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“CHALLENGES OF POVERTY ALLIVIATION & SOCIAL SAFETY NET PROGRAMMES IN BANGLADESH”

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BANGLADESH AT A GLANCE



Bangladesh at a Glance

Area :147,570 sq km

Population : 164 million (2016)

Poverty rate: 23 %,

extreme poverty : 12.9%

Committee for Development Policy CDP report to ECOSOC on LDC graduation of Bangladesh 2018)

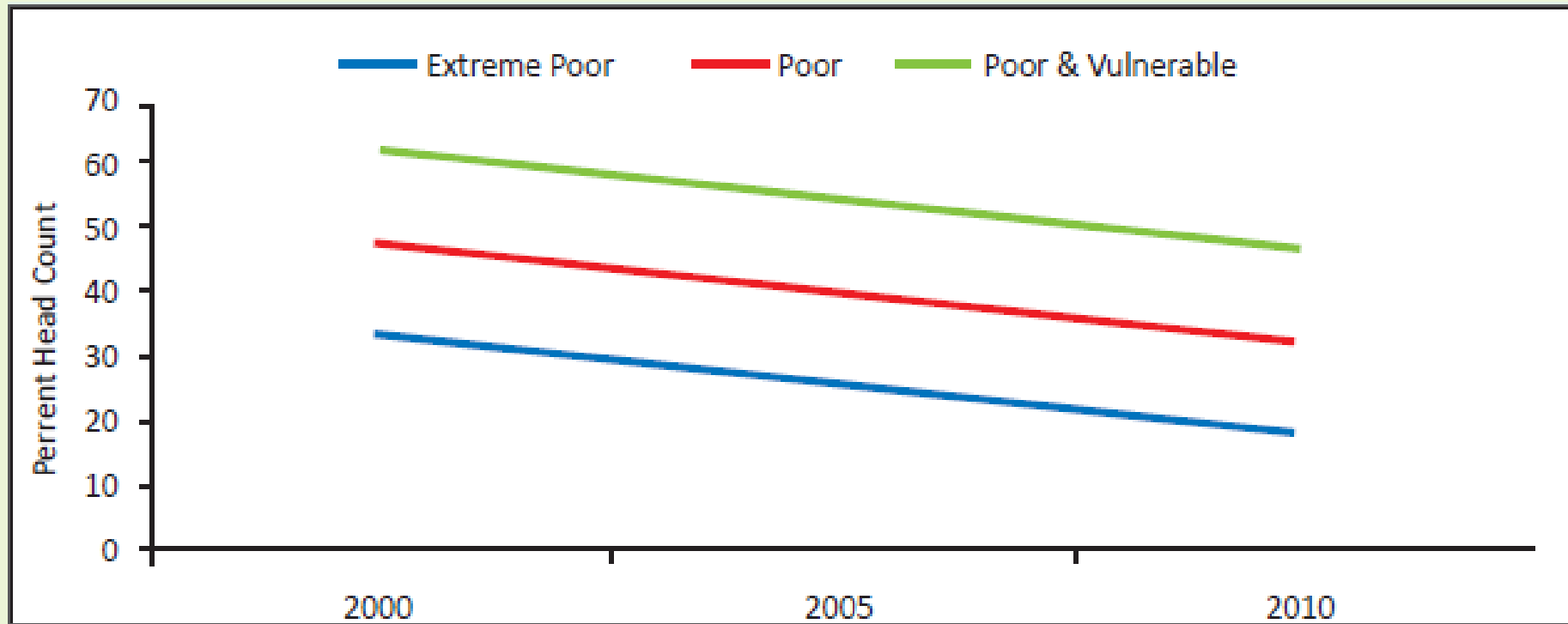
Income per capita GNI need 1230 or greater : 1272 USD (2014 to 2016)

Human Asset Index score need 66 or greater : 72.8

Economic Vulnerability Index need 32 or less: 25

GDP Growth Rate: 7.24

Trend in Poverty Reduction in BGD



Source: HIES 2000,2005 and 2010, BBS

Profile of Poverty

- According to the World Bank Organization :

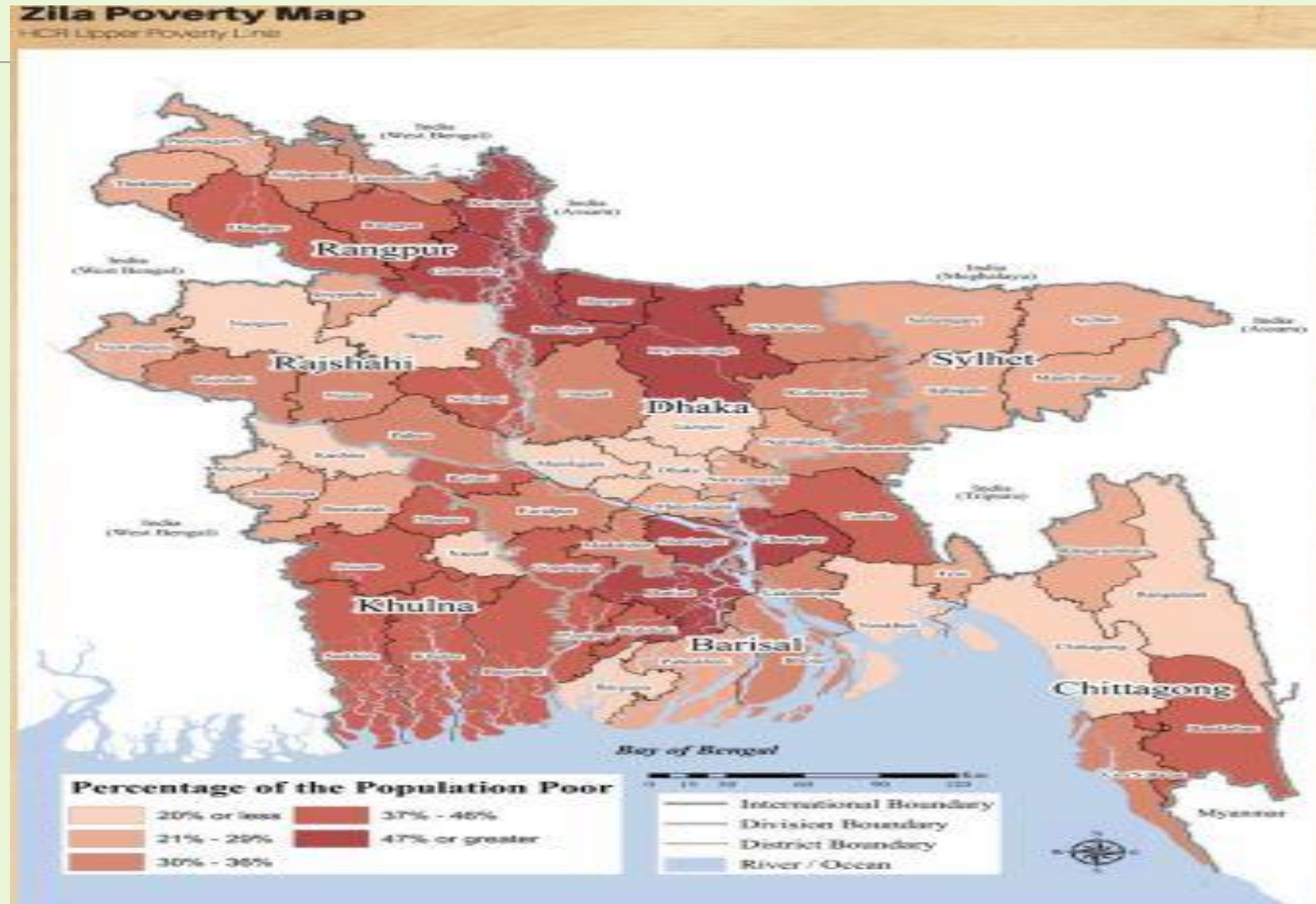
“Poverty is hunger, lack of shelter, being sick and not being able to see a doctor, not having access to school and not knowing how to read, not having a job, is fear for the future, living one day at a time.

Poverty has many faces, changing from place to place and across time, and has been described in many ways. Most often, poverty is a situation people want to escape. So poverty is a call to action -- for the poor and the wealthy alike -- a call to change the world so that many more may have enough to eat, adequate shelter, access to education and health, protection from violence, and a voice in what happens in their communities.”

- The Preferred method for poverty estimation is the Cost of Basic Needs (CBN).
- The CBN method is the standard method for estimating the incidence of poverty. This method is recommended by the World Bank .

Source: Preliminary Report on HIES survey 2016, BBS

Poverty Map of BD (Source: Poverty Maps of BD 2010, The World Bank)



Social Safety Nets in Bangladesh

- 13% of its annual expenditure is using to its Social Safety net programmes
- Reach to 11 Million HHs (2016)
- 145 SSN programmes are implemented
- 23 line agencies/departments are involved

Present Situation of Bangladesh

- On the 98th birthday of Sheikh Mujibur Rahman the father of the nation, UNESCO gave us the recognition as Lower Middle Income Country.
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The Position of BD in Development Index

Discerning	Standard measure 2018	CDP	BBS
Per Capita Income	1230 USD (Average of last 3 years)	1272 USD	1271 USD
Human Development Index	66 or more than 66	72.8	72.9
Economic transitory Index	32 or less than 32	25	24.8

GO's Initiatives

(Source: A handbook on SDG, GED, planning commission)

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- The 7FYP aims to reduce extreme poverty by about 4% to around 8.9% by FY20
 - Support for human capital development for the extreme poor
 - Expanded & inclusive social protection programmes for the extreme poor
 - Enhanced focus on food productivity and food security
 - Emphasis on worker service exports in order to increase the inflow of remittances with efforts to expand the opportunities to less served areas

- School stipend for all primary and secondary school going children

▪ Program of financial support to vulnerable women (widows, divorced, destitute, single mother and unemployed single women)

▪ Old Age Allowance for senior citizens who are aged 60 years and above & belong to the poor & vulnerable situation

▪ Supporting grants to Micro savings for the poor & vulnerable groups

▪ Implementation of Social Security Policy Support Programme

- Support small and marginal farmers in producing diversified crop suitable for both markets and household consumption to improve their nutritional status.

- Encourage research on adaptation to climate change and proper use of genetically modified technology agriculture.

- Eliminating violence against women through adequate reporting of incidents and medical, legal and psychological treatment.

- Civil society movements against child marriage

Types of Programme under SSNP

(Source: Preliminary Report on HIES survey 2016, BBS)

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- Ananda School (ROSE)
 - Stipend for Primary Students
 - School feeding Program
 - Stipend for Secondary & Higher Secondary Student
 - Stipend for Drop out student
 - Stipend for Disabled Students
 - Old age allowance
 - Widow, Deserted & Destitute Women Allowances
 - Maternal health voucher allowance
 - Honorarium for insolvent freedom fighters
 - Honoraria & Medical Allowances for injured freedom fighters
 - Vulnerable Group Development (VGD)

- Vulnerable Group Feeding (VGF)
 - General Relief Activities
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- Gratuitous relief (GR)- Food/Cash
 - Allow. For beneficiaries in Ctg. Hill tract area
 - Food Assistance in Ctg. Hill Tracts Area
 - Employment gen. Programme for hard core poor or 100 days
 - Food/Cash for Work (FFW/CFW)
 - Test Relief(TR) food (Cash)
 - One Household One Farm
 - Housing Support
 - Agriculture rehabilitation
 - Targeted Ultra Poor (TUP) (BRAC)
 - Char Livelihood
 - Save the Children
 - Others.

Evaluation of Safety Nets in Bangladesh



1970s

Public works and **food aid** in the post war, flood affected country facing food shortage



1980s

Transition from **relief to development** oriented safety nets



1990s

Introduction of **conditional transfers** i.e. food for education (as a more effective use of food aid), female student stipend etc.



2000s

Graduation goals: shift from protection to protection & promotion by **building resilience**; and **geographic targeting**



2010s

Employment guarantee, and continuation of conditional transfers and **graduation** oriented programs

Key Challenges of Social Safety Nets in Bangladesh

- No formal mechanism for sharing information among the implementing ministries/divisions
- Lack of Inter ministerial coordination
- Absence of effective monitoring and evaluation
- The budget for most programme is small and the average benefit per individual is low

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Vulnerable Group Development (VGD) Programme



Origin of Vulnerable Group Development (VGD) Programme

As a humanitarian response to food insecurity in a war and natural disaster affected country, the GoB introduced VGF, a food based relief programme in 1975



The VGF Programme was reoriented from relief to development with focus on women, to become VGD in 1982

Key Features of Vulnerable Group Development (VGD) Programme

- Country's largest Social Safety Net
- Two-year programmes
- 18-50 year old women get support
- Transfers of 30 kg of rice per month for a 24 month cycle, with an estimated value of BDT 900 (10 USD) per month.
- Women also receive training on maternal health, nutrition, livelihood activities and support to establish small enterprises, delivered by 248 NGOs across the country

Strength and Weakness of VGD Programme

☐ Strengths-

- Focus on training on maternal health, nutrition, livelihood activities and support to establish small enterprises
- Tripartite relationship between Government, local government officials, NGOs and the community's poor

☐ Weakness-

- Often the elderly and least physically mobile, are least able to participate in the training
- livelihoods training is not always adapted to local contexts
- Do not receive the capital to launch income-generating activities

Challenges of Govt.

- The population of BD is one of the major problems to the economic growth of BD.
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- Although over population is curse for a country but now for BD it is a blessing because we are enjoying the Demographic Dividend. So to make a skilled, active & capable man power is the present challenge for Govt .
 - The political instability is another big obstacle to the economic growth of BD although the Present Govt. is trying to resolve the problem & as a result we are enjoying the advantages of lower middle income country.
 - Environment & natural calamities plays a vital role against the economic growth
 - Corruption is the biggest barrier for a stable economic growth of a nation.

Initiatives from meet the challenges

- Govt. is trying to increase the number of rural development training institute so that it can contribute positively to make skilled manpower.
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- Govt. is trying to form a co-operative farming for the Small & landless farmers.
 - Govt. promotes the Banks & financial institution to pay more attention on small & medium scale enterprises instead of corporate services.
 - Govt. is trying to increase the micro-credit loan limits to make the poverty alleviation initiative dynamic.
 - Modern information & communication technology trying to use effectively to increased rural production, so that it can boost their marketing system & the Govt. is working on this issue.
 - To reach the desired goal the GOs & NGOs are working with the same goal poverty alleviation and ensure peace, security & prosperity. .

Thank You

