

# What Impact will the Pandemic have on SDG Delivery in Bangladesh?

*Keynote Presentation by*

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*at the Briefing and Review Session convened by the Citizen's Platform for SDGs, Bangladesh*

**Thursday, 10 March 2022**



Citizen's Platform for SDGs, Bangladesh

এসডিজি বাস্তবায়নে নাগরিক প্ল্যাটফর্ম, বাংলাদেশ



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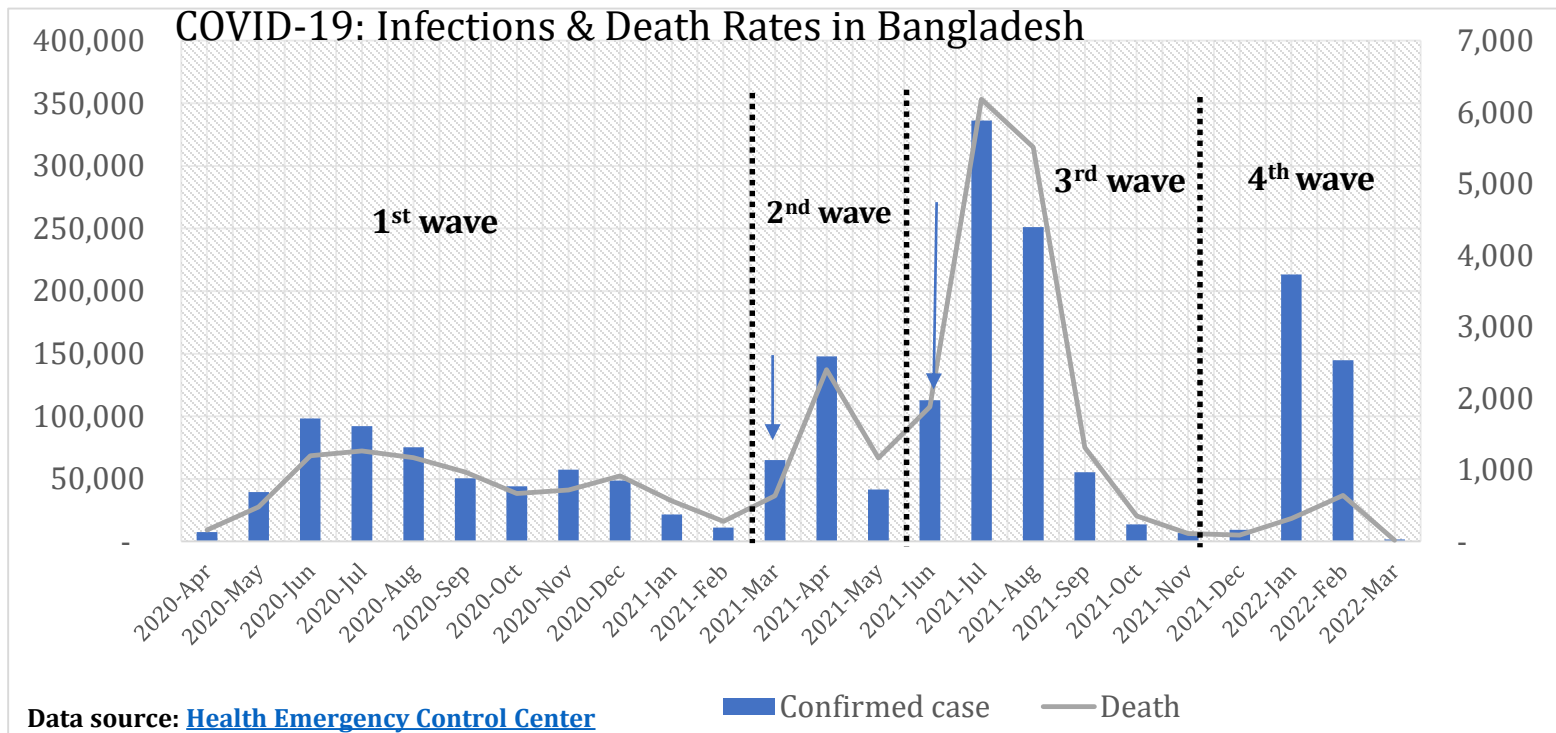


# 1. Background

- COVID-19 pandemic, started as health crisis, swiftly evolved into a global **humanitarian and socio-economic catastrophe**. Bangladesh is no exception.
- Relative to health shocks, socioeconomic repercussions are broad and severe in Bangladesh. Impact on livelihood and wellbeing **would be more protracted, magnifying existing inequalities**.
- Economic, social and health issues – triple blow of COVID-19 threaten **to rollback decades of SDG progress in Bangladesh** and create more hurdle for subsequent delivery.
- Vulnerable groups exposed to **disproportionate brunt**- are now risking of being further “left behind” and, in some cases, “pushed behind”.



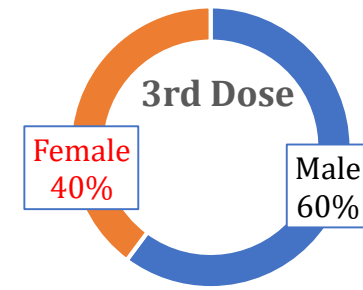
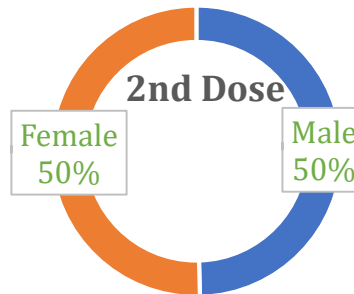
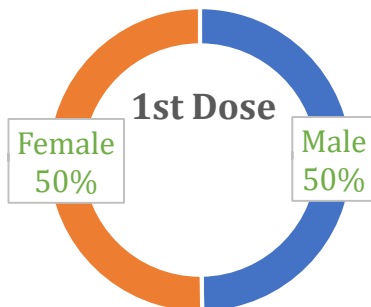
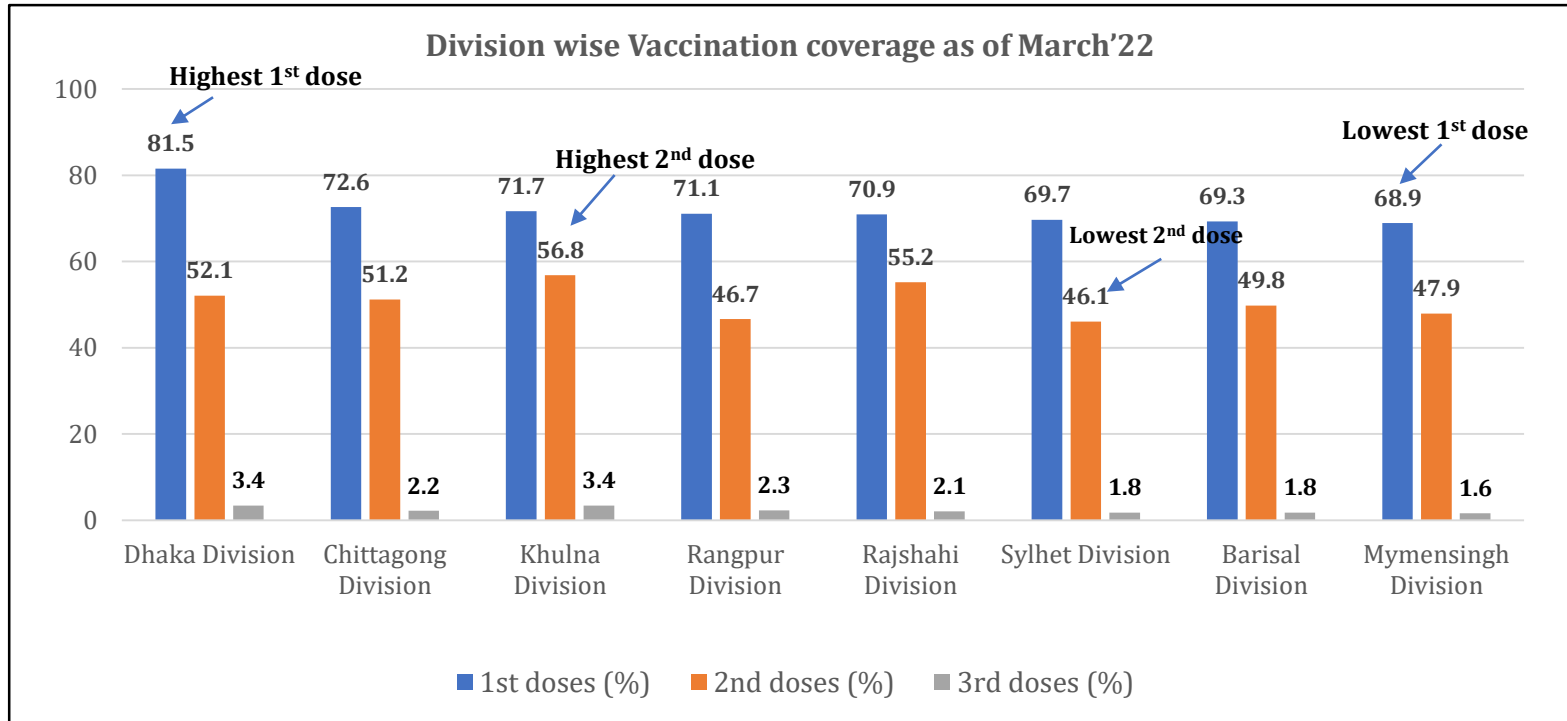
# 1. Background (contd...)



- *In terms of health implications, Bangladesh is a **moderately affected country**.*
- *As of recent data, in South Asia, Bangladesh stands 6<sup>th</sup> in terms of number of cases (174) and 5<sup>th</sup> for deaths (11,619) per 1 million population. Source: Worldometers*

# 1. Background (contd...)

## Vaccination coverage scenario by division and gender



Source: Authors' illustration based on data from COVID-19 Vaccination Dashboard for Bangladesh



## 2. The Study-Focus and Approach

Today we are reporting on a research study conducted by the Citizen's Platform for SDGs, Bangladesh. The two core objectives of the study are:

- i. To assess COVID-19 impact on SDGs in Bangladesh from perspectives of the vulnerable population.*
- ii. To articulate policy outlooks to align recovery efforts with SDGs to “build back better”.*

# 2. The Study-Focus and Approach (contd...)

**COVID-19 Impact Index**



- Index created based on expert consensus.
- 46 experts consulted across 4 pillars.

**Economic Pillar**  
(7 indicators)

**Social Pillar**  
(7 indicators)

**Environment Pillar**  
(7 indicators)

**Governance Pillar**  
(7 indicators)

- Intensity of Impact
- Time lag of Impact
- Synergy / Trade-off
- Disaggregated Impact

Understanding Impact

Measuring Impact

Policy Response Linkages

**ANALYTICAL FRAMEWORK**



# 3. Pre-COVID status of SDGs- The Benchmark

- Out of 28 indicators, pre-COVID scenario is presented for 14 indicators with available data. Among those, 10 are national priority targets with the most available data points.
- Only 1 indicator (SDG 3.2.1/NPT 6: Under-5 mortality) was on track to achieve 2030 target.
- 4 out of 14 (28%) indicators had an uneven progress.
- 9 out of 14 (64%) indicators stagnated or had progress reversed.

# 3. Pre-COVID status of SDGs-The Benchmark (contd...)



| SDG Indicators   | Uneven Progress | Stagnations &/or reversals | On Track | Remarks   |
|--|-----------------|----------------------------|----------|---|
| 1.2.1 (NPT 2) Population below national poverty line (%)           | ✓               |                            |          | 2030 Target: 7.02%<br>Persistent fall but slow decline rate in recent years |
| 8.3.1 Informal employment in non-agriculture /total employment (%) |                 | ✓                          |          | 2030 Target: 65%<br>Above 85% of total employment since 2010                |
| 8.6.1 (NPT 23) NEET youth population (%)                           |                 | ✓                          |          | 2030 Target: 3%<br>Remained high at around 28% since 2016                   |
| 3.2.1 (NPT 6) Under-5 mortality (per 1000 live births)             |                 |                            | ✓        | 2030 Target: 25%<br>Persistent decline, 2025 target achieved                |
| NPT 9 Primary education completion (%)                             | ✓               |                            |          | 2030 Target: 100%<br>95.5% completion rate in 2019                          |
| 5.2.1 Ever-partnered women subjected to violence by partner (%)    |                 | ✓                          |          | 2030 Target: 0%<br>High proportion, 54.7% in 2015                           |

**Source:** Author's illustration based on data from various sources

Chosen indicators based on data availability

Study name: Assessing COVID-19 Impact on SDG Delivery in Bangladesh: Framework, Measurement and Perspectives

Deb Bhattacharya et. al: Briefing & Review on Pandemic Impact on SDGs in Bangladesh: 10 Mar 2022



### 3. Pre-COVID status of SDGs-The Benchmark (contd...)

| SDG Indicators  | Uneven Progress | Stagnations &/or reversals | On Track | Remarks   |
|---|-----------------|----------------------------|----------|---|
| 5.3.1 (NPT 14) Women aged 20-24 yrs married before 15 (%)                     | ✓               |                            |          | 2030 Target: 0%<br>Falling trend, rate still high @ 19% in 2018             |
| 6.1.1 (NPT 17) Population using safely-managed drinking water (%)             |                 | ✓                          |          | 2030 Target: 100%<br>2030 target will remain unattended                     |
| 6.2.1 (NPT 18) Population using safely-managed sanitation service (%)         |                 | ✓                          |          | 2030 Target: 100%<br>2030 target will remain unattended                     |
| 7.2.1 (NPT 20) Renewable energy as share of total fine energy consumption (%) |                 | ✓                          |          | 2030 Target: 10%<br>Share only above 2.5% since 2015, rose to 3.25% in 2020 |

**Source:** Author's illustration based on data from various sources

Chosen indicators based on data availability

Study name: Assessing COVID-19 Impact on SDG Delivery in Bangladesh: Framework, Measurement and Perspectives



## 3. Pre-COVID status of SDGs-The Benchmark (contd...)

| SDG Indicators  | Uneven Progress | Stagnations &/or reversals | On Track | Remarks   |
|---|-----------------|----------------------------|----------|---|
| 16.3.2 Unsensitized detainees as share of prison population (%)                       |                 | √                          |          | 2030 Target: 40%<br>Rate high @81% in 2018                            |
| 16.5.2 Proportion of businesses that paid/were asked for bribe by public official (%) |                 | √                          |          | 2030 Target: 10%<br>Rate high @41% in 2013                            |
| 16.9.1 (NPT 36) Under-5 children with birth registration with civil authority (%)     | √               |                            |          | 2030 Target: 100%<br>Rate of increase inadequate to reach 2030 target |
| 17.1.1 (NPT 38) Government revenue as share of GDP (%)                                |                 | √                          |          | 2030 Target: 100%<br>Slow growth, 2030 target unattainable            |

**Source:** Author's illustration based on data from various sources

Chosen indicators based on data availability

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## 4. COVID-19 Impact on SDGs-The Index

COVID-19 affected every SDG pillar, almost **all indicators** and transmitted **multitude of challenges** to the vulnerable. This increased pre-existing vulnerabilities of the “**traditionally left behind**” and created new challenges for the “**newly pushed behind**”.

- ✓ No indicator experienced impact of a “low” severity.
- ✓ Impact ranged between “**medium**” (57% of indicators) to “**high severity**” (43% of indicators).
- ✓ **Effects expected to persist** into medium term (one to three years post second wave which started in mid-March 2021)
- ✓ **Disaggregated impact** (i.e., differential impact based on age, geographic location, occupation, income, gender, education, ethnicity, disability & identity) on vulnerable also substantial.

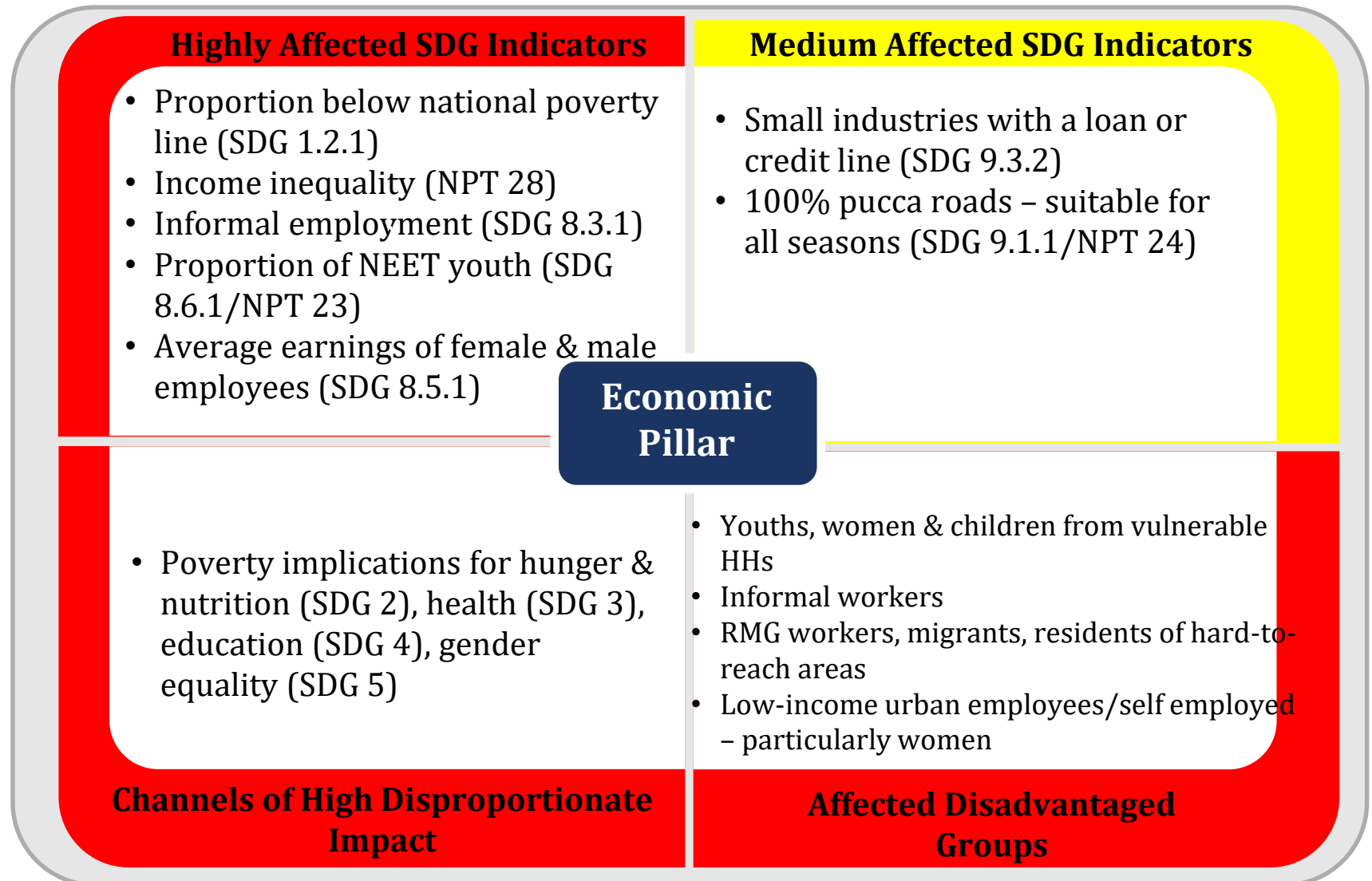
## 4. COVID-19 Impact on SDGs-The Index (contd...)

| SDG Pillars          |  |                          |                               |                              |
|----------------------|--|--------------------------|-------------------------------|------------------------------|
| Impact Dimensions    | Economic<br>(7 indicators)                   | Social<br>(7 indicators) | Environment<br>(7 indicators) | Governance<br>(7 indicators) |
| Intensity            | ● 0.69                                       | ● 0.66                   | ● 0.49                        | ● 0.61                       |
| Manifestation        | ● 0.72                                       | ● 0.58                   | ● 0.56                        | ● 0.72                       |
| Duration             | ● 0.55                                       | ● 0.58                   | ● 0.62                        | ● 0.56                       |
| Linkages             | ● 0.61                                       | ● 0.60                   | ● 0.55                        | ● 0.53                       |
| Disaggregated impact | ● 0.71                                       | ● 0.76                   | ● 0.68                        | ● 0.55                       |
|                      | <b>Aggregate index value for each pillar</b> |                          |                               |                              |
|                      | ● 0.67                                       | ● 0.67                   | ● 0.58                        | ● 0.58                       |

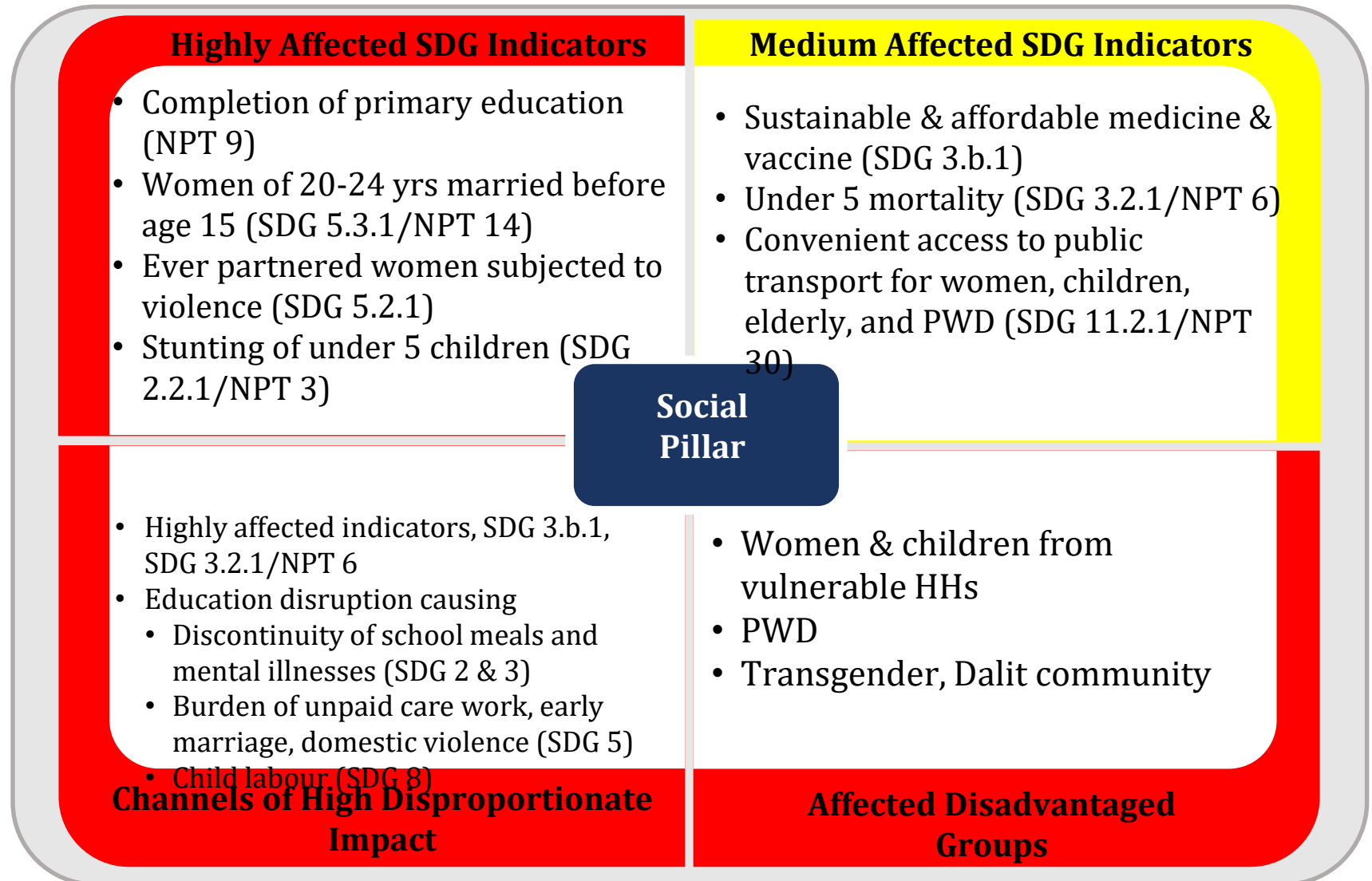
*Source: Authors' calculation based on methodology of COVID -19 Impact Index*

- **Economic pillar:** *The most affected pillar exposed to **highest impact intensity**. Impact manifested in the short term (within a year post 2<sup>nd</sup> wave) & perceived to channel high impact on disadvantaged group.*
- **Social pillar:** *High negative impact manifested in medium term (within 1 to 3 years post 2nd wave). **The pillar transmitted largest impact on disadvantaged groups.***
- **Environment pillar:** *Bore the lowest intensity of pandemic. Implications, however, associated with high impact on disadvantaged groups.*
- **Governance pillar:** *Pillar with relatively low impact intensity that manifested in the short term (within 1 year). **Transmitted medium-level impact on disadvantaged groups.***

## 4. COVID-19 Impact on SDGs-The Index (contd...)

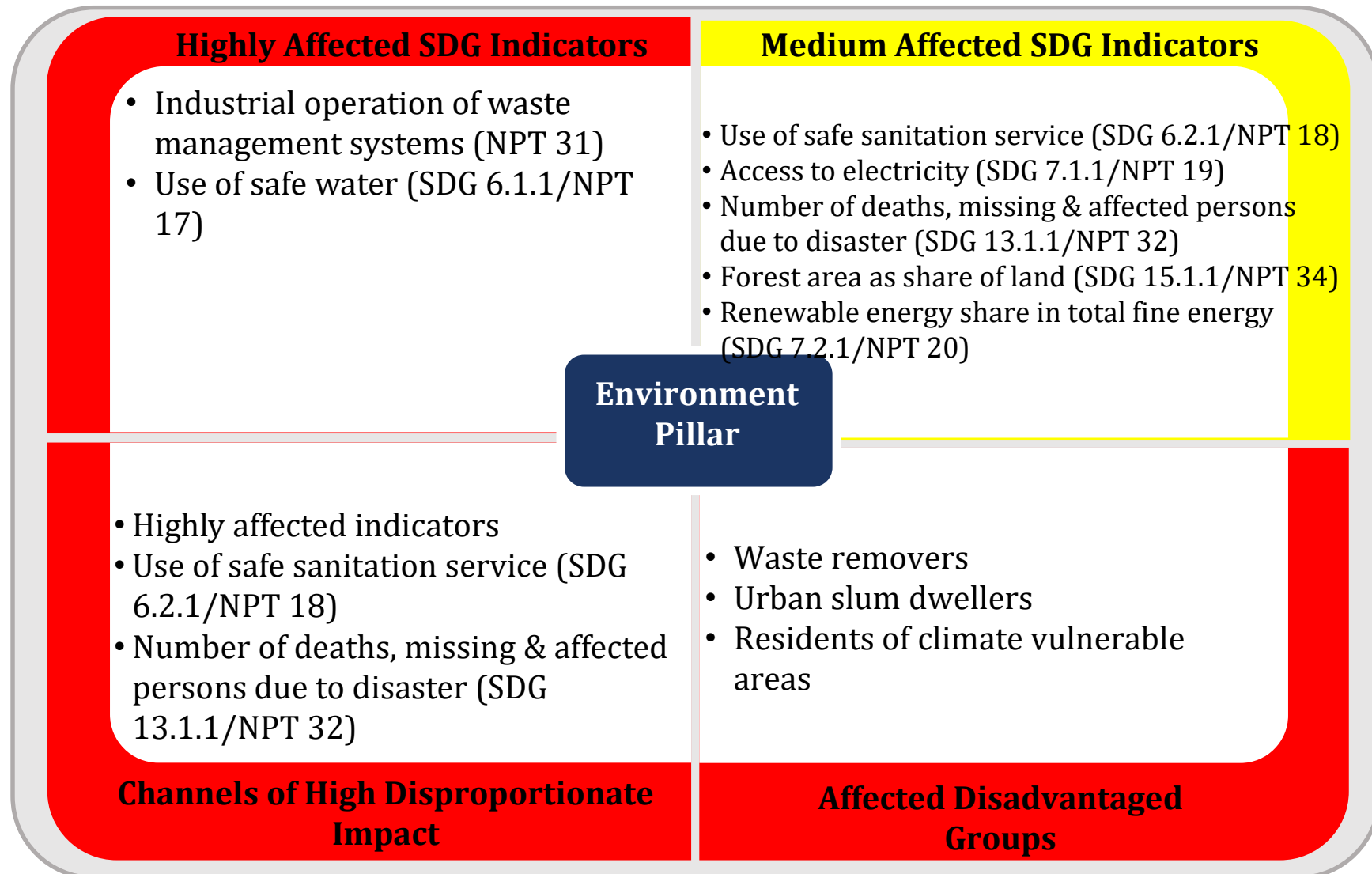


## 4. COVID-19 Impact on SDGs-The Index (contd...)

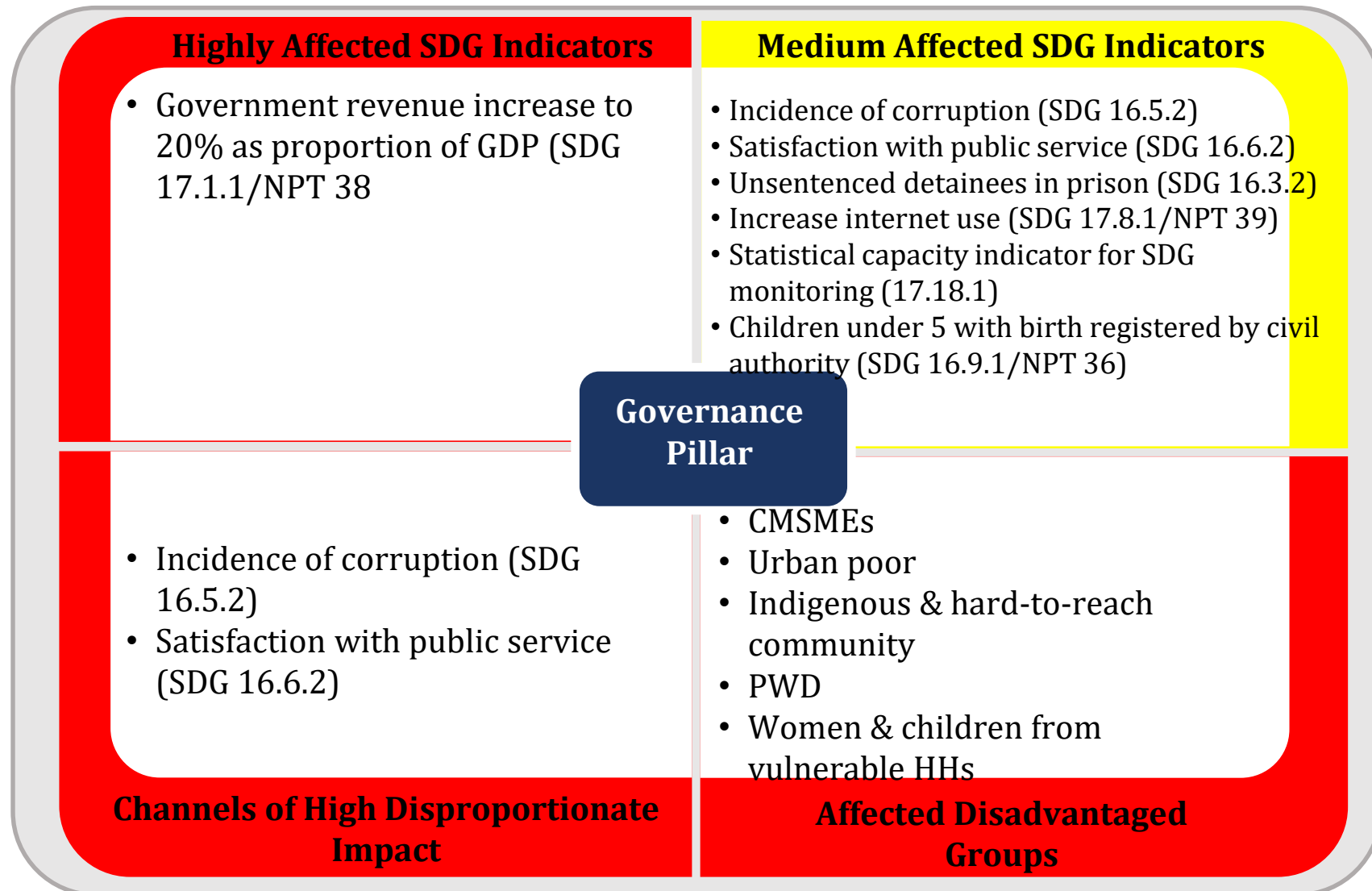




## 4. COVID-19 Impact on SDGs-The Index (contd...)



## 4. COVID-19 Impact on SDGs-The Index (contd...)





# 5. Empirical Illustrations of Post-COVID Situation

In terms of *socio-economic implications*, the Bangladesh experience broadly coincides with global and regional trends.

- Globally, average income of **bottom 40%** reduced by 2.2% compared to 0.5% for **top 40%** (2019-2021).
- 97 million more people projected to live on less than \$1.90 a day, raising extreme **poverty** rate to 9.1% in 2021. Expected to erase 3-4 years of progress towards mitigating extreme poverty.
- Global **inequality** and poverty worsened due to disproportionate impact on vulnerable – *women, youth and those in informal jobs*.
- **Income loss** increased likelihood of **skipping entire-day meal** by 57%.
- **Education** disrupted for 400 million children in South Asia since early 2020.
- Additional 10 million **child marriages** likely in the next decade, reversing global progress.
- 2021 **Corruption Perception Index** stagnated for most South Asian countries.



## 5. Empirical Illustrations of Post-COVID Situation (contd...)

Various studies on Bangladesh also implicitly indicate the varying degree and scope of impact on SDGs and disadvantaged population.

| Indicators      | Observations  | Source  |
|-----------------|---|---|
| Poverty         | Increased to 42% in 2020 from 21.6% in 2018. (Nov-Dec'20). New poor at 21.2% of total population in 2020 & 14.7% in 2021.   | SANEM; PPRC-BIGD.   |
| Income          | 75% drop in per capita daily income in urban slums from Feb-Apr,2020.<br>74% HHs could not receive medical attention due to financial constraint.<br>Monthly income reduction of 21% in char areas and 14-18% in other marginalised groups. | WFP-Crisis Response Revision; WB COVID-19 Household Monitoring Dashboard; Citizen's Platform for SDGs, Bangladesh 2021. |
| Food security   | Food insecurity increased by 22% from the pre-pandemic level in rural households during Sep-Oct'20. Baby food consumption compromised in 10% households.  | IFPRI; Citizen's Platform for SDGs, Bangladesh 2021.  |
| Informal sector | Craftsmen & MSMEs hit extremely hard. About 77% of returnee migrants struggled to find work.  | UNESCO-April-Sep'20; UNIDO-2020; BRAC, UN Women & Center on International Cooperation.                                  |

# 5. Empirical Illustrations of Post-COVID Situation (contd...)

| Indicators     | Observations   | Source  |
|----------------|--|---|
| Education      | Education of 37 million children disrupted. Key vulnerable groups affected: Children with disabilities, from poor families (urban poor), Rohingya refugees and fishing families, children of sex workers.  | SitAn Report-October,2021-UNESCO & UNICEF                         |
| Children       | 2400 children compelled into dangerous work during Apr-June 2020.  | MJF   |
| Early marriage | 13886 girls (10-17 years old) married during Apr-Oct 2020.   | MJF   |
| Governance     | Bangladesh's points dropped from 41 in 2019 to 39 in Freedom in the World Index 2020 & 2021. Sustainability Index of Civil Society Organizations (CSOSI) score static at 4.0 for five consecutive years (2016-2020). 50-60% households dissatisfied with local institutions. | Freedom House 2021; USAID 2020; Citizen's Platform for SDGs 2021. |
| Gender         | One-third drop in progress towards eradicating gender-based violence by 2030. Bangladesh's score (49.4 out of 100) on the Women, Business and the Law (WBL) index remained unchanged over 2012-2022. 24% increase in violence on women.                                      | UN-DAF 2017-2021; WB-2022; BRAC (Polli Shomaj)                    |

## 6. SDG Tracking Mechanism and Data Deficit

### Tracking mechanisms to capture the pandemic impact on SDGs are grossly inadequate!

- No data on SDG indicators available for 2022 in Government database and no estimates from international sources. Only one indicator has 2021 data in the SDG tracker (indicator 16.3.2).
- Data on SDGs for the COVID-19 period is limited to 2020 (available for only **9** out of 28 indicators considered in the study); **many of 2020 may not have captured impact of the pandemic.**

### Data availability situation based on the pillars:

- Economic pillar:
  - **Lowest data availability among four pillars.** Pre-pandemic (2018-19) data is available for only two out of seven indicators and **no data available** for the pandemic period (2020-21).
- Social pillar:
  - Pre-pandemic data available for five out of seven indicators and pandemic period data available for **only one indicator** but limited to 2020.
- Environment pillar:
  - **Highest data availability among four pillars.** Pre-pandemic data available for all indicators except one. Pandemic period data available for **five indicators** but limited to only 2020.
- Governance pillar:
  - Pre-pandemic data available for six out of seven indicators and pandemic period data available for **three indicators**; with just **one** indicator having 2021 data.

# 6. SDG Tracking Mechanism and Data Deficit (contd...)

| Goals                                    | Indicators  | Pre COVID data availability (2018-2019) | COVID period data availability (2020-2021)       |
|--|---|---|--|
| <b>SDG 1</b><br>No poverty               | <b>SDG Indicator 1.2.1 (NPT 2)</b><br>Proportion of population living below the national upper poverty line, by region.         | 2018, 2019                              | -  |
| <b>SDG 2</b><br>Zero hunger              | <b>SDG Indicator 2.2.1 (NPT 3)*</b><br>Prevalence of stunting among children under 5 years of age.                              | 2018, 2019                              | -  |
| <b>SDG 3</b><br>Good health & well-being | <b>SDG Indicator 3.2.1 (NPT 6)*</b><br>Under-5 mortality rate   | 2018 (32.3%)<br>2019 (30.8%)            | 2020 (28%)<br>Declining trend continued in 2020. |
|  | <b>SDG Indicator 3.b.1</b><br>Proportion of the target population covered by all vaccines included in their national programme. | 2018, 2019                              | -  |
| <b>SDG 4</b><br>Quality education        | <b>NPT 9</b><br>Ensure 100% completion rate of primary education  | 2018, 2019                              | -  |

**Source:** SDG Tracker, World Bank & ILOSTAT estimates.

Note\*: Contains data from international sources.

**Color codes indicate data availability within selected year range. Red: No data. Yellow: 50% data; Green: 100% data**

## 6. SDG Tracking Mechanism and Data Deficit (contd...)

| Goals                                    | Indicators  | Pre COVID data availability (2018-2019) | COVID period data availability (2020-2021)                           |
|--|---|---|--|
| <b>SDG 5</b><br>Gender equality          | <b>SDG Indicator 5.2.1</b><br>Proportion of ever-partnered women and girls aged 15 years and older subjected to physical, sexual or psychological violence by a current or former intimate partner, in the last 12 months, by form of violence and by age group | Last available: 2015                    | -  |
|  | <b>SDG Indicator 5.3.1 (NPT 14)*</b><br>Proportion of women aged 20-24 years who were married or in a union before age 15   | 2018, 2019                              | -  |
| <b>SDG 6</b><br>Clean water & sanitation | <b>SDG Indicator 6.1.1 (NPT 17)*</b><br>Proportion of population using safely managed drinking water services   | 2018 (57.59%)<br>2019 (58.04%)          | 2020 (58.51%)<br>Increasing trend continued in 2020 but slow growth. |
|  | <b>SDG Indicator 6.2.1 (NPT 18)</b><br>Proportion of population using safely managed sanitation services  | 2018 (36.69%)<br>2019 (37.68%)          | 2020 (38.66%)<br>Increasing trend continued in 2020 but slow growth. |

**Source:** SDG Tracker, World Bank & ILOSTAT estimates.  
**Note\*:** Contains data from international sources.  
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## 6. SDG Tracking Mechanism and Data Deficit (contd...)

| Goals                                  | Indicators  | Pre COVID data availability (2018-2019) | COVID period data availability (2020-2021)          |
|--|---|---|---|
| SDG 7<br>Affordable & clean energy     | <b>SDG Indicator 7.1.1 (NPT 19)*</b><br>Proportion of population with access to electricity   | 2018 (91.8%)<br>2019 (93.4%)            | 2020 (96.2%)<br>Increasing trend continued in 2020. |
|  | <b>SDG Indicator 7.2.1 (NPT 20)</b><br>Renewable energy share in the total final energy consumption   | 2018 (3.15%)<br>2019 (3.25%)            | 2020 (3.49%)<br>Increasing trend continued in 2020. |
| SDG 8<br>Decent work & economic growth | <b>SDG Indicator 8.3.1*</b><br>Proportion of informal employment in total employment, by sector and sex                                     | Last available: 2017                    | -   |
|  | <b>SDG Indicator 8.5.1</b><br>Average monthly earnings of female and male employees, by occupation, age group and persons with disabilities | Last available: 2017                    | -   |
|  | <b>SDG Indicator 8.6.1(NPT 23)*</b><br>Proportion of youth (aged 15-24 years) not in education, employment or training                      | Last available: 2017                    | -   |

**Source:** SDG Tracker, World Bank & ILOSTAT estimates.

Note\*: Contains data from international sources.

Color codes indicate data availability within selected year range. Red: No data. Yellow: 50% data; Green: 100% data

## 6. SDG Tracking Mechanism and Data Deficit (contd...)

| Goals  | Indicators   | Pre COVID data availability (2018-2019) | COVID period data availability (2020-2021) |
|--|--|---|--|
| SDG 9<br>Industry, innovation & infrastructure   | <b>SDG Indicator 9.1.1 (NPT 24)</b><br>Proportion of the rural population who live within 2 km of an all-season road                                       | Last available: 2016                    | -  |
|  | <b>SDG Indicator 9.3.2</b><br>Percentage of small-scale industries with a loan or line of credit   | No data found                           | -  |
| SDG 10<br>Reduced inequalities                   | <b>NPT 28</b><br>Reduce the ratio of income of top 10% population and bottom 10% population to 20  | Last available: 2016                    | -  |
| SDG 11<br>Sustainable cities & communities       | <b>SDG Indicator 11.2.1 (NPT 30)</b><br>Proportion of population that has convenient access to public transport, by sex, age and persons with disabilities | -                                       | -  |
| SDG 12<br>Responsible consumption and production | <b>NPT 31</b><br>Ensure 100% industries install and operate waste management system  | Last available: 2015                    | -  |

**Source:** SDG Tracker, World Bank & ILOSTAT estimates.

Color codes indicate data availability within selected year range. Red: No data. Yellow: 50% data; Green: 100% data

# 6. SDG Tracking Mechanism and Data Deficit (contd...)

| Goals   | Indicators   | Pre COVID data availability (2018-2019) | COVID period data availability (2020-2021)   |
|---|--|---|--|
| <b>SDG 13</b><br>Climate action                       | <b>SDG Indicator 13.1.1 (NPT 32)</b><br>Number of deaths, missing persons and directly affected persons attributed to disasters per 100,000 population   | 2018, 2019                              | -  |
| <b>SDG 15</b><br>Life on land                         | <b>SDG Indicator 15.1.1 (NPT 34)*</b><br>Forest area as a proportion of total land area  | 2018 (14.47%)<br>2019 (14.47%)          | 2020 (14.47%)<br>Stagnating trend in 2020  |
| <b>SDG 16</b><br>Peace, justice & strong institutions | <b>SDG Indicator 16.3.2</b><br>Unsentenced detainees as a percentage of overall prison population  | 2018 (81.3%)<br>2019 (79%)              | 2020 (79%)<br>2021 (80.9%)<br>Persistently high proportion in both pre-and COVID period. |
|   | <b>SDG Indicator 16.5.2</b><br>Proportion of businesses that had at least one contact with a public official and that paid a bribe to a public official, or were asked for a bribe by those public officials during the previous 12 months | Last available: 2013                    | -  |

Source: SDG Tracker, World Bank & ILOSTAT estimates.

Note\*: Contains data from international sources.

Color codes indicate data availability within selected year range. Red: No data, Yellow: 50% data, Green: 100% data

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## 6. SDG Tracking Mechanism and Data Deficit (contd...)

| Goals   | Indicators   | Pre COVID data availability (2018-2019) | COVID period data availability (2020-2021)     |
|---|--|---|--|
| <b>SDG 16</b><br>Peace, justice & strong institutions | <b>SDG Indicator 16.6.2</b><br>Proportion of the population satisfied with their last experience of public services                                  | 2018                                    | -  |
|   | <b>SDG Indicator 16.9.1 (NPT 36)</b><br>Proportion of children under 5 years of age whose births have been registered with a civil authority, by age | 2019 (56.2%)                            | 2020 (66.78%)<br>Increased by 18.8% from 2019. |

**Source:** SDG Tracker, World Bank & ILOSTAT estimates.

Color codes indicate data availability within selected year range. Red: No data. Yellow: 50% data; Green: 100% data

## 6. SDG Tracking Mechanism and Data Deficit (contd...)

| Goals                                | Indicators   | Pre COVID data availability (2018-2019) | COVID period data availability (2020-2021)                    |
|--------------------------------------|--|---|---|
| SDG 17<br>Partnerships for the goals | <b>SDG Indicator 17.1.1 (NPT 38)*</b><br>Total government revenue as a proportion of GDP, by source        | 2018, 2019                              | -   |
|                                      | <b>SDG Indicator 17.8.1 (NPT 39)*</b><br>Proportion of individuals using the Internet                      | 2018 (56.6%)<br>2019 (60.4%)            | 2020 (43.5%)<br><b>Sharp decline</b> by 28% compared to 2019. |
|                                      | <b>SDG Indicator 17.18.1</b><br>Statistical capacity indicator for Sustainable Development Goal monitoring | 2019                                    | -   |

**Source:** SDG Tracker, World Bank & ILOSTAT estimates.

Note\*: Contains data from international sources.

Color codes indicate data availability within selected year range. Red: No data. Yellow: 50% data; Green: 100% data

# 7. Policy Outlook

## Overall Policy Approach

1. Use SDG as a framework for post-pandemic recovery
  - Prioritise public expenditure on education and health in view of COVID losses
2. Update SDG Tracker urgently

# 7. Policy Outlook (contd...)

## **Immediate Focus – Protecting Purchasing Power of the LNOBs/PNOBs**

- a. Control cost of basic living
  - b. Enhance income opportunities
- Stabilise exchange rate of BDT
  - Review interest rate policy
  - Reduce duties, tariffs and taxes to make prices of essentials more affordable
  - Increase the tax rebates for job creation
  - Provide access to basic commodities at “fair prices” – expand operation of TCB
  - Redirect public resources for subsidy to protect prices of electricity, fuel, food and fertilizer
  - Expand public works, social protection programmes and food assistance
  - Use of public money under ADP more efficiently
  - Accelerate investment in rural public health system and address education loss

# **Thank You**

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