

CONCEPT NOTE

Action Dialogue on SDG Localization through Development Effectiveness

Background

Bangladesh is heading to the middle-income country tier through its consecutive growth trends marking satisfactory progresses in various social indicators. The pandemic posed a sudden challenge 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, CSOs, private sectors, philanthropists etc.

Whatever initiatives for achieving SDGs are being taken in Bangladesh are mostly from the central. Government has high impetus to work on SDGs and all those are from the central government which lacks quality of the interventions and targeting the actual audiences confirming the LNOB principle. Therefore, localization of SDG particularly focusing on the lagging districts are critically important. Although, the country on average scale is performing well and recognized globally for its SDG implementation but there remain pockets unattended and to address those and addressing spatial discrepancies the localization approach will help confirming development effectiveness. It requires convergent approach bringing all the actors together starting from 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 confirm the ongoing development interventions particularly the SDG Localization effective, the Government of Bangladesh, through the Economic Relations Division of the Ministry of Finance, in collaboration of the Development Cooperation Effectiveness Working Group under LCG plan to organize the Action Dialogue. Action Dialogue stimulates multi-stakeholder discussions and mobilize all partners to bolster on-going efforts and actions for effective and efficient use of resources towards the achievement of the 2030 Agenda. It will help 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 document the achievements. 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.

Objective:

The Action Dialogue will help identify what actions are needed to advance the effectiveness of cooperation and partnerships to deliver sustainable development impact through SDG Localization.

Particularly the following questions will be discussed to get the reflections:

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

Participants:

The Action Dialogue will be attended by representatives from

- Government representative,
- Development partners,
- CSOs,
- Private sectors,
- Local government elected representatives
- CSMs
- GPEDC Joint Support Team (JST) etc.

110 participants are invited to attend the Dialogue (detailed list of participants attached).

Modality:

The Dialogue will follow hybrid modality (both in-person and virtual) considering the pandemic situation, government instructions for energy conservations and allowing participants from the JST.

It would be a half-day event (15:00 pm – 17:30 pm)

Date, Schedule and Venue:

The Action Dialogue will take place virtually on 08 August, 2022 at 15:00 pm – 17:30 pm.

Schedule

Time	Item	Facilitator
15:00 – 15:05	Welcome remarks	Mr. Farid Aziz, Additional Secretary and Wing Chief (DE Wing), Economic Relations Division, Ministry of Finance
15:05 – 15:15	Presentation on SDG Localization in Bangladesh	Mr. Mohd. Monirul Islam, Joint Secretary (SDG Affairs), Prime Minister's Office
15:15 – 15:35 (20 mins)	Presentation on SDG Localization through Development Effectiveness	Mr. Sudipto Mukerjee Resident Representative UNDP Bangladesh
15:35– 16:20(45 mins)	Breakout Groups discussion – 4 groups will discuss following questions: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 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 the policy makers? - What specific changes in policies, behaviour or systems would make it possible to advance and fully meet the effectiveness commitments? 	All participants + 4 Facilitators + 4 Moderators
16:20– 16:40 (20 mins)	Plenary- presentation of group discussion	Moderator of each group
16:40– 16:50	Remarks TBC	Rep from Swiss Embassy
16:50– 17:00	Remarks (TBC)	Rep from GPEDC Secretariat/JST
17:00 – 17:10	Remarks (TBC)	Speech from UNDP Bangladesh
17:10 – 17:20	Speech by SDG Coordinator -- TBC	Ms Zuena Aziz, Principal Coordinator (SDG Affairs) Prime Minister's Officer
17.20-17.30	Remarks by the Chair	Ms. Sharifa Khan, Secretary, Economic Relations Division, Ministry of Finance