



ENHANCING DIGITAL GOVERNMENT & ECONOMY PROJECT

FOUNDATION FOR A DIGITAL ECONOMY

BASIC INFORMATION

APPROVAL DATE:
**June 19
2020**

END DATE:
**September 30
2025**

TOTAL COMMITMENT:
\$295 million

IMPLEMENTING AGENCIES:
Bangladesh Computer Council

OVERVIEW

The Government of Bangladesh's 'Digital Bangladesh Vision' views digital development as core to its overall economic development strategy. The Vision aims to digitalize the government, public service delivery to citizens as well as businesses. Further, it envisions improving digital capabilities of the workforce and IT industry to prepare for the Fourth Industrial Revolution.

Technology is shifting production patterns and employment skills-in-demand globally. Individuals need relevant skills to find opportunities to work in rapidly digitizing sectors and occupations, both in Bangladesh and globally. Firms must digitize to access new markets and modes of production. The COVID-19 pandemic has heightened the value of digital connectivity and services. Transitioning to new digital business models can help mitigate the impact of the pandemic and any future crisis by keeping business operations running smoothly in the short term and improving productivity in the long term.

CHALLENGE

Bangladesh's reliance on labor intensive manufacturing for exports and on remittances from low-skilled workers makes it vulnerable to the disruptive impact of emerging technologies and the Fourth Industrial Revolution unless it gears up for digital transformation.

COVID-19 has impacted economic activities across all sectors. Private consumption, the main engine of growth, is expected to slow and declining remittance inflows will likely reduce household income. The decline in exports, and fall in industrial production, are expected to dampen growth.

Further, Bangladesh remains to be one of most vulnerable countries to climate change. Therefore, it is critical have proper digital infrastructure in place to continue operating and delivering services in the face of natural disasters.

APPROACH

The project will establish an integrated, cloud-computing digital platform for all government agencies and improve cyber-security of ICT systems across the public sector. This will build resiliency for future crises as the platform will enable the government to operate virtually and deliver critical public services to citizens and businesses.

It will help the government develop legal frameworks, policies, rules, and implementation capacity to establish an enabling environment that is consistent with a digital government and digital economy. A Digital Leadership Academy will be established under the Bangladesh Computer Council (BCC) to serve as the government's digital innovation hub and training for its civil service.

The project will train more than 100,000 youth in digital and disruptive technologies and establish Centres of Excellence with academia and the ICT industry. It will create 100,000 jobs, with a special focus on women. It will raise the revenues of IT firms by \$300 million and promote local IT firms in international markets. The project will help digitalize small and medium enterprises and strategic industries to reduce vulnerabilities from the pandemic and prepare for the Fourth Industrial Revolution.



EXPECTED RESULTS

\$200 million in cost-efficiency savings through use of Integrated Digital Platform by GoB agencies

61 GoB Ministries and Divisions with improved end-point cybersecurity

Establish a shared, cloud-computing platform for use by any GoB agency to build, operate and maintain its sector-specific systems, applications and services

100,000 jobs, 30 percent of which are for women

\$300 million increase in revenue of IT industry firms supported by the project activities