The Republic of Korea's Country Partnership Strategy for People's Republic of Bangladesh

The Government of the Republic of Korea

Jan 2022

Table of Contents
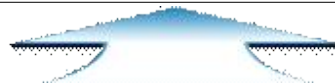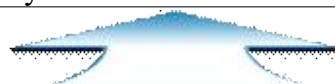
I. Overview

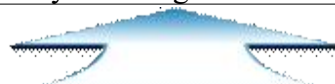| CPS Goal for Bangladesh	To improve the socio-economic environment through the acceleration of Bangladesh's economic growth

Bangladesh's Five-Year Plan for 2021-2025	**Achievement of poverty reduction and inclusive growth through expenditure focused on six priority areas**
	▪ **(Health)** Reestablish the entire public health system of Bangladesh
	▪ **(Social Protection)** Prevent the poverty-adjacent population from falling below the poverty line again
	▪ **(Education)** Strengthen public education and technical and vocational education and training, and disseminate ICT education
	▪ **(Water Resources)** Effectively respond to the impact of climate change through water resource management
	▪ **(Electricity and Transportation)** Complete large-scale infrastructure projects in electricity and transportation, and promote private-public partnerships
	▪ **(Regional Development)** Establish and expand infrastructure in the agro-industry and rural areas

Korea's Assistance Objectives	▪ Strengthen national competitiveness by nurturing human resources
	▪ Accelerate economic growth through the establishment of transport infrastructure and improvement of logistics systems
	▪ Support the response to climate change through efforts such as the enhanced capacity of water resource management
	▪ Enhance access to public health, hygiene, and medical services
	▪ Improve governance through support for e-government and public sector capacity building

Direction of Assistance in Each Priority Area	**Education**	- Expand ICT education and improve its quality through the establishment of ICT-based educational infrastructure - Foster human resources through the expansion of technical and vocational education and training - Strengthen public education programs, including educational informatization in elementary and secondary education
	Transportation	- Support the establishment of a base for sustainable economic growth and the strengthening of regional connectivity through the provision of transport infrastructure - Expand investment in transport infrastructure through private-public partnerships using private financing - Disseminate ICT-based transport infrastructure
	Water Management and Health/Hygiene	- Support Bangladesh Delta Plan 2100 as a climate change response strategy with the aim to enhance access to clean drinking water and sanitation facilities through the expansion of water supply and treatment systems and strengthen the related management capacity - Provide stable health care services and establish health care systems - Expand ICT-based health care systems
	Public Administration	- Enhance the transparency and efficiency of public administration through the expansion of the e-government system - Increase administrative efficiency through support for efforts such as public sector capacity building - Support the strengthening of state governance using ICT

☐ **(Assistance Goal)** Support the accomplishment of Bangladesh's national long-term plan titled Perspective Plan 2041 and the Eighth Five-Year Plan (2021-2025), in addition to the establishment and implementation of the Bangladeshi government's plan for the **"promotion of economic prosperity and inclusive growth."**

☐ **(Priority Areas for Cooperation and Reasons for Selection)** Key considerations include Bangladesh's national development plan, Korea's assistance capacity and experience, opportunities and limitations, size of expected funds, joint cooperation with other donor countries, and linkages among priority areas.

→ **Selection of four priority areas for cooperation**

1) **Education :** Despite the gradual improvement of conditions for basic and higher education including entrance rates, it is **necessary to nurture a skilled technical workforce** by providing **quality technical and vocational education and training that meets industrial needs**, including the modernization of the vocational training system.

→ Support the achievement of the goal to develop skilled human resources as specified in the Bangladeshi development plan through improved access to ICT-based educational infrastructure and quality vocational education.

2) **Transportation :** Amid Bangladesh's rapid economic growth, insufficient **transport infrastructure** has been identified as a factor that hinders the attraction of private capital and foreign firms' entry into the market, thereby leading to obstacles to Bangladesh's sustainable economic growth.

→ Need to support the Bangladeshi government's strategy to expand its investment in infrastructure by actively identifying transport projects that includes railway and road infrastructure as well as other transportation infrastructure combined with ICT., while pursuing large-scale transport infrastructure development using private financial resources, for instance, in the form of public-private partnership (PPP).

3) **Water Management and Health/Hygiene :** The **escalating impact of climate change** caused by rapid growth has become evident, while medical expenses are high due to the **shortage of public health care facilities and inadequate medical insurance coverage**. Against this backdrop, it is necessary to reinforce medical support systems for socially-disadvantaged groups.

→ Actively support Bangladesh's efforts to respond to climate change under Bangladesh Delta Plan 2100 through the implementation of efforts such as water resource management projects. It is also essential to establish specialized medical facilities combined with ICT and strengthen the capacity of the workforce in the medical sector.

4) **Public Administration :** The **enhanced efficiency and transparency of administrative systems** are essential for Bangladesh to attain sustainable economic growth through the attraction of foreign capital and the improvement of the business environment.

→ Need to conduct projects in the e-government field utilizing ICT by benchmarking successful cases in Korea, enhance administrative efficiency by providing education programs for public officials, and assist in improving access to public services among the general public.

II. Analysis

[1] Education

□ **Development Needs**

○ Bangladesh is seeking to improve its standing on the Human Development Index and establish a knowledge-based society through the **provision of mandatory education at the elementary, secondary and tertiary levels, eradication of illiteracy, and the advancement of science and technology education**.

○ In particular, Bangladesh is seeking to enhance labor productivity as a strategy for achieving economic growth, specifically by **establishing human resource training systems** to provide a quality workforce to each industry sector and **ensuring the education opportunity of women and those in education-deprived areas in addition to an increase in the employment rate**.

  − With regard to resolving domestic unemployment issues and securing an economic growth engine, Bangladesh is **actively seeking to expand overseas employment**, and in particular, expressing great interest in fostering a skilled technical workforce in line with the global labor demand.

  * In 2020, Bangladesh received USD 21.75 billion in overseas remittances, accounting for 6.6 percent of the GDP for the same period, which indicates that this is the main channel of foreign capital inflow for the country and a main pillar of its economic growth.

- The Bangladeshi government needs to strengthen ICT-related higher education on subjects such as Robots and Artificial Intelligence in preparation for the Fourth Industrial Revolution.

□ **Korea's Aid Capacity**

○ Korea has experience in successfully achieving industrialization through human resource development, including the nurturing of an industrial workforce, and also has strengths in areas such as ▲ **the development of vocational training models** and vocational education and training on various areas including ▲ **automobiles, engineering, electric**/electronics, ICT, etc.

- In particular, as more **construction and engineering companies** seek to participate in Bangladesh infrastructure projects and **manufacturing companies make further inroads** into Bangladesh's promising market, it is expected to lead to the **expansion of the basis for linkage between vocational education and employment**.

[2] Transportation

□ **Development Needs**

○ Bangladesh is situated in a **geographically-advantageous location** that connects Southwest and Southeast Asia, thereby allowing the country to **potentially** become **a maritime gateway** for landlocked countries such as Nepal and Bhutan and **a land route** that links India and Indochina.

- Against this backdrop, Bangladesh is striving to leap forward to become a transport and logistics hub in South Asia through the improvement of railways and airports, for instance, under the **South Asia Subregional Economic Corridor (SASEC) program** designed to enhance transport connectivity with its regional neighboring countries.

○ On the other hand, **reckless development** and the **absence of systematic transport infrastructure, caused by rapid urban growth in major cities** such as Dhaka and Chattogram have become key obstacles to the acceleration of economic growth.

   − Accordingly, Bangladesh is striving to respond to an increase in traffic volume through the **improvement of metropolitan transport systems**, including the overhaul of road and railway facilities and the establishment of urban railways, while also **establishing sustainable urban transport systems** to ensure punctuality and efficiency.

□ **Korea's Aid Capacity**

○ Korea has experience in establishing low-cost, high-efficiency transport systems that ensure the interconnectivity of transportation through the establishment and implementation of systematic and phase-based national development plans.

   − In particular, Korea has a **comparative advantage in ICT systems** that enhance the efficiency of operation for infrastructure including intelligent transport systems, urban and national railway signal control systems, and port logistics information systems.

○ Meanwhile, with the increased participation of Korean construction and engineering enterprises in Bangladesh's large-scale infrastructure projects, which have been assisted by multilateral development banks (MDBs) such as the World Bank and the Asian Development Bank (ADB), awareness of Korea's world-class technologies is on the rise.

[3] Water Management and Health/Hygiene

☐ **Development Needs**

○ **In the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic,** the Bangladesh government has **designated social infrastructure development such as** water management and health and hygiene **as its top national priority to ensure an improved quality of life for the general public.**

○ **(Water Management)** The government is striving to achieve its objectives of improving the quality of life for citizens, ensuring growth conditions in industries such as manufacturing, and securing environmental sustainability, by **achieving a sustainable water supply for the residential and industrial usage and establishing a sustainable water cycle system.**

  − In particular, as part of Bangladesh Delta Plan 2100, efforts are being made to efficiently respond to climate change and disasters through the enhancement of water supply and treatment capacity.

○ **(Health Care) Chronic problems** were revealed in Bangladesh's **public health system** in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic, such as **outdated health care facilities and the shortage of health care personnel,** and in particular the low level of access to medical services for low-income, marginalized groups.

☐ **Korea's Aid Capacity**

○ **(Water Management)** Korea **has experience in the development and management of water resources** with the aim to establish sustainable water cycle management systems and flood early-warning systems, for instance.

－ In particular, based on its world-class water resource management technology and systems, Korea has recently been accelerating its advancement into the overseas water resource market.

○ **(Health Care)** Korea has extensive experience in the establishment of public health systems, including **advanced and systematic hospital systems, infectious disease response programs,** and local health care systems, in addition to its comparative advantage in its **robust pool of outstanding health care personnel**.

－ Based on its utilization of advanced quarantine programs immediately after the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020, Korea has greatly contributed to enhancing the capacity of Bangladesh's response to the pandemic by **expediently providing** the host country **with budget loans for its quarantine responses and urgent grant of medical equipment and supplies**.

[4] Public Administration

☐ **Development Needs**

○ Bangladesh is seeking to improve its business management environment by enhancing the quality and transparency of public administration.

－ The objective has been set as the establishment of e-government systems, embracing the **standardization and computerization of the government's administrative systems** and the **establishment of digital national administrative services.** Bangladesh **emphasizes cooperation in the digital sector in the Fourth Industrial Revolution, specifically with regard to Artificial Intelligence, Robots, and Quantum Computers.**

- Under the slogan "Digital Bangladesh," continuous efforts have been made to computerize administrative services in each branch of government, but **systematic development has not been securely made** to ensure user friendliness and **prevent investment overlaps between systems**.

- In particular, it is necessary to improve public administration through efforts such as the **computerization of geospatial information, such as cadastral information, and information on the payment of taxes and customs clearance.**

□ **Korea's Aid Capacity**

○ Based on its global competitive advantages in ICT, Korea has established extensive e-administration systems and nationwide administrative services, subsequently **growing into a powerhouse** in the field of e-government systems.

- Korea has experience in successfully **advancing administrative services** through the computerization of various public services, including cadastral and geospatial information systems, a customs duties and clearance system, and a taxation and tax payment system, combined with its experience in **enhancing the transparency and fairness of administrative systems**.

III. Proposed Assistance

[1] Education

☐ Basic Direction

○ With the aim to nurture the industrial workforce and expand opportunities for overseas employment, support the strengthening of vocational training systems and the provision of quality higher education to foster a specialized and skilled workforce.

  − In particular, enhance the effectiveness of projects through the strengthening of the linkage between **grant-based and loan-based cooperation projects** in the vocational training area, while designing such projects to reflect the labor demand among companies that advance into local markets, thereby generating the benefits of reciprocal aid.

○ Meanwhile, **expand educational opportunities for women and those in rural areas and other underserved areas,** and thereby ensure the right to education for the vulnerable and achieve a reduction in poverty.

  − In particular, provide **assistance for ICT education** with the aim to reduce the digital divide for marginalized groups, thereby contributing to the resolution of information inequality.

☐ Korea's Contributions and Implementation Plan

○ With the aim to support the strengthening of vocational training systems, Korea plans to conduct a range of projects in reflection of the labor demand at home and abroad, including the **establishment of vocational education and training centers, provision of educational equipment and supplies**, **systematization of curriculums**, **establishment of accreditation systems for technical competence and qualification**, and **capacity building for teachers**.

○ Korea plans to conduct a range of projects to assist in strengthening education systems for marginalized groups, such as the modernization and new establishment of ICT education and training centers in each region, provision of ICT education equipment and supplies to elementary, middle, and high schools, and capacity building for teachers in local educational facilities.

‒ In particular, in relation to support for strengthening the education community for each local community with the aim to alleviate regional imbalances in education services, Korea plans to actively seek measures to cooperate with **local NGOs that have close ties with the community**.

[2] **Transportation**

□ **Basic Directions**

○ Support Bangladesh's effort to expand its transport infrastructure through linkage with the facility investment plan for railways, roads and harbors, while also assisting the **establishment of strategic transport plans and improvement of related systems** to secure interconnectivity among various means of transportation.

○ In particular, **facilitate the exploration of business opportunities for joint financing with MDBs** in consideration of the characteristics of transport infrastructure, which requires massive capital investment over a long-term period, while actively encouraging Korean enterprises to engage in private investment projects in the transport sector.

☐ **Korea's Contributions and Implementation Plan**

○ Contribute to the qualitative and quantitative improvement of transport infrastructure in Bangladesh through support for the **expansion of main transport networks** involving railways and roads and the **establishment of intelligence transport control systems**.

  － Contribute to the establishment of low-cost, high-efficiency transport systems in Bangladesh through support for the construction of major national bridges, intelligent railway and road signal control systems.

○ Support the establishment of strategic transport plans for major cities including Dhaka and Chattogram, and promote capacity-building projects for personnel in charge of national transport management.

○ **Seek to expand grant and loan aid to allow the stable participation of Korean enterprises in projects and generate the momentum to implement Bangladeshi transport infrastructure projects** in the pre-implementation phase of PPP transport projects that have been under discussion through the G2G PPP cooperation channel between Korea and Bangladesh.

[3] Water Management and Health/Hygiene

☐ **Basic Direction**

○ **(Water Management)** Support the **establishment of waterworks and sewerage infrastructure**, which will be instrumental in achieving a sustainable water cycle in Bangladesh, and the establishment of a disaster response system to deal with disasters including floods, thereby laying the foundation for economic and social development and promoting the welfare of local residents.

○ **(Health Care)** Advance public health systems through the **improvement of health care facilities and expansion of quality for health care personnel**, and **establish health care systems** through support for policy improvement, thereby enhancing access to health care services for the general public.

□ **Korea's Contributions and Implementation Plan**

○ **(Water Management)** Contribute to water management capacity building through the **modernization and expansion of waterworks and sewerage infrastructure** and the **establishment of education and research systems in the field of water management**, for instance.

  − Support the establishment of waterworks and sewerage infrastructure with the top priority placed on major residential and industrial districts.

  − Support the **establishment of education and training facilities and curriculums for personnel in charge of water resource management,** using a range of efforts such as the advancement of waterworks and sewerage systems, construction of water quality research facilities, capacity building for research personnel, and technical education for facility management.

  − Establish flood early-warning systems and provide related policy consultation.

○ **(Health Care)** Contribute to the **strengthening of health care systems** and **medical assistance for vulnerable groups**.

  − Implement a range of projects to strengthen health care systems, including **support for the expansion of tertiary hospitals** and **provision of cutting-edge medical equipment and supplies**, the establishment of training institutions for health care personnel and the enhancement of educational capacity, and expand access to medical services through the **establishment of region-specific health care systems**.

- Strengthen medical assistance for vulnerable groups by providing **response services for infectious diseases and vulnerable diseases that target medically-underserved areas**, and improve maternal and child health services by providing **clinical diagnosis and delivery services for mothers and babies**.

[4] Public Administration

☐ **Basic Direction**

○ Support the advancement and computerization of administrative services and the creation of e-government through the digitization of public systems in Bangladesh, thereby contributing to the enhanced efficiency, transparency and increased usability of administrative services.

- **Explore potential collaborative projects in areas related to the Fourth Industrial Revolution, including Artificial Intelligence, which is an area of interest for the Bangladeshi government.**

☐ **Korea's Contributions and Implementation Plan**

○ Continuously support the introduction and replacement of computerized public services that allow major public institutions to perform their roles and provide services to the general public in an efficient and transparent manner in linkage with **support for the establishment of a master plan for e-governance**.

- Assist the **analysis of informatization status for each sector** in specific areas of public administration, such as cadastral and geospatial information, tariffs and customs clearance, taxation and payment of taxes, cyber investigation, and disaster control, while supporting the **establishment of advanced electronic administration systems and public-facing administrative service systems**.

- Strengthen **public administrative service systems at the local government level,** thereby supporting citizens to easily access public services.

- Promote efforts such as educational **training, invitational training, and dispatch of specialists** in order to enhance understanding towards the necessity and advantages of the establishment of e-government.

IV. Performance Monitoring Guidelines

Recipient Country's Development Goal (Bangladesh's National Strategic Development)
To become an upper middle-income country and end absolute poverty by 2031, and become a high-income country by 2041

CPS Goal:
To improve the socio-economic environment through the acceleration of Bangladesh's economic growth

Priority Areas	Goals(s)	Limitation(s)	Outcome(s)	Performance Indicator(s)
Education	• To develop human resources through the provision of quality higher education and reinforced technical and vocational education - (SDG 4.3) Ensure equal access for all women and men to affordable and quality vocational and tertiary education - (SDG 4.4) Increase the number of youths and adults who have relevant skills for employment and decent jobs	• Lack of professional workforce and capacity in education • Lack of education infrastructure	• Strengthening the capacities of technical and vocational education, and ICT-related education • Establishment of education infrastructure and systems	• Number of teachers and students completing higher education and technical vocational education • Increased number of technical and vocational education institutions • Number of developed/revised curriculum and educational materials
Transportation	• To establish a comprehensive transport master plan based on the expansion of transport infrastructure, and improve inter-regional connectivity - (SDG 11.2) Provide accessible and sustainable transport systems and improve road safety by expanding public transport	• Lack of transport infrastructure supply for carrying passengers and goods • Lack of urban transportation planning and management capacities	• Improvement of the transport environment and establishment of the comprehensive transport infrastructure • Strengthening the capacities of personnel in charge of transport management	• Increased volume of passengers and goods transported using transport facilities • Shortened inter-regional movement time and improved punctuality of railway traffic signal systems
Water Management and Health/Hygiene	• To ensure the stable supply of water through the enhanced capacities of water supply and treatment, and respond to climate change - (SDG 6.1) Provide universal and equitable access to	• Lack of waterworks and sewerage infrastructure and high dependence on underground water • Lack of health and sanitation infrastructure and	• Construction of waterworks and sewerage infrastructure and establishment of water management research systems • Enhancement of the health	• Increased supply rate of waterworks and sewerage facilities and enhanced sanitation status of drinking water • Reduction of

	safe and affordable drinking water for all - (SDG 13.1) Strengthen adaptive capacity to climate-related hazards and natural disasters • To increase access to health care services through the advancement of public health systems - (SDG 3.3) End the epidemics of AIDS, tuberculosis, malaria and neglected tropical diseases and other infectious and communicable diseases - (SDG 3.8) Achieve universal health coverage, including access to quality essential health-care services and access to medicines and vaccines for all	shortage of medical personnel	service environment through the construction of medical facilities and improvement of health care personnel capacity	floods and flood damage • Number of newly-established medical facilities and newly-trained medical personnel • Reduction in the number of patients with communicable and infectious diseases
Public Administration	• To enhance the transparency and efficiency of public administration through the capacity building of e-government and the public sector - (SDG 16.6) Develop effective, accountable, and transparent institutions at all levels	• Absence of computerized national administrative information (geographic information, tax payment information, etc.) • Inadequate ICT infrastructure	• Expanding the functions of the government's integrated data center • Supporting the introduction of ICT systems	• Launch of services of the government information system • Improved data processing rate of the government's integrated data center • Number of digital public systems established at public institutions • Number of users of digital public systems • Reduction of task-processing time