



Economic Relations Division's Role in Implementing the Sustainable Development Goals

The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) are the blueprint to achieve a better and more sustainable future for all. To achieve the 2030 sustainable development agenda, inclusive partnerships amid all stakeholders including the governments, Development Partners (DPs) and International Organizations, private sector, NGOs, civil society, business organizations, academia, practitioners and the citizens are essential at the global, regional, national and local levels. **Economic Relations Division's (ERD)** role is vital when it comes to implementing Bangladesh's Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). According to the Hand book of Mapping of the Ministries published by General Economics Division (GED) of the Planning Commission, ERD is pertained to Goal-17 (Partnerships for the Goals) and has been nominated as Lead for 14 targets, Co-lead for 2 targets, and Associate for 28 targets. Accomplishment of the SDGs will require USD 928.47 billion for the period 2017-2030, of which 5% of foreign assistance amounting USD 48.42 billion will be needed., Bangladesh will not face any problem with regard to foreign financing for realizing the SDGs if the current trend continues. ERD is mandated to mobilize external resources for the successful completion of development projects/ programmes as per the national development plans and strategies. There have been substantial progresses in mobilizing foreign assistance over the last few years. The government has achieved record disbursement of foreign assistance from development partners amid the Covid-19 pandemic. They disbursed \$7.2 billion throughout Fiscal Year 2019-20, as compared to \$6.5 billion during FY 2018-19. ERD is working to maintain this trend.

As the external resources conduit, ERD interfaces between the DPs and executing agencies. It collaborates with different ministries/divisions to expedite the disbursement/release of foreign assistance. Various missions of the DPs are being carried out effectively. Tripartite meeting is being organized to accelerate the release of foreign assistance in case of slow projects. The outcome largely depends on the proficiency of different ministries/divisions/agencies. The implementing entities should take initiative to accomplish the projects in time. Apart from that, they must ensure the best use of foreign assistance commensurate with the global policies. ERD may provide necessary technical assistance in this regard. DPs have been requested to play their due role in SDG implementation at the LCG Plenary. Formulation of development plans by the DPs in line with the domestic action plan has been emphasized for achieving the SDGs. Besides, initiatives of mobilizing the sector working groups have been undertaken to implement the Agenda 2030. ERD is closely coordinating with the GED and the Prime Minister's Office to implement the SDGs. This Division has immense contribution towards finalizing Bangladesh's VNR (Voluntary National Review) 2020. It organized **Bangladesh Development Forum 2020** to identify SDG implementation challenges in terms of policy and resource gap, review the progress in implementing the 7th Five Year Plan and also to evaluate the country's advancement in attaining the SDGs aligned with the upcoming 8th FYP. This multi-tier top-notch flagship event brought together representatives from the Government, Development Partners, International Organizations, Private Sector, National and International NGOs, Development Think-Tanks, Practitioners and Leaders from business and industry. To achieve the SDGs, ERD has been working proactively with the GPEDC and UNESCAP at the global and regional level respectively. Presently, Bangladesh is one of the Co-chairs of the Global Partnership for Effective Development Cooperation (GPEDC). As the current Co-Chair of GPEDC, ERD on behalf of the government is actively involved in mobilizing knowledge, expertise, policies and innovative partnerships for accelerating progress on the 2030 Agenda in its own country context. ERD emphasizes on the optimum utilization of foreign assistance, Green Climate Fund (GCF) and South-South Cooperation to attain the SDGs. As an integrated strategy, ERD has been implementing various activities pertained to the Istanbul Plan of Action (IPoA) and LDC graduation. Recently, ERD has organized a validation workshop with the UNCTAD on Bangladesh's Vulnerability Profile for LDC graduation.



Mapping of Economic Relations Division by Targets

As per the Handbook on Mapping of Ministries published by General Economics Division (GED) of the Planning Commission, ERD has been nominated as Lead Ministry for 15 different targets, Co-lead for 2 targets, and Associate for 26 targets as indicated in the table below:

Lead	Co-Lead	Associate
2.a., 3.b., 4.b., 6.a., 7.a., 8.4, 9.a., 10.b, 11.c, 12.a, 15.a, 15.b, 17.2, 17.3, 17.9	10.6, 17.16	1.1, 1.2, 1.a, 1.b, 3.c, 3.d, 4.c, 7.2, 7.3, 7.b, 8.a, 9.b, 13.a, 13.b, 16.8, 16.a, 17.1, 17.4, 17.6, 17.7, 17.8, 17.10, 17.15, 17.18, 17.19

A total of **8 indicators** (2.2.3, 3.d.2, 4.1.2, 10.4.2, 10.7.3, 10.7.4, 13.2.2 and 16.3.3) have newly been included in the list, while **5 indicators** (1.a.3, 8.9.2, 11.c.1, 13.3.2 and 17.6.1) have been deleted from the *previous list of Global Indicators*. To make the list more comprehensible and convenient, **35 indicators** (1.1.1, 1.a.1, 1.b.1, 2.5.2, 3.5.2, 4.2.1, 4.7.1, 4.c.1, 6.3.1, 7.b.1, 8.3.1, 11.6.1, 11.a.1, 12.3.1, 12.a.1, 12.b.1, 12.c.1, 13.2.1, 13.3.1, 13.a.1, 13.b.1, 14.1.1, 14.2.1, 14.b.1, 15.9.1, 15.a.1, 15.b.1, 16.7.1, 17.3.1, 17.5.1, 17.6.2, 17.7.1, 17.12.1, 17.17.1 and 17.18.2) *from the previous list* have been refined or replaced.

Due to the modifications, the number of unique indicators now stands at **231** which were **232** in the earlier version. A total of **8 indicators** have been **repeated once** (7.b.1/12.a.1, 8.4.1/12.2.1, 8.4.2/12.2.2, 10.3.1/16.b.1, 10.6.1/16.8.1, 13.2.1/**13.b.1***, 15.7.1/15.c.1, 15.a.1/15.b.1) and **4 indicators** have been **repeated twice** (1.5.1/11.5.1/13.1.1, 1.5.3/11.b.1/13.1.2, 1.5.4/11.b.2/13.1.3, 4.7.1/12.8.1/13.3.1).

The changes have been proposed in the 2020 Comprehensive Review as well as UN Inter-Agency and Expert Group on SDG Indicators (IAEG-SDGs) WebEx meetings held between February and April 2020

* **1.a.1** is a newly replaced indicator while **13.b.1** is a refined indicator.



Progress of ERD as Data Provider

As per the Monitoring and Evaluation Framework of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs): Bangladesh Perspective (Revised up till April 2020) published by GED of the Planning Commission, ERD is assigned to provide data for 23 indicators of the SDGs. The targets are indicated in the table below:

Sl No.	Targets	SDGs and Associated Targets	Status	In Million US\$	Remarks
1	1.a.1*	Total ODA grants from all donors that focus on poverty reduction as a share of the recipient country's gross national income	No Data	-	Tier-III Newly replaced indicator
2	2.a.2	Total official flows (official development assistance plus other official flows) to the agriculture sector	Updated till 2019	228.12	-
3	3.b.2	Proportion of the target population covered by all vaccines included in their national program	Updated till 2019	402.02	-
4	4.b.1	Volume of ODA flows for scholarships by sector and type of study	Updated till 2017	7.6	-
5	6.a.1	Amount of water- and sanitation-related ODA that is part of a government coordinated spending plan	Updated till 2019	526.60	-
6	7.a.1	Investments in energy efficiency as a proportion of GDP and the amount of FDI in financial transfer for infrastructure and technology to sustainable development services	Updated till 2019	496.80	-
7	8.a.1	Aid for Trade commitments and disbursements	a. Commitment 2015 b. Disbursement 2015	2424.30 910.10	-
8	9.a.1	Total official international support (ODA plus other official flows) to infrastructure	Updated till 2019	4041.90	-
9	10.6.1	Proportion of members and voting rights of developing countries in international organizations	Updated till 2018	1.1%	-
10	10.b.1	Total resource flows for development, by recipient and donor countries and type of flow (e.g. ODA, FDI and other flows)	Updated till 2019	6542	-
11	13.a.1	Number of LDCs countries and small island developing States that are receiving specialized support, and amount of support, including finance, technology and capacity-building, for mechanisms for raising capacities for effective climate change-related planning and management, including focusing on women, youth and local and marginalized communities	No Data	-	Tier- III Refined Indicator

12	15.a.1	ODA and public expenditure on conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity and ecosystems	2015	41.07	Repeated and slightly refined Indicator
13	15.b.1	ODA and public expenditure on conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity and ecosystems	2015	41.07	Repeated and slightly refined Indicator
14	16.8.1	Proportion of members and voting rights of developing countries in international organizations	Updated till 2018	1.1%	-
15	17.2.1	Net ODA, total and to LDCs, as a proportion of the OECD Development Assistance Committee donors' GNI	Total net ODA Total net ODA to LDCs Net ODA to Bangladesh Updated till 2017	146.60 65.97 4.96	Global Indicator
16	17.3.1	FDI, ODA and South-South Cooperation as a proportion of total domestic budget	a. FDI (Baseline Data 2015) b. (ODA) Updated till 2017	1.6%	Slightly refined Indicator
17	17.4.1	Debt service as a proportion of exports of goods and services	Updated till 2017	19.14%	
18	17.7.1	Total amount of approved funding for developing countries to promote the development, transfer, dissemination and diffusion of environmentally sound technologies	No Data	-	Tier-III Slightly refined Indicator
19	17.9.1	Dollar value of financial and technical assistance (including through North-South, South-South and triangular cooperation) committed to developing countries	Updated till 2019	279.70	
20	17.15.1	Extent of use of country-owned results frameworks and planning tools by providers of development cooperation	a. Updated till 2017 b. Updated till 2017 c. Updated till 2017	82.90 % 56.60% 51.50%	-
21	17.16.1	Number of countries reporting progress in multi-stakeholder development effectiveness monitoring frameworks that support the achievement of the SDGs	No Data	-	Tier-III Global Indicator
22	17.17.1	Amount of United States dollars committed to public-private and civil society partnerships	No Data	-	Tier-III Slightly refined Indicator
23	17.19.1	Dollar value of all resources made available to strengthen statistical capacity in developing countries	No Data	-	Tier-III Global Indicator