To date, the Bangladeshi government has announced rescue packages worth USD11.6 billion, equivalent to 3.5% of GDP, that focus mainly on supporting manufactured exports and agriculture, as well as creating various safety nets.

As part of Bangladesh’s coronavirus relief efforts, the government launched a scheme to provide financial assistance to 5.0 million vulnerable families who will each receive a one-time grant of BDT 2,500 through mobile banking services.

In addition, the government inaugurated a programme through which the education stipends and tuition fees will be provided to graduate-level students through mobile banking services.

Launched in May 2020, Ekdesh is the country’s first digital crowd-funding platform that raises funds and disburses them as zakat or financial aid. The platform has enabled individuals or organizations to make donations via debit/credit cards or mobile payment/digital wallet for businesses and low-income populations whose income and livelihoods have been adversely impacted by the coronavirus pandemic.

Currently, the country’s statistics support the growth of mobile banking services, which is an important stride toward financial inclusion. As of May 2020, there were 161.5 million mobile phone subscribers in Bangladesh, of which 94.0 million are mobile internet subscribers, according to the Bangladesh Telecommunication Regulatory Commission.

In a country where mobile penetration is very high, mobile money has been touted as an effective way for Bangladeshis excluded from the formal financial system - including women, youth and the rural poor - to access reliable financial services and tools such as payments, savings, credit, and insurance.
A key component of the government’s financial inclusion strategy is to promote a “Digital Bangladesh” that includes the uptake of mobile money and other digital payment platforms.

Positively, Bangladesh’s mobile banking landscape received a boost in September 2011, when the central bank issued the **Mobile Financial Service Guidelines** which clarified mobile banking opportunities for banks, defined clear roles, and signalled support for banking innovation.

The share of adults with a mobile money account has reached higher than the world average of 4%.

Males represent a considerably higher percentage of bank account ownership compared to females.

Overall, the high mobile phone density coupled with a large rural population (63.4%) in Bangladesh presents a unique opportunity to leverage the mobile platform to meet the objectives and challenges of financial inclusion.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Account Ownership</th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ages 15-24</td>
<td>56%</td>
<td>41%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ages 25+</td>
<td>72%</td>
<td>54%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Male</td>
<td>72%</td>
<td>65%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Female</td>
<td>65%</td>
<td>36%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rural</td>
<td>66%</td>
<td>50%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mobile money account (% age 15+)</td>
<td>4%</td>
<td>21%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mobile money account (male, % age 15+)</td>
<td>66%</td>
<td>50%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mobile money account (female, % age 15+)</td>
<td>3%</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mobile money account, rural (% age 15+)</td>
<td>4%</td>
<td>22%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* Global Findex Database 2017

**Use of Mobile Financial Services** (as of April 2020)

- Inward remittance: BDT 1.12 billion
- Cash in transaction: BDT 87.10 billion
- Cash out transaction: BDT 82.28 billion
- P2P transaction: BDT 92.43 billion
- Salary disbursement (B2P): BDT 10.65 billion
- Utility Bill Payment (P2B): BDT 2.71 billion

**Mobile Banking At a Glance** (as of April 2020)

- Number of banks: 15
- Number of agents: 995,265
- Number of registered clients: 85.129 million
- Number of active accounts: 28.170 million
- Number of daily average transaction: 7,252,165.00

**Number of daily average transaction**

- Inward remittance: BDT 1.12 billion
- Cash in transaction: BDT 87.10 billion
- Cash out transaction: BDT 82.28 billion
- P2P transaction: BDT 92.43 billion
- Salary disbursement (B2P): BDT 10.65 billion
- Utility Bill Payment (P2B): BDT 2.71 billion