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Generating Knowledge, Giving Voice, Challenging Injustice

# Annual Report 2022



Publisher

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## **Centre for Policy Dialogue (CPD)**

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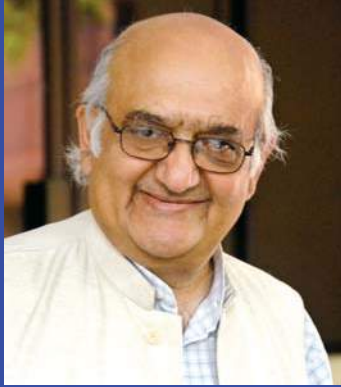
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## MESSAGE FROM **CHAIRMAN** AND **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**



The year 2022 was critical for Bangladesh, as the country had to deal with several economic challenges created due to both external and internal factors. High inflation driven by exorbitant food and fuel prices, exchange rate volatility, a depleting foreign exchange reserve, weakening of the banking sector, and limited fiscal space exacerbated numerous pre-existing difficulties in the economy. Of course, the two sectors, agriculture and export, helped the economy with good harvest of food and foreign exchange earnings, respectively.

CPD researchers closely monitored the macroeconomic situation throughout the year by tracking and analysing data, engaging in public discussions through organising dialogues and media briefings, and making concrete policy recommendations for the government. The CPD team also worked on a variety of issues with profound implications on Bangladesh's development. Some of these include public finance management, climate change, environment and green growth, power and energy, citizen's engagement in development discourse, human and labour rights in the readymade garments sector, industrial safety, finance for women's development, youth employment, working conditions and business environment in the industrial sector, Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), development effectiveness, LDC graduation, and regional co-operation.

In 2022, we published 4 books, 6 working papers, 30 policy briefs, 8 special reports, 5 dialogue reports, 119 opinions and several commentaries on the economy. Our researchers also took part in discussions regionally and globally and published abroad. We deepened our policy advocacy through dialogues, webinars, and outreach. CPD organised 20 national dialogues, 5 sub-national dialogues, 11 media briefings, 2 conferences and numerous expert consultations throughout this past year. The Annual Report 2022 presents some highlights of CPD's activities during the year.

Looking ahead, 2023 will be a year of rethinking development policies in the ever-evolving global and domestic landscape. It will be a moment for re-envisioning the SDGs as they cross halfway through their journey towards 2030.

Domestically, the coming year will be politically critical as Bangladesh will hold the twelfth national elections. The Bangladeshi citizens eagerly await a credible and acceptable national election in 2023.

For us, 2023 is a year of special significance; it marks CPD's 30th anniversary. CPD was established with the goal to service the growing demand of Bangladesh's emerging civil society for a demand-driven and accountable development process by stimulating informed debate, generating knowledge, and influencing policymaking through a multi stakeholder participatory process. Over the past three decades, CPD has evolved into a highly revered think tank with a national, regional, and global presence, tackling issues through strategic partnership at home and abroad. It is now an internationally reputed think tank with local roots and a global reach.

Going forward, CPD will continue to strive for excellence in its work and engage with its stakeholders for strengthened policy analyses and advocacy. We take this opportunity to thank our colleagues and friends for your support and encouragement in our journey which has been both challenging and rewarding during the last 30 years.

CPD's accomplishments have been due to the invaluable dedication and team spirit of the members of CPD family. We recognise the guidance of the members of CPD's Board of Trustees (BoT) in implementing our activities. CPD's highly motivated and committed colleagues of three divisions — Research, Dialogue, and Finance and Administration — have extended their endless co-operation towards fulfilling CPD's ambitious workplan. We thank each and every member of CPD for their hard work. Sincere thanks are due to our Distinguished Fellows Dr Debapriya Bhattacharya, Professor Mustafizur Rahman, and Professor Rounaq Jahan for their valuable support. We recognise the contributions of Research Director Dr Khondoker Golam Moazzem and Finance Director Mr M Shafiqul Islam in taking forward CPD's activities. Inspired by the commitment of our CPD colleagues and goodwill of our partners, we look forward to striving for strengthened policy analysis and enhanced public engagement in 2023. We would like to express our gratitude to our friends and well-wishers for their continuous support and encouragement during our journey. We wish you a healthy and safe future.



**Professor Rehman Sobhan**  
Chairman



**Dr Fahmida Khatun**  
Executive Director

## CPD'S EMERGENCE

The Centre for Policy Dialogue (CPD) was established in 1993 by *Professor Rehman Sobhan*, an eminent economist of Bangladesh, well-known in South Asia and globally for his academic and professional accomplishments. CPD's launching coincided with the beginning of democratic practice in Bangladesh after a nine-year-long military regime in the early 1990s. The establishment of CPD created a space to promote progressive ideas and participate in debates on Bangladesh's development process. Over the past three decades, CPD has established itself as Bangladesh's leading civil society think tank. CPD is committed to remaining a demand-driven and independent think tank, achieved through research and knowledge generation, dialogues, and outreach, as well as publication and dissemination. In doing so, CPD is growing from strength to strength and making various distinctive transitions in its journey.

## FOCUS

CPD strives to focus on the frontier issues that are critical to the development of Bangladesh in the present context and which are expected to shape and influence the country's development prospects over the mid-term horizon.

## OUR VISION

To contribute towards building an inclusive society in Bangladesh that is based on equity, justice, fairness and good governance.

## OUR MISSION

To service the growing demand of the civil society of Bangladesh for a demand-driven and accountable development process by stimulating informed debate, generating knowledge and influencing policy-making through research, dialogue, dissemination and advocacy.

## OUR OBJECTIVES

To enhance national capacity for economy-wide policy analysis; foster regional co-operation in key areas such as poverty alleviation, trade, investment and connectivity; facilitate Bangladesh's effective integration into the process of globalisation.





# ***Macroeconomic Policy Analysis***

# ASSESSMENT OF MACROECONOMIC PERFORMANCE

The Independent Review of Bangladesh's Development (IRBD), CPD's flagship programme, has been assessing the country's macroeconomic development since 1995. Under this programme, CPD conducts periodic reviews of the state of Bangladesh economy and assesses emerging issues.



Concerning the macroeconomic performance of Bangladesh for FY2021–22, during the third interim review, IRBD recommended to focus on the quality of GDP growth, protecting the purchasing power of the low and limited-income groups, maintaining macroeconomic stability, and prioritising sustainable development targets beyond GDP growth.



(From Left): *Dr Fahmida Khatun*, Executive Director, CPD; *Professor Mustafizur Rahman*, Distinguished Fellow, CPD; *Dr Zahid Hussain*, Former Lead Economist, The World Bank; *Dr M Tamim*, Former Special Assistant to the Chief Advisor and Professor, Department of Petroleum and Mineral Resources Engineering, BUET; *Dr Shah Md. Ahsan Habib*, Professor Selection Grade, BIBM; and *Mr Towfiqul Islam Khan*, Senior Research Fellow, CPD.



(From Left): *Mr Mostofa Azad Chowdhury Babu*, Vice President, FBCCI; *Professor Mustafizur Rahman*, Distinguished Fellow, CPD; *Dr Hossain Zillur Rahman*, Executive Chairman, PPRC; *Dr A B Mirza Azizul Islam*, former advisor to a Caretaker Government; *Dr Fahmida Khatun*, Executive Director, CPD; *Dr M Tamim*, Former Special Assistant to the Chief Advisor and Professor, Department of Petroleum and Mineral Resources Engineering, BUET; and *Dr Khondaker Golam Moazzem*, Research Director, CPD.

## BANGLADESH ECONOMY IN THE CONTEXT OF CHANGING GLOBAL SCENARIO

In 2022, the Bangladesh economy encountered challenges in areas of commodity prices, external sector, banking sector, budget management, and in energy and power sector. In response to these challenges, IRBD recommended curbing the inflation, stabilising exchange rate, forming independent banking commission, continuation of subsidy on fuel, power and agriculture and prioritising public expenditure.

## RECENT CHALLENGES FACING THE BANGLADESH ECONOMY

As Bangladesh was facing challenges from both domestic and external fronts, CPD recommended short- and medium-term measures to overcome the economic challenges. A dialogue brief titled 'Recent Challenges Facing the Bangladesh Economy' was prepared highlighting CPD's recommendations.

## A FISCAL SPACE AND CORRECT POLICY MEASURES COULD HAVE PREVENTED THE ARBITRARY HIKE OF THE FUEL PRICE



(From Left): Mr Mozammel Hoque Chowdhury, Secretary General, Bangladesh Jatri Kalyan Samity; Mr Fazlee Shamim Ehsan, Vice President, BKMEA; Mr Anwar Faruque, Former Secretary, Ministry of Agriculture; Dr Fahmida Khatun, Executive Director, CPD; Dr Ijaz Hossain, Former Professor, BUET; and Dr Khondaker Golam Moazzem, Research Director, CPD.

### Mitigation Strategy

- Given the fuel price hike is likely to stoke the already difficult inflationary situation, the government must provide immediate support to the poor and limited-income households across the country.
- Taking the current inflationary trends into cognisance, the government can consider reducing fuel prices through tax or tariff cuts for a short period.
- The power and energy sector in Bangladesh needs to change its policy focus on primary energy, which is currently import-dependent

On 5 August, 2022, the unprecedented hike in fuel prices occurred without any consultation with relevant stakeholders, which had the possibility of causing both immediate and medium-term impacts on various sectors of the country's economy. CPD organised a media briefing on 10 August, 2022, to discuss how this situation would impact the macroeconomy of Bangladesh.

Dialogue Briefs in both English and Bangla were also prepared to delineate the crucial issues that could emerge because of fuel price hikes and to explore the recommendations from CPD and relevant stakeholders.



## GOVERNMENT SHOULD FOCUS ON MACROECONOMIC STABILITY BY ADDRESSING INFLATIONARY PRESSURE, POWER AND ENERGY CRISIS, AND STRENGTHENING EXTERNAL SECTOR

CPD organised a media briefing titled '*Slowdown in Global Economy and Challenges for Bangladesh: How to Tackle?*' on Thursday 20 October, 2022, to discuss how the global economy was facing the challenges of rising inflation, Russia-Ukraine War consequences and the already existing impacts induced by COVID-19 pandemic.

In view of the global crisis, the emerging and continuing challenges in Bangladesh on both domestic and external fronts were being aggravated. In 2022, Bangladesh was facing at least seven issues: climate change, COVID-19, Russia-Ukraine War, dollar crisis, energy and power crisis, inflation, and food crisis.

### Crisis Alleviation Stance:

- A new consumption basket should be formulated for calculating CPI inflation
- The Bangladesh Competition Commission should adopt a strong stance against cartels and a zero tolerance policy towards collusive practices
- The Minimum Wage Board should consider increasing the minimum wages in all industries so that workers can at least afford basic food
- As the global oil prices are declining over time, the BPC should consider downward adjustment of fuel prices
- In view of the current economic turmoil, both at the national and global levels, macroeconomic stability should be the primary focus of economic policy



## Effective policy actions are required to manage the ongoing economic crisis

(From Left): Ms Rupali Haque Chowdhury, Managing Director, Berger Paints Bangladesh; Dr Fahmida Khatun, Executive Director of CPD; Mr M. A. Mannan, MP, Hon'ble Minister, Ministry of Planning, GoB; Professor Rehman Sobhan, Chairman, CPD; Mr Shameem Haider Patwary, MP, Member, Parliamentary Standing Committee on Ministry of Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs, Bangladesh Parliament; Dr Salehuddin Ahmed, Former Governor, Bangladesh Bank; Dr Zahid Hussain, Former Lead Economist, World Bank Bangladesh; Mr Mohammad Naser Ezaz Bijoy, CEO, SCB; and President, FICCI.

At the end of the year, the economy of Bangladesh was still facing several longstanding structural weaknesses. Several external factors, including the COVID-19 pandemic, the Russia-Ukraine War and consequent supply chain disruptions, had exacerbated the weaknesses. Indeed, macroeconomic management had never seen such a difficult phase. In response to this, CPD suggested that proper policy actions were required in terms of commodity prices, external sector management, power and energy sector, banking sector, and fiscal balance to manage the ongoing economic crisis.



**M A MANNAN, MP**

“Citizens should raise their voice regarding any data gap or unavailability to create space for further rectification



**PROFESSOR REHMAN SOBHAN**

“The government is making heroic efforts to deal with the ongoing economic crisis, and they need all the help that they can get



**SHAMEEM HAIDER PATWARY, MP**

“Several problems would have been solved if there was an inclusive consultation process during policymaking



## BUDGET RECOMMENDATIONS

Keeping the National Budget in view, the think tank organised media briefing where it was recommended to enhance domestic resource mobilisation, raise both capacity and efficacy of public expenditure, selectively reduce taxes at import and domestic stages, and introducing separate programmes for workers including provision for comprehensive health insurance.

### Recommendations

- To contain budget deficit, the ADP for FY2022–23 should be carefully formulated
- The government needs to formulate a medium-term debt management strategy in view of the changed composition of loans availed by the government
- The Government should carefully examine the duty and tax structures of the essential commodities, both at import and domestic levels, and make downward adjustments with view to provide some respite to low and limited income-earning consumers.
- Strengthen market monitoring to ensure access to inputs at subsidised price
- Introduce and restructure various child protection programmes
- Prioritising to disbursing support under stimulus packages
- With the goal of reducing plastic pollution, the government should consider bringing single use plastic products under taxation in FY2022–23





## CPD'S ANALYSIS OF THE NATIONAL BUDGET 2022-23

The 51st national budget of Bangladesh was announced on 9 June, 2022. CPD analysed this National Budget and found that it successfully identified the emerging economic issues but failed to provide effective solutions. It was recommended that the budget needed to be innovative in terms of approach, flexible in terms of allocative priorities and target-specific in terms of budgetary measures.





বাংলাদেশের উন্নয়নের স্বাধীন পর্যালোচনা

Independent Review of Bangladesh's Development



# সিপিডি বাজেট সংলাপ ২০২২

## CPD.Budget Dialogue 2022

বৃহস্পতিবার ১৬ জুন ২০২২, লেকশোর হোটেল, ঢাকা  
Thursday 16 June 2022, Lakeshore Hotel, Dhaka



## CPD BUDGET DIALOGUE 2022

During the Budget Dialogue, concerns were raised regarding the insufficiency of the budget in addressing inflationary issues. The government assured citizens that administered prices would remain stable and allocated additional funds for social safety nets due to rising demand. However, critics pointed out its failure to combat illicit income and capital flight, while favouring higher-income groups and neglecting low- and middle-income groups. The budget's proposed measures were deemed incomplete and inadequate in addressing pressing macroeconomic challenges.





**M A MANNAN, MP**

"We have a problem with subsidy allocation in this National Budget. But we are trying to make it more people-friendly"



**BARRISTER ANISUL ISLAM MAHMUD, MP**

"All stakeholders need to be consulted during the budgeting process, including public representatives"



**KAZI NABIL AHMED, MP**

"Keeping forex reserves and import market stable will be a great challenge for Bangladesh in the coming year"



**AMIR KHOSRU MAHMUD CHOWDHURY**

"There is a lack of transparency in the budget that has been prepared"



**RAZEKUZZAMAN RATAN**

"The government should have discussed with the workers in labour force before formulating the budget"



**SHUSMITA ANIS**

"We must raise our tax-free income threshold to at least BDT 5 lakh"



**RIZWAN RAHMAN**

"Without tax automation, tax revenue will not increase"



**DR KHONDAKER GOLAM MOAZZEM**

"Exchange rate is expected to appreciate by BDT 86.2 per USD in FY2022-23, which does not reflect the realities on the ground"



**DR FAHMIDA KHATUN**

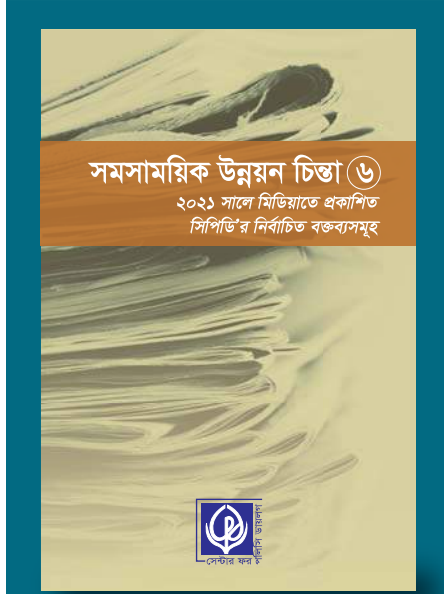
"The budget lacks guidance and initiatives to address the challenges"

# BANGLADESH ECONOMY IN FY2021-22

## AN INTERIM REVIEW OF MACROECONOMIC PERFORMANCE



As a part of its regular exercise, CPD publishes a book that reviews the economy's performance, and analyses the key emerging trends throughout the fiscal year. In 2022, the book 'Bangladesh Economy in FY2021-22: An Interim Review of Macroeconomic Performance' was published which outlines macroeconomic priorities during the geo-political crisis, economic crises, and the post-COVID-19 situation.



# সমসাময়িক উন্নয়ন চিন্তা



CPD researchers actively engage with contemporary issues through outreach activities, such as writing op-eds, columns, providing comments, and participating in interviews. In line with this approach, CPD published the book titled '*Somosamoyik Unnayan Chinta: 6*,' which is a compilation of Bangla articles, op-eds, and interviews by CPD researchers that were published in national print and electronic media in 2021.

The significance of 2021 lies in Bangladesh completing 50 years of independence. In light of the golden jubilee of the independence, the book delves into discussions about the history of the liberation war, ideals, achievements, and prospects of Bangladesh over the last five decades.

Furthermore, CPD conducted a comprehensive study on the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic, analysing its multifaceted impact, various government initiatives, and their implementation throughout 2021. Consequently, the book includes an overall assessment of 2021 and reflects on the potential challenges the country's economy might face in 2022.

# DATA FOR POLICYMAKING IN THE PANDEMIC PERIOD

## *THE BANGLADESH EXPERIENCE*

The Bangladeshi government has implemented data-driven initiatives in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, despite challenges in the data ecosystem. This paper aims to understand the process of generating COVID-19 statistics, assess the translation of statistics into policy responses, and identify best practices for future policymaking. The study focuses on health-related data initiatives and emphasises the need for sustainability through resources such as finance, human capital, and technology. Lessons learned could benefit future policymaking in Bangladesh and create an efficient and sustainable data ecosystem.



## ACHIEVING SUSTAINABLE RECOVERY FROM COVID-INDUCED CHALLENGES IN 2022

In light of the unstable macroeconomy owing to the COVID-19 pandemic, CPD assessed the performance of the key sectors of the Bangladesh economy and traced the trends in critical macroeconomic correlates during the early months of FY2021–22.

The trends of key macroeconomic correlates revealed that many of these were in a recovery trajectory, led by export-oriented sectors. However, macroeconomic stability still was not in a relaxed state. The policy space for tackling prevailing and emerging challenges became comparatively limited. Against this backdrop, trends in recovery, emergent risks, and the available policy space should have received due cognisance while designing and implementing policy responses.

CPD examined the inflationary pressure, the performance of the external sector, and the capital market and revisited the implementation status of the stimulus packages to recommend the design of the forthcoming support measures towards the economic recovery.

# Political Incentive Failure Driving Fiscal Data Deficit



(From Left) *Dr Zahid Hussain*, Former Lead Economist, The World Bank; *Mr Saber Hossain Chowdhury*, MP, Chairman, Parliamentary Standing Committee on Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change and Member, Parliamentary Standing Committee on Ministry of Planning; *Dr Debapriya Bhattacharya*, Distinguished Fellow, CPD; Vice Principal *Dr Md. Abdus Shahid*, MP, Member, Parliamentary Standing Committee on Public Accounts; *Mr Kazi Nabil Ahmed*, MP, Member, Parliamentary Standing Committee on Ministry of Finance; *Mr Shameem Haider Patwary*, MP, Member, Parliamentary Standing Committee on Ministry of Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs; *Mr Ranjit Kumar Chakraborty*, Former Additional Secretary, Ministry of Finance; and *Mr Kazi Faisal Bin Seraj*, Country Representative, The Asia Foundation.

A weak fiscal reporting system and Bangladesh's institutional shortcomings caused a fiscal data deficit. CPD addressed the lack of fiscal transparency in a study titled '*Fiscal Data in Bangladesh: Issues and Challenges*,' and a dialogue was organised to discuss its findings.

The study explored ways and means to improve accountability, ensure good governance and support budgetary decision-making in the country through timely disclosure of quality fiscal data. It urged monthly reporting of actual expenditure on social protection, subsidies, and transfers, as well as project-wise ADP expenditure. The study also apprehended that it may be possible that the government could not adequately utilise the available fiscal space due to a lack of availability of timely fiscal data. As a result, the government might have been forced to pursue a relatively conservative attitude in extending budgetary allocations for cash transfers and subsidies to combat the COVID-19 pandemic and rising commodity prices.

Fiscal transparency and accountability are crucial for achieving various macroeconomic goals. It includes disclosing fiscal data comprehensively and promptly, plays a central role in maintaining budget integrity, effective financial monitoring, encouraging public debates on fiscal policies, and ensuring accountability in macroeconomic management.

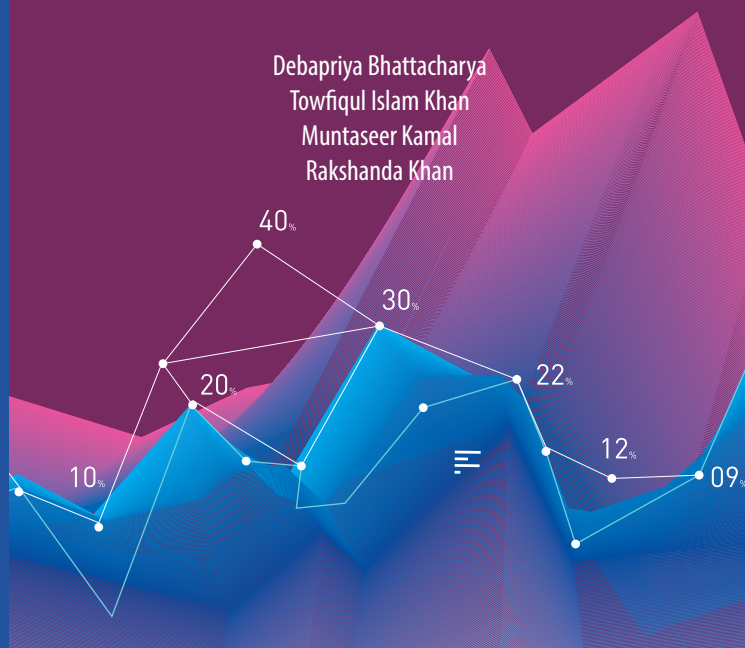
In Bangladesh, the fiscal data ecosystem faces several challenges that hinder measuring key indicators and impede fiscal transparency.

Despite these challenges, Bangladesh's fiscal data ecosystem has made progress in recent years. However, it still grapples with long-standing and emerging issues. Addressing these concerns requires structural and policy improvements to enhance data availability, accessibility, accuracy, and agility.

# Improved FISCAL DATA in Bangladesh

for a transparent and accountable public sector

Debapriya Bhattacharya  
Towfiqul Islam Khan  
Muntaseer Kamal  
Rakshanda Khan



সেন্টার ফর পলিসি ডায়ালগ (সিপিডি)  
Centre for Policy Dialogue (CPD)



The Asia Foundation



# ***Budget Help Desk 2022***



## BUDGET HELP DESK 2022

In September 2020, the European Union launched a Technical Assistance project in Bangladesh to support the implementation of the Public Financial Management (PFM) Reform Strategy (2016–21). The project aimed to establish a Budget Helpdesk for Members of Parliament (MPs) to provide institutional and research support during the budget session. The objective was to help MPs understand the budgetary process and actively engage in it.

The Budget Helpdesk conducted a day-long orientation session for Bangladesh Parliament Secretariat (BPS) officials and research assistants involved in the project. The orientation, led by the technical coordinator and assisted by a researcher, covered topics such as macroeconomic policies, national budget concepts, sources of budget data, and budget data analysis.

On 5 June 2022, the Speaker of the Bangladesh National Parliament inaugurated the Budget Helpdesk, which remained available to MPs throughout the budget session until 30 June 2022. The Helpdesk consisted of four desks staffed by research assistants from CPD and the Bangladesh Parliament library, officials from the National Board of Revenue (NBR), and officials from the Budget Analysis and Monitoring Unit (BAMU).

During May and June 2022, the Budget Helpdesk conducted eight debriefing sessions, where experts provided subject-wise information on the budgetary process of Bangladesh. As part of the activity, nine budget briefs were prepared in both English and Bangla, and these were published to disseminate budget analysis and ministry-wise budget allocation among the MPs.



***Climate and  
Green Growth***



(From Left) Mr Mohammed Zahidullah, Chief Sustainability Officer, DBL Group; Mr Mohammad Hatem, Executive President, BKMEA; Mr Saber Hossain Chowdhury, MP, Chairman, Standing Committee on Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Bangladesh Parliament; Dr Fahmida Khatun, Executive Director, CPD; Ms Christine Johansson, Deputy Head, Mission and Head of Development Cooperation, the Embassy of Sweden; Mr Faruque Hassan, President, BGMEA; Mr Md. Fazlul Hoque, Managing Director, Plummy Fashions Limited and Former President, BEF, and BKMEA; and Mr Shams Mahmud, former President, DCCI and Managing Director, Shasha Denims Ltd.

# SECURING GREEN TRANSITION OF THE TEXTILE AND RMG SECTOR IN BANGLADESH

With the potential to significantly contribute towards Bangladesh's climate goals through emission reduction, the textile and RMG industry has a critical role to play in securing a better tomorrow for all. By embracing green technology, the industry can not only meet the growing demand for sustainability from buyers and brands worldwide but also pave the way for an environmentally sustainable and climate-neutral growth in Bangladesh. This transition towards a green industry will not only benefit the planet, but it will also generate productive employment opportunities for women and youth, leading to a brighter future for all.

In light of this, CPD undertook a programme titled '*Securing Green Transition of the Textile and Readymade Garments Sector in Bangladesh*' in collaboration with the Embassy of Sweden in Bangladesh. The programme's objective was to enhance environmentally sustainable and climate-neutral growth in Bangladesh with abundant employment opportunities for women and youth. The programme also explored barriers to green transformation, reviewed existing fiscal measures, identified best practices suitable for the green transition, and built-up evidence on how green growth in this industry would generate new opportunities to benefit firms, workers, the economy, and society. To launch this programme, CPD organised a dialogue where relevant stakeholders participated and shared their recommendations. A dialogue brief was also prepared based on this.

As a part of the programme's activities, CPD organised firm and worker level surveys, focus group discussions, key informant interviews, expert group meetings, factory visits, short documentaries, workshops, and national level dialogues across the country.

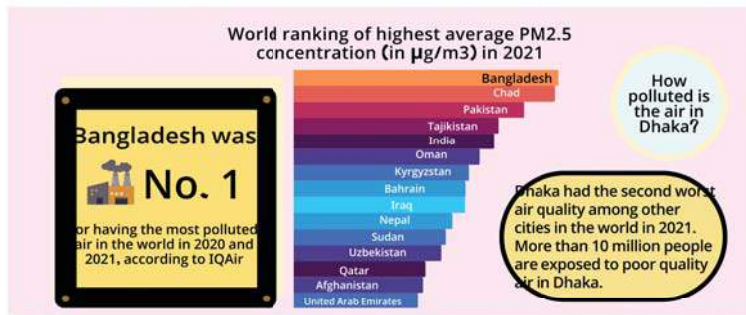


# Dialogue on Greening Cities through Reducing Air and Plastic Pollution

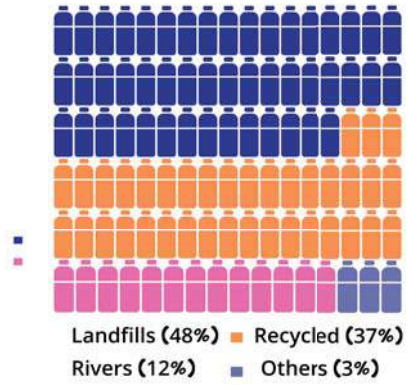


(From Left) Mr Zaved Akhtar, CEO and Managing Director, Unilever Bangladesh Ltd; Mr Md. Jashim Uddin, President, FBCCI; Mr Md. Atiqul Islam, Hon'ble Mayor, DNCC; Dr Fahmida Khatun, Executive Director, CPD; Dr Dibalok Singha, Executive Director, DSK; and Mr Fahim Uddin Shuvo, CEO, Garbageman.

With higher industrialisation, and energy consumption in major cities, air and plastic pollution are posing serious threats to health, environment and economy of Bangladesh. CPD has undertaken a programme titled 'Green Cities Initiative' which aims to understand the nexus between air and plastic pollution and the economy of Bangladesh, and make relevant policy recommendations. The key objective of the study is to look at the drivers, impacts and solutions with regard to air and plastic pollution in major cities of Bangladesh, and recommend policies to reduce air and plastic pollution. Based on this study, a dialogue was organised by CPD on Monday, 31 October, 2022.



### The total plastic waste in Dhaka was 646 tons in 2020





**MD. ATIQUL ISLAM**

Mayor, DNCC

“ A large number of people migrate to Dhaka city every day on an average due to climate change



**MD. JASHIM UDDIN**

President, FBCCI

“ Policymakers could consider a reduction in the import duty for the rock particles used in concrete blocks



**ZAVED AKHTAR**

CEO and MD, Unilever Bangladesh Ltd

“ Business organisations should take initiatives to reduce air and plastic pollution



**DR DIBALOK SINGHA**

Executive Director, DSK

“ Eight per cent of the city corporation budget is for solid waste management whereas 35-50 per cent of the budget needs to be allocated for effective waste management



**MR FAHIM UDDIN SHUVO**

CEO, Garbageman

“ We need both top-down and bottom-up approaches to address waste management



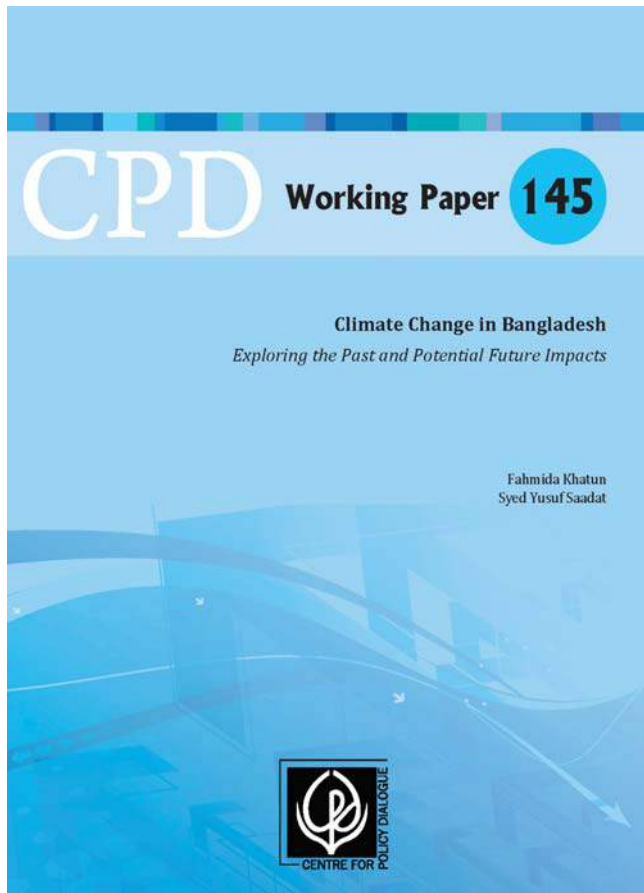
**DR FAHMIDA KHATUN**

Executive Director, CPD

“ The pollutions lead to severe environmental damage along with adverse economic and health impacts

# Climate Change in Bangladesh

## *Exploring the Past and Potential Future Impacts*



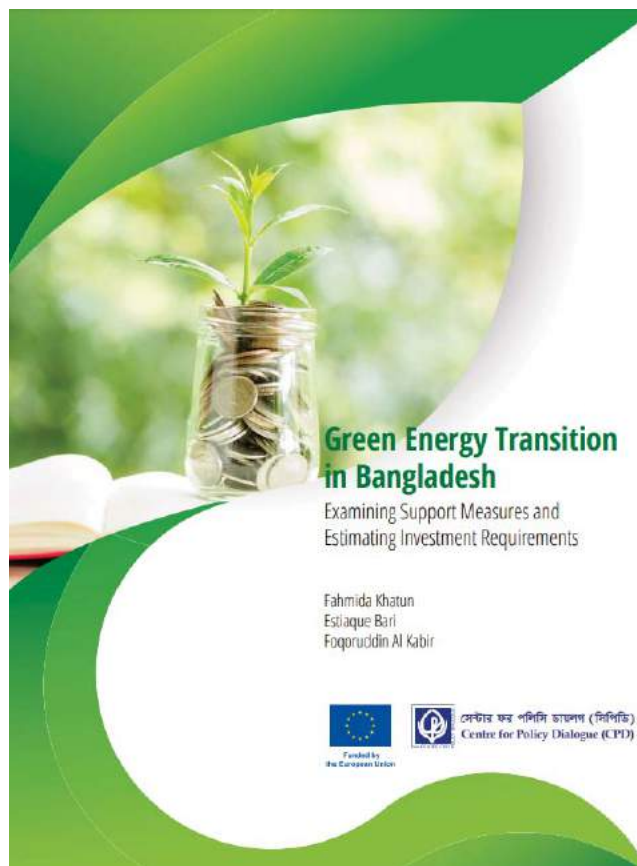
Climate change, now, is one of the most critical issues for Bangladesh. The damaging impacts of climate change on different sectors of the country are interrelated and have manifold implications. This paper utilises expectation maximisation algorithms and autoregressive integrated moving average (ARIMA) models to predict the state of climate change indicators for Bangladesh in the near future.

Findings from the forecasts show that in the business-as-usual scenario, annual average temperatures will increase by 0.95 per cent year-on-year, greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions will increase 5.17 per cent year-on-year, and a total of 30,366,230 households will be affected by climate change in Bangladesh by 2030. Therefore, anthropogenic climate change is increasing the probability of natural disasters leading to grave consequences for Bangladesh. Hence, the gulf between the rhetoric and reality of climate change needs to be narrowed down urgently. In view of these, a number of policy measures are recommended to tackle the risks of climate change in Bangladesh.



# Green Energy Transition in Bangladesh

## Examining Support Measures and Estimating Investment Requirements



Bangladesh achieved most of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and has set 40 national priority targets for Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), including promoting green growth. The recent energy crisis, caused by importing fossil fuels for electricity, has put the country's stability under pressure. To maintain global competitiveness and achieve green inclusive development, Bangladesh needs to transition to renewable energy and invest in green programmes.

In this policy discourse, it is hoped that the findings will narrow the knowledge gap and contribute towards holistic measures by the government for leveraging green investment through the private sector's engagement. The findings are also expected to support development partners including the European Union in taking focused and strategic decisions on 'green growth' in Bangladesh.

# ***Power and Energy***

# BANGLADESH SHOULD NOT CONSIDER LNG IMPORT AS A LONG-TERM SOLUTION



(From Left) Mr Md. Abdul Jalil, Chairman, BERC; Mr Mohammad Hossain, Director General, Power Cell, Power Division, MoPEMR, GoB; Dr Fahmida Khatun, Executive Director, CPD; Dr Khondaker Golam Moazzem, Research Director, CPD; Dr M Tamim, Former Special Assistant to the Chief Advisor and Professor, Department of Petroleum and Mineral Resources Engineering, BUET; Dr Badrul Imam, Honorary Professor, Department of Geology, DU; Engr. Razeeb Haider, Managing Director, Outpace Spinning Mills and Director, BTMA; Mr Imran Karim, President, BIPPA; and Mr Abdullah Fahad, Senior Research Associate, CPD.

In recent years, Bangladesh faced challenges due to a shortage of gas supply, and these aggravated in 2022. To adjust to this shortage, the government increased liquefied natural gas (LNG) imports which caused significant fiscal budgetary consequences. In the short and medium terms, finding alternate sources for LNG import is difficult, therefore, dependence on it is unavoidable. However, the import of LNG should not be the lone measure and should not be considered a long-term solution since it will increase both the economic and environmental costs. Rather enhancing efficiency in gas use in power plants, reducing captive power generation, and promoting clean-energy-based power generation are important to alleviate this crisis. In light of this, CPD organised a virtual dialogue and discussed the way forward.

## Way forward

- It is time to revisit the country's existing approach on the growing reliance on the LNG imports for the power generation and the associated infrastructure development plans
- In the short-term, LNG imports may need to continue to meet the existing demand-supply gap particularly for activities/sectors where there is no immediate alternative
- In the medium to long-term, Bangladesh needs to consider alternates of LNG import targeting more cleaner source of energy use.



## THE NATIONAL BUDGET SHOULD FOCUS MORE ON POWER DISTRIBUTION AND TRANSMISSION THAN ELECTRICITY GENERATION

(From Left) Mr Imran Karim, President, BIPPA; Dr Badrul Imam, Honorary Professor, Department of Geology, DU; Dr M Tamim, Former Special Assistant to the Chief Advisor and Professor, Department of Petroleum and Mineral Resources Engineering, BUET; Dr Fahmida Khatun, Executive Director, CPD; Mr Mohammad Hossain, Director General, Power Cell, Power Division, MoPEMR, GoB; Professor Dr M Shamsul Alam, Dean, Faculty of Engineering, Daffodil University; and Dr Khondaker Golam Moazzem, Research Director, CPD.

This year CPD continued its analysis of the National Budget to address the concerns of the Energy and Power sector. CPD organised a dialogue to discuss all the consequential issues related to the budget allocation in the Energy and Power Sector. CPD's analysis revealed that more funds were allocated for electricity generation than power distribution and transmission.

### Core Findings

- The power and energy sector is under pressure due to rise in import cost of petroleum and LNG and partly that of coal
- Renewable Energy-based projects are not in the priority of the government

### National budget FY2022–23 was expected to address

- There is limited effort to ease the pressure by undertaking renewable energy-based energy mix
- Lack of effort is provided to exploring domestic gas to meet the gas shortage
- Imported LNG is still a major energy-mix which would rise the cost pressure further
- The budget did not assure that consumer would get some relief for not adjusting energy prices
- Distribution related projects continues to get neglected—growth in allocation is getting slower

# New Integrated Power and Energy Master Plan (IEPMP) should put emphasis on Renewable Energy in order to Achieve the Clean Energy Targets



The Ministry of Power, Energy, and Mineral Resources (MoPEMR) prepared a draft master plan for the energy and power sector titled '*Integrated Energy and Power Master Plan (IEPMP)*'. The plan was scheduled to come out at such a time (March, 2023), when the sector was going through a short to medium-term crisis. Given the global goal of clean energy for achieving net zero commitments by 2050, the government took various measures. The Prime Minister announced a target of 40 per cent of renewable energy by 2041. Therefore, it was crucial to review the IEPMP to understand how it will achieve the clean energy targets amid contemporary challenges and strategies to be adopted for the power and energy sector keeping in mind the issue of energy security in the coming years. CPD's study showed that there are many scopes for improvement of the draft plan to make it compatible with the decarbonisation initiative.

In this context, CPD organised a media briefing titled '*Integrated Energy and Power Master Plan (IEPMP) (Interim Report): Can it address the clean energy targets?*' on Thursday, 22 December, 2022 to recommend putting emphasis on renewable energy in order to achieve the clean energy targets.

# PUBLICATIONS

## **Economic and Environmental Cost Estimation of LNG Import: Revisiting the Existing Strategy of Imported LNG**

While Bangladesh's energy scenario has been historically dominated by natural gas assuming that Bangladesh will never face a shortage in natural gas production, local natural gas production started decreasing after 2016 and is likely to decrease even more in the coming years. Increasing demand for gas and decreasing local production led Bangladesh to import LNG in 2018. Power plants account for the major share of the gas consumed in Bangladesh. This paper estimates the economic costs of the LNG supply chain considering the power plant as an end customer in Bangladesh for the fiscal years 2019 to 2021.



## **State of the Power Sector in FY2020–21 and Allocative Priorities in the National Budget of FY2021–22**

Power and energy is one of the prioritised sectors in the National Budget of Bangladesh, especially because of its major role in ensuring smooth power supply for all kinds of economic activities. This paper aims to put in-depth focus on the efficiency of the allocated budget for the power and energy sector in the national budget FY2021–22.

## **Stakeholders' Perspectives on Key Challenges of the Power Sector**

Bangladesh's power sector is guided by the Power Sector Master Plan 2016 (PSMP 2016). This paper looks into the state of the power sector during the last three master plans (PSMP 2005, PSMP 2010, PSMP 2016) to review the major issues and challenges of the sector. Three expert group meetings (EGMs) were conducted representing three stakeholder groups—government, private sector, civil society organisations (CSOs) and academia—to identify stakeholders' views on the challenges of the power sector. Finally, the paper analyses the level of stakeholders' participation in the formulation of master plans for the power sector. It was found that the lack of co-ordination was the key weakness in successive PSMP formulation processes, and stakeholders' participation was mainly limited to government agencies.

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**POLICY BRIEF**  
2022 (03)

**Volatile Global LNG Market and Its Impact on Public Spending in Social Sectors  
Case of Bangladesh**

**Highlights**

- Fuel subsidy expenditure on LNG in Bangladesh has been rising steadily over the last few years. In 2022, it has reached an account of US\$ 6.5 billion per annum.
- Natural gas availability from domestic sources has historically dominated the energy landscape of Bangladesh. Prospective has however undergone changes since being decreasing supply of domestic natural gas and increasing demand for gas and other energies for major undertakings and enterprises in the economic arena including power has prompted Bangladesh to go for imported Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) to meet the prevailing demand. According to Bangladesh Oil, Gas and Power (BOG) now meets about 13 per cent of the total natural gas requirement of the country.
- Over the years, imported natural gas has been creating a fiscal burden on the economy. The Bangladesh Petroleum Gas Company Limited (BPGL), a foreign-owned subsidiary responsible for importing LNG, could not manage the entire cost of imported LNG. The heavy import of LNG is partly responsible for the lack of investment in exploring domestic natural gas both from onshore and offshore sources. Lack of investment in alternate energy, especially renewable energy (RE), can ultimately be attributed to increasing dependence on imported fuel/oil, especially LNG.
- The government's fiscal pressure owing to imported LNG has reached its new height because of the Russia-Ukraine War. The subsidy for the power and energy sector accounted for 4 per cent of the total government subsidy in 2022. According to Data of 2021, the government of Bangladesh spends more on energy subsidies than it does on health and social welfare programs amounting to more than 1 per cent of the GDP. The cost of imported LNG has increased dramatically since the beginning of the Russia-Ukraine War. The BPGL had to incur more losses while importing LNG within the allocated budget. The government has provided BPGL more subsidies for LNG import in view of its liabilities in complying payments. Given the increase of high LNG prices, a large level allocation of subsidies seems to persist in the coming years.
- Due to the government financial stress, the additional cost for subsidies to cover LNG costs will have severe negative impact on the government's capacity to allocate its budget funds. These would result in budget cut/retrench and reduced subsidy allocation to other significant sectors, such as the social sector. Existing energy related National Budgets are challenging, particularly for emerging nations where significant amounts of government expenditures are allocated to fuel subsidies. For emerging Asia countries, energy subsidies have become one of the most significant policy concerns. Quite substantial expenditure on account of energy subsidy leads government spending on important development sectors, including infrastructure, health and education. One may conclude








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# VOLATILE GLOBAL LNG MARKET AND ITS IMPACT ON PUBLIC SPENDING IN SOCIAL SECTORS

## CASE OF BANGLADESH

Natural gas supplied from domestic sources has historically dominated the energy landscape in Bangladesh. With the decreasing supply of domestic natural gas and increasing demand for gas and other energies in major economic activities, including power, Bangladesh had no choice but to use imported LNG to meet the prevailing demand. Over the years, imported natural gas has been creating a fiscal burden on the economy. The government's fiscal pressure owing to imported LNG has reached its new height because of the Russia-Ukraine War. Due to the government's financial stress, the additional need for subsidies to cover LNG costs would have several negative effects on the government's ability to apportion the budget funds. Against this backdrop, it is important to learn about how Bangladesh's demand for LNG imports has grown over the past five years and how much has the cost and subsidy increased in this sector. This paper discusses what the market for LNG import will look like in the next five years, the potential effects of an increase in LNG subsidies on Bangladesh's financial situation, pressure on the budget, and subsidies in the food and agriculture sector.

# IMPORTED FOSSIL FUEL DEPENDENT ENERGY MARKET OF BANGLADESH

## HOW GLOBAL ENERGY CRISIS TRIGGERED DOMESTIC INFLATION?

With the depletion of domestic natural gas reserves, Bangladesh's energy market has become increasingly dependent on imported energy – mainly petroleum, LNG and coal. Hence, the volatility in the global energy market is gradually impacting the energy sector as well as the economy as a whole. The Ukraine War has further accentuated the global energy market crisis both in terms of energy supply and energy prices which have multi-dimensional adverse impacts on developing countries. There is no comprehensive study found on the war-led global energy crisis and its impact on inflation where the level of adversity has been measured. Hence a quantitative analysis is required to show how the global energy market crisis led to domestic inflation, particularly in developing countries. In this backdrop, this study will seek to estimate the level of inflationary impact on Bangladesh economy due to the global energy price volatility.







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**POLICY BRIEF**  
2022 (04)

**Imported Fossil Fuel Dependent Energy Market of Bangladesh  
How Global Energy Crisis Triggered Domestic Inflation?**

**Highlights**

- After Ukraine war, global energy prices have risen sharply. The international market price for oil and coal has increased by 100-150% and 50-75% respectively in the last few months, according to Energy Institute of London. The market prices have risen 10-15% downwards in the country.
- Energy types of fuel/oil/coal, its cost/price have already had the most impact on food and consumer inflation in Bangladesh. In the past few years, the competition for the consumer price index (CPI) in the world prices of fuel, consumer price of petrol and coal, and growth rate of inflation have increased significantly. Fuel costs are the inputs are essential ingredients.
- Given the rise in energy fuel/oil/coal, increased in Bangladesh in the wake of Russia-Ukraine War, the increase in consumer prices has been observed and total terms is estimated to be 13% and 14% respectively for the month of October 2022.
- The biggest impacts of inflation on all the sectors of the economy are observed in the form of inflation. The inflation rate has risen through-out, and it is estimated that the inflation rate will be 10% and 11% respectively for the month of October 2022.

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***Readymade Garments***





(From Left) Ms Nuzhat Jabin, Programme Manager, Economic Justice, ChristianAid Bangladesh; Ms Kalpona Akter, Founding Member and Executive Director, BCWS; Mr Md Shahidullah Azim, Vice President, BGMEA; Mr Khaled Mamun Chowdhury NDC, Director General, Department of Labour, Ministry of Labour and Employment, GoB; Dr Fahmida Khatun, Executive Director, CPD; Mr Tipu Munshi, MP, Hon'ble Minister for Commerce, GoB; Advocate Montu Ghosh, President, Garments Workers' Trade Union Centre, Guest of Honour; Ms Maheen Sultan, Senior Fellow of Practice, Gender and Social Transformation, BIGD; and Dr Khondaker Golam Moazzem, Research Director, CPD.

## RECENT RMG GROWTH

### WHAT LESSONS HAVE WE LEARNT ABOUT DECENT EMPLOYMENT?

Since September 2021, the Bangladeshi RMG industry has been experiencing robust growth. The numerous protests that the distressed workers organised indicate that this growth affected the practice of selected UNGPs at the RMG factory level and has reduced the quality of decent employment. The source of the anguish of these workers was excess work pressure, increased working hours, forced labour, workplace harassment, and increased living cost compared to offered wages.

Under this context, CPD and Christian-Aid conducted a study on 'Recent Export Growth and Decent Employment in RMG Industry: A UNGPs Perspective.' The study's objective was to examine the impact and implications of the rise in export on employment and labour rights. CPD highlighted the study's outcomes in a dialogue in front of relevant stakeholders and tabled constructive recommendations.



**TIPU MUNSHI, MP**

Hon'ble Minister of Commerce, GoB

"Establishing trade and labour unions is undoubtedly necessary to uphold workers' rights, but it's equally crucial to select educated union leaders who can foster open dialogue between companies and employees"



## Debate on Recent Export Growth and Decent Employment in RMG Industry: A UNGPs Perspective

As Bangladesh recovers from COVID-19, its RMG industry experiences unprecedented export growth since late 2021. To assess the impact on business and human rights practices in the RMG sector, a study used the United Nations Guiding Principles (UNGPs) framework, based on a primary survey of RMG management and workers.

The findings reveal that during this period of high export growth, several employment indicators related to business human rights have deteriorated. These include delayed wage payment, forced work, workplace harassment, and increased child and juvenile labour in both contracted and sub-contracting factories. Government agencies and brands/buyers showed inadequate monitoring of business human rights practices during this time. Although export orders boosted workers' earnings through extended work hours and days, their overall benefits were limited due to rising monthly expenditures.

The study suggests that government agencies should enhance understanding and implementation of business and human rights principles in line with UNGPs. Considering the increased household expenses, the government may also consider revising the existing minimum wage for garment workers. Brands should take a more proactive role in promoting business human rights in garment factories during periods of high export growth.

## Working Paper

### Verification Options Used in Public Procurement by Apparel Sourcing Countries

The European Commission's socially responsible public procurement (SRPP) initiative aims to promote compliance with social and environmental standards across different value chains, including textiles and apparel. Effective implementation of SRPP could improve social and environmental standards in Bangladesh's garments and textile sector. The sector has various social and labour standards, but ensuring workers' rights and well-being depends on how these standards are implemented and communicated to workers.

A review of existing practices of various standards and certificates related to SRPP is needed to assess their potential effectiveness in improving workers' well-being, workplace safety, and rights in Bangladesh.

This paper aims to review the existing practices of different standards and certificates related to SRPP, and their potential and effectiveness in improving workers' well-being, along with employment and workplace safety and workers' rights in Bangladesh.

## Policy Briefs



### Institutionalisation of Human and Labour Rights in the RMG Sector under the UNGPs Framework

In this policy brief, the state of the United Nations Guiding Principles (UNGPs) in RMG factories has been discussed with specific focus on how the employers could take part in effective enforcement of human and labour rights practices under the UNGPs framework. The findings presented in the brief are based on a nationally representative survey on 603 enterprises and a sample survey on 600 workers of 200 enterprises in 2021. A virtual workshop was also organised on this for knowledge sharing.

### Institutionalisation of Labour Rights Practices in the RMG Sector under UNGP Framework: Are Public Agencies Playing Their Due Role?

The practice of human and labour rights under the UNGPs framework in the RMG sector is essential since it is the largest labour-intensive manufacturing sector in the country. CPD assessed the scope of these practices for the businesses and explored whether or not these have adhered to the UNGPs; and, if not, how the public agencies can help the RMG enterprises strengthen UNGPs in this sector.

In this regard, public agencies' perceptions of human and labour rights and practices need to be broadened and specified under the UNGPs framework. The findings were revealed in a study titled 'State of the UNGPs in the RMG Sector of Bangladesh'. The study was undertaken by CPD in collaboration with the Christian-Aid. The policy brief discussed the state's role in implementing UNGPs and reviewed the current state of human and labour rights practices under the UNGP framework in the RMG sector. It also analysed the role of government agencies in enforcing UNGPs and put forward a set of recommendations.

***Promoting  
LDC Interests***



Organised by  
সেন্টার ফর পলিসি ডায়ালগ (সিপিডি)  
Centre for Policy Dialogue (CPD)

In partnership with  
**FRIEDRICH  
EBERT  
STIFTUNG**  
Bangladesh

# Dialogue on WTO-MC12 Outcomes Next Steps for Bangladesh as a Graduating LDC

Sunday, 20 November 2022, Conference Room, CIRDP, Dhaka



(From Left) *Mr Felix Kolbitz*, Resident Representative, FES, Bangladesh; *Dr Mostafa Abid Khan*, Trade Specialist and Former Member, Bangladesh Tariff and Trade Commission; *Mr Md. Jashim Uddin*, President, FBCCI; *Mr Yussuf Abdullah Harun*, MP, Member, Standing Committee on Ministry of Commerce, Bangladesh Parliament; *Dr Debapriya Bhattacharya*, Distinguished Fellow, CPD; *Mr Tapan Kanti Ghosh*, Senior Secretary, Ministry of Commerce, GoB; *Mr Md. Hafizur Rahman*, Director General, WTO Cell, Ministry of Commerce, GoB; and *Professor Mustafizur Rahman*, Distinguished Fellow, CPD; .

## BANGLADESH SHOULD PREPARE FOR ITS FUTURE AS A DEVELOPING COUNTRY

Bangladesh is set to graduate from the least developed country (LDC) category in November 2026. While shedding the LDC label comes with advantages such as improving the country's image and higher credit rating, it will also give rise to new challenges. Bangladesh has been reaping the benefits of International Support Measures (ISMs), which will be lost after its scheduled graduation. This will have various implications for the export-oriented sectors as well as the domestic market-oriented industries and businesses. According to WTO Secretariat estimates, almost 90.0 per cent of all export losses of 12 graduating LDCs will be on account of Bangladesh. To ensure a smooth and sustainable graduation, Bangladesh will require strategies to move forward as a member of the WTO. These issues were discussed at a dialogue titled '*WTO-MC12 Outcomes: Next Steps for Bangladesh as a Graduating LDC*' organised by CPD in partnership with Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung (FES) on Sunday 20 November 2022, at Centre on Integrated Rural Development for Asia and the Pacific (CIRDAP).

## Climate Change Related Notifications by Agreement and Sectors in the WTO (2009-2020)

### By Agreements

- 51% : Subsidies, including agriculture subsidies
- 38%: Technical Barriers to Trade

### By Sectors

- Manufacture (1835)
- Energy (1383)
- Agriculture, forestry or fisheries (391)

But notifications by LDCs are very few compared to other country categories (64% notifications from developed countries, 32% from developing countries and 2% from LDCs)



WORLD TRADE ORGANIZATION  
WORLD PUBLIC FORUM 2022



(From Left) Dr. Jan Yves Remy, Director, SRC; Dr Fahmida Khatun, Executive Director, CPD; Christophe Bellmann, Head of Policy Analysis and Strategy, TESS; Ms Lorena Palomo Parada, Independent Consultant, ECLAC; Professor Faizel Ismail, Director, Nelson Mandela School of Public Governance, South Africa.

## LDCS REQUIRE INCREASED AID FOR CAPACITY BUILDING IN TRADE

In the new environment-friendly and sustainable trade regime, there's a need for new international support measures (ISMs) to assist the LDCs. The LDCs require increased support for capacity building, technology adoption in trade, and for SMEs and women-led businesses. Many LDCs have committed to reducing carbon emissions in specific sectors before COP26, with higher commitments contingent on external support.

Dr Fahmida Khatun, Executive Director of CPD, highlighted these concerns at a session on 'Trade and Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation: Regional Perspectives' held on 30 September, 2022 during the World Trade Organization (WTO) Public Forum 2022 at Geneva.

The session aimed to promote a more resilient, sustainable, and inclusive trading system, emphasising regional perspectives and priorities related to climate change, trade cooperation, and climate-resilient sustainable development.

***Gender and  
Women Empowerment***



(From left) *Ms Paula Roos-Schindeler*, the Deputy Head of Mission, Embassy of the Kingdom of the Netherlands in Bangladesh; *Dr Firdausi Qadri*, Emeritus Scientist, Enteric and Respiratory Infections, Infectious Diseases Division, icddr,b; *Barrister Rashna Imam*, Managing Partner, Akhtar Imam & Associates; *H E Ms Alexandra BergVon Linde*, Ambassador, Embassy of Sweden, Bangladesh; *Professor Rounaq Jahan*, Distinguished Fellow, CPD; *H E Ms Winnie Estrup Petersen*, Ambassador, Embassy of Denmark; *Dr Fahmida Khatun*, Executive Director, CPD; *Ms Rizvana Hredita*, COO and Co-Founder of Hydroquo+ Bangladesh Ltd; *Mr Syed Nasim Manzur*, Director, MCCI and Managing Director, Apex Footwear Limited; and *Ms Taslima Akter Lima*, President, Bangladesh Garments Sramik Sanghati.

# BREAKING THE GENDER BIASES IS CRUCIAL FOR A SUSTAINABLE WORLD

Amidst the world's celebration of International Women's Day 2022, CPD took the stage to organise a dialogue where diverse voices discussed the challenges that women face on a global and national scale, and the path towards a future that promotes gender equality and inclusivity. The dialogue was an engaging and thought-provoking experience that left everyone inspired to do their part in breaking the gender biases.



## BUDGET FRAMEWORK ANALYSIS ON CHALLENGING FEAR OF VIOLENCE



Despite Bangladesh's impressive economic progress, violence against women has still been widespread and unstoppable. In Bangladesh, women are often at risk of harassment and violence. The fear of violence that the women and girls have to endure has not been addressed through political conversation. Whether at home, at work, in educational institutions, or in public places, females do not feel safe from violence or even exercising their rights and entitlements.

This report aims to analyse the country context, policies, and budgets of the fiscal year against gender-based violence and the associated sense of fear. In addition, this report also aims to help policymakers set priorities, evaluate implemented services, and accelerate progress in ensuring the rights and well-being of women and girls at the country level.

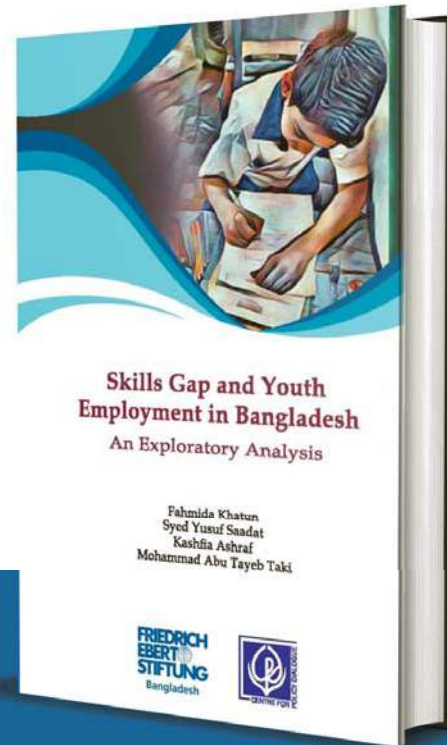
## DID RESEARCH GET ATTENTION IN THE COVID-19 INDUCED PUBLIC POLICY RESPONSES?

A knowledge-based policy formulation process generates a policy space where actors and institutions, politics and interests, narratives and evidence intersect altogether. Incorporating these three factors in the context of a developing country is challenging, particularly for the marginalised businesses, since their participation in the policy space is minimal. This paper focuses on the relationship between public policies and research during the COVID-19 pandemic period in addressing the challenges of the marginalised businesses, particularly for Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) and women-led enterprises, in getting access to financial support.



***Skills and  
Employment***

# SKILLS GAP AND YOUTH EMPLOYMENT IN BANGLADESH AN EXPLORATORY ANALYSIS



Which skills are the most highly demanded by the employers in Bangladesh? Are Bangladesh's university students graduating with the right skills for the modern labour market? Is there any skills gap in the labour market of Bangladesh which is affecting youth employment? These questions, inter alia, are answered in this publication, and the aim is to identify the skills that have value in the labour market of Bangladesh.

# Policy Brief

April 2022



সেন্টার ফর পলিসি ডায়ালগ (সিপিডি)  
Centre for Policy Dialogue (CPD)



## YOUTH SKILLS FOR YOUTH EMPLOYMENT A POLICY PERSPECTIVE

Fahmida Khatun, Syed Yusuf Saadat, Kashfia Ashraf and Mohammad Abu Tayeb Taki

### Highlights

- Employers place the highest importance on communication and English language skills, followed by time management skills, and problem-solving skills.
- University students and recent graduates obtained the lowest average scores in communication and English language skills and numeracy and mathematical skills.
- The greatest gap existed in communication and English language skills.

This policy brief is based on a research study titled “Skills Gap and Youth Employment in Bangladesh: An Exploratory Analysis”, which explored the skills that are most highly demanded in Bangladesh’s labour market.

It explores policy options to resolve labour-related challenges to achieving economic growth by identifying the skills required in the labour market of Bangladesh, especially in the context of the fourth industrial revolution (4IR), so that resources can be invested in the development of such skills in order to increase earnings for workers and improve overall tightness of the labour market. The study has been implemented by CPD in collaboration with Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung (FES) Bangladesh.

***Industries, Business  
Environment, and  
Workplace Safety***



## BANGLADESH'S PARTNERSHIP WITH JAPAN CAN BE STRENGTHENED THROUGH ENHANCED TRADE, INVESTMENT AND TECHNOLOGICAL COLLABORATION

(From left) Dr Khondaker Golam Moazzem, Research Director, CPD; Mr Hayakawa Yuho, Chief Representative, JICA; H E Mr ITO Naoki, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary Embassy of Japan in Bangladesh; Mr M A Mannan, MP, Hon'ble Minister for Planning, Government of Bangladesh; Dr Fahmida Khatun, Executive Director, CPD; Mr Kazi Nabil Ahmed, MP, Member, Parliamentary Standing Committee on Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh; Mr Asif A Chowdhury, President, JBCCI; and Mr Syed Yusuf Saadat, Research Fellow, CPD.



During the course of its dual graduation, Bangladesh is facing an uncertain future due to its low level of preparedness in dealing with the disruptions caused due to the fourth industrial revolution (4IR). As one of the most technologically advanced nations in the world, Japan's experience and expertise may be useful for charting out a pathway for Bangladesh in the 4IR era so that Bangladesh may be able to successfully leverage technology to achieve its development objectives.

In this context, CPD undertook a research study titled '*Bangladesh-Japan Partnership for the Next Development Journey*' with a view to harnessing the emerging opportunities and celebrating the 50-year anniversary of the establishment of Bangladesh-Japan relationship. Based on this study, a dialogue was organised by CPD on Wednesday, 16 March 2022.

A policy brief was also prepared based on the key findings of the aforementioned study. This policy brief titled '*Strengthening Bangladesh-Japan Partnership Through Enhanced Trade, Investment, and Technological Collaboration*' focuses on various issues and potentials involving Japan-Bangladesh partnership and presents a number of recommendations.



## CORRUPTION, INEFFICIENT BUREAUCRACY AND LIMITED ACCESS TO CREDIT – TOP THREE CHALLENGES FOR DOING BUSINESS

Corruption, weak and inefficient bureaucracy and limited access to credit – are the top three challenges which raised the cost of business significantly during 2021 particularly for the micro, small and cottage industries. A number of emerging concerns such as tax, health and skilled workforce related issues are also affecting all categories of businesses particularly large scale and FDI-led investments. Drive against corruption particularly those which have adverse effect on businesses such as bribes in licensing, registration, providing utility facilities and tax collection should get the priority. Besides transparency and accountability of related public services should be put focus on. Most of the businesses took cost-cutting measures as survival and recovery strategy, and apprehended a minimum recovery period of 3 years. The period is rather long across all categories of enterprises (micro, small, medium and large). An inclusive recovery plan needs to be implemented focusing on reduction of tax rates, better access to credit facility and reduction of corruption.

These observations emerged at a media briefing on *'Bangladesh Business Environment 2021: Findings from Entrepreneurs' Perception Survey*, organised by the Centre for Policy Dialogue (CPD) on 26 January, 2022. CPD presented the findings from the *'Executive Opinion Survey (EOS)'*, conducted during April-July 2021.



Promotes inclusive  
policymaking

# POLICY BRIEF

2022 (1)

## Highlights



This policy brief highlights the state of business competitiveness of Bangladesh in the context of the reduction in COVID transmission and the easing of restrictions to understand the level of recovery in the business environment.



The study team has collected information from 73 high officials of different-sized private companies located in Dhaka, Chattogram, Narayanganj, Gazipur and Faridpur.



Businesses are still confronting structural challenges while new challenges are added as barriers to competitiveness. Corruption, weak and inefficient bureaucracy and lack of access to financing are the top three challenges.

## ASSESSMENT OF THE BUSINESS ENVIRONMENT DURING COVID-19 IN 2021

### HOW REASSURING IS IT FOR THE POST-PANDEMIC RECOVERY?

*Khondaker Golam Moazzem, Md. Salay  
Mostofa and Ratia Rehnuma*

Bangladesh's business environment has experienced many significant changes in 2021 when the businesses were at an early recovery phase after the rate of the COVID spread has decreased. This policy brief highlights the state of business competitiveness of Bangladesh in the context of the reduction in COVID transmission and the easing of restrictions, with the objective to understand the level of recovery in the business environment.





(From left) Dr Khondaker Golam Moazzem, Research Director, CPD; Mr Ardashir Kabir, President, BEF; Mr Tuomo Poutainen, Country Director, ILO Bangladesh; Mr Nurul Majid Mahmud Humayun, MP, Honourable Minister of Industries; Mr Md. Ehsan-E-Elahi, Secretary, Ministry of Labour and Employment; and Ms Shamim Ara, Chairperson, NCCWE.

## First Industrial Safety Forum takes place in Dhaka

On 12 May, 2022, the 'First Industrial Safety Forum (ISF)' took place in Dhaka which was organised jointly by the International Labour Organization (ILO) and the CPD. ISF brought together national safety regulators, policymakers, academics, employers, workers' representatives, civil society members and development partners to discuss the development of a national industrial safety framework for Bangladesh.

The infrastructure and institutional preparedness for industrial safety are still at nascent stages in the country. In particular, building safety, occupational safety and health (OSH) and environmental sustainability remain outside the core activities in most industrial sectors.

The ISF aims to inspire and engage the relevant stakeholders to establish a sustainable and transparent industrial safety framework, which will act as a foundation for ensuring workplace safety in all industries across Bangladesh.

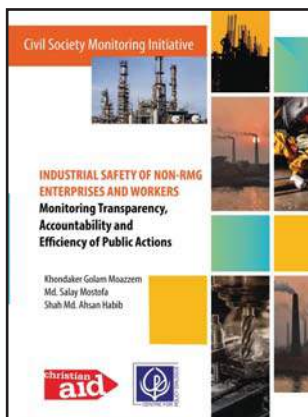
# CPD initiatives against industrial accidents



## Fire Incidents in Workplaces and Workers Safety: Where are Corrective Actions?

Industrial safety in non-RMG enterprises is almost an unaddressed issue, and rapid rise of industrial accidents in recent years has further deteriorated the situation. An initiative for industrial safety measures under the overall co-ordination of the Bangladesh Investment Development Authority (BIDA) was announced on 16 July 2021. However, the progress under BIDA-led initiatives were not satisfactory. As part of civil-society initiative, CPD has made an assessment of such government initiatives and recommended some preventative measures.

Due to increasing incidents and casualties, Bangladesh's reputation as an industrial hub may be at risk globally. Remedying safety issues in non-RMG factories is challenging due to enterprises' unwillingness to invest, weak governance in monitoring agencies, limited enforcement capacity, and lack of pressure from buyers and consumers. To address these issues, a special report titled 'Industrial Safety of Non-RMG Enterprises and Workers' was prepared. It assesses the current state of compliance, identifies limitations in regulatory bodies, and provides recommendations to enhance institutional capacity.



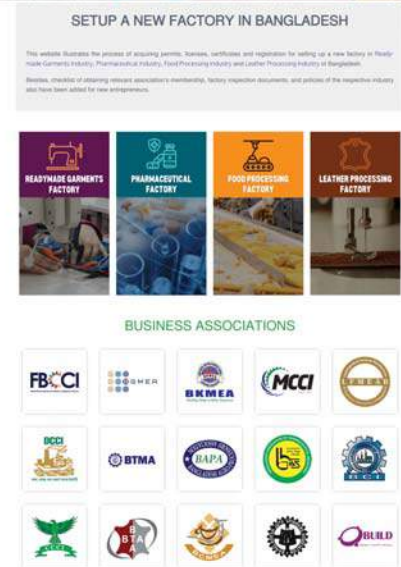
## An Industrial Safety Framework for Dangerous Chemicals Needs to be Established

Industrial Safety became an accentuated concern when mishandled hydrogen peroxide, a hazardous chemical, caused explosions at BMCD, Chattogram, which led to 51 deaths, over 200 injuries, and the loss of around USD 110 million in assets. To help prevent such accidents, CPD recommended that an industrial safety framework for dangerous chemicals needs to be established. A policy brief has also been prepared where it has been recommended that besides monitoring and overseeing institutions in order to reform their inspection protocols, assurance of safety at every stage as well as co-ordination between relevant authorities and the co-ordination committee's operation must be regular and effective.

# NEWLY DEVELOPED WEB PORTAL WILL FACILITATE ACCESSING KEY BUSINESS-RELATED INFORMATION



(From left) Dr Michael Klode, Project Manager, GIZ; Mr Syed Nasim Manzur, President, LFMEAB; Mr Mohammad Hatem, Executive President, BKMEA; Dr Khondaker Golam Moazzem, Research Director, CPD; Mr Faruque Hassan, President, BGMEA; Mr Syed Moazzem Hossain, Director, FBCCI; Ms Ferdaus Ara Begum, Chief Executive Officer, BUILD; and Mr Abdullah Al Mamun, Vice President, BTMA.



CPD, in partnership with GIZ (Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit) organised a study on 'Setting up a Factory in Bangladesh: Institutional, operational and Legal Requirements in RMG, Pharmaceutical, Leather, and Food Processing Sector'. To present the findings of the study and launch the Web portal, CPD and GIZ jointly organised the event titled 'Launching Web Portal on Setting up Factories: Licensing, Registration and Certification' where distinguished guests were present. The web portal illustrates the process of acquiring permits, licenses, certificates, and registration for setting up a new factory in the RMG, pharmaceutical, food processing and leather processing industries.

In addition, it also provides checklists for obtaining relevant associations' membership, factory inspection documents, and policies of the respective industry, especially for entrepreneurs. Special Reports in both English and Bangla were prepared to delineate the findings of the study.

***Governance and  
Institutions***



(From left) Mr M. A. Manan, MP, Hon'ble Minister, Ministry of Planning, GoB; Dr Selina Hayat Ivy, Hon'ble Mayor, NCC; Professor Rehman Sobhan, Chairman, CPD; Ms Aroma Dutta, MP, Member, Parliamentary Standing Committee on Ministry of Social Welfare, Bangladesh Parliament; Mr Rashed Khan Menon, Chairman, Standing Committee on Ministry of Social Welfare, Bangladesh Parliament; Barrister Rumeen Farhana, Former Member of Parliament; Professor Rounaq Jahhan, Distinguished Fellow, CPD; Dr Tofail Ahmed, Former Vice Chancellor, University of Britannia; Brig. Gen. (Retd) Dr Sakhawat Hussain, Former Election Commissioner; Dr Badiul Alam Majumdar, Country Director, The Hunger Project-Bangladesh; and Dr Fahmida Khatun, Executive Director, CPD.

# Narayanganj City Corporation Election: Process and Experience

The Narayanganj City Corporation (NCC) Mayoral Election was very important for Bangladesh and could be used as a good example in many cases. This election proved again that the people are willing to vote and elect a credible candidate. However, there is always room for discussion about how to improve the electoral process in the future. In this backdrop, CPD organised a virtual dialogue titled, 'Narayanganj City Corporation Election: Process and Experience'. A Dialogue Brief has also been prepared on this dialogue.



## স্বিপিডি

### সংলাপ সংক্ষেপ

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**মুঠ পাতা**

- ▶ পর ১৯ জানুয়ারি ২০২২ তারিখে নারায়ণগঞ্জ সিটি কর্পোরেশনের নির্বাচন আওতাধীন এলাকা পরিদর্শন করে এবং নির্বাচনের নিয়ম প্রণয়নের ক্ষেত্রে পরামর্শ দিয়েছেন।
- ▶ নির্বাচন আওতাধীন এলাকা পরিদর্শন করে এবং নির্বাচনের নিয়ম প্রণয়নের ক্ষেত্রে পরামর্শ দিয়েছেন।
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**সদ্য সমাপ্ত নারায়ণগঞ্জ সিটি কর্পোরেশন নির্বাচন: জনপ্রতিনিধি নির্বাচন প্রক্রিয়া এবং অভিজ্ঞতা**

**পটভূমিকা**

পর ১৯ জানুয়ারি নারায়ণগঞ্জ সিটি কর্পোরেশনের নির্বাচন আওতাধীন এলাকা পরিদর্শন করে এবং নির্বাচনের নিয়ম প্রণয়নের ক্ষেত্রে পরামর্শ দিয়েছেন।

**সূচনা**

নির্বাচন আওতাধীন এলাকা পরিদর্শন করে এবং নির্বাচনের নিয়ম প্রণয়নের ক্ষেত্রে পরামর্শ দিয়েছেন।

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# Commitment to National Development

## Education, Decent Employment and Gender Empowerment



Ahead of the national elections in Bangladesh, political parties make electoral promises that often lack follow-through in concrete actions. Unfortunately, citizens also fail to give due importance to these pledges and hold elected representatives accountable for their implementation. This lack of accountability is particularly concerning since the government typically holds a super-majority in Bangladesh. To address this issue, it is crucial to monitor the implementation process of commitments using a bottom-up approach, involving various stakeholders, including vulnerable and marginalised groups like women, youth, the elderly, people with physical challenges, religious minorities, and indigenous communities. Although the newly elected government's pledges align with national aspirations, their accountability in delivering on these promises remains uncertain.



National Conference



Sub-National Dialogue



FGD at the local level



Meeting with Members of Parliament

In response to these challenges, CPD and United Nations Democracy Fund (UNDEF) initiated the programme '*Advancing Responsiveness and Accountability Through Citizen Engagement in Bangladesh*'. The programme aimed to enhance civic participation in the democratic process, aligning with SDG 16, to ensure the government fulfills its electoral pledges.

Previously, discussions about election manifesto promises, adopted policies, and post-election implementation status were non-existent in Bangladesh. However, the programme has introduced the practice of debating election commitments among citizens and decision-makers, bringing attention to the significance of commitments throughout the political term, not just during elections. The programme has also raised awareness about the importance of analysing election manifestos, evaluating and revising policies, and monitoring implementation progress over the parliamentary term. The programme provided grassroots people with a unique opportunity to engage with two ministers, eleven Members of Parliament (MPs), and two mayors, enabling citizens to voice their demands directly to these officials.

As part of the programme's activities, CPD organised three brainstorming sessions, ninety focus group discussions (FGDs), five subnational dialogues, a workshop, and a national conference. Additionally, CPD prepared three policy briefs focusing on thematic areas and a resource document.

***Citizen's Platform  
for SDGs, Bangladesh***





Citizen's Platform for SDGs, Bangladesh

এসডিজি বাস্তবায়নে নাগরিক প্ল্যাটফর্ম, বাংলাদেশ

## 2022 – A Year of Gathering Momentum

The Citizen's Platform for SDGs, Bangladesh achieved a remarkable milestone in 2022 for several reasons. In fact, the yester year was the stage of gathering momentum in its efforts to amplify the voices and perspectives of the marginalised and 'left-behind' citizens and communities in the country's national development discourse. Throughout the year, the platform pursued a wide range of activities aiming to promote inclusivity and ensure no one is left behind in the journey towards the sustainable development of the nation.

### NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT NARRATIVE AND LOCAL REALITIES

A remarkable conclusion to the year was a unique approach by the platform through a public hearing held in Dhaka on 3 December, 2022. The event brought together more than 400 participants from 25 districts, representing diverse left-behind communities, who courageously expressed their demands and placed the challenges before a distinguished citizens' panel and media representatives. Consequently, the initiative shed light on the local responses to the national development narrative, amplifying the voices of those often overlooked in the mainstream discussions.

### CONNECTING YOUTH TO NATIONAL SDG PROCESS

In a bid to foster youth engagement in policy discourse, specifically in sustainable development goals (SDGs), the platform organised a successful conference in Dhaka on 1 September, 2022. The event, well-received by university



students and youths, provided a platform for direct policy feedback, empowering them to participate actively in shaping the country's SDG implementation.

### **GIVING VOICE TO THE LEFT-BEHIND AT THE LOCAL LEVEL**

A chain of consultations with citizens of several sub-national districts and regions including Rangpur, Khulna, Sylhet, Tangail, Thakurgaon, Rangamati and Chattogram was held. The platform actively organised the events to engage stakeholders from left-behind communities, seeking to understand their experiences and expectations within the official development narrative. Accordingly, this particular attempt made strides in bridging the gap between local realities and national development efforts.

### **CSO AND PRIVATE SECTOR'S ROLE AND STRATEGY FOR SMOOTH LDC GRADUATION OF BANGLADESH**

As a network of non-state actors (NSAs), Citizen's Platform initiated important discussions on the challenges and opportunities for the civil society organisations and non-governmental development institutions regarding the LDC Graduation. In gatherings held on October 19 and 29, 2022, the platform facilitated dialogue on CSO and private sector roles and strategies, revealing a new area of focus in national development discourse.





### NATIONAL BUDGET ANALYSIS THROUGH LNOB LENSES

Aiming to showcase the concerns of disadvantaged communities at the national level, the platform analysed the National Budget through the lens of Leave No One Behind (LNOB) principles. The platform documented recommendations for the FY2022–23 budget from the perspectives of the disadvantaged groups, collaborating with partner organisations. Webinars and media sessions on the socio-economic conditions and perspectives of the 'Left-Behind' communities further disseminated these insights.

### CITIZEN'S PROTEST IN RESPONSE TO COMMUNAL VIOLENCE

In response to communal violence, the platform held a citizen's protest meeting in Dhaka on July 22, 2022. It offered a platform for victims from affected areas to share their experiences and voices on a national platform, with the support of representatives from civil society and human rights activists.

### CITIZEN'S PLATFORM ON THE PROPOSED ANTI-DISCRIMINATORY BILL 2022

On April 10, 2022, a media briefing in Dhaka was held, allowing civil society representatives, actively involved in shaping the proposed Anti-Discriminatory Bill 2022, to share their views and insights with the media and the public.

### EMPOWERING TEA PLANTATION WORKERS

Recognising the challenges faced by tea plantation workers, the platform invested dedicated efforts to uphold their concerns and interests through a national event held on November 23, 2022. The dialogue brought together a set of tea plantation workers and organisations from Moulvibazar and Sylhet districts, and representatives from other stakeholder groups, including Tea Board officials, tea garden owners and exporters, CEO of tea gardens, and international development partners.

### CONTRIBUTING TO KNOWLEDGE AND ADVOCACY

In 2022, the platform made significant contributions in the knowledge and advocacy domains through its specialised research and publications. Two working papers focused on the impact of COVID-19 on SDGs in Bangladesh and the efforts of RMG workers' households to overcome pandemic fallout. The platform also published 13 briefing notes, along with an edited volume in Bengali language, compiling 19 briefing notes. Moreover, the platform plans to publish a volume titled 'COVID-19 and Bangladesh: Disaggregation, Inclusion, and Transition' with an international publisher.

## FOSTERING NETWORKING AND INCLUSION

In line with its regular advocacies, and activities, the platform also expanded its network by welcoming seven new partner organisations, bringing the total number of partners to 125. Thereupon, the dialogues and conferences received enthusiastic participation from over 2,400 individuals, with around 800 representing the left-behind communities. Moreover, live-streaming these events on the platform's social media outlets also had a wider reach, for instance one of the Facebook streaming reached 24,735 viewers.



## HARNESSING THE POWER OF DIGITAL MEDIA

Living in the age of information and technology, the platform always tries to effectively utilise digital channels to communicate and disseminate its mission and activities. In 2022, it shared 111 posts on Facebook, 29 on LinkedIn, and 12 short Audio Visuals, reaching an impressive 108,074 people on Facebook, gaining 1,271 new likes and 6,380 page visits.



# ***Special Mentions***

# EDUCATION

## Role of education in promoting human progress must be reclaimed



(From left) Professor Rehman Sobhan, Chairman, CPD; Dr Manzoor Ahmed, Emeritus Professor, BRAC University; Dr Fahmida Khatun, Executive Director, CPD; Professor Syed Manzoorul Islam, Member, CPD Board of Trustees, Professor, English and Humanities, ULAB; Dr Binayak Sen, Director General, BIDS; Mr Eresh Omar Jamal, Assistant Editor, The Daily Star; and Dr Khondaker Golam Moazzem, Research Director, CPD.

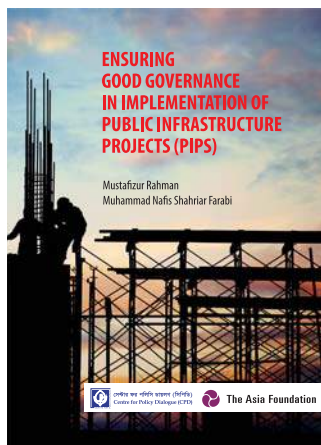
South Asia's educational progress is falling short of the ambitious SDG 4 2030 goals. CPD's analysis reveals that while technical solutions exist, the absence of political settlements hinders their implementation. Political dynamics, not just technical merits, determine the success and extent of educational policies. To bridge the gap, a deeper understanding of the region's education system and strategic political action are crucial.

The virtual discussion on '*Political Economy of Education in South Asia: Fighting Poverty, Inequality, and Exclusion*' highlighted the need for a public discourse and social compact to achieve consensus. By exploring both the broader perspective and specific subsectors, the aim was to foster understanding and unity. However, the lack of political consensus, commitment, and willingness to make tough choices remains a significant obstacle. To advance an inclusive and quality education agenda, like-minded citizens, activists, professionals, and human rights advocates must come together in solidarity.



(From left): Professor Mustafizur Rahman, Distinguished Fellow, CPD; Dr M. Masrur Reaz, Chairman, Policy Exchange of Bangladesh; Dr MD Abdus Shahid, MP, Chairman Parliamentary Standing Committee on Estimates; Dr Fahmida Khatun, Executive Director, CPD; Mr M A Manan, MP, Hon'ble Minister for Planning, GoB; Engineer Enamul Haque, MP, Parliamentary Standing Committee on Ministry of Road Transport and Bridges; and Mr Rizwan Rahman, President, DCCI.

## A COMPREHENSIVE FRAMEWORK FOR ENSURING GOOD GOVERNANCE IN PUBLIC INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION COULD GENERATE HIGH DIVIDENDS FOR BANGLADESH



The discussion on Bangladesh's public infrastructure projects took the center stage at a CPD-TAF dialogue on June 29, 2022 that explored how to ensure good value for money. From governance challenges to the development of a comprehensive framework for good governance, the discussion delved into the intricacies of implementation. *Professor Mustafizur Rahman*, Distinguished Fellow, CPD, and his team shared their research work, referencing the OECD framework to contextualise their findings in Bangladesh. The conversation was an eye-opening deep dive into the complexities of infrastructure development and left everyone with actionable insights to improve public infrastructure in Bangladesh.

Before the dialogue, an expert group meeting was also organised to articulate knowledge on implementation of public infrastructure projects. Based on this research, a special report and a policy brief was also prepared and published.



## ***Enhanced Multilateral Development Finance is crucial for supporting an inclusive and sustainable recovery in South Asia***

The Multilateral Development System is facing challenges due to COVID-19, the Russia-Ukraine War, and climate change. Despite raising exceptional funds, vulnerabilities still persist. The 'Multilateral Development Finance 2022' report highlights the discrepancies between the financial aid South Asian countries require and the support provided.

A webinar was organised by CPD to launch the report. The event was participated by experts from South Asia and they discussed about the prevailing and emerging issues of their countries and how the Multilateral Development Finance System can be improved to cater to the needs of the South Asian Countries.

## ***India-Bangladesh Strategic Dialogue***

On 18th May 2022, the 'India-Bangladesh Strategic Dialogue' took place virtually, organised by CPD in collaboration with India's Ananta Centre. The dialogue aimed to update political, economic, and social developments in both countries, along with their foreign policy, strategic partnerships, and emerging alignments. Experts, policymakers, and journalists gathered to discuss crucial issues governing the relationship, showcasing the strong friendship and potential for deeper co-operation in the future.



# CAPACITY BUILDING

## *Young Scholars' Seminar Series 2022*



The Young Scholars' Seminar Series (YSSS) is a capacity building programme aimed at helping young professionals improve their research, analytical, articulation, and presentation skills. The YSSS program has been in place at the CPD since 2006, and it includes in-house discussions where young researchers can present their ongoing research and receive feedback from their peers. In 2022, two sessions were organised under the YSSS program.

On 8 September 2022, the first session of YSSS of 2022 was organised. *Ms Farah Nusrat*, Senior Publication Associate, *Ms Afrin Mahbub*, Programme Associate, and *Ms Jebunnesa Jeba*, Intern, presented their research papers at the session. *Dr Fahmida Khatun*, Executive Director, CPD, chaired the session.

The second session of YSSS was held on 22 December 2022. *Mr A S M Shamim Alam Shibly*, Research Associate, and *Ms Fabiha Idris*, Programme Associate, presented their research papers at the session. *Dr Khondaker Golam Moazzem*, Research Director of CPD, chaired the session.

## Capacity Building of Journalists



A capacity building workshop was organised for the journalists to help them write informed investigative reports on the quality of Public Infrastructure Projects (PIPs) in Bangladesh. In the workshop, the awareness about challenges and anomalies in implementing PIPs, and use of RTI and accessing various relevant data sources was raised. The knowledge of global best practises on assessing state of governance in PIP implementation based on the OECD framework for governance of infrastructure was also inculcated.



Another workshop for media professionals was held to advance the cause of investing in children through proactive role of print, electronic media and journalists working in these media. The workshop aimed to trigger awareness about the importance of focussing and writing on issues of concern and interests to children of this country, imparting knowledge about child budget and about sources of data and information on child-centric issues.

# ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSION

## Fear of violence must be addressed for a better gender budget



Photo: Prothom Alo

Despite significant SDG advancement and economic growth in Bangladesh, violence against women is still widespread. It was also exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic scenario. Such violence prevents women in our nation from leaving the house or using public transportation. The factors related to violence against women must be taken into consideration in the national budget to ensure their prevention.

These issues emerged at a roundtable titled 'Desired budget in preventing violence against women', jointly organised by CPD, Plan International, and Prothom Alo. The roundtable discussed the study titled 'Budget Framework Analysis on Challenging Fear of Violence' which was presented by Plan International.

# *Allocations for children in Bangladesh's public expenditure*



The increase in the allocation of budget for children has become the need of the hour due to the emergent issues such as increase in child labour, child marriage, learning losses and violence. Along with this, a significant budget allocation is also required in education, children's health and social safety net programmes.

In the light of this, CPD in partnership with UNICEF, as part of the EU-UNICEF Public Finance Facility for Children project supported by the European Union, undertook an exercise to estimate the child budget figures for FY2021–22. The objective was to highlight the need to increase the share of child budget in public expenditure, and enhance allocative efficiency by drawing attention to the specific needs of COVID-affected children. A roundtable discussion was held to highlight its findings to relevant stakeholders.

## **Recommendations**

- Prepare the child budget and publish this on a regular basis.
- Ensure that child-related policy commitments are better reflected in budgetary processes.
- Prepare child budget considering the shifting demand scenario. Addressing COVID-induced adverse impacts should inform the priorities in allocations for children in FY2022–23 budget and thereafter.

# SPECIAL LECTURES

From time to time, CPD organises special lectures which provides young researchers with unparalleled access to the latest ideas and insights from experts. These captivating events feature prominent figures who are renowned for their expertise and accomplishments in their respective fields. With their latest research and cutting-edge insights, these luminaries offer a unique opportunity for young researchers to expand their knowledge and engage in dynamic discussions with peers. By attending these special lectures, they not only gain valuable insights into the latest advancements, but also gain exposure to new ideas and perspectives that can help them grow as researchers. Three such lectures were organised in the year 2022:

In the special lecture '*Recent Trends in Economic Teaching in the UK*', Mr Md. Jahirul Islam, School International Director, School of Economics, University of Bristol, UK, talked about the latest trends in economics teachings and reflected on the opportunities and challenges for higher education in UK.

Dr Sreeradha Datta, Centre Head, Neighbourhood Studies and Senior Fellow, Vivekananda International Foundation, gave a special lecture on '*India and its Neighbourhood*' where she talked about how India was facing challenges in engaging with its rapidly changing South Asian neighborhood.

In the special lecture titled '*The Formation of Bengal Delta*' Dipen Bhattacharya, Department of Natural Sciences, Moreno Valley College California, discussed the exciting history of formation of the Bengal Delta and its future with respect to climatic, anthropogenic, and geologic changes.



# SPECIAL EVENTS

## ***Professor Rehman Sobhan's second memoir launched***



CPD and the University Press Limited (UPL) jointly organised an event on the occasion of the launch of Professor Rehman Sobhan's memoir titled 'Untranquil Recollections: Political Economy of Nation Building in Post-Liberation Bangladesh', on 9 April 2022.

The memoir is the second volume in the Untranquil Recollections series. This volume captures the unique challenges facing Bangladesh in the years immediately after liberation when Bangabandhu on his return assumed the responsibility as the head of the government. *Professor Rehman Sobhan* sheds light on many challenges that the war-devastated country was confronted with while establishing new institutions from the ground up.

The book provides a frame narrative as to how the Planning Commission dealt with policy issues, how the political economy played the cut, how the first Five-Year Plan was formulated, and how foreign relationships were built, till the time of the tragedy of 15 August 1975.

# SOCIAL EVENTS AT CPD

CPD always generates the spirit of celebration during the special occasions throughout the year. In 2022, the think tank hosted a series of in-house events to mark special days on the calendar, bringing together the CPD family in a warm and welcoming atmosphere. From colourful Pohela Falgun festivities to empowering Women's Day, and lively Pohela Boishakh celebrations to joyous birthday parties- CPD organised all, bringing colleagues together to share the joy of these occasions. But the highlight of the year was undoubtedly the commemoration of CPD's 30th anniversary – a milestone achievement that deserved a special event all its own. On 16 November, 2022, the CPD community came together to honour three decades of progress and growth, and to look ahead to an even brighter future.



# Governance and Internal Management

## Board of Trustees (BoT)

The highest body in CPD's governance structure is the Board of Trustees (BoT). The Board, with the support of an Executive Committee (comprising BoT's Member Secretary and the Treasurer), is entrusted to provide the overall guidance to the activities of CPD.

Chair of the Board

**Professor Rehman Sobhan**

Chairman, CPD

**Ms Khushi Kabir**

Coordinator, Nijera Kori

**Nobel Laureate Muhammad Yunus**

Chairman, Yunus Centre

**Mr M Syeduzzaman**

Former Finance Minister

**Mr Syed Manzur Elahi**

Chairman, Apex Group and  
Treasurer, CPD-BoT

**Advocate Sultana Kamal**

Former Advisor to the Caretaker  
Government of Bangladesh

**Dr Debapriya Bhattacharya**

Distinguished Fellow, CPD

**Ms Rasheda K Choudhury**

Former Advisor to the Caretaker  
Government of Bangladesh and  
Executive Director, CAMPE

**Dr Shahdeen Malik**

Advocate, Supreme Court of  
Bangladesh

**Dr Syed Manzoorul Islam**

Former Professor, Department of  
English, University of Dhaka

**Ms Parveen Mahmud FCA**

Former Managing Director,  
Grameen Telecom Trust and  
Former President, ICAB and  
Director, DSE

**Professor Mustafizur Rahman**

Distinguished Fellow, CPD

**Professor Rounaq Jahan**

Distinguished Fellow, CPD

**Dr Fahmida Khatun**

Executive Director, CPD and  
Member-Secretary, CPD-BoT



## **Management and Implementation Committee (MIC)**

The MIC is mandated with the task of overall supervision, monitoring and decision-making of the day-to-day work and administrative issues of CPD. A total of 27 MIC meetings were held in 2022.



**Dr Fahmida Khatun**  
Executive Director



**Dr Khondaker Golam Moazzem**  
Research Director



**M Shafiqul Islam**  
Director  
Administration & Finance



**Towfiqul Islam Khan**  
Senior Research Fellow



**Uttam Kumar Paul**  
Joint Director  
Finance & Admin



**Avra Bhattacharjee**  
Joint Director  
Dialogue and Outreach

## **Research Management Committee (RMC)**

RMC is the committee that takes stock of progress in research works, designs and implements strategic co-ordination among various research programmes/activisms, and discusses research proposals of the CPD. RMC is chaired by the Research Director of CPD, and participated by all mid to senior-level researchers. In 2022, two meetings of the RMC were held. RMC sits at least once every three months in the usual case.

## **Review, Co-ordination and Planning (ReCAP)**

ReCAP is the discussion platform of all CPD staff on issues pertaining to any institutional activity and/or matter. In 2022, four ReCAP meetings were held.

# ***CPD's Policy Activism in 2022***



# CPD'S OUTREACH IN 2022



**6,035**  
Press coverage



**27**  
Newspaper  
interviews



**9,151**  
E-alert subscribers



**53,237**  
YouTube views



**11,156**  
LinkedIn followers



**47,185**  
Facebook followers



**92**  
Op-eds



**663,730**  
Website visits



**1,417**  
Electronic media  
appearances

# **FINANCIAL AFFAIRS**

**Independent Auditor's Report  
To the Management of Centre for Policy Dialogue**

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**Report on the Audit of the Financial Statements**

**Opinion**

We have audited the financial statements of Centre for Policy Dialogue (CPD), which comprise the statement of financial position (balance sheet) as at 30 June 2022, and the income and expenditure statement, cash flow statement for the year then ended, and notes to the financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies.

In our opinion, the accompanying financial statements give a true and fair view of the financial position of the CPD as at 30 June 2022, and of its financial performance and its receipts and payments for the year then ended in accordance with International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRSs).

**Basis of opinion**

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (ISAs). Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements section of our report. We are independent of the CPD in accordance with the International Ethics Standards Board for Accountants' Code of Ethics for Professional Accountants (IESBA Code), and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with the IESBA Code and the Institute of Chartered Accountants Bye Laws. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

**Responsibilities of management and those charged with governance for the financial statements**

Management is responsible for the preparation of the financial statements that give a true and fair view in accordance with IFRSs and other applicable laws and regulations and for such internal control as management determines is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, management is responsible for assessing the CPD's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless management either intends to liquidate the CPD or to cease operations, or has no realistic alternative but to do so.

Those charged with governance are responsible for overseeing the CPD's financial reporting process.

**Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements**

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with ISAs will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.



As part of an audit in accordance with ISAs, we exercise professional judgment and maintain professional skepticism throughout the audit. We also:

- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control.
- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the CPD's internal control.
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by management.
- Conclude on the appropriateness of management's use of the going concern basis of accounting and, based on the audit evidence obtained, whether a material uncertainty exists related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the CPD's ability to continue as a going concern. If we conclude that a material uncertainty exists, we are required to draw attention in our auditor's report to the related disclosures in the financial statements or, if such disclosures are inadequate, to modify our opinion. Our conclusions are based on the audit evidence obtained up to the date of our auditor's report. However, future events or conditions may cause the CPD to cease to continue as a going concern.
- Evaluate the overall presentation, structure and content of the financial statements, including the disclosures, and whether the financial statements represent the underlying transactions and events in a manner that achieves fair presentation.

We communicate with those charged with governance regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control that we identify during our audit.

Auditor's Signature  
Name of Engagement Partner  
Enrollment No.  
Firm's Name  
Firm's Reg No.

  
: Md. Moktar Hossain, FCA, Senior Partner  
: 728  
: S. F. Ahmed & Co., Chartered Accountants  
: 10898 E.P. under Partnership Act 1932



**Document Verification Code (DVC)**

**: 2211210728AS751233**

Dated, 21 November 2022

Centre for Policy Dialogue

Statement of Financial Position (Balance Sheet)  
As at 30 June 2022

	Notes	2022 BDT	2021 BDT
<b>Assets</b>			
<b>Non-current assets</b>			
Property, plant and equipment	4	193,315,744	193,294,003
Security deposits	5	456,043	466,043
<b>Total non-current assets</b>		<b>193,771,787</b>	<b>193,760,046</b>
<b>Current assets</b>			
Advances	6	12,700,454	8,956,340
Receivables	7	2,664,680	16,334,480
Cash and cash equivalents	8	105,809,117	68,938,539
<b>Total current assets</b>		<b>121,174,251</b>	<b>94,229,359</b>
<b>Total assets</b>		<b>314,946,038</b>	<b>287,989,405</b>
<b>Funds and liabilities</b>			
<b>Funds</b>			
Staff welfare fund		5,548,401	5,548,401
Accumulated fund	9	223,818,090	219,004,698
<b>Funds balance</b>		<b>229,366,491</b>	<b>224,553,099</b>
<b>Non-current liabilities</b>			
Term loan (non-current portion)	10	12,016,060	29,603,204
<b>Total non-current liabilities</b>		<b>12,016,060</b>	<b>29,603,204</b>
<b>Current liabilities</b>			
Liabilities for donor's fund	11	8,543,235	9,567,132
Liability for expenses	12	15,491,153	7,046,838
Withholding tax and VAT payable	13	42,365	103,686
Accounts payable	14	10,259,174	5,157,298
Term loan (current-portion)	10	3,658,528	2,698,126
Projects liability	15	35,569,031	9,260,022
<b>Total current liabilities</b>		<b>73,563,487</b>	<b>33,833,101</b>
<b>Total liabilities</b>		<b>85,579,547</b>	<b>63,436,306</b>
<b>Total funds and liabilities</b>		<b>314,946,038</b>	<b>287,989,405</b>

These financial statements should be read in conjunction with annexed notes

For and on behalf of Board of Trustees of Centre for Policy Dialogue

  
Director (Administration & Finance)

  
Executive Director



Dhaka, Bangladesh  
Dated, 21 November 2022

See annexed report of the date

  
S. F. AHMED & CO.  
Chartered Accountants

Centre for Policy Dialogue

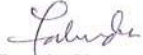
Income and Expenditure Statement  
For the year ended 30 June 2022


	Notes	2022 BDT	2021 BDT
<b>Income</b>			
Grants from domestic and external sources	16	162,942,184	126,363,249
Other income	17	3,651,870	5,947,463
<b>Total Income (a)</b>		<b>166,594,054</b>	<b>132,310,712</b>
<b>Expenditure</b>			
Salary and allowances	18	59,349,278	61,503,743
Projects expenditure	19	87,119,753	53,903,153
Depreciation		6,792,804	5,577,815
Finance cost		2,900,808	3,577,988
Income tax expense		1,095,561	1,811,720
Vehicle fuel and maintenance		1,199,700	726,118
Professional and audit fees	20	510,250	860,306
Security charges		741,510	855,855
Repairs and maintenance		1,575,731	446,743
Utilities		1,233,777	777,443
Entertainment		2,277,944	769,420
Postage, telephone and fax		517,372	639,452
Seminars, workshop and dialogue		-	300,266
Bank charges		263,830	250,684
Travelling and conveyance		287,571	146,722
Printing and stationery		181,762	109,143
Newspapers and periodicals		217,785	36,491
Training, recruitment and development		42,607	12,650
Publication and dissemination		286,010	5,000
<b>Total expenditure (b)</b>		<b>166,594,054</b>	<b>132,310,712</b>
<b>Excess of expenditure over income/(deficit) (a-b)</b>		<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>


These financial statements should be read in conjunction with annexed notes

For and on behalf of Board of Trustees of Centre for Policy Dialogue

  
Director (Administration & Finance)

  
Executive Director  
See annexed report of the date

  
Dhaka, Bangladesh  
Dated, 21 November 2022

  
S. F. AHMED & CO.  
Chartered Accountants  
DVC: 2211210728AS751233



Centre for Policy Dialogue

Statement of Cash Flows  
For the year ended 30 June 2022

	2022 BDT	2021 BDT
<b>A. Cash flows from operating activities</b>		
Surplus for the year	-	-
Adjustment of non-cash items :		
Depreciation	6,792,804	5,577,815
	<u>6,792,804</u>	<u>5,577,815</u>
Increase/(decrease) in current assets -		
Advances	(3,744,114)	16,140,213
Receivables	13,669,800	808,841
Security deposits	10,000	-
Increase/(decrease) in current liabilities -		
Liability for expenses	8,444,315	(495,923)
Withholding income tax and VAT	(61,320)	(800,591)
Accounts payable	5,101,876	2,487,953
Liability for projects	26,309,009	-
Staff welfare fund	-	(250,000)
Staff gratuity fund	-	(65,910,569)
<b>Net cash from/ (used in) operating activities</b>	<u><b>56,522,369</b></u>	<u><b>(42,442,261)</b></u>
<b>B. Cash flows from investing activities</b>		
Acquisition of property, plant and equipment	(6,814,544)	(25,358,294)
Disposal of property, plant and equipment	-	194,598
<b>Net cash from/ (used in) investing activities</b>	<u><b>(6,814,544)</b></u>	<u><b>(25,163,697)</b></u>
<b>C. Cash flows from financing activities</b>		
Term loan	(16,626,741)	2,702,244
Accumulated fund	4,813,391	10,495,902
Liabilities for donor's fund	(1,023,897)	(883,539)
<b>Net cash from/ (used in) financing activities</b>	<u><b>(12,837,247)</b></u>	<u><b>12,314,607</b></u>
<b>Net changes in cash and cash equivalents (A+B+C)</b>	<b>36,870,579</b>	<b>(55,291,351)</b>
Opening cash and cash equivalents	<u>68,938,539</u>	<u>124,229,889</u>
Closing cash and cash equivalents	<u><b>105,809,117</b></u>	<u><b>68,938,539</b></u>

For and on behalf of Board of Trustees of Centre for Policy Dialogue

  
Director (Administration & Finance)

  
Executive Director

Dhaka, Bangladesh  
Dated, 21 November 2022



Centre for Policy Dialogue

Notes to the financial statements  
For the year ended 30 June 2022

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**1. Background**

Centre for Policy Dialogue (CPD) was established under a deed of trust dated 16 November 1993 (herein-after referred to as the Trust). The Trust was registered as a non-government organization with the NGO Affairs Bureau, Government of Bangladesh on 08 March 1995, vide registration number 918. Subsequently the organisation has renewed the permission and latest renewal was taken on 29 December 2019 with effect from 08 March 2020 to 07 March 2030. The registered office of CPD is located at House # 40/C, Road No 32, Dhanmondi R/A, Dhaka 1209. The primary objective of CPD is to create an environment for public discussion of important national policy issues with a view to build a broad support for such policies. The other objectives of the organization are to work on:

- making people of Bangladesh aware of issues affecting their lives and future;
- discussion of important national policy issues with a view to build broad based support for such policies;
- organising periodical policy dialogues through the workshops, seminars and conferences at the national and international levels and to disseminate the outcomes of such dialogues to audience through the media and dialogues at the local and grass root levels, etc.

**2. Basis of preparation**

**2.1 Basis of accounting**

These financial statements are prepared under historical cost convention in accordance with the recognition and measurement principles outlined in International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRSs) applicable for a non-Governmental and not-for-profit organization like CPD. Wherever appropriate, such principles are explained in the succeeding notes. The enclosed financial statements are the consolidation of CPD and its projects. The accounts of the projects are separately audited wherever necessary as per requirement of Donors and/or NGO Affairs Bureau in relevant cases. These financial statements are prepared only for the use of the Board of Trustees of CPD.

**2.2 Functional and presentational currency and level of precision**

These financial statements have been presented in Bangladeshi Taka (Taka/Tk/BDT), which is both the functional and presentation currency of the company. All financial information presented in Taka have been rounded off to the nearest integer, unless otherwise indicated.

**2.3 Reporting period**

These financial statements cover a period of one year from 1 July 2021 to 30 June 2022.

**2.4 Components of these financial statements**

Following are the components of these financial statements:

- (i) Statement of financial position (balance sheet) as at 30 June 2022;
- (ii) Statement of income and expenditure for the year ended 30 June 2022;
- (iii) Statement of cash flow for the year ended 30 June 2022 and;
- (iv) Explanatory notes to the above financial statements.

**2.5 Use of estimates and judgements**

The preparation of financial statements requires management to make judgments, estimates and assumptions that affect the application of accounting policies and the reported amounts of assets, liabilities, income and expenses. Actual results may differ from these estimates. Estimates and underlying assumptions are reviewed on an ongoing basis. Revisions of accounting estimates are given prospective effect in the financial statements as required by IAS 8: "Accounting Policies, Changes in Accounting Estimates and Errors".



Centre for Policy Dialogue

Notes to the financial statements  
For the year ended 30 June 2022

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**2.6 Events after reporting period**

Events after reporting period that provide additional information about the company's position at the balance sheet date are reflected in the financial statements. Events after the reporting period that are not adjusting events are disclosed in the notes when material.

**3. Significant accounting policies**

- A. Statement of cash flows
- B. Property, plant and equipment
- C. Financial instruments
- D. Revenue recognition policy
- E. Gratuity fund
- F. Provident fund
- G. Receivables

**A. Statement of cash flows**

The Statement of Cash Flows has been prepared in accordance with the requirements of IAS 7: "Statement of Cash Flows". Cash and cash equivalents comprise cash in hand and demand deposits, together with short-term, highly liquid investments that are readily convertible to a known amount of cash, and that are subject to an insignificant risk of changes in value. An investment normally meets the definition of a cash equivalent when it has a maturity of three months or less from the date of acquisition.

**B. Property, plant and equipment**

**i) Initial measurement and recognition**

Property, plant and equipment (PPE) is recognized as an asset if it is probable that future economic benefits associated with the asset will flow to the entity and the cost of the item can be measured reliably. These are shown at cost less accumulated depreciation.

**ii) Depreciation policy**

Depreciation methods, useful lives and residual values are reviewed at each reporting date and adjusted, if requires. There has been no change in estimate from last year. Land is not depreciated. No depreciation was charge for the year as the building is part into use at the end of the year. Depreciation is charged from the month of acquisition of property, plant and equipment on straight-line method and not charged in the month of disposal. The rates of depreciation on various categories of assets are as under:

Category of asset	Rate of depreciation (%)
Furniture and fixtures	10
Office equipment	25
Other equipment	25
Motor vehicles	20
Office renovation	20

**iii) Retirement and disposals**

An asset is derecognised on disposal or when no future economic benefits are expected from its use and subsequent disposal. Gains or losses arising from the retirement or disposal of an asset is determined as the difference between the net disposal proceeds and the carrying amount of the asset and is recognised as gain or loss from disposal of asset in profit or loss.



Centre for Policy Dialogue

Notes to the financial statements  
For the year ended 30 June 2022

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**iv) Subsequent expenditure**

Subsequent expenditure is capitalized only if it is probable that future economic benefits associated with expenditure will flow to the organization and its costs can be measured reliably. The costs of the day-to-day servicing of property, plant and equipment are recognized in profit or loss as incurred.

**v) Capital works-in-progress**

Capital works-in-progress represents the cost incurred for acquisition and /or construction of items of property, plant and equipment that are not ready for use which measured at cost. These are transferred to the property plant and equipment on the completion of the projects.

**C. Financial instruments**

A financial instrument is any contract that gives rise to a financial asset of one entity and a financial liability or equity instrument of another entity.

**D. Revenue recognition policy**

**i) Grants and other income**

The project follows the guideline as stated in IAS 20: Accounting for Government Grants and Disclosure of Government Assistance, in respect to grant income recognition i.e. grants shall be recognised in the income and expenditure statement on a systematic basis over the periods throughout which the associated costs of the grant can be matched, as these costs are being compensated by the grant.

Other income including interest on fixed deposits are recognised on cash basis.

**ii) Liabilities for donor's fund**

CPD allocates some of its expenses on a functional basis among its various programs and support services. Expenses that are identifiable for a specific program and support service are directly charged according to their nature of expenditure at actual basis. Other program expenses and administrative expenses those are common to various functions are allocated on pro-rata basis as per approved budget based on the values of their functions before allocation.

**E. Gratuity fund**

CPD service rules provide payment of gratuity to each employee at the end of his/her service period calculated at the rate of one and half (3 years but upto 10 years) or two (10 years and above) month's last drawn basic pay times number of completed years of service. The employees who have completed three years of service with CPD is entitled to get this benefit. The Fund is a recognised gratuity fund under the provision of Part C of the First Schedule of the Income Tax Ordinance 1984 vide reference no. 08.01.0000.035.02.399.20/108 dated 21 March 2021.

**F. Provident fund (PF)**

As per decision of management and implementation committee of CPD dated 26 August 2007, a contributory provident fund was introduced for its employees where both the employer and employees will contribute to the fund @ 10% of basic salary. This will be effective from the date of joining of respective employee. The Fund is a recognised provident fund under the provision of Part B of the First Schedule of the Income Tax Ordinance 1984 vide reference no. P-18/Ain/Ka-5/2009-2010/987 dated 17 August 2009.

**G. Receivables**

Receivables are recognized when there is an executed contract with the donor(s) and the amount is not received. CPD changed its accounting policy of recognizing "Fund Receivables" which were previously recognized on cash basis.



**PUBLICATIONS**  
**2022**



## CENTRE FOR POLICY DIALOGUE (CPD)

(Publications of 2022)

### Books

1. Data for Policymaking in the Pandemic Period: The Bangladesh Experience
2. সমসাময়িক উন্নয়ন চিন্তা ৬: ২০২১ সালে মিডিয়াতে প্রকাশিত সিপিডি'র নির্বাচিত বক্তব্যসমূহ
3. Skills Gap and Youth Employment in Bangladesh: An Exploratory Analysis
4. Bangladesh Economy in FY2021–22: An interim Review of Macroeconomic Performance

### Working Papers

1. Verification Options Used in Public Procurement by Apparel Sourcing Countries. (Working Paper 142)
2. Fiscal Constraints towards Achieving Sustainable Recovery from COVID-Induced Challenges in 2022. (Working Paper 143)
3. Economic and Environmental Cost Estimation of LNG Import. (Working Paper 144)
4. Climate Change in Bangladesh: Exploring the Past and Potential Future Impacts. (Working Paper 145)
5. State of the Power Sector in FY2020–21 and Allocative Priorities in the National Budget of FY2021–22. (Working Paper 146)
6. Stakeholders' Perspectives on Key Challenges of the Power Sector. (Working Paper 147)

### Special Reports

1. Budget Framework Analysis on Challenging Fear of Violence
2. Did Research Get Attention in the COVID-19 Induced Public Policy Responses?
3. Industrial Safety of Non-RMG Enterprises and Workers: Monitoring Transparency, Accountability and Efficiency of Public Actions
4. Ensuring Good Governance in Implementation of Public Infrastructure Projects (PIPs)

5. Setting up a Factory in Bangladesh: Institutional, Operational and Legal Requirements in RMG, Leather, Food Processing and Pharmaceutical Sectors
6. Debate on Recent Export Growth and Decent Employment in RMG Industry: A UNGPs Perspective
7. Green Energy Transition in Bangladesh Examining Support Measures and Estimating Investment Requirements

## Dialogue Briefs

1. সদ্য সমাপ্ত নারায়ণগঞ্জ সিটি কর্পোরেশন নির্বাচন: জনপ্রতিনিধি নির্বাচন প্রক্রিয়া এবং অভিজ্ঞতা
2. Securing Green Transition of the Textile and Readymade Garments Sector in Bangladesh
3. Recent Challenges Facing the Bangladesh Economy
4. Record Fuel Price Hike in Bangladesh: Could It Be Avoided?

## Policy Briefs

1. Institutionalisation of Human and Labour Rights in the RMG Sector under the UNGPs Framework: How could Employers and Management be Better Involved?
2. Institutionalisation of Labour Rights Practices in the RMG Sector under UNGP Framework: Are Public Agencies Playing their Due Role?
3. Assessment of the Business Environment During COVID-19 in 2021: How Reassuring is it for the Post-Pandemic Recovery?
4. Youth Skills for Youth Employment: A Policy Perspective
5. Strengthening Bangladesh-Japan Partnership Through Enhanced Trade, Investment, and Technological Collaboration
6. জাতীয় উন্নয়নে অঙ্গীকার – শিক্ষা
7. জাতীয় উন্নয়নে অঙ্গীকার – মানসম্মত কর্মসংস্থান
8. জাতীয় উন্নয়নে অঙ্গীকার – জেন্ডার সমতা এবং নারী ও মেয়ে শিশুর ক্ষমতায়ন
9. National Budget 2022–23 Summary: Education
10. National Budget 2022–23 Summary: Agriculture
11. National Budget 2022–23: Summary
12. National Budget 2022–23 Summary: Health
13. National Budget 2022–23 Summary: Information and Communication Technology
14. National Budget 2022–23 Summary: Local Government and Rural Development
15. National Budget 2022–23 Summary: Power and Energy
16. National Budget 2022–23 Summary: Roads, Highways and Bridges
17. National Budget 2022–23 Summary: Women and Children Affairs
18. Gender Equality and Women Empowerment in Bangladesh

19. Ensuring Good Governance in Implementation of Public Infrastructure Projects (PIPs)
20. Industrial Safety Concerning Chemical Management: What Lessons Did We Learn from Chittagong ICD Blast?
21. Volatile Global LNG Market and Its Impact on Public Spending in Social Sectors: Case of Bangladesh
22. Imported Fossil Fuel Dependent Energy Market of Bangladesh: How Global Energy Crisis Triggered Domestic Inflation?





Citizen's Platform for SDGs, Bangladesh  
এসডিজি বাস্তবায়নে নাগরিক প্ল্যাটফর্ম, বাংলাদেশ

## CITIZEN'S PLATFORM FOR SDGS IN BANGLADESH (Publications of 2022)

### Book

1. অতিমারি অর্থনীতি এবং নাগরিক অধিকার

### Working Papers


1. Working Paper 5: Assessing COVID-19 Impact on SDG Delivery in Bangladesh
2. Working Paper 6: Dealing with the Aftermath of COVID-19: Adjustments and Adaptation Efforts of the Apparel Workers in Bangladesh

### Briefing Notes

1. Briefing Note 23: সাম্প্রদায়িক সহিংসতার বিরুদ্ধে নাগরিক প্রতিবাদ সভা
2. Briefing Note 24: করোনা মোকাবেলায় স্থানীয় জনসম্পৃক্ত উদ্যোগ
3. Briefing Note 25: আসন্ন বাজেট নিয়ে জনমানুষের প্রত্যাশা
4. Briefing Note 26: প্রস্তাবিত বৈষম্য বিরোধী আইন ২০২২ নাগরিক প্ল্যাটফর্মের প্রতিক্রিয়া
5. Briefing Note 27: বাংলাদেশের শিক্ষিত যুবরা কাজ পাচ্ছে না কেন? বাজার কি বলে?
6. Briefing Note 28: Tea Industry in Bangladesh and the State of Tea Plantation Workers
7. Briefing Note 29: নাগরিক পরামর্শ সভা: রংপুর - রাজনৈতিক সহনশীলতার অভাবে সামাজিক নিরাপত্তা হ্রাস পেয়েছে
8. Briefing Note 30: নাগরিক পরামর্শ সভা: খুলনা - জনসম্পৃক্ততাবিযুক্ত উন্নয়নে এসডিজি অর্জন সম্ভব নয়
9. Briefing Note 31: নাগরিক পরামর্শ সভা: টাঙ্গাইল - রাজনৈতিক সহনশীলতার অভাবে সামাজিক নিরাপত্তা হ্রাস পেয়েছে
10. Briefing Note 32: নাগরিক পরামর্শ সভা: সিলেট - সিলেট বিভাগের চ্যালেঞ্জ দুর্গমতা, স্যানিটেশন ও সুপেয় পানির প্রাপ্যতা)
11. Briefing Note 33: নাগরিক পরামর্শ সভা: ঠাকুরগাঁও - তৃতীয় দেশে ট্রানজিট সুবিধা দেয়ার সিদ্ধান্ত কার্যকর করা হলে কম খরচে পণ্য রপ্তানি করা সম্ভব হবে
12. Briefing Note 34: নাগরিক পরামর্শ সভা: রাঙামাটি - শান্তিচুক্তি বাস্তবায়ন ও স্থানীয়দের মতামতের ভিত্তিতে উন্নয়ন হতে হবে
13. Briefing Note 35: নাগরিক পরামর্শ সভা: চট্টগ্রাম - এসডিজি বাস্তবায়নে প্রয়োজন সঠিক প্রস্তুতি, হোমওয়ার্ক ও দূরদর্শী পরিকল্পনা

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