"I must thank UNFPA for the technical and financial support extended to Bangladesh ever since the first census conducted in this country."
- Mr. Mohammad Abdul Mannan, MP, Hon. Minister of Planning
UNFPA's 'Shahana' cartoon incorporated into the curriculum of 33,000 schools and madrashas

WHAT IS SHAHANA?
A cartoon video series conceptualized by UNFPA Bangladesh, centralized around the bold and inquisitive girl, 'Shahana'. Through her character, each cartoon focuses on issues such as child marriage, gender-based violence, maternal death, fitsula, gender diversity, and other issues relating to sexual and reproductive health and rights.

SUPPORTED BY
Government of Switzerland & Government of Netherlands

We will ensure that 'Shahana' is part of the national curriculum very soon, so that all teachers and students in Bangladesh can be sensitized on these important matters.

- Prof. Dr. Syed Golam Faruk
Director General of Secondary & Higher Education
Every one of you is a Shahana. You must be brave like her and question issues you face during adolescence. You should reach out to your parents or teacher.

- Dr. Dipu Moni
MP, Hon. Minister of Education

We worked tirelessly over the years to develop the Shahana cartoons for adolescents. We take much pride that Shahana is now being taken over by the Government.

- Dr. Asa Torkelsson
UNFPA Representative in Bangladesh
UNFPA Bangladesh @UNFPABangladesh · Jan 12

"When #adolescents can make informed decisions during their transition from #adolescence to #adulthood, they can enjoy improved #health, well-being, and development of their communities and society at large." - @AsaTorkelsson
UNFPA is proud to have supported the Government of Bangladesh in the development and dissemination of the National Plan of Action for the Adolescent Health Strategy (2017-2030)
"Adolescents should be made aware of their sexual and reproductive health and rights before marriage. This will increase their awareness on and reduce gender-based violence."

- Mr. Zahid Maleque, MP, Ministry of Health & Family Welfare
"While much progress has been made in Bangladesh, many adolescent girls are still unable to make reproductive choices for themselves."
- Dr. Asa Torkelsson, UNFPA Representative in Bangladesh
"Contraceptives for unmarried boys and girls is crucial. We must not forget the challenges, and we will continue our support to the Government and Development Partners in addressing these issues."

- H. E. Harry Verwaij, Ambassador of the Kingdom of Netherlands
Notre Dame College invited Dr. Mercy Tembon, Country Director of the World Bank in Bangladesh & Bhutan as the Chief Guest and Dr. Asa Torkelsson, UNFPA Representative as the Special Guest.
LOCAL LEVEL CONSULTATION IN SHIBCHAR, MADARIPUR DISTRICT

Topic: Ending child marriage and maternal mortality

High-level mission led by Speaker of Parliament, accompanied by Chief Whip and 16 Parliamentarians from the Bangladesh Association of Parliamentarians on Population & Development (BAPPD), UN Resident Coordinator, and UNFPA Representative

Consultation attended by 800+ stakeholders, including National & Sub-National Government Officials, Religious Leaders, Police, Birth & Marriage Registrars, Youth, Parents, Teachers, Civil Society, and Media
During the consultation, the high-level delegation listened to the people of Shibchar as they jointly voiced the need for safer spaces for women & girls and to eliminate child marriage within their community.
The high-level mission also included a visit to a girl's school and an engagement with differently-abled youth in Shibchar about their access to digital platforms.
"Parents, you must know that child marriage is harmful to her body and can lead to maternal death. You must know that child marriage is not a solution to any problem."

- Dr. Shirin Chaudhary, Honourable Speaker of Parliament
"Marrying early threatens a girl's life. Often she enters motherhood as an adolescent. This cannot continue. I thank the Honourable Speaker for spearheading an agenda on ending child marriage. We remain committed to support."
- Dr. Asa Torkelsson, UNFPA Representative in Bangladesh

"Educate. Educate. Educate. When we educate a girl, we educate a village. It is so important that girls have access to information so that they can make informed decisions about their life and future."
- Ms. Mia Seppo, UN Resident Coordinator in Bangladesh
More than 300 young leaders were present at the National Summit organized by 'Right Here. Right Now.' The event was graced by Dr. Muhammad Murad Hassan, MP, State Minister of Information. UNFPA Representative Dr. Asa Torkelsson was invited as the Special Guest.
In line with International Education Day, the successful Champions of Change programme in Cox’s Bazar was featured on official UNFPA Bangladesh social media channels to highlight the importance of ensuring adolescents and youth have access to accurate information relation to their sexual and reproductive health and rights.
Fun Day for UNFPA Staff!

In line with the Well-being Calendar for 2020 shared by the Department of Human Resource, ‘Fun Day’ was observed on 28 January at the Country Office in Dhaka and Sub-Office in Cox's Bazar.
The Bangladesh Development Forum 2020 is a high-level multi-stakeholder participatory forum, which provides a platform for effective dialogues on national development. UNFPA supported BDF2020 along with other UN agencies and development partners.