

Father of the nation dreamt Children will be our strength

Information booklet on Children Affairs

Children are the future of Bangladesh. Keeping this truth in mind, the Father of the Nation, Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman ensured all rights of the children in the Constitution of the People's Republic of Bangladesh. He formulated the Children Act, 1974 before 15 years of UNCRC and made primary education compulsory for the children. His birth anniversary is being observed as National Children's Day on March 17 because of his special affection and eternal love for children.

Under the leadership of Honorable Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, the overall activities are being carried out to implement the Vision 2021 for ensuring reduction of maternal and child mortality, ensuring children's nutrition, health, education and safety, elimination of child abuse, prevention of child trafficking, withdrawal and rehabilitation of children from hazardous work and empowerment of children.



Sheikh Hasina Ensures Child Protection, Promotes Immense Possibility of Children

Bangladesh is one of the countries that signed and ratified the UNCRC in 1989.

Bangladesh has become a role model in attaining the UN Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). Bangladesh has achieved remarkable successes in the indicators, like poverty reduction, increasing primary enrolment, reducing child and maternal mortality rates etc.

In the 7th Five Year Plan, targets for child health, education, nutrition, safe water and sanitation have been incorporated for achieving the targets of the UN Sustainable Developments Goals (SDGs).

Policy guidance and directives on safety and protection of women and children are being provided through the formation of The National Council for Women and Children Development (NCWCD) under the chairmanship of the Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina.



Ministry of Women and Children Affairs
Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh

September 2017

Ministry of Women and Children Affairs

With the vision of establishing a gender-equality society, the Ministry of Women and Children Affairs is implementing the following activities aimed at establishing the rights of children and women and women's empowerment through mainstreaming child protection in the development process:

- Formulate and implement policies relating to children;
- Adopt Programmes for the development and welfare of children;
- Matters relating to the establishment of legal and social rights of children;
- Identify and solve the problems of children;
- Supervise the activities of Bangladesh Shishu Academy;
- Prevent violence against children and coordinate activists related to children's rights, protection and welfare.
- Coordinate and monitor child-related Programmes of different ministries/ agencies;
- Liaise with various international organizations / agencies dealing developmental activities of children and sign the related agreements;
- Arrange National Award for Children;
- Implement the International Convention on the Rights of the Child;
- Formulate and implement the National Plan of Action related with developmental activities of children;
- Implement several works that are related to Autism;
- Conduct Programme of children that are enlisted by the UN, SAARC, SAIEVAC and NAM;
- Children related national and international meetings / seminars / workshops / conferences;
- Control early marriage and ensure equal rights of girl child;
- Activities of children's cultural delegation at home and abroad;
- Provide maternity allowance, lactating mother allowance and other social security benefits.

International and National Days related with children affairs:

- Birth Anniversary of the Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman and National Children's Day (17 March)
- Child Marriage Prevention Day (29 September)
- National Girl's Child Day (30 September)
- International Children's Day (1st Monday of October) and Children's Right Week (29 September-5 October)
- Birth Anniversary of Sheikh Russel (18 October)
- International Days of Persons with Disabilities (3 December)

Budget for children:

- Present government is committed to children's welfare, protection and development. In the national budget of 2017-18, a separate budget report titled "Blooming Children: Prosperous Bangladesh" is prepared on child focused activities of 13 ministries.
- Total allocation for children in 7 ministries was Taka 38,388 crore in 2015-16 fiscal year; Taka 49,616 crore in 7 ministries in 2016-17 fiscal year.
- Total allocation for children in 13 ministries is Taka 55,858 crore, which is 13.95 % of the national budget Taka 4,00,266 crore in 2017-18 fiscal year.

Different activities for ensuring rights of the children:

- Established Bangladesh Shishu Academy to promote creativity of the children.
- Designated CRC focal points in all ministries and departments to take initiatives.
- Children's Wing is created in the Ministry of Women and Children's Affairs.
- Formation of Department of Children Affairs is underway.
- Child Right's Protection Committee is formed by National Human Rights Commission.
- Address 'violence against women and children', National Helpline Number 109 and Child Helpline 1098 is launched.
- To improve skills of adolescent, 379 clubs are established and 4,880 clubs in upazilas, pouroushava and union is underway.
- Established Baby Homes in 6 districts for abandoned children.
- Formation of district committees headed by Deputy Commissioners to prevent violence against children.
- Established separate gallery for children under 12 in the National Parliament.
- Online birth registration with in 45 days of birth started since 2010.
- Provide food, shelter, health, education, sanitation, birth registration and psychosocial counseling services for the refugee children of Myanmar in Cox's Bazar.
- Established Child Parliament to raise their voice about rights to policymakers.

Initiatives to eliminate child labor:

- The Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh has ratified the ILO Convention in 2001.
- The 5-year National Plan of Action is formulated to eliminate child labor.
- Gazette has been published after determining 38 types of hazardous work for children.
- 1 lakh children have been withdrawn from hazardous work and rehabilitated and new Program were taken to rehabilitate another 60 thousand children.

Acts, Policies and Action plans to establish child rights and development:

- Legal Aid Services Act, 2000.
- Women and Children Repression Prevention Act, 2000.
- Mobile Court Act, 2009.
- Citizenship (Amendment) Act, 2009.
- National Neonatal Health Strategy and Guidelines for Bangladesh 2009.
- Bangladesh Every Newborn Action Plan 2015.
- Acid Crime Prevention (Amendment) Act, 2010.
- Domestic Violence (Prevention and Protection) Act, 2010.
- National Education Policy 2010.
- National Child Labor Elimination Policy 2010.
- National Children Policy 2011.
- Human Trafficking (Deterrence and Suppression) Act, 2012.
- Vagrants and Shelterless Person (Rehabilitation) Act, 2011.
- Pornography Control Act, 2012.
- Comprehensive Early Childhood Care and Development Policy 2013.
- Operational and Implementation Plan of Action of Comprehensive Early Childhood Care and Development Policy 2013.
- Domestic Violence (Prevention and Protection) Rules, 2013.
- National Action Plan to Prevent Violence against Women and Children 2013-2025.
- Children Act, 2013.
- Disability Act for Rights and Protection of the Persons with Disabilities, 2013.
- Trust Act for Protection of the Persons with Neuro-developmental Disabilities, 2013
- Breast-milk Substitutes, Infant Foods, Commercially Manufactured Complementary Foods and the Accessories Thereof (Regulation of Marketing) Act, 2013.
- Deoxyribonucleic Acid (DNA) Act, 2014.
- Domestic Workers Protection and Welfare Policy, 2016.
- National Nutrition Policy 2015.
- Street Children Rehabilitation Programme Implementation and Management Policy 2016.
- Child Marriage Restraint Act, 2017.
- Bangladesh Shishu Academy Act, 2017 (Draft).

Children health related activities:

- Infant mortality rate: 29 /1000 live births, Neonatal mortality rate: 20/1,000 live births, Under-5 mortality rate: 36 / 1,000 live births and MDG 4 targets have been achieved.
- Maternal Mortality Rate: 176/100,000 live births and delivery rate by skilled birth attendants: 42%.
- Total Fertility Rate is 2.1 births per woman and rate of exclusive breastfeeding for the first 6 months of age is 55%.
- Poliomyelitis have been eradicated from Bangladesh.
- Established Integrated Management of Childhood Illness (IMCI) and Nutrition Corners in district and upazila hospitals for under five sick children. Total number of IMCI and Nutrition Corners is 487 (424 UHCs + 63 DHs).
- Established breastfeeding corner in all upazila health complexes.
- Special Care Newborn Unit (SCANU) at 41 medical college hospitals and district hospitals.
- Vitamin A coverage among all under-5 children is 100%.
- Deworming tablet intake rates among 5-12 years students is 99%.
- No of stunting children reduced from 41.4% (2011) to 36.4% (2014). Underweight rate reduced from 36.8% (2011) to 32.9% (2014). Wasting rate reduced from 15.7% (2011) to 14.3% (2014).
- No of Community Clinic: 13,300 and 80% clients are women and children.
- Special sector program for maternal and child health has been implemented for more than 5 years.
- Established Pediatric and Women Cardiac Unit in the National Heart Foundation for cardio-vascular diseases.
- Established 100-bed 'Women and Children Diabetes Endocrine and Metabolic Hospital' in Dhaka.
- 24-hours emergency services at a fair price in 50-bed Dhaka Mahanagar Shishu Hospital.
- Established 24/7 call centers (16263) "Shaystho Batayan" or "Health Window" to provide medical consultations, ambulance reservation and health information.

Children education related activities:

- Net enrollment of children in school is 97.96%, dropout 19.20% and completion rate of primary education cycle 79%.
- Provided 100 taka stipend for one child and 200 taka for two children of the poor families.
- Provided 500 taka for one child and 1000 taka for two children of government officials.
- Distributed nutrient-rich biscuits among 33.90 lakh students.
- Transition from 5th grade to 6th grade 99% and ratio of teachers-students is 1:40 in 2015.
- Distributed 33.28 lakh textbooks at pre-primary level and 10.53 crore books at primary level in 2017.
- 31 lakh 52 thousand students enrolled at pre-primary level in 93,247 institutions in the academic session 2016.
- 3,10,987 children received education from 11,162 Ananda Schools.
- Child Welfare Trust provides education from 20,000 underprivileged children.
- Trained 12,260 school teachers on multimedia projection and digital content.
- 4,850 teachers trained under Project 'Each child learns' in 880 government primary schools.
- Free textbooks given to all students up to class IX.
- Stipends to a total of 1 crore 30 Lakh children at primary education level.
- "School Feeding Programme in Poverty-Prone Areas", Project provided meals to 17,903 students of 105 primary school.
- Meals served by the initiative of local people at 231 schools.
- Pre-primary education from 1,952 centers under ELCD Project.

Activities for flourishing of children's latent talents

- Development of children's literary ability and practicing of creativity in 64 districts.
- Publication of monthly magazine 'Shishu' and 'Nabarun' for the adolescents.
- Four million children participated in Shishu Academy's last three years activities.
- Arrange national children's awards annually on 27 areas covering the grassroots to national level.
- Capacity development to 35 thousand children annually on eleven areas such as music-dance, drawing, recitation, and acting.
- Publication of 756 children books and Children Encyclopedia for developing reading habits.
- 14 children films produced by children in collaboration with the Ministry of Information.
- Broadcast educational and entertainment Programme for children by Bangladesh Betar and Bangladesh Television.
- A separate child-centric journalist's network by Bangladesh Shangbad Shangstha (BSS).
- 3 lakh 50 thousand 500 books published for children on the lives and works of Bangabandhu.
- Ancient historical and memorial relics of children freedom fighter, science project and information corner set up at Sheikh Russel Children Museum at Shishu Academy.
- Introduction of Bangabandhu Gold Cup Primary School Football Tournament to pay homage to the father of the nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman.
- Introduction of Bangomata Begum Fajilatunnessa Mujib Gold Cup Primary School Football Tournament for girls since 2011.
- Organize annual literary and cultural competitions in search of talent-hunt, including the observance of Education Week.
- Separate awards for children in the annual national film competition.
- Safe swimming training to 2 Lakh 62 thousand children and setting up 74 child-friendly centers at disaster-prone areas.

Social protection activities for children

- For rehabilitation of street children created database and 16 shelter homes.
- Taka 86.40 crore capitation grant to 72 thousand orphans in private orphanages at a rate of taka one thousand per month.
- Taka 41.88 crore to 60,000 differently-able children and adolescents at four levels of education.
- Stipends at four tiers for disadvantaged hijra, dalit, harijon and bedey community children.
- Taka 60 Lakh stipends to 1 Lakh 52 thousand children at Chittagong Hill Tracts Districts.
- Rehabilitation of 10,300 orphan children in 85 government children home.
- Support to 750 poor children at six child development centers of Bangladesh Shishu Academy.
- Services to 7,681 children through Sheikh Russel Shishu Proshikhana O Punorbasan Kendro for Vulnerable Children in seven divisions.
- Cash transferred of Taka 180 crore to 40,000 street and vulnerable children in 20 districts, each receiving taka 2000 through the EECR project.
- Stipends to 15000 adolescents in 20 districts amounting to Taka 9 crore 53 lakh and 25,000.
- Setting up 94 Day-Care centers in all districts for working women.
- Maternity allowances provided to 6 Lakh poor mothers and lactating allowances provided to 2 lakh working mothers respectively at a rate of Taka 500 each in two years cycle.
- Introduction of maternal health voucher schemes in 53 upazilas.
- Financial assistance for 4275 children of families affected by Rana Plaza tragedy and children in tea estates.

Activities of different International / National Organizations to ensure rights of children:

- **UNICEF:** Collaboration with the Government to keep the whole life-cycle safe for all children of the world, including Bangladesh.
- **Plan International:** Multifarious activities including child protection, health-services, education, disaster risk reduction and child marriage in Bangladesh since 1994.
- **SOS Child Village:** This international NGO provides extensive caring services to orphans and abandoned children through its child villages.
- **Bangladesh Child Rights Forum:** Various activities at both local and national level on child labor, trafficking, abuse, protection and others areas through its 267 member agencies.
- **EDUCO:** The activities areas include building children's decision-making and leadership capacities, primary education for vulnerable working children, protection of child rights and enhancing overall capacity-building.
- **Girl Children Advocacy Forum:** Various activities to bring overall positive changes to girl children.
- **Aporajeo Bangladesh:** Activities include providing shelter, balanced food, training on health and education, life skills and rehabilitation to street and various types of vulnerable children.
- **Save the Children:** Engagement with civil societies in establishing child rights in 64 districts, raise voices and demand before the policy-makers at local, national and international levels for increasing child allocation in national budget and meeting other demands of children.
- **Ahsania Mission:** Activities relating to preserving rights and protection of street children.
- **Manusher Jonno Foundation:** Development of life skills and leadership of children and youth and help them grow as good citizens through training on self-job creation.
- **Sajeda Foundation:** Activities on health, education, psychosocial counseling, natural disaster, climate change, improving lives of street children and computer education to poor.
- **Apon Alor Pothey Nobo Jatra Foundation:** Managing open school for street children and slum-based school for the deprived and working children.
- **Social and Economic Enhancement Programme (SEEP):** Various activities such as education, recreation, primary healthcare, technical training, providing health and hygiene products to children through a drop-in centre.
- **Incidin Bangladesh:** Activities through drop-in centre for street children, victims of sexual harassment, exploitation and trafficking, night shelter, community-based night-living, psychosocial counseling, and medical services.
- **Change the Lives Foundation:** Managing school for street children living around 24 hours at airport station areas.
- **Ovijatrik Foundation:** Managing free-education activities in school.
- **SWID Bangladesh:** Managing educational activities in 90 specialized schools for children with low IQ, Down Syndrome, CP and Autism.
- **Autism Welfare Foundation:** Total caring service to autistic children and their families, raising mass awareness about autism, and managing special schools to mainstream autistic children.
- **SEED:** Emancipation of rights and awareness raising activities for differently abled population.
- Education and therapeutic activities for differently-able children including autism through SWAC, Gifted Children, DRRRA, AlokitoShishu, Proyash, A Beautiful Mind and other organizations.

Activities for children with disabilities including autism:

The mass awareness about autism in Bangladesh was created through the leadership of Saima Wazed Hossain, Chairperson of the Bangladesh National Advisory Committee on Autism and Neuro-developmental Disorders, also the distinguished daughter of the Honorable Prime Minister of the Government of Bangladesh.

- Saima Wazed Hossain was accorded 'Excellence in Public Health Award' by World Health Organization (WHO) for her special contribution towards raising awareness on autism.
- 'The Dhaka Declaration' was signed during an international seminar in 2011 in Dhaka through enormous efforts of Saima Wazed Hossain. She also delivered a key-note paper in the first meeting of the South Asian Autism Network (SAAN) on 11 February 2013.
- Agenda titled 'Comprehensive and Coordinated Efforts for the Management of ASD' was adopted during the WHO's session in 2014.
- Various free services provided to autistic and differently-able children by National Disability Development Foundation and 11 special schools.
- Setting up of Autism and Neuro-developmental Disorder Academy under the Ministry of Education to bring differently-able children into the mainstream.
- Operating several disability schools under the Integrated Education Policy on Disability-2009.
- Braille books provided by Honorable Prime Minister to visually impaired students.
- Additional 30 minutes are given for differently-able students in public examinations.
- Provided therapeutic, counseling and other services and materials to differently-able population including autistic through 103 disability services centre in 64 districts. Autism corners in these centers were also set up.
- Medical treatment to children affected by autism and neuro-developmental problems through 15 government hospitals and 15 child development centers, including Dhaka Children's Hospital provided.
- Doctors working at upazila level are being trained on autism and neuro-developmental disorders through the IPNA, BSMMU.
- For detecting autism and neuro-developmental disorders at early stage, a screening tool for field workers was developed.

International Awards achieved by Bangladesh for child development:

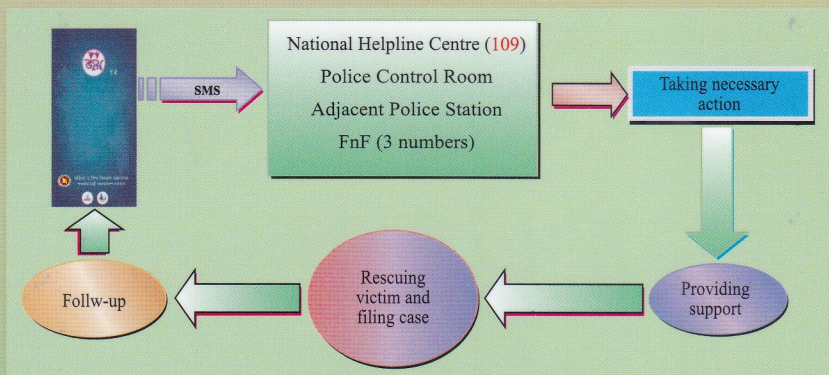
- Honorable Prime Minister of Bangladesh Sheikh Hasina won Millennium Development Goal Awards of the UN in 2010 for reducing child mortality rate.
- The United Nations accorded HPM Sheikh Hasina 'Digital Health for Digital Development' South-South Awards in 2012 in improving health of women and children using ICT.
- Bangladesh was awarded Global Alliance for Vaccination and Immunization in 2009 and 2012 for successes in vaccination programme.

Legal support for children:

- Three development centers with 500 seats established for correction of under-trial children.
- Six shelter homes and one safe custody with 400 seats for women and children were established.
- Around 3,171 missing women and children were supported at Victim Support Centre.
- Counseling services were provided to 83,380 children through probation services.
- RRRRI Task Force Cell has rescued and rehabilitated 6,762 trafficked women and children from January 2011 to June 2016.
- Activities of Women and Children Repression Prevention cell monitored by police headquarters.
- Activities done by community police for raising public awareness to behave sensitively to children.
- Formation of Women and Children Repression Prevention Committee at zila, upazila and union level.
- 6 Safe Homes with 300 seats for safe accommodation and rehabilitation for children in contact with law.
- Women, children and adolescent girls of physical, sexual, burn assault receives health services, police assistance, legal assistance, DNA test, psychosocial counseling and rehabilitation from One-Stop Crisis Center (OCC) in medical college hospitals.
- The toll free helpline number 109 provides support and necessary actions for women and children victims of violence and to stop child marriage.
- National Trauma Counseling Center (NTCC) provides psychosocial counseling services to women and children victims of violence.

“JOY” Mobile Apps:

- To prevent violence against women and children, install and use Joy Mobile Apps for immediate action.



Download and install from Google Play Store or www.mspvaw.gov.bd/www.nhc.gov.bd/www.a2i.pmo.gov.bd

- Victim of violence can touch “Emergency Situation” icon of the JOY apps in mobile phone.
- In case of failure to touch that icon, victim can press the power button for 4 times. The phone will vibrate and press power button again.
- The emergency message with GPS location will be received instantly in the police HQ, adjacent police station, National Helpline Center 109 and three FnF numbers.
- Both the front camera and back camera of phone will be turned on, pictures will be taken and conversations will be stored automatically in the selected server.
- Confidentiality of all information will be maintained. Information could be shared as evidence for the court.

Website: www.mowca.gov.bd

Phone: +88029545012, Fax: +88029540892, Email: secretary@mowca.gov.bd