



Journey with SDGs Bangladesh is Marching Forward

Prepared for Bangladesh Delegation to
73rd UNGA Session 2018



General Economics Division (GED)

Bangladesh Planning Commission

Ministry of Planning

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh

September 2018



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“Let us together create a world that can eradicate poverty, hunger, war and human sufferings and achieve global peace and security for the well-being of humanity.”

Father of the Nation
Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman at the UNGA in 1974

“

I am confident that
Bangladesh could show
its capacity in achieving
SDGs the way it
achieved the MDGs.

”

Hon'ble Prime Minister
Sheikh Hasina





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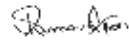


Prologue

This booklet on the output based activities undertaken and achievements made so far on en route to implementation and attainment of the SDGs in Bangladesh

Bangladesh takes pride as one of the early starters by completing all groundworks for implementation of the SDGs as well as embedding the Global Development Agenda into the 7th Five Year Plan, Mapping of Ministries by targets, producing reports on Data Gap Analysis, SDGs Monitoring and Evaluation Framework, SDGs Financing Strategy, Preparation of National Action Plan of Ministries/Divisions. All these steps set a clear pathway in implementing the SDGs within the framework of the ‘Whole of Society’ approach.

I hope this document will be helpful for the Bangladesh delegation, taking part in the 73rd UNGA Session 2018, in understanding the progress made by Bangladesh in achieving the SDGs.

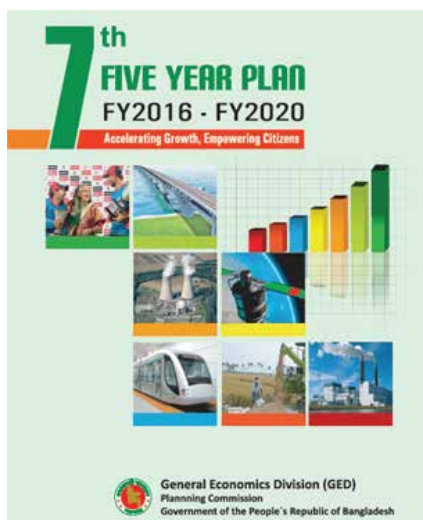


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1. Output based activities so far done towards implementation of SDGs

“Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development” was adopted by the member states on 25 September 2015. Soon after the adoption of the agenda, a position of Principal Coordinator (SDG) was created by the honourable Prime Minister at her office to facilitate and coordinate the SDG implementation activities by different line ministries. SDGs Implementation and Monitoring Committee now consisting of 20 members were formed headed by the Principal Coordinator to oversee and to give policy guidance for implementation of SDGs Action Plan. General Economics Division (GED) of the Planning Commission, Ministry of Planning serves as the national focal point of SDGs and Poverty. Bangladesh’s journey towards the implementation of SDGs started by integrating Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) into the 7th Five Year Plan (2016-2020). Corresponding to each SDG, there are certain targets earmarked in the seventh plan to be implemented by 2020.



1.1 SDGs in Mother Tongue (in Bengali)



For creating mass awareness and national ownership the entire SDGs with all targets and indicators have been translated into national language (Bangla) and published in a handy book form for wider circulation.

1.2 Mapping of Ministries by Targets in the Implementation of SDGs Aligning with 7th FYP

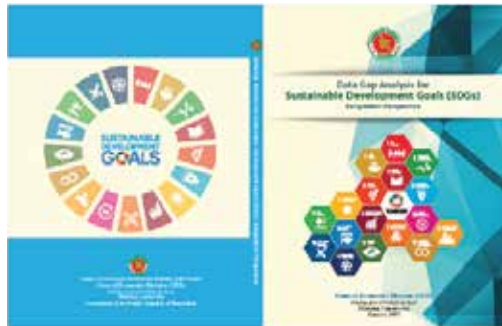
Bangladesh has successfully completed the “Mapping of Ministries by Targets in the Implementation of SDGs Aligning with 7th FYP (2016-2020)”, a first formal document towards implementation of the



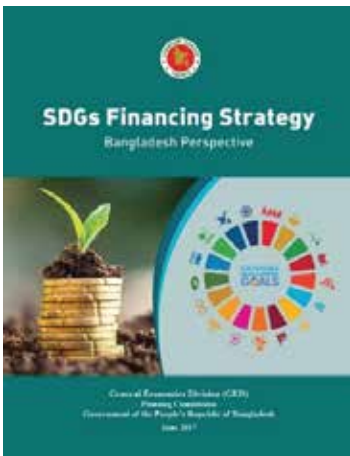
SDGs in Bangladesh. The exercise mapped out goal wise and target wise key lead/co-lead and associate line ministries. The exercise identifies 43 ministries as Lead, 34 ministries as Co-lead, and 61 institutions as Associate for organized implementation of the SDGs.

1.3 Data Gap Analysis for SDGs: Bangladesh Perspective

The government undertook a comprehensive study of data gap analysis for SDGs monitoring in Bangladesh. The study report titled “Data Gap Analysis for Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs): Bangladesh Perspective”, found that Bangladesh was facing a “considerable” data gap for monitoring the SDGs as data of less than one-third of the



indicators (70 out of 232) are readily available while two-thirds are either partially available or not available at all. Out of total 232 indicators to monitor against the 169 targets, data of only 70 indicators (30%) are readily available while data on 108 indicators are partially available and 63 indicators related data are not available at all, making SDGs performance evaluation a very challenging task.



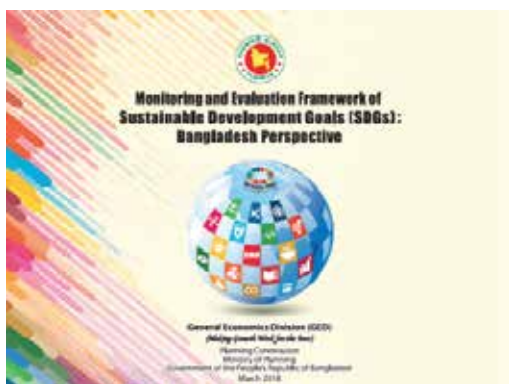
1.4 SDGs Financing Strategy: Bangladesh Perspective

“SDGs Financing Strategy: Bangladesh Perspective” is an assessment of the resources needed to implement SDGs and mapped out financial strategy for successful implementation of the SDGs in Bangladesh. The study provides a

well-defined framework that outlines the goal and target-wise additional estimated cost at 2015-16 constant price. The 7th FYP extended growth scenario (7 percent plus) projects that the GDP growth rate would be at 9 per cent by FY 2030. The report estimates that an additional amount, over the current provision of investment related to SDGs by public sectors and external sources, would be USD 928.48 billion (at 2015-16 constant prices). This amount would be required for SDGs implementation over the period of FY 2017-FY 2030, which is 19.75 per cent of the accumulated GDP under 7th FYP. The annual average cost to SDGs implementation would be USD 66.32 billion for this period of which around 56 billion would come from domestic sources (private and public sources).

1.5 Monitoring and Evaluation Framework of SDGs Developed

The M&E Framework of SDGs has been developed based on the latest available indicators suggested by Inter Agency Expert Group (IAEG)-SDGs as of November 2017.



The indicators for which data is generated yearly like GDP, budget, and administrative sources data, the baseline year is 2014-15, the last year of MDGs. For others, the latest available baseline data is given for 127 indicators. Because of qualitative nature of some data, milestones for 2020, 2025 and 2030 are yet to be set for some of the indicators, whilst metadata is yet to be finalized by the IAEG-SDGs. Metadata is yet to be finalized for 81 indicators and in the framework, 110 data is shown as not available in the context of Bangladesh.

1.6 SDG Tracker

The Access to Information (a2i) Programme of the Prime Minister's Office, with technical support from UNDP and USAID—in collaboration with General Economics Division (GED) of Planning Commission, Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics and other government and private stakeholders, designed and developed SDG Tracker to create a data repository for monitoring the implementation of the SDGs and other

national development goals. It will also facilitate the tracking of progress against each goal and target through multiple visualization schemes. It has now become an instrument for South-South cooperation and 11 countries have shown their interest to adopt this Tracker for SDG monitoring.

1.7 National Action Plan to Achieve SDGs in Bangladesh



The government prepared a “National Action Plan of Ministries/Divisions by Targets for the Implementation of SDGs” for achieving the SDGs targets. The responsible lead ministries/ divisions, as identified in the SDG Mapping, prepared their own action plans for attaining the SDGs targets. Therefore, the National

Action plan on SDGs will be a guiding document for line ministries/divisions to achieve SDG targets for the next five years as the first instance. Hon. Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina unwrapped the cover of the SDGs National Action Plan on 4 July 2018 at the Prime Minister’s Office.

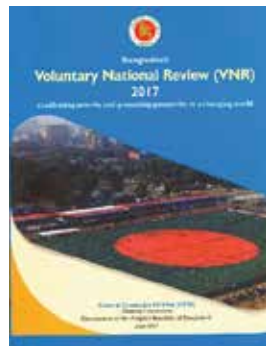
1.8 Inclusion of targets of SDGs in Annual Performance Agreement (APA)

As a part of the Performance Management System (PMS) in government organizations, APA was initiated to improve efficiency and to improve transparency and accountability within the public sector to effectively render due service to the people. APA is a memorandum of understanding between the Cabinet Division as the first party and the other ministries as the second party aiming at introducing result based orientation rather than process based one. Given the context, the government is pondering upon integrating SDGs targets into APA along with ministry’s annual work plan.



1.9 Voluntary National Review

Bangladesh was among the 43 countries that has presented the Voluntary National Review (VNR) of SDGs in 2017, at the HLPE, UN. The focus of the report is where we are in implementing Agenda 2030. 7 Goals: Goal 1 (Poverty); Goal 2 (Hunger); Goal 3 (Health); Goal 5 (Gender); Goal 9 (Infrastructure); Goal 14 (Life under water); Goal 17 (Means of implementation)-have been reviewed in this Voluntary Report. 74 targets and 115 indicators related to 7 goals have been used for reviewing the SDGs. Draft VNR was shared with different stakeholders including Ministries, NGOs, CSOs, Academia and Development Partners to make it more inclusive and participatory.



1.10 National Conference on SDGs Implementation Review (SIR)

As part of systematic follow-up and review of implementation of the agenda, the Government for the first time organized a national conference that we call SDGs Implementation Review (SIR) from 4-6 July 2018. The conference brought together the Government including Ministers and



senior officials, NGOs, CSOs, Development Partners, academia. Ministries, Development Partners and NGOs presented their implementation progress, identified challenges and charted future course of actions. The number of participants reached around 2000 in three days conference. Such conference will be held each year on a regular basis and is expected to contribute in tracking implementation of SDGs. First SDGs Progress Report of Bangladesh has been prepared to illustrate a comprehensive evaluation report on the attainment of SDGs based on the first two years (2016, 2017) of SDGs implementation.

In recognition of the fact that SDGs are overarching, the Government of Bangladesh has adopted a “whole of society” approach for implementation and attainment of the SDGs. As part of this, consultations were held on stakeholders’ engagement on the SDGs implementation involving the Parliamentarians, NGOs, CSOs, Business Community, Development Partners, Ethnic Minorities, Professional Groups, Labour Associations, Women Network, and Print and Electronic Media.

2. SDGs Evaluation Report: SDGs Achievements during 2016, 2017- A Brief look

It was imperative to see the progress during the first two years of implementation of SDGs (2016, 2017). This exercise will show several things. First, given the limited availability of data, it sheds light on where we are on track and where we are lagging behind to achieve the targets. Secondly, it revealed the data gap which must be filled. Otherwise, our success cannot be numerically measured and demonstrated. Thirdly, it prompted us to rethink our policies and strategies and actions to help achieve the targets. During preparation of the 8th FYP, these lessons of SDGs implementation performances will be taken into consideration to adjust policies and actions conducive to SDG implementation.



End poverty

The progress on reducing extreme poverty measured by \$1.90 a day or by national poverty line (LPL) is on track. Similarly, progress on expanding coverage of social protection and proportion of government expenditure on services (health, education and social protection) as share of total government expenditure are also on track. In fact, share of education

expenditure may overshoot the target. With higher economic growth in prospect, it is possible to achieve the poverty reduction milestone provided increase in inequality is arrested and reversed. Poverty level in 2016 was 24.3% and targeted poverty level in 2017 stood at 22.3.



End Hunger

Progress on stunting appears (36.1% in 2014) to be on track at the current rate of reduction; and so is on wasting (14.3% in 2014). Agriculture Orientation Index (AOI) with a value exceeding 0.5 compares favourably with those of India (0.4), Nepal (0.2) and Sri Lanka. Total official flows to agriculture sector are low mainly because of changing development partners preferences in aid allocation. It will require a positive change in development partners preferences to enhance aid flows in agriculture sector of Bangladesh.

Agricultural production and productivity have increased in FY 2016 in comparison with the base year. The total production of rice in FY 2015 was 34.71 million tonne, which rose to 35.01 million tonne in FY 2016. The productivity in rice cultivation also slightly improved from 3.04 ton/hectare to 3.10 ton/hectare. Production of all other food items except oilseeds also increased.



Healthy lives and Well-being

The child related indicators, namely, under 5 mortality rate (U_5MR) (36 per one thousand live births in 2015) and neo natal mortality rate (NMR) (20 per thousand, 2015) are on track to reach the 2020 targets. Past pace of progress implies that women related indicators, namely, maternal mortality ratio (MMR), proportion of currently married women who use modern contraceptive method, and adolescent (women aged 15-19 years) birth rate may not reach their targets in 2020. Similarly, health worker density per 10,000 populations may not reach the 2020 target if budget support is not accelerated.

The number of births attended by skilled health personnel has increased from 9.5 per cent in 1994 to over 42.1 percent in 2014 and further to 50 per cent in 2016. The proportion of births attended by skilled health personnel is targeted to increase to 65.7 per cent in 2020 indicating the progress will be on track.



Inclusive and Equitable Quality Education

Gender Parity Index (GPI) exceeded 1 at primary and secondary levels of education and has remained above 1 (with annual fluctuations) for more than a decade which is encouraging. GPI at tertiary education reached its peak at 0.737 in 2014 and then declined to 0.701 in 2016. Concerted efforts are needed to reverse the direction of change of tertiary GPI. The proportion of primary school teachers with DPAD/C-in-Ed degree has been rising reaching more than 80 per cent of total teachers in 2015. It is heartening to note that the rates in 2018 have already exceeded those set for the milestone in 2020 by a wide margin along with convergence of gender differentiated rates. The Gross Enrollment Ratio in Pre Primary education has been increasing at a slow pace of 1.45 percentage points per annum since 2013. With this pace of progress the milestone set for 2020 may not be achieved. Heightened efforts are needed to make headway in Pre Primary Education in recognition of its importance.

Just increasing the enrolment rates by itself would not be adequate to ensure sustainable and quality education system. A great progress has been made in reducing school drop-out rate. In overall Primary Cycle, dropout rate in the year 2016 was 19.2 % (boys 22.3% and girls 16.1%) whereas it was 47.2% in the year 2005 and 39.8% in 2010. Primary education completion examination pass rate in 2015 increased in both total numbers and for female students in particular, the figures stood at 98.52 and 98.58 respectively. In Higher Secondary (College, 11 & 12 Class) Completion Rate and Dropout Rate reached 77.86% and 22.24% respectively, in 2015.

Government has attributed special concentration on maintaining a standard quality of education to make it more effective and functional and to provide equal access for all women and men to affordable and quality technical, vocational and tertiary education. Participation rate of youth and adults in formal and non-formal education and training in the previous 12 months stood at 72.8% secondary, almost 39% for higher secondary and an unfortunate 15% in tertiary education. The government has also become successful in implementation of ICT education from secondary level to higher secondary level of education. In accordance with the governments' vision of digitalizing Bangladesh, ICT has been incorporated in many layers of educational system and further exposure is encouraged.

Number of students enrolled in technical and vocational education system exceeded the targets for both 2017 and 2018, as of year 2015, but the share of female participation remains lower than targeted. The adult literacy rate has increased from 58.6 percent in base year of 2013 to 72.3 percent in 2016, which shows that the trend corresponds with the target of achieving 100 percent adult literacy rate by 2020. Similar can be said for the overall literacy

rate, which although is on the rise, still requires much effort and sustained initiatives to achieve the desired results. However, the ambitious goals along with the policies and strategies required to achieve demands a higher public expenditure on education than that allotted currently. As of 2017, government only allotted 2.94% of the GDP for education purpose. In order to form an educated and efficient human capital base to move towards a better and prosperous Bangladesh, education sector should be among the sectors receiving top priorities and finances from the government.



Gender Equality and Women Empowerment

The proportion of female members in the Parliament has been increasing over time reaching about 21 per cent. Bangladesh has been tremendously successful in reducing the gender gap over the last decade.

Table: Comparative performance of South Asian countries in Gender Empowerment

Country	Overall	
	Ranking	Score
Bangladesh	47	0.719
Maldives	106	0.669
India	108	0.669
Sri Lanka	109	0.669
Nepal	111	0.664
Bhutan	124	0.638
Pakistan	143	0.546

Source: *The Global Gender Gap Report 2017, World Economic Forum*

The above Table reveals the comparative position and score of Bangladesh and other South Asian countries in the overall Global Gender Gap Index of 2017. Of the seven countries from South Asia, Bangladesh has emerged as the top performer by reducing its overall gender gap to about 72% with a global ranking of 47.

Women's health condition has been improving as reflected in life expectancy at birth which reached 72.3 years in 2015 and is higher than men's life expectancy at birth (69.4 years).



Clean Water and Sanitation

The success of Bangladesh in achieving MDG targets is well recognized. As part of this recognition, honorable Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has been made a member of HLPW for SDG-6. This membership has induced lots of activities in SDG-6 and an action plan has been formulated by

MOWR. Currently 87% of population has access to safe water sources and 61% population has access to safe sanitation. The target of 100% by 2030 is very much achievable given the country's track record in achieving MDG targets. For sustainable management of water resources, two key initiatives can be observed related to Target 6.3 (improvement of water quality) and Target 6.6 (protection of water ecosystem). Dhaka Hazaribag tannery industries have been relocated to Savar in order to improve the severely degraded water quality of Buriganga. To preserve Halda river ecosystem, drastic efforts have been taken this year bearing immediate results in terms of large fish egg collection.

Currently 87% of population has access to safe water sources (Target 6.1) and 61% population has access to safe sanitation (Target 6.2). The target of 100% by 2030 is very much achievable given the country's track record in achieving MDG targets.



Affordable, Reliable, Sustainable and Modern Energy

It is heartening to note that Bangladesh is moving towards ensuring access of all to electricity well ahead of the target time in 2025 provided things proceed on the current pace. The country lags behind in other targets related to primary reliance on clean fuels and technology and share of renewable energy in the total final energy consumption whilst energy efficiency has been improved over the year. In the year 2017 nationally 80% population have access to electricity. Globally the proportion of population with access to electricity increased to 87.03 per cent in 2015. The Government has prepared an Action Plan up to 2030 to achieve SDG 7. Electricity Master Plan 2016 has been prepared for managing the electricity sector up to 2041. If the recent trend in proportion of population with access to electricity continues to hold in the future all households will have access to electricity in 2020 exceeding the target set for 2020 implying an overshoot of the target.



Sustained, inclusive and Sustainable Economic Growth and Decent Work

Bangladesh has made an upward shift in the average annual growth rate of above 7 per cent in the last three years (FY2015-FY2018). This coupled with slower population growth led to increasing per person GDP growth and the country nearly on track to achieve the 2020 target. Notably, the average annual growth rate of GDP per employed person has already reached the 2020 target in FY2017. The estimated unemployment rate in

Bangladesh has been closer to 4 per cent for a long time and it can be reasonably expected that it will remain closer to this long run figure in the near future. It may be expected that with stronger growth, and elimination of extreme poverty as well as greater access to education the child labour situation will significantly improve in the future. There has been sustained improvement in financial inclusion which will contribute to growth and poverty reduction. The average annual growth rate of real GDP per capita which is 5.14% in fiscal year 2015 is targeted to be 7% by 2025 and 7.5% by 2030.

Real GDP per employed person increased to 4.99 per cent in 2016 from 4.49 per cent in 2015. Further, the annual growth rate of real GDP per employed person attained is close to 2030 target. The overall unemployment situation has also improved in the recent years, from 4.6 per cent in 2010 to 4.2 per cent in 2017.

Notable progress has been made in creating jobs for migrant workers. Indeed, the targets for the number of migrant workers have been surpassed in the last two fiscal years. In FY 2015, the number of Bangladeshis went abroad with jobs was 0.46 million. Since then, an additional 1.6 million migrant workers had left the country. This is quite impressive as against the combined target of 0.8 million for the two-periods of FY 2016 and FY 2017. The 7th Plan envisaged a total of 2 million job opportunities abroad. About 80 percent of this target has been achieved in the first two years of the plan period. It is worth noting that despite the increased outflow of migrant workers, total remittances received had declined during the past couple of years. However, as world economic activities are picking up and given the recent robust growth in migrant workers' jobs, it is expected that remittances will bounce back and will be on increasing trend.



Resilient Infrastructure, Sustainable Industrialisation and Innovation

The share of manufacturing value added in GDP has been increasing and has already exceeded 2020 milestone (21.5%) in FY2017 (21.74%). Similarly, manufacturing value added per worker has been increasing but without a target set for 2020 no comment can be made on achieving the target. The share of manufacturing employment in total employment increased up to 2013 and then levelled off in the last two years.

Total international support to infrastructure has been increasing with some annual fluctuation. With continuation of recent growth the target for 2020 is going to be met. The proportion of population covered by mobile network has reached close to 100 per cent in case of 2G technology. In case of 3G technology the 2020 milestone has already been achieved in 2017 (92.55%).



Reduced Inequalities

The Government has been following a pro-poor development strategy which combines promotion of economic growth and reduction of poverty and inequality. The policies that aimed to reduce inequality include employment generation and enhancing labour productivity and wages, development of human capital- education and training, health and nutrition, with greater access to poor, development of lagging regions, increasing spending on social protection and improving its effectiveness, expansion of micro-credits and loans to SMEs, emphasis on agriculture and rural development, undertaking tax reforms focusing on progressive personal income taxation.

The Government is cognizant of the upward trend of inequality in the country and its implications for growth and poverty reduction. High and growing inequality could harm the overall growth of the country. Government policies foster inclusive growth to simultaneously address the challenge of poverty reduction as well as reduction of inequality. More focused policies are required to have larger impact on inequality. The 7th Five Year Plan (2016-20) has identified some such policies.



Sustainable Cities and Communities

The Government is providing urban services in Upazilla headquarters (491 in number) to make them grow as smaller towns and trying to develop residential hubs in rural growth centres (1400 in number).

There are many service providers and stakeholders in urban areas. Effective coordination among them is important for greater interest of the urban dwellers. City Corporation (CC) Act 2009 clearly authorizes CCs to coordinate amongst stakeholders. The Government has issued an official circular mentioning the roles and responsibilities of all departments/agencies when they are invited by CC to coordination meetings. CCs have started to activate this mechanism for better partnership, accountability and transparency. Other several committees with citizen participations are in place. These committees are being activated by different DP

supported projects. Capacity building, empowerment and engagement of committees with citizen participation will be enhanced to strengthen ULGIs for planning, budgeting, implementation and monitoring of basic urban services, especially for urban poor.



Sustainable Consumption and Production Patterns

Sustainable Consumption and Production¹ (SCP) is key to achieving the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. At the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20) in 2012, Heads of State adopted the 10-Year Framework of Programmes on Sustainable Consumption and Production Patterns (10YFP), a global framework for action to accelerate the shift towards SCP in both developed and developing countries. The 10YFP is aimed at generating collective impact through multi-stakeholder programmes and partnerships. The central role of the 10YFP in achieving this shift is affirmed in a standalone SDG target (12.1) calling for its implementation. This is so important because of the fact that past several decades have seen an extraordinary expansion of the global economy and a corresponding explosion in consumption that has exhausted the carrying capacity of the earth's ecosystem. Global consumption expenditure has grown by an average of 3% per year since 1970 without investment of similar trend in replenishment. At the same time, millions of people are not consuming enough to meet their basic needs. A summary of comparative facts below gives the sense of implementing SDG 12 in Bangladesh a densely populated country vulnerable to scarcity of resource. GED is preparing a 10 Year Framework of Programs on Sustainable Consumption and Production.

Global Trend	Bangladesh / South Asia Experience
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Per capita food wasted by consumers in Europe and North-America is 95-115 kg/year • The total per capita production of edible parts of food for human consumption is, in Europe and North-America, about 900 kg/year • Per capita food loss in Europe and North-America is 280-300 kg/year 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Per Capita food loss in South/Southeast Asia is approximately 120-170 kg/year • By the year 2025, per capita waste generation rate in urban areas will increase to 0.60. • The total average cumulative loss in post-harvest from harvesting to milling was 13.52%.² 5.5% food being wasted in rural Bangladesh

¹ This part is borrowed from a paper jointly organized by Action Aid and GED.

² Bari ML (13 Sep 2015)

https://www.researchgate.net/publication/281711956_Postharvest_losses_of_cereal_crops_in_Bangladesh

Global Trend	Bangladesh / South Asia Experience
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Each year, an estimated one third of all food produced – equivalent to 1.3 billion tonnes worth around \$1 trillion – ends up rotting in the bins of consumers and retailers, or spoiling. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The total per capita production of edible parts of food for human consumption South/Southeast Asia, 460 kg/year Food and vegetable waste comprises approximately 67.75% of urban solid waste
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Energy efficiency gains helped households across the world save 10 to 30% of their annual energy spending in 2016ⁱ. Households consume 29 per cent of global energy and consequently contribute to 21 per cent of resultant CO2 emissions One-fifth of the world's final energy consumption in 2013 was from renewable 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Per capita energy use and energy intensity (2005): 7.16 GJ/16.50 MJ per US\$ Per capita GHG emissions (2005): 1.1 tonnes GHG emissions intensity (2005): 0.66 kg per US\$ Bangladesh set target to ensure 5% renewable energy of the total energy sources by 2020.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> More than 1 billion people still do not have access to fresh water Excessive use of water contributes to the global water stress. Man is polluting water faster than nature can recycle and purify water in rivers and lakes 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Per capita water use (2009): 244.0 m³ Out of 160 million people in Bangladesh, 4 million lack safe water and 85 million lack improved sanitation. More than 50% of waste generated by the industries eventually goes to the rivers untreated.



Climate Actions

Number of deaths, missing persons and directly affected persons attributed to disasters per 100,000 population (Indicator 13.1.1) has fallen over the years. Now it stands at 12,881 with a target of 6500 by 2020 and 1500 by 2030. Given the track record of Bangladesh in disaster management, this target will not be difficult for her to achieve. MoDMR has prepared Disaster Risk Reduction Strategies of Bangladesh (2016-2020) in line with the Sendai Framework which will be helpful in this regard.

In facing the climate change scenarios, Bangladesh is well prepared with a number of climate change related strategies, plans and actions. Through the

BCCTF, it has spent around 2700 crores of taka over last 8 years in climate change adaptation. Revision of BCCSAP and preparation of NAP is already underway. International cooperation and funding are also forthcoming. It has received grants from GCF for two projects in 2018. Bangladesh is one of the few countries to have received grants for a project in the early years of GCF in 2015.

Forestry subsector achieved average growth rate of 5.36 percent in the first two years since adoption of SDG, whereas the average growth rate was 4.58 percent during the 6th plan period FY 2011-FY 2015. The growth rate of forest and related services has increased to 5.6 percent in FY 2017 from the base year value of 5.08 percent in FY 2015.

Bangladesh signed the Paris Agreement on climate change on 22 April 2016. According to the Bangladesh Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC), the country will reduce its greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions in the power, transport and industry sectors by 5 percent below BAU as an unconditional contribution and 15 percent below BAU level as the conditional contribution by 2030. Bangladesh's commitment to reducing emissions from the power, transport and industry sectors is reflected in the NDC submitted to the UNFCCC.

The Country Investment Plan (CIP) for Environment, Forest and Climate Change (EFCC) is a strategic tool for the Government of Bangladesh (GoB) that translates policies into investment programs aligned with Bangladesh's vision 2021, 7th FYP, and policies related to EFCC such as Bangladesh Climate Change Strategy and Action Plan (2009).

As part of recognition of the successes achieved so far by Bangladesh Climate Change Trust, a project titled "Re-vegetation of Madhupur Forest through Rehabilitation of Forest Dependent Local and Ethnic Communities" has received 'Daily Star Climate Champion Award, 2012' and another project titled "Biogas and improved stove expansion" has received 'Environment Award, 2013'. For the invention of salinity tolerant crops Bangladesh has drawn the attention of international community. This project is being implemented by 'Bangladesh Institute of Nuclear Agriculture (BINA) and received 'Environment Award 2015'. Bangladesh signed the historical Paris agreement and submitted its NDC (National Determined Contribution) to reduce greenhouse gas emission.

During the 7th FYP period, 16.4 kilometers of coastal sea dyke and 7,218 cyclone resilient houses have been constructed in the cyclone affected areas. About 352.12 kilometers of embankments and 157 kilometers of protective work have been completed to save the people from river bank erosion. For

Agriculture management and irrigation, 872 kilometers of canals have been excavated/re-excavated and 65 water control infrastructures including.



Life below Water

Bangladesh has recently gained a vast swath of marine territory. This marine area is rich in natural gas resources and biodiversity. Sustainable management of these resources is now a big challenge for the country. In recent times, it has declared two marine protected areas, one targeting Hilsa breeding ground and other targeting Cetaceans. Total protected area now stands at 2.05% of the marine area (1,18,813 sq. km). Major success has been achieved in Hilsa protection with production almost doubling in last 15 years.



Life on Land

The forest coverage of the country now stands at 17.5% which is targeted to increase to 20% by 2020. The quality of the forest in terms of canopy coverage is becoming a major concern. Increasing tree density is therefore a major target under 7th FYP. In order to protect its very rich bio-diversity, the country has taken many steps which include continuing moratorium on tree felling, declaring ECAs, creating special bio-diversity zones and creating two vulture safe zones. Strong implementation is required in order to safeguard the bio-diversity.



Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions

The victims of intentional homicide declined significantly from its baseline value (1.8 per 100000). Appropriate measures undertaken by the government of Bangladesh contributed significantly to improving human trafficking and youth mental and physical abuse. Improvement has also taken place in other vital areas. For example, number of victims of human trafficking declined more than the required rate to achieve the 2020 Milestone (0.5) in the past couple of years. Incidence of sexual violence experienced by female has also met the SDG target. If the current average performance continues, majority of the SDGs targets of Goal 16 will be achieved ahead of the estimated time frame.



Global Partnership for Sustainable Development

External sources, consisting of FDI and ODA, play critical role in financing Bangladesh's budgetary expenses with around 15 per cent contribution. Net official development assistance in 2016 was US\$3.5 billion, about 16.7 percent higher than the previous year. But, the ODA contribution to the country's total annual budget declined from 2015 level. In the last couple of years development assistance declined to less than 9 per cent level which reached 9.9 per cent level during 2013-2014 in terms of its contribution to the total budget. It needs to be mentioned that, in the recent years, growth in the size of national budget has been faster than the growth in ODA to Bangladesh. However, in FY2018 ODA exceeded 6 billion dollar which is a very encouraging development in the case of external financing.

Majority of the indicators, for which data is available, suggest that they achieved remarkable progress during the SDGs implementation period and are on track to reach the 2020 Milestone. Government revenue as proportion of GDP has increased more than the estimated required rate due mainly to the measures undertaken for increasing the number of tax payers, and prudent tax collection and management mechanism. Data on ODA indicate modest growth although its contribution to the national budget fell marginally in the recent years. Inflow of FDI and remittance requires substantial increase to hit the target. Other indicators such as access to internet, and use of internet communication facilities by individuals have improved significantly in the recent years. Expansion of fiber optics cable network, increase in optical fiber capacity etc. have been contributing towards achieving the SDG target. Though, international cooperation and support has been very emphatically emphasized in SDG targets. Out of 169 targets, 41 targets have been espoused and claimed for international support to the comity of nations in development cooperation on different field including ODA support. Without intimate international cooperation, implementation of a comprehensive all-encompassing development agenda like SDGs will remain as ever challenging.

3. Challenges Ahead for SDG implementation

Resource Mobilization

Traditional sources of funding are insufficient to implement the SDGs. The government needs to find innovative ways of financing both from the public and the private sectors, development partners and ensure effective and efficient ways for utilization. According to Bangladesh Delta Plan, the investment only for climate change, environment and water related projects account for 1.8 percent of GDP by 2020. The resource gap is huge; public spending is only 0.8 percent of GDP on water sector projects, which has been highly inadequate. Facing climate change adverse impacts and managing life on land and under water sustainably, Bangladesh Delta Plan 2100 has been formulated and adopted.

Population momentum

Bangladesh population has been growing rapidly, going from just over 108 million in 1990 to 160 million in 2016. Population has been projected to grow to over 200 million by 2050. A large population together with high population growth require a faster growth of the agricultural production to ensure food and nutritional security. The growth rate of crop sector has been declining. The increase in agricultural production will inevitably put significant pressure on the environment and that may take place at the expense of resource availability for human development.

Unplanned urbanization

Bangladesh has been experiencing a rapid increase in the urban population, in 1990, 20 percent of the population lived in urban areas, this has increased to 35 percent in 2016 and it is expected to overtake the share of rural population approximately in 2040. The rapid migration to urban areas and the inadequate infrastructure and access to open space to meet the growing demand is a serious problem for the country.

Natural disasters and climate change

Bangladesh experiences frequent natural disasters, these can lead to deaths, damage of the infrastructure and economic assets, and have a negative impact on the livelihood of poor, particularly ones living in poverty. Bangladesh is considered one of the most climate vulnerable countries, 5th of the most hazard prone countries of the world. Climate change will intensify the natural hazards that the country already faces.

Utilization of resources

Availability of resources does not necessarily guarantee the success in SDGs. Efficient and effective use of resources can be more instrumental than just having adequate resources. In this connection, it is important to assess what resources are needed, how resources are used and for whom the resources should be used. Public investment should be targeted not only for creating infrastructures for encouraging private investment but also to ensure trickledown effect with aim to reducing inequalities.

Skill development and quality education

Around 13 million young population aged 15-29 is not in education, employment and training according to LFS 2015-16, which suggests that a large number of young population remain out of employment. If they can be trained up and provided with technical education and employment, the scenario will be totally different. This will have a long term consequence in per capita income, growth, poverty and health outcome. Further, improving quality of education in recent times poses a big concern.

Competitiveness

Though, Bangladesh for the first time has been placed in the top 100 (99 out of 137 countries) in 2017 in the World Economic Forum's Global Competitiveness Report. Bangladesh has to keep up the momentum of on-going reforms to make smoother business climate reducing the transaction cost substantially. The realization of One-stop Service Act-2017 will be a landmark step in attracting investment from abroad.

Governance challenges

There is no alternative to improve governance in order for growth to be more sustainable and pro poor. Yet Bangladesh has made notable progress in governance indicators, there are scope for much improvement. Governance issue is particularly critical in the use of public resources, service delivery of institutions, transports, law enforcement, judiciary, land administration, tax and customs, as they are deemed corrupted service providers in Bangladesh. Digitalization can be an effective tool to address these governance challenges. Government has scaled up its investment in promoting digitalization. Its effect has started to come into fruition.

4. Bangladesh is Marching Forward

Investment in human development

Bangladesh witnessed that investment in girls' education, immunization, primary education, family planning and basic health services in the 1980s and 1990s yielded positive outcome in MDG era. The government has to continue to invest in human development particularly in basic health services, ensure quality education; training and skill development as the optimal goal of development of creating knowledge based society.

Overcoming infrastructure gap

Bangladesh has to pay attention in overcoming the infrastructure, transport and communication gap to harness growth potential and deliver what an upper middle income country would require. Fast tracking projects of national importance such as Padma Bridge, Nuclear power project, Matarbari coal power plant, elevated express way, Payra port development require special attention.

Quality education and investment in research

The next big concern of Bangladesh will be to ensure quality education. LFS 2015-16 suggests unemployment rate is the highest for those with tertiary education, which is staggeringly 9 percent. We have very low budgetary support for research that is well below 1 percent of GDP. In order to be an upper middle income country, the government will have to increase allocation for research, innovation and technology, along with being supportive to private sector.

Adoption of Innovation, digitalization and one stop service

The world is moving very fast in adopting new technologies in the finest era of human civilization. It is important for Bangladesh to cope with the competitiveness it is likely to face in trade and other sector by adopting newer technologies that may reduce the global challenges following graduation from LDCs. Introducing one stop service for business investments will be a breakthrough in the area of competitiveness. Our development partners should come forward to help Bangladesh in transfer of technologies in the spirit of Goal 17 of the SDGs.

Building strong institutions and improving governance

Institutions can play the most vital role in shaping the democratic value, ensuring accountability, justice, and fairness. Weak institutions can be

treated nothing more than a burden in any state. The government needs to continue its efforts in building strong institutions manning with highly skilled personalities.

Female labour force participation

It is undeniable that the country saw a rise in female participation in the labour force over the last decade, yet the participation rate is just 36 percent well below the global average of 49 percent. It is understandable that how female participation even with the global average can be a formidable force of growth, poverty reduction, empowerment and inclusiveness. Female participation will need to be encouraged through incentive policy like maternal leave with payment, compliant workplace, and day care facility. The increasing share of female students in vocational and technical education with stipend should be a priority.

Diversification of export

The export basket of Bangladesh is concentrated to only a limited number of items, which should draw substantial attention to the policy makers. The diversification issue has been roared long ago but few have come up with solutions. It is also a matter of time on how diversification of and within products evolved over time. The government has been providing incentives to infant industries over a long period. The business community must understand that incentives from the government cannot be taken as guaranteed. They also have to look for improving their own competitiveness by improving quality of products and services.

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List of SDG Publications by GED

1.	Integration of Sustainable Development Goals into the 7 th Five Year Plan (February 2016)
2.	A Handbook on Mapping of Ministries by Targets in the Implementation of SDGs aligning with 7 th Five Year Plan (2016-20) (September 2016)
3.	Data Gap Analysis for Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs): Bangladesh Perspective (January 2017)
৪.	টেকসই উন্নয়ন অভীষ্ট, লক্ষ্যমাত্রা ও সূচকসমূহ (মূল ইংরেজী থেকে বাংলায় অনূদিত) (প্রকাশকালঃ 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 7 th Five Year Plan (June 2017)
8.	Bangladesh Development Journey with SDGs [Prepared for Bangladesh Delegation to 72 nd 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 73 rd UNGA Session 2018] (September 2018)



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