Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh
Ministry of Finance
Economic Relations Division

# PRESS RELEASE

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## Government of Bangladesh and UNFPA Renew Partnership to End Child Marriage, Extending Reach to 32 Districts

*Revised partnership scales up the national drive against child marriage and adolescent pregnancy, more than doubling coverage from 15 to 32 districts and extending the project through 2027.*




*Representatives of the Government of Bangladesh and UNFPA at the signing of the revised Project Document at ERD, Dhaka, on 2 November 2026.*

The Government of Bangladesh and the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) today renewed their partnership to end child marriage at a ceremony held at the Economic Relations Division (ERD), Ministry of Finance, in Dhaka.

Speaking at the ceremony, Mr. A K M Sohel, Additional Secretary and Wing Chief (UN), ERD, described UNFPA as a longstanding partner of Bangladesh since 1974. He said that ending child marriage remains a foremost priority of the Government. He added that the effort is fully aligned with the Five-Year Strategic Framework (2026–2031).

Ms. Catherine Breen Kamkong, UNFPA Bangladesh Representative, reaffirmed UNFPA's commitment to the girls of Bangladesh, stating that the agency would continue working with the Government to safeguard adolescent girls' rights, prevent early marriage and help young women in fulfilling their potential.

Mr. Sohel and Ms. Kamkong then jointly signed the revised Project Document for the initiative titled "Accelerating Action to End Child Marriage in Bangladesh (Phase II)." Senior representatives of the Ministry of Women and Children Affairs, the Department of Women Affairs and the Planning Commission attended.

The revised phase will run until 31 December 2027. The project's geographical coverage has more than doubled, expanding from 15 to 32 districts. To support this expansion, the total budget has been increased from Tk 12.48 crore to Tk 23.00 crore (Tk 2,300 lakh). UNFPA is providing Tk 20.84 crore as a grant, and the Government Tk 2.16 crore.

The Department of Women Affairs will implement the project under the Ministry of Women and Children Affairs. This program focuses on married girls and those at risk, offering life skills education, school initiatives, and safe community spaces.

Moreover, social norms and behaviour change interventions will be built into existing social safety nets of the government, including the Vulnerable Women Benefit (VWB) Programme and Jibikayon. The phase will also strengthen local action plans, improve real-time monitoring and fund an endline assessment.

Through these measures, the project is expected to reduce child marriage and adolescent pregnancy, delay early marriage, and give more girls the chance to stay in school and shape their own futures.

UNFPA has been a trusted development partner of Bangladesh for over five decades. The revised phase marks another step in this partnership to build a future free from child marriage in Bangladesh.

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