

CHAPTER THIRTEEN

POVERTY ALLEVIATION

Bangladesh undoubtedly has accomplished an extraordinary and substantial advancement in poverty mitigation amid last decade, consequence of the devoted endeavors of the government and the appropriate and successful execution of numerous public and private development activities. It is worth mentioning that according to household income and Expenditure Survey (HIES) 2016, poverty rate declined to 24.3 percent in 2016, which was 40.0 percent in 2005. The Government has been working constantly to embrace and execute striking, strong, people-centric and comprehensive as well as synchronized approaches in poverty diminishment. The accumulated achievement in poverty reduction through the pursuit of appropriate poverty reduction strategies, such as enhancing social safety nets for people vulnerable to poverty, financial incentives, encouraging micro-savings, effective disaster risk reduction programmes and creating resilience against the effects of climate change, etc. has conspicuously drawn the attention of global poverty alleviation experts. Furthermore, several poverty alleviation programmes in Bangladesh meant to address poverty alleviation directly or indirectly have been launched by the incumbent government. Apart from these, different government along with non-government institutions, autonomous bodies carried out various activities involving introducing microcredit in order to expedite the government's efforts of poverty reduction. In addition, taking into account the vulnerability the government provide allowances for widows, destitute women, old aged people and so on. In FY 2021-22 a total of TK. 1,07,614 crore has been allocated in budget for ensuring social safety of the poor population. The ubiquitous Covid-19 pandemic had detrimental consequences on economic activities in Bangladesh to some extent while the country was in a position to achieve commendable progress on various economic and social indicators. Nevertheless, with regard to adaption of pragmatic and prudent economic policies anything could hardly hinder the celerity of overall economic development in Bangladesh. Therefore, the poverty situation in Bangladesh did no longer worsen to a scale of catastrophe during the pandemic.

Poverty Situation in Bangladesh

One of the pertinent indications of the socio-economic development of a state and society is Poverty mitigation. By dint of collective efforts of the government and non-government sectors, Bangladesh has substantially gained remarkable development in poverty alleviation during the last few years. According to Household Income and Expenditure Survey (HIES) 2016 poverty rate declined to 24.3 percent in 2016, which was 40.0 percent in 2005. According to the latest estimate poverty rate stood at 20.5 percent in 2019. The government has set up a target to 8th Five Year Plan (2020-2025). Though, Bangladesh is ahead of many developing countries in terms of poverty alleviation, still approximately one-fifth portion

of total population of the country lives below the poverty line. The preferred scale of socio-economic development may not be possible by keeping a large portion of population below the poverty line. This is why, poverty reduction is a major concern on the policy and development issues of the country. At present, the stagnation, though temporary, caused by the ongoing corona pandemic, in global economic activity including that in Bangladesh, has brought challenges to progress in reducing poverty. However, the timely incentive packages announced by the government, such as payment of wages to export-oriented industry workers, provision of low interest working capital with interest subsidy to affected industry and services sectors including the CMSMEs, cash support to the extremely poor,

distribution of free and low cost food items, expansion of social safety net programmes and providing housing facilities for the homeless people, and job creation activities through specialised banks and *Palli Karma Sahayak* Foundation, have protected the working people from losing their jobs and the helpless poor from starvation.

Measurement of Poverty Incidence in Bangladesh

The first Household Expenditure Survey (HES) in Bangladesh was conducted in FY1973-74 and up to FY1991-92, HES were carried out following the same strategies. HES were accomplished by Food Energy Intake (FEI) and Direct Calorie Intake (DCI) method. According to this method, a man having calorie intake of less than 2,122 kilo-calories per day is considered as absolute poor. On the contrary, a man having an intake of below 1,805 kilo-calories is measured as hard-core poor. The Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics (BBS) has adopted ‘Cost of Basic Needs (CBN)’ for

HES for the first time in 1995-96 and renamed the title of the survey as Household Income and Expenditure Survey (HIES). The same method applied in the HIES’ in 2000-2016. This method also considered non-food consumption items for compiling poverty index.

Trends of Poverty

The latest HIES was conducted in 2016. According to the result of this survey, with in half an era, the incidence of income poverty (measured by CBN considering the upper poverty line) declined almost 7.2 percentage points (from 31.5% in 2010 to 24.3% in 2016). During this period, the compound poverty reduced per year 4.23 percent. On the contrary, the rate of income poverty declined from 40.0 percent to 31.5 percent from 2005 to 2010. At that time, compound poverty annually reduced by 4.67 percent. In rural areas poverty reduction rate is higher (4.68%) than urban areas (1.97%). The trends of poverty are depicted in Table 13.1.

Table 13.1: Trend of Income Poverty

	2016	2010	Annual Change (%) (2010 to 2016)	2005	Annual Change (%) (2005 to 2010)
Head Count Index					
National	24.3	31.5	-4.23	40.0	-4.67
Urban	18.9	21.3	-1.97	28.4	-5.59
Rural	26.4	35.2	-4.68	43.8	-4.28
Poverty Gap					
National	5.0	6.5	-4.28	9.0	-6.30
Urban	3.9	4.3	-1.61	6.5	-7.93
Rural	5.4	7.4	-5.12	9.8	-5.46
Squared Poverty Gap					
National	1.5	2.0	-4.68	2.9	-7.16
Urban	1.2	1.3	-1.33	2.1	-9.15
Rural	1.7	2.2	-4.21	3.1	-6.63

Source: BBS, HIES-2016

Household Income, Expenditure and Consumption

The statistics of household nominal income, expenditure and consumption from the surveys 1995-96 to 2016 have been provided in Table 13.2. The difference between expenditure and

consumption is that ‘consumption’ excludes lumpy expenditures like durable goods purchases and some other expenditure such as payment of tax, insurance, expenses of pilgrimage/hajj, marriage and so on. After all, ‘expenditure’ includes all such expenses.

Table 13.2: Monthly Household Nominal Income, Expenditure and Consumption Expenditure by Residence

Year of Survey	Residence	Average Monthly (Taka)		
		Income	Expenditure	Consumption Expenditure
2016	National	15988	15715	15420
	Rural	13398	14156	13868
	Urban	22600	19697	19383
2010	National	11479	11200	11003
	Rural	9648	9612	9436
	Urban	16475	15531	15276
2005	National	7203	6134	5964
	Rural	6095	5319	5165
	Urban	10463	8533	8315
2000	National	5842	4881	4537
	Rural	4816	4257	3879
	Urban	9878	7337	7125
1995-96	National	4366	4096	4026
	Rural	3658	3473	3426
	Urban	7973	7274	7084

Source: BBS, HIES-2016.

The Table 13.2 expresses that:

- Household nominal income, expenditure and consumption expenditure have been increased gradually
- In 1995-96, the monthly household nominal income was Tk. 4,366; which boosted up 3.66 times and rose to Tk. 15,988 in 2016. Like income, expenditure and consumption expenditure have also raised to a continuous speed. In 1996, household monthly expenditure was Tk. 4,096 which increased to Tk. 15,715 in 2016. The increase has been 3.84 times.
- The average monthly household expenditure was also increased both at rural and urban

level. In 2016 rural expenditure was Tk. 14,156 which is higher than rural income (Tk. 13,398). This incidence happened for the first time in the history of Bangladesh.

- In a general analysis it is found that since 1995-96 the increase rate of expenditure and consumption expenditure is higher than that of income.

Deciles Distribution of Income and Gini Co-efficient

According to the surveys conducted in 2010 and 2016, the ratio of income by deciles groups and Gini co-efficient in rural and urban areas are presented in Table 13.3.

Table 13.3: Percentage Distribution of Income According to Households in Groups (Deciles) at National Level and Gini Co-efficient

Household Income Group	2016			2010		
	National	Rural	Urban	National	Rural	Urban
	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
Lower 5%	0.23	0.25	0.27	0.78	0.88	0.76
Decile-1	1.02	1.06	1.17	2.00	2.23	1.98
Decile-2	2.83	2.99	3.04	3.22	3.53	3.09
Decile-3	4.05	4.36	4.1	4.10	4.49	3.95
Decile-4	5.13	5.52	5.00	5.00	5.43	5.01
Decile-5	6.28	6.58	6.15	6.01	6.43	6.31
Decile-6	7.48	7.89	6.88	7.32	7.65	7.64
Decile-7	9.06	9.52	8.88	9.06	9.31	9.30
Decile-8	11.25	11.80	10.4	11.50	11.50	11.87
Decile-9	14.86	15.51	13.47	15.94	15.54	16.08
Decile-10	38.09	34.78	41.37	35.85	33.89	34.77
Top 5%	27.82	24.19	32.09	24.61	22.93	23.39
Gini Co-efficient	0.482	0.454	0.498	0.458	0.431	0.452

Source: HEIS, 2016.

Through a common analysis of Table 13.3, it is observed that-

- Despite 50 percent of the total population belongs to decile-1 to decile-5, the income share of the households jointly shares only 19.27 percent of total income, Conversely, the share of these five deciles was together 20.33 percent of total income in 2010. This points out that share of income by the lower five deciles comprising lower 50 percent people is 1.06 percent lower in 2016 than that of 2010.

- The percentage share of income of the lowed 5 percent households slightly decreased in 2016 compare to 2010. It was 0.23 percent in HIES 2016 whereas 0.78 percent in 2010. The income share of top 5 percent households increased 3.21 percent in 2016. Above all, Gini co-efficient increased in 2016 than in 2010.

Deciles Distribution of Consumption and Gini Co-efficient

The Table 13.4 points out deciles distribution of consumption of HEIS 2016 and 2010 by residence for the surveys.

Table 13.4: Deciles Distribution of Consumption by Residence HIES 2016 and 2010

Household Expenditure Group	2016			2010		
	National	Rural	Urban	National	Rural	Urban
Total/ Deciles	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
Decile-1	3.7	4.00	3.44	3.85	4.36	3.40
Decile-2	4.94	5.28	4.75	5.00	5.57	4.66
Decile-3	5.80	6.14	5.67	5.84	6.41	5.54
Decile-4	6.64	6.96	6.55	6.63	7.22	6.42
Decile-5	7.51	7.81	7.51	7.48	8.03	7.37
Decile-6	8.54	8.79	8.60	8.48	8.97	8.48
Decile-7	9.84	9.94	10.07	9.73	10.01	10.01
Decile-8	11.59	11.58	11.91	11.49	11.63	12.03
Decile-9	14.61	14.15	15.26	14.59	14.07	15.06
Decile-10	26.83	25.35	26.23	26.90	23.63	27.03
Gini Co-efficient	0.324	0.300	0.330	0.321	0.275	0.338

Source: BBS, HIES-2016.

Table 13.4 discloses that-

- Consumptions of families belonging to deciles 1, 2, 3 and 10, reduced a little in 2016 than 2010. Conversely, consumptions of other deciles groups increased slightly.
- There is slight increase but not significant change of Gini co-efficient of consumption in 2016 with respect to 2010.
- In the rural area, Gini co-efficient increased a bit (0.275% in 2010 whereas

0.300% in 2016). On the other hand, in the urban area a small reduction of Gini co-efficient occurred in 2016 compared to 2010 (0.330% in 2016 whereas 0.338% in 2010).

Head Count Ratio (HCR) on the Basis of CBN Method in 8 Divisions

The head count ratio of incidence of poverty in eight administrative divisions using CBN method is described in Table 13.5

Table 13.5: Division wise Incidence of Poverty (HCR) by CBN Method (in percentage)

Divisions	2016			2010		
	Using the Upper Poverty Line					
	Total	Rural	Urban	Total	Rural	Urban
Dhaka	16.0	19.2	12.5	30.5	38.8	18.0
Sylhet	16.2	15.6	19.5	28.1	30.5	15.0
Chattogram	18.4	19.4	15.9	26.2	31.0	11.8
Barishal	26.5	25.7	30.4	39.4	39.2	39.9
Khulna	27.5	27.3	28.3	32.1	31.0	35.8
Rajshahi	28.9	30.6	22.5	29.8	30.0	29.0
Mymensing	32.8	32.9	32.0	-	-	-
Rangpur	47.2	48.2	41.5	42.3	44.5	27.9
	Using the Lower Poverty Line					
Dhaka	7.2	10.7	3.3	15.6	23.5	3.8
Chattogram	8.7	9.6	6.5	13.1	16.2	4.0
Sylhet	11.5	11.8	9.5	20.7	23.5	5.5
Khulna	12.4	13.1	10.0	15.4	15.2	16.4
Rajshahi	14.2	15.2	10.7	21.6	22.7	15.6
Barishal	14.5	14.9	12.2	26.7	27.3	24.2
Mymensing	17.6	18.3	13.8	-	-	-
Rangpur	30.5	31.3	26.3	27.7	29.4	17.2

Source: BBS, HIES-2016.

Table 13.5 indicates that,

- Except Rangpur division poverty rate reduced in all other division in 2016 compare to 2010.
- Rangpur division has the highest incidence of poverty at 47.2 percent. On the other hand, Dhaka division has the lowest incidence of poverty at 16.0 percent.
- Incidence of poverty has appreciably declined in Dhaka division compared to other divisions. The reduction rate is almost half (16% in 2016 from 30.5% in 2010).
- In Barishal, Khulna and Sylhet division, poverty rate is higher in urban areas than rural areas and

- Urban poverty in Sylhet and *Chattogram* division increased in 2016 though the average poverty rate decreased compare to 2010.

Projection of Poverty Alleviation

According to ‘House Hold Income Expenditure Survey (HIES)-2016, the country’s poverty rate

is 24.3 percent. According to the 8th Five Year Plan, it has been projected to reduce poverty at 15.6 percent by 2025 on the basis of upper poverty rate and 7.40 percent on the basis of extreme poverty rate. The Table 13.6 depicts the projection of decreasing poverty rate during the 8th Five Year Plan.

Table 13.6: Projection of Poverty Alleviation during 8th Five Year Plan

Poverty Line	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
Reduction of Moderate Poverty					
Poverty Elasticity to GDP	-	-	1.20	1.20	1.20
Upper poverty line (% of population)	23.0	20.0	18.5	17.0	15.6
Reduction of Extreme Poverty					
Poverty Elasticity to GDP	-	-	1.40	1.40	1.40
Upper poverty line (% of population)	12.0	10.0	9.10	8.30	7.40

Source: General Economics Division. Planning Commission.

Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and Bangladesh

Bangladesh Government is firmly committed in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) declared by the United Nations. While implementing the SDGs, the universality and integrated-multidimensional natures of SDGs have been taken into consideration. The innovative and knowledge based initiatives are applied and highest priorities are given to the extreme-vulnerable poor communities. The government adopted holistic society approach in implementing SDGs.

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development is a set of international development goals from 2016 to 2030. SDG’s are a collection of 17 interlinked global goals, 169 targets and 241 indicators designed to be a ‘blue print to achieve a better and more sustainable future for all’. As a

national focal point of SDGs, General Economics Division has already implemented a number of activities to achieve SDGs. A framework for the localization of SDG action plan has been initiated and piloting of this framework will be started this year on 05 Upzillas of Bangladesh based on socioeconomic condition. GED already published about 28 publications/study/report on SDGs. To enhance the coordination between the government and the development partners for SDG implementation, a document called “Revised Mapping of Ministries/Divisions and Custodian Agencies for SDGs Implementation: Bangladesh Perspective” is finalized and going to be published soon. Besides, initiatives have been taken to organize 2nd National Conference on SDG Implementation Review, review the current national action plan and finalize the 2nd National Action Plan by this current year.

Reviewing the progress of SDGs indicates that Bangladesh has already achieved the 2020 target in a number of areas, while the progress of some indicators is on track to achieve the 2020 target. Bangladesh's progress in reducing extreme poverty, measured below 1.19 per day or on the basis of the national poverty line, is at the desired level (on track). Bangladesh has made remarkable progress in reducing the percentage of stunted children under-5 years, which gets half by 22 years. In 2019, the proportion of stunted children stood at 28.0. The reduction rate of the under-five stunting is at the expected level. Similarly, the rate of progress in the reduction of wasting is also on track. In 2019, the proportion of wasted children was 9.8%. Bangladesh is on track to reach the 2020 milestone in preventing under-five mortality. The under-five mortality rate was 36 in 2015, which dropped to 28 in 2019. Life expectancy increased from 65 years in 2005 to 73 in 2019. The literacy rate increased from 53.7% in 2006 to 75% in 2019. The Gender Equality Index (GEI) at primary and secondary levels has been above 1 for more than a decade. Since 2013, the total enrollment ratio at the pre-primary level has increased at a rate of 1.45 percent per annum. The real GDP per employed person in Bangladesh and value addition in the manufacturing sector have already exceeded the 2020 target. The real GDP per employed person in 2019 and the value-addition in the manufacturing sector were 5.85 and 24.85 respectively. According to the data available so far, Bangladesh is on the right track in implementing the SDGs.

On-going Social Safety-net Programmes

The government has been continuing the social safety net programmes with a view to alleviating poverty through the improvement of socio-economic condition of the ultra-poor.

The government has adopted the life cycle approach of social safety net. In FY 2021-22 a total of Tk 107614 crore has been allocated for social safety net programmes. The allocation is 17.83 percent of the budget and 3.11 percent of GDP of the same fiscal year. The government has been implementing some general safety net programmes such as ensuring food security, distribution of free food, food for work and test relief and so on. Apart from, the government has also implementing some special projects for instance '*Ashrayan*', '*Grihayan*,' '*Ghore Phera*' in order to make a hunger and poverty free country. In addition, the government offers allowances for widows, destitute women, old aged people and so on.

Important Social Safety-net programmes in FY2021-22:

- a. Scope and allocation of cash transfer allowance such as old aged allowance, widow and destitute women allowance, freedom fighters' honorarium, allowance for orphans and disabled and food safety programme has been increased.
- b. Allocation of Tk.3444.54 crore, Tk.1495.40 crore and Tk.4653.35 crore have been made for old aged allowance, widow and destitute women allowance and honorarium for freedom fighters respectively.
- c. Necessary efforts have been taken to continue the speed of microcredit and investment fund which are deposited to *Palli Karma Sahayak* Foundation (PKSF) and Social Development Foundation (SDF).

A total of Tk.1176.82 crore has been allotted for this sector. Out of this amount Tk.900.00 crore will be used for PKSF financial assistance program, Tk.210.00 crore for SDF microcredit programme and Tk.6.00 crore for women self-employment microcredit programme. The budget allocations of FY2020-21 and 2021-22 depict in the Table 13.7:

Table 13.7: Allocation Pattern of Social Safety-net Programmes and Social Empowerment

(In Crore Taka)		
Programmes	2020-21 (Revised)	Budget 2021-22
Various allowances	33191.15	39637.30
Food Security and Employment Generation Programmes	14822.48	15059.72
Stipend Programmes	6761.64	4272.98
Cash/Transfer of Materials (Special Programmes)	13494.70	20182.19
Credit Support Programmes	9286.82	1176.82
Assistance for Special Communities	558.14	592.07
Various Funds and Programmes	1833.33	12904.62
Ongoing Development Projects/programmes	12452.37	10363.66
New Projects/Programmes	3282.30	3424.33
Total	95683	107614

Source: Finance Division

Cash Transfer under Social Safety-net Programmes

The government provides cash transfer under social safety-net programme along with food assistance, food for work, OMS and so on. In FY 2021-22 an amount of Tk. 39637.30 crore has been allocated in the revised budget for Various allowances programmes. Some selected cash transfer programmes under the overall social safety-net programmes are described in brief below:

Old Age Allowance Programme

This programme was initiated in 1997-98. At the outset 5 men and 5 women per ward were paid Tk. 100 the number of beneficiaries and allowance rate has been increased gradually. Poor and risky elderly people, in case of men who are 65 and in case of women who are 62 will be under this programme. The number of beneficiaries has been increased from 49 lakh to 57.01 lakh in the FY 2021-22, who will receive 500 TK. as monthly allowance.

Allowance Programme for Widow, Deserted and Destitute Women

In order to protect and empower the poor, risky and disadvantaged women, the government of Bangladesh introduced the 'Widow and Husband Deserted Women Allowance' programme in 1998-99. Initially, under this programme, 4.03 lakh women received Tk. 100 as monthly allowance. The number of

beneficiaries has been increased from 20.50 lakh people to 24.75 lakh in the fiscal year 2021-22, who are receiving 500 Tk.

Maternity Allowance for Poor Mother

This programme introduced as social safety-net programme in FY2007-08 in order to provide financial assistance to the poor mother. It not only gives allowance facilities but also arranges different types of awareness building training related to health and nutrition. Earlier, a poor mother gets Tk. 500 each month under this programme. From the FY 2018-19, the allowance increases into Tk. 800 per month. The number of beneficiaries are 7.70 lakh in FY 2021-22.

Working Lactating Mother Assistance Fund

This programme started since FY2010-11 with a view to providing financial assistance to the urban poor working lactating mothers. Under this programme, activities are underway to increase the awareness and nutritional status of low-income working mothers and their infants in the urban areas and to get involved to the mainstream of development through socio-economic self-sufficiency. By providing allowances and awareness training under the programme, beneficiaries have largely been able to avoid maternal mortality risk and meet nutritional deficiencies. Under this programme a total of 7,58,402 person's has been provided to allowances and awareness training in FY2021-2022.

Honorarium Programme for Freedom Fighters

The government has been working relentlessly for improving the lifestyle of freedom fighters, the heroes of the nation. At present, a freedom fighter gets Tk. 20,000 per month as honorarium. Two festival Allowance of each Taka 10,000 per years also awarded. Besides, Monthly honorarium & Two festival Allowance of each Taka 10,000 per years Allowance is given to the gallantry Freedom Fighters. At present, 35,000 TK. for *Bir Shresthas*, 25,000 TK for *Bir Uttams*, 20,000 TK. for *Bir Bikrams* and *Bir Pratiks* are given as monthly allowances. Moreover, from FY 2018-19, every Freedom Fighter who is alive has been given Tk 5,000 as Victory Day Allowance and for all Freedom Fighters, 2,000 Tk of the honorarium has been given as Bangla New Year allowance. A total of 5,248.44 crore Tk. has been allocated in this sector in FY 2021-22. Presently a total of 1,78,655 Freedom Fighters or their dependents from all districts has been given the monthly honorarium/renumeration being distributed electronically through G2P.

Honorarium and Medical Allowance for Injured Freedom Fighters and *Shaheed* (Martyr) Families

The government is also working for the welfare of the family of martyrs and war-wounded freedom fighters. Separate programmes have been initiated for the treatment and honorarium of martyr's family and war-wounded freedom fighters. This programme was introduced with a view to improving living standards and retains the sound health of the wounded freedom fighters and member of *shaheed* families. In FY 2021-22, an amount of Tk. 455.76 crore has been allocated for this programme. Those programmes will play a significant role in improving the quality of living standard and health care of the war wounded and martyrs freedom fighters' families.

Training and Microcredit Programme for the Freedom Fighters and their Dependents' Self-employment

This programme has been implemented to provide skill development training to the insolvent freedom fighters and their dependents. It improves the living standards and creates employment opportunities for them. Microcredit is delivered to them with a view to creating self-employment by utilising the training skill. From FY 2003-04 to FY 2020-21, a total of Tk. 39.75 crore allocated for this programme as revolving fund. In FY 2021-22, Tk. 2 crore allocated for this programme. Moreover, it has been estimated to distribute Tk. 7.50 crore as loan and to recover Tk. 10.00 crore during the current fiscal year under this programme.

Allowance for the Financially Insolvent Disabled Citizens

The Insolvent Disability Allowance Programme was introduced in the fiscal year 2005-06. Under this program, an allowance was given at the rate of Tk. 200 to 1,04,166 disabled people. The number of beneficiaries has increased from 18 lakh to 20.08 lakh in the FY 2021-22, who are receiving 750 Tk. as monthly allowance.

Stipend for the Disabled Students

With the aim of ensuring education for the children with disabilities that they can participate in national development through higher education, the Government launches 'Education Scholarship Programme for Students with Disabilities' through the Ministry of Social Welfare in the FY 2007-08. Initially, Under this programme, subsidy is being provided at the primary, secondary, higher- secondary and higher levels at monthly rates of Tk. 750, 800, 900 and 1300 Tk. The number of beneficiaries are 1 lakh in the FY 2021-22.

Capitation Grant for Non-government Orphanage

The government allocates capitation grant for the non-government orphanages. Capitation grant is provided for up to a maximum of 50 percent orphans in a private orphanage registered by the Department of Social Services. A grant of Tk 127.20 crore is provided to 1 lakh residents during FY 2021-22 (July 2021 to December 2021).

Development of the Living standards of the gypsy community:

During the period 2012-13, the programme started to improve the standard of living of the people of Gypsy. The programme was implemented in seven districts of Dhaka, Chattogram, Dinajpur, Patuakhali, Jessore, Naogaon and Habiganj districts as a pilot project, respectively. Now this programme is being implemented in 64 districts. The amount allocated in FY 2021-22 is about 9.23 crore and the total number of beneficiaries are 9,564.

Development of the Living standards of the backward community:

The programme is separated from the fiscal year 2019-2020 and is being run as a separate program called "Living standards development program for the backward people". In 2021-22 total number of beneficiaries in case of allowance is 45,250 thousand, 21,903 are getting stipend and 2,000 people are getting training. The total number of beneficiary is 69,153 people and the budget is 57.87 crore Tk.

Programme for Improving the Livelihood of Transgender (Hizra) People

The government works for the transgender (*Hizra*) people, the neglected community of the society. In FY2012-13, the government started this programme at seven districts as pilot basis. Now, the programme is executing whole of the country. In FY 2021-22, a total of Tk. 5.56 crore has been allocated for this programme. It

is estimated that 3,825 transgender people directly benefited through this programme.

Programmes under Food Assistance:

Food Friendly Programme: In 2016, the branding program of Honorable Prime minister "Food Friendly Programme" was launched. Under this programme, 50 lakh ultra-poor families (Widows, elderly, women led family, women led downstream poor families) living in the union level are enlisted. The families enlisted in this programme are distributed 30kg rice per month in the workless month/lean season at Tk. 10 kg. In the current FY 2021-2022 (up to 17 february,2022), 4.50 lac MT of rice have been distributed under this programme.

Initiatives Open Market Sale (OMS)

This programme is initiated to ensure the food security of the low income people. As a result, people of low and limited income can purchase flour and rice. In FY2021-2022 (up to 17 February, 2022), 2.98 lakh MT of rice and 2.83 lakh MT of flour have been distributed.

Distribution of Fortified Rice under Vulnerable Group Development: Ministry of Food started the distribution of Pushti Chal or fortified rice from the first half of 2014 in Five (05) upazilas of three districts. In the FY 2019-2020, Fortified Rice has been distributed in a total of 100 upazilla's. On the occasion of the golden jubilee of independence, Fortified Rice has been being distributed in 170 upazilla's including 70 new upazillas under the VGD program in 2021. Fortified rice is being distributed in 170 upzillas still now. There is a possibility to include 81 more upazilla in this programme from the next fiscal year.

On the other hand, Fortified rice enriched with vitamin-A, vitamin-B-1, vitamin B-12, folic acid, iron and zinc to meet the micronutrient requirement of vulnerable people. In the FY 2016-2017, the Distribution of Fortified Rice

under Food Friendly Program (FFP) was started as a pilot project in Kurigram Sadar and Fulbari upazilas. Now Fortified rice was being distributed in 101 upazillas in Food Friendly Program (FFP) On the occasion of the birth centenary of Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman.

Food For Work (Kabikha) and Taka For Work (Kabita) Programmes:

Ministry of Disaster Management and Relief conducts these programme. Under the Rural infrastructure Reform (Kabikha-Kabita) programme, a total of Tk. 1500 crore and 1 lakh tons of rice and 1 lakh tons of wheat have been allocated in FY 2021-22.

Vulnerable Group Feeding (VGF) Programme

Generally, this assistance is provided to the families affected by the disaster after the disaster has been restored. This assistance is provided to every family for 20 to 40 kg monthly 2 to 5 months. Poor people also get VGF help at various religious festivals. In FY 2021-22, 1,00,176.51 MT food grains have been distributed for this programme.

Test Relief (TR) programme: In FY 2021-22, an amount of Tk. 1,450 crore has been allocated under this programme. Out of this, a total of Tk. 278 crore in the first phase and Tk. 556 crore in the second phase has been allocated.

Emergency Humanitarian Assistance Programme (GR, Blanket, Coriander, Dry Meal and Dates:

Under this programme, in FY 2021-22 a total of 3,985 bundle C.I. sheet and Tk. 11.95 crore have been distributed for the construction of houses of the distressed and helpless family members. A total of Tk. 5 crore has been allocate for purchase of blanket for prevention of cold in winter season. Under GR (Cash) programme, a sum of Tk. 131.52 crore was

provided and under GR (Rice) programme 71,490 metric tons of food grains have been distributed. 1,22,081 packets dry food, Tk. 10 crore for baby food and Tk. 9.97 crore for cattle fodder have been distributed.

Employment Programme for Ultra-Poor

This program was first started in the financial year 2008-2009 as 100 days job creation. Later, from the financial year 2009-10, this program was started all over the country by giving priority to the extremely poor and working unemployed people in the rural areas. The objective of the programme is to: (a) Increase employment and purchasing power for the poorest unemployed people in Bangladesh; (b) Create wealth for the population and the country in general; and (c) Improve infrastructure and communication development, proper maintenance and development of environment. In FY 2021-22, allocation of Tk. 1,650 crore has been received of which TK. 817.31 has been allocated to the field administration as first phase.

Ongoing Programmes/Projects under the Social Safety-net

A total of 52 projects/programmes are implemented in FY 2021-22 for poverty reduction under social empowerment sector. Among these 35 are running projects/programmes, the rest 17 are new projects/programmes. An amount of Tk. 13,787.99 crore has been allocated to implements these projects. Brief descriptions of some projects/programmes of social safety-net are given below:

Ashrayan-2 (Poverty Alleviation and Rehabilitation) Project

Ashrayan project was commenced in 1997 for rehabilitating the landless, homeless and rootless families. About 1,68,048 families have been rehabilitated by Ashrayan project through construction of barrack houses of 2,172 project

villages across the country & 1,53,853 families through constructing houses on their own land, and 600 families through specially designed homes (Tong Ghar in three hill districts and Barguna). Cyclone Amphan and river erosion affected 1,100 families have been settled by constructing houses funded by Bangladesh Bank's housing fund (*Grihayon Tahobil*). On the occasion of Mujibborsho, the necessary fund has been allocated to the *Zilla* and *Upazila* administration for the construction of houses 61,657 single houses. The construction work of most of the houses is nearly completed. Besides, the Hon'ble Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, as a gift of Mujibborsho, provided 640 flats to 640 climate refugee families in 20 multi-storied buildings constructed in the first phase of the Khurushkul Special *Ashrayan* Project. Rehabilitation activities of 3,769 families is in progress in the second phase of the *Khurushkul* Special *Ashrayan* Project. According to future plan of the Hon'ble Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, the rest of the homeless and landless families will be rehabilitated phase by phase.

Grihayon Tahabil

Grihayon Tahabil was launched in FY1997-98 considering the housing problem along with reducing poverty of homeless poor and low income rural people. The Housing Loan Implementing Agency borrows only 1.5 percent simple interest from this fund and disburses housing loan to the beneficiaries for a maximum period of 7 years at 5.50 percent simple interest. At present, housing loan activities are being carried out through 616 institutions across the country with a ceiling of Tk. 1,30,000 per household. The construction work of 89,900 houses has been completed through disbursement of loans of Tk. 416.00 crore up to February 2022, where total number of

beneficiaries is 4,49,500 on average 5 member per family.

Apart from housing construction activities, a 12-storey women's hostel has been constructed under The Dept. of Women Affairs to accommodate 744 women workers at *Ashulia* in *Savar* under Dhaka district at a cost of Taka 24.61 crore with the funding of *Grihayon Tahobil* for housing of poor women garment workers. Besides, construction of hostel at a cost of Tk 26.27 crore has been completed for the accommodation of women workers working in industrial establishments at *Mongla* EPZ under BEPZA. The hostel has accommodated 1,008 female workers.

Besides, 191 houses have been constructed by Bangladesh *Krishi* Bank named a project '*Ghore Phera*'. Apart from the implementation of loan activities, a grant of Tk 29.92 crore has been distributed among the families affected by various natural calamities.

Poverty Alleviation Activities of Rural Development and Co-operative Division

The Rural Development and Cooperative Division (RD CD) has formulated short and medium term action plans for poverty reduction. These are formulated according to the guidelines of 'National Rural Development Policy-2001'. Activities of few projects relate to poverty alleviation and social safety-net as well as actions of few Departments/Foundations under Rural Development and Co-operatives Division are discussed describe below:

Comprehensive Village Development Programme (CVDP) 3rd Phase

The project "Comprehensive Village Development Programme (CVDP)-3rd phase" is being implemented under Rural Development and Cooperative Division to reduce the level of poverty and to improve the quality of life of the people in the poverty stricken area of rural Bangladesh. During the project period (January, 2018 to December, 2023), a total of 6,68,230

members of the cooperatives (both men and women) will be trained for different duration. Targeted output/physical targets of the project are respectively: number of Society formation 10,035 and number of member enrolment 14,50,000 Till February 2022, about 8,836 Societies have been formed and 8,88,381 members have been enrolled. A total of 3,68,956 people have become self-employed under this project.

Department of Co-operatives

Cooperative is a worldwide tested and recognized medium for poverty alleviation and economic development. At present, the total number of registered cooperatives in the country is 1,97,065. Among them, the number of primary co-operative societies are 1,95,835, the central co-operation number are 1,208 and the national association has 22. The total number of members of the cooperative societies are 1,17,42,674 people, the share capital is about Tk. 1,948.57 crore, the savings deposit amount is Tk. 8,957.12 crore and the working capital is Tk. 15,294.88 crore.

Bangladesh Co-operative Insurance Limited' is established to ensure economic development and security of the members of the co-operative societies. At present, the number of members of this association is 501. With a view to making co-operative activities fruitful and dynamic in the country the Department of Co-operative implement different projects/ programmes time to time. At this moment two projects titled 'Establishment of Bangabandhu Model Village in the Light of Bangabandhu's People-Oriented Cooperative Thought' and 'Expansion of Cooperative Activities in Jessore and Meherpur Districts to Create Rural Employment through Dairy and Meat Production' are implementing by the department.

Bangladesh Rural Development Board (BRDB)

Poverty alleviation through the development of the rural economy is one of the pledges in the present government. To achieve this goal, Bangladesh Rural Development Board (BRDB) is working in the rural development programme. BRDB has successfully implementing 118 projects/ programmes. At present, BRDB is operating 7 ADP listed projects/ programmes regarding to poverty alleviation and social empowerment. These are: (a) Employment Guarantees Scheme for Poor of the Northern Region (UDKONIK)-2nd Phase; (b) Participatory Rural Development Project-3 (PRDP-3); (c) Gaibandha Integrated Rural Poverty Alleviation Project; (d) Poverty Reduction through High Valued Nutritious Minor Crops Production & Marketing Programme; (e) Rural livelihood Programme (RLP)- 3rd Phase; (f) Integrated Rural Employment Support Programme for the Poor Women (IRESPPW)- 2nd Phase and g) Comprehensive Village Development Programme (CVDP) (BRDB's Part).

BRDB implements 7 projects/programmes related to poverty reduction, women empowerment and microcredit through its own fund. Up to February 2022, BRDB cumulatively disburses Tk. 20,059.13 crore. On the contrary, a total of Tk. 18,232.05 crore has been recovered at the same period.

Bangladesh Academy for Rural Development (BARD)

BARD has been conducting training to government and non-government officials, local representatives involved in rural development and beneficiaries of different projects of BARD with the aim of developing the livelihood of rural people. Since its inception up to February 2022, BARD has conducted 8,774 training courses where 2, 98,885 participants attended. Since its inception up to February, 2022 BARD has conducted 737 researches. At present the

Academy has been conducting 14 action researches covering the areas on Women's Education, Income & Nutrition Improvement, Rural Livelihood Improvement through Village Based Organizations and Union Parishad, E-Parishad for Better Digital Service Delivery in Rural Areas, Providing Income Generating Training to the students of Qawmi Madrasa, Floodplain Aquaculture and Safe Food Production through Community Enterprise, Rearing Exalted Breeds of Cows, Mechanized Agriculture and Collective Farming Project etc.

Rural Development Academy (RDA), Bogura

Rural Development Academy (RDA), *Bogura* established in 1974. The mission of the academy is to provide training, conduct research, action research and offer advisory services. The academy arranges training courses on modern technology transfer, skilled development and human resource development. This academy has organized 271 training courses during the March 2021 to February 2022 where 15582 participants were attended and total 5,82, 299 participants attended from the beginning (June 1974). RDA, Bogura and Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman Agricultural University, Gazipur have jointly launched 'Post Graduate Diploma-in Rural Development' course for the first time in Bangladesh; by 2021, a total of 98 graduates have obtained this degree. From March 2022 to February 2021, a total 15 number of research studies have been completed by RDA and a total of 528 research and 44 action research projects have been completed since its inception. At present, 6 ongoing action research projects are implementing by RDA in various locations of Bangladesh.

Palli Daridro Bimochon Foundation (PDBF)

PDBF operates 403 offices in 357 *upazilas* in 55 districts. In order to create self-employment and increase financial capacity through income-generating activities, loan assistance of Tk.

17,246 crore has been provided to the beneficiaries. PDBF's activities have directly and indirectly provided employment to approximately 25 lakh people and about 80 lakh people have been benefited. About 97% of the beneficiary members of PDBF are women.

Small Farmers Development Foundation (SFDF)

The Foundation commenced in 2005 but started its activities in February 2007. At present the activities of the Foundation and its project are being implemented through 173 *upazila* offices of 36 districts of the country. At the end of the month of February, 2022 a total of 2,33,779 members have been enrolled through the 9,067 village centers of SFDF where women members are 94 percent. The enrolled member is providing Microcredit and Microenterprise loan and trade based training to strengthen their income generating activities. As SFDF providing strong monitoring, loan and training support the beneficiaries are being coming out from the poverty level. Among the members an amount of Tk. 179.37 Crore has been disbursed cumulatively as collateral-free credit support and against that an amount of Tk.157.15 Crore has been recovered through weekly and monthly installment basis during the period. The recovery rate of credit stands to 96.40 percent. The weekly savings of the enrolled beneficiaries of the Foundation have been accumulated at Tk. 12063 Crore as their own capital.

Bangabandhu Academy for Poverty Alleviation and Rural Development (BAPARD)

Bangabandhu Poverty Alleviation Training Complex established at *Kotalipara upazila* of *Gopalganj* district in 1997. The mission of the complex is to improve livelihood by getting rid of poverty of rural people especially living in the south-western part of the country. Later on, it was renamed as 'Bangabandhu Academy for Poverty Alleviation and Rural Development (BAPARD)' in 2012.

BAPARD mainly conducts training and research and arranges training programmes for government and non-government officials. It organises workshops, conferences and seminars related to rural development and poverty alleviation as well. Moreover, BAPARD executes training on various income generating activities on farming and off-farming sector for self-employment of small and marginal farmers and landless unemployed people. BAPARD conducted training for 30,036 participants of stakeholders as well as officials from its inception on January 2009 to January 2022.

Bangabandhu Youth Credit programme

'Bangabandhu Youth Credit' programme has been adopted to generate employment opportunities and to poverty alleviation on the occasion of the birth centenary of the father of the nation the great Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman.

Hon'ble Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has termed the 'Bangabandhu Youth Credit' programme as a startup programme. Under this programme, a detailed action plan has been adopted and is being implemented to provide loans to 2.00 lakh trained unemployed youth. Under this programme, an amount of Tk. 1727.74 crore have been disbursed in favor of 1,03,230 entrepreneurs till February, 2022.

Own Loan Programme of the Bank:

Under the own loan programme, up to February 2022, the bank distributed an amount of Tk. 6,328.43 crore among 6,30,335 beneficiaries. On the other hand, Tk. 6,833.66 crore has been recovered during this period.

- **Microcredit Programme for Self-retired/Retrench Worker/Employees of Mills/Industries and Establishment**

According to the memorandum of understanding sign with the Ministry of Labour and Employment, the *Karmasangsthan* bank operates this programme for reemployment of self-retired/retrench workers/ employees of mills/ industries. A total of Tk. 111.71 crore has

been distributed among 20,120 beneficiaries. At the same time, the Tk. 103.58 crore has been recovered.

- **Employment Programmes of *Karmasangsthan* Bank:**

The government established *Karmasangsthan* Bank in 1998 to create self-employment opportunities for unemployed youths especially, educated unemployed youths. The bank provides loan to involve the youth in productive, service oriented and income generating activities through its 256 branches across the country. Since its inception the bank has been able to generate total employment of 29,16,013 by disbursing loan to 8,07,760 entrepreneurs.

- **Credit Programme for Agro-based Industries**

With the financial support of the Ministry of Finance *Karmasangsthan* Bank has been conducting this programme. An amount of Tk. 69.15 crore has been disbursed among beneficiaries till February, 2022. As a result, 2,396 entrepreneurs who are involved in agro-based industry directly benefited.

- **Covid-19 Credit Assistance Programme for Poverty Alleviation and Employment Generation**

The Ministry of Finance aims to bring dynamism in the economy to resolve the impact of COVID-19 by creating employment in various sectors as well as maintaining production and supply. For this purpose Tk. 500.00 crore was provided as capital deficit in favour of *Karmasangsthan* Bank in FY 2020-2021. Under the programme, Tk 500.00 crore has been disbursed in favour of 29,176 entrepreneurs till February 2022.

- **Loan Assistance Program Under Newly Announced Incentive Package No. 4 in Favour of Low-Income People Affected by Restrictions Due to Ongoing Infection of Covid-19**

Tk 250.00 crore was sanctioned as capital deficit of *karmasangsthan* Bank Under this Package vide the Financial Institutions Division of the Ministry of Finance in order to provide

loan assistance to low-income (COVID-19) people and for employment generation activities in rural areas. Under the programme, Tk 250.00 crore has been disbursed in favour of 11,806 entrepreneurs till February 2022.

Bangladesh Bank Loan Programme

Karmasangsthan Bank has been operating this programme with the loan assistance of Bangladesh Bank since FY2015-16. Later on, from FY2016-17, the bank commenced milk

production and artificial insemination refinance scheme.

Up to February, 2022 Tk. 1416.44 crore has been distributed among 84,360 young entrepreneurs under this programme. Information regarding to loan distribution and recovery of *Karmasangsthan* Bank is presented in Table 13.8

Table 13.8: Disbursement of Loan by *Karmasangsthan* Bank

(In Crore Taka)

	Name of the programmes	Disbursement	Recoverable	Recovered	Rate of Recovery (%)	Beneficiary	Employment Generation
1	Bangabandhu Youth Credit programme	447.28	239.95	212.20	88%	29567	106737
2	Covid-19 Credit Assistance Programme for poverty Alleviation and Employment Generation	500.00	194.10	172.63	90%	29176	105325
3	Loan Assistance Program Under Newly Announced Incentive Package No. 4 in Favor of Low-Income People Affected by Restrictions Due to Ongiong Infection of Covid-19	250.00	9.25	9.24	100%	11806	42620
4	Own Loan Programme	6328.43	7238.70	6833.66	94%	630335	2275509
5	Special Programme :						
	a) Micro Credit Programme for self retired/ retrenched workers and employees of Industries/ Factories for self employment Loan Programme	111.71	109.96	103.58	94%	20120	72633
	b) Credit Programme to assist the entrepreneurs for the Development of Agro-based Industries	69.15	80.75	78.70	97%	2396	8650
	c) Fisheries and Livestock Loan Assistance Programme of Bangladesh Bank	946.87	644.84	615.96	96%	57351	207037
	d) Bangladesh Bank refinance scheme for milk production and artificial insemination sector	15.00	16.54	16.10	97%	1251	4516
	e) 'Bangabandhu Youth Credit' programme under the funds received from Bangladesh Bank	454.57	393.97	355.37	90%	25758	92986
	Gand total	9123.01	8928.07	8397.44	94%	807760	2916013

Source: Karmasangsthan Bank (up to February 2022)

Palli Karma Sahayak Foundation (PKSF)

Palli Karma-Sahayak Foundation (PKSF) works for poverty alleviation, social safety-net and women empowerment in 1990. PKSF invests its resources in the socioeconomic development of the targeted people, ranging from the ultra-poor to the enterprising poor, through its diversified services. Considering the multiple dimensions of poverty, PKSF provides a variety of financial and non-financial services for the development of the extreme poor, moderate poor, small, and marginal farmers, and micro-entrepreneurs. From the FY 2009-2010 to FY 2020-2021, a total 51.74 lakh new members have participated in PKSF initiatives. PKSF disbursed Tk. 36,845 crore to its POs during this time, while the POs disbursed Tk. 3,82,000 crore to the borrowers at field level as flexible loans. PKSF disbursed Tk. 4,832 crore in favor of its POs in FY 2020-21, while the POs disbursed Tk. 57,012 crore among the borrowers. Since inception, PKSF has provided different services to 1.57 crore members through 278 POs across the country, of whom more than 91 percent are women. Upto September 2021, PKSF has provided financial assistance of Tk. 44,312 crore to the POs, while POs have disbursed Tk. 4,74,000 crore as flexible loans at the field level.

Besides, PKSF has given different financial and non-financial services to its members, as well as boosted cash flow in the field, in order to reduce the negative effects of the Covid-19 pandemic, revive the economic activities of affected borrowers, and generate self-employment. From June 2020 to September 2021, PKSF funded 6,501 crores to its POs, who then distributed Tk. 70,703 crore among members through regular and supplementary funding mechanisms. PKSF provided emergency aid of 31.0 crores to 30,000 severely disadvantaged households under a special project and also provided 100 crore to 2,000 underprivileged households as a grant. PKSF has already distributed 850.0 crore to the POs in this respect 750.0 crore from the Hon'ble

Prime Minister's stimulus package and the remainder from PKSF's own resources.

Micro Credit Fund for Women's Self-Employment

The Department of Women's Affairs and the National Women's Organization are conducting micro-credit fund programs for women's self-employment to improve the socio-economic status of rural destitute and helpless women by providing loans to them and creating opportunities for self-employment. An amount of Tk 5,000-15,000 is being provided within 488 upazillas of 64 districts. Under the said programme till February, 22 a total loan of Tk. 876.79 crore has been disbursed.

Microcredit Programme Monitoring through Microcredit Regulatory Authority (MRA)

The Microcredit Regulatory Authority (MRA) was established in 2006. The prime responsibility of the authority is to ensure transparency and accountability of the microfinance institutions of the country. It also regulates the microfinance institutions which are operating their activities in the country.

MRA provides permission to run microcredit activities. It also collect and preserve information regarding microcredit programmes of all government and non-government organisations. Up to February, 2022, MRA issued licenses to 881 institutions to carry out microfinance activities. On the other hand, the authority has cancelled the certificate of 134 institutions for their failure of doing satisfactory function. Up to February, 2022, the total 747 MFIs are serving more than 3.52 crore people of the country to improve the quality of life by conducting self-employment and income generating activities.

Microcredit Activities of Major NGOs

The Non-government organisations (NGOs) execute microcredit programmes along with the government organisations. The NGOs mainly

work for poverty alleviation, education, health, human resource development and so on. The overall microcredit activities of 7 major NGOs are described below:

BRAC

BRAC, the largest NGO of the world has great contribution to the socio-economic development of Bangladesh. It is the biggest microcredit providing NGO of the country. It operates different types of programme through microcredit. The activities which are being implemented by BRAC relates to economic and social development, health, education, human rights and legal services, and disaster management. In addition, Up to December, 2021, BRAC disbursed an amount of Tk. 3,29,243.73 crore. During this period in total 8,378,031 people have been benefited out of which 84 percent are female.

ASA

ASA started its microcredit programme in 1991 as a specialised microcredit organisation. It's cost-effective and sustainable microfinance programme has been recognised as a special model of poverty alleviation. Up to February, 2022, ASA distributed Tk. 2,73,056.62 crore cumulatively among 7,162,947 beneficiaries among them almost 90 percent are female.

BURO Bangladesh

BURO is implementing its activities through 482 *upazilas* of the country. It mainly works for lower income groups. In FY 2020-21, (july-february) BURO distributed Tk. 6899.6 crore as loan among 2,153,354 beneficiaries out of them 91 percent are female.

Caritas

Caritas works for education and poverty reduction for marginal people. Up to February (july-february) 2021, *Caritas* disbursed Tk. 5,579.08 crore among 2,71,521 beneficiaries.

Shakti Foundation

This organization is engaged in providing microcredit facilities for the deprived women living in the slums of Dhaka, *Chattogram*, *Khulna*, *Cumilla*, *Bogura*, *Rajshahi* and other major cities and towns. Microfinance is the core programme of *Shakti* Foundation. Moreover, it provides service for healthcare, business entrepreneurship and social development of poor woman. Up to February 2022, an amount of Tk. 13,607.33 crore has been disbursed and Tk. 12,046.59 crore has been recovered by the foundation.

TMSS

TMSS has been implementing microcredit programme in order to make the poor people self-employed by improving their socio-economic conditions. It also works for expansion of business and increase the growth of production. TMSS implements credit programme in 384 *upazilas* of 59 districts. Up to june 2021, Tk. 36,482.03 crore has been as microcredit among 83,58,565 beneficiaries.

Proshika

Proshika started its journey in 1976 from *Manikgonj* with a view to removing poverty from society. Currently, it runs activities in 55 districts. Until December, 2021, *Proshika* distributes Tk. 8263.73 crore as loan and 2,807,497 poor people get benefit from this NGO. The status of micro-credit programmes of the major NGOs is presented in the Table 13.9.

Table 13.9: Status of Microcredit programmes of Major NGO

NGOs	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	Cumulative (Up to December 2021)
BRAC									
Disbursemen	15190.49	19298.28	24302.78	29317.13	35562.76	43171.58	38,426.29	42363.92	329243.73
Recovery	13281.72	171134.8	21563.66	26486.85	31551.41	38956.55	33,312.71	43458.86	300212.28
Beneficiaries	5510905	5957954	5957954	6483486	7114726	7496383	8,127,942	8378031	8378031
Female	4876445	5188206	5188206	5633121	6165119	6163392	6,827.96	7007551	7007551
Male	634460	769745	769745	850365	949607	1332991	1,300,446	1370480	1370480
*ASA									
Disbursemen	14638.57	20905.68	26958.63	29681.42	29681.42	28368.31	25,215.57	28567.63	23880.90
Recovery	11795.32	17650.08	23515.37	28953.34	28953.34	29,104.35	24,262.06	29539.27	21808.99
Beneficiaries	6902024	7686255	7839119	7577355	7577355	6,828,698	6,766,906	6987609	7162947
Female	6319502	7033521	7171271	6930474	6930474	6,235,926	6,143,657	6326705	6453694
Male	582522	652734	667848	646881	646881	592,772	623,249	660904	709253
*BURO Bangladesh									
Disbursemen	2362.85	2630.02	3951.54	5439.38	10460.50	9148.5	8220.4	7608.4	-
Recovery	2290.35	2355.88	3154.81	4604.82	8978.80	7095.3	717408	8041.0	-
Beneficiaries	1053035	1269411	1356572	1449085	1649923	1,662,689	1,963,060	1862461	-
Female	982474	1168945	1241687	1329719	1501564	-	-	-	-
Male	70561	100466	114885	119366	148359	-	-	-	-
Caritas									
Disbursemen	297.35	317.16	380.45	448.52	483.20	542.16	458.49	594.37	5579.08
Recovery	291.62	310.07	346.55	412.05	462.21	509.85	4,22.11	543.27	5189.18
Beneficiaries	37897	29217	6619	2526	4070	2303	522	13829	271521
Female	22818	18421	7832	2429	2154	2619	153	12334	235597
Male	15079	10796	1213	97	1916	-	369	1495	35924
SSS									
Disbursemen	1316.32	1686.26	1149.67	2762.50	3135.20	3354.17	3422.29	-	-
Recovery	1229.33	1507.17	923.24	2317.68	3073.78	3089.0	3262.72	-	-
Beneficiaries	473116	507295	579182	616585	600906	6,44,453	7,58,275	-	-
Female	462567	498518	568694	600529	585951	6,28,919	7,36,247	-	-
Male	10549	8777	10488	16056	14955	15,534	22,028	-	-
SHAKTI Foundation									
Disbursemen	618.65	745.79	1001.45	1175.03	1322.37	1765.68	1,214.19	1899.72	13130.44
Recovery	570.35	669.96	826.49	1017.02	1232.81	1507.48	1,226.60	1458.91	11704.39
Beneficiaries	496040	-	-	521751	-	-	-	-	430744
Female	47680	-	-	507628	-	-	-	-	423147
Male	16360	-	-	14123	-	-	-	-	7597
TMSS									
Disbursemen	1894.49	2963.80	2623.98	3305.85	4245.03	4817.71	4391.31	4895.99	40292.66
Recovery	1623.98	2540.42	2460.35	2918.28	3838.84	4480.41	4096.44	4620.00	36100.59
Beneficiaries	564127	519118	459558	503942	576683	108360	861349	950760	665342
Female	544383	499910	441176	492722	568207	60972	784659	868709	13702051
Male	19744	19208	18382	11220	8476	47388	76690	82051	14367393
Proshika									
Disbursemen	222.42	219.51	178.02	255.75	351.18	539.52	550.25	983.28	8263.73
Recovery	215.98	215.22	162.78	231.68	297.85	473.52	502.32	855.94	7804.47
Beneficiaries	108590	92535	79119	110483	140471	240335	314654	391670	2807497
Female	76013	74215	53801	78443	103949	186266	229984	293136	1766529
Male	32577	18320	25318	32040	36522	54069	84670	98534	1040968

Source: Concerned NGOs. * Asa 2021-22 (up tp February 22) *BURO Bangladesh 2021-22 (july-june).

Grameen Bank

Grameen Bank was established as a specialised institution in 1983. Microcredit programme implemented by the bank for poverty reduction. It works for poverty declination by creating self-employment of rural poor women through providing microcredit to them. Up to December,

2021, 93.13 lakh poor people of 81,678 villages of 479 *upzilas* under 64 districts are involved in the microcredit programme of *Grameen Bank*. The bank disbursed Tk. 255112.32 crore until February, 2022 and recovered Tk. 241345.78 during the same period. The Table 13.10 describes the microcredit activities of the *Grameen Bank*.

Table 13.10: Microcredit Programmes of *Grameen Bank*

Item	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	Cumulative Up to February 2022
Disbursement	16933.15	20789.11	24321.50	17044.92	20501.70	19547.99	255112.32
Recovery	15123.13	18270.13	22559.75	16694.02	20490.03	21150.30	241345.78
Recovery Rate (%)	98.82	99.22	99.13	99.03	99.29	95.25	97.19
No. of Beneficiary	8853961	8915491	8986050	9132966	9313513	9387505	9612767
Female	8548060	860989	8689004	8834706	9013762	9084765	9305432
Male	305901	305598	297046	298260	299751	302740	307335

Source: Grameen bank

Microcredit Activities of Schedule Banks

The statistics of credit disbursement and recovery of 4 State Owned Commercial Banks (SOCBs)

and 2 public sector specialised banks is presented in Table 13.11.

Table 13.11: Status of Microcredit Disbursement of SOCBs and Public Specialised Bank

(in crore Taka)

Name of the Bank	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	Cumulative (Up to February 2022)
Sonali Bank										
Disbursement	668.99	1063.15	1041.00	1127.00	1187.30	1170.21	1258.51	771.51	995.66	19663.36
Recovery	865.72	1166.91	1244.00	1178.00	1316.08	1267.90	1378.78	818.63	21631.79	905.51
% of recovery	129.41	109.76	45.00	46.00	46.00	42.52	48.47	38.47	39.29	84.17
No of Beneficiaries	245344	262149	229773	208432	291429	311058	157518	166229	285548	8451397
Agrani Bank										
Disbursement	778.16	602.00	2120.50	1782.02	898	2748.77	3340.94	4159.00	6833.76	4316.40
Recovery	830.35	528.00	3051.85	3007.86	996	1767.85	1429.30	3530.10	5599.89	4129.75
% of recovery	104.03	87.71	74.00	67.00	88.00	64.31	62.00	72.11	72.78	81.95
No of Beneficiaries	117236	132317	128850	92636	150139	30698	18780	23053	28631	26023
*Janata Bank										
Disbursement	736.48	737.30	751.57	744.80	495.57	751.36	597.77	733.13	345.43	476.18
Recovery	525.54	641.35	698.91	691.23	490.23	678.57	570.85	722.42	276.44	435.90
% of recovery	71.36	86.99	93.00	58.00	99.00	48.00	51.48	61.07	36.64	34.29
No of Beneficiaries	245288	548134	104563	551179	552392	753785	554545	547366	-	554945
*Rupali Bank										
Disbursement	16.63	12.17	11.44	19.95	105.50	612.31	44.11	1240.46	1593.35	1855.38
Recovery	16.68	17.38	15.71	31.30	59.69	293.19	367.78	1299.28	1815.2	2089.83

Name of the Bank	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	Cumulative (Up to February 2022)
% of recovery	100.3	142.81	137.32	166.00	57.00	293.00	368.00	105.74	114.00	113.00
No of Beneficiaries	13554	15849	15255	14886	30697	34731	35021	38323	47227	50876
*Bangladesh Krishi Bank										
Disbursement	73.70	100.49	96.56	57.61	31.15	72.11	44.80	37.82	36.55	28.61
Recovery	51.38	109.37	106.77	52.04	21.13	66.49	27.50	31.35	31.60	28.61
% of recovery	69.72	109.84	111.00	53.17	67.83	92.20	61.38	82.89	86.46	131.35
No of Beneficiaries	28284	14919	16529	16044	7254	12080	7808	3240	2322	1964
*Rajshai Krishi Unnoyan Bank										
Disbursement	39.04	38.23	24.88	12.73	25.67	22.94	22.94	2051.67	2762.96	2051.59
Recovery	37.03	40.78	29.07	19.09	12.19	8.91	8.91	2142.40	2178.93	2138.59
% of recovery	94.85	106.67	101.00	82.00	48.00	39.00	39.00	93	109.00	76.00
No of Beneficiaries	12602	202531	202242	203375	212100	203258	203647	165102	185324	131086
Total										
Disbursement	2333.00	4000.1	5623.5	5444.71	4647.68	7607.94	8474.07	8993.59	12567.71	28391.52
Recovery	2326.70	4198.25	7018.83	6997.47	5039.58	6445.38	6818.29	8544.14	32073.85	9728.19
(%) of recovery	99.73	104.95	124.81	128.52	108.43	84.72	80.46	95.00	255.21	34.26

Source: Concerned Banks . *Janata Bank 2021-22 (Up to February, 22),*Rupali Bank 2021-22 (up to February, 22), *Bangladesh Krishi Bank 2021-22 (up to February, 22), *Rajshai Krishi Unnoyan Bank (Up to February, 22).

Microcredit Programmes of other Commercial and Specialised Banks

Except the state owned banks other commercial and specialised banks are also carrying out

microcredit programmes to reduce poverty and create self-employment opportunities. The information of six commercial banks' microcredit programmes is described in Table 13.12.

Table 13.12: Microcredit Programmes of other Commercial and Specialised Banks

Commercial and Specialised Banks	Number of Beneficiaries			Disbursement (Cumulative progress up to February, 2022)	Rate of Recovery (%)
	Female	Male	Total		
Ansar-VDP Unnayan Bank	5,62,386	5,27,297	10,89,683	2619.63	96.62
*National Bank Limited	43	1589	1632	1992.73	68.31
*Social Islami Bank Limited	-	-	-	212228.53	-
Uttara Bank Limited	528	3759	4287	1946.35	-
Basic Bank Limited	528092	132023	660115	1245.2	82.41
Islami Bank Bangladesh Limited	-	-	-	198924	-
Total	1091049	664668	1755717	418956.44	-

Source: Concerned Banks * National Bank Limited (Up to December,2021),*Social Islami Bank Limited (Up to December,2021).

Microcredit Programmes of Administrative Ministries/Divisions

The government has been implementing microcredit programmes by different ministries, divisions and agencies along with various social safety net programmes to remove poverty from

the society. In order to sustaining the microcredit programmes for poverty reduction the government emphasizes on developing small entrepreneurs microcredit programmes of different ministriess/divisions/departments are presented in the Table 13.13.

Table 13.13: State of Microcredit of different Ministry/Division/Department

Ministry /Division	Department/ Division	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	Cumulative progress (up to February 2022)
Rural Development & Cooperative Division	BRDB										
	Disbursement	815.03	884.54	985.88	1065.73	1173.52	1252.26	1282.41	1055.31	1244.39	20059.13
	Recovery	789.64	816.80	910.42	999.48	1106.12	1138.80	1241.32	1000.74	1250.46	18232.05
	Rate (%)	94%	92%	92%	73%	94%	75%	75%	67%	71%	97%
	PDBF										
	Disbursement	599.16	716.82	915.26	956.93	1156.28	1266.50	1309.73	1015.80	1933.00	17246.00
	Recovery	629.15	724.69	946.45	946.09	1178.35	1359.49	1379.86	1104.58	2064.00	16600
	Rate (%)	99%	99%	99%	98%	98%	97%	96%	96%	96%	98%
Ministry of Women and Children Affairs	Jatiyo Mohila Songstha										
	Disbursement	2.00	9.17	3.01	1.29	1.55	1.53	3.02	3.03	3.01	69.27
	Recovery	2.10	7.45	1.66	4.72	5.26	2.4	2.52	4.97	1.99	77.44
	Rate (%)	105%	81%	55%	365%	337%	158%	133%	164%	131%	-
Ministry of Liberation war Affairs	Disbursement	3.4	5.56	7.00	7.98	8.61	9.33	9.00	9.00	7.00	101.97
	Recovery	9.00	3.25	4.52	8.03	8.79	8.83	10.00	10.00	10.00	71.65
	Rate (%)	264.70 %	58.48 %	64.57%	100.62 %	102.09 %	59%	50%	50%	51%	88%
Ministry of Industries	SERWTCI										
	Disbursement	11.94	10.40	9.35	8.65	7.82	6.42	3.43	2.97	255.14	8642.50
	Recovery	11.18	10.46	9.33	105.6	7.81	6.53	3.70	3.10	254.06	8525.66
	Rate (%)	93%	100%	99%	99%	100%	101%	-	-	56%	81%
Ministry of Land	Disbursement	7.32	3.02	7.50	6.70	6.79	0.93	1.29	0.73	0.35	3.49
	Recovery	3.77	1.63	5.67	6.09	6.39	0.10	0.52	0.99	0.22	1.96
	Rate (%)	51.50 %	53.97 %	75.58%	90.90 %	94.11 %	45%	67%	70%	39%	86%
Ministry of Textile and Jute	Bangladesh Handloom Board										
	Disbursement	1.84	2.65	4.03	3.42	4.10	3.60	3.51	0.57	-	7815.52
	Recovery	2.66	2.39	3.16	3.43	4.23	3.25	3.56	2.11	-	6256.07
	Rate (%)	60.65 %	62.76 %	65.65%	67.89 %	70.25 %	70.70 %	71.86 %	72.6 %	-	111.30%
Ministry of Youth and Sports	*Dept. of Youth										
	Disbursement	-	-	97.34	102.65	121.97	138.81	142.94	114.94	88.58	2183.79%
	Recovery	-	-	89.73	99.29	109.94	117.16	132.91	105.08	72.04	1904.99
	Rate (%)	-	-	92.18%	96.74 %	90.12 %	84.40 %	92.98 %	84.75 %	95%	95%
Ministry of Agriculture	*Cotton Development Board										
	Disbursement	1.16	1.25	1.71	1.23	1.27	1.34	1.56	1.66	1.15	13.6
	Recovery	1.22	1.31	1.3	1.28	1.34	1.41	1.61	1.73	1.20	12.9
	Rate (%)	105.06 %	104.77 %	103.96 %	104.46 %	104.92 %	104.59 %	103.07 %	104.35 %	104.33 %	94.93%

Source: Concerned Division/Department.

*Ministry of Liberation War Affairs (Up to December 2021).