While part of the motivation is political, a potentially more important aspect is China’s attempt to create a market for data that unleashes its value and propels growth. Beijing is pouring money into digital infrastructure, drafting new laws on data usage and building new data centers around the country with the goal of positioning China as a leader in transforming the world economy over the next few decades. While Xi has a long history of knocking back billionaires who could pose a threat to the Communist Party, he also wants to find a way to ensure growth is more evenly distributed among China’s 1.4 billion people. Although China is a one-party state, the party has Bangladesh, born out of a devastating civil war and one of the world’s ugliest modern genocides in 1971, is a land of immense beauty and potential (Haq 1979). It is a densely populated country with more than 1,100 people per km2. Despite the regular occurrence of disasters both natural (e.g., floods, cyclones, and tidal waves) and man-made (e.g., price hikes, food insecurity, political conflicts, military rule etc.), poor governance, and the limited quality of human capital, Bangladesh has succeeded in maintaining an annual economic growth rate of around 6% in recent years.

### 3 Sustainability Priorities

The government of Bangladesh has defined a broad set of development goals for the year 2021, the country’s golden jubilee since independence, in its Vision 2021. The country has also formulated a National Sustainable Development Strategy to guide its transition to become a middle income economy by 2021. Its current sixth five-year plan from 2011-2015 defines key milestones towards these objectives.

3.1 Poverty reduction

Reducing poverty, the country’s “single most important socio-economic policy challenge” according to its current five-year plan, is a key target. Government grants are assistance by government in the form of transfers of resources to an entity in return for past or future compliance with certain conditions relating to the operating activities of the entity. They exclude those forms of government assistance which cannot reasonably have a value placed upon them and transactions with government which cannot be distinguished from the normal trading transactions of the entity. Government grants are sometimes called by other names such as subsidies, subventions, or premiums.