

National Budget 2022-23: Summary

Women and Children Affairs



Women and Children Affairs

1. Background and the Main Features of the Women and Children Affairs Sector

In the budget of FY 2022-23, commitment has been made for empowering women politically, economically and socially, eliminating gender inequality, and establishing child rights in line with the National Women's Development Policy-2011. Infrastructure and communication services for women are being enhanced and institutional capacity is being strengthened to increase women's human capacity, economic participation, and benefits, to ensure women's voice and representation.

Maternity Allowance, Employees' Lactating Maternal Assistance, and micro-credit activities for women's self-employment are being executed to meet the nutritional needs of poor pregnant mothers in rural and urban areas and to ensure the development of their children.

Initiatives have been undertaken to make low-educated, poor, and helpless women self-reliant through income-generating training and IT training, the establishment of a community nursing degree college for women in Dhaka, and the development of women entrepreneurs at the grassroots level. The trend of development would be continued by ensuring the overall socio-economic development of women including the provision of safety for women in the workplace, the budget document noted.

Funds have been allocated in this year's national budget considering the mother and child support programmes as the best investment under social security activities. Prioritising the programme, it has been proposed to increase the number of beneficiaries to 12 lakh 54 thousand in the fiscal year 2022-23, which was 10 lakh 45 thousand in 2021-22. As a result, the number of beneficiaries will increase to 2 lakh 9 thousand in the 2022-23 fiscal year.

Under the social security programme, there are elderly allowance, disability allowance and disability stipend programme, rural and urban social service activities under poverty alleviation programme, rehabilitation programme for acid burn and disabled women, and widow and husband abused distressed women allowance and rural maternity center programme.

The inclusion of women in interest-free microfinance activities is directly contributing to the empowerment of 1.20 lakh women annually, increasing social security, self-employment, access to education and training, participation in income-generating activities, owning capital, and access to government resources and services. Arrangements are being made for the maintenance, training, education, and rehabilitation of social crime-prone women through six centers on priority basis.

2. Proposed Budget of FY2022-23 and the Women and Children Affairs Sector

An allocation of Tk 4,290 crore has been proposed for women and children in FY 2022-23, which is an increase of Tk 16 crore than the revised budget of FY 2021-22, and an increase of 5 percent (Figure 1). About 72% of the budget allocation will be spent on development activities (Figure 2).

4,400 -4,103 4,200 — 4,000 — 3,800 — 3.600 — 3,400 _____ 3,200 — 3,000 —— Budget 22-23 Revised Budget 21-22 0.70 -0.63% 0.60 -0.50 -0.40 -0.30 -0.20 -Budget 22-23 Revised Budget 21-22

Figure 1: Proposed Budget of FY2022-23: Women and Children Affairs

Source: Budget in Brief 2022-23, Ministry of Finance

4,000
3,500
3,000
2,500
2,000
1,500
1,000
500
0

Budget 22-23

Revised Budget 21-22

Operating Budget

Development Budget

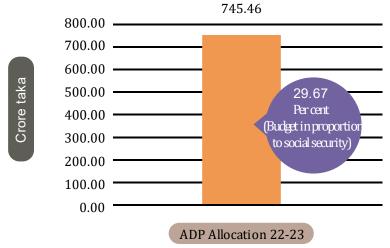
Figure 2: Ministry wise Allocation for the Women and Children Affairs Sector

Source: Budget Speech 2022-23, 9 June 2022

3. Allocation for the Women and Children Affairs Sector under the Social Security Scheme

An allocation of Tk 745 crore has been proposed for the Women and Children Affairs sector under the Social Security Scheme which is 30% of the total budget for the Social Security budget (Figure-3)

Figure 3: Annual Development Plan and Allocation for the Women and Children Affairs Sector



Source: Annual Development Plan (2022-23)

4. Conclusion

The 8th Five Year Plan sets specific goals for the development of women and children, such as ensuring the rights and advancement of children through the implementation of government policies and laws, providing essential health facilities to children, ensuring equal access to

essential food and nutrition, girls education, training, providing opportunities in the development index; protecting children from all forms of abuse, exploitation and violence, and ensuring public support for children's development. Through the successful implementation of the budget of this sector, Bangladesh will move forward to achieve the goals of the 8th Five Year Plan.