



An Exchange of Letters

For

*Unpacking and Analyzing the Census and Other Data for Evidence led-Equity-based Policy Advocacy on Children in Bangladesh*

Between

Bangladesh Institute of Development Studies (BIDS)

And

Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics, Statistics and Informatics Division,  
Government of Bangladesh

And

United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) Bangladesh Country Office

May 2012



বাংলাদেশ উন্নয়ন গবেষণা প্রতিষ্ঠান  
BANGLADESH INSTITUTE OF  
DEVELOPMENT STUDIES



## Background and Rationale

Bangladesh produces information from several data collection exercises including surveys, studies, research and censuses. A rich source of data is the recent 2011 Population and Housing Census conducted by the Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics, which reported a preliminary estimated national population figure of 142 million. This has been validated by the Bangladesh Institute of Development Studies (BIDS) in a post census enumeration survey. The variance in the national population census reported by the BIDS has been accepted by the BBS into the final figures due to be released in June 2012; thereby increasing the reliability and credibility of the national head count; and demonstrating the excellent spirit of collaboration between both institutions. Census is a vital source of data for development planning and policy. Hence BIDS, BBS and UNICEF Bangladesh Country Office seek to analyse the data contained in the 2011 Bangladesh Population and Housing Census to profile the pattern of deprivation and inequities faced by children at various geographical levels and domains; as a contribution to policy advocacy for the attainment of MDGs with Equity in Bangladesh; by the Government and its development partners as well as for civil society and communities.

## Key Objectives and Specific Outputs

The objective of this Exchange of Letters (EoL) is to lay out a framework for the successful implementation of the partnership to *Unpack and Analyse the Census and Other Data for Evidence led- Equity-based Policy Advocacy on Children in Bangladesh*. The parties to the EoL are committed to harnessing their respective organizational comparative advantages, to undertake this exercise and the dissemination and use of the data, the publications and policy findings and recommendations arising from the analysis.

The specific objectives and outputs of this partnership are:

- a) Undertake analysis of the 2011 census data with a focus on children and women equity related indicators and composite indices plus combinations there from;
- b) Produce an Equity Atlas based on (a) above;
- c) Produce and disseminate the Pockets of Poverty Map based on (a) above;
- d) Prepare policy briefs to address the policy recommendations arising from the analysis;
- e) Engage relevant policy makers to secure their commitment and action to address the policy recommendations from (d) above.

## Coverage and Scope of the Analysis

In order to achieve the objectives, the analysis shall utilize the data from the 2011 Population and Housing Census revised with the post enumeration survey results. Comparison data shall be drawn from other national surveys and studies such as DHS, MICS, HIES and other appropriate population based surveys and research work relevant to the socio-economic rights of children and women in Bangladesh. The major focus of the analysis and publications shall be children up to 18 years of age, youths as defined by demographic and international standards and women age 15-49.

An Equity Atlas for all divisions/ districts/ upazillas in Bangladesh based upon census indicators is envisaged. The Atlas shall profile the inequities and vulnerabilities such as education attendance and achievements, youth and adult literacy, youth marriage, water and sanitation and housing characteristics, amongst others. The Atlas shall also include tables, graphs and maps for clarity and appeal to a variety of audiences. The rankings will be based upon a composite deprivation index. The Atlas will concentrate on totals per geographical unit and where possible by geographical area (urban/ rural), gender (male/ female).

The 'Pockets of Poverty' dimensions of this analysis shall derive from "geographical area" that enables identification of 'urban low-income' areas by some housing characteristics, by grouping enumeration areas, use lowest level information (and the urban equivalent) and use of appropriate combined indicators to create maps of 'poor' households, where relevant indicators meet desired level of statistical significance.



## **Partnership Arrangement, Roles and Responsibilities**

To achieve the above objectives and output results, BIDS, BBS and UNICEF Bangladesh Country Office hereby commit to undertake the following:

### **Institute of Development Studies (BIDS) shall:**

- A. Manage the entire partnership in consultation with other partners; provide all logistics for the management of this partnership;
- B. Support to form the Steering Committee, in consultation with other partners;
- C. Work closely with UNICEF and other collaborating partners to finalize the partnership instrument and budget for the collaboration; set up the administrative and financial plan and procedures necessary to ensure the timely execution of the assignment;
- D. Establish measures to track and report the expenditures in compliance with UNICEF procedures;
- E. Organize dissemination of the report, in consultation with other partners.
- F. Provide relevant supplies, materials and tools for the analysis;
- G. Deploy competent staff including statisticians, analysts, demographers and various subject matter specialists for respective components of the assignment in consultation with other partners;
- H. Prepare tabulation plan in conjunction with other partners and produce tables, graphs, maps and other data analysis;
- I. Organize and conduct the main analysis in collaboration with other partners;
- J. Develop standard operating procedures (SOPs), if required;
- K. Draft the reports and publications, in consultation with UNICEF and BBS;
- L. Ensure quality assurance for the publications in consultation with the other partners;
- M. Produce policy briefs in consultation with other partners;
- N. Convene appropriate forums, in consultation with the other partners, for the dissemination of publications and policy briefs;

### **BBS shall:**

- A. Serve on the Steering Committee;
- B. Provide technical input to develop the analytical design, tools and finalize the work plan and timetable in consultation with other partners;
- C. Provide census and other relevant data sets;
- D. Collaborate with BIDS to process and analyse the data;
- E. Assist BIDS and other partners with the preparation and writing of the final report and the arrangements for dissemination;
- F. Participate in the report writing and dissemination of report;
- G. Assign competent staff required by BIDS in the execution of the assignment.

### **United Nation Children's Fund (UNICEF) shall:**

- A. Serve on the Steering Committee to define and guide the strategic direction of the assignment;
- B. Provide technical input to the analytical design, work plan/schedule and tools in consultation with other partners;
- C. Assign a part time international expert to review the analytical framework and reports for compliance with international standards;
- D. Participate in the analysis, report writing and dissemination of publications and reports;
- E. Undertake independent peer review of the publications;
- F. Assist in the development of policy briefs and brochures;
- G. Lead the packaging and publication of the multi-media products, final reports and materials for dissemination, in consultation with other partners;
- H. Arrange for printing and production of the main reports and related dissemination materials, in consultation with partners;
- I. Provide funding and logistical support for the analysis.

### Partnership Modality

- A. BIDS shall be the coordinating agency in this partnership and shall sign all agreed partnership documents by all parties with UNICEF on behalf of all parties in this collaboration.
- B. Appropriate partnership arrangements and instruments that conform to UNICEF standards and procedures shall be applied to this collaboration. Such instruments shall be signed between the UNICEF Representative and the Director General of BIDS on behalf of all parties to this collaboration.
- C. Rights to Data: Prior to the publication of the final report, the clean (machine-edited) data file may be used for statistical analysis only by the collaborating partners. Upon publication of the final report, BIDS, BBS and UNICEF may distribute the data upon request to other responsible scientific organizations or individuals for statistical analysis.
- D. A steering committee chaired by the Secretary of Statistics and Informatics Division shall be formed with the Director General of BIDS, Director General of BBS and the UNICEF Chief of Social Policy, Monitoring and Evaluation as members. The committee will provide strategic guidance for the entire partnership. Relevant institutions with interest in the objectives of this collaboration may be invited as observers. Such observer members of the Steering Committee shall not exercise decision authority under the premises of this EoL.
- E. A technical committee chaired by the Director General of BIDS shall be formed with relevant members from BBS, BIDS and UNICEF. Each organization shall nominate focal point for smooth implementation of the partnership agreement.

### Period of Effect

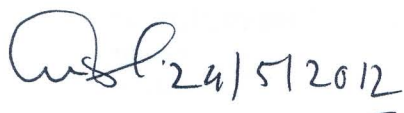
This EoL shall be in effect until the final report is launched or as may be mutually agreed by all parties involved but not later than 31 December 2016.

### Amendment/Termination

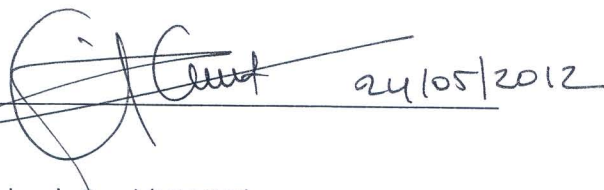
This EoL may be amended by written agreement of all parties. Any party may withdraw unilaterally from this collaboration with written notice to all parties. In such case, this EoL would remain valid for the remaining parties and funds and materials already contributed would not be refunded.

### Legality, Signature and Commitment

Though not legally binding, this Exchange of Letter sets out the framework for delivery of the objectives and output stated herein above. Applicable partnership documents may be signed as the basis of cooperation between the parties involved in this EoL or other specific purposes related to the Government of Bangladesh - UNICEF Country Programme 2012-2016.

 24/5/2012

Md. Shahjahan Ali Mollah  
Director General  
Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics

 24/05/2012

Pascal Villeneuve  
Representative  
United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF)



Mustafa K. Mujeri  
Director General  
Bangladesh Institute of Development Studies (BIDS)



## 1. Annex

### Annex 1: Census indicators and possibilities

The Population Census is a useful tool because of its universal coverage, and its unlimited possibilities for geographical and equity analysis. It is possible to produce several indicators by gender, by any relevant geographical area; crossed data with other indicators. Vital to the census data analysis exercise is the need for BIDS, BBS and UNICEF to recognize possibilities and pitfalls in using the census data. While the Statistics/BBS and Informatics Division and BIDS have their respective plans of analysis, this partnership shall review possible indicators, geo-areas and characteristics against the reliability and rigor required to produce acceptable profiles on the situation of children and women for equitable measures of their socio-economic rights. Hence, to produce evidence-based policy advocacy publications, the indicators below are suggested. The Equity Atlas will concentrate on totals by geographical unit and where possible, by geographical area, gender; and other indices and frameworks required to generate and utilize the census and related data to lead into *Evidence led- Equity-based Policy Advocacy on Children and Women in Bangladesh*.

#### Possible Census Indicators:

1. Total Population
2. Child population (absolute),
3. Proportion Child population
4. Proportion under 15 years of age
5. Proportion under five years of age
6. Proportion Women in childbearing age
7. Proportions urban and rural
8. Sex ratio total population
9. Sex ratio youth population, working age population and pensioners
10. Sex ratio of under-five population
11. Teenage marriage rate
12. NAR/ GAR for primary (7-12)
13. NAR/GAR for secondary education (13-18)
14. Gender parity indices primary education
15. Gender parity indices secondary education.
16. Education level/ achieved by 5- year age cohorts (15-19/ 20-24/ 25-29, versus 45-49), by gender
17. Educational level for youth by gender, urban versus rural and marital status
18. Literacy, adult by gender
19. Youth literacy by gender
20. Population growth
21. Migration
22. Access to WATER
23. Access to Sanitation
24. Female-headed households
25. Average household size
26. Coverage of electricity
27. Proportion of non (semi) concrete houses
28. Proportion of floating houses
29. Child labour (real) for 7-11, 12-14 years
30. Youth unemployment
31. Disability