 2011-12 | 2011-00 |
|--|----------|----------|----------|----------|
| Grand Total of the Ministry of Women and Children's Affairs (In 000 Taka) | 14493813 | 13337634 | 13060182 | 13082777 |
| Fully Identifiable as a ratio of Total of the Ministry of Women and Children Affairs (%) | 10.05 | 5.18 | 4.79 | 9.56 |
| Partially Identifiable as a ratio of Total of the Ministry of Women and Children Affairs (%) | 4.08 | 3.61 | 3.69 | 3.59 |
| Not Identifiable as a ratio of Total of the Ministry of Women and Children Affairs (%) | 85.87 | 91.21 | 91.52 | 86.84 |
| | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 |

Source: Finance Division, Ministry of Finance, Government of Bangladesh

Children Focus in the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare²

| Year | Total Child Explicitly | Total Nutrition | Total Child Explicitly Plus Nutrition | Total Children plus Mother | Total Children plus Mother Plus Nutrition |
|---------|------------------------|-----------------|---------------------------------------|----------------------------|---|
| 1997-98 | 4.64 | 1.70 | 6.34 | 6.48 | 8.18 |
| 1998-99 | 0.21 | 0.05 | 0.26 | 0.21 | 0.26 |
| 1999-00 | 0.22 | 0.05 | 0.27 | 0.22 | 0.27 |
| 2000-01 | 0.19 | 1.38 | 1.57 | 0.19 | 1.57 |
| 2002-01 | 0.18 | 4.24 | 4.43 | 0.18 | 4.43 |
| 2003-02 | 0.19 | 3.15 | 3.34 | 0.19 | 3.34 |
| 2003-04 | 0.31 | 11.42 | 11.73 | 0.31 | 11.73 |
| 2004-05 | 0.29 | 0.04 | 0.33 | 0.48 | 0.52 |
| 2005-06 | 0.29 | 3.62 | 3.91 | 2.40 | 6.02 |

¹ CSID-SCI; Child Budget in Bangladesh; Dhaka, 2014; Table-10

² CSID-SCI; Child Budget in Bangladesh; Dhaka, 2014; Table-11

| | | | | | |
|---------|------|------|------|------|------|
| 2006-07 | 0.29 | 3.91 | 4.20 | 2.32 | 6.23 |
| 2007-08 | 0.64 | 2.65 | 3.29 | 3.34 | 5.99 |
| 2008-09 | 0.63 | 2.58 | 3.21 | 2.68 | 5.26 |
| 2009-10 | 0.57 | 3.03 | 3.60 | 2.35 | 5.38 |
| 2010-11 | 0.78 | 3.10 | 3.88 | 2.06 | 5.16 |
| 2011-12 | 0.67 | 0.08 | 0.74 | 0.67 | 0.75 |
| 2012-13 | 0.64 | 2.03 | 2.66 | 7.09 | 9.12 |
| 2013-14 | 0.63 | 0.95 | 1.57 | 6.57 | 7.51 |

Source: Finance Division, Ministry of Finance, Government of Bangladesh

Children in Social Protection Budget of Bangladesh³

| Programs | Budget | Revised | Budget |
|---|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| | {2012-13} | {2012-13} | {2013-14} |
| Grants for Residents in Government Orphanages and Other Institutions | 28.5 | 27.1 | 30.88 |
| Capitation Grants for Orphan Students in Non-gov. Orphanages | 66 | 66 | 71.4 |
| Stipend for Disabled Students | 8.8 | 8.8 | 9.7 |
| Grants for the Schools for the Disabled | 5.81 | 5.81 | 5.81 |
| Child Development Center | 3 | 3 | 3.2 |
| Stipend for Primary Students | 949 | 925 | 1000 |
| School Feeding Programs & School feeding program in poverty prone area | 522.3 | 456.5 | 541 |
| Stipend for Dropout Students | 45.78 | 94.01 | 0 |
| Stipend and Access Increase for Secondary and Higher Secondary Level Students | 565 | 647.5 | 449.86 |
| Maternal Health Voucher Scheme | 75 | 0 | 0 |
| National Nutrition services | 184 | 0 | 0 |
| Fundamental Education for Urban Working Children | 22 | 32 | 33 |
| Sisimpur Outreach Project | 3.76 | 5.44 | 1.34 |

³ CSID-SCI; Child Budget in Bangladesh; Dhaka, 2014; Table-15

| | | | |
|---|----------|----------|----------|
| Maternal, Child, Reproductive and Adolescent Health (MCRAH) | 135 | 139 | 125 |
| Reaching Out of School Children | 0 | 69.58 | 248.99 |
| Child Sensitive Social Protection | 0 | 13.08 | 25.98 |
| Total Children Social Protection | 2613.95 | 2492.82 | 2546.16 |
| Total Social Protection | 22750.55 | 23097.52 | 25371.35 |
| Total Budget | 191738 | 189326 | 222491 |
| GDP | 1041360 | 1037987 | 1188800 |
| Total Social Protection to Total Budget (%) | 11.87% | 12.20% | 11.40% |
| Total Social Protection to GDP (%) | 2.18% | 2.23% | 2.13% |
| Total Children Social Protection to Budget (%) | 1.36 | 1.32 | 1.14 |
| Total Children Social Protection to GDP (%) | 0.25 | 0.24 | 0.21 |

Source: Finance Division, Ministry of Finance and Author's Calculation Major Children Related Programs⁴

Maternity Allowance Program for the Poor Lactating Mothers

| | 2008-09 | 2009-10 | 2010-11 | 2011-12 | 2012-13 | 2013-14 |
|-------------------------------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|
| Nominal Value (Taka in Crore) | 22.59 | 33.60 | 43.20 | 42.50 | 42.50 | 48.88 |
| % Change from Previous Year | 0.00 | 48.74 | 28.57 | -1.62 | 0.00 | 15.01 |

Grants for Residents in Government Orphanages and Other Institutions

| | 2008-09 | 2009-10 | 2010-11 | 2011-12 | 2012-13 | 2013-14 |
|-------------------------------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|
| Nominal Value (Taka in Crore) | 17.20 | 23.39 | 25.72 | 28.66 | 28.50 | 30.88 |
| % Change from Previous Year | 0.00 | 35.99 | 9.96 | 11.43 | -0.56 | 8.35 |

Capitation Grants for Orphan Students in Non-Gov. Orphanages

| | 2008-09 | 2009-10 | 2010-11 | 2011-12 | 2012-13 | 2013-14 |
|-------------------------------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|
| Nominal Value (Taka in Crore) | 37.80 | 40.32 | 42.00 | 63.00 | 66.00 | 71.40 |
| % Change from Previous Year | 0.00 | 6.67 | 4.17 | 50.00 | 4.76 | 8.18 |

Stipend for Disabled Students

⁴ CSID-SCI; Child Budget in Bangladesh; Dhaka, 2014; Table-16

| | 2008-09 | 2009-10 | 2010-11 | 2011-12 | 2012-13 | 2013-14 |
|--|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|
| Nominal Value (Taka in Crore) | 6.00 | 8.00 | 8.80 | 8.80 | 8.80 | 9.70 |
| % Change from Previous Year | 0.00 | 33.33 | 10.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 10.23 |
| Grants for the Schools for the Disabled | | | | | | |
| | 2008-09 | 2009-10 | 2010-11 | 2011-12 | 2012-13 | 2013-14 |
| Nominal Value (Taka in Crore) | 1.80 | 1.80 | 5.81 | 5.81 | 5.81 | 5.81 |
| % Change from Previous Year | 0.00 | 0.00 | 222.78 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| Child Development Center | | | | | | |
| | 2008-09 | 2009-10 | 2010-11 | 2011-12 | 2012-13 | 2013-14 |
| Nominal Value (Taka in Crore) | 0.00 | 5.67 | 5.41 | 3.00 | 3.00 | 3.20 |
| % Change from Previous Year | - | 0.00 | -4.59 | -44.55 | 0.00 | 6.67 |
| Stipend for Primary Students | | | | | | |
| | 2008-09 | 2009-10 | 2010-11 | 2011-12 | 2012-13 | 2013-14 |
| Nominal Value | 488.00 | 487.52 | 750.00 | 879.99 | 949.00 | 1000.00 |
| % Change from Previous Year | 0.00 | -0.10 | 53.84 | 17.33 | 7.84 | 5.37 |
| School Feeding Program & School Feeding Program in Poverty Prone Area | | | | | | |
| | 2008-09 | 2009-10 | 2010-11 | 2011-12 | 2012-13 | 2013-14 |
| Nominal Value (Taka in Crore) | 4.00 | 34.26 | 18.00 | 32.50 | 522.30 | 541.00 |
| % Change from Previous Year | 0.00 | 756.50 | -47.46 | 80.56 | 1507.08 | 3.58 |
| Stipend for Dropout Students | | | | | | |
| | 2008-09 | 2009-10 | 2010-11 | 2011-12 | 2012-13 | 2013-14 |
| Nominal Value (Taka in Crore) | 87.00 | 92.89 | 65.00 | 104.52 | 45.78 | 0.00 |

| | | | | | | |
|-----------------------------|------|------|--------|-------|--------|---------|
| % Change from Previous Year | 0.00 | 6.77 | -30.02 | 60.80 | -56.20 | -100.00 |
|-----------------------------|------|------|--------|-------|--------|---------|

Stipend and Access Increase for Secondary and Higher Secondary Level Students

| | 2008-09 | 2009-10 | 2010-11 | 2011-12 | 2012-13 | 2013-14 |
|-------------------------------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|
| Nominal Value (Taka in Crore) | 331.61 | 527.70 | 677.30 | 634.11 | 565.00 | 449.86 |
| % Change from Previous Year | 0.00 | 59.13 | 28.35 | -6.38 | -10.90 | -20.38 |

Maternal Health Voucher Scheme

| | 2008-09 | 2009-10 | 2010-11 | 2011-12 | 2012-13 | 2013-14 |
|-------------------------------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|
| Nominal Value (Taka in Crore) | 51.00 | 70.00 | 66.40 | 90.00 | 75.00 | 0.00 |
| % Change from Previous Year | 0.00 | 37.25 | -5.14 | 35.54 | -16.67 | -100.00 |

National Nutrition Services

| | 2008-09 | 2009-10 | 2010-11 | 2011-12 | 2012-13 | 2013-14 |
|-------------------------------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|
| Nominal Value (Taka in Crore) | 128.00 | 173.00 | 225.00 | 181.00 | 184.00 | 0.00 |
| % Change from Previous Year | 0.00 | 35.16 | 30.06 | -19.56 | 1.66 | -100.00 |

Protecting Children at Risk

| | 2008-09 | 2009-10 | 2010-11 | 2011-12 | 2012-13 | 2013-14 |
|-------------------------------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|
| Nominal Value (Taka in Crore) | 7.68 | 29.37 | 15.39 | 10.25 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| % Change from Previous Year | 0.00 | 282.42 | -47.60 | -33.40 | -100.00 | - |

Fundamental Education for Urban Working Children

| | 2008-09 | 2009-10 | 2010-11 | 2011-12 | 2012-13 | 2013-14 |
|-------------------------------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|
| Nominal Value (Taka in Crore) | 46.50 | 82.84 | 45.00 | 23.00 | 22.00 | 33.00 |
| % Change from Previous Year | 0.00 | 78.15 | -45.68 | -48.89 | -4.35 | 50.00 |

Sisimpur Outreach Project

| | 2008-09 | 2009-10 | 2010-11 | 2011-12 | 2012-13 | 2013-14 |
|--|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|
|--|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|

| | | | | | | |
|--|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|
| Nominal Value (Taka in Crore) | - | - | 10.52 | 12.00 | 3.76 | 1.34 |
| % Change from Previous Year | - | - | 0.00 | 14.07 | -68.67 | -64.36 |
| Maternal, Child, Reproductive and Adolescent Health (MCRAH) | | | | | | |
| | 2008-09 | 2009-10 | 2010-11 | 2011-12 | 2012-13 | 2013-14 |
| Nominal Value (Taka in Crore) | | | | 118.15 | 135.00 | 125.00 |
| % Change from Previous Year | - | - | - | 0.00 | 14.26 | -7.41 |

Source: Finance Division, Ministry of Finance and Author's Calculations

SAIEVAC Bangladesh, under MoWCA, is implementing a three years long project from 2012 to 2015 titled "National Initiative to end Violence Against Children". Major activities of the project is to legal revise and reform on VAC, Developing and executing Child Rights and Violence Against Children Capacity building program for Government Agencies, Children's CSO's, field actors and Children, Developing a Communication and advocacy Strategy Program; Advocacy and IEC tools on End Vac, Review and formulate an action Plan on VAC for incorporation within the larger national Action Plan for Children and Strengthening technical and implementation capacity of the Ministry, partners, consultants.

Total budget is BDT:

| Sl.no | Name of program | FY 2012-13 | FY 2013-14 | FY 2014-15 |
|-------|---------------------------|-----------------|-----------------|----------------|
| | Child protection programs | 39,15,60,000.00 | 39,15,60,000.00 | 52,93,08000.00 |

20. Please provide, if available, updated statistical data (disaggregated by age, sex, ethnic origin, national origin, geographic location, and socio-economic status) for the past three years on:

Women 20-24 married before 18 is 52.3%

Women 20-24 married before 15 is 18.1%

Women 20-24 married between 15 and 18 is about 34%

(Reference: 2012-2013 MICS), BBS

(a) Children abandoned by parents in the Baby Homes;

There are 6 Baby Homes in 6 divisions. The total No. of Children abandoned by parents in the Baby Homes is 145. The details data of past three years is given below:

| Sl. no. | Name of institutions | No. of inmates | | |
|---------|----------------------|----------------|------|------|
| | | 2012 | 2013 | 2014 |
| 1. | Baby Home (6) | 41 | 49 | 55 |

(b) Children who have been victims of sexual abuse and exploitation, including victims of trafficking, as well as the number of complaints, investigations and prosecutions

carried out in this regard;

Bangladesh has assumed specific obligations under certain international instruments to combat human trafficking through legal, judicial, legislative and social measures. Particularly, Bangladesh has assumed obligations to effectively prevent and prosecute the offence of trafficking in women and children under the SAARC Convention on preventing and combating trafficking in women and children for prostitution, 2000 and certain other international instruments namely the Convention on the Rights of the Child 1989 (CRC), which provides a legal framework to prevent children from being trafficked and to protect them if they become victimized of trafficking, imposes on Bangladesh as a ratifying country (ratified in 1990,) a specific duty to take appropriate measures to prevent the abduction of, the sale of or traffic in children for any purpose or in any form 1 (Article 35) and to combat the illicit transfer and non-return of children abroad (Article 11). Under the two Protocols to the CRC, Bangladesh has obligations to prevent the use of children in pornography, prostitution and armed conflict. On the other hand, by ratifying the Convention on the Elimination of All forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) 1979, Bangladesh has an obligation to take all appropriate measures, including legislation, to suppress all forms of trafficking in women and exploitation of prostitution of women (Article 6). Other treaties providing for ancillary obligations regarding human Trafficking which Bangladesh has ratified/acceded include:

- The Convention for the Suppression of the Trafficked in Persons and of the Exploitation of the Prostitution of Others, 1949
- The Supplementary Convention on the Abolition of Slavery, Slave Trade and Institutions and Practices Similar to Slavery 1956
- The ILO Convention (No. 182) on the Prohibition and Immediate Action for the Elimination of the Worst Forms of Child Labour 1999
- The ILO Forced Labour Convention (No. 29) on Forced or Compulsory Labour 1930.

Moreover, on 13 July 2011, the Government has ratified the UN Convention against Transnational Organized Crime 2000. Bangladesh has also ratified another ancillary international instrument namely, the UN Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of their Families 1990. Ratification of this Convention is sure to have a positive impact on Bangladesh's efforts to prevent and combat human trafficking. Further, the process for the ratification of the most notable anti-trafficking instrument, the UN Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons 2000 (Palermo Protocol) is currently underway. The Government has also adopted three major national policies – the National Women Development Policy, 2011, the Child Labour Elimination Policy 2010 and the Child Rights Policy 2011- which would have strong impact on anti-trafficking measures generally. Especially, the National Women Development Policy 2011 and the National Child Policy 2011 categorically shows the government's commitment to eradicate trafficking in women and children.

Some cases of sexual harassment to the children have been lodged in different police stations. In almost every case the criminals have been arrested by law enforcement agencies and the trial is under process. In every police stations there is on designated child friendly

police officer according to child Act 2013. The cases related to children are handled carefully. Coordinated supports (medical treatment, legal support, police assistance, DNA test, psychosocial counseling) are provided in 8 One-Stop Crisis Centers (OCC) at Medical Collage and Hospitals Mental health support is provided by the National Trauma Counseling Center(NTCC) of the Multi-Sectoral Programm of the MoWCA is providing psychosocial counseling to the Women and Children victims of violence. The statistics of cases related to child abuse is attached by Annex-1.

(c) Children who have been victims of child marriage, as well as the number of complaints, investigations and prosecutions carried out in this regard;

Women 20-24 married before 18 is 52.3%
 Women 20-24 married before 15 is 18.1%
 Women 20-24 married between 15 and 18 is about 34%
 (Reference: 2012-2013 MICS, BBS).

National Helpline Centre for Violence Against Women and Children(toll free helpline 10921) plays an important role to prevent child marriage in Bangladesh. When informant, relative or friend of victim call to this centre, Helpline Officer receives the call and take details about the marriage and communicate with different government and non-government officials to take step to stop the marriage. Up to April 2015 this helpline received a total of 133 complaints about child marriage.

(d) Working children;

Ministry of Labour and Employment has taken measures for effective implementation of “Eradication of Hazardous Child Labour in Bangladesh”. In the 1st Phase (2000-2005) of the project, 10,000 children were withdrawn from child labour through non-formal education, skills development-training and socio-economic empowerment of their parents and in the 2nd phase (2005-2009) 30,000 of children were withdrawn from child labour through non-formal education, skill development training. I the 3rd phase (2009-2014) of project, 49405 children were withdrawn from child labour through non-formal education and skills development training and 40504 children were skilled in deferent trades. Initiatives have been taken to launch the 4th phase of this project targeting 60,000 children withdrawn from hazardous form of work.

There are 5 Pre-Vocational Training Centre established by Department of Social Services where the orphan children are taking Vocational Training. The data of last three years is given below:

| Sl. no. | Name of institutions | No. of beneficiary (up to) | |
|---------|---|----------------------------|------|
| | | Seat capacity | |
| 1. | Pre-Vocational Training Centre, Tejgaon, Dhaka. | Not fixed | 1172 |
| 2. | Pre-Vocational Training Centre, Ajimpur, Dhaka. | Not fixed | 655 |
| 3. | Pre-Vocational Training Centre, Chandpur. | Not fixed | 345 |
| 4. | Pre-Vocational Training Centre, Rajshahi. | Not fixed | 348 |
| 5. | Pre-Vocational Training Centre, Bagerhat. | Not fixed | 262 |

Six vocational training centres for the orphans & persons with disabilities have also been established in 6 divisions.

(e) Children in institutional care, including information on the reasons for their placement in institutional care;

The institutions and reasons of placement are given below:

- 1) Shishu Bikash Kendro- ultra poor family, single parent, broken family etc.
- 2) Government Orphanage (Shorkari Shishu Poribar)- for orphan child.
- 3) Baby Home – for abandoned child.
- 4) Kishor Unnayan Kendra (KUK) - child victims related to:
 - * Murder case. * Abuse of woman and child. * Drug.
 - * Rapid Tribunal * Robbery. * Special Power Act.
 - * Hijack Case. * Theft case. * Arms case.* General Diary.* Human trafficking.
 - * Safe custody.* Fighting. * Illegal * Immigrant. Information Technology/ Pornography. * Kidnapping.* Mobile court. * Forest act. * Under trial.
 - * Sentenced.* Guardian case.

(f) Refugee, asylum-seeking children and/or children in otherwise irregular migration situations and those currently subject to detention;

Children belonging to Myanmar refugee living in the two official camps in Cox’s Bazar are provided protection and assistance (including food, medical care, nutrition support, education, wash and sanitation facilities, language training, computer literacy, psychosocial support, birth registration and so forth) as per the relevant international norms and standards.

Children belonging to the undocumented Myanmar Nationals, living in settlements adjacent to the official camps, are provided humanitarian services through the International Organization for Migration (IOM) and a number of local and international NGOs, under the supervision of the Deputy Commissioner’s Office, Cox’s Bazar. Provision of such services is expected to be further streamlined following the planned survey/listing of the undocumented Myanmar Nationals, including their children, living in Bangladesh.

The local administration and law enforcement agencies remain sensitized to provide legal protection and redress, as appropriate, to children belonging to Myanmar Refugees and Undocumented Myanmar Nationals living in Bangladesh.

Government has been issued to waive birth registration fees of children born in Myanmar Refugee families.

(g) Children sentenced by the courts and the average length of deprivation of liberty.

| Sl. No. | Name of Institutions | No. of sentenced Children | | | Age | Duration of sentence |
|---------|---|---------------------------|------|------|-------------|-------------------------|
| | | 2012 | 2013 | 2014 | | |
| 1. | kishor Unnayan Kendra, Tongi, Gazipur | 25 | 13 | 36 | 12-16 years | below 6 month- 2 years |
| 2. | kishor Unnayan Kendra, Pulerhat, Jessore. | 15 | 23 | 12 | 10-18 years | below 3 month - 3 years |
| 3. | kishori Unnayan Kendra, Konabari, Gazipur | - | - | - | - | - |

21. Please provide data, disaggregated by age, sex, type of disability, ethnic origin and geographical location, for the past three years, on the number of children with disabilities:

(a) Living with their families;

The number of Person With Disabilities(PWD) in Bangladesh so far identified is about

1647,005. A national database system is under construction to include all PWD information. About 99% PWD lives with their families and 1% live in different government and non government organization.

(b) In institutions;

| Sl. No | Name of institutions | No. of inmates | | |
|--------|---|----------------|------|------|
| | | 2012 | 2013 | 2014 |
| 1. | National Training & Rehabilitation Centre for the visually Impaired (NTRCV) | 18 | 14 | 11 |
| 2. | Employment and Rehabilitation Centre for the Physically Handicapped (ERCPH) | 75 | 50 | 61 |
| 3. | Institute of the Mentally Retarded Children | 56 | 63 | 99 |

(c) Attending regular primary schools;

Department of Social Services is providing social protection and development services to the orphan and vulnerable children up to 18 years of age through 85 Sharkari Shishu Poribar (Government orphanage). There are 43 Sharkari Shishu Poribar for boys, 41 for girls and 1 combined. The total inmate is 10,300. Out of this inmate about 60% is attending regular primary school.

(d) Attending regular secondary schools;

There are 43 Sharkari Shishu Poribar for boys, 41 for girls and 1 combined. The total inmate is 10,300. Out of this inmate about 40% is attending regular secondary schools and other level.

(e) Attending special schools;

| Sl. No | Name of institutions/ school | No. of students | | |
|--------|--|-----------------|------|------|
| | | 2012 | 2013 | 2014 |
| 1. | Physically Handicapped Training Centre (PHTC) | | | |
| | (a) School for the Visually Impaired | 2427 | 2426 | 2398 |
| | (b) School for the Hearing Impaired | 4589 | 5026 | 5132 |
| 2. | Integrated Education Program for the Visually Impaired | 3607 | 3606 | 3417 |

(f) Out of school;

Data is not available now. However this is under consideration for future planning.

(g) Abandoned by their families.

Data is same as 20(a) .

22. Please provide the Committee with an update of any data in the report which may have been outdated by more recent data collected or other new developments.

Ministry of Women and Children Affairs has been carrying out the following activities of Poverty alleviation, Creation of Employment and Social Safety-net programs to achieve the goal of overall sustainable development of children through Department of Women Affairs:

- Vulnerable Group Development (VGD) is the largest social safety net program and its activity predominantly focuses on the nutritional status of malnourished women and

children. The number of beneficiaries under this program is 7,50,000 thousand hard core poor rural women. This program has two components (i) package training (income generating and life skill) and (ii) food security. In the food security component, a beneficiary receives monthly 30 kilograms of wheat/rice for twenty four months.

- Department of Women Affairs is implementing maternity allowance program to reduce mortality rate of poor mothers and children and to promote breast feeding. This is a continuous program of two years cycle. In the previous FY 2012 till April 2013, 1,01,200 mother are getting this allowance at the rate of taka 350 per month. Lactating mother allowance program to improve urban areas lactating mother's health status as well as their children. In the previous FY 2013- till April 2015 about 1,00,000 working lactating mothers are getting this allowance at the rate of taka 500 per month .
- Day Care Centre for the children of low and middle income working mother are another important program of DWA. DWA has established forty two Day Care Centers for the children of working mothers in Dhaka city and district level Children from six months to six years stay in these day cares from 9:00 am to 5:00 pm. In these centers they get dresses, food, education, Medicare, amusements etc. Beside this Ministry of Social Welfare has established a day care center at Azimpur in Dhaka. The set capacity of the Centre is 50. The total number of beneficiary of this centre is 8282 (up to March/2015).
- "Empowerment of Girls and Boys" program covers 7 districts from 7 divisions of the country. 379 adolescent clubs formed in each union in all upazilas of those districts. The main objective of this program is to create a favorable environment for development of adolescent life, establish their rights and to build a non-discriminatory, protective society through increase life skills of adolescent girls and boys. Total adolescent clubs members are 11,370.
- There are 17,378 registered Women volunteer organizations under the Department of Women Affairs. District and upazila DWA officers are engaged to make aware the members if this registered organization about combating trafficking, child marriages, birth registrations, marriage registration, dowry, domestic violence, sexual harassment, eve-teasing, HIV/AIDS, community meeting and court yard meeting. At field level district and upazila DWA officers also motivate the members of DWA volunteer organizations, beneficiaries of VGD program and the women who get maternity and lactating mother allowance about anti-trafficking, child marriages and birth registration.

23. In addition, the State party may list areas affecting children that it considers to be of priority with regard to the implementation of the Convention.

Activities of Ministry of Women and Children Affairs (MoWCA) for Children:

1) Cash Transfer Programme: In FY 2012-13 and 2013-14 already 13,373 orphans, poor and helpless children were supported.

2) Stipend Distribution targets 15,000 adolescent boys and girls (age 14-18) to provide one time grant. Total 6,355 persons received stipend during FY 2012-2013 and 2013-2014.

3) Social Norm Change Workshops are held to stop child marriage, child labor and corporal punishment.

4) Establishment of Child Friendly Center: Total 2000 (1800 temporary and 200 permanent) Child Friendly Centres will be established in 20 districts of which 37 are under construction and 10 play grounds have been established. Two child friendly centres are temporarily operated.

5) Construction of Bangladesh Shishu Academy Complex: Six district branches of BSA will be constructed shortly.

6) National Children Policy, 2011 has been adopted with a spirit to accommodate the changed scenario in different sectors of the country, as well as accommodating the principles and provisions of the CRC.

7) National Child Labour Elimination Policy, 2010 under the coordination of the Ministry of Labour and Employment (MoLE), has been adopted to prevent and eliminate child labour, especially hazardous forms of child labour.

8) National Education Policy, 2010 has been formulated under the leadership of the Ministry of Education (MoE), for the first time in Bangladesh in order to ensure quality education for all children.

9) Early Childhood and Care development Policy has been finalised and is expected to be placed before the Cabinet soon.

10) Early Learning and Development Standards has been formulated and is being shared with relevant stakeholders. Apart from these, reforms of a number of initiatives are underway such as, Children's Code, National HIV/AIDS Policy, Draft National Anti Trafficking Strategic Plan of Action (NATSPA) and National Child Protection Policy.

11) The Prevention of Domestic Violence (Prevention and protection) Act, 2010 was enacted in alignment with the UN Convention on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) 1979, UNCRC 1989, and Article 28 of the Bangladesh Constitution regarding ensuring equal rights for women and children.

12) The Vagrancy Act, 2011 is the amended and revised version of the Vagrancy Act 1943. The overall objective of the Act is to ensure shelter and rehabilitation of the homeless people, including street children.

13) The Human Trafficking (Deterrence and Suppression) Act, 2012 was enacted to prevent and suppress human trafficking, including children, and ensuring protection and rights of the victims of human trafficking and ensuring safe migration.

14) The Pornography Control Act, 2012 has been enacted to prevent decadence of the social and moral values with special focus on the women and children.

15) The National Plan of Action (NPA) for Children (2005 – 2010) was implemented to ensure GoB's commitment for the survival, development, protection and participation of children in Bangladesh within the context of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and the National Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper (PRSP).

16) The National Council on Women and Child Development (NCWCD) has been formed with a good number of NGOs and civil society members to review and monitor implementation of the NPA at local and national level.

17) The National Children's Taskforce (NCTF) was formed in collaboration with NGO partners at the district and national level as a mechanism for eliciting children's views and promoting their roles as stakeholders in implementing the National Plan of Action (NPA).

18) Initiative has been taken to create a separate Department or Wing to enhance the human and financial capacity of MoWCA. A separate branch regarding Children's Affairs has been established headed by a Deputy Secretary under the jurisdiction of a Joint Secretary.

19) The MoWCA has formed the CRC Focal Person Committee under the chairmanship of the Honorable State Minister, for Women and Children Affairs and is represented by the relevant ministries and national and international NGOs involved in child rights related activities.

20) A monitoring framework with specific indicators and guidelines has been developed in 2011 with support from UNICEF. The NCTF is closely working with District Child Rights Monitoring Committee at district level.

21) The total budgetary allocation for children includes safety net programs that are carried out from the revenue budget as well as ADP programs. If these are added up, the total child budget amounts to 4.1 percent of the national budget for 2010-11, 3.8 percent for 2008-9 and 4.6 percent for 2005-6.

22) International assistance received as grant during the reporting period related to the implementation of the CRC provided by UNICEF. The total grant received from UNICEF was US \$ 314.01 million between the period from 2008 – 2012.

23) Bangladesh has already established the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) under the National Human Rights Act, 2009 with adequate mandate and human and financial resources for promoting and monitoring human rights, including child rights and redressing complaints of rights violation.

24) The High Court through a writ petition no 5684/2010 banned all forms of punishment in all primary and secondary educational institutions in Bangladesh. Through the writ petitions no 5863/2009, 754/2010, 7245/2010 the High Court declared imposition of extrajudicial punishment, including those in the name of fatwa illegal and provided some guidelines. The High Court through another writ petition no. 5916/2008 also issued a guideline regarding protecting children from sexual harassment.

25) Child and Forced Marriage: A Child Marriage Restraint Act, 2015 has been drafted with provision of punishment for parents or guardian and the marriage registrar, and compulsory production of the birth registration certificate during marriage. A Civil Society Organizations alliance called Girls not Brides is working to eliminate child marriage together with the Government. Local Government institutions work against dowry. The Honorable Prime Minister committed at the Girl's Summit in London to develop a plan of action by 2014 to end child marriage, revise the Child Marriage Restraint Act, 1929 by 2015, ensure that no marriage takes place below the age of 15 by 2021, reduce the number of girls getting

married between 15 and 18 by more than one third by 2021 and end child marriage completely by 2041.

26) In case of natural disaster, like cyclone, earthquake, inundation, drought, accident, the children become more vulnerable. In such a situation they need special attention and supports from professional bodies. National Trauma Counseling Centre (NTCC) of the Ministry of Women and Children Affairs provide psychosocial counseling to the children and their family members. It also organizes special training on supportive counseling to the members of government and non-government organization. Up to 30th April 2015, counseling services are given to 600 children and organize training for 2700 personnel.

27) The children and adolescent girls become more vulnerable to sexual assault. One-Stop Crisis Centres at medical college hospitals provide 24 hour coordinated supports to such victims. The support includes health care, legal assistance, DNA test, temporary shelter, psychosocial counseling, rehabilitation, and reintegration.

28) National Forensic DNA Profiling Laboratory of the Ministry of Women and Children Affairs conduct DNA profiling for unidentified victims of disasters for facilitating the compensation to their families. Moreover, the DNA profiling is being conducted to determine paternity of the disputed babies.

29) National Helpline Centre for Violence against Women and Children operates 24 hours toll free helpline (10921) to coordinate various supports in case of emergency and disaster. It also play a major role to rescue the children and to prevent sexual harassment.

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