



Bangladesh: Advancing a Future Ready Digital Economy for Bangladesh

Project Name
Advancing a Future Ready Digital Economy for Bangladesh
Project Number
60290-001
Country / Economy
■ Bangladesh
Project Status
Proposed
Project Type / Modality of Assistance
■ Technical Assistance
Source of Funding / Amount

TA: Support for Advancing a Future Ready Digital Economy for Bangladesh	
Source	Amount
Technical Assistance Special Fund	US\$ 500,000.00

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Sustainable Development Goals
■ SDG 9.1
■ SDG 9.b
■ SDG 9.c
Sector / Subsector
■ Information and communication technology /

Gender
Some gender elements
Description

The TA aims to advance the Government's key priorities and prepare ensuing ADB investments. The TA will provide upstream diagnostics, institutional capacity support, and investment preparation to strengthen foundational digital enablers and develop scalable, high-impact digital services.

Project Rationale and Linkage to Country/Regional Strategy
Bangladesh is at a critical juncture as it prepares to graduate from Least Developed Country status and transition toward the next stage of development. A successful transition will depend on developing high-value-added industries, such as IT/software, pharmaceuticals, leather, petrochemicals, and shipbuilding, while sustaining its competitiveness in the ready-made garment industry. Digital technologies will play a pivotal role in driving this transition, particularly in nurturing a skilled workforce, integrating Bangladesh into global value chains, and ensuring the seamless exchange of information, thereby supporting its economic transformation.

Yet Bangladesh faces significant challenges. While the Government has pursued digital transformation and adopted relevant strategies, progress remains uneven due to persistent constraints. At the foundational level, inadequate digital infrastructure, including limited high-speed broadband connectivity and underdeveloped data governance, constrains industries' ability to digitize operations, monitor production processes, and participate in data-driven global value chains. A shortage of digital skills limits the country's capacity to leverage emerging technologies effectively. These gaps are further compounded by cybersecurity threats that outpace institutional and regulatory readiness, limiting coordination among government agencies and adoption of digital solutions.

The Government of Bangladesh requested ADB's support for digital transformation. The initial request by the Economic Relations Division of the Ministry of Finance in 2025 was to develop a comprehensive digital transformation support for Bangladesh. In response, ADB proposed a phased approach in December 2025, highlighting the importance of laying digital foundations before scaling digital solutions for public services. Subsequent engagement during the 2026 Country Programming Mission further confirmed the

Government's key priorities, namely, cybersecurity, Artificial Intelligence, digital infrastructure and connectivity, as well as digital ID.

The TA aims to advance the Government's key priorities and prepare ensuing ADB investments. The TA will provide upstream diagnostics, institutional capacity support, and investment preparation to strengthen foundational digital enablers and develop scalable, high-impact digital services. Specifically, the TA will support: (i) scoping studies and diagnostics on digital transformation and industry development, digital and data infrastructure, broadband connectivity, digital government, digital skills, data governance, and cybersecurity; (ii) feasibility studies and due diligence assessments for ensuing projects, and (iii) project pre-implementation capacity building activities linked to ensuing ADB projects, in areas such as safeguards, procurement, financial management, and gender. This support will help ensure that the Government's digital agenda is underpinned by sound technical design, financial viability and readiness for potential ADB funding support.

ADB's value addition lies in its ability to align upstream advisory work with downstream investments, leveraging its country presence and convening role to build coherent pipelines and mobilize financing. Specifically, ADB is supporting digital transformation, including in areas such as digital and data infrastructure, policies and regulations, cybersecurity and data protection, digital skills, digital government, and digital public infrastructure. Bangladesh, as a priority developing member country, stands to benefit from ADB's expertise, access to global knowledge and networks, and convening power.

The proposed TA aligns with ADB's country partnership strategy for Bangladesh, the Northwest-Dhaka-Southeast (NW-D-SE) Integrated Growth Network Development (IGND) initiative, ADB's Strategy 2030 MTR, and the forthcoming Digital Transformation Operational Approach 2026/2030, as well as ADB's corporate priorities on digital transformation.

Impact
Outcome
Outputs
Geographical Location

Poverty Reduction and Inclusion

Poverty Reduction and Inclusion Classification
PIE - Poverty reduction and inclusion elements
Summary Poverty and Social Analysis

The activities may include a thorough assessment of the institutional, technical, and financial dimensions, covering procurement, financial management, environmental and social safeguards, cost-benefit analysis, service delivery gaps, gender, poverty and social impact assessments

Summary of Environmental and Social Aspects

Environmental Aspects
Involuntary Resettlement
Indigenous Peoples

Project Participation and Engagement

During Project Design
During Project Implementation

Contact

Responsible ADB Officer
Kwon, Inhyok
Responsible ADB Department
Sectors Department 2
Responsible ADB Division
Digital Sector Office (SD2-DIG)
Executing Agencies
Ministry of Post, Telecommunications and Information Technology

Timetable

Concept Clearance
13 Jul 2026
Fact Finding
02 Jun 2026 to 02 Jun 2026
MRM
-
Approval
-
Last Review Mission
-
Last PDS Update
13 Jul 2026

Funding

Project Page	https://www.adb.org/projects/60290-001/main
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