

PROGRAM EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

GREEN GROWTH FOR BANGLADESH

Strategy integrating resilient economic growth, greener jobs and inclusivity

Bangladesh made substantial economic progress over the past two decades, but this has come at the expense of the environment. The result is environmental degradation, decreased economic competitiveness, rising health costs and natural capital loss. As the country recovers from the COVID-19 crisis, there is an opportunity to build back greener, **putting Bangladesh onto a green growth trajectory**.

Green growth principles require integrating multi-sectoral considerations, technological innovation and social inclusion into viable solutions. In line with these principles, the World Bank has adopted a GRID (green, resilient, inclusive development) approach which pursues the twin goals of poverty eradication and shared prosperity with a sustainability lens. The GRID lens considers the **interdependence between people, the planet, and the economy** and addresses the increasing risk of shocks in an integrated way, outlining a path to build green economic growth, without aggravating inequality or degrading natural resources.

In this context, the World Bank has launched a Programmatic Analysis and Advisory Services (ASA), the **Country Environmental Assessment for Building Back a Greener Bangladesh**. Through this program, the World Bank aims to support the government in **identifying reforms and investment options** that will promote a greener growth trajectory across sectors including water, transportation, energy, agriculture, finance and urban. The analytics produced through this program will enable private sector to scale up, innovate and partner with the government based on a clear, cohesive and articulated plan. Let's act now.

WHY NOW?

ENVIRONMENTAL COST OF NOT GOING GREEN

- 🍃 Bangladesh ranked 162nd out of 180 countries as most polluted (2020 EPI Report)¹
- 🍃 Economic loss from environmental degradation in urban Bangladesh is estimated to be US\$6.5 billion (3.4% of GDP) and US\$1.44 billion in Dhaka alone (0.7% of GDP) in 2015²
- 🍃 Air and water pollution cause nearly 28 percent of deaths in Bangladesh (2015)³
- 🍃 Citizens of Dhaka city burn US\$318 million worth of gas annually to purify water (2018)⁴

1 epi.envirocenter.yale.edu/epi-report-2018/executive-summary

2 World Bank, 2018. Enhancing Opportunities for Clean and Resilient Growth in Urban Bangladesh: Country Environmental Analysis 2018.

3 Ibid.

4 State of Cities 2018: Water Governance in Dhaka. <https://bigd.bracu.ac.bd/publications/state-of-cities-2018-water-governance-in-dhaka/>

OUR OPPORTUNITY

As the country recovers from the pandemic, there is an opening for new ideas, innovative technology and improvements in practices to put Bangladesh onto a green growth trajectory. Decoupling economic growth from resource depletion and environmental degradation can create high-skilled green jobs. Coordinated policy approach across multiple ministries such as environment, forests and climate change, water resources, agriculture, shipping, food, finance, planning can improve Bangladesh's growth competitiveness. This requires:

Policy and institutional feedback

- Develop policies and plans that embrace green growth principles.
- Establish and coordinate strategies at national, district and community levels.
- Build capacity of public and private institutions to implement green growth investments.

Green infrastructure and finance

- Invest in human capital and technology solutions for environmental monitoring.
- Prioritize investments such as clean energy technology, climate-smart & green buildings and nature-based solutions.
- Redesign infrastructure assets to avoid lock in resulting in high-carbon & climate vulnerabilities.

PROGRAMMATIC ASA ON GREEN GROWTH FOR BANGLADESH

The World Bank has launched a Programmatic Analysis and Advisory Services (ASA), the Country Environmental Assessment for Building Back a Greener Bangladesh. The ASA, within the World Bank, will draw from its international experience and knowledge, to support the government through the following activities:

1. Diagnostics:

Green Growth Analytics and Deep Dives

- Produce green growth diagnostics to identify priorities for strategies and plans.
- Conduct thematic deep dives and nationwide Country Environmental Analysis (CEA) to build, frame and refine selected elements of the green growth roadmap with budget and policy recommendations.
- Examine cost effectiveness and conduct economic analysis to design sustainable green financing and incentives to help implement the changes recommended.

2. Dialogue:

Green Growth Platform for Collaboration and Engagement

- Create a space for communication, dialogue and knowledge sharing to raise awareness and build momentum for investments for green growth in Bangladesh.
- Members of this platform will include the government and other stakeholders: development partners, academia, CSOs, NGOs, and private sector.
- Support green growth knowledge portals, develop content for media and print, facilitate roundtable discussions.
- Enhance Bangladesh leadership on green growth in the region and internationally.

3. Action:

Green Growth Roadmap

- Develop a green growth action plan that informs GoB policy, investment priorities and collaboration.
- Support an alignment and coordination among national plans: 8th Five Year Plan, Bangladesh Vision 2041, Bangladesh Delta Plan 2100, and Mujib Climate Prosperity Plan.