Is Digital Bangladesh about Improving Healthcare?

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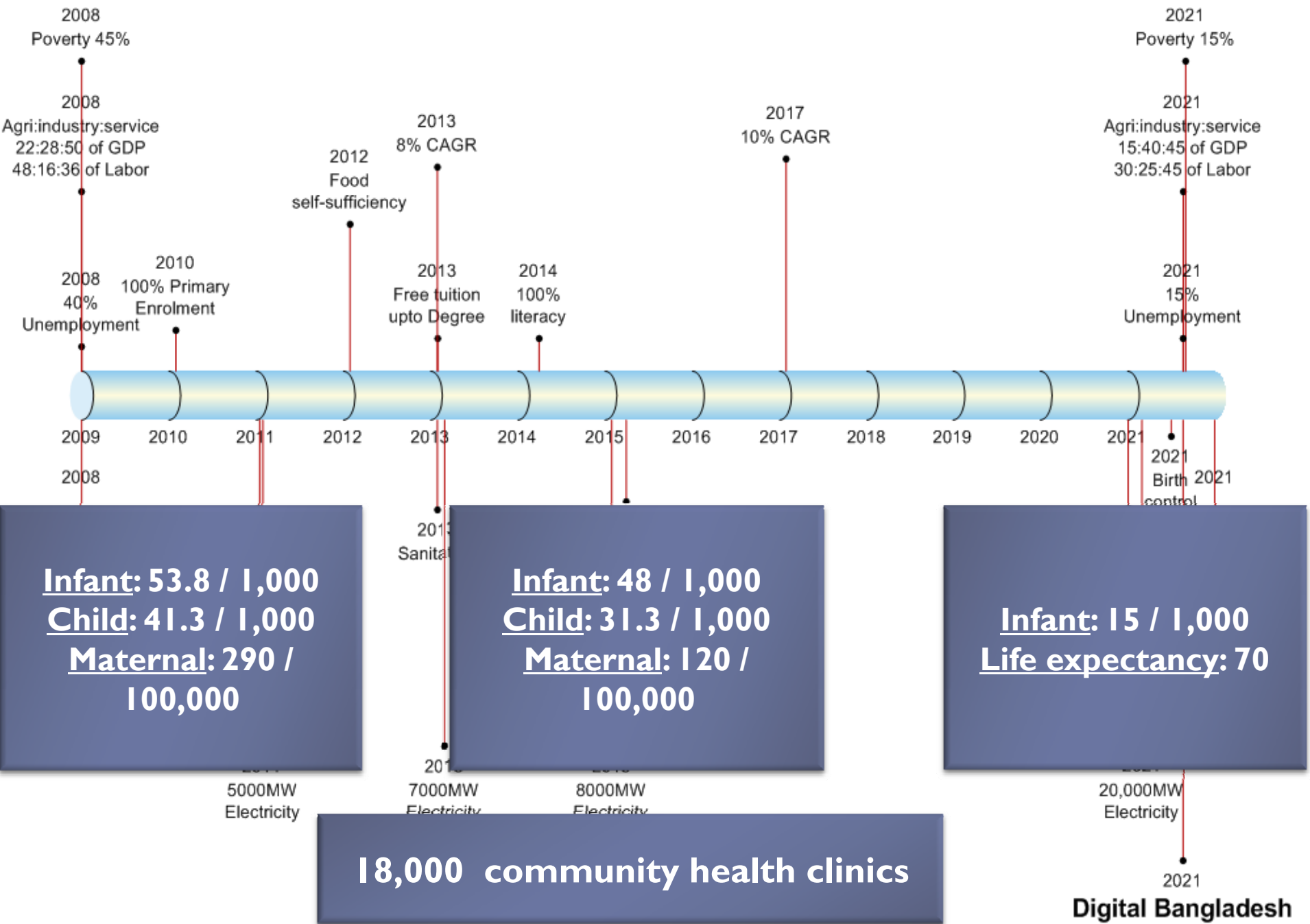
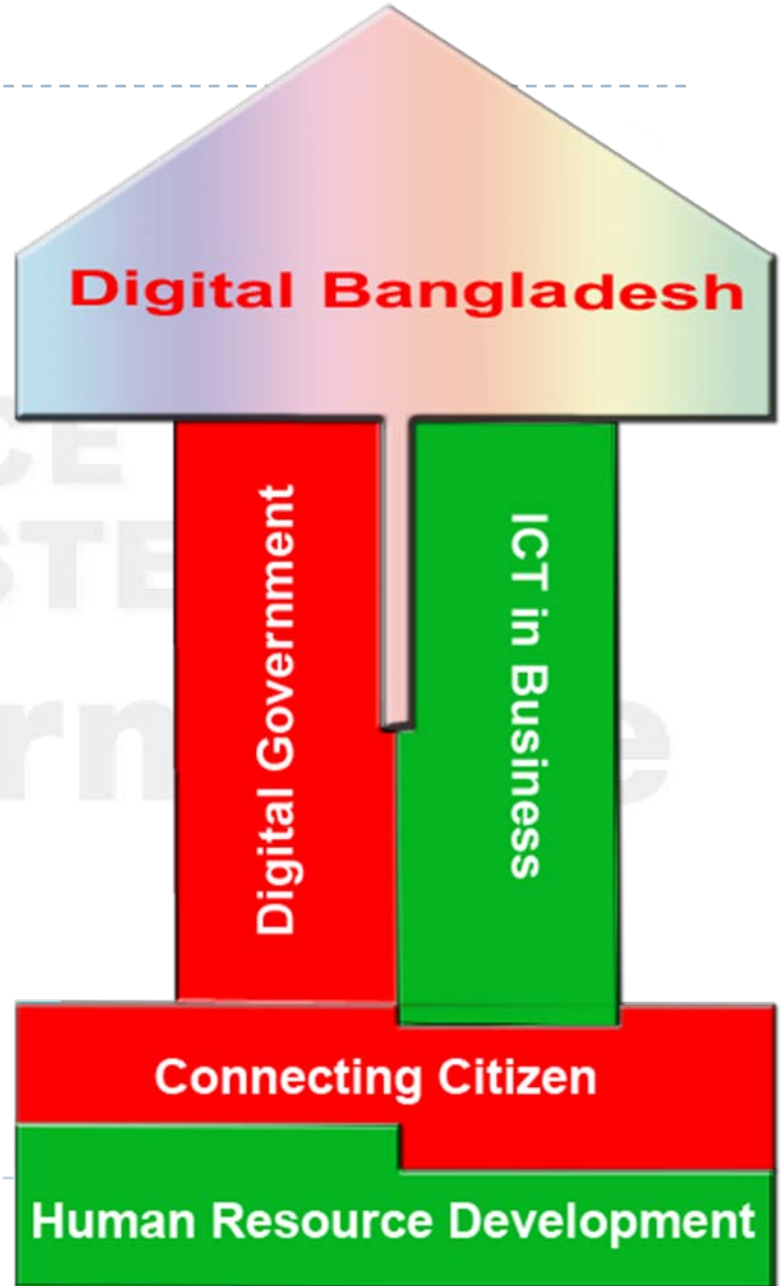
Vision 2021 Milestones



ICTs Key Ingredient to Achieve Vision 2021

<u>ICTs as a pro-poor tool for</u>

- Poverty alleviation
- Establishing good governance
- Social equity through
  - Quality education
  - **Universal healthcare**
  - Law enforcement for all
- Climate change adaptation



Relevance of ICTs in MNCH

1. Improving healthcare delivery
2. Strengthening management, monitoring and planning of healthcare delivery
3. Capacity development of service providers in field
4. Public awareness development

(Ref: ICT Policy, New Health Policy, PRSP-II, 6th 5-yr plan, National Perspective Plan)

1. Improving Healthcare Delivery

- Problem: Lack of access to doctors
- e-Solution: Telemedicine
  - Link patients or inexperienced / rural / junior health workers with experienced / urban doctors
  - Combine mobile test kits in rural areas
- Bangladesh Status
  - All govt. civil surgeons have webcams, all upazilla doctors publicly accessible mobile phones
  - 8 hospitals will have high-quality telemedicine services
  - Blood supply database planned
  - Inexpensive, long-life laptops in community clinics planned
  - Private sector mobile healthlines
    - approx. 15-20 thousand calls / day

2. Strengthening Management, Monitoring and Planning

- Problems
  - Lack of access to real-time data needed for strategic intervention
  - Monitoring too expensive, unreliable, prone to human error and frailty
- e-Solution: Electronic (especially using cell phone) data collection and management
  - Transforming data into patient records
  - Targeting risky patients instead of 'one-size-fits-all' strategy
    - Changing health workers' visit schedules
  - Mobile camera, SMS, MMS play the 'monitoring' role

- Bangladesh Status
  - Monitoring district civil surgeons by video-conferencing
  - Patient mgmt. through remote instructions piloted by private sector and NGOs
  - Exploring National ID platform as e-Health platform
  - Bio-surveillance using mobile phones and PDAs

3. Capacity Development

- Problem: Inadequate capacity of health workers to deal with problems and to remember procedures
- e-Solution
  - Anytime, anywhere learning (e-Learning) for doctors, health workers
  - Mobile learning unit
  - Content accessible over mobile phones
  - PNC/ANC guided by remote doctors / IVR / software

- Bangladesh Status
  - Health e-content developed by many NGOs and piloted in 100 Union Parishads and a few hundred NGO-based telecentres
  - Guiding field workers through mobile phone-based medical triage by NGO/private sector collaboration

4. Awareness Development

- Problems: Health advisory absent, not timely and not on-demand
- e-Solutions
  - Targeted and timely health advisory
  - Early warning for pandemics
  - Response to on-demand queries especially in emergency situations
- Bangladesh Status
  - Health advisory through SMS
  - Vaccination alerts, medication reminders planned
  - Pregnancy-related advice through SMS planned

Achievement: Key Mindset Change within the Government

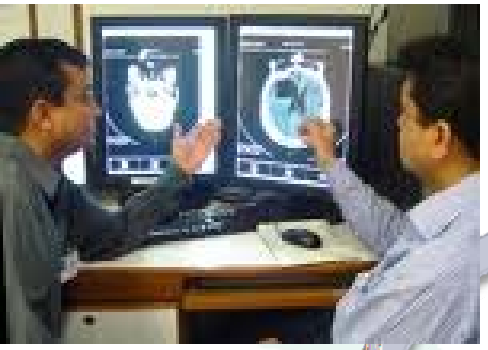
Mothers and Babies Speak

"Digital Bangladesh means not having to stand in queue for healthcare, not having to die because the services I deserve couldn't come to me."

- Citizens will not go to services, services will come to citizens
- Use already available technologies

e-Health → 'Healthcare at Doorsteps'

Goal: Partnerships



Public

Private

People

Technical Assistance / Resources from Development Partners

Thank you!