



UNITED NATIONS SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION FRAMEWORK 2022-2026



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BANGLADESH



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COOPERATION FRAMEWORK (UNSDCF)
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This book offers a high-level overview of the United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework for Bangladesh, focusing on the strategic outcomes and lines of effort that will drive the UN system's work. It is aimed at senior decision makers wishing to understand the overarching rationales and analysis underpinning the Cooperation Framework. The briefing book details the five strategic priorities identified by the Cooperation Framework, the core challenges they seek to address, and the technical and programmatic activities the UN will contribute in each of these areas. It is intended to assist Cooperation Framework stakeholders and development partners to identify priority areas for engagement and support, planning complementary efforts, and devising policy goals to assist with its implementation in their respective institutions.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Introduction	1-2
Strategic Priority 1: Inclusive and Sustainable Economic Development	3-5
Strategic Priority 2: Equitable Human Development and Well-Being	6-10
Strategic Priority 3: Sustainable, Healthy and Resilient Environment	11-13
Strategic Priority 4: Transformative, Participatory and Inclusive Governance	14-16
Strategic Priority 5: Gender Equality and Eliminating Gender-Based Violence	17-19

INTRODUCTION

The Cooperation Framework: The United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework is the UN system's offer of support to the Government of Bangladesh over the next five years. It is fully aligned with the 8th Five Year Plan to help achieve the 2030 Agenda, the Sustainable Development Goals, Bangladesh's aspiration of a sustainable graduation out of the least developed country (LDC) status, and the Perspective Plan 2021-2041. Designed jointly with the Government, the Cooperation Framework focuses the UN's expertise on the highest-priority areas of added value to help Bangladesh emerge from the COVID-19 pandemic and address key development challenges.

Our shared commitment to Leave No One Behind: The Cooperation Framework is rooted in the global commitment to leave no one behind, which is enshrined in Agenda 2030. The Strategic Priorities identified in the document, and the plans laid out to achieve them, are centred around the principles of universality, equality and equity in the protection and exercise of human rights. As Bangladesh strives to reduce inequality, the 8th Five-Year Plan recognizes that policy and programming must be better targeted at, and address the particular needs of, marginalized and vulnerable groups, many of which have been subjected to generational cycles of poverty and cultural, economic, political, and social exclusion. These groups include children, adolescents and youth, women, ethnic minorities, migrants, people affected by natural disasters and other emergencies, the urban and working poor, persons with disabilities, sexual minorities, the elderly, people living with diseases, tea garden communities, and people living in hard-to-reach areas. As the effects of climate change become more profound, services must become increasingly shock-resistant and resilience-enhancing.

Linking to national plans for sustainable development: With shared ownership at its core, the Cooperation Framework corresponds directly to the national vision for sustainable development and immediate recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic. The new Vision 2041 outlines Bangladesh's overarching goals and approach, aspiring to a prosperous country free of poverty, where economic and social justice prevails. The plan for achieving this vision – the Perspective Plan 2021-2041 – defines key targets, including reaching Upper-Middle Income Country Status and eliminating extreme poverty by 2031, and eradicating poverty altogether while reaching High-Income Country status by 2041. Over the next five years, the 8th Five Year Plan provides the framework for national efforts aimed at a strong and resilient recovery from pandemic, and putting the country on track to achieve these targets. To do so, the Plan emphasizes expanding the distribution of the benefits of green growth to all, acknowledging that a "performance gap" has emerged in realizing the full potential of the national economy due to the ongoing need for public sector reforms.

A theory of transformative change. In this context, the Cooperation Framework articulates a narrative describing how the UN's work in Bangladesh over the next five years will help deliver the transformative change necessary to overcome its strategic challenges and achieve the overarching goal of a Bangladesh in which people contribute to and benefit equitably from the integrated social, environmental, and economic dimensions of sustainable and inclusive development. This outcome can be achieved only by meeting five necessary conditions, namely

- 1) more inclusive economic growth,
- 2) better-quality, more widely available, shock-resistant services,
- 3) resilience across institutions, ecosystems and people to disasters, climate change and other stresses,
- 4) stronger, inclusive and accountable national and local governance that delivers human rights, peace, justice and security, and
- 5) accelerated progress towards gender equality, eliminating gender-based discrimination and eliminating violence against women and girls.

Additionally, in the short term, Bangladesh will need to seize the opportunity of a rapid, coordinated, green, and sustainable recovery from COVID-19 to build better basic social services, employment, income, and economic activities and enhance social cohesion.

STRATEGIC PRIORITY 1: INCLUSIVE AND SUSTAINABLE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

The outcome: Accelerated economic transformation towards more sustainable and inclusive growth will mean that, by 2026, sustainable, green economic development provides more people in Bangladesh, especially the most vulnerable and marginalized, with sustainable livelihoods and decent work opportunities.



Why it matters: Green economic growth, with decent employment and livelihoods for all people in Bangladesh, is critical to achieving the Perspective Plan's long-term vision of a poverty-free, inclusive, and prosperous Bangladesh with gender parity in the work force by 2041. In the short term, this will require that the economic recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic is inclusive, gender-responsive and environmentally sustainable, and that it creates more green, decent jobs. In the longer term, Bangladesh will need to reverse the current trend of lower employment growth in comparison to economic growth, especially in the manufacturing and construction sectors, and enhance opportunities for women. The continued concentration of jobs in the informal sector demands greater formalization of the economy, more decent work, a market-oriented skill training system, and greater protections for informal workers, especially the most vulnerable. Clean production and consumption must be at the centre of Bangladesh's growth strategy.



Catalysts of change: For these changes to take place, Bangladesh first will need to adopt new SDGs financing framework that more systematically leverages diverse financing sources. This will help to increase investment in employment-intensive, gender-transformative, sustainable, and responsible green growth sectors while building more resilient infrastructure and inclusive employment and entrepreneurship opportunities. Moreover, workers, both at home and abroad, must have access to skills development and financial and non-financial services to enable them to benefit from national and global employment and entrepreneurship opportunities in the context of the Fourth Industrial Revolution. Strengthened labour market governance institutions and frameworks will be necessary to drive formalisation, promote responsible business, and protect dignity, rights, safety, and equity and equality at work for all.

The UN's offer of support:

SDG Financing: In cooperation with international financial institutions, development partners, private sector, and civil society the UN will help the Government devise and implement the Integrated National Financing Framework (INFF). Among other things, the UN will support Bangladesh in updating its Development Finance Assessment and Financing Strategy, create SDG-specific financing roadmaps, establish a government-led SDG financing oversight and coordination mechanism, and generate an investment pipeline for SDGs under the framework.

Gender parity in the workforce: The UN will help the Government develop and implement a national strategy in line with the INFF to promote legal protection and reform, further women's financial inclusion, promoting entrepreneurship and accelerate training.

Growth in manufacturing: To increase diversity in investment in this sector, the UN will help deploy selective foreign direct investment and manufacturing policies to mobilize more foreign investment, while encouraging the adoption of technologies and business models to improve productivity, resilience, market access, inclusivity and sustainability of local cottage, micro, small and medium enterprises (CMSMEs).





Skills development: To foster employable skills aligned with inclusive, green, and equitable job creation and emerging market trends, the UN will provide support for institutionalised skills training systems and strengthened coordination mechanisms between the private sector and Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) institutions, including to promote direct investment in TVET. Areas of focus will include modernizing and incentivising youth participation in the agricultural sector and more market-driven skills development for overseas migrant workers.

Entrepreneurship and employment: Focusing on sectors with the highest potential for green jobs, the UN will assist the Government in designing and implementing employment-intensive investment programmes that will build capacities and increase market knowledge and access to finance, with a focus on ensuring equal access for women. The UN will collaborate with youth-centred community-based organizations to expose youth to work opportunities, livelihood skills, and policy and public participation.

Responsible business and decent work practices: The UN will partner with public and private sector actors to build their capacity to promote awareness and oversee compliance among employers and employees of labour policies, including workers' rights and strategies to promote gender equality and women's empowerment in the workplace.

Figure: Top-level results by 2026 that the UN will contribute to

- Increase the gross **national income per capita** by approx. 50%.
- Decrease the proportion of population living **below the national poverty line** by approx. one quarter.
- Decrease **unemployment** rates to less than one third of 2017 levels for women and men.
- Lower the proportion of time spent on **unpaid domestic and care work** for women and increase it for men.
- Increase private, public and foreign direct **investment** as a share of GDP.

STRATEGIC PRIORITY 2: EQUITABLE HUMAN DEVELOPMENT AND WELL-BEING

The outcome: To foster universal growth of human capabilities and social development, gaps across social services and protection actors will be closed such that, by 2026, more people will have improved access to and utilization of quality, inclusive, gender- and shock-responsive, universal, and resilient social protection, the social safety-net and social services.



Why it matters: Years of development gains and poverty reduction have generated conditions that now offer an opportunity for the country to access the transformative benefits of the “demographic dividend,” provided there is scaled-up and well-targeted investments in social services such as education, health, nutrition, water and sanitation, protection, and employment. Investment in these areas is also necessary in the short term to address the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic on the poorest and most vulnerable in society and the unequal distribution of these impacts to women. The pandemic has highlighted the importance of building social protection floors in Bangladesh. However, the slow progress in implementing the National Social Security Strategy and the stagnation of funding allocated to social protection-related income transfers to the poor and vulnerable have been recognized by the 8th Five Year Plan as barriers to be rapidly addressed, both to offset the negative effects of COVID-19 but also to ensure greater poverty reduction.



Catalysts of change: Achieving this outcome will require that at least three sets of conditions must be fulfilled. First, actors must have strengthened systems and capacities, and be more accountable for their delivery of quality social protection and basic social services. Second, all people, especially the most vulnerable, must be empowered to utilize social protection and basic social services, so that they enjoy lives of respect and dignity. Finally, policy and regulatory frameworks must be put in place and strengthened to enable greater access to and utilization of inclusive, gender-responsive and resilient services.

The UN's offer of support:

Overarching support: To support Bangladesh's effort to make social protection, social safety nets and basic social services more resilient and shock-responsive, the UN will support inter-sectoral efforts to coordinate whole-of-society approaches, including strengthening linkages at the humanitarian-development-peace nexus. Across these areas of intervention, the UN will support coordination efforts and advocate for adequate budgetary allocations aligned with the national life-cycle approach. It will support the generation and integration of lessons learned from the COVID-19 pandemic into the provision of social protection. As a key element of building back better, the Government will be supported in developing a single electronic registry of social service beneficiaries. The UN will partner with civil society and private sector actors to enhance mechanisms for community participation in decision-making, monitoring, and grievance redress.



Photo : FAO Bangladesh



Photo : WHO Bangladesh

Strengthening health care: The UN will take a systems-building approach to help the Government achieve universal health coverage following primary care principles. It will aid in the review of national policies and strategies to make the systems more resilient and deliver better quality care, using digital solutions where appropriate. It will advocate for adequate budgetary allocation to ensure universal access to a basic service package and scaled up social accountability, community engagement, and demand generation strategies.



Education: The UN will help to generate data and evidence to support national-level decision making on addressing learning poverty, including by developing more effective learning and teaching materials and promoting the use of methods that encourage higher-order thinking and skills acquisition. The UN will help to build platforms for engaging with children, adolescents, youth, parents, and caregivers to ensure that education and learning is safe, promotes cultural peace, non-violence, and tolerance, transforms harmful gender norms, and encourages services utilization, including in emergencies

Child protection: The UN will support the expansion of the social welfare system, especially the social service workforce. To better integrate child protection measures in schools, the UN will support training for education staff as well as national and local, social, and behavioural change initiatives to address violence around schools and encourage early detection and referral of child protection cases. It will help increase access to emergency and community-based protection, mental health and psychosocial services tailored to specific vulnerable groups. The UN will support legal and policy reforms harmonized with international human rights instruments.



Nutrition: The UN will provide technical support to strengthen the policies, regulations, capacities, and accountability mechanisms for the delivery of nutrition services at the national and sub-national levels. These efforts will address essential nutrition services, accessibility and affordability of diversified diets, food safety regulations, and nutrition-sensitive social protection. The UN will assist in data collection and harmonization to support evidence-based policymaking and programming to scale up coverage, outreach, and quality of community-based nutrition interventions and early childhood services.

Food security: Employing a systems approach to ensure food remains safe across the supply chain, the UN will aid Government actors to promote green production technologies and good agricultural practices for efficiency and food safety, diversification for improved diets, and climate-smart agriculture policies and programmes. It will promote sustainable food production and encourage the Government to leverage of the private sector's responsibilities in food systems. In addition, the focus will be on leveraging government-led social safety nets and integrating them into food systems, including post-harvest fortification of staple food.



Water and sanitation: The UN will provide technical assistance to the Government to strengthen the regulatory framework, enact institutional reforms, and conduct sector-wide monitoring. It will provide advice and capacity building support to help the sector adapt to emerging issues, such as climate change. It will help to ensure the integration of WASH in public institutions, for example the operation and maintenance of WASH in schools, and the use of innovative financing mechanisms.



Migrants and returnees: To improve access to gender responsive, inclusive, and high-quality migration and protection services – both during migration and upon return – the UN will provide technical assistance to improve Government policies and support capacity development and direct resource support to service delivery systems. The UN will contribute to community-based mechanisms that create demand for, and promote access to, services for migrants.

Figure: Top-level results by 2026 that the UN will contribute to

- Lower **malnutrition** for children under five years of age.
- Increase the proportion of population using **safely managed drinking water** services, from less than half in 2019 to three-quarters.
- Continue to lower the **maternal mortality** rate, reaching 100 per 100,000 live births.
- Lower the percentage of women aged 20-24 years who were **married before age 18**, from over half to less than a third.
- Increase the proportion of the population **covered by social protection** by approx. 20% from 2016 levels.
- Increase the participation in and completion of primary **school**, while increasing achievement of minimum standards for reading and mathematics in secondary schools for girls and boys.
- Lower both moderate and severe **food insecurity** in the population.
- Increase the percentage of **migrants and returnees**, including women and other vulnerable migrants, who have access to key services.

STRATEGIC PRIORITY 3: SUSTAINABLE, HEALTHY AND RESILIENT ENVIRONMENT

The outcome: Thanks to accelerated action on climate change resilience and adaptation, natural resource and water management, renewable energy, a transition to environmental sustainability, and reduced vulnerabilities to natural hazards, by 2026 ecosystems will be healthier and all people will benefit from and contribute to a cleaner and more resilient environment, an enriched natural resource base, and low carbon development. They will be more prosperous and resilient to climate change, shocks and disasters.



Why it matters: A sustainable environment, a climate-resilient nation in a dynamic delta, and a vibrant blue economy are at the centre of Bangladesh's 2041 Vision. In the 8th Five Year Plan, the Delta Plan 2100 and several other strategies, the Government has committed to a sustainable development pathway that is both human- and environmentally friendly in adapting to climate change, use of natural resources, and management of urbanization. However, more support is needed for institutions to adopt and implement a whole-of-society, integrated and forward-thinking approaches across the many actors involved in these processes. Individuals and communities can be better harnessed as agents for change but need access to resources and an enabling environment to create local solutions and adopt positive behaviours. The post-COVID era presents an opportunity to reset the economy on a path towards green growth.



Photo : UNRCO Bangladesh

Catalysts of change: To address these challenges, all people must have fair access to the resources necessary to adopt sustainable consumption behaviours, ranging from infrastructure, to finance, to information, to technology. National and local institutional capacities for environmental planning, regulation, monitoring and enforcement must possess the tools and whole-of-society approaches to improve environmental and ecosystem health and manage dynamic risks, such as climate change, disasters, pandemics, and humanitarian crises in a coordinated way. Finally, stakeholders across civil society, the private sector and government must be empowered to input into and oversee environmental policies and legal frameworks, as well as financing and investment solutions to prioritize green investment.

The UN's offer of support:

Sustainable resource use and resilience: The UN will provide technical assistance and funding to enhance access among the most marginalised to basic services, resilient infrastructure, information, finance and technology to build local resilience to climate change, shocks and disasters. For rural communities, technical support will be provided for on-farm and off-farm approaches to increase resilience. The UN will make available its wide-ranging expertise for the co-development with the Government and the private sector of climate mitigation strategies and action plans that support the country's efforts to reduce national emissions, including from the transport sector, and adapt to the impacts of climate change by transitioning to clean and renewable energy. The UN will also promote behaviour change towards conservation, preservation and promotion of natural resources and biodiversity.





Disaster risk management: Developing institutional capacity to better manage dynamic risks, the UN will support the Government and non-state actors to coordinate and implement innovative, whole-of-society and gender-responsive initiatives for disaster risk reduction, climate change adaptation, and ecosystem health management. These initiatives will include financial and programmatic frameworks and forecast-based readiness actions to prepare for and respond to shocks and minimize disruptions of services. Given the transboundary nature of many disaster risks, the UN will facilitate regional intergovernmental cooperation on disaster risk management and response.

Policy implementation, enforcement, compliance, and coherence: The UN will provide technical assistance to the Government to ensure multi-sectoral integration and coordination across existing and new strategies in this sector. These efforts will include more explicit consideration of the social protection needs of displaced and migrant communities affected by climate change and disasters, as well as initiatives to improve the effectiveness of resettlement and relocation schemes. The UN will support the Government engagement in international fora and governance mechanisms and will assist in increasing access to environmental and climate finance opportunities, including through the co-development of strategies and projects with UN support.

Figure: Top-level results by 2026 that the UN will contribute to

- Radically lower the number of deaths, missing persons and directly affected persons attributed to **disasters**.
- Increase the share of **renewable energy** in final energy consumption
- Increase **tree-covered land** as a percentage of total land area

STRATEGIC PRIORITY 4: TRANSFORMATIVE, PARTICIPATORY AND INCLUSIVE GOVERNANCE

The outcome: By 2026, more people, especially the most vulnerable, will benefit from more equitable, non-discriminatory, gender-responsive, participatory, accountable governance and justice, in a peaceful and tolerant society that is governed by the rule of law and in which and people enjoy all human rights.



Why it matters: Despite strong legal mandates and some progress, many people across Bangladesh are not empowered to meaningfully participate in the country's governance or to effectively claim their rights to justice and public services. The 8th Five Year Plan features a broad-based, inclusive governance strategy to empower every citizen to participate in and benefit from the development process. Yet, Government institutions at the national and sub-national levels face increasing demands for more effective, efficient, and equitable government machinery. Administrators are struggling to overcome limited institutional capacities, overly centralized structures, bureaucratic entanglement, and poor coordination, as well as administrative discrimination across different sectors of society. Bangladesh's longstanding traditional and constitutional secularism continues to be challenged by disinformation, divisive narratives, and the spread of extremist ideologies. These challenges are further deepened by shrinking space for civil society and freedom of expression curbed by the limited participatory opportunities for people to engage, promote and claim their rights.



Catalysts for change: Three preconditions must be met for this outcome to be realized. First, people, especially the most vulnerable in districts of Bangladesh which are lagging behind, must be empowered to participate in and claim their rights within the governance and justice systems. Second, public institutions, local governments and other quasi-formal institutions, and normative and policy frameworks must be more gender-responsive, accountable, and governed by the rule of law. Finally, civil society organizations, oversight bodies and the private sector must be able to participate meaningfully in decision-making, fight against discrimination, and prevent violent extremism, incitement to violence, and misinformation.

The UN's offer of support:

Awareness and dialogue: The UN will help to empower rights holders through training, disseminating information, and conducting people-centred advocacy on the full range of human rights and the promotion of gender equality. This will promote awareness of rights and avenues for people to engage with authorities to voice grievances, seek redress, access services, and identify and combat discrimination and harmful social norms. The UN will use its unique convening and facilitating capacity at the national and subnational levels to foster platforms for strategic dialogue between state-level and civil society actors and to broaden the civic and political space for women, youth, and marginalized communities.

Human rights and justice institutions: The UN will provide technical assistance to the National Human Rights Commission in the implementation of its mandate, including support to the NHRC and line ministries on treaty body and Universal Periodic Review (UPR) reporting and the uptake of UPR recommendations. It will provide advice and technology to the Supreme Court to support legal aid, and help justice mechanisms to enhance outreach, coordination, and caseload management to make legal, alternative dispute resolution and redressal mechanisms more efficient and accessible to the public. This will render them less susceptible to bribery and corruption and thus more worthy of public trust and support. The UN will also work with a range of national commissions and institutions to strengthen mechanisms for the meaningful integration of people's voices in development planning, financing, and policy advocacy.



Photo : UNDP Bangladesh



Photo : UNICEF Bangladesh

Strengthening the machinery of government: The UN will support the generation of gender-responsive and multidimensional data to inform better legislation, regulatory reforms, and other instruments of governance. Technical assistance will help to enhance national data management and information systems, including statistical capacity for SDG monitoring. The UN will promote initiatives that actively engage people's participation - including through representative organizations - in dialogue on laws, policies, and legal reforms.



Photo : UNDP Bangladesh

Transparency and accountability: The UN will provide technical assistance to enhance transparency and accountability for effective, non-discriminatory public service delivery, including on drug and crime related threats, criminal justice and detention, the prevention of violent extremism, and counter-terrorism. It will support strengthened anti-corruption measures including through Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC). Local government capacity strengthening will enhance the public finance management, participatory planning capacities.

Access to justice: The UN will advocate for the enactment of key laws to improve the administration of justice process, including at the community level. The UN will support improved outreach and coverage of legal aid services with a focus on digital mediation platforms at national and district legal aid offices, including access to a more transparent justice system will be convened and facilitated through cooperation.

Civic space and social cohesion: The UN will help the Government develop policies and practices in line with international standards to ensure freedom of expression and prevent growing intolerance and online harm. This will include the implementation of the National Action Plan on Women Peace and Security and technical assistance and training to civil society to promote digital literacy and digital citizenship. The UN will also create

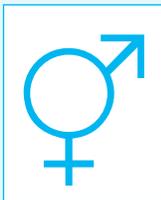
platforms for dialogue between the state, civil society, and the private sector on all areas of human rights including international labour standards. This facilitating role will also be used to broaden civic and political space for women, youth, and minority leaders and to enhance outreach, coordination, and knowledge sharing that can enrich and inform policy formulation

Figure: Top-level results by 2026 that the UN will contribute to

- Increase the proportion of population satisfied with their last experience of public services from approx. 40% to 60%
- Raise the number of queries attended to by government institutions under the Right to Information Act by over 50%

STRATEGIC PRIORITY 5: GENDER EQUALITY AND REDUCING GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE: EMPOWERING WOMEN AND GIRLS

The outcome: Through addressing structural and intersectoral gender inequalities and gender-based violence (GBV), by 2026, more women, girls and sexual minorities will benefit from an environment in which they are empowered to exercise their rights, agency, and decision-making power over all aspects of their lives towards a life are free from all forms of discrimination, violence and harmful norms and practices,



Why it matters: Bangladesh has made significant progress toward gender equality and advancing the status of women and girls. However, the country's strong laws and policies in this area suffer from weak implementation and women, girls, and sexual minorities continue to face discrimination and are prevented from enjoying their human rights and fully participating in public and private life. Sexual harassment and abuse, high levels of GBV and harmful practices such as child marriage continue and have worsened in the COVID-19 pandemic. The 8th Five Year Plan seeks to address many of these gaps by enhancing women's access to resources and opportunities while also addressing structural and institutional barriers and persistent social norms. A safe, gender-equal Bangladesh will expedite the realization of the SDGs.



Photo : UN Women Bangladesh

Catalysts of change: Transformative and sustainable change in this area requires a variety of conditions be fulfilled. All national legal and policy instruments must be informed by a feminist, gender transformative and intersectional approach that prioritizes the rights of women and girls and sexual minorities in compliance with international norms and standards. These instruments must be implemented, enforced, monitored, and reported on to hold duty bearers at all levels accountable and to support representation, participation and oversight by rights holders. All sections of society, including boys and men as agents of change, must be engaged to transform harmful and discriminatory gender norms, roles and practices that perpetuate and reinforce GBV and gender inequality.

The UN's offer of support:

The UN will focus on two interrelated strategic approaches:

- 1) strengthening the capacity and accountability of institutions across the public and private sectors; and
- 2) supporting civil society and the women's movement to effectively represent women and girls in a wider political space.



Photo: UNRCO Bangladesh

Building institutional capacities: The UN will support the review and strengthening of institutional mechanisms, capacities and coordination structures across the government and public institutions to effectively implement existing gender-responsive frameworks. Where necessary, it will also support the development of new ones in line with international and national commitments.

Data, monitoring and accountability: As part of efforts to strengthen political accountability and build ownership of the comprehensive, multi-sectoral and transformative approach needed to accelerate gender equality and prevent GBV, the UN will work to strengthen Parliamentary and Government capacities to generate quality, comparable disaggregated gender statistics to address data gaps, support evidence-based policy making, enhance gender-responsive finance management and budgeting, and meet reporting commitments under the SDGs and other national and international commitments and plans.

GBV prevention and response: Working with a wide range of stakeholders, including boys, men, faith leaders and the media, the UN will invest more in evidence-based prevention programming, building on globally evaluated models. The UN will also support the adoption and roll out of life skills curricula across all modes of education and will work to build capacity and accountability among essential service providers, including in health, police, justice, and social welfare, through a multisectoral coordination mechanism, exploring innovative financing mechanisms to scale up and expand the reach of GBV services which remain limited for women and girls.

Civil society capacity: The UN will focus on building networks among and enhancing the ability of civil society actors and the women's movement to participate in policy change for the promotion of gender equality and elimination of GBV and ensure accountability of duty bearers. The UN will act as a bridge between CSO and the Government to strengthen women's leadership and participation. This will include supporting the development of a mechanism through which gender equality and women's rights CSOs will have a key role in informing public policy processes across sectors. The UN will help build the capacity of women, girls, other rights holders, and women's organizations to participate in national and local consultative and decision-making processes.



Photo : UNRCO Bangladesh

Figure: Top-level results by 2026 that the UN will contribute to

- Increase the degree to which legal frameworks are in place to promote, enforce and monitor **equality and non-discrimination based on sex** in overarching legal frameworks and public life; for violence against women; in the delivery of employment and economic benefits; and in marriage and family measures.
- More than halve the proportion of ever-partnered women and girls aged 15 years and older subjected to **physical, sexual or psychological violence** by a current or former intimate partner in the previous 12 months.
- Halve the proportion of women and girls aged 15 years and older subjected to sexual violence by persons other than an intimate partner in the previous 12 months.
- Raise the **gender budget** as percentage of total budget by more than four percentage points.

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