

**FIRST MEETING OF HEADS OF STATISTICAL
ORGANIZATIONS OF SAARC MEMBER COUNTRIES**

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Country Paper: Bangladesh

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1. Introduction:

Bangladesh is a country of the South East Asia with a population of around 135.0 million. The population growth rate of the country stands 1.4% and the percentage of urban population is 23.1% according to the latest population census. The adult literacy rate of the country stands at 47.5% and school attendance rate for population 5-24 years of age stands at 49.7%. The per capita GNI in 2003-2004 was US\$ 444. The sectoral shares of GDP are; agriculture 22.83%, industry 27.8% and service 49.37%. The investment GDP ratio stands at 23.58%. The tax revenue constitute 2.13% of GDP. The demographic scenario of the country shows that the CBR stands at 21.1% and CDR 5.1% in 2001, the IMR stands at 53 per thousand and TFR stands at 2.6 per women.

2. National Statistical System:

The Statistical Activities of Bangladesh is performed by the National Statistical Organization, the Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics (BBS) with its headquarter at Dhaka. BBS currently perform its function under the administrative control of the planning Division of the Ministry of Planning. At present there are 23 Regional Statistical Offices and 476 Upazila Offices. The total manpower strength of BBS stands around 4000. In the headquarter BBS has 7 Functional Wings of which 5 are subject matter wings and 2 are service and administrative wings. The wings are as follows:

Subject Matter Wings:

- Census Wing
- National Accounting Wing
- Demography and Health Wing
- Industry and Labour Wing
- Agriculture Wing

Service and Administrative Wing

- Computer Wing
- Finance and Administration and Management Information System Wing.

These wings are headed by a Director and they work under the control and guidance of the Director General BBS. The Director General is supported by a Deputy Director General and other supporting staff. The upzila offices collect data under guidance of the regional offices and send those data in the subject matter wings for further processing. The subject matter wings after receiving the questionnaire make inventory of the questionnaires and perform editing and coding activities. Then, the edited data are send to computer wing for generating tables. The subject matter wings analyses the data and prepare the report which thereafter published by RDP section with the approval of the Director General, BBS and in some cases Ministry of Planning.

2. Functions of BBS.

The major functions of BBS are as follows:

- to conduct decennial national census on population, agriculture and non-agricultural economic activities;
- to collect current agriculture statistics pertaining to area and production of major and minor crops;
- to collect information on livestock, poultry and other agricultural activities;
- to conduct census of Manufacturing industries (CMI) and conduct survey on other economic activities;
- compilation of national accounts at current and constant prices;
- compilation of current industrial production statistics and quantum index of production;

- to collect information on price and wages;
- to collect information on foreign trade statistics;
- to collect data on births, deaths, marriage and migration on a regular basis to compute demographic rates and ratios;
- to collect data on labour force of the country;
- to conduct periodic surveys to estimate income, expenditure, consumption, nutrition and poverty statistics;
- to collect and compile environmental statistics;
- to collect information on child nutrition and other anthropometric measures of children for child survival and protection;

4. The Recently completed and on going statistical activities:

4.1 Population Census:

The 4th Census of population of the country was conducted by BBS in January 2001. The preliminary report was published in August 2001. A provisional national report was published in July 2003. The final report is under process of preparation. In the meanwhile some district and community reports have been published.

4.2 Economic Census.

The 2nd economic census of the country was held on 2001 and 2003. The urban census was held in 2001 while the rural census was held in 2003. The handloom census was also conducted with the rural economic census. The preliminary report of the economic census is being printed now and will be published soon.

4.3 Agriculture Census and Agriculture sample Survey

The next agriculture census of the country is due in 2006. In order to meet the current data need of the agriculture sector, a nationwide agriculture sample survey is being done now. The data collection of this sample survey will be completed by May 2005 and the result will be published in December 2005.

4.4 Poverty Monitoring Survey (PMS)

BBS conducts traditional Household Income and Expenditure Survey at the interval of 4-5 years. In order to meet the data needs of the users in the intermediate period on Poverty Statistics a nationwide poverty survey was held in March 2004. The preliminary report of the PMS was released in December 2004.

4.5 Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey (MICS)

BBS conducted MICS in 2003 to collect information on child nutrition, breast feeding, maternal death, school enrolment, child diseases and child immunization. The final report was published in 2003.

4.6 Child Labour Survey 2002-2003.

A nationwide child labour survey was held in 2002-2003 with the support of ILO/ IPEC. This survey covered wide ranges of information of child labour in the country. A special module was also used for adult labour force. Two separate reports on child labour and total labour force of the country were published in 2004.

4.7 Household Income and Expenditure Survey (HIES)

BBS is now conducting HIES. The data collection was started in January 2005 and will be continued up to December 2005. Some innovative techniques have been used in HIES-2005. Data are entered in the field using laptop computers. Therefore, any error can be resolved in the field level. Moreover one female facilitator is used in each PSU to help the interviewer, particularly for collecting food consumption data properly from the housewives.

4.8 Child Nutrition Survey (CNS)

BBS has a practice of conducting CNS concurrently with HIES to relate some socio-economic characteristics of the households with child nutrition status. The child nutrition survey started in February 2005 and will be continued up to January 2006.

5. Monitoring MDG and PRSP

BBS is also compiling data to monitor the progress in MDG indicators obtained from its regular survey system. A Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper has been prepared by the government of Bangladesh in light of MDG. A number of indicators have been suggested in the PRSP document to be compiled by BBS and be desegregated at the district and sub-district levels. In order to get these data, the coverage of the current surveys need to be enhanced and some additional surveys with inclusion of indicator not covered in the ongoing surveys but needed for monitoring MDG and PRSP has been planned. One such initiative has been proposed to be financed by the SAARC poverty alleviation fund. This project is being processed by GOB and will be forwarded to SAARC secretariat soon. A number of MDG and non-MDG indicators available from BBS current survey system has been provided in Annexure-A and Annexure-B respectively.

6. Areas of Mutual Co-operation Among SAARC Countries.

The National Statistical Organization (NSO) of the SAARC region may co-operate in the following areas to enhance their capability

- Standardize concept and definition of key statistical variable by mutual understanding
- Capacity building of NSOs by human resource development through training
- Collaborate in project activities being implemented in all SAARC countries
- to support SAARC institutions/organization devoted to regional planning and policy making.
- to establish the best possible professional standard in statistics among member countries.
- exchange visits among statisticians in the SAARC member countries
- to advocate for additional resources to support core statistical activities in the SAARC member countries
- to help in re-organization of NSOs to cater the need of users in the global changing situation.
- to share data of the SAARC member countries to compare data analysis.

7. Concluding Remarks.

The current meeting of the Heads of Statistical Organizations of the SAARC region will be a milestone in strengthening the co-operation in the field of statistics of the SAARC member countries. The proposed SAARC forum for Statistical coordination (SFSC) should be established without further delay to go head with the vision of streamlining the co-operation among SAARC member countries.

Millenium Development Goals Indicators of Bangladesh

Goals	Indicators	Latest Position	Reference Year
Goal-1 Eradicate Extreme Poverty and Hunger	1. Percentage of population below poverty line	40.9%	2004
	2. Poverty gap	10.9%	2004
	3. Prevalence of underweight of children (6-71 month)	51.1%	2000
Goal-2 Universal Primary Education	4. Net enrollment rate in primary school	83.0%	2003
	5. Net enrollment rate in secondary school	53.0%	2000
	6. Adult literacy rate	49.6%	2003
Goal-3 Promote Gender equality and empowerment	7. Ratio of literate women to men (15-24 years)	69.0%	2001
	8. Share of women in wage employment	5.5%	2002-03
	9. Percentage of seats held by women in national parliament	2.3%	2004
Goal-4 Reduce child Mortality	10. Under 5 mortality rate (per 1000)	76	2002
	11. Infant mortality rate (per 1000)	53	2002
	12. Percentage of children (12-25 months) immunized against measles.	83%	2003
Goal-5 Improve Maternal health	13. Maternal mortality rate (Per 1000)	3.91%	2002
	14. Percentage of birth attended by skilled health personal	42%	2003
Goal-6 Combat HIV/AIDS malaria and other diseases	15. Prevalence of death rate associated with tuberculosis (per 100000)	9.0%	2002
	16. Percentage of currently married/women with knowledge of HIV/AIDS	50.2%	1999-2000
Goal-7 Ensure environmental sustainability	17. Percentage land areas coverage under forest (including all types forest)	17.50%	2002
	18. Percentage of population using solid fuel (Wood/bamboo)	44.4%	2002
	19. Percentage of population with access to safe drinking water	97.4%	2003
	20. Percentage of population with access to improved sanitation system	53.2%	2003
Goal-8 Global partnership for development	21. Telecommunication lines per 1000 population	6.9	2003

Annexure-B

Non MDG Indicators

1. Total Population (Million), 2002:	Both Sex	132.9
	Male	68.2
	Female	64.7
2. Annual Growth Rate (%) 2002		1.50
3. Urban Population (%) 2002		23.1
4. Population < 15 (%) ,2001		39.4
5. Population 65+ (%) , (2001)		3.9
6. Toilet Facility rate , (2002)		2.56
7. Mean Age at Marriage (2002):	Male	25.6
	Female	20.6
8. Gross domestic products (Million Tk.) 2003-04 constant price 1995-96	-	2501812
	-	
9. GNI per capita (US \$), 2003-04	-	\$ 444
Per capita GDP	-	\$ 421
	-	
10. Per capita health expenditure, 2002	-	Tk.. 182
11. Physician per 1000 population, 2002	-	0.26
12. Hospital bed per 1000 population, 2002	-	0.34
13. Crude birth rate per 1000 population, 2002	-	21.1
14. Crude death rate per 1000 population, 2002	-	5.21
15. Life expectancy at birth, 2002	Male	64.5
	Female	65.4
16. Prevalence of anemia among women (%), 2003	-	40.5