



Prospects and Opportunities of International Cooperation in Attaining SDG Targets in Bangladesh

(Global Partnership in Attainment of the SDGs)



General Economics Division (GED)
Bangladesh Planning Commission
Ministry of Planning
Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh
September 2019



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Message

I would like to congratulate General Economics Division (GED) of the Bangladesh Planning Commission for conducting an insightful study on “Prospect and Opportunities of International Cooperation in Attaining SDG Targets in Bangladesh” – an analytical study in the field international cooperation for attaining SDGs in Bangladesh.

The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) agenda is an ambitious development agenda, which can't be achieved in isolation. It aims to end poverty, hunger and inequality; act on climate change and the environment; care for people and the planet; and build strong institutions and partnerships. The underlying core slogan is ‘No One Is Left Behind!’ So, attaining the SDGs would be a challenging task, particularly mobilizing adequate resources for their implementation in a timely manner.

Apart from the common challenges such as inadequate data, inadequate tax collection, inadequate FDI, insufficient private investment, there are other unique and emerging challenges that stem from the challenges of graduation from LDC by 2024 which would limit preferential benefits that Bangladesh have been enjoying so far. Bangladesh may face higher duties, may need to fully comply with the TRIPS agreement on pharmaceuticals, may also lose LDC specific technical assistances such as Enhanced Integrated Framework (EIF), Least Developed Countries Fund (LDCF), access to LDC Technology Bank, etc.

Second unique challenge is the Rohingya influx and its impact. Although there has been a significant rise in the flow of foreign fund since 2017 for supporting the Rohingya people, the Rohingya influx has threatened not only the national peace and stability of Bangladesh but also regional harmony. This poses an additional challenge in attaining many of the goals of SDGs, including Zero Hunger; Peace, Justice and Strong Institution; Life on Land; Sustainable Cities and Communities; Responsible Consumption; and, Climate Action.

The third challenge is vulnerability from global warming. Bangladesh is one of the most vulnerable countries that may impact Bangladesh's development aspiration. Bangladesh already is one of the most densely populated country of the world with limited resources base. Losing preferential benefits due to graduating to middle income country and sheltering huge number of Rohingya refugees would impose more stress on the economy. Hence, there is much need for international cooperation for attaining the SDG objectives, in addition to unfolding challenges emerging from regional and global trade war.

The Government of Bangladesh led by the dynamic leadership of Hon'ble Sheikh Hasina is leading the country to a self-respecting and resilient nation. This process needs to be supported by our developing partners in the short to medium term as envisaged under goal 17 of the SDG. We need more strategic support in term of technology transfer, support to data generation for evidenced based policy decisions and facing the challenges of “Fourth Industrial Revolution”.

I take this opportunity to thank GED officials for their efforts in preparing the report. It is my firm believe that the study will be immensely beneficial for the policy makers, development practitioners and development partners dealing and concerned with the SDGs.

(M.A. Mannan, MP)



Message

I am pleased to learn that General Economics Division (GED) of the Planning Commission is going to publish the document titled “Prospect and Opportunities of International Cooperation in Attaining SDG Targets in Bangladesh”.

Several innovative areas could be explored for resource mobilization with regard to the implementation of SDGs in Bangladesh. To increase domestic revenue, international cooperation and transfer of knowledge for tax reforms and decentralization of revenue collection is urgently called for. For ODA, international cooperation is needed to develop the government’s implementing agencies’ capacities to utilize funds. Development Partners should strengthen their country offices to ease procurement and disbursement activities as well. International standard auditing and accounting of business firms and corporate houses are important prerequisite to attract FDI. Bangladesh already has a successful track-record of attracting private sector investments in telecommunications and power generation. These business models may be expanded to other sectors too. To improve inward remittance, best practices in diaspora engagement is necessary. International cooperation is needed to develop common reference indicators and a central database for scaling up South-South cooperation. For boosting the industries, developed world can help transfer environmentally sound technologies, and for enhanced trade, international communities can help Bangladesh to diversify its export basket to non-RMG products.

I believe that this study will be helpful for both developing and developed world to pinpoint the areas where partnership can be bolstered in facilitating SDG implementation in Bangladesh.

Lastly, I would like to extend my sincere thanks to the GED and commend the leadership of Dr. Shamsul Alam in completing this important study. Let me take this opportunity to thank UNDP for their support in conducting this publication.

(Md. Abul Kalam Azad)





Forewords

Despite the enthusiasm about the role of SDGs in significantly transforming the development landscape of the nations through global cooperation in the coming decades, the mobilization of resources for implementing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development remains a big challenge. It requires focused attention and huge investment. ODA has been one of the main pillars of international cooperation for development for the last five decades. However, the current levels of ODA is not enough to fill-in the huge investment gap – the difference between financing needed to achieve SDG goals and resources available from domestic sources. Support from additional groups of actors is required to meet the huge financing gaps, including exploring some innovative options at local, national, regional, multilateral, and global level, through the utilization of variety of means.

Under SDGs, in addition to financial support extended to the developing countries from various sources, emphasis is also put on cooperation which are not strictly financial but advance SDGs through sharing of technology and knowledge, capacity building, and technical assistance. To synergize these efforts in tackling common problems, further cooperation between the least developed countries, including South-South cooperation, have been emphasized in this study. The roles of the private sector and philanthropic organizations have also been recognized. NGOs have been identified as a crucial source of financing for their target and issue-oriented efforts. Finally, think-tanks and civil society organizations can provide support with policies and agenda promotion.

Progress of international cooperation in financing has remained largely short of the commitments. For Bangladesh, the trend of grants, commodity aid, and bilateral aid have declined while project aid and multilateral development assistance have seen a rise and the lending terms have become more market-based. The progress report of the UN Secretary General provides a disheartening view on SDGs and the current obstacles, which include declining ODA, misalignment of private sector efforts with SDGs, and the rising trade wars. It reiterated the call for more international cooperation and capacity building activities. For the SDGs to be attained, committed external resource flow, capacity development, strengthening of political and administrative institutions, accountability and transparency, public participation, engagement with youth and communities, and private sector participation are imperative. Without multi-stakeholders' participation, the SDGs will perhaps find little success in meeting global ambitions.

Bangladesh has been a recipient of development assistance since its independence. Assistance from the international partners helped the country reduce the degree of endemic poverty. The trend of grants, commodity aid, and bilateral aid has however declined while project aid and multilateral development assistance have seen a rise. In order to receive further international cooperation, Bangladesh must overcome some complex challenges. First, there is a lack of data on indicators for monitoring the progress on SDG targets, especially those related to international cooperation. This study discussed the progress of 60 indicators for Bangladesh, out of which 33 falls under Tier I (data available for 26 indicators), 15 are Tier II indicators (data available for only 5 indicators), and the remaining 12 are Tier III indicators which do not have any updated data. Second, the domestic revenue collection does not match our fast-growing demands for development needs, including those identified in the SDGs. Third, there is insufficient domestic spending compared to the requirement on key areas such as social protection, health, and education. Fourth, the absorptive capacity of different line ministries impedes disbursement of funds even though development partners commit significant external resources to Bangladesh. Fifth, the executing agencies do not have enough capacity and need further capacity building.

The SDG Financing Strategy document prepared by GED has benchmarked various sources of financing. There is further requirement for a fixed plan of implementation regarding these sources. Apart from international commitments, this study has identified further challenges for financing the SDGs. In terms of domestic revenue, the key challenges lie in poor tax collection infrastructure, capacity of NBR and high corporate tax rates. In terms of ODA, centralized decision making from development partners limits disbursement of funds. FDI is restricted due to strict and archaic money transfer practices. There is also a lack of alignment between SDGs and private investment. Remittance needs to be diversified from oil-rich Middle Eastern countries by engaging the Bangladeshi diaspora. For trade, the biggest challenges are external to Bangladesh including trade wars between USA and China, and proliferation of Regional Trade Agreements which erodes Bangladesh's trade competitiveness.

Over the next decade, Bangladesh will have two major challenges to overcome: i) implementation of SDGs and targets, and ii) management of the graduation process from an LDC to LMIC. Several studies have identified some of the gaps in creating the enabling environment for robust and equitable economic growth in Bangladesh. Regulatory and policy predictability is one of them, which has been highlighted by the Global Competitiveness Report and Ease of Doing Business report of the World Bank. Bangladesh's location, its thriving neighborhood, sustained growth of its economy, its employable youth, policy framework to encourage business and investment, could be leveraged to achieve the SDGs and its targets as well as managing the graduation process from LDC to upper middle income country.

In this context, our attention and actions could be directed under three frames: what Bangladesh government can do, what the development partners can do, and what both can do together to mobilize resources for the implementation of SDGs and the associated targets. The Government of Bangladesh needs to strengthen its economic diplomacy domestically and externally, develop inter-ministerial coordination mechanism, strengthen capacity and accountability in bureaucracy, reinforce and further professionalize Ministry of Foreign Affairs, encourage policy research, promote facts driven policy, strengthen linkages with business community and civil society organizations, and promote public awareness and activism. Bangladesh and the development partners could work together in developing, matching and implementing agenda and projects keeping the twin objectives: the implementation of SDGs and the graduation of Bangladesh to Upper Middle Income country status. Many of successful efforts in Bangladesh have been implemented with international cooperation over the years. It is, therefore, expected that international development cooperation, in an expanded form, could also contribute to speed up Bangladesh's journey forward through successful implementation of SDGs and targets and managing its graduation challenges in the coming decade.

GED has been coordinating implementation of SDGs at the policy level, along with monitoring and reporting of SDG status. GED also developed a mapping of SDG goals and targets with Ministries including an Action Plan which clearly spells out the Ministries' roles and responsibilities and a Monitoring and Evaluation Framework. It remains committed to working as the knowledge hub for this purpose and continues to support the government and other partners with a view to timely and effective implementation of SDGs and associated targets.

I would like to thank UNDP Bangladesh for supporting us conducting this useful study through its "Engaging with institutions (EI)", IP project.

Last not the least, we are all grateful to our Hon'ble Minister, Ministry of Planning, Mr. M.A. Mannan and Principal Coordinator (SDG Affairs), Prime Minister's Office (PMO), Mr. Abul Kalam Azad for their blessings and inspiration to conduct this study.



(Dr. Shamsul Alam)



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List of Acronyms

| | |
|-------|--|
| AAAA | Addis Ababa Action Agenda |
| ACC | Anti-Corruption Commission |
| ADP | Annual Development Programme |
| AECID | Spanish Agency for International Development Cooperation |
| AGOA | African growth and Opportunity Act |
| AFD | Agence Française de Développement |
| AIIB | Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank |
| ASEAN | Association of Southeast Asian Nations |
| BDF | Bangladesh Development Forum |
| BEI | Bangladesh Enterprise Institute |
| BGMEA | Bangladesh Garments Manufacturers and Exporters Association |
| BMMS | Bangladesh Maternal Mortality and Health Care Survey |
| BMZ | German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development |
| BRRRI | Bangladesh Rice Research Institute |
| BTEB | Bangladesh Technical Education Board |
| BCtA | Business Call to Action |
| CBDR | Common but Differentiated Responsibilities |
| CDP | Committee for Development Policy |
| COFI | Committee of Fisheries |
| CSO | Civil Society Organization |
| DoP | Department of Prison |
| DFI | Development Finance Institutions |
| DRM | Domestic Resource Mobilization |
| DTE | Directorate of Technical Education |
| DFQF | Duty-Free Quota-Free |
| EI | Engaging with Institutions |
| ERD | Economic Relations Division |
| ESCAP | Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific |
| EST | Environmentally Sound Technologies |
| EBRD | European Bank for Reconstruction and Development |
| EU | European Union |
| EPI | Expanded Program on Immunization |
| FAO | Food and Agriculture Organization |
| FCS | Fragile and Conflict States |
| FDI | Foreign Direct Investment |
| FMO | Netherlands Development Finance Company |
| FSD | Financing Sustainable Development |
| GPW | General Programme for Work |
| G-7 | Group of 7 developed countries |
| GATJ | Global Alliance for Tax Justice |
| GATS | Global Audit Tobacco Survey |
| GFDRR | Global Facility for Disaster Reduction and Recovery |
| GCF | Green Climate Fund |
| GDP | Gross Domestic Product |
| GED | General Economic Division |
| GAVI | Global Alliance for Vaccines and Immunization |
| GEF | Global Environmental Facility |
| GFATM | Global Fund to fight AIDS |

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| GIZ | Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit |
| GNI | Gross National Income |
| GoB | Government of Bangladesh |
| GRI | Global Reporting Initiative |
| HDI | Human Development Indices |
| HEQEP | Higher Education Quality Enhancement Project |
| HNPSP | Health, Nutrition and Population Sector Programme |
| HCFC | Hydrochlorofluorocarbons |
| ICID | International Commission on Irrigation and Drainage |
| ICT | Information and Communication Technology |
| IEDCR | Institute of Epidemiology Disease Control and research |
| IDA | International Development Association |
| IFAD | International Fund for Agricultural Development |
| IFC | International Finance Cooperation |
| IFPRI | International Food Policy Research Institute |
| IHR | International Health Regulations |
| IMF | International Monetary Fund |
| INWRDAM | Inter-Islamic Network on Water Resources Development and Management |
| IREC | International Renewable Energy Conference |
| IMM | Impact Management and Measurement |
| IP | Initiation Plan |
| IPoA | Istanbul Programme of Action |
| IRRI | International Rice Research Institute |
| JICA | Japan International Cooperation Agency |
| KIP | Key Interview Persons |
| LDC | Least Developed Country |
| LEED | Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design |
| MDG | Millennium Development Goal |
| MDB | Multilateral Development Bank |
| MICs | Middle Income Countries |
| MIGA | Multilateral Investment Guarantee Agency |
| MMR | Maternal Mortality ratio |
| MoD | Ministry of Defense |
| MoFA | Ministry of Foreign Affairs |
| MoHA | Ministry of Home Affairs |
| MoDMR | Ministry of Disaster Management and relief |
| MoE | Ministry of Education |
| MoInf | Ministry of Information |
| MoPE | Ministry of Primary and Mass Education |
| MSME | Micro, Small and Medium-sized Enterprises |
| NGO | Non-Governmental Organization |
| NHRC | National Human Rights Commission |
| NSAPR | National Strategy for Accelerated Poverty Reduction |
| NTRC | National Teacher's registration and Certification Authority |
| ODA | Official Development Assistance |
| OECD | Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development |
| OOF | Other Official Flows |
| PaCT | Partnership for Cleaner Textile |
| PAGE | Partnership for Action on Green Economy |
| PRIME | Pathway Out of Extreme Poverty |

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| PEDP | Primary Education Development Program |
| RMG | Ready-made Garments |
| RMS | Results Measurement System |
| RTI | Road Traffic Injury |
| REREDP | Rural Electrification and Renewable Energy Development Program |
| SAIREC | South Asian International Renewable Energy Conference |
| SDC | Swiss Agency for Development Cooperation |
| SDG | Sustainable Development Goal |
| SEDP | Secondary Education Development Program |
| SID | Small Island Developing States |
| SIWI | Stockholm International Water Institute |
| TICA | Thailand International Cooperation Agency |
| TIKA | Turkish Cooperation and Coordination Agency |
| ToC | Table of Contents |
| ToR | Terms of Reference |
| TPI | The Partnering Initiative |
| TRIPS | Trade-Related Intellectual Property Rights |
| UMICS | Upper Middle-Income Countries |
| UN | United Nations |
| UNCDF | United Nations Capital Development Fund |
| UNCTAD | United Nations Conference on Trade and Development |
| UNDESA | United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs |
| UNDP | United Nations Development Programme |
| UNECE | United Nations Economic Commission for Europe |
| UNEP | United Nations Environment Programme |
| UNGP | UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights |
| UNESCAP | United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific |
| UN-OHRLLS | The United Nations Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States |
| USD | United States Dollar |
| USGBC | US Green Building Council |
| WBCSD | World business Council Sustainable Development |
| WBG | World Bank Group |
| WFP | World Food Programme |
| WHO | World Health Organization |
| WSSD | World Summit for Social Development |
| WTO | World Trade Organization |

Executive Summary

Introduction

The United Nations (UN) Member States formally adopted the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) agenda on 25 September 2015. The 17 SDGs, and its associated 169 targets with 232 indicators, aim to end poverty, hunger and inequality; act on climate change and the environment; improve access to health and education; care for people and the planet; and build strong institutions and partnerships.

The SDGs are a follow-up on the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) adopted in 2000. However, SDGs differ from MDGs in various aspects. SDGs want to ensure that ‘No One Is Left Behind!’. The new goals have been envisioned to enable countries to utilize their own financial resources and capacity and seek assistance from developed countries on areas where they fall short. SDGs also focus on quality than just quantity. For example, MDG focused on high enrollment while SDG has targeted education for sustainable development and sustainable lifestyle. In the global context, the MDGs fell short of meeting the expectation of developing a global partnership for development. Therefore, the SDGs envisaged itself as integrated, indivisible, multi-dimensional global set of objectives and endorsed the Istanbul Programme of Action (IPoA) and adopted the Addis Ababa Action Agenda (AAAA). However, there are criticisms about the SDGs with the risk of under-achieving the goals themselves. There are lots of areas of focus and it ultimately runs the risk of becoming “a badly decorated Christmas tree”.

Prior to SDGs, General Economics Division (GED) of the Planning Commission, Ministry of Planning, Government of Bangladesh (GoB) started preparation of a draft of the post-2015 Development Agenda along with 11 goals, and 58 targets, and 241 indicators. Notably, 9 out of the 11 proposals were consistent with the global aspirations. As GoB formally adopted the SDG agenda in 2015, GED became the focal point for implementing SDGs. GED coordinates implementation of SDGs at the policy level, along with monitoring and reporting of SDG status. At the national level, the 7th Five Year Plan (FYP) has been drafted in a manner that it would guide the activities to contribute towards achieving the SDGs. GED also developed a Mapping of Ministries including an Action Plan which clears out the ministries’ roles and responsibilities and a Monitoring and Evaluation Framework.

This report identifies the targets of the SDGs with provision of international cooperation, reviews status of international cooperation in Bangladesh, identifies potential areas where development partners and other philanthropic organizations can contribute, assesses the need where Bangladesh might need international assistance, and formulates the way forward.

To complete the above-mentioned tasks, this Report reviews all international cooperation commitments made to attain SDG, and collected views of some of the key officials from institutions involved in SDG implementation. Notably, 60 indicators for Bangladesh has been identified in this report, out of which 33 fall under Tier I (data available for 26 indicators), 15 are Tier II indicators (data available for only 5 indicators), and the remaining 12 are Tier III indicators which do not have any updated data.

SDG and International Cooperation : Global Review

A systematic change has been brought with the SDGs in financing for development. Instead of increasing the financing, focus has been put on maximizing the effect of the finance to prompt rapid and effective development. Development finance has now taken the form of financing for sustainable development while numerous stakeholders with unique and diverse roles have been identified, such as the private sector and civil society organizations (CSOs). The scope of advancing SDGs is massive but also come with the requisite of large and focused investment. As Official Development Assistance (ODA) is not enough to fill in the investment gap, support from additional groups of actors are required to reduce the financing needs. Higher revenue collection efforts are also necessary to allocate funding for the development process because public

funding is seen as the primary financing source of SDGs. The approach of innovative financing has also been taken to accelerate progress and impact.

The largest financial development assistance has come from the Group of 7 Countries (G-7), Development Assistance Committee (DAC), Group of 77 Countries (G-77), and China, facilitated by multilateral and bilateral partners. Emphasis is also put on cooperation which are not strictly financial but advance SDGs through sharing of technology and knowledge, capacity building, and technical assistance. To synergize their efforts in tackling common problems, further cooperation between the least developed countries (LDCs) including South-South cooperation have been emphasized. Additionally, the role of private sector and philanthropic organizations has also been recognized but their initiatives often lack focus because of the isolated nature of organizations. Meanwhile, non-governmental organizations (NGOs) have come up as a crucial source of financing for their target and issue-oriented efforts. Finally, think tanks and CSOs provide support with policies and agenda promotion respectively.

Progress of international cooperation in financing has remained largely short of the commitments. The overall external resources, which include foreign direct investment (FDI), towards developing countries have declined. For Bangladesh, the trend of grants, commodity aid and bilateral aid have declined while project aid and multilateral development assistance saw a rise. Particularly, support from the World Bank and Asian Development Bank (ADB) have been notable, with provision of US Dollar (\$) 19.78 billion and \$13.60 billion respectively over 1971-72 to 2017-18. As bilateral partner, Japan ranks at the top, far ahead of the rest of the pack with a total contribution of \$11.36 billion since 1971-72. The progress report of the UN-Secretary General provides a disheartening view on SDGs and the current obstacles, which include declining ODA, misalignment of private sector efforts with SDGs, and the rising trade wars. It reiterated the call for more international cooperation and capacity building activities. For the SDGs to be attained, committed external resource flow, capacity development, strengthening of political and administrative institutions, transparency, public participation, engagement with youth and communities, and private sector participation are imperative. Without multi-stakeholders' participation, the SDGs will find little success towards its ambitions.

Bangladesh has been a recipient of development assistance since its independence. Assistance from the international partners helped the country to reduce the degree of prevailing poverty. International support from numerous development partners supported Bangladesh's progress towards graduation from the LDC category to a developing country. Political will and the country's approach to prioritize equitable, inclusive, and sustainable growth has been conducive to the smooth graduation process. To prepare itself for further international cooperation, national plans and policies have been aligned with the SDGs.

To further strengthen the impact of private sector on SDGs, Impact Management and Measurement has been introduced. This impact can be measured based on company disclosures, aligned with the 39 priority indicators in Bangladesh provided by Access to Information in Bangladesh (A2i). Additional tools such as the SDG Compass and Industry Matrix serve as guides for businesses to support the 2030 Agenda. Impact investment is in growing demand for investors to account for environmental and social impacts in addition to the financials.

Mapping of International Cooperation by SDG Goals and Targets in Bangladesh

The goals and targets that have scope for international cooperation are identified in this report. The analysis reveals that all the 17 SDGs have scope for international cooperation. In total, there are 60 targets having scope for international cooperation, including all the targets under SDG 17. The relevant global indicators, indicators in Bangladesh (with source) and line ministries are provided.

Part B : International Cooperation by SDGs Targets

Social Infrastructure Related SDGs

This chapter covers discussion on 6 SDGs : 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 and 16.

Goal 1 - No Poverty. SDG 1 targets to end poverty in all forms and dimensions by 2030. GoB is committed to achieving the vision to build a society free from poverty and social disparity through the Perspective Plan of Bangladesh. The Perspective Plan covers the period from 2010 to 2021. It provides the road map for accelerated growth and lays down broad approaches for eradication of poverty. The underlying policies in the Plan stress on the inclusiveness and pro-poor approach to growth so that in the process of reaching the Vision 2021 goal of reaching middle-income status there is substantial eradication of poverty through a comprehensive scheme of social inclusion. The 7th FYP mentions eradication of extreme poverty as a cardinal principle of the strategies laid out in the document.

Goal 2 - Zero Hunger: SDG 2 aims to end extreme hunger and malnutrition by 2030. Because of various region-wide destabilization, the number of people suffering from hunger has been increasing globally. Enhanced efforts to address this challenge requires concerted effort from national and international multi-stakeholder partnerships. According to a report by UNWFP (2016), hunger leads to about \$1 billion productivity loss annually in Bangladesh. The member states of International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) committed to contribute \$3.5 billion loan and grant project, over a period of 3 years from 2019 to 2021, to lift millions out of poverty and reduce hunger in developing countries. Considering the importance of eradicating hunger, many of the targets of the goal have been incorporated within the national development plans in Bangladesh. One of the broad development goals of the 7th FYP is to achieve higher food security. The targets necessitating international cooperation for success include establishing international seed banks, increasing local and foreign investment in agriculture, and elimination of export subsidies around the world. Notably, a regional seed bank has already been established by the SAARC. The National School Meal Program has been running since 2013, funded by WFP. FAO has initiated the Harmonization and Dissemination of Unified Agricultural Production Statistics in Bangladesh project. While aid in agricultural sector has increased from \$183 million in 2016 to \$213 million in 2018, the Agricultural Orientation Index (AOI) had fallen in 2016 to 0.41 from the previous year's 0.53, which may indicate underinvestment.

Goal 3 - Good Health and Wellbeing: Goal 3 targets to provide universal health coverage. Good health, covering maternal health, child nutrition, tobacco control, and accidents from road injuries, has always been a key concern for the global community. Through various international cooperation efforts such as providing trainings, strengthening surveillance, transferring knowledge for safer achieving roads, the indicators in Bangladesh are starting to show improvements. Examples of international cooperation include Expanded Program on Immunization (EPI), jointly funded by JICA, WHO, Global Alliance for Vaccines and Immunization (GAVI); and Novel Nozzle Vaccine for Treatment of HBV, funded by South-South cooperation with Japan.

Goal 4 - Quality Education: The targets under Goal 4 are to ensure that all girls and boys complete free primary and secondary schooling, have equal access to affordable vocational training, and have universal access to quality higher education by 2030. For the third phase of Primary Education Development Program (PEDP-III), total 10 development partners, including ADB, WB, DFID, and others, will provide a fund of \$1,733 million to implement the Program out of a total cost of \$2,327 million. The Secondary Education Development Program (SEDP) is estimated to cost \$17.2 billion, financed primarily from the government sources, with support from development partners. The HEQEP program cost was estimated to be \$91.5 million, among which \$81 million was provided by IDA as a loan. HEQEP also assisted in developing laboratories, computer centers, research centers, and libraries at various educational institutions. Japan is providing scholarships for higher education but the number of such scholarships should be increased considering the high population and number of aspirants for such scholarships. In addition, British Council,

Save the Children, and UNICEF have been jointly funding the project Teacher's Portal development. The project is also supported by GAVI, Global Fund to fight AIDS (GFATM), and Global Environmental Facility (GEF).

Goal 5 - Gender Equality: Goal 5 aims to give women equal rights to land and property, sexual and reproductive health, and to technology and the internet. Gender equality has been a concern for many years prior to SDG and has made commendable progress in the past 20 years. Many national act and policies were developed in response to these international initiatives including Domestic Violence (Prevention and Protection) Act 2010, National Women Development Policy (2011), Prevention and Suppression of Human Trafficking Act 2012, and Dowry Prohibition Bill 2018. Notably, there is no indicator against Goal 5 for Bangladesh. However, Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation have been funding Financial Services for the Poor, which emphasizes women as their beneficiaries.

Goal 16 - Peace Justice and Strong Institutions: Since its independence, the GoB has committed to every major international agreement pertaining to human rights, and the empowerment and protection of women. The GoB has established an Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) and National Human Rights Commission (NHRC). The ADB currently provides technical assistance to the ACC to strengthen its institutions. The Right to information Act, which set up a framework to ensure cross-sectoral and institutional transparency, was issued in 2009. However, a lack of communication and coordination between ministries, along with insufficient data hinder the effectiveness of existing institutions and the public's trust in them. To overcome this challenge, the World Bank has funded the Bangladesh Local Governance Support Project II (2011-2017) worth \$290 million. UNDP, DANIDA, and the EU have committed approximately \$34.5 million to the Activating Village Courts in Bangladesh Project. Transparency International Bangladesh conducts research, policy advocacy, programmes to strengthen institutional governance, and international engagements pertaining to SDG 16. In addition, UNDP and USAID have been jointly developing National Web Portal for data monitoring and tracking.

Infrastructure and Industry

This chapter covers discussion on 3 SDGs : 6, 7 and 9.

Goal 6 - Clean Water and Sanitation: Under Goal 6, the GoB plans to invest in adequate infrastructure, provide sanitation facilities, and encourage hygiene. Providing adequate provision for water and sanitation facilities to disadvantaged people has always been an issue. The Sector Development Plan of GoB estimated the additional costs for achieving SDG 6 from 2017 to 2030 at \$11.80 billion that is, \$850 million per year. A total of \$64.99 million was committed by the development partners against 10 technical assistance (TA) projects during 2014-2018. At the same time, 30% and 20% of the necessary funding is expected from the Private Sector and NGOs respectively. The political commitment of the government to safe water supply and sanitation, highlighted in Vision 2021, has been the major driving force for the WASH movement in the country. The 7th FYP also targeted to ensure safe water and sanitation facilities for all the citizens through the development of different water supply and sanitation options to improve quality of life. For Bangladesh, a total of 57 rivers are termed trans-boundary rivers of which 54 rivers cross Bangladesh-India border and other 3 cross Myanmar-Bangladesh border. Bangladesh has Water Sharing Treaty with India on sharing of Ganges waters and another Treaty on Teesta waters is awaiting final nod of the Indian Government.

Goal 7 - Affordable Energy: This goal targets investing in solar, wind and thermal power, improving energy productivity, and ensuring energy for all. Finance for electricity in the 20 high-impact countries averaged \$30.2 billion per year over 2015-16, a \$10.8 billion increase from the annual investment in 2013-14. However, this figure remains smaller than the required annual investment of \$52 billion needed to provide universal electricity access by 2030 globally. Bangladesh is estimated to require an investment of about \$35 billion in the power generation sector by 2041. To that end, the 7th FYP of Bangladesh forecasted an annual average ODA inflow of \$3 billion. Bangladesh has prepared an Action Plan for up to 2030 including national mid-term

and long-term development plans and describing the policy strategies for achieving the targets of SDG 7. Economic Relations Division (ERD) has formulated a National Policy on Development Cooperation (NPDC) to ensure predictable and beneficial development cooperation, Bangladesh could mobilize \$17.66 billion of foreign assistance during 2014-2018. So far, Bangladesh has mobilized \$2.16 billion from several non-traditional sources, such as, China, India, Islamic Republic of Iran, Kuwait, Malaysia, Saudi Arabia, Turkey, and United Arab Emirates under the umbrella of South-South Cooperation, out of which \$1.34 billion is loan and \$819 million are grants. Notably, multiple large-scale renewable energy projects, i.e. installation of solar home system and biogas plant, under Rural Electrification and Renewable Energy Development Program (REREDP), have been jointly funded by the World Bank, GIZ, KfW, ADB, GPOBA, JICA, USAID, DFID through Infrastructure Development Company Limited (IDCOL).

Goal 9 – Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure: The goal of fostering industry, innovation, and infrastructure, alone with Goal 7 and 8, require the most financing to materialize. Transnational routes across the world will increase trade range and efficiency, simultaneously lifting millions of people out of poverty. Globally, the members of the Infrastructure Development Finance Company committed \$173 billion in 2016 and \$220 billion in 2017 to green finance, a majority is directed towards the developing countries. Additionally, the Green Bank Network’s member banks invested \$7.6 billion throughout 2016 and supported \$25.9 billion in clean energy projects. In terms of commitments, financially, the IDCOL and Bangladesh Infrastructure Finance Fund Limited (BIFFL) in Bangladesh have been providing support to green projects and channeling investment into infrastructure. For Bangladesh, infrastructure, particularly roads, highways and bridges have been a focus of the GoB for the past decade. Although the infrastructure quality has been improving, the efficiency of these projects is often under scrutiny for their exorbitant costs. Among the other infrastructural sectors, transport and power has disproportionately high allocation. Notably, the total disbursed aid amount in 2015, 2016, 2017 and 2018 were \$3,043 million, \$3,563 million, \$3,677 million and \$6,369 million against commitments of \$5,258 million, \$7,048 million, \$17,961 million and \$14,898 million respectively. Some projects implemented through international cooperation are, Mass Rapid Transport financed by ADB, OPEC Fund for International Development and Abu Dhabi Fund; SASEC Road Connectivity and Railway Connectivity financed by ADB; Cross-Border Road Network Improvement Project financed by JICA; etc. Understanding the importance of including multiple stakeholders, several acts have been drawn up for private-public partnerships, and industrial policy has been implemented with concessions to certain industries. Special economic zones (SEZs) dedicated to different nations facilitate industry and infrastructure improvement.

Economic Growth and Inequality

This chapter covers discussion on 2 SDGs : 8 and 10.

Goal 8 – Decent Work and Economic Growth: Bangladesh has been performing above par when it comes to real economic growth. However, the cause of concern is whether this growth translates into employment and inclusivity. Furthermore, growth rate itself fails to account for the negative externalities. The GoB has taken initiatives to increase youth employment and training as well. Although whether these opportunities can keep up with the increasing youth in the labor force is yet to be seen. Accenture, Save the Children and Plan International programs support and prepare the youth to enable their employment. The targets of Goal 8 which can substantially benefit from international cooperation include decoupling economic growth from environmental degradation, increasing ODA in the form of Aid for Trade (AfT), and implementing a global strategy for youth employment. Difficulties in measuring material footprint, the indicator for decoupling, is still an issue of debate but Bangladesh has a much lower footprint in comparison to the developed and many of the developing world. On the other hand, international AfT commitment for Bangladesh has been steadily increasing and reached almost \$3 billion in 2017. However, the actual disbursement was around \$1.89 billion. In comparison, the average AfT disbursement during the period 2006-2011 was \$391 million against a commitment of \$1,047 million.



Goal 10 – Reduced Inequality: SDG 10 aims to reduce both inequality within a country and among countries. Reducing within country inequality in Bangladesh calls for pro-poor growth and development which are attuned to the targets under Goals 1 of no poverty. Targets under SDG 2, 5, and 13, likewise, are in tune with the targets of SDG 10. Reducing across country inequality requires a different approach. Among other steps, calls for orderly, safe and regular migration and mobility of people, including the implementation of planned and well managed migration policies will be needed. Bangladesh, being one of the top 10 remittance receiving countries in the world, has vital stake in safe and orderly migration process. Efforts have been made to mainstream migration in the context of the implementation of SDGs and targets. Safe migration is ensured with this process as well as regional balance is also ensured. To mitigate the burden of increased expenses in sending foreign remittances and to encourage bringing in foreign remittance through legal channels, an incentive at the rate of 2% on money remitted by expatriate Bangladeshi will be provided from FY2019-20. In 2015, the Government launched ‘Strengthening Institutional Capacity and Human Resource Development for Trade Promotion’. The project-initiated studies on ‘Export Potentiality of Trade in Services of Bangladesh: Identifying Opportunities and Challenges’ and ‘Identification of Non-tariff Barriers Faced by Bangladeshi Products in Major Export Markets’. The World Bank has been funding Social Safety Net Programs and increased the volume and coverage of the program to 2.55% of GDP in FY 2018-19.

Environmental Conservation and Sustainability

This chapter covers discussion on 5 SDGs :11, 12, 13, 14 and 15.

Goal 11 – Sustainable Cities and Community: Rapid population growth and economic incentives has led to the unsustainability in cities and communities worldwide. By 2050, two-thirds of the global population will be residing in urban cities, highlighting the importance of sustainable practices to support the entirety of that population and leave no one behind. National policies on waste management, urban transport access and development, and disaster management have been formulated to strengthen Bangladesh’s position against climate change, growing population and other sustainable urban development obstacles. Easing the huge population of the city, and moving away from the concept of Metropolis and towards self-reliant satellite towns far from the big cities can be solutions toward decentralization. Some examples of international partnership in Bangladesh includes capacity building of GoB funded by GFDRR; Urban Resilience Project funded by the World Bank; Khulna Water Supply Project, financed by the ADB; the Livelihoods Improvement of Urban Poor Communities Project funded by UNDP; etc.

Goal 12- Responsible Production and Consumption: Since 1992, the GoB has committed to various international agreements which call for environmental sustainability through the sustainable management of natural resources. In 2011, the GED established the National Sustainable Development Strategy (NSDS) which, among other sustainability-oriented objectives, aimed to promote the responsible use of natural resources. A 10-Year Framework of Sustainable Consumption and Production was adopted by GED in 2012. There are already several internationally funded projects and programs underway that are contributing towards achieving SDG 12. For example, installation of the solar home systems and the biogas plants, under REREDP, have been contributing to goal 12 since 2003. The GoB is yet to adopt sustainable management and efficient uses of natural resources, and environmentally sound management of chemicals and all wastes. Preliminary steps have been taken to introduce Sustainability Reporting in Bangladesh’s corporate sectors. While the GoB has engaged in international cooperation in a wide variety of areas pertaining to responsible production and consumption, insufficient survey data makes it difficult to determine whether these partnerships are effective or not. The lack of data also prevents policy makers and authorities from identifying and prioritizing areas of development requiring international assistance. As for international cooperation, DANIDA contributed \$59.4 million between 2013 and 2018 to train approximately 3 million Bangladeshi farm families in improved farm management and facilitate the construction of 715 kilometers of rural roads to improve market access. IDA is providing \$176.06 million to National Agricultural Technology Programme and \$210 million to Bangladesh Modern Food Storage Facilities Project.



Goal 13: Climate Action: Bangladesh has committed to every major international climate agreement in the last 40 years. The immediate impact of climate change, for example, global warming, is a rise in the sea level and risks associated with it. Bangladesh is one of the most vulnerable countries from the threats of rising sea level and will lose a significant part of its territory. To prevent this threat, international development cooperation played a substantial role in aiding the GoB design and implement national initiatives to prevent, mitigate and adopt to climate change. The most significant results can be seen in the national relief response to climate change-related disasters. As Bangladesh is still extremely vulnerable to the adverse effects of climate change, there remains a great deal of scope for international cooperation in the field in the form of technological transfers, capacity building, and financial assistance to implement and operate relevant programs. Mobilizing further assistance, from the Green Climate Fund, will be essential to successfully implement national plans (the Bangladesh Delta Plan-2100, for example) to address climate change. Notably, \$100 billion of climatic fund is targeted to be mobilized annually by 2020 from all sources to address the needs of developing countries. USAID has committed between 7% to 9% of its overall annual commitment to Bangladesh towards environment-related projects. The World Bank currently has 8 active climate change adaptation, mitigation and disaster project in Bangladesh that are collectively worth \$1.3 billion. GIZ has committed financial assistance for 5 climate change adaptation and mitigation projects, and 3 renewable energy projects. ADB currently has 67 active projects involving capacity development for climate change mitigation, adaptation, and disaster risk management. Jointly, ADB, World Bank, IFAD, KfW, Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, and UNREDD+ has committed \$112.30 million for implementing the Pilot Program for Climate Resilience.

Goal 14 - Life Below Water: The GoB has engaged in international development cooperation to unlock the immense potential of Bangladesh's blue economy, largely through capacity building in the aquaculture and fisheries sectors. SDG14 also initiated the concept of blue economy, a concept of enjoying a wide spectrum of benefits that can be derived from combining conservation and sustainability efforts with oceanic (or maritime) economic activity. Having settled its maritime boundary disputes with Myanmar in 2012 and India in 2014, Bangladesh now has access to 118,813 km² of waters which can be utilized to enhance the benefits of blue economy. Despite on-going projects of this nature, Bangladesh's marine and in-land water bio-diversities are under threat from unregulated conversions of floodplains to agricultural land, overfishing, and unregulated urbanization. The conservation of Bangladesh's coastal region and mangrove forests, whose preservation is key to mitigating the adverse effects of climate change, is also insufficient at present. The GoB will require the aid of developing partners to conduct surveys, draft appropriate policy frameworks, and implement and monitor the necessary programs. Meanwhile, increased preservation and cultivation efforts, and dissemination of scientific knowledge about the maintenance of fish-stock and fisheries has led an increase in captures. International cooperation with development partners such as USAID, FAO, and The Netherlands Royal Ministry of Foreign Affairs, in the form of financial, technical, and capacity building assistance, has been instrumental in progressing.

Goal 15 - Life on Land: UNESCO's declaration of the Sundarbans as a world heritage site in 1997, requires the GoB to protect the plant and animal life in the Sundarbans. Bangladesh is currently working with UNREDD+, the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), and the World Bank's Program for Forests (PROFOR) to expand protection of forest land and wildlife. It is, however, becoming increasingly difficult to conserve Bangladesh's forest lands and wildlife due to increased and unregulated deforestation in the Teknaf region following the influx of Rohingya refugees which started in 2017, and power infrastructure development in Bangladesh's forest and marshlands. Though the GoB has undertaken several national initiatives in recent years such as the Capacity Development Action Plan for Sustainable Environmental Governance (2007), the Bangladesh Climate Change Resilience Fund (2010), and the National Sustainable Development Strategy (2013), it does not yet have the institutional capacity to regulate activities such as deforestation and poaching, and will need further foreign assistance and guidance to make substantial progress. There is scope for further international cooperation granted the relevant authorities identify priority areas and design relevant policy and regulatory frameworks.

Global Partnership

Goal 17 - Partnership for the Goals: To achieve SDGs by 2030, the importance of global partnership can hardly be overlooked. In Bangladesh's context, GoB recognized that global partnership needs substantial improvement from its current trajectory to meet the SDGs by 2030. The improvement has also got to come at a time when Bangladesh is graduating from LDC status in 2024.

The end of period evaluation of MDGs revealed that Bangladesh's ODA receipts have been uneven and overall fell short of requirement at the end of 2015. It stated that only three countries, namely Sweden (1.1%), Denmark (0.85%) and the United Kingdom (0.71%) complied with international commitment to provide more than 0.7% of GNI as ODA to Bangladesh. This signified that developed countries did not keep their promise. The GoB took various plans and initiatives to enhance development cooperation. This included: i) Bangladesh Development Forum for multi-stakeholder engagement, ii) National Policy on Development Cooperation to mobilize foreign assistance; and iii) enhanced role as Co-Chair of GPEDC. However, progress under Goal 17 has been uneven. In terms of financing, the SDG indicators reveal that domestic revenue mobilization, ODA, FDI are not up to the mark and need further international cooperation, while debt sustainability is seemingly on track. For technology, indicators reveal that mobile and internet connection has increased, however, there is scope for international cooperation in development of environmentally sound technologies. For capacity building, financial and technical assistance needs to increase through international cooperation. In terms of trade, indicator performance reveals that average tariff faced by Bangladesh needs to increase while share of world exports also needs to increase. For systemic issues, the focus needs to shift towards effective multi-stakeholder partnership and data monitoring.

Bangladesh's LDC graduation in 2024 is likely to impact trade and international cooperation. In terms of trade, Bangladesh would face higher duties, especially for readymade garments (RMG). In addition, the country would need to fully comply with the TRIPS agreement on pharmaceuticals. For development cooperation, the concessional loans available from development partners are not directly related to LDC status. However, graduation will lead to loss of LDC specific technical assistance such as Enhanced Integrated Framework (EIF), Least Developed Countries Fund (LDCF), no access to LDC Technology Bank, etc. Other countries who moved from LDC status experienced slow growth, fall in ODA but a rise in FDI. These countries also negotiated strong trade deals prior to graduation, concentrated on building capacity of domestic industries and develop infrastructures to overcome headwinds of higher integration into the more competitive global economy.

Part C : Policy Options and Cooperation Strategy

Common Challenges, Bangladesh's Readiness and What can be Done

To receive further international cooperation, Bangladesh faces a few challenges. In terms of common challenges, first, there is a lack of data for indicators for monitoring the progress on SDG targets, especially those related to international cooperation. Second, there is insufficient domestic spending on key areas such as social protection (SDG 1), health (SDG 3) and education (SDG 4). Third, the absorptive capacity of different line ministries impedes disbursement of funds even though development partners commit significant external resources to Bangladesh. Fourth, the executing agencies do not have enough capacity and need further capacity building.

In terms of Bangladesh's readiness to utilize the foreign funds, the challenges are broadly divided across: i) finance; ii) technology; iii) capacity building; iv) trade; and v) systemic issues. For financing, the SDG Financing Strategy document has benchmarked various sources of financing. However, there is no fixed plan of implementation regarding these sources. In terms of domestic revenue, the key challenges lie in poor tax collection infrastructure, capacity of NBR, high corporate taxes, and corruption in cases encourages tax evasion. Limited capacity to assess the developmental impact of altering tax regimes is another factor

highlighted by stakeholders. In terms of ODA, centralized decision making from development partners limits disbursement of funds. Moreover, development partners must meet their execution ratio. Otherwise, they might be unable to ensure smooth disbursement of funds. FDI is restricted due to strict and archaic money transfer practices. There is also a lack of alignment between SDGs and private investment. Remittance needs to be diversified from oil-rich Middle Eastern countries by engaging the Bangladeshi diaspora. South-South Cooperation is not defined across countries, which make it difficult to measure the value of international cooperation.

For technology, access to mobile phones and internet has been increasing over the years. However, science and technology need to play a bigger role as an accelerator. The biggest challenge of technological developments lies in potential displacement of workers in labor intensive industries such as RMG. For capacity development, GoB agencies need a wide array of capacity building activities and development partners or other organizations have a limited mandate in terms what they pursue with their funds. This mismatch between GoB requirements and development partner mandate is the key challenge to boosting capacity building activities. For trade, the biggest challenges are external to Bangladesh. These include trade wars between USA and China, proliferation of Regional Trade Agreements (RTAs) which erodes Bangladesh's trade competitiveness etc. For systemic issues, the inadequate role of CSOs, NGOs and private sector leaves a gap in fulfilling multi-stakeholder partnership for Bangladesh. Lack of data, especially at the local level, and no baseline data makes accountability difficult for the SDGs.

Bangladesh needs international cooperation in the following areas:

To increase domestic revenue mobilization, international cooperation may be sought for tax reforms and decentralization of revenue collection is essential. The GoB has decided to implement the VAT law from FY2019-2020, but it remains to be seen how effectively it can produce desired results. Technical assistance in the analysis of the developments impact when tax regimes are changed is another area which development partners might be interested in. Tax and tariff reforms by lowering tax and tariff rates and reducing dispersions between rates, and withdrawal of numerous exemptions would help Bangladesh achieve a satisfactory tax-GDP ratio. Decentralization of revenue administration by allowing local authorities to collect some taxes, tackling corruption in revenue administration should help Bangladesh reach its revenue potential. Expenditure programs need to be streamlined. Given the near certainty that neither international assistance nor domestic resources needed to achieve SDG goals will be forthcoming, it is necessary that efficiency improvements are made in the expenditure programs to get biggest value for money.

For ODA, international cooperation is needed to develop GoB implementing agencies capacity to utilize funds. Development partners urgently need to expedite more responsibilities to their country offices to ease procurement and disbursement activities and speed up project implementation. More involvement of GoB in donor project preparation and more donor participation in project implementation would help the process. REREDP project of the World Bank is a good example of such co-operation that led to a good design of the project and effective implementation. As a result of effective implementation, not only did the World Bank increased funding to the project multiple times, but other donors such as ADB, JICA, IsDB, and KfW and other bilateral donors also came forward to provide additional funding.

For FDI, there is a need to reform rules and regulations, especially foreign exchange. Bangladesh needs to disseminate more information about its potential and areas of investment. Improvements in doing business index of the World Bank could be the first step in this regard. Transparent procurement is another area that will help attract globally credible investors. Introduction of international standard auditing and accounting of business firms and corporate houses may increase flow of FDI in larger volume

For private sector, it is important to align their business objectives with the SDGs. Internationally, private sector has collaborated on various fronts to create practical tools and guidelines that assist businesses in sorting out how to put the SDGs into action, which might be adopted by Bangladesh. In addition, an attractive

CSR market could also be leveraged to serve some useful social objectives, and in this context the guidelines developed under the UN Compact could serve a useful purpose. Bangladesh has a successful track-record of attracting private sector investments in telecommunications and power generation. The experience should be extended by further liberalization of the market and offering business models acceptable to private investors.

In terms of Public-Private Partnership (PPP), the framework needs to be further liberalized. PPP experts in various infrastructure technologies, innovative financing methods, and legal experts may be recruited from the private sector to increase the project processing capacity of the PPP office. Projects with higher commercial potential should be earmarked for the private sector implementation rather than donor or government budgetary financing.

To improve remittance, best practices in diaspora engagement need to be adopted following examples from Lebanon, India etc. Despite increase in remittance flows in recent years, hundi remains a channel used by our overseas workers to take advantage of exchange rate mismatch and avoid taxation. Unnecessary interference in the foreign exchange rate market by the central bank and harassment by tax officials has to be reduced for the overseas workers to choose the official channel of remittance.

For debt sustainability, Bangladesh need to monitor debt service with help from international development partners, particularly IMF. This is urgently needed as Bangladesh is moving from an era of concessional finance to finance of more commercial nature involving much higher debt service liabilities. The support should act as an early warning system and help avoid any possible systemic shock to Bangladesh's economy or jeopardize Bangladesh's unblemished record of meeting her international commitments.

To scale up South-South Cooperation, Bangladesh need to adopt reference benchmarks to assess performance. Therefore, international cooperation is needed to develop common reference indicators and a central database for this important source of cooperation. Tracking data in a systematic manner will allow GoB agencies to effectively understand the extent of cooperation and engage further. For effective South-South cooperation, lessons may be drawn from recent experiences of such co-operation in other countries and avoiding pitfalls such as debt trap (in case of Sri Lankan port) and influence of donor countries.

For technology, GoB needs to formulate a roadmap for acceleration which needs to be nurtured by the ICT Division. There is further scope for developing environmentally sound technologies, however, they need to be defined properly through international cooperation. To save displacement of jobs that comes with technological development, updated curriculum in education and training is crucial for Bangladesh. Technological development is particularly required to achieve the targets under SDG 2 for increasing agricultural productivity, SDG 3 for updating healthcare practices, SDG 7 for ensuring efficient energy supply, SDG 8 for creating new job opportunities, SDG 9 for creating new businesses, SDG 11 for designing energy-efficient habitats, SDG 13 for taking environment friendly initiatives, etc.

For trade, Bangladesh may be required to actively engage in the negotiations by forming coalitions with other graduating LDCs or non- LDC developing countries in various areas of interests. This needs international cooperation e.g. capacity development of MoC staff. To increase its share in global exports, Bangladesh needs to diversify its export basket to non-RMG products and destinations to outside EU and USA. Trade creating customs union and trade with neighbors may be pursued vigorously. Spaghetti-bowl effects of bilateral or regional free trade areas may be borne in mind while negotiating such treaties.

For systemic issues, Bangladesh's SDG Monitoring and Evaluation Framework might recognize CSOs, NGOs and private sector as 'associate partners' alongside 'lead ministries' and 'associate ministries'. Under the head of 'associate partners' a group of CSOs/private firms/ leading NGOs which specialized on specific goals could be mentioned. Localization, particularly of community and social networks, is required to complement overall SDG efforts. The localization effort will help generate knowledge, skills, and network at

the community level to advance the collective efforts to achieve SDGs. NGOs, civil society groups, academia, business community and other professional bodies has to play a significant role in the form of creating social and human capital and network to address many of the challenges. The Statistical Division of the GoB needs both personnel and institutional capacity building.

Roadmap for Policy options

During the next decade, Bangladesh will have two challenges: i) implementation of SDGs and targets, and ii) management of graduation process. In addition to resources from the official sources, such as domestic tax revenue and ODA, a great deal of resources will have to be generated and mobilized from the non-governmental sources, including the private sector, CSO and philanthropic domains. The effectiveness of mobilizing and utilizing resources will depend on how effectively Bangladesh can establish and leverage on connections between itself and the development partners

Bangladesh's location, its thriving neighborhood, sustained growth of its economy, its employable youth, policy framework to encourage business and investment, could be leveraged to achieve the SDGs and targets as well as managing the graduation process. New network and connectivity will facilitate the growth and prosperity, but will also demand more creativity and comprehensive approach and initiatives to meet new challenges.

Several studies have identified some of the gaps in creating the enabling environment for robust and equitable economic growth in Bangladesh. Regulatory and policy predictability is one of them, which has been highlighted by the Global Competitiveness Report and Ease of Doing Business report of the World Bank. The most pressing are concerns about inconsistencies in laws and regulations, and undue use of discretion by officials. There are also concerns about poor access to information about rules and regulations, adverse and often sudden changes in laws and regulations, and lack of effective grievance mechanisms.

Some of the possible broad elements of this policy roadmap are mentioned below under three frames, namely what Bangladesh government can do, what the development partners can and lastly what both can do together to mobilize resources for the implementation of SDGs and associated targets:

What Bangladesh can do?

- **Strengthen economic diplomacy:** Bangladesh could strengthen its economic diplomacy based on two strong pillars, namely domestic and external. An **Action Plan** could be developed to integrate development with diplomacy, both horizontally and vertically. The starting point could be updating and expanding the existing draft **National Policy on International Development Cooperation 2016** to bring together all these actors and include issues other than only foreign aid. A **Strategy** could be developed and managed jointly by Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MoFA) and ERD as well as GED, Planning Commission with inputs from all relevant Ministries, including the Ministry of Commerce, Expatriate Welfare, Environment, Road transport, BIDA, among others. Inputs could also be sought from Business bodies, Academia, and other civil society organizations.
- **Strengthen capacity and accountability in bureaucracy:** Enhancing the capacity and accountability of bureaucracy in promoting the rule of law, creating enabling business environment, capacity to analyze issues, identify the stakeholders and develop strategies incorporating risks and options for solutions, and building multi stakeholder coalitions and assisting substantively in the conduct of negotiations are of urgent relevance alongside making a productive outreach across the Ministries,

local stakeholders with greater flexibility and freedom to decide could also be immensely helpful in not leaving anyone behind, as aspired in the 2030 Agenda.

- **Reinforce and further professionalize MoFA:** The changing nature of global relationship, growing role of South-South cooperation with its own set of rules and practices offering both opportunities and challenges, our capacity to read and analyze the emerging risks and initiate action, including through opening dialogue and negotiations to safeguard our vital national interest necessitate that MoFA become part of domestic development trajectory. It is equally important that they are professionally equipped to perform their job in the outside world and receive adequate support from home front. In light of daunting tasks generated out of the implementation of SDGs, MoFA could think of formulating a Five-Year Strategic Plan (2020-25) to participate and implement SDGs with focus on the vital issues, which will frame our external involvement during the next decade.
- **Encourage policy research on issues important to Bangladesh:** The implementation of SDGs and the arduous process of graduation will call upon serious policy research on issues of importance to Bangladesh. While it would be useful to encourage and support Universities and Think Tanks to engage in such pursuit in earnest, their research outputs should be integrated into the policy process through close coordination with the policy process. Government supported institutions alike, such as BIISS, FSA, BIDS, among others, should be engaged more deeply into this process.
- **Promote data driven policy:** One of the significant focus in SDGs is the utilization of data in analyzing, monitoring, and measuring the policy process, which in many cases are in modest supply in Bangladesh. The capacity of BBS should be significantly enhanced, and technical cooperation from the external actors would be welcome. Efforts could also be made to generate and analyze data at the local level to assist the process of policy formulation and implementation with focus on SDGs at the grassroots level.
- **Strengthen linkages with business community and CSOs:** One of the strong points of Bangladesh is the activism of its social sector, including the business community and private sector, which has innovated many solutions to address the issues of poverty, gender equality, women empowerment, promoting economic equality and justice, and disaster management. In this context, the youth, women, business and CSOs, among others, could play a significant role in generating locally driven innovations, solutions, thereby empowering the local stakeholders, possibly generating locally driven dataset, and establishing a multi-stakeholder network, in addition to creating employment for themselves. The government initiative to digitize local service delivery mechanism could be an additional accelerator in this process of forming social capital.
- **Promote public awareness and activism:** Considerable lack of awareness about the SDGs and associated targets has been noticed among important social stakeholders, both inside and outside the government, more so on the issues relating to development cooperation. More public dialogues on the issues relevant for Bangladesh, including the issue of international cooperation, which would not only determine the fate of SDGs, but also our transition process need to be pursued by the concerned Ministries/offices, as well as by the business community and the local CSOs. MoFA along with other relevant Ministries, particularly Finance and Planning, could launch more public dialogues on issues of our vital concerns in the international community and integrate outcomes/suggestions in policy making and implementation process, including the SDGs.

What development partners can do?

- Redeem shared responsibility:* Development partners recognize and take their shared responsibility seriously to assist the developing countries, including Bangladesh in all possible ways to achieve the SDGs;
- Mobilizing domestic resource:* They need to extend technical and other support to the developing countries, particularly LDCs to enhance their capacity for domestic resource mobilization through

- improving tax regime, and developing other supporting infrastructures to mobilize adequate domestic resources;
- iii. *Improving capacity for management:* They could extend capacity building support to developing countries, including Bangladesh in areas from project management to financial management to human resource development to developing legal and regulatory framework to raising productivity to competitiveness to refining dispute resolution to developing skills for conducting negotiations to advance common interests;
 - iv. *Exploring under or unexplored resources* Development partners could assist and invest in Bangladesh for exploring under or unexplored resources, with particular focus on the Blue Economy, renewable energy, Artificial Intelligence, Automation and bio technology, among others;
 - v. *Opening more space for growth acceleration:* They could join hands to allowing space for growth acceleration in the areas of poverty alleviation initiatives, concessional market access, assistance, FDI and loans on favorable terms, transfer of technology and allowing space for its migrant workforce;
 - vi. *Extending climate management support:* Development partners could extend climate management support with focus on mitigation and adaptation support to meet those challenges on a sustainable basis.

What Bangladesh and Development Partners could do together?

Bangladesh and the development partners could work together in a few areas that include:

- *Project development and implementation:* Bangladesh and the development partners could work together in developing, matching and implementing agenda and projects in areas ranging from poverty alleviation to infrastructure development to human resources development to implementing common standards and practices for achieving shared objectives; a new conversation on devoting more resources from ODA to capacity building and drawing local and foreign investment deserves urgent attention.
- *Market Bangladesh achievements:* The development partners could work with Bangladesh to help her to market its achievements in social and economic advancements and its contribution to promoting common and shared agenda.
- *Intensify work on research:* They could assist Bangladesh in developing and refining its capacity to conduct research and analysis in identifying the risks and mitigating them with a view to reaping benefits from its bilateral, plurilateral, regional and global interactions;
- *Engage in regular consultations:* Bangladesh and the development partners could develop a practice of engaging in regular, meaningful and systematic consultations with each other on issues of common challenges and benefits;
- *Provide mutual support at multilateral fora:* Bangladesh and the development partners could work together at the regional and global multilateral fora to support each other on mutually beneficial issues and forge partnership to advance our common objectives.

Many of successful efforts in Bangladesh have been implemented with support from the international cooperation over the years. It is, therefore, expected that international development cooperation in an expanded form could also contribute to fire up Bangladesh's journey forward through successful implementation of SDGs and targets and managing its graduation challenges in the coming decade.



Part A

International Cooperation Within the Framework of SDGs





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Part A: International Cooperation Within the Framework of SDGs

Introduction

Study Background

SDG and International Cooperation

The Member States of the United Nations (UN) formally adopted the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) agenda on 25 September 2015. The 17 SDGs and its associated 169 targets aim at ending poverty, hunger and inequality; acting on climate change and the environment; improve access to health and education; caring for people and the planet; and building strong institutions and partnerships. The global indicator framework¹ was developed in 2017 by the Inter-Agency and Expert Group on SDG Indicators. The official list includes 232 indicators and is used as benchmarks to measure the progress of SDGs across countries.

Given the all-encompassing nature of SDGs, the goals cannot be achieved by national efforts alone. SDGs' Outcome Document (2015)² stated that international development cooperation will play a significant role in achieving SDG targets. SDG 17 “Global Partnership for Sustainable Development” focuses on strengthening international cooperation. The Addis Ababa Action Agenda³ (AAAA) provides a guideline for enhancing international cooperation. It recognizes that there is a large financing requirement and to achieve the goals, developed countries need to increase their contributions to various sources of finance such as Official Development Assistance (ODA).

However, the concept of development cooperation has evolved and shifted beyond ODA. Firstly, apart from financial assistance, development cooperation now-a-days also refers to technical assistance, capacity development, knowledge-sharing, and technology transfer. Secondly, source of assistance has also shifted from traditional donors to emerging economies as well. Thirdly, south-south cooperation has contributed a lot in the form of sharing knowledge and experience, training, technology transfer, financial and monetary cooperation, and in-kind contributions. Finally, private sectors financing for different projects and contribution of the NGOs in helping the poor and distressed people have been contributing to achieve SDG targets.

Global Scenario

MDG to SDG

The SDGs are a follow-up on the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). Despite its many successes, MDGs fell short of expectation. Some of the shortcomings of the MDGs are as follows:

1. **Focus on Independent Approach:** The concept of MDGs was providing assistance from richer countries to less well-off countries. However, it did not allow an approach to development where countries could address their own challenges themselves, including the last mile people who need support, by utilizing their own financial resources and capacity, and seeking assistance from developed countries on areas where they fall short. The “independent” approach paves the way for more sustainable development;
2. **Universality of Goals:** As mentioned before, the MDGs were developed in the context of “rich donors aiding poor recipients.” However, the world has dramatically changed over the years and global challenges of poverty and hunger have spread throughout the world due to rising inequality. The complexity of sustainable global development and its universality was not represented by the MDGs. Moreover, the importance of inclusivity at the localized level was not part of the MDGs;

1 UN (2017). Work of the Statistical Commission pertaining to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

2 UN (2015). Transforming Our World: The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

3 UN (2015). Outcome Document of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development: Addis Ababa Action Agenda.

3. Focus on Quantity: The MDGs focused on quantity e.g. high enrollment rates. It did not focus on the quality e.g. education for sustainable development and sustainable lifestyles, human rights, promotion of a culture of peace and non-violence, global citizenship, and appreciation of cultural diversity; and
4. Zeroing on Target: The MDG targets for 2015 were set to get us “half way” to the goal of ending hunger and poverty, with similar proportional goals in other fields. However, it was not designed to finish the job i.e. get to a statistical “zero” on hunger, poverty, and other targets. Getting “halfway there” encouraged countries to “do the easiest parts first.” However, getting to requires a real focus on the empowering the poorest and hardest to reach zero.

The MDGs fell short of meeting the expectation of developing a global partnership for development.

According to General Economics Division (GED) (2016)⁴, over emphasis on addressing the extreme poverty, which plagued the globe and other life-threatening issues perhaps obscured the focus on the need to build partnership for development cooperation. In the process, behind the apparent successes, many countries slipped back or progressed laggard due to shortage of funds and other support measures requires such as technical assistance, capacity development etc.

Against this backdrop, and in the face of growing demand for a more comprehensive and transformative approach, particularly when the world has become integrated and interdependent, the members of the international community agreed to explore and articulate a common platform to address the current and future challenges within the UN framework and with participation of multiple stakeholders, including at the local level (i.e. localization), to build a safe and resilient future for the entire humanity, so that **‘No One Is Left Behind.’**

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development envisaged itself as an integrated, indivisible, multi-dimensional, global in nature and universally applicable agenda and approach, taking into account different national realities, capacities, and levels of development. As a result:

- o The need for suitable implementation of strategies and programs of actions, including the Istanbul Programme of Action (IPoA, 2011) was endorsed;
- o The integral value of the concrete policies and actions as outlined in AAAA (2015) was acknowledged;
- o It was also clearly emphasized that the full the implementation of the Addis Ababa Action Plan is critical for the realization of the SDGs and targets;
- o The primary responsibility of each country for its own economic and social development was highlighted;
- o Recognized the critical role of international public finance in complementing the efforts of countries to mobilize public resources domestically, especially for the poorest and the most vulnerable countries with limited resources; and
- o The use of ODA, broadening and strengthening of the voice of developing countries in international economic decision-making process, norm setting, and global economic governance were also underscored.

4 GED (2016). Millennium Development Goals: End-period Stocktaking and Final Evaluation Report, September 2016. Bangladesh Planning Commission. Retrieved from: <https://www.undp.org/content/dam/undp/library/MDG/english/MDG%20Country%20Reports/Bangladesh/MDG%20Progress%20Report%202011.pdf>

5 This information is based on the UN General Assembly Resolution of 1970.

Letdowns of MDGs in terms of international cooperation can be attributed to the following issues⁵:

The commitment made by the developed country under the North- South negotiations in the early 1970s to deliver ODA and other development support to the Developing and Least Developed Countries did not materialize, even after several decades of commitments.

Extremely slow progress on issues of serious interest, particularly to developing countries, such as the completion of Doha Development Round, and migration issue, deepened the frustration on the commitment and role of developed countries to assist the developing countries, including the Least Developed Countries (LDCs) to improve their condition and position in the global development landscape.

There was a widespread impression that the MDGs were directed to address the issues related to the developing countries alone and thereby creating an impression that the developed countries could shun their obligation for providing adequate development cooperation and partnership to implement MDGs.

Due to the lack of progress on the implementation of MDGs in many LDCs, serious questions were raised about whether the commitments of domestic efforts by the poverty-stricken countries were good enough to break the cycle of poverty and other developmental challenges on their own without adequate development cooperation and support from the global partners.

However, there are criticisms about the SDGs with the risk of underachieving the goals themselves. According to an article by Jones (2013)⁶, critics state that development requires starting from a simple framework and building on from there. It should not be about putting everything on the table and overcomplicate the development agenda. According to the critics, if there are lots of areas to focus on with many different actors – “too many cooks in the kitchen”, achievement would not be possible and it ultimately runs the risk of becoming “a badly decorated Christmas tree”.

Istanbul Programme of Action (IPoA) for the LDCs (2011-2020)

IPoA for the decade 2011-2020 represents the enhanced commitments of the least developed countries, which have the ownership of and primary responsibility for their own development, and their development partners, to a renewed and strengthened global partnership. In terms of principles, IPoA envisaged: i) country ownership and leadership; ii) an integrated approach to development; iii) genuine partnership and solidarity; iv) result orientation; v) respect for peace and security, development and human rights; vi) equity at all levels; and vii) voice and representation of LDCs, and balanced role of the State and market considerations. Guided by the spirit of solidarity with least developed countries, developing countries, consistent with their capabilities, will provide support for the effective implementation of the IPoA in mutually agreed areas of cooperation within the framework of South-South cooperation. The private sector, civil society, and foundations will be encouraged to contribute to the implementation of the IPoA in their respective areas of competence in line with least developed countries’ national priorities. In order to prepare the LDCs toward graduation, the IPoA aimed to achieve sustained, equitable, and inclusive economic growth in least developed countries, including:

- o Reach at least 7% growth per annum, by strengthening their productive capacity in all sectors through structural transformation and overcoming their marginalization through their effective integration into the global economy, including through regional integration;
- o Ensure enhanced financial resources and their effective use for least developed countries’ development, including through domestic resource mobilization, ODA, external debt relief, foreign direct investment and remittances; and
- o Enhance good governance at all levels, by strengthening democratic processes, institutions and the rule of law; increasing efficiency, coherence, transparency and participation; protecting and promoting human rights; and reducing corruption, and strengthen least developed country governments’ capacity to play an effective role in their economic and social development.

IPoA notes the important role of sub-regional and regional cooperation which can play a critical role in promoting sustained, inclusive, and equitable economic growth and sustainable development in least developed countries, including through enhanced sub-regional and regional connectivity, both physical and institutional, and strengthened responses to threats and crises of various kinds.

6 Jones (2013). Too many cooks in the kitchen’ warns MDG co-architect. Devex. Retrieved from: <https://www.devex.com/news/too-many-cooks-in-the-kitchen-warns-mdg-co-architect-80799?fbclid=IwAR3SlDi1wZMfAAHtDMocqJchIDAQG4B3WeH-8lR7ntocXgqEa3X89GsCWo>

The IPoA (2011-2020) outlines the action to be organized by the following priority areas:

- o Productive capacity (infrastructure; energy; science, technology and innovation; private sector development)
- o Agriculture, food security and rural development
- o Trade
- o Commodities
- o Human and social development (education and training; population and primary health; youth development; shelter; water and sanitation; gender equality and empowerment of women; social protection)
- o Multiple crises and other emerging challenges (economic shocks; climate change and environmental sustainability; disaster risk reduction)
- o Mobilizing financial resources for development and capacity-building (domestic resource mobilization; official development assistance; external debt; foreign direct investment; remittances)
- o Good governance at all levels
- o many of the issues agreed upon in the Istanbul Programme of Action were later integrated in the subsequent conference outcome documents, including in the SDG Agenda.

Indeed, many of the issues agreed upon in the Istanbul Programme of Action were later integrated in the subsequent conference outcome documents, including in the SDG Agenda.

Addis Ababa Action Agenda (AAAA, 2015)

As part of continuing negotiations to finalize the details of SDGs, during the Third UN Conference on the Financing for Development held in Addis Ababa in May 2015, the international community agreed on a concrete pathway to implement the SDGs and targets.

The AAAA was the outcome of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development, held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia in May 2015. The agreement is a follow-up to the 2002 Monterrey Consensus and the 2008 Doha Declaration on Financing for Development.

The AAAA is a global framework that seeks to align financing flows and policies with economic, social, and environmental priorities. Expanding on the previous Financing for Development outcomes, the document includes seven action areas:

- o Domestic public resources
- o Domestic and international private business and finance
- o International development cooperation
- o International trade as an engine for development
- o Debt and debt sustainability
- o Addressing systemic issues
- o Science, technology, innovation, and capacity building

The AAAA was adopted before the adoption of SDGs (2030 Agenda). AAAA specifically states that: “The Addis Ababa Action Agenda supports, complements, and helps contextualize the 2030 Agenda’s means of implementation targets.”

AAAA recognized that domestic resources are generated by economic growth, supported by an enabling environment. Sound social, environmental, and economic policies, including countercyclical fiscal policies, adequate fiscal space, good governance at all levels, and democratic and transparent institutions responsive to the needs of the people are necessary to that end. AAAA aims to strengthen international cooperation to support efforts to build capacity in developing countries, including through enhanced ODA. AAAA, through the SDGs, also recognized that the graduation process of least developed countries should be coupled with appropriate measures, so that the development process will not be jeopardized and that progress towards the sustainable development goals will be sustained.

Taking note of the new trend in global economic partnership, it noted that South-South cooperation is an important element of international cooperation for development as a complement, not a substitute, to North-South cooperation. In the context of meaningful mitigation actions and transparency on implementation, developed countries committed to a goal of mobilizing jointly \$100 billion a year by 2020 from a wide variety of sources to address the needs of developing countries.

Scenario in Bangladesh

Bangladesh has been a forerunner in institutionalizing SDG implementation mechanism. The Government of Bangladesh (GoB) established the Inter-Ministerial Committee on SDGs Implementation and Review which is headed by the Principal Coordinator (SDG Affairs), Prime Minister's Office.

GED as the Focal Point for SDG

Prior to SDGs, GED, of the Planning Commission of Ministry of Planning, steered the preparation of a draft of the post-2015 Development Agenda along with 11 goals, and 58 targets, and 241 indicators. In 2013, GED held consultation meetings with multiple stakeholders including government officials, public representatives, Civil Society Organizations (CSOs), and media representatives at both the national and the sub-national levels to facilitate preparation of the draft. Notably, 9 out of the 11 proposals were consistent with the global aspirations.

As GoB formally adopted the SDG agenda in 2015, GED became the focal point for implementing SDGs in Bangladesh. GED coordinates implementation of SDGs at the policy level, along with monitoring and reporting of SDG status. GED (2016)⁷ has mapped out ministries responsible for different SDGs. GED (2018)⁸ also developed an action plan which clears out the ministries' roles and responsibilities. GED (2017)⁹ estimated the cost of implementing SDGs and indicated that an additional \$928.48 billion (about a trillion), at constant 2015-16 currency, or an annual cost of \$66.32 billion, would be required from both domestic and foreign sources during 2017-2030. GED is now undertaking this study to assess the scope and impact of international cooperation in attaining SDG targets.

Bangladesh currently stands at a cross road for several reasons

After seeing steady economic growth for about two decades, taking its Gross Domestic Product (GDP) growth rate to above 7%, bringing down the rate of poverty significantly, and participating in the global growth trajectory, Bangladesh has started its journey toward graduation from the category of LDC to lower-middle income country. This will also align with the expectation expressed in the Istanbul Programme of Action in 2011.

This process will also coincide with the implementation of the SDGs, the battleground for which will be either won or lost in the LDCs, as noted by the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) report on LDCs in 2016. Rightly, as Bangladesh transforms itself during this journey, so is the expectation of the international community for the transformative role of SDGs to usher the world into a new phase of common destiny, although good number of challenges will greet it along every turn.

Bangladesh will also cross two more Five Year Plan (FYP) periods, from 2020-2025 and 2026-2030.

SDG and 7th FYP

While the GoB was participating in the 2030 Agenda process at the global level, it was also preparing the 7th FYP at the national level. This has significantly facilitated integration of SDGs into the national development agenda. The 7th FYP has been drafted in a manner that it would guide the activities to contribute towards achieving the SDGs. Notably, Goal 14, Goal 16, and Goal 17 are partially aligned with the 7th FYP while the rest are thematically fully aligned with it.

Objectives and Scope of Work

This study illustrates how international cooperation can contribute to achieving the SDGs in Bangladesh. The following activities have been conducted:

- o Identification of the targets of the SDGs with provision of international cooperation;
- o Needs assessment of area where Bangladesh might need international assistance in SDGs implementation;

7 GED (2016), A Handbook: Mapping of Ministries by Targets in the implementation of SDGs aligning with 7th Five Year Plan (2016-20).

8 GED (2018), National Action Plan of Ministries/Divisions by Targets for the Implementation of SDGs.

9 GED (2017), SDGs Financing Strategy: Bangladesh Perspectives

- o Reviewing the current status of international cooperation in different forms and strategic weakness (if any);
- o Identification of potential areas where development partners and other philanthropic organizations can contribute in propelling the SDGs implementation in Bangladesh;
- o Analysis of the probable impacts of international cooperation in the course of SDGs attainment in Bangladesh;
- o Analysing prospects of utilizing climate funds in attaining climate relate targets of SDGs; and
- o Formulation of the way forward to sustain development cooperation and suggestions for future policy improvement and strategy toward implementation of the SDGs targets.

In terms of cooperation between countries, the study will also emphasize the following areas:

- o Identification of the binding obligations of the developed countries to the developing/under developing countries in promoting SDGs attainment;
- o Identification of the scope of cooperation between the developed and developing countries in terms of financial support, technology transfer and capacity building;
- o Assess the level of impact international/regional cooperation in the achievement of the desired outcome of SDGs aspiration, as well as the effectiveness of such cooperation; and
- o Suggest with specific policy interventions required to attract cooperation from development countries under SDGs obligation.

Approach and Methodology

The Consultant followed the following approach and methodology for completing the report:

1. **Desk-Based Literature Review:** The Consultants reviewed SDGs and other relevant documents to map out the status of international cooperation including reviewing the positions of various groups of countries, which play significant role in the global context to set the agenda, pursue them within the regional, plurilateral and multilateral context through negotiations with a view to exploring a common ground leading to a final outcome. In the context of SDGs, the role of multilateral forum, such as the UN and its affiliated bodies, other multilateral institutions, such as World Bank, ADB, and OECD, plurilateral organizations, such as G-20 and South-South Cooperation, among others has been examined to gauge their position in promoting the SDGs and associated targets. In particular, a review of international cooperation during the MDGs timeline was carried out to ascertain progress made in achieving targets under “**MDG 8: Develop a Global Partnership for Development**”. For Bangladesh, the Consultants conducted desk review SDG related documents of United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), GoB, development partners, think-tanks, private sector and others.
2. **Stakeholder Consultation Meeting:** The Consultants held meetings with some of the key officials from institutions involved in SDG implementation. The list of institutions includes UNDP, GoB, private sector, other development partners (e.g. Asian Development Bank (ADB) etc.), selected non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and CSOs. The interviewees provided insights about hurdles in the realization of international commitment to SDGs and practical measures to improve the current situation, including preparing Bangladesh to optimally utilize the opportunities called by global commitment under SDGs.

Based on the analysis of SDG documents, it was determined that overall 60 targets in 17 SDGs have scope for international cooperation. To improve focus and readability, the 17 SDGs have been grouped together into 5 categories, keeping 3 SDG priorities in view, namely, Economic, Social, and Environmental issues. The categories and goals are listed below.

| No. | Category | Goals |
|-----|---|--|
| 1 | Social Infrastructure | Goal 1: No Poverty Goal 2: Zero Hunger Goal 3: Good Health and Well-Being Goal 4: Quality Education Goal 5: Gender Equality Goal 16: Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions |
| 2 | Infrastructure and Industry | Goal 6: Clean Water and Sanitation Goal 7: Affordable and Clean Energy Goal 9: Industry, Innovation, and Infrastructure |
| 3 | Economic Growth and Inequality | Goal 8: Decent Work and Economic Growth Goal 10: Reduced Inequality |
| 4 | Environmental Conservation and Sustainability | Goal 11: Sustainable Cities and Communities Goal 12: Responsible Consumption and Production Goal 13: Climate Action Goal 14: Life below Water Goal 15: Life on Land |
| 5 | Global Partnership | Goal 17: Partnership for the Goals |

For each of the SDGs, the Consultants have done the following:

- o Ascertain international commitments made under the SDGs;
- o Measure Bangladesh's current progress;
- o Evaluate Bangladesh's readiness/preparation in terms of receiving further international cooperation¹⁰; and
- o Provide recommendations on how to effectively leverage public funds and utilize the international market in attaining the SDGs.

Limitation

This study faced a few constraints. 25-workdays does not give sufficient leeway to conduct a thorough and conclusive analysis of international cooperation in attaining 17 SDGs. Unavailability of some key informants (due to visits abroad) and busy schedule of some institutions handling dignitaries also prevented meeting all the key persons and institutions that the consultant had initially planned to. Furthermore, there was lack of available data for most indicators. Availability of such data would have further enriched the study. Notably, 60 indicators for Bangladesh have been identified in this report, out of which 33 fall under Tier I (data available for 26 indicators), 15 are Tier II indicators (data available for only 5 indicators), and the remaining 12 are Tier III indicators which do not have any updated data.

¹⁰ In particular, analysis of Goal 17 focused on the international trade ecosystem in light of paradigm shift towards protectionism and trade wars and how it might impact future international cooperation for Bangladesh.

SDG and International Cooperation: Global Review

Types of Global Partnership and International Cooperation for Development

There was a clear recognition that a systemic change would be needed to achieve the SDGs. The Monterrey Consensus in 2002 and the AAAA in 2015 have shown the way by calling for a holistic approach that promotes efforts to not simply increase but to maximize financing, i.e. to enhance the development impact of existing and future additional resources by using them more effectively and making the most of their interactions¹¹. It formulates classic underlying principles of development policy (the policy field of development cooperation), but also emphasizes the indivisibility and universality of the SDGs and the pledge to leave no one behind (UN, 2015).¹²

Putting it more broadly, once concentrated on international aid, the international co-operation agenda has moved to development finance and now towards financing for sustainable development. With this shift has come a great expansion of the number and diversity of financial actors, who are called upon by the international community in Monterrey Consensus in 2002 and AAAA in 2015 to play a part in this evolving process. These include governments, development partners, taxpayers, private investors, Diaspora communities, donors, and philanthropic actors, among others, all of whom bring their own rationales, roles, resources, instruments, incentives, and intermediary objectives and whose distinct contributions to sustainable development derive from their respective and diverse comparative advantages. Their contributions are all very different in nature and have different effects. Sustainable development, though, is not about simply adding all these up.¹³

The enormity of tasks ahead is somehow reflected in the total annual investment gap in key sustainable development sectors. An UNCTAD estimate done in 2014 showed the figure at \$2.5 trillion (UNCTAD, 2014). This figure is 17 times the current ODA volumes (\$146.6 billion in 2017) and more than 10 times the estimated MDG financing gap. While such estimates inevitably raise methodological issues, the order of magnitude suggests that ODA alone will not fill the SDG gap. Nonetheless, this investment gap estimate is small when compared to resources currently invested or held by companies, pension funds, and other economic actors.¹⁴

The need for financing for sustainable development is increasing but the actual volume of external resources available to developing countries is declining, and is not yet compensated by a symmetric growth of domestic resources. The revenue of governments is the central pillar of the Financing Sustainable Development (FSD) system, and while tax revenue-to-GDP ratios are increasing, in many countries they remain stubbornly low. Moreover, the radical shift needed in the quality of public and private investment, especially in the poorest economies, has barely started. The urgent call to action issued from Addis Ababa has yet to be heard by all.

In addition to agreeing to the 2030 agenda, there has been a convergence between the developed and developing countries on the urgent need to work together to support the implementation of SDGs and targets through enhancing global development cooperation and partnership among the international community, notwithstanding the fact that rumblings otherwise could also be observed in recent years. The very concept of international cooperation for development has undergone some changes, as well as its objectives, principles, and methodologies, which are closely linked with changes in the development concept. In turn, the concept of development is the consequence of a collective construction that reflects the structural distribution of power. Even though there is no current international consensus on the definition, the term international cooperation for development usually refers to resource transfers, whether financial or in-kind (technologies, equipment, knowledge, scholarships), of concessional or non-refundable nature, aimed to support the efforts of developing countries to achieve the well-being of their people. These transfers can

11 Ibid

12 Alexandra Rudolph(2017), 'The concept of SDG sensitive development cooperation: Implications for OECD-DAC members,' Discussion Paper, German Development Institute, Bonn, 1/2017

13 OECD (2019), Global Outlook on Financing for Development.

14 Ibid

come from a developed country (Official Development Assistance), another developing country (South-South Cooperation) or from both, acting jointly (Triangular Cooperation). They can also come from a local government (Decentralized Cooperation), an international organization (Multilateral Cooperation), and, as of recently, from nongovernmental stakeholders (non-official or private cooperation).

The key word that weaves through the SDGs is innovation- innovation in ideas, practices and partnership, which should power the implementation of SDGs and targets through broad array of human interactions throughout the world to ensure that no one is left behind. Significant amount of innovation is therefore called for when we talk about financing the implementation of 2030 Agenda. The term ‘innovative financing’ is often used in the development narrative, yet there is no internationally agreed definition.¹⁵ This report defines innovative financing for development will be defined as anything different from standard investing or financing practice that has the potential to deliver significant socio-economic or environmental impact. Innovative financing for development initiatives have originated from a wide range of actors, including citizens, corporations, governments (of both developed and developing economies) and multilateral institutions. Indeed, many good ideas require minimal or no government involvement, such as citizen focused fund-raising initiatives or business-driven solutions such as bottom-of-the-pyramid ventures.¹⁶

However, the perception and perspectives on the nature of international cooperation for development, its scope and scale as well as the way it should be organized and implemented to achieve the SDGs and its associated targets vary noticeably. A brief review of approaches articulated and pursued by countries, individually and as a group, situated at various levels of economic development, both donors and recipients, multilateral institutions, and others, including the civil society actors, which often generate and catalyze resources, could be helpful to understand the nuances and complexities involved with the issue of financing for the implementation of SDGs and its targets, particularly in the context, its unique, universal and holistic objectives to include everyone in the world in the process of growth and development in the decades to come. Let us have a look at them.

Group of 7 Countries (G-7): Hamburg (2015), Ise-Shima (2016), Taormina 2017, and Charlevoix (2018)

The Group of 7 developed countries (G-7) also acknowledged the transformative nature of SDGs and expressed their commitment to extend further financial and non-financial means of implementation, including through domestic resource mobilization, innovative financing, private finance, official development, and other assistance and an ambitious policy framework. G-7 also recognized the integrated nature of cooperation which was required to achieve the SDGs.

The Declaration of G-7 summit in Germany in 2015 asserted their commitment to end extreme poverty by 2030 and transition to sustainable development. They also indicated their sectoral priorities and to commit to significant measures on global health, food security, climate and marine protection, sustainable supply chains, and women’s economic empowerment.¹⁷ They reaffirmed the essential role that ODA and other international public finance play as a catalyst for, and complement to, other sources of financing for development. Likewise, Buenos Aires G-7 Summit in 2017, reaffirmed G-7’s commitment to leading the transformation towards sustainable development and support the 2030 Agenda as the framework for advancing this goal and the

15 The Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) defines innovative financing as mechanisms of raising funds or stimulating actions in support of international development that go beyond traditional spending approaches by either the public or private sector, and distinguishes them from innovative uses of traditional development finance (such as counter-cyclical lending, debt swaps, and issuing guarantees) and incentives designed to enhance aid effectiveness (including results-based aid and cash-on-delivery). In contrast, the World Bank considers innovative financing to be those approaches that generate funds by tapping new funding sources or by engaging new partners, including approaches that ‘enhance the efficiency of financial flows by reducing delivery time and/or costs’ and ‘make financial flows more results oriented’. (Murray, Robin, Julie Caulier-Grice and Geoff Mulgan (2010). *The Open Book of Social Innovation*. Social innovator series: Ways to design, develop and grow social innovation. United Kingdom: Young Foundation. Available from http://www.nesta.org.uk/sites/default/files/the_open_book_of_social_innovation.pdf)

16 Bensoussan, Eytan, RadhaRuparell and Lynn Taliento (2013). *Innovative development Financing*. McKinsey and Company, August. Available from <http://www.mckinsey.com/industries/social-sector/our-insights/innovative-development-financing>.

17 Hamburg (2015) G-7 Summit communiqué.



G20 Action Plan. The Buenos Aires Update outlines the G20 current collective and concrete actions towards achieving that Agenda, recognizing that South-South and triangular cooperation have an important role to implement it.¹⁸

The Ise-Shima, Taormina and Charlevoix Commitment of G-7 countries

At the Ise-Shima, Japan communiqué in 2016 the leaders of G-7 countries declared, ‘We affirm our strong commitment to the timely implementation of the Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development which is an integral part of the 2030 agenda, working in partnership with all stakeholders. Amongst priorities, we highlight the primary importance of domestic resource mobilization and of the creation of a favorable climate capable of stimulating domestic and external private investment, while also reaffirming the essential role that official development assistance (ODA) and other official flows (OOF) play as a catalyst for, and complement to, other sources of financing for development. In this regard, we are resolved to continue pursuing innovative partnerships and financing arrangements to advance sustainable development. We also reiterate our respective ODA commitments, such as the 0.7% ODA/GNI target, as well as our commitment to reverse the declining trend of ODA to the LDCs and to better target ODA towards countries where the needs are greatest.’¹⁹

The G-7 leaders pursued similar line, with a limited focus, in Taormina, Italy. They articulated their thoughts in this way, ‘Despite progress in recent decades, we are still far from making poverty history, from reaching the “zero hunger” objective and from ensuring that future generations will enjoy justice and peace, as well as a cleaner and safer environment, as envisaged, for example, by the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.’²⁰

Likewise, Charlevoix Commitment on Innovative Financing of 2018 acknowledged the importance of public finance, including official development assistance and domestic resource mobilization, for sustainable development, recognize that public capital alone is insufficient to support the economic growth and sustainable development necessary to lift all populations out of poverty, and to work towards the aspirations outlined in the Sustainable Development Goals of the 2030 Agenda. G-7 members, as the largest providers of ODA, acknowledged their unique opportunity to catalyze momentum to shape development financing solutions for the future, forge pioneering alliances, and activate contributions from different partners.

DAC Communiqué

The DAC in their High Level meeting in December 2014 noted that despite huge progress made during the implementation of MDGs, including the halving of extreme poverty, substantial progress made toward reaching gender parity in school enrolment, reducing the child mortality, and creating access to safe water, the job of ending global poverty still remained unfinished, alongside continued instability and conflict, humanitarian crises and rising inequality. Addressing all these challenges in a sustainable way, they believed required a renewed global partnership for development.²¹

As the new sustainable development goals for the post-2015 era were taking shape, they expressed their readiness to make contributions toward implementation of newest of SDGs, both financial and non-financial means and efforts. As regards the financing challenge, they noted that a wide array of domestic and international resources – both concessional and commercial in nature – needed to be mobilized from public and private sources and from all providers. These different resources must also be used effectively, drawing on their respective comparative advantages. In this context, they welcomed relevant efforts from across the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) on development finance, including in the areas of taxation and investment. They also considered that improving global access to reliable statistics regarding all these resources would be essential for all stakeholders, including developing and provider

18 Buenos Aires (2017), G-7 Communiqué.

19 Ise-Shima, Japan (2016), G-7 Ise-Shima Leaders’ Declaration, 27 May 2016

20 Charlevoix, Canada (2018) G-7 summit communiqué, 9 June 2018

21 Paris (2014) DAC High Level Meeting, Paris, Final Communiqué, 16 December 2014

countries, to optimally plan, allocate, use, and account for development resources. Reliable statistics will also facilitate national, regional, and global transparency and accountability.

They also acknowledged that ODA would remain a crucial part of international development co-operation in implementing the post-2015 agenda, particularly for countries most in need. In the same vein, they also acknowledge the important role of international private flows. Domestic resources, however, would continue to be the main pillar of development finance for the broad majority of developing countries. They reaffirmed their respective ODA commitments, including those who had endorsed the UN target of 0.7% of Gross National Income (GNI) as ODA to developing countries, and agreed to continue to make all efforts to achieve them. They also agreed to allocate more of total ODA to countries most in need, such as LDCs, low-income countries, small Island developing states, land-locked developing countries, and fragile and conflict-affected states. They recognized that ODA could help bring in private investment to support development, and that it was essential to capture the breadth of official support provided to developing countries.

The meeting also recognized that supporting developing countries to optimally use the increased diversity of funding sources that they could access today would be important. The transparency of resource flows reaching developing countries plays a role in enhancing the effectiveness of development co-operation. They therefore decided to strengthen their dialogue with developing countries to ensure that the statistical system of the DAC members contributed to meeting their information and planning needs. Further, they would continue to develop our systems for measuring resource inflows to developing countries, building on their longstanding work with country programmable aid. The noted that they had come some distance in their efforts to upgrade and modernize their statistical systems and tools for the DAC members to contribute to monitoring the financing framework underpinning the post-2015 agenda.

Recognizing the central role of the UN, the DAC members expressed their readiness to actively contributing to the UN-led process to shape the ambitious post-2015 agenda, and the renewed global partnership to support its implementation, including the future accountability and monitoring system. What was striking was their acknowledgement of the need for building a new partnership for implementing the SDGs including their financing alongside reiterating their commitment toward meeting their ODA commitments and updating their statistical tools and systems with a view to helping the developing countries better and effective monitoring of the inflow and management of resources from all sources.²²

Emerging nuances:

At this point, it could be helpful to understand the evolution of thought about financing of development in the context of global commitment toward 2030 Agenda. Firstly, on their part, the G-7 and OECD countries remain committed to supporting the innovative financing approaches to achieve greater sustainable development outcomes. However, they focus their attention on some interesting and innovative ideas to unlock resources, such as crowd funding, blended finance, risk mitigation tools, and investor partnerships. They believe that this will perhaps create opportunities for economic growth that benefits everyone, including the poorest and most vulnerable. Secondly, they also promised to work to implement the OECD-DAC blended finance principles including promoting greater transparency and accountability of blended finance operations. They also promised to explore opportunities to enhance the economic resilience of vulnerable developing countries, as well as to respond effectively to extreme weather events and other hazards and continue to support innovative financing approaches, such as risk insurance to strengthen the resilience of vulnerable developing countries, including Small Island Developing States, and build on existing G7 initiatives.

Thirdly, they also promised to support effective tax systems and functioning banking and financial systems. In this context, they also called upon the multilateral development banks to work more closely with domestic financial markets, and in local currencies wherever possible, to build local markets. Fourthly, they are inclined to work to ensure international best practices, including on transparency, rule of law, good

²² Ibid

corporate governance, human and labor rights, environmental and social standards, economic efficiency in view of life cycle costs, resilience against risks such as natural disasters, attraction of new industries and private investment, transfer of expertise, open and non-exclusive use of infrastructure and sustainable and responsible financing for recipient countries.²³ While many of these ideas are creative and forward looking, they may pose some challenge for many developing countries for a variety of reasons.

G-77 and China

The G-77 largely echoed similar sentiments, although tinged with a degree of frustration and exhortation for urgent and innovative actions from the developed countries, which often lagged in fulfilling their global commitment for supporting the developing countries in general and LDCs in particular. However, large degree of convergence of position between members of G-7 and those of G-77 cannot avoid attention.

Some positions of Convergence between G-7 and G-77

Highlighting the integrated nature of global development agenda, the G-77 and China noted that the transformative role of SDGs must fulfill five key policy objectives, namely, rapid and sustained economic growth; industrialization; full employment; greater distributional equity; and environmental sustainability.

G-77 reaffirmed the importance of integrating the three dimensions of sustainable development, namely (i) sustainable economic growth, (ii) social inclusion, and (iii) protection of the environment, in a balanced manner, without emphasizing one over the other.

G-77 holds the view that each SDG should be linked with the strengthened global partnership for development with an effective means of implementation. The notion of 'means of implementation' consists of, among others, a mix of financial resources, technology development and transfer, as well as capacity-building. These means of implementation must be supported by actions from developed countries at the international level, such as time-bound financing targets; associated trade and economic policies; technology transfer and other resources to assist and enable developing countries efforts.

On financial resources, the Group of 77 reiterates its position that the Monterrey and Doha conferences on financing for development are a strong foundation for a post-2015 development agenda financing strategy. Sustainable development financing comes from external and domestic sources, and includes both public and private flows. They should complement but not substitute for each other as each source of financing has its own role and objectives.

At the Ministerial meeting in 2017, the Ministers reiterated that:

- o The successful implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development requires strengthened means of implementation and revitalized global partnership for sustainable development.

They therefore reaffirmed their strong commitment to the full implementation of this Agenda, taking into account different national realities, capacities and levels of development and respecting national policies and priorities, through the delivery of the means of implementation as contained in Goal 17, as well as in each specific SDG.

- o Developing countries should be supported by an enabling international environment, which includes a supportive and just international system where the rules are fair and pro-development, as well as a genuine and revitalized global partnership to enable developing countries to meet their sustainable development aspirations.
- o Poverty eradication in all its forms and dimensions is a central imperative of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

In this regard, the Ministers emphasized that the international community must address the challenges and needs faced by developing countries, especially countries in special situations, in particular, African countries, least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small

²³ Canada (2018), Charlevoix Commitment on Innovative Financing, 9 June 2018.

island developing States as well as specific challenges faced by many middle-income countries, conflict and post-conflict countries and countries and peoples living under foreign occupation.

- o Financing for development is key to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. And that assured and predictable financial flow is indispensable to the realization of sustainable development, particularly for developing countries.

As such, the mobilization and meaningful use of financial and non-financial resources are essential to accomplish the commitment to end poverty in all its forms and dimensions. In allocating development resources, priority should be given to areas that bear most directly on people's livelihood and development of developing countries, such as poverty eradication, infrastructure development, health, education, among others.

- o The leading role of multilateral development banks is critical to provide financing resources to bridge this gap, including the \$1 trillion to \$1.5 trillion annual gap in developing countries, by means of enhancing access to and improving quality of infrastructure services which are environmentally, socially and economically sustainable.

In this context, the Ministers stressed that international development cooperation, especially North-South cooperation remains a fundamental catalyst to sustainable economic growth. They urged developed countries to urgently fulfill their unmet Official Development Assistance commitments.

- o The important contribution that direct investment, including foreign direct investment, can make to sustainable development, particularly when projects are aligned with national and regional sustainable development strategies. The Ministers recalled the important contribution of private investment to sustainable development, through tools and mechanism such as public-private partnerships.

They called for enhanced roles of multilateral development banks (MDB) in providing the soft infrastructure contribution through technical support and capacity building programs. This requires the strengthening and increased state-private sector risk alignment of mechanism such as the Multilateral Investment Guarantee Agency (MIGA) and development of more context-responsive investment risk assessment and guarantee mechanisms.

- o International development cooperation, especially North-South cooperation, remains a fundamental catalyst to sustainable development. As North-South cooperation is the main channel of development financing, the international community must uphold the principle of "common but differentiated responsibilities" (CBDR) and push North-South cooperation to continue to play its key role. Developed countries should bear the primary responsibility in financing for development. South-South cooperation is a complement to, rather than a substitute for, North-South cooperation and reaffirmed that South-South cooperation is a collective endeavor of developing countries and that, consequently, South-South cooperation deserves its own separate and independent promotion.

In this context, the Ministers stressed that South-South cooperation and its agenda must be driven by the countries of the South. South-South cooperation, which is critical for developing countries, therefore requires long-term vision and a global institutional arrangement, as envisioned at the Second South Summit.

- o The increasing recognition of the central role of tax systems in development and reiterated their concern over the negative impacts that illicit financial flows and related trade mispricing, tax avoidance, and evasion, corruption, and money-laundering have on the world economy, in particular for developing countries. In this regard, the Ministers stressed that all States should attach importance to inclusive cooperation and dialogue among national tax authorities on international tax matters to scaling up international tax cooperation, strengthened national

regulation, and combating illicit financial flows in order to mobilize domestic resources for the Sustainable Development Goals.

- o International migration is a multidimensional reality of major relevance to the development of origin, transit and destination countries that must be addressed in a coherent, comprehensive and balanced manner. They reaffirm the need to promote and protect effectively the human rights and fundamental freedoms of all migrants, especially those of women and children, regardless of their migration status.

The Ministers also stressed the need to further address and promote conditions for cheaper, faster and safer transfers of remittances in both source and recipient countries, including through the reduction of the transaction costs of migrant remittances to less than 3% and the elimination of remittance corridors with costs higher than 5% by 2030.

- o The need for increased efforts to mobilize, and enhance access to, climate finance, including public and private, domestic and international, bilateral and multilateral, as well as alternative sources of finance. Multilaterally agreed modalities are needed to track the delivery of \$100 billion per year in climate finance by 2020. Furthermore, additional and scaled-up finance is crucial for developing countries in the post-2020 context. In concrete baseline target for post-2020 financing with progression from \$100 billion per year is needed to prevent backsliding and build trust.

The Group of Least Developed Countries (LDCs)

The condition of LDCs as a group seems mixed. A longer-term assessment of the economic performance of LDCs shows uneven growth, with few countries exhibiting structural vulnerability and economic volatility.

- o The annual percentage change in growth between 2010 and 2017 showed that fewer countries were growing at 7%, the target set in IPoA and the SDGs. In the near term, until 2020, growth is expected to remain relatively robust in the least developed countries but fall short of the 7% target. Rising levels of debt, negative impacts of climate change, and increased global uncertainty, including from trade tensions, may act as a drag on economic activity and further depress projected growth in GDP.
- o The rate of extreme poverty in the least developed countries, measured as the population living below \$1.90 per day, fell to 35.5% in 2015, from 36.2% in 2013. In addition, the poverty gap, which reflects both the depth of poverty as well as its incidence, declined from 13.5% to 13.1%. Recent projections indicate that nearly 30% of the population will remain in extreme poverty by 2030. If poverty in all its forms is to be eradicated by 2030, further action is needed to implement development goals for the least developed countries.
- o Productive capacities experienced only modest growths between 2010 and 2017. The share of agriculture, forestry, and fisheries decreased marginally from 22% to 21%, the share of manufacturing increased from 10% to 12%, and the share of services increased from 44% to 45% between 2010 and 2017. Changes in emerging technologies in the manufacturing sector have made it much more capital- and skills-intensive, while the low levels of physical and human capital in the least developed countries make the further expansion of structural transformation more challenging. In addition, investment, which is key to building productive capacities, remained relatively low in the least developed countries. Gross fixed capital formation has generally been constant, accounting for only about a quarter of economic activity in the least developed countries between 2011 and 2017.
- o ODA received by the least developed countries from members of the Development Assistance Committee of the OECD increased. The share of total ODA to the least developed countries increased from 27% in 2016 to 29% in 2017, while the overall share of ODA to the least developed countries in the GNI of donor States remained constant, at 0.09%. The number of donors

providing 0.15% or more of their GNI as ODA to the least developed countries fell from six to five²⁴, all of them exceeding the higher threshold of 0.20% of GNI. However, ODA inflows to the least developed countries are still larger than private flows, foreign direct investment, or remittances. ODA has mobilized much less private capital in the least developed countries than in other developing countries: of the \$119.5 billion mobilized from 2012 to 2017 for all developing countries, \$9.3 billion (8%) was for the least developed countries, mainly generated through credit and risk guarantees.

- o Foreign-owned companies account for a significant share of formal private sector employment in the least developed countries and rank among the largest individual employers. Flows of Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) to the LDCs decreased by 17% in 2017, to \$26 billion, following a decline of 13% in 2016. Flows to the LDCs are equal to less than 2% of global flows, down from 3% in 2013 and 2014. FDI in the least developed countries remains heavily concentrated in a few countries, mainly in Africa, and in the extractive industries, often providing few forward and backward linkages. Green field investment of FDI projects that were announced in 2017 declined by 43% to a four-year low, as investors, mainly from developing countries, scaled down their capital spending plans.
- o Remittance flows to the least developed countries are estimated to have increased to \$43.8 billion in 2018, an annual increase of 11%, due, in part, to the increase in outward flows from the countries of the Gulf Cooperation Council. However, downside risks to economic growth and restrictive immigration policies in many destination countries may moderate the future growth of remittances. Remittance inflows are concentrated in a few of the least developed countries, with six countries²⁵ accounting for more than 80% of the total. In addition, for some smaller countries, including the Comoros and the Gambia, remittances amounted to 20% or more of GDP. The average cost of sending remittances remained almost stagnant at 6.9% in the third quarter of 2018, more than twice the 3% level committed to in the AAAA. In many least developed countries, such costs are even higher, reaching up to 20%. Factors contributing to the high costs include de-risking measures taken by commercial banks and exclusive partnerships between national post office systems and a single money transfer.
- o The ease of doing business is a crucial aspect of good governance. The Doing Business 2019 report, published by the World Bank Group (WBG), ranks Rwanda at 29th place, with a score of 77.88, followed by Bhutan (66.08), Zambia (65.08), Vanuatu (62.87) and Djibouti (62.02). Rwanda and Djibouti are also among the top 10 reformers, together with Togo and Afghanistan, the latter of which leads the list with an increase of more than 10 points in its score. Afghanistan focused on enhancing the legal framework for businesses by strengthening minority investor protections and adopting a new insolvency legal framework. Djibouti is in the list of top 10 improvers for the second consecutive year, having strengthened its legal framework and digitized its land registry. Overall, the average value for the ease of doing business index for all the least developed countries increased from 45.43 in 2017 to 46.23 in 2019.
- o Significant gaps also persist with respect to statistical capacities and data collection in the least developed countries, which are crucial for policy planning and monitoring. For example, in 2017, the proportion of children under five years of age whose births have been registered with a civil authority was 40.5%, compared with a world average of 73.1%.
- o The importance of South-South cooperation in addressing the persistent development challenges of the least developed countries through trade, FDI and technology transfer has grown. In 2017, South-South trade accounted for 28% of global trade flows and China has become the main export destination for goods from the least developed countries. Reflecting the increasing importance of South-South cooperation for those countries, the Office of the High Representative for the Least

²⁴ Denmark, Luxembourg, Norway, Sweden and United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland

²⁵ Bangladesh, Haiti, Myanmar, Nepal, Senegal and Yemen

Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States and the United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation signed a statement of intent in November 2018 to enhance their substantive collaboration.

In December 2018, the General Assembly took note of the recommendations of the Committee for Development Policy that the following countries be graduated from the least developed country category: Bhutan in 2023, with, on an exceptional basis, an additional preparatory period of two years; and Solomon Islands and Sao Tome and Principe in 2024, with, on an exceptional basis, an additional preparatory period of three years. In addition, in its resolution 2018/27, the Economic and Social Council took note of the recommendations of the Committee for Development Policy and decided to defer consideration of the graduation of Kiribati and Tuvalu to no later than 2021. Smooth transition measures remain critical. Sudden loss of access to concessional finance, in particular for highly vulnerable graduating countries, also needs to be addressed.

South-South Cooperation

The importance of South-South and triangular cooperation in international development cooperation has grown significantly. The establishment of the New Development Bank (formerly referred to as the BRICS Development Bank) followed by creation of the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB) has marked a transition of South-South Cooperation and has also offered alternatives to the existing multilateral development banks, catering to the development needs of the South. South-South cooperation is attracting a renewed interest and attention from the international development cooperation community as the ‘new’ model of international cooperation, combining funding as well as knowledge, expertise, and technology transfer between the countries of the South bilaterally or multilaterally.

The emergence of both the upper and lower middle-income developing countries as the new donors and technical assistance providers in the beginning of this millennium has reshaped the landscape of the international cooperation for development. Complementary to North-South cooperation, South-South and Triangular cooperation have increasingly become important modalities for fostering development cooperation among developing countries in Asia and the Pacific. With the adoption of the transformative 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and other major global development frameworks, South-South cooperation has received a new impetus. In parallel with ODA, it has been recognized as an important element of international development cooperation and one of the key modalities to support the implementation of the SDGs. Its advance is not intended to substitute the North-South cooperation, but rather to complement it.

According to the Framework of operational guidelines on United Nations support to South-South and triangular cooperation by UNDP, South-South cooperation is defined as “a process whereby two or more developing countries pursue their individual and/or shared national capacity development objectives through exchanges of knowledge, skills, resources and technical know-how, and through regional and interregional collective actions, including partnerships involving Governments, regional organizations, civil society, academia and the private sector, for their individual and/or mutual benefit within and across regions. South-South cooperation is not a substitute for, but rather a complement to, North- South cooperation.”²⁶

Triangular cooperation involves two or more developing countries in collaboration with a third party, typically a developed-country government or multilateral organization, contributing to the exchanges with its own knowledge and resources.²⁷ Triangular cooperation, which emerged in the 1960s, has widened the scope of international development cooperation, mainly through joint projects and programs between developing countries with support from international organizations and developed countries.

26 The United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation defines South-South cooperation “as an exchange of knowledge and resources in the political, economic, social, cultural, environmental or technical domain between developing countries. It can take place on a bilateral, regional, sub regional or interregional basis and can involve two or more developing countries. <https://www.unsouthsouth.org/our-work/south-south-and-triangularcoordination/>

27 See <https://www.unsouthsouth.org/our-work/south-south-and-triangular-coordination/>

In addition to North-South-South triangular cooperation, the “triple-South” triangular cooperation has been advancing well. Some of the important examples include the India-Brazil-South Africa (IBSA) fund to promote South-South cooperation and exchange and the United Nations Peace and Development Trust Fund, with a sub-fund dedicated to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, established by China in 2016. The India-UN Development Partnership Fund was established in 2017 in support of Southern-owned and led, demand-driven, and transformational sustainable development projects across the developing world, with a focus on least developed countries and small island developing states. The Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank and New Development Bank are the primary South-led multilateral development banks in this direction. Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) Dialogue Partner Fund and ASEAN Fund are the other examples of triangular cooperation between ASEAN countries and their development partners such as Australia, Japan, and European Union.

The Asia-Pacific region offers some good examples where triangular cooperation has been undertaken within and outside the UN platform. One such examples in the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) Multi-Donor Trust Fund for Tsunami, Disaster and Climate Preparedness in Indian Ocean and Southeast Asian Countries (Trust Fund), operated by ESCAP. The Asia-Pacific has a mix of international development cooperation players. The region includes China and India, the region’s economic powerhouses; high income nations and ODA providers, such as Australia, Japan, Republic of Korea, and New Zealand; and middle-income countries, such as Indonesia, Kazakhstan, Malaysia, Singapore, Thailand, among others. Japan is also a leader in triangular cooperation. On the other hand, the region also has many LDCs, landlocked developing countries (LLDCs) and small island developing states (SIDS). The diversity in levels of development across the region provides unique opportunities for mutually beneficial cooperation between countries and learning from each other’s development experience. This has been particularly evident in ASEAN, where countries rely on the intra-regional sharing of knowledge and experience.

A recent survey by UN ESCAP and other sources reveal that while many countries have a development cooperation strategy covering South-South cooperation to a certain extent, only a few appear to have stand-alone strategies dedicated to South-South cooperation. China’s blue print for international development cooperation is its Second White Paper on Foreign Aid (adopted in 2014), specifically referring to training programs, experience-sharing and trilateral programs as part of its South-South development support. Establishing a ‘single window’ policy for international development cooperation, Indonesia’s development cooperation strategy focuses on South-South cooperation putting forward priority sectors and countries and aid management. Similarly, South-South cooperation in Thailand is part of its development cooperation strategy, covering some 150 countries worldwide. Thailand’s South-South projects utilize its domestic expertise and are tailored to the users’ needs. Bangladesh, which has also recently emerged as a strong champion of South-South cooperation, has finalized a National Policy on Development Cooperation. Its objective is to facilitate a coherent and integrated institutional and policy approach to foreign assistance coming in different forms and modalities to ensure that it is need-based and result-oriented.

The institutional mechanisms for South-South cooperation vary from country to country. Thailand and Turkey have dedicated agencies for international development cooperation. These are also responsible for implementing the South-South cooperation programs and have recently added on the aspect of triangular cooperation. Thailand International Cooperation Agency (TICA) was established as a focal agency under the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and is headed by a Director-General. Turkish Cooperation and Coordination Agency (TIKA) is a government department under the office of the Prime Minister of Turkey. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs is responsible for overall development cooperation, including among the countries of the South, while in Bangladesh, the Ministry of Finance coordinates South-South cooperation. The newly established China South-South Cooperation Fund is the latest addition to China’s institutional South-South cooperation landscape, providing funding for the projects implemented bilaterally or with the third partner, including the UN agencies.

Modalities include funding and technical assistance (in-kind assistance) aimed to develop human and institutional capacities such as expertise/knowledge, training, advisory services, study visits and technology transfer. In addition to such technical assistance, China, India, Indonesia, Iran, and Thailand provided financial support to their Southern partners, which are channeled either bilaterally or in cooperation with an international agency. Priority areas range from SDGs, environment and climate change, disaster, urban/rural development and agriculture, to connectivity issues (transport, trade and Information and Communication technology (ICT)), energy, to social development and gender.

The greatest strength of the South-South cooperation has been its diversity of forms and flows. The core idea is to share best practices and lessons with other partner countries. For this reason, it cannot be one-size-fits all approach but carefully crafted and tailored to the needs of the user partner countries.

However, South-South cooperation also received some critiques. For example, China has been distributing investment in key infrastructure projects around the world- from Asia to Africa.²⁸ There are growing concerns regarding China's growing partnerships with least developed and developing nations. **Accusations have been made against China of utilizing a debt-trap policy behind the veils of cooperation, whereby the country offers loans in unprofitable projects to glean equity on the projects and expand their strategic influence. A recent case occurring in Sri Lanka is instructive in this regard.**²⁹

China's growing global presence is alarming to its competitors as the country has been extending loans to several countries in Asia, Africa and South America, for development and materializing their own belt and road initiative. Despite Sri Lanka's prior debt experience with China, they have plans to build a motorway with around \$1 billion financing from China.³⁰ China also lent a significant share of Djibouti's total debt and invested heavily in the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor among other projects. Meanwhile, Pakistan had to borrow \$6 billion from IMF to reduce its debt woes.³¹ The GoB has stated in 2019, in a World Economic Forum conference in China, that Bangladesh will not fall into China's debt-trap diplomacy.³²

Multilateral Development Banks

The discussion note prepared by the multilateral financial Institutions for the meeting of the Development Committee in April 2015 also explored the global financial landscape and outlined a set of suggestions to mobilize finances for implementation of SDGs and targets. Having a review of their assessment and suggestions could be helpful to objectively navigate the complex world of financing, particularly in the context of ambitious and universal targets set under the SDGs.

The multilateral financial institutions, including the World Bank found that the SDGs are ambitious as they aim at meeting the dual challenge of overcoming poverty and protecting the planet. They go further, highlighting a comprehensive vision of sustainable development that embraces economic, social and environmental dimensions. The financing resources needed to achieve the SDGs will surpass current development financial flows. More financial resources are available globally, but channeling them to support the SDGs will be a challenge. A paradigm shift on how development will be financed is required to unlock the resources needed to achieve the SDGs. The world needs intelligent development finance that goes well beyond filling financing gaps and that can be used strategically to unlock, leverage, and catalyze private flows and domestic

28 Forbes (2019) "The Problem With China's Investments -- From Malaysia To Sri Lanka, Pakistan, And Uganda" retrieved from <https://www.forbes.com/sites/panosmourdoukoutas/2019/07/11/the-problem-with-chinas-investments-from-malaysia-to-sri-lanka-pakistan-and-uganda/#77fc63032e35>

29 The New York Times (2018) "How China Got Sri Lanka to Cough Up a Port" retrieved from <https://www.nytimes.com/2018/06/25/world/asia/china-sri-lanka-port.html>

30 South China Morning Post (2019) China to give US\$989 million loan to Sri Lanka for major new motorway project retrieved from <https://www.scmp.com/news/asia/south-asia/article/3002960/china-give-us989-million-loan-sri-lanka-major-new-motorway>

31 Reuters (2019) "IMF board approves \$6 billion loan package for Pakistan" retrieved from <https://www.reuters.com/article/us-pakistan-imf/imf-board-approves-6-billion-loan-package-for-pakistan-idUSKCN1TY2JW>

32 bdnews24 (2019) "Bangladesh won't step into 'debt trap' while she is in power, says Hasina at China event" retrieved from <https://bdnews24.com/economy/2019/07/02/bangladesh-wont-step-into-debt-trap-while-she-is-in-power-says-hasina-at-china-event>

resources. Financial leveraging is possible as being done by the MDB and International Monetary Fund (IMF), MDBs support investment in systems, institutions, markets and capacity that underpin development interventions, and provide a collaboration platform for development partners to come in behind country-owned programs and priorities; IMF financing supports government economic programs to maintain or restore macroeconomic stability and growth.

The MDBs use development financing solutions beyond traditional loans that can be grouped into four broad categories:

1. Adding, pooling, and enabling instruments to generate new flows, or more results for the same money;
2. debt-based/right-timing instruments that match flows to when cash is needed;
3. risk-management instruments to manage or reduce risk for investors (correcting market failures, reducing regulatory risk) or consumers (e.g., weather insurance for farmers, local currency matching for micro, small and medium-sized enterprises (MSMEs)); and
4. results-based financing where payments are made specifically for desired results.

IMF

The IMF has done analytical work to see what it will take for low-income developing countries to meet the SDGs, looking at five areas that are critical for sustainable and inclusive growth: education, health, water and sanitation, roads, and electricity. Countries investing in these sectors will address deficits in human capital and physical infrastructure, which represent a drag on their income and future prosperity. However, debt burdens are rising, with 40% of low-income developing countries being now at high risk of debt distress or in debt distress. Foreign aid remains crucial, and preferably takes the form of grants. While budget conditions are tight in many advanced economies, returns on well-targeted aid – in terms of poverty reduction, job creation, and improving security and stability – are very high.

Achieving them will require a significant increase in public spending in many countries. The IMF is supporting in several ways. On the spending side, it is developing a broad framework for assessing spending needs focusing in a number of country case studies – Benin, Guatemala, Indonesia, Rwanda, and Vietnam – in support of achieving some big-ticket SDGs – health, education, and infrastructure. This is being done in collaboration with country officials, the World Bank, and United Nations agencies. In terms of financing, strengthening tax capacity will be critical, especially since rising debt levels in low-income countries are complicating SDG progress. For most developing countries, however, domestic revenue alone will not be sufficient to fill the financing gap, which calls for stepped-up official aid and private financing options.

The World Bank

During WBG 2015 Annual Meetings in Lima, the Development Committee discussion set the tone for World Bank's work towards implementation of the SDGs in the document "WBG Support for the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development." In 2016, a strategy paper, the "Forward Look - a Vision for the World Bank Group in 2030," set a common view among World Bank shareholders on how to best support the development agenda for 2030; it also connects the Bank Group's institutional vision to the SDGs. The Forward Look encourages commitments and policies toward the global public goods agenda while (i) prioritizing private sector solutions before deploying scarce public resources, including for infrastructure; (ii) strengthening domestic resource mobilization; (iii) assisting all Bank Group clients, including low-income and middle-income countries; (iv) encouraging agility and results-focused work across the public and private sectors; and (v) paying attention to stabilizing the economy and supporting growth in situations of fragility, conflict and violence, as well as to the development needs of small states.

The Bank Group has set two goals for the world to achieve by 2030: ending extreme poverty and promoting shared prosperity. These goals need to be pursued in a sustainable manner: socially, economically, and environmentally. The aim is to achieve them in three ways:

1. Promoting sustainable and inclusive economic growth, especially by helping countries create jobs and boost private investment in infrastructure.
2. Investing in human capital, including early childhood development; equal opportunities in education, health, and training; and acquisition of job skills: areas that can make the biggest difference in countries' ability to grow and compete over the long term.
3. Fostering resilience to global shocks and threats that could roll back development gains, by helping countries develop resilient infrastructure, invest in disaster risk preparedness, prepare for and respond to pandemics, and cope with forced migration.

The WBG has taken several steps to align our work to the 2030 Agenda. This includes Country Partnership Frameworks and the new Environmental and Social Framework, which promotes inclusive development and aims to leave no one behind. Furthermore, the Bank Group Corporate Scorecards, which were endorsed in April 2014 to monitor the implementation of the Bank Group Strategy, are aligned with the 2030 Agenda. The Bank Group has assessed the strategic alignment of the SDGs' targets and indicators with the Bank Group's corporate results frameworks and the Results Measurement System (RMS) for the International Development Association (IDA).

The past decade has seen significant increases in the level of financial flows to developing countries. This reflects the growing importance of: (i) international private finance, particularly increased flows to MICs in the form of FDI, bonds and syndicated bank-lending with at least five years of maturity; (ii) migrant remittances; (iii) private philanthropy, such as from foundations and corporations; and (iv) other official financing, in particular from the BRICS. ODA levels reached \$135 billion in 2013, but their pattern has been uneven. A new development finance architecture has emerged across countries at different stages of development, presenting specific financing challenges and opportunities. ODA remains a significant source of finance which includes LDCs and fragile and conflict states (FCS). While the share of ODA in overall external financing for Upper Middle-Income Countries (UMICs) is relatively small—they now rely primarily on private flows (FDI and bonds)—they receive 40% of ODA grants, given significant and persistent poverty and inequality within many of these countries. As LICs lose access to concessional loan funding, they show a pattern that is of concern, where growth is constrained because domestic taxes and foreign private and market-related public borrowings do not expand enough to compensate for declining ODA flows.

Bilateral Development Partners

Bilateral development banks are financial institutions set up by a country to provide funds for development projects in developing countries. Some examples of bilateral banks are Agence française de développement (AFD), Netherlands Development Finance Company (FMO), Swiss Agency for Development Cooperation (SDC), and CDC Group plc. These banks generally work on behalf of their respective countries to implement the development and international cooperation policy. Since the declaration of 2030 agenda, these development banks have had a major role in financing sustainable projects across the world. Two of the bilateral development banks and their works on SDGs are as follows:

Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA)

To address the challenges of SDGs, JICA issues global-bonds guaranteed by the Bank of Japan. The proceeds are used to fund eligible projects which promote socio-economic development in the developing countries.³³ JICA is working in India on “Program for Japan-India Cooperative Actions towards SDGs in India”. The Program’s objective is to promote first-of-its-kind achievement of the SDGs in India, particularly in social development, by supporting the efforts of the Government of India to strengthen the policy framework and mechanism for implementation, thereby helping India achieve the SDGs by 2030.³⁴

Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ)

The SDGs have become an integral part of GIZ since 2017. Through the 2030 Agenda, it works on behalf of the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) to support selected partner countries with reaching their goals. On behalf of the BMZ, GIZ worked with the Central Bank of Jordan to introduce mobile banking services in the country. Awareness building and training courses, they are bringing in residents and refugees into the system. Plans exist for the money transferring service to become international.³⁵

Philanthropic Organizations

The daunting task of financing the SDGs requires additional help from all stakeholders. Philanthropic organizations have come together to advance sustainability and according to Foundation Centre, total SDG funding worldwide reached \$112 billion in 2016. Some of the philanthropic organizations and their work is described below.

33 JICA (2018) “JICA Issues Fourth Japanese Government Guaranteed Dollar Bonds to Address Challenges to SDGs” retrieved from <https://www.jica.go.jp/english/ir/news/180613.html>

34 https://www.jica.go.jp/india/english/office/topics/press190118_02.html

35 GIZ (2017) “Jordan: Money From Your Mobile” Retrieved from <https://reporting.giz.de/2017/our-work-around-the-world/displacement-and-migration/jordan-money-from-your-mobile/>

Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation

The Bill & Melinda Gates foundation has partnered up with several agencies including USAID and United Nations Capital Development Fund (UNCDF) to work on the SDGs. Their initiatives include The Survive and Thrive Global Development Alliance, Microlead and Project Last Mile.³⁶ They also partnered with the Japan Sports Agency for the “Our Global Goals” campaign to achieve the SDGs using the power of sports.³⁷ The campaign will bring together global athletes as ambassadors to advocate the SDGs. A partnership between the Coca-Cola system and its Foundations, USAID, the Global Fund and the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, this project facilitates knowledge transfer from the Coca-Cola system to Ministries of Health. In doing so, it develops their capacity to create and sustain efficiencies targeting improved health outcomes in Africa.

Margaret A. Cargill Philanthropies

In collaboration with eight other foundations, the Margaret A. Cargill Philanthropies committed a total of \$459 million through 2022, to protect, restore and expand forests and land, while recognizing indigenous people and traditional communities. A multi-sectoral collaboration to address the causes of sub-optimal health services at the community level. The program consists of capacity building and technical support and is being implemented by the Aspen Institute, while Margaret A. Cargill philanthropies is one of the funding partners.³⁸

Ford Foundation

The Ford Foundation is working on various projects concerning several the SDG. They are part of the “Global Partnership for Sustainable Development Data”, “SDG Philanthropy Platform”, “Support the Roll-Out of the SDGs in Indonesia,” and the “Sustainable Cities Programme (SCP) – Municipal Governance and Sustainable Development Goals”.³⁹

The Global Partnership for Sustainable Development Data is a network of more than 150 data champions harnessing the data revolution for sustainable development. Its diverse members represent the data producers and users which include governments, companies, civil society groups, international organizations, academic institutions, foundations, statistics agencies, and data communities. The Global Partnership serves as a convener, connector and catalyst, building trust and encouraging collaboration among stakeholders to fill critical data gaps and ensure data is accessible and usable to advance the SDG targets.

A few other philanthropic organizations committed to the SDGs are the David and Lucile Packard Foundation, Doris Duke Charitable Foundation, Gordon and Betty Moore Foundation, John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation, Mulago Foundation and Rockefeller Foundation

Think Tanks

Think tanks have also identified several options to fill the funding gap in the implementation of SDGs and targets. Four options exist for filling that funding gap:

1. To aggressively pursue efforts aimed at reducing or eliminating trade barriers that inhibit access to markets, impede the movement of goods and services across borders, and discourage foreign direct investment;
2. To increase ODA from the current flat trend of around \$160 billion per year;

³⁶ <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/partnership/partners/?id=2224>

³⁷ Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation (2018) “The Japan Sports Agency and the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation announce partnership to use the power of sport to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals” retrieved from <https://www.gatesfoundation.org/Media-Center/Press-Releases/2018/11/Our-Global-Goals>

³⁸ SDG Partnership Platform (2017) “Aspen Management Partnership for Health (AMP Health)” retrieved from <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/partnership/?p=11829>

³⁹ <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/partnership/partners/?id=831>

3. To generate more revenue from domestic resource mobilization (DRM) and from improvements to the enabling environment for private sector investment and finance; and
4. To increase foreign and domestic investment in low and middle-income countries by ramping up the engagement of the development finance institutions (DFIs).

Civil Society Organizations (CSOs)

The UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights (UNGPR) defines CSOs as: “non-state, not-for-profit, voluntary entities formed by people in the social sphere that are separate from the state and the market.” In general, CSOs play a crucial role in translating global agendas such as SDGs into national priorities, working through networks and their members. In turn, they ensure that through their supporters and the citizens that they work with, these national priorities reflect provincial, regional and local needs, grounded in people’s lived realities. In this way, CSOs act as catalysts for critical global and national agendas, and assist in bringing citizens’ voices to national debates and the development of national strategies.

The 2030 Agenda Document makes a very strong statement on CSOs role and partnership in SDGs alongside the public and private sectors. There are at least 12 direct references to CSOs. The diversity of CSOs and the breadth of the SDGs both complicate the role of CSOs. Long (2019)⁴⁰ offers a broad characterization of three core ways in which CSOs contribute to implementation of the SDGs. These include:

1. **Realization:** CSOs contribute to the achievement of SDG targets directly - through realizing these targets themselves – and also by removing obstacles to implementation or driving implementation by others. This kind of contribution in the SDG context also reflects CSOs’ value in providing service delivery and technical expertise;
2. **Representation:** CSOs represent people and their interests, especially those of the marginalized. This is an integral component of the 2030 Agenda’s central theme of ‘Leaving No One Behind.’;
3. **Regulation:** CSOs, as independent entities, can regulate the broader stakeholders by holding governments, international organizations and multilateral development banks accountable for their contribution to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda.

The engagement of the CSOs in case of implementing different targets is largely in the form of policy activism, policy awareness and capacity building. CSOs have focus on vulnerable groups, particularly the poor and marginalized communities, such as the dalits and harijans, adivasis and differently-able people, sex workers, transgender groups, climate-vulnerable population, among others. They implement: capacity development and leadership promotion; alliance, network and linkage building; community awareness and capacity development on human rights and violence against women; legal aid support to victims of violence, including for the marginalized people and women; skills development training and linkage with trade and job markets; linkage with financial institutions for credit facilities; monitoring and strengthening of service-providing institutions by applying social accountability tools; advocacy and lobbying for law and policy implementation; beggar rehabilitation; and enhancing resources and increasing capacities of poor households.

However, the working environment for civil society in different countries and societies varies, imposing severe limitations for independent as well as collective actions in many ways. According to NGO Major Group (2017)⁴¹, the space for civil society in SDGs is shrinking. The group called for increased political and financial support for civil society participation at all levels and stages of implementation and review to increase the SDGs chances of success.

40 Long (2019). How should civil society stakeholders report their contribution to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development? Technical Paper for the Division for Sustainable Development, UN DESA. Retrieved from: https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/18445CSOreporting_paper_revisions_4May.pdf

41 NGO Major Group (2017). Non-Governmental Organizations (NGO) Major Group Official Position Paper for the 2017 High-Level Political Forum. Retrieved from: <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/15002NGO.pdf>

Non-Government Organizations (NGOs)

NGOs are a sub-set of CSOs. The term ‘NGO’ covers a wide range of organizations, from grassroots activism groups to large-scale aid providers. Generally, NGOs implement various programs that aim at raising the quality of Human Development Indices (HDIs) and reducing the access gap for the poor. These include imparting vocational training towards better income opportunities and interventions towards improved livelihood. The target groups here are mostly the marginalized communities. NGOs are also engaged in promoting the cause of social inclusion geared towards reducing income inequality and the creation of asset base. Many NGOs are involved in a host of activities that aim at empowering people and promoting social, economic and political inclusion of all, irrespective of age, sex, disability, race, ethnicity and origin, religious, economic or other status. Majority of NGOs have women empowerment programs to help vulnerable and excluded women, imparting knowledge, and skills with a view to enhancing income and employment opportunities. Several NGOs have been actively engaged in various global arena, demanding greater voice and representation of the countries from the South in various global rules-setting institutions that deal with trade, finance, technology transfer, etc. A few NGOs are working in areas that fosters facilitation of safe migration. They are advocating for responsible migration and reduction of migration costs.

However, NGOs differ considerably in sophistication and access to resources. Therefore, it is unsurprising that there is a vast array of possible roles they play in the implementation of the SDGs. Actions through which NGOs can mobilize themselves around the SDGs can vary from advocacy/lobbying activities, general awareness raising campaigns, monitoring of implementation plans in the public as well as private sector, and implementing projects themselves. At the global level, the NGO Major Group is tasked with facilitating the participation and enhancing the engagement of non-governmental organizations in the processes directly and indirectly related to the High Level Political Forum. When possible, the Group works to organize positions on behalf of the members to be delivered in various UN spaces. Because of the diversity of voices and perspectives within this group, the Group are organized around thematic clusters which act as hubs of expertise on numerous issues and/or SDGs.

If the UN and national governments want to keep up the momentum for the SDGs, it is in their interest to facilitate the advocacy and communication activities of NGOs, as well as their direct contributions and participation in partnerships. Priority should be given to communicating the SDGs to the organizations that know little about them, especially those working on social issues. Governments should also put the SDGs higher on their agenda, as NGO mobilization is highly dependent on whether they consider the SDGs to be politically credible. Furthermore, if governments want to harness action through multi-stakeholder partnerships, they need to address NGO reservations about collaborating with the public and private sectors. This could be achieved by basing these partnerships on clearly identified objectives and on a credible accountability framework.

The NGOs, including the private sectors, community-based organizations and civil society organizations, in Bangladesh have been contributing in national development since the independence of the country. They are contributing through prioritizing development agenda, implementing targets, monitoring the delivery, and ensuring accountability in the overall process. The government is very keen to create more space, and give proper recognition of their contributions. In fact, GoB has involved various stakeholders within a ‘whole society approach’ to contribute towards more effective implementation of the SDGs in Bangladesh.

Private Sector

Previously, during the implementation of MDGs, the private sector was not recognized as a major player. However, it is known that the private sector provides 9 out of 10 jobs in developing countries and has an important role to play in achieving the SDGs and solving global problems. At the Addis Ababa Financing for Development conference in 2015, it became clear that it would take trillions not billions of dollars of financing of all types to achieve the SDGs. Private sector participation is critical to strengthening the economies in developing countries, employing the growing youth bulge in Africa, and solving global challenges like

migration. The other motives for bringing private sector into the fold are to focus on improving service delivery, local economic development, environmental management, inclusive business and value chain programming by exploiting the comparative advantages of state and non-state actors.

The private sector has been engaging globally in an active manner. In 2014, the UN-Business Action Hub was developed by the UN Global Compact, the Hong-Kong based nonprofit organization Global Hand, and 20 UN agencies. It is a forum where the UN and business can engage in dialogue, share information and take action to advance e.g. the SDGs. Business members include actors like DHL; BASF, Ikea and Bank of America. In the same year, the SDG Fund, an international multi-donor and multi-agency development mechanism to support sustainable development activities through integrated and multidimensional joint programs, was established by the UN, with an initial contribution from the government of Spain. To better align public-private partnerships for sustainable development, the SDG Fund has established a Private Sector Advisory Group, formed by business leaders of major companies from industries worldwide, among them HandM and Intel.

However, the scope, intent and impact of business' involvement in the SDGs often stays vague and hard to measure. One interesting way to shed some light on the reality of corporate SDG engagement is to look at corporate reporting, as the key instrument for disclosure of financial and non-financial information of a company. Currently, there are various standards when it comes to the implementation of the goals in business models or business reporting. Guidelines include the SDG Compass by Global Reporting Initiative (GRI), UN Global Compact, and World Business Council for Sustainable Development (WBCSD) or the Sustainable Development Goals report by the International Integrated Reporting Council.

The GRI and UNDP Business Call to Action (BCtA) came together for the mapping and relevance of business disclosures which would act as indicators to measure impact of the private sector on sustainability. More simply, instead of only measuring the financial performance of the businesses, the focus is put on their impact on the environment, climate and society among others. It should be noted that according to the International Finance Cooperation (IFC) estimates, investor demand for impact investing may be as large as \$26 trillion. Impact investment can be seen as a way to channel investment into projects which have environmental and social returns in addition to financial. This is one of the major ways that private sector money is being attracted to achieve SDGs.

Although there is widespread private sector participation targeting the SDGs, one caveat is their decentralized efforts. There is no specific and concerted work and its more in line with meeting the business's corporate social responsibility instead of aiming for sustainability itself. If the private sector can be reeled in to synergize their expertise and address particular problems around the country, their efforts may result in a wider reach and greater effectiveness. However, international organizations have to bring these entities together with the purpose of specific programs to channel funding and efforts into a focused target.

Discussion with the leaders of private sector in Bangladesh reveals some interesting insights into their thoughts on SDGs, their association with the implementation of SDGs and associated targets. Firstly, they welcome the adoption of SDGs by the United Nations and the role Bangladesh has played in the process of consultations leading to its adoption as well the gains Bangladesh could reap from this universal process. They also generally appreciated the efforts of the government to sensitize them about their role in the implementation of SDGs and associated targets. In this context, they particularly appreciate the early initiative undertaken by the Principal Coordinator for SDGs and the GED of the Planning Commission way back in 2016 to brief the private sector leaders about their role in this process and engaging with four leading business Chambers, FBCCI, MCCI, Bangladesh Employers Federation and BUILD, alongside others in the business community in this process. They also viewed the work done by the government in terms of indicating the role of Ministries through a mapping exercise in the process of implementation of SDGs and associated targets favorably. As a follow up, the FBCCI formed 17 Sub Committees to advance the objective of SDGs by aligning the private sector with governmental efforts, although their effectiveness is yet to be ascertained.⁴²

⁴² Discussion with business leaders.

Secondly, the private sector leaders are aware of new business opportunities, which could be created by the implementation of SDGs and associated targets. However, identification of those areas is yet to be systematically done so as to produce an effective partnership between the Ministries and the business community in Bangladesh. Being aware of their role in Bangladesh economy, particularly in investment and employment, they are also keen to conduct a study to identify the areas within each Goal and target, which could correspond to their business activities, so that they could track and monitor their contribution to the implementation of SDGs and associated targets. However, they seem to be still struggling with this idea, which, by the way, could be extremely helpful to align their activities with national effort to implement SDGs and associated targets. Thirdly, despite their enthusiasm to work with SDGs and associated targets, they feel somewhat handicapped by the absence of any formal platform/forum within the government structure to engage and interact on a regular and sustained basis to advance this common objective. During the consultations it came out clearly that they do not view episodic engagement on such an important issue as being helpful and effective. Rather, they would prefer a sustained engagement with the government interlocutors to work together to build a partnership and implement SDGs and associated targets.

Fourthly, while they acknowledge that the private sector in Bangladesh has been doing its own contribution to advancing the SDGs and associated targets in terms of training human resources through skills development, creation of employment, building structurally and environmentally safe factories, and complying with many internationally mandated targets, they could not share and align those progresses with SDGs and associated targets due to lack of structural support and non-availability of agreed standards. Nor, they could measure their sectoral contribution to national economy for the same reason. The private sector leaders also have been found to believe that removal of some procedural handicaps and innovative engagement with the private sector could not only open up space for more investment and contribution from the private sector, including for the implementation of SDGs and associated targets, it could also accelerate the process of inflow of FDI to boost the economy of Bangladesh to navigate through the upcoming transition.

Domestic Resource Mobilization (DRM)

Beyond other external the financial flows, domestic resource mobilization has increasingly become a key source for funding for national development plans. Reflecting positive global growth trends, DRM of emerging and developing economies amounted to \$7.7 trillion in 2012. That is, developing country treasuries now receive over \$6 trillion more each year than in 2000, helping lower aid dependency and raise creditworthiness in many countries. However, increasing revenue mobilization remains a challenge for many governments, particularly in LICs. In a post-2015 world, ODA and DRM will remain essential to accelerating economic growth and lifting people from extreme poverty, particularly in many LICs where private investment remains limited. However, they will not be enough to finance the global ambitions of the SDGs. Increasing amounts of private resources, such as FDI, bond issuance, and financing from institutional investors, will have to be mobilized. Effective domestic public policy helps increase equity (including gender) through poverty eradication, providing public goods and services, and, at the national level, managing macroeconomic stability. It also reinforces a country's ownership of public policies, reduces aid dependency and can raise creditworthiness. Experience has shown that the combination of technical assistance and increased financing for capacity building can play a vital role in strengthening DRM and increase public expenditure efficiency and effectiveness.

Current Status of International Cooperation

The international cooperation has experienced mixed outcome since the AAAA was signed in 2015. The promised surge in finance available for the developing countries to achieve the SDGs, in the form of tax revenue, among others, has not materialized. Government revenues – the main pillar of financing for development at \$4.3 trillion – remain on average in low income countries below the 15% of GDP threshold often considered necessary for effective state functioning. Likewise, the overall supply of external resources

to developing countries has declined. Private investment in particular has shown a sharp decrease, with FDI dropping by 30% over 2016-17 to \$750 billion, and project finance decreasing by an alarming 30% in the first trimester of 2018 alone. Other major financial flows are stable, but remain small in comparison: remittances by migrants reached a record high of \$466 billion in 2017; official development assistance is steady despite fiscal pressures in provider countries at \$146.6 billion in 2017; and philanthropy contributes an average of \$7.9 billion a year over 2013-2015. As for innovative finance, this still accounts for a minor share of official providers' efforts although it is growing. Declining financing for sustainable development is not only a risk for developing countries: it is a global threat, as failure to achieve sustainable and peaceful prosperity globally will have consequences for all.⁴³ Reflecting on the changing nature of economy, development cooperation also shows some interesting trends.

- o As for Bangladesh, the share of grant has been gradually declining while the loan showing upward trend giving way to project aid, which now forms the largest component of external assistance received. While in 1979-80 project aid constituted only a small amount of less than \$500 million, it stood at about \$64 billion in 2017-18. This fund is primarily utilized to support the implementation of Annual Development Programmes (ADP);
- o Commodity aid, which was extended as a cushion to balance of payment, increase volume of export volume and spur growth in tax revenue, has also declined over the years. Peaked in 1989-90 at around \$500 million, it came down to almost zero during the period 2009-10 and since stayed that way. This was due to the fact that in recent years, strong remittance flow has made such assistance unnecessary; and
- o The flow of bilateral aid packages declined in favor of multilateral assistance. The share of multilateral aid has increased from 14.3% in 1971-72 to 42.8% in 2017-8. As calculated by the Economic Relations Division (ERD), among the top 10 development partners of Bangladesh, the World Bank with its IDA package with \$19.78 billion, followed by ADB which provided \$13.60 billion. UN system came third. Among the bilateral development partners, Japan stood at the top with its contribution of \$11.36 billion followed by USA with a contribution of around \$1 billion. UK, China, Canada, Germany, follow them.⁴⁴

UN General Assembly

At the 73rd UN General Assembly session (UNGA-73) the members of the United Nations drew attention to the importance of multilateral efforts, linking multilateralism to implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Paris Agreement on climate change. Several countries shared challenges related to graduation, with many middle-income countries (MICs) saying that their classification prevents them from accessing concessional finance to support their sustainable development efforts and build their capacity and resilience. Many speakers underscored the importance of a strengthened UN as a global forum for addressing global challenges, including climate change, sustainable development, and peace and security.

During the UN Secretary General's High-Level Meeting on Financing the 2030 agenda for SDGs the Secretary General of the United Nations Antonio Guterres noted that while efforts to achieve peace require a surge in diplomacy, efforts to achieve the SDGs require a surge in financing and investments. He stressed the need for women to have equal access, be equally represented in decision making, and be equally considered in how investments are made. The Secretary-General proposed focusing on the following objectives: All developed countries must meet the commitments they made in the AAAA on financing for development; developing countries must be supported in creating conditions for mobilizing domestic resources, including tax reform and other good governance measures; and efforts in developing innovative financing and in mobilizing private investment should be stepped up.

⁴³ OECD (2018), Global outlook on financing for sustainable development 2019: Time to face challenge.

⁴⁴ Ibid

In terms of strategy to achieve these objectives, the UN Secretary General proposed a three-pronged strategy. Its objective is to align global financial and economic policies with the 2030 Agenda. The three strategies are:

1. When public policies are ‘firmly and consistently formulated to achieve sustainable development,’ such policies can realign incentives and alter market perceptions of risk. At the same time, despite growing private interest in impact and sustainable investing, there are not yet globally agreed definitions of concepts and existing sustainability principles have not led to standards to guide sustainable finance, including sustainability bonds, SDG bonds or green bonds.” He informed that in order to deepen markets for sustainable finance, the UN was framing discussions on definitions, principles, guidelines and standards. He also advised that the UN was working with global policymakers and regulators to increase understanding on the role of public policy in developing a sustainable financial system, and was in work with private financial institutions to understand the relevance of environmental, social and governance challenges to finance, such as considering how to address sustainably in private enterprise and finance business models.
2. Enhance sustainable financing strategies and investments at country and regional levels. To achieve this objective, the UN would support the development of sustainable financing strategies at the country and regional levels, including by providing advice and support for creating investible projects, building enabling environments and developing financing strategies. UN country offices and regional teams would also provide capacity building support for DRM to support countries to strengthen and increase the effectiveness of their tax systems to provide government funding for the SDGs, including by addressing illicit financial flows, base erosion, tax evasion and tax transparency.
3. Seize the potential of financial innovations, new technologies and digitalization to provide equitable access to finance. The Strategy identified access to finance as a prerequisite for sustainable and equitable development, noting that the digitalization of finance has facilitated ‘major progress in financial inclusion’ in recent years.

Bangladesh Aid History and Sectors

Bangladesh has benefited from development assistance over the last forty-eight years. Two factors may have worked in its favor. Firstly, Bangladesh had to encounter strong headwind in its economic management during its first two decades, which made development assistance almost unavoidable. Secondly, in terms of aid effectiveness, its overall performance has also been impressive, particularly in economic and social sectors, as manifested by the successful implementation of MDGs, despite the fact that the promised assistance from the international community did not materialize.

Over the last few decades, the economic growth of Bangladesh has attributed to reduce the incidence of poverty from around 60% to current level of 21%. Its economy has also undergone huge transformation with manufacturing and service sector contributing the largest portion of GDP. It has also emerged as a trading nation and got reasonably integrated into the global economy, being one of the best performers among LDCs. In terms of the role of development cooperation, two trends are visible. First, over the last forty-eight years Bangladesh has received a total of \$79.36 billion of aid package, of which \$27.42 billion came as grant and \$51.84 billion came as loan.⁴⁵ Among this amount, ODA provided by the DAC members contributed \$144.71 billion⁴⁶ and the average contribution vis-a-vis their GNI stood at 0.31%, although some members exceeded the globally agreed rate of 0.70%.⁴⁷

The share of bilateral aid was in the range of 85.7% in 1971-2 and it has come down to 57.2% in 2017-18. However, since 2010-11 the bilateral assistance has picked up steam in the wake of warming relationship between Bangladesh and its neighbors and some other friendly countries of the South. India, China, and Russia have become active in development assistance infrastructure. It has signed 3 agreements with India

⁴⁵ Economic Relations Division (2019), Flow of External Resources into Bangladesh, 10 February 2019.

⁴⁶ Ibid, p. 279

⁴⁷ Ibid, 280

worth \$8 billion, and with Russia \$12.7 billion for a nuclear power plant. China has also emerged as a major partner in its developmental efforts with strong support.

In terms of sectoral focus, DAC members including Japan focus on alleviating poverty, removing nutritional deficiency, promoting humanitarian issues and human rights, health, power and energy, child rights and empowerment of women, governance including financial governance, promoting education, skills development and capacity building, modernizing agriculture, water, and trade infrastructure, skills and capacity, among others. The multilateral partners on the other hand extend support toward infrastructure development, power and energy, migration, emergency preparedness, cross border cooperation, among others.

What is evident is that Bangladesh has over the years become well integrated into the global network of development cooperation and utilized the resources to advance its national objectives in multiple dimensions, notwithstanding the fact that challenges still remain with the utilization of assistance received from the international community. The Economic Relations Division (ERD) has acknowledged them in this way, 'Aid utilization is in a state of a critical juncture. This arises from the slow implementation of projects.' They further noted, 'Slow implementation of project results in slow disbursement of aid, which leads to time and cost overrun. It impacts negatively on the balance of payments leading to increased borrowing from the domestic sources.'⁴⁸ ERD report has also identified challenges on both sides of such a transaction. On Bangladesh side, challenges include: designing the projects without adequate feasibility study and planning, inadequate availability of trained staff to man them, frequent shifting of project staff, problems in land acquisition and lack of adequate coordination among various Ministries and organizations involved in such projects. On the other side of the aisle, they identified the delay in appointment of consultants, delay in releasing funds and lack of coordination among the co financiers. This shows that although availability of foreign funds has increased significantly over the last three decades from US\$2.52 billion in 1979-80 to US\$ 35.75 in 2017-18, disbursement has either gone down from 48 percent in 1979-80 to 18 percent in 2017-18 or stagnated in recent years at around 17/18 percent of the promised amount.⁴⁹

Timely and effective implementation of SDGs and targets will accelerate the development process, so that no one is left behind, notwithstanding the fact that many experts are still skeptical about the complexities involved in the implementation of SDGs and the equally ambitious modalities required to finance them, which need to be inclusive, fair, and just. A recent report by ESCAP progress report echoed this view citing uneven progress in the implementation of SDGs in the Asia-Pacific region and even hinted that in certain goals some of the sub regions were moving in the wrong direction.⁵⁰

The growth performance during the last two decades has prepared Bangladesh to usher into a new stage of development from the category of LDC to the category of a developing Country by 2024. This transition will coincide with the implementation of SDGs by 2030. In this process of dual transitions, Bangladesh will have to deal with a number of new realities and challenges. It has therefore to prepare itself accordingly to handle them suitably with a view to reaping maximum benefits.

A survey over the preparedness of Bangladesh in generating multi-dimensional resources, including the global partnership produced a mixed picture. A good beginning has been started by the General Economics Division of Planning Commission of Bangladesh by integrating the sustainable development goals and targets into the framework of 7th FYP and undertaking a mapping exercise of Ministries by targets in 2016 and aligns them with the plan. This initiative has sensitized and activated the Ministries to identify their respective priorities and initiate actions to meet their obligations. For the purpose of this study only those goals and targets will be reviewed, which are linked to mobilization of resources, both from domestic and external sources and also from public and private sources. Around 60 targets in 17 goals fall in this category and this study reviews their progress for the implementation of SDGs and targets. In this context, it is worthwhile to

48 External Relations Division (2019), Flow of External Resources in Bangladesh, 10 February 2019.

49 Ibid

50 Thalif Deen (2019), 'Asia-pacific region falters on UN developmental goals,' IPS, 16 June 2019.

mention that some of the targets are scattered in more than one goal with both direct and cross cutting role, while some targets are too general to track. For example, trade appears directly under seven goals concerning hunger, health and wellbeing, employment, infrastructure, inequality, conservative use of oceans, and strengthening partnerships.

Current Aid Flow

As shown in able 2.1, the amount of foreign aid commitment and disbursement, received by Bangladesh, both have been increasing between FY2012-2013 and FY2017-18. However, the ratio of disbursement to commitment has been decreasing in recent years.

Table 2.1: Foreign Aid Received by Bangladesh

| FY | Commitment (million \$) | Disbursement (million \$) | Disbursement to commitment ratio (%) |
|---------|-------------------------|---------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| 2012-13 | 5,854.61 | 2,760.77 | 47% |
| 2013-14 | 5,884.22 | 3,046.84 | 52% |
| 2014-15 | 5,252.60 | 3,005.54 | 57% |
| 2015-16 | 7,048.08 | 3,531.72 | 50% |
| 2016-17 | 17,961.85 | 3,648.47 | 20% |
| 2017-18 | 14,898.90 | 6,355.88 | 43% |

Source: ERD (2018). Summary of Aid Commitment and Disbursement.

There are certain challenges in receiving the committed and utilizing these for attaining SDG objectives. The challenges and recommendations are given in Chapter 9 and 10, at the end of this report. Table 2.2 below enlists some large-scale projects that have been or are being supported by development partners.

Table 2.2: Some Projects Supported by International Partners

| Project Name | Development Partner | Corresponding SDGs |
|---|---|-----------------------|
| Bangladesh Local Governance Support Project II (2011-2017) | World Bank | SDG 16, 17 |
| Pathway out of Extreme Poverty (PRIME) | DFID | SDG 1, 2 and 17 |
| Solar Home System (IDCOL) | World Bank, GIZ, KfW, ADB, GPOBA, JICA, USAID, DFID | SDG 7, 12 and 17 |
| Biogas Plants (IDCOL) | SNV-Netherlands Development Organisation, KfW | SDG 7, 12 and 17 |
| Expanded Program on Immunization (EPI) | JICA, WHO, GAVI HSS, | SDG 3 and 17 |
| Novel Nozzle Vaccine for Treatment of HBV | South-South cooperation with Japan | SDG 3 and 17 |
| National Web Portal Development | UNDP, USAID | SDG 16, 10 and 17 |
| Financial Services for the Poor | UNDP, Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, DFID, USAID, CGAP | SDG 5, 9, 10 and 17 |
| Service Innovation Fund for Access to Information (a2i) Programme | UNDP, USAID | SDG 8, 9, 17 |
| Teachers' Portal Development | British Council, Save the Children, UNICEF | SDG 4 and 17 |
| | Global Alliance for Vaccines and Immunization (GAVI) | SDG 3 and 17 |
| | Global Fund to fight AIDS (GFATM) | |
| | Global Environmental Facility | SDG 13, 14, 15 and 17 |
| Pilot Program for Climate Resilience | ADB, World Bank, IFAD, KfW, Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation | |
| | UNREDD+ | |

Source: South-South Cooperation for Financing SDGs, ERD (2017), The World Bank, Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, Strengthening Finance for the 7th FYP and SDGs in Bangladesh ERD (2016)

Bangladesh Position and Progress: The 8th and 9th FYP Transition

A deeper look at the interlinking and integrative nature of SDGs and targets clearly demonstrate the fact that many of the issues of vital importance to the international community, particularly to LDCs, are scattered under many goals and targets, which in a way perhaps underline their importance to achieve the goals and targets in a holistic manner, as agreed by the global leaders in 2015.

Bangladesh, having been involved in the work of Open-ended Working Group at the United Nations leading up to the finalization of the SDGs and targets, has tried to integrate the SDGs and targets into its national plans and programs with a strong political commitment. Keeping this objective in mind it has also built up on an elaborate structure, strategy and also developed a mechanism to monitor the progress on the implementation of SDGs and targets.⁵¹ While citing the progress made for the implementation of IPoA, the report of the UN Secretary General observed, ‘Bangladesh has taken concrete steps to achieve sustained, equitable and inclusive economic growth by strengthening productive capacity through a national strategy on structural transformation. These steps have included promoting an enabling environment for manufacturing-led exports, enhancing labor skills to boost productivity, developing special economic zones, replacing and upgrading technology and enhancing research and development.

As a result of this approach, Bangladesh was one of the few of the least developed countries to meet all three criteria for graduation in the 2018 review by the Committee for Development Policy.⁵² Notwithstanding those notable progresses, fact remains that the ambitions and efforts are often clouded and stymied by lingering concern that in the absence of commensurate level of resources, both domestic and external it may be big challenge to support the national efforts to meet the SDGs and targets. Accordingly, an assessment was also done by the Planning Commission of Bangladesh, which identified the areas and the level of development cooperation that would be required to meet the goals and target as agreed under the SDGs.⁵³

CSO Engagement in Bangladesh

The GoB has acknowledged the crucial role of CSOs in SDG implementation. The GED, in its outcome document “Integration of SDGs into the 7th Five Year Plan” states that effective coordination among all stakeholders (including civil society) is key for SDG implementation. However, till date, no institutional framework has been developed to ensure effective CSO participation.

Citizen’s Platform for SDGs Bangladesh, established in 2016, aims is trying to fill this gap and contribute towards achieving SDGs by: tracking the implementation of SDGs in Bangladesh; sensitizing policymakers towards challenges in implementation and allocative efficiency in resource deployment; bringing more transparency in the implementation process (social accountability); and facilitating exchange of information and coordination with all those working on the SDGs. The Citizen’s Platform for SDGs, Bangladesh has been working with different government ministries and institutions at central and local levels on various aspects of SDGs. CSOs undertook activities in collaboration with different ministries and departments or other public authorities. Some of the examples of engagement are as follows:

- o For SDG 4, a Strategic Framework and Action Plan has been prepared under the leadership of the Ministry of Primary and Mass Education (MoPME) and Ministry of Education (MoE), where several organizations provided inputs;
- o For SDG13, the Ministry of Disaster Management and Relief (MoDMR), along with a few CSOs, has prepared a scoping paper Four Years of SDGs in Bangladesh to explore the potentiality of the National Mechanism on Climate Change induced Disaster Losses and Damages in Bangladesh; and

51 Planning Commission (2016), A Handbook: Mapping of Ministries by Targets in the implementation of SDGs aligning with 7th Five Year Plan (2016-20), September 2017.

52 United Nations General Assembly (2019), Report of the Secretary General, ‘Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2011–2020, 23 March 2019.’

53 Planning Commission

- o Regarding Goal 16, CSOs are working with the government for promoting legal identity for all, including birth registration, by 2030 (SDG Target 16.9).
- o In terms of SDG 17: Global Partnership, there is also a renewed realization regarding the importance of partnership with various stakeholders for implementation of the SDGs amongst CSOs. During the pre-2015 period, CSOs' focus was mainly on trade and aid-related issues. CSOs have now expanded their attention towards other issues, such as technology transfer from the developed countries and capacity development. Newer forms of engagement of the CSOs have been found in addressing tax related irregularities, such as restrictive tax treaties and its consequences on revenue losses. National CSOs have been building partnership with global organizations, such as the Global Alliance for Tax Justice (GATJ), on various issues. In case of funding, it has been observed that the flow of fund targeted to Bangladesh's CSOs has experienced a change in recent years, particularly following the influx of Rohingya population from Myanmar since 2017. A large part of the recent rise in the flow of foreign fund is particularly for supporting the Rohingya people. It is to be noted that, CSOs and NGOs do not have alternate sources of funds at the national level to carry out their intended activities in relation to the SDGs.

NGO Engagement in Bangladesh

NGOs in Bangladesh are working in a variety of fields, from empowerment to social mobilization to building social capital to creating a network of volunteers and building social enterprises, although most of them address the left-behind groups like those living in geographically hard-to-reach areas, deprived and underprivileged communities and physically-challenged people. Consultation meetings were held with 3 NGOs: i) SOJAG, a local one based outside Dhaka and BRAC, an international NGO based in Dhaka and The Hunger Project, a local NGO. The meeting revealed that all of NGOs are involved in different activities that are related to most of the SDGs. These are outlined in Table 2.3 and Table 2.4 below. As it can be seen, they are engaged in a wide range of activities which interlink with a majority of the SDGs.

Table 2.3: SOJAG activities related to SDGs

| SOJAG Activities | SDG Relation |
|-------------------------------------|--------------|
| Development of target population | Goal 1 |
| Education loan | Goal 4 |
| Women Samity | Goal 5 |
| Agricultural Loan | Goal 2 |
| Seed development | Goal 2 |
| Farmers' insurance | Goal 2 |
| Biogas | Goal 7 |
| Fisheries: breeding and development | Goal 14 |

Source: SOJAG Annual Report

Table 2.4: BRAC activities related to SDGs

| BRAC Activities | SDG Relation |
|--|--------------|
| Ultra-poor graduation Integrated development | Goal 1 |
| Microfinance | Goal 9 |
| Skills Development and Migration | Goal 8 |
| Climate Change | Goal 13 |
| Food Security | Goal 2 |
| Gender justice and diversity | Goal 5 |
| Community Empowerment Human services and Legal Aid | Goal 16 |
| Health, nutrition, and population | Goal 3 |
| Water sanitation and hygiene | Goal 6 |
| Urban development | Goal 11 |
| Education | Goal 4 |

Source: BRAC Annual Report

The Hunger Project (THP) seems to be most active in the implementation of SDGs and associated targets through developing and implementing a multi-pronged strategy, which includes localization of SDGs, building four way partnership among the locally elected representatives, local civil society, local community members, including youth, women and people from disadvantaged groups and the government functionaries responsible for delivering services to the grassroots to implements SDGs and associated targets, and developing a shared vision for community development through this process of engagement and activism. Building a network in 185 SDG Unions throughout the country, THP works to generate social capital at the grass roots level, provide local solutions at low cost through mobilizing local resources to local issues, such as nutrition, health, sanitation, education, environment, drug and human trafficking and prevention of child marriage, among others, and build a set-up of local watchdogs to ensure community participation, accountability and transparency in service delivery.⁵⁴ In addition to creating massive social mobilization, local resources are also created to cater to local needs. THP reported that thousands of local businesses emerged as a result of such a social mobilization.⁵⁵ This clearly shows that social mobilization could help generate resources, which could have an ensuring value to address various community issues and help resolve conflicts with a view to building a ‘responsive, inclusive, participatory and representative decision making at all levels, as envisaged under SDG 16 and associated targets. In a way, THP has blended at least 12 out of 17 SDGs and associated targets, excepting SDGs 9, 12, 13, 14 and 17, into ‘an integrated strategy at the community level to overcome the interlinked challenges of poverty, ill health, social ills and environmental destruction.’⁵⁶

Regardless, there is a strong view among the NGO community that more creative and proactive initiatives are to be taken to blend these local initiatives with national objectives on a wider scale, so as to give depth to the commitment of the government to implement SDGs and associated targets through involving multiple social stakeholders with this unique, complex and holistic process with a view to matching the success experienced with the implementation of MDGs.

Private Sector Engagement

Private sector has to play a significant role to fulfill Bangladesh’s development agenda and SDGs. Goal 7, 8 and 9 exemplifies a big area where the private sector can expedite progress. In its core, the SDG aspires for sustainability and inclusiveness. It is expected that a portion of the additional financing required to materialize SDGs will be financed by the private sector. However, there needs to be a collaboration between GoB and private organizations to make businesses more aligned with the SDGs. Presently, the private sector employs a big portion of 59.4 percent non-agricultural labor force. The sector owns, operates, and contributes to most of the investment in Bangladesh. Sustainable production practices require full consensus and concerted effort from the businesses and industries of the country. Private sector can lead the decoupling initiatives to drive economic growth without harming the environment.

- o Sudokkho is a skills development program, a project of DBL Group. The training is given to sewing operators and the overall program builds capacity for factory-based training center. Innovative and sustainable training models equip the workers with new skills and provides long term prosperity to workers who obtain the necessary expertise to have a decent work.
- o Partnership for a Cleaner Textile (PaCT) is led by the IFC, PaCT is working with NGO Solidaridad, the Embassy of the Kingdom of the Netherlands, 13 global apparel brands and 2 technology suppliers, textile factories, and the Bangladesh Garment Manufacturers and Exporters Association (BGMEA). PaCT has partnered with 200 textile factories to support them to implement sustainable, resource efficiency projects.
- o Rice fortification is essential to combat the widespread nutrition deficiency in Bangladesh. Abdul Monem Group has been working on fortified rice as a potential product for the masses, in cooperation with the UNWFP and ministries of Bangladesh.

54 Citizens Platform for SDGs, Bangladesh (2017), Citizen’s Platform Brief, November 2017.

55 Discussion at The Hunger Project

56 Citizens Platform for SDGs, Bangladesh (2017), Citizen’s Platform Brief, November 2017.

- o A tech startup of Grameenphone Accelerator, Alter Youth facilitates direct scholarships to students in primary schools. Partnering with UNDP, it works to prevent dropouts during the early years of schooling. In 2018, it won the Asia Pacific SDG Enterprise Award.
- o HSBC in collaboration with WaterAid Bangladesh runs a joint program to ensure access to safe water, and sanitation for people in remote areas. Improving hygienic behavior of the vulnerable areas is one of the goals of the program.
- o Bangladesh is one of the largest manufacturers and exporters of ready-made garments (RMG). Under the U.S Green Building Council (USGBC) certification, Bangladesh now has over 65 Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) green factories and the highest number of green RMG factories in Asia.

A number of resources have been published in order to guide and aid companies with both small- and large-scale operations. For example, SDG Compass is a collaboration of UN Global Compact, GRI and the World Business Council for Sustainable Development, which guides companies on how they can align their strategies with the SDGs. It suggests 5 steps, which goes as follows: i) understanding the SDGs; ii) defining priorities; iii) setting goals; iv) integrating; and v) reporting. SDG Matrix is published by UN Global Compact and KPMG, the SDG industry matrix highlights good practices by the private sector and examples of actions taken in specific industries to meet the challenges of SDG. As opportunities vary by industry, the SDG matrix focuses on different sectors.

Private Sector Impact Management

Impact Management and Measurement (IMM) is integral to making effective impact decisions. Through identification, businesses can find ways to reduce their negative impact and maximize their positive impact. Sustainable reporting practice also helps companies, which aim for sustainability but lack the funds, to attract investors. It should be noted that several private sector entities in Bangladesh report on sustainability and on the ten principles of UN Global Compact⁵⁷, which also aligns company principles with the sustainable development process. The entities which have published such reports include but are not limited to the following: DBL Group, Baldha Group, Mutual Trust Bank Ltd., Base Technologies, Yasin Knittex Industries Ltd., Index Power and Energy Ltd., and Epyllion Group. Notably, the Bangladesh Bank, the central bank of Bangladesh also published a report on their workings and progress on the UN Global Impact principles. Regardless, major business chambers still harbor some reservation about the effectiveness of UN Global Compact in Bangladesh and in the context of local realities they expect more flexible modalities for engagement for building sustainable business practices.

A mapping exercise was also done on 39 priority indicators in the context of Bangladesh. This isolation process of important indicators was conducted by the SDG Working Committee in Bangladesh.⁵⁸ The targets of these indicators were mapped with relevant qualitative and quantitative business disclosures which can be used to measure and monitor the impact private businesses have on sustainability. The suggested disclosures maintain GRI standards for reporting⁵⁹ and BCtA indicators which are more direct measure on the company's involvement. Furthermore, relevance filters were applied to IMM relevance and relevance of investment window in the context of Bangladesh.⁶⁰ Goal 1, 6, 7, and 9 had both relevant IMM and investment window.

57 Global Compact "The Ten Principles of the United Nations Global Compact" retrieved from <https://www.globalcompact.ca/about/ungc-10-principles/>

58 SDG Tracker (2019). "Prioritized Indicators of SDGs for Bangladesh" retrieved from <http://www.sdg.gov.bd/#1>

59 Impact Standards Search "GRI Standards" retrieved from <http://standards.sinzer.org/gri/sector#202>

60 UNDP (2019) "Corporate Reporting on Bangladesh 39 SDG Priorities"

Mapping of International Cooperation by SDG Goals and Targets in Bangladesh

| Goals | Targets | Global Indicators | Indicators for Bangladesh | Reference for Indicators | Ministry |
|-------------|---|--|---|--|--|
| No Poverty | 1.a: Ensure significant mobilization of resources from a variety of sources, including through enhanced development cooperation, to provide adequate and predictable means for developing countries, in particular least developed countries, to implement programs and policies to end poverty in all its dimensions | 1.a.1: Proportion of domestically generated resources allocated by the government directly to poverty reduction programs | | | Lead: FD Associate: ERD; MoFA; Prog.Div. IRD; GED |
| | | 1.a.2: Proportion of total government spending on essential services (education, health and social protection) | | | Lead: FD Associate: MoE; MoHPW; CD; GED; MoPME |
| Zero Hunger | 1.b: Create sound policy frameworks at the national, regional and international levels, based on pro-poor and gender-sensitive development strategies, to support accelerated investment in poverty eradication actions | 1.b.1: Proportion of government recurrent and capital spending to sectors that disproportionately benefit women, the poor and vulnerable groups | | | Lead: GED Associate: MoEF; BFID(BB); ERD; FD; MoFA; MoWCA |
| | | 2.a: Increase investment, including through enhanced international cooperation, in rural infrastructure, agricultural research and extension services, technology development and plant and livestock gene banks in order to enhance agricultural productive capacity in developing countries, in particular least developed countries | 2.a.1: The agriculture orientation index for government expenditures 2.a.2: Total official flows (official development assistance plus other official flows) to the agriculture sector | 2.a.1 Agricultural Orientation Index (AOI) (Agriculture Share of Government Expenditures, divided by the Agriculture Share of GDP) 2.a.2 ODA flows to agriculture | Food and Agricultural Organization, 2014 and 2015 Aid Information Management System of Economic Relations Division, 2015 and 2017 |
| | 2.b: Correct and prevent trade restrictions and distortions in world agricultural markets, including through the parallel elimination of all forms of agricultural export subsidies and all export measures with equivalent effect, in accordance with the mandate of the Doha Development Round | 2.b.1: Agricultural export subsidies | | | Lead: FD; MoA; MoFA; MoFL Lead: FD Associate: MoA; MoC |

| Goals | Targets | Global Indicators | Indicator for Bangladesh | Reference for Indicators | Ministry |
|---------------------------|--|--|--|---|--|
| | 2.5: By 2020, maintain the genetic diversity of seeds, cultivated plants and farmed and domesticated animals and their related wild species, including through soundly managed and diversified seed and plant banks at the national, regional and international levels, and promote access to and fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising from the utilization of genetic resources and associated traditional knowledge, as internationally agreed | 2.5.1: Number of plant and animal genetic resources for food and agriculture secured in either medium- or long-term conservation facilities 2.5.2: Proportion of local breeds classified as being at risk, not at risk or at unknown level of risk of extinction | Indicator 2.5.2 Proportion of local breeds classified as being at risk, not-at-risk or at unknown level of risk of extinction and overweight) | | Lead: MoA Co-Lead: MoFL Associate: MoC; MoEF; MoFA |
| Good Health and Wellbeing | 3.1: By 2030, reduce the global maternal mortality ratio to less than 70 per 100,000 live births. | 3.1.1: Maternal mortality ratio 3.1.2: Proportion of births attended by skilled health personnel | Indicator 3.1.1: maternal mortality ratio (per 100,000 live births) Indicator 3.1.2: Proportion of births attended by skilled health personnel | | Lead: MoHFW Associate: LGD; MoINF; MoSW; MoWCA; SOD Lead: MoHFW Associate: LGDIMoINF; SID |
| | Lead: MoHFW Associate: LGDIMoINF; SID | 3.6.1 Death rate due to road traffic injuries | Indicator 3.6.1: Death rate due to road traffic injuries (per 100,000 population) | | Lead: RTHD Associate: BD; MoE; MoHA; MoINF; LGD; CD; MoPME; MoHFW |
| | 3.a: Strengthen the implementation of the World Health Organization Framework Convention on Tobacco Control in all countries, as appropriate. | 3.a.1: Age-standardized prevalence of current tobacco use among persons aged 15 years and older | Indicator 3.a.1: Age-standardized prevalence of current tobacco use among persons aged 15 years and older | | Lead: MoHFW Associate: MoInf; MoHA |
| | 3. b: Support the research and development of vaccines and medicines for the communicable and non-communicable diseases, provide access to affordable essential medicines and vaccines | 3. b.1: Proportion of the target population covered by all vaccines included in their national program 3. b.2: Total net official development assistance to medical research and basic health sectors 3. b.3: Proportion of health facilities that have a core set of relevant essential medicines available and affordable on a sustainable basis | 3. b.1 Proportion of the target population covered by all vaccines included in their national program 3. b.2 Total net official development assistance to medical research and basic health sectors | Bangladesh Demographic and Health Survey (2014), and Health Services Division data Economic Relations Division 2015 and 2017 | Lead: MoHFW Associate: MoC; MoFA Lead: ERD Associate: MoHFW; FD |

| Goals | Targets | Global Indicators | Indicator for Bangladesh | Reference for Indicators | Ministry |
|----------------------------|--|--|---|--|---|
| Quality Education | 3.d: Strengthen the capacity of all countries for early warning, risk reduction and management of national and global health risk | 3.d.1: International Health Regulations (IHR) capacity and health emergency preparedness | 3.d.1 International Health Regulations (IHR) capacity and health emergency preparedness | World Health Organization (2016) | Lead: MoHFW Co-Lead: LGD Associate: ERD; MoFA; MoInf; MoInd |
| | 4.b: By 2020, substantially expand globally the number of scholarships available to developing countries, in particular least developed countries | 4.b.1: Volume of official development assistance flows for scholarships by sector and type of study | | | Lead: ERD Associate: MoE; MoFA; MoST; MoPA |
| Gender Equality | 4.c: By 2030, substantially increase the supply of qualified teachers, including through international cooperation for teacher training in developing countries | 4.c.1: Proportion of teachers in (a) pre-primary; (b) primary; (c) lower secondary; and (d) upper secondary education who have received at least the minimum organized teacher training (e.g. pedagogical training) pre-service or in-service required for teaching at the relevant level in a given country | 4.c.1 Proportion of teachers who have received at least the minimum organized teacher training for teaching at the relevant level | Annual Primary School Census various years, Ministry of Primary and Mass Education | Lead: MoE Associate: MoPME; MoFA; ERD |
| | 5.6: Ensure universal access to sexual and reproductive health and reproductive rights as agreed in accordance with the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development and the Beijing Platform for Action and the outcome documents of their review conferences. | 5.6.1: Proportion of women aged 15–49 years who make their own informed decisions regarding sexual relations, contraceptive use and reproductive health care 5.6.2: Number of countries with laws and regulations that guarantee full and equal access to women and men aged 15 years and older to sexual and reproductive health care, information and education | | | |
| Clean Water and Sanitation | 6.5: By 2030, implement integrated water resources management at all levels, including through trans-boundary cooperation as appropriate (https://www.sdg6monitoring.org/how/country-experience/bangladesh) | 6.5.1: Degree of integrated water resources management implementation (0–100) 6.5.2: Proportion of trans-boundary basin area with an operational arrangement for water cooperation | | | Lead: MoWR Co-Lead: MoFA Associate: GED; LGD |
| | | | | | Lead: MoWR Co-Lead: MoFA Associate: GED; LGD |

| Goals | Targets | Global Indicators | Indicator for Bangladesh | Reference for Indicators | Ministry |
|--|---|---|---|--------------------------|---|
| | 6.a: By 2030, expand international cooperation and capacity-building support to developing countries in water and sanitation-related activities and programs | 6.a.1: Amount of water- and sanitation-related official development assistance that is part of a government-coordinated spending plan | | U.N stats, SDG | Lead: ERD, Co-Lead: MoWR Associate: LGD; MoEF; MoFA; MoInd |
| Affordable, Reliable, Sustainable and Modern Energy | 7.a: By 2030, enhance international cooperation to facilitate access to clean energy research and technology, and promote investment in energy infrastructure and clean energy technology | 7.a.1: International financial flows to developing countries in support of clean energy research and development and renewable energy production, including in hybrid systems | | | Lead: ERD Associate: EMRD; MoEF; MoFA; PD; MoST; Prgm. Div.; BB |
| Sustained, Inclusive and Sustainable Economic Growth and Decent Work | 8.4: Improve progressively, through 2030, global resource efficiency in consumption and production and endeavor to decouple economic growth from environmental degradation, in accordance with the 10 Year Framework of Programmes on Sustainable Consumption and Production, with developed countries taking the lead. | 8.4.1: Material footprint, material footprint per capita, and material footprint per GDP 8.4.2: Domestic material consumption, domestic material consumption per capita, and domestic material consumption per GDP | | | Lead: ERD Co-Lead: GED Associate: MoFL, MoF; MoEF; BFID (BB); MoFA; MoInd |
| | 8.a: Increase Aid for Trade support for developing countries, in particular least developed countries, including through the Enhanced Integrated Framework for Trade-related Technical Assistance to Least Developed Countries | 8.a.1: Aid for Trade commitments and disbursements | 8.a.1 Aid for Trade commitments and disbursements | | Lead: ERD Co-Lead: GED Associate: MoFLMoF; MoEF; BFID (BB); MoFA; MoInd |
| | 8.b: By 2020, develop and operationalize a global strategy for youth employment and implement the Global Jobs Pact of the International Labour Organization | 8.b.1: Existence of a developed and operationalized national strategy for youth employment, as a distinct strategy or as part of a national employment strategy | | | Lead: MoC Associate: ERD; MoFA |
| | | | | | Lead: MoYS; CoLead: FD Associate: MoEWOE; MoFA; MoLE; Prog. Div; CD; SID |

| Goals | Targets | Global Indicators | Indicator for Bangladesh | Reference for Indicators | Ministry |
|--|--|---|--|--|---|
| Industry, Innovation, and Infrastructure | 9.1: Develop quality, reliable, sustainable and resilient infrastructure, including regional and trans-border infrastructure | 9.1.1: Proportion of the rural population who live within 2 km of an all-season road 9.1.2: Passenger and freight volumes, by mode of transport | 9.1.1a: Road density per 100 square kilo meter | Roads and Highways Department and Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics Data | Lead: RTHD Associate: BD; MoHPW; MoR; MoS; SID; PID; MoInd; LGD; EMRD; MoCAT; MoDMR; MoL; MoFA; PMO (BEZA, PPPA) |
| | 9.a: Facilitate sustainable and resilient infrastructure development in developing countries through enhanced financial, technological and technical support to African countries, least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing States | | 9.a.1: Total official international support to infrastructure | Economic Relations Division | Lead: RTHD Associate: MoR; MoS; MoCAT |
| Reduced Inequality | 10.6: Ensure enhanced representation and voice for developing countries in decision-making in global international economic and financial institutions | 10.6.1: Proportion of members and voting rights of developing countries in international organizations | | | Lead: FD Co-Lead: ERD Associate: MoC; MoFA |
| | 10.7: Facilitate orderly, safe, regular and responsible migration and mobility of people, including through the implementation of planned and well-managed migration policies | 10.7.1: Recruitment cost borne by employee as a proportion of monthly income earned in country of destination 10.7.2: Number of countries that with migration policies that facilitate orderly, safe, regular and responsible migration and mobility of people | 10.7.1: Recruitment cost borne by employee as a percentage of yearly income earned in the country of destination | Ministry of Expatriates' Welfare and Overseas Employment | Lead: MoEWOE Co-Lead: MOFA Associate: MoE; MoHA; MoInf; MoPA; MoCAT |
| | 10.b: Encourage official development assistance and financial flows, including foreign direct investment, to States where the need is greatest, in particular developing countries. | 10.b.1: Total resource flows for development, by recipient and donor countries and type of flow (e.g. official development assistance, foreign direct investment and other flows) | 10.b.1: Total resource flows for development by type of flow | Economic Relations Division | Lead: ERD Associate: GED; PMO (BoI); MoFA |
| | 10.c: By 2030, reduce to less than 3% the transaction costs of migrant remittances and eliminate remittance corridors with costs higher than 5% | 10.c.1: Remittance costs as a proportion of the amount remitted | | | Lead: BFID Co-Lead: MoFA Associate: MoEWOE |

| Goals | Targets | Global Indicators | Indicator for Bangladesh | Reference for Indicators | Ministry |
|--|--|--|--|--------------------------|---|
| Sustainable Cities and Communities | 11.a: Support positive economic, social and environmental links between urban, peri-urban and rural areas by strengthening national and regional development planning | 11.a.1: Proportion of population living in cities that implement urban and regional development plans integrating population projections and resource needs, by size of city | | | Lead: LGD Co-Lead: MoHPW Associate: AWRRRID; GED; IED; MoEF; PID; Prog. Div.; SEID; RD/CD |
| | 11.b: By 2020, substantially increase the number of cities and human settlements adopting and implementing integrated policies and plans towards inclusion, resource efficiency, mitigation and adaptation to climate change, resilience to disasters, and develop and implement, in line with the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030, holistic disaster risk management at all levels | 11.b.1: Number of countries that adopt and implement national disaster risk reduction strategies in line with the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030 11.b.2: Proportion of local governments that adopt and implement local disaster risk reduction strategies in line with national disaster risk reduction strategies | 11.b.1: Number of countries that adopt and implement national disaster risk reduction strategies in line with the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030 11.b.2: Proportion of local governments that adopt and implement local disaster risk reduction strategies in line with national disaster risk reduction strategies | | |
| Responsible Consumption and Production | 11.c: Support least developed countries, including through financial and technical assistance, in building sustainable and resilient buildings utilizing local materials | 11.c.1: Proportion of financial support to the least developed countries that is allocated to the construction and retrofitting of sustainable, resilient and resource-efficient buildings utilizing local materials | | | Lead: ERD Associate: MoEF; MoFA; MoHPW |
| | 12.a: Support developing countries to strengthen their scientific and technological capacity to move towards more sustainable patterns of consumption and production | 12.a.1: Amount of support to developing countries on research and development for sustainable consumption and environmentally sound technologies | 12.1.1: Number of countries with sustainable consumption and production (SCP) national action plans or SCP mainstreamed as a priority or a target into national policies 12.a.1: Amount of support to developing countries on research and development for sustainable consumption and environmentally sound technologies | | |

| Goals | Targets | Global Indicators | Indicator for Bangladesh | Reference for Indicators | Ministry |
|------------------|--|--|--|--------------------------|--|
| Climate Action | 13.a: Implement the commitment undertaken by developed-country parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change to a goal of mobilizing jointly \$100 billion annually by 2020 from all sources to address the needs of developing countries in the context of meaningful mitigation actions and transparency on implementation and fully operationalize the Green Climate Fund through its capitalization as soon as possible | 13.a.1: Mobilized amount of United States dollars per year between 2020 and 2025 accountable towards the \$100 billion commitment | | | Lead: MoEF Associate: ERD; MoFA; BFID; (BB) |
| Life below Water | 14.7: By 2030, increase the economic benefits to small island developing States and least developed countries from the sustainable use of marine resources, including through sustainable management of fisheries, aquaculture and tourism | 14.7.1: Sustainable fisheries as a proportion of GDP in small island developing States, least developed countries and all countries | | | Lead: MoFL Associate: LGD; MoCAT; SID |
| | 14.a: Increase scientific knowledge, develop research capacity and transfer marine technology, taking into account the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission Criteria and Guidelines on the Transfer of Marine Technology, in order to improve ocean health and to enhance the contribution of marine biodiversity to the development of developing countries, in particular small island developing States and least developed countries | 14.a.1: Proportion of total research budget allocated to research in the field of marine technology | | | Lead: MoST Co-Lead: MoS Associate: MoD; MoE; MoFL; MoFA; MoHA; FD |
| Life on Land | 15.1: By 2020, ensure the conservation, restoration and sustainable use of terrestrial and inland freshwater ecosystems and their services in particular forests, wetlands, mountains and dry-lands in line with obligations under international agreements. | 15.1.1: Forest area as a proportion of total land area 15.1.2: Proportion of important sites for terrestrial and freshwater biodiversity that are covered by protected areas, by ecosystem type | Indicator 15.1.1: Forest area as a proportion of total land area Indicator 15.1.2: Proportion of important sites for terrestrial and freshwater biodiversity that are covered by protected areas, by ecosystem type | | Lead: MoEF Associate: MoA; MoCHTA; MoL; MoWR; MoFL; MoS Lead: MoEF Associate: MoA; MoCHTA; MoL; MoWR; MoFL; MoS |
| | 15.6: Promote fair and equitable sharing of the benefits arising from the utilization of genetic resources and promote appropriate access to such resources, as internationally agreed | 15.6.1: Number of countries that have adopted legislative, administrative and policy frameworks to ensure fair and equitable sharing of benefits | | | Lead: MoEF Associate: MoA; MoFLMoST |

| Goals | Targets | Global Indicators | Indicator for Bangladesh | Reference for Indicators | Ministry |
|---|--|--|--------------------------|--------------------------|--|
| Peace, Justice, and Strong Institutions | 15.c: Enhance global support for efforts to combat poaching and trafficking of protected species, including by increasing the capacity of local communities to pursue sustainable livelihood opportunities | 15.c.1: Proportion of traded wildlife that was poached or illicitly trafficked | | | Lead: MoEF Co-Lead: MoFA Associate: LGD; MoHA; MoD |
| | 16.4: By 2030, significantly reduce illicit financial and arms flows, strengthen the recovery and return of stolen assets and combat all forms of organized crime | 16.4.1: Total value of inward and outward illicit financial flows (in current United States dollars) 16.4.2: Proportion of seized, found or surrendered arms whose illicit origin or context has been traced or established by a competent authority in line with international instruments | | | Lead: BFID; (BB) CoLead: MoHA Associate: IRD; MoFA; ACC Lead: MoHA |
| | 16.8: Broaden and strengthen the participation of developing countries in the institutions of global governance | 16.8.1: Proportion of members and voting rights of developing countries in international organizations | | | Lead: MoFA Associate: ERD; FD |
| | 16.10: Ensure public access to information and protect fundamental freedoms, in accordance with national legislation and international agreements. | 16.10.1: Number of verified cases of killing, kidnapping, enforced disappearance, arbitrary detention and torture of journalists, associated media personnel, trade unionists and human rights advocates in the previous 12 months 16.10.2: Number of countries that adopt and implement constitutional, statutory and/ or policy guarantees for public access to information | | | Lead: MoInf Associate: NHRC; MoFA; InfCom; MoHA; MoEWOE Lead: MoInf Associate: LPAD |

| Goals | Targets | Global Indicators | Indicator for Bangladesh | Reference for Indicators | Ministry |
|----------------------------|--|---|---|---|--|
| | 16.10: Ensure public access to information and protect fundamental freedoms, in accordance with national legislation and international agreements. | 16.10.1: Number of verified cases of killing, kidnapping, enforced disappearance, arbitrary detention and torture of journalists, associated media personnel, trade unionists and human rights advocates in the previous 12 months 16.10.2: Number of countries that adopt and implement constitutional, statutory and/or policy guarantees for public access to information | 16.a.1: Existence of independent national human rights institutions in compliance with the Paris Principles | | Lead: MoHA Co-Lead: MoPA Associate: ERD; MoFA; MoInd (BIM); NHRC |
| Partnerships for the Goals | 16.a: Strengthen relevant national institutions, including through international cooperation, for building capacity at all levels, in particular in developing countries, to prevent violence and combat terrorism and crime 17.1: Strengthen domestic resource mobilization, including through international support to developing countries, to improve domestic capacity for tax and other revenue collection | 16.a.1: Existence of independent national human rights institutions in compliance with the Paris Principles 17.1.1: Total government revenue as a proportion of GDP, by source 17.1.2: Proportion of domestic budget funded by domestic taxes | 17.1.1: Total government revenue as a proportion of GDP, by source | Bangladesh Economic Review, Ministry of Finance | Lead: IRD Associate: ERD; FD; GED; SID; MoFA |
| | 17.2: Developed countries to implement fully their official development assistance commitments, including the commitment by many developed countries to achieve the target of 0.7% of gross national income for official development assistance (ODA/GNI) to developing countries and 0.15 to 0.20% of ODA/GNI to least developed countries; ODA providers are encouraged to consider setting a target to provide at least 0.20% of ODA/GNI to least developed countries | 17.2.1: Net official development assistance, total and to least developed countries, as a proportion of the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) Development Assistance Committee donors' gross national income (GNI) | | | Lead: ERD Associate: FD; MoFA |

| Goals | Targets | Global Indicators | Indicator for Bangladesh | Reference for Indicators | Ministry | |
|-------|---|---|--|--|--|--|
| | 17.3: Mobilize additional financial resources for developing countries from multiple sources | 17.3.1: Foreign direct investment (FDI), official development assistance and South-South cooperation as a proportion of total domestic budget | 17.3.1: Foreign direct investments (FDI), official development assistance and South-South Cooperation as a proportion of total domestic budget | Ministry of Finance | Lead: ERD Associate: FD; BB; PMO (BEPZA, BEZA, BoI); MoFA | |
| | | 17.3.2: Volume of remittances (in United States dollars) as a proportion of total GDP | 17.3.2: Volume of remittances (in United States dollars) as a proportion of total GDP | Bangladesh Bank, 2017 | Lead: BFID; (BB) Associate: MoEWOE; MoFA | |
| | 17.4: Assist developing countries in attaining long-term debt sustainability through coordinated policies aimed at fostering debt financing, debt relief and debt restructuring, as appropriate, and address the external debt of highly indebted poor countries to reduce debt distress | 17.4.1: Debt service as a proportion of exports of goods and services | 17.4.1: Debt service as a proportion of exports of goods and services (%) | Bangladesh Economic Review, Ministry of Finance | Lead: FD Associate: BFID (BB); ERD; MoFA | |
| | 17.5: Adopt and implement investment promotion regimes for least developed countries | 17.5.1: Number of countries that adopt and implement investment promotion regimes for least developed countries | | | Lead: PMO (BOI) Associate: FD; MoC; IRD; PMO (BEPZA, BEZA, PPPA); GED; MoFA | |
| | 17.6: Enhance North-South, South-South and triangular regional and international cooperation on and access to science, technology and innovation and enhance knowledge-sharing on mutually agreed terms, including through improved coordination among existing mechanisms, in particular at the United Nations level, and through a global technology facilitation mechanism | 17.6.1: Number of science and/or technology cooperation agreements and programs between countries, by type of cooperation | 17.6.1: Number of science and/or technology cooperation agreements and programs between countries, by type of cooperation | | | Lead: PTD Associate: ICTD |
| | | 17.6.2: Fixed Internet broadband subscriptions per 100 inhabitants, by speed | 17.6.2: Fixed Internet broadband subscriptions per 100 inhabitants, by speed | 17.6.2: Fixed Internet broadband subscriptions per 100 inhabitants, by speed | Bangladesh Telecommunication Regulatory Commission (2016, 2017) | Lead: MoST Associate: ERD; ICTD; MoFA; MoInd; MoC |

| Goals | Targets | Global Indicators | Indicator for Bangladesh | Reference for Indicators | Ministry |
|-------|--|---|---|---|---|
| | 17.7: Promote the development, transfer, dissemination and diffusion of environmentally sound technologies to developing countries on favourable terms, including on concessional and preferential terms, as mutually agreed | 17.7.1: Total amount of approved funding for developing countries to promote the development, transfer, dissemination and diffusion of environmentally sound technologies | | | Lead: MoEF Associate: ERD; MoFA; MoST; MoInd; PMO (BOI); MoDMIR; IRD |
| | 17.8: Fully operationalize the technology bank and science, technology and innovation capacity-building mechanism for least developed countries by 2017 and enhance the use of enabling technology, in particular information and communications technology | 17.8.1: Proportion of individuals using the Internet | 17.8.1: Proportion of individuals using Internet | Bangladesh Telecommunication Regulatory Commission (2017) | Lead: ICTD; Co- Lead: PTD Associate: MoST; MoFL; ERD; MoFA; MoPA; PMO (a2i); IRD (NBR) |
| | 17.9: Enhance international support for implementing effective and targeted capacity-building in developing countries to support national plans to implement all the Sustainable Development Goals, including through North-South, South-South and triangular cooperation | 17.9.1: Dollar value of financial and technical assistance (including through North-South, South-South and triangular cooperation) committed to developing countries | | | Lead: ERD Co-Lead: MoFA Associate: GED; PMO; FD; MoPA; |
| | 17.10: Promote a universal, rules-based, open, non-discriminatory and equitable multilateral trading system under the World Trade Organization, including through the conclusion of negotiations under its Doha Development Agenda | 17.10.1: Worldwide weighted tariff-average | | | Lead: MoC Co-Lead: MoFA Associate: ERD; GED; IRD (NBR) |
| | 17.11: Significantly increase the exports of developing countries, in particular with a view to doubling the least developed countries' share of global exports by 2020 | 17.11.1: Developing countries' and least developed countries' share of global exports | | | Lead: MoC Co-Lead: MoFA Associate: BRID (BB); (NBR); IRD; MoTJ |
| | 17.12: Realize timely implementation of duty-free and quota-free market access on a lasting basis for all least developed countries, consistent with World Trade Organization decisions, including by ensuring that preferential rules of origin applicable to imports from least developed countries are transparent and simple, and contribute to facilitating market access | 17.12.1: Average tariffs faced by developing countries, least developed countries and small island developing States | 17.12.1 Average tariffs faced by developing countries, least developed countries and small-island developing States | Ministry of Commerce, 2018 | Lead: MoC Co-Lead: MoFA Associate: IRD (NBR) |

| Goals | Targets | Global Indicators | Indicator for Bangladesh | Reference for Indicators | Ministry |
|-------|--|--|--------------------------|--------------------------|--|
| | 17.13: Enhance global macroeconomic stability, including through policy coordination and policy coherence | 17.13.1: Macroeconomic Dashboard | | | Lead: FD Co-Lead: GED Associate: MoFA; SID; IRD (NBR) |
| | 17.14: Enhance policy coherence for sustainable development | 17.14.1: Number of countries with mechanisms in place to enhance policy coherence of sustainable development | | | Lead: PMO Co-Lead: GED Associate: BFID (BB); FD; MoFA; CD; IRD (NBR) |
| | 17.15: Respect each country's policy space and leadership to establish and implement policies for poverty eradication and sustainable development | 17.15.1: Extent of use of country-owned results frameworks and planning tools by providers of development cooperation | | | Lead: GED Associate: ERD; FD; MoC, IRD (NBR) |
| | 17.16: Enhance the Global Partnership for Sustainable Development, complemented by multi-stakeholder partnerships that mobilize and share knowledge, expertise, technology and financial resources, to support the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals in all countries, in particular developing countries | 17.16.1: Number of countries reporting progress in multi-stakeholder development effectiveness monitoring frameworks that support the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals | | | Lead: MoFA Co-Lead: ERD Associate: GED; ICTD; MoE; MoST; MoC; IRD (NBR) |
| | 17.17: Encourage and promote effective public, public-private and civil society partnerships, building on the experience and resourcing strategies of partnerships | 17.17.1: Amount of United States dollars committed to (a) public-private partnerships and (b) civil society partnerships | | | Lead: PMO Associate: FD; GED; PID; MoFA; BFID (BB); IRD |
| | 17.18: By 2020, enhance capacity-building support to developing countries, including for least developed countries and small island developing States, to increase significantly the availability of high-quality, timely and reliable data disaggregated by income, gender, age, race, ethnicity, migratory status, disability, geographic location and other characteristics relevant in national contexts | 17.18.1: Proportion of sustainable development indicators produced at the national level with full disaggregation when relevant to the target, in accordance with the Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics 17.18.2: Number of countries that have national statistical legislation that complies with the Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics 17.18.3: Number of countries with a national statistical plan that is fully funded and under implementation, by source of funding | | | Lead: SID (BBS) Associate: BB; ERD; FD; IRD; MoE; MoPME; MoEF; MoHFW; EMRD; ICTD; PTD; IGD; MoA; MoF; MoCHTA; MoHA; MoPA; MoWCA; MoEWOE; MoHPW; MoFA; MoFL; GED |

| Goals | Targets | Global Indicators | Indicator for Bangladesh | Reference for Indicators | Ministry |
|-------|--|--|--|--------------------------|--|
| | | | | | Lead: SID (BBS) Associate: BB; ERD; FD; IRD; MoE; MoPME; MoEF; MoHFW; EMRD; ICTD; PTD; LGD; MoA; MoF; MoCHTA; MoHA; MoPA; MoWCA; MoEWOE; MoHPW; MoFA; MoFL; GED |
| | | | | | Lead: SID (BBS) Associate: BB; ERD; FD; IRD; MoE; MoPME; MoEF; MoHFW; EMRD; ICTD; PTD; LGD; MoA; MoF; MoCHTA; MoHA; MoPA; MoWCA; MoEWOE; MoHPW; MoFA; MoFL; GED |
| | 17.19: By 2030, build on existing initiatives to develop measurements of progress on sustainable development that complement gross domestic product, and support statistical capacity-building in developing countries | 17.19.1: Dollar value of all resources made available to strengthen statistical capacity in developing countries 17.19.2: Proportion of countries that (a) have conducted at least one population and housing census in the last 10 years; and (b) have achieved 100% birth registration and 80% death registration | | | Lead: SID Associate: GED; FD; ERD; BFID (BB) |
| | | | 17.19.2: Proportion of countries that (a) have conducted at least one population and housing census in the last 10 years; and (b) have achieved 100% birth registration and 80% death registration | | Lead: SID Associate: LGD |

As it can be seen from the table above, there are 60 targets under 17 SDGs that require international cooperation. The following chapter describes the international commitments and national plans taken against each goal. The challenges and recommendations for utilizing further international cooperation are given in chapter 9 and 10 respectively.

Part B

International Cooperation by SDGs Targets



Social Infrastructure Related SDGs

Goal 1: No Poverty

Goal 2: Zero Hunger

Goal 3: Good Health and Well-Being

Goal 4: Quality Education

Goal 5: Gender Equality

Goal 16: Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions



Social Infrastructure Related SDGs

This chapter covers discussion on 6 SDGs : 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 and 16.

Goal 1: No Poverty

About 736 million people all over the world lived on less than \$1.90 per day⁶¹, while many of them lacked food, clean drinking water and sanitation. The number of people living in extreme poverty dropped by more than half between 1990 and 2015 but the progress has been uneven. Climate change, conflict, and food insecurity have brought new threats to the poverty situation. The Goal 1: No Poverty targets to end poverty in all forms and dimensions by 2030.

International Commitment

Commitments After MDGs

Johannesburg Plan of Action (JPOI, 2002) identifies eradication of poverty as the greatest global challenge facing the world today and as an indispensable requirement for sustainable development, particularly for developing countries. JPOI recognized that the primary responsibility of tackling this belonged to the national governments who must develop policies for ensuring their own sustainable development and poverty eradication strategies. At the same time, the JPOI highlights the importance of concerted and concrete measures at all levels to enable developing countries to achieve their SDGs as related to the internationally agreed poverty-related targets and goals, including those contained in the relevant outcomes of other United Nations conferences and the UN Millennium Declaration.

Second United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty (2008) was declared in December 2007 by the UN General Assembly. This Second Decade was proclaimed to support the internationally agreed development goals related to poverty eradication, including the MDGs. It stressed the importance of reinforcing the positive trends in poverty reduction experienced by some countries as well as the need of extending such trends to benefit people worldwide. The Second Decade commitment recognizes the importance of mobilizing financial resources for development at national and international levels and acknowledges that sustained economic growth, supported by rising productivity and a favorable environment, including private investment and entrepreneurship, is vital for rising living standard. It also aims at supporting a broad framework for poverty eradication, emphasizing the need to strengthen the leadership role of the UN in promoting international cooperation for development, critical for the eradication of poverty.

The Future We Want (2012) was the outcome document of Rio+20 or Earth Summit 2012. UN Member States emphasized the need to accord the highest priority to poverty eradication within the UN development agenda, addressing the root causes and challenges of poverty through integrated, coordinated and coherent strategies at all level. The Future We Want document recognized that while there has been progress in reducing poverty in some regions, this progress has been uneven and the number of people living in poverty in some countries continues to increase, with women and children constituting the majority of the most affected groups, especially in the least developed countries. Therefore, the document highlighted the importance to complement national efforts of developing countries by an enabling environment aimed at expanding the development opportunities of developing countries. It also recognized the importance of promoting universal access to social services and how it can help consolidate and achieve development gains. The document stated that social protection systems that address and reduce inequality and social exclusion are essential for eradicating poverty.

61 <https://www.undp.org/content/undp/en/home/sustainable-development-goals/goal-1-no-poverty.html>

Commitments After SDGs

AAAA (2015)⁶² emphasized the importance of providing fiscally sustainable and nationally appropriate social protection systems and measures for all, including social protection floors⁶³. The focus would be on those furthest below the poverty line and the vulnerable, persons with disabilities, indigenous persons, children, youth, and older persons to end poverty in all its forms everywhere and finish the unfinished business of the MDGs. The Agenda also encourages countries to consider setting nationally appropriate spending targets for quality investments in essential public services for all, including health, education, energy, water and sanitation, consistent with national sustainable development strategies. The Agenda commits to strong international support for these efforts, and will explore coherent funding modalities to mobilize additional resources, building on country-led experiences.

*Third UN Decade for the Eradication of Poverty (2018)*⁶⁴ plans to support, in an efficient and coordinated manner, SDGs related to poverty eradication from 2018 to 2027. It recognizes the centrality of mobilizing financial and non-financial resources for development at the national and international levels and the effective use of those resources. It also emphasizes the importance of policy coherence and a coordinated approach that involves participation by all actors to promote an enabling environment for sustainable development, and of reinvigorating the global partnership for eradicating poverty.

Financial assistance, technical cooperation, and capacity building commitments

On December 2016, a coalition of more than 60 donor and borrower governments agreed to ratchet up the fight against extreme poverty with a record \$75 billion commitment for the IDA, the World Bank's fund for the poorest countries⁶⁵. The funding will enable IDA to dramatically scale up development interventions a number of cross-cutting issues such as tackle conflict, fragility and violence, forced displacement, climate change, and gender inequality; and promote governance and institution building, as well as jobs and economic transformation – areas of special focus over the next three years. These efforts are underpinned by an overarching commitment to invest in growth, resilience, and opportunity and ultimately work towards end extreme poverty.

Current Progress

National Plans and Initiatives on Poverty Reduction

GoB is committed to achieving its main objective of Vision 2021 – the vision to build a society free from poverty and social disparity. Some of the important strategies and plans at eradicating poverty are described below:

*National Strategy for Accelerated Poverty Reduction (2009)*⁶⁶ The Poverty Reduction Strategy Framework of National Strategy for Accelerated Poverty Reduction (NSAPR) consists of five strategic blocks and five supporting strategies. The strategic blocks are: (i) macroeconomic environment for pro-poor growth; (ii) critical areas for pro-poor growth; (iii) essential infrastructure for pro-poor growth; (iv) social protection for the vulnerable; and (v) human development. The supporting strategies comprise: (i) ensuring participation, social inclusion, and empowerment; (ii) promoting good governance; (iii) ensuring efficient delivery of public services; (iv) caring for environment and tackling climate change; and (v) enhancing productivity and efficiency through science and technology. The critical concern of the Strategy is to achieve higher growth as well as equity and poverty reduction simultaneously. In this context, the focus is on agriculture and rural life, expansion of social safety nets for the ultra-poor and targeted approach towards employment generation.

62 https://www.un.org/esa/ffd/wp-content/uploads/2015/08/AAAA_Outcome.pdf

63 Social protection floors are a global and coherent social policy concept that promotes nationally defined strategies for the provision of a minimum level of income security and access to essential services for all. In 2012, Social Protection Floor Recommendations by UN Member States suggested that member states would formulate social security strategies based on national consultations. Bangladesh is a signatory to the social protection floor initiative of the UN and Bangladesh complied with the provision.

64 <https://undocs.org/en/A/C.2/73/L.9>

65 <https://www.worldbank.org/en/news/press-release/2016/12/15/global-community-commitment-end-poverty-ida18>

66 <https://www.imf.org/external/pubs/ft/scr/2012/cr12293.pdf>

Perspective Plan of Bangladesh (2011) The Perspective Plan covers the period from 2011 to 2021. It provides the road map for accelerated growth and lays down broad approaches for eradication of poverty. The Plan works towards reducing national headcount poverty to 13.5% by 2021, with rural poverty at 17.3% and urban poverty at 8.1%. The underlying policies in the Plan stress on the inclusiveness and pro-poor approach to growth so that in the process of reaching the Vision 2021 goal of reaching middle income status there is substantial eradication of poverty through a comprehensive scheme of social inclusion. Chapter 12 of the Perspective Plan outlines strategies for accelerated poverty reduction. It also suggests measures to reduce income inequality, improve human development, and address poverty through social protection.

*The 7th FYP (2015)*⁶⁷, from FY2015-16 to FY2019-20, mentions eradication of extreme poverty as a cardinal principle of the strategies laid out in the document. Drawing from the lessons of economic development across countries, the 7th FYP endorses the notion that it is not enough to look only at the growth of GDP or some other indicators of overall economic expansion. It is just as important to ensure that the benefits of growth are equitably shared by the widest possible group of citizens whose lives and capabilities are improved through the fruits of democracy along with economic progress. Accordingly, one of the goals of the 7th FYP is to substantially reduce poverty. The document projects that moderate poverty would be reduced to 18.6% of the population and extreme poverty⁶⁸ to 8.9% of the population by FY2019-20.

Progress on SDG 1 Targets Related to International Cooperation

SDG proposed to adopt multi-dimensional poverty index, which would track multiple sets of deprivations, beyond income, relating to health, education, basic standards of living, employment, and other relevant dimensions of poverty. This requires holistic understanding of what poverty means at the national level and improving policies on how to reach the poorest section. As indicated in table 2.2, DFID is funding PRIME which will be helpful in achieving Goal 1. The following targets, and indicators, fall under international cooperation in combating poverty:

Target 1.A: Ensure significant mobilization of resources from a variety of sources, including through enhanced development cooperation, to provide adequate and predictable means for developing countries, in particular least developed countries, to implement programs and policies to end poverty in all its dimensions.

Indicator 1.a.1: Proportion of resources allocated by the government directly to poverty reduction program

According to the Monitoring and Evaluation Framework of Sustainable Development Goals report from March 2018, the metadata of this indicator is yet to be finalized. However, according to ibas (2018-19), poverty sensitive budget expenditure is 54%.

Indicator 1.a.2: Proportion of total government spending on essential services (education, health, and social protection)

The Government has focused on public spending on health, education, social protection. Table 4.1 shows government expenditure on education, health, and social protection as a percentage of total government expenditure as well as percentage of GDP.

Table 4.1: Government expenditure on education, health, and social protection, FY2013-2014 to FY2016-2017

| Services | FY2013-14 | | FY2014-15 | | FY2015-16 | | FY2016-17 | |
|----------|-----------------------------------|----------|-----------------------------------|----------|-----------------------------------|----------|-----------------------------------|----------|
| | % of total government expenditure | % of GDP | % of total government expenditure | % of GDP | % of total government expenditure | % of GDP | % of total government expenditure | % of GDP |
| | | | | | | | | |

67 https://www.unicef.org/bangladesh/sites/unicef.org.bangladesh/files/2018-10/7th_FYP_18_02_2016.pdf

68 Extreme poverty is defined as people living below the lower poverty line, the position of families who cannot fulfil the minimum nutrition requirement of 2122 k.cal per day per person.

| | | | | | | | | |
|-------------------|-------|------|-------|------|-------|------|-------|------|
| Education | 13.39 | 2.50 | 12.82 | 2.39 | 15.15 | 2.61 | 14.42 | 2.48 |
| Health | 4.60 | 0.86 | 4.81 | 0.89 | 4.80 | 0.83 | 6.53 | 1.12 |
| Social Protection | 12.30 | 2.30 | 12.72 | 2.38 | 13.60 | 2.34 | 15.25 | 2.62 |

Source: Ministry of Finance (SDG Progress Report 2018), Own calculation

Indicator 1.a.3: Sum of total grants and non-debt creating inflows directly allocated to poverty reduction program as a proportion of GDP

The metadata of this indicator is yet to be finalized. However, according to Finance Division, grants amounting to 0.15% of GDP were allocated to poverty reduction programs in FY2014-15.

Target 1.b: Create sound policy frameworks at national and regional levels, based on pro-poor and gender-sensitive development strategies to ensure that by 2030 all men and women have equal rights to economic resources, as well as access to basic services, ownership and control over land and other forms of property, inheritance, natural resources, appropriate new technology and financial services, including microfinance.

Indicator 1.b.1: Proportion of government recurrent and capital spending to sectors that disproportionately benefit women, the poor and vulnerable groups

The metadata of this indicator is yet to be finalized. However, BDT 640.87 billion, which is 26.74% of the total budget and 4.23% of the GDP, was allocated for women's development in FY2014-15⁶⁹.

SDG 1 Achievement Prospects

The progress on reducing extreme poverty is on track. Similarly, progress on expanding coverage of social protection and proportion of government expenditure on services as share of total government expenditure are also on track. Progress on reducing incidence of poverty has been less impressive. The incidence of headcount poverty was 24.3% in 2016 and estimated poverty level stood at 23.1% in 2017. The Government has adopted policies and programmes to address multidimensional nature of poverty in the country including fostering accelerated, inclusive and resilient growth; increasing coverage and effectiveness of social protection; gender parity; increasing the size, reach, and diversity microcredit programs; promoting financial inclusion; and providing stable macroeconomic environment. Bangladesh will continue to strive to achieve SDG 1 emphasizing job creation, social protection, human capital development, improving private investment climate and mitigating various shocks.

The GED's SDG Financing Strategy estimated that addressing these issues would lead to additional costs of \$1.46 billion by 2020, \$1.87 billion by 2025, and \$2.49 by 2030. 80% is expected to come from the public sector and 20% from NGOs.

Goal 2: Zero Hunger

Although the number of undernourished people dropped by almost half in the past two decades, there are 821 million people estimated to be chronically undernourished as of 2017. Extreme hunger and malnutrition remain a huge barrier to development in many countries. The Goal 2: Zero Hunger targets to end all forms of hunger and malnutrition by 2030, making sure all people, especially children, have sufficient and nutritious food all year.

International Commitment

The international community's focus on food security and nutrition predates the MDGs. The Goal-1 of MDG emphasized the target of ending extreme hunger. This eventually translated into universal nutrition

69 <https://www.dhakatribune.com/bangladesh/development/2018/06/07/budget-fy19-29-65-for-women-s-development#target>
Text=The%20government%20also%20proposed%20a,entrepreneurship%20as%20in%20previous%20years.andtarget
Text=The%20number%20of%20working%20women,%E2%80%9CGlobal%20Gender%20Gap%20Report.%E2%80%9D

and sustainable food production practices, in the Agenda 2030. Joint efforts were taken globally, along with international commitments, to identify methods of tackling hunger and the nutritional challenges which hinder development.

Commitments after MDGs

The World Food Summit: 5 years later (2002) The World Food Summit +5 adopted a declaration, calling on the international community to fulfill the pledge, made at the original World Food Summit in 1996, to reduce the number of hungry people to about 400 million by 2015.

UN Secretary General's High-Level Task Force on Food and Nutrition Security (2009) was established by the UN SG, Mr Ban Ki-moon in 2008 and since then has aimed at promoting a comprehensive and unified response of the international community to the challenge of achieving global food and nutrition security. It has also been responsible for building joint positions among its members around the five elements of the Zero Hunger Challenge.

Istanbul Programme of Action (2011) has 8 development priorities including agriculture and food security among others. For instance, the IPoA-Illegal Unreported and Unregulated fishing is a voluntary instrument that applies to all States and entities and to all fishers. The IPoA-IUU was adopted by consensus at the Twenty-fourth Session of COFI on 2 March 2001 and endorsed by the Hundred and Twentieth Session of the FAO Council on 23 June 2001.⁷⁰

Commitments after SDGs

The international community has been taking steps to combat hunger ever since the declaration of Agenda 2030 and its SDGs. Various action plans and agenda were adopted which incorporated the learnings from the implementation of the MDGs.

*AAAA (2015)*⁷¹ pledged to end hunger and malnutrition around the world, including among the urban poor. The efforts of the International Fund for Agricultural Development has also been recognized in mobilizing investment to enable rural regions facing poverty to improve their food security and nutrition.

*The Global Parliamentary Summit against Hunger and Malnutrition (2018)*⁷² A joint initiative was taken by the Spanish Parliament, the Spanish Agency for International Development Cooperation (AECID), the FAO of the UN and the Latin America and the Caribbean Parliamentary Front against Hunger. There are 3 broad objectives of the summit: i) Highlight the role legislative bodies can play; ii) Identify and share political experiences, legislation and good practices; and iii) Build a network of parliamentary alliances.

Financial Cooperation

International financing is vital to the success of SDG 2. It is estimated that \$50.2 billion⁷³ is required annually to eliminate hunger globally by the year 2025. Commitment for cooperation between agencies such as FAO, International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), and the World Food Programme (WFP) have been made to synergize and meet the challenges of global hunger. IFAD's 176 member states renewed its commitment in 2018 to reduce hunger and poverty. They have targeted contributions for \$3.5 billion loan and grant project, over a period of 3 years from 2019 to 2021, in order to lift millions out of poverty and reduce hunger in developing countries.⁷⁴

70 FAO. (2001) International Plan of Action to prevent, deter and eliminate illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing

71 https://www.un.org/esa/ffd/wp-content/uploads/2015/08/AAAA_Outcome.pdf

72 <http://www.fao.org/about/meetings/global-parliamentary-summit/about/en/>

73 Intergovernmental Committee of Experts. (2014). Report on Sustainable Development Financing

74 <https://www.ifad.org/en/web/latest/news-detail/asset/40174760>

Technical and Capacity Building Cooperation

The 10 Year Framework of Programmes on Sustainable Consumption and Production Patterns (2012) One of the main objectives of the 10 Year Framework for Sustainable Consumption and Production, adopted by the UN in 2012, is to decouple economic growth from environmental harm and degradation and thus contribute to poverty eradication and food security through more efficient resource use. 10FYP is a global framework for action to enhance international cooperation on the issue of sustainable consumption and production. It supports capacity building, financial assistance and technical assistance to the developing nations with the purpose of achieving its objectives embodying sustainability. UNEP is the secretariat and chair of this framework, while UN DESA is the co-chair.

WFP The current budget of WFP in its Country Strategic Plan (CSP) for the period 2017-2020 is \$969 million.⁷⁵ This amount represents the revised version as a response to the ongoing emergency Rohingya refugee crisis in Bangladesh. The current approach of WFP in dealing with Zero Hunger is to build capacity and provide technical expertise, as opposed to the previous strategy of direct contributions.

Current Progress

National Plans or Initiatives Related to International Cooperation

Access to food and nutrition is a significant cause for concern in Bangladesh. In 2017, the prevalence of undernourishment, wasting below the age of 5 and stunting below the age of 5 stood at 24.8, 2.2, and 5.5 million respectively. Malnutrition of children in Bangladesh results in significant economic ramifications for the country. Estimates by UNWFP (2016) suggest that productivity loss amounts to \$1 billion every year⁷⁶. Furthermore, declining climate health exacerbates this issue in vulnerable regions and nations. For instance, the haor flood of 2017 in Bangladesh dealt heavy damage to crops which accentuated the country's food insecurity. Myanmar, Bangladesh, Afghanistan and Pakistan accounted for 13% of the total people facing acute food-insecurity. With the world population projected to hit almost 10 billion (202 million in Bangladesh) by 2050, this issue is likely to worsen. Achieving food security is one of the broad development goals of the 7th FYP. A segment of the target to achieve this includes increasing rice production to 36.81 million metric tons in 2020 from 34.9 million metric tons in 2015, and an overall growth in agricultural sector to 3.34% from 3.04%.

Some of the national actions already taken to reduce hunger and increase food security include:

National Agriculture Policy (2018) The main goal of the policy is to ensure food security and socio-economic development through productivity of crops, boosting production and raising farmers' income, diversifying crops, producing safe food and developing marketing system, profitable agriculture and use of natural resources

National Aquaculture Development Strategy and Action Plan of Bangladesh (2013-20) Three of the four strategic objectives of the plan are based on sustainable development -Social, Economic, Ecological and Institutional. These four objectives are comprised of 16 outputs.

National Agricultural Extension Policy (2012) targets to provide efficient, effective, coordinated and decentralized, demand responsive and integrated extension services to help farmers in Bangladesh access and utilize better know how, improve productivity, optimize profitability and ensure sustainability.

Wildlife (Conservation and Security) Act (2012) defines the protection of wild animals and plants, protected areas, and offences.

Formulated to maintain environmental and ecological balance, protection of biodiversity, and improvement of public health and nutrition, among other goals.

⁷⁵ WFP. (2019). Revision 5 of CSP Budget

⁷⁶ UNWFP (2016). Strategic Review of Food Security and Nutrition in Bangladesh

Progress on SDG Targets with International Cooperation

The SDG goal of “Zero Hunger” comprises of 8 targets in total which are measured using 13 indicators under the Global Indicator Framework for SDGs, identified by the UN in resolution 71/313. Data was only found for 5 of the 13 indicators in the first progress report of SDGs, published by the GED of the Planning Commission. Broadly, 3 of the targets and their associated indicators were identified where international cooperation is requisite but global partnerships must not be limited to these alone. The relevant targets and their indicators are listed in Table 4.2.

Table 4.2: Targets and indicators for Goal 2

| Target | Indicator | Tier (IAEG-SDG) ⁷⁷ |
|--|---|---|
| 2.5: By 2020, maintain the genetic diversity of seeds, cultivated plants and farmed and domesticated animals and their related wild species, including through soundly managed and diversified seed and plant banks at the national, regional and international levels, and promote access to and fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising from the utilization of genetic resources and associated traditional knowledge, as internationally agreed | 2.5.1: Number of plant and animal genetic resources for food and agriculture secured in either medium- or long-term conservation facilities | Tier I: Data not collected in regular intervals |
| | 2.5.2: Proportion of local breeds classified as being at risk, not at risk or at an unknown level of risk of extinction | Tier I: Data not collected in regular intervals |
| 2.a: Increase investment, including through enhanced international cooperation, in rural infrastructure, agricultural research and extension services, technology development and plant and livestock gene banks to enhance agricultural productive capacity in developing countries, in particular least developed countries | 2.a.1: The agriculture orientation index for government expenditures | Tier I: Data available till 2016 |
| | 2.a.2: Total official flows (official development assistance plus other official flows) to the agriculture sector | Tier I: Data available |
| 2.b: Correct and prevent trade restrictions and distortions in world agricultural markets, including through the parallel elimination of all forms of agricultural export subsidies and all export measures with equivalent effect, in accordance with the mandate of the Doha Development Round | 2.b.1: Agricultural export subsidies | Tier I: Data available |

Source: Tier Classification for Global SDG Indicators, UnStats (2019)

Target 2.5: By 2020, maintain the genetic diversity of seeds, cultivated plants and farmed and domesticated animals and their related wild species, including through soundly managed and diversified seed and plant banks at the national, regional and international levels, and promote access to and fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising from the utilization of genetic resources and associated traditional knowledge, as internationally agreed

Indicator 2.5.1: Number of plant and animal genetic resources for food and agriculture secured in either medium or long-term conservation facilities

Data is lacking for this indicator in Bangladesh. Protection of agricultural biodiversity has not been proposed as a part of long-term strategy.⁷⁸ Meanwhile, between 1976 and 2010, the annual rate of decrease in agricultural land has been 0.304%.⁷⁹ Conservation practices can also be seen by farmers involved in the Nayakrishi movement and the maintenance of Nayakrishi Seed Network. In many cases, women are leading the efforts of preservation and maintenance of biodiversity.⁸⁰

Regional cooperation has been embodied by the SAARC Seed Bank in 2019. Regional partnership will increase the overall seed security in South-Asia. Listing of common varieties of seed, preservation of

77 Updated Tier Classification by IAEG

78 IUCN. (2015). National Conservation Strategy

79 SRDI. (2013). Trend in the availability of agricultural land in Bangladesh

80 UBINIG. <http://ubinig.org/index.php/home/showAerticleRecent/22/english>

local seeds, Common Minimum Seed Quality Standard and seed testing procedure will be developed. Framework for Material Transfer shall be applicable for transferring the seeds among member states.

⁸¹**Indicator 2.5.2:** Proportion of local breeds classified as being at risk, not-at-risk or at unknown level of risk of extinction

A comprehensive study by the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) assessed 1,619 species comprising 7 groups of wildlife which include mammals, birds, reptiles, amphibians, freshwater fish, crustaceans and butterflies.⁸² Table 4.3 lists the assessment and findings.

Table 4.3: Assessment of wildlife in Bangladesh

| Animal Species | Number Assessed | Regionally Extinct | Critically Endangered | Endangered | Vulnerable |
|-----------------|-----------------|--------------------|-----------------------|------------|------------|
| Mammals | 138 | 31 | 56 | 181 | 153 |
| Birds | 566 | | | | |
| Reptiles | 167 | | | | |
| Amphibians | 49 | | | | |
| Freshwater Fish | 253 | | | | |
| Crustaceans | 141 | | | | |
| Butterflies | 305 | | | | |
| Total | 1,619 | 421 | | | |

Source: Red List of Bangladesh, IUCN (2015)

The assessment found 31 species to be regionally extinct, 56 species critically endangered, 181 species endangered and 153 species vulnerable. In total, excluding the 31 extinct species, the cumulative percentage of threatened species constitutes an alarming 24.08% of the total.

Meanwhile, the Encyclopedia of Flora and Fauna of Bangladesh listed 486 species⁸³ of flowers, plants and trees as endangered, of which, over 200 species were flowering plants. The detailed list is provided in Table 4.4.

Table 4.4: Assessment of flowers, plants, and trees in Bangladesh

| Vascular Plant Groups | Critically Endangered | Endangered | Vulnerable | Total Threatened Species | Threatened Species (% of total) |
|-----------------------|-----------------------|------------|------------|--------------------------|---------------------------------|
| Pteridophytes | 0 | 0 | 36 | 36 | 18.46 |
| Gymnosperms | 0 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 14.29 |
| Angiosperms | 30 | 126 | 293 | 449 | 12.43 |
| Dicotyledons | 8 | 80 | 179 | 267 | 10.18 |
| Monocotyledons | 22 | 46 | 114 | 182 | 18.42 |

Source: Bangladesh National Conservation Strategy⁸⁴

Target 2.a: Increase investment, including through enhanced international cooperation, in rural infrastructure, agricultural research and extension services, technology development and plant and livestock gene banks to enhance agricultural productive capacity in developing countries, in particular least developed countries

The agriculture orientation index (AOI) measures investment by the government in the agricultural sector (crops, fishing, forestry, and hunting) relative to the contribution of agriculture to the economy (measured as a proportion of GDP). It is assumed that a higher orientation and investment towards agriculture will improve the sector's efficiency, productivity, and income by reducing budget constraint or increasing capital.⁸⁵

81 CGIAR program - Climate Change, Agriculture and Food Security <https://www.slideshare.net/cgiarclimate/md-alam-29132280>

82 IUCN (2015). Red List of Bangladesh: Volume 1

83 Encyclopedia of Flora and Fauna of Bangladesh' (Siddiqui et al., 2007a, b; Ahmed et al., 2008b, c; Ahmed et al., 2009a, b, c, d

84 IUCN (2015-2016) Bangladesh National Conservation Strategy- Biodiversity: Flora

85 UN Stats. <https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/metadata/files/Metadata-02-0A-01.pdf>

The sheer size of the objectives outlined in the 2030 Agenda is difficult to carry out with domestic efforts alone. Resources from the private sector and external flow must be mobilized to tackle the SDGs. There remains a gap between required financing to meet the targets and current financing. The additional financing required to achieve all the targets of SDG Goal 2 has been estimated at around \$22.8 billion in current prices.⁸⁶ This highlights the importance of Official Development Assistance (ODA) to developing countries for the purpose of meeting the additional financing needs.

Indicator 2.a.1: The agriculture orientation index for government expenditures

The FAO keeps track of the AOI in its database, which exists up to 2016 for Bangladesh. Table 4.5 displays the last 5 years for which data is available. A value above 1 or below 1 may reflect overinvestment and underinvestment respectively.

Table 4.5: Agriculture orientation index

| Date | 2012 | 2013 | 2014 | 2015 | 2016 |
|------|------|------|------|------|------|
| AOI | 0.58 | 0.78 | 0.56 | 0.53 | 0.41 |

Source: Food and Agricultural Organization

Since 2013, a downward trend can be noticed in the AOI. This implies either dwindling resources allocated to agriculture or increased value added to the economy by this sector. There are certain limitations to this index such as the lack of accounting for private and foreign investment. This may underestimate the actual cumulative investment in the agricultural sector. A very low AOI may involve risk for sustainability, food security, agricultural research, and public infrastructure.⁸⁷

Indicator 2.a.2: Total official flows (official development assistance plus other official flows) to the agriculture sector

The sheer size of the objectives outlined in the 2030 Agenda is difficult to carry out with domestic efforts alone. Resources from the private sector and external flow must be mobilized to tackle the SDGs. There remains a gap between required financing to meet the targets and current financing. The additional financing required to achieve all the targets of SDG Goal 2 has been estimated at around \$22.8 billion in current prices.⁸⁸ This highlights the importance of ODA to developing countries for the purpose of meeting the additional financing needs.

Table 4.6: Total official flows (Loans and Grants, million \$)

| Years | 2013 | 2014 | 2015 | 2016 | 2017 | 2018 |
|----------------------|------|------|------|------|------|------|
| Total Official Flows | 67 | 368 | 215 | 183 | 198 | 213 |

Source: Aid Information Management System, ERD

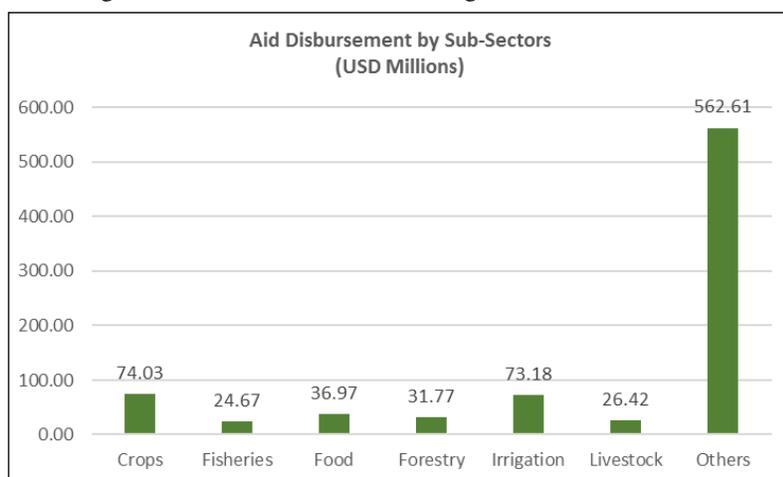
Table 4.6 shows the total official flows towards the agricultural sector during the period 2013-2018. Aid allocation to agriculture sector since 2015 remains around 5% of the total. A total of 829.65 million has been disbursed till mid 2019 in over 120 projects in the sector. Increased inflow of aid must be pulled to meet the additional financing requirements of the SDG targets. Figure 4.1 illustrates the aid disbursement to the agricultural sector since January 1, 2015 till present, while Table 4.7 provides a comparison between committed and actual disbursement. As shown in table 4.7, except for irrigation, actual disbursement has exceeded the commitments in all subsectors.

86 GED. (2017). SDGs Financing Strategy: Bangladesh Perspective

87 GED. (2018). Sustainable Development Goals: Bangladesh First Progress Report 2018

88 GED. (2017). SDGs Financing Strategy: Bangladesh Perspective

Figure 4.1: Aid disbursement to agricultural sub-sectors



Source: Aid Information Management System, Economic Relation Division

Table 4.7: Committed and actual disbursement

| Sub Sector | Disbursement (\$ Millions) | |
|------------|----------------------------|--------|
| | Committed | Actual |
| Crops | 31.85 | 74.03 |
| Fisheries | 12.32 | 24.67 |
| Food | 14.43 | 36.97 |
| Forestry | 30.52 | 31.77 |
| Irrigation | 107.1 | 73.18 |
| Livestock | 25.34 | 26.42 |
| Others | 344.78 | 562.61 |

Source: Aid Information Management System, ERD

Target 2.b: Correct and prevent trade restrictions and distortions in world agricultural markets, including through the parallel elimination of all forms of agricultural export subsidies and all export measures with equivalent effect, in accordance with the mandate of the Doha Development Round.

The Doha Development Round called for parallel elimination of export subsidies around the world. The rationale behind this action is to remove trade distortions and allow free global trade. In his famous work, “Poverty and Famines: An Essay on Entitlement and Deprivation”, Amartya Sen presented the case that it was not lack of food which caused hunger, but the existing inequalities in distribution resulting from market distortions.⁸⁹

Export subsidies were previously heavily utilized by the European Union and other developed nations to capture international markets. Although the call for fair trade practices failed for a long time, during the World Trade Organization (WTO)’s Tenth Ministerial Conference in Nairobi, a key decision was taken which directed immediate elimination of agricultural export subsidies by the developed countries, elimination of agricultural export subsidy entitlements in developing countries by 2018 (elimination of subsidies by 2023). Further extension until 2030 have been provided for least developed countries and net-food importing developed countries.⁹⁰ Developing nations have to play a significant role in removing market distortions which have been fruitful to the developed world for a long time. Free trade must also be maintained in accordance with international trade laws.

⁸⁹ Amartya Sen (1981), Poverty and Famines: An Essay on Entitlement and Deprivation

⁹⁰ WTO (2015). Tenth Session, Ministerial Conference WT/MIN(15)/45

Indicator 2.b.1: Producer Support Estimate

According to the declaration of WTO's Nairobi Conference, Bangladesh still has sufficient time to phase out its agricultural export subsidies. However, recently, the GoB has been planning to offer up to 30%⁹¹ export subsidies to encourage the export of rice. This issue came to light right after protests by the farmers who could not recoup their costs of farming. Procurement programs and input subsidy has also been offered by the GoB to increase the earnings of the farmers. Furthermore, higher prices as a result of the subsidy will have a negative impact on the consumers and is not aligned with the first Goal of eradicating poverty in all its forms.

Example of international partnership in Bangladesh:

While the aforementioned targets require concerted international efforts to achieve, there is a much wider scope for international cooperation. International agencies including the WFP and the FAO have been putting extensive effort to reduce hunger around the world. In many cases, the ideas of South-South and Triangular Cooperation have been utilized. This sort of cooperation initiatives is effective in providing additional capacity, resource and technology. Below are some examples of the working on SDG 2 through international partnerships:

- o An example of the programs run in Bangladesh by the WFP is the National School Meal Program which saw its beginning in 2013. The program's success in providing a cost-effective way to reduce hunger and micronutrient deficiency among children, led to its expansion in 2019 to 400,000 schoolchildren.⁹² This program's success can also be attributed to Brazil's Fome Zero⁹³ Program, which provided the necessary expertise on implementing the initiative⁹⁴. The benefits from this type of partnership not only helps in reducing hunger, but also improves the performance of the country in several other SDG targets, such as eradication of poverty and universal education. The result of this triangular cooperation consisting of Bangladesh, WFP and Brazil also deepened the amicable relations between these two countries. The national capacity built in Bangladesh can now be shared with other developing countries facing similar challenges.
- o The FAO involves itself in several projects and programs in Bangladesh as well. The Country Programming Framework (CPF) 2014-2018 broadly stated five priority areas to focus on. Among other targets, it includes reduction of poverty, enhanced food security, enhanced agricultural productivity, sustainable management of resources, improved technology, resilience building, etc.⁹⁵ For instance, in addition to Goal 2, the project, "TCP/BGD/3401: Harmonization and Dissemination of Unified Agricultural Production Statistics in Bangladesh project", is also relevant for the targets of Goal 17, namely capacity building (statistics).⁹⁶ Yet another example of multi-party international cooperation comes from a project facilitated by the FAO named "Special Programmed for Food Security Bangladesh". The project which targeted to expedite MDGs, was financed by Japan with the technical expertise coming from China with the goal was to increase the agricultural productive capacity of rural areas. Ultimately, some of the notable results of the project include higher yield of rice production (10% for local and 30% for hybrid varieties) and increased survival rate of mango by 28%.⁹⁷
- o Bio fortification is a topic of ongoing research in Bangladesh. International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI)'s Harvest Plus in coordination with Bangladesh Rice Research Institute (BRRI) and International Rice Research Institute (IRRI), develops zinc fortified rice.

91 <https://www.thedailystar.net/frontpage/news/farm-machinery-farmers-get-tk-3000cr-subsidy-1751434>

92 <https://www1.wfp.org/news/government-bangladesh-expands-school-meals-programme>

93 "Zero Hunger" in Portuguese..

94 WFP. (2016). South-South and Triangular Cooperation for food security and nutrition

95 FAO. (2014). Bangladesh Country Programming Framework: 2014-2018

96 <http://www.fao.org/bangladesh/programmes-and-projects/project-list/en/>

97 FAO. (2019). South-South and Triangular Cooperation in FAO

SDG 2 Achievement Prospects

Bangladesh has made great strides in lowering hunger and malnutrition within its borders through sound policy reforms, infrastructure development, and investment in agricultural research and innovation. With the adverse effects of global warming looming large on the horizon, continued investment in agricultural research to create more resistant and higher-yielding crops will be essential. Comprehensive and regularly updated databases of crops and livestock by district areas must also be maintained to formulate effective policy frameworks in the future. Additionally, to further lower hunger and malnutrition in Bangladesh, steps must be taken to develop appropriate storage facilities nationwide, improve distribution channels, and conserve natural habitats to maintain soil fertility and ensure high yields.

The GED's 2018 SDG Financing Plan estimated that addressing these requirements would amount to additional costs of \$1.49 billion by 2020, \$1.02 billion by 2025, and \$0.53 billion by 2030. 80% of these costs was expected to come from the public sector, while the remaining 20% was expected to come from NGOs. The inclusion of external sources must be considered as well, as technical and financial assistance from development partners will be critical in building effective storage facilities, agricultural research and capacity building in the areas of agriculture and animal husbandry.

Goal 3: Good Health and Well-Being

The world has made remarkable progress in increasing life expectancy, decreasing infant and maternal mortality rate, and controlling deaths from malaria and HIV. However, the progress has been uneven, both between and within countries. There is a 31-year gap between the countries with the shortest and longest life expectancies. SDG 3: Good Health and Well-Being targets to provide universal health coverage.⁹⁸

International Commitments

Commitment After MDGs

*Doha Declaration on the TRIPS Agreement and Public Health (2001)*⁹⁹ initiated the discussion of Trade-Related Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPS) member states avoiding patent rights related to pharmaceutical products for better access to essential medicines¹⁰⁰. It was agreed that the TRIPS Agreement does not and should not prevent members from taking measures to protect public health. The Declaration also recognized that WTO members with insufficient or no manufacturing capacities in the pharmaceutical sector could face difficulties in compulsory licensing under the TRIPS Agreement. The General Council, on 30 August 2003, proposed to temporarily or permanently waive the TRIPS agreement related to pharmaceutical products. WTO members accepted the decision in 2005 and was circulated to all the members for formal adoption by 2007. Two-thirds of the 153 member countries need to approve the decision for becoming legally effective. Till November 2018, 101 countries have formally accepted the amendment¹⁰¹.

*WHO Tenth General Programme of Work (2002-2007)*¹⁰² extensively depends on the global health policy "Health for All in the 21st Century". It included four policy orientations, namely: i) capacity-strengthening for HFA, ii) collective action for global health, iii) protection and promotion of human health; and iv) building and maintaining sustainable health systems.

*WHO Country Cooperation Strategy (2004-2007)*¹⁰³ was launched as a tool to implement the Country Focus Initiative announced by WHO at World Health Assembly in 2002. Its overall objective was to contribute to the achievement of the MDGs, support both the National Strategy for Economic Growth, poverty reduction

98 <https://www.undp.org/content/undp/en/home/sustainable-development-goals/goal-3-good-health-and-well-being.html>

99 https://www.wto.org/english/thewto_e/minist_e/min01_e/mindecl_e.htm

100 Medicines that satisfy priority healthcare needs of the population.

101 https://www.wto.org/english/tratop_e/trips_e/amendment_e.htm

102 <https://apps.who.int/iris/handle/10665/128926>

103 WHO (2003). WHO Country Cooperation Strategy, 2004-2007

and Social Development (IPRSP) and the associated the Health, Nutrition and Population Sector Programme (HNPS, 2003-2010).

*International Health Regulations (IHR, 2005)*¹⁰⁴ is a global framework to prevent, detect, assess and provide a coordinated response to events that may constitute a public health emergency of international concern. It came into effect from 15 June 2005 and was signed by 123 member countries. The Regulation has identified seven areas to assist the member countries including fostering global partnership to provide the best available technical support. It emphasized on global partnerships as an essential element to the successful implementation of the goals.

*Framework Convention on Tobacco Control (2005)*¹⁰⁵ has 168 signatories including European Community, which makes it one of the most widely embraced treaties in UN history. It recognized that the spread of the tobacco epidemic is a global problem with serious consequences for public health and expressed concerns regarding the increase in the worldwide consumption and production of cigarettes and other tobacco products, particularly in developing countries, as well as about the burden this places on families, on the poor, and on national health systems.

*WHO Eleventh General Programme of Work (2006-2015)*¹⁰⁶ was approved by the World Health Assembly in resolution WHA 59.4. The Programme highlighted the challenges to health and the measures required for overcoming them. The priority areas were: investing in health to reduce poverty; building individual and global health security; promoting universal coverage, gender equality, and health-related human rights; tackling the determinants of health; strengthening health systems and equitable access; harnessing knowledge, science and technology; and strengthening governance, leadership and accountability. The Resolution WHA59.4 requested to use the Programme as the basis for strategic planning, monitoring and evaluation of WHO's work during the period 2006–2015.

WHO Medium-Term Strategic Plan (2008-2013) was translated from the long-term vision of the Eleventh General Programme of Work. The Plan was endorsed by the Health Assembly in May 2007 and identified IHR (2005) implementation as one of the main priorities. It guided the preparation of the programme budgets and associated operational plans for the biennials 2008–2009 and 2010–2011. This Plan also acted as a tool to essentially monitor the Eleventh GPW.

WHO Country Cooperation Strategy (2008-2013) has identified seven strategic directions including fostering partnership and coordination for national health development. The Strategy also covers the National Strategy for Accelerated Poverty Reduction (NSAPR) along with the previous targets. The commitment was operationalized and monitored through three consecutive WHO biennial budgets and work plans.

Decade of Action for Road Safety (2011-2020)^{107, 108} was launched in 11 May 2011 in more than 100 countries. Mandated by the United Nations General Assembly, the Decade seeks to save 5 million lives and prevent 50 million serious injuries. A Global Plan was called for action on five pillars: i) road safety management; ii) safer roads and mobility; iii) safer vehicles; iv) safer road users; and v) post-crash response. It also presents a framework for monitoring and evaluating the achievements of the Decade in countries.

WHO Country Cooperation Strategy (2014-2017) was built on the country's achievements and lessons learned from implementing previous CCs. There are five strategic priorities: i) reducing the burden of communicable diseases; ii) reducing the burden of non-communicable diseases; iii) reducing health, nutrition, environmental, and occupational risk factors; iv) promoting universal health coverage; and v) Reduce mortality, morbidity and societal disruption resulting from epidemics, natural disasters, conflicts, environmental, and food-related emergencies.

104 <https://www.who.int/ihr/finalversion9Nov07.pdf>

105 <https://apps.who.int/iris/bitstream/handle/10665/42811/9241591013.pdf;jsessionid=EA7BF4A4EA2D4DDCC7A6B096122EEEA5?sequence=1>

106 https://apps.who.int/gb/ebwha/pdf_files/WHA63/A63_30-en.pdf

107 https://www.who.int/roadsafety/decade_of_action/plan/plan_english.pdf?ua=1

108 WHO (2012). Violence, Injuries, and Disability. Biennial Report, 2010-2011

*WHO Twelfth General Programme of Work (2014-2019)*¹⁰⁹ is built on the lessons learned from the Eleventh GPW and incorporates elements from Medium-Term Strategic Plan 2008-2013. It focuses on the six leadership priorities to promote health and well-being which includes implementing the provisions of the IHR (2005).

Commitments After SDGs

*Astana Declaration (2018)*¹¹⁰, initiated at the Global Conference on Primary Health Care at Astana, emphasized the critical role of primary health care around the world. The new declaration has renewed political commitment to primary health care from Governments, non-governmental organizations, professional organizations, academia and global health and development organizations and will be used to inform the UN General Assembly high-level meeting on Universal Health Coverage in 2019.

*WHO Thirteenth General Programme of Work (2019-2023)*¹¹¹ was approved by the Seventy-first World Health Assembly in resolution WHA71.1 on 25 May 2018. The GPW 13 is based on the SDGs and is relevant to all countries – low, middle, and high income. It has set three strategic priorities: universal health, health emergencies, and healthier population, and ties them to ambitious SDG-based goals for driving progress. It will serve as the basis for resource mobilization and for the program budgets for the biennials 2020–2021 and 2022–2023.

Technical Cooperation Commitments

*Global Audit Tobacco Survey (GATS, 2009)*¹¹² is a nationally representative household survey of men and women aged 15 years or above designed to produce internationally comparable data on tobacco use and tobacco control measures. It is a global standard for systematically monitoring adult tobacco use (smoking and smokeless) and tracking key tobacco control indicators WHO and U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention provided the technical assistance while financial support for the survey was provided by the Bloomberg Philanthropies.

Global Audit Tobacco Survey (2017) covered a sample of 14,880 households nationally and found that 35.3% overall (37.8 million adults), 46.0% of men and 25.2% of women were using tobacco.

*A Vision for Primary Health Care in the 21st Century (2018)*¹¹³ is one of a technical series that supports the Global Conference on Primary Health Care. Representatives from WHO, UNICEF and WHO EUR jointly provided technical support to prepare the report.

Capacity Building Commitments

Globally, the relevance of the Eleventh General Program of Work has been demonstrated by the major international consultations and conferences held.

WHO Country Cooperation Strategy (CCS, 2008-2013) included a strategy to enhance capacity for the prevention and control of major communicable diseases and diseases targeted for elimination/eradication, and strengthen integrated disease surveillance. The Organization would: i) strengthen national capacity for effective management of major communicable diseases; ii) enhance capacity of the national immunization program for effective prevention and control of vaccine preventable diseases; iii) support for effective integrated disease surveillance system; iv) enhance emergency preparedness; and v) strengthen public health laboratories to combat potential pandemic disease threats.

109 https://apps.who.int/iris/bitstream/handle/10665/112792/GPW_2014-2019_eng.pdf?sequence=1

110 <https://www.who.int/primary-health/conference-phc/declaration>

111 <https://apps.who.int/iris/bitstream/handle/10665/324775/WHO-PRP-18.1-eng.pdf>

112 http://www.searo.who.int/bangladesh/publications/gats_2009/en/

113 <https://www.who.int/docs/default-source/primary-health/vision.pdf>

Decade of Action for Road Safety (2011-2020) encouraged capacity building and knowledge transfer activities for achieving safer roads and mobility. The activities included creating partnership with the development banks and national authorities; promoting road safety training and education; developing and promoting standards for safe road design.

Current Progress

As indicated in table 2.2, several projects are being funded by development partners to improve the health situation in Bangladesh. Examples include Expanded Program on Immunization (EPI), jointly funded by JICA, WHO, Global Alliance for Vaccines and Immunization (GAVI); and Novel Nozzle Vaccine for Treatment of HBV, funded by South-South cooperation with Japan.

National Plans or Initiatives Related to International Cooperation

Smoking and Usage of Tobacco Products (Control) Act (2005, amended in 2013) has implemented many initiatives based on findings of GATS 2009. The new law prohibits tobacco advertising, tobacco smoking in public places, and selling to or by people younger than 18 years of age.

*Work Plan for Implementation of IHR (2005) in Bangladesh (2011)*¹¹⁴ was drafted in 2009 based on core alert and response capacities of different selected health facilities between March and May 2009. The framework provided a set of 28 global indicators for monitoring the development of IHR core capacities. From these, a subset of 20 indicators are used for annual reporting to the Executive Board and the WHA.

*Health, Nutrition and Population Sector Programme (HNPSPP) (2011-2016)*¹¹⁵ is the third national program in the health sector after Health and Population Sector Programme (1998-2003) and Health, Nutrition and Population Sector Programme (2003-2010). It has two major components: providing equitable quality health services and strengthening the health system. The priority of the program is to stimulate demand and improve access to and utilization of health, population, and nutrition services to reduce morbidity and mortality; reduce population growth rate and improve nutritional status, especially of women and children.

Progress on SDG Targets with International Cooperation

Under the new Smoking and Tobacco Products (Control) Act, 2013, new rules were framed in 2015. Since March 2016, it was made mandatory to introduce pictorial health warning on all tobacco packages covering at least 50% of the package surface area. In 2017, taxes as a share of cigarette prices averaged 76%. As a result of all these efforts, the following changes have been noticed in the indicators.

Table 4.8: SDG targets, indicators and categories for Goal 3

| Targets | Indicators for Bangladesh | Category | Status |
|---|---|----------|-----------|
| 3.1: By 2030, reduce the global maternal mortality ratio to less than 70 per 100,000 live births. | Indicator 3.1.1: Maternal mortality ratio (per 100,000 live births) | Tier I | Available |
| | Indicator 3.1.2: Proportion of births attended by skilled health personnel | Tier I | Available |
| 3.6: By 2020, halve the number of global deaths and injuries from road traffic accidents. | Indicator 3.6.1: Death rate due to road traffic injuries (per 100,000 population) | Tier I | Available |
| 3.a: Strengthen the implementation of the World Health Organization Framework Convention on Tobacco Control in all countries, as appropriate. | Indicator 3.a.1: Age-standardized prevalence of current tobacco use among persons aged 15 years and older | Tier I | Available |
| 3.d: Strengthen the capacity of all countries for early warning, risk reduction and management of national and global health risk | 3.d.1 International Health Regulations (IHR) capacity and health emergency preparedness | Tier I | Available |

Source: Tier Classification for Global SDG Indicators, UNStats (2019)

114 www.iedcr.gov.bd/pdf/files/ihr/IHR-Action-Plan-Bangladesh-Draft.doc

115 http://www.mohfw.gov.bd/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=166&Itemid=150&lang=en

Target 3.1: By 2030, reduce the global maternal mortality ratio to less than 70 per 100,000 live births.

Indicator 3.1.1: Maternal mortality ratio (per 100,000 live births)

According to Bangladesh Maternal Mortality and Health Care Survey (BMMS) 2016, the maternal mortality ratio (MMR) in Bangladesh declined significantly from 322 in 2001 to 194 in 2010 to 196 in 2016 maternal deaths per 100,000 live births. According to the country's first MDG Progress Report, the maternal mortality ratio in 1990 was 574 per 100,000 live births. This achievement is linked to other factors including fertility reduction, increased access to maternal health care, increased use of maternal health services in the antenatal, delivery, and postpartum periods, and socioeconomic improvements. The percentage of women receiving the complete continuum of maternity care (antenatal care, delivery care, and postnatal care from medically trained providers) has increased significantly from 5% in 2001, to 19% in 2010, and to 43% in 2016.

SDG target is to reduce the global MMR to less than 70 per 100,000 live births. However, the rate has stalled after 2010 not only in Bangladesh but globally. An analysis of 37 countries in sub-Saharan Africa and South and Southeast Asia countries suggested that increasing facility delivery alone cannot lower MMR, quality of the services are also important.

Indicator 3.1.2: Proportion of births attended by skilled health personnel

In 2016, 50% of births were attended by medically trained personnel, compared to only 12% in 2001. Table 4.9 below provides the change in proportion of birth attended by skilled health personnel in Bangladesh.

Table 4.9: Proportion of births attended by skilled health personnel in Bangladesh (1994-2016)

| Year | 1994 | 1997 | 2001 | 2003 | 2006 | 2007 | 2009 | 2010 | 2011 | 2013 | 2014 | 2016 |
|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|
| % | 9.5 | 8 | 12 | 13.9 | 20.1 | 18 | 24.4 | 26.5 | 31.7 | 43.5 | 42.1 | 49.8 |

Source: World Bank database

Target 3.6: By 2020, halve the number of global deaths and injuries from road traffic accidents.

Indicator 3.6.1: Death rate due to road traffic injuries (per 100,000 population)

Globally, road traffic injury (RTI) causes 1.3 million deaths annually, about 90% occur in low- and middle-income countries. In 2017, WHO estimated that 21,000 people are killed by RTI annually in Bangladesh. The mortality rate due to RTI was 6.8 per 100,000 populations per year. However, previous data is not available for comparison.

Target 3.a: Strengthen the implementation of the World Health Organization Framework Convention on Tobacco Control in all countries, as appropriate.

Indicator 3.a.1: Age-standardized prevalence of current tobacco use among persons aged 15 years and older

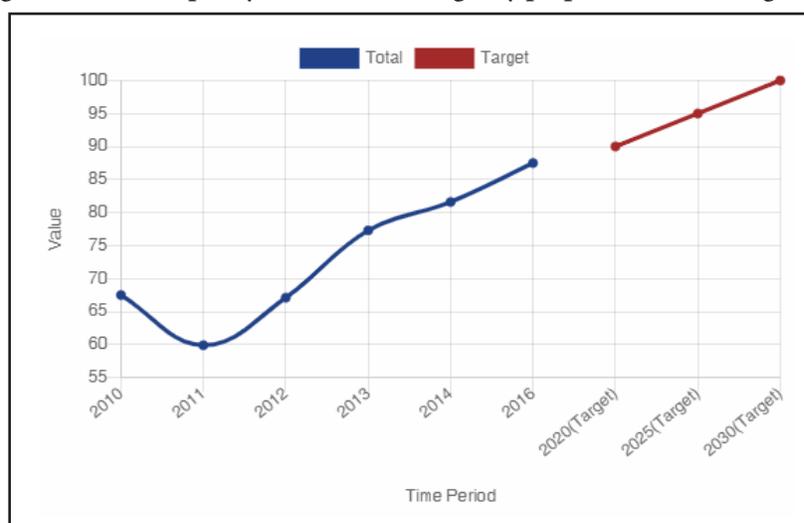
GATS 2017 found that tobacco use significantly decreased among persons aged 15 years or above from 43.3% in 2009 to 35.3% in 2017. Exposure to secondhand smoke in homes and public places declined significantly.

Target 3.d: Strengthen the capacity of all countries for early warning, risk reduction and management of national and global health risk

Indicator 3.d.1: International Health Regulations (IHR) capacity and health emergency preparedness

Figure 4.2 shows the value of IHR capacity and health emergency preparedness in Bangladesh has been improving since 2011 and has reached 87.5 in 2016. SDG target is to reach 100 by 2030.

Figure 4.2: IHR capacity and health emergency preparedness in Bangladesh



Source: SDG Tracker, Bangladesh development Mirror

SDG 3 Achievement Prospects

Two major commitments prior to SDGs are: i) the Doha Declaration on the Trade Related Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPS) Agreement and Public Health which relaxed the patent rights for WTO members with insufficient or no manufacturing capacities in the pharmaceutical sector; and ii) International Health Regulations (IHR, 2005) which provided a global framework to prevent, detect, and assess events related to public health emergency. After SDG, the Astana Declaration (2018) was a crucial commitment which emphasized the critical role of primary health care around the world. Through various international cooperation efforts such as providing trainings, strengthening surveillance, transferring knowledge for safer achieving roads, the indicators in Bangladesh are starting to show improvements.

GED (2018) has estimated that \$2.91 billion, \$7.47 billion and \$11.19 billion of additional funding would be required to achieve Goal 3 in FY2020, FY2025 and FY2030 respectively.

Goal 4: Quality Education

Since 2000, there has been enormous progress in achieving the target of universal primary education. In 2015, the total enrolment rate in developing regions reached 91%. However, progress has been tough in some developing regions due to high levels of poverty, armed conflicts and other emergencies. The Goal 4: Quality Education targets to ensure that all girls and boys complete free primary and secondary schooling by 2030. It also aims to provide equal access to affordable vocational training, to eliminate gender and wealth disparities, and achieve universal access to a quality higher education.¹¹⁶

International Commitments

Commitment After MDGs

Higher Education Quality Enhancement Project (HEQEP, 2009) targets to improve the quality and relevance of the teaching and research environment in higher education institutions through encouraging both innovation and accountability within universities and by enhancing the technical and institutional capacity of the higher education sector.

Primary Education Development Program (PEDP, 2011) targets to provide quality primary education for all

¹¹⁶ <https://www.undp.org/content/undp/en/home/sustainable-development-goals/goal-4-quality-education.html>

children. It is the third initiated of its kind. The Program targets to achieve six results: i) improving the quality of learning, ii) improving access and participation, iii) reducing disparities, iv) decentralizing, v) achieving effectiveness, and vi) planning and management, through fifteen key performance indicators.

Commitments After SDGs

Incheon Declaration for Education 2030 (2015) recognized the important role of education as a main driver of development and in achieving the other proposed SDGs and set out a new vision for education for the next fifteen years. The commitment is to ensure the provision of 12 years of free, publicly funded, equitable quality primary and secondary education, of which at least nine years are compulsory. Inclusion and equality, gender equality, quality, lifelong learning opportunities are some criteria that were targeted through the Declaration. It was adopted by over 1,600 participants of the World Education Forum 2015, including 120 Ministers, heads and members of delegations, heads of agencies and officials of multilateral and bilateral organizations, and representatives of civil society, the teaching profession, youth and the private sector from 160 countries.

Secondary Education Development Program (SEDP, 2017/18-2022/23) will annually support more than 13 million students from grades 6-12 as well as 357,000 teachers from more than 20,300 general schools, 9,400 madrasahs, and 1,190 school-based vocational/technical institutions across Bangladesh¹¹⁷. The SEDP spans the entire activities of the Ministry of Education, excluding those for higher education (post grade 12), and technical and vocational education and training under the Directorate of Technical Education (DTE) and the Bangladesh Technical Education Board (BTEB).

Financial Assistance Commitments

The Incheon Declaration stated the total average annual financing gap, between available domestic resources and the amount necessary to reach the new education targets, is \$39 billion between 2015 and 2030 in low and lower middle-income countries. Notably, in 2010 – 2011, \$3.2 billion in aid was allocated to scholarships and imputed student costs. For PEDP-III, total 10 development partners¹¹⁸ will provide a fund of \$1,733 million to implement the Program out of a total cost of \$2,327 million. The SEDP is estimated to cost \$17.2 billion¹¹⁹. The Program will be financed primarily from the government sources, with support from development partners including the World Bank (\$500 million and \$10 million GEF) and ADB (\$225 million). The HEQEP program cost was estimated to be \$91.5 million, among which \$81 million was provided by IDA as a loan. Under the program, 345 academic innovation grants have been awarded to 27 public- and 9 private universities. Many other DPs are providing scholarships under distinct initiatives. For example, Japan has provided scholarships for higher education to over 4,000 Bangladeshi students since the year of 1955. In 2018 alone, more than 100 Bangladeshi students received this government-funded scholarship and are now studying in Japan on various different academic fields¹²⁰. But the number of aspirants are higher compared to the availability of fund. Such scholarships by international partners need to be increased.

Technical Cooperation Commitments

UNICEF, UNESCO and British Council will be providing technical assistance in selected areas under the SEDP program framework. HEQEP also assisted in developing laboratories, computer centers, research centers, and libraries at various educational institutions including Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology (BUET), Chittagong University of Science and Technology (CUET), Dhaka University, (DU), Jahangirnagar University, Ahsanullah University of Science and Technology (AUST), Bangladesh Agricultural University (BAU), Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University (BSMMU), and many more. Additionally, in May 2016, a 19-member team went on overseas training on HEQEP in Malaysia for training, funded by the World Bank.

117 <http://bdf2018.erd.gov.bd/wp-content/uploads/2018/01/BDF18-Fostering-Quality-Education-and-Skills-for-Employment.pdf>

118 ADB, WB, DFID, EU, AusAid, SIDA, CIDA, JICA, UNICEF, GPE

119 <https://dailiasianage.com/news/94522/5-year-plan-of-sedp--to-cost-172-billion>

120 <https://en.prothomalo.com/youth/news/195178/Japan-govt%E2%80%99s-scholarship-now-open-for-Bangladeshis>

Capacity Building Commitments

World Education Forum 2015 co-conveners, particularly UNESCO, would individually and collectively support countries in implementing the Education 2030 agenda, by providing technical advice, national capacity development and financial support based on their respective mandates and comparative advantages. The co-conveners would also support capacity development in data collection, analysis and reporting at the country level. Second component of the HEQEP involves building institutional capacity. The component includes the following sub-components: (i) improving the strategic capacity of University Grants Commission (UGC); and (ii) strengthening universities' institutional capacity. Notably, British Council, Save the Children, and UNICEF has been jointly funding the project Teacher's Portal development. The project is also supported by GAVI, Global Fund to fight AIDS (GFATM), and Global Environmental Facility (GEF).

Current Progress

National Plans or Initiatives Related to International Cooperation

Non-Formal Education Policy (2006) was initiated as a key element of the effort to offer lifelong learning opportunities to meet the challenges of the 21st century. The Policy targets to improve the quality of life of children, youth and adults including those with special needs and who have missed out formal education; and equip them with adequate knowledge, productive skill and life-skill through relevant and high-quality learning opportunities, including literacy, basic education, and continuing education programs.

Post Literacy and Continuing Education for Human Development Project (PLCEHD)-2 (2008) started its operation in the field with the support of NGOs. Up to June 2012, the program received enrolment of 1,200,000 learners in 7,147 centers in 209 Upazilas of 29 districts. 94.5% of the learners have already graduated from the project, and 38% are involved in income-generating activities (IGAs) either through self-employment or through linkage with other employment providers.

National Education Policy (2010) targets to ensure proper quality of education at each level and to correlate the competencies learnt at the earlier level, among other goals. It aims to ensure quality of the higher education in all disciplines and motivate students in research and to extend the use of ICT. The Policy has separate chapters indicating aims, objectives, and strategies of primary education, higher education, vocational training, Madrassah education, engineering, medical, nursing.

National Skill Development Policy (2011) provides the vision and direction for skills development and sets out major commitments and key reforms that government will implement in the partnership with industries, workers, and civil society¹²¹. The Policy targets to enhance individuals' employability, improve the productivity and profitability of the enterprises, and strengthen national competitiveness. The Policy is expected to contribute to the implementation of other national, economic, employment, and social policies so that Bangladesh can achieve its goal of attaining upper middle income country (UMIC) status by 2030.

Progress on SDG Targets with International Cooperation

As a result of all these efforts, the following changes have been noticed in the relevant indicator.

Table 4.10: SDG Targets, indicators, and categories for Goal 4

| Targets | Indicators for Bangladesh | Category | Status |
|---|---|----------|-----------|
| 4.c: By 2030, substantially increase the supply of qualified teachers, including through international cooperation for teacher training in developing countries | 4.c.1 Proportion of teachers who have received at least the minimum organized teacher training for teaching at the relevant level | Tier II | Available |

Source: Tier Classification for Global SDG Indicators, UNStats (2019)

121 <http://www.nsd.gov.bd/wp-content/uploads/2017/01/NSDP-11.pdf>

Target 4.c: By 2030, substantially increase the supply of qualified teachers, including through international cooperation for teacher training in developing countries

Indicator 4.c.1: Proportion of teachers who have received at least the minimum organized teacher training for teaching at the relevant level

Significant teacher training has been undertaken in both primary and secondary education. In 2016, only 73% of the primary school teachers received CoIn0Ed training compared to 73% in 2015¹²². In 2018, data reveals that at the primary level around 83% and at the secondary level 73% teachers are trained¹²³. The government has supported improved teaching-learning in English, mathematics and science through teachers' development. National Teacher's Registration and Certification Authority (NTRC) has been established to enhance merit-based recruitment of teachers.

SDG 4 Achievement Prospects

The targets under Goal 4 are to ensure that all girls and boys complete free primary and secondary schooling, have equal access to affordable vocational training, and have universal access to quality higher education by 2030. After SDGs, the major international commitment was the Incheon Declaration for Education 2030 (2015) which committed to ensure the provision of 12 years of free, publicly funded, equitable quality primary and secondary education, of which at least nine years are compulsory. Ten development partners will provide a fund of \$1,733 million to implement PEDP out of a total cost of \$2,327 million. The Secondary Education Development Program (SEDP) is estimated to cost \$17.2 billion, financed primarily from the government sources, with support from development partners. The HEQEP program cost was estimated to be \$91.5 million, among which \$81 million was provided by IDA as a loan. UNICEF, UNESCO and British Council will be providing technical assistance in selected areas under the SEDP program framework.

GED (2018) has estimated that that \$2.91 billion, \$7.47 billion and \$10.40 billion of additional funding would be required to achieve Goal 4 in FY2020, FY2025 and FY2030 respectively.

Goal 5: Gender Equality

In the past 20 years, gender equality has made commendable progress and most regions have reached gender parity in primary education. However, there are still large inequalities in some regions while women are systematically denied the same work rights as men, face sexual violence and exploitation, experience unequal division of unpaid care and domestic work, and are discriminated in offices. The Goal 5: Gender Equality targets to give women equal rights to land and property, sexual and reproductive health, and to technology and the internet.

International Commitments

Commitment After MDGs

The Hyogo Framework for Action (2005) is the first plan to explain, describe and detail the work that is required from all different sectors and actors to reduce disaster losses. It was developed and agreed on in 2005 with the many partners needed to reduce disaster risk - governments, international agencies, disaster experts and many others - bringing them into a common system of coordination. The HFA, which aims to substantially reduce disaster losses by 2015 by building the resilience of nations and communities to disasters, provides a tool for integrating a gender perspective in all forms of disaster-risk management, including risk assessments and early warning mechanisms.

Aid Effectiveness Commitments Policies on gender equality must be matched by the needed resources to implement them. The importance of gender equality in resource allocation was underscored in the 2008 Accra

122 Annual Primary School Census various years, Ministry of Primary and Mass Education

123 CRI (2018), Bangladesh: Quality Education for All.

Agenda for Action (AAA), building on the 2005 Paris Declaration on Aid Effectiveness. Through the Accra Agenda for Action, developing countries and donors commit to ensure that their respective development policies and programs are designed and implemented in ways consistent with their agreed international commitments on gender equality, human rights, disability and environmental sustainability. The Busan Partnership for Effective Development Cooperation endorsed in 2011 recognizes that gender equality and women's empowerment are critical to achieving development results and agreed to accelerate and deepen efforts to (1) improve information systems with disaggregating data by sex; (2) integrate targets for gender equality and women's empowerment in accountability mechanisms; and (3) address gender equality and women's empowerment in all aspects of development efforts, including peace-building and state building.

UN Framework Convention for Climate Change (2010) COP-16 in 2010 were the first global climate change policy to include multiple references to gender equality.

At COP-18 in Doha in 2012, a decision was adopted promoting gender balance and improving the participation of women in UNFCCC negotiations and in the representation of Parties in bodies established pursuant to the Convention or the Kyoto Protocol.

4.5.1.2 Capacity Building Commitments

Since the COP-16, more gains have been made to foster women's participation in negotiations and entrench gender equality in UNFCCC outcome documents in such areas as guidelines for national adaptation plans, mitigation, capacity building and technology and safeguards. Gender considerations were also integrated in Green Climate Fund, the Adaptation Fund and Climate Investment Funds.

The decision in COP-19 included calls mechanisms to track progress toward gender balance; the inclusion of gender equality and climate change as a standing item on future COP agendas; organization of a workshop on gender balance in the UNFCCC process at COP-19; and gender-sensitive climate policy and capacity building activities to promote the greater participation of women in the UNFCCC process.

Current Progress

National Plans or Initiatives Related to International Cooperation

*Domestic Violence (Prevention and Protection) Act 2010*¹²⁴ was provided as a signatory state of the United Nations Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women. The Act described physical abuse, psychological abuse, sexual abuse or economic abuse against a woman or a child of a family by any other person of that family with whom victim is, or has been, in family relationship as domestic violence and described the duties and responsibilities of police officer, enforcement officer and service provider, etc. in such cases.

*National Women Development Policy (2011)*¹²⁵ targets to establish equal rights of men and women in areas of state and public life in the light of the constitution of Bangladesh, ensure safety and security of women and establish human rights of women.

*Prevention and Suppression of Human Trafficking Act 2012*¹²⁶ has made provisions to prevent and suppress human trafficking, to ensure the protection of victims of the offence of human trafficking and their rights, and to ensure safe migration.

*Dowry Prohibition Bill 2018*¹²⁷ was passed keeping a provision of maximum five years imprisonment and BDT 50,000 as fines for demanding dowry.

124 https://mowca.portal.gov.bd/sites/default/files/files/mowca.portal.gov.bd/page/203db6dc_7c82_4aa0_98a6_8672334b235c/Domestic%20Violence%20Act%20English.pdf

125 https://mowca.portal.gov.bd/sites/default/files/files/mowca.portal.gov.bd/policies/64238d39_0ecd_4a56_b00c_b834cc54f88d/National-Women-Policy-2011English.pdf

126 <https://www.refworld.org/pdfid/543f75664.pdf>

127 <https://www.dhakatribune.com/bangladesh/parliament/2018/09/16/house-passes-dowry-prohibition-bill>

Progress on SDG Targets with International Cooperation

The indicators related to international cooperation are:

5.6.1: Proportion of women aged 15–49 years who make their own informed decisions regarding sexual relations, contraceptive use and reproductive health care

5.6.2: Number of countries with laws and regulations that guarantee full and equal access to women and men aged 15 years and older to sexual and reproductive health care, information and education

Notably, there is no particular indicator against Goal 5 for Bangladesh. However, Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation have been funding Financial Services for the Poor, which emphasizes women as their beneficiaries.

SDG 5 Achievement Prospects

Goal 5 aims to give women equal rights to land and property, sexual and reproductive health, and to technology and the internet. Gender equality has been a concern for many years prior to SDG and has made commendable progress in the past 20 years. There were multiple international commitments to protect women long before the SDGs. Notably, after the SDGs, not many mentionable commitments have been made for gender equality or women rights. However, many national act and policies were developed in response to these international initiatives including Domestic Violence (Prevention and Protection) Act 2010, National Women Development Policy (2011), Prevention and Suppression of Human Trafficking Act 2012, and Dowry Prohibition Bill 2018.

GED (2018) has estimated that that \$0.80 billion, \$0.71 billion and \$0.63 billion of additional funding would be required to achieve Goal 5 in FY2020, FY2025 and FY2030 respectively.

Goal 16: Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions

Goal 16: Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions aims to contain violations of human rights in the interest of building safer and more inclusive societies by promoting institutional transparency and improving regulations. Violations of human rights can materialize in many forms such as human trafficking, sexual and domestic violence, ethnic and communal violence etc.

International Commitments¹²⁸

Bangladesh's commitment to *The Universal Declaration of Human Rights*, which was incorporated into Bangladesh's constitution in 1972, and the 1984 UN convention on the *Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW)* set the precedent for present and future strategies to achieve SDG 16.

The Universal Declaration of Human Rights called for the promotion of universal respect for, and observance of human rights and fundamental freedoms by undertaking progressive measures, both national and international, to promote respect for basic human rights and freedoms. CEDAW advocated for an end to the discrimination against women by ensuring justice and protection for women against discrimination, enabling gender equality in the national legal system, and eliminating all forms of gender discrimination.

Commitment Prior to MDGs

Goal 3 of the MDGs called for pledging countries to promote gender equality and empower women. On agreeing to accomplish this, Bangladesh aggressively promoted higher participation of women in wage employment outside the agricultural sector, namely in the RMG sector, and worked towards higher female enrollment in primary, secondary and tertiary education institutions.

¹²⁸ For 1.1, 1.2, and 1.3, summarize the main international commitments. Emphasize more on analysis of sub-sections 1.4, 1.5 and 1.6.

International Financial Assistance, Technical Cooperation and Capacity Building Commitments

The GoB receives assistance from various multi-lateral agencies and development partners that support its progress towards achieving SDG 16.

- o UN Women provides capacity building assistance and advocacy expertise to reduce violence against women in Bangladesh. It does so by working with private and public institutions to establish preventative measures, and ensuring they are properly adopted and monitored by work places and educational institutions. UN Women also works with civil society organizations and women's movements to strengthen women's voice and agency to make authorities accountable for the implementation of violence related laws and policies.
- o ADB provides technical assistance to strengthen institutional capacity of the Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC).
- o UNDP finances the Access to Information Project, which ensures easy, affordable and reliable access to quality public services through technical and capacity building assistance. The project empowers civil servants with tools, expertise, knowledge, and resources to experiment and innovate citizen-centric solutions to public service challenges. It is also facilitating the establishment of both physical and online one-stop access points that scale innovative services and make them available to citizens easily, reliably and in an affordable manner.
- o UNDP, DANIDA, and the EU have committed approximately \$34.5 million to the Activating Village Courts in Bangladesh Project¹²⁹, which is dedicated to improving access to justice by establishing village courts in 351 unions of Bangladesh. The pilot project provides support for building the capacity of service providers, creating demand for village courts through its awareness raising initiatives, policy reform actions, and strengthening Bangladesh's institutional monitoring system.
- o JICA provides technical assistance and grants to improve the administrative capacity of Bangladesh's local authorities. Its assistance schemes are based on sector priorities articulated in Bangladesh's Five Year Plans.
- o Transparency International Bangladesh conducts research, policy advocacy, programs to strengthen institutional governance, and international engagements pertaining to SDG Targets 16.1-16.10. It reviews and promotes reforms at the national level, and is instrumental in raising awareness about corruption and citizens' rights to information at the grassroots level.
- o Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (SIDA) supports Transparency International Bangladesh, as well as the Ain o Salish Kendra (ASK) and Bangladesh Mahila Parishad (BMP) which offer shelters and legal assistance to women exposed to violence, and performs advocacy work to counteract violence against women.
- o DFID provides assistance for capacity building through its Access to Justice through Paralegal and Restorative Justice Services in Bangladesh Project. It also supports technical transfer and capacity building projects related to transparency, human rights, and democracy.
- o World Bank has funded the Bangladesh Local Governance Support Project II (2011-2017) worth \$290 million.
- o UNDP and USAID have been jointly developing National Web Portal for data monitoring and tracking.

¹²⁹ http://www.bd.undp.org/content/bangladesh/en/home/operations/projects/democratic_governance/activating-village-courts-in-bangladesh/avc-home.html

Current Progress

National Plans or Initiatives Related to International Cooperation

*Anti-Corruption Act (2004)*¹³⁰ called for the establishment of an Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) in Bangladesh. Its responsibilities include:

- o Investigating allegations of corruption
- o Reviewing the national legal framework used to prevent corruption, and submitting recommendations to the President.
- o Researching preventative measures against corruptions, and conducting other relevant surveys and studies to identify sources of different types of corruption in Bangladesh.
- o Promoting mass awareness against corruption by organizing seminars, symposiums, workshops etc.

*National Human Rights Commission Act (2009)*¹³¹ called for the immediate establishment of the National Human Rights Commission as an independent institutional entity. Its responsibilities include:

- o Promoting awareness of human rights and available safeguards among various sections of society through coordination with educational, professional, public and private entities, including international development partners. Methods include organizing seminars and workshops, publishing survey reports, training members of law enforcement agencies in protection of human rights etc.;
- o Researching treaties and other international instruments on human rights to update the GoB policy framework;
- o Examining proposals for new legislation to see if they comply with international human rights standards;
- o Advising the GoB on ratifying or signing international human rights instruments;
- o Conducting inquiries concerning accusations of human rights violations;
- o Inspecting the living conditions of imprisoned individuals;
- o Reviewing safeguards of human rights provided by the Constitution and by national laws.

Right to Information Act (2009) was drafted to ensure transparency and accountability in all public and private, and foreign-funded organizations through good governance. The act obligates all bodies to maintain computerized records of their operations and functions, and publish easily accessible reports which comply with sector-specific standards and guidelines set by the Information Commission at regular intervals.

7th FYP (2015) placed great emphasis on capacity building in the area. Projected ADP allocations towards public order and safety rose from BDT 15.3 billion in FY 2016 to BDT 31.2 billion in 2020. The plan's identification of areas requiring further attention, helped development partners like JICA decide how much financial and technical assistance to commit to Bangladesh for capacity development in governance.

Progress on SDG Targets with International Cooperation

Target 16.3: Promote the rule of law at the national and international levels and ensure equal access to justice for all

Indicator 16.3.1: Proportion of victims of violence in the previous 12 months who reported their victimization to competent authorities or other officially recognized conflict resolution

¹³⁰ Anti-Corruption Commission Act 2004

¹³¹ NHRC ACT 2009, 2014

mechanisms”—A Violence Against Women Survey overseen by the Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics in 2015 found 2.45% of victimized women to have access to the necessary authorities/conflict resolution mechanisms. This survey did not, however, cover the entire population of Bangladesh.

Indicator 16.3.2: Un-sentenced detainees as a proportion of overall prison population”—The most recent survey conducted by the Department of Prisons (DoP) in FY 2016-2017 found this figure to be 79%.

There is currently no data available for **Target 16.4** which aims to, “**By 2030, significantly reduce illicit financial and arms flows, strengthen the recovery and return of stolen assets and combat all forms of organized crime.**”

Indicator 16.4.1: “Total value of inward and outward illicit financial flows (in current United States dollars)” — Bangladesh Bank’s Department of Financial Institutions and Markets (FID) has yet to finalize and publish the data for this indicator.

Indicator 16.4.2: “Proportion of seized, found or surrendered arms whose illicit origin or context has been traced or established by a competent authority in line with international instruments”—The Ministry of Home Affairs (MoHA) and Ministry of Defense (MoD) have yet to finalize and publish the data for this indicator.

Data for **Target 16.8** which aims to, “**Broaden and strengthen the participation of developing countries in the institutions of global governance,**” is unavailable.

Indicator 16.8.1: “Proportion of members and voting rights of developing countries in international organizations”—Bangladesh’s MoFA, ERD and Finance Division have not yet finalized the data for this indicator.

Target 16.10: Ensure public access to information and protect fundamental freedoms, in accordance with national legislation and international agreements

The GoB has partially fulfilled requirements for **Target 16.10** with the objective to, “Ensure public access to information and protect fundamental freedoms, in accordance with national legislation and international agreements.”

Indicator 16.10.1: “Number of verified cases of killing, kidnapping, enforced disappearance, arbitrary detention and torture of journalists, associated media personnel, trade unionists and human rights advocates in the previous 12 months”—Further coordination between the Bangladesh Police, the MoHA, the Supreme Court, the NHRC, the Public Security Division (PSD), and the Ministry of Information (MoInf) is required to finalize the data for this indicator.

Indicator 16.10.2: Number of countries that adopt and implement constitutional, statutory and/or policy guarantees for public access to information

In 2009, the GoB finalized the Right to Information Act, which provided a policy and regulatory framework for public, private and foreign-funded organizations to ensure overall transparency and accountability. There is, however, no comprehensive data on whether the terms of the Act have been followed through since its inception.

Target 16.a: Strengthen relevant national institutions, including through international cooperation, for building capacity at all levels, in particular in developing countries, to prevent violence and combat terrorism and crime.

Indicator 16.a.1: Existence of independent national human rights institutions in compliance with the Paris Principles

In 2009, the government established the National Human Rights Commission, which is an independent institutional entity that specializes in promoting awareness about human rights, refining legal frameworks to comply with international human rights standards, conducting inquiries into accusations of human rights violations etc. The Commission is likely to require international cooperation to strengthen and make significant progress in its activities.

Apart from all these progresses, the Rohingya influx has threatened not only the national peace and stability of Bangladesh but also regional coherence. Rohingyas have been fleeing to Bangladesh following persecution against the community in the Rakhine state in Myanmar. Safe and orderly return of the refugees, with citizenship status, to their homes will ensure peace and stability in the region and release resources for use in achieving the SDG goals. Pressure must be brought to bear on the Myanmar government to take back their citizen.

On the other side, limited socio-economic opportunities drive thousands of Bangladeshis to look for opportunities abroad¹³². But many are believed to fall into the hands of human trafficking networks, ending up in forced labor or other exploitative situations abroad. International co-operation needs to be strengthened to prevent and suppress human trafficking by way of legalizing entry of guest workers in developed and oil-rich middle-eastern countries.

Extremist threat has also been raising its head in Bangladesh over the last few years and Bangladesh government has already adopted a zero tolerance policy¹³³ to firmly deal with this challenge. In addition to updating relevance laws and rules, the government has sought support from various stakeholders from the civil society and the members of the international community. In the domestic arena, several civil society Think Tanks, such as Bangladesh Enterprise Institute (BEI) have been working with multiple stakeholders, including the students, youth, teachers, faith leaders, parents and government agencies and local government officials to address such a challenge. In terms of international cooperation, Bangladesh government has been receiving both financial and technical support from the members of the international community to improve its institutional capacity to address this threat. They include US government, UK government, Australian government, Danish government, Japanese government, EU, UNDP, UN Women, USAID, and DFID, among others. A mixed mode approach has also been promoted under the multi donor Global Community Engagement and Resilience Fund (GCERF), where the government and civil society actors joined hands to mobilize and enhance the resilience the community at the grassroots level against radicalization and extremist tendencies. Under various projects, BEI has already trained more than 5000 youths from School, College, Madrasa and Universities, 100 female teachers, dozens of journalists and 2000 plus family members in 55 districts, who act as champions of peace, and in the process prevent the spread of radicalization, which may often lead to violent extremism and terrorism.¹³⁴ No data is available on the amount received, but the trend it upward, and more support from the international community would be required to address this difficult challenge in the coming years.

SDG 16 Achievement Prospect

The GoB looks to uphold the values of peace, justice and strong institutions put forward by SDG 16. Measures such as the formation of the National Human Rights Commission and the issuance of the Right to Information Act, and the collection and analysis of related data are indicative of the GoB's enthusiasm towards achieving SDG 16. However, there are a number of factors impeding its progress in the area. First, available data is not updated regularly by line ministries. This makes it difficult to identify patterns in behavior and learn how successful existing development programs have been. It also makes it difficult to ascertain priority areas and adopt appropriate financing strategies, including international cooperation. Second, inadequate coordination

132 <https://www.iom.int/news/human-trafficking-takes-centre-stage-bangladesh>

133 Dhaka (2016) 'Zero tolerance policy' against terrorism to continue: PM, The Ittefaq, 11 November 2016. Minister's Statement at UNGA

134 BEI Website: <https://bei-bd.org>

between the Planning Commission and line ministries has led to a dissonance in ADP budget allocations and estimated costs for SDG-related projects.

The SDGs Financing Strategy published by the GED in 2018, predicted additional costs required to achieve SDG 16 to amount to USD 1.08 billion in FY 2020, USD 1.78 billion in FY 2025, USD 2.33 billion in FY 2030. It was posited that 80 percent of these additional costs would come from public sources and 20 percent from external sources. As the ADP budget for Public Order and Safety in 2020 amounted to approximately USD 0.4 billion in the 7th FYP i.e. only 36.6 percent of the additional costs projected by the SDG Financing Strategy, it would be prudent to enlist further cooperation with international agencies and development partners to bridge the financing gap.

Rather than enlisting international financial, technical transfer and capacity building assistance for broad purposes, Bangladesh's institutions would benefit from narrowing the focus on improvement to specific departmental projects. Further international cooperation would also be helpful in monitoring and enforcing the terms and conditions put forward by the Right to Information Act; and centralizing vital information on anti-corruption laws, human rights laws, laws and support systems for victims of violence and harassment, etc. Future organization of workshops, seminars, symposiums and grassroots-level movements with the aid of international advocacy experts and technical assistance will also be instrumental in reducing acts of discrimination against women by persons, organizations or enterprises.



Infrastructure and Industry Related SDGs

Goal 6: Clean Water and Sanitation

Goal 7: Affordable and Clean Energy

Goal 9: Industry, Innovation, and Infrastructure



Infrastructure and Industry Related SDGs

This chapter covers discussion on 3 SDGs : 6, 7 and 9.

Goal 6: Clean Water and Sanitation

At present, 40% of the global people are affected by water scarcity. As the temperature rises, the share will increase further. In 2015, 4.5 billion people lacked safely managed sanitation services (with adequately disposed or treated excreta) and 2.3 billion lacked even basic sanitations. It is projected that, by 2050, at least one in four people will suffer recurring water shortages. The Goal 6: Clean Water and Sanitation plans to invest in adequate infrastructure, provide sanitation facilities, and encourage hygiene.

International Commitments

Commitment After MDGs

International Decade for Action “Water for Life 2005-2015” proclaimed the period 2005-2015 to be celebrated as the International Decade for Action ‘Water for Life’. The decade officially started on World Water Day, March 22, 2005. The primary goal of the ‘Water for Life’ Decade was to promote efforts to fulfill international commitments made on water and water-related issues by 2015. The main focus was on furthering cooperation at all levels, so that the water-related goals of the Millennium Declaration, the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation of the World Summit for Sustainable Development, and Agenda 21 can be achieved.

International Year of Sanitation (2008) declared 2008 as the International Year of Sanitation to help raise awareness of the crisis of roughly 2.6 billion people not having access to basic sanitation worldwide, and to accelerate progress towards reaching the UN’s Millennium Development Goals (MDG’s). It was targeted to cut the number of people without access to basic sanitation in half by the year 2015.

Dushanbe Declaration on Water (2010) is the outcome of the High-level International Conference on the Midterm Comprehensive Review of the Implementation of the International Decade for Action, “Water for Life”, 2005-2015, held in Dushanbe on 8 and 9 June 2010, which culminated in adoption of the “Dushanbe Declaration on Water”. It focused on six themes: (i) accelerating progress towards water-related internationally agreed development goals; (ii) trans-boundary water cooperation; (iii) water quality; (iv) water resources, adaptation to climate change and disaster risk reduction; (v) sustainable financing; and (vi) integrated water resources management, energy, agriculture and food security.

Water and Sanitation Recognized as a Human Right (2010) affirms access to safe and clean water and sanitation are human rights. In fact, the right to water and sanitation is derived from the right to an adequate standard of living, which is contained in several international human rights treaties.

United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (2012), also known as RIO+20, was the third international conference on sustainable development aimed at reconciling the economic and environmental goals of the global community. It was hosted by Brazil in Rio de Janeiro from 13 to 22 June 2012. Rio+20 was a 20-year follow-up to the 1992 United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED) held in the same city, and the 10th anniversary of the WSSD 2002. It was intended to be a high-level international gathering organized to re-direct and renew global political commitment to the three dimensions of sustainable development: economic growth, social improvement and environmental protection, focusing on reducing poverty while promoting jobs growth, clean energy and more fair, sustainable uses of resources, etc.

International Year of Water Cooperation (2013) The UNGA in its 69th plenary meeting held on 20 December 2010 decided to declare 2013 as the International Year of Water Cooperation. It was intended to draw attention to the benefits of cooperation in water management in the backdrop of the rapid urbanization, climate change and growing food needs putting ever-increasing pressure on freshwater resources.

Commitments After SDGs

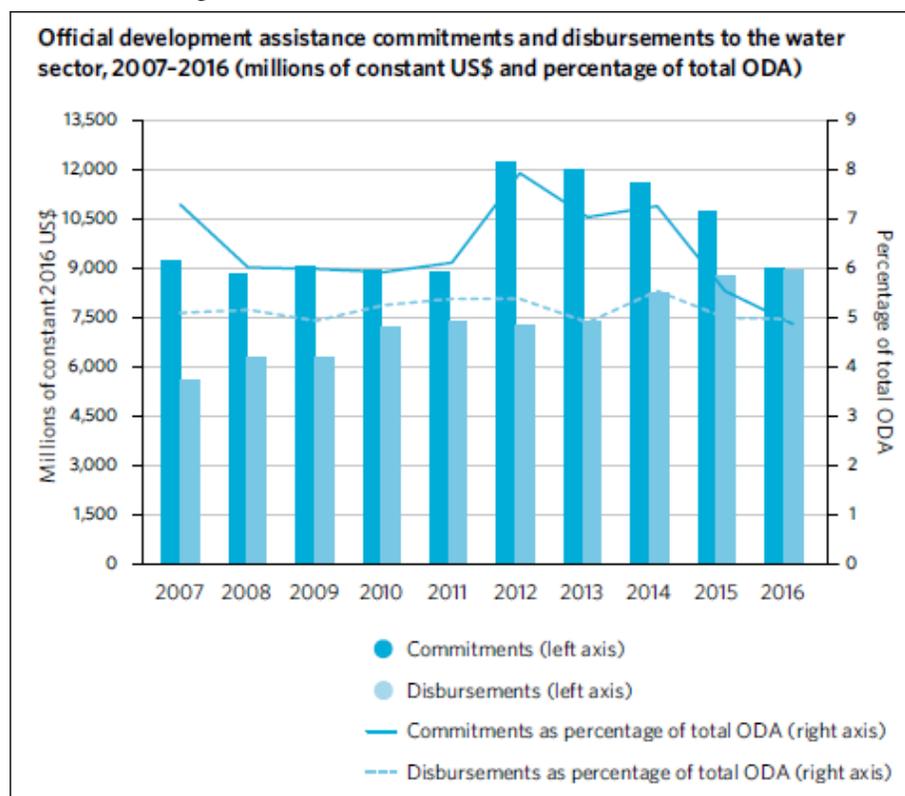
Meeting of Ministers of Sanitation, Water and Hygiene (2016) was held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, during 15-16 March 2016 under the auspices of the global partnership for Sanitation and Water for All (SWA)1 is a world-wide, multi-stakeholder movement that brings together national governments, civil society organizations, the private sector, research and learning institutions and external support agencies, to work collectively towards a vision of sanitation, hygiene and water for all, always and everywhere. The meeting adopted the AAAA that establishes a strong foundation to support the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. It provides a new global framework for financing sustainable development by aligning all financing flows and policies with economic, social and environmental priorities.

World Water Week (2018), the 28th of its kind, was organized by the Stockholm International Water Institute (SIWI) and partners in Stockholm, Sweden on 26-31 August 2018. It focused on the theme, ‘Water, Ecosystems and Human Development.’ Its aim was to inspire collaborative action and bridge science, policy and practice.

Financial Assistance Commitments

Despite steady increase of total ODA commitment and disbursement across all sectors between 2012 and 2016, actual share of ODA commitments to safe water-related activities including drinking water supply, sanitation and hygiene, agricultural water resources, flood protection and hydroelectric power, declined¹³⁵. With the declining commitments, disbursements are also expected to gradually shrink in the future. Such reduction in external assistance is feared to hamper progress towards Goal 6, while a 2017 survey found that over 80 per cent of countries reported insufficient financing to meet national water, sanitation and hygiene targets. Figure 5.1.1 below describes the scenario in details:

Figure 5.1: ODA commitments and disbursements



Source: SDG 6 - Synthesis Report on Water and Sanitation, 2018”, United Nations (2018)

135 United Nations(2018), The Sustainable Development Goals Report 2018, United Nations, New York, 2018

Prior to the launching of the SDGs, the Local Government Division of the Ministry of Local Government, Rural Development and Cooperatives prepared a Sector Development Plan (SDP) for the Water and Sanitation Sector covering the period 2011-2025 that coincides with the implementation period of the SDGs. The SDP predicts that the total investment required for successful implementation of the Plan is about BDT 1,465,400 million (equivalent to \$21,000 million) for the 15-year SDP period. It indicates that around \$1 billion would be required every year during the short-term period and more than \$1.5 billion beyond 2015.

Table 5.1: Investments required in different categories and terms of the SDP (BDT million)

| Categories | Short Term (2010-2015) | Medium Term (2016-2020) | Long Term (2021-2025) | Total |
|--------------------|---------------------------|----------------------------|--------------------------|-----------|
| Urban water supply | 165,220 | 280,467 | 269,257 | 714,945 |
| Urban sanitation | 133,999 | 173,004 | 209,361 | 516,364 |
| Rural water supply | 44,687 | 42,824 | 55,111 | 142,622 |
| Rural sanitation | 36,504 | 27,726 | 27,360 | 91,590 |
| Total | 380,410 | 524,021 | 561,089 | 1,465,520 |
| (\$ million) | 5,451 | 7,510 | 8,041 | 21,002 |

Source: Sector Development Plan (SDP) for Water Supply and Sanitation Sector in Bangladesh (FY 2011-25), Local Government Division, Ministry of Local Government, Rural Development and Cooperatives (2011)

However, allocation in the ADP for the sector could not reach \$1 billion even in FY2018-19. Public financing of water supply and sanitation sector in Bangladesh has risen from BDT 43.81 billion in FY2010-11 to BDT 68.49 billion in FY2018-19 representing an increase of 56.31% over the last eight years. It is a disproportionately low figure compared to the much bigger growth of gross domestic product, annual development program and national budget¹³⁶.

On the other hand, SDG financing strategy of the Government provides an estimate of the annual resource gap and an opportunity to revise the government interventions and public financing strategies accordingly. The Strategy estimated the additional costs for achieving SDG 6 from 2017 to 2030 at \$11.80 billion that is, \$850 million per year. Out of this amount, 20% is expected from external sources¹³⁷, that reflects around \$190 million. As shown in Table 5.2 below that foreign assistance has surpassed the requirement during the 5-year period of 2014-2018. A total of \$1,193.83 million was committed by the DPs averaging \$238.76 million per year. However, more support from the DPs may be pursued to meet the shortfall from other resources.

Table 5.2: Commitment of foreign assistance in water and sanitation sector during 2014-18

| Sl. No. | Year | No. of Projects | Amount (\$ million) |
|--------------------------------|------|-----------------|---------------------|
| A. Investment Projects: | | | |
| 1 | 2014 | 2 | 354.385 |
| 2 | 2015 | 2 | 164.478 |
| 3 | 2016 | 1 | 269.638 |
| 4 | 2017 | 5 | 293.714 |
| 5 | 2018 | 1 | 46.632 |
| Total (Investment): | | 11 | 1,128.847 |
| B. TA Projects | | | |
| 1 | 2014 | 2 | 0.445 |
| 2 | 2015 | 3 | 55.685 |
| 3 | 2016 | 1 | 3.000 |
| 4 | 2017 | 2 | 5.250 |
| 5 | 2018 | 2 | 0.605 |
| Total (TA): | | 10 | 64.985 |
| Grand Total: | | | 1,193.832 |

Data Source: Economic Relations Division, Ministry of Finance

136 The Daily Star Business Report (2019), "More funds needed for water, hygiene: NGOs", March 21, 2019

137 Shamsul Alam, Member, General Economics Division, Ministry of Planning (2018), "SDG financing and Strengthening multi-stakeholder partnerships", Paper presented at the Bangladesh Development Forum 2018

In this backdrop, it is crucially important that the Government increases allocations for Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene (WASH) sector in the ADP substantially so that the prevailing resource gap could be minimized. At the same time, 30% and 20% of the necessary funding is expected from the Private Sector and NGOs respectively. But there is no visible action on the part of the Government to ensure their participation in the process of SDG implementation.

Technical Cooperation Commitments

In the field of technical assistance, Table 5.2 above shows that a total of \$64.99 million was committed by the DPs against 10 TA projects during 2014-2018. However, proper utilization of the TA resources should be duly addressed.

However, the ERD of the Ministry of Finance has prepared a Policy on Development Cooperation wherein certain policy parameters with a view to pursue TA within a coherent policy approach to ensure sustainability of skills and knowledge have been prescribed. The Policy further emphasizes that TA shall be acquired on the basis of a comprehensive and prioritized inventory of the gaps in the country's technical capabilities.

Current Progress

National Plans or Initiatives Related to International Cooperation

The political commitment of the government to safe water supply and sanitation has been the major driving force for the WASH movement in the country. This high level of government commitment has been reflected in various policy reform initiatives to improve effectiveness and efficiency of service delivery in this sector:

Vision 2021 describes the political commitment of the Government. It vows to ensure a supply of safe water, systems for monitoring water quality, access to safe disposal of excreta, and education on good hygiene practices by 2021. To this end, the key strategies suggested were to ensure efficient public health management which can gradually provide access to piped water, a well-maintained functioning sewerage system, environmentally-sound hospitals and industrial waste disposal, etc.

7th FYP (2016-2020) targets to ensure safe water and sanitation facilities for all the citizens through the development of different water supply and sanitation options to improve quality of life and to accelerate development of the country in a sustained manner, and mobilizing resources from all sources including public and private international cooperation.

A few other policies, strategies, guidelines, frameworks and other documentation are noted below:

- o Strengthening Finance for the 7th Five Year Plan and SDGs in Bangladesh, February, 2016
- o South-South Cooperation for Financing SDGs, December 2017
- o Policy Guidelines for Allotment of Funds for Preparatory Activities of Projects, 2016
- o Bangladesh Environmental Conservation Rules, 1997
- o Water Safety Framework, 2011
- o National Policy for Safe Water Supply and Sanitation, 1998
- o National Health Policy, 2011
- o National Hygiene Promotion Strategy, 2011
- o National Strategy for water supply and sanitation, 2014
- o National Strategy for Accelerated Poverty Reduction, 2005 and 2008
- o Medium Term Budgetary Framework, 2008

- o National Water Management Plan, 2004
- o National Sanitation Strategy, 2005
- o Pro-Poor Strategy for Water and Sanitation, 2005
- o Sector Development Plan, 2011-2025
- o National Strategy for Water and Sanitation in Hard to Reach Areas of Bangladesh, 2012
- o National Hygiene Promotion Strategy for Water Supply and Sanitation in Bangladesh, 2012.
- o National Cost Sharing Strategy for Water Supply and Sanitation in Bangladesh 2012.
- o Bangladesh National Hygiene Baseline Survey 2014
- o Institutional and Regulatory Framework for Fecal Sludge Management in Bangladesh, 2015

Progress on SDG Targets with International Cooperation

SDG 6 expands its focus to include water, wastewater and ecosystem resources in addition to drinking water and basic sanitation of the MDG 7. It requires adequate investment in infrastructure, provision of sanitation facilities and encouraging hygiene at every level, protecting and restoring water-related ecosystems such as forests, mountains, wetlands and rivers to mitigate water scarcity. Comprehensive and strengthened international cooperation is needed to encourage water efficiency and support treatment technologies.

The target of international cooperation in ensuring the provision of safe water and improved sanitation facilities is made in Target 6.5: By 2030, implement integrated water resources management at all levels, including through trans-boundary cooperation as appropriate; and 6.a: By 2030, expand international cooperation and capacity-building support to developing countries in water and sanitation-related activities and programs.

In course of mobilizing necessary funds for proper implementation of SDG 6, Bangladesh was able to tap required foreign assistance. It is imperative on the part of the Government that budgetary allocations are increased taking into consideration the need of WASH sector to achieve the targets of SDG 6. However, Bangladesh is lagging far behind to achieve effective regional cooperation in the field of water sharing with its neighbors India and Myanmar. However, Bangladesh is actively working with both the Governments of India and Myanmar to achieve further breakthrough in the matter.

Cooperation on Trans-boundary Waters

Nearly 50% of the world's fresh water is in 276 river basins that cross the political borders of two or more countries home to about 40 per cent of the world's population. However, roughly two-thirds of these do not have a cooperative management framework. Cooperation over shared water resources is essential for climate change adaptation, regional stability and economic growth.

In Bangladesh, there are 310 rivers according to a survey conducted by the Bangladesh Water Development Board (BWDB). A total of 57 rivers are termed trans-boundary rivers of which 54 rivers cross Bangladesh-India border and other 3 cross Myanmar-Bangladesh border. Bangladesh has Water Sharing Treaty with India on sharing of Ganges waters and another Treaty on Teesta waters is awaiting final nod of the Indian Government.

There is a bilateral working group namely "Joint River Commission" established by India and Bangladesh in the Indo-Bangla Treaty of Friendship, Cooperation and Peace that was signed on March 19, 1972 and came into being in November, 1972. As per the treaty, the commission is assigned to work for the common interests and sharing of water resources, irrigation, floods and cyclones control. The functions of the Commission in brief are as under:

- o To hold meetings with India to discuss on sharing of waters, joint management and other pertinent issues of the trans-boundary rivers and undertake appropriate actions.
- o Monitoring and sharing of the Ganges Waters at Farakka, India and monitoring at Hardinge Bridge, Bangladesh during 1 January to 31 May every year as per provision of the Ganges Water Sharing Treaty, 1996.

There are also other forums to deal with the issue water sharing with neighboring countries, such as:

- o Bangladesh National Committee of International Commission on Irrigation and Drainage (ICID)
- o Inter-Islamic Network on Water Resources Development and Management (INWRDAM); etc.

Water is one of the most shared resources on Earth. As the climate changes and water resources become scarcer, the need for effective and equitable governance becomes ever important. While there are many international water cooperation agreements in place, disagreements and disputes also still occur. It is therefore important that societies set in place domestic, bi- and multilateral mechanisms to support peaceful and effective mediation.

The Indus Water Treaty signed in 1960 between Pakistan, India and the World Bank, has been considered as a successful venture in this regard even after six decades. It set a precedent of cooperation between India and Pakistan that has survived three wars and other hostilities between the two nations. Despite having strained relations with each other, the two countries cooperated regarding the treaty.

The most critical factor was the mediation of the World Bank, while both India and Pakistan received financial support from the Bank. By applying the ‘water rationality’ principle, both India and Pakistan cooperated because they were made to realize that their cooperation to secure the water supply in the long-term, in contrast to waging war over it, was a much better option. On the other hand, the Indus dispute was resolved by the separation of the rivers rather than by a joint development of the river system. Thus, the treaty gives India exclusive use of the eastern rivers of the Indus system – the Sutlej, Beas, Ravi, and Pakistan of the western rivers – the Jhelum, Chenab, and Indus proper.

However, in recent times, there have been instances of disagreements that have threatened the treaty. For example, Pakistan opposed the Baglihar hydropower project, on the river Chenab, undertaken by India. The Baglihar dispute was then taken to the World Bank and was resolved as per the decision of a neutral technical expert appointed by the Bank. Nevertheless, despite these concerns, the treaty continues to exist in the present time. A few lessons could be learned from two sets of Agreements, one set between Pakistan and India on the Indus river and the other between Bangladesh and India on the Ganges river. While the mediation by the World Bank proved helpful between India and Pakistan, in the case of Ganges agreement between Bangladesh and India the bilateral mechanism has worked smoothly despite the change in governments in Bangladesh and India. However, it could be worthwhile to note that under the Framework Agreement between Bangladesh and India signed in 2011 both sides agreed that a basin management approach to explore and utilize the resources of common rivers would better address the multidimensional needs of the co-riparian States.¹³⁸ It would of course demand huge amount of political good will on all sides and sustained, creative and forward-looking diplomatic efforts must be maintained to ensure that all riparian countries get their just and fair share of waters of common rivers to support sustainable livelihoods, employment, environment, connectivity and ecological balance in all those countries.

SDG 6 Achievement Prospects

Despite on-going needs in clean water and sanitation, ODA towards projects in the area has been declining in recent years. At present, GoB is under immense pressure to develop its nationwide sewerage and drainage

¹³⁸ Ministry of External Affairs, India(2011), Framework Agreement on Cooperation for Development between Government of the Republic of India and Government of People’s Republic of Bangladesh, 6 September 2011

systems, and address mounting concerns about the arsenic contamination of drinking water. It, additionally, faces the challenge of renovating and expanding aging water distribution infrastructure, and retaining control over its shares of trans-boundary water bodies.

South-south cooperation for the development of water-related infrastructure, as well as the maintenance of existing agreements and infrastructure will be essential moving forward. The GED's 2017 SDG Finance Strategy estimated that addressing the challenges will accumulate additional costs of \$0.24 billion by 2020, \$0.21 billion by 2025, and \$0.19 billion by 2030. These estimates may be low considering the wide range of work that needs to be completed to achieve SDG 6. 50% of these additional costs is anticipated to come from the public sector, while 30% from the private sector. International development partners are only expected to contribute 20%. Not only does this share need to be higher, but timely disbursements of committed amounts need to be ensured. Finally, to speed up progress, special attention must be given to increasing institutional absorptive capacity in the relevant sectors.

Goal 7: Affordable and Clean Energy

Between 2000 and 2016, the number of people with electricity increased from 78% to 87%. However, as the population continues to grow, so will the demand for cheap energy. The Goal 7: Affordable and Clean Energy targets investing in solar, wind and thermal power, improving energy productivity, and ensuring energy for all.

International Commitment

Commitment After MDGs

International Conference on Financing for Development (2002) was held in Monterrey, Mexico during 18-22 March, 2002. The outcome of the Conference was the “Monterrey Consensus” which reflected a landmark global agreement between developed and developing countries, in which both recognized their responsibilities in key areas such as trade, aid, debt relief and institution building. The “Monterrey Consensus” adopted by the Conference embodied the principle of a holistic and integrated approach to the multidimensional nature of the global development challenge.

Beijing International Renewable Energy Conference (2005) was held in Beijing, China during 7-8 November 2005 organized by the Governments of China and Germany in cooperation with the UN DESA. Over 1000 participants from 78 countries gathered from 7-8 November 2005 in China's Great Hall of the People to consider renewable energy alternatives. The conference has adopted the “Beijing Declaration on Renewable Energy for Sustainable Development” which reaffirms the commitment to “implement the outcomes of the Earth Summit, the WSSD, and the United Nations 2005 Millennium Review Summit, and to substantially increase with a sense of urgency the global share of renewable energy in the total energy supply, as called for in the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation.”

International Year of Sustainable Energy for All (2012) was designated by the General Assembly resolution 65/151. This was in recognition of the growing importance of energy for economic development and climate change mitigation. It also attempted to correct what many working on energy and development issues had for many years argued was a major error in not including action on energy poverty in the MDGs.

Decade of Sustainable Energy for All 2014-2024 Underscoring the importance of energy issues for sustainable development and for the elaboration of the post-2015 development agenda, the United Nations declared 2014-2024 as the Decade for Sustainable Energy for all. In a resolution made on 21 December 2012, the UN General Assembly called upon member states to galvanize efforts to make universal access to sustainable modern energy services a priority. The resolution stressed the need to improve access to reliable, affordable, economically viable, socially acceptable and environmentally sound energy services and resources for sustainable development.

Second International Energy Efficiency Forum (2011) was held at the Ismaili Centre in Dushanbe, Tajikistan during 12-14 September 2011 organized jointly by the Government of Tajikistan, the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) and the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP). The Forum emphasized upon regional cooperation in both energy and water resources management that would help to overcome constraints in economic cooperation and energy security.

South African International Renewable Energy Conference (2015) was a meeting of senior-level representatives from the Executive and Legislative branches of government at the national and sub-national level, international organizations, the finance and business community, and civil society who are working to advance the integration of renewable energy in their countries. During 4-7 October 2015, South Africa became the sixth country, and the first in Africa, to host the International Renewable Energy Conference (IREC). The South African International Renewable Energy Conference – SAIREC 2015 – provided a global platform for government ministers, high-level decision makers, experts, specialists and thought leaders, as well as private sector players and civil society, to discuss and exchange their vision, experiences and solutions to accelerate the global scale-up of renewable energy.

Commitments After SDGs

United Nations Sustainable Development Summit (2015) was held from 25 to 27 September 2015, in New York and convened as a high-level plenary meeting of the General Assembly. The Summit adopted the Sustainable Development Goals that present a historic opportunity to bring the countries and citizens of the world together to decide and embark on new paths to improve the lives of people everywhere. The new agenda, Transforming Our World: 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, consists of a Declaration, 17 Sustainable Development Goals and 169 targets, was agreed by the 193 Member States of the UN.

8th International Forum on Energy for Sustainable Development (2017), combined with a ministerial meeting followed by a high-level plenary session with parallel workshops, was held in Astana, Kazakhstan during 11 - 14 June 2017. It reflected on the agreements and activities to date and further pursue a common agenda towards meeting the challenge of sustainable energy for all. It reaffirmed the importance of energy collaboration among countries for tackling common energy challenges and shaping a sustainable energy future for all.

Global SDG 7 Conference (2018) was held in ESCAP, Bangkok, during 21-23 February 2018 to prepare substantive input on review of SDG7 during the High-Level Political Forum in 2018. It intends to facilitate exchange of lessons, insights and experiences to-date among member states and all stakeholders and consider challenges and opportunities for furthering progress towards 2030.

Financial Assistance Commitments

At the global level, finance for electricity in the 20 high-impact countries averaged \$30.2 billion per year over 2015-16, a \$10.8 billion increase from the annual investment in 2013-14. However, this figure remains slower than the required annual investment of \$52 billion needed to provide universal electricity access by 2030 in those countries. However, public international finance declined from \$10.5 billion in 2013-14 to \$8.8 billion in 2015-16, while private international finance more than doubled from the 2013-14 amount to reach \$2.9 billion in 2015-16 attributable to international financing for IPP projects in different countries. Consequently, the share of private funding in the overall energy finance commitments almost doubled, from an average of 36% in 2013-14 to 60% in 2015-16.

Within the public sector, international financing from various institutions in absolute terms remained broadly the same over 2013-14 and 2015-16, changing only in the overall percentage. Multilateral development finance institutions (DFIs) remained the largest provider of public finance, with 13% in 2015-16 (21% in

2013-14). These are followed by bilateral DFIs and export promotion agencies/EXIM banks with 8% and 6%, respectively¹³⁹.

According to International Energy Agency (IEA) and the International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA), energy sector investment related to all SDG 7 targets will need to more than double in order to achieve these goals. Between 2018 and 2030, annual average investment will need to reach approximately \$55 billion to expand energy access, about \$700 billion to increase renewable energy, and \$600 billion to improve energy efficiency¹⁴⁰.

Bangladesh Position

Bangladesh will require investment of about \$35 billion in the power generation sector by 2041. Although substantial progress could be achieved in generation capacity along with expansion of transmission and distribution networks, the financing gap remains large and the investment needs are challenging. Total investment requirements in energy sector (power plus primary energy) add up to 2.5 percent of GDP per year, of which it is estimated that the public sector will only cover 1.7 percent per year on average. Private sector investments in the energy sector for 2015–2020 will be mainly pursued through Public-Private Partnership (PPP)s and should account for at least 1 percent of GDP per year in this period. Share of ODA in GDP has been generally declining. Therefore, the need for intensifying current efforts and venturing newer avenues has become an exigency.

Official Development Assistance (ODA): ODA can play a strategic role to support Bangladesh in the transition needed to build capacities in key areas. The 7th FYP of Bangladesh forecasted an annual average ODA inflow of \$3,069.8 million as shown in Table 5.3.

Table 5.3: Forecasted net ODA for the 7th FYP in millions \$

| FY | 2015 | 2016 | 2017 | 2018 | 2019 | 2020 | Average FY2016–2020 |
|---------|-------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------------------|
| Net ODA | 1,534 | 3,053.5 | 2,937.0 | 3,069.0 | 3,124.9 | 3,164.6 | 3,069.8 |

Source: ERD, MoF, “Strengthening Finance for the 7th FYP and SDGs in Bangladesh”, Findings From an Independent Development Finance Assessment (2016).

It is obvious that building strong domestic institutions to support the effective use of ODA at the national level will be the key to achieving a sustainable and lasting development impact for all. However, ODA should support all developing countries according to their diverse conditions and needs while focusing on countries with greater challenges and less capacity to mobilize their own resources.

Bangladesh has estimated that it needs \$4.82 billion, \$4.40 billion, \$3.86 billion and \$3.43 billion every year in 2017, 2020, 2025 and 2020 respectively¹⁴¹. The actual commitment of foreign aid in the energy sector is shown in Table 5.4 below. Bangladesh received total commitment of \$17.66 billion during 2014-18 representing an annual average of \$3.53 billion. But if the block fund commitment of \$11.38 billion for Rooppur Nuclear Power project is excluded, a total of \$6.28 billion was committed by the DPs during the five-year period. Thereby annual average fund commitment by the DPs for the energy sector stands at \$1.26 billion which is far below the expectations of the Government.

Table 5.4: Commitment of foreign assistance in energy sector during 2014-18

| Sl. No. | Year | No. of Projects | Amount (\$ million) | Remarks |
|--------------------------------|------|-----------------|---------------------|---------|
| A. Investment projects: | | | | |
| 1 | 2014 | 7 | 1,853.85 | |

139 Sustainable Energy for All, “Energizing Finance: Understanding The Landscape”, 2018

140 “Tracking SDG7(2019), The Energy Progress Report 2019” Jointly Published By IEA, IRENA, UNSD, World Bank and WHO.

141 GED, (2017) SDG Financing Strategy: Bangladesh Perspective, June 2017

| | | | | |
|----------------------------|------|----|-----------|---|
| 2 | 2015 | 4 | 523.124 | |
| 3 | 2016 | 8 | 1,552.04 | |
| 4 | 2017 | 7 | 12,402.40 | including \$11.38 billion for Rooppur Nuclear Power project |
| 5 | 2018 | 4 | 1,248.75 | |
| Total (Investment): | | 30 | 17,580.15 | |
| B. TA Projects: | | | | |
| 1 | 2014 | 4 | 32.15 | |
| 2 | 2015 | 4 | 18.80 | |
| 3 | 2016 | 3 | 6.85 | |
| 4 | 2017 | 8 | 25.34 | |
| 5 | 2018 | - | - | |
| Total (TA) | | | | |
| Total | | | | |

Data Source: Economic Relations Division, Ministry of Finance

Multiple large-scale renewable energy projects, i.e. installation of solar home system and biogas plant, have been jointly funded by the World Bank, GIZ, KfW, ADB, GPOBA, JICA, USAID, DFID through Infrastructure Development Company Limited (IDCOL).

Aid Effectiveness: The low level of disbursement as a share of commitments is currently a policy concern. According to analysis conducted by ERD, disbursement rates as a share of actual allocations is around 90% per annum. Given the major investment needs of the country and since growth is constrained by investment, there is space for the Government to make better use of its ODA resources. Moreover, message should reach the DPs that the amount of foreign aid is being effectively utilized.

The Government of Bangladesh established the Joint Cooperation Strategy in 2010, which serves as a formal mechanism of partnership with DPs working in Bangladesh. Its primary aim is to help implement international commitments on aid effectiveness. The local consultative group, which is anchored in the Joint Cooperation Strategy, is the main coordination platform between 18 DPs and the Government of Bangladesh. To strengthen aid coordination and effectiveness, the local consultative group includes 18 working groups focused on a specific development priority. Meetings of Working Groups are held as and when required. The Bangladesh Development Forum (BDF) meeting takes place once in around every 5 years.

Access to Green Development Financing: Foreign assistances in the form of Food Aid and Commodity Aid have already vanished. In line with this changing pattern of aid composition, the share of multilateral sources of ODA has increased to 63% while bilateral assistance declined to 37% over the same period. The share of ODA in GDP fell sharply since 2009 and was only 1.4% in 2017 as percentage of GNI¹⁴². In this backdrop, Bangladesh should have access to Green Development Funds as the most convenient and the best alternative source. However, following are the steps to be taken by the Government to access green development finance sources¹⁴³:

- o Improving institutional capacity in the area of environmental and social safeguard policy and practices;
- o Improve EIA practices at both project and program level;
- o Enhance the fiduciary standards and project management capacities;
- o Prepare well designed and credible bankable projects or programs to be forwarded for funding, etc.

¹⁴² The World Bank

¹⁴³ <http://www.thedailystar.net/op-ed/challenges-and-opportunities-63251>

South-South Cooperation (SSC) Bangladesh receives development cooperation from a number of non-traditional sources, such as, China, India, Islamic Republic of Iran, Kuwait, Malaysia, Saudi Arabia, Turkey and United Arab Emirates under the umbrella of South-South Cooperation. So far, Bangladesh has mobilized \$2.16 billion from non-traditional donors out of which \$1.34 billion is loan and \$819 million are grants. Existing ties with the multilateral funding institutions of the South need to be further strengthened for greater cooperation.

Technical Cooperation Commitments

Building human and institutional capacity within a country helps the government implement more effective policies, leading to better economic outcomes. To that end, a total of 117 TA projects are included in the ADP 2018-19. Bangladesh received TA support worth \$83.129 million during last 5 years (2014-18).

For the energy sector, TA support is received mainly from multilateral sources. The World Bank, the Asian Development Bank, UNDP, etc. are the providers of technical assistance to Bangladesh. In addition, Bangladesh receives technical assistance under the South-South Cooperation mainly from China, India and Malaysia through scholarships and training programs. By the way, they share their development experiences and expertise with Bangladesh.

Institutional capacity development is recognized as a long-term agenda. Therefore, the Government should be cautious in selecting TA proposals. Especially, the following issues need to be taken care of:

- o The project shall provide strong technical, financial, management and procurement support with high quality global technical, financial and legal expertise.
- o The objectives of the project shall be highly relevant to the Bangladesh priorities that require a sustainable, broad-based development program including conventional new capacity, rehabilitation of older capacity, and additional natural gas supply.
- o The project shall contribute to creating a favorable investment climate and attracting more private capital to the energy sector.
- o The project shall focus on improving policy and regulatory frameworks, developing capacity in the energy sector to accelerate the institutional and policy reforms program, improve utility finances, and create an enabling institutional framework to revitalize the service providers.
- o There should be flexibility in adjusting project activities in response to obstacles and a changing country environment.
- o Utilities in both electricity and gas sectors benefitted from improved financial, planning, and operational performance, customer service and an enabling environment.

Capacity Building Commitments

To promote access to clean energy, and a wider deployment of energy efficiency and renewable energy technologies and services, capacity-building strategies and activities include knowledge transfer, technology cooperation, policy advice, investment measures, technical know-how transfer, learning by doing, pilot programs and training of staff is a must. The Government must take the lead in developing human and institutional capacities in support of the energy transformation, advanced through a coordinated approach by development partners.

National focal institutions have to be designated and adequate resources should be provided to them. These institutions would have responsibility for undertaking integrated capacity-building needs assessments at various levels, involving policymakers, the private sector, academia and communities, determining the delivery mechanisms, and putting in place exacting monitoring and dynamic tracking mechanisms.

In line with the global conventions that contribute to SDG 7 directly and indirectly, specific programs

targeting capacity-building have been funded by the Global Environment Facility. In addition, many bilateral agencies, multilateral development banks and UN agencies support national capacity-building measures through programs for knowledge transfer, technology cooperation, policy advice and investment measures, or a combination of know-how transfer, training of local staff and preparation of studies. Intensive efforts are required to avail such opportunities by the Government.

Current Progress

National Commitments and Plans on Sustainable Energy for All

The crosscutting issues of the provision of sustainable energy for all have been addressed in different national policies and strategies that seek to implement an overall vision of the society which would ensure affordable, reliable and modern energy services for all citizens. Some of the important strategies and plans aimed at providing energy services to the people are described below:

Commitment on Climate Change Issues Bangladesh's contribution to the global warming is minimal. Its emissions are less than 0.35% of the global total. Yet it showed great commitment to build a low carbon future. Bangladesh has pledged to cut emissions by 5% from business-as-usual level by FY2030 from the high emission sectors like power, transport and industry. The target would be increased to 15% with adequate international assistance in the form of financial and technical assistance and capacity building.

Vision 2021 GoB is committed to achieving its main objective of Vision 2021 – the vision to build a society free from poverty and social disparity. The Vision 2021 aims to ensure uninterrupted power supply all over the country by 2021. It also delineated the critically important nature of foreign assistance in the development of primary and secondary energy. It also contained plans to integrate into a regional energy market.

Perspective Plan of Bangladesh (2011)¹⁴⁴ replicates the political will of the Government as mentioned in Vision 2021. It provides the detailed plan of the Government on how to reach the goal of “Electricity for All by 2021”. It also emphasizes on and details the approaches of the Government towards greater regional and international cooperation in the field of sustainable energy development.

SREDA Act (2012) was initiated to make provisions for the establishment of the Sustainable and Renewable Energy Development Authority (SREDA) to ensure energy security. Prior to SREDA, different ministries and departments were working on renewable energy projects. SREDA was formed as an authoritative organization to coordinate the development of the renewable energy in the country.

7th FYP (2016-2020) pronounces firm commitment of the Government regarding the need for international cooperation in achieving the target of “Electricity for All by the Year 2021” in line with the spirit of the Vision 2021. Specific targets of the 7th FYP in the energy sector are as follows:

- o Installed Generation Capacity of electricity to be increased to 23,000 MW by 2020
- o Ensure energy mix for energy security
- o Electricity coverage to be increased to 96 per cent with uninterrupted supply to industries
- o Reduce system loss from 13% to 9%, improve energy efficiency and conservation
- o Completion of the following high Priority Mega Projects:
 - o LNG terminal project;
 - o Rooppur Nuclear Power Plant Project;
 - o Rampal Coal Power Project;
 - o Matarbari Coal Power Project; etc.

144 https://bangladesh.gov.bd/sites/default/files/files/bangladesh.gov.bd/page/6dca6a2a_9857_4656_bce6_139584b7f160/Perspective-Plan-of-Bangladesh.pdf

Progress on SDG Targets with International Cooperation

Bangladesh has prepared an Action Plan for up to 2030 including national mid-term and long-term development plans and describing the policy strategies for achieving the targets of SDG 7¹⁴⁵. Power System Master Plan has been prepared in 2016 to manage synchronized development of the sector up to 2041. However, to meet the growing demand as a result of accelerated economic growth and structural transformation of the economy poses a great challenge for the Government. Bangladesh targeted to achieve “Electricity for All” by the year 2021, 50th year of its independence, well ahead of the target of SDG 7, and is well-poised to reach power generation capacity of 24,000 MW and ensure electricity for all by 2021. However, despite impressive progress in capacity addition in recent years, share of renewable energy in the energy mix could not achieve expected growth.

Goal 7 has 5 targets and 6 indicators. It intends to ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all by the year 2030. This will not only guide to fulfill the targets but also to improve quality of services or system improvement. The targets and indicators of this goal are the following:

Table 5.5: Targets and indicators of Goal 7

| Goal | Targets | Indicators |
|--|---|--|
| Goal 7: Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all | 7.a By 2030, enhance international cooperation to facilitate access to clean energy research and technology, including renewable energy, energy efficiency and advanced and cleaner fossil-fuel technology, and promote investment in energy infrastructure and clean energy technology | 7.a.1 Mobilized amount of United States dollars per year starting in 2020 accountable towards the \$100 billion commitment |

Source: Tier Classification for Global SDG Indicators, UNStats (2019)

Target 7.a: By 2030, enhance international cooperation to facilitate access to clean energy research and technology, including renewable energy, energy efficiency and advanced and cleaner fossil-fuel technology, and promote investment in energy infrastructure and clean energy technology

Indicator 7.a.1: Mobilized amount of United States dollars per year starting in 2020 accountable towards the \$100 billion commitment

ERD is the lead Division of the Government for mobilizing external resources in the form of development cooperation from different sources. ERD has formulated a “National Policy on Development Cooperation (NPDC)” to ensure predictable and beneficial development cooperation, Bangladesh could mobilize \$17.66 billion of foreign assistance during 2014-2018 including \$11.38 billion for Rooppur Nuclear Power project. ERD will endeavor to mobilize additional resources from foreign sources to achieve the target.

SDG 7 Achievement Prospects

The rapid depletion of Bangladesh’s natural gas reserves coupled with its rising demand for energy has resulted in an overdependence on highly polluting coal and imported LNG. Faced with rising fuel costs and greenhouse gas emissions, it is imperative that Bangladesh takes significant measures to systematical transition from non-renewable to clean and renewable energy sources. A lack of a policy framework prioritizing clean energy, technical knowledge and infrastructure, and unfeasibly high costs are some of the reasons impeding progress in this area. All this combined with gradual decline in international ODA towards this clean energy projects do not bode well for Bangladesh’s prospects in achieving SDG 7.

The GED’s 2018 SDG Finance Strategy estimated that additional costs to address these challenges would amount to \$1.05 billion by 2020, \$0.93 billion by 2025, and \$0.82 billion by 2030. However, these figures might be inadequate considering the huge expense associated with renewable energy infrastructure and capacity building. The Strategy further postulated that 20 percent from public sector, 60% from private sector, 10

145 SDG Implementation Action Plan for Power Division up to 2030

percent from PPPs and 10% from external sources. So far, the largest international commitment mobilized in the area of clean energy has been for the Rooppur Power Plant. If significant progress is to be made towards achieving SDG 7, the GoB must diversify the projects for which it mobilizes international development cooperation. Areas requiring prioritization include the incentivisation of clean energy utilization in the private sector, and the integration of solar, wind and hydroelectric power in the national grid.

Goal 9: Industry, Innovation, and Infrastructure

At present, more than 4 billion people do not have access to the internet and 90% of them are from the developing world. Additionally, with half of the world population now living in cities, mass transport and renewable energy are becoming even more important. The Goal 9: Industry, Innovation, and Infrastructure to ensure equal access to information, as well as foster innovation and entrepreneurship.

International Commitments

Commitment After MDGs

Istanbul Programme of Action (2011)'s first priority is building productive capacity in Infrastructure, Energy, Science, technology and innovation, Private sector development. This is aligned with the targets of SDG 9.

Future we Want (2012) is one among the major groups to be involved in the promotion of sustainable development, paragraph 43 includes business and industry. Industries as well as other major groups and stakeholders are identified as actors contributing to decision-making, planning and implementation of policies and programs for sustainable development at all levels. Paragraph 46 reiterates the need to actively engage both the public and private sectors as well as to promote the active participation of the private sector to ensure implementation of sustainable development.

Lima Declaration (2013) acknowledges the importance of industrialization as a driver of development. Paragraph 2 of the Lima Declaration reads: "industrialization is a driver of development. Industry increases productivity, job creation and generates income, thereby contributing to poverty eradication and addressing other development goals, as well as providing opportunities for social inclusion, including gender equality, empowering women and girls and creating decent employment for the youth. As industry develops, it drives an increase of value addition and enhances the application of science, technology and innovation, therefore encouraging greater investment in skills and education, and thus providing the resources to meet broader, inclusive and sustainable development objectives."

Commitments After SDGs

*Addis Ababa Action Agenda (2015)*¹⁴⁶ promotes inclusive and sustainable industrialization, the generation of full and productive employment and decent work for all as well as the promotion of micro, small and medium-size enterprises are the cross-cutting areas related to sustainable industrial development. Paragraphs 15 and 16 of the AAAA respectively focus on "promoting inclusive and sustainable industrialization" and on "generating full and productive employment and decent work for all and promoting micro, small and medium-size enterprises.

The Paris Agreement (2016) is an agreement within the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change which attempts to address climate change. Current industries and infrastructure norms require an overhaul to restrict the temperature within safer limits. Thus, green technology must be adopted across the board.

146 https://www.un.org/esa/ffd/wp-content/uploads/2015/08/AAAA_Outcome.pdf

Financial Assistance Commitments

Presently, only about half the required amount is being allocated to building resilient infrastructure.¹⁴⁷ The members of the Infrastructure Development Finance Company committed \$95 billion to green financing in 2012. A majority of such financing is directed towards developing countries. Their commitment to green finance increased to \$173 billion in 2016 and \$220 billion in 2017. This fund is committed to projects in energy, transport, and industrial pollution among others. Additionally, the Green Bank Network's member banks invested \$7.6 billion throughout 2016 and supported \$25.9 billion in clean energy projects.

Capacity Building Commitments

UN Road Safety Trust Fund (2018) was formed in 2018 in order to reduce fatalities and injuries from road accidents and further reduce the adverse economic effect of the accidents. The trust fund raised around \$17 million to work on capacity development, technical assistance and data collection.

Global Infrastructure Connectivity Alliance (GICA, 2016) was hosted by the World Bank Hub for Infrastructure and Development. GICA works across regions to promote cooperation, exchange knowledge and finance infrastructure for global connectivity.¹⁴⁸

Current Progress

National Plans or Initiatives Related to International Cooperation

The GDP growth rate in Bangladesh receives big contribution from industries. The manufacturing sector, a big part of the industry, contributes disproportionately towards its exports. In 2010, 95% of the exports from the country came from the manufacturers. Promoting favorable industrialization and addressing global and regional cooperation is part of the government's development agenda as stated in the 7th 5 Year Plan. By 2020, the target for manufacturing sector's contribution to the GDP is 25.1%, up from 17.78% achieved in 2015. Comparatively, Vision 2021 targeted the export contribution of manufacturing sector to be at 27%. The growth of industry is targeted to be 10.9%. During the last five years of the MDGs, this growth increased from 7.03% to 9.6%.

Table 5.6: Average decadal sectoral growth rates (2005-2006 base year)

| | 1981-1989 | 1990-1999 | 2010-2015 |
|---------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| Manufacturing | 4.7 | 7.2 | 9.3 |
| Large Scale | 4.6 | 7.3 | 9.7 |
| Small Scale | 5.4 | 6.8 | 7.6 |
| Industry | 5.6 | 7.0 | 8.8 |

Source: 7th FYP

Infrastructure: According to Vision 2021, Bangladesh requires an annual \$24 billion investment in infrastructure to become a stable middle-income country by 2021. Between 2016-2018, all closed transportation sector transaction value has been financed through public sector financing, while public sector financing account for 65% of all announced financial transaction within the period. As of September 2018, transaction activity in Bangladesh stood at \$46 billion, a big jump from \$3.4 billion in 2015.¹⁴⁹

The government has approved a BDT2.03 trillion for its 2019 budget. The transport sector infrastructure finance has been allocated over 25% of this (BDT582 billion), the majority, followed by the power sector (BDT260.17 billion). Of the total, BDT1.3 trillion will come from domestic sources, BDT718 billion from

147 ODI (2019) Financing the sustainable urban future

148 GICA "What is the Global Infrastructure Connectivity Alliance?" Retrieved on 14/7/19 from <https://www.gica.global/about-us/what-global-infrastructure-connectivity-alliance>

149 AIIB (2019) Asian Infrastructure Finance 2019

external sources and BDT124 billion from autonomous bodies.¹⁵⁰ IDCOL and Bangladesh Infrastructure Finance Fund Limited (BIFFL) are two of the government owned non-bank financial institutions which facilitate investment in infrastructure and green projects to fill the financing gap in infrastructure sector.

In the power sector, by 2015, access to electricity had increased to 72%, an increase of 24% in the span of 5-years. Infrastructure investment in the transmission and distribution of electricity played a significant role in enhancing access. The National Highway under RHD in ‘Good and fair’ condition increased from 66% to 76% (National Highways, 62% average) percent under the 6th FYP, while the next phase targets 85% by 2020. This is well below the 2015 target of 95%.

Science and Technology Development Trust Act (2011) called for 2% of the GNP to be allocated into research and development, and further international cooperation to combat common problems. Small and big industries have been identified as one of the potential sector to focus research on. Furthermore, development of a Science and Technology Development Trust was proposed with the purpose of spreading knowledge and awareness among the students and other section of the society.¹⁵¹

Bangladesh Public Private Partnership Act (2015) has been enacted to facilitate the development of core sector public infrastructure and services vital for the people of Bangladesh. The priority is increased investment in infrastructure which is essential for sustainable economic growth. It further provides a robust legal framework to attract the interest of national and international private sector investors to join in partnership with the government in building and upgrading core infrastructure assets.

Industrial Policy (2016) has been reshaped to implement the perspective plans 2021 and 2041. In order to diversify from ready-made garments, priority has been given to agriculture, food processing and agri-machinery, jute, ICT and software, light engineering and pharmaceutical. Area based development has also been focused on more and as a part of the initiative, Economic Zones are to be set up around the country.

Road Master Plan (2010-30) is the guiding document for investment in road sector for the next 20 years. The objectives include protecting the value of RHD assets, increase connectivity, and improve road safety among others.¹⁵²

Progress on SDG Targets with International Cooperation

Table 5.7: Targets and indicators for Goal 9

| Target | Indicator | Tier (IAEG-SDG) ¹⁵³ |
|--|---|--------------------------------|
| 9.1: Develop quality, reliable, sustainable and resilient infrastructure, including regional and trans-border infrastructure, to support economic development and human well-being, with a focus on affordable and equitable access for all | 9.1.1: Proportion of the rural population who live within 2 km of an all-season road | Tier II Data not available |
| | 9.1.2: Passenger and freight volumes, by mode of transport | Tier I Somewhat available |
| 9.a: Facilitate sustainable and resilient infrastructure development in developing countries through enhanced financial, technological and technical support to African countries, least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing States | 9.a.1: Total official international support (official development assistance plus other official flows) to infrastructure | Tier I Data Available |

Source: Tier Classification for Global SDG Indicators, UNStats (2019)

Target 9.1: Develop quality, reliable, sustainable and resilient infrastructure, including regional and trans-border infrastructure, to support economic development and human well-being, with a focus on affordable and equitable access for all.

150 <https://bdnews24.com/economy/2019/05/21/bangladesh-approves-over-tk-2-trillion-development-budget>

151 MoST (2011) National Science and Technology Policy 2011

152 RHD (2009) Road Master Plan

153 Updated Tier Classification by IAEG

The Global Competitiveness Report ranked Bangladesh 111th and 121st in the quality of roads and road connectivity respectively.¹⁵⁴ Of the 140 countries, Bangladesh had a rank of 109 in overall infrastructure, an increase from rank 130 in 2014-15.

Indicator 9.1.1: Proportion of the rural population who live within 2 km of an all-season road

The Global Indicator Framework suggests ‘proportion of the rural population who live within 2 km of all-season road’ as an indicator for target 9.1. However, as data is not collected, the road density per 100 square km has been substituted in the first progress report on SDGs.

Table 5.8: Road density per 100 square kilometers

| 2000 | 2015 | 2016 | 2017 |
|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| 14.09 | 14.48 | 14.45 | 14.61 |

Source: Bangladesh SDGs Progress Report 2018, GED

The increasing trend indicates increasing connectivity and further increase is expected as the GoB has initiated work on several big infrastructure projects.

Indicator 9.1.2: Manufacturing employment as a proportion of total employment

Passenger and freight volume is yet another indicator to measure access of infrastructure to the populace. Table 5.9 lists passengers and freight carried by railway between 2010 and 2017, while Table 5.10 shows the passengers carried by air according to destination in 2013 and 2017. Table 5.11 gives a similar list of passengers using inland waterway system. The measures show increasing number in both passengers and freight carried (rail). While better infrastructure has increased the access, the increasing economic activity of the country has also contributed to travelling, both within and out of the country.

Table 5.9: Freight and passengers carried by railway

| Fiscal Year | Freight Carried ('000 Tons) | Passenger Number ('000) |
|-------------|-----------------------------|-------------------------|
| 2010 | 2,714 | 65,627 |
| 2011 | 2,558 | 63,536 |
| 2012 | 2,192 | 66,139 |
| 2013 | 2,011 | 65,022 |
| 2014 | 2,524 | 64,958 |
| 2015 | 2,555 | 67,342 |
| 2016 | 2,486 | 70,831 |
| 2017 | 3,877 | 77,807 |

Table 5.10: Passengers carried by air¹⁵⁵

| Passengers by Destination | 2013 | 2017 |
|---------------------------|-----------|-----------|
| International Destination | 5,231,580 | 6,388,050 |
| Domestic Destination | 648,019 | 1,067,537 |

Source: Daily Star

Table 5.11: Passengers using inland waterway

| Year | 2011-12 | 2012-13 | 2013-14 | 2014-15 | 2015-16 |
|-----------------------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|
| Passengers (Millions) | 350.98 | 250.25 | 156.03 | 169.16 | 211.88 |

Source: Bangladesh Inland Water Transport Authority

¹⁵⁴ WEF (2018) The Global Competitiveness Report 2018

¹⁵⁵ <https://www.thedailystar.net/backpage/news/tourist-destinations-air-tickets-difficult-come-1678480>

Target 9.a: Facilitate sustainable and resilient infrastructure development in developing countries through enhanced financial, technological and technical support to African countries, least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing States

Although members of the Development Assistance Committee of the OECD have committed 0.7 percent of their GNI, the actual share is well below that proportion. Infrastructure financing requires large external flow of resource as infrastructure investment requirement alone reach up to an annual \$1.5 trillion in emerging and developing countries.¹⁵⁶ Table 5.12 shows the total ODA flow into economic infrastructure sector in the developing region was almost constant from 2014 to 2017, however, the investment in transport sector increased.

Table 5.12: Total ODA Flow into Economic Infrastructure (global)

| Year | 2014 | 2015 | 2017 |
|--------------------|------|------|------|
| ODA (\$Billions) | 59.5 | 57.0 | 59.0 |
| of which Transport | - | 19.0 | 21.6 |

Source: Progress Report UN Secretary General

Indicator 9.a.1: Total official international support (official development assistance plus other official flows) to infrastructure

Development partners have long helped finance the infrastructures projects in Bangladesh. The ambition of current infrastructure projects is quite large and necessitate foreign funds. Since the beginning of 2015, JICA was involved in financing six out of the top ten projects according to disbursement. Their involvement has been more noticeable in the road sector. ADB has also been an important development partner to Bangladesh regarding their contribution to the railway sector. The ongoing and closed projects of ADB since 2009 to 2018 in the transport sector (Roads and Bridges, Railway, Urban, Port) amounts to almost \$3.5 billion.

Meanwhile in the power sector, the WB, JICA and ADB's presence has been notable. One of the projects which will lead to trade of electricity is the SASEC Second Bangladesh-India Electrical Grid Interconnection Project, which will increase energy cooperation with India. Table 5.13 lists the aid disbursed to transport, power, energy and Science and ICT sectors, of which, Transport and Power has disproportionately high allocation. Notably, the total disbursed aid amount in 2015, 2016, 2017 and 2018 were \$3,043 million, \$3,563 million, \$3,677 million and \$6,369 million against commitments of \$5,258 million, \$7,048 million, \$17,961 million and \$14,898 million respectively.¹⁵⁷

Table 5.13: Aid disbursement to different sectors

| Sector | 2015 | 2016 | 2017 | 2018 |
|------------------------------------|--------|--------|--------|--------|
| Transport (\$Millions) | 243.51 | 283.33 | 705.92 | 389.23 |
| Power (\$Millions) | 362.29 | 562.40 | 510.79 | 953.43 |
| Energy ¹⁵⁸ (\$Millions) | 3.77 | 4.27 | 37.93 | 71.13 |
| Science and ICT (\$Millions) | 23.56 | 0.22 | - | - |
| % of total disbursement | 20.81 | 23.86 | 34.12 | 22.19 |

Source: Aid Information Management System

Example of international partnership in Bangladesh:

International cooperation in building infrastructure is imperative for international trade and economic activity. Global connectivity plans such as the Belt and Road Initiative and Free and Open Indo-Pacific

¹⁵⁶ World Bank (2015)

¹⁵⁷ ERD (2018). Summary of Aid Commitment and Disbursement.

https://erd.portal.gov.bd/sites/default/files/files/erd.portal.gov.bd/page/b09c0301_8d15_49e1_8af9_3231f08b8ad8/Tbl-3.0%20%281%29.pdf

¹⁵⁸ Energy comprises of Oil, Gas and Natural Resources

strategy are being planned and partially implemented. Bangladesh may join such initiative and utilize its trade routes fully. However, it must not fall into debt trap while joining international partners. Examples of partnership for Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure include the following:

- o While projects such as the Mass Rapid Transit address connectivity within the country, there also have been some which enhance international trade routes. Financed by the ADB, OPEC Fund for International Development and Abu Dhabi Fund, the Bangladesh: South Asia Sub-regional Economic Cooperation Road Connectivity Project's purpose is to build the capacity of Dhaka-Northwest corridor. Studies have shown that improvement of the priority regional transport corridors in Bangladesh will facilitate the movement of around 18 million tons of freight. In addition to boosting the national economy, this will also enhance regional cooperation.¹⁵⁹
- o The Cross-Border Road Network Improvement Project financed by JICA is set to improve national and regional transportation and logistics network in Bangladesh. Developing major international roads in Bangladesh will expedite trade and growth in the South Asia region as a whole.
- o Japan have been awarded land in the Araihaazar Economic Zone¹⁶⁰, while India has been given land in Bagerhat, Kushtia and Mirsharai economic zones¹⁶¹. The funds to develop these areas are also coming from Japan and India. Industrial units in the economic zones will be crucial in providing employment and boosting economic activity in said regions. These economic zones are established and managed by the Bangladesh Economic Zones Authority (BEZA) which has been instituted in 2010 by the GoB to facilitate local and foreign investment in manufacturing.
- o SASEC Railway Connectivity: Akhaura-Laksam Double Track Project is an ADB financed project which will develop a 72 km corridor, part of a sub-regional corridor and the Trans-Asia Railway Network¹⁶². As stated in the GoB's 6th 5 Year Plan, the highest priority is given to building the capacity of the Dhaka Chittagong corridor, which accounts for 40% of all railway passengers in Bangladesh.

SDG 9 Achievement Prospects

Bangladesh's achievement of SDG 9 hinges on the attainment of universal access to information, and the cultivation of innovation and entrepreneurship. Increasing internet and banking literacy, and creating an enabling business environment will be crucial moving forward. Also important are continued efforts to enhance domestic and trans-boundary connectivity through the development and routine maintenance of resilient infrastructure and increased accountability of transport authorities.

The GED's SDG Finance Strategy estimated that achieving SDG 9 would require additional costs of \$6.61 billion by 2020, \$8.48 billion by 2025, and \$11.29 billion by 2030. 20% of these costs is expected to come from the public sector, 60% from private sector, and only 10% from PPPs and another 10 percent from external sources. It must be noted that the development resilient infrastructure, and cultivation of innovation and entrepreneurship requires close collaboration and cooperation between public and private sectors, so the contribution of PPPs may have to be revised. Furthermore, the estimated contribution of external sources i.e. international development partners is too low in this projection. International cooperation already plays a central role in infrastructure development in Bangladesh. The GoB will need additional assistance in the future to maintain existing infrastructure, technical assistance, and capacity building with regards to regional connectivity and road safety.

159 ADB Project Data Sheet <https://www.adb.org/projects/40540-014/main#project-pds>

160 Daily Tribune (2019) "Japan to get 500 acres for economic zone in Narayanganj" retrieved from <https://www.dhakatribune.com/business/2019/03/23/japan-to-get-500-acres-for-economic-zone-in-narayanganj>

161 Daily Star (2018) "Land acquired for Indian economic zones" retrieved on 14/07/19 from <https://www.thedailystar.net/business/economy/land-acquired-indian-economic-zones-1553413>

162 ADB. <https://www.adb.org/projects/46168-001/main#project-pds>





Economic Growth and Inequality Related SDGs

Goal 8: Decent Work and Economic Growth
Goal 10: Reduced Inequality

Economic Growth and Inequality Related SDGs

This chapter covers discussion on 2 SDGs : 8 and 10.

Goal 8: Decent Work and Economic Growth

Over the past 25 years, the number of workers living in extreme poverty has declined despite last economic crisis and global recession in 2008. However, as the global economy continues to recover, there is slower growth, widening inequalities, and not enough jobs to keep up with the growing labor force. According to ILO, more than 204 million people were unemployed in 2015. The Goal 8: Decent Work and Economic Growth promotes sustainable economic growth, higher levels of productivity, and technological innovation.

International Commitments

Commitment After MDGs

Through ILO Declaration on Social Justice for a Fair Globalization (2008), governments, employers and workers from all member States wanted to call for a new strategy to sustain open economies and open societies based on social justice, full and productive employment, sustainable enterprises and social cohesion.

Social Protection Floor Initiative (2009), prompted by the Global Financial Crisis, the Social Protection Floor Initiative, was created in April 2009 by the UN System's Chief Executives Board for Coordination. This Initiative was endorsed by Member States during the Rio+20 Conference. Its purpose is to coordinate development efforts and improve its assistance to countries wishing to expand social protection.

Green Jobs Programme (2009) has been operational at multiple levels since 2009. These levels consist of the promotion of international policy coherence through research and advocacy, support to constituents at national level through policy and technical advisory services, and capacity development of constituents and partners through training and knowledge sharing.

Istanbul Programme of Action (2011) charts out the international community's vision and strategy for the sustainable development of LDCs. Part of the program targets generating full and productive employment and decent work for all, particularly for the youth.

Future We Want (2012), in its Paragraphs 146-157, the outcome document of the Rio +20 Conference expresses concerns regarding the labor market conditions and the widespread deficits of decent work opportunities. It recognizes the existing linkages among poverty eradication, full and productive employment and decent work for all and urges all governments to address the global challenge of youth employment. Future We Want also stresses the importance of job creation, by investing in and developing sound, effective and efficient economic and social infrastructure and productive capacities while emphasizing the need for workers to have access to education, skills, health care, social security, and fundamental rights at work.

Commitments After SDGs

Decent Jobs for Youth (2016) was launched in 2016 as an UN System-wide effort. It focuses on the youth employment challenge that is central to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Decent Jobs for Youth has emerged as a global, multi-stakeholder initiative that brings together governments, social partners, the private sector, youth and civil society organizations, in an effort to scale up action and impact on youth employment.

Financial Assistance Commitments

Aid for Trade (AfT, 2005) trade has been linked with overall welfare of an economy. Furthermore, there are additional benefits in the form of market variety and competition. In order to help developing countries bolster their trade, the AfT initiative was launched in 2005 during the WTO's Hong Kong ministerial

conference. AfT significantly reduces import and export costs and since then, both global commitments and disbursement have increased for trade related development in Bangladesh.¹⁶³ A total of \$409 billion¹⁶⁴ has been disbursed in official development assistance to help developing countries build trade capacities since the launch of the AfT Initiative. Table 6.1 contains the yearly AfT commitment and Disbursement. In 2017, AfT commitments had reached \$57 billion. While by 2015, the start of the SDGs, the AfT disbursed was around \$264.5 billion (additional \$190 billion in other trade related programs. Some 146 developing countries have received aid for trade, with around 27% of the total going to LDCs. Extant literature suggests that AfT helps boost economic growth (Martuscelli and Winters, 2014). While reservation exists about whether AfT bolsters other SDG goals, donors and partners are convinced that it indubitably expedites economic growth.¹⁶⁵ The AfT commitment and disbursement data for Bangladesh reveals that only \$391 million was disbursed per year on average against an allocation of \$1,047.99 million, between 2006 and 2011.¹⁶⁶

Table 6.1: Global yearly aid for trade commitment and disbursement¹⁶⁷

| Date | AfT Commitment | AfT Disbursement |
|------|----------------|------------------|
| 2015 | 55.85 | 40.46 |
| 2016 | 51.42 | 39.33 |
| 2017 | 57.96 | 42.93 |

Source: UNCTAD

Technical Cooperation Commitments

The 10 Year Framework of Programmes on Sustainable Consumption and Production Patterns (2012) adopted by the UN in 2012, is to decouple economic growth from environmental harm and degradation and thus contribute to poverty eradication through more efficient resource use. 10FYP is a global framework for action to enhance international cooperation on the issue of sustainable consumption and production. It supports capacity building, financial assistance and technical assistance to the developing nations with the purpose of achieving its objectives embodying sustainability. UNEP is the secretariat and chair of this framework, while UN DESA is the co-chair. GED is also implementing this 10 years framework.

Enhanced Integrated Framework (2007) exclusively addresses trade capacity needs of LDCs through technical and financial assistance. Trade can be employed to tackle poverty and accelerate economic growth.¹⁶⁸ Bangladesh joined the EIF in November 2009. By 2017, EIF invested in 176 projects, worth over \$222 million. 23 new projects were approved in 2017 including in Bangladesh. For its 2016-2022 phase, \$115 million has been committed with the target of reaching \$274 million in commitments.

Capacity Building Commitments

Trade Facilitation Agreement (2017) tops the AfT priorities which addresses issues such as border clearance and trade costs for market access such as the internet. It is a tool to reduce the trade costs.¹⁶⁹ Negotiations concluded during the end of 2013 in the Bali Ministerial Conference, but it took till 2017 for the agreement to be in force. Estimates suggest that full implementation of the Trade Facilitation Agreement will result in reductions in trade costs ranging from 9.6% to 23.1%.¹⁷⁰

Standard Trade and Development Facility (STDF, 2014) is a global partnership established by FAO, OIE, the World Bank, WHO and the WTO. The STDF helps developing countries build their sanitary and phytosanitary capacity, and gain market access. For example, STDF helped the shrimp farmers in Bangladesh by improving their aquaculture practices

163 CPD (2013) Evaluating Aid for Trade on the Ground

164 WTO and OECD (2019) Aid for Trade at a Glance 2019

165 OECD (2016) Aid for Trade and SDGs: Strengthening Synergies

166 CPD (2013). Effectiveness and Impact of Aid for Trade Initiative In Bangladesh

167 <https://sdgpulse.unctad.org/policies-to-promote-trade/>

168 WTO (2017) Global Review of Aid for Trade 2017

169 WTO (2017) Aid for trade at a glance 2017

170 WTO (2015) World Trade Report 2015

Current Progress

National Plans or Initiatives Related to International Cooperation

According to the 7th FYP, income and economic growth is a priority target. Over the 5 years, a target of average real GDP growth rate of 7.4% is aspired. This falls short of the 10% growth rate goal of Vision 2021. Of course, the 7th FYP revised this target. However, the government's budget for FY2019 projects an 8.2% growth rate which exceeds the 8% target in the 7th FYP. Additionally, GED has been implementing the 10-years framework.

Increasing employment in manufacturing from 15.4 to 20% is also adopted in order to address the increasingly unemployed populace and accommodate the new labor market entrants. This is aligned with government's Vision 2021. However, under the 6th FYP, the employment in manufacturing sector increased by only 3%.¹⁷¹ The plan also expects 9.9 million new entrants in the labor market between 2015 and 2020, and projects excess employment opportunities, above the number of new entrants. To address inclusiveness, the government plans on developing an effective social protection system and create opportunities for the disadvantaged to be included in the growth process.

Bangladesh Special Economic Zones Act (2010) Bangladesh Economic Zones Authority (BEZA) was founded through the Bangladesh Economic Zones Act 2010 and established in 2010. The two topmost priority of the BEZA is to attract more FDI and to increase and diversify country's export to the world.¹⁷²

National Sustainable Development Strategy (NSDS)'s focus is on meeting the environmental challenges which Bangladesh faces. The five strategic priority areas of the NSDS are sustained economic growth, development of priority sectors, urban environment, social security and protection, and environment, natural resource and disaster management.¹⁷³

National Policy on Development Cooperation (draft) is to ensure that external assistance follows national development priorities and supports the country's development efforts to bring economic and social benefits to the lives of the people. The draft version of the policy is ready.¹⁷⁴

Progress on SDG Targets with International Cooperation

Table 6.2 identifies the targets and indicators necessitating international cooperation. The next segment briefs the rationale and progress of the said target and indicators.

Table 6.2: Targets and indicators necessitating international cooperation for Goal 8

| Target | Indicator | Tier (IAEG-SDG) ¹⁷⁵ |
|--|---|--|
| 8.4: Improve progressively, through 2030, global resource efficiency in consumption and production and endeavor to decouple economic growth from environmental degradation, in accordance with the 10-Year Framework of Programmes on Sustainable Consumption and Production, with developed countries taking the lead | 8.4.1: Material footprint, material footprint per capita, and material footprint per GDP | Tier II Status: No regular data collection |
| | 8.4.2: Domestic material consumption, domestic material consumption per capita, and domestic material consumption per GDP | Tier I Status: No regular data collection |
| 8.a: Increase investment, including through enhanced international | 8.a.1: Aid for Trade commitments and disbursements | Tier I Status: Data collected but not sequestered |

171 GED (2015) 7th Five Year Plan

172 <http://bdnews24.com/economy/2015/10/21/bangladesh-to-set-up-100-economic-zones-to-woo-investment>

173 GED (2013) National Sustainable Development Strategy (NSDS) 2010-2021

174 National Policy on Development Cooperation Final Draft, ERD

175 Updated Tier Classification by IAEG

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 8.b: By 2020, develop and operationalize a global strategy for youth employment and implement the Global Jobs Pact of the International Labour Organization | 8.b.1: Existence of a developed and operationalized national strategy for youth employment, as a distinct strategy or as part of a national employment strategy | Tier II Status: No Data. Difficult to quantify. |
|---|---|---|

Source: Tier Classification for Global SDG Indicators, UNStats (2019)

Target 8.4: Improve progressively, through 2030, global resource efficiency in consumption and production and endeavor to decouple economic growth from environmental degradation, in accordance with the 10-Year Framework of Programmes on Sustainable Consumption and Production, with developed countries taking the lead

The importance of sustainable consumption and production practices has been reiterated in the 10 Year Framework Programme. Decoupling economic growth from environmental degradation is the primary difference between development and sustainable development. In essence, decoupling refers to economic growth without the resulting adverse effects on the environment. Increasing the rate of resource productivity relative to growth rate is the main goal. The primary argument against relative decoupling is that the adverse impacts may be rising in absolute terms. As such, this has been broadly included in three of the targets, 8.4, 12.1 and 12.2. The indicators for goal 8.4 and 12.1 are ‘Material footprint, material footprint per capita and material footprint per GDP’. Additionally, goal 8.4 looks at Domestic material consumption, domestic material consumption per capita, and domestic material consumption per GDP as indicators.

Indicator 8.4.1: Material footprint, material footprint per capita, and material footprint per GDP

Consumption alone, may leave out crucial details of the prevailing externalities incurred around the world, whereas, material footprint attributes global material extraction to the final demand of an economy. Material footprint as an indicator has been an issue of contention in regards to methodology and is not part of the official statistics. It identifies the export of environmental degradation from developed countries to developing and least developed countries. According to Environmental Kuznets Curve, as the GDP rises, the environmental degradation goes down. However, material footprint suggests that the negative impacts on the environment only gets exported to other nations in the process of development and as such, environmental damage does not occur in the country which exports its processes, but occurs around the world nonetheless due to their consumption practices. The consumption of natural resources does not only have opportunity costs for the current generation but also the future generations as well, generally referred to as scarcity rent. Scarcity rent is the opportunity cost of depriving future generations off the natural resources, which is often not accounted for.

Presently, the developed nations have a higher material footprint than developing nations. At first, it may seem contradictory to aspire for zero poverty and yet put restraints on the source of economic growth. Yet, unsustainable practices using the natural resources of the world may only result in a myopic form of economic growth for the LDCs and developing nations. Environmental impacts may not be the only form of unsustainable practice. Volatility and price shocks permeate in terms of scarce commodities as well. Table 6.3 shows that the material footprint in Bangladesh and the developing countries of Asia Pacific remained almost the same in 2010 and 2015.

Table 6.3: Material footprint of Bangladesh and Developing Asia Pacific

| Material Footprint (kg/USD) | 2010 | 2015 |
|-----------------------------|------|------|
| Bangladesh | 2.6 | 2.5 |
| Asia Pacific (Developing) | 4.4 | 4.5 |

Source: SwitchAsia

Indicator 8.4.2: Domestic material consumption, domestic material consumption per capita, and domestic material consumption per GDP

The United Nations Environment Program's (UNEP) International Resource Panel (IRP) has put forth "Decoupling 2," a paper outlining the extant options and policies that may be undertaken in order to move towards responsible consumption and production. Cost-effective technology exists, with a relatively short pay-back period, which can move the world towards a more resource efficient route. This is imperative because if the consumption rate of an average European is replicated amongst the developing and least developed countries, annual resource extraction must be tripled by 2050. There are various biases and inertia built in the mature market mechanisms which resist transition in the developed world. Therefore, developing nations have a big opportunity to lead the change and achieve economic growth through resource efficient technology and policies. For instance, by the next 20 years, water supply may only be able to meet 60% of the existing demand. Prudent solutions must be found to reduce the usage of resources and distribute the savings made accordingly for further decoupling. While the efficiency of capital and labor are measures which greatly interest the industries, resource efficiency is ignored, although, it can lead to just as much in potential savings. However, the goal must be to absolutely decouple, instead of relative decoupling.

The resources which require more efficiency of usage include fisheries, forestry, food, air, waste, and minerals. Sustainable use of these is urgent to leave a better world for the future generations. Decoupling plans have been included in the national plans by China and Germany, while international cooperation has also taken place to make some industries more resource efficient. International cooperation can stimulate the decoupling process. It must be taken into account that making a resource more efficient does not necessarily decrease the use of it in absolute terms, also known as the rebound effect or Jevon's Paradox. Table 6.4 displays Bangladesh's status in material consumption has been decreasing in the years 2010, 2015 and 2016, while increasing for developing countries in the Asia Pacific.

Table 6.4: Material consumption of Bangladesh and Developing Asia Pacific

| Material Consumption (kg/USD) | 2010 | 2015 | 2016 |
|-------------------------------|------|------|------|
| Bangladesh | 2.9 | 2.8 | 2.45 |
| Asia Pacific (Developing) | 5.2 | 5.3 | N/A |

Source: SwitchAsia

Target 8.a: Increase Aid for Trade support for developing countries, in particular least developed countries, including through the Enhanced Integrated Framework for Trade-related Technical Assistance to Least Developed Countries

Indicator 8.a.1: Aid for Trade commitments and disbursements

Low-income countries received most concessional AfT flows.¹⁷⁶ From 2006 to 2017, Afghanistan, Ethiopia, Bangladesh, Tanzania and Mozambique accounted for 40% of the total AfT flows.¹⁷⁷ Reforms and simplification of procedures in the Chittagong port for instance, reduced time, an important measure of effectiveness by 22.7%. AfT efforts have also targeted the inclusion of women through entrepreneurial programs.

Table 6.5: AfT and OOF commitment and disbursement to low income countries

| Disbursement(\$ millions) | 2009-11 average | 2012-14 average | 2015 | 2016 | 2017 |
|---------------------------------------|-----------------|-----------------|---------|---------|---------|
| AfT Commitment | 1 169.9 | 1 399.3 | 2 513.8 | 2 657.1 | 2 958.5 |
| AfT Actual | 378.8 | 853.5 | 945.5 | 1 055.4 | 1 884.8 |
| Other Official Flows (OOF) Commitment | 461.7 | 727.4 | 1 193.6 | 1 556.7 | 2 461.3 |
| OOF Actual | 107.9 | 310.3 | 377.8 | 498.3 | 550.9 |

Source: Aid for Trade in a Glance 2019

¹⁷⁶ WTO (2019) https://www.wto.org/english/tratop_e/devel_e/a4t_e/suma4tworkshop20519_e.pdf

¹⁷⁷ WTO and OECD (2019) Aid for Trade at a Glance 2019

Table 6.5 shows the AfT commitments towards Bangladesh and the actual disbursement, along with similar data on other trade related official flows. The gap between committed disbursement and actual disbursement appear to be lower for AfT in comparison to other official flows. This gap may be due to limitations in absorptive capacity of Bangladesh in utilizing the offered aid. Bureaucratic complications, human resource competency, and administrative barriers are some of the major quoted obstacles. The rigid compliance requirements of foreign source of funds end up consuming a long time.

Target 8.b: By 2020, develop and operationalize a global strategy for youth employment and implement the Global Jobs Pact of the International Labor Organization

Youth constitute over one third of the population in Bangladesh. As such, their development is crucial to the overall development of the country. However, erosion of real monthly income is not conducive to such development. Between 2013 and 2015-16, average monthly income has declined by 3.9%.¹⁷⁸ Although Bangladesh first formulated its National Youth Policy in 2003, its effectiveness is questionable.¹⁷⁹

Indicator 8.b.1: Total government spending in social protection and employment programs as a proportion of the national budgets and GDP

The Global Jobs Pact was adopted by the ILO to stimulate the post 2008 crisis riddled world and reinvigorate the nations with adequate jobs and quick recovery from financial crises. The success of target 8.b necessitates global actions in terms of youth employment initiatives to meet its target by 2020. However, as of 2019, very little progress has taken place around the world for a global youth employment strategy. By 2017, Bangladesh's youth unemployment rate had doubled compared to 2010, from 6.4% to 12.8%. Even more alarmingly, the rate of youth not in education, employment or training hit 27.4%.¹⁸⁰ With the recently increasing trend for youth unemployment, accomplishment of this target is more pertinent than ever.

Big strides have been taken by the administration in Bangladesh as the nation has become the first within Asia-Pacific region to commit to the 'Decent Jobs for Youth' initiative. The government along with Access to Information (a2i) has committed to train 250,000 youth with "future" skills and support 340,200 apprenticeships by 2023.¹⁸¹ Bangladesh have also invited other countries join this initiative and create international partnerships. The estimated total value of this commitment exceeds \$30 million.

Various international organizations and partners have teamed up to work on materializing the SDG needs. Below are some of the examples:

- o Accenture and Save the Children have become partners to train over 58,000 youth (aged 15-24) between 2017 and 2020. Their target is to enable at least 63% of these youth to participate in the labor market or start their own business¹⁸². This program will run across Bangladesh, Mexico, Italy, Vietnam and Indonesia. Furthermore, Save the Children's Education for Youth Empowerment (EYE), along with private sector participation aims at empowering the youth in Bangladesh. Between 2016 and 2018, 80% of the 284,385 youth reached by the program found a decent job.
- o CARE builds women's economic empowerment by promoting their rights in the workplace and their inclusion in equitable and gender friendly value chains and social enterprise. By addressing the underlying causes of gender discrimination and unequal social norms, we build women's and girls' solidarity through Empowerment, Knowledge and Transformative Action groups (EKATA). Through this program we provide social analysis skills, encourage collective actions, identify female community leaders and equip them with tools and strategies to become change agents in their respective communities.

178 IRBD and CPD (2018) An Analysis of the Budget 2018-2019

179 <https://www.thedailystar.net/op-ed/politics/analysis-the-draft-1271389>

180 ILO (2018) Asia-Pacific Employment and Social Outlook 2018

181 <https://www.decentjobsforyouth.org/news-detail/32>

182 <https://www.decentjobsforyouth.org/commitment/232>

- o Plan International's programs support 50,000 young people aged 15-24 from the most marginalized communities to gain vital skills needed to get jobs. We also support them to learn life skills and behaviors that will help them become active participants in society. Their youth participation and economic empowerment program focuses on 4 key areas: Building the capacity of young people and duty bearers, coordinating and working alongside youth networks, advocating to the government and the private sector for greater youth participation, and supporting young people to attend and engage with national and international forums.
- o EIF develops institutional capacity and human resources in Bangladesh. Some of its working includes: Linking of trade analytics to Bangladesh's Comprehensive Trade Policy-- developed with the support of the European Union and used to guide the Government and donors on trade policy implementation, Diagnostic Trade Integration Study serving as basis in prioritizing trade in overall development strategy and at relevant ministries, and Study on the export potential of trade in services from Bangladesh completed, and roadmap prepared on the development of food-related agricultural products and the food processing industry.¹⁸³

SDG 8 Achievement Prospects

Bangladesh has succeeded in maintaining a high GDP growth rate over the past decade. This has largely been possible due to its successful RMG sector and the inflow of remittance earnings from the Middle East. Its reliance on these two sources alone makes it susceptible to external shocks. It is, therefore, Bangladesh's best interests to channel resources towards diversifying industry, improving productivity levels, and research and development. Cross-sectoral data on production and consumption efficiency must be collected and updated on regular basis to formulate effective policy framework. Future policy frameworks must also address the growing problem of youth unemployment in Bangladesh.

The GED's SDG Financing Strategy estimated that addressing these issues would lead to additional costs of \$189.35 billion by 2020, \$209.08 billion by 2025, and \$236.63 by 2030. 20 percent is expected to come from the public sector, 60% from the private sector, 10% from PPPs and 10% from external sources. The contribution of external sources i.e. international development partners' warrants review as cross-sectoral research, and projects to improve productivity levels may require further capacity building assistance and financing for infrastructure development.

Goal 10: Reduced Inequality

Income inequality is on the rise where the richest 10% have up to 40% of global income whereas the poorest 10% earn only between 2 to 7%. Income inequality has increased in nearly everywhere but at different speeds. The *Goal 10: Reduced Inequality* aims to reduce both inequality within a country (through pro-poor growth, elimination of discriminatory laws and policies, etc.) and among countries (through safe and responsible migration policies, enhanced representation of developing countries in international institutions, etc.).

International Commitments

Commitment After MDGs

Johannesburg Plan of Action (2002) identifies eradication of poverty as the greatest global challenge facing the world today and as an indispensable requirement for sustainable development, particularly for developing countries. JPOI recognized that the primary responsibility of tackling this belonged to the national governments who must develop policies for ensuring their own sustainable development and poverty eradication strategies. At the same time, the JPOI highlights the importance of concerted and concrete measures at all levels to enable developing countries to achieve their SDGs as related to the internationally agreed poverty-related targets and goals, including those contained in the relevant outcomes of other United Nations conferences and the UN Millennium Declaration.

¹⁸³ <https://www.enhancedif.org/en/country-profile/bangladesh>

Second United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty (2008) was declared in December 2007 by the UN General Assembly. This Second Decade was proclaimed to support the internationally agreed development goals related to poverty eradication, including the MDGs. It stressed the importance of reinforcing the positive trends in poverty reduction experienced by some countries as well as the need of extending such trends to benefit people worldwide. The Second Decade commitment recognizes the importance of mobilizing financial resources for development at national and international levels and acknowledges that sustained economic growth, supported by rising productivity and a favorable environment, including private investment and entrepreneurship, is vital for rising living standard. It also aims at supporting a broad framework for poverty eradication, emphasizing the need to strengthen the leadership role of the UN in promoting international cooperation for development, critical for the eradication of poverty.

Commitment After SDGs

Global Compact on Migration (2018): The Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration is an inter-governmentally negotiated agreement, prepared under the auspices of the United Nations, that describes itself as covering ‘all dimensions of international migration in a holistic and comprehensive manner’. This Global Compact presents a non-legally binding, cooperative framework that builds on the commitments agreed upon by Member States in the New York Declaration for Refugees and Migrants. It fosters international cooperation among all relevant actors on migration, acknowledging that no State can address migration alone, and upholds the sovereignty of States and their obligations under international law.

Current Progress

National Plans or Initiatives Related to International Cooperation

National Social Security Strategy (2015) was formulated to address the triple problems of poverty, vulnerability, and marginalization. Proper implementation of this strategy is expected to help lower income inequality and contribute to higher growth by strengthening human development.

Social Safety Net Programs In the FY 2018-19, the government significantly increased the volume and coverage of the social safety net. The allocation for this is 2.55% of GDP.

Overseas Employment Policy 2013: The Overseas Employment and Migrants Act was passed in 2013 in an effort to bring Bangladesh’s legal framework in line with the major labor and human rights treaties that it has ratified. With this Act becoming effective, a broad legal framework with punitive measures for specific recruitment violations has been put into place. This is the first-ever law on labor migration passed by the Parliament of Bangladesh and one that derives principles from the International Labor Standards and the UN Conventions and Recommendations.

Budget FY2019-20: To mitigate the burden of increased expenses in sending foreign remittances and to encourage bringing in foreign remittance through legal channels, an incentive at the rate of 2% on money remitted by expatriate Bangladeshi will be provided from this financial year, 2019-2020.

7th-FYP (2015), from FY2015-16 to FY2019-20, mentions eradication of extreme poverty as a cardinal principle of the strategies laid out in the document. Drawing from the lessons of economic development across countries, the 7th-FYP endorses the notion that it is not enough to look only at the growth of GDP or some other indicators of overall economic expansion. It is just as important to ensure that the benefits of growth are equitably shared by the widest possible group of citizens whose lives and capabilities are improved through the fruits of democracy along with economic progress. Accordingly, one of the goals of the 7th-FYP is to substantially reduce poverty. The document projects that moderate poverty would be reduced to 18.6% of the population and extreme poverty to 8.9% of the population by FY2019-2020.

Others: The Government has been following a pro-poor development strategy which combines promotion of economic growth and reduction of poverty and inequality. The policies aiming to reduce inequality include employment generation and enhancing labor productivity and wages; development of human capital i.e. education and training, health and nutrition, with greater access to poor, development of lagging regions, increased spending on social protection and improving its effectiveness; expansion of micro-credits and loans to Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs); emphasis on agriculture and rural development; undertaking tax reforms and focusing on progressive personal income taxation.

Progress on SDG Targets with International Cooperation

The following targets, and indicators, fall under the dome of international cooperation in combating poverty:

Target 10.5: Improve the regulation and monitoring of global financial markets and institutions and strengthen the implementation of such regulations

Indicator 10.5.1: Financial soundness indicator

According to the Monitoring and Evaluation Framework of Sustainable Development Goals report from March 2018, the metadata of this indicator is yet to be finalized.

Target 10.7: Facilitate orderly, safe, regular and responsible migration and mobility of people, including through the implementation of planned and well-managed migration policies

Indicator 10.7.1: Recruitment cost borne by employee as a proportion of yearly income earned in country of destination

According to the Monitoring and Evaluation Framework of Sustainable Development Goals report from March 2018, the metadata of this indicator is yet to be finalized.

Target 10.b: Encourage official development assistance and financial flows, including foreign direct investment, to States where the need is greatest, in particular least developed countries, African countries, small island developing States and landlocked developing countries, in accordance with their national plans and programs

Indicator 10.b.1: Total resources flows for development, by recipient and donor countries and type of flow (for example, official development assistance, foreign direct investment and other flows)

According to Development Result Framework (DRF) from the 7th FYP: data on foreign assistance, concessional loans, grants, etc. will be monitored based on ERD published annual Flow of External Resources Report up to June 2018 in February 2019. Data on South-South Cooperation is not available.

SDG 10 Achievement Prospects

The Government has been following a pro-poor development strategy which combines promotion of economic growth and reduction of poverty and inequality. While the policies have been largely effective in enhancing growth and reducing poverty they have not succeeded in reversing the worsening income distribution. According to recent available data (HIES 2016) income inequality has increased while consumption inequality has remained relatively stable. There have been some developments with regard to reducing inter-country income inequality. Bangladesh has approved Expatriates' Welfare and Overseas Employment Policy 2016 in January, 2016 with a view to ensuring and encouraging safe migration and protection of migrants and their families.

The GED's SDG Financing Strategy estimated that addressing these issues would lead to additional costs of \$0.40 billion by 2020, \$0.51 billion by 2025, and \$0.71 by 2030. 50% is expected to come from the public sector, 40% from the private sector, 10% from NGOs.

Environmental Conservation and Sustainability Related SDGs

Goal 11: Sustainable Cities and Communities

Goal 12: Responsible Consumption and Production

Goal 13: Climate Action

Goal 14: Life below Water

Goal 15: Life on Land

Environmental Conservation and Sustainability Related SDGs

This chapter covers discussion on 5 SDGs : 11, 12, 13, 14 and 15.

Goal 11: Sustainable Cities and Communities

About half of the global population lives in the cities and by 2050, it will be two-thirds. The rapid growth of cities has led to a boom in megacities where slums are becoming a more significant feature. The Goal 11: Sustainable Cities and Communities targets to make cities sustainable by creating career and business opportunities, safe and affordable housing, and building resilient societies and economies.

International Commitments

Commitment After MDGs

Istanbul +5 (2001) The UN General Assembly held a Special Session in June 2001 to review and assess the implementation of the Habitat Agenda, five years after its adoption. All Member States were requested to draft a report focused on local and national implementation of the Habitat Agenda, for evaluation.

World Urban Forum (2002), convened by the United Nations Human Settlements Programme, is a non-legislative technical forum, hosted in a different city every two years, responsible for examining the most pressing issues currently facing at global level in the context of human settlements, including rapid urbanization and its impact on cities, communities, economies, climate change and policies. The last WUF was held in 2018, in Malaysia.

Johannesburg Plan of Implementation (2002) identified preventing and minimizing waste, maximizing reuse, recycling, and using environmentally friendly alternative materials as being among the critical actions that need to be taken.

Commitments After SDGs

Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction (2015), a voluntary and non-binding agreement, is a successor instrument to the Hyogo Framework for Actions (2005-2015). The four priority actions of this agreement are: Understanding disaster risk, strengthening disaster risk governance, Investing in disaster risk reduction, and Enhancing disaster preparedness. Representatives from 187 countries adopted the Sendai Framework during UNISDR's world conference held in Sendai, Japan in 2015.

New Urban Agenda (2016)'s primary goal was the agreement of all member states on the New Urban Agenda. It called for national urban policies promoting sustainable urbanization, stronger urban governance, long-term planning and design and effective financing framework. This has been supported by major multilateral development banks.¹⁸⁴

International Year of Sustainable Tourism for Development (2017) aims to support a change in policies, business practices and consumer behavior towards a more sustainable tourism sector that can contribute to the SDGs, as well as support the local communities within the tourism centric regions.

Financial Assistance Commitments

The 8 largest multilateral development banks, committed \$175 billion to finance sustainable transportation systems in 2012. This was one of the outcomes of Rio 20+ campaign.¹⁸⁵ The EBRD and AFD are two of the most active development partners for cities in developing countries. Meanwhile, the World Bank announced in 2018, their plans to double climate investment to \$200 billion over five years. Their efforts will include

184 NUA. Retrieved from <http://habitat3.org/the-new-urban-agenda/>

185 Institute for Transportation and Development Policy (2012) retrieved from <https://www.itdp.org/2012/06/20/worlds-largest-development-banks-pledge-175-billion-for-the-creation-of-more-sustainable-transport/>

helping 100 cities achieve low-carbon and resilient urban planning. The Global Environment Facility, part of the WB group, has supported 28 cities in 11 developing countries in 2018 with financing and leveraged co-financing exceeding \$2.5 billion.

Technical Cooperation Commitments

The Global Facility for Disaster Reduction and Recovery (GFDRR) is a global partnership that helps developing countries understand and reduce their vulnerability to natural hazards and climate change. Their City Resilience Program brings technical expertise into resilient investment project design. GFDRR has been cooperating with countries across the world to boost their capacity, including Bangladesh.¹⁸⁶

The Global Platform for Sustainable Cities (GPSC), funded by the Global Environment Facility, activities include knowledge creation, capacity building and aiding global policies. Their objective broadly focuses on urban sustainability.¹⁸⁷

Capacity Building Commitments

By the end of 2017, the WB partnered with the Global Covenant of Mayors and committed \$4.5 billion to provide technical and financial assistance to 150 cities undertaking climate action programs.¹⁸⁸ The lending will occur under the City Resilience Program of WB.

Current Progress

National Plans or Initiatives Related to International Cooperation

With increasing global population and the rate of urbanization, in line with development policies, sustainability must be accounted for to ensure secure urbanization and reduce environmental degradation. It is estimated that low-carbon cities could end up saving \$16.6 trillion by 2050.¹⁸⁹ However, Bangladesh has seen an uneven development among the cities which resulted in environmental and social imbalance. According to the Economist Intelligence Unit annual global survey, Dhaka has been ranked the world's 3rd worst city to live in.¹⁹⁰ The city also ranked 5th in the Air Visual Index of the world's cities with the worst air quality.¹⁹¹ The city is affected by serious dust pollution, water logging, delayed disposal of waste, traffic congestion, etc. The other big cities are somewhat in better condition than Dhaka but not compatible enough to the world standards. Easing the huge population of Dhaka city and moving away from the concept of Metropolis, towards self-reliant satellite towns far from the big cities can be solutions toward decentralization. So far, the following plans were taken up to move towards sustainability for cities and communities in Bangladesh:

Revised Strategic Transport Plan 2016 is for implementation within the period 2015-2030. Priorities include the development of roads in the capital city, as well as a coordinated mass transport system. Additionally, traffic safety and management is also identified for development.¹⁹²

National Plan on Disaster Management; Standing Orders 2010 outlines a simplistic model to guide disaster risk reduction and emergency response. The model has three key elements- defining and redefining risk environment, managing the risk environment, and responding to the threat environments.¹⁹³

*National 3R Strategy for Waste*¹⁹⁴ was adopted in order to deal with the growing concern regarding waste

186 GFDRR. Retrieved from <https://www.gfdr.org/en/who-we-are>

187 Retrieved from <https://www.thegpsc.org/about>

188 WB (2017) Retrieved from <https://www.worldbank.org/en/news/press-release/2017/12/12/global-covenant-of-mayors-and-world-bank-announce-partnership-for-climate-action>

189 LSE (2017) Global Review of Finance for Sustainable Urban Infrastructure

190 <https://thefinancialexpress.com.bd/national/dhaka-worlds-2nd-worst-city-to-live-in-study-1534224048>

191 <https://www.daily-sun.com/post/372756/2019/02/20/Dhaka-ranks-5th-worst-on-air-quality>

192 Daily Star (2016) "Revised 20-year plan okayed" retrieved from <https://www.thedailystar.net/backpage/revised-20-year-plan-okayed-1277674>

193 MoFOOD and MoDMR (2010) Standing Orders on Disaster

194 DoE (2010) National 3R Strategy for Waste Management

management. The Regional 3R Forum in Asia was first held in Tokyo in 2009, where Bangladesh was a participant. It emphasized the importance of a national waste management strategy.

Progress on SDG Targets with International Cooperation

Table 7.1 presents the list of targets for SDG 11 which require multi party collaboration to materialize.

Table 7.1: Targets and indicators for Goal 11

| Target | Indicator | Tier (IAEG-SDG) ¹⁹⁵ |
|--|--|--------------------------------|
| 11.a: Support positive economic, social and environmental links between urban, peri-urban and rural areas by strengthening national and regional development planning | 11.a.1: Proportion of population living in cities that implement urban and regional development plans integrating population projections and resource needs, by size of city | Tier III Data Unavailable |
| 11.b: By 2020, substantially increase the number of cities and human settlements adopting and implementing integrated policies and plans towards inclusion, resource efficiency, mitigation and adaptation to climate change, resilience to disasters, and develop and implement, in line with the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030, holistic disaster risk management at all levels | 11.b.1: Number of countries that adopt and implement national disaster risk reduction strategies in line with the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030 | Tier I Available |
| | 11.b.2: Proportion of local governments that adopt and implement local disaster risk reduction strategies in line with national disaster risk reduction strategies” | Tier II Data Unavailable |
| 11.c: Support least developed countries, including through financial and technical assistance, in building sustainable and resilient buildings utilizing local materials | 11.c.1: Proportion of financial support to the least developed countries that is allocated to the construction and retrofitting of sustainable, resilient and resource-efficient buildings utilizing local materials | Tier III Data Unavailable |

Source: Tier Classification for Global SDG Indicators, UNStats (2019)

Target 11.a: Support positive economic, social and environmental links between urban, peri-urban and rural areas by strengthening national and regional development planning

While Bangladesh has a relatively smaller proportion of population living in urban area, in absolute numbers, it still exceeds many countries. In 2016, about 35% of the population lived in urban area, which is over 56 million people. Migration from around the country leaves the megacities with housing and service deficit. The centralization of economic activities in Dhaka city intensifies this problem.

Indicator 11.a.1: Proportion of population living in cities that implement urban and regional development plans integrating population projections and resource needs, by size of city

As of May 2019, the Global Indicator Framework lists this as a Tier III indicator, which means no international established methodology or standards exist yet for this indicator. Thus, the progress towards this target cannot be reasonably measured or tracked. However, work on refining it is ongoing, led by the UN–Habitat.

Target 11.b: By 2020, substantially increase the number of cities and human settlements adopting and implementing integrated policies and plans towards inclusion, resource efficiency, mitigation and adaptation to climate change, resilience to disasters, and develop and implement, in line with the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030, holistic disaster risk management at all levels

Bangladesh is susceptible to natural disaster and climate change. It is one of the more disaster-prone country, which results in significant economic losses. Furthermore, according to Lloyds, Bangladesh has the largest

¹⁹⁵ Updated Tier Classification by IAEG

insurance gap at 2.1% (almost \$6 billion) of the GDP despite having the highest expected losses from natural disaster at 0.8% of the GDP.¹⁹⁶ Disaster management efforts are urgently required in the country to reduce the expected loss as a percentage of the GDP.

Indicator 11.b.1: Proportion of local governments that adopt and implement local disaster risk reduction strategies in line with the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030

In line with the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction, the Ministry of Disaster Management and Relief has revised its National Plan for Disaster Management 2016-20.

Indicator 11.b.2: Number of countries with national and local disaster risk reduction strategies

Although data is not actively collected on this indicator, Bangladesh has taken several steps to reduce disaster risk with international help. The coordination framework of the country stretches from the National Disaster Management Council (established in early 2000s, with support from UNDP), chaired by the Prime Minister, to a network of over 2,000 disaster committees in villages, 40 Disaster Management Committees for districts, 12 directly involved line ministries and six donor partners.¹⁹⁷

Target 11.c: Support least developed countries, including through financial and technical assistance, in building sustainable and resilient buildings utilizing local materials

Between 2000 and 2016, the percentage of global population living in urban slums have decreased from 46% to 23%. However, the number of people still living in slums or informal settlements exceeded 1 billion in 2016, with over half residing in East, South-East, Central and South Asia.¹⁹⁸ External financial support is necessary to meet the challenges of housing the people into sustainable settlements.

Indicator 11.c.1: Proportion of financial support to the least developed countries that is allocated to the construction and retrofitting of sustainable, resilient and resource-efficient buildings utilizing local materials

Led by UN-Habitat, several consultations and expert meetings were held over the past two years for this Tier III indicator. As of May, 2019, no internationally established methodology or standards exist.¹⁹⁹

Example of international partnership in Bangladesh:

International cooperation in building infrastructure is imperative for international trade and economic activity. Global connectivity plans such as the Belt and Road Initiative and Free and Open Indo-Pacific strategy are being planned and partially implemented. Bangladesh may join such initiative and utilize its trade routes fully. However, it must not fall into debt trap while joining international partners.

Some examples of partnership for to develop sustainable cities and communities are:

- o GFDRR provides technical support and capacity building to the GoB. These Activities support numerous technical areas, including provision of ICT for weather and climate services; assessing user needs for weather, water, and climate analysis; and enhancing technical understanding of instruments, modeling, and use of models for generating weather, water, and climate information. Their work help Bangladesh to facilitate investment activities to strengthen weather, water, and climate services, and support investments in ICT technologies for modernizing services and enhancing human resource capacity. GFDRR has also collaborated with the GoB to build urban resilience in Dhaka and Sylhet since 2012.²⁰⁰

196 Lloyds (2018) A world at risk Closing the insurance gap

197 UNDP (2011) "Bangladesh: Disaster Risk Reduction as Development"

198 UN Economic and Social Council (2019) Special edition: progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals; Report of the Secretary General

199 UN Stats (2018) Goal 11

200 GFDRR retrieved from <https://www.gfdr.org/en/bangladesh>

- o WB has been an important partner to Bangladesh when it comes to urban resilience and disaster management. The Urban Resilience Project builds the capacity of the GoB in responding to emergencies and reducing the disaster vulnerability of future building construction in Dhaka and Sylhet. Two other approved project to build capacity include the ‘Weather and Climate Services Regional Project for Bangladesh’ and the ‘Weather and Climate Services Regional Project for Bangladesh.’²⁰¹
- o The Khulna Water Supply Project, financed by the ADB will result in a developed sustainable water supply system in Khulna city. The outcome of the project will be wider access to water supply with improved service standard in Khulna. The outputs of the project will be expanded capacity of water supply system with sustainable water sources, strengthened corporate management system, and improved project management capacity.
- o The Livelihoods Improvement of Urban Poor Communities Project of UNDP aims to facilitate resilient housing and basic services for the low-income households, build community organization, and strengthen municipal capacity for improved urban management among others.²⁰²

SDG 11 Achievement Prospects

The expansion and development of Bangladesh’s urban areas in the last four decades have been considerable. In that time span, the GoB’s ability to mitigate the adverse effects of natural and man-made disasters has improved to meet international standards, and most of Bangladesh’s urban population now has access to basic amenities such as water and electricity. However, steady economic will lead to Bangladesh’s urban population to grow further, and existing infrastructure will come under a great amount of strain.

SDG 11 intersects with SDG 6 (Clean Water and Sanitation), SDG 8 (Decent Work and Economic Growth), SDG 13 (Climate Action) and SDG 16 (Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions). The inter-connected nature of SDG 11 means it can only be achieved through strong inter-ministry cooperation and collaboration, and the successful completion of development projects in a wide range of fields. The GED’s SDG Finance Strategy 2018 estimated that projects related to SDG 11 will accumulate additional costs of \$0.26 billion by 2020, \$0.28 billion by 2025, \$0.34 billion by 2030. 20% of this is anticipated to come from the public sector, 60% from the private sector, and 20% from PPPs. The exclusion of international development partners in this estimation warrants reconsideration as capacity building, and technical and financial assistance will be required to conduct citywide surveys, monitor progress of development projects, train law enforcement personnel, and consult on policies that hold relevant authorities accountable for their actions.

Goal 12: Responsible Consumption and Production

A large share of the world’ population is still consuming far too little share of the natural resources to meet the basic needs. The Goal 12: Responsible Consumption and Production targets to efficiently manage the shared natural resources and disposal of toxic waste and pollutants.

International Commitments

Commitment After MDGs

*The United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development or Rio+20 (2009)*²⁰³ and the AAAA (2016)²⁰⁴ promoted inclusive and sustainable industrialization by tracking progress of ongoing development programs; and addressing critical challenges such as job growth, resource and energy efficiency, pollution and climate

201 WB (2018) Bangladesh Disaster Risk and Climate Resilience Program retrieved from <https://www.worldbank.org/en/country/bangladesh/brief/bangladesh-disaster-risk-climate-change-program>

202 UNDP (2016) Livelihoods Improvement of Urban Poor Communities Project retrieved from <http://www.bd.undp.org/content/bangladesh/en/home/projects/livelihoods-improvement-of-urban-poor-communities-project.html>

203 <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/index.php?menu=1298>

204 <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/frameworks/addisababaactionagenda>

change, knowledge-sharing, and innovation and social inclusion. The latter agreement encouraged signing countries to cooperate with the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO), to advance the linkages between infrastructure development, inclusive and sustainable industrialization and innovation.

International Financial assistance

The government has received assistance from numerous development partners over the years for capacity building programs that will ensure responsible and effective production in the aquaculture and agriculture sectors. Partners such as USAID, FAO, Winrock International, the Netherlands Royal Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Rockefeller Foundation, the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ), the International Fund for Agricultural Development and European Commission, and UNIFAD have funded projects to develop Bangladesh's aquaculture sector. These projects aim to increase productivity in the local aquaculture systems, strengthen local aquaculture markets, promote sector-specific technological innovation, and increase nutritional awareness of the sector's products, especially among women and children.²⁰⁵

The Danish International Development Agency (DANIDA) contributed \$59.4 million²⁰⁶ to the Agriculture Growth and Employment Programme (AGEP) which was carried out between 2013 and 2018. The program succeeded in training approximately 3 million Bangladeshi farm families in improved farm management, facilitated the construction of 715 kilometers of rural roads which improved market access and increased household income in its target region of the Chittagong Hill Tracts (CHT) by 15%.

IDA is currently funding two on-going capacity building projects in the agriculture sector. The first is the Bangladesh NATP 2: National Agricultural Technology Programme,²⁰⁷ towards which it is contributing \$176.06 million. The project aims to achieve productivity, quality and output increases through technology transfer, as well as a better access to market opportunities for farmers. The second project is the Bangladesh Modern Food Storage Facilities Project for which it is contributing \$210 million.²⁰⁸ This project entails the construction of modern grain storage facilities and strengthening of coordination between administrative bodies during the procurement, storage and distribution of food grains in order to minimize post-harvest waste.

Current Progress

National Plans or Initiatives Related to International Cooperation

Energy Consumption Following its pledge to achieve the SDGs, Bangladesh's energy demand increased from 7, 817 MW in May 2015 to 12, 893 MW²⁰⁹ in May 2019. Natural gas sourced from local deposits remains the main source of energy. While efforts to lower dependence on natural gas have been made in that time period (as shown by the changes in installed fuel capacity in Figure 7.1 below), alternatives such as Heavy Fuel Oil (derived from crude oil), diesel and coal, are highly toxic for the environment. Installed capacity for renewable energy has only increased by 2% since 2015, compared to a 3% increase in diesel use and a 4% increase in HFO use.

205 <https://www.worldfishcenter.org/country-pages/bangladesh>

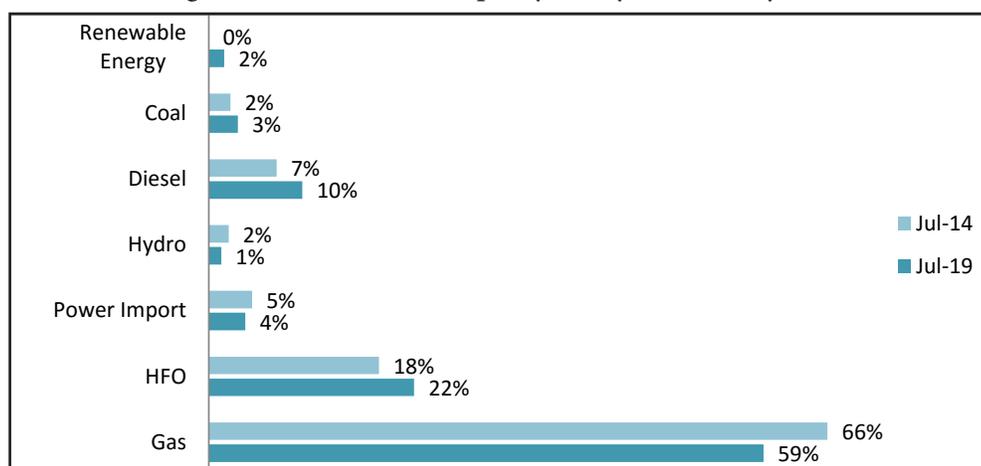
206 <http://bangladesh.um.dk/en/danida-en/food-and-agriculture/>

207 <http://projects.worldbank.org/P149553?lang=en>

208 <http://projects.worldbank.org/P120583/bangladesh-modern-food-storage-facilities-project?lang=en>

209 https://www.pgcb.org.bd/PGCB/?a=pages/operational_monthly.php

Figure 7.1: Installed fuel capacity in July 2014 vs. July 2019



Source: Bangladesh Power Development Board (2014-2019)

Inadequate protection of terrestrial and marine ecosystems: Goal 7 of the MDGs required pledging countries to protect at least 5% of its terrestrial area and 5% of its marine area. By 2014, Bangladesh had managed to protect 4.6% of its terrestrial area and only 2.5% of its marine area. These figures are a significant improvement over the 0.83% of terrestrial area and 0.1% of marine area protected by the government in 1990, but they were still short of the targeted 5%.

Table 7.2: Protected terrestrial and marine areas and Bangladesh, 1990-2014

| | 1990 | 2000 | 2014 |
|--|----------|---------|----------|
| Terrestrial area protected (% of total surface area) | 0.83 | 4.31 | 4.60 |
| Terrestrial Area protected (sq km) | 1,201.43 | 6888.58 | 7,452.00 |
| Marine Areas Protected (% of Territorial Water) | 0.10 | 2.10 | 2.50 |
| Marine Areas Protected (sq. km) | 33.00 | 84.00 | 1,000.00 |

Source: MDG Bangladesh Progress Report 2015, GED

The influx and subsequent accommodation of Rohingya refugees, which began in August 2017, has led to widespread deforestation in the Teknaf sub-district of Bangladesh. An estimated 1284.48 hectares of vegetation was lost in 2017 alone. Not only will continued deforestation of this nature displace the area's wildlife, it also risks endangering the livelihoods of the people living in the area and makes them more vulnerable to climate change-related disasters.

Table 7.3: Total vegetation in Teknaf sub-district

| | Area (hectare) | Change (hectare) |
|------|----------------|------------------|
| 2014 | 26,105.04 | - |
| 2015 | 25,984.08 | (120.96) |
| 2016 | 26,298.54 | (314.46) |
| 2017 | 25,014.06 | (1,284.48) |

Source: Imtiaz (2018)²¹⁰

Waste Management: In 2010, the GoB pledged to undertake the National 3R (Reduce, Reuse, Recycle) Strategy²¹¹ which prioritized the sorting at source of MSW. Households and other bodies were supplied with separate bins for their waste, but there were no measures were put in place to ensure the waste remained

210 "Ecological impact of Rohingya refugees on forest resource: remote sensing analysis of vegetation cover change in Teknaf Peninsula in Bangladesh," Sakib Imtiaz, University of Dhaka (2018)

211 ADB (2011), "Towards Sustainable Municipal Organic Waste Management in South Asia," Asian Development Bank

separated as it was taken to the landfill to be incinerated. A 1998 study²¹² on medical waste management in Bangladesh found that, though hazardous and non-hazardous wastes were segregated at medical institutions, they were mixed and disposed of in the same landfills. The volume of waste generated in Bangladesh is expected to increase as economic activity increases. The ADB predicts that Bangladesh will generate an estimated 47,064 tons of waste per day by 2025. Improper disposal methods risk contaminating the environment and pose a serious health hazard to communities. It also wastes several composting and fertilizing opportunities that would benefit agriculture in the long-term.

Table 7.4: Bangladesh waste generation projection

| | Total Population (million) | Urban Population (%) | Total Waste Generation (tons/day) |
|------------------|----------------------------|----------------------|-----------------------------------|
| 1995 | 119.8 | 18.3 | 10,742 |
| 2025 (predicted) | 193.1 | 40.0 | 47,064 |

Source: Asian Development Bank, 2011²¹³

Corporate Sustainability Reporting: In 2018, the Dhaka Stock Exchange and the Global Reporting Initiative (GRI) jointly issued the, “Guidance on Sustainability Reporting for Listed Companies in Bangladesh.” The document detailed the importance of Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) and placed special emphasis on maintaining transparency in the environmental, social and corporate governance. It is yet to be seen whether corporations operating in Bangladesh will adopt this new convention.

Bangladesh Economic Zones Act (2010): In 2010, the government proposed the establishment of 100 Special Economic Zones (SEZ) by 2030²¹⁴. These SEZs, which are being developed to accommodate foreign producers, are all planned to have their own Central Effluent Treatment Plant (CETP) or waste-water treatment plants that will remove toxic impurities from waste-water before releasing it into the environment. It is hoped that maintenance, reuse, repair, refurbishing and recycling of existing materials and products in these SEZs will be closely monitored.

National Sustainable Development Strategy (NSDS) (2011) was drafted following an agreement between the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and the GoB. Its formulation was initially assigned to the MoEF. However, after review and deliberation, responsibilities for the final draft were transferred to the GED. The NSDS was expected to establish an institutional structure in the form of National Commission on Sustainable Development (NCSA) to lead sustainable development programs that would promote responsible production and consumption.

Energy Efficiency and Conservation (EEC) Rule (2013): The Sustainable and Renewable Energy Development Authority (SREDA) drafted this set of rules to claim primary responsibility for the identification, promotion, facilitation and overall coordination of all renewable energy and energy, efficiency and conservation programs, including programs being funded and managed by foreign development partners. Taking Bangladesh’s various categories of energy consumers into account, the rules suggest the best means of cooperation between administrative bodies, and evaluate the best methods to monitor consumption for each consumer category.

Energy Efficiency and Conservation Master Plan up to 2030 (2015): Building off the EEC Rules (2013), this master plan proposed plans to conduct research for renewable energy pilot demonstrations; fund capacity development programs; provide advisory services to the private sector corporate bodies; government and non-governmental organizations; create a comprehensive and accessible database for renewable energy in Bangladesh; and establish close cooperation at the grassroots level, and in the private and public sectors. The implementation of this plan will require technical and financial assistance from international development partners.

212 JICA (2005), “The Study of Solid Waste Management in Dhaka City,” Japan International Cooperation Agency

213 ADB (2011) “Towards Sustainable Municipal Organic Waste Management in South Asia,” Asian Development Bank

214 <https://www.thedailystar.net/op-ed/economics/how-make-special-economic-zones-successful-1325266>

Bangladesh Delta Plan-2100 (2018): In addition to its primary objective of enhancing Bangladesh's response and resilience systems to climate change-related disasters such as floods and cyclones, this plan also aims to conserve and preserve wetlands and ecosystems, and promote responsible use by the local communities. The Global Climate Fund (GCF) is expected to contribute a significant portion of the financing required to implement this plan.

Funding for Additional Costs to Achieve SDG 12

The 2017 SDG Financing Strategy Report estimates that additional costs required to achieve SDG 12 will rise to \$0.72 billion by FY2020, \$1.62 billion by FY2025, and \$3.2 billion by FY2030.

Table 7.5: Total additional cost of SDG 12 in FY2017, FY2020, FY2025 and FY2030 at Current prices

| Total Additional Cost per Fiscal Year | FY2017 | FY2020 | FY2025 | FY2030 |
|--|--------|--------|--------|--------|
| Billion BDT at constant 2015-16 prices | 11.31 | 64.11 | 164.55 | 364.85 |
| Billion USD | 0.14 | 0.72 | 1.62 | 3.2 |

Source: SDG Financing, 2017

The SDG Financing Strategy's estimated that 20% of these additional costs would come from public funds, 60% from the private sector, and 20% from PPPs, implying that international financial assistance will not be required. However, as is evident from the effective foreign assistance being channeled towards developing the aquaculture and agriculture sector, this assumption may need to be revised.

SDG 12 Achievement Prospects

Bangladesh is heavily dependent on its natural gas reserves for energy, and a significant portion of its economy (agriculture, fisheries, leather etc.) is reliant on natural resources that are unique to its geographical circumstances. Promoting responsible production and consumption practices to ensure the sustainability of these natural resources must, therefore, be a top priority for the GoB, and action must be taken across sectors as soon as possible. Proactive steps must be taken to address the innumerable technical, social, and institutional barriers to Bangladeshi industries' adoption of renewable energy technologies. Adequate laws and facilities must be instated for the proper disposal of industrial wastes. Industries must be held accountable for their practices through the compulsory publication of Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) reports, and crucial technical knowledge and training in sustainable production needs to be disseminated at the grassroots level.

The 2018 SDG Financing Strategy Report by the GED estimated that succeeding in the aforementioned areas would result in additional costs amounting to 1.62 billion by FY 2025, and 3.2 billion by FY 2030. It estimated that 20 percent of these costs would come from public funds, 60 percent from the private sector, and 20 percent from PPPs, implying that international financial assistance will not be required. However, as is evident from the effective foreign assistance being channeled towards developing the aquaculture and agriculture sector, this assumption may need to be revised. In addition to continuing efforts to increase responsible production and consumption through awareness-raising and production refinement programs, the GoB will need financing to prepare a National Spatial Plan. A plan of this nature will help in creating a more rational territorial organization of land uses and the linkages between them. This will balance demands for development with the need to protect the environment and help achieve social and economic development objectives.

Goal 13: Climate Action

Greenhouse gas emissions are more than 50% higher than that in 1990. As a result, global warming is causing long-lasting changes to our climate system, which threatens irreversible consequences. The geo-physical disasters have killed 1.3 million people and left 4.4 billion injured between 1998 and 2017. The Goal 13: Climate Action aims to mobilize \$100 billion by 2020 to address the needs of developing countries and invest in low-carbon development.

International Commitments

Commitment After MDGs

Hyogo Framework for Action 2005-2015 (2005) entailed mobilizing the adequate resources for disaster risk reduction. Strong risk assessment and early warning systems were identified as being essential to protect and save lives, property and livelihoods. The framework emphasized that investing in prevention systems was far more effective, both in terms of loss and costs, than investing in post-disaster response and recovery. The framework suggested the enhancement of early warning systems, and called on signing countries to use research, innovation and education to build a culture of safety and resilience at all levels.

*Bali Action Plan (2007)*²¹⁵ proposed further international cooperation to implement programs that would help developing countries adapt to climate change, conducting vulnerability and financial assessments, prioritizing interventions according to country-specific assessment results, actions, including through vulnerability assessments, prioritization of actions and investing towards capacity building and disaster response strategies. The plan also encourages economic diversification to build resilience against natural disasters, development of climate change mitigation technologies, and further acquisition of funding for stronger action on mitigation and adaptation.

Commitments After SDGs

*The Paris Agreement (2015)*²¹⁶ aimed to strengthen the global response to the threat of climate change by restricting the rise of global temperatures. It also aimed to strengthen signing countries' response and adaptability to, and mitigation of the impacts of climate change. Financial flows, a new technology framework and an enhanced capacity building framework were proposed to achieve these goals.

*Addis Ababa Action Agenda (2015)*²¹⁷ was dedicated to the protection of all ecosystems worldwide. It called on signing countries to draft policy, financing, trade and technology frameworks that would protect, manage and restore our ecosystems, including marine and terrestrial ecosystems, and to promote their sustainable use, build resilience, reduce pollution and combat climate change, desertification and land degradation. The agenda noted that alongside efforts to reduce waste and efficiently use natural resources, there was a pressing need for public and private investments in innovations and clean technologies.

*Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction (2015)*²¹⁸ is designed to help adopting countries prevent new and reduce existing disaster risks through the implementation of integrated and inclusive economic, structural, legal, social, health, cultural, educational, environmental, technological, political and institutional measures. The framework emphasized that its standards were unlikely to be met unless signing countries possessed the appropriated capacity and capability building in developing countries. In order to be sufficiently prepared, the framework suggested developing countries like Bangladesh to solicit assistance through international cooperation.

International Financial, Technical and Capacity-Building Commitments

The Multilateral Fund for Implementation of the Montreal Protocol has committed \$6 million for the implementation of the HCFC Phase-out Management Plan (Stage-II)²¹⁹ which aims to phase out ozone depleting substances such hydrochlorofluorocarbons (HCFCs) by 2023.

215 UNFCCC (2007), Report of the Conference of the Parties on its thirteenth session, held in Bali from 3 to 15 December

216 <https://unfccc.int/process-and-meetings/the-paris-agreement/the-paris-agreement>

217 <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/frameworks/addisababaactionagenda>

218 <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/frameworks/sendaiframework>

219 <http://www.bd.undp.org/content/bangladesh/en/home/presscenter/pressreleases/2018/12/23/govt-takes-new-hcfc-phase-out-plan-to-protect-ozone-layer.html>

*The Green Climate Fund*²²⁰, which was established to help developing countries limit or reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions, and help vulnerable them adapt to the unavoidable impacts of climate change, has committed \$84 million for 3 climate action projects that are being overseen by IDCOL. The projects are i) the Global Clean Cooking Programme; ii) Promotion of private sector investment through large scale adoption of energy saving technologies and equipment in the textile sector; and iii) Promotion of private sector investment through large scale adoption of energy saving technology and equipment in the garments sector.

USAID has committed between 7% to 9% of its overall annual commitment to Bangladesh towards environment-related projects.²²¹ The World Bank currently has 8 active climate change adaptation, mitigation and disaster project in Bangladesh that are collectively worth \$1.3 billion. GIZ has committed financial assistance for 5 climate change adaptation and mitigation projects, and 3 renewable energy projects. ADB currently has 67 active projects involving capacity development for climate change mitigation, adaptation and disaster risk management. Jointly, ADB, World Bank, IFAD, KfW, Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, and UNREDD+ has committed \$112.30 million for implementing the Pilot Program for Climate Resilience.

Current Progress

National Plans or Initiatives Related to International Cooperation

Bangladesh is the fifth most vulnerable country in the world to the adverse effects of climate change.²²² Scientists have estimated that mean sea-levels will rise between 11-38 inches by 2100, causing immeasurable human suffering, as well as economic and territorial loss. The GoB has designed and implemented several national initiatives to prevent, mitigate and adopt to the coming changes. They include:

*National Adaptation Programme of Action (2005)*²²³, prepared by the Ministry of Environment and Forestry (MoEF) in response to the Seventh Session of the Conference of the Parties (COP7) of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), proposed a policy framework that combined climate change intervention measures with capacity building activities, awareness building, and research.

*Bangladesh Capacity Development Action Plan For Sustainable Environmental Governance (2007)*²²⁴ proposed the identification and prioritization of pressing environmental issues within the thematic areas of climate change, biodiversity and land degradation to determine Bangladesh's capacity needs. Highlighting the importance of national data collection and transparent reporting of findings, the plan called for the preparation of a comprehensive capacity development action plan and an appropriate institutional framework that would facilitate the coordination and monitoring of the action plan's implementation.

Bangladesh Climate Change Strategy and Action Plan (2009), prepared by the MoEF, is built on the foundations laid by the National Adaptation Programme of Action (2005 and 2009). It sets out 44 short, medium and long-term programs six areas strategic to climate action– food security, social protection and health; comprehensive disaster management; infrastructure; research and knowledge management; mitigation and low carbon development; and capacity building and institutional strengthening. The plan states that the funds for these programs have to be grant-based, and estimates that the initiation of these programs will approximately require \$500 million to be implemented.

*Bangladesh Climate Change Trust Fund (2010)*²²⁵ funds programs and projects proposed in the national budget that help communities recover and become resilient to climate change impacts.

220 <https://www.greenclimate.fund/countries/bangladesh>

221 <https://www.foreignassistance.gov/explore/country/Bangladesh>

222 MoF (2014). Climate Fiscal Framework

223 MoEF (2005). National Adaptation Programme of Action (NAPA)

224 MoEF (2007). Bangladesh Capacity Development Action Plan for Sustainable Environmental Governance

225 http://www.bd.undp.org/content/bangladesh/en/home/operations/projects/environment_and_energy/inclusive-budgeting-and-financing-for-climate-resilience1/national-policies-and-strategies/bangladesh-climate-change-trust-fund-.html

*Bangladesh Climate Change Resilience Fund (2010)*²²⁶ was designed to enabling the GoB to mobilize \$170 million in grant funds to climate change-related projects across thematic areas. The six main areas of focus for financed projects include i) food security, social safety and health; ii) comprehensive disaster management; iii) develop climate proof Infrastructure; iv) research and knowledge management; v) mitigation and low carbon development; and vi) capacity building. The GoB's development partners include Denmark which has committed \$1.2 million to the fund, the EU with a commitment of \$37 million, Sweden with \$13 million, the United Kingdom with \$95 million, Switzerland with \$3.4 million, AusAID with \$7 million, and USAID with \$13 million.

Perspective Plan of Bangladesh 2010-2021 (2010) reiterates strategies put forth by 6th FYP. It proposed plans to mobilize net additional resources from bilateral and multilateral sources, including UNFCCC, for climate change interventions, stating that it both domestic and foreign funding was critical for 'green growth' in all sectors. According to the plan, mobilized resources would be channeled towards developing and distributing strategic environmental services for adaptation, mitigation and disaster risk reduction. The plan also suggested regional cooperation as a means to manage the effects of climate change.

Climate Fiscal Framework (2014): This framework offers a set of tools that helps relevant ministries identify the demand and supply of climate fiscal funds, and work towards establishing a transparent and sustainable climate fiscal policy. It further ensures prioritization of projects, appropriate allocation of funds, mobilization of resources from international development partner. A system of tracking climate change expenditures for further policy analysis and development is also being developed under this framework.

6th Five Year Plan (2010) and 7th Five Year Plan (2015) proposed integrating poverty, environment and climate change concerns into the process of planning and budgeting. This entailed formulating appropriate policy, and developing institutional capacity for sustainable land-water management, biodiversity conservation and measures to enhance resilience to climate change. The 7th FYP reiterated the intentions of its predecessor, and included targets of the environmental achievements the GoB hoped to achieve by 2020. These included restricting CO₂ emissions, reducing consumption of HCFCs, and increasing forest and marine protection to 5% as recommended by the MDGs. The plan suggested developing capacity and capabilities in Bangladesh's blue economy to diversify its economy and help coastal communities become more resilient to the adverse effects of climate change.

Table 7.6: Baseline and 2020 targets for environment performance indicators

| Environment Performance Indicator | Baseline (Year) | Target by 2020 |
|---|------------------|----------------|
| CO2 emission (tons per capita) | 0.35 (2016) | 0.38 |
| Consumption of Ozone Depleting H-CFCs | 64.89 (2013) | 47.20 |
| % of land covered by forestry with 70% tree density | 13.2 (2013-14) | 15.00 |
| % of forests that are protected | 1.81 (2013-2014) | 5.00 |
| % of a) coastal areas that are protected | 1.22 | 5.00 |
| % of marine areas that are protected | 1.34 | 5.00 |

Source: 7th FYP, GED 2015

Annual Development Project (ADP) projections for the Ministry of Environment and Forestry in the 7th FYP were BDT4.8 billion in FY2016, BDT6.8 billion in FY2017, BDT7.7 billion in FY2018, BDT8.6 billion in FY2019, and BDT9.6 billion in FY2020.

Bangladesh Delta Plan-2100 (2018) aims to enhance Bangladesh's response and resilience systems to climate change-related disasters such as floods and cyclones. Among other goals, it aims to conserve and preserve wetlands and ecosystems and promote responsible use by the local communities. The Global Climate Fund (GCF) is expected to contribute a significant portion of the financing required to implement this plan.

²²⁶ <https://www.worldbank.org/en/news/feature/2012/05/22/bangladesh-climate-change-resilience-fund-bccrf>

Progress on SDG Targets with International Cooperation

The government has, by its own initiative and the help of its development partners, made significant strides in achieving Target 13.1 (Strengthen resilience and adaptive capacity to climate-related hazards and natural disasters in all countries). International cooperation has enabled the Ministry of Food and Ministry of Disaster management and Relief to successfully shift its focus from relief culture to risk reduction management involving comprehensive disaster management programs, cyclone preparedness programs in coastal areas, and a large safety net support programs. These achievements, however, are difficult to quantify due to insufficient data. To date, only one survey of losses incurred due to climate change has been conducted in Bangladesh. The “Bangladesh Disaster-Related Statistics 2015,” by the Impact of Climate Change on Human Life (ICCHL) Programme of the Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics provides a record of the number of sick and injured individuals, households afflicted by water-borne diseases, and the volume of property damage caused by natural disasters in vulnerable areas. However, as these statistics are limited to the year 2015, there is no way to quantify the improvements Bangladesh has made, or identify potential policy blind-spots that require further attention.

International cooperation has also aided Bangladesh in making progress towards achieving Target 13.3. According to the ICCHL survey in 2015, 66.37% of households in disaster prone areas received early warning alerts before cyclones, 61.03% before tidal surges, and 17.84% before floods.

The GoB has received international assistance for disaster mitigation projects involving efforts of afforestation in Bangladesh’s coastal areas, and strengthening of coastal embankments to prevent extreme losses during cyclones. International commitments have also been made to enhance resilience to the effects of climate change, as well as improve early warning and response systems through capacity building and technological transfers.

The GoB is engaged in implementing a number of programs to achieve SDG 13. These include programs to control air and industrial pollution, conserve ecosystems and promote biodiversity, protect the ozone layer, improve waste management, rescue its rivers, generate more renewable energy, and protect more terrestrial and marine areas. International cooperation would be beneficial to any of these areas.

SDG 13 Achievement Prospects

Bangladesh faces a number of challenges as the threat of climate change grows more serious. First, widespread deforestation and environmental degradation are making certain areas more vulnerable to natural disasters such as cyclones, typhoons, and landslides. Second, while early warning systems and prompt rescue and recovery systems are operational and largely successful in Bangladesh, measures to prevent property damage, and secure livelihoods in disaster prone areas are still not sufficient. Third, Bangladesh does not have the necessary financing or institutional capacity to implement its many climate-related policy frameworks. Institutions have ill-defined responsibilities, and policies and plans often possess conflicting objectives that compromise transparency, accountability and the sustainability of development.

The GoB must address these challenges if it is to achieve the targets set by SDG 13. The GED’s 2018 SDG Financing Plan estimates that associated programs will lead to additional costs of \$6.99 billion by 2020, \$8.97 billion by 2025 and \$12.43 billion by 2030. 20 percent of these additional costs are expected to come from public sources, 20% from private sources, and 50% from international development partners and 10% from NGOs. In order to obtain the best results, capacity building activities, training programs, and technological transfers should be set in motion at the regional level. Furthermore, international cooperation with development partners would help in the development of Environmentally Sound Technologies (ESTs), as well as innovative public and private financing mechanisms to implement adaptation, mitigation and disaster management projects.

Goal 14: Life Below Water

International Commitments

Commitments after the MDGs

The Future We Want (2012) called for signing countries to engage their civil societies in renewing their commitment to sustainable development, and ensuring the promotion of economically, socially and environmentally sustainable future for present and future generations. It especially stressed the crucial role of healthy marine ecosystems, sustainable fisheries, and sustainable aquaculture for food security and nutrition, and in providing for the livelihoods of millions of people. Recognizing the importance of building the capacity to benefit from the conservation and sustainable use of aquatic and marine resources, it called for cooperation in marine scientific research to implement the provisions of UNCLOS, as well as for the transfer of technology as per the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC) Guidelines for the transfer of marine technology.

Commitments after SDGs

*Addis Ababa Action Agenda (2015)*²²⁷ advocated for the protection of marine ecosystems by adopting anti-pollution policies, establishing more marine conservation sites and building marine resilience by investing in innovative and clean technologies.

International Financial Assistance, Technical Cooperation and Capacity Building Commitments

*Mangroves for the Future (MFF)*²²⁸ is a grant-based initiative that promotes investment in coastal ecosystem conservation for sustainable development. Co-chaired by IUCN and UNDP, MFF provides a platform for collaboration among the many different agencies, sectors and countries which are addressing challenges to coastal ecosystem and livelihood issues. The goal is to promote an integrated ocean-wide approach to coastal management and to building the resilience of ecosystem-dependent coastal communities. Its objectives include:

- o Knowledge generation and disseminating for sustainable management of coastal ecosystems
- o Empowering key stakeholders to engage in decision-making that supports the sustainable management of coastal ecosystems by building awareness and capacity in civil society and the private sector.
- o Enhancing coastal governance to promote integrated and inclusive management. This is planned to be done by strengthening capacity of national and regional governance institutions for integrated coastal management, engaging with key business sectors to promote sustainable business practices, and promoting co-management and similar participatory natural resource management mechanisms.

Additionally, Bangladesh's aquaculture sector has enjoyed an increase in production in recent years due to improvements in technical knowledge and sophistication of production methods that have been brought on by financing and guidance from international development partners. Such projects span a wide spectrum, from increasing productivity in the local aquaculture systems, strengthening local aquaculture markets, and promoting sector-specific technological innovation, to increasing nutritional awareness of the sector's products, especially among women and children. Donors for such projects include USAID, World Bank, FAO, the Netherlands Royal Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and BMZ among others.

²²⁷ <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/frameworks/addisababaactionagenda>

²²⁸ <https://www.mangrovesforthefuture.org/what-we-do/focus-areas-and-objectives/>

Current Progress

Bangladesh has made significant progress in the cultivating and mobilizing its marine resources. The percentage of territorial water under government protection expanded from 0.1% in 1990 to 2.5% in 2014. Though commendable, this still falls short of the target of 5% set by Goal 7 (Ensure Environmental Sustainability) of the MDGs.

Table 7.7: Protected marine area in Bangladesh

| | 1990 | 2000 | 2014 |
|---|------|------|-------|
| Marine Areas Protected (% of Territorial Water) | 0.1 | 2.1 | 2.5 |
| Marine Areas Protected (sq. km) | 33 | 84 | 1,000 |

Source: MDG Progress Report 2015, GED

Increased preservation and cultivation efforts, and dissemination of scientific knowledge about the maintenance of fish-stock and fisheries has led an increase in captures. Inland open water captures increased from 443,000 tons in FY1990-91 to 1,217,000 tons in FY2017-18. Meanwhile marine fisheries have risen from 241,000 tons to 655,000 tons. Cultured captures saw the greatest increase, their numbers rising from 211,000 tons to 24,05,000 tons. International cooperation with development partners such as USAID, FAO and The Netherlands Royal Ministry of Foreign Affairs, in the form of financial, technical and capacity building assistance, has been instrumental in this progress.

Table 7.8: Captures in inland, impounded and marine fisheries in 00,000 tons, 1990-2017

| | 1990-91 | 2001-01 | 2010-11 | 2015-16 | 2017-18 |
|----------------------------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|
| Inland Open Water | 4.43 | 6.89 | 10.55 | 10.48 | 12.17 |
| Impounded Water (Cultured) | 2.11 | 7.12 | 14.6 | 22.04 | 24.05 |
| Marine Fisheries | 2.41 | 3.79 | 5.46 | 6.27 | 6.55 |

Source; MDG Progress Report 2015, GED; Ministry of Fisheries and Livestock, 2018

National Plans or Initiatives involving International Cooperation for SDG 14

Achieving SDG 14 gives the GoB the incentive to develop Bangladesh's blue economy i.e. make the most of its marine resources in a way that is both economically sound and environmentally sustainable. Bangladesh has access to 118, 813 km² of waters extending up to 12 nautical miles (NM) of territorial sea, as well as an Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) that extends 200 NM into the sea that can be explored for natural resources. At present, Bangladesh's blue economy constitutes of a number of sectors such as cargo warehousing, marine transportation, shipbuilding and repair, coastal tourism, oil and gas extraction, and salt production. Bangladesh has undertaken several plans and initiatives to preserve marine and aquatic bio-diversities, as well as unlock the potential of its blue economy.

National Sustainable Development Strategy (NSDS) (2011). The final approved document published by the GED proposed conducting a comprehensive survey of marine fisheries for data that will be essential for the sustainable development of marine fisheries. It also expressed the intent to develop Bangladesh's shrimp sector by creating specialized shrimp farming zones in coastal regions, and enabling farmers to cultivate more varieties of shrimp by creating more awareness, and access to more technical assistance.

Bangladesh Capacity Development Action Plan for Sustainable Environmental Governance (2007) proposed the identification and prioritization of pressing environmental issues within the thematic areas of climate change, biodiversity and land degradation to determine Bangladesh's capacity needs. Plans to conserve and sustainably use inland water, marine, and island bio-diversities were proposed. Highlighting the importance of national data collection and transparent reporting of findings, the plan called for the preparation of a comprehensive capacity development action plan and an appropriate institutional framework that would facilitate the coordination and monitoring of the action plan's implementation.

*Bangladesh Climate Change Resilience Fund (2010)*²²⁹ funds programs which preserve aquatic and marine biodiversity, and work towards sustainably developing Bangladesh's blue economy.

6th and 7th Five Year Plans (2005 and 2015) expressed plans to develop the institutional capacity required to manage and conserve water bodies, and marine biodiversity, including plans to raise the percentage of marine area under government protection to 5%, as prescribed by the MDGs, from the 1.34% protected in 2015.

Bangladesh Delta Plan-2100 (2018) aims to conserve and preserve wetlands and marine ecosystems, and promote responsible use by the local communities. The Global Climate Fund (GCF) is expected to contribute a significant portion of the financing required to implement this plan.

Progress on SDG Targets with International Cooperation

Bangladesh only has partial data for 1 of the 10 indicators required to measure progress in the achievement of SDG 14. This indicator falls under Target 14.5: "By 2020, conserve at least 10% of coastal and marine areas, consistent with national and international law and based on the best available scientific information. The targeted figures for Indicator 14.5.1 (coverage of protected areas in relation to marine areas), which are available through the MDF Progress Report 2015, the 7th FYP Plan and the Department of Fisheries (DoF), do not align with each other. While the MDG progress report and the 7th FYP placed marine areas protected in 2014-15 at 2.5% and targeted area at 5%, DoF statistics estimated 7.94% of marine areas to be protected and projected that figure to rise to 10% by 2020. In addition to miscommunication between institutional bodies, the discrepancy in data is indicative of the absence of a clear policy framework for marine and aquatic conservation, and an appropriate implementation strategy to complement it.

The 6th and 7th FYP have identified research on marine resources in Bangladesh to be inadequate. Since Bangladesh's blue economy is still largely untapped, and has the potential to be a major driver of economic development and employment, the five-year plans have planned to undertake research programs that would require international cooperation to succeed. Anticipated programs include:

- o Research on protection of coastal breeding and nursery areas;
- o Research program on Integrated Coastal Resource Management (ICRM);
- o Long term conservation of marine biological resources;
- o Programmes for the protection of IUU (Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated) fishing in Bangladesh's waters;
- o Programmes facilitating the prohibition of polluting discharge from ship breaking and polluters; and
- o Conducting deep-sea resource surveys every five years

SDG 14 Achievement Prospects

Aquatic and marine ecosystems are integral to the livelihoods of millions of Bangladeshi, and for economic potential of its blue economy. It is therefore in the interest of the GoB to be proactive in its conservation and sustainable management efforts. A number of obstacles currently obstruct Bangladesh's path to achieving the SDG 14 targets, and international development cooperation will be needed address them. First, existing marine sectors suffer from having to run operations based on fragmented data. There is an urgent need for thorough assessments of all existing aquatic and marine resources and their potential. Without updated data, it will be increasingly difficult to identify and invest in feasible projects; improve efficiency, productivity and sustainability; build capacity; implement and enforce regulations; and preserve marine life and ecosystems. Second, marine fisheries stocks are depleting rapidly due to overfishing, inefficient breeding and culturing methods, frequent outbreaks of diseases in hatcheries, and inadequate training.

²²⁹ <https://www.worldbank.org/en/news/feature/2012/05/22/bangladesh-climate-change-resilience-fund-bccrf>

The GED's SDG Financing Strategies from 2018 estimated that addressing these challenges along with others will result in additional costs rising to \$0.73 billion in FY 2020, \$0.75 billion in 2025, and \$0.78 billion in 2030. 60% of these additional costs are projected to come from public sources. It is possible that this estimate is too ambitious as, according to the 7th FYP, ADP allocations for the Ministry of Fisheries and Livestock are only projected to be \$0.18 billion. The Strategy also states external sources will finance 20% in the form of grants, loans and technical assistance. The remaining 10% of additional costs is expected to come from private sources, and 10% from NGOs. Furthermore, the sustainable development of inland and marine fisheries alongside the development of complementary markets may mean that PPPs will play a more prominent role in achieving SDG 14 than anticipated at present.

Goal 15: Life on Land

International Commitments

Commitments After MDGs

*Millennium Declaration (2000)*²³⁰: Goal 7 of the Millennium Development Goals called on pledging nations to ensure environmental sustainability. This includes the management, conservation and sustainable development of forests and wildlife at the local, national and regional levels.

Commitments after SDGs

*Addis Ababa Action Agenda (2015)*²³¹ called for the protection of terrestrial ecosystems through the prevention of deforestation, increased afforestation efforts and conservation of wildlife, especially endangered species.

International Financial assistance, Technical Cooperation and Capacity Building Commitments

The United Nations Collaborative Programme on Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and forest Degradation in Developing Countries²³² or UNREDD+ manages a total budget of \$2.3 million in Bangladesh, of which UNDP contributes \$1.23 million and FAO contributes \$1.07 million. In 2016, the UN-REDD Bangladesh National Programme approved plans to implement:

- o Improved public awareness about wildlife
- o Research and surveys to strengthen legal, policy and legislative frameworks.
- o Identify drivers of deforestation and forest degradation.
- o Sector-appropriate capacity development
- o Establishment of a National Forest Monitoring System
- o Development of an integrated forest information system.

The International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), whose office in Bangladesh was established in 1992, supported the GoB in updating its National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan. It is instrumental in the long-term conservation of Asian elephants and their habitats, and has improved efforts to conserve vulture species such as the white rumped vultures. The IUCN also included Bangladesh in the updated IUCN Red List of Threatened Species in 2015. During the 24-month assessment process, over 300 local and international experts, including members of the IUCN Global Species Programme, the IUCN Species Survival Commission, Bangladesh Forest Department, Department of Fisheries, and IUCN Bangladesh, worked together to analyze the current status, trends and threats to over 1,700 wildlife species in Bangladesh.

The World Bank's Program on Forests (PROFOR) supports the GoB in carrying out in-depth analysis, innovative processes and knowledge-sharing and dialogue, in the belief that sound forest policy can lead to

230 <https://www.un.org/millennium/declaration/ares552e.htm>

231 <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/frameworks/addisababaactionagenda>

232 UNREDD (2016) National Programme Brief

better outcomes on issues ranging from livelihoods and financing, to illegal logging, biodiversity and climate change. Donors include the Department for International Development (DFID) of the United Kingdom, Swiss Development Cooperation (SDS), EU, Department for International Development Cooperation of Finland, Japanese International Forestry Cooperation Office, Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Dutch Ministry of Agriculture, Nature and Food Quality

Current Progress

National Plans

Bangladesh Capacity Development Action Plan for Sustainable Environmental Governance (2007) proposed plans to conserve and use forest areas in a sustainable manner, as well as conduct reforestation programs.

*Bangladesh Climate Change Resilience Fund (2010)*²³³ can be mobilized for reforestation and wildlife conservation efforts, as such programs meet its thematic criteria pertaining to climate change resilience.

National Sustainable Development Strategy (NSDS) (20113), the final draft prepared by the GED, put forth plans to protect and expand of forests and forest resources, retain the integrity of hill ecosystems that sustain plant and animal biodiversity, enhance forest biodiversity and wildlife conservation through expanding protected areas, restore ecosystems, and rehabilitate endangered species. Actions to implement these strategies include adopting co-management approaches with community participation, and promoting people's ownership of social forestry.

7th FYP (2015) projected the percentage of land covered by forestry with 70% tree density to increase to 15% from the 13.2% recorded in 2013-14. ADP allocations for the Ministry of Environment and Forestry were targeted to be BDT 8.6 billion in FY2019, and BDT 9.6 billion by FY2020.

Progress on SDG Targets with International Cooperation

Though the government has made significant progress in protecting, restoring and promoting the sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, and sustainably managing forests, results still fell short of the goal of protecting 5% of terrestrial area set by the MDGs. According to the MDG Progress Report 2015, the percentage of protected terrestrial area in Bangladesh increased from 0.83% in 1990 to 4.6% in 2015. The target set by the MDGs was 5%. Now that SDG 15 targets are calling for the conservation of 10% of terrestrial areas, Bangladesh will have to ramp up its efforts.

Table 7.9: Terrestrial area protected 1990-2014

| | 1990 | 2000 | 2014 |
|--|----------|----------|----------|
| Terrestrial area protected (% of total surface area) | 0.83 | 4.31 | 4.60 |
| Terrestrial Area protected (sq km) | 1,201.43 | 6,888.58 | 7,452.00 |

Source: MDG Progress Report 2015, GED

If the government is to meet this ambitious target, it will have to address the rapid deforestation taking place in south-east Bangladesh due to the influx and subsequent accommodation of Rohingya refugees in the area. A 2018 study found that the total vegetation covers of Teknaf wildlife fell by 102.87 hectares in 2017 when the influx first began. The area of vegetation is likely to have risen in subsequent years.

²³³ <https://www.worldbank.org/en/news/feature/2012/05/22/bangladesh-climate-change-resilience-fund-bccrf>

Table 7.10: Total vegetation cover of Teknaf wildlife

| | Area (hectare) | Change (hectare) |
|------|----------------|------------------|
| 2014 | 11,448.00 | |
| 2015 | 11,491.56 | 43.56 |
| 2016 | 11,467.53 | (24.03) |
| 2017 | 11,364.66 | (102.87) |

Source: Imtiaz, 2018

Surveys on national vegetation and forest cover, and protected terrestrial area are conducted sporadically. This makes it impossible to determine the full extent of deforestation and land degradation occurring, and design appropriate policy frameworks.

The government has received international assistance in implementing programs that support the adoption of co-management approaches with community participation, and the promotion people's ownership of social forestry. It has also received assistance from IUCN and UNREDD+ in designing policy frameworks that comply with international conservation, climate change adaptation, and wildlife trafficking laws.

The Bangladesh Forestry Department (BFD) is implementing several afforestation programs across Bangladesh. International cooperation on these programs could help build awareness among effected communities, and organize community management projects. Other areas where Bangladesh would benefit from international cooperation include species conservation; ecosystem management; construction of legal, regulatory and policy frameworks; education, training and awareness building; and other linkage and institutional issues.

SDG 15 Achievement Prospects

Bangladesh faces a number of challenges in achieving SDG 15. First, existing data on forestry in Bangladesh is insufficient. It will not be possible to partake in effective international cooperation to achieve SDG 15 until there is enough data to identify priority areas and design relevant policy and regulatory frameworks. Second, it does not have any specific laws or acts for biodiversity protection and conservation. Third, it does not have the regulations or institutional capacity to curb unregulated conversion of forest land to agricultural, industrial or residential land. Fourth, it does not have sufficient data on forest cover and wildlife to design policy and action frameworks capable of effectively addressing pressing issues such as deforestation and wildlife endangerment. Fifth, the prolonged accommodation of Rohingya refugees in south-east Bangladesh will escalate deforestation and dislocation of wildlife in the region.

The GoB will need international development cooperation to update and maintain its wildlife and forestry databases, introduce clean development mechanisms where necessary, promote sustainable forms of agriculture and forestry, and introduce solar power and alternative construction materials to wood in Rohingya refugee camps to reduce, if not entirely stop, deforestation and dislocation of wildlife in the area. The GED's SDG Financing Plan from 2018 estimates that additional costs for such initiatives will amount to \$0.42 billion in 2020, \$0.38 billion by 2025 and \$0.33 billion by 2030. 60% of these additional costs are expected to come from the public sector. It is possible that this estimate is unrealistically high as, according to the 7th FYP, ADP allocations to the MoEF are only projected to be as high as \$0.15 billion in 2020. Though the Strategy states external sources will finance 20%, international cooperation in the form of grants, loans and technical assistance from organizations like IUCN and UNREDD+ will play a larger role in achieving the targets for SDG 15.

Global Partnership on SDGs

Goal 17: Partnership for the Goals

Global Partnership on SDGs

This chapter covers discussion on SDG 17.

Goal 17: Partnership for the Goals

In order to achieve SDGs by 2030, Bangladesh needs to mobilize and effectively utilize necessary means of implementation, financial and non-financial, public and private, domestic and international resources. Major financial resources include domestic taxes, FDI, ODA, and remittance. On the other hand, domestic policy frameworks, effective institutions and support for good governance, democracy, rule of law, human rights, transparency and accountability fall under non-financial resources category. In this regard, the importance of global partnership can hardly be overlooked. The preamble of the SDGs Declaration identifies “partnership” as one of the ‘five Ps’ capturing the broader scope of the 2030 Agenda. In particular, Goal 17 seeks to strengthen global partnerships to achieve the SDGs, bringing together national governments, the international community, civil society, the private sector and other actors. Goal 17 comprises of 19 different targets and 25 indicators divided into 5 categories: i) finance; ii) technology; iii) capacity building; iv) trade; and v) systemic issues. All the 19 targets under SDG 17 have scope for international cooperation.

However, the world is facing a compendium of challenges in recent years with slowdown in global economic growth, rapid shift in geopolitics, return towards protectionism, adverse effects of climate change and others. This was reflected on the progress on global partnerships. According to the UN (2018)²³⁴, global progress on SDG 17 till 2018 had been uneven. The report stated that some of implementation targets are moving rapidly, while others have been faltering. For example, personal remittances were rising, an increasing proportion of the global population has access to the Internet, and the LDC Technology Bank has been established. However, ODAs declined globally during the first four years of SDGs and private investment flows are not well aligned with sustainable development. There was a significant digital divide across countries. Moreover, on-going trade tensions between countries, especially USA and China, went against the longstanding norm of increasing international trade as an engine for growth amongst LDCs.

The government recognizes that the current progress in international cooperation needs substantial improvement for delivering on the SDGs by 2030. The improvement has to come amidst the global challenges. It also has to come at a time when Bangladesh plans to graduate from LDC status in 2024, which will directly impact international trade and development cooperation. This section will explore: i) international cooperation, including international commitments in finance, technical assistance and capacity building; ii) progress made by Bangladesh in international cooperation, based on SDG 17 targets and indicators; and iii) assess the challenges faced and Bangladesh’s readiness to receive further cooperation. Based on these discussions, a set of recommendations will be made.

International Commitments to Achieve SDGs

At the global level, the international community has been striving to harness benefits of development assistance. Accordingly, several high level meetings on development cooperation, particularly in the UN, set out clear commitments to be adhered to both by providers of development assistance and partner countries. Bangladesh, as an active member in global discussions and dialogues, is highly committed to international declarations and commitments relating to MDGs, SDGs, development effectiveness, effective development partnership and others. This sub-section explores the commitments made prior and after the inception of SDGs.

Adoption of MDG 8

The MDGs were eight international development goals that had been established following the Millennium Summit of the UN in 2000. MDG 8 “Develop a Global Partnership for Development” outlined that developed

²³⁴ UN (2018). Progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals - Report of the Secretary-General. Economic and Social Council. Retrieved from: <https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/files/report/2018/secretary-general-sdg-report-2018--EN.pdf>

countries were to achieve a global partnership by supporting fair trade, debt relief, increasing aid, access to affordable essential medicines and encouraging technology transfer, thus developing nations can ostensibly become partners with developed nations.

Commitments After MDGs

After the adoption of the MDGs, the following are the major commitments made by the international community in relation to global partnership.

Monterrey Consensus (2002): This is the outcome document for the International Conference on Financing for Development. According to UN (2002)²³⁵, the Consensus stated that the international community committed to scale up and intensify their efforts to help developing countries meet the internationally-agreed development goals by: i) making sure that aid resources are there to match the commitment to progress on policy reforms on the part of developing countries; ii) committing not only to reduce trade barriers, but also to support developing countries in addressing constraints that prevent them from fully realizing the benefits from trade and investment flows; and iii) renew emphasis on and calls for a new partnership on capacity building. The document considers acting in the following order:

- o Mobilizing domestic financial resources for development;
- o Mobilizing international resources for development/FDI/other private flows;
- o International trade as an engine for development;
- o Increasing international financial and technical cooperation for development; and
- o Addressing systemic issues.

Rome Declaration on Harmonization (2003): According to OECD (2003)²³⁶, the Rome Declaration recognized that the wide variety of development partner or donor requirements and processes for preparing, delivering, and monitoring development assistance were generating unproductive transaction costs. It also recognized the partner country's concerns that donor practices do not always fit well with national development priorities and systems, including their budget, program, and project planning cycles and public expenditure and financial management systems. All these issues required urgent, coordinated, and sustained action to improve development effectiveness. The Declaration centered around the following principal commitments:

- o Reviewing and amending policy, procedures and practice such as by reducing donor missions, reviews and reporting to facilitate harmonization and reduce cost for partner countries;
- o Implementing progressively good practice principles in development assistance delivery;
- o Intensifying donor efforts to work through delegated co-operation and increasing the flexibility of staff to manage country programs and projects more effectively and efficiently;
- o Providing support for country analytic work in ways that will strengthen government leaderships and ownership of development results;
- o Mainstreaming country-led efforts to streamline donor procedures and practices including demand-driven technical co-operation; and
- o Applying good practice principles - including alignment with national budget cycles and poverty reduction strategy reviews - in providing budget, sector or balance of payments support to partner countries.

Paris Declaration on Aid Effectiveness (2005): The Paris Declaration on Aid Effectiveness, based on OECD (2005)²³⁷, recognized that while the volumes of aid and other development resources must increase to achieve

235 UN (2002). International Conference on Financing for Development adopts 'Monterrey Consensus' by acclamation. Retrieved from: <https://www.un.org/press/en/2002/dev2387.doc.htm>

236 OECD (2003). Rome Declaration on Harmonization. Retrieved from: <https://www.oecd.org/dac/effectiveness/31451637.pdf>

237 OECD (2003). Rome Declaration on Harmonization. Retrieved from: <https://www.oecd.org/dac/effectiveness/31451637.pdf>

these goals, aid effectiveness must also increase significantly to support partner country efforts to improve development performance. To strengthen aid effectiveness, the Declaration made commitments to accelerate implementation progress in the following areas:

- o strengthen partner countries' national development strategies and associated operational frameworks (e.g., planning, budget, and performance assessment frameworks);
- o increase alignment of aid with partner countries' priorities, systems and procedures and helping to strengthen their capacities;
- o enhancing donors' and partner countries' respective accountability to their citizens and parliaments for their development policies, strategies and performance;
- o eliminating duplication of efforts and rationalizing donor activities to make them as cost-effective as possible;
- o reforming and simplifying donor policies and procedures to encourage collaborative behavior and progressive alignment with partner countries' priorities, systems and procedures;
- o defining measures and standards of performance and accountability of partner country systems in public financial management, procurement, fiduciary safeguards in line with broadly accepted good practices.

The Declaration focused on 3 targets and 12 specific indicators to measure progress and set a deadline for 2010 to achieve outcomes.

Accra Agenda for Action (2008): According to OECD (2008)²³⁸, the Accra Agenda for Action called to strengthen and deepen implementation of the Paris Declaration on Aid Effectiveness 2005. The Agenda drew evidence of what was and was not working – gathered primarily from a 2008 monitoring and evaluation exercise and made it recommendations. It focused on three issues: i) enhancing country ownership to achieving aid effectiveness; ii) building more effective and inclusive partnership with a range of development actors – including private sector, CSO, South-South cooperation, global foundations, global investment funds etc.; and iii) achieving development results by openly accounting for them.

Bogota Statement on South-South Cooperation (2010): According to UN (2010)²³⁹, the Statement recognized that scale and scope of South-South cooperation has expanded significantly and the increasing engagement of the South in the multiple spheres of development cooperation is a salient feature of global cooperation today. The Statement recognized that capacity development accounted for a relatively small share of South-South development cooperation flows. The Statement urged partners engaged in South-South cooperation to create an enabling environment and focus on best practices to deepen knowledge exchange and mutual learning amongst members.

Istanbul Programme of Action (2011): Based on WFP (2011)²⁴⁰, the overarching goal of the IPOA for the decade 2011-2020 was to overcome the structural challenges faced by the LDCs in order to achieve internationally agreed development goals and enable graduation from the LDC category. This was to be done by focusing on structural transformation, diversification and productive capacities and the IPOA called on a renewed and strengthened partnership for development. It does so in several different ways. It included high level objectives: achieving economic growth of 7% per annum, building human capacities, reducing vulnerabilities, increasing share of trade of LDCs to 2% by 2020, enhancing finance and good governance. It identified priority areas of action by LDCs and development partners.

238 OECD (2008). The Accra Agenda for Action. Retrieved from: <https://www.oecd.org/dac/effectiveness/45827311.pdf>

239 UN (2010). South-South cooperation and capacity development. Retrieved from: <https://www.un.org/en/development/desa/ug/statements/uncategorized/2010/03/statement-on-south-south-cooperation-and-capacity-development.html>

240 WFP (2011). Istanbul Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the decade 2011-2020. Retrieved from: https://documents.wfp.org/stellent/groups/public/documents/eb/wfpdoc061607.pdf?_ga=2.185947881.1752583516.1562138833-1674543342.1561822994

Busan Partnership for Effective Development Co-operation (2011): According to OECD (2011)²⁴¹, the Partnership recognized that international development cooperation has yielded success, but progress has been uneven and not far-reaching. It also acknowledged the changing aid architecture, including a proliferation of sources of development finance. Concessional finance from official sources—the traditional donors—has declined; and funding from nontraditional partners, including emerging donors and philanthropic organizations, and non-aid sources—such as remittances and foreign direct investment—has increased. In this rapidly changing environment, the Partnership acknowledged that merely managing ODA between traditional donors and recipient countries, based on the aid effectiveness principles agreed in Rome, Paris, and Accra, is not sufficient. It called on a shift from aid effectiveness towards effective development cooperation. The Partnership led to the establishment of a new, inclusive and representative Global Partnership for Effective Development Co-operation (GPEDC).

Mexico Communique (2014): The Mexico Communique is the outcome document of the First High-Level Meeting of the GPEDC. According to GPEDC (2014)²⁴², it undertook to fulfill all the commitments in support of financing for inclusive and sustainable development, particularly those agreed in the Monterrey Consensus and its follow up in Busan High Level Forum on Aid Effectiveness, to generate tangible results. The Communique agreed action on priority themes of domestic resources mobilization, middle-income countries, business as a partner, South–South cooperation, triangular cooperation, and knowledge sharing.

International Commitment During MDG Timeline – Promises Not Kept

At the end of the MDG timeline in 2015, Bangladesh made outstanding progress in areas such as poverty alleviation, ensuring food security, primary school enrolment and others. However, in the case of MDG 8, According to GED (2016)²⁴³, Bangladesh made progress in the following areas:

- *Market Access*: The proportion of goods imported by development countries increased from 57.51% in 2000 to 78.59% in 2014. Moreover, the average tariff imposed by developed countries reduced from 12% in 2005 to 9% in 2015.
- *Debt Sustainability*: Bangladesh's debt service as a percentage of exports of goods and services reduced from 9% in 2000 to 5.1% in 2015.
- *Technology*: Bangladesh's experienced significant growth in cellular subscription per 100 people from 0.22% to 79.76%. Internet subscription sustained similar growth as internet users per 100 people increased from 0.07% to 30.39%.

However, the progress had been uneven in terms of ODA. This is explained below:

- According to a GED assessment, Bangladesh needed foreign assistance of \$5 billion and \$3 billion per year under the baseline and high growth scenarios (7.8% per annum) respectively between 2000 to 2015. The evaluation report revealed that from 1990-91 to 2014-15, Bangladesh received an average of \$1.79 billion ODA per year, which was far short.
- Only three countries, namely Sweden (1.1%), Denmark (0.85%) and the United Kingdom (0.71%) complied with international commitment to provide more than 0.7% of GNI as ODA to Bangladesh in FY 2013-14. During the same year, Japan provided the largest amount of ODA (in terms of dollar value) at \$450.78 million. However, this amounted to only 0.19% of its GNI, far below the international commitment. This was the case for developing countries globally.
- ODA disbursement as a proportion of GDP fell from 5.59% to 1.56 % between 1990-91 and 2014-15.

241 OECD (2011). Busan partnership for effective development co-operation fourth high level forum on aid effectiveness, Busan, Republic of Korea. Retrieved from: <https://www.oecd.org/dac/effectiveness/49650173.pdf>

242 GPEDC (2014). First High-Level Meeting of the Global Partnership for Effective Development Co-operation: Building Towards an Inclusive Post-2015 Development Agenda. Mexico High Level Meeting Communiqué, 16 April 2014. Retrieved from: http://effectivecooperation.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/07/ENG_Final-ConsensusMexicoHLMCommunique.pdf

243 GED (2016). MDG End Period Stocktaking and Final Evaluation Report. Retrieved from: http://www.sdg.gov.bd/uploads/pages/58f8d8e69b131_1_MDG-Report-Final-Layout.pdf

As it can be seen, promises made to developing countries in terms of financial assistance were not kept by developed countries. This is especially true for ODA commitment of 0.7% of GNI.

Commitments After SDGs

After the adoption of SDGs in 2015, the international community made the following commitments:

AAAA (2015): AAAA was adopted at the Third International Conference on Financing for Development. The conference convened to: 1) assess the progress made in the implementation of the Monterrey Consensus and the Doha Declaration; 2) address new and emerging issues; and 3) reinvigorate and strengthen the financing for development follow-up process and requires effective development co-operation and inclusive multi-stakeholder partnerships. The outcome document has since become an integral part of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development which supports, complements and helps contextualize the SDGs implementation targets. It includes a comprehensive set of policy actions, with over 100 concrete measures that draw upon all sources of finance, technology, innovation, trade, debt and data, in order to support achievement of the SDGs.

Nairobi Outcome Document (2016)²⁴⁴: The Nairobi Outcome Document is a forward-looking set of priorities and goals for development co-operation to achieve the 2030 Agenda. It provides a plan of action for stakeholders to think jointly and concretely about how to ground its four principles – a focus on results, country-led development, inclusive partnerships, and transparency and mutual accountability – to maximize efficiency and effective use of resources and development effort. Annexed to the Nairobi Outcome Document, there was a renewed mandate which set out a vision and agreed functions for the Global Partnership Initiative. The aim of this initiative is to support country-level implementation, generate evidence for accountability and SDG follow-up, share knowledge and lessons, facilitate policy dialogue and build political momentum for effective development co-operation. The Outcome document also marked the change in leadership of the GPEDC where Bangladesh became a Co-Chair along with Germany and Uganda.

Policy Coherence from Development Partners

In line with the Addis Ababa Agenda and Nairobi Document, a number of development partners have adopted their strategy and operational plans with that of the SDGs. The World Bank and the IMF outlined their plans for supporting the 2030 Agenda at their annual meetings in 2015. In 2016 the World Bank prepared a Forward Look – A Vision for the World Bank Group in 2030. ADB prepared Strategy 2030 - which includes forward guidance on how the ADB aligns with the SDGs and the Paris Agreement on climate change. The African Development Bank has created the “High 5s Agenda” to respond to the 2030 Agenda. The Inter-American Development Bank has updated its Corporate Results Framework to identify the most closely aligned SDGs, as well as its guidelines for preparing country strategies. The European Investment Bank tracks the impact on the economy of the projects it supports by a set of monitoring Indicators which enable them to demonstrate its contribution to the SDGs.

Financial Cooperation

Some of the broader financial assistance cooperation under the 5 categories SDGs is mentioned below:

Domestic Revenue Mobilization

According to UN (2019a)²⁴⁵, the OECD’s Creditor Reporting System data for 2015 shows that ODA disbursed for domestic revenue mobilization from OECD DAC members was \$189 million in 2015²⁴⁶. However, recent

244 GPEDC (2016). Nairobi Outcome Document. Retrieved from: <http://effectivecooperation.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/12/OutcomeDocumentEnglish.pdf>

245 UN (2019a). Development Finance - Capacity Building for Domestic Revenue Mobilization. Retrieved from: <https://developmentfinance.un.org/capacity-building-domestic-revenue-mobilisation>

246 This includes aggregate rather than project-level figures provided by Australia, Germany, Ireland, Portugal and European Union institutions.

data from UN (2019b)²⁴⁷ showed that ODA for domestic revenue mobilization fell significantly from 2016 (\$329 million) to 2017 (\$193 million), accounting for 0.18% of ODA.

Official Development Assistance

The Addis Agenda reaffirmed existing ODA commitments (0.7% of GNI to developing countries and 0.15%-0.20% of GNI to LDCs). It includes new commitments to reverse the recent decline in ODA to LDCs, to encourage ODA of 0.2% of GNI to LDCs, and to recognize those countries that allocate at least 50% of ODA to LDCs. It commits to prioritizing the allocation of concessional international public finance to those with the greatest needs and least ability to mobilize other resources.

Private Investment

To mobilize additional financial resources, special focus was given on leveraging private finance through development finance. This is known as blended finance. While there is no fixed definition, UN (2019a)²⁴⁸ states that there is a rising trend in both blended financing volumes and number of deals. The data show that at least 23 out of 30 DAC members engage in blended finance. Donor governments have set up 167 dedicated facilities for blending between 2000 and 2016. Between 2012 and 2017, their blending activities mobilized a total of \$152.1 billion from commercial sources. Most of blending is in middle income countries, with 8% mobilized for LDCs.

Technology

ODA targeting the development of science and technology capacities in developing countries has increased in the past two decades and more than doubled since 2014, from almost \$0.9 billion to \$2.4 billion in 2017. However, ODA for STI capacities directed to the LDCs, as well as for developing countries in Africa, has remained at the about same levels for the past decade.

Technical Assistance and Capacity Building Cooperation

Similar to financial cooperation, some of the broader technical and capacity building cooperation under the 5 categories SDG 17 are mentioned below:

Domestic Revenue Mobilization

According to OECD (2016)²⁴⁹, the following are the major capacity building commitments related to domestic revenue mobilization:

The Addis Tax Initiative, launched in July 2015, commits donor countries to doubling the resources they provide for capacity building on tax. In 2016 a monitoring framework was put in place which will serve as an important coordination tool for support to partner countries in the field of domestic revenue mobilization.

Tax Inspectors Without Borders, a joint initiative of the OECD and the UNDP, is designed to support developing countries in building tax audit capacity. It complements the broader efforts of the international community to strengthen international cooperation on tax matters and will make a significant contribution to the domestic resource mobilization efforts of developing countries.

Global Tax Program, is a forthcoming program of the World Bank. Its objective is to strengthen tax systems in developing countries by facilitating the design and implementation of evidence-based systems. Intermediate objectives include greater participation of developing countries in the development of global tax systems,

247 UN (2019b). Financing for Sustainable Development Report 2019. Inter-agency Task Force on Financing for Development. Retrieved from: <https://developmentfinance.un.org/sites/developmentfinance.un.org/files/FSDR2019.pdf>

248 UN (2019a). Development Finance - Catalyzing Additional Resources. Retrieved from: <https://developmentfinance.un.org/other-official-flows-and-catalysing-additional-resources>

249 OECD (2016). Enhancing the Effectiveness of External Support in Building Tax Capacity in Developing Countries. Retrieved from: <http://www.oecd.org/tax/enhancing-the-effectiveness-of-external-support-in-building-tax-capacity-in-developing-countries.pdf>

improved understanding of the requirements to improve the performance of country-based tax institutions and strengthening the application of research and knowledge development for improved performance of tax institutions.

The Platform for Collaboration on Tax is a joint effort by the UN, World Bank Group, IMF, and OECD to intensify cooperation on tax issues. It formalizes regular discussions on the design and implementation of international tax standards, strengthens coordination of capacity-building support to developing countries, and prepares joint guidance. The Platform has three work streams: coordination, analytical and outreach activities.

Revenue Mobilization Thematic Fund, established by the IMF²⁵⁰, will assist developing countries following two main delivery approaches: i) intensive engagement in support of transformational reform. This will involve supporting the comprehensive reforms beneficiary countries make to their tax systems, including redesigning tax policy frameworks and strengthening revenue administrations through TA support; and ii) targeted support for reforms on specific areas of tax system where improvements are needed.

Technology

The United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UNDESA) is implementing a four-year project for mobilizing science and technology in developing countries for the SDGs. The International Telecommunication Union (ITU) has a large capacity-building program focusing on strengthening skills among its membership in a wide range of ICT-related topics. Through the ITU Academy, which has more than 10,000 users, and its Centre of Excellence network, it delivers in-person and e-learning courses.

The Commission on Science and Technology for Development acts as a forum for strategic planning and sharing lessons learned and best practices. It provides analysis and foresight about critical trends in STI in key sectors of the economy, the environment and society, drawing attention to emerging and disruptive technologies. The Technology Bank was also established for LDCs at the end of 2016. Its operational activities started in 2018, focusing on preparing science, technology and innovation/technology needs assessment reviews and on digital access to research. The needs assessment reviews aim at identifying technological gaps and priority needs and providing recommendations for strengthening policies and measures to improve national and regional technological capabilities and encourage innovation.

Trade

During July 2016, the UNCTAD was given a renewed mandate. According to UN (2019a)²⁵¹ These included: i) to continue conducting research and analysis; ii) to build policy consensus; and iii) provide technical assistance and capacity building to make trade work for sustainable development for all and especially in developing countries. UNCTAD will continue promoting a more inclusive and equitable international trading system, and supporting developing countries seize the opportunities of globalization and address its downsides, by working on the inter-connected issues of trade, investment, technology and finance in pursuance of the SDGs.

Debt Sustainability

According to UN (2019a), the international community is stepping up its capacity building efforts. The Debt Management Facility (DMF), a trust fund jointly administered by the World Bank and IMF, helps empower debt managers faced with political pressure to advocate for a prudent and sustainable approach to taking on new debt. Since 2009, the DMF has supported over 280 Technical Assistance projects in about 80 countries and 14 subnational entities. It has done 83 capacity development activities in 2018, with a further 92 planned for 2019. A third phase of the DMF was launched in 2019 to increase funding.

250 IMF (2016). A Multipartner Trust Fund for IMF Capacity Development in Revenue and Mobilization. Retrieved from: https://www.imf.org/external/np/ins/english/pdf/RMTF_Program_Document.pdf

251 UN (2019a). Development Finance - The role of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development. Retrieved from: <https://developmentfinance.un.org/role-united-nations-conference-trade-and-development>

Current Progress on International Cooperation

National Plans and Initiatives

The GoB has taken steps to enhance international cooperation in Bangladesh. Some of the important ones are discussed below:

In order to facilitate dialogue and coordination the GoB and development partners jointly established the **Bangladesh Development Forum (BDF)** in 2001. The objective of the BDF is to effectively address economic, social, and environmental determinants combining multi-stakeholder and multi-sectoral action across the government and society. The focus of the dialogues is mainly on increasing know-how and problem-solving skills of policymakers, and support ongoing learning and development in analysis and adoption of multi-stakeholder and multi-sectoral approaches for development targets. There are ministerial level representations from the GoB and high level participation from the development partners. Amongst others, aid-effectiveness is an important agenda for discussion in BDF meetings.

To attract private investment especially in the infrastructure sector, formal Policy and Strategy for PPP was introduced in 2010 in Bangladesh. This led to the creation of a PPP Office (PPPO), under the Prime Minister's Office, tasked with the responsibility of advice and oversight. A PPP Unit was also set up in the Ministry of Finance to assess financial viability of projects and determining levels of government support. Later, a PPP Act was enacted in 2015.

To manage mobilization, management and utilization of foreign assistance in Bangladesh, the GoB has drawn up a draft **National Policy on Development Cooperation (NPDC)** in 2016. According to ERD (2016)²⁵², the primary goal of the NPDC is to ensure that foreign assistance follows national development priorities as determined by national development plans and strategies and supports the country's development efforts. Foreign assistance in this policy includes: i) ODA (grants and concessional loans), vertical funds (e.g. Global Alliance for Vaccines and Immunization or GAVI), funds from international foundations (e.g. Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation), climate-funds, AfT, non-concessional loans, commercial borrowings for public undertakings, and other sources of cooperation such as south-south and triangular cooperation and any form of cooperation commensurate with qualifications of foreign assistance. Remittances and FDI though elements of development cooperation in broader sense, is to remain out of the purview of NPDC.

As the current Co-Chair of GPEDC, Bangladesh will continue its efforts to mobilize knowledge, expertise, policies and innovative partnerships that countries can apply to accelerate progress on the 2030 Agenda in their own country and context. In particular, GoB will remind development partners about their aid commitments, protect interests of LDCs through the UN-LDC Caucus and participate in the Global Partnership Initiative for effective utilization of aid. Other initiatives for mobilizing and efficiently managing external resources taken by GoB, particularly ERD, include: i) regular Local Consultative Group (LCG) meetings between GoB and development partners; ii) introduction of online aid portal Aid Information Management System (AIMS); and iii) strategic transformation of cash flow through comprehensive government financing and debt management strategy. Additionally, it is very important to operate the LCG secretariat for ensuring efficacy of the LCG in maintaining DP-GoB coordination.

Progress on SDG Targets with International Cooperation

For the purposes of assessing global partnership from Bangladesh's perspective, the progress is assessed under the 5 categories of SDG 17. The indicators under the targets will help gauge the progress on international cooperation. However, the data for indicators might be partially or not fully available. Therefore, the analysis also identifies the tier classification set by the Inter-agency and Expert Group on SDG Indicators (IAEG-SDG).

252 ERD (2016). Bangladesh: National Policy on Development Cooperation. Retrieved from: [https://erd.portal.gov.bd/sites/default/files/files/erd.portal.gov.bd/page/9d1a9f30_664e_4ac0_93bf_07163494bdfe/FINAL%20DRAFT%20NPDC%20\(1\).pdf](https://erd.portal.gov.bd/sites/default/files/files/erd.portal.gov.bd/page/9d1a9f30_664e_4ac0_93bf_07163494bdfe/FINAL%20DRAFT%20NPDC%20(1).pdf)

Finance

Under the Finance category, there are 5 targets. These are mentioned in Table 8.1. Out of the 5 targets, Bangladesh does not have any data for Target 17.5. The indicator 17.5.1 is classified under Tier III. The progress on these targets and scope for international cooperation are discussed below.

Table 8.1: SDG 17 Targets under finance category

| Finance Targets | Related Indicators | Tier Classification | Status |
|--|---|---------------------|---|
| 17.1: Strengthen domestic resource mobilization | 17.1.1: Total government revenue as a proportion of GDP, by source | Tier I | Available |
| | 17.1.2: Proportion of domestic budget funded by domestic taxes | Tier I | Available |
| 17.2: Developed countries to implement fully their official development assistance commitments | 17.2.1: Net official development assistance, total and to least developed countries, as a proportion of OECD Development Assistance Committee donors' gross national income (GNI) | Tier I | Available |
| 17.3: Mobilize additional financial resources for developing countries from multiple sources | 17.3.1: Foreign direct investment (FDI), official development assistance and South-South cooperation as a proportion of total domestic budget | Tier I | Partially Available Data on South-South cooperation is not available |
| | 17.3.2: Volume of remittances (in United States dollars) as a proportion of total GDP | Tier I | Available |
| 17.4: Assist developing countries in attaining long-term debt sustainability | 17.4.1: Debt service as a proportion of exports of goods and services | Tier I | Available |
| 17.5: Adopt and implement investment promotion regimes for least developed countries | 17.5.1: Number of countries that adopt and implement investment promotion regimes for least developed countries | Tier III | Not Available |

Source: Tier Classification for Global SDG Indicators, UNStats (2019)

Target 17.1: Domestic resource mobilization has not improved as government revenue is around 10% of GDP. While there are no set international targets, it is important to note that commitments have asked developing countries to take financing initiatives themselves, while developed countries are expected to play a supportive role. On the other hand, the ratio of domestic taxes as share of budget was 66.4% in FY2017. Therefore, there is further scope for international cooperation in domestic resource mobilization.

Target 17.2: Developed countries have not fulfilled their ODA commitment to developing countries. According to statistics from OECD (2019)²⁵³, total net ODA by development assistance committee (DAC) countries was \$153 billion in 2018, representing 0.31% of their combined GNI. On the other hand, net ODA to LDCs was US\$ 27.6 billion. According to CPD (2019a)²⁵⁴, net ODA to Bangladesh was \$3.7 billion in FY2017. However, compared to the international commitment, only 5 DAC countries out of 34 member-states of OECD met the UN target for ODA of 0.7% of GNI - Denmark, Luxembourg, Norway, Sweden and the United Kingdom. Moreover, based on GED (2019)²⁵⁵, ODA as a percentage of budget was 10.7% in 2017. Therefore, there is considerable scope for international cooperation in fulfilling ODA commitment.

Target 17.3: FDI and remittance inflow are not up to the mark. FDI as proportion government budget remained stable around 5%, which is less compared to other countries. The annual flow of remittance peaked in 2015 at \$15.3 billion and then dropped in the following two years. In FY 2017, remittance as a percentage

²⁵³ OECD (2016). Development aid drops in 2018, especially to neediest countries. Retrieved from: <http://www.oecd.org/dac/financing-sustainable-development/development-finance-data/ODA-2018-detailed-summary.pdf>

²⁵⁴ CPD (2019a). Review Report on Goal 17: Partnerships for the Goals. Retrieved from: https://4yearsdsdgs.bdplatform4sdgs.net/wp-content/uploads/2019/04/SDG-17_Partnerships-for-the-Goals-Full-Report.pdf

²⁵⁵ GED (2019). Sustainable Development Goals: Bangladesh Progress Report 2018. Retrieved from: [https://www.undp.org/content/dam/bangladesh/docs/Publications/Pub-2019/SDGs-Bangladesh_Progress_Report%202018%20\(1\).pdf](https://www.undp.org/content/dam/bangladesh/docs/Publications/Pub-2019/SDGs-Bangladesh_Progress_Report%202018%20(1).pdf)

of GDP was 5.1%. Data on South-South is not available for Bangladesh. Further international cooperation is vital in increasing FDI and remittance flow.

Target 17.4: Debt sustainability is on track. Debt service burden in recent years has improved significantly, from 7% of exports of goods and services in 2012 to 3.24% in FY2017. While international cooperation might not be directly required, increased inflow from other sources might help reduce GoB borrowing and protect debt sustainability in the long term.

Technology

Under the Technology category, there are 3 targets. These are mentioned in Table 8.2. Out of the 3 targets, Bangladesh does not have any data related to 1 target i.e. Target 17.7 funding available to promote environmentally sound technologies. Notably, the Indicator 17.7.1 falls under the Tier III classification for SDG indicators.

Table 8.2: SDG 17 Targets under technology category

| Technology Targets | Relevant Indicators | Tier Classification | Status |
|--|---|---------------------|---------------|
| 17.6: Enhance North-South, South-South and triangular regional and international cooperation on and access to science, technology and innovation and enhance knowledge-sharing | 17.6.1: Number of science and/or technology cooperation agreements and programs between countries, by type of cooperation | Tier III | Not Available |
| | 17.6.2: Fixed Internet broadband subscriptions per 100 inhabitants, by speed | Tier I | Available |
| 17.7: Promote the development, transfer, dissemination and diffusion of environmentally sound technologies to developing countries | 17.7.1: Total amount of approved funding for developing countries to promote the development, transfer, dissemination and diffusion of environmentally sound technologies | Tier III | Not Available |
| 17.8: Fully operationalize the technology bank and science, technology and innovation capacity-building mechanism for least developed countries by 2017, and enhance the use of enabling technology, in particular information and communications technology | 17.8.1: Proportion of individuals using the Internet | Tier I | Available |

Source: Tier Classification for Global SDG Indicators, UNStats (2019)

Target 17.6: Bangladesh has made considerable progress in case of fixed broadband subscription per 100 people. It has reached 4.43 per 100 people in FY 2017. Target 17.6 is overall related to technological collaboration and development of technological base in developing countries. It has another indicator (17.6.1), which tracks the number of science and technology cooperation agreements and programs between countries. There is no data available on Indicator 17.6.1. It is also classified as a Tier III indicator.

Target 17.8: Bangladesh has significantly increased the number of internet users. It has increased from 30.39% in 2015 to 41.4% in 2017.

However, the data shows progress in one aspect only and there are no data tracking for Target 17.7 i.e. development, transfer, dissemination and diffusion of environmentally sound technologies to developing countries. The development of technologies is an important area that appears to be neglected by the GoB and may have scope for international cooperation.

Capacity Building

Under the Capacity Building category, there is only 1 target which is mentioned in Table 8.3. Notably, the indicators fall under Tier I classification.

Table 8.3: SDG 17 Targets under capacity building category

| Capacity Building Targets | Relevant Indicators | Tier Classification | Status |
|---|--|---------------------|-----------|
| 17.9: Enhance international support for implementing effective and targeted capacity-building in developing countries to support national plans to implement all the Sustainable Development Goals, including through North-South, South-South and triangular cooperation | 17.9.1: Dollar value of financial and technical assistance (including through North-South, South-South and triangular cooperation) committed to developing countries | Tier I | Available |

Source: Tier Classification for Global SDG Indicators, UNStats (2019)

Target 17.9: Financial and technical assistance for capacity building seems to be on track, however, there are discrepancies in data. Since 2013, financial and technical assistance in dollar terms has been declining. In 2016, total amount committed to Bangladesh is \$530.6 million. In 2017, there has been a big jump to \$3,677.29 million. To put the figure into consideration, it is significantly above the target set by the GoB for FY2030. However, according to an analysis by CPD (2019a), ODA support for technical cooperation for Bangladesh (based on data from UNSTATS) was \$522 million in 2016. This was significantly less than the official reported data. According to the report, the huge data gap between two sources is mainly due to misreporting of the technical assistance. The technical assistance should report only the dollar value of the technical assistance projects. Considering this finding, the technical assistance received by Bangladesh has scope for further international cooperation.

Trade

Under the Trade category, there are 3 targets. These are mentioned in Table 8.4. Notably, all the indicators for Trade fall under Tier I classification.

Table 8.4: SDG 17 Targets under trade category

| Trade Targets | Relevant Indicators | Tier Classification | Status |
|--|--|---------------------|-----------|
| 17.10: Promote a universal, rules-based, open, non-discriminatory and equitable multilateral trading system under the WTO, including through the conclusion of negotiations under its Doha Development Agenda | 17.10.1: Worldwide weighted tariff-average | Tier I | Available |
| 17.11: Significantly increase the exports of developing countries, in particular with a view to doubling the least developed countries' share of global exports by 2020 | 17.11.1: Developing countries' and least developed countries' share of global exports | Tier I | Available |
| 17.12: Realize timely implementation of duty-free and quota-free market access on a lasting basis for all least developed countries, consistent with World Trade Organization decisions, including by ensuring that preferential rules of origin applicable to imports from least developed countries are transparent and simple, and contribute to facilitating market access | 17.12.1: Average tariffs faced by developing countries, least developed countries and small island developing States | Tier I | Available |

Source: Tier Classification for Global SDG Indicators, UNStats (2019)

Target 17.10: Worldwide weighted average tariff faced by Bangladesh might not be on track. According to GED (2019), the worldwide weighted average tariff faced by Bangladesh is 4.85% in 2015. However, data from the World Development Indicator reveals that weighted average tariff was 11.82%. Taking the data into account, a significant effort has to be made in reduction of tariff rates and requires further international cooperation.

Target 17.11: Bangladesh's share of exports is low and has significant scope for improvement. According to the CPD (2019a) analysis, Bangladesh's share to world export was only 0.23% in 2017 and the share has increased at a slow pace. No country-specific indicator and milestone are set for Bangladesh's share to world export. Notably, 71% of Bangladesh's export is limited to 10 countries only, which shows high dependency on these markets only and absence of initiative to explore new destinations. Additionally, the export items have been limited to only a few sectors, mostly apparel, and some leather and frozen food items. Significant efforts are required to increase the investment and diversify export items as well as markets. Increasing Bangladesh's share in global exports would require international cooperation.

Target 17.12: Average tariff faced by Bangladesh and has further scope for reduction. As a LDC, Bangladesh enjoys preferential tariff rates in the developed country markets. In 2011, average tariffs imposed by developed countries on Bangladesh's agricultural products, textiles and clothing, was between 0%-9%. In 2016, on average, Bangladesh faced 10.5% Most Favored Nation (MFN) tariff and 9.47% Preferential tariff. This indicator demonstrates that further trade liberalization is required in the importing countries for Bangladesh to meet SDG target by 2030.

Systemic Issues

The Systemic Issues have 7 targets. The targets have been divided into 3 sub-categories: i) Policy and Institutional Coherence; ii) Multi-stakeholder Partnership; and iii) Data Monitoring and Accountability. The progress related to these sub-categories are explained below.

Policy and Institutional Coherence

For policy and institutional coherence, there are 3 targets as shown in Table 8.5. However, they have no quantitative indicators as they fall under either Tier II or Tier III classification for SDG indicators.

Table 8.5: SDG 17 Targets under systemic issues: policy and institutional coherence

| Policy and Institutional Targets | Relevant Indicators | Tier Classification | Status |
|---|---|----------------------------|------------------------------------|
| 17.13: Enhance global macroeconomic stability, including through policy coordination and policy coherence | 17.13.1: Macroeconomic Dashboard | Tier II | Not Available |
| | 17.14.1: Number of countries with mechanisms in place to enhance policy coherence of sustainable development | Tier III | Not Available |
| 17.15: Respect each country's policy space and leadership to establish and implement policies for poverty eradication and sustainable development | 17.15.1: Extent of use of country-owned results frameworks and planning tools by providers of development cooperation | Tier II | Partially Available, only for 2015 |

Source: Tier Classification for Global SDG Indicators, UNStats (2019)

Despite the absence of data, there are areas of international cooperation that GoB can engage in for 2 of the targets:

Target 17.13: Formulate a Macroeconomic Dashboard. The dashboard can be developed with assistance from development partners.

Target 17.14: Monitoring of National Sustainable Development Strategy. GoB has formulated a NSDS for 2010-2021. Development partners can help monitor and evaluate the progress of NSDS.

Target 17.15: Bangladesh is behind other regional countries in using country led result framework. It is important to take initiative to develop an integrated monitoring framework of development partner countries supporting Bangladesh. GED has published SDG tracker online which includes all the monitoring framework and indicators. However, unavailability of data from different implementing agencies has always been impeding the monitoring of the progress.

Multi-Stakeholder Partnership

For Multi-Stakeholder Partnership, there are 2 targets as shown in Table 8.6. However, there are no data and the indicators either fall in Tier II or Tier III classification.

Table 8.6: SDG 17 Targets under systemic issues: multi-stakeholder partnerships

| Multi-stakeholder Partnership Targets | Relevant Indicators | Tier Classification | Status |
|--|---|---------------------|---------------|
| 17.16: Enhance the Global Partnership for Sustainable Development, complemented by multi-stakeholder partnerships that mobilize and share knowledge, expertise, technology and financial resources, to support the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals in all countries, in particular developing countries | 17.16.1: Number of countries reporting progress in multi-stakeholder development effectiveness monitoring frameworks that support the achievement of the SDGs | Tier II | Not Available |
| 17.17: Encourage and promote effective public, public-private and civil society partnerships, building on the experience and resourcing strategies of partnerships | 17.17.1: Amount of United States dollars committed to (a) public-private partnerships and (b) civil society partnerships | Tier III | Not Available |

Source: Tier Classification for Global SDG Indicators, UNStats (2019)

Despite the absence of data, there are areas of international cooperation that GoB can engage in for both the targets:

Target 17.16: Formulate the National Development Cooperation Policy and Joint Cooperation Strategy for Bangladesh with international support.

Target 17.17: Seek assistance from international community especially private sector/CSOs/NGOs. Given the requirements for SDG, there is a need to mobilize finance, technical assistance, capacity building from these sources.

Data Monitoring and Accountability

For Data Monitoring and Accountability, there are 2 targets as shown in Table 8.7. For Target 17.18, the indicators are either qualitative or fall under Tier III classification. For Target 17.19, the data is either not available or qualitative in nature, even though they have Tier I indicator classification. Despite the absence of data, there are areas of international cooperation that GoB can engage in for both the targets:

Table 8.7: SDG 17 Targets under systemic issues: data monitoring and accountability

| Data Monitoring Targets | Relevant Indicators | Tier Classification | Status |
|--|---|---------------------|----------------------------------|
| 17.18: By 2020, enhance capacity-building support to developing countries, including for least developed countries and small island developing States, to increase significantly the availability of high-quality, timely and reliable data disaggregated by income, gender, age, race, ethnicity, migratory status, disability, geographic location and other characteristics relevant in national contexts | 17.18.1: Proportion of sustainable development indicators produced at the national level with full disaggregation when relevant to the target, in accordance with the Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics | Tier III | Not Available |
| | 17.18.2: Number of countries that have national statistical legislation that complies with the Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics | Tier II | Available, Qualitative Indicator |
| | 17.18.3: Number of countries with a national statistical plan that is fully funded and under implementation, by source of funding | Tier I | Available |
| 17.19: By 2030, build on existing initiatives to develop measurements of progress on sustainable development that complement gross domestic product, and support statistical capacity-building in developing countries | 17.19.1: Dollar value of all resources made available to strengthen statistical capacity in developing countries | Tier I | Not Available |
| | 17.19.2: Proportion of countries that (a) have conducted at least one population and housing census in the last 10 years; and (b) have achieved 100% birth registration and 80% death registration | Tier I | Available |

Source: Tier Classification for Global SDG Indicators, UNStats (2019)

For Target 17.18 and 17.19, Bangladesh has done work related to developing statistical capacity, with scope for further progress. Bangladesh has a Statistics Act 2013, Statistics Rule 2014 and is in the process of adopting a National Strategy for Development of Statistics. The dollar value of assistance allocated for statistical development is not calculated for Bangladesh. There is scope for international cooperation to implement the National Strategy in terms of technical/capacity building support.

LDC Graduation and Impact on Bangladesh

The LDC graduation is likely to have significant impact on international cooperation in Bangladesh. To assess the likely impacts, it can be beneficial to view the impact of LDC graduation in other countries. Alam (2019c)²⁵⁶ mentioned the following from the experiences of former LDCs (Botswana, Cape Verde, Samoa and Maldives):

- o Slowdown in economic growth for countries after LDC graduation. In the immediate post-graduation era, Botswana saw its growth cut down by half while Cape Verde by more than a third. Maldives also experienced slow growth- particularly due to the slow performance of the main export items (fish fillets and frozen fish) to key export destination (EU, Japan). Loss of Duty-Free Quota-Free (DFQF) status in the European market created adverse pressure on the Maldivian economy.
- o Former LDCs had high tax-GDP ratio before graduation. Evidence suggests that during preparation period of graduation, former LDCs had a high starting tax-GDP ratio. In the post-graduation transition period, they maintained close to 20% tax-GDP ratio. Compared to them, Bangladesh's tax-GDP ratio is significantly lower and has to be improved.
- o Proportion of ODA fell while FDI increased. These countries became more aid independent in post-graduation era. On the other hand, they experienced stronger inflow of FDI in the post-graduation era.
- o Graduating countries had three-year grace period for preferential access, International Support Measures (ISMs) and other LDC-specific preferences. The countries planned ahead and negotiated

²⁵⁶ Alam (2019c). Smooth graduation: Learning from experiences of former LDCs. Financial Express, Dhaka. Retrieved from: <https://thefinancialexpress.com.bd/views/reviews/smooth-graduation-learning-from-experiences-of-former-ldcs-1560871126>

deals during this period. For example, Cape Verde successfully negotiated with EU for additional two-year grace period for Everything But Arms above the original three-year grace period, and some other transition period deals with prominent trade partners like China. Other than that, they concentrated on building capacity of domestic industries and develop infrastructures to overcome headwinds of higher integration into the more competitive, global economy.

According to UNDESA (2019)²⁵⁷, the main impacts of the LDC graduation would be on development cooperation and erosion of trade preference, two key areas of SDG 17. These are described below:

Change in Development Cooperation

Development cooperation programs are determined based on income levels, specific needs and vulnerabilities of countries, cultural and historical ties and other factors. Graduating from the LDC category is not expected to significantly affect development cooperation prospects for Bangladesh, although Bangladesh will have to navigate through a different terrain for advancing its national interests in the global milieu.

The terms of financial assistance to Bangladesh by most multilateral financial institutions are changing gradually and will continue to do so over the coming years as a result of the increase in per capita income and other factors, but not due to LDC graduation. Technical assistance by some partners is moving away from direct intervention and towards greater emphasis on building national capacities and technical training. These changes are due to the country's development progress and public sector capacity as well as to agency-wide policies, rather than to prospects related to the LDC category. However, graduation will entail the loss of a small number of LDC-specific mechanisms for technical or financial support, mentioned below, which are not expected to be of major consequence:

- o After a smooth transition period of five years, Bangladesh would no longer have access to the Enhanced Integrated Framework (EIF). It is a multi-donor program which supports LDCs (and recent graduates) to increase their participation in the international trading system;
- o Bangladesh would no longer have access to the Least Developed Countries Fund (LDCF) for climate change financing, although projects approved until graduation would be funded. The LDCF is considered very limited as a source of climate change funding for Bangladesh. The much larger Green Climate Fund (GCF) would remain open to Bangladesh. The country may need to develop its capacity to mobilize these funds, including by building capacity to elaborate projects under the GCF requirements and criteria;
- o Bangladesh would no longer have access to the LDC Technology Bank. Launched in 2018, the Technology Bank aims to strengthen the science, technology and innovation capacity of LDCs. Bangladesh is scheduled to be among the first countries to use its services;
- o The country will not be able to use the Investment Support Programme for LDCs after a smooth transition period of five years; and
- o UNCDF will be out Bangladesh's purview. The UNCDF provides access to microfinance and investment capital, has the mandate to support the LDCs "first and foremost", but not exclusively. After Bangladesh's graduation, programs will continue to be funded by the UNCDF under the same conditions for a period of three years and on a cost-sharing basis for an additional two, with the GoB or a third party.

Erosion of trade preferences

The most important impacts of Bangladesh's graduation relate to trade and include the loss of LDC specific market access provisions, LDC-specific special and differential treatment and flexibilities under WTO rules and regional agreements, and certain training and capacity building mechanisms.

²⁵⁷ UNDESA (2019). Ex ante assessment of the possible impacts of the graduation of Bangladesh from the category of Least Developed Countries (LDCs). Retrieved from: <https://www.un.org/development/desa/dpad/wp-content/uploads/sites/45/IA-Bangladesh-2019.pdf>

In terms of destination, Bangladesh's main export destinations are EU and USA. In EU, Bangladesh would remain eligible for DFQF market access under the Everything But Arms scheme for a period of three years after graduation. After that, the terms under which it would have access to the EU market would depend on the new GSP regulation, as the current regulation will expire at the end of 2023. However, no important impacts are expected in the United States market, since Bangladesh's most important products are not covered by the GSP scheme since 2013 due to labour safety issues.

In terms of industry, the greatest impacts of higher tariffs and more stringent rules of origin are expected to be on RMG. The extent to which producers will be able to adapt depends on multiple domestic and international factors. Larger firms with better access to capital and technology and greater capacity to move into higher value-added segments have better chances of remaining competitive, while for small firms already operating at very small margins, losing the tariff differential could pose an existential threat.

Bangladesh would need to fully comply with the TRIPS agreement in pharmaceutical products when it graduates. It would not benefit from the full extent of the longer transition period that has been granted to LDCs, currently extended to 2033, nor from any further extensions of that period. As mentioned in Section 8.2.1, pharmaceuticals produced in Bangladesh are patented in other countries. This is made possible by the waiver, which allows LDCs to produce patented drugs without first asking patent holders. GoB would need to provide the minimum standard of protection for pharmaceutical patents (20 years) and adapt other aspects of its intellectual property rights and sectoral legislation. This may impact the industry and lead to higher drug prices for consumers in both Bangladesh and other countries, limit technological development, weakening of local players and decrease in exports. The general transition period for LDCs under TRIPS is scheduled to end in 2021. However, given Bangladesh's role as a producer of low cost medicines for its domestic market and for other developing countries, the Doha Declaration on the TRIPS Agreement and Public Health and the commitment to ensure "access to safe, effective, quality and affordable essential medicines and vaccines for all" under SDG 3.8 as well as to "provide access to affordable essential medicines and vaccines, in accordance with the Doha Declaration on the TRIPS Agreement and Public Health" under SDG 3.b of the 2030 Agenda could be elements of support for a request to extend the TRIPS waiver beyond the graduation date.

As an LDC, Bangladesh is exempt from prohibitions on export subsidies under the Agreement on Agriculture and the Agreement on Subsidies and Countervailing Measures. After graduation, Bangladesh would need to comply with the Agreements, which could require a revision of GoB support in various sectors.

After graduation, Bangladesh would no longer be considered for special procedures for LDCs under Article 24 of the Dispute Settlement Understanding (DSU). Bangladesh would need to join to the Advisory Centre on WTO Law (ACWL) to use its services. In other WTO agreements, several LDC-specific provisions will expire before Bangladesh's expected date of graduation. In addition, Bangladesh would no longer benefit from special treatment for LDCs in fulfilling its obligations under regional agreements. Certain provisions could be the object of negotiations among members of these agreements. The country may also no longer have access to, or priority in, certain technical assistance and capacity-building mechanisms related to trade, including the Enhanced Integrated Framework.

SDG 17 Achievement Prospects

SDG 17 builds on Goal 8 (Develop a Global Partnership for Development) of the MDGs which called for developed countries to assist development in developed countries by supporting fair trade, debt relief, increased aid, increased access to affordable essential medicines, and enabling technology transfer. The primary objective of SDG 17 is to mobilize necessary assistance and establish sufficient absorptive capacity through international development cooperation to facilitate the achievement of SDGs 1 to 16. Bangladesh's progress on SDG 17, therefore, hinges on a policy framework conducive to close collaboration between the GoB, regional partners, international development partners, other trade partners, civil society, the private sector, NGOs etc. Global development partnerships, as encouraged by SDG 17, are not only limited to financial, technical and capacity building assistance. They also extend to trade and systemic issues.

Since the inception of the SDGs in 2015, ODA to developing countries has gradually declined, and more and more countries around the world have gravitated towards isolationist policies. Forging global partnerships is, therefore, becoming increasingly difficult. In addition to declining ODAs, Bangladesh's FDI inflow remains low due to weak institutions, poorly managed infrastructure and administrative bottlenecks. While Bangladesh's positive track record with its debt obligations ensures a good relationship with donor partners for the time being, it cannot solely rely on ODAs for future infrastructure and capacity development projects. Focus, therefore, should be trained on increasing absorptive capacity, transparency and accountability, and strengthening governance.

The collection and regular maintenance of data will be crucial for identifying problem areas and creating policy frameworks to address them. The data for SDG 17 targets is partially available at present. Notable gaps in data include the assistance amount received from South-South cooperation, and data pertaining to policy and institutional targets. Future collection and analysis of this missing data will be essential for monitoring progress on development projects, determining aid effectiveness, and formulating appropriate policies.

In order to make substantial progress towards SDG 17, the GoB will, first, have to set up comprehensive databases to help identify and prioritize sustainability projects. Second, international assistance needs to be mobilized for capacity development based on analysis of collected data. Third, timely disbursement of ODA and aid effectiveness must be ensured through close monitoring and reporting. Fourth, institutional governance, infrastructural development and management, transparency and rule of law need to be improved to attract more FDI. Finally, more resources, both domestic and international, public and private, need to be channeled towards research and development to achieve SDG 1 through 16.

The GED's SDG Financing Strategy from 2018 estimated that addressing these challenges would result in additional costs of USD 0.2 billion by 2020, and USD 0.1 billion by 2030. As SDG 17 is more of a managerial goal, the seemingly low additional costs are reasonable. However, as it is becoming increasingly difficult to forge global partnerships, the decline in these estimated costs, most of which will go toward capacity development, does not seem realistic. The Strategy further proposed that 70 percent for financing for the achievement of SDG 17 would come from public sector, and 30 percent from external sources. The private sector and PPPs are not expected to make any financial contribution towards achieving SDG 17. This warrants review as a strong collaboration between public and private entities would be beneficial for capacity development as well as research and technological innovation.



Part C

Policy Options and Cooperation Strategy

Common Challenges, Bangladesh's Readiness and What can be Done

Common Challenges

Despite making commendable headway towards achieving some targets e.g. poverty reduction, primary school enrollment, reducing maternal mortality rate, providing access to electricity, Bangladesh has a long way to go to completely achieve the SDGs targets by 2030. There are some challenges common in achieving all goals. This section highlights the common challenges identified through secondary study and stakeholder consultation.

Lack of Data on Indicators

Data availability, quality and level of disaggregation have been identified as huge challenge for monitoring the progress of SDG targets. GED undertook a comprehensive study of data gap analysis for SDGs monitoring in Bangladesh titled “Data Gap Analysis for Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs): Bangladesh Perspective”. The report stated that Bangladesh was facing a “considerable” data gap for monitoring the SDGs as data of less than one-third of the indicators are readily available while two-thirds are either partially available or not available at all. Out of total 241 indicators (with repetitions of some indicators) to monitor against the 169 targets globally, data of only 70 indicators are readily available while data on 108 indicators are partially available and 63 indicators related data are not available at all in existing data generating system of Bangladesh. Additionally, availability of data on indicators is not the same for all. Following are some examples:

- o Data on indicators for SDG 3: Good health and well-being, SDG 7: Affordable and Clean Energy are mostly available;
- o Out of a total 13, only 5 indicators were reported for SDG 2: Zero Hunger whereas only 45% of related data are available for SDG 6: Clean Water and Sanitation; and
- o Indicators on SDG 1: No poverty, SDG 16: Peace, Justice, and Strong Institutions, SDG 12: Responsible Consumption and Production, etc. are yet to be finalized.

Insufficient Domestic Spending

A large part of the financing gap of the SDGs must be fulfilled through domestic resources, which include public and private funds. While international cooperation is imperative to curb flight of capital, the revenue base of the country must be enlarged, to utilize public funds more effectively. For example, the proportion of the government expenditure on education has been decreasing since FY 2007 both as a percentage of total budget and as a percentage of GDP. According to World Development Indicator, Bangladesh's share of education budget in GDP in the last 10 years is around 1.9%, compared to 6% advised by UNESCO. The shares of the national budget allocated to health and education in Bangladesh are now among the lowest in South Asia.²⁵⁸ In other South Asian countries, the corresponding figures are higher; 4.6% in Afghanistan, 5.6% in Bhutan, 4.1% in Nepal, and 3.9% in India. Similar lack of domestic allocation is observed in the health sector. Although the World Health Organization (WHO) says the budget for the health sector should be at least 5% of the total GDP, Bangladesh only has 0.89% of the GDP.²⁵⁹

Also, according to the SDGs Financing Strategy published by GED in 2018, the estimated gap in funding and the sources vary from goal to goal. Following are some examples:

- o GED estimated the additional costs required to achieve SDG 7 would require an additional financing of \$1.82 billion in FY 2020, and \$5.05 billion in FY 2030. The majority of the funding will come from public resources (80%), while the rest (20%) will come from NGOs.

²⁵⁸ <https://www.dhakatribune.com/bangladesh/2018/06/29/budget-allocations-for-health-education-continue-to-shrink>

²⁵⁹ <https://www.dhakatribune.com/business/economy/2019/06/19/doctors-demand-health-sector-budget-be-increased>

- o SDG 8 requires the most additional financing out of all the SDGs, an estimated \$21.89 billion in FY 2020, and \$185.64 billion in FY 2030. Most of this financing is to be received from private sector.
- o SDG 10 would require additional financing of \$0.40 billion in FY 2020 and \$0.71 billion in FY 2030. Government's financing plans include 50% financing from public sources, 40% from private sources, and 10% from NGOs.
- o SDG 16 would require an amount to \$0.47 billion in FY2017, \$1.08 billion in FY2020, \$1.78 billion in FY2020, \$2.33 billion in FY2030. 80% of these additional costs will come from public sources and 20% from external sources. In the 7th FYP, the targeted ADP budget for Public Order and Safety in 2020 amounted to approximately \$0.4 billion i.e. only 36.6% of the additional costs projected by the SDG Financing Strategy.

Absorptive Capacity

While various external flow of resources has been committed to Bangladesh, the amount disbursed is lower because of inherent capacity lacking to manage funds when the flow is not predictable. The terms of international fund also contain strict compliance rules which ends up increasing the amount of time required to set up projects. This affects the eventual cost of projects, for which the international donors do not generally have additional provisions. Thus, there is uncertainty regarding the external flow from donors.²⁶⁰ Overall fund absorption is close to 100%. Some examples are:

- o The capability of the executing agencies in the WASH sector, under SDG 6, is analyzed by presenting the figures of utilization of the allocations in the revised ADP of FY 2017-18 in the Table 9.1 below:

Table 9.1: Performance of Executing Agencies in Utilization of ADP Allocations 2017-18

| Agency | Allocation (BDT billion) | | | | Expenditure (BDT billion) | | | | % | | | |
|-----------------|--------------------------|-------|--------|-------|---------------------------|-------|--------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| | Total | Local | PA | RPA | Total | Local | PA | RPA | Total | Local | PA | RPA |
| DoPHE | 66.44 | 54.32 | 12.13 | 6.55 | 61.73 | 50.20 | 11.54 | 5.97 | 9.29 | 9.24 | 9.52 | 9.12 |
| Dhaka WASA | 188.82 | 66.29 | 122.54 | 10.01 | 186.57 | 66.80 | 119.77 | 3.85 | 9.88 | 10.08 | 9.77 | 3.84 |
| Chittagong WASA | 67.11 | 15.82 | 51.29 | 10.00 | 67.10 | 15.82 | 51.29 | 10.00 | 10.00 | 10.00 | 10.00 | 10.00 |
| Khulna WASA | 61.42 | 22.42 | 39.00 | 1.77 | 61.42 | 22.42 | 39.00 | 1.77 | 10.00 | 10.00 | 10.00 | 10.00 |
| Rajshahi WASA | 1.40 | 1.40 | - | - | 1.40 | 1.40 | - | - | 10.00 | 10.00 | - | - |

Data Source: IMED

- o In the Energy Sector, Power Division and Energy and Mineral Resources Division (EMRD) of the Ministry of Power, Energy and Mineral Resources utilize the funds allocated for the sector. The capability of the Divisions is analyzed by presenting the figures of utilization of the allocations in the revised ADP of FY 2017-18 in the Table 9.2 below:

Table 9.2: Performance of Executing Agencies in Utilization of ADP Allocations 2017-18

| Division | Allocation (BDT billion) | | | | Expenditure (BDT billion) | | | | % | | | |
|----------------|--------------------------|--------|--------|------|---------------------------|--------|--------|-------|--------|--------|--------|-------|
| | Total | Local | PA | RPA | Total | Local | PA | RPA | Total | Local | PA | RPA |
| Power Division | 262.93 | 121.01 | 141.92 | 100 | 271.43 | 130.45 | 140.98 | 20.22 | 103.23 | 107.80 | 99.34 | 20.09 |
| EMRD | 44.77 | 40.47 | 4.30 | 0.00 | 38.59 | 33.93 | 4.66 | 0.00 | 86.19 | 83.84 | 108.38 | 0.00 |

Data Source: IMED

Allocating additional funds would require further capacity building support to prepare the executing agencies.

- o The capability of the executing agencies in the Health sector is analyzed by presenting the figures of utilization of the allocations in the revised ADP of FY 2017-18 in the Table 9.3 below. It shows the requirement to increase the absorption capacity of the health service institutions.

²⁶⁰ CPD (2013) Evaluating Aid for Trade on the Ground.

Table 9.3: Performance of Executing Agencies in Utilization of ADP Allocations 2017-18

| Agency | Allocation (Tk. In crores) | | | | Expenditure (Tk. In crores) | | | | % | | | |
|--|----------------------------|----------|----------|----------|-----------------------------|----------|----------|----------|--------|-------|--------|-------|
| | Total | Local | PA | RPA | Total | Local | PA | RPA | Total | Local | PA | RPA |
| Health Services Division | 1,738.11 | 1,601.05 | 137.06 | 122.91 | 1,639.98 | 1,520.92 | 119.06 | 109.01 | 94.35 | 95.00 | 86.87 | 88.69 |
| Autonomous Bodies and Other Institutions | 8.50 | 8.50 | - | - | 5.50 | 5.50 | - | - | 64.71 | 64.71 | - | - |
| Department of Health Services | 5,170.34 | 3,046.62 | 2,123.72 | 1,479.09 | 4,599.43 | 2,667.51 | 1,931.91 | 1,369.20 | 88.96 | 87.56 | 90.97 | 92.57 |
| Directorate of Drug Administration | 5.27 | 3.37 | 1.90 | 1.90 | 4.75 | 2.91 | 1.84 | 1.84 | 90.13 | 86.37 | 96.81 | 96.81 |
| Directorate of Nursing | 5.44 | 5.44 | - | - | 1.36 | 1.36 | - | - | 24.98 | 24.98 | - | - |
| Health Education and Family Welfare Division | 444.00 | 337.00 | 107.00 | 102.15 | 384.51 | 315.57 | 68.93 | 64.08 | 86.60 | 93.64 | 64.42 | 62.73 |
| Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University | 222.78 | 79.28 | 143.50 | - | 225.21 | 72.17 | 153.04 | - | 101.09 | 91.04 | 106.65 | - |
| Department of Family Planning | 728.70 | 390.18 | 338.52 | 328.42 | 626.90 | 316.90 | 310.00 | 301.91 | 86.03 | 81.22 | 91.58 | 91.93 |
| Other Family Welfare Facilities | 29.26 | 18.66 | 10.60 | 10.60 | 14.49 | 7.22 | 7.27 | 7.27 | 49.53 | 38.68 | 68.63 | 68.63 |
| Department of Health Services (Family Welfare) | 338.27 | 338.27 | - | - | 312.00 | 312.00 | - | - | 92.23 | 92.23 | - | - |

Data Source: IMED.

- o The capability of the executing agencies in the Education sector is analyzed by presenting the figures of utilization of the allocations in the revised ADP of FY 2017-18 in the Table 9.4 below. It shows the requirement to increase the absorption capacity of the education service institutions.

Table 9.4: Performance of Executing Agencies in Utilization of ADP Allocations 2017-18

| Agency | Allocation (Tk. In crores) | | | | Expenditure (Tk. In crores) | | | | % | | | |
|--|----------------------------|----------|--------|--------|-----------------------------|----------|--------|--------|-------|-------|--------|--------|
| | Total | Local | PA | RPA | Total | Local | PA | RPA | Total | Local | PA | RPA |
| Ministry of Primary and Mass Education | 54.00 | 54.00 | - | - | 32.08 | 32.08 | - | - | 59.41 | 59.41 | - | - |
| Department of Primary Education | 7,355.37 | 6,990.95 | 364.42 | 321.10 | 6,765.65 | 6,423.04 | 342.61 | 212.56 | 91.98 | 91.88 | 94.01 | 66.20 |
| Directorate of Non-formal Education | 46.06 | 45.44 | 0.62 | - | 11.80 | 11.18 | 0.62 | - | 25.62 | 24.59 | 100.00 | - |
| Department of Secondary and Higher Education | 2,782.90 | 2,476.65 | 306.25 | 294.45 | 2,542.78 | 2,258.96 | 283.81 | 283.64 | 91.37 | 91.21 | 92.67 | 96.33 |
| University Grants Commission | 1,223.02 | 943.42 | 279.60 | 267.50 | 1,215.52 | 935.92 | 279.60 | 267.50 | 99.39 | 99.21 | 100.00 | 100.00 |
| Facilities Department | 37.00 | 37.00 | - | - | 25.13 | 25.13 | - | - | 67.92 | 67.92 | - | - |

| Agency | Allocation (Tk. In crores) | | | | Expenditure (Tk. In crores) | | | | % | | | |
|--|----------------------------|--------|--------|--------|-----------------------------|--------|--------|--------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| | Total | Local | PA | RPA | Total | Local | PA | RPA | Total | Local | PA | RPA |
| Bureau of Educational Information and Statistics | 1.75 | 1.75 | - | - | 1.62 | 1.62 | - | - | 92.57 | 92.57 | - | - |
| Department of Education Engineering | 251.17 | 224.92 | 26.25 | 26.25 | 222.10 | 211.84 | 10.26 | 0.00 | 88.43 | 94.18 | 39.08 | 0.00 |
| Bangladesh Scouts | 35.55 | 35.55 | - | - | 35.32 | 35.32 | - | - | 99.34 | 99.34 | - | - |
| International Mother Language Institute | 15.83 | 15.83 | - | - | 7.92 | 7.92 | - | - | 50.03 | 50.03 | - | - |
| Department of Technical Education | 713.68 | 320.30 | 393.38 | 290.00 | 546.07 | 222.29 | 323.77 | 254.55 | 76.51 | 69.40 | 82.31 | 87.78 |
| Department of Madrasa Education | 4.00 | 4.00 | - | - | 2.73 | 2.73 | - | - | 68.30 | 68.30 | - | - |

Data Source: IMED.

Capacity Building of the Institutions

Different studies, indicators and stakeholder discussions have indicated that the executing agencies would require much more capacity building to attain the SDGs. Some examples are:

Goal 3: Good Health and Well-Being

- o Findings from Bangladesh Health Facilities Survey (2014) showed substantial deficiencies in readiness in both public and private health facilities to provide high quality maternity care. The risk of dying from hemorrhage and eclampsia (caused 54% maternal death in 2016 and 51% in 2010) remained unchanged between 2010 and 2016 as most of the facilities do not have the medicines to treat these causes. Also, the C-section delivery rate in Bangladesh (31% of all births) exceed the levels expected to be medically necessary (10%-15%). C-section without clear medical need presented increased risk of immediate complications, and death as well. 30% of the public facilities and 96% of the private facilities perform C-section while only 10% and 16% have received training on emergency maternal care. There is further requirement of training healthcare service providers, supplying emergency medicines, and building awareness regarding maternal healthcare particularly during emergencies.
- o According to GATS 2017, the percentage of current smokers/smokeless users who thought of quitting smoking/smokeless tobacco increased between 2009 and 2017. However, people who actually made quit attempts in last 12 months remained the same. The initiatives taken so far has increased awareness regarding health injuries from tobacco consumption. But, it will not be effective in true sense as long as people do not start quitting smoking/non-smoke tobacco habits. The next level of international commitment would be required to design strategies to motivate people to quit smoking/smokeless tobacco. Strategies may include designing campaigns on how to quit tobacco habits, training medical service providers and NGO workers on this issue, building capacity of the healthcare facilities to deal with such people who want to quit, etc.
- o Bangladesh has not taken any remarkable steps to address unnecessary deaths due to the lack of reliable data on risk factors for RTI. Although the IHR (2005) has set a target to reduce death due to RTI by 50% by 2030, there is much scope for international collaboration in this regard.
- o Laboratories at IEDCR and ICDDR,B have the capacity to detect infectious viruses but at the district level, there is no laboratory with such capacities. Bangladesh would need further international

commitment to develop the capacity of healthcare facility providers at the district levels to increase the access to quality healthcare services.

Goal 4: Quality Education

- o The government expenditure on education has been kept at about 2% of the country's GDP, one of the lowest percentage in South Asia and among the developing countries²⁶¹. The literacy rate has increased to 73% in 2018 and the net enrolment at the primary level was 100% in 2017 while 95% completed the primary. However, SDG4 emphasizes on quality and outcome, besides access only. The SDG4 cannot be achieved without increase in supply of quality teachers including through international cooperation for teacher training and increase in the number of scholarships available to developing countries for higher education in developed countries ²⁶².

Goal 13: Climate Action

- o Bangladesh faces a number of challenges as the threat of climate change grows more serious. One of them is that Bangladesh does not have the necessary financing or institutional capacity to implement its many climate-related policy frameworks. Institutions have ill-defined responsibilities. Policies and plans often possess conflicting objectives that compromise transparency, accountability and the sustainability of development.
- o There is also absence of guidelines on how to avail more green climate fund.

Goal 14: Life below Water

- o Frequent incidences of disease outbreaks in fisheries due to capacity, technological and knowledge inadequacies hinder the growth and development of the fisheries sector.
- o Existing sectors suffer from having to run operations based on fragmented data. There is an urgent need for thorough assessments of all existing aquatic and marine resources and their potential. Without updated data, it will be increasingly difficult to identify and invest in feasible projects; improve efficiency, productivity and sustainability; build capacity; implement and enforce regulations; and preserve marine life and ecosystems.

Goal 15: Life on Land

- o The executing agencies do not have the regulations or institutional capacity to curb unregulated conversion of forest land to agricultural, industrial or residential land.
- o There is absence of decentralized and village-wise rural planning as well as digitalization of land. However, these are much required to make the villages self-sufficient and developed.

Goal 16: Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions

- o The enforcement of Law and Order spans several ministries and departments such as the MoHA, MoInf, PSD, ACC, NHRC etc. As exhibited by the incomplete data for the SDG indicators, the coordination between them at present is inadequate. Not only will this make it difficult to collect and evaluate data and measure Bangladesh's progress in the thematic area, it will also make it difficult to identify and prioritize projects and mobilize the appropriate international cooperation.
- o Prolonged waiting periods for legal verdicts due to a backlog of cases in the judicial system deters citizens from following legal procedures.
- o Laws dealing with human rights violations in Bangladesh, especially harassment of and violence against women, are outdated and easy to circumvent.
- o The HR Commission and Information Commission are not functional adequately. In addition, DUDOK are not strong enough to take independent actions.

²⁶¹ CPD (2019). Four years of SDGs in Bangladesh and the Way forward, Citizen's Platform for SDGs, Bangladesh

²⁶² GED (2018). SDGs Bangladesh Progress Report 2018

Bangladesh's Readiness and What Can be Done Further

This section aims to identify the bottlenecks to Bangladesh's readiness to receive further international cooperation as well as what can be done to receive further international cooperation. Given the near certainty that neither the international assistance nor domestic resources needed to achieve SDG goals will not be forthcoming, it is necessary that efficiency improvements are made in the expenditure programs to get value for money. The recommendations will be assessed based on the five categories.

Finance

To achieve the SDGs by 2030, there is a need to mobilize significant amount of financial resources. Targets 17.1 to 17.5 mention the five key sources of finance in achieving the SDGs. GED (2017) estimated the cost of implementing SDGs and indicated that an additional \$928.48 billion, at constant 2015-16 currency, would be required from both domestic and foreign sources during 2017-2030 for implementing the SDGs. The potential sources, identified for financing the resource gap, would be private sector (42.09%), public sector (35.50%), public-private partnership (5.59%), and external financing (14.89%), and non-governmental organizations (3.39%). However, there is no implementation plan/roadmap to raise and utilize the financing for SDGs. These sources have their particular set of challenges in Bangladesh's context, which are described below.

The GED (2017) study has provided the source of financing. However, it is the responsibility of the implementing ministries to raise the fund and there have been no concrete implementation measures to such efforts. Therefore, responsible ministries need to develop an implementation plan for raising finance for SDGs.

DRM

As seen from Bangladesh's Tax-to-GDP ratio, Bangladesh's domestic resource mobilization is low and has scope for significant improvement. According to Banik Barta (2019)²⁶³, in the outgoing FY 2018-19, NBR was able to earn BDT22.63 billion against the original target of BDT29.62 billion set for FY2019 and revised target of BDT28.03 billion. According to CPD (2019a), the main reasons for low domestic revenue mobilization include:

- o Poor infrastructure for collection of taxes including lack of development of online based collection system;
- o Limited capacity to expand tax network;
- o Limited capacity to control tax avoidance by the private sector;
- o High corporate tax rate in Bangladesh²⁶⁴ compared to other countries which incentivizes tax evasions;
- o Unplanned and many tax exemptions;
- o Highly centralized and bureaucratic revenue administration; and
- o High source tax compared to other countries.

Consultation with the private sector revealed that corruption is a main factor for low levels of DRM. According to them, private sector has to make "extra payments" to various third parties for conducting business. While the businesses recognize these payments as a part of cost of doing business, it limits their capacity to pay regular taxes and encourages tax evasion.

263 Bonik Barta (2019). Retrieved from: <http://bonikbarta.net/bangla/news/2019-07-16/203365/%E0%A6%85%E0%A6%B0%E0%A7%8D%E0%A6%A5%E0%A6%AC%E0%A6%9B%E0%A6%B0-%E0%A7%A8%E0%A7%A6%E0%A7%A7%E0%A7%AE-%E0%A7%A7%E0%A7%AF--%E0%A6%B0%E0%A6%BE%E0%A6%9C%E0%A6%B8%E0%A7%8D%E0%A6%AC-%E0%A6%98%E0%A6%BE%E0%A6%9F%E0%A6%A4%E0%A6%BF-%E0%A7%AB%E0%A7%AA-%E0%A6%B9%E0%A6%BE%E0%A6%9C%E0%A6%BE%E0%A6%B0-%E0%A6%95%E0%A7%8B%E0%A6%9F%E0%A6%BF-%E0%A6%9F%E0%A6%BE%E0%A6%95%E0%A6%BE/>

264 The Financial Express (2017). Addressing Anomalies in the Tax Regime. Retrieved from <http://www.thefinancialexpress-bd.com/2017/06/14/73818/Addressing-anomalies-in-the-tax-regime/print>

While the responsibility for DRM lies with the NBR of GoB, there are limits to what can be achieved by domestic policy and resources alone. International commitments (especially in the AAAAA) were made by developed countries to help increase DRM in developing countries.

In FY2019-20, the GoB has introduced the scope of VAT collection at the retail stage. This led to the introduction five slabs of VAT under the VAT and Supplementary Duty Act 2012. The new rates will be 15%, 10%, 7.5%, 5% and 2%. There was no guideline for the implementation of multiple VAT rates yet and its impact remains to be seen.

Technical assistance to develop tax infrastructure, capacity building of NBR staff, in this area is critical for Bangladesh. Consultation with development partners such as UNDP revealed that there is a data analysis gap with respect to the development impact of changing tax regimes. This needs to be addressed immediately to increase the effectiveness of tax policies.

It is also necessary to ensure that efficiency improvements are made in the expenditure programs to get value for money. This would help to increase the value of DRM.

As tax-GDP ratio remains stagnant, increased revenue mobilization to support investments in attaining SDGs will not be possible without structural reforms. The reform agenda should have two main components: i) tax and tariff reform; and ii) decentralization of revenue collection.

- o Tax and Tariff reform should include: i) lowering tax and tariff rates; ii) reducing the number of rates; iii) revamping tax and tariff refund process for better compliance; iv) reviewing and limiting tax and tariff exemption regimes; and v) effective control of transfer pricing by MNCs and money laundering through international co-operation.
- o Decentralization of revenue collection would involve empowering Divisional authorities and local government institutions to collect certain revenues. Given the unitary structure of Bangladesh, 8(eight) Divisional authorities should be allowed to collect taxes that States are allowed to collect under a Federal system. Similarly, local government institutions be allowed to collect certain revenues such as parking, garbage disposal, trade license and such other fees and taxes, taxes on residential accommodation etc. This together with decentralization of expenditure would help not only help in raising more resources for achievement of SDG goals but also their implementation at the field level.

International cooperation may be sought for tax and tariff reforms from IMF and governments with good Federal and State level taxation system for decentralization of revenue collection. It is also essential to seek capacity building support for NBR to solve problems related to tax collection, improving infrastructure and thus bring a larger portion of the population under the tax bracket. Corrupt practices also have to be stopped to encourage private sector to pay regular taxes. Urgent tax and tariff reforms by lowering tax and tariff rates and reducing dispersions between rates, withdrawal of numerous exemptions would help Bangladesh achieve a satisfactory tax-GDP ratio. Decentralization of revenue administration by allowing local authorities to collect some taxes, tackling corruption in revenue administration, and avoiding illegal toll collection by law enforcing agencies should help Bangladesh reach its revenue potential.

Technical assistance in the analysis of the developments impact when tax regimes are changed is another area where development partners are interested in providing assistance. However, a full diagnostic assessment might provide further insights. Since 2014, the IMF, World Bank and several other development partners launched the Tax Administration Diagnostic Assessment Tool (TADAT). This tool aimed to identify strengths and weaknesses and assess performance in tax administrations on a country-by-country basis and could be useful for Bangladesh.

ODA

From the developed countries' perspective, there is a substantial disconnect between what people think the government spends on foreign aid, what they would like the government to spend, and the actual level of expenditure on foreign aid. According to IPSOS (2015)²⁶⁵, in general, most people of developed countries (41% of respondents) thought that their country spent between 3 and 10% of the annual budget on foreign aid, and 42% of respondents preferred if their government stayed within that range. However, there was only 1 country in the study out of 17 that spent more than 3% on foreign aid (UAE, 4.4%). Most surveyed developed countries spent less than 1% (12 out of 17).

From Bangladesh's perspective, according to the Financial Express (2019)²⁶⁶, Bangladesh received ODA amounting to \$6.21 billion in FY2018-19, which was nearly \$150 million lower than that of the previous FY. ODA as a percentage of GNI performance mentioned in Indicator 17.2.1 is also low and has significant scope for improvement. According to analysis in CPD (2018)²⁶⁷, the volume of ODA has been increasing in recent years. The research further revealed that ODA follows national development plans, development partners have harmonized coordination through LCG, and there is increased transparency and accountability. However, while there is a high demand for more resources from the international community, a paradoxical situation is observed. A large amount of ODA remains in the pipeline. This is indicating that new funds do not necessarily guarantee their timely and full utilization. This is due to low absorptive capacity as highlighted in section 9.1.3.

Consultation meetings with one of the development partners revealed that their project pipeline execution ratio in Bangladesh is lower than that of their global average. If the ratio i.e. implementation performance does not improve, the development partners might not be able to provide a steady stream of financing. Another bottleneck is the centralized decision making of development partners. Most of the decisions are taken at the development partner headquarters, which usually does not reflect local circumstances. This inhibits faster project implementation in developing countries such as Bangladesh. Additionally, lengthy project preparations i.e. appraisal, feasibility study further delays implementations.

Apart from implementation challenges, another major impediment in terms of increasing ODA is the looming LDC graduation in 2024. If Bangladesh manages to meet all the criteria, it is no more eligible for concessional loans as a lower-middle-income country. Therefore, Bangladesh has to go for loans from the development institutions and other sources with a high interest rate and shorter repayment period.

From development partners' perspective, there is a need to fulfill the commitment of 0.7% of GNI to Bangladesh to achieve the SDGs. Even though, Bangladesh is reducing dependency on aid, it is crucial to meet SDGs, particularly education, health and infrastructure. Therefore, the commitments need to be reiterated in the international arena e.g. during UN General Assembly meetings. On the other hand, as Bangladesh is not able to fully utilize their foreign aid pipeline, international cooperation is needed to develop GoB implementing agencies capacity to utilize funds. This might be through training on administrative mechanism, human resource development, improvement and standardization of procedure etc. Development partners urgently need to expedite more responsibilities to their country offices to ease procurement and disbursement activities and speed up project implementation. More involvement of GoB in donor project preparation and more donor participation in project implementation would help the process. REREDP project of the World Bank is a good example of such co-operation that led to a good design of the project and effective implementation. As a result, not only the World Bank increased funding to the project by multiple times, but other donors such as ADB, JICA, IsDB, and KfW and other bilateral donors also came forward to provide additional funding.

265 IPSOS (2015). Ipsos Public Affairs Findings from a Global Poll on the Sustainable Development Goals. Retrieved from: https://www.ipsos.com/sites/default/files/news_and_polls/2015-09/6983-topline.pdf?fbclid=IwAR0YDg_yNyKasfdJYJSS2R8ghP98rrxNa9bVssYAYR-YRqB4ol4XwViqCkM

266 Financial Express (2019). BD gets \$6.21b foreign aid, \$9.78b pledged in FY '19. Retrieved from: <https://thefinancialexpress.com.bd/economy/bangladesh/bd-gets-621b-foreign-aid-978b-pledged-in-fy-19-1563335833>

267 CPD (2018). Can Bangladesh do Without Foreign Aid?. Retrieved from: <https://cpd.org.bd/wp-content/uploads/2018/11/Can-Bangladesh-do-without-Foreign-Aid.pdf>

FDI and Private Investment

SDG 17 emphasizes the increase of private flow of capital, especially FDI. While the GoB has made progress through BIDA, e.g. One Stop Service for international businesses, there is a need to increase to FDI further to achieve SDGs. Consultation meetings with private sector chambers revealed that FDI inflows are restricted due to restraining practices relating to money transfers, taxation and repatriation of profits back to home country inhibits foreign investors interest. Moreover, a study by A.T. Kearney (2019)²⁶⁸ revealed that the most important factor driving an increase in FDI is the availability of quality targets. However, such information is difficult to access in Bangladesh and might present a strong case for international cooperation through discussions/forums.

According to CPD (2019b)²⁶⁹, private sector has limited involvement in SDGs through a few initiatives.²⁷⁰ However, these initiatives are largely through sub-entities i.e. not directly taken by the private firms themselves. According to the report, this is due to less awareness about SDGs as well as limited presence of organized, formal businesses. Therefore, the firm objectives need to better aligned with SDGs by assessing global practices.

Despite the policies and reforms that have taken place in Bangladesh in terms of PPP, there has been no notable increase in PPP projects. There are many loopholes in the PPP operationalization in Bangladesh. Firstly, the location of the PPPO results in additional bureaucracies as the PM Office is burdened with many other activities. Moreover, the CEO of PPPO has to report to the Chairman PPP Authority and the Coordinator for Sustainable Development Goals located in the PM Office. In other neighboring countries, for example, in Sri Lanka the PPP Agency is under MoF, PPPO in India is under Infrastructure Division of Department of Economic Affairs, etc. Secondly, low project prioritization under PPP has been a key impediment in the development of PPP in Bangladesh. In early 2000, the plan documents started listing projects for implementation through PPP projects. However, the prioritization for projects were as follows: i) support from development partners; ii) support from GoB; iii) self-financed by implementing agencies; and iv) leftover projects to be implemented under PPP. Finally, the only one designated office may not have all the specialties and technical knowledge to handle different types of projects that can be implemented through PPP. PPP experts in various infrastructure technologies, innovative financing methods and legal experts may be recruited from the private sector to increase the project processing capacity of the PPP office. Projects with higher commercial potential should be earmarked for the private sector implementation rather than donor or government budgetary financing.

Significant improvements in doing business index of the World Bank could be the first step in this getting private sector involved in partaking SDG goals. Transparent procurement is another area that will help attract globally credible investors. Fortunately, a host of resources exist to help businesses deal with this issue. Civil society and the private sector have collaborated on various fronts to create practical tools and guidelines that assist businesses in sorting out how to put the SDGs into action. The tools include: i) SDG Compass, which provides guidance for companies on how they can align their strategies as well as measure and manage their contribution to achieving the SDGs; ii) The SDG Industry Matrix, which showcases brief industry-specific examples and ideas for corporate action that are related to each of the SDGs; iii) The Poverty Footprint, an assessment tool that enables companies and civil society partners to understand corporate impacts on multidimensional poverty; iv) Business for 2030, a visually-driven, interactive site that provides private sector actors with a useful understanding of companies who are adopting strategies that align with the SDGs; and v) The Business Charter for Sustainable Development, which has been specifically designed to help companies contribute to the SDG implementation by providing a practical framework that includes tools for businesses of all sectors and geographies to help shape their own sustainability strategy. These tools may be procured and customized for use in Bangladesh. Introduction to international standard auditing and accounting of business forms and corporate houses may increase flow of FDI in larger volume.

268 A.T. Kearney (2019). FDI Confidence Index 2019. Retrieved from: <https://www.atkearney.com/foreign-direct-investment-confidence-index/2019-full-report>

269 CPD (2019b). 4 Years of SDGs in Bangladesh and the Way Forward: Looking through the Prism of Non-State Actors.

270 This has also been corroborated during the discussion with the leaders of the business community.

Remittance

According to GED (2019), Bangladesh experienced a sharp decline in the flow of remittances since 2013 mainly because of lower labor demand in the oil-rich Middle East countries after lowering the oil-revenue of these countries. CPD (2019a) mentioned that a Government-to-Government (G2G) initiative targeting Malaysia's labor market could not create adequate opportunities for migrant workers due to allegation of corruption and irregular activities against a set of selected private firms of Bangladesh and Malaysia. Recent trend suggests that remittance is picking up. According to the BDNEWS24 (2019)²⁷¹, Bangladesh received \$1.95 billion in May 2019. However, there is a need to diversify the source of remittance from middle eastern countries. GoB also needs to effectively engage with Bangladesh diaspora not only for remittance but also for wider business/academic/philanthropic engagement.

To enhance inflow of remittance, there is a need to diversify from traditional countries such as the Middle-East and target Bangladesh's global diaspora. Based on ERD (2016)²⁷², diaspora engagement can help achieve more than remittance. It can be cross-cutting measure and can help in business network and academic collaborations which are essential towards achieving other targets SDGs. Some of the best practices include: i) Live Lebanon, which mobilize Lebanese Diaspora contribution in support of local development in the most deprived areas of Lebanon; ii) Business Advisory Circle (BAC), a network of individuals and institutions that can provide business advice and serve as mentors to prospective entrepreneurs. This process has helped increase FDI in China; and iii) Pravasi Bharatiya Divas in India, a forum for networking, experience sharing and discussing key issues (e.g. accelerating tourism, investment opportunities, support services to immigrants). It also honors individuals with the Pravasi Bharatiya Award to appreciate their role in India's growth.

Additionally, the flow of remittance through unauthorized channels (hundi) has always remained a concern as it is not considered in remittance calculation. Overseas workers often use this source to take advantage of exchange rate mismatch and avoid taxation. Overseas workers also choose this method to avoid banking processes and harassment by tax officials.

South-South Cooperation

While there is no data on South-South Cooperation, the UN (2014)²⁷³ estimated that in 2011 the total value of South-South cooperation was between \$16.1 billion and \$19 billion, and its share in total development cooperation was 10% in 2011, up from 6.7% in 2006. However, this may be an underestimate, especially as definitions of development assistance vary and there are no systematic and comparable data across countries. There is a need for the heterogeneous partners involved in South-South cooperation to reach a consensus as to what it means and how best to quantify that cooperation. GoB agencies should work with international community to define South-South cooperation. Furthermore, without common reference indicators and a central database, it is very difficult to appreciate the value and outcomes associated with this important source of cooperation. Tracking data in a systematic manner will allow GoB agencies to effectively understand the extent of cooperation and engage further. As multilateral aid and cooperation grows and becomes more diverse, it will be important that the concepts underlying South-South cooperation are coordinated and transparent and that data are properly curated in a public database to enhance transparency and information exchange to ensure the extent of this cooperation is understood. For effective South-South cooperation, lessons may be drawn from recent experiences of such co-operation and avoiding pitfalls such as debt trap (in case of Sri Lankan port) and influence of donor countries.

271 BDNEWS24 (2019). Bangladesh receives record inflow \$1.95bn remittances in May. Retrieved from: <https://bdnews24.com/economy/2019/06/03/bangladesh-receives-record-inflow-1.95bn-remittances-in-may>

272 ERD (2016). Engaging Bangladesh diaspora in national development- UNDP. Retrieved from: [https://erd.portal.gov.bd/sites/default/files/files/erd.portal.gov.bd/page/030349ec_5223_4253_aa57_58ecc3aac4a/Engaging%20Bangladeshi%20diaspora%20in%20national%20development%20\(1\).pdf](https://erd.portal.gov.bd/sites/default/files/files/erd.portal.gov.bd/page/030349ec_5223_4253_aa57_58ecc3aac4a/Engaging%20Bangladeshi%20diaspora%20in%20national%20development%20(1).pdf)

273 UN (2014). Trends and progress in international development cooperation. ECOSOC. E/2014/77, New York. Retrieved from: <https://www.un.org/ecosoc/sites/www.un.org/ecosoc/files/publication/n1440507.pdf>

Debt Sustainability

Even though Bangladesh appears to have a good debt service trend (Indicator 17.4.1), debt sustainability would be a major concern for Bangladesh in the coming decades. As Bangladesh is moving from an era of concessional finance to finance of more commercial nature involving much higher debt service liabilities and Bangladesh will have to borrow money at more commercial terms. The support from international development partners, particularly IMF, might help avoid any possible systemic shock to Bangladesh's economy or jeopardize Bangladesh's unblemished record of meeting her international commitments. Moreover, there is a huge rise in local and foreign debt particularly from non-traditional sources including southern providers. According to CPD (2019a), a large part of recent rise in debt is related with sources which are costly and for projects where project viability is an issue of concern. Furthermore, GoB will need to allocate an increasing share of revenue for external debt payment which reduces its scope to invest in alternate growth generating activities. The report further reveals that the traditional development partners are reluctant to take the responsibility in case this debt is borne for projects without proper justification and pre-assessment. Given this scenario, it is important for GoB to track debt sustainability and mitigate any unforeseen systemic shock that might arise in the coming decade.

Technology

While Indicator 17.6.2 and 17.8.1 show that access to mobile phones and internet is increasing respectively, science technology and innovation has to play a much bigger role for Bangladesh. Science and technology can play a bigger role through the Technology Facilitation Management; a multi-stakeholder collaboration and partnerships through the sharing of information, experiences, best practices; and policy advice among Member States, civil society, the private sector, the scientific community, UN entities, as well as other stakeholders. There is also further scope for international cooperation in environmentally sound technologies (Target 17.7). However, there is no information available regarding these technologies.

A significant impact of development of technology is the displacement of workforce. Alam (2019a)²⁷⁴ noted the stagnancy of manufacturing employment in the RMG sector. During 2010-2018, growth in employment generation in the sector was only 11%. This slowdown of employment generation occurred as local workers became more productive, and producers invested in capital intensive technologies. In the early 1990s, a million-dollar apparel exporting organization would require on average 545 workers. While in 2016, it has come down to 142. It is important to recognize that technology and automation can be an opportunity to augment growth, nevertheless, there is a need to prevent displacement of jobs along the way.

To save displacement of jobs that comes with technological development, the importance of updated curriculum in education and training is emphasized. In all levels of education, mandatory quantitative literacy, computing skills and basic science technology engineering mathematics (STEM) courses has become a necessity. Apart from government institutions, norms like life-long educational and skill-development practices must be cultured in private sectors.

Technological development will be particularly required to achieve the targets under SDG 2 for increasing agricultural productivity, SDG 3 for updating healthcare practices, SDG 7 for ensuring efficient energy supply, SDG 8 for creating new job opportunities, SDG 9 for creating new businesses, SDG 11 for designing energy-efficient habitats, SDG 13 for taking environment friendly initiatives, etc.

²⁷⁴ Alam (2019). Industry and trade under the fourth industrial Revolution. Financial Express, Dhaka. Retrieved from: <https://thefinancialexpress.com.bd/views/views/industry-and-trade-under-the-fourth-industrial-revolution-1560783179>

Capacity Building

While capacity building is an extremely relevant and important subject for Bangladesh to develop its transition plans and execute them at the regional and global level, not enough attention has been made to orient, educate and build capacity to address those challenge. According to UN (2018), the total ODA for capacity-building and national planning stood at \$33.5 billion in 2017, representing 14% of total sector-allocable aid – a level that has been stable since 2010. This suggests that there are funds available for capacity building. Consultation meetings with GoB implementation agencies also revealed that there are funds available for capacity building. However, the agencies need a wide array of capacity building activities and development partners or other organizations have a limited mandate in terms what they pursue with their funds. This mismatch between GoB requirements and development partner mandate is the key challenge to boosting capacity building activities.

To increase capacity building efforts, GoB needs to conduct an assessment on the objectives and requirements of capacity building for different implementing agencies. Afterwards, financial support for capacity building needs to structure from different development partners. Without these measures, GoB agencies would not be able to absorb the capacity building support provided to them.

The capacity building activities will be more required for SDG 3 for training healthcare staffs and developing testing laboratories, SDG 4 for training teachers, SDG for training on disaster management, SDG 16 for training the staffs to improve response time, and overall for increasing the absorption capacity of the executing agencies.

Trade

Indicators 17.10.1 and 17.12.1 showed that Bangladesh faces trade restrictions from developed countries. This is due to lack of the Generalized System of Preference (GSP) and high MFN tariffs. However, analyzing from the Bangladesh's perspective, according to CPD (2019a), the duty structure imposed by Bangladesh is also protective. To meet international commitments, Bangladesh needs to lower its protection regime.

Global headwinds, in terms of changing trade ecosystem, might create problems for further international cooperation in Bangladesh. The year 2018 cast doubt over the future of a sound multilateral trading system under WTO, with significant trade tensions among large economies. This shift towards protectionism is likely to impact Bangladesh in two ways:

- o Bilateral trade disputes might bring benefits to Bangladesh. For example, the US-China trade war led to shift in work orders to Bangladesh. According to ADB estimates in 2019²⁷⁵, if the trade war escalates, Bangladesh will be able to increase exports by an additional \$400 million with RMG, textile, IT and agricultural products.
- o A full-blown global scale trade war might lead to fall in international trade for all countries. According to UNESCAP (2018)²⁷⁶, continued escalation would risk a major economic impact, threatening jobs and growth in all countries, as well as the attainment of the SDGs. For example, just for Asia and the Pacific alone, estimates of UNESCAP show that the region will face a net loss of 2.7 million jobs if the trade tensions are not resolved at a minimum. Therefore, Bangladesh and the rest of the world needs to be mindful of the trade war impacts.

Another major challenge that may occur is from the proliferation of Regional Trade Agreements (RTAs). According to Alam (2019b)²⁷⁷, one of the biggest problems with regional, preferential and bilateral trade deals

275 Daily Star (2019). Trade war a boon for Bangladesh: ADB. Retrieved from: <https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/trade-war-boon-bangladesh-adb-1711198>

276 UNESCAP (2018). "Chapter 4: Policy development and potential impacts of trade tensions in Asia and the Pacific. Asia-Pacific Trade and Investment Report 2018: Recent trends and developments (Bangkok, 2018).

277 Alam (2019b). State of multilateralism: Rise of regional and plurilateral trade agreements. Financial Express, Bangladesh. Retrieved from: <https://thefinancialexpress.com.bd/views/reviews/state-of-multilateralism-rise-of-regional-and-plurilateral-trade-agreements-1560696683>

is that they discriminate against excluded members. As a result, every time an RTA is signed, excluded members face substantial preference erosion. For example, when USA signed African Growth and Opportunity Act (AGOA) and offered Duty-Free Quota-Free (DFQF) access for numerous products originating from Sub-Saharan Africa, it caused an erosion of preference for non-African LDCs, including Bangladesh. It made African products more competitive in the US market, at the expense of products from excluded parties. These DFQF access from AGOA resulted in a boom of apparel industry in southern African countries while a more competitive RMG exporters from Bangladesh pay more than 15% tariff on exported value. Bangladesh requires trade negotiations and engaging in meaningful regional or bilateral trade agreements based on specific economic analysis and models. Bangladesh may be required to actively engage in the negotiations by forming coalitions with other graduating LDCs or non-LDC developing countries in various areas of interests. This needs international cooperation e.g. capacity development of MoC staff.

However, indicator 17.11.1 showed that Bangladesh's share of export is low and needs improvement. Globally, despite a slight upturn in 2017, the share of LDCs in world exports remains just below 1%. The slow growth could lead to missing the trade target set by IPOA – to double the LDCs share of global exports by 2020. The exports from LDCs will have to grow approximately four times faster than global exports to see their share doubled in two years. Therefore, Bangladesh progress in increasing share of exports might be diminished, especially given the limited export basket. To increase its share in global exports, Bangladesh needs to diversify its export basket to non-RMG products and destinations to outside EU and USA. Brazil and Russia could be new markets among others.

With LDC graduation, Bangladesh will lose preferential treatment obtained by LDC. Therefore, trade liberalization will become an issue. Bangladesh will have to trim down certain protectionist measures to remain consistent with core WTO trade agreements. This will be a shift from traditional mechanisms and test for policymakers and adaptive of domestic industries. However, in a world where protectionism is rising, cutting down tariff rates singlehandedly and opening the market for other parties may not be the best suitable option. This requires trade negotiations and engaging in meaningful regional or bilateral trade agreements based on specific economic analysis and models.

Developing and increasing trade would particularly impact SDG 8 and SDG 10. Trade creating customs union and trade with neighbors may be pursued vigorously. Spaghetti bowl effects of bilateral or regional free trade areas may be borne in mind while negotiating such treaties.

Systemic Issues

Policy and Institutional Coherence

Key macroeconomic indicators such as GDP growth rate and inflation rate maintained a consistent trend over the years, indicating macroeconomic stability. However, the current account balance (as % of GDP) is somewhat in a decelerating trend which need more attention in the coming years. Higher import growth, lower export growth and inward flow of remittances caused reduction of current account balance in recent years. Bangladesh needs to be cautious about the future trend in import which is partly driven by significant amount of import by the public sector in infrastructure building projects. According to research from CPD (2019a), Bangladesh is behind in terms of using country-led result framework compared to some of the countries, which needs improvement.

Multi-Stakeholder Partnership

So far, the role of CSOs, NGOs and private sector have been limited in monitoring and evaluation. GED (2018)²⁷⁸ does not recognize the role of the CSOs, NGOs and the private sector as implementers of the goals,

278 GED (2018), Monitoring and Evaluation Framework of SDGs: Bangladesh Perspective. Retrieved from: http://plancomm.portal.gov.bd/sites/default/files/files/plancomm.portal.gov.bd/files/dc350cdc_4c6d_4a81_b72a_3afe082187ac/Monitoring_and_Evaluation_Framework_of_SDGS_Book_Proof.pdf

although there is a commitment to undertake a ‘whole of society’ approach in implementing SDGs. The institutional process for SDG implementation has stipulated the role of different departments, ministries and other public agencies as ‘lead’ and ‘co-lead’ organizations to facilitate the process.²⁷⁹ However, the role of other important factors such as private sector, CSOs has yet to be recognized in the monitoring frame with specific responsibilities. Hence it is important to include CSOs, NGOs and private sector in the implementation mechanism with specific responsibilities in specific goals.

To improve multi-stakeholder partnership, there should be a set of comprehensive guidelines for collaborations between CSOs, NGOs and the GoB. The Monitoring and Evaluation Framework might recognize the role of CSOs and private sector by adding responsibility under the separate head called ‘associate partners’. Under the head of ‘associate partners’ a group of CSOs/private firms/ leading NGO which specialized on specific goals could be mentioned. This specific NGOs with the support of other CSOs will work closely with the lead/co-lead public agencies in implementing relevant targets.

CSOs could undertake measures on issues such as tax justice, tax evasion and transparency in financial reporting etc. On the other hand, private sector could put emphasis on broader tax base, less tax burden on SMEs, and raising concern over rationale behind over-concentration of fiscal incentives to RMG sector and demand for more balanced distribution of fiscal incentives between RMG and non-RMG sectors, strategic trade policy for sectoral development, enabling business environment for private investment including FDI, promoting bilateral FTAs and other trade agreements with potential countries.

Data and Accountability

As indicated in section 9.1, there is a major lack of data for indicators in Bangladesh. With the available data, there are additional challenges such as back-dated information and unavailability of disaggregated data. Most of the data are not tracked in real time by statistical agencies and have significant lag periods from collection to publication. Disaggregated data at the local level can be helpful in realizing ground level scenario. However, implementation capacity of statistical agencies needs to be significantly developed, especially at the grass root level, in order to derive data.

In terms of data and accountability, Statistical Division of the GoB needs significant capacity building, both in terms of personnel and institutional capacity. Without capacity improvement, it might not be possible to enhance data collection and analysis.

²⁷⁹ There is a feeling in the business community that the SDG implementation process is limited to bureaucratic activities and this process needs to rope in actors from outside, such as business and CSOs for its effectiveness and success.

Roadmap for Policy Options

There is a clear recognition that during the next decade, Bangladesh will have to navigate through a process of managing twin challenges. One is the implementation of SDGs and associated targets, and the other is the management of graduation process. Both processes will demand innovative management of relationship at least at three levels with a clear roadmap with a possible means for implementation. Alongside the global partnership, means of implementation is a critical element for the implementation of SDGs and perhaps they distinguish SDGs from MDGs. The SDG document ‘Transforming Our World’ itself called it ‘revitalized and enhanced Global Partnership and comparably ambitious means of implementation.’²⁸⁰

First, in addition to resources from the official sources, such as domestic tax revenue and ODA, a great deal of resources will have to be generated and mobilized from the non-governmental sources, including the private sector, CSO and philanthropic domains, among others, through catalyzing technology, knowledge, innovation, network and partnership with multiple actors.

Second, much of the effectiveness of mobilizing and utilizing resources will depend on how effectively Bangladesh can establish and leverage on connections between itself and the development partners through official means and exploring opportunities through facilitating, building and empowering the growing network and partnership between the civil society actors inside and outside Bangladesh.

Third, in this evolving context, there is an urgent need to be creative in terms of understanding the complex yet growing relationship between the world of development and that of diplomacy. Such a blend would facilitate more productive management of developmental process at the domestic level in line with implementation of SDGs and targets, and at the same time creating an enabling external environment to complement and support the process of graduation within the coming decade. Indeed, the document ‘Transforming Our World: The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development 2015’ itself was a product of prolonged and intense diplomatic engagement and negotiations among the member States of the United Nations and other partners in the international community, often with competing interests. They had to find a common ground based on respect for each-others’ interests and readiness to accommodate them within a common framework, sometimes with a constructive ambiguity.

For obvious reason, this process will also demand a huge set of innovations in several dimensions. Innovation may come in the domain of our understanding about the complexity involved in managing demand and supply in the world of development and diplomacy. SDGs being global, integrated and cross cutting clearly call for refining our understanding, deepening our knowledge and updating the organizational arrangement-both within the government and outside, modernizing the policy process to facilitate building a network of multi stakeholder coalition, both at home and abroad, to not only reap maximum benefits out of the implementation of SDGs and associated targets, but also to help us align our aspirations, policies and preparedness with a view to deriving optimal benefits from the regional and global interactions and processes. Routine mindset, policy process, organizational set up and interaction modes are highly unlikely to produce desired level of space for us in the crowded and extremely competitive regional and global environment, notwithstanding the fact that Bangladesh has registered some notable achievements in its international engagements in the past.

In this changing order, one could look at the following three areas to build up a possible roadmap for managing the future challenges through developing an appropriate set of policy tools.

1. Generation of resources;
2. Enabling environment;
3. Retarding factors.

²⁸⁰ UN (2015), Transforming Our World: The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

Resource Generating Processes

Although mobilization of resources is a key area for the successful implementation of SDGs and associated targets, it would be helpful to understand the complexities and nuances that surround this process. A brief analysis of the positions of various actors, regional and global, on these issues, which essentially frame the global discourse and policy process on mobilization of resources will perhaps help us to show a direction to move forward. A few trends are discussed below:

- *Domestic focus on resource mobilization:* Many developing countries, particularly LDCs have had difficulty in reaching the tax target and hence likely to remain well below the threshold set by the Addis Ababa Action Agenda. The OECD members nonetheless continue to stress that domestic resources would continue to be the main pillar of development finance for the broad majority of developing countries. While this remains a challenge, the target is not impossible to achieve. Indeed, mustering the courage and creativity to explore those areas, including the increase in tax revenue and exploring other avenues such as Impact investment and CSR in India or social impact investment in Thailand and UK, or corporate investment in Singapore or private sector financing in South Korea²⁸¹ will need a huge transformation in outlook, policy framework and practices. Concern over the negative impacts that illicit financial flows and related trade mispricing, tax avoidance, and evasion, corruption, and money-laundering have on the world economy, in particular for developing countries and LDCs must also be addressed. Despite some progress particularly with the enhanced role of Bangladesh FIU, Bangladesh needs to cover a long ground on these matters, and they will obviously affect its ability to mobilize funds for the implementation of SDGs and associated targets. Meaningful progress in these areas will clearly encourage the development partners to stand by Bangladesh in its journey ahead with an extended arm.²⁸²
- *Changing focus of ODA:* Major shift is taking place in the domain of long practiced ODA regime, which has been a steady source of resource for many LDCs including Bangladesh. With graduation, this scenario will change for Bangladesh. A few areas deserve special mention. First, while the DAC members acknowledged that ODA would remain a crucial part of international development co-operation, including in implementing the post-2015 agenda, they also underscored the importance of mobilizing domestic resources alongside international private flows to fire up their implementation process. Second, they also agreed to allocate more of total ODA to countries most in need, such as LDCs, low-income countries, small Island developing states, land-locked developing countries, and fragile and conflict-affected states. Third, they recognized the crucial role of ODA to help bring in private investment to support development, and in the context of Bangladesh ODA role in mobilizing private sector funds has been marginal. Fourth, they also underscored the urgent need to improve global access to reliable statistics to manage all these resources for all stakeholders, including developing and provider countries, to optimally plan, allocate, use, and account for development resources. For Bangladesh, lack of reliable data and in the post-graduation scenario, the issue of concessionality will be an important element, as the proportion of grant element will change in the ODA composition.
- *North-South Cooperation is in decline:* On their part, members of G-77 and LDCs have been demanding that North-South cooperation should remain as an essential pillar for the implementation of SDGs. The G-7 members, on the other hand, are more interested to promote other formats of cooperation. In addition, while the DAC countries insist that the ODA provided by the advanced developing countries should be aligned with the OECD principles and guidance, the G-77 and China resist that suggestion and staunchly defend their own principles, which sometimes seem opaque, according to some experts. In this kind of evolving environment, high level of awareness and understanding about the objectives and modalities of cooperation, including

281 UN ESCAP(2018), Innovative financing for Development in Asia and the Pacific: Government Policies on Impact Investment and Public Finance for Innovation.

282 Discussion with Members of LCG and development partners.

risk assessment of the economic cooperation among the various countries, including those from the South, would be of great relevance.

- *Global trading regime in turmoil:* Bangladesh as a member of the G-77 and LDCs has been vocal in terms of reaffirming its commitments to ensure full implementation and enforcement of existing WTO rules and successful conclusion of the Doha Development Round launched in 2001. However, the Doha Development Round is still in doldrums and recent trends toward protectionism are rather affecting the global trade negatively. Although Bangladesh has somehow weathered the uncertainty in the short-term, new developments may take away many of the current benefits it enjoys. At least two areas need to be flagged. First, with graduation, duty and quota free market access to many markets in developed and developing countries will possibly be reduced, if not eliminated; higher standards would also be demanded to enjoy concessional market access, if any. Already, the European Union, the largest export market for Bangladeshi products, has indicated stricter rules and procedures for Bangladesh if it wants to retain its duty-free market access under GSP plus formula.²⁸³ Second, recent signing of several Free Trade Agreements (FTAs) between the EU and some of the major competitors of Bangladesh will affect the export sector and Bangladesh will have to negotiate its way through in a creative and sustained way to protect and expand its market in the outside world, in addition to updating and diversifying its capacity domestically. Concessions in TRIPS will also go after 2033, creating a new environment for Bangladesh. Significant improvement in regional trade is unlikely to happen, given the fact that the political commitment for such arrangement is dwindling and tendency to impose para and non-tariff barriers has intensified. All this means that to open new markets for its products, Bangladesh will have to engage in challenging negotiations with all its abilities.
- *Migration maze may affect remittance:* The SDGs suggested the reduction of the transaction costs of migrant remittances to less than 3% and the elimination of remittance corridors with costs higher than 5% by 2030, consistent with target 10.c of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The reality however has become more complex, particularly in recent years. Major migrant recipient countries have started pursuing an anti-migrant politics and policy, as a result of which migration has become a hot and highly divisive issue in domestic politics. In addition, rights and safety of migrant workers are at risk in many migrant receiving countries, including in the US; inward looking policies and effort to increase indigenously empowered workforce will create challenge for low end workers, particularly from Bangladesh. In light of this complex reality, a good understanding about the evolution in global labor markets, emerging challenges and opportunities will require a new set of knowledge and skills to explore, engage and negotiate a new modus operandi to reap maximum benefit from this opportunity.
- *FDI flow is growing selectively:* Over the last few years, the flow of FDI toward the developing countries has generally increased, but a mixed picture emerged with the LDCs. Although the flow of FDI Bangladesh is showing upward trend, fine prints indicate growing trend of recycling of profits within the firms. In addition, for many LDCs it is difficult to create the enabling environment to attract substantial amount of FDI, including in Bangladesh, attractive policy in place notwithstanding.
- *Enabling international environment is still a dream:* Developing countries under the format of G-77 and LDCs demand that they should be supported by an enabling international environment, which includes a supportive and just international system where the rules are fair and pro-development, as well as a genuine and revitalized global partnership to enable developing countries to meet their sustainable development aspirations. Yet, this aspiration is yet to fully materialize. Rather global system is increasingly moving the other way with huge negative implication, particularly for the LDCs, including Bangladesh.

²⁸³ Discussion at Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Ministry of Commerce.

- *Climate finance of \$100 billion is nowhere near the target:* The commitment to mobilize \$100 billion annually by 2020 to support affected countries in managing the effects of climate change has not been realized yet. According to latest information around \$10 billion has so far been mobilized, which falls far short of the need and commitment given. Needless to say that most of the affected countries are also low-income countries in the developing world. An Oxfam study notes the following citing OECD data that, on average, around 18% of total public climate finance went to LDCs in 2015-16. If we assume the same proportion of climate finance reported to the UNFCCC went to LDCs, then this would amount to around \$9 billion per year. This is a small increase compared to the \$7.4 billion per year we estimated went to LDCs in 2013-14.²⁸⁴ This again calls for sustained engagement to ensure that not only Bangladesh gets its share of the fund, its potential climate calamities must be brought to the attention of the international community, which would need employing tools of creative diplomacy and hard negotiations.

Enabling Factors

Bangladesh enjoys several advantages to generate resources for the implementation of SDGs and associated targets. First, its location and its thriving neighborhood, sustained growth of its economy with corresponding changes, its employable youth, policy framework to encourage business and investment could be leveraged to achieve the cross cutting and multi-dimensional SDGs and targets as well as managing the graduation process. Second, as a member and leader of LDC group, Bangladesh has been relatively successful in securing the development cooperation from the development partners, getting duty and quota free market access, including other concessions and access to global labor market, which ensured steady flow of remittance for almost two decades now. This accumulated knowledge and experience is a plus point for Bangladesh in addressing the challenges out of the implementation of SDGs and associated targets. Third, given the fact that the demand for implementation of SDGs is huge, and the graduation process could bring in new challenges, a new play book for designing development cooperation in the larger context has become urgent and imperative. Perhaps the key words could be innovation and inclusiveness in our approach, and updating our policy, organization, and implementation process. Bangladesh loves to thrive in adversity with a touch of pragmatism. Changing work environment and work culture will clearly demand different kind of policy and ability to capitalize on the international export and labor market and Bangladesh has shown it can navigate such a challenging environment with grit and determination.

Retarding Factors

Several studies have identified some of the gaps in creating the enabling environment for robust and equitable economic growth in Bangladesh, fired by all sectors of economy. Regulatory and policy predictability is one of them, which has been highlighted by the Global Competitiveness Report and Ease of Doing Business report of the World Bank. The World Bank in its Economic Update of April 2019 noted that perceptions of unpredictable and opaque administrative processes, as well as the uneven enforcement of regulations, can deter firm creation and investment, push them towards informality and ultimately impede productivity in the formal sectors. Despite pronounced commitment by the governments, progress in this area has been laggard. The most pressing are concerns about inconsistencies in laws and regulations, and undue use of discretion by officials, with more than 60% of respondents to a survey identifying these factors as problematic. There are also concerns about poor access to information about rules and regulations, adverse and often sudden changes in laws and regulations, and lack of effective grievance mechanisms. These problems are a manifestation of deficient regulatory governance. Regulatory governance remains weak because most regulatory reforms in the past have focused more on streamlining individual regulatory processes with inadequate attention paid to systemic reforms.²⁸⁵

Limited perception and understanding about the working of the regional and global system affects our

284 Oxfam (2018), 'Climate Finance Shadow report.

285 World Bank (2019), Bangladesh Development Update, April 2019.

ability to analyze issues professionally from multi-dimensional perspectives, understanding the priorities and nuances of other stakeholders, introduce, frame and catalyze new ideas, engage in meaningful dialogues, build coalition of friends to push preferred agenda, and assess the risks involved in them and the skills to manage them through deep engaging and meaningful negotiating with relevant stakeholders. Too much of focus on ceremonial aspect of relationship and event orientation does not also seem helpful to navigate the complex regional and global interactions with a view to producing beneficial outcome in our favor. Nor does it help us to explore innovative ways to initiate and engage in discussion on difficult yet compelling issues of common relevance to secure a mutually beneficial outcome. Many non-economic issues are also framing economic interactions, which further complicates the management of economic relations in general and development cooperation in particular.

Possible Roadmap

Bangladesh and the international community could explore policy options within the openings available to them with a view to addressing the challenges related to the implementation of SDGs and managing the graduation process in the coming decade. Some of the possible elements as a set of policy recommendations under three frames are discussed below.

What Bangladesh Government can do?

Strengthening Economic Diplomacy: There has been talk of strengthening economic diplomacy of Bangladesh for a long time, much though without going into the details of the objectives and process involved in pursuing this kind of complex process of integrating development with diplomacy. Now standing at a turning point, it could perhaps be useful to revisit the ideas with some degree of seriousness. Against this backdrop, one could seriously look at the possibility of building an infrastructure of economic diplomacy based on two strong pillars, namely domestic and external pillars. In order to implement such an exercise, an Action Plan has to be developed to integrate development with diplomacy, both horizontally and vertically. Horizontal integration could involve brining relevant cluster of Ministries and Bangladesh Missions abroad into one frame, and the vertical integration will bring together the government and relevant members of civil society of various types, including business, media and NGOs, among others, who could contribute to advance our national interest with particular focus on mobilizing monetary and non-monetary resources through building network and partnership.

The starting point could be updating and expanding the existing draft **National Policy on International Development Cooperation 2016** to bring together all these actors and include issues other than only foreign aid. Issues, such as trade, investment, migration, technology transfer, among others could be brought into the mix of international development cooperation received by Bangladesh. Likewise, it would be appropriate to include the support Bangladesh currently provides and could potentially provide in the future to other countries of the South, such as on building capacity to build financial intelligence for prevention of money laundering, and best practices for utilizing technology to unleash local capacity.²⁸⁶

In order to implement such an objective, a **Strategy** could be developed and managed jointly by MOFA and ERD as well as GED, Planning Commission with inputs from all relevant Ministries, including the Ministry of Commerce, Expatriate Welfare, Environment, Road transport, BIDA, among others. Inputs could also be sought from Business bodies, Academia, and other civil society organizations. This could be supported by a country led results framework for SDGs and Graduation with relevant Ministries with targets. It is also important that this process must be inclusive in nature to ensure participation and contribution from all relevant stakeholders including CSOs and communities. It is notable that SDGs have clearly prioritized their role too. Indeed, the concept of economic diplomacy itself, which has emerged as the major thrust of the present government, as identified by the Prime Minister herself²⁸⁷ has to be inclusive in nature, multi

²⁸⁶ Discussion at Financial Intelligence Unit (FIU), 22 July 2019.

²⁸⁷ Statement of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina at the Envoy's conference in London, 21 July 2019.

stakeholder in composition, and the role of the government needs to become more of a facilitator in the form of creating congenial policies and enabling environment with a view to encouraging the government, private sector, CSOs, youth, labor organizations, Think Tanks to work together to utilize the available resources to produce goods, services and networks not only to ensure implementation of SDGs but also to create resources at grass roots level allowing the youth, women, marginalized communities to contribute to national development in light of the SDGs. The connectivity which is expected to be generated out of this process will definitely create multiplier effects to stimulate economy, energize innovation in the society and perhaps address environmental concerns with local initiatives.

Develop inter-Ministerial coordination mechanism: One of the challenges Bangladesh has been facing for quite some time is inadequate coordination among the work carried out by different Ministries and organizations in the outside world, be it Commerce, be it ERD, be it Expatriate Welfare, be it Environment, be it BIDA. As a result, Bangladesh had to largely remain satisfied with suboptimal outcomes and was left with little scope to take initiatives to frame the issues in its favor in the external environment. This is true regardless of our strong performance in the areas of trade, manpower and aid. Such a reactive and compartmentalized style of conducting business in the outside world will no longer be productive, particularly as we graduate to a new level by 2024 and strong commitment to SDGs binds us to a more comprehensive, integrated, proactive approach. In light of this, a strong **inter-Ministerial coordination mechanism** could be set up under MOFA with participation from all Ministries having external relevance and engagement, including ERD, Commerce, Road transport, Expatriate Welfare, Environment, Tourism, Home, Labor, Environment, NBR, BIDA, BEZA, among others. Business and CSOs could also be incorporated in this process, as required. The current high level set up to implement the SDGs under the leadership of SDG Coordinator at the PMO could provide suitable support to this Ministerial Committee, as relevant. The General Economics Division (GED), Planning Commission, which acts as knowledge hub for SDGs could provide the intellectual inputs for facilitating smooth working of such a mechanism. GEC could also help to develop an Implementation Plan for Financing of SDGs and associated targets.

Strengthen capacity and accountability in bureaucracy: Since bureaucracy frames policies and implement them on the ground, their solid and professional understanding on critical issues of relevance for Bangladesh and their linkages with the external environment is a critical factor to effectively aligning our national efforts with the implementation of SDGs and managing the graduation process with the global environment. In this context, alongside improving their facilitating role in promoting the rule of law, creating enabling business environment,²⁸⁸ including streamlining regulatory framework, to increase our competitiveness and productivity along the lines suggested by the World Competitiveness Report²⁸⁹ and Ease of Doing Business Reports²⁹⁰, capacity to analyze issues, identify the stakeholders and develop strategies incorporating risks and options for solutions, and building multi stakeholder coalitions and assisting substantively in the conduct of negotiations are of urgent relevance. Enhancing the capacity of bureaucracy to make a productive outreach to across the Ministries, local stakeholders with greater flexibility and freedom to decide could also be immensely helpful in not leaving anyone behind. Recent report of the UN Secretary General highlights this point in this way, ‘Strengthened capacity development for the public sector workforce will be critical to ensuring integrated and effective policymaking and implementation, including on issues such as the delivery of services, integrated planning and national resource mobilization, and through institutions such as schools of public administration. Actions taken by some Governments to raise awareness of the SDGs and their implications for public service work can serve as an inspiration for others.’²⁹¹

However, interactions with several layers of bureaucracy reveal scope for considerable improvement in these areas through appropriate level of intervention for capacity building and accountability in view of

288 Heritage Foundation's Global Economic Freedom Index 2019 categorized Bangladesh as 'Mostly unfree.' For details see: heritage.org/Index.

289 World Economic Forum (2019), Global Competitiveness Report, 2019.

290 The World Bank(2019), The Ease of Doing Business Report, 2019

291 UN(2018)Report of the Secretary General on the progress towards Sustainable Development Goals, 8 May 2018

the changing role of bureaucracy in the evolving scenario, either for the implementation of SDGs or for the management of graduation process. At the same breath, it must also be mentioned that many initiatives undertaken in collaboration with the UN agencies, for example under Access to Information (a2i) program under UNDP, has produced many innovations and established multiple layers of linkage with the grassroots level stakeholders in Bangladesh. Indeed, many of these good practices are being replicated in some countries in the region and outside under the format of South- South cooperation. It may however be borne in mind that social innovations have better chances of survival and replication due to the fact that local communities own and nurse them, often better than the government bureaucratic machinery.

Reinforce and further professionalize MOFA: By any definition, MOFA remains the vanguard to lead our interactions with the outside world. Strengthening their professionalism, including improving their understanding on the outcome orientation of diplomacy and proactive attitude to set and lead the agenda favorable to Bangladesh, instead of event and reactive approach, providing them with adequate resources and skills as well as scientifically measuring their performance is a must to allow them to act as an early warning system and neutralize risks in time and build coalition of friends and conduct effective negotiations with a view to protecting and promoting our interest in an uncertain and highly competitive world has become a mandatory requirement. Three areas demand special attention. First, the changing nature of global relationship, including the growing threat to the spirit of multilateralism and the return of geopolitics focusing on Asia will affect Bangladesh directly. Second, the growing role of South-South cooperation with its own set of rules and practices will offer both opportunities and challenges, which demand serious attention and analysis. Third, it involves our capacity to read and analyze the emerging risks and initiate action, including through opening dialogue and negotiations to safeguard our vital national interest. MOFA role in intensifying our focus on still underexplored areas of our vital interest, such as connectivity, blue economy, water, climate, energy, geo political issues, and exploring possible options and solutions remains critically important. While it is important that they become part of domestic development, it is equally important that they are professionally equipped to perform their job in the outside world and receive adequate support from home front. Many of the elements identified to implement SDGs, including mobilizing innovative financing will only be possible if Bangladesh can integrate diplomacy with developmental efforts to co-create ideas, set and lead the agenda and mobilize relevant stakeholders in suitable manner to negotiate and produce results to advance our national objectives.

In light of daunting tasks generated out of the implementation of SDGs, MOFA could think of formulating a **Five Year Strategic Plan (2020-25)** to participate and implement SDGs with focus on the vital issues, which will frame our external involvement during the next decade. This could perhaps fill the existing void in undertaking a concerted diplomatic effort in implementing SDGs, and may also assist in managing other requirements including the graduation challenges. Recent initiative by MOFA to engage with the Cambridge Innovation Lab and with the Danish government on Partnering for Green Growth and Global Goals 2030 (P4G) for conducting research and work on multiple dimensions of the implementation SDGs and targets and linking various Ministries and academia with them is a worthwhile move, and may be replicated to enhance the capacity of diplomats and to build local and global network to pursue SDGs in the global context including the financing part of it.

Promote Policy Research: This is perhaps a weak point in Bangladesh, while research has become as fundamental element in terms of understanding the transformational nature of society both inside and outside Bangladesh. In fact, implementation of SDGs and the arduous process of graduation will call upon serious policy research on issues of importance to Bangladesh. While it would be useful to encourage and support Universities and Think Tanks to engage in such pursuit in earnest, their research outputs should be integrated into the policy process through close coordination with the policy process. Government supported institutions alike, such as BISS, FSA, BIDS, among others, should be engaged more deeply into this process. Recent initiative by MOFA to build up collaboration with The Cambridge Policy Simulation Lab could encourage grassroots level action research, which could also help produce solutions to many of

the challenges an evolving society faces. Good practices, which we have created ourselves earlier and being created now in Bangladesh and in other countries, could also provide some templates for such set of creative endeavor at the social level.

Promote data driven policy: One of the significant focus in SDGs is the utilization of data in analyzing, monitoring and measuring the policy process, which in many cases are in modest supply in Bangladesh. Indeed, this was one of the handicaps faced while preparing this report. Several stakeholders have reported absence of any baseline to monitor the progress of work. Therefore, more investment is required to generate and utilize data for monitoring progress and evaluate the success of policy process at the national level. In this context, the capacity of BBS should be significantly enhanced, and technical cooperation from the external actors would be welcome. At the same time, serious consideration may be given to generate and analyze data at the local level to assist the process of policy formulation and implementation with particular focus on SDGs at the grassroots level. UNDP could be a helpful partner in this process.

Strengthen linkages with business community and CSOs: One of the strong points of Bangladesh is the activism of its social sector, including the business community and private sector, which has innovated many solutions to address the issues of poverty, gender equality, women empowerment, promoting economic equality and justice, and disaster management. They are now engaged in addressing many of the climate related challenges. In this context, the youth, women, business and CSOs, among others, could play a significant role in generating locally driven innovations, solutions, thereby empowering the local stakeholders, possibly generating locally driven dataset and establishing a multi-stakeholder network, in addition to creating employment for themselves. The government initiative to digitize local service delivery mechanism could be an additional accelerator in this process of forming social capital. Therefore, it would be prudent idea to train and engage youth and women in the implementation of SDGs and turn them into human capital to address the potential challenge of jobless growth. Success of such an arrangement could also assist the idea of localization of initiatives and activities, as espoused by the UNDP, as a part of their effort to assist member states to successfully implement SDGs and targets. The UN Secretary General acknowledging this noted, 'Considerable knowledge exists about the inter-linkages between the goals and targets of the SDGs, yet institutions, governance and skill sets have not yet adapted to translate this nexus of information into effective whole-of-Government and whole-of-society approaches and cross-sectoral action aligned with the 2030 Agenda.'

Indeed, a strong support has been noticed among the development partners to endorse such an inclusive approach as a strategic tool for generating and mobilizing resources. Likewise, it was also suggested that this is a strong area, where Bangladesh could direct its energy and effort to overcome its developmental challenges and meet the objective of implementing SDGs and associated targets and make transition to new level of economy rather smooth. Widening space for the CSOs and strengthening their capacity for various challenging areas, such as climate, education, skills, employment, accountability and transparency, may also create a positive linkage for Bangladesh with the international community, as has been seen before. A new, powerful and inclusive social compact may thus emerge to power the journey ahead of Bangladesh in the coming decade.²⁹²

Promote public awareness and activism: Considerable lack of awareness about the SDGs and associated targets has been noticed among important social stakeholders, both inside and outside the government, more so on the issues relating to development cooperation. Despite a good number of initiatives have been undertaken by the government and civil society organizations to publicize, organize and associate people with the implementation of SDGs and targets, but their traction on public mind seems to be quite modest. More public dialogues on the issues relevant for Bangladesh, including the issue of international cooperation, which would not only determine the fate of SDGs, but also our transition process need to be pursued by the concerned Ministries/offices, as well as by the business community and the local CSOs. This

²⁹² Discussion with the development partners

would be immensely helpful in sensitizing all stakeholders about the stakes involved in this process and what role is expected from the respective segment of society.

MOFA along with other relevant Ministries, particularly Finance and Planning, could launch more **public dialogues** on issues of our vital concerns in the international community and integrate outcomes/suggestions in policy making and implementation process, including the SDGs. Such a process could be helpful to build interaction and trust between the government Ministries and the members of the public, particularly the youth, women, and marginalized communities. Serious consideration could also be given to include chapters on SDGs and their role in spurring innovation and transformation in human lives and how does they propose to connect life at the local level with the global context and the constructive role of Bangladesh can play in its neighborhood and in the regional global environment to promote its own interests and contribute to advance the larger cause of the international community.

What Development partners could do?

Forging close and dynamic partnership between Bangladesh and the development partners has never been more pressing than now, particularly in the context of implementation of SDGs and managing the upcoming graduation process. Following areas could be worthwhile to note.

Redeem obligation on shared responsibility to implement SDGs: It is important that the international community, particularly the development partners recognize and take their shared responsibility to assist the developing countries, including Bangladesh in all possible ways to achieve the SDGs and associated targets. The indications are still mixed and the development partners need to intensify their efforts in this direction on a priority basis.

Mobilizing domestic resource: Although the primary burden of mobilizing resources rests with the developing countries themselves through domestic means, so far the evidence is not encouraging. The development partners need to extend technical and other support to the developing countries, particularly LDCs to enhance their capacity for domestic resource mobilization through improving tax regime, and developing other supporting infrastructures and practices to mobilize adequate domestic resources. ODA could be one important tool for this purpose.

Improving capacity for management: This is one area where perhaps the developing countries need most support from the development partners. Capacity building could cover a great deal of areas from project management to financial management to human resource development to developing legal and regulatory framework to raising productivity to competitiveness to refining dispute resolution to developing skills for conducting negotiations to advance common interests. The UN Secretary underscored the importance of this issue in this way, ‘Capacities also needed to be strengthened for national resource mobilization and the expansion of fiscal space, preventing and tackling illicit financial flows and gaining access to available financing, as well as in trade-related aspects, in particular in the least developed countries.’²⁹³

Exploring under or unexplored resources: Bangladesh needs huge support for developing a sustainable and forward looking economy for the present and future generations. Exploring the Blue Economy, renewable energy, Artificial Intelligence, Automation and bio technology could add immense value to achieve those objectives.

Opening more space for growth acceleration: Bangladesh is on the cusp of a huge transition and would need enabling regional and global environment to grow at a steady pace during the next few decades. Support for poverty alleviation initiatives, concessional market access, assistance, FDI and loans on favourable terms, transfer of technology and allowing space for its migrant workforce could be helpful and the development partners, both from the developing and developed world could contribute to this process.

²⁹³ UN(2018), Report of the Secretary General on the progress towards Sustainable Development Goals, 8 May 2018

Extending climate management support: Bangladesh is at the forefront of climate disaster without contributing anything to this calamity. In light of this, the development partners must assist Bangladesh through mitigation and adaptation support to meet those challenges on a sustainable basis.

What Bangladesh and Development Partners could do together?

Bangladesh and the development partners could work together in a number of areas. This includes

- *Project development and implementation:* Bangladesh and the development partners could work together in developing, matching and implementing projects in areas ranging from poverty alleviation to infrastructure development to human resources development to implementing common standards and practices for achieving shared objectives, such as utilizing ODA for capacity building and drawing local and foreign investments, for example. World Bank experiences with certain projects in Bangladesh could be a good template.
- *Market Bangladesh achievements:* The development partners could work with Bangladesh to help her to market its achievements in social and economic advancements and its contribution to global peace and security.
- *Intensify work on research:* The development partners could assist Bangladesh in developing and refining the capacity of Bangladesh to conduct research and analysis in identifying the risks and mitigating them with a view to reaping benefits from its regional and global interactions, including those for the implementation of SDGs and associated targets.
- *Engage in regular consultations:* Bangladesh and the development partners could develop a practice of engaging in regular and systematic consultations with each other on issues of common challenges and benefits, such as the climate, human trafficking, rule of law and good business practices.
- *Provide mutual support at multilateral fora:* Bangladesh and the development partners could work together at the regional and global multilateral fora to support each other on mutually beneficial issues and forge partnership to advance our common objectives in the context of the implementation of SDGs and beyond

Many of successful efforts in Bangladesh have been implemented with support from the international cooperation. Indeed, over the years, international cooperation for development has done a strategic contribution to the strengthening of the government's capacities to design, develop and delivery of good quality public policies and services, including hard and soft infrastructures, including the development of social capital and forging government- people network to deliver the development. It has also created an enabling environment for the empowerment and activation of various sectors of population, including marginalized communities, in identifying the challenges and finding solutions, including in the case of health, education, gender equality, energy and human rights, among others. There is therefore a strong feeling that international development cooperation in an expanded form could also contribute to fire up Bangladesh's journey forward through successful implementation of SDGs and targets and managing its graduation challenges in the coming decade.

List of SDG Related Publications by GED Since 2016

1. Integration of Sustainable Development Goals into the 7th Five Year Plan (February 2016)
2. A Handbook on Mapping of Ministries by Targets in the Implementation of SDGs aligning with 7th Five Year Plan (2016-20) (September 2016)
3. Data Gap Analysis for Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs): Bangladesh Perspective (January 2017)
4. টেকসই উন্নয়ন অভীষ্ট, লক্ষ্যমাত্রা ও সূচকসমূহ (মূল ইংরেজি থেকে বাংলায় অনূদিত) (প্রকাশকাল : এপ্রিল ২০১৭)
5. Bangladesh Voluntary National Review (VNR) 2017: Eradicating poverty and promoting prosperity in a changing world (June 2017)
6. SDGs Financing Strategy: Bangladesh Perspective (June 2017)
7. A Training Handbook on Implementation of the 7th Five Year Plan (June 2017)
8. Bangladesh Development Journey with SDGs [Prepared for Bangladesh Delegation to 72nd UNGA Session 2017] (September 2017)
9. Monitoring and Evaluation Framework of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs): Bangladesh Perspective (March 2018)
10. National Action Plan of Ministries/Divisions by Targets for the Implementation of SDGs (June 2018)
11. Journey with SDGs Bangladesh is Marching Forward [Prepared for Bangladesh Delegation to 73rd UNGA Session 2018] (September 2018)
12. এসডিজি অভিযাত্রা: এগিয়ে যাচ্ছে বাংলাদেশ (জাতিসংঘ সাধারণ পরিষদের ৭৩তম অধিবেশনের জন্য প্রণীত) (সেপ্টেম্বর ২০১৮)
13. Synthesis Report on First National Conference on SDGs Implementation (November 2018)
14. Sustainable Development Goals: Bangladesh First Progress Report 2018 (December 2018)
15. টেকসই উন্নয়ন অভীষ্টঃ বাংলাদেশ অগ্রগতি প্রতিবেদন ২০১৮ (ইংরেজি থেকে অনূদিত) (এপ্রিল ২০১৯)
16. Empowering People: Ensuring Inclusiveness and Equality [For Bangladesh Delegation to High-Level Political Forum 2019] (July 2019)
17. Bangladesh Moving Ahead with SDGs [Prepared for Bangladesh Delegation to 74th UNGA Session 2019] (September 2019)
18. Prospects and Opportunities of International Cooperation in Attaining SDG targets in Bangladesh (September 2019)
19. টেকসই উন্নয়ন অভীষ্ট অর্জনে এগিয়ে যাচ্ছে বাংলাদেশ (জাতিসংঘ সাধারণ পরিষদের ৭৪তম অধিবেশনে বাংলাদেশ প্রতিনিধিগণের জন্য প্রণীত (ইংরেজি থেকে অনূদিত) (সেপ্টেম্বর ২০১৯)



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