Digital Divide or Digital Opportunity?
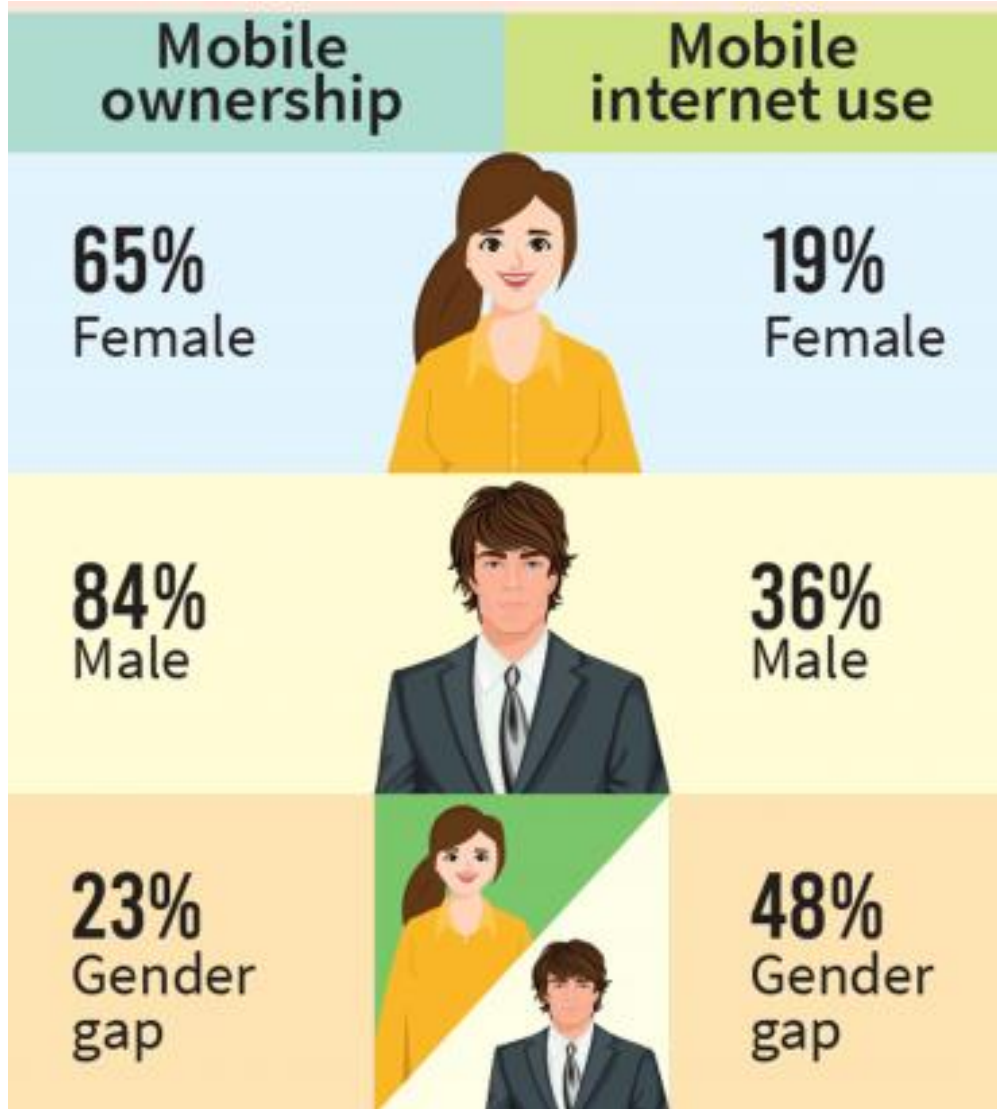**Exploring the Impact of Digitalization on SRH Inequities**

Anir Chowdhury
Policy Advisor, a2i
May 3, 2023

Gender Gaps in Digital Access

Mobile ownership	Mobile internet use
65% Female	**19%** Female
84% Male	**36%** Male
23% Gender gap	**48%** Gender gap

➢ Limited access to formal SRH information for young people

➢ Gender inequality in the physical world is replicated in the digital world.

➢ Inadequate regulatory frameworks and policies

➢ Lack of standardization, and limited interoperability between different platforms and systems.

Smart
Bangladesh
Smart lifestyle for citizens

Smart Bangladesh ICT 2041 Vision

Four Pillars of Change

Programs

Smart Citizen

Universal Digital ID

Citizen Upskilling
- Digital curriculum
- Digital skilling at all levels of the society
- Smart device access

Digital Collaboration Platform

Smart Bangla Campaign
Nation-wide campaign to promote digital-first mindset

Smart Government

Smart Healthcare

Blended Learning

Smart Land Management

Smart Postal Service

Smart Agriculture Stack

Smart Judiciary

Smart Borders

Smart Tax

ICT Policies
Data privacy and cyber security, emerging technologies and other policies

National Procurement e-Marketplace

Digital Job Platform

Smart Social Safety Net

Smart Public Services & Paperless Administration

Police Modernization

Digital Leadership Academy
Digital upskilling at all levels of the Govt. & unlocking digital transformation capabilities in private sector C-suites

Smart Society

Inclusive Financial Ecosystem
Interoperable Payments and Fintech Accelerator

Green Sustainable Bangla
- Smart Cities
- Smart Grid
- Digital Climate Resilience

Digital Tolerance & Culture Movement

Embedding digital hygiene among all citizens in all aspects of daily life

Bangla Stack

Smart Economy

4IR industry accelerators
- Readymade garment
- Light engineering
- Pharma
- Logistics

ICT industry acceleration
- FDI attraction (Smart ICT IPA)
- Exports scale up
- Domestic ICT spend boost
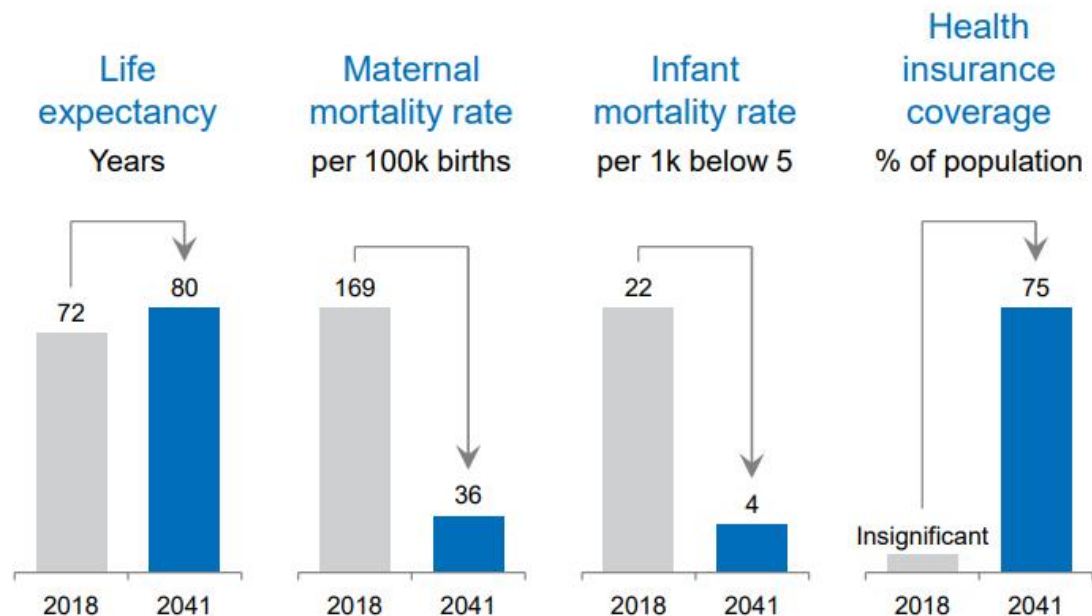- Emerging technologies CoE (AI/ML, Cybersecurity, Robotics etc.)

Startup Bangladesh
Start-up funding / incubation support; VC / PE participation

Tech and Infrastructure Backbone
- Universal Internet Access
- Government Cloud and Data Center

2041 | SMART BANGLADESH

Context | Bangladesh has ambitious health targets for 2041, which will require a step change in the accessibility, coverage, affordability, and quality of care

Vision 2041 Human Development targets[1]

Life expectancy
Years
72 (2018) → 80 (2041)

Maternal mortality rate
per 100k births
169 (2018) → 36 (2041)

Infant mortality rate
per 1k below 5
22 (2018) → 4 (2041)

Health insurance coverage
% of population
Insignificant (2018) → 75 (2041)

Key challenges

Coverage

Accessibility

Affordability

Quality

a2i's response to SRH and Child Marriage

- Telemedicine
- 333
- Pregnancy Monitoring
- Health Data Architecture
- DFS for Marginalized Women
- Online Educational Platform

Exploring the Potential of Telemedicine on SRH

MA TELEHEALTH CENTER

4.28 Lac Telehealth services

79, 987 Patients Served

COMMUNITY SUPPORT TEAM (CST)

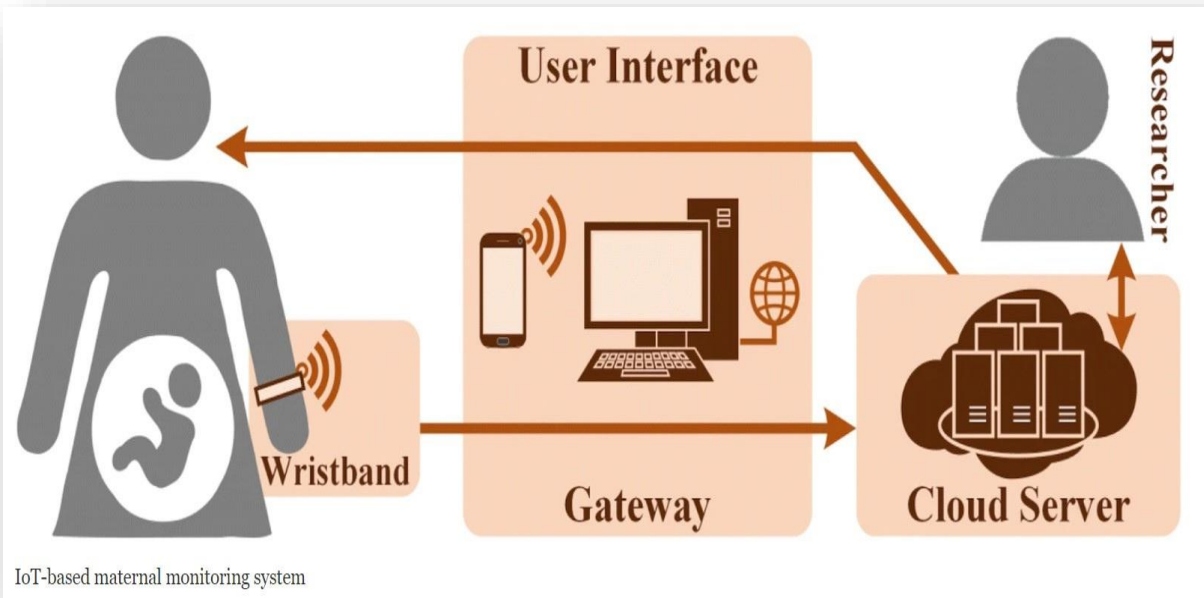**27,000 Telehealth services**

2,000 SRHR services

Support Provided:

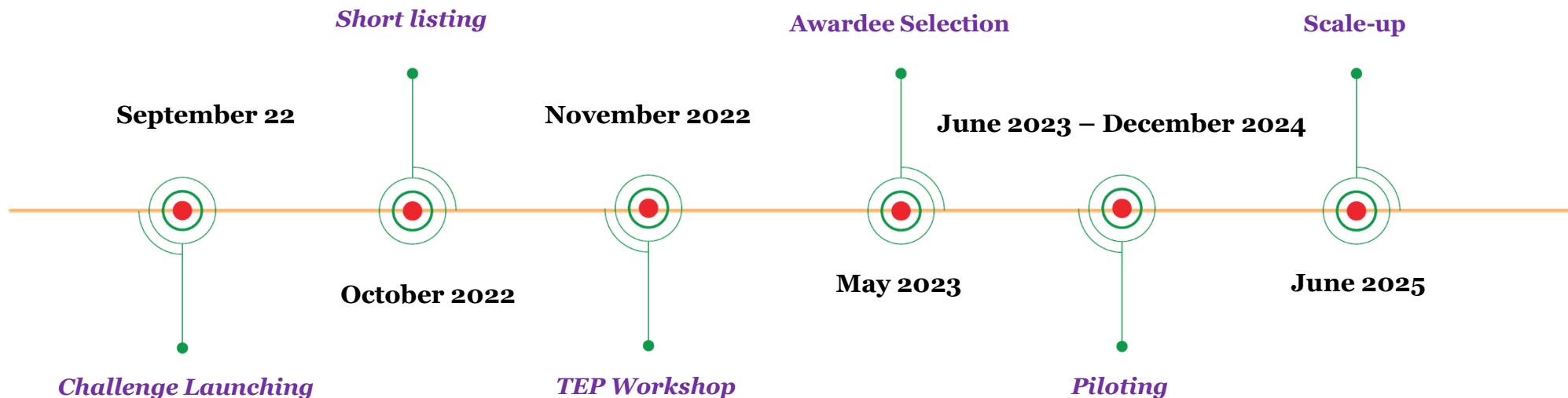Telemedicine & Counselling support to adolescent, pregnant & lactating women on:

- ➢ Maternal & Reproductive Health
- ➢ Adolescent Health
- ➢ Mental Health
- ➢ Gender Based Violence Reporting

Smart Pregnancy Monitoring
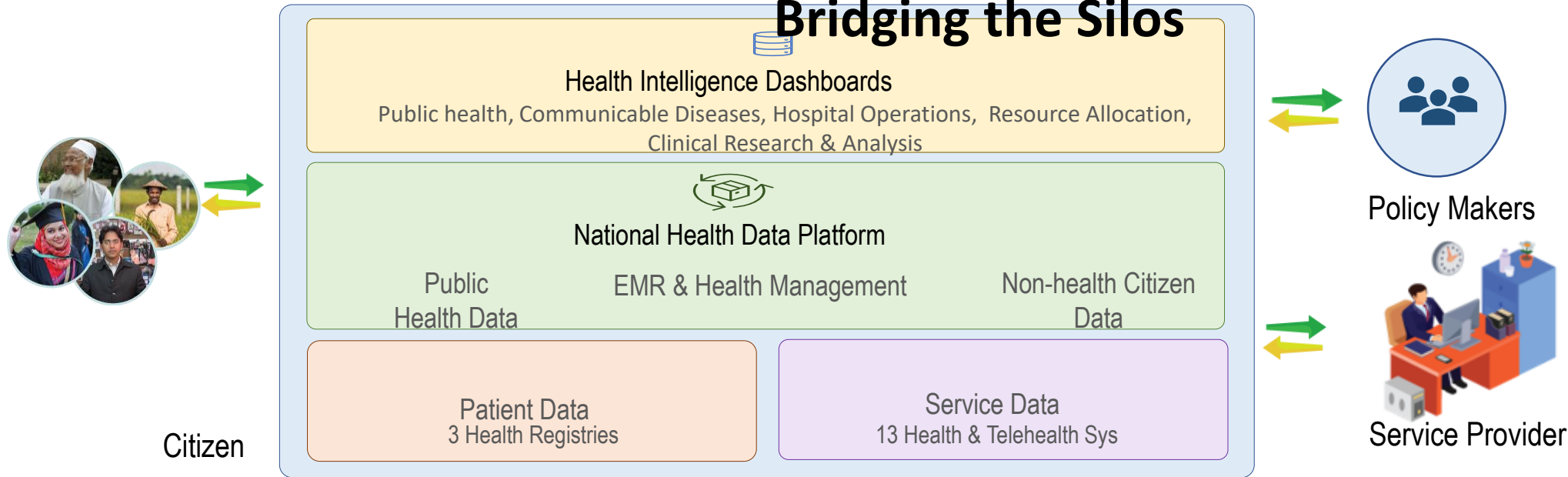

IoT-based maternal monitoring system

Features:
- Two Way Communication system
- Holistic digital ecosystem to disseminate BCC messages
- Interactive systems IoT, Chatbot, IVR
- Central Data Management System
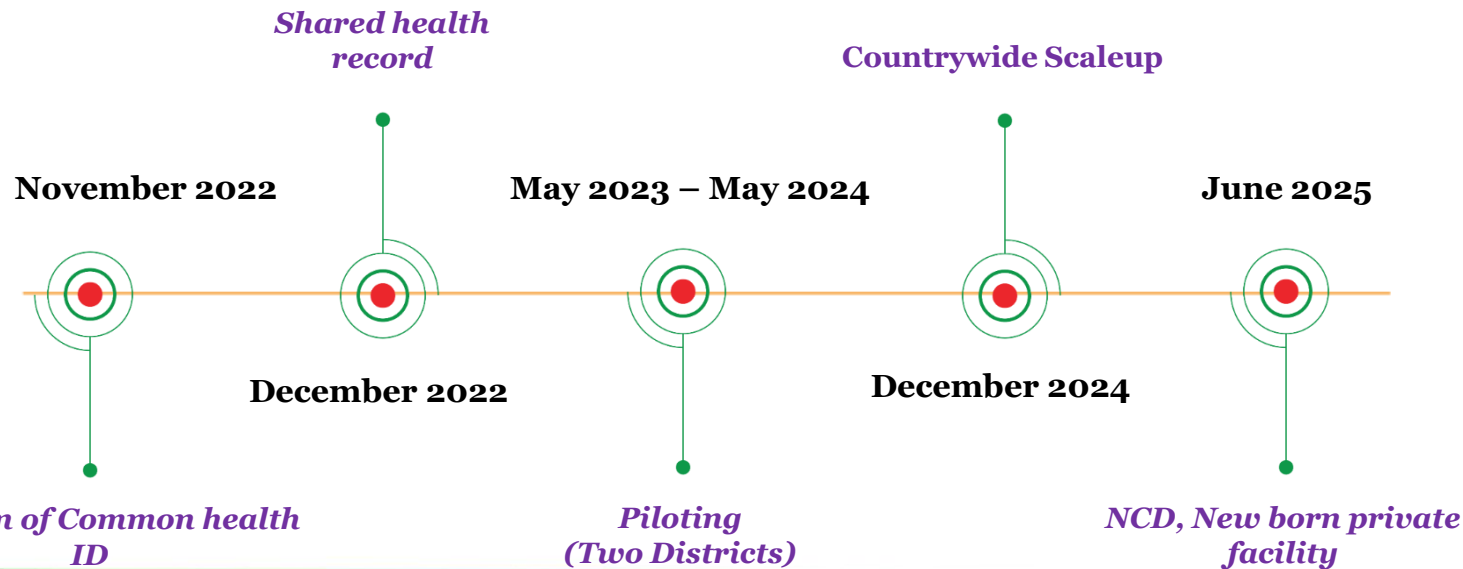- Predictive Analysis

Short listing

Awardee Selection

Scale-up

September 22

November 2022

June 2023 – December 2024

October 2022

May 2023

June 2025

Challenge Launching

TEP Workshop

Piloting

Pregnancy Monitoring System Through Health Data Architecture: Bridging the Silos

Health Intelligence Dashboards
Public health, Communicable Diseases, Hospital Operations, Resource Allocation, Clinical Research & Analysis

National Health Data Platform

| Public Health Data | EMR & Health Management | Non-health Citizen Data |

Patient Data
3 Health Registries

Service Data
13 Health & Telehealth Sys
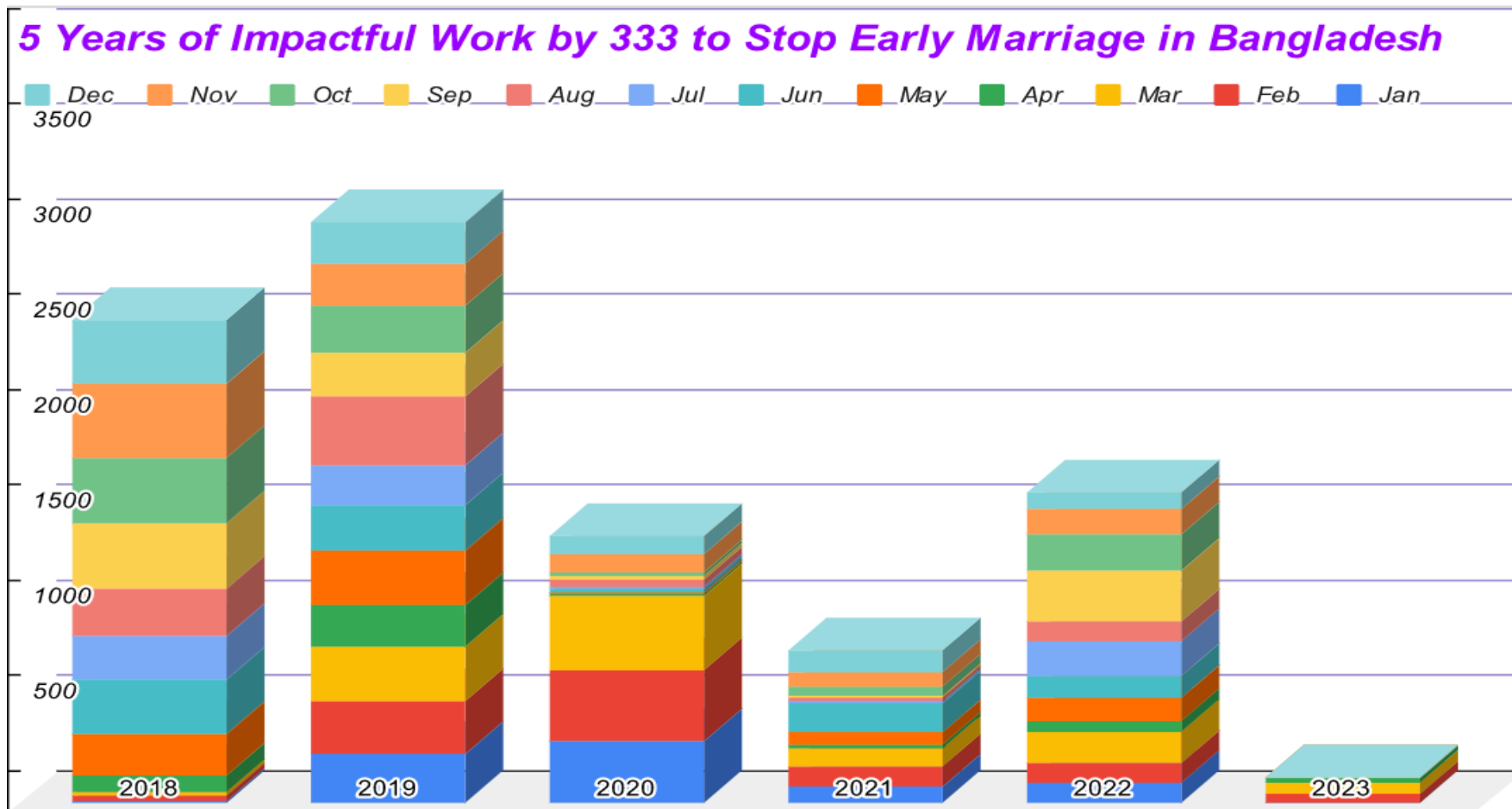
Citizen

Policy Makers

Service Provider

Features:

➢ Data Integration & Interoperability
➢ Central Data Mangement System
➢ Eliminate Data Duplication
➢ Unique Health ID
➢ Shared Health Record
➢ Central Disease Terminology Registry

Shared health record

Countrywide Scaleup

November 2022

May 2023 – May 2024

June 2025

December 2022

December 2024

Creation of Common health ID

Piloting (Two Districts)

NCD, New born private facility

2041 | SMART BANGLADESH

333: Stop Early Marriage with a Phone Call ~10k Early Marriages Stopped

5 Years of Impactful Work by 333 to Stop Early Marriage in Bangladesh

Legend: Dec · Nov · Oct · Sep · Aug · Jul · Jun · May · Apr · Mar · Feb · Jan

Years: 2018, 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022, 2023

➢ 51% of girls in Bangladesh are married before the age of 18

➢ 18% are married before the age of 15.

333: Featured in International Media

Receiving information on public services is now just a phone call away

Inspired by the overwhelming positive response of 333, the emergency hotline, government has recently launched another hotline: 333. This call centre is going to provide information on procedures of receiving public services. One can also inform about any social problems and request for intervention by the authority.

TOP NEWS
- Shahidul dropped from remand abruptly
- Bail denied to 4 pvt university students
- Eid-ul-Azha on Aug 22
- Quader rules out dialogue with BNP
- 2 school students drown in Ramna lake
- Another Road Crash: Teen's death sparks protest

VIEW MORE

On April 12, 2018, Prime Minister's ICT Affairs Adviser Sajeeb Ahmed Wazed, as chief guest, launched the call centre service (333) at the Prime Minister's Office. Minister of Posts, Telecommunications, and

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Asia&Pacific | China-Asia&Pacific | Opinion | Window of China | Latest | Photos | Video

Asia&Pacific

Feature: Helpline "333" helps Bangladesh halt forced child marriages

Source: Xinhua | 2019-11-02 09:57:10 | Editor: Liu

DHAKA, Nov. 2 (Xinhua) — Mariam Akhter, a girl who lives in a rural village in Bangladesh, narrowly escaped a forced marriage when she was only 14 years old.

She now studies at an Islamic school in the Chandpur District, located some 115 km southeast of Dhaka, and has hopes now of a bright future.

Mariam saved herself from being forced into marriage by calling the helpline number "333".

On hearing of her woeful situation, local officials rushed to where she was and foiled her family's bid to marry off their extremely young daughter.

By making use of the helpline numbers, many under-aged girls like Mariam have saved themselves from the curse of child marriage in parts of Bangladesh, where the minimum legal age for marriage is, in fact, 18 years old for females and 21 for males.

For adolescent Bangladeshi girls, the helpline "333" launched in April, 2018 by Bangladeshi Prime Minister's ICT Affairs Adviser Sajeeb Wazed Joy, has emerged as a "lifesaver".

In a bid to achieve the sustainable development goals (SDGs) by 2030, the country has been trying to address such social maladies as child marriage and other social ills that have hampered the country's development.

According to the State of World Population Report 2019 released by the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), a staggering 59 percent of the marriages that took place in Bangladesh between 2006 and 2017 involved brides below the age of 18.

China.org.cn

Hot Topics: • Xi visits Greece, attends BRICS summit • Xi visits India, Nepal • Xi attends G20 summit

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Xinhua, November 2, 2019

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ASEAN BREAKING NEWS

Latest Stories from ASEAN and Around the World

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November 2, 2019

Video PlayerClose DHAKA, Nov. 2 (Xinhua) — Mariam Akhter, a girl who lives in a rural village in Bangladesh, narrowly escaped a forced marriage when she was only 14 years old. She now studies at an Islamic school in the Chandpur District, located some 115 km southeast of Dhaka, and has hopes now of a bright future. Mariam saved herself from being forced into marriage by calling the helpline number "333". On hearing of her woeful situation, local officials rushed to where she was and foiled her family's bid to marry off their extremely young daughter. By making use of the helpline numbers, many under-aged girls like Mariam have saved themselves from the curse of child marriage in parts of

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Feature: Helpline "333" helps Bangladesh halt forced child marriages (https://article.wn.com/view/2019/11/02/Feat...

Posted, 2019-11-02

Xinhua (http://www.xinhuanet.com/english/2019-11/02/c_138522713.htm)

developed with YouTube (https://youtube.com)

DHAKA, Nov. 2 (Xinhua (https://wn.com/Xinhua) -- Mariam Akhter, a girl who lives in a rural village in Bangladesh (https://wn.com/Bangladesh), narrowly escaped a forced marriage when she was only 14 years old.

She now studies at an Islamic school (https://wn.com/Islamic_school) in the Chandpur District (https://wn.com/Chandpur_District), located some 115 km southeast of Dhaka (https://wn.com/Dhaka), and has hopes now of a bright future.

আমার স্কুল | বই সমূহ | জীবন দক্ষতা | ক্যারিয়ার দক্ষতা | প্রজনন শিক্ষা | প্রোফাইল

বাছাইকৃত বিষয়

মানসিক স্বাস্থ্য | বাল্যবিবাহ ও কৈশোরে গর্ভধারন | পুষ্টি | বয়ঃসন্ধি কাল | টিন সহিংসতা ও জেন্ডার বৈষম্য | সম্পর্ক | কিশোর বাতায়ন লাইভ | হেল্পলাইন

- 3000+ content Though web+ social media

- Dynamic system to get into the content easily

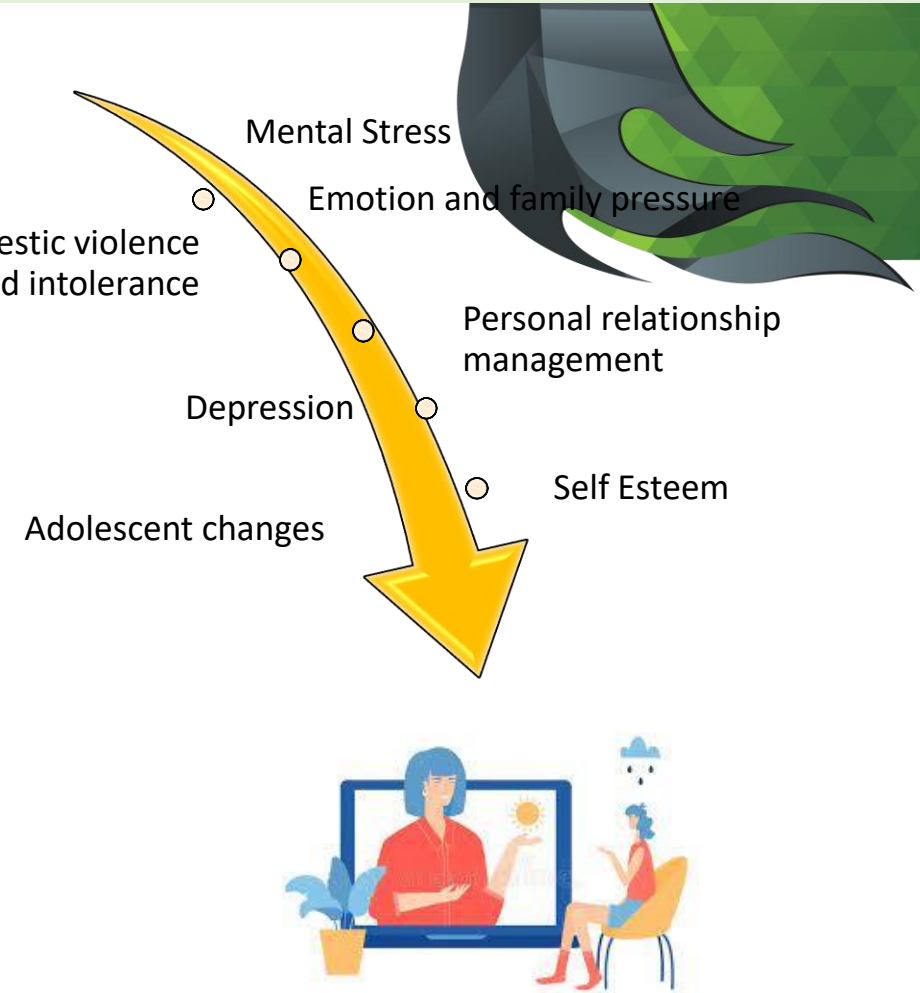SRHR education and Mental health support Corner in
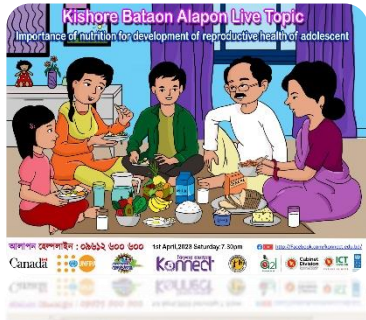**Konnect** কিশোর বাতায়ন

- Experts directly connects the students

- Able to read and download also share the blogs

a2i | Cabinet Division | ICT DIVISION | UNDP

"Mental Health Support' Though **Konnect**

60+ Konnect – Alapon Facebook Live program

40+ Konnect Café live program

1,00,000+ question answered .

500 School teacher trained by icddr,b & DU

10,000+ Call received by Alapon helpline

10+ National & international Partner

Konnect
Alapon Live
&
Konnect Café

Mental Stress

Emotion and family pressure

Domestic violence and intolerance

Personal relationship management

Depression

Self Esteem

Adolescent changes

Partnership with

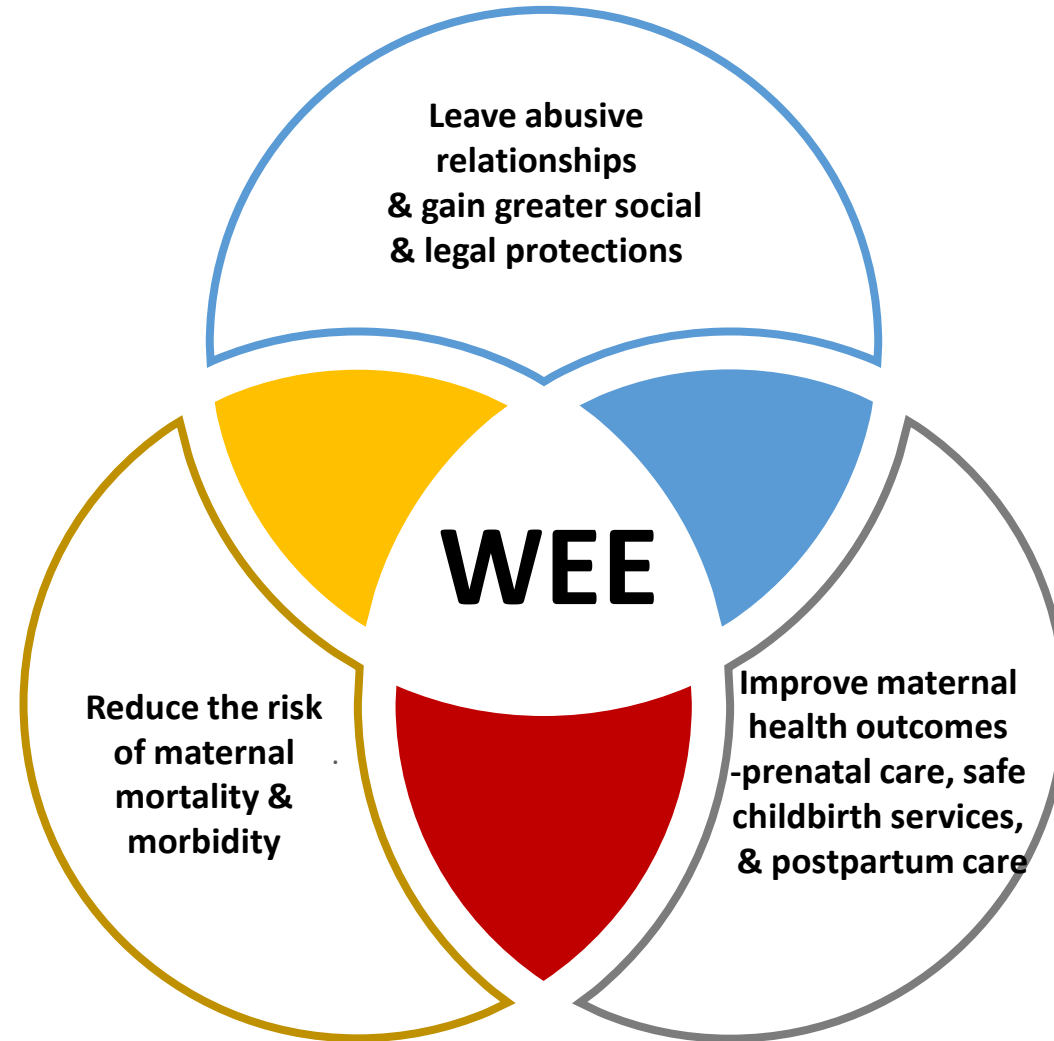**PATHFINDER**

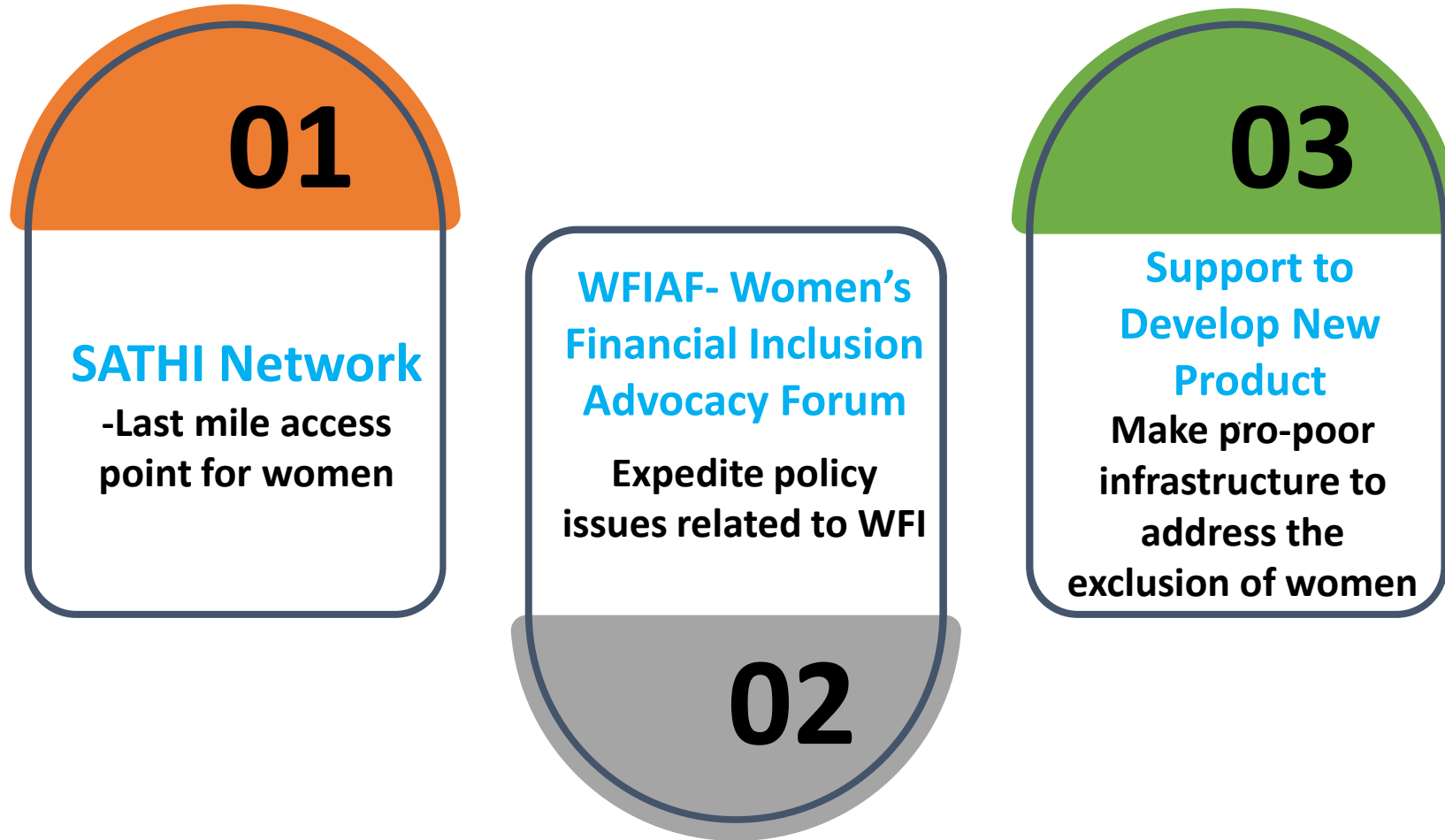# Mental health Course in **Muktopaath**
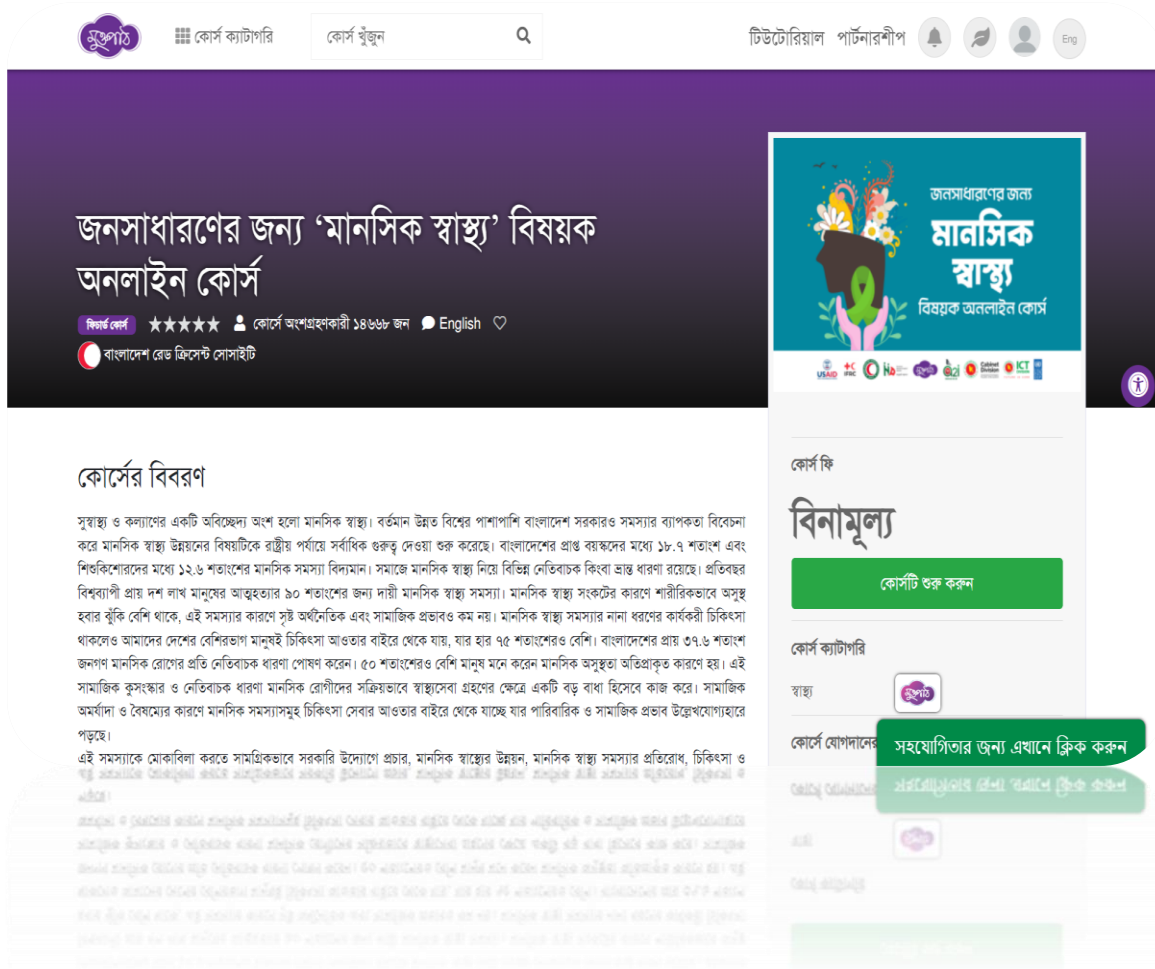
Objective

Ensuring mental health and well-being through individual empowerment, family and social support and capacity building, mental health promotion, disease prevention, treatment and rehabilitation is the motto of Bangladesh government's mental health policy.

Enrolled - 14668 → Content- 46 → Partnered with USAID, BRCS, IFRC

2041 | SMART BANGLADESH

Relations with Women's Economic Empowerment (WEE) & SRHR

Leave abusive relationships & gain greater social & legal protections

WEE

Reduce the risk of maternal mortality & morbidity

Improve maternal health outcomes -prenatal care, safe childbirth services, & postpartum care

a2i's ecosystem: Empowering women economically through financial inclusion

01

SATHI Network
-Last mile access point for women

WFIAF- Women's Financial Inclusion Advocacy Forum

Expedite policy issues related to WFI

02

03

Support to Develop New Product
Make pro-poor infrastructure to address the exclusion of women

Empowered women- more control over agency- better control over reproductive rights

1. SATHI Network

SATHI playing a crucial role in creating financial access for
- Individual rural women
- Women-led small business

Total number of member: 185

Major Activities of SATHI

Provide banking & MFS Service

Provide Digital and Financial literacy

Support rural entrepreneurship development

Develop the capacity of women to use digital platform

Create linkage with e-Commerce platform

FI Allow women more mobility: access transportation, enable travel to healthcare facilities, attend educational programs that promote their SRHR

2. Women's Financial Inclusion Advocacy Forum (WFIAF)

Intervention areas

01
- Accelerate women's economic empowerment through financial inclusion by catalyzing knowledge generation, fostering best practices and sector collaboration

02
- Provide recommendations to FSPs and fintech companies to invest gender lens in financial products

Digital financial inclusion- Have a transformative impact on women's SRHR outcomes- Gain greater agency & informed decision-making power over their bodies and health rights

3. Develop New Product

Each phases of the product development process

01 Consider women specific needs

02 FSPs come up with innovative women's financial products

Challenge Fund for WFI

Focused to go beyond gender neutral approach

03 Gender transformative approach

Recommendations

➢ Cross-cutting digital technologies broaden opportunities and capitalise on efficiency and cost effectiveness

➢ Breaking the Silo to ensure integration & Interoperability

➢ Coordination & Collaboration effort to strengethen SRH & ensure no one left behind

➢ Reduce gender gap with access, use and ownership of the digital technologies

➢ Knowing and Using the Law to Shape Women's and Girls' Rights to Health

Thank you