

Ideas to Improve Bangladesh's Gender Equality

- Implementing existing laws and acts against domestic violence, dowry.
- Design and implement sexual education for the youth.
- Accessible and affordable tertiary care.
- Ensure maternal and ante-natal care for pregnant women.
- Ensure post-natal care for both mother and child.
- Expand reproductive health care services including counselling.
- Ensure availability of geriatric care at the upazila level, which may include introduction of health voucher for elderly women.
- Use mobile and electronic health technologies to bring all mothers and children under a universal vital events and health information system [MOVE-IT Bangladesh].
- Scaling up prevention of mother to child transmission (PMTCT) services for HIV infected women.
- Continue ongoing iron acid (IFA) supplementation for pregnant mothers.
- Provide postpartum vitamin A supplementation.
- Expand maternal health vouchers and allowance to cover women's/girls' nutritional deficiencies particularly in the calamity/poverty prone areas.
- Promotion of homestead gardening and poultry for increased protein and vitamin consumption.
- Continue community based family planning services to cover urban poor women and men.
- Increase use of modern contraceptives in urban slums and remote areas.
- Ensure availability of modern contraceptives at a low cost.
- Include elements of reproductive health care in education curriculum.
- Scale up government's maternal health voucher schemes to 100 upazilas with a 20% increase each year.
- Strengthen girls' and women's proficiency in ICT.
- Increasing girls participation at the tertiary level through scholarships, special quota provisions, infrastructure including accommodation, transport and such support.
- Expand access to safe water for drinking and household to facilitate women's healthy participation in economic activities.
- Include penal provisions for both guardians and registers under the revised Child Marriage Restraint Act 2013.
- Support female education at secondary levels.
- Extend social protection measures to cover physically disabled girls and women.
- Implement transient safety net programs for women.
- Setting target for short-term employment opportunities under construction and development projects.
- Filling up existing women vacant positions in the public sector.
- Addressing safety and security concerns for public service women at field levels.

- Increase existing quota of 10% to 15% for women officers and staff in public service.
- Expansion of business incubator services by women chambers and associations.
- Identify women at different value chain levels to disseminate relevant technology and inputs.
- Provide safe and affordable transport system to increase women's mobility.
- Offer incentives to public and private sector to run more buses with reserved seats for women or women only buses during peak period.
- Increase bus services for girls' schools and colleges in all cities.
- Introduce commuter train services between Dhaka and nearby cities, like Narayanganj, Gazipur, Tongi, Narshingdi with ladies compartments at peak hours.
- Reaching women with support for training on technology, market information, etc through government's extension services.
- Increasing women's share in government's field-level extension workers.
- Distribution of seeds and fertilizer through women farmer groups.
- Distribution of khas land in the name of both spouses.
- Combine micro-finance operations with vocational skills training.
- Prioritize housing or land support to women displaced by river erosion or other natural disasters.
- Strengthen a2i's gender initiatives, such as Joyeeta, to reach young girls.
- Increase women's access to solar power, bio-gas, improve cookstoves.
- Expand women's electricity access - both grid and off-grid areas.
- Expand women's access to rural market corners in collaboration with the local government institutions.
- Enforce sexual harassment directives in work places/ educational institutions and other public places.
- Increase enrolment rates for female across all skills development programs.
- Set up separate wash rooms for male & female students.
- Regular collection, collation and analysis of sex disaggregated data on different sectors by BBS.
- Inclusion of the third gender in all national level data.
- Implement the lifecycle based social protection strategy.
- Equipping adolescent girls with knowledge and skills to build their confidence.
- Continue community awareness raising programmes and actions involving men, women and youth against the existing harmful practices, such as dowry, VAW, Child Marriage.
- Highlight the social significance of household care work for society's development and productive work.
- Highlight contribution of women to society e.g. using media / movie / soap opera campaigns.
- Expand legal services and access using paralegals and admin.
- Establish one-stop crisis centers for women to seek legal advice.

- Use Union Digital Centres (UDCs) for rural women's empowerment by increasing access to information services [such as agriculture, education, employment, health, legal, etc].
- Use of Union Digital Centers by the government to connect with women migrant workers [for G2G migration].