

# Citizen's Consultation Meeting Khulna

## A Brief on Development in Khulna

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## Khulna Division

Khulna division is the eighth largest division of Bangladesh formed in the year 1960. It has an area of 22,285 km<sup>2</sup> and population of 15,563,000 according to the Population and Housing Census 2011. The division is located in the south-west of Bangladesh. Khulna division consists of ten districts with the district of Khulna being the largest in terms of land area and second-largest in terms of population. The division has a well-established transportation link with the rest of the country as well as India.

### Division Outlook

#### *Achievements*

**The poverty rate in Khulna, measured by the upper poverty line was 27.5 per cent in 2016 reducing by 18.2 percentage points compared to 2005.** The lowering of the poverty rate was due to reduction in both the rural and urban poverty which reduced by 19.2 percentage points and 14.9 percentage points respectively over 2005-2016. Nevertheless, the divisional rate was 3 percentage points higher than the national average in Khulna; the fourth highest incidence of poverty in 2016 (higher than in Sylhet, Dhaka, Chittagong and Barisal).

**The monthly nominal income in Khulna increased by two-fold from Tk. 9569 in 2010 to Tk. 19629 in 2016.** The division had the highest monthly nominal income among the eight divisions in 2016. The monthly income was Tk. 3641 higher than the national monthly income in 2016.

**In 2019, Khulna was ahead of the national average (82.6 per cent) of primary school completion rate by 6.2 percentage points.** The division's primary school completion rate of 88.8 per cent was the highest across the division rising 7.8 per cent over 2013 to 2019.

**In 2019, Khulna was also ahead of the national average (29.4 per cent) of upper secondary school completion rate by 3.8 percentage points.** The completion rate of 33.2 per cent was the second-highest among all the divisions.

**Khulna division achieved tremendous success in reducing prevalence of early childbearing and stunting of under-5 aged children.** Over 2013 to 2019, proportion of women aged 20-24 years who gave birth before age 18 reduced drastically from 27.1 per cent to 2.0 per cent which was the lowest percentage among all divisions in 2019. The rate was also lower than the national average (24.2 per cent). Stunting of under-5 aged children decreased by 40 per cent over 2013-2019 making Khulna the division with the lowest rate of stunting among the eight divisions in 2019. Stunting prevalence (20.6 per cent) was also lower than the national average by 7 percentage points.

**Khulna was ahead of the national averages of improved sanitation.** In 2019, 94.6 per cent of households used improved sanitation which was the highest among all divisions and 10 percentage points above the national average. Over 2013-2019, the proportion of households with improved sanitation rose by 63 per cent.

## *Challenges*

**Although rate of informal employment in Khulna was lower than the national average and the second-lowest among all divisions, the proportion was considerably high at 83 per cent in 2017.** The rate of female informal employment rate was 91.5 per cent which was 12 percentage points higher than the male informal employment rate. Informal employment in the division was concentrated in the rural areas at 85.1 per cent (2 percentage points higher than the divisional estimate) with 92.8 per cent of female informal employment and 81.6 per cent of male informal employment. **Unemployment rate in Khulna (4.1 per cent) was similar to the national average of 4.2 per cent of unemployment. Among the divisions, this was the fourth-highest rate of unemployment.** While the male unemployment rate was recorded at 2.8 per cent at the division level as well as in rural and urban areas, female unemployment rate was considerably higher than the male counterpart and national averages. At the division level, female unemployment rate was 7.1 per cent in 2017 (national average: 6.7 per cent) and 10.6 per cent in urban areas (national average: 8.9 per cent).

**The proportion of households using safely managed drinking water services in Khulna was lower than the national average by 2.5 percentage in 2019.** The proportion was 45.4 per cent that was lower compared to the rates of Rajshahi, Rangpur and Sylhet.

**The proportion of children whose births have been registered by a civil authority was the lowest in the Khulna division (47.6 per cent).** Although the rate increased by 48.3 per cent over 2013-2019, the proportion was lower than the national average (56 per cent). The rate was also the lowest among all the divisions in 2019.

## **LNOB Outlook**

### *Geography*

**Magura district had the highest level of poverty and under-5 mortality rate.** In 2016, poverty rate was 56.7 per cent which more than double the national and division average rate of poverty. The under-5 mortality rate in 2020 was 35.3 per cent which was 7.7 percentage points above the national average and 18.3 percentage points above the divisional average.

**Satkhira district had the lowest proportion of households using safely managed drinking water and sanitation facilities.** In 2019, only 15.1 per cent of households used safe drinking water which was three times lower than the national (47.9 per cent) and divisional (45.4 per cent) averages.

**Khulna district had the highest income inequality.** The Gini coefficient for the district was 0.83 in 2016 compared to the national average of 0.48. The district also had the second-lowest rate of use of safe drinking water in the division.

**Jashore district had the lowest daily average wage rate of agricultural labour (without food).** In March 2020, the wage rate of male labour was Tk. 274 and that of female labour was Tk. 170. The daily wages were Tk. 60 and Tk. 104 less for male and female labour respectively than the division averages.

## *Women*

**In 2019, proportion of early marriages and child births were the highest in Narail compared to other districts of Khulna division.** 27.1 per cent of women aged 20-24 years were married before 15 years with the proportion being 8 percentage points higher than the division average (19.1 per cent) and 11.6 percentage points higher than the national average (15.5 per cent). The proportion of early child births (percentage of women aged 20-24 years who gave birth before age 18) in 2019 was 41.6 per cent which nearly doubled compared to the rate in 2013. The proportion was also higher than the national (24.2 per cent) and divisional averages (25.0 per cent) by 17.4 percentage points and 16.6 percentage points respectively.

**In terms of maternal health care, Bagerhat had the lowest rate of uptake of antenatal care and skilled births.** 40.1 per cent of women aged 15-49 years undertook complete antenatal care in 2019 which was lower than the division average by 7 percentage points. The proportion of women whose birth was attended by skilled professional was 66.2 per cent in 2019 which was lower than the division average (76.7 per cent) by 10.5 percentage points.

## *Children*

**Narail lagged behind all other districts of Khulna division regarding stunting of under-5 aged children and completion of primary and upper secondary education.**

In 2019, the highest proportion of stunting of under-5 aged children were found in Narail (27.4 per cent) which was higher by 6.8 percentage points than the divisional estimate (20.6 per cent). The district also had the lowest rate of primary school completion at 71.4 per cent; lower by 17.4 percentage points than the divisional average and 11.2 percentage points than the national average. The percentage of upper secondary school completion was the second-lowest in Narail in 2019 (22.9 per cent) just above the rate in Bagerhat. The rate was lower than both the divisional and national averages.

**Child labour, on the contrary was the highest in Jhenaidah at 10.7 per cent in 2019;** 4.1 percentage points above the divisional average and 3.9 percentage points above the national average.

## **COVID-19 Management**

As of 21 June 2022, 68.6 per cent of the population of Khulna division received the second dose of the COVID-19 vaccination; the rate was similar to that of Chittagong division but lower than in Dhaka and Rangpur. However, the rate was slightly lower than the national average (69.78 per cent) specifically by 1.2 percentage points. The proportion of population with complete vaccination (19.6 per cent) was the second-highest among the divisions (preceded by Dhaka division) but the percentage was notably less than the national average (23.8 per cent).

## **Other Issues**

## *Salinity*

The water salinity level in the coastal areas of Bagerhat, Satkhira and Khulna exceeded the tolerant level for several years now. Recently, salinity levels have increased in Jashore which was known for its fresh water and in some areas the salinity level is twice the tolerable level for human. Experts fear the consequences for human health and agriculture. Climate change is increasing salinity in the Sundarban causing death of trees and wildlife and harming biodiversity.

## *Climate and natural disaster*

Destruction of homes and livelihood by natural disasters in Khulna have forced many children out of schools and earn for the family as many have migrated to Dhaka. In Bagerhat's Mosque City, ancient structures are being destroyed by stronger hurricanes and increasing intensity of salinity in water.

## *Padma bridge*

The bridge is expected to improve the agri-business of Jashore. As field to market transport time is reduced, vegetable farmers, fish farmers and florists will receive good prices for their produce as freshness will be restored.

Weekend tourism is expected to boost in Kuakata, Bagerhat and the Sundarban as travel time is cut short.

Industry establishments will likely create multiple employment opportunities in the southwestern region. Social development in Khulna, establishments of mills and factories, enhanced operation of Mongla and Payra seaports will lead to growth and employment creation.

## *Mongla Port*

Operations in Mongla Port (second-largest seaport) gained momentum in the last five years. In 2021, 75 vessels arrived at the port each month on average which was only 46 five years ago. Jute, fish and roof tiles are the major exported items through the port. Trade and economic activities through the port are expected to further increase due to Padma bridge, Khulna-Mongla railway and Rampal Thermal Power Station.

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