

PREFACE

I am pleased that the Economic Relations Division (ERD), Ministry of Finance is bringing out the forty-sixth issue of the publication titled 'Flow of External Resources into Bangladesh'. Over the years, the publication has earned the credibility to serve as 'one-stop' reference book on the share of external resources and debt to the economy of Bangladesh. Continuous effort has been made to improve its thematic presentation, graphics, and analytics to meet the expectations and needs of the readers compared to earlier issues of the publication.

I have been informed that, since independence, external resources amounting to USD 180 billion have been mobilized to finance development projects and programs. To support the implementation of the 8th Five Year Plan, ERD mobilized USD 28.7 billion during FY 2020-21, FY2021-22 and FY2022-23. Similarly, the disbursement of external resources has been improving over the years. In FY 2022-23, disbursement crossed the landmark of USD 10 billion for the second consecutive time. During the last three financial years, a total amount of USD 28.9 billion was disbursed. However, the long-established policy of following a prudent borrowing strategy still remains the cornerstone of our external debt management. The external debt to GDP ratio is 15.6% in 2023 which is well below the threshold level of 40%.

Resource flows from multilateral and bilateral development partners and servicing of loan information of government are presented in this publication. Summary data on borrowings from the International Monetary Fund (IMF), external debts of State-Owned Enterprises (SOEs), and grants extended to Non-Government Organizations (NGOs) are also recorded at aggregate levels in this book. Public debt relating to defense establishment and private sector debt remain outside the remit of the publication. The publication is put together on the basis of information available with ERD and supplemented, where necessary, by the reports of the development partners, project directors, the Bangladesh Bank, and other corporate bodies. Some figures shown in the report may need to be revised, based on feedback from the development partners and others concerned.

Finally, I appreciate the Secretary and his team, especially officers and staff of the Foreign Aid Budget and Accounts (FABA) Wing of ERD for their hard work in publishing the book. I hope that ERD would continue publishing this document and at the same time make every effort to improve its scope, analysis, and presentation of data. Suggestions for further improvement of the publication are most welcome. If any discrepancy comes to the notice of the readership or any clarification is needed, ERD may please be contacted.

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