

MEDMEB

MedicalEquipment & DeviceManufacturer and Exporter of Bangladesh

INDUSTRY NEWSLETTER | AUGUST 2026

BuildingBangladesh'sMedicalDevice Industry: Time for a Strong National Policy

01

THE IMPORT GAP

Bangladesh's healthcare sector continues to expand rapidly, driving rising demand for quality medical equipment and devices. Yet despite growing local manufacturing capability, imported products still dominate the market. Domestic manufacturers currently supply only around 10% of the country's medical device needs, with the remaining 90% met through imports. This heavy reliance on foreign products drives up healthcare costs, strains foreign currency reserves, and constrains the growth of local industry.

Bangladesh Medical Device Market Composition (2026)

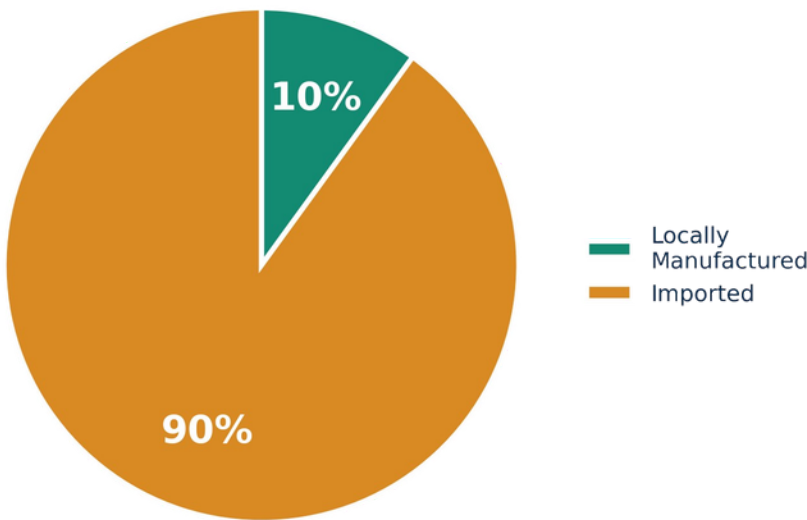


Figure 1: Local manufacturers meet only a fraction of national medical device demand, leaving the market heavily import-dependent.

The local industry has already proven it can manufacture hospital furniture, rehabilitation products, disposable medical supplies, diagnostic equipment, and a growing range of healthcare technologies suited to national needs. Manufacturers nonetheless face serious obstacles: high import duties on raw materials and components, costly financing, limited incentives for technology investment, expensive certification, and uneven competition against finished imported products. Together, these barriers erode the competitiveness of local producers despite their demonstrated production capacity.

A DEDICATED MEDICAL DEVICE POLICY IS NO LONGER OPTIONAL

Bangladesh needs a comprehensive National Medical Device Policy that treats medical devices as a strategic manufacturing sector in its own right, rather than folding them into broader pharmaceutical regulation. Such a policy should prioritize the following pillars:

- Fiscal incentives for local manufacturers
- Reduced duties on raw materials and manufacturing components
- Preferential procurement of certified, locally manufactured devices in public hospitals ▸

Low-interest financing for factory modernization and technology acquisition

- Support for international certifications such as ISO 13485, CE, and US FDA
- Promotion of research, innovation, and technology transfer
- Export development incentives for global market expansion
- Development of biomedical engineering talent and skilled technical manpower

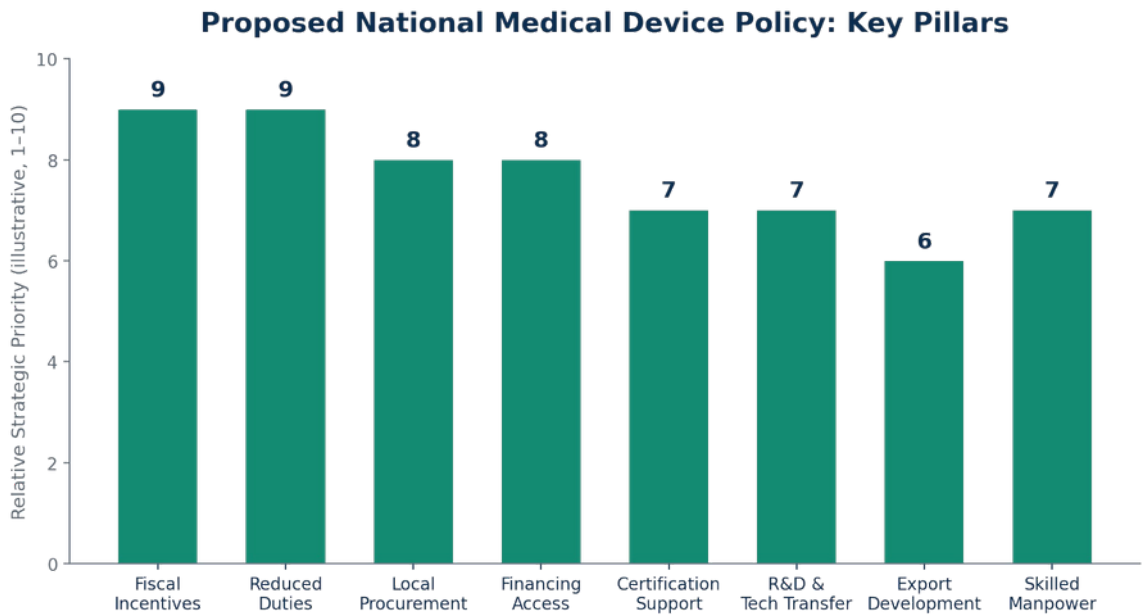


Figure 2: Illustrative relative priority of proposed policy pillars, reflecting MEDMEB's recommended areas of focus.

With this policy support, investment would be encouraged, local manufacturing capacity strengthened, and Bangladesh's healthcare resilience improved.

03

WHY SUPPORTING LOCAL MANUFACTURING MATTERS

Every locally manufactured medical device reduces import dependence while creating jobs, strengthening industrial capability, and conserving foreign exchange. A stronger domestic manufacturing base also improves supply chain security during global disruptions and enhances the country's readiness for future public health emergencies.

A PROVEN PLAYBOOK

Bangladesh's pharmaceutical industry shows what is possible when government policy, private investment, and industrial innovation align. The medical device sector deserves the same strategic attention and long-term policy commitment.

04

MEDMEB'S CALL TO ACTION

Medical Equipment & Device Manufacturer and Exporter of Bangladesh (MEDMEB) urges policymakers, healthcare institutions, development partners, financial institutions, and industry stakeholders to work together toward building a globally competitive medical device industry.

MEDMEB recommends that the Government of Bangladesh:

- ✓ Formulate and implement a dedicated National Medical Device Policy
- ✓ Introduce fiscal and tax incentives for local manufacturers
- ✓ Ensure fair and transparent procurement opportunities for certified Bangladeshi manufacturers
- ✓ Establish internationally accredited testing and certification facilities within Bangladesh
- ✓ Promote export competitiveness through market access initiatives and trade facilitation
- ✓ Encourage foreign direct investment, technology partnerships, and joint ventures

With the right policy environment, Bangladesh can significantly reduce import dependence, strengthen healthcare security, generate skilled employment, increase exports, and position itself as a regional hub for medical device manufacturing.

Together, let us build a stronger, self-reliant, and globally competitive Medical Device Industry for Bangladesh.

Medical Equipment & Device Manufacturer and Exporter of Bangladesh (MEDMEB)

August 2026