KEY FINDINGS
Bangladesh scores lower than the regional average across the GDB pillars, but scores well for open-data initiative and civil service training under Capabilities. From a Governance perspective, the country also has strong data management frameworks and open-data policies. However, Bangladesh does not demonstrate good Use and Impact, with no evidence of using data to influence policy or support due diligence.

CAPABILITIES
There is evidence of government’s actions to train civil servants on data matters, where two organisations provide trainings that are open to non-technical public servants. However, the trainings are limited to high level officials at the national level. In terms of open data, the Bangladesh government formulated an Open Government Data Strategy in 2016, the initiative going live within that same year. There is also a non-government initiative that is opening up government data in accessible format. There is no evidence that city, regional, and local governments have the capability to effectively manage data, or that the government is providing support for data reuse.

GOVERNANCE
Bangladesh’s Right to Information Act (2009) provides protection from disseminating personal data against RTI request. However, the Digital Security Act (2018) provides protection of personal data from a criminal point of view. Open Government Data (OGD) Strategy 2016 provides a framework for data management and publication with a minimum standard for metadata when government data is catalogued or published. The strategy also provides some technical standards recommendations for management and publication of government data. The Open Government Data (OGD) Strategy 2016 also mentions data sharing issues, but it does not explicitly state data sharing within government.

AVAILABILITY
Bangladesh has data available for existing land use, political finance data, RTI performance data, budget and spend data, public procurement data, vital statistics, real-time healthcare system capacity and COVID-19 vaccination. However, there is low availability of data in areas such as beneficial ownership, company register, land tenure, asset declarations, lobbying data, public consultation data, emission, biodiversity and climate vulnerability.

USE AND IMPACT
There is no evidence that data is being used to influence policy in the interests of equitable and inclusive land tenure and use, or that government procurement data is being analysed to improve procurement practice. Similarly, there is no evidence of political integrity data being used to identify, expose, or highlight failures of government. No product or service has been found that uses open company data to support due diligence.
Bangladesh, a country in South Asia, is the eighth most populous country in the world, recording a population of more than 167 million people and an urban population of 38%. The large Muslim Bengalis majority makes it the third-largest Muslim-majority country in the world. Politically, Bangladesh is a unitary parliamentary constitutional republic based on the Westminster system. Its economy reached lower-middle income status in 2015. It has been significantly affected by the pandemic, although has rebounded 6.9% in 2021.

DATA ECOSYSTEM IN THE COUNTRY

There is evidence of the country's indicators by standards of international organizations e.g. SDG (Index Rank: 104/163).

There is a strategy that provides guidance for generating and publishing open data: Open Government Data (OGD) Strategy 2016.

Several acts mention data protection including the Right to Information Act 2009 and Digital Security Act 2018, and extend to both private and public sector.

NOTES:


GLOBAL DATA BAROMETER 2022 FIRST EDITION

The Global Data Barometer is a collaborative project that aims to measure the state of data in relation to urgent societal issues. Building on the Open Data Barometer, which has been used to drive policymaking, advocacy, and academic research, the survey was implemented from May 2019 - May 2021 to create a benchmark encompassing data governance, capability, availability, and use and impact of data for public data.

Full report and downloadable datasets can be found here: https://globaldatabarometer.org/.