Action Dialogue in Bangladesh

SDG Localization through Development Effectiveness

08 August 2022, 3pm- 6pm (Dhaka)

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SDG Localisation through Development Effectiveness

Speaker	Speaker	Chief Guest	Chair	Speaker	Speaker
Ms. Suzanne Mueller	Mr. Farid Aziz	Ms. Zuena Aziz	Ms. Sharifa Khan	Mr. Mohd. Monirul Islam	Mr. Sudipto Mukerjee
Deputy Head of Mission /Head of Cooperation Embassy of Switzerland	Additional Secretary and Wing Chief (DE Wing) Economic Relations Division Ministry of Finance	Principal Coordinator (SDG Affairs) Prime Minister's Office	Secretary Economic Relations Division Ministry of Finance	Joint Secretary (SDG Affairs) Prime Minister's Office	Resident Representative UNDP Bangladesh

Introduction

Starting a journey with a broken economy and a scattered socio-economic situation, Bangladesh has been able to achieve tremendous successes against various socio-economic indicators. In 1971, the size of the GDP of war-ravaged Bangladesh was only USD 6.2 billion, and in 2018 the GDP grew to USD 286.27 billion, taking the country to the 42nd position in the world economy. The per capita income of Bangladesh in 2020-21 is USD 2,591 , which was only USD 135.62 in 1970. Once harshly picturized as a ''bottomless basket', Bangladesh is now tagged as a "Role Model for Development".

Bangladesh made remarkable achievements regarding Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) even though it did not receive global support committed especially from the rich countries. It was estimated that USD 78.2 billion was required to achieve MDGs in Bangladesh during 2011-15 . Bangladesh needed foreign assistance of USD 5.0 to USD 3.0 billion per year, but from 1990-91 to 2013-14, Bangladesh, on average, received USD 1.74 billion in Official Development Assistance (ODA) per year. Bangladesh also trying to keep up the spirit of realizing the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

The Bangladesh government has established an Inter-Ministerial Committee on SDGs Implementation. The Committee comprising Secretaries from 20 Ministries/ Divisions coordinates SDGs monitoring and implementation. The Principal Coordinator (SDGs Affairs), a newly created high-level position in the Prime Minister's office, heads the Committee.

The General Economics Division (GED) of the Ministry of Finance is the secretariat for the committee to coordinate implementation at the policy level along with monitoring and reporting SDGs status . GED has published 'Mapping of Ministries by Targets in the Implementation of SDGs aligning with 7th Five Year Plan', which aims to ensure the effective implementation of SDGs. The report identified lead ministries for all the 169 targets. To collect regular information for proper monitoring and evaluations of SDGs progress, GED has published a book titled 'Data Gap Analysis for Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)'. Finance or resources is a must to realize the SDGs, GED has published a book titled 'SDG Financing Strategy: Bangladesh Perspective'. It has estimated the resources needed for implementing SDGs.

'National Monitoring and Evaluation Framework of SDGs: Bangladesh Perspective' has been formulated for monitoring and evaluating the implementation of SDGs. GED also has published 'National Action Plan of Ministries/ Divisions by Targets for the Implementation of SDGs'. To present the goal-wise progress of Bangladesh along with challenges, GED has recently published 'Sustainable Development Goals: Bangladesh Progress Report-2020'.

The Action Dialogue in Bangladesh: SDG Localization through Development Effectiveness covered Bangladesh's progress toward achieving the SDGs as well as the path ahead for overcoming current challenges.

Background

for ensuring the effective translation of the SDG results into people's lives, localization is important

Bangladesh is heading to the middle-income country tier through its consecutive growth trends marking satisfactory signs of progress in various social indicators. The pandemic posed a sudden challenge in which the current government demonstrated efficient management skills in handling health emergencies including balancing the life and livelihoods of the citizens. On the top, the Russia-Ukraine war is imposing another challenge amidst the global declining trends of ODA. This demands effective cooperation among development actors ranging from development partners, Civil Society Organizations (CSOs), the private sector, philanthropies, etc.

Whatever initiatives for achieving SDGs are being taken in Bangladesh are mostly from the central. Government has a high impetus to work on SDGs and all those are from the central government which lacks the quality of the interventions and targeting the actual audiences confirming the LNOB principle. Therefore, localization of SDG, particularly focusing on the lagging districts is critically important. Although Bangladesh is recognized globally as the country performing well in its SDG implementation, there remains issues unattended. One of the key elements hindering the SDG implementation is spatial imbalances in development. To address this issue, the localization approach will be effective and enhance development effectiveness.

It requires a convergent approach by bringing all actors together and working together on scanning the challenges, planning, and designing the solutions mapping with interventions. Four principles of effective development cooperation – country ownership, inclusive partnerships, focus on results and transparency and mutual accountability should be taken into consideration in maximizing development results.

To make the ongoing development interventions further effective, particularly the SDG Localization, the Government of Bangladesh, through the Economic Relations Division (ERD) of the Ministry of Finance, in collaboration with the Development Cooperation Effectiveness Working Group under the Local Consultative Group (LCG) organized this Action Dialogue. The Action Dialogue stimulates multi-stakeholder discussions and mobilizes all partners to bolster ongoing efforts and actions for effective and efficient use of resources towards the achievement of the 2030 Agenda. It will help the Bangladesh government and partners build a shared understanding of obstacles and priorities to increase efficient and effective utilization of development cooperation and cultivate stronger partnerships in the current development context.

In SDG implementation, the government is keenly putting its best efforts to track the progress and documenting the achievements. The organization of the regular SDG Implementation Review (SIR) conference helps track every ministry's progress against plans. However, for ensuring the effective translation of the SDG results into people's lives, localization is important. According to the Global Taskforce of Local and Regional Governments, UNDP, and UN-Habitat, 'Localization is the process of taking into account subnational contexts in the achievement of the 2030 agenda, from setting the goals and targets to determining the means of implementation and using indicators to measure and monitor progress.' In doing so, engagement of all the actors is essential for making the results effective and efficient.

AHM Bazlur Rahman | B...   Satyajit Roy, UNDP   Mst. Noorjahan Khatun,...   Nipul Kanti Bala JF

Objective & Modalities

event was to pinpoint the steps that must be taken to improve partnerships and cooperation to deliver sustainable development impact through SDG localization

On 8th August 2022 Bangladesh government, through the ERD of the Ministry of Finance and UNDP jointly organized the dialogue titled: SDG Localization through Development Effectiveness. Global Partnership for Effective Development Cooperation (GEPDC) Joint Support Team (JST) provided technical support. The major goal of the event was to pinpoint the steps that must be taken to improve partnerships and cooperation to deliver sustainable development impact through SDG localization. In truth, the event covered several distinct issues, including:

- What opportunities exist to increase the effectiveness of cooperation and partnerships to deliver the sustainable development impact at the local?

- What are the main challenges to working through multi-stakeholder partnerships/working towards shared results/gearing collective development efforts towards SDG localization?

- What can be done to strengthen inclusiveness and effectiveness of engagement with stakeholders such as civil society, private sectors, and policymakers?

- What specific changes in policies, behavior, or systems would make it possible to advance and fully meet the effectiveness commitments?

The virtual dialogue was attended by representatives from the government, development partners, CSOs, private sectors, local government elected representatives, the Cottage, Small and Medium Enterprises (CSMEs), GPEDC JST, etc. The whole event chaired by Ms. Sharifa Khan, Secretary of ERD, Ministry of Finance, was divided into four parts: the welcome and inauguration session, the breakout session, the plenary session, and the closing session.

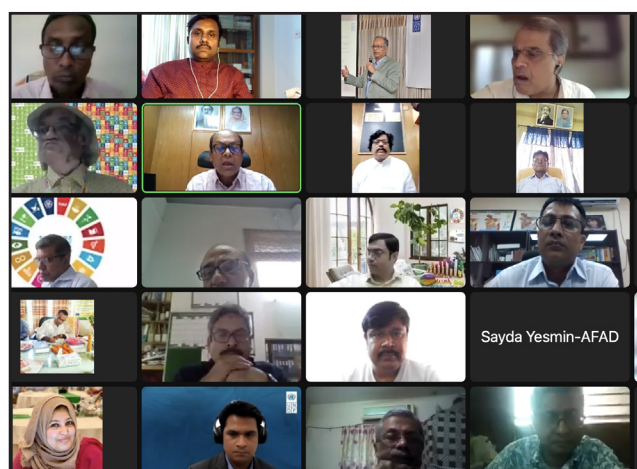The welcome and inauguration session included remarks by a government representative and presentations on SDG Localization in Bangladesh and SDG Localization through Development Effectiveness. Mr. Farid Aziz, Additional Secretary and Wing Chief (DE Wing) of ERD, Ministry of Finance, delivered a welcome address. While Mr. Mohd. Monirul Islam, Joint Secretary (SDG Affairs), Prime Minister's Office, and Dr. Nazneen Ahmed, Country Economist of UNDP Bangladesh, gave presentations.

After this initial session, there was the Breakout session. Participants were divided in four groups and discussed a particular question. Questions were:

- What opportunities exist to increase the effectiveness of cooperation and partnerships to deliver the sustainable development impact at the local?

- What are the main challenges to working through multi-stakeholder partnerships/working towards shared results/gearing collective development efforts towards SDG localization?

- What can be done to strengthen inclusiveness and effectiveness of engagement with stakeholders such as civil society, private sectors, and policymakers?

- What specific changes in policies, behavior, or systems would make it possible to advance and fully meet the effectiveness commitments?

The key findings were presented by each group moderator in the plenary session.

At the closing session, Ms. Suzanne Mueller, the deputy head of mission and head of cooperation at the Swiss Embassy in Bangladesh made a remark as a co-chair of GPEDC. In addition, Ms. Zuena Aziz, the principal coordinator (SDG Affairs) Prime Minister's Officer presented as the Chief Guest of the event. As the Chair of the Action Dialogue, Ms. Sharifa Khan, Secretary of ERD, Ministry of Finance delivered the closing remarks.

Inauguration

Mr. Farid Aziz
Additional Secretary, Wing Chief of
Development Effectiveness of ERD,
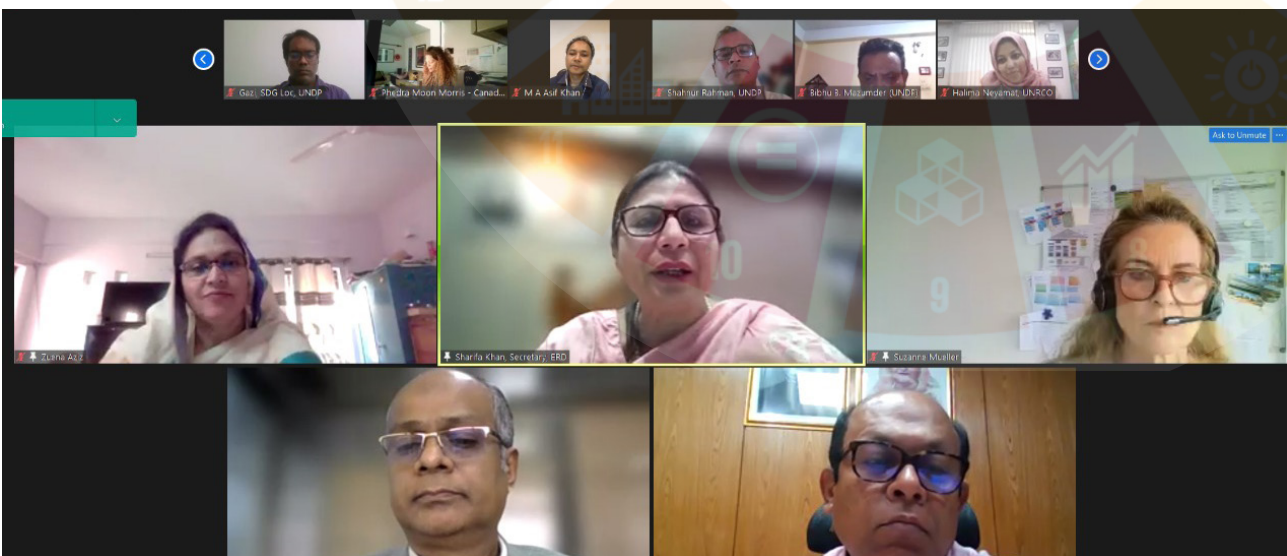Ministry of Finance (MoF)

Welcome Speech

Over the last decade, Bangladesh is steadily maintaining its economic growth and experienced unprecedented success in its socio-economic indicators. Achieving recommendations for graduation from the least developed country status is another milestone of Bangladesh's development journey, which can be considered the most significant achievement since its independence. Bangladesh is now on track of ensuring the successful implementation of the global agenda of sustainable development goals.

The 2030 agenda states the need for an all-inclusive approach to sustainable development goals. Based on this principle, Bangladesh Government is working closely on implementation with local regional authorities, development partners, civil societies, private sectors, academia, volunteer groups, and others.

Bangladesh Government is committed to holding regular action dialogue to foster and reinforce the four principles of the GPEDC. The work of the global partnership is based on four principles of effective development cooperation including country ownership, inclusive partnership, transparency, and mutual accountability. To ensure the effective ongoing development intervention, ERD and UNDP are jointly organizing today's action dialogue on SDG localization through development effectiveness. The primary objective of the action Dialogue is to identify the actions that are needed to progress the SDG localization through the effectiveness of cooperation and partnership to deliver sustainable development impacts.

> **Bangladesh Government is committed to holding regular action dialogue to foster and reinforce the four principles of the GPEDC.**

Md. Monirul Islam
Joint Secretary, SDG affairs
Prime Minister's Office

On 20th September 2021 at the 9th International Conference on Sustainable Development (ICSD) Bangladesh got SDG Progress Award.

Presentation 01: SDG Localization in Bangladesh

In September 2015 at the 70th UNGA, the Heads of states or Governments adopted a set of 17 goals backed up by 169 detailed targets for the world's future through 2030. That was based on the 5Ps- People, Planet, Prosperity, Peace, and Partnership.

1st 3Ps were social, environmental, economic balanced, and integrated manner. The last 2P is related to rights to development, human rights, living standards across countries, shared responsibilities, and opportunities. SDGs are Comprehensive, far-reaching, people-centered, integrated, and universal.

Transformational agenda is needed for implementation. Leave No One Behind (LNOB) is the beauty of SDGs. For that, there are 3 categories:

- Beyond Income- Multidimensional poverty index
- Beyond average- Disaggregation of data
- Beyond today- Build the future

Initiatives of GOB in mainstreaming SDGs implementation

The Government of Bangladesh took so many steps in different phases for mainstreaming SDGs implementation. In the first phase there was an 8th five-year plan aligned with the SDGs, mapping of ministries/ divisions as lead, co-lead, and associates, SDGs implementation and review committee formed, Data gap analysis, SDGs monitoring, and evaluation framework, Participate 1st voluntary National Reviews of 2017.

For mainstreaming SDGs implementation in the second phase there were SDGs action plan, launched SDGs tracker, an SDGs financing strategy, a National data coordination committee formed, National conference on SDGs implementation review 2018 & 2022, Framework of collaboration between Government and UN agencies, approved 40 priority indicators for localizing SDGs, Committees formed at division, districts and sub-district levels for SDG implementation, Project on enhancement public administration skills to achieve SDGs, SDGs module included in foundation training of young civil bureaucrats, Inclusion of SDGs in the school curriculum.

In the third phase of mainstreaming SDGs implementation, the Government of Bangladesh followed the whole of the society approach, Involving the private sector, NGOs, and Youths in it. SDGs are included in the annual performance agreement (APA) and Bangladesh participated in the 2nd VNR of the UN in 2020. Bangladesh DELTA Plan 2100 and all the issues of SDGs are included in it.

Bangladesh: Vision 2041

	By 2031	By 2041
Country Status	Upper MIC	HIC
Per capita income	The US $5,600	US $12,500
GDP growth	9%	9.9%
Extreme Poverty	2.3%	<1%
Moderate Poverty	7%	3%

8th five years plan (2021- 2025) is based on COVID-19, GDP growth, Inclusiveness, Resilient, Institution, SDG & LDC. In the constitution of Bangladesh Article 59 (Local Government) and Article 60 (Power of Local Government Bodies) is based on Local Government.

National SDGs Implementation Framework is connected from the local level to the central. The three-level integration: Upazila, District and National levels, and horizontal integration touch the five-year plan that is executed for the agenda 2030 and SDGs. The first three level integration is concerned with GED; the five-year plan is with SDGs I&R Committee and then with Cabinet. This

is a glance at the National SDGs Implementation Framework.

The government took so many actions for SDGs Localization. Massive awareness programs, Prioritized SDGs indicators, Local level Action plans, and Workshops at the District level are some of those.
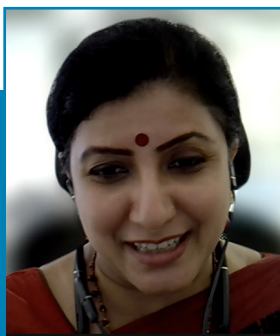
Localization of SDGs: How Bangladesh Acts

- Bangladesh has adopted 39+1 SDG National Priority Targets for the localization of SDGs
- To ensure LNOB, interventions should be started from the very local level authorities
- Involvement of Union/ Paurashava level local public representatives and NGOs will enhance prompt actions towards SDGs through the involvement of root-level citizens
- Local government planning should be made based on evidence through disaggregated data

- The district development plan should be aligned with SDGs
- Addressing local needs to prioritize district development

Based on the Natore Model, the SDG localization framework is prepared and focuses on the Identification of problems/Gaps, the Identification of Potential, the Formulation of the Action plan, and the Distribution of responsibilities among Government and NGOs.

Three committees are formed from the cabinet Division (16 May 2019): Divisional Committee-Chair is Divisional Commissioner, District Committee- Chair is Deputy Commissioner and Member of Parliaments (MP) are advisors, Upazila Committee- Chief Advisor is a Member of Parliament (MP) and Advisor is Upazila Chairman.

On 20th September 2021 at the 9th International Conference on Sustainable Development (ICSD) Bangladesh got SDG Progress Award.

Dr. Nazneen Ahmed
Country Economist, UNDP Bangladesh

Localization requires support for planning and intervention decisions based on evidence.

Presentation 02: SDG Localization in Lagging Districts

There was a proposed framework of collaboration SDGs for enhancing evidence-informed policy analysis & formulation, accelerating the implementation of policies, fostering a whole of society approach, and Securing and prioritizing financing. She said, localization is a way forward to respond to local needs by leveraging local resources and partnerships.

From the Cox's Bazar pilot project, we have learned lessons that significant interdependencies between urban and rural but gains not fully maximized, climate-induced migration would continue to urban areas which are underprepared for the influx, paucity of data and analytical capacities at the local level, averages hide existing

spatial imbalances in development and results in lagging areas, the mismatch between people's priorities and authorities perception of people's needs, gaps in service coverage are not equal to infrastructure gaps, institutional complexities and completing mandates, poor targeting of ADP investments, SDG committees exists at districts level but not fully functional.

Localization requires support for planning and intervention decisions based on evidence. Also requires strengthening local information, introducing inclusive and participatory planning approaches, and mobilizing and leveraging untapped local resources. Empowerment ability to decide at the local level and a facility/mechanism

to convert priorities into implementable actions are the most important requirement for localization. There must need partnerships between local Governments, Departments- NGOs- The private sector, and development partners.

For going forward on SDG localization there needs to leverage the strength of all UN agencies and address transboundary challenges. The main areas of focus will be, strengthening data and analytics capacities at the local level, community consultations, and participatory planning, mobilization of local resources, the implementation by local entities, national level observatory to identify good practices, more evidence-driven Annual Development Programme (ADP) budgeting, at least one lagging district selected from each division, to strengthen improvement against 39+1 indicators, overall coordination by principal coordination SDGs, lead Ministry is the Ministry of Local Government, Rural Development and Co-operatives (MoLGRD&C).

Plenary Session with Findings of the Break Out Groups

There were breakout sessions and the four groups presented their discussion on specific questions.

Presentation of the Group
Opportunities

1

Group one discussed the opportunities that exist to increase the effectiveness of cooperation and partnerships to deliver the sustainable development impact at the local. Principal conclusions from the discussion presented in the plenary were:

- Well-informed on root causes/key reasons for acute problems of the country, like poverty, education

  - A participant from the Hill Tracts area highlighted the importance to understand the local context to identify and address problems at the local level. The intervention should be done based on an analysis of the local context.

- Strong political will at a different level- National and sub-national level

- Presence of the Governance structure at the local level- led by local government representatives.

- Options to strengthen the relationship between the 'Actors'.

- The grassroots level institution would play a more proactive role and further engagement of grassroots level communities is required.

- Integrated local level information into national database BBS, collective effort in data collection

- Public-private partnerships in different areas, for example- support farmers for modern technologies/mechanization, quality seed, better internet facilities.

  - Regarding the quality seeds, there are many small ponds in villages that could be utilized.
  - Better internet facilities and access to the internet with better speeds at the grassroots level, particularly for farmers in villages should be considered for improvement.
  - Disability inclusion- opportunities to integrate entrepreneur development

- Produces (by poor) linked to the markets (better match of market demand, with what is being produced)

  - While there are many training institutes, linkage among them and with the market is weak so this should be improved.

Presentation of the Group
Challenges

2

The discussion focused on the challenges of working through multi-stakeholder partnerships in line with the effective principles of development cooperation: Country Ownership, Focus on Results, Inclusive Partnerships, and Transparency and Mutual Accountability. The group found the following challenges:

- **Contextual Analysis for specific areas**

  - A participant from the coastal area pointed out that problems are not equal to the ones in the northern areas.

- **Interpretation/break down of topic for easy understanding of the local stakeholders**

  - Generally, we fail to translate our big agenda into the local language so local communities could not understand it very precisely.
  - We should mention Sectors e.g. Education, Sanitation, Health, etc., not SDG 1, 2, or 3.

- **Lack of Coordination & Collaboration**

  - Different departments have their own priorities so sometimes priorities don't really allow us to come together collaboratively.

- **Local Level Planning**

  - Designing the micro-level planning, prioritization and intervention should be required.

- **Delegation of Authority**

  - Local government institutions need to be more engaged and consulted together with local community people.

- **Stakeholder selection is not proper**

  - We are not really putting our appropriate attention into selecting the appropriate stakeholders and if we cannot, then it does not really allow us to promote inclusive partnerships.

- **Should listen to the participants**

  - Particularly listening to the community participants and the beneficiary is very important and that can also promote transparency and mutual accountability.

- **Local level coordination among departments/LGIs/CSO/DP**

  - If we don't really engage with local government institutions including local government departments or local district administration, our intervention may fall into the crack
  .
- **Team building**

- **Regular follow-up SDG Implementation committee meetings at different levels**

  - While there is an existing committee, sometimes proper engagement was not ensured to create synergy in coordination.

- **More engagement of the community as well as actors at the local level**

- **Locals should be given preference in local planning & implementation**

  - We need to go for a kind of open scheme selection. We need to go for a kind of local prioritization, and local budget allocation.

- **Information sharing and openness**

  - We need more open information sharing and openness among the stakeholders.

Local government institutions need to be more engaged and consulted together with local community people
We need to go for a kind of local prioritization, and local budget allocation.

Presentation of the Group
Inclusive Partnerships

3

The discussion focused on how to strengthen inclusive partnerships. Findings are:

- **Support from the central Govt for the local development is very important.**

  - Challenges at the local level: It needs to enhance the skills of local young people, particularly entrepreneurs.

- **On-board local representatives, parliament – local representative; MPs; both way local to central and central to local – maximum utilization of resources.**

  - The local representative should be on board and involved in the process, especially the parliament members who are taking the key decisions in the local development.

  - Resources should be properly allocated and it needs to ensure maximum utilization of such resources.

- **Local Monitoring through meeting and visiting places – a different level of people participate in the planning; 13 Committees of UP (Union Parishad) work for effective, Birth Registration and death Registration; face challenges in implementing projects; people support the work; need to remove corruption; ensure participation.**

  - Local monitoring is a very important tool for ensuring inclusive partnerships with the private sector, Civil Society, NGOs, and other key stakeholders who are working at the local level, especially UPs working for Birth Registration and death Registration, and people working on different development agenda.

  - It would be very effective if 13 Committees of UPs could be involved in the localization process.

- **UP Chair can make an important role at the local level; drug addiction; child marriage; support needed from all in the society**

  - The UP chairman mentioned that the role of local representatives is special for addressing very local problems such as drug addiction, child marriage, etc. if they are involved.

- **E-Commerce: Was important in Covid; high employment in this sector; identify challenges – support to e-commerce for SDG implementation; can contribute effectively; job fair and business fair; capacity building; based on needs assessment; Need to implement projects; needed resources.**

  - A representative from the private sector mentioned that creating employment should be focused on since COVID had serious shocks on this.

  - Supporting more entrepreneurs and ICT facilities at the local level should be enhanced.

  - Also, job/business fairs and capacity building are highlighted as important elements.

- **Development Partners: Participatory Planning; Financing – Local Govt Capacity Building; the whole of Govt and Society approach; still coordination Gap Civil Society – Local Govt – the private sector; include females in the planning process; disadvantaged group.**

  - The capacity development of local governments is key for the effective use of resources.
  - Challenges: lack of data for development plans at the local level, involvement of development partners in the process.

- **LGD (Local Government Division) – Local and Central Govts have good coordination; consider local Govt, capacity development of local Govt; Local economy improvement; Problem identification and solution; we need to consider vulnerable corners; information needed for better planning; resources needed for SDG localization process.**

  - A representative of the central government (a joint secretary of the local government division) mentioned that capacity building is obviously an important thing, but, rather than that, involving the other key stakeholders is very important to ensure evidence-based policies or evidence-based programs at the local level.

  - The availability of disaggregated data can ensure such an evidence-based approach.

  - It is important to involve local representatives of the localization committee who are working at the district level is important.

Presentation of the Group
Policy Change

4

The group discussion focused on changes to advance the effectiveness of development.

- Systemic changes in Local government administration and local institutions are required.

- Need coordinated, visualized, and flexible policies for ensuring the engagement of local partners including CSO and NGOs.

- Ensure coordination among local level governments, CSOs Governments, and other stakeholders (Local Communities).

  - A representative from the private sector asked for establishing a mechanism so that private sector entities can access finance.
  - A business actor mentioned the need of establishing a supply chain of agricultural products linking to the market so that they will be able to benefit from local level activities.
  - Another private sector representative highlighted the importance of communication systems and transportation systems which are not well established at the district level.
  - Local specific problems should be addressed in the Upazila administration.

- Ensure accountability at the local level of government.

- SDG and business development should be synchronized.

- Wireless systems should be in full function during a natural disaster.

  - Participants from (Sherpur and Sunamgonj?) asked for ensuring the wireless systems would be in full function for future natural disasters since the systems did not work during the last disaster.

- The local Government should promote and facilitate entrepreneurship in rural areas.

- Need to focus on agriculture products in terms of supply chain and river navigation/dragging for the implementation of SDGs.

- Local level resource mobilization for enhancing tourism in rural areas.

- Analyze to identify and collate the sectoral problems of rural areas.

- Some policy level adjustments require to address the local specific problem.

- Ensure engagement of all Local organizations/communities with the implementation of the Development projects at the local level.

- Ensure community involvement and prioritize their opinion and leadership at the local level for a better Policy System and effectiveness.

- Strengthen and expand the role of Union Parishads and Upazila level administration and institution.

- The four key things were emphasized in the discussion.

  - Local level ownership: currently local level resource mobilization is neglected (according to a representative from Sherpur?). If resources at the local level are ensured, tourism would contribute to reducing poverty in such areas.

  - Inclusiveness: it is important to include local community participation in every development aspect.

  - Transparency and Mutual Accountability: not only UPs and Upazila but also local communities must be involved in a mechanism to ensure their accountability and transparency.

  - Importance of partnerships development, especially engagement with philanthropies and local communities.

Ms. Suzanne Mueller
Deputy Head of Mission/Head of Cooperation, Embassy of Switzerland in Bangladesh

Bangladesh and Switzerland are part of the Co-Chairs of the GPEDC. I've started working with the former secretary of ERD for improving the country's results framework and mutual accountability since around 2014. In this sense, we had a very successful high-level meeting of GPEDC in Nairobi where Bangladesh presented its findings. Bangladesh was one of the first countries to include the SDGs in their national development plan.

Bangladesh conducted the development finance analysis some years ago, but some of the findings are still valid to consider having all financing for implementing the SDGs. In addition, there is a case study of Bangladesh co-funded by the EU on aligning development cooperation to the SDGs in lower-middle-income countries. This was published in April 2022 and it is an interesting document.

For achieving the 2030 Agenda, it is not possible without being committed to and implementing the principles of development effectiveness. I would like to repeat that it needs political will at a higher level. When we said what the challenges are and why they are not working, it's often a lack of political will.

It's really important that the government data are used, not only collected. Also, the government needs to ensure data are accurate and provide data timely. The 2030 Agenda can only be achieved if we have collective actions by the whole of society approach including civil society, the private sector, and Micro, Small and Medium-sized Enterprises as well as trade labor unions at all levels.
It's important to have stronger local resource mobilization. I think Bangladesh is probably by 12.1% of domestic resource mobilization. It should raise at least 18%. Having more private investment is extremely important to reach the 2030 Agenda. We have to look for alternative instruments.

Like Impact financing, green bonds, etc. It's very important to attract the private sector because I think we are still a little bit in the gray zone on how to engage with the private sector. After all, the private sector needs incentives.

I think public financial management is essential for good governance for achieving these goals. On accountability, the government should be accountable to the citizens, but the citizens and these groups are also accountable to the government and it needs also at the local level. How to build trust and inform each other is very important to have a space where you talk to each other. The government and the partners including non-state actors need to do joint assessments regularly against targets in terms of mutual accountability. It's very important to make results publicly available timely.

For achieving the 2030 Agenda, it is not possible without being committed to and implementing the principles of development effectiveness. I would like to repeat that it needs political will at a higher level.

Ms. Zuena Aziz
Principal Coordinator (SDG Affairs),
Prime Minister's Office

national SDG targets at the local level. These 39 indicators are for all districts and one indicator is for districts

Bangladesh has succeeded under the leadership of Prime Minister, Sheikh Hasina.

39+1 indicators have been settled to achieve national SDG targets at the local level. These 39 indicators are for all districts and one indicator is for districts (to achieve Leave No One Behind according to the circumstances of a specific district or sub-district, meeting the ground reality of that particular geographical area).

I have been informed that the message on multiple indicator clusters by the Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics (BBS). At least one lagging district has been selected from all eight divisions and in total nine lagging districts are considered under the scope of the SDG localization pilot project.

I am happy to know about various sectors and Upazila-wise priorities have been identified through localization workshops in 9 districts and two pilot Upazilas under this ongoing project. Various sector-wise priorities, problems, and solutions have been identified. Considering local issues, considering all these processes of finalizing the outline of district-wise development going on.

I and my joint Secretary, Mr. Mohd. Monirul Islam connected the district SDG localization Workshop in Feni. I was really impressed with the clear, curious, and logical proposals with the participation of local stakeholders. Most local problems are difficult to pinpoint precisely from Dhaka. Realizing usefulness and rationale.

In the last 14 years, under the dynamic leadership of the Prime Minister of Sheikh Hasina, Bangladesh has come a long way in the part of development. Bangabandhu's daughter, the Prime Minister now aspires to build the prosperity of Bangladesh by 2041. I do believe the SDG localization efforts of Bangladesh will help assist this process.

Based on the expert opinion received from today's dialogue and group work findings and different districts and Upazila workshops, we would like to formulate the SDG action plan for implementation of the SDGs at the local. In the next Phase, I believe this experience of the SDG localization will be duplicated in each district and selected Upazila. I wish you the success of the ongoing projects.

Ms. Sharifa Khan

Secretary, Economic Relations Division, Ministry of Finance

> It needs support from the global community to ensure stability so that we can address challenges. And no one goes into poverty again

To achieve that, in 2030, the government of Bangladesh has worked with all stakeholders at the country and regional levels. We have aligned the SDGs with our five-year national development. We're working with all the stakeholders, particularly CSOs, development partners, international organizations, NGOs, academia, and philanthropy to achieve the localization. Bangladesh had progressed under the leadership of the Prime Minister, but recently we found a big shock caused by the pandemic like other countries. But we could successfully provide vaccines to all people immediately.

We also like to express our heartfelt thanks to our development partners who immediately responded to support on response to the pandemic. After overcoming the pandemic, then the geopolitical crisis is happening. That has a significant impact on other countries including Bangladesh and that has an impact on poverty. I believe domestic action is not enough. It needs support from the global community to ensure stability so that we can address challenges. And no one goes into poverty again. Last 14 or 15 years we had remarkable progress in reducing the poverty from 31%, to currently around 13%. So, we don't want to go back to the previous situation. We would like to continue to make efforts toward the target of poverty at zero level by 2030. Local and global initiatives should be synchronized to achieve the goals.

The four effectiveness principles are always on our agenda and we are focusing on all elements systematically. I noted down a number of issues from the presentations today. Some of the issues were already mentioned but the analysis from the local context. It's very important. It is also important to ensure local community engagement, Including CSOs, NGOs, and local representatives. Also, it is important to ensure access to finance. Supporting marketing at the local level is also a very critical issue. You also mentioned utilization of local resources, promoting local businesses including e-commerce, local planning, information sharing, support for local people and manpower, team building, regular coordination with NGOs, etc.

Results from today's dialogue are really helpful to developing our future course of action to work together with you. We would like to java support from Suzanne and other development partners for our local representative to participate. And we will keep in touch with you so that we can work accordingly.