



# **ASHRAYAN**

Home for Landless-Homeless



The Sheikh Hasina Model for Inclusive Development

A BANGLADESH initiative -



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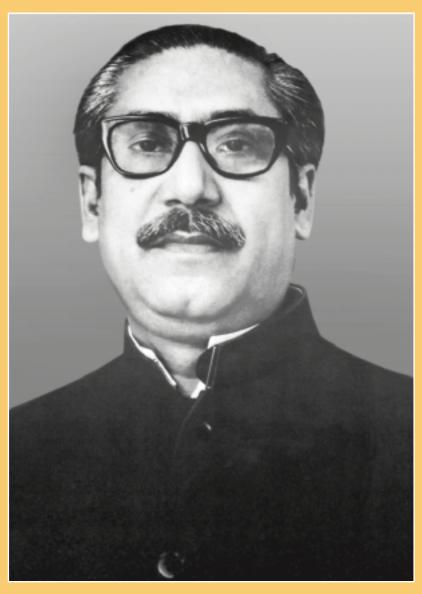
## মানুষকে ভালোবাসতে শেখো, দেশের মানুষকে ভালোবাসো। এই ভালোবাসার মধ্যে কোনো স্বার্থ রেখো না।'

[ জাতির পিতা বঙ্গবন্ধু শেখ মুজিবুর রহমান প্রদত্ত ভাষণ ] ২৬ ফেব্রুয়ারি ১৯৭৩



'Love mankind,
love the people of your country,
and let this love be selfless.'

[Speech of the Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman] February 26, 1973



Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman [1920 - 1975]



'আমাদের উন্নয়নের একটি মানবিক অবয়ব রয়েছে। দারিদ্র্যু ও ঝুঁকির মধ্যে থাকা জনগোষ্ঠীর জীবনমানের উন্নয়ন আমাদের উন্নয়ন কার্যক্রমের মূল লক্ষ্য। এ লক্ষ্য অর্জনে সামাজিক নিরাপত্তা কর্মসূচি এবং অন্তর্ভুক্তিমূলক প্রবৃদ্ধি অন্যতম নিয়ামক হিসেবে ভূমিকা পালন করছে।'

> [ আন্তর্জাতিক দারিদ্র্য বিমোচন দিবস উদ্যাপন অনুষ্ঠানে মাননীয় প্রধানমন্ত্রী শেখ হাসিনা প্রদত্ত ভাষণ ] ১৭ অক্টোবর ২০১৬, ঢাকা, বাংলাদেশ



'Our development has a human face. The main aim of our development activities is to improve the quality of life of the people living in poverty and other risks. In realizing this aim the social security and safety programmes and inclusive growth are playing decisive roles.'

[ Honourable Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's speech given on the International Poverty Reduction Day ] October 17, 2016, Dhaka, Bangladesh.



Sheikh Hasina
Prime Minister
Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh



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angladesh emerged as a free and sovereign state in 1971 under the great leadership of the Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, who fought throughout his life to ensure political and economic emancipation of the people of his country. Immediately after independence, Bangabandhu's major challenges were rebuilding a warravaged country and rehabilitating the people who lost their homes and livelihoods due to natural disasters like flash floods, river erosions and cyclones. Against such a backdrop, Bangabandhu initiated various measures to rehabilitate the homeless people in February 1972. Following his ideology, honourable Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina launched the Ashrayan Project in her first tenure as Prime Minister in 1997. The initiative not only provided the beneficiaries with land and housing, but also ensured their inclusion in the development pathway by providing them with basic needs like food, clothing, accommodation, education and healthcare. This way, the Prime Minister introduced a new dimension of growth and socio-economic development of the homeless population based on the philosophy - 'No one will be left behind.' The Ashrayan Project is now being used aptly in the Sheikh Hasina Model for Inclusive Development, which has ushered in a new era of growth towards building a Bangladesh free from poverty and hunger. Through Ashrayan Project, the government is allocating land and building homes for free for the homeless and landless people, and supporting them to become self-reliant by engaging themselves in income-generating activities. In effect, Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina is empowering the marginalised people through inclusive development, as this housing project keeps playing a vital role in alleviating poverty in Bangladesh. Furthermore, this project is helping the country attain at least eight targets of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

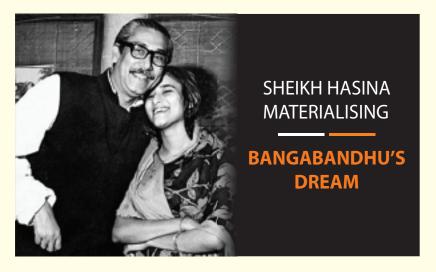
Bangladesh has already received the final recommendation of the United Nations Committee for Development Policy (UNCDP) for its graduation to a developing country. The country is gradually moving towards Bangabandhu's cherished poverty-free 'Sonar Bangla' (Golden Bangladesh). The present development trend under the dynamic and visionary leadership of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina will surely guide Bangladesh to become a developed and prosperous country by 2041.

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## 1. Background

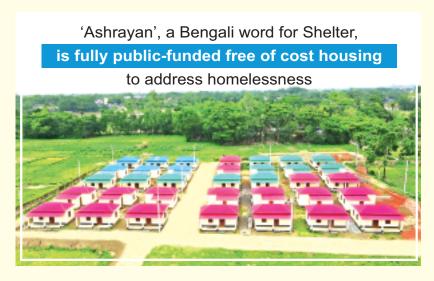
The Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman's cherished dream of 'Sonar Bangla' (Golden Bangladesh) was to put smile on the faces of the poor and the destitute of this country. So, after independence of Bangladesh in 1971, he constitutionalised that basic needs of the citizen must be taken care of by the state. Accordingly, Article 15 (a) of the Constitution of Bangladesh commits the role of the state in ensuring the provision of the basic needs of life including food, clothing, shelter, education and healthcare. On February 20, 1972, Bangabandhu visited Charporagacha village at Ramgati upazila<sup>1</sup> in Lakshmipur district (known then as the Noakhali district) and instructed his government to rehabilitate the landless, homeless and helpless people. Subsequently, the project of rehabilitation was initiated under the guidance of the Father of the Nation. However, projects to rehabilitate the homeless people came to a halt after the brutal assassination of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman and most of his family members on August 15, 1975.



Bangabandhu's daughter Honourable Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina recommenced the initiatives in 1996 as she assumed office 21 years after the assassination of the nation's founding father. In 1997, the coastal area of Bangladesh was hit by a violent cyclone. On May 19, 1997, the cyclone took a

<sup>1.</sup> Upazila means Sub-District

heavy toll on the St. Martin's island of Cox's Bazar district. Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina was deeply moved to see the homeless and helpless people in distressed situations. She paid a visit to the affected areas on the 20th May and ordered her government to rehabilitate the victims as soon as possible. Since there was no khas<sup>2</sup> land readily available, they were rehabilitated on a private property donated by a local Awami League<sup>3</sup> leader. That was the auspicious beginning which led to the initiation of a project called 'Ashrayan' in 1997. 'Ashrayan' is a Bengali word that stands for 'shelter' in English. Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina in her continuous effort to transform this country into 'Sonar Bangla' (Golden Bangladesh) and materialise the dream of Bangabandhu,



harnessed all her resources to ensure the basic needs of her people since her assumption of power for the first time as Prime Minister. A small pilot project gradually turned into a large-scale priority project of the government in order to provide shelter to the homeless and landless people and gradually make them self-reliant to contribute to the national economy. The project is closely supervised by the Prime Minister. It is also aligned with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and Vision 2041 of Bangladesh with regard to 'Poverty Alleviation'.

<sup>2.</sup> Khas land means government-owned land

<sup>3.</sup> The political party in power led by Sheikh Hasina



#### Vision

Rehabilitation of the landless-homeless people and uplifting their livelihoods.

#### Mission

Making landless-homeless people self-reliant by providing accommodation, training and financing under social security programmes.

#### Goals

Ashrayan-2 Project aims to alleviate poverty by ensuring housing, land, skill development training, microfinance, healthcare, family planning services, income generating activities, safe drinking water, electricity supply, development of communications infrastructure and afforestation services to the landless, homeless and destitute people of Bangladesh. By providing training in vocational trades to all adult members of the rehabilitated families, Ashrayan contributes to skill and human resources development. Noteworthy vocational training includes livestock rearing, home-based farming and vegetable gardening, nursery, bamboo and cane crafts, handicrafts, cottage industries, tailoring, house wiring, welding, pearl farming, leather crafting, etc. On completion of training, beneficiaries are provided with financial support to pursue their preferred livelihoods in a sustainable way. In short, Ashrayan-2 is a multidimensional and integrated poverty alleviation project.

#### **Objectives**



Rehabilitation of landless, homeless, uprooted and distressed people

**Ensuring** livelihoods through training and financing

Poverty alleviation through income generating activities

#### 'Not a single person in Bangladesh will be left homeless.'

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina on International Mother Language Day Programme at Bangabandhu International Conference Centre, Dhaka, Bangladesh, February 22, 2020



#### 3. 'The Sheikh Hasina Model' for Inclusive Development

Bangladesh is making great strides in the path towards progress under the dynamic leadership of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina. Breaking through all barriers, she keeps on proceeding with the development programmes including some mega projects taken up by her government. She wants to make Bangladesh economically prosperous, socially developed, and technologically advanced. With a view to bringing about qualitative changes in the lives and livelihoods of the people, special attention has been given to ensure the basic needs of the poor.

'It was the love and will of people that bestowed the office of Prime Minister on me. The only purpose of my life is to serve my people and country and realize my father's dream of Sonar Bangla or Golden Bangladesh.'

#### Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina

at St. Petersburg State University, Petersburg, The Russian Federation. November 24, 2010

The main obstacle on the road to development is poverty. However, if Bangladesh is to become a developed country, the poverty rate needs to fall. The helpless marginalised people of the country need to be brought in the mainstream of development process. Through 'Ashrayan-2 Project', Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina is bringing the homeless and disadvantaged people in the inclusive development process. She announced, 'Not a single person in Bangladesh will be left homeless'. To achieve this goal, the Prime Minister is not only allocating land for the landless people, but also arranging free housing for them. She has also offered various new ideas about solving the economic, social, and psychological problems arising out of different forms of poverty.

Ashrayan Project is a glowing example of how housing can be the key vehicle

'Villages spell life for us. The bright and sparkling capital city and other cities are being kept alive by our rural economy and the people living in the villages. We have to build all our villages—big or small—as modern and ideal villages according to our cultural heritage.'

Collected works of Sheikh Hasina, Vol. 1





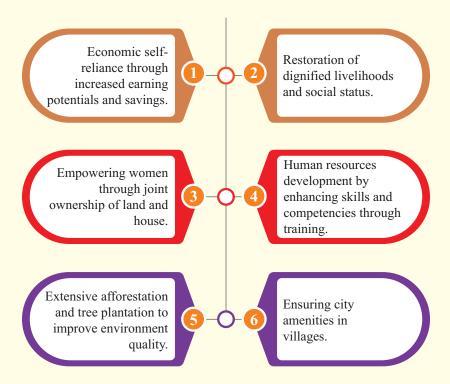








for the welfare of a family, and its overall economic and social development. This new policy for inclusive growth, that is poverty eradication, has already been well-known as the 'Sheikh Hasina Model'. The six key features of the model are as follows:



Through 'Ashrayan Project', Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina is bringing the landless-homeless and displaced people under inclusive development to make the current economic development sustainable in the long run.

#### 'Women Empowerment is a must for successful achievement of the sustainable development Goals (SDGs) as women are the most important drivers of transformation.'

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina at the Roundtable of UN Secretary General's High-Level Panel on Women's Economic Empowerment at UN Headquarter, New York, USA on September 20, 2017













## 4. Features of Ashrayan-2 Project

Housing is one of the basic needs of human life. It provides shelter, security, social status and privacy of living in a healthy and comfortable environment. In addition, housing creates the ground for employment and earning. It is the constitutional obligation of a state to provide decent housing for all to ensure improvement of living standard and enrichment of cultural milieu through planned economic development. Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina is committed to provide housing to every landless-homeless person of the country. To this end, the government allocates the required funds for the project from its revenue. However, private funding (from corporate companies / private organisations / any other private enterprises) is also encouraged to add to this initiative of the government.



Bangladesh government is working relentlessly to ensure quality homes for the landless-homeless people through Ashrayan Project

#### **4.1 Types of Houses:**

According to the local needs, overall suitability and geographical conditions of Bangladesh the project is building the following types of houses:

- Semi-pucca4 two room single-unit house with a sanitary toilet, a kitchen 1. and a veranda
- 2. Specially designed house for *Char* (accreted island) areas
- 3. Specially designed *Machang*<sup>5</sup> house for hilly areas
- Specially designed semi-pucca house for hilly areas 4.
- 5. Specially designed *Tong*<sup>6</sup> house for small ethnic communities
- Multi-storey building 6.
- 7. Pucca barrack
- 8. Semi-pucca barrack
- 9. Corrugated iron sheet barrack
- 10. Corrugated iron sheet single house

#### Different Types of Houses are Built under Ashrayan-2 Project:



Semi-pucca two room single-unit house



Specially designed house for Char areas

<sup>4.</sup> Pucca means brick-built

<sup>5.</sup> Machang means elevated wooden platform for the ethnic community

<sup>6.</sup> Tong house is a special type of house for Rakhain ethnic community



Pucca barrack



Semi-pucca barrack



Specially designed semi-pucca house for hilly areas



Multi-storey building

#### 4.2 Beneficiaries of the Project: Who are Accommodated

The beneficiaries of this project are the landless-homeless and destitute people. The purpose of this project lies with its name- Ashrayan, which means 'shelter' in English. So, destitute and floating people in need of shelter are the deserving beneficiaries for inclusion under Ashrayan project.

Under this project, the destitute, poor and homeless families in Bangladesh have been classified into the following two categories:

Category 'A'	Category 'B'
Landless-homeless, uprooted and destitute families with no house or land	Families possessing maximum 10 decimals of land but no house

Initially, the homeless and landless families under Category 'A' are being rehabilitated on a priority basis on *khas* land/land purchased by government/ land donated to the state/resumed unutilizsed land.

#### 4.3 Beneficiary Selection

For providing a house under Asrayan-2 Project, a priority list of beneficiaries is prepared through the following process:

- Ultra-poor, beggars, widows, the elderly people, women abandoned by their husbands, insolvent freedom fighters, climate victims, special communities such as the third gender, Dalit, Harijan community, small ethnic groups, physically challenged people etc. are given priority in the selection of beneficiaries:
- Beneficiary families are selected before starting the house construction; 2.
- 3. Families are selected in an open field in the locality;
- 4. Completion of the primary selection through proper scrutinising;
- 5. Elected local people's representatives are actively engaged in the process of verifying and selecting beneficiaries of the project;
- After primary selection, the upazila and district committees finalise the 6. list;
- 7. The final list of the beneficiaries is maintained in the project office, district and upazila offices and published on the official website for public information:

Ashrayan is targeting vulnerable groups: Ultra-poor, beggars, elderly people, widows, women abandoned by their husbands, insolvent freedom fighters, climate victims, transgender, Dalit, ethnic groups, persons with disabilities etc.

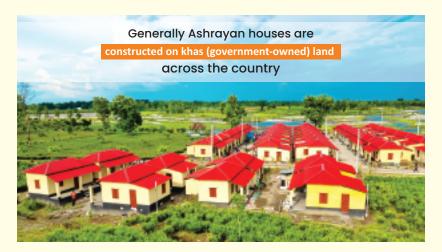


#### 4.4 Services under the Project

Semi-pucca two-room Multi-storied buildings single-unit house Semi-pucca barrack Pucca barrack Refurbishment of Corrugated iron sheet barrack semi-pucca barrack Replacement of corrugated Land Procurement (in the case of iron sheet barrack unavailability of government land) Title deed registration Land development (if required) Vulnerable Group Deep and shallow tube-wells Feeding support Road construction Electricity connection Internal road construction Connecting road construction Pond excavation Community Centre Re-excavation of ponds Tree plantation Re-construction of Docks at ponds connecting roads Loan disbursement **Training** Repair of old barracks Protection work

#### 4.5 Project Sites: Where the Houses are Located

Houses are constructed mainly on khas land or on purchased land in some cases, with the aim of rehabilitating landless-homeless families under Ashrayan-2 Project across the country in every upazila, municipality, coastal areas, char (accreted land) areas, and hilly areas of Bangladesh. The following important factors are taken into consideration for land selection:



- Houses are constructed on khas land/land donated to government/ resumed land/land purchased by government.
- Where needed, land is purchased near growth centres/markets and with good connectivity as per the 'Policy on Land Arrangement for Rehabilitation of Landless and Homeless, 2021'.
- Environmentally sensitive and critical areas such as flood flow zones, fertile agricultural land, disconnected or remote areas are excluded from the site.
- Houses are being built on relatively higher land considering the flood level.
- Sites with good drainage system are selected for the project.
- In order to keep the environmental and ecological balance, and to stop environmental devastation, special attention is being given while undertaking housing project.

#### 4.6 Facilities at the Shelters

It is not easy to bring the uprooted people back to the mainstream. If the rehabilitated families cannot cope with the situation, they would fall back to their previous condition again. To prevent this, the project undertakes a range of interventions and arrangements discussed below:



#### **Ensuring Women Empowerment**



To ensure women's property right, ownership of land and house is given jointly to both spouses where applicable. As part of the government's commitment to women empowerment, elderly women, women with disabilities, widows and women abandoned by their husbands get special priority. In order to prevent the rehabilitated family from getting involved in future disputes over ownership, the land ownership is handed over publicly on the spot along with the registered deeds and certificates.

#### **Ensuring Social Security**



Among the rehabilitated beneficiaries, insolvent freedom fighters, the elderly people, widows and people with disabilities are considered with priority for the social security programmes' benefits under government policy.

#### **Ensuring Human Resources Development**



Rehabilitated family members are provided with hands on **technical training** to engage them in various productive and income-generating activities.

#### **Ensuring Economic Development**



For their socioeconomic development, rehabilitated families are given **microfinance** support from various government agencies (such as Bangladesh Rural Development Board, Department of Cooperatives, Directoriate of Women and Child affairs, Department of Social Services). Other social organisations and NGOs also extend financial inclusion support.

#### **Ensuring Urban Amenities in Villages**



**Free electricity** connection is provided for the rehabilitated families and tube-wells are installed for **safe drinking water** at the project site. Community centres, prayer rooms, graveyards, ponds and roads for internal communication are also arranged.

#### **Ensuring Proper Healthcare Facilities**



Proper healthcare services are ensured for the rehabilitated families through **community clinics.** 

#### **Ensuring Education**



**Free and compulsory primary schooling** is ensured for all children of the rehabilitated families through primary schools.

#### **Saving the Environment**



Different types of fruits and medicinal plants are planted in the project areas. Beneficiaries are also encouraged to be involved in agricultural work. Ponds and water-bodies are preserved to ensure sustainable **environmental development**.

#### 5. Operation and Management of the Project



Asharyan-2 project is being implemented to ensure housing for all landless and homeless people of the country. Prime Minister's Office, various ministries/ divisions, district and upazila committees and public representatives are directly involved in monitoring and implementing the project activities. To uphold transparency in beneficiary selection, their list is published on the website for public view. Project activities in every phase are implemented smoothly with the help of everyone's collective engagement and sincere efforts through close supervision and monitoring.

#### 5.1 Project Proposal to Implementation: How things are done

- Selection of *khas* land/land purchased by government/or donated to government/ resumed land for project implementation;
- Preparation of project proposal;
- Approval of project proposal by Upazila Task Force Committee for Implementing the Project;
- After approval of project proposal by Upazila Task Force Committee and District Task Force Committee, the project proposal is sent to Project Office for final approval;
- Final approval of the proposal and fund allocation in favour of the Upazila Project Implementation Committee;
- Project ground development work is done by Upazila Project Implementation Committee, if necessary;
- Constructions is done as per approved design and estimate;
- Handover of constructed houses along with ownership of land to beneficiary families;
- Various benefits are provided through social safety net programmes;
- Vocational training and microfinance support are provided;
- Excavation of ponds and construction of ghats (docks in pond)/ community centres/internal roads/link roads where applicable;
- Project activities are regularly inspected by officials of the project office, upazila and district administration.

#### **5.2 Implementation Phases**



#### 5.3 Database of the Beneficiaries: Documentation

- After evaluation and fact checking, the Upazila Task Force Committee prepares the list of beneficiaries and keeps a copy of it at the upazila office before forwarding it to the Prime Minister's Office (PMO) through the Office of the Deputy Commissioner (DC Office). A copy of the list is also preserved at the DC Office;
- The approved list of beneficiaries is published on the websites of district and upazila administration as well as on the Ashrayan-2 Project's website;
- The Office of the Upazila Nirbahi Officer<sup>7</sup> (sub-district office) forwards the details of beneficiary families i.e. name, photographs, address, mobile phone number, national IDs, monthly income etc. to the DC Office;
- DC Office forwards the detailed list of beneficiaries to the PMO;
- The Project Office publishes and maintains the detailed list of beneficiary families:
- Copies of the printed books with detailed list of beneficiaries are kept at the offices of the Divisional Commissioner, Deputy Commissioner and Upazila Nirbahi Officer.



A beneficiary family of Ashrayan Project at their house.

<sup>7.</sup> Upazila Nirbahi Officer means Chief Executive Officer in the administration of a sub-district

#### 5.4 Supervision and Monitoring

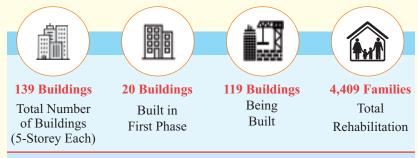
- Ashrayan Project is constantly supervised and monitored.
- The Principal Secretary to the Prime Minister and the Senior Secretary of the Prime Minister's Office directly supervise the Project.
- The Director General and the Directors of the Prime Minister's Office have been assigned with different districts to supervise the implementation activities. They frequently travel to the project sites and use other modes of communication to monitor project implementation and report to the higher authorities.
- A Joint Monitoring Committee consisting of representatives from the Ministry of Disaster Management and Relief, the Ministry of Land, the Planning Division, and the Implementation, Monitoring and Evaluation Division (IMED) also supervises the project.
- District-level committee constantly monitors the activities of the upazila based committees and provides fortnightly and monthly progress reports to the project office in addition to taking necessary actions as required.
- Other government officials in the district and upazila administration also monitor the project activities on ground.
- Project officials also inspect and monitor the project activities regularly throughout the project implementation.

## The project is closely supervised by Prime Minister



## 6. Khurushkul Special Ashrayan Project: The Largest **Climate Victims Rehabilitation Project**

In order to rehabilitate the climate victim families, the Khurushkul Special Ashrayan Project was launched in the 2014-15 financial year. Under this project, 4,409 families are set to be rehabilitated in 139 five-storey buildings constructed by the Armed Forces Division, Bangladesh. The housing project features tourist zones with modern facilities, dried-fish processing zones as an income-generating activity and an environmental buffer zone. It is being implemented on 253.59 acres of land at Khurushkul Union in Cox's Bazar district. A total of 640 climate victim families have been allotted a 406 sq. ft. flat each in the first phase. Training programmes and loan disbursements are going on to make the rehabilitated families financially reliant. It is one of the largest projects in the world for climate victims.



One of the World's Largest Housing Projects for Climate Victims



Khurushkul Special Ashrayan Project, Cox's Bazar District, Bangladesh

#### 7. Overall Achievements



The reason for Bangladesh's fast economic growth and poverty eradication is the policy of inclusive development and several other initiatives taken by the current government headed by Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina. Bangabandhu's daughter brought the ultra-poor beggars, widows, destitute women and landless-homeless people under the coverage of social security programmes, by allocating land and building homes for them, which is a big step towards better distribution of resources. Other backward communities, such as climate victims, small ethnic groups, people of third gender, migrated people, beggars, Dalit, Harijan etc. have also been brought under the coverage of the scheme. It is a unique and one of the largest initiatives in the world, which aims to include the vulnerable and backward groups in the mainstream by providing them free of cost houses. Ashrayan Project has also rehabilitated leprosy patients, who are considered untouchable, at Bandabari Ashrayan Project. Besides, specially designed houses have been built for the destitute members of small ethnic communities in three hill districts and the ethnic Rakhain community. Moreover, families affected by the coal mine in Dinajpur's Parbatipur, Harijan community, beggars and all other people who have lagging behind are being brought in the mainstream development process. Apart from rehabilitation, the project is also creating employment opportunities for these underprivileged people.





Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina had undertaken the Ashrayan project in 1997 and a total of 5,38,139 homeless families have so far been rehabilitated through this project.

### a. Homeless Families Rehabilitated through Ashrayan **Project Since 1997**

SI	Activities (July 1997 to August 2022)	Number of rehabilitated families
01	Rehabilitation through Barrack House	
	Ashrayan Project (1997-2002)	47,210
	Ashrayan Project Phase-2 (2002-2010)	58,703
	Ashrayan-2 Project (2010- August 2022)	62,135
	Total	1,68,048
02	Building houses on land owned by beneficiaries	1,53,853
03	Free flats in multi-storied buildings at Khurushkul Union in Cox's Bazar district provided to climate victim families	640
04	Specially designed houses for small ethnic communities	600
05	Families affected by river erosion	100
06	Families affected by Cyclone Amphan	1,000
07	Semi-pucca two roomed single-unit houses	2,13,898
	Total	5,38,139



## b. Homeless Families Rehabilitated through Various Ministries/Agencies from 1997 to August 2022 including **Ashrayan Project**



## 8. Special Programme on the Occasion of Mujib Year (17 March 2020 to 31 March 2022)

Bangladesh celebrated the birth centenary of the Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman from 17 March 2020 to 31 March 2022. On this occasion, the government declared the year as the Mujib Year (Mujib Borsho) and initiated numerous programmes to support the country's marginalised and disadvantaged people as part of the celebration.

Mujib Borsho is the year declared to celebrate the occasion of the centennial birth anniversary of the founding father of Bangladesh, Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman.



Despite the challenges brought about by the COVID-19 pandemic, the government successfully organised several notable programmes on the occasion of Mujib Year. One of the commendable efforts of the Sheikh Hasina government is to ensure that no one is homeless in Mujib Year. To mark the 100th birth anniversary of the founder of the nation, the government undertook various schemes to provide housing for all homeless people in the country. 'Ashrayan-2 Project' is one of these programmes, under which the government ensured free housing to about 213,000 landless-homeless families on the occasion of Mujib Year alone.

#### 8.1 Special Addition on the Occasion of Mujib Year

On the occasion of Mujib Year, the following three types of houses are being constructed to implement the special programme aimed at rehabilitating the landless, homeless and destitute people of the country:

#### a. Semi-pucca Two room Single-Unit House

In addition to barracks and complexes, housing unit with two rooms, a toilet and a veranda is introduced



As of August 2022, Each Unit Construction Cost (excluding taxes)

BDT 2,84,500 | USD 3047

At the behest of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, 400 sq. ft. semi-*pucca* two room single-unit house was introduced on the occasion of the Mujib Year. The houses come with a long veranda in the front, a kitchen, and a sanitary latrine in the back. Apart from free electricity connection, access to safe drinking water for the beneficiaries is also ensured. The cluster villages, with a picturesque layout, also have internal walkways, community centres, ponds, and playgrounds.

### b. Specially Designed House for Char (accreted land) Areas

#### Corrugated iron sheet-built portable house for river erosion-prone areas



As of August 2022, Each Unit Construction Cost (excluding taxes) BDT 2,33,600 | USD 2748

As the char areas are erosion-prone due to the natural characteristics of riverine Bangladesh, the existing design of the semi-pucca house is not fully suitable for those areas. Hence, easily movable and specially designed corrugated iron sheet-built houses are being constructed there for easy shifting of the houses to a safer place in case of river erosion in the future.

#### c. Specially Designed Machang House for Hill Areas

## Two-roomed bamboo fence house with a kitchen, a separate toilet and a veranda



As of August 2022, Each Unit Construction Cost (excluding taxes)

BDT 2,55,670 | USD 3008

As per the local demand, specially designed *Machang* houses are being constructed in the hilly areas of Bangladesh, taking into account the geographical conditions, availability of construction materials, environmental sustainability and transport facilities. Each of the 432 sq. ft. house is made of bamboo fence, corrugated iron sheets and wooden poles and floors. Each house has two bedrooms, a balcony, a kitchen and a separate sanitary latrine. The design is for building single-unit houses on local demand in the three hill districts and other hilly areas of Bangladesh.

## 8.2 Achievements on the Occasion of Mujib Year (March 2020 to March 2022)

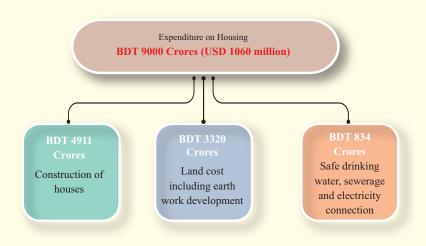
'Ashrayan' is a greater and broader concept than a mere housing project. Each of the landless-homeless beneficiaries is getting ownership of two decimals of land along with a well-designed sustainable house. Consequently, a large number of people are leaving behind their landless identity. Following the instructions of Honourable Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina of not leaving anyone landless-homeless, the project has recently seen 52 Upazilas (subdistricts) and 2 districts become free of landless-homeless people.



Inauguration of land and home handover ceremony by Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina (3rd Phase) at Ganabhaban, Dhaka, Bangladesh on 21 July 2022



## a. Expenditure on Housing on the Occasion of Mujib Year (17 March 2020 to 31 March 2022)



## b. List of landless-homelessfree Upazilas (Sub-district) in Bangladesh (as of August 2022)

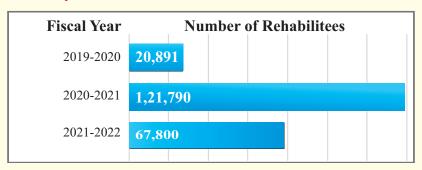
Division	District	Upazila (Sub-district)			
Dhaka	Dhaka Madaripur Shariatpur Kishoreganj Tangail Manikganj Rajbari Faridpur	Nawabganj Madaripur Sadar Damudya Katiadi Gopalpur Ghior, Saturia Kalukhali Nagarkanda			
Mymensingh	Netrakona Mymensingh Jamalpur	Madan Bhaluka, Phulpur, Fulbaria, Nandail Bokshiganj			
Chattogram	Chattogram Lakshmipur Feni	Patiya, Karnafuli, Satkania, Lohagara Raipur, Ramganj Feni Sadar, Chhagalnaiya, Fulgazi, Parshuram			
Rangpur	Gaibandha Panchagarh (Entire district) Dinajpur Thakurgaon Nilphamari	Gobindaganj Atwari, Panchagarh Sadar, Debiganj, Tetulia, Boda Nawabganj Baliadangi Dimla			
Rajshahi	Naogaon Joypurhat Rajshahi Bogura Natore Pabna Chapainawabganj	Raninagar Panchbibi Mohonpur, Charghat, Bagha Nondigram, Dupchanchia Bagatipara Ishwardi Shibganj			
Khulna	Jhenaidah Satkhira Magura (Entire district)	Harinakundu Tala Magura Sadar, Sreepur, Mohammadpur, Shalikha			
Barisal	Jhalakathi Patuakhali	Kathalia Dashmina			
Total 52 Upazilas					

## c. Special Programs for Making Bangladesh Free of Landless-Homeless on the Occasion of Mujib Year

Number of Beneficiary Families Selected on the Occasion of Mujib Year

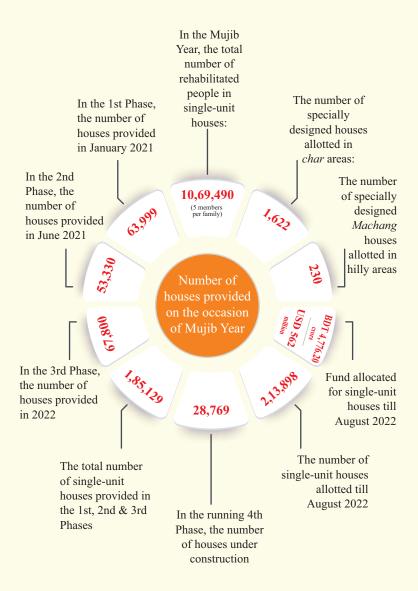
Division	Number of Districts	Number of Upazilas (sub- district)	Number of Families in Category: 'A' (updated till August 2022)	Number of Total Allocated Houses (Updated till August 2022)
Dhaka	13	88	31,398	29,037
Mymensingh	04	35	12,841	10,551
Chattogram	11	103	54,496	40,067
Rangpur	08	58	52,972	46,269
Rajshahi	08	67	32,312	26,910
Khulna	10	59	23,965	17,076
Barisal	06	42	30,396	24,613
Sylhet	04	40	23,157	19,395
Total	64	492	2,61,537	2,13,898

## d. Number of Families Rehabilitated by Asharyan-2 Project in last 3 years:



## e. At a Glance: Ashrayan's Achievements on the Occasion of Mujib Year

(Updated till August 2022)



# f. Recovered *Khas* (government-owned) Land Areas across the Country for Building Single-unit Houses on the Occasion of Mujib Year

A huge area of *khas* land was occupied unlawfully by people across the country for a long time. However, this project has achieved remarkable success in getting back the government land from encroachers and has used the recovered land for construction of the houses for the landless-homeless people. In this process following is the success information:

The area of *khas* land recovered nationwide: **5,512.04** acres

Estimated local market value of the recovered *khas* land: BDT **2,967.9** crore | USD **349.16** million

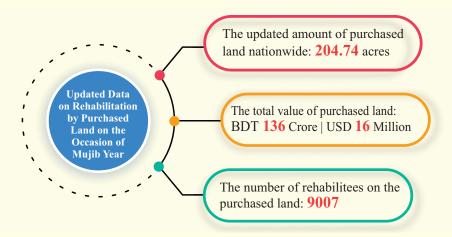
#### g. Number of Project Locations

The houses are constructed in thousands of places across the country-in villages, municipalities, distant *char* lands and hilly regions etc.

Houses constructed during last two years in **15215** locations

## h. Rehabilitation by Purchased Land on the Occasion of Mujib Year

To rehabilitate the landless, homeless, floating and destitute people in Bangladesh within the shortest possible time, necessary land is purchased for the project in case of unavailability or shortage of khas land. The land is purchased at the existing market price in a speedy and simple way in accordance with the 'Policy on Land Arrangement for Rehabilitation of Landless and Homeless-2021'. This policy on procuring land is applicable for rehabilitating the homeless and the landless belonging to Category 'A' only.



The massive task of rehabilitating about 213 thousand homeless families in the Mujib Year is a concerted effort by the district and upazila administration, Armed Forces Division, Ministry of Land, Ministry of Disaster Management and Relief, Local Government Division, and the local public representatives. The Prime Minister's office is coordinating the entire process of construction of the houses. The field administration has set a glorious example by reclaiming illegally occupied khas land across the country for the housing projects. Elected local public representatives, political leaders, affluent people have joined the noble initiative taken by Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina. Wholehearted participation of people from all walks of life has turned the government's special initiative in the Mujib Year into a social movement.

#### 9. Impact of Housing by Ashrayan Project



Hon'ble Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina remains steadfast in her determination to build Bangladesh a hunger-free, poverty-free, prosperous and developed country. That is why she launched the Ashrayan Project to ensure housing for the landless and homeless people. As we know, a house is not just a place to live in; it is now considered the most important tool in social and economic development, including poverty reduction for a dismembered family. Household security accelerates one's economic emancipation and motivates one to live with dignity. A safe house makes everyone in the family self-assured, confident and proactive in formulating and implementing their current and future plans. Ashrayan Project is providing safe housing alongside skills training, microfinance, education, healthcare and family planning to the landless and homeless people and integrating them into the mainstream economy.

Major impacts of Ashrayan Project housing are discussed below:

#### **Empowering Backward Communities**

The main beneficiaries of the housing programme are people living in extreme poverty in Bangladesh. In many respect, this is a unique approach towards poverty alleviation as the project cover the impoverished areas of the country to support the most vulnerable groups living there. Priority groups under the project include ethnic minority workers, cleaning workers, tea workers, landless peasants, people of third gender, climate victims, persons with disabilities and extremely poor women. With support from this project, these underprivileged communities can enhance their income and productive resources, and get minimum education, healthcare and nutrition support.

Through this programme, Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has enabled the destitute to become self-reliant and live their lives with dignity. This initiative to provide land and housing to the homeless-landless is the first of its kind in the world. In some countries, low-interest loans are given to buy land, but to have one's own home for free with government support is unique.

#### **Empowering Women and the Poor**

Under this project, land is registered under the joint ownership of husband and wife where applicable and the land registration documents are handed over to

couple accordingly. Inheritance rights of their children within the existing legal framework have also been ensured. As a result, positive changes in the empowerment structure and social status of men and women are taking place in the shortest period.

#### **Eradicating Hunger and Poverty**

Permanent home in itself has a positive impact on employment and income opportunities for the beneficiaries. Every destitute family is getting ownership of land through this project. The rehabilitated families have been facilitated with microfinance support and are provided with the opportunity to engage in various productive activities through training in production of agricultural products, rearing of cows, goats, ducks, chickens etc. As a result, income and agricultural productivity of small-scale food producers, especially women, small ethnic groups, farmers, livestock keepers and other beneficiaries have increased because of their access to land, vocational training and microfinance support.

#### **Housing Stability & Education**

The impact of permanent housing on education, especially in childhood, is huge. Children are susceptible to the negative effects of poverty. Struggling families move frequently in search of affordable accommodation, resulting in their children being forced to change schools frequently. Housing instability can seriously jeopardise children's performance and success in school, and contribute to long-lasting achievement gaps. A permanent home helps create a stable environment for children, contributing to improved educational outcomes and mental and physical health.

#### **Health and Welfare**

Housing instability, unaffordability, and poor housing quality have negative effects on the health of the general population. Unstable housing is associated with poor physical and mental health. People who live in safe and secure housing tend to have better mental and physical health.

Rehabilitated families living a floating life previously were prone to various infectious diseases such as malaria, tuberculosis and other water-borne diseases. As a result of secure and stable housing, they are now able to protect themselves from adverse and hostile environment. Apart from this, various reproductive and maternal health services have been made available. Family welfare assistants and healthcare assistants are also able to provide services such as primary healthcare and contraceptives in rural areas through regular household visits. At the same time, women and children are able to protect themselves from unhealthy sanitation systems. The presence of skilled health workers during childbirth is an important factor in reducing maternal and child mortality rates. As a result of cluster housing, it is easy for the health workers to provide primary healthcare for all from one place. Therefore, maternal mortality and child mortality rates have dropped significantly in Bangladesh.

#### Sanitation

In the past, many day labourers, vagabonds, and poor communities had no definite place for defecation. As a result, many used to defecate in the open. Now, each household has its own sanitary toilet and tube-wells adjacent to their house. As a result, the beneficiaries are getting the benefit of safe drinking water and sanitation. Ashrayan project has ensured access to adequate and equitable sanitation and hygienic lifestyles, with special attention to the needs of women and girls.

#### **Role in Ensuring Equality**

Landless and homeless people of any age are covered under this scheme. However, senior citizens, widows, persons with disability and women abandoned by their husbands are given priority considering their vulnerability. Ethnic groups living in the hilly areas and in the plains are also covered under this programme. Community centres have been constructed in various areas for social interaction. In addition, cooperative-based fish farming is arranged where ponds are available and are ready for fish farming. With the government support, microfinance schemes are proving to be effective. Thus, Ashrayan Project is ensuring empowerment, socioeconomic and political inclusion of all, regardless of age, gender, disability, ethnicity, ethnographic identity, origin (place of birth), religion or economic or other status.

#### Rehabilitation of Climate Victims

Ashrayan Project houses have ensured permanent and safe housing for the displaced people struggling with uncertainty and despair previously. A permanent house seems to have removed all fears that once haunted the destitute people who are the worst affected by natural calamities such as

cyclone, floods, droughts. As many as 139 multi-storey buildings are being constructed through the Khurushkul shelter project in Cox's Bazar district for 4,409 poor families who are homeless due to the negative effects of climate in the coastal areas of the district. It is one of the world's largest climate victims rehabilitation projects. Through this initiative, it has been made possible to build the resilience of people living in poverty and vulnerable situations and reduce the risks of climate change victims.

#### **Impact on Rural Economy**

All construction materials are procured directly from the rural market, which is resulting in lower construction costs and at the same time boosting the rural economy. The local labourers, technicians and masons are working as construction workforce in the project sites across the country. The local smallscale suppliers and shoppers are supplying the materials; the local brick producers, sand dealers, wood suppliers are supplying the necessary items at local rates. Hence, the money allocated for construction of homes are going to rural areas directly from the central position based in the capital. All these activities have a multiplier effect on rural economy.

In many countries in the world, affordable housing scheme is going on for the poor and homeless people. Generally, people in other countries own affordable houses at discounted rates below market value from the government by taking loans. But in Bangladesh, the government is providing houses with the ownership of land for free of cost through the Ashrayan Project. The present initiative of providing a house to the landless and homeless families is playing a vital role in alleviating poverty. Now Bangladesh has become a glaring example successful and sustainable poverty eradication. Government and nongovernment organisations, public representatives, businesses philanthropists have also been united in this advancement of Honourable Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina. The Prime Minister's new idea to provide accommodation to the landless and homeless families will set an example of humanity in the history of the world.

## 10. Ashrayan in SDG Achievements: **Role of Housing in Achieving SDGs**



The Ashrayan Project has been a game changer in achieving Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) set by the United Nations. The immense possibility of getting free from the viscous cycle of poverty has come to the forefront for a homeless family just by owning a house. Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's innovation, the Ashrayan Project has been able to bring positive changes as it has given destitute families access to a secure home, education, healthcare and get themselves included in the process of women empowerment. The Ashrayan Project, which provides free houses to homeless and landless families, will help achieve the following SDG targets:

'My priority is to establish this country as a povertyfree country. We have a long way to go-we have to do more. When I have been able to establish this country as a poverty-free country, a hunger-free country, a developed country, perhaps at that time, perhaps then I may say I am proud.'

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina at the UN general assembly to launch the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), New York, USA. 25 September 2015



#### SDG 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.

Under Ashrayan-2 Project, the government ensures joint land ownership of both husband and wife through registered deeds. Priority groups include the homeless and landless, persons with disabilities, the destitute, widows, victims of domestic violence, the elderly people and their families. At the same time, microfinance support is extended by government agencies and NGOs.



#### **SDG Target 1.5**

By 2030, build the resilience of the poor and those in vulnerable situations and reduce their exposure and vulnerability to climaterelated extreme events and other economic, social and environmental shocks and disasters.

Disturbed by the devastating effects of climate change in the coastal areas of Chattogram and Cox's Bazar, 4,409 poor families are rehabilitated by the Khurushkul Special Ashrayan Project in Cox's Bazar district. As many as 139 five-storey buildings are under construction for their rehabilitation. It is the largest climate victims rehabilitation project in the world. After completion of work of 20 buildings, 640 families have been rehabilitated here. In addition, more than 50 apartment buildings in different parts of the country are being built on demand.



## **SDG Target 2.3**

By 2030, double the agricultural productivity and incomes of small-scale food producers, in particular women, indigenous peoples, family farmers, pastoralists and fishers, including through secure and equal access to land, other productive resources and inputs, knowledge, financial services, markets and opportunities for value addition and non-farm employment.

Malnutrition is one of the main causes of poverty. In addition, nutritional value and adulthood vary greatly depending on water quality and hygiene. The rehabilitated families have water and sewage system in their new homes and are engaged in agricultural production in the backyard. They also raise chicken and domestic animals. For that reason, they are facilitated with trainings and got financial assistance through various government agencies. The fish is farmed together in a pond in the project area. Training and microfinance have also been arranged for ethnic groups living in small squares.



#### SDG Goal 3

Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages.

The rehabilitated families that once lived a floating lives used to suffer from a number of infectious diseases, such as malaria, tuberculosis and water-borne diseases. In addition, the lives of these deprived and affected people are reduced due to reproductive health, maternal, neonatal and child-related illnesses. As a result of residential facilities, they can be protected from unfavourable and hostile environments. Similarly, they eliminate Neglected Tropical Diseases (NTDs) after getting access to safe drinking water, hygiene and cleanliness.

Children are getting vaccinated because they now live in their home. In addition, various services related to childbirth as well as maternal health have become more accessible. Healthcare assistants regularly visit these houses to provide birth control and other basic healthcare. At the same time, women and children were able to protect themselves from poor hygiene. Presence of skilled healthcare workers during childbirth is an important factor in reducing maternal and infant mortality. Timely presence of medical staff will be strengthened through an improved communication system within the project areas. It is expected that this will reduce maternal and infant mortality rate.



#### SDG Target 5.a

Undertake reforms to give women equal rights to economic resources, as well as access to ownership and control over land and other forms of property, financial services, inheritance and natural resources, in accordance with national laws.

In this project, the allocated land is registered under the joint ownership of the husband and wife of each beneficiary family and the registry documents are given accordingly. All names, ledgers and entries are also registered in joint names. This is done to secure equal and inheritance rights of their children within the existing legal framework.



## **SDG Target 6.2**

By 2030, achieve access to adequate and equitable sanitation and hygiene for all and end open defecation, paying special attention to the needs of women and girls and those in vulnerable situations.

Previously, there were no toilet facilities or arrangements for people like day labourers, vagrants, and the poor. At the marginal level, many people defecated in the open. The present project has 4 feet long and 4 feet wide toilets attached to each house and provisioned water storage system from the tube-well adjacent to it. As a result, the beneficiaries of the shelter will get sanitation services under safe management. Training in cleanliness and sanitation is also being imparted to the households through government agencies and NGOs.



## SDG Target 10.2

By 2030, empower and promote the social, economic and political inclusion of all, irrespective of age, sex, disability, race, ethnicity, origin, religion or economic or other status.

The landless and homeless people of all age group are covered under this project. However, elderly people, widows, persons with disabilities and women separated from their husbands have been given priority considering their vulnerability. Apart from the plain areas, small ethnic communities who live in hilly areas as well as in the plains have also been included in the

programme. So far, more than 10,000 houses have been handed over among the ethnic groups in the hilly areas and 7,809 houses among the small ethnic groups in the plains. Community centres have been set up in different areas for social communication. Besides, fish farming is being promoted in the ponds excavated under cooperative schemes. Microfinance support has been provided for business or agricultural work with various vocational training with assistance from the government. Besides, houses have been constructed for leprosy patients in Bandabari Ashrayan Project in Gazipur district, for third gender community in Ullapara Ashrayan Project in Sirajganj district, for coal mine workers in Parbatipur area of Dinajpur district, for Rakhain family (special Tong houses) in Barguna district and for Harijan community in Nilphamari district.



#### **SDG Target 11.5**

By 2030, significantly reduce the number of deaths and the number of people affected and substantially decrease the direct economic losses related to global gross domestic product caused by disasters, including water-related disasters, with a focus on protecting the poor and people in vulnerable situations.

Natural disasters such as flood, river erosion, cyclones, tidal surges, etc. directly affect financial resources such as houses, crops, livestock and other infrastructures. Considering that, every house under the project has been built on a relatively higher ground. The site has been selected with special care so that houses are not damaged or people's lives are not endangered due to natural calamities, river erosion or heavy rains. Special allocations are made for land development so that the habitats can withstand climate shocks.

The main reason for Bangladesh's progress in institutionalising the SDG implementation process and formulating an integrated policy framework is the formulation and implementation of inclusive programmes. At the same

time, the SDGs have been integrated with the 8th Five Year Plan (2021-2025) which has integrated the poor, disadvantaged and backward sections of society with large-scale infrastructure development to implement the development agenda. Hon'ble Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has set this unique precedent by providing land and houses to the marginalised people of the society through the Ashrayan Project under a special initiative in Mujib Year. Adopting it as a priority policy of "whoever is at the rear must come to the fore" will further accelerate the pace of balanced and inclusive development. The main beneficiaries of the housing programme are people living in extreme poverty in Bangladesh. As a result, this project is certainly unique in any poverty alleviation efforts. Implementation of the SDG 2030 Agenda will reduce inequality, provide access to various services including electricity, safe drinking water and end the barriers to civic dignity. This will also end gender and ethnic inequalities. Through this single project, Bangladesh has been achieving SDG targets regarding poverty alleviation and related areas and a new horizon of development in family, social and economic sectors can be seen in all the spheres of Bangladesh.

Bangladesh is making great progress in its development journey. Who would have thought that the electoral manifesto, "Bangladesh: For Prosperity, Progress", would become a glorious reality in such a short span of time? Bangladesh has been constantly adopting various development strategies to achieve one development goal after another throughout its history. On the one hand, long-term and sustainable development plans are being adopted in the economic and industrial sectors under the firm leadership of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina; and on the other, rapid development programmes are being implemented in the infrastructure and social sectors. During the last decade, Bangladesh has achieved steady growth in the economic field; it has emerged as a "development miracle" through inclusive participation of the people on the development agenda. In war-torn Bangladesh, the Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman started this journey of growth with zero reserves and presented the country's first-ever budget of BDT 786 crore (USD 94 Million) in 1972. With his daughter at the helm, that budget stands at BDT 6.78 trillion (USD 79.77 billion) in 2022-23 Fiscal Year. In the fiscal year 2018-19, the GDP growth has been 8.15 percent (BBS), the highest in the Asia-Pacific region. GDP growth has been in excess of 7 percent in the last five years up to the COVID-19 period. The government is undertaking

multi-faceted development projects aimed at structurally transforming the economy as well as widening the scope of social security to reduce poverty and inequality for inclusive development. In addition to the large-scale development projects, various programmes are being conducted simultaneously to meet the basic needs of the backward, destitute, helpless and marginalised people of society. The Ashrayan Project has been initiated from the inclusive spirit of the Prime Minister's development vision. Through this project, various activities, including employment, healthcare, sanitation, education and vocational training have been added to housing. This Project is a unique example of how a home can be a major tool for overall family wellbeing and social development for a landless-homeless person. Hence, the Ashrayan Project has become a spirited journey of self-respect and selfreliance of the poor towards the march of prosperity and success.

#### 'I like most the smile of the people after they get a home.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina at Inauguration of land and house handover ceremony (3rd Phase) at Ganabhaban, Dhaka, Bangladesh. April 26, 2022



Spreading smiles...

## 11. The Life Changing Stories in Pictures



A cluster of houses in a well planned layout



Homestead gardening by beneficiaries



Safe drinking water ensured in project areas



Internal road in a project area



Access to education of children



Playful life of girls in a cluster of Ashrayan



Better opportunity of access to education



Facilities of town in village: Children amusement



A cluster of houses: A better community setting



Contributing to Rural economy: Cattle rearing



Healthcare service provider attending in an Ashrayan cluster



Women engaged in income generating activity: Shop keeping



Women engaged in income generating activity: Handmade paper production



Man in income generating activities: Cattle rearing



Homestead gardening by beneficiaries: A sort of agriculture farm house



A cluster of houses in a beautiful layout

'আমার দেশের প্রতি মানুষ খাদ্য পাবে, আশ্রয় পাবে, শিক্ষা পাবে, উন্নত জীবনের অধিকারী হবে– এই হচ্ছে আমার স্বপ্ন।'

জাতির পিতা বঙ্গবন্ধু শেখ মুজিবুর রহমান



'Every citizen of my country will have food, shelter, education, and a better lifethis is my dream.'

Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman.







Ashrayan-2 Project, Prime Minister's Office, Dhaka, Bangladesh. www.ashrayanpmo.gov.bd