

Scoping Analysis of National Budget Allocation for **Ending Child Marriage** in Bangladesh



Child marriage remains a common practice in Bangladesh, with significant cost to individuals, society and the economy. Young girls are the most affected: Child marriage disrupts their educational and economic opportunities, raises their exposure to violence and abuse, and threatens their health and their children's.



The Government of Bangladesh has placed a strong focus on the problem at the highest political levels and developed a **National Plan of Action (NPA)**. At the UK Girls' Summit, Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina committed Bangladesh to end marriage for children under age 15 by 2021, and for all girls under age 18 by 2041.



The goal of the present scoping analysis is to identify and assess budget commitments and releases potentially relevant to **End Child Marriage (ECM)**, for the period between FY2010/11 and FY2015/16.



SECTION
01

The Situation

3.8 M

women ages 20-24 were married before age 18



4th

highest prevalence of early childbearing in the world

3rd

highest proportion of child marriage in the world



Girls are more likely to marry early if they haven't completed secondary education

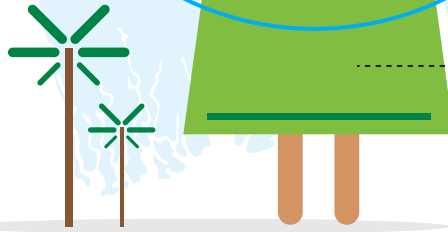


1/3

of all girls become mothers by the time they turn 18 (pregnancy rate: 31%)

1/5

girls were married before age 15



UNICEF defines "child marriage" as "the formal or informal union of a child (under age 18) with an adult or another child."

Determinants of Child Marriage



Gendered social norms and harmful practices



Perceived lower value of the girl child



Social insecurity and issues of safety



Unequal education and livelihood opportunities



Hightened vulnerability due to natural disasters

Approaches and Strategies to End Child Marriage



Keep girls in school



Prevent violence against women and girls



Provide access to adolescent-friendly services



Relieve households from the pressure from poverty



Raise community awareness



Appropriate legislative framework

SECTION 02

Aim, Scope and Methodology of Scoping Analysis

Understanding how much and how well existing resources contribute to ending child marriage is essential to operationalize the NPA.



AIM

To contribute towards full baseline assessment of government expenditure to ECM.



METHODOLOGY

Aggregate ECM-relevant programs into three categories, based on level of interactivity with targeted beneficiaries.



OBJECTIVE

Identify and analyze budget commitments and releases relevant to ECM between FY2010/11 and FY2015/16.



Category 1: Projects and Programmes (P/P) directly targeting the girl child



Category 2: P/P supporting families and other agents preventing early child marriage



Category 3: P/P that strengthen legal and policy frameworks, research and evidence generation

SECTION 03

Main Findings

1 Budgetary resources committed to ECM-relevant programs/projects

The scoping study identified 64 ECM-relevant programs (7) and projects (57).

BDT 138 B

Total revised budget for the period FY2010/11 - 2015/16 (US\$ 1,754 million).

1.2%



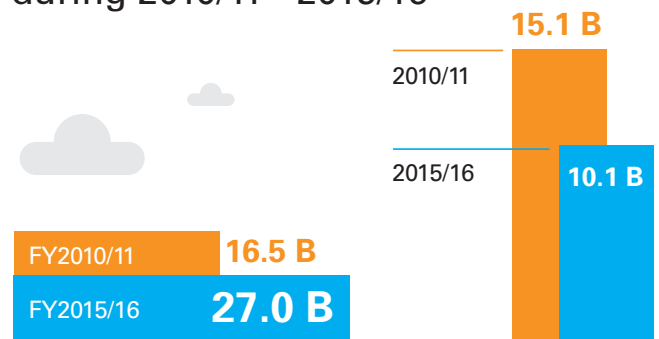
Budget represents 1.2% of the total government budget on average per period.



BDT 3,764

Total spent in programs aimed to reduce at-risk female population ages 10-18 years old per person, per year.

2 Total budgeted amounts of ECM-relevant programs/projects during 2010/11 - 2015/16



63%

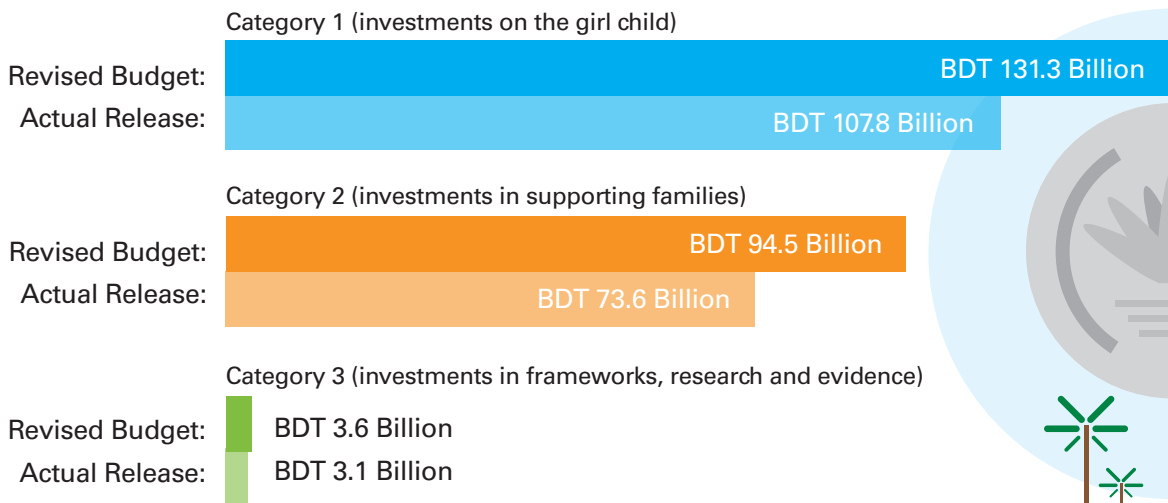
Increase in revised budget commitments in the past six years: from BDT 16.5 billion (\$ 210 million) in FY2010/11 to BDT 27.0 billion (\$ 343 million) in FY2015/16.

33%

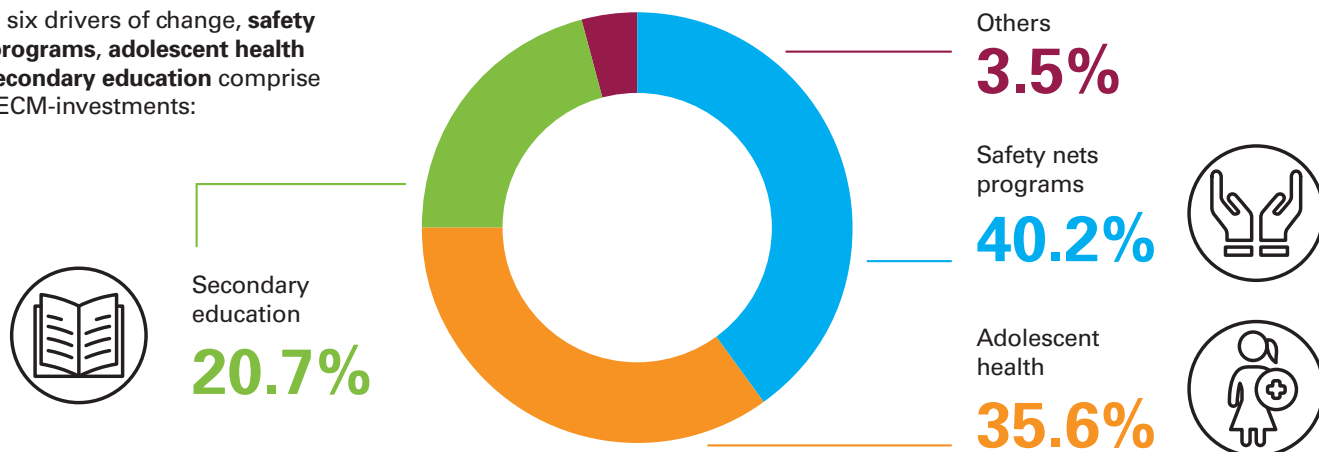
Actual budget to ECM-relevant programs/projects was 33% lower in FY2015/16 compared to FY2010/11.

Average annual investments on ECM-relevant programs/projects

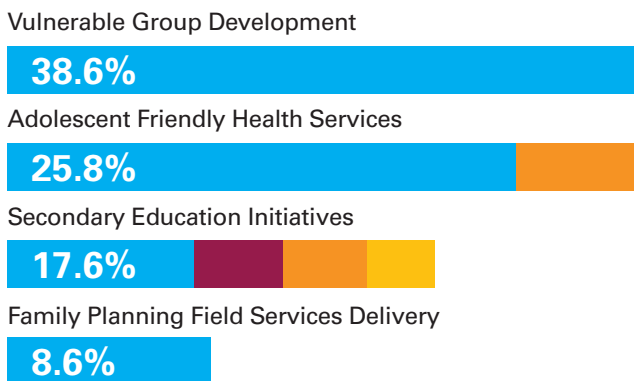
Revised budget values and actual release of amounts of ECM-relevant interventions, by type of investments, period average (FY2010/11 - 2015/16).



Of the six drivers of change, **safety nets programs, adolescent health** and **secondary education** comprise most ECM-investments:



92.8% of total investments addressing child marriage drivers are concentrated in ten major interventions



Conclusion and Policy Recommendations

In spite of the 57 projects and seven development programs relevant to ECM covering all categories of investments and drivers of change, the size of budgetary resources remains limited. The amounts allocated to community awareness and protection from gender-based violence appear as particularly negligible.

In light of these results, the recommended next steps are:



1 Identify the girls at high risk of child marriage as the direct beneficiaries, ensure efficient delivery of ECM programs, and consider the issues around married adolescent girls and their eligibility for cash transfer and other initiatives.



2 Involve all ministries in exploring ways to improve ECM sensibility of programs/projects and routine operations:



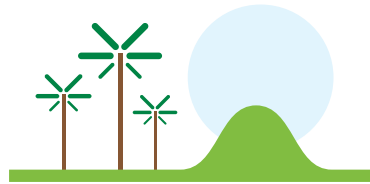
Improve beneficiary targeting to adolescent girls at risk



Redefine objectives to explicitly include targeting adolescent girls to reduce the current rate of ECM



When appropriate, introduce beneficiaries to programs/projects conditionally, to ensure their commitment to remain unmarried until age 18



3 Conduct data collection and analysis of ECM expenditure at sub-national level and establish a mechanism to monitor investments.



4 Following NPA approval, use the ECM public expenditure assessment as the baseline to determine the action plan's implementation budget, monitor funding and possibly prompt financing from non-governmental organizations.

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This e-book has been based on the report "A Scoping Analysis of Budget Allocation for Ending Child Marriage in Bangladesh", Ministry of Finance, Ministry of Women and Children Affairs, Government of Bangladesh and UNICEF, 2018