

GAWE 2021 & One Billion Voices

শিক্ষা সংলাপ -৯: করোনা বিপর্যস্ত শিক্ষা: কেমন বাজেট চাই

# Budget 2021-22: We Need a Pandemic Response Education Budget

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Organised by: Campaign for Popular Education (CAMPE)

In cooperation with: EOL – Advocacy for Social Accountability



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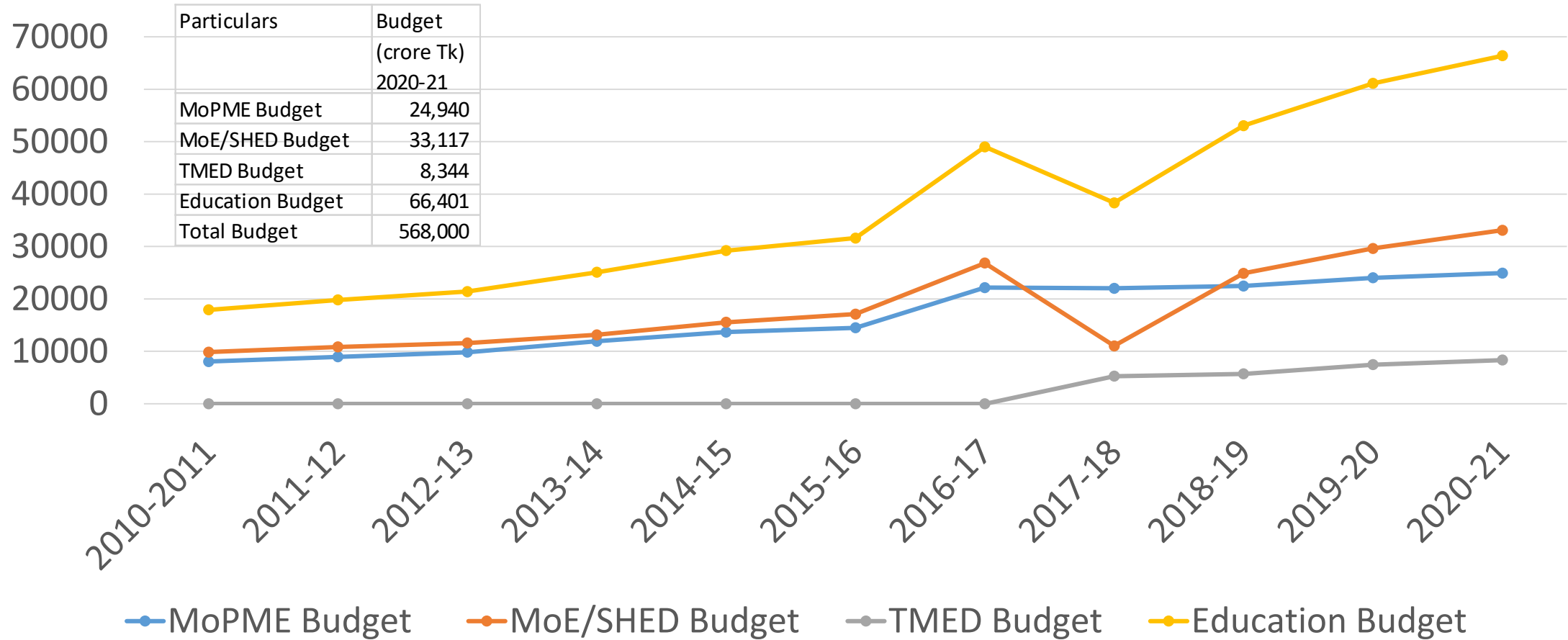
# BANGLADESH AIMING FOR A TRANSFORMED EDUCATION SYSTEM

GOAL 4  
QUALITY EDUCATION



Access with equity, quality and relevance, and governance and management provides the basic structure of transformative education system to acquire 21<sup>st</sup> century skills to meet the future educational needs

# TRENDS OF EDUCATION BUDGET IN BANGLADESH



**However, the Education Sector Plan (ESP) forecast shows that there are risk of financing deficit in the medium-term**

# IMMEDIATE IMPACT OF COVID-19

- **40 Million learners affected**

- School Closure – since 18 March 2020 - about 13 months
- Health and wellbeing - psychological effect on learners, social isolation, lack of access to school meal, lack of physical movement
- Limited preparedness of parents, interrupted learning , disrupted school calendar leading to learning loss, addition to internet use in some cases
- Economic cost – OOSC, child labour, early marriage, early pregnancy and gender based violence
- Progress made over last two decades slowing down
- Limited access to technology for the marginalized

# GOVERNMENT RESPONSE

- Government's COVID -19 response 2-year plan for education, prepared as a funding proposal, led to small external grants, but the government is yet to undertake any significant step except distance education initiatives with limited and uneven results.
- The 2020-21 budget has not included originally covid-19 response measures and budget revision, as far as we know, but yet to add any major pandemic response measures like “stimulus package”
- In the education sector, 200,000 (approx) institutions and 40 million children are yet to receive any stimulus or relief
- While the government and MPO supported teachers and institutions have been receiving their regular payment, others are falling into great distress without any help except a token amount to the non-MPO teachers. Many education institutions are disappearing and teachers leaving profession in search of livelihood.
- 8th Five-Year Plan has not adequately highlight education response to pandemic and emergencies, which has been a persistent issue even without Covid-19

# EXPANSION OF DIGITALIZATION IN EDUCATION SECTOR

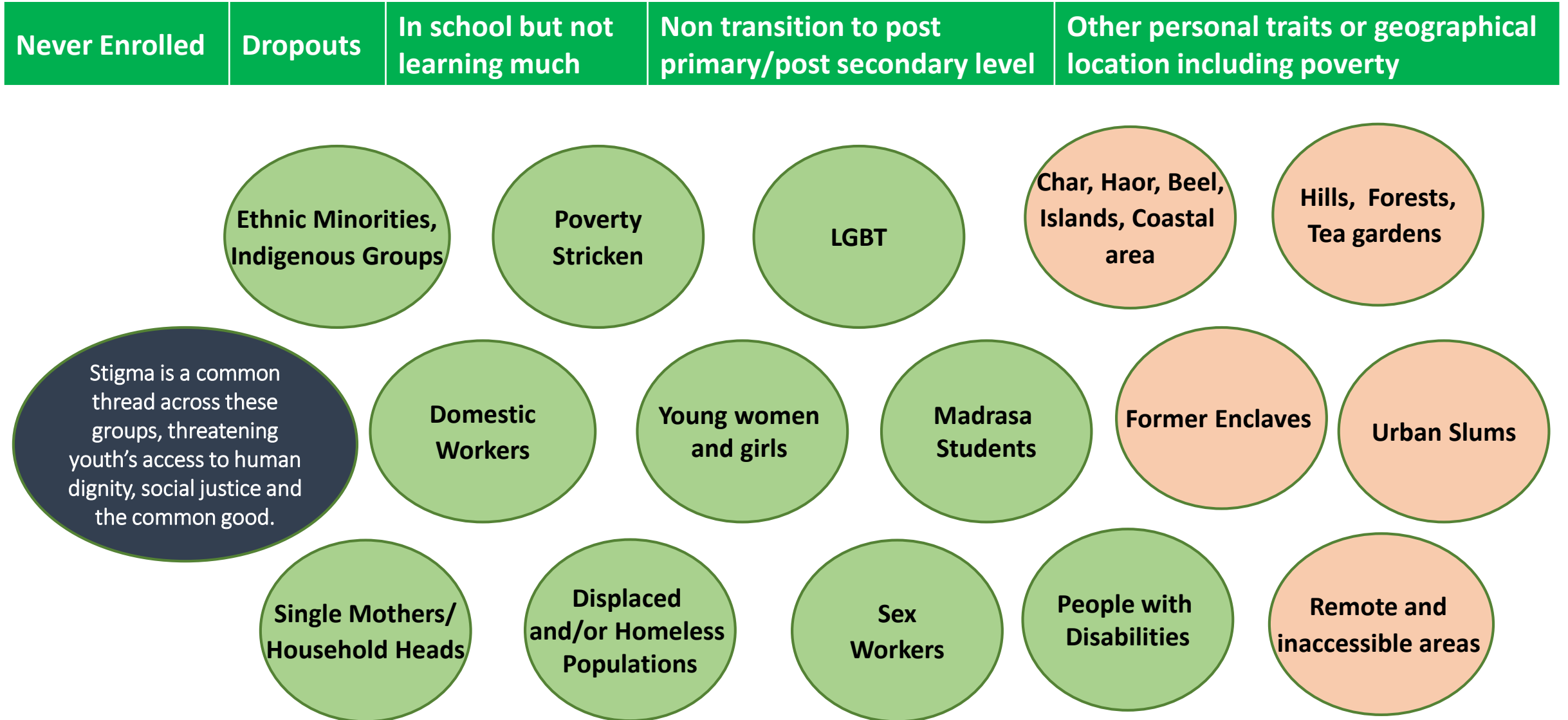
- TV, internet, mobile and radio based learning programmes introduced but yet to reach substantial number of learners – leading to digital divide and widening disparity
- Yet to get momentum on ‘teacher preparedness’ for ICT based teaching-learning processes, blended approach, flipped approach, self learning materials and model development to accelerate available innovative approaches
- Academic support, development of standard operating procedure and quality assurance are yet to be visible

# CSO Response to Education

- Engagement in planning process of GoB response through ELCG, Education Cluster, NAWG and A2i-led initiatives
- Modest interim response by NGO education providers aligned with GoB directives and plans
- Experiment and introduction of alternative learning modalities focused on the most marginalized
- Contribute to preparation for ‘back to school preparedness programme’
- Conducted rapid response surveys, studies (for example, pilot programmes by NGOs for innovation, Education Watch, YAR, BIGD initiatives, etc.) and facilitated consultative processes at national and sub-national levels focused on selected key issues (e.g. Shikkha Songlap)

# INCLUSIVE QUALITY EDUCATION FOR ALL – LEAVING NO ONE BEHIND

## WHO IS LEFT BEHIND?





# THE CENTRAL QUESTIONS FOR EDUCATION BUDGET 2021-22

- Media reports have been showing that health, economy, infrastructure and agriculture are getting priority in 2021-22 budget. How education, the key for social development and economic prosperity, has been perceived as a **priority sector**? Need to be focused.
- How do we restart education activities in the entire system -- with all institutions and all students included - and begin a learning and education recovery plan, after almost 15 months of loss; and the plan has to be for 2 to 3 years and merge into a longer term plan?
- What kind of financial support can be given by the government and how can it be ensured that the resources are used effectively and for the right purpose? How to ensure Size, Share, Sensitivity and Scrutiny?

# MOVING FORWARD

- At least 10% of the revised budget for 2020-21 and 20% of 2021-22 budget should be made available to schools and upazilas to prepare for and continue school reopening and starting the learning recovery plan in each institution and each upazila. *Education Watch* Interim Report (Draft January 2021) has outlined the elements of a ten-point plan. More detailed report will be available soon.
- Secure 20% of budget for education and ensure transparency, participation and equity in planning and implementation.
- Increase budget for digitalization of the teaching-learning process including teachers' capacity development and inter-ministerial cooperation
- Enhance effort to improve the alternative education and distance learning including developing blended learning approach and also developing self-learning materials

# MOVING FORWARD – CONT'D

- Increased investment for WASH programme in each and every education institution.
- Enhance learner protection (e.g. safe school, stipend, school meal, combating physical and humiliating punishment, gender based violence, etc.).
- Upazila and school working teams with NGO/community involvement should be formed to plan and monitor use of the funds.
- Increased collaboration with non-state, non-profit actors with provision of adequate resources by the government.
- Consider formula based financing to address the inequality and taking affirmative actions in favour of the most marginalized and excluded groups.
- Creation of an 'Education Support Fund' for addressing and mitigating the adverse impact of COVID-19 on education
- Consider increase domestic resource mobilization through introduction of Education CESS, district/Upazila education fund, and also consider tax justice, increasing tax base, and taking special measure to deal with tax avoidance and improper use of tax holiday and concessional rates.

# Thank You

**For additional information please contact**

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