

Sampling Characteristics and Methodology

The unit of observation for the survey is the household. Interviews were conducted with an equal number of women and men, each representing their households. Additional purposive sampling was conducted to ensure a representative estimate of ethnic and religious groups as well as communities of ecologically vulnerable areas. The total sample size of the survey was 10710 (257x30) households. However after thorough cleaning, the sample size included in the analysis is 9753 households.

A two stage stratified cluster sampling design was followed. The Integrated Multipurpose Sample (IMPS) design developed by Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics (BBS) from the Population Census 2001 was the sampling frame used. The IMPS design consists of 1000 Primary Sampling Units (PSUs) throughout the country. A PSU is defined to be a cluster of around 200 households. In the first stage, 357 PSUs (of which 250 were rural and 107 urban) were selected, using a linear systematic sampling scheme. These PSUs were selected from 12 different strata (consisting of rural and urban areas in Bangladesh's six administrative divisions)¹ using proportional allocation. Table-1 below shows the allocation of PSUs to the strata. The households located in these selected PSUs were listed. In the second stage, 30 households from each selected PSU were selected systematically using a random start. Annex 2 contains a map of the *upazilas* or sub-districts in which the survey was conducted.

Div. code	Name of Division	Total Number of PSUs			Number of PSUs selected		
		Total	Rural	Urban	Total	Rural	Urban
10	Barisal	80	55	25	29	22	7
20	Chittagong	179	116	63	64	45	19
30	Dhaka	289	172	117	102	67	35
40	Khulna	146	89	57	52	35	17
50	Rajshahi	251	170	81	90	66	24
60	Sylhet	55	38	17	20	15	5
Total		1000	640	360	357	250	107

The draft survey questionnaire was pilot-tested to ensure that the concepts presented and the terminology used in the questionnaire could be understood by all respondents; adjustments were made accordingly. Enumerators were trained for several days on the administration of the finalized questionnaire. Following the selection of an individual respondent, the interviewer requested his or her permission to be interviewed. If the individual was unavailable, two follow-up visits were made to the unavailable respondent's address to avoid substitution, during the two days that the survey team was stationed in each selected area.

¹ Rural:640; urban:360.

Socio-economic Characteristics of Respondents and Households

All respondents were above 18 years of age, and 50 percent were female across all divisions, which is representative of the population generally.² Respondents tended to fall between the 31 to 50 years of age, with 46 percent of respondents belonging to that category, again which is roughly representative of the population as a whole. In total, 68 percent of respondents had no education or primary education only. Sylhet division had the highest percentage of respondents in this category, with 76 percent. Those with tertiary education formed only six percent of the sample.

The percentage of respondents participating in regular, salaried positions was low at seven percent. Chittagong division had the highest rate of salaried employment, with 10 percent. Forty three percent of respondents, all of whom were women, performed household chores as their main occupation. Thirteen percent of respondents, mostly men, relied on farming for their income. This percentage was slightly higher in Rajshahi division (15 percent). In total, 11 percent of respondents were day laborers³ and 15 percent engaged in non-farm self-employment.

Sylhet division had only 552 observations, the lowest number among all divisions. This smaller number perhaps accounts for its deviation from the average in many instances (its small number of observations means that it can vary widely from other divisions with minimal impact on the overall average).

Table 2. Characteristics of respondents, national, by division and by urban-rural

	Barisal	Chittagong	Dhaka	Khulna	Rajshahi	Sylhet	Urban	Rural	Total	National
Female (%)	50	50	50	51	50	50	50	51	50	50
Age (%)										
<30 years old	28	34	32	31	34	37	34	33	33	33
31-50 years old	44	45	46	48	47	43	47	46	46	46
50+ years old	28	21	21	20	19	20	19	21	21	21
Education (%)										
No education	30	36	42	41	46	45	30	44	41	41
Primary education	34	28	26	28	24	31	24	28	27	27
Secondary level education	29	28	26	26	24	18	33	24	26	26
Tertiary level education	7	8	6	6	6	6	13	4	6	6
Main Occupation (%)										
Household chores	43	43	43	44	43	42	41	44	43	43
Farming	13	12	13	13	15	12	4	16	13	13
Day laborer	9	10	10	11	14	18	8	13	11	11
Non-farm self-employment	15	14	16	16	15	9	21	13	15	15
Salaried employment	6	10	8	6	5	7	14	5	7	7
Other	14	12	10	11	8	12	13	10	10	10

² Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics, *Welfare Monitoring Survey Report*, 2009.

³ This trend was consistent across most divisions except Rajshahi and Sylhet divisions, where it was higher (14 percent and 18 percent, respectively).

Earning member (%)	44	47	50	48	51	49	50	49	49	49
Married (%)	85	86	88	89	88	80	85	88	87	87
Muslim (%)	93	86	91	87	92	86	90	90	90	90
Ethnic minority (%)	0	4	1	1	1	4	1	2	1	1
Number of observations (n)	786	1,747	2,699	1,458	2,511	552	2,895	6,858	9,753	9,753

Urban respondents have relatively better education status (46 percent of urban respondents having education at least up to secondary level or higher compared to 28 percent of rural respondents).

The vast majority of female respondents, 85 percent, were engaged in household work. Male respondents were roughly evenly divided among farmers (26 percent), day laborers (20 percent), and non-farm self-employed (28 percent). Twelve percent of male respondents participated in salaried employment. While 89% of men were the breadwinners, earning money outside the home, the figure is only 10% for women. With regard to education, females were nearly on parity with men at secondary level but lagged behind in education after secondary level (while nine percent of male respondents have tertiary education, only three percent of female respondents have the same). Male respondents were far more mobile than their female counterparts, with 70 percent traveling 10 kilometres at least a few times a month, perhaps for employment opportunities. Twenty-two percent of women reported having such mobility.

Table 3. Characteristics of respondents by sex

	Male	Female	Total
Age (%)			
<30 years old	28	38	33
31-50 years old	45	47	46
50+ years old	27	14	21
Education (%)			
No education	39	43	41
Primary education	25	29	27
Secondary level education	27	25	26
Tertiary level education	9	3	6
Main Occupation (%)			
Household chores	0	85	43
Farming	26	1	13
Day laborer	20	3	11
Non-farm self-employment	28	1	15
Salaried employment	12	3	7
Other	13	8	10
Earning member (%)	89	10	49
Married (%)	86	88	87
Muslim (%)	11	10	90
Ethnic minority (%)	2	1	1
Mobility ^a	70	22	45
Number of observations (n)	4,526	5,227	9,753

^a Travels 10 km at least a few times in a month

The average household size was 4.8 persons across divisions.⁴ Eighty-six percent of respondents lived in their own house, a figure that was roughly consistent across divisions. Twenty-nine percent of respondents reported to be living on less than a dollar-a-day, and 40 percent of respondents reported a food deficit.⁵ Urban households scored better than their rural counterparts in household characteristics such as smaller household size, poverty rate and self-reported food deficit (table 4).

Table 4. Household characteristics of the respondents by Division

	Barisal	Chittagong	Dhaka	Khulna	Rajshahi	Sylhet	National
Household size (mean)	5.1	5.3	4.7	4.6	4.5	5.8	4.8
Poverty rate (dollar-a-day)	26	26	27	29	31	42	29
Self-reported food deficit (%)	41	39	36	43	41	52	40
Living in own house (%)	91	84	81	90	91	86	86
Owens land (%)	50	43	50	55	52	41	49
Receive remittance from abroad (%)	8	26	15	7	5	25	14
NGO participant (%)	42	28	42	45	44	25	39
Actively participate in politics (%)	6	7	11	7	7	4	8
Number of observations (n)	786	1,747	2,699	1,458	2,511	552	9,753

Table 5. Household Characteristics of the respondents by rural-urban

	Urban	Rural	Total
Household size (mean)	4.7	4.9	4.8
Poverty rate (dollar-a-day)	18	32	29
Self-reported food deficit (%)	30	43	40
Living in own house (%)	65	92	86
Owens land (%)	36	53	49
Receive remittance from abroad (%)	15	13	14
NGO participant (%)	35	40	39
Actively participate in politics (%)	10	7	8
Use mobile everyday (%)	60	38	43
Have ever used computer (%)	7	2	3
Number of observations (n)	2,895	6,858	9,753

The percentage of respondents who received remittances from abroad varied widely across divisions, and differs from the existing data in the Poverty Assessment. Roughly one in four respondents in Chittagong and Sylhet divisions received remittances from abroad, as did 15 percent in Dhaka division. Seven percent of respondents from Khulna division and eight percent of respondents from Barisal division received remittances. Only five percent of respondents in Rajshahi received foreign remittances, the lowest rate in Bangladesh.

⁴ Chittagong and Sylhet were higher than the mean, at 5.3 and 5.8 persons respectively.

⁵ The poverty rate and self-reported food deficit were significantly higher in Sylhet, where it was 42 percent (compared to the national statistic of 29%) and 52 percent, respectively (40% nationally). Compare World Bank, *Poverty Assessment: Bridging the East-West Divide*, 2008. Despite these data, foreign remittance earning has been highest in Sylhet, followed by Chittagong division.

The survey instrument also attempted to gather information about the social capital of households. Barisal, Dhaka, Khulna, and Rajshahi divisions had the highest percentage of NGO participants among respondents, falling within the 42-45 percent range. In the Bangladesh context, this means primarily that the respondents belong micro-finance organizations, the two biggest being BRAC and Grameen Bank. Respondents in Chittagong and Sylhet divisions had the lowest rate of NGO participation, at 28 percent and 25 percent respectively. In total, eight percent of respondents identified themselves as actively participating in politics, with Dhaka division having the highest political participation at 11 percent, while Sylhet has the lowest at four percent.