

BAMU

Budget Analysis and Monitoring Unit
Bangladesh Parliament Secretariat



Budget Helpdesk 2026



National Budget 2026–2027: Summary Health

সহযোগিতায়



1. Background

In line with the country's national plan and policy framework and in light of the 'Health for All' commitment, the current government is considering health as a major priority sector for development. With this perspective, the government has started taking several effective steps in the health sector since assuming office.

The government has identified providing advanced medical services at the doorstep of the common people as its highest priority, moving away from the current Dhaka-centric model of specialist doctors and advanced laboratory facilities. To this end, the government has ordered the immediate opening of six children's hospitals built in Rangpur, Khulna, Rajshahi, Barisal, Sylhet, and Comilla, which have been unused for a long time, and an initiative has been taken to open the Bangladesh Medical University's Super Specialized Hospital in Shahbagh, Dhaka, soon [1]. At the same time, it has been announced that 100,000 health workers will be recruited nationwide, 80 per cent of whom will be women, which will also help increase women's participation in the health sector. Plans have also been made to introduce e-health cards for every citizen and introduce a national health insurance system in stages, which will significantly reduce private medical expenses.

The current government plans to establish one primary health unit in every rural union and one or more in every urban ward, where maternal and child health, mental health, women's health, and elderly-friendly services will be provided free of charge. In addition, there are plans to establish modern secondary health care units in every district, ensure specialist consultation and 24/7 ambulance services in upazila health complexes, and turn district hospitals into specialised referral centres for cardiology, cancer, mental health, kidney dialysis, and trauma care. In addition, there are plans to establish a 'National Ambulance Pool' nationwide, establish a 'National Hospital and Clinic Accreditation Council' to ensure accountability across all government and private hospitals and clinics, provide free medicines in primary health care, and implement a comprehensive national nutrition program. The proposed budget for the FY2026-27 has also given special priority to the health sector.

2. Proposed Budget Allocation for the Health Sector in FY2026–27

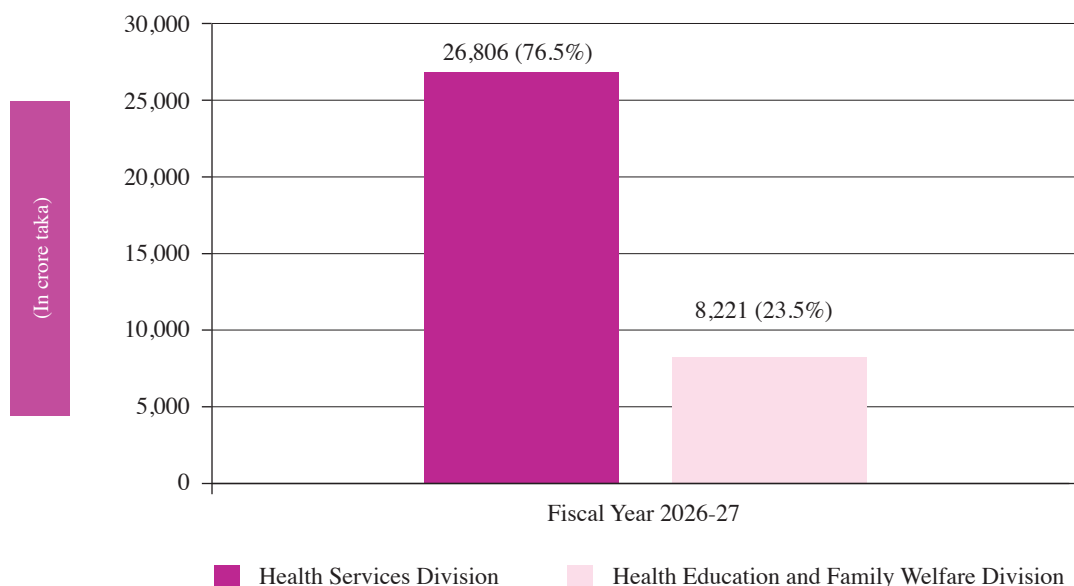
In the ongoing FY2025–26, the allocation for the health sector was proposed at Tk 10,886 crore, 1.4 per cent of the total budget. Subsequently, this allocation was revised downward to Tk 6,121 crore, representing 0.8 per cent of the revised total budget. In the upcoming FY2026–27 budget, the total proposed allocation for the health sector is Tk 13,466 crore, which is 0.8 per cent of the total budget. It is worth noting that the proposed allocation for the FY2026–27 shows a significant 120.0 per cent increase over the revised budget for FY2025–26 (Figure 1), reflecting the government's strong priority to improve the quality of health services in the country.

Figure 1: Budget Allocation for the Health Sector in FY2026-27 (in Amount and Percentage)

Source: Budget Summary, 2026–27, Statement 2.

3. Proposed ADP Budget Allocation for the Health Sector in FY2026–27

In the upcoming 2026-27 fiscal year, the total proposed allocation for the health sector in the Annual Development Programme (ADP) is Tk 35,027 crore, which is 11.7 per cent of the total ADP allocation. A breakdown by division shows that the allocation for the Health Services Division is Tk 26,806 crore. The allocation for the Health Education and Family Welfare Division amounts to Tk 8,221 crore. In the 2025-26 fiscal year, the total revised allocation for the health sector in the ADP was Tk 4,463 crore, and in the proposed budget for FY 2025-26, it was Tk 17,519 crore (Figure 2).

Figure 2: Allocation for the Health Sector in the Annual Development Programme (ADP) in FY2026-27

Source: Budget Summary, 2026–27, Statement 10.

4. Conclusion

In the health sector, the effective and well-planned utilisation of allocated resources is more important than simply increasing budgetary allocations. In line with recent reform initiatives and government policy commitments, sustained progress is needed to expand access to healthcare services, strengthen healthcare personnel capacity, and reduce financial barriers to accessing medical care. Achieving these objectives will require strong institutional accountability and good governance. Without effective oversight and implementation, increased budget allocations may not translate into the desired outcomes. Overall, building a sustainable and inclusive healthcare system remains a long-term prerequisite for national development.