

# Bridging the Gap:

## Mapping Gender Data Availability in Asia and the Pacific

# BANGLADESH COUNTRY PROFILE

*Bridging the Gap: Mapping Gender Data Availability in Asia and the Pacific* traces the availability and quality of data for 98 gender indicators across six key domains: health, education, economic opportunity, political participation, human security, and environment. The study covers five countries in Asia and the Pacific.

Bangladesh lacks comprehensive gender data. Many health, economic, and environmental indicators lack sex-disaggregated data in national databases. In both national and international databases, there is a lack of data in the health domain.

The Government of Bangladesh acknowledges the lack of sex-disaggregated data that hinders the ability to monitor progress towards the SDGs and to monitor progress towards other national development strategies and plans.

### Bangladesh lacks data on key aspects of women's lives

Bridging the Gap assesses indicators published online between 2010 and 2020 in international and national databases maintained by the Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics and other official sources. Gaps were identified in four dimensions.



AVAILABILITY

Bangladesh's national databases include **82 out of the 98 gender indicators**.



DISAGGREGATION

**27 gender indicators** in Bangladesh's national databases lack sex disaggregation.



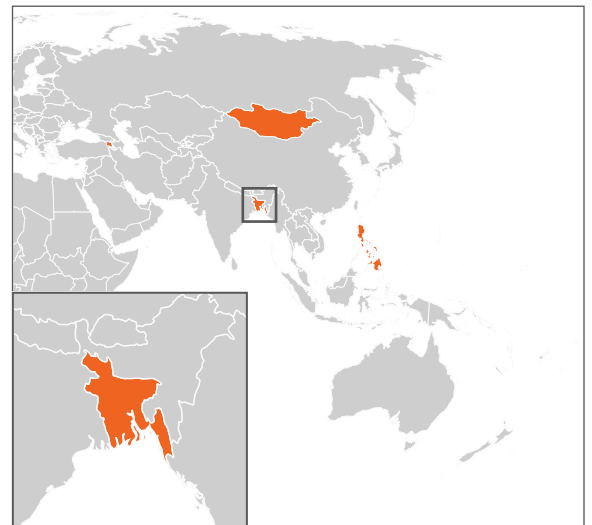
ADHERENCE TO STANDARDS

**4 published gender indicators** in Bangladesh's national databases do not conform to internationally recommended definitions.



TIMELINESS

**4 gender indicators** in Bangladesh's national databases have no published observations since 2015.



Bangladesh is among the five countries in Asia and the Pacific that are included in this study.

### Opportunities to improve gender data in Bangladesh

Closing gender data gaps requires time, resources, and capacity. But there is a path to an improved gender data ecosystem:



Use Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics' **SDG Tracker** as the main repository to publish national SDG indicators, with detailed metadata accompanying the indicator.



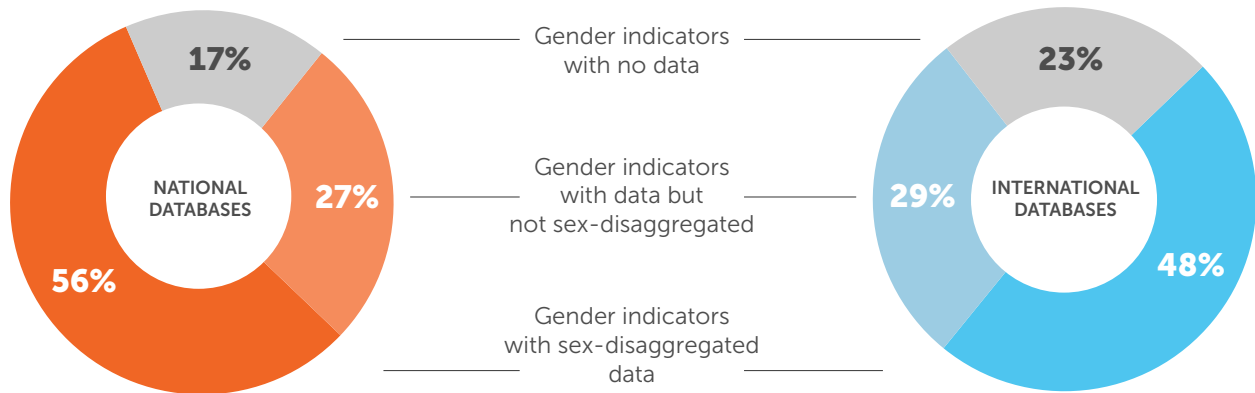
Provide more sex-disaggregated data from the health domain in national databases, particularly for morbidity and mortality.



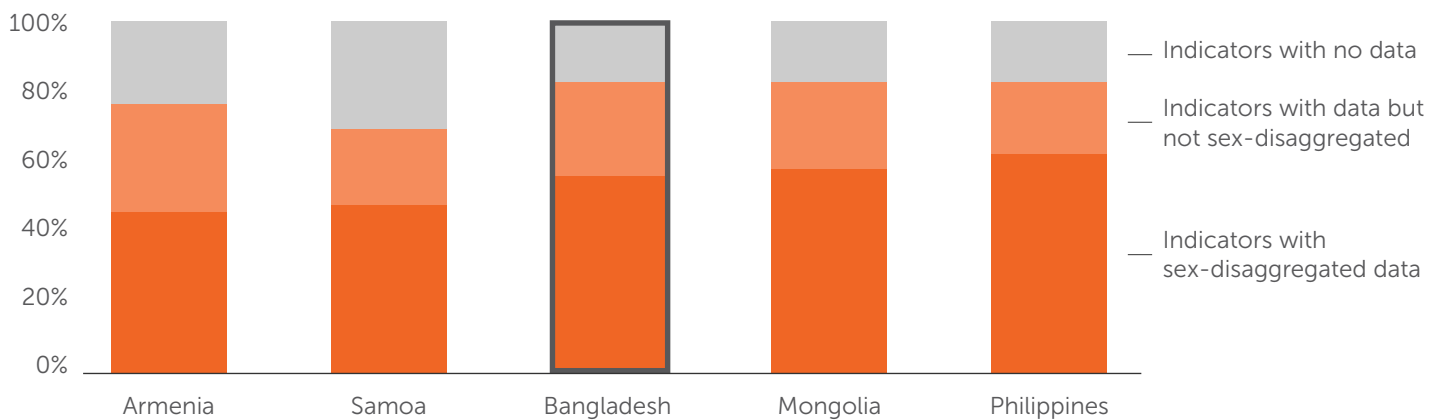
Provide more sex-disaggregated data from the environment domain or conduct further analysis of household data to show how women and girls are affected by environmental conditions.

## A closer look at gender data gaps

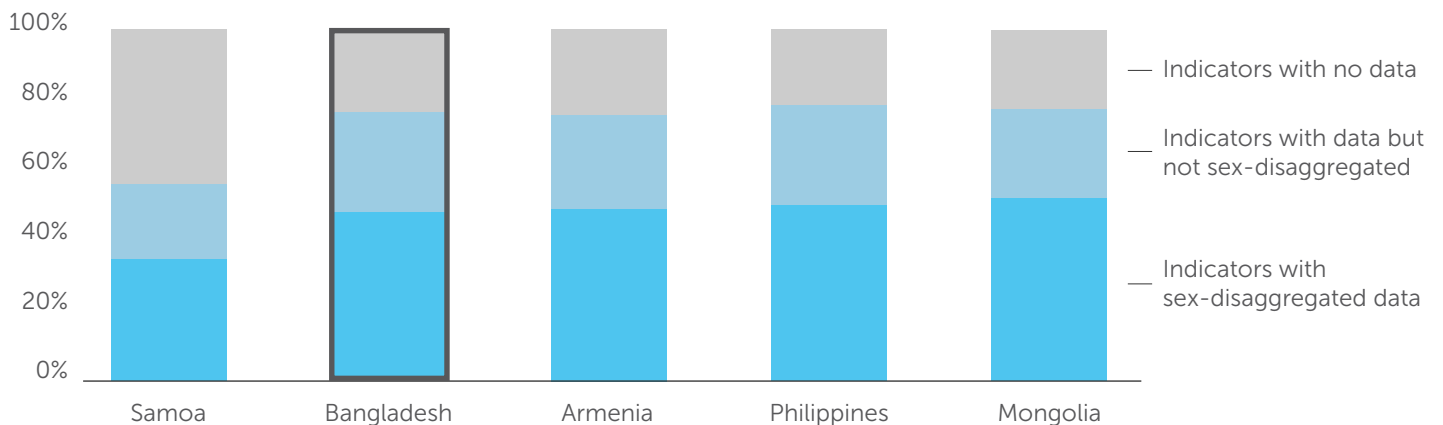
This study assesses data in both national and international databases. Bangladesh's national databases lack data for 17 percent of the gender indicators reviewed. Databases maintained by international organizations lack data for 24 percent of the gender indicators reviewed.



Bangladesh publishes an average number of sex-disaggregated gender indicators in **national databases** compared to other countries included in the study.

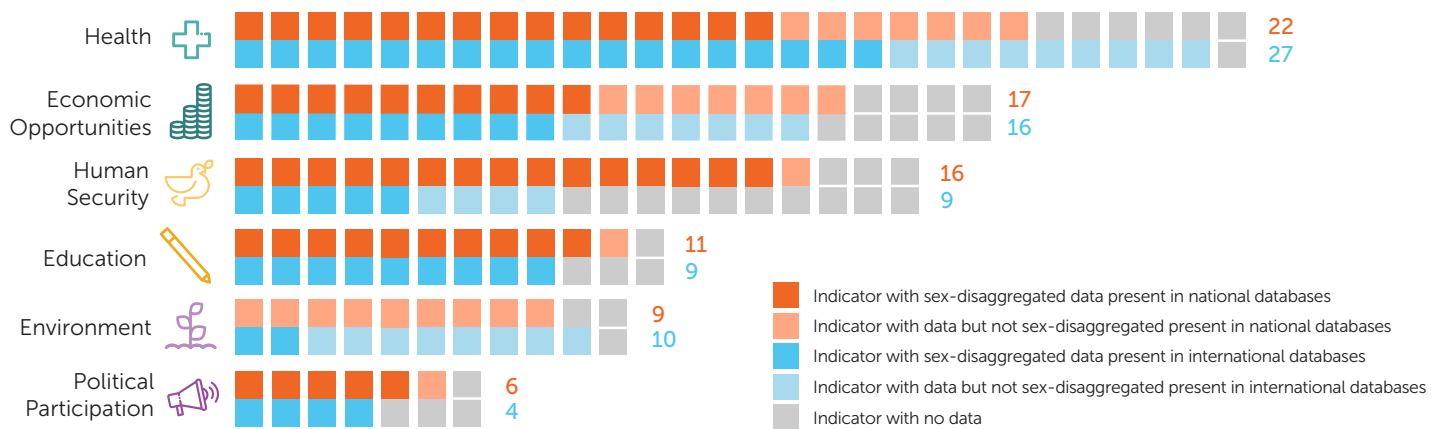


Bangladesh publishes fewer sex-disaggregated gender indicators in **international databases** than other countries included in the study.

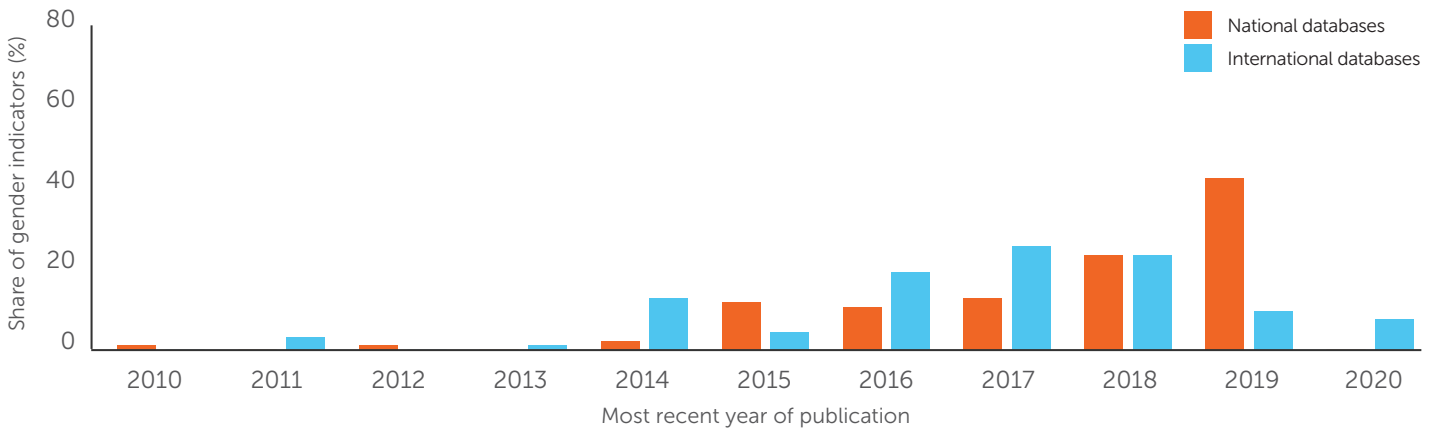


## Data availability and timeliness

In national databases, education and human security have the highest availability of data in Bangladesh, but gaps remain in the availability of sex-disaggregated data in all domains, particularly in the environmental domain.



Five percent of available gender indicators in Bangladesh’s national databases have had no published observations since 2015.



## Core systems to produce gender data

Many of the gender indicators in Bangladesh are produced through surveys. Since 2010, Bangladesh has produced two Household Income and Expenditure Survey and has conducted four household health surveys (such as DHS and MICS).

Surveys shown by most recent year of publication.



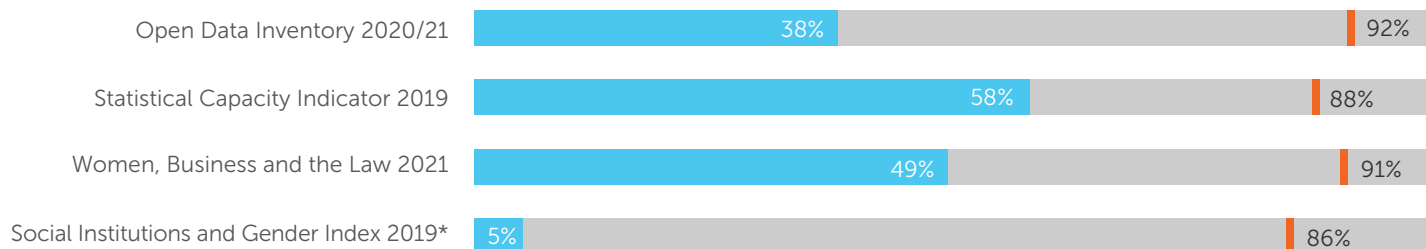
**Civil registration and vital statistics systems** provide basic demographic and health information and confer legal rights of great importance for women and children. Complete registration of vital events opens opportunities for women and combats discrimination and exclusion. The SDG Global Database provides birth registration rate data based on Demographic and Health Survey (DHS) data for 2019.

**56%** Birth registration rate in Bangladesh

Source: SDG Global Database <https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/indicators/database/>

## Assessments of Bangladesh's data ecosystem

Indexes of open data, statistical capacity, and gender equality provide a clearer picture of Bangladesh's statistical and legislative environment.



\* Score converted to percentile rank among 120 countries worldwide with scores.

Highest score for an Asia and Pacific country

## Plans, partnerships, and political support for gender data

Bangladesh is taking steps to improve data availability by mainstreaming gender data into national plans, engaging in partnerships, and mobilizing finances.

- Bangladesh's broadest statement on gender equality is contained in the Perspective Plan of Bangladesh 2021–2041 ("**Vision 2041**") where its goals are to transform Bangladesh into an upper middle-income country, to achieve the SDGs, and to eradicate poverty altogether by 2041.
- In 2019, Bangladesh conducted a **national review** of their implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action. According to the review, challenges in attaining progress towards the SDGs and gender equality include insufficient sex-disaggregated data and limited capacity to monitor progress towards existing laws or policies.
- In 2020, the Bangladesh Planning Commission released its **Gender Diagnostics, Policy, Strategy and Action Plan for the National Social Security Strategy of Bangladesh**, which has eight detailed commitments, from childhood support to climate resilience.

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To access the full report, please visit [bit.ly/BridgingtheGapAsia](https://bit.ly/BridgingtheGapAsia)



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