

GETTING A CLEARER PICTURE:

BANGLADESH



Civil Society Reports on Progress Towards SDG Target 1.4 in 7 Asian Countries, 2020

SDG Target 1.4 seeks to ensure that all men and women, particularly the poor and vulnerable, have equal rights to ownership and control over land and other forms of property. Unfortunately, while this target's inclusion under SDG Goal 1 (ending poverty), signifies a new global recognition that secure land tenure should be a central strategy in combating poverty, this land agenda has not been prominent in recent SDG reporting processes of governments.

SGDs in Focus

Target 1.4: By 2030, ensure that all men and women, in particular the poor and the vulnerable, have equal rights to economic resources, as well as access to basic services, ownership and control over land and other forms of property, inheritance, natural resources, appropriate new technology and financial services, including microfinance

Target 1.4.2: Proportion of total adult population with secure tenure rights to land, (a) with legally recognized documentation, and (b) who perceive their rights to land as secure, by sex and type of tenure

GOAL 1:

**END POVERTY
IN ALL ITS
FORMS
EVERY-
WHERE**



OFFICIAL DATA RELATED TO SDG INDICATOR 1.4.2

Availability of land tenure data	Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics (BBS) produces some land data through the censuses and surveys. Yet no exclusive census or survey on land tenure, access, rights and/or other land issues.
On legally-recognized documentation	BBS data as of 2018 shows that 68.63 percent of household heads having agricultural land possess legal documents for their land.
On gender-disaggregation	No official data on gender disaggregated tenure rights. Independent studies estimate that only 15.8 percent of land at household level in rural areas is owned by women.
On perception of tenure security	No official data on peoples' tenure security perception.
Other land-related data*	Data on landlessness is available at the national level. Data on tenant households is available. No data on land conflicts. No census of forest dwellers.

*The June 2022 census included indigenous peoples and forest dwellers. There are 1.65 million indigenous persons in Bangladesh.

GOVERNMENT EFFORTS TO PURSUE AND REPORT ON LAND-RELATED SDGS

Land-related SDG targets and indicators are reflected in the country's mid-term plan (8th Five Year Plan), long-term plan (Perspective Plan 2041) and in its longer-term plan (Delta Plan 2100). The government has submitted Voluntary National Reviews (VNRs) in 2017 and 2020. The 2017 VNR stated that metadata related to Indicators 1.4.1 and 1.4.2 were yet to be finalized; however, there was no report on Indicator 1.4.2 in the 2020 VNR.

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR MORE TRUTHFUL AND ACCURATE REPORTING ON TENURE SECURITY

Include women's land ownership - percentage of female population who own land, women who have permanently settled in khas land individually and jointly (with husband), etc.

Include information on land ownership of indigenous peoples (including their accurate population count) on their khas land settlement, on forest land use, etc. - segregated and community-specific data of their land titles in Chittagong Hill Tracts, and in the rest of the country;

Include information on land ownership and receipt of khas land settlement of other marginalized populations

Include land ownership and land use of Dalits, Harijans, and other socially excluded communities

Download the full report here: <https://tinyurl.com/LWA-SDG-2020>

For more details, contact the Association for Land Reform and Development (ALRD) at alrd@agni.com.

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Disclaimer: The views in the Reports on SDG 1.4 do not necessarily reflect the views of ILC and GLTN

