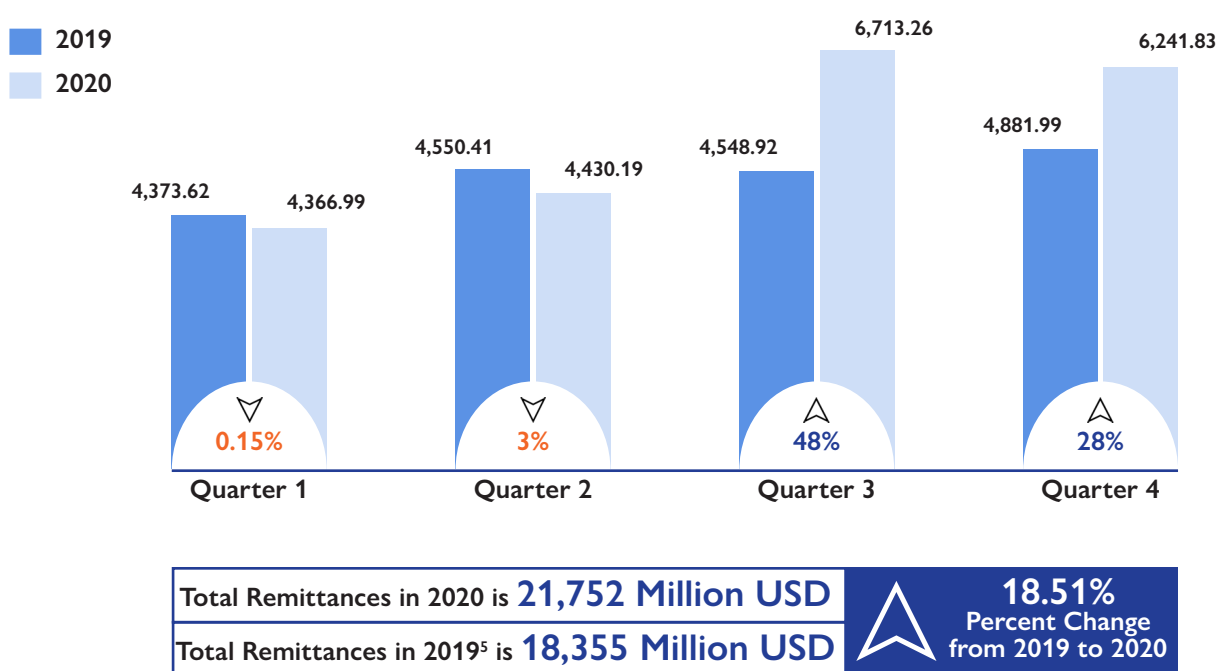


## BACKGROUND

Remittances sent by migrant workers play a vital role in the economic growth and development in Bangladesh. However, as a result of COVID-19 lockdowns and the return of migrants from host countries, the World Bank predicted that remittance inflows to South Asia would fall by 22 per cent in 2020.<sup>1</sup> Similarly, the Asian Development Bank forecasted that due to COVID-19, Bangladesh would be among the five worst-hit developing Asian economies with regards to remittances and may see its remittance inflows fall by 27.8 per cent.<sup>2</sup> Despite these predictions, from May 2020 onwards, remittances to Bangladesh began to increase. As a result of this growth, the World Bank revised their estimate and projected that Bangladesh's remittance inflows would grow about 8 per cent to 20 billion USD in 2020.<sup>3</sup> In alignment with these projections, in 2020, Bangladesh was among the top ten highest remittance-recipient countries, receiving an estimated 19.8 billion USD compared to the 18.4 billion USD the year before.<sup>4</sup>

## QUARTERLY COMPARISON OF REMITTANCES IN 2019 AND 2020

Quarterly Remittance Inflows 2019 vs 2020 (Million USD)



## SUMMARY

Despite the initial prediction of a decline in remittances to Bangladesh due to the COVID-19 crisis, remittance inflows to the country defied expectations and rose 18.51 per cent from 2019 to 2020. Similarly, although Bangladesh experienced a reduction in remittance inflows in the first two quarters of 2020, remittances to the country increased in the last two quarters of 2020.

<sup>1</sup> World Bank (2020). World Bank predicts sharpest decline of remittances in recent history. Press release (22 April 2020). Retrieved from <https://www.worldbank.org/en/news/press-release/2020/04/22/world-bank-predicts-sharpest-decline-of-remittances-in-recent-history#:~:text=WASHINGTON%2C%20April%2022%2C%202020%20—,COVID%2D19%20pandemic%20and%20shutdown>

<sup>2</sup> Asian Development Bank (2020). COVID-19 Impact on International Migration, Remittances and Recipient Households in Developing Asia. Retrieved from <https://www.adb.org/sites/default/files/publication/622796/covid-19-impact-migration-remittances-asia.pdf>

<sup>3</sup> Dhaka Tribune (2020). World Bank forecasts 8% surge in remittance for Bangladesh (31 October 2020). Retrieved from <https://www.dhakatribune.com/bangladesh/2020/10/31/world-bank-forecasts-8-surge-in-remittance-for-bangladesh>

<sup>4</sup> The Daily Star (2021). Rise in Remittance in 2020: Bangladesh one of three large recipients (20 February 2020). Retrieved from <https://www.thedailystar.net/backpage/news/remittance-2020-bangladesh-third-largest-recipient-2047861>

<sup>5</sup> This report is based on data provided by The Bureau of Manpower, Employment and Training (BMET). Retrieved from <http://www.old.bmet.gov.bd/BMET/statisticalDataAction>. All numbers are in USD Million.

## TOP 10 COUNTRIES FROM WHERE BANGLADESH RECEIVED HIGHEST REMITTANCES IN 2020

In 2020, Bangladesh received its highest share (24%) of remittances from Saudi Arabia. United States of America and United Arab Emirates were also among the top countries from where Bangladesh received its remittances in 2020 (14% and 12%, respectively).

1. Saudi Arabia:  
5,128



Percentage: 24%

2. United States of America:  
2,953



Percentage: 14%

3. United Arab Emirates:  
2,508



Percentage: 12%

4. Malaysia:  
1,735



Percentage: 8%

5. United Kingdom:  
1,649



Percentage: 8%

6. Kuwait:  
1,569



Percentage: 7%

7. Oman:  
1,483



Percentage: 7%

8. Others:  
1,337



Percentage: 6%

9. Qatar:  
1,133



Percentage: 5%

10. Italy:  
712



Percentage: 3%

## ANNEX: REMITTANCE INFLOWS BY COUNTRY (2019 & 2020)

Countries	Quarter 1		Quarter 2		Quarter 3		Quarter 4	
	2019	2020	2019	2020	2019	2020	2019	2020
Bahrain	113.53 <sup>6</sup>	109.39	121.25	107.14	117.49	160.04	103.38	143.77
Kuwait	402.45	347.41	426.54	279.28	379.80	466.36	366.78	476.09
Oman	276.82	269.47	308.00	343.76	322.22	486.16	308.16	383.80
Qatar	253.66	248.89	289.52	209.45	287.46	346.52	275.38	327.72
Saudi Arabia	817.76	916.41	869.45	1,144.32	952.71	1,614.11	1,006.69	1,453.64
United Arab Emirates	714.42	563.92	674.81	569.00	629.65	752.47	713.92	622.25
Libya	1.04	0.74	1.17	0.43	1.28	0.83	1.59	1.42
Iran	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.08	0.01	0.00	0.00
Australia	14.90	13.61	17.02	15.45	15.55	34.41	16.75	34.78
China, Hong Kong SAR	4.91	4.46	5.58	3.67	4.66	4.87	4.26	4.79
Italy	195.93	173.97	187.84	107.91	194.61	226.81	222.56	203.74
Malaysia	305.11	322.21	328.48	265.89	321.03	607.24	323.95	540.00
Singapore	95.17	117.44	108.03	107.50	108.06	189.06	124.94	155.61
United Kingdom	345.26	333.00	326.99	296.10	340.61	516.14	397.36	503.83
United States of America	467.60	610.21	509.71	691.42	493.97	815.21	610.88	836.14
Germany	18.27	13.20	17.30	11.18	13.70	15.26	14.63	16.90
Japan	18.18	11.19	12.45	12.09	14.31	20.13	12.36	22.65
Republic of Korea	32.98	41.80	32.03	40.09	38.25	55.68	57.95	74.46
Others	295.63	269.67	314.24	225.51	313.48	401.95	320.45	440.24

<sup>6</sup> All the remittance inflows mentioned are in Million USD.