

Four Years of SDGs in Bangladesh

Measuring Progress and
Charting the Path Forward

Fahmida Khatun, Debapriya Bhattacharya
Mustafizur Rahman, Khondaker Golam Moazzem
Towfiqul Islam Khan, Mostafa Amir Sabbih, Syed Yusuf Saadat



Citizen's Platform for SDGs, Bangladesh

এসডিজি বাস্তবায়নে নাগরিক প্ল্যাটফর্ম, বাংলাদেশ



Four Years of SDGs in Bangladesh

Measuring Progress and Charting the Path Forward

*Fahmida Khatun
Debapriya Bhattacharya
Mustafizur Rahman
Khondaker Golam Moazzem
Towfiqul Islam Khan
Mostafa Amir Sabbih
Syed Yusuf Saadat*



Citizen's Platform for SDGs, Bangladesh

এসডিজি বাস্তবায়নে নাগরিক প্ল্যাটফর্ম, বাংলাদেশ



Published in February 2020 by

Centre for Policy Dialogue (CPD)

and

Citizen's Platform for SDGs, Bangladesh

House - 6/2 (7th & 8th floors), Block - F

Kazi Nazrul Islam Road, Lalmatia Housing Estate

Dhaka - 1207, Bangladesh

Telephone: (+88 02) 58152779, 9141734, 9141703, 9126402

E-mail: info@cpd.org.bd & coordinator@bdplatform4sdgs.net

Website: www.cpd.org.bd & www.bdplatform4sdgs.net

Copyright © Centre for Policy Dialogue (CPD) 2020

All rights are reserved. No part of this publication may be reproduced or transmitted in any form or by any means without prior permission in writing from the publisher. Any person who does any unauthorised act in relation to this publication may be liable to criminal prosecution and civil claims for damages.

The views expressed in this publication are those of the authors alone and do not necessarily reflect the views of the CPD, the Citizen's Platform for SDGs, Bangladesh or any other organisation(s) they are affiliated with.

ISBN 978-984-34-8750-6

Citation: Khatun, F., Bhattacharya, D., Rahman, M., Moazzem, K. G., Khan, T. I., Sabbih, M. A. and Saadat, S. Y. (2020). *Four years of SDGs in Bangladesh: Measuring progress and charting the path forward*. Dhaka: Centre for Policy Dialogue (CPD) and Citizen's Platform for SDGs, Bangladesh.

Printed at

Lithograph

41/5 Purana Paltan, Dhaka 1000

Preface

The first four-year cycle for implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) completed in 2019. This period witnessed how countries all over the world positioned themselves in delivering the global agenda in their respective national contexts. The common attributes of this process were five. *First*, each country sought to align the global agenda with their national plans and programmes. *Second*, most of the countries did set up intra-governmental structures and mechanisms to oversee the implementation of the SDGs. *Third*, assessment of financial need for delivering the ambitious agenda at the country level was undertaken. *Fourth*, data mapping was done in many countries to understand the ‘data deficit’ constraining the monitoring and evaluation requirements. *Fifth*, many governments explored opportunities for forging partnership with non-state actors (NSAs), including the private sector, non-government developmental organisations (NGOs), community-based organisations (CBOs) and civil society organisations (CSOs) in implementations of the SDGs (Bhattacharya et al., 2016).

Bangladesh Experience

Bangladesh had been no exception in this regard. Inspired by its recognised success in achieving most of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), Bangladesh energetically engaged in the SDG delivery process by addressing all the five areas mentioned above. Indeed, in 2017, Bangladesh went to the High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development (HLPF) in New York to present its first Voluntary National Review (VNR).

The path traversed by Bangladesh for preparing the VNR, brought to the fore a couple of instructive experiences. *First*, the VNR of the country was largely a Voluntary ‘Governmental’ Review (VGR) – mostly about the government’s activities, and very little about the contributions of the NSAs, including the private sector and the NGOs. *Second*, the VNR of 2017 was based on very few real time data, and, that too, was without desirable level of disaggregation. *Third*, the revealed process of preparation of the Bangladesh’s VNR in 2017 provided very limited opportunity for the NSAs to offer their observations on the draft report, and, as such, the output had limited validation.

Citizen's Initiative

Taking note of the above, the *Citizen's Platform for SDGs, Bangladesh* launched a unique, and, possibly, an unprecedented process in 2018-19 to articulate the contribution of the NSAs in the context of Bangladesh Government's initiative to implement the SDGs. These contributions were explored in case of six SDGs that were identified for discussion at the HLPF 2019.¹ The process also sought to address the real time and disaggregated data gap by implementing wide-ranging perception surveys, focus group discussions and targetted consultations. Finally, the process went for close consultation with the government officials, business leaders and international development partners, as well as, through public events to check out on the robustness of the assessments. A positive spillover of the process was improvement of the NSAs' capacity to track and assess the outcomes of their programmes from the perspective of relevant SDG.

A publication comprising of the executive summaries of the six reports of the Goal-Groups and that of the overview report was launched at the HLPF 2019 in New York.² We are now pleased to have simultaneous release of two volumes – one containing the full reports of the Platform's six Goal-Groups³, and the other, the present substantive overview report captioned "Four Years of SDGs in Bangladesh, Measuring Progress and Charting the Way Forward," which goes much beyond building on the Goal-Group reports.

The Publication

The present overview volume is distinctive for a number of reasons. The contents of it reflect analytical rigour, strength of evidence and policy relevance concerning actualisation of SDGs in Bangladesh. The authors have provided a succinct synopsis of Bangladesh Government's endeavours to align the Seven Five-Year Plan (2016–20) with

¹These SDGs were: Quality Education (Goal 4), Decent Work and Economic Growth (Goal 8), Reduced Inequalities (Goal 10), Climate Action (Goal 13), Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions (Goal 16) and Partnerships for the Goals (Goal 17).

²Citizen's Platform for SDGs, Bangladesh and Centre for Policy Dialogue (CPD). (2019). *Four years of SDGs in Bangladesh and the way forward: Looking through the prism of non-state actors*. Dhaka: Citizen's Platform for SDGs, Bangladesh. Available at: <https://cpd.org.bd/wp-content/uploads/2019/07/Four-Years-of-SDGs-in-Bangladesh.pdf> [accessed: 17 February 2020].

³Rahman, M. (Ed.) (2020). *Four years of SDGs in Bangladesh: Non-state actors as delivery partners*. Dhaka: Citizen's Platform for SDGs, Bangladesh.

the 2030 Agenda, to set up administrative mechanism to oversee the implementation process, to develop a cost estimate and financing plan. One of the novelties of the volume relates to identification of the changes in programmatic stance of the NSAs, following the launch of the SDGs.

The other remarkable feature of the volume relates to benchmarking of the progress attained by Bangladesh in the areas of earlier mentioned six SDGs. However, the most distinctive contribution of the volume concerns the projections made by the authors regarding the prospect of achieving the concerned SDGs by 2030. The results reveal that there are a number of critical SDGs (e.g. Decent Work and Climate Action) where Bangladesh, under a business as usual scenario, will remain much behind the targetted frontier.

The Government of Bangladesh, as well as all stakeholders, including the international development partners, will be well-advised to take note of the conclusions of the present volume as the country engages itself in drafting its second VNR for the upcoming 2020 HLPF session in New York.

Acknowledgements

This volume is a successful outcome of a broad-based collaborative effort.

I am particularly obliged to Dr Fahmida Khatun, Executive Director, Centre for Policy Dialogue (CPD) for her commendable leadership in the preparation process of the volume. My co-authors Professor Mustafizur Rahman, Dr Khondaker Golam Moazzem, Mr Towfiqul Islam Khan, Mr Mostafa Amir Sabbih and Mr Syed Yusuf Saadat deserve special mention for their excellent contributions.

Our cordial gratitude to the anchor organisations of the Goal-Group reports and report contributors for their dedicated effort. We sincerely appreciate the inputs received from consultation meetings with government officials, private sector representatives, international development partners and media professionals. We are also grateful to the partner organisations, as well as private sector entities, who have extended generous support towards underwriting the preparatory process of this volume and different events. Particular mention in this connection should be made of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) in Bangladesh.

Ms Anisatul Fatema Yousuf, Coordinator, Citizen's Platform for SDGs, Bangladesh has put in substantive amount of energy in guiding the present initiative to a successful end. Ms Nazmatun Noor, Publication Specialist, CPD and her team deserves tremendous appreciation for meticulous effort in publication. We would also like to thank Mr Avra Bhattacharjee, Joint Director, Dialogue and Outreach, CPD for his contribution in various capacities in both programme implementation and coordinating the publication, and Mr Md. Sazzad Mahmud Shuvo, Senior Dialogue Associate, CPD for his diligent support in communication and relevant areas.

Finally, a note of gratitude is due to members of the Core Group of the Citizen's Platform as well as to the senior management of the CPD and colleagues of the Platform Secretariat for their extraordinary efforts in taking the unique initiative forward.

Dhaka
February, 2020



Debapriya Bhattacharya, PhD
Convenor, Citizen's Platform for SDGs, Bangladesh
and
Distinguished Fellow, Centre for Policy Dialogue (CPD)
<deb.bhattacharya@cpd.org.bd>

Contents

<i>Preface</i>	<i>iii</i>
<i>Acronyms</i>	<i>xiii</i>
1. Introduction	1
2. Integrating SDGs in the National Development Process	6
3. Changes in Non-state Actors' Activities and Priorities	28
4. State of Six SDGs in Bangladesh	47
5. Outlook for Reaching the SDGs in Bangladesh by 2030	127
6. Conclusions and Recommendations	134
References	143
Annex 1 : Key policies, plans, strategies and programmes targetted for the SDGs	152

Tables, Figures and Diagram

Tables

Table 1	: Alignment of SDG targets with the 7FYP	8
Table 2	: Responsibility matrix/institutional mechanism for SDG implementation in Bangladesh	10
Table 3	: Summary of financing options	18
Table 4	: Goal-wise data availability	20
Table 5	: CSO engagement in implementation of Goal 16: Examples	33
Table 6	: Primary involvement of partners of the Citizen's Platform for SDGs, Bangladesh	43
Table 7	: Information on forecasting exercise	49
Table 8	: Completion rates (as percentage of relevant age group)	56
Table 9	: Participation rate in organised learning (one year before the official primary entry age) in 2018 (as percentage of relevant age group)	58
Table 10	: Literacy rate (as percentage of relevant age groups)	60
Table 11	: Trained teachers (as percentage of total teachers)	64
Table 12	: Annual growth rate of real GDP per capita	65
Table 13	: Annual growth rate of real GDP per employed person	67
Table 14	: Informal employment (as percentage of total non-agricultural employment)	69
Table 15	: Domestic material consumption per capita	70
Table 16	: Unemployment rate (ILO modelled estimates)	71
Table 17	: Share of youth in NEET (ILO modelled estimates)	73
Table 18	: Children in labour (as percentage of children aged 7-14)	75
Table 19	: Account ownership in a financial institution or with a mobile-money-service provider (as percentage)	77

Table 20	: Distribution of income	79
Table 21	: Proportion of households affected by natural disasters, by division and type of disaster during 2009-2014	90
Table 22	: Economic loss due to natural disasters, by sector and type of disaster during 2009-2014	92
Table 23	: Economic loss due to natural disasters, by division and type of disaster during 2009-2014	93
Table 24	: Proportion of individuals suffering from sickness and injury due to natural disasters, by division and age group (as percentage of relevant group) during 2009-2014	94
Table 25	: Proportion of individuals suffering from sickness and injury due to natural disasters, by type of disaster and age group (as percentage of relevant group) during 2009-2014	94
Table 26	: Average annual economic loss per household due to natural disasters, by household income quintile groups and type of loss	95
Table 27	: Intentional homicides per 100,000 people	101
Table 28	: Number of battle-related deaths	103
Table 29	: Proportion of ever-married women who disclosed experiences of partner physical or sexual violence in 2015	106
Table 30	: Illicit financial outflows	107
Table 31	: Proportion of households who paid bribe during interactions with different service-providers	110
Table 32	: Tax revenue (as percentage of GDP)	113
Table 33	: Net ODA received (as percentage of GNI)	115
Table 34	: Net FDI inflows (as percentage of GDP)	117
Table 35	: Personal remittances received (as percentage of GDP)	118
Table 36	: Fixed-broadband subscriptions per 100 inhabitants	121
Table 37	: Share of global exports	123
Table 38	: Investment in energy with private participation (current million USD)	125
Table 39	: Dollar value of all resources made available to strengthen statistical capacity in developing countries (current USD)	126

Table 40	: Heat map of selected SDG indicators in Bangladesh	128
Table 41	: Ranking of SDGs based on projected performance by 2030	131
 Figures		
Figure 1	: Number of responsible government agencies for each of the SDGs in Bangladesh	13
Figure 2	: Flow of foreign grants through the NGO Affairs Bureau	39
Figure 3	: SDG 4.1.1 Lower secondary completion rate for both genders: Actual, estimate and forecast	57
Figure 4	: SDG 4.5.1 Gender parity index (GPI) of literacy rate, youth (aged 15–24)	59
Figure 5	: SDG 4.6.1 Literacy rate for all individuals aged 15 and above: Actual, estimate and forecast	61
Figure 6	: Educational facilities at secondary schools	62
Figure 7	: Total official flows for scholarships (at 2016 constant prices)	63
Figure 8	: SDG 8.1.1 Annual growth rate of real GDP per capita (at 2010 constant USD): Actual, estimate and forecast	67
Figure 9	: SDG 8.2.1 Annual growth rate of real GDP per employed person: Actual, estimate and forecast	68
Figure 10	: SDG 8.5.2 Unemployment rate, all individuals between ages 15–24: Actual, estimate and forecast	72
Figure 11	: SDG 8.6.1 Share of youth in NEET: Actual, estimate and forecast	74
Figure 12	: Number of commercial bank branches per 100,000 adults	75
Figure 13	: Number of ATMs per 100,000 adults	76
Figure 14	: Aid for trade commitment and disbursement (at 2016 constant prices)	78
Figure 15	: SDG 10.1.1 Growth rate of income share held by bottom 40 per cent: Actual, estimate and forecast	80
Figure 16(A–F)	: Financial soundness indicators of commercial banks	81
Figure 17	: SDG 10.5.1 Gross NPLs as a share of total loans (for commercial banks): Actual, estimate and forecast	83

Figure 18	: SDG 10.b.1 Net ODA received	83
Figure 19	: Average transaction cost of sending remittances (as percentage of amount sent)	84
Figure 20(A-H)	: Number of households affected by natural disasters, by division and type of disaster during 2009–2014	86
Figure 21	: SDG 13.1.1 Number of households affected by natural disasters: Actual, estimate and forecast	89
Figure 22	: Number of days children missed school due to natural disasters, by division and gender during 2009–2014	96
Figure 23	: Growth rate of emissions	97
Figure 24	: SDG 13.2.1a Growth rate of total greenhouse gas emissions: Actual, estimate and forecast	98
Figure 25	: Annual average temperature change	99
Figure 26	: SDG 13.2.1b Annual average temperature change: Actual, estimate and forecast	100
Figure 27	: SDG 16.1.1 Number of intentional homicides per 100,000 individuals: Actual, estimate and forecast	102
Figure 28(A-B)	: Prevalence of partner violence experienced by women at least once in last 12 months	104
Figure 29	: SDG 16.2.1 Proportion of children aged 1–14 years who experienced psychological aggression or physical punishment during the last 1 month (2012–2013)	105
Figure 30	: SDG 16.4.1 Illicit financial outflows: Actual, estimate and forecast	108
Figure 31	: Number of arms act cases per 100,000 people	108
Figure 32	: SDG 16.5.1 Proportion of households who paid bribes during interactions with all service-providers: Actual, estimate and forecast	111
Figure 33	: Proportion of seats held by women in national parliament compared to the proportion of the female population	111
Figure 34	: Number of kidnappings per 100,000 people	112
Figure 35	: SDG 17.1.1 Tax revenue (as percentage of GDP): Actual, estimate and forecast	114

Figure 36	: SDG 17.2.1 Net ODA received (as percentage of GNI): Actual, estimate and forecast	116
Figure 37	: SDG 17.3.1 Net FDI inflows (as percentage of GDP): Actual, estimate and forecast	118
Figure 38	: SDG 17.3.2 Personal remittances received (as percentage of GDP): Actual, estimate and forecast	119
Figure 39	: Debt service to exports	120
Figure 40	: Fixed-broadband subscriptions per 100 inhabitants: Actual, estimate and forecast	122
Figure 41	: Individuals using the internet (percentage of population)	122
Figure 42	: SDG 17.11.1 Share of global exports: Actual, estimate and forecast	124
Figure 43	: Red-Amber-Green status of selected SDGs in Bangladesh	132
Diagram		
Diagram 1	: Scope of engagement by non-state actors	29

Acronyms

AfT	Aid for Trade
APA	Annual Performance Agreement
ARIMA	Autoregressive Integrated Moving Average
ATM	Automated Teller Machine
a2i	Access to Information
BBS	Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics
BCCSAP	Bangladesh Climate Change Strategy and Action Plan
BDHS	Bangladesh Demographic and Health Survey
BDT	Bangladeshi Taka
BGMEA	Bangladesh Garment Manufacturers and Exporters Association
BNCU	Bangladesh National Commission for UNESCO
BTMA	Bangladesh Textile Mills Association
BUILD	Business Initiative Leading Development
CAMPE	Campaign for Popular Education
CBO	Community-based Organisation
CCCI	Chittagong Chamber of Commerce and Industry
CCGAP	Climate Change and Gender Action Plan
CDD	Center for Disability and Development
COP	Conference of Parties
CPD	Centre for Policy Dialogue
CSO	Civil Society Organisation
CSR	Corporate Social Responsibility
DC	Divisional Commissioner
DCCI	Dhaka Chamber of Commerce and Industry
DPE	Directorate of Primary Education
FBCCI	Federation of Bangladesh Chambers of Commerce and Industries
FCB	Foreign Commercial Bank

FDI	Foreign Direct Investment
FGD	Focus Group Discussion
FICCI	Foreign Investors' Chamber of Commerce and Industry
FTA	Free Trade Agreement
FYP	Five-Year Plan
GDP	Gross Domestic Product
GED	General Economics Division
GFI	Global Financial Integrity
GIU	Governance Innovation Unit
GNI	Gross National Income
GoB	Government of Bangladesh
GPI	Gender Parity Index
HIES	Household Income and Expenditure Survey
HIV	Human Immunodeficiency Virus
HLP	High-Level Panel of Eminent Persons on the Post-2015 Development Agenda
HLPF	High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development
IAEG-SDGs	Inter-agency and Expert Group on the Sustainable Development Goal Indicators
ICCCAD	International Centre for Climate Change and Development
ICT	Information and Communication Technology
ILO	International Labour Organization
IMF	International Monetary Fund
INGO	International NGO
IPDS	Indigenous Peoples Development Society
ITU	International Telecommunication Union
KII	Key Informant Interview
LDC	Least Developed Country
LFS	Labour Force Survey
LNOB	Leave No One Behind
MCCI	Metropolitan Chamber of Commerce and Industry
MDG	Millennium Development Goal

MGMC	Migration Grievance Management Committee
MICS	Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey
MISC	Migration Information Support Centre
MoDMR	Ministry of Disaster Management and Relief
MoPME	Ministry of Primary and Mass Education
MoU	Memorandum of Understanding
MSM	Men who have Sex with Men
M&E	Monitoring and Evaluation
NBR	National Board of Revenue
NDCC	National Data Coordination Committee
NEET	Not in Education, Employment or Training
NGO	Non-Government Organisation
NHD	National Household Database
NPL	Non-Performing Loan
NSA	Non-State Actor
NSDS	National Strategy for the Development of Statistics
NSDS	National Sustainable Development Strategy
NSO	National Statistical Office
NWDP	National Women Development Policy
ODA	Official Development Assistance
OECD	Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development
PCB	Private Commercial Bank
PEDP-4	4th Primary Education Development Programme
PHRPB	Public Health Reform Programme Board
PMO	Prime Minister's Office
PPP	Public-Private Partnership
PSDPCC	Private Sector Development Policy Coordination Committee
RMG	Readymade Garments
ROA	Return on Assets
ROE	Return on Equity
RTI	Rights to Information
SB	Specialised Bank

SCB	State-owned Commercial Bank
SDG	Sustainable Development Goal
SEDP	Secondary Education Development Programme
Shujan	Shushashoner Jonno Nagorik
SID	Statistics and Informatics Division
SIR	SDGs Implementation Review
SME	Small and Medium Enterprise
Supro	Sushasoner Jonny Procharavizan
TIB	Transparency International Bangladesh
TIN	Taxpayer's Identification Number
ToR	Terms of References
UN	United Nations
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNESCO	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
UNFCCC	United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change
UNO	Upazila Nirbahi Officer
USAID	United States Agency for International Development
USD	United States Dollar
VAT	Value Added Tax
VNR	Voluntary National Review
WASH	Water, Sanitation and Hygiene
WIM	Warsaw International Mechanism
4th HNPSP	4th Health, Nutrition and Population Sector Programme
7FYP	Seventh Five-Year Plan
8FYP	Eighth Five-Year Plan
9FYP	Ninth Five-Year Plan

SECTION ONE

Introduction

1.1 The context

Since its inception in 2016, the Citizen’s Platform for SDGs, Bangladesh has been playing an important role in highlighting the contribution of non-state actors (NSAs) in implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in Bangladesh. The Platform is helping raise the voice and mobilise the NSAs in this connection towards more effective SDG implementation in the country. More than hundred civil society organisations (CSOs), non-government organisations (NGOs) and private sector organisations are members of the Platform, who are engaged in the SDG process in various capacities. They are playing a crucial role towards implementation of the SDGs in Bangladesh through their respective domain of actions. The present report was prepared in view of the Citizens Conclave titled *Four Years of SDGs in Bangladesh*, convened by the Platform, on 27 April 2019, in Dhaka, Bangladesh.

The theme of the High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development (HLPF) held in July 2019 was *empowering people, ensuring inclusiveness and equality*, which resonated very closely with aspirations of Bangladesh in the context of the SDGs. The HLPF undertook a review of progress concerning six of the 17 goals and the associated targets. The goals identified for the 2019 review are particularly important from the perspective of Bangladesh because of their overriding importance in the context of the current state of development of the country.

The six goals selected for 2019 review were: Goal 4 (Quality Education); Goal 8 (Decent Work and Economic Growth); Goal 10 (Reduced Inequalities); Goal 13 (Climate Action); Goal 16 (Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions); and Goal 17 (Partnerships for the Goals). Not only do these cross-cutting goals resonate very well with the priorities of Bangladesh, these are also crucial to attaining the other SDGs in the country, through leveraging and drawing synergies. The inclusion of Goal 16 lent special distinction to the 2019 review. This is because institutional efficacy and governance lie at the core of implementing

the SDGs, particularly from the perspective of raising the efficacy of SDG implementation and realising the aspiration of 'Leave No One Behind'.

1.2 Objectives of the research

The overarching objective of this study is to assess the progress of SDG implementation in Bangladesh and highlight the important role that NSAs have been playing in this context. Keeping the agenda of the HLPF in July 2019 and the SDG Summit in September 2019 in the purview, the motivation of this research was to contribute towards more effective implementation of the SDGs in Bangladesh over the coming years. Thus, the present study was prepared by taking cognisance of the following objectives:

- to critically examine the status of progress of SDG implementation in Bangladesh in six goal areas identified for review at the HLPF 2019;
- to capture and assess the contribution of NSAs in Bangladesh in attaining the SDG targets in the identified goal areas;
- to identify key implementation-related challenges and draw lessons to raise the efficacy of SDG implementation; and
- to recommend measures to attain the selected SDGs in Bangladesh by 2030.

1.3 Rationale and newness of the exercise

In the backdrop of Bangladesh's significant achievements in attaining the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), where NSAs played a key role, there is a genuine interest on the part of the broader stakeholders to learn more about the contribution of the NSAs in view of implementing the SDGs. While the role of the NSAs in this connection is recognised in general, there is a significant lack of concrete information and evidence as regards what is being done, how it is done, and how it can be bettered and improved. The study documents the NSA experience in this regard. Hopefully, these experiences will create an opportunity for cross-fertilisation of ideas.

The newness of this research lies in five areas: participation and inclusiveness of the process of preparing the study; focus on attaining the 'leave no one behind' aspirations in implementing the SDGs; generation of new evidence and knowledge as regards the contribution of NSAs towards SDG implementation in Bangladesh; lessons drawn from innovative initiatives; and identification of gaps in data and in implementation, which will help implementation of the SDGs in future.

The present exercise is important also because Bangladesh has not taken part in the Voluntary National Review (VNR) in 2019. The research will fill a gap in this context by presenting an updated assessment of SDG implementation in Bangladesh. That this review is taking place in the fourth year of SDG implementation is also important on two counts: firstly, four years is a decent time to assess the direction in which SDG implementation work has been moving, and draw lessons as regards what has worked and what improvements are needed and where the challenges are; secondly, there is still more than a decade left in the run-up to 2030, and insights from the lessons learned from the experience of the past four years could throw important insights to help raise efficacy of SDG implementation over the coming years.

There is a wide-ranging recognition that if SDGs are to be implemented successfully, the process has to be participatory and inclusive, and the implementation should be through meaningful and effective collaboration among all involved stakeholders. The Government of Bangladesh (GoB) has decided that it will pursue a *whole of society* approach in implementing the SDGs. This means that, all stakeholders of the society will play a role in implementing the SDGs, and also the outcome of the SDGs will benefit each and every member of the society. In this backdrop, the present exercise will enable policymakers to learn more as to how NSAs are contributing to the national effort in implementing the SDGs and how GO-NSA (government-NSA) collaboration can be further strengthened in this connection. Another distinctive feature of the exercise is that, an attempt has been made to capture the contribution and experience of the private sector. There is a general recognition that NSAs have a natural advantage in reaching those who tend to be left behind – the marginalised and the vulnerable. In view of this, the study examines to what extent the ‘leave no one behind’ aspirations are being achieved, where collaboration with the GoB, as also with other NSAs, has worked better, what are the best practices, what are the major challenges, and how these can be best addressed. In capturing the progress, the exercise examines whether there has been any significant departure in the pace of resource allocation during the post-SDG period compared to the pre-SDG period.

One of the unique features of this exercise is that it draws insights from the goal-specific reports prepared by the Platform members in order to elicit more in-depth understanding about new initiatives and strategic changes in NSA activities in view of the SDGs. Modalities and efficacy of GO-NSA and national-global interfaces have been studied to draw lessons as regards partnership, synergies and complementarities in SDG implementation.

A major concern in respect of SDG implementation relates to generation and availability of adequate data and information to measure and monitor SDG progress. The study identifies the gaps in this regard and also draws attention to the interpretative ambiguities in the definition of some of the SDG indicators. This research will help to undertake initiatives to address this important lacunae which undermines the cause of SDG implementation as reflected in the call for *data revolution* in the context of the SDGs.

1.4 Methodology and sources of data

The study has been prepared through a multi-stakeholder approach. It has drawn on primary information generated by the Platform partners, and secondary information from various national and global published sources.

This research has made extensive use of the six goal-specific reports prepared by dedicated groups of SDG Platform members. The groups were constituted on the basis of focus of respective programmes and activities and expressed interest of the members. Reports prepared by the Goal-Groups followed a common structure which was arrived at through consultations organised by the Centre for Policy Dialogue (CPD) as the Secretariat of the Platform: context; contribution of NSAs in implementing the SDGs; challenges and lessons learned; suggestions as regards the way forward. Each group's work was coordinated by an anchor CSO and co-anchor(s) who took on the responsibility to prepare the drafts based on inputs from the group members. Checklists were prepared and questionnaires were administered to elicit the needed information. Group members sat several times to provide inputs and discuss drafts. To get feedback from key stakeholders, the draft reports were presented at four consultations organised by the Platform where key stakeholder communities, such as the government officials, development partners, media representatives and the private sector were present. An earlier draft of the present overview paper was also presented at the aforesaid four consultations. Inputs received from these discussions have been incorporated in the present revised version of the study. The GoB documents, secondary materials and national and global data sources were consulted to get the needed information. Analytical tools were employed and trend analyses were undertaken to make necessary projections.

1.5 Scope and limitation

Of the 17 SDGs, the study deals with only the six goals which were selected for review at the HLPF in 2019. However, many of the challenges, lessons

learnt and the recommendations emerging from the present exercise have broader resonance, and are of general and wider relevance and interest. As is known, all the 17 SDGs are interlinked with synergies and trade-offs involved. Examining a set of six goals, thus, has limitations from this perspective. The other limitation relates to data. For many of the indicators, up to date data was not available; for others, there was no data. This made the task of assessing implementation progress difficult. As is known, the availability of data at a disaggregated level is crucial to measuring the progress of SDG implementation, particularly if the 'leave no one behind' perspectives are to be captured. Detailed analysis of progress was constrained in the absence of disaggregated data concerning many indicators. Although the information provided was mostly of qualitative nature, this limitation was addressed in the study by drawing on the reports of the goal-specific groups. This information was particularly helpful, since a major focus of CSOs' activities related to issues of priorities that concerned the marginalised and the vulnerable groups.

1.6 Organisation of the study

Following the introduction, Section 2 of the study focuses on policies and initiatives of the GoB, and the institutional framework in place for implementing the SDGs and for GO–NSA collaboration. The section captures key areas of NSA involvement in SDG implementation by drawing on the six Goal-Group reports. Section 3 makes a critical examination of the NSA activities and interventions, and draws insights as regards changes in priorities and focus, funding patterns, and modalities of GO–NSA and national–global interfaces. Section 4 presents an analysis of the progress in terms of specific goals and targets, and makes projections as regards the likelihood of attaining particular indicators whose data are available. In Section 5, a summary of findings and an analysis, on the basis of the forecasting exercise, have been presented for the selected six SDGs. Section 6 presents a few conclusions and important lessons based on the analysis of the preceding sections in areas of coordination and integration, prioritisation and financing, interlinkages and synergies, highlights challenges, and offers suggestions to raise the efficacy of SDG implementation in Bangladesh over the next decade.

SECTION TWO

Integrating SDGs in the National Development Process

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development was negotiated at the inter-governmental level through a transparent and inclusive process, along with the significant number of national, regional and thematic consultations that were carried out by the United Nations (UN) (Bhattacharya, Khan and Sabbih, 2016). It was acknowledged from the very beginning that, at the country level, involvement of a broader stakeholders including local governments (national and local), international institutions, civil society, media, academics and the private sector is critical in both designing and implementation of the SDGs (HLP, 2013; UNGA, 2014). However, at the country level, national governments are primarily responsible to deliver the aspirations set out in the form of SDGs. The GoB has always been committed to the 2030 Agenda. This was manifested by the country's active involvement in designing SDGs and in follow-up mechanisms.

Delivering the SDGs in developing countries requires transformation of the development process at both country and global levels. Bhattacharya et al. (2016) identified five common challenges for developing countries while implementing SDGs. *First*, better alignment of policies with the SDGs, which implies that a country is assumed to be integrating and mainstreaming SDGs into national planning processes according to its national priorities. This policy coherence at the national level is critical for the successful delivery of SDGs given the immensity of focus areas concerning SDGs. *Second*, the establishment of an institutional architecture that can deliver the 2030 Agenda. This refers to the adequacy of institutional mechanism in terms of management, coordination, monitoring and leadership for executing the undertaken processes. *Third*, the sufficiency of financing and other means of implementation (i.e. technological support) while implementing SDGs. It also calls for the efficient use of resources and avoidance of duplication. *Fourth*, enhancing the availability, accessibility and production of quality data to monitor the SDG implementation progress. *Finally*, the fifth challenge concerns the role of stakeholders' participation and partnerships for implementing SDGs, which calls for a multi-stakeholder approach that encourages

engagement of all stakeholders, including parliamentarians, regional and local authorities, academia and CSOs, in addition to governments and international development partners. Indeed, Bangladesh has been one of the front-runners among the developing countries to take dedicated measures in addressing the challenges. In view of the above, the present section critically reviews the integration of 2030 Agenda in the national development process through the lens of the aforesaid five implementation challenges.

2.1 National plans, policies and programmes towards SDGs attainment

The SDGs are global plans, but the executive responsibility mainly goes to the countries. Thus, the successful implementation of the SDGs in Bangladesh will largely depend on how effectively it is unified/aligned with national planning (Bhattacharya, Khan and Sabbih, 2016). Vertical coherence (from national to sub-national to local levels) in terms of policy alignment and horizontal alignment (across line ministries and sectors) should be done in this case. It can facilitate pursuing data and resource requirements, need of partnership, and can also help to monitor the progress (UNDP, 2017).

Existing plan, policies and acts

Bangladesh has addressed the issue of contextualising the SDGs quite successfully. Here, the key national framework for SDGs implementation is structured around three Five Year Plans (FYPs), i.e. 7th, 8th and 9th. Incidentally, the GoB was planning its Seventh Five Year Plan (7FYP) (2016–2020) during the initiation of 2030 Agenda, which allowed it to easily mainstream the Agenda into national-level planning (GED, 2015). Apart from 7FYP, there are at least 40 policies, strategies, acts and programmes whose targets and objectives have a direct link with SDG implementation (see Annex 1 for the full list).

Alignment of SDGs with the national planning process

Bangladesh's journey towards the implementation of the SDGs started by integrating the SDGs into the 7FYP. To this end, the General Economics Division (GED) conducted a policy alignment exercise between SDGs and the 7FYP and grouped the targets into four categories – fully aligned, partially aligned, not aligned and not relevant (GED, 2016b). The report found that many of the policies under 7FYP are either fully or partially aligned with the targets of the SDGs. The report revealed that, out of 169 SDG targets, 56 targets

Table 1: Alignment of SDG targets with the 7FYP

Goal	Number of targets	Fully aligned	Partially aligned	Not aligned	Not relevant
SDG 1	7	2	5	0	0
SDG 2	8	0	2	6	0
SDG 3	13	1	2	9	1
SDG 4	10	0	0	10	0
SDG 5	9	2	1	6	0
SDG 6	8	6	0	2	0
SDG 7	5	2	2	1	0
SDG 8	12	6	5	0	1
SDG 9	8	5	0	3	0
SDG 10	10	3	4	0	3
SDG 11	10	9	0	0	1
SDG 12	11	1	3	5	2
SDG 13	5	3	1	0	1
SDG 14	10	0	3	5	2
SDG 15	12	5	2	5	0
SDG 16	12	1	2	9	0
SDG 17	19	10	5	4	0
Total	169	56	37	65	11
% of total	100.0	33.1	21.9	38.5	6.5

Source: GED (2016b).

from 14 SDGs are fully aligned (which accounts for 33.1 per cent), while 37 targets from 13 SDGs (21.9 per cent) are partially aligned (Table 1). However, 65 targets from 12 SDGs (38.5 per cent) are not aligned with 7FYP (GED, 2016b). It also states that there are 11 targets from seven SDGs which are not relevant for Bangladesh. Majority of the targets from SDGs 2, 3, 4, 5 and 16 (Zero Hunger, Good Health and Well-being, Quality Education, and Peace, Justice, and Strong Institutions) are not aligned with the Plan; among them, nine targets from SDG 3 and 16, and all 10 targets from SDG 4 are not aligned with the Plan (GED, 2016b).

In the context of Bangladesh, SDGs 3, 4 and 16 are the three most critically important goals, as they also have synergetic effects on the implementation of other SDGs. Hence, it is urgent that these are integrated into the national policy processes. The ‘non-alignment’ of these important goals with the 7FYP necessarily means that they are not amongst the top priorities of the

government at least till 2020. It may be assumed that these ‘not-aligned’ targets will be integrated into the Eighth Five Year Plan (8FYP) and Ninth Five Year Plan (9FYP). However, there is no clear direction and timeline as to how these ‘not-aligned’ targets will be accommodated or aligned into the current or future SDG-oriented national development plans, policies and strategies. This may hinder the achievement of the overall SDGs in time. Regrettably, the aforesaid government’s alignment exercise (GED, 2016b) did not provide any way forward to this end. On a welcome note, at least seven out of the nine ‘not-aligned’ targets of SDG 3 are found to be aligned with different operation plan of the 4th Health, Nutrition and Population Sector Programme (4th HNPSP) 2017–2022. Similarly, at least five out of 10 ‘non-aligned’ targets related to SDG 4 are aligned with the 4th Primary Education Development Programme (PEDP-4) 2018–2023.

Overall, while the alignment exercise by the government was a very praiseworthy first step, it did not provide any precise idea about the prioritisation of Bangladesh in terms of SDGs. The forthcoming 8FYP will need to address this issue adequately, and give an assessment of how SDGs at the target level are to be prioritised in the national planning process.

2.2 Institutional arrangements

The success of SDG implementation largely depends on the existence of a strong institutional framework for leading, coordinating and monitoring the implementation mechanism. It would assure the smooth implementation process and accountability mechanism. Distribution of tasks also clarifies the focus and accelerate the pace of work. Bangladesh Government undertook initiatives to ensure proper leadership, management and coordination mechanism for smooth SDG implementation from very early on. In November 2015, just after two months of adoption of SDGs by the UN member-countries, the GoB established an Inter-Ministerial Committee on SDGs Implementation and Review. A new position of Principal Coordinator (SDG Affairs) was created who chairs the committee, while the GED of the Planning Commission provides the secretarial support to the committee. The committee is comprised of secretaries from 20 ministries/divisions. The Prime Minister is to be reported by the Inter-Ministerial Committee every six months for evaluation (GED, 2016a). Apart from the Inter-Ministerial Committee, there exist other institutional arrangements to assist the SDG implementation process. These include: SDGs Working Team – hosted by the Governance Innovation Unit (GIU) at the Prime Minister’s Office (PMO); SDGs Implementation Sub-

committee by the NGO Affairs Bureau under the PMO; and the National Data Coordination Committee (NDCC) – to deal with data gap under the Statistics and Informatics Division (SID).

Mapping of key ministries

The GoB has identified the Lead, Co-lead and Associate ministries who will take up the responsibility of overseeing the implementation of each of the goals. The GED (2016a) has conducted a mapping of all the concerned ministries/divisions by SDG areas. They mapped existing policies and actions proposed by the 7FYP. According to the study, 43 ministries and divisions are given responsibility as Lead, along with 34 ministries as Co-lead, and 61 institutions as Associate to implement the 169 targets of SDGs (Table 2).

Table 2: Responsibility matrix/institutional mechanism for SDG implementation in Bangladesh

Goal	Lead ministries/divisions
SDG 1: No Poverty	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cabinet Division • General Economics Division • Ministry of Environment and Forests • Ministry of Disaster Management and Relief • Finance Division
SDG 2: Zero Hunger	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ministry of Agriculture • Ministry of Food • Health Services Division • Medical Education and Family Welfare Division • Ministry of Industries • Economic Relations Division • Ministry of Commerce • Finance Division
SDG 3: Good Health and Well-being	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ministry of Health and Family Welfare • Ministry of Home Affairs • Road Transport and Highways Division • Ministry of Labour and Employment • Ministry of Environment and Forests • Economic Relations Division
SDG 4: Quality Education	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ministry of Primary and Mass Education • Secondary and Higher Education Division • Technical and Madrasah Education Division • Economic Relations Division
SDG 5: Gender Equality	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ministry of Women and Children Affairs • Ministry of Social Welfare
SDG 6: Clean Water and Sanitation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Local Government Division • Ministry of Agriculture • Ministry of Water Resources • Economic Relations Division

(Table 2 contd.)

(Table 2 contd.)

Goal	Lead ministries/divisions
SDG 7: Affordable and Clean Energy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Power Division • Energy and Mineral Resources Division • Economic Relations Division
SDG 8: Decent Work and Economic Growth	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Finance Division • Ministry of Commerce • Ministry of Industries • Ministry of Agriculture • General Economics Division • Ministry of Labour and Employment • Ministry of Youth and Sports • Ministry of Civil Aviation and Tourism • Ministry of Cultural Affairs • Bank and Financial Institutions Division • Ministry of Environment and Forests
SDG 9: Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Road Transport and Highways Division • Local Government Division • Ministry of Industries • Ministry of Environment and Forests • Ministry of Science and Technology • Ministry of Agriculture • Economic Relations Division • Information and Communication Technology Division • Posts and Telecommunications Division
SDG 10: Reduced Inequalities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • General Economics Division • Law and Justice Division • Finance Division • Economic Relations Division • Ministry of Expatriates' Welfare and Overseas Employment • Ministry of Commerce • Bank and Financial Institutions Division • Ministry of Foreign Affairs
SDG 11: Sustainable Cities and Communities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ministry of Housing and Public Works • Road Transport and Highways Division • Ministry of Railways • Ministry of Cultural Affairs • Ministry of Disaster Management and Relief • Local Government Division • Ministry of Women and Children Affairs • Economic Relations Division
SDG 12: Responsible Consumption and Production	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ministry of Foreign Affairs • Ministry of Environment and Forests • Ministry of Food • Ministry of Agriculture • Local Government Division • Ministry of Industries • Implementation Monitoring and Evaluation Division • Ministry of Education • Ministry of Primary and Mass Education

(Table 2 contd.)

(Table 2 contd.)

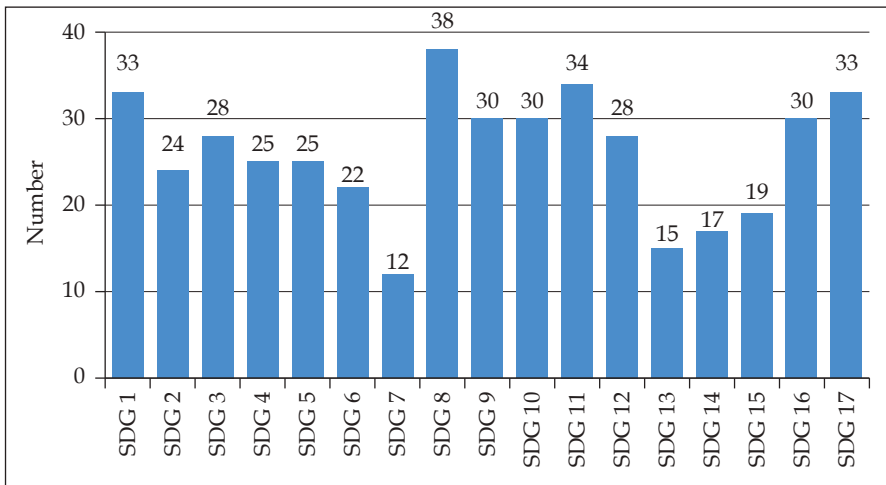
Goal	Lead ministries/divisions
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Economic Relations Division • Ministry of Civil Aviation and Tourism • Finance Division
SDG 13: Climate Action	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ministry of Disaster Management and Relief • General Economics Division • Ministry of Environment and Forests
SDG 14: Life below Water	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ministry of Water Resources • Ministry of Shipping • Ministry of Science and Technology • Ministry of Fisheries and Livestock • Ministry of Environment and Forests • Ministry of Defence
SDG 15: Life on Land	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ministry of Environment and Forests • Economic Relations Division • Finance Division • Ministry of Foreign Affairs
SDG 16: Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ministry of Home Affairs • Ministry of Women and Children Affairs • Ministry of Foreign Affairs • Law and Justice Division • Legislative and Parliamentary Affairs Division • Bangladesh Bank • Cabinet Division • Ministry of Public Administration • General Economics Division • Economic Relations Division • Local Government Division • Ministry of Information
SDG 17: Partnerships for the Goals	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Internal Resources Division • Finance Division • Economic Relations Division • Board of Investment • Bangladesh Bank • Ministry of Science and Technology • Posts and Telecommunications Division • Ministry of Environment and Forests • Information and Communication Technology Division • General Economics Division • Ministry of Commerce • Public Private Partnership Authority • Statistics and Informatics Division

Source: GED (2016a; 2018b).

Ideally, all the 43 lead ministries/divisions should have representation in the SDGs Implementation and Review Committee. However, as of now, the Committee is comprised of members from 20 ministries/divisions, reflecting that at least 23 lead ministries/divisions are not being able to participate in

the principal committee with regard to the SDGs implementation process. The ministry mapping exercise (GED, 2016a) further confirms that several ministries/divisions will need to come together to implement one SDG. For example, implementation of SDG 8 will require coordination among 38 such government agencies (Figure 1). However, the GoB has not taken any step to develop an institutional mechanism to coordinate the government activities at the goal level. This calls for a greater emphasis on the differential role of inter-ministerial coordination, particularly for the implementation of certain targets.

Figure 1: Number of responsible government agencies for each of the SDGs in Bangladesh



Source: Authors' elaboration from GED (2016a).

Ministry/division-wise action plan

The GED has also prepared a National Action Plan for the implementation of the SDGs with an objective to coordinate the action plans of the 43 lead ministries/divisions through a rigorous process of consultation, review and feedback (GED, 2018c). The Plan lists the ongoing projects/programmes that contribute to the achievement of a particular goal and its targets, identifies new projects/programmes that will need to be undertaken during the remaining period of the 7FYP as well as beyond the current Plan period, with indicative costs. It has also stipulated the new policies/strategies that might be needed in future to attain the SDG targets. This will be a guiding document for ministries/divisions/agencies to determine their respective investment portfolios towards attaining the SDGs as well as FYPs, and help assess the performance of the ministries in achieving their set goals/targets.

However, there is a fundamental difference between the approaches of mapping of the ministries/divisions and the National Action Plan. After the ministry mapping as per the SDGs, one would expect that the National Action Plan would also follow the same, and list all current and future projects/programmes, actions, policies/strategies required to attain certain goals. This creates a scope for overlapping of projects and programmes, and hinders the understanding of a sectoral outlook. Furthermore, there is also an absence of direction in the Plan as to how the inter-coordination mechanism among different ministries and division will function. Such initiative could be helpful to avoid the so-called 'silo approach', which was a shortcoming of the MDG implementation process.

Integrating SDG targets with Annual Performance Agreement

With an objective to promote results-based performance system across the entire public sector, the GoB has introduced the Annual Performance Agreement (APA). It outlines the goals and targets of each ministry with corresponding performance indicators. At the beginning of each financial year, each ministry enters into a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with the Cabinet Division under this scheme. The GoB, in its earlier document, has committed to integrate the SDG targets into the APA system, with an aim to translate the long-term objectives into the annual work plans of ministries and divisions (GED, 2016a). Once successfully integrated and functional, it will help improving efficiency, as well as ensuring transparency and accountability (GED, 2017a). However, an investigation into the APAs for FY2018-19 of key ministries and divisions responsible for implementing the SDGs, such as Directorate of Primary Education (DPE), Secondary and Higher Education Division, Health Services Division and National Board of Revenue (NBR) suggests that, even after passing four years since the inception of APA in FY2014-15, SDG targets and indicators were not adequately reflected in the APAs of respective ministries and divisions. Regrettably, there is no single mention of SDGs in the vision, mission, objectives or performance indicators of the APAs as of now. Furthermore, the achievements (scores, evaluation summary) of ministries and divisions in different milestone targets for the previous fiscal year are either not reported in the APA format in the preceding fiscal year, or are not published in public domain. This may hinder the functioning of the internal scrutiny, discussion and feedback mechanism among other associated ministries/divisions, as well as external scrutiny by other stakeholders involved in the implementation process of related SDGs.

Localisation of SDGs in Bangladesh

For ensuring inclusive participation, the SDGs need to be localised to achieve the aspiration of the Agenda to “endeavour to reach the furthest behind first” (UNDP, 2018). The concept of ‘localisation’ emerged from the experience of MDGs which followed a top-down approach and failed to capture the notion of inclusive development (Khan, 2018). So implementation of the SDGs is not the responsibility of the central government alone, but also lies with the sub-national and local authority. Thus, empowering local governments and providing them with required resources are very important to mitigate SDG challenges (Khan, 2018).

To this end, the GED has put forward a proposal to localise the SDGs which has been discussed in the SDGs Implementation and Review Committee. In the meeting, it was decided that upazila nirbahi officers (UNOs) would take responsibility of a schematic localisation model, involving the government agencies and local government bodies at upazila level; and deputy commissioners (DCs) will be doing the same at the district level. Following the proposal, Upazila SDG Action Plans are to be prepared by mapping out the responsibilities as per SDG targets, finalising the monitoring and evaluation (M&E) framework, assessing the needs of the required resources and mapping the potential financing. Pilot projects are to be selected in upazilas to assess implementation of Upazila SDG Action Plans. The Upazila SDG Implementation and Coordination Committees will monitor and review, and submit reports at the district level. The district committees will advise the upazila committees. The District SDG Action Plans will be prepared by incorporating identified priorities from the Upazila Action Plans (Alam, 2018). The aforesaid process is expected to contribute to the preparation of a future National SDG Action Plan.

The Natore district administration has put into practice this localisation model at district level by chalking out local problems, charting the potentials, adopting development agenda and devising action plans for all government agencies which is known as the ‘Natore Model’ (Alam, 2018). However, this framework is still in its early stage. Roles of local government representatives, CSOs, NGOs and other stakeholders in the implementation process were not clearly defined. Also, it will be important that this approach puts adequate concentration into SDG target-oriented problem identification and development of innovative solutions.

A number of institutional steps have been taken towards localisation of SDGs in Bangladesh. The Cabinet meeting held on 31 December 2018 approved a list of 39 indicators as part of the country's effort towards localisation of SDGs. These 39 'priority' indicators representing 17 goals have been identified by the SDG Working Team in view of 7FYP. Besides, one additional indicator will be adopted based on the development issue which is of utmost concern to the respective district/upazila. It is also claimed that faster implementation of these indicators will be helpful in implementing other targets. It is to be noted that, 26 of these indicators are from global SDG indicator list, while 13 are derived considering national realities. Indeed, present availability of data apparently influenced the choice of indicators.

Towards engaging the local administrations in the SDG implementation process, three gazette notifications were issued on 16 May 2019, which outlined a guideline to form divisional/district/upazila committees on the implementation and coordination of SDGs at the local level, along with the terms of reference (ToR) for the committees. As per the ToR, the committees will be responsible to perform five key tasks in their administrative jurisdictions. These include: (i) following guidelines related to National Action Plan for SDGs and localisation of the SDGs in view of the aforesaid (39+1) priority SDG indicator list; (ii) adopting action plans, implementing, coordinating and monitoring the SDGs implementation at the local level; (iii) coordinating and supporting the NGOs in implementing and monitoring respective SDG-related action plans at local level; (iv) convening monthly meetings on progress towards SDG implementation activities at the local level in view of the priority indicator list and reporting to higher authorities accordingly, including to the Cabinet Division; and (v) organising meetings, seminars, workshops and trainings on SDG issues to raise awareness among all sections of the population. These committees include key government officials and local government representatives along with selected members (by the chairperson of the committee) of CSOs and private sector at the local level.

There is no doubt that the government has, in principle, emphasised the need for localisation of the SDGs. However, the localisation approach did not consider the existing structural bottlenecks in the local government system of Bangladesh. With very little administrative and financial independence (due to weak revenue administration capacity at the local level), the local government system may find it difficult to deliver specific local priorities (Bhattacharya, Monem and Rezvana, 2013). The aforesaid gazettes did not adequately specify

how the local government bodies can initiate steps for the implementation of SDGs in view of the local priorities. Within the present administrative framework, the local government bodies will be fully dependent on central government (for different grants) for any new actions (Ahmed et al., 2014). Indeed, ensuring an effective localisation of the SDG process is likely to be a major challenge for Bangladesh.

2.3 Financing

It is essential to know how much resources are going to be required and how to finance them to successfully deliver the SDGs at the country level (Bhattacharya, Khan and Sabbih, 2016). One of the key argued reasons for failing to achieve the overall MDGs is that resource requirement was not estimated upfront. Rahman, Khan and Sadique (2014) has argued that adequate public resources, including official development assistance (ODA), were not dedicated to attaining the goals, despite some acceleration in public expenditure in some relevant sectors. Thus, the SDGs framework calls for addressing these concerns through targetted interventions and resources both at the national and the local level.

Key cost estimates

The government's GED has conducted a detailed study titled 'SDGs Financing Strategy: Bangladesh Perspective', which states the work plan that has assessed the financial needs, and outlined the financing strategy to attain the SDGs in Bangladesh (GED, 2017c). Based on different assumptions¹, the study has mapped out the goal and target-wise additional cost at 2015-16 constant price. The study estimated that the total additional synchronised cost over the current provision of SDG-oriented investment by public and external sectors would be USD 928.5 billion at constant price over the period FY2016-17 to FY2029-30. It accounts to 19.8 per cent of the accumulated gross domestic product (GDP) under 7FYP extended scenario (GED, 2017c). Further, the annual average additional synchronised cost would be USD 66.3 billion. Out of this total additional amount required, USD 534.6 billion (59.1 per cent) would be required to implement the three most synchronised goals (SDGs 7, 8 and 9).

¹GDP growth rate is assumed to reach at 9 per cent by 2030 as per the 7FYP extended growth (7-per-cent-plus) projections.

Financing options

The GED (2017c) has identified that five potential sources are available for gap financing in Bangladesh. Public financing, private financing, public-private partnership (PPP), external sources and NGOs. It is estimated that during FY2016-17 to FY2029-30, on an average, public sector financing would account for 34 per cent, private sector 42 per cent, PPP 6 per cent, NGOs 4 per cent, and foreign direct investment (FDI), foreign aid and grants combined as external source would contribute 15 per cent to the total financing required. Thus, it is evident that around USD 796 billion (85 per cent of the total additional cost) would need to be financed from domestic sources (Table 3).

Table 3: Summary of financing options

(Billion USD)

Source	FY17-FY20	FY21-FY25	FY26-FY30	FY17-FY30
Total additional amount required from domestic sources	107.72	257.49	430.87	796.09
Total additional amount required from external sources	22.07	43.15	67.17	132.39
Total additional amount required from both domestic and external sources	129.79	300.65	498.04	928.48
Annual average additional amount required from domestic sources	26.93	51.50	86.17	56.86
Annual average additional amount required from external sources	5.52	8.62	13.44	9.46
of which: <i>FDI</i>	2.73	6.45	10.70	6.91
<i>Grants and aid</i>	2.79	2.17	2.74	2.55

Source: GED (2017c).

Increased revenue mobilisation and public investment are expected to work as major public finance sources (Bhattacharya, Khan and Sabbih, 2016). It can be facilitated by enhancing the SDG orientation of budget, introducing bond financing, deregulating energy prices, increasing debt financing and savings from efficiency gains (GED, 2017c). Besides, the role of the private sector is

going to be paramount in implementing the SDGs. However, mobilising funds from the two key sources (public and private finance) at the projected rate would be a difficult task. Bangladesh currently has one of the lowest revenue-GDP ratio (hovering at around 10 per cent on average during the last decade) in the world. Although there are some recommendations towards improving revenue mobilisation, such as embarking on new initiatives based on reforms, automation, capacity development and audit in the financing strategy (GED, 2017c), there is no time-bound action plans outlined in the document. Keeping the dismal outlook of foreign aid flow (due to global financial architecture and the prospect of Bangladesh's double graduation from the low-income country status and least developed country (LDC) group), low inflow of FDI and South-South cooperation, inadequate reform initiatives in revenue collection and deficiency in the PPP initiative into purview, how this extravagant amount will be mobilised remains a major concern. While Bangladesh will need to prioritise augmenting resources from domestic sources to finance the SDG ambition, the country will also need to emphasise mobilisation of concessional foreign finances. In addition to financial sources, non-financial sources, such as preferential market access and technology transfer can play a key role in achieving the SDG targets which were overlooked in the financing strategy. Indeed, the present financing strategy document (GED, 2017c) only provides partial cost estimates, and is inadequate to devise a comprehensive financing strategy for resource mobilisation for the SDG implementation. It will be critical for the government to prepare an action plan for mobilising resources for the SDGs at the earliest.

2.4 Data and monitoring

The need for data and statistics to monitor the progress on SDGs was clearly demonstrated by the call of the High-Level Panel of Eminent Persons on the Post-2015 Development Agenda (HLP) for a sustainable development “data revolution” (HLP, 2013). Following the call, the UN Secretary-General established an Inter-Agency and Expert Group on the Sustainable Development Goal Indicators (IAEG-SDGs) (Rahman et al., 2016).

Data gap assessment

The GED (2017b) undertook an assessment of the current status (availability, sources, gaps) of data for SDG indicators in the country and found that data for less than one-third of the 232 indicators (70) are readily available, while 108 are partially available and 63 are not available at all, making the overall monitoring of SDGs very challenging.

M&E framework for SDGs

Following the data assessment, the GED (2018b) has developed an M&E framework of SDGs for the latest available indicators suggested by IAEG-SDGs as of November 2017. It was found that presently, 64 indicators are readily available, 58 indicators are partially available, and 110 indicators are not available, including indicators for which metadata is yet to be finalised by the IAEG-SDGs (Table 4). Assessment also suggests that, while data availability is in a better situation for SDGs 3, 4, 9, 5, 8, 17, 7 and 2, data scarcity can be noticed for SDG 12, followed by SDGs 14, 13, 11, 16, 10 and 15 (GED, 2018d).

Table 4: Goal-wise data availability

Goal	Total indicator	Number of indicators with readily available data	Number of indicators with partially available data	Number of indicators with no available data
SDG 1	14	3	4	7
SDG 2	13	3	5	5
SDG 3	27	13	10	4
SDG 4	11	1	7	3
SDG 5	14	10	0	4
SDG 6	11	2	2	7
SDG 7	6	3	1	2
SDG 8	17	4	8	5
SDG 9	12	3	3	6
SDG 10	11	4	1	6
SDG 11	15	1	3	11
SDG 12	13	0	0	13
SDG 13	8	1	1	6
SDG 14	10	0	1	9
SDG 15	14	2	5	7
SDG 16	23	4	5	14
SDG 17	25	12	5	8
Total (incl. repetition)	244	66	61	117
Total (excl. repetition)	232	64	58	110
% of total	100.0	27.6	25.0	47.4

Source: GED (2018b).

The framework provides baseline data for each indicator for which data are available, and the target for 2030, with two milestone years – 2020 and 2025 – in the intervening period. In the framework, the baseline year has been set at 2014-15 for indicators for which yearly data are available (e.g. GDP, budget and administrative sources); and for the remaining indicators, the latest available survey data has been considered as the baseline figure (GED, 2018b). Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics (BBS), the national statistical office (NSO) of Bangladesh, will be responsible to generate data for 101 indicators.

National Data Coordination Committee

The GoB has formed the NDCC through an official gazette on 5 April 2018 to identify data gaps, ensure the availability of quality data and coordinate among ministries and divisions to make data available for SDGs and monitor other international commitments. The Committee is comprised of a total of 50 members including representatives from business associations, think tanks and academia. The Committee organised three meetings till date, and based on the decision of the second meeting, seven thematic Technical Sub-committees were formed on 18 February 2019. These include: (a) Education; (b) Health, Population and Nutrition; (c) Economy; (d) Information and Communication Technology (ICT); (e) Environment and Climate; (f) Agriculture; and (g) Socio-economic. The NDCC is also responsible for ensuring data availability for the aforesaid priority SDG indicator list.

Limited progress has been made very recently through NDCC meetings with regard to collecting data for the SDG indicators from different administrative sources. Progress in terms of generating new data through initiating new surveys or adding modules to existing surveys has not been evident. Besides, according to BBS (2018a), there is no concrete plan on initiating new surveys for generating disaggregated data and filling the data gaps. Furthermore, SDGs are required to be monitored annually, while the key surveys which are responsible for providing data for majority of the indicators, such as Household Income and Expenditure Survey (HIES), Labour Force Survey (LFS), Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey (MICS), Bangladesh Demographic and Health Survey (BDHS), etc. are conducted with a 3–5 years lag. There is also no clear direction in the action plan as to how these indicators will be monitored during the intermittent period. There is also no dedicated effort with regard to recognising the non-official data. With regard to disaggregation, there is not much progress and still very much concentrated on the criteria of sex, and in few cases age and region. Therefore, other vulnerable and marginalised groups are not being captured adequately which

is hindering the realisation of the ‘leave no one behind’ principle of the SDGs. It is also worthwhile to mention here that the budget dedicated for the NSO has not been increasing at a proportionate rate, and has in fact declined as a share in recent fiscal years. Budget allocation for the SID of the Government has increased from BDT 381 crore in FY2014-15 to BDT 599 crore in FY2018-19; but declined as a share of total budget, from 0.2 per cent to 0.1 per cent over the same period. Acknowledging the already scarce human resources, such inadequacy in financial allocation may restrain the NSO to perform its highly demanding data collection and capacity building activities for the SDGs.

Reporting and reviewing progress

With an objective to create a data repository for monitoring the implementation progress of SDGs and other national development targets, an SDG tracker has been developed by the Access to Information (a2i) programme of the PMO, in collaboration with the GED, BBS, and other government and private sector stakeholders, and with the technical support from the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) (GED, 2018a).

Bangladesh also has submitted the VNR at the UN in 2017 (GED, 2017a). Bangladesh later produced the SDG Progress Report 2018, which is one of the pioneer country reports on SDG progress in South Asia (GED, 2018d).

The GoB organised a National Conference on SDGs Implementation Review (SIR) during 4–6 July 2018, as part of systematic follow-up and review of the implementation of the Agenda 2030 at the national level (GED, 2018e). The conference focused on apprising different stakeholders about the progress on SDGs implementation over the preceding two and a half years. A total of 2,000 participants, including ministers and government officials, representatives from NGOs, CSOs, private sector, academia, development partners, rights activists and researchers participated and presented their reports in different plenary sessions. Current actions, identified challenges and future course of actions were highlighted in the presentations in this national conference (GED, 2018e). This conference also helped in preparing the first SDG Progress Report of Bangladesh 2018. SIR conference is likely to be a bi-annual event.

However, it could be evinced from both SIR 2018 and SDG Progress Report 2018 that, there was more discussion about the progress at the macro level, rather than the process (policies/new acts/changes in legal framework, new programmes, finance, etc.). Discussion was overtly emphasised on the

institutionalisation issue. With regard to the process, the Progress Report only outlined few new policies/strategies, e.g. Overseas Employment Policy 2016, National Strategy for Adolescent Health (2017–30), Power System Master Plan 2016, Expatriates’ Welfare and Overseas Employment Policy 2016, National Sustainable Development Strategy (NSDS) 2010–21; new acts, e.g. Road Transport Act 2018, Child Marriage Restraint Act 2017, Dowry Prohibition Bill 2018; programmes/projects, e.g. One House, One Farm project, 4th HNPSP, 2017–22, PEDP-4, Secondary Education Development Programme (SEDP) 2017/18–2022/23, Higher Education Quality Enhancement Project; and other new actions, e.g. National Household Database (NHD). Regrettably, there has not been adequate discussion on how these new initiatives will contribute to SDG attainment. Besides, due to the lack of a summary on qualitative assessment of the progress, it was also not possible to understand how different drivers acted positively in better achievement in certain SDGs, and where they were not so effective. Further, the financing issue was grossly overlooked in the assessment. The reports also overlooked how the internal coordination mechanism among different ministries and divisions functioned towards attaining certain SDGs. Concurrently, due to inadequate discussion on the process and sector-specific efforts of the government, it was not possible to identify the priority of Bangladesh in the SDGs during the first four years. In addition, the importance of synergies and trade-offs among different goals were also not adequately captured.

2.5 Partnership

Due to the interlinked nature and width of the SDGs, delivering the goals in time puts immense pressure on the governments, if it has to make the delivery alone. In this context, multi-stakeholder partnerships can ensure the inclusiveness from both benefactors and beneficiary of the Agenda 2030 (UNDG, 2014). An accountability mechanism composed of all stakeholders including representatives from the public sector, NGOs/CSOs, the private sector, academia, international NGOs (INGOs), development partners can work as an operational device to implement SDGs at country level (Bhattacharya et al., 2016).

In implementing the SDGs at the local level, civil society groups may play a critical role in four key areas (Rahman and Khan, 2017). These include: representing the interests of the poorest and marginalised local people; playing as an agent of accountability; playing as an agent for service delivery; and, supporting data collection, reporting, follow-up and review. In recognition of the fact that the SDGs are overarching, the GoB has adopted

a whole of society approach for implementation and attainment of the SDGs (GED, 2017a; 2018a).

The Inter-Ministerial Committee on SDGs Implementation and Review is the principal committee to oversee and provide policy guidance for implementation of the SDGs action plan. Apart from the 20 regular members, who are secretaries and senior secretaries of different ministries, the Inter-Ministerial Committee meetings are attended by representatives from CSOs and development partners on the special invitation, and they provide valuable comments and feedback. The Committee has prepared an action plan for implementation of SDGs based on four pillars of the Framework of Collaboration between the GoB and Development Partners. These include: enhancing evidence-informed policy analysis and formulation; accelerating the implementation of policies; securing and prioritising financing; and fostering a whole of society approach.

The SDG Working Team, which is designated to provide recommendations on the implementation of SDGs to the Principal Coordinator (SDG Affairs), provide technical support to ministries and divisions on SDG-related action plans on behalf of the Principal Coordinator, and provide support on future VNR-related activities. This team has a total of 14 members, including government officials, academia and CSO representatives.

Unlike the MDGs, the GoB, through forming a SDGs Implementation Subcommittee by the NGO Affairs Bureau, has taken the initiative to partner with NGOs and make their contribution visible and accountable. The NGO Affairs Bureau, in collaboration with Citizen's Platform for SDGs, Bangladesh organised a conference titled 'Role of NGOs in Implementation of the SDGs in Bangladesh', on 18 May 2017. It was followed by the formulation of a NGOs' SDG Action Plan. The plan sets to map out all the activities and contributions of NGOs related to the SDGs, irrespective of their source of fund.

However, apart from inviting private sector representatives as special observers for different committee meetings, there is no formal and dedicated platform as yet for institutionalising partnership with the private sector who is expected to play a pioneering role in financing the SDGs. Same is also applicable for NGOs and CSOs. The role of the parliamentarians is also unclear. The national parliament is a very good platform for practising accountability and raising awareness among the citizens, where parliamentarians can discuss and debate on local SDG priorities, progresses, challenges and success stories during the parliament sessions. Regrettably,

to date, there has not been a single parliament session dedicated to the aforesaid process.

2.6 Lessons learnt and way forward

Bangladesh is one of the front-runners in institutionalising the SDG implementation mechanism. Its specific measures in this regard include establishing high-level platforms, coordination of intergovernmental agencies, integration of policies, undertaking priority-setting exercise and devising action plans. Initiative has also been taken to involve non-state stakeholders in the official institutional framework of the SDG implementation process through adopting a whole of society approach. However, these initiatives suggest that more success has been achieved in the 'upstream', and that there is a lack of progress in the 'downstream'. A number of future challenges may be drawn from the experience of the first four years of integrating the SDGs into the national development process in Bangladesh.

First, the government has achieved major strides in largely aligning the SDG targets with the 7FYP. Curiously, some of the critical areas (such as, targets under the SDG 4) were not found to be aligned with the 7FYP. There is no clear direction and timeline as to how, through revisions, the 'not-aligned' targets will be integrated into the current or future SDG-oriented national development plans, policies and strategies. To this end, discrete attempts may not be sufficient. This calls for further scrutiny and fine-tuning of the national action plans for the SDGs.

Second, the concept of 'localisation of SDGs' has received a great deal of attention among the government officials and policymakers; a manifestation of which can be observed in the planned upscaling of the Natore Model. The government has also taken steps to develop institutional framework at the local levels involving both state and non-state actors. However, avoiding political favourism while involving NSAs will be a critical prerequisite. Local solutions have to be devised through identifying local priorities and problems and utilising local knowledge and resources. The localisation of SDGs initiatives will likely to test the capacities of the local government bodies. Indeed, further actions are required to strengthen the local government through overcoming the structural bottlenecks.

Third, while financial resource requirement for implementing the SDGs has been estimated and their possible sources have been identified, mobilising funds from the potential sources at the projected rate would be a difficult

task, particularly for a country like Bangladesh, which has one of the lowest revenue-GDP ratios in the world. Flow of funds through foreign aid, FDI, South-South cooperation and blended finance are still low, compared to their targets. Therefore, the major effort should be put on tax reforms, attracting private investments and identifying other innovative sources. Additionally, non-financial resources should be tapped. These include facilitating technology transfer, seeking favourable market access and urging for conducive international trade rules.

Fourth, efforts in identifying the data gaps for SDG indicators is well-appreciated. However, limited or no progress has been made so far in generating new data from various sources, such as through initiating new surveys, from administrative sources, and by recognising non-official data. Meanwhile, in spite of the fact that the financial support for the NSO has almost doubled in absolute terms, it has declined as a share of total budget during the last five fiscal years. There is also not much progress with regard to harnessing more disaggregated data for addressing the vulnerable and marginalised groups, and ensuring that ‘no one is left behind’.

Fifth, there is no formal platform as yet for institutionalising partnership with the private sector, though some attempts were observed in organising dialogues with them. In some cases, private sector representatives were called as special observers. As the resource requirement suggests, the private sector will have to play a pioneering role in financing the SDGs. Hence, involving them in each step of the SDG implementation process from early stage is critically important. Same is also applicable for NGOs and CSOs. Furthermore, the role of parliamentarians is still unclear. There is no framework till date for the parliamentarians to discuss and debate on progress, challenges and success stories of the SDG implementation during the parliament sessions.

There are also a few more issues which require further attention. These include: trade-off and synergies are not adequately conceptualised and put into policy priorities; opportunities of collaboration at the regional level are not adequately explored; systemic concerns, such as trade war, deteriorating global and regional circumstances and national transitions should be taken into consideration while planning and reviewing Bangladesh’s progress on the SDGs. Also, it is often noticed that government’s efforts are confined within the traditional conceptualisation of inclusiveness. Hence, the fulfilment of the aspiration of ‘leave no one behind’ during the SDG implementation process may prove to be difficult.

Overall, it may be said that, often at the implementation level, 'business as usual' actions have been put under the 'SDG bracket', rather than transforming these types of practices for delivering SDG aspirations. It appears that the SIR and the APA are considered as key annual follow-up and review processes at the national level. However, one may expect a more rigorous mechanism under these processes, which will need to be followed by concrete policy actions. It has been almost four years since the adoption of the SDGs on 25 September 2015. Therefore, it is high time to address the SDG implementation-related challenges in a more comprehensive manner.

SECTION THREE

Changes in Non-state Actors' Activities and Priorities

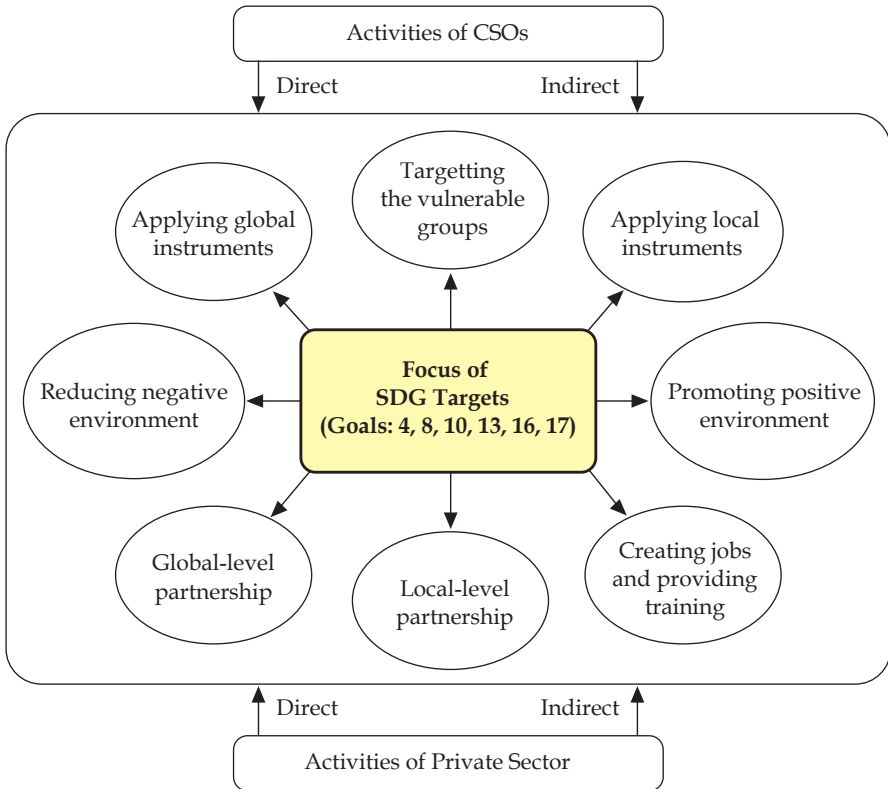
Historically, NSAs have played an important role in addressing the priorities of the people who are left behind. They have been doing this through activism, awareness raising, capacity building and direct support. Since six of the SDGs (i.e. 4, 8, 10, 13, 16 and 17) are the focus of this study, the engagement of the CSOs and the private sector are examined in line with these SDGs and related targets. This section reviews NSAs' engagement in SDG implementation from five perspectives: (i) strategic change in focus of activities and interventions of CSOs and the private sector; (ii) new initiatives focusing SDGs; (iii) changes in funding pattern to CSOs; (iv) awareness raising by the actors; and (v) interfacing of SDG-related activities with the government.

The analysis of the targets of the six SDGs presented in this section also indicates that there are variations in the focus of the targets of these six SDGs. Such variations are found in case of: (i) targetting the LNOB groups²; (ii) applying local instruments for intervention; (iii) applying global instruments for intervention; (iv) promoting positive environment; (v) reducing negative externalities of the environment; (vi) building partnership at local level; and (vii) building partnership at global level. Variations in the focus of targets are also present in six key areas (Diagram 1). This can provide some guidance on the nature of engagement of the NSAs.

As mentioned in the introductory section of this study, six Goal-Groups of the Citizen's Platform for SDGs, Bangladesh prepared reports on six SDGs following a common analytical framework. A major focus of these goal-specific reports was to review the engagement of the CSOs and the private sector in implementing the selected SDGs. While all the reports highlight the role of CSOs, they could not adequately present the role of the private sector. The present section is based on the information available in the reports prepared by the partner organisations of the Citizen's Platform, where

²'Leave No One Behind' group—implying the marginalised and vulnerable sections of the community, who are in more risk to getting excluded or 'left behind' from the development process.

Diagram 1: Scope of engagement by non-state actors



Source: Illustration by authors.

information of many other initiatives may have been missed out. Hence, this review may not present a fuller picture of the engagement of the NSAs in implementing different SDGs. The following sub-sections review the performance of the NSAs under the five different areas mentioned above.

3.1 Strategic change in focus of activities and interventions

CSOs' focus on SDG-related activities

Goal 4: The NGOs are working mostly to address the left-behind groups like those living in geographically hard-to-reach areas, deprived and underprivileged communities and physically-challenged people. CSOs working in education programmes are actively involved in achieving the targets of SDG 4. They closely follow and participate in policy processes in

relation to the SDGs. NGO programmes are focused on both service delivery and advocacy, which has not changed following the adoption of the SDGs.

With a service delivery approach, NGOs are carrying out programmes/projects to address the issues of dropout and left-out children, inclusive education, early childhood development and care, girls' education, education services for geographically hard-to-reach areas, technical and vocational education, lifelong learning, adult education, multi-lingual education, tertiary and vocational education. Despite various efforts and progress achieved in SDG 4 in different dimensions, significant challenges remain, which include inclusive and equitable education, quality of education at all levels, quality of teaching, adult literacy and lifelong learning. CSOs play an important role in holding the government to account for its promises in the area of education.

Goal 8: As the SDGs seek to 'leave no one behind', many CSOs are implementing targeted interventions that are particularly designed to reach people from different backgrounds and those from marginalised communities. A number of CSOs are specifically targeting disadvantaged groups and are trying to equip them with the necessary skills for acquiring feasible jobs.

CSOs, along with the public and private actors, are working towards developing a skilled workforce in the country. Skill-developing interventions have focused on building specific technical skills, as well as soft skills. A combination of the two is essential to help job-seekers, especially the youth, particularly in view of the modern changing labour market. In addition to skill trainings, CSOs are also contributing by way of raising awareness about the workers' rights and important life skills (such as, personal health and financial literacy); this also helps in advancing the decent work agenda.

A number of CSO interventions are focused on the readymade garments (RMG) sector to help improve the overall working environment in the factories. Some organisations are also working with small and medium enterprises (SMEs) to support them in promoting good work practices, as well as to improve their businesses.

Goal 10: Bangladesh's NGOs are engaged in wide-ranging activities in the areas of reducing inequalities, such as increasing access to various resources and services, mitigating vulnerabilities and enhancing capacities of the most marginalised sections of the society. These activities involve direct interventions, advocacy, research and policy influencing, through which NSAs and NGOs in Bangladesh are addressing many of the issues that are

relevant to attaining SDG 10 in Bangladesh. Since NGOs in Bangladesh have a comparative advantage in reaching the marginalised groups, their contributions to attaining the SDG aspiration of 'leave no one behind' demands special mention.

As regards SDG 10.1, NGOs are making important contributions by implementing various programmes that aim at raising the quality of human development and reducing the access gap for the poor. Platform's partner NGOs have, in their portfolio, several capacity development programmes, including imparting vocational training towards better income opportunities and interventions towards improved livelihood. The target groups here are mostly the marginalised communities. The NGOs are also engaged in promoting the cause of social inclusion geared towards reducing income inequality and the creation of asset base.

Among the different targets of SDG 10, NGOs in Bangladesh are proactively engaged in the context of SDG 10.2. A large number of NGOs are involved in a host of activities that aim at empowering people and promoting social, economic and political inclusion of all, irrespective of age, sex, disability, race, ethnicity and origin, religious, economic or other status. Many NGOs have specific programmes for the disadvantaged groups, such as *adivasis* (indigenous people), *dalits* (untouchables), fisher-folks, *hijras* (transgender/third gender people), MSMs (men who have sex with men) and HIV patients. They go into hard-to-reach areas to work with hard-to-reach communities. NGOs also have specific programmes for persons with disabilities; some carry out advocacy programmes to promote disability-friendly education, production practices and transportation, communication. Majority of NGOs have women empowerment programmes to help vulnerable and excluded women, imparting knowledge and skills with a view to enhancing income and employment opportunities.

As regards SDG 10.3, NGOs in Bangladesh have been actively advocating for equal opportunities for all, and elimination of all discriminatory laws. For example, they have been pressing for enactment of Anti-Discrimination Act, which at present is with the Ministry of Law, waiting to be tabled as a Bill.

In connection with SDG 10.4, a number of advocacy NGOs in Bangladesh have been promoting the cause of fiscal justice and progressive fiscal policies, and for better and universal social protection. NSAs, such as civil society think tanks have been forcefully arguing in favour of distributive justice and social protection through evidence-based research.

In case of SDGs 10.5 and 10.6, a number of NGOs and other NSAs, such as think tanks have been actively engaged in various global fora, demanding greater voice and representation of the countries from the South in various global rules-setting institutions that deal with trade, finance, technology transfer, etc. Some think tanks are strongly arguing for more effective contribution by developed countries in making the three means of implementation work for the attainment of the SDG 10. A few NGOs are working in areas that concern SDG 10.7 that fosters facilitation of safe migration. They are advocating for responsible migration and reduction of migration costs.

Goal 13: CSOs working for different targets under different goals have been involved in post-2015 in areas with their core areas of experiences and expertise. A notable difference is observed in the case of Goal 13, which focuses on climate change. Most of the activities of the CSOs were initiated around 2015 or afterwards, partly because the issue received increased attention following the 2015 Paris Climate Conference. The CSOs are now involved in addressing the issues of the LNOB groups by applying local instruments, promoting a positive environment, and ensuring local and global partnership building. Some examples of specific activities include the following: forming climate-related LNOB groups, such as climate refugees, including women, young people and children; assessing their loss and damage caused due to climatic and disaster events; and finally, applying climate-related mitigation instruments, such as building climate-resilient infrastructure, undertaking pilot mitigating measures, promoting climate-resilient agriculture through compost preparation, vermin compost use, local seed production and reservation, organic pesticide preparation, use of saline-tolerant seeds and fertilisers, and capacitating them with diversified livelihood options. A number of other activities have been undertaken by the CSOs, which include policy advocacy at global level, such as engagement with the Conference of Parties (COP) process, research and awareness through early warning system and community-level management of flood/cyclone shelter system.

CSOs have built partnerships at local and global levels to raise concerns related to climate change. These include GO-NGO partnership in the COP process of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), greater accountability in funding climate actions, especially in case of adaptations and technology transfer to the LDCs, and INGOs and CSOs partnership at the global level in generating resources to support the implementation of climate change and disaster reduction plan of action.

Goal 16: The engagement of CSOs have been more specific in identifying the LNOB groups. Several CSOs are actively engaged to reduce all forms of violence and related death. Some of the CSOs are working with the poor and marginalised communities, such as dalits, to reduce domestic violence and other forms of violence. Community human rights activism is being undertaken to establish the rights of the citizens and to promote awareness for protecting the environment through community forums. Some of the CSOs also facilitate to promote human rights defenders among the marginalised communities.

The CSO platform that has been formed with child rights organisations work together for protecting and promoting child rights. Some CSOs are working for providing access to justice in Bangladesh, with an enhanced focus on inclusion of marginalised and socially excluded communities. CSOs are working for preventing corruption and raising awareness against corruption; some implement programmes for developing effective, accountable and transparent institutions at all levels. Some are involved in ensuring responsive, while others are involved in ensuring inclusive, participatory and representative decision-making at all levels. A number of CSOs are working with the government for promoting legal identity for all, including birth registration by 2030. Table 5 summarises some of the organisations which are working towards implementation of various targets of Goal 16.

Table 5: CSO engagement in implementation of Goal 16: Examples

Target	Organisation(s)	Partnership status with GoB
16.1: Significantly reduce all forms of violence and related death rates everywhere	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nagorik Uddyog • Acid Survivors Foundation • Bandhu Social Welfare Society • Ain o Salish Kendra • Human Rights Forum Bangladesh 	
16.2: End abuse, exploitation, trafficking and all forms of violence against and torture of children	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nagorik Uddyog • Ain o Salish Kendra • CSO platform working on child rights issues 	
16.3: Promote the rule of law at the national and international levels and ensure equal access to justice for all	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bandhu Social Welfare Society • Bangladesh Legal Aid and Services Trust • Ain o Salish Kendra • Brottee 	

(Table 5 contd.)

(Table 5 contd.)

Target	Organisation(s)	Partnership status with GoB
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Acid Survivors Foundation • Nagorik Uddyog • Wave Foundation • HEKS/EPER 	
16.5: Substantially reduce corruption and bribery in all their forms	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Transparency International Bangladesh • Nagorik Uddyog 	
16.6: Develop effective, accountable and transparent institutions at all levels	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Transparency International Bangladesh • Shushashoner Jonno Nagorik • Brotee • Nagorik Uddyog • HEKS/EPER • ActionAid Bangladesh • Democracywatch • Sushasoner Jonny Procharavizan 	
16.7: Ensure responsive, inclusive, participatory and representative decision-making at all levels	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • HEKS/EPER • The British Council • ActionAid Bangladesh • Nagorik Uddyog • Transparency International Bangladesh • Wave Foundation • Democracywatch 	
16.9: By 2030, provide legal identity for all, including birth registration	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nagorik Uddyog 	Working with the government for promoting legal identity for all, including birth registration by 2030
16.10: Ensure public access to information and protect fundamental freedoms, in accordance with national legislation and international agreements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Transparency International Bangladesh • Manusher Jonno Foundation • Management and Resources Development Initiative • Shushashoner Jonno Nagorik • Nagorik Uddyog • Democracywatch • Right to Information Forum 	
16.a Strengthen relevant national institutions, including through	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nagorik Uddyog 	Partnering with the National Human Rights Commission

(Table 5 contd.)

(Table 5 contd.)

Target	Organisation(s)	Partnership status with GoB
international cooperation, for building capacity at all levels, in particular in developing countries, to prevent violence and combat terrorism and crime		to promote human rights

Source: Prepared by authors based on Citizen's Platform for SDGs, Bangladesh (2019).

Goal 17: Notable strategic changes are observed in the case of CSO engagement in Goal 17. In terms of applying instruments to achieve the targets of SDG 17, CSOs traditionally focused on trade and aid-related issues during the pre-2015 period. This has now widened to various other areas, such as technology, capacity building and partnership building during the post-2015 period. The nature of the partnership has changed during the post-2015 period by building a partnership with the private sector. Such changes in the activities of the CSOs have taken place due to changes in the priority of development cooperation over time, where SDGs-related issues receive more attention while supporting the CSOs. On the other hand, Bangladesh's national priority has shifted over the years, particularly after it has graduated from the lower-income to lower middle-income country, and fulfilled the criteria towards graduation process from an LDC to the developing country category. As a result, some of the trade and aid-related instruments applied by CSOs have been directed towards new instruments, such as bilateral free trade agreements (FTAs), debt stress and South-South cooperation.

Moving beyond traditional issues, such as tax justice and financial transparency issues, CSOs are now engaged in emerging issues by building new forms of partnership with other organisations. The Tax Justice Network is a case in point whose activities focus on issues related to financial disclosure, tax injustice and human rights issues. CSOs have recently been working extensively with youth population to address their socio-economic concerns.

CSOs' engagement has been widened to many areas, some of which include the following: (i) promotion of wages for workers working in the global value chains; (ii) ensuring fair price for the manufacturers of the exporting countries; (iii) engagement in global policy debates on the Southern issues; (iv) working as community watchdog for climate finance of the government;

(v) enhancing participation of community-based organisations (CBOs) and CSOs in democratic governance in Bangladesh; (vi) strengthening knowledge and leadership capacities of grassroots-level CBOs and CSOs to secure social and economic rights for the vulnerable communities through policies and national budgets.

Private sector's engagement

The private sector has been contributing towards achieving the SDGs in a number of ways. CPD, as part of the present exercise, carried out a web-based data analysis of the engagement of the private sector at the global level, based on the information available on the website titled Sustainable Development Partnership Platform (www.sustainabledevelopment.un.org/partnership/browse/)³, a UN-led initiative. The website reported information of a total of 702 different initiatives, mostly led by the private sector, CSOs and other organisations (as of 10 March 2019). Key areas of their engagement include activities for knowledge sharing on climate change, gender equality, community development, media services, livelihood development, e-schools, ICT capability development, training, improving organisational capacity, PPP, promotion of marketing products, green growth by reduced chemical use and ideas for app development. Instead of engaging directly with the corporate entity, the private sector has formed different entities, such as foundations, corporate social responsibility (CSR) funds and providing financial support to universities, research organisations, schools and banks to implement different activities. Such engagements are found in different forms of collaboration between different organisations, such as Foundation–University collaboration, Foundation–CSO collaboration, University–Foundation collaboration and UN agencies–Foundations–private companies collaboration.

By and large, a 'business as usual' approach is observed among the private sector in Bangladesh in addressing different concerns related to the SDG goals. A thorough search on the websites of the business associations revealed that among the SDGs under the review of the present research, engagement of the major business associations falls under two SDGs only – Goals 8 and 17. A list of their activities on these two SDGs is presented below.

Goal 8: (i) training programme for women entrepreneurship by Dhaka Chamber of Commerce and Industry (DCCI); (ii) preparing recommendations for the national budget, works on taxes, value added tax (VAT), SME, and price monitoring by the Federation of Bangladesh Chambers of Commerce

³ Accessed on 2 February 2019.

and Industries (FBCCI); (iii) workplace safety by Bangladesh Garment Manufacturers and Exporters Association (BGMEA); (iv) training courses on ICT by Chittagong Chamber of Commerce and Industry (CCCI).

Goal 17: (i) partnership with different stakeholders by Metropolitan Chamber of Commerce and Industry (MCCI) and CCCI; (ii) partnership with national and foreign delegation by FBCCI; (iii) trade facilitation and promotion by BGMEA; (iv) protect and promote trade, commerce and manufacturers by Bangladesh Textile Mills Association (BTMA) and CCCI; (v) bridging the communication gap with different stakeholders by BTMA and Foreign Investors' Chamber of Commerce and Industry (FICCI); (vi) collect and disseminate statistics and other information relating to trade, commerce and industry by CCCI; and (vii) facilitating exports by FICCI.

3.2 New initiatives focusing SDGs

CSOs have undertaken various activities which are new and directly target different focus areas of six goals. In some instances, CSOs have been applying new instruments through setting up new institutions. For example, a platform comprising like-minded CSOs and private sector organisations, the Citizen's Platform for SDGs, Bangladesh, has been set up with a view to undertaking targeted activities under all SDGs. Many other CSOs are working on specific goals and targets.

Under a GO-NGO-INGO partnership, the Campaign for Popular Education (CAMPE) has contributed to developing a Strategic Framework and Action Plan on SDGs, along with the Ministry of Education and Ministry of Primary and Mass Education (MoPME) of the Government in 2019.

As an instrument, CARE Bangladesh has undertaken a programme called 'Age-old Model Modernised to Serve School Dropouts and Marginalised Youth', which is directly linked with Goal 8 targets of 8.2, 8.3, 8.5 and 8.6. As part of the process, BRAC built the traditional master-apprentice system and came up with STAR-skills training for advancing resources which is a six-month apprenticeship training equipping school dropouts and young people (aged 14-18) from the ultra-poor and disadvantaged families.

Through the CSO-led initiatives, some of the LNOB groups have either been newly identified or received special attention. Hijras, women from dalit and *harijan* communities, adivasis and sex workers have got more prominence through various initiatives by CSOs under Goal 10.

In case of addressing the concerns of Goal 13, Christian Commission for Development in Bangladesh has undertaken projects with particular focus on developing people-centred technological solutions, such as Climate Change Adaptation and Mitigation Technology Park. Similarly, Practical Action Bangladesh undertook projects on Weather Information Board for Farmers. The climate-vulnerable groups, including women, youth and children have been better identified as LNOB groups through various initiatives undertaken targeting climate-related activities under Goal 13. CSOs have been engaged in key plans and policies, such as Climate Change and Gender Action Plan (CCGAP) in establishing a national mechanism to address climate-induced disaster loss and damage in Bangladesh.

Rights-based CSOs have undertaken policy activism to enact new policies and laws to lessen the adversities of the negative environment under Goal 16. For example, HEKS/EPER and Nagorik Uddyog have been advocating for enacting the Anti-Discrimination Act since 2012. CSO advocacy has facilitated to undertake four regulations and the Food Safety Rules, 2017. An office order was issued with 19 instructions for ensuring transparency and accountability of the local resource funds at the DCs' office in all districts, because of the initiatives undertaken by the CSOs.

CSOs are engaged in newer forms of activities under Goal 17. These include addressing tax-related irregularities, including restrictive tax treaties and its consequences on revenue losses. National CSOs have been building a partnership with global organisations, such as Global Alliance for Tax Justice to work on various tax-related issues. Several CSOs work towards raising voices on development effectiveness and building a broader constituency by enhancing capacity and strengthening network. Some of the CSOs, such as the Oxfam, ActionAid and CPD have been working on issues, such as tax, trade governance, climate finance, knowledge generation and research, capacity building of CSOs/CBOs on SDGs and national FYPs.

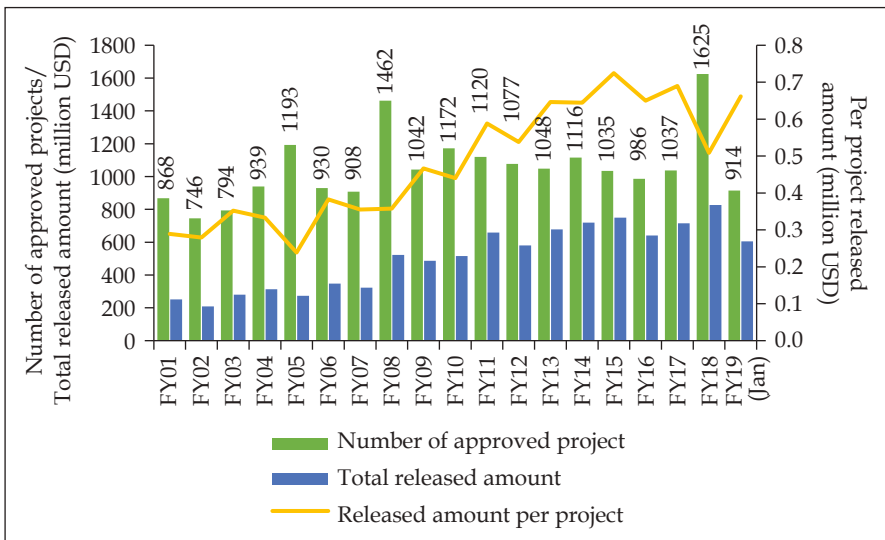
3.3 Changes in funding pattern to CSOs

The flow of fund targetted to CSOs in Bangladesh has experienced two distinct trends in recent years, particularly following the intrusion of displaced Rohingya population from Myanmar since 2017. *First*, a large part of the recent rise in the flow of foreign fund is particularly for supporting the Rohingyas. Hence, there is a deceleration of fund for CSOs targeting activities for Bangladeshi people. *Second*, due to Bangladesh's graduation from low-income country to lower middle-income country and prospective journey towards

developing country from the LDC status, it is likely that there is a deceleration of fund for Bangladeshi CSOs and NGOs.

The flow of fund to the NGOs in Bangladesh has seen either slow rise (in case of overall flow) or decline (in case of release per projects) since 2015 (Figure 2). Given the demand for increased allocation of fund in implementing the SDGs, such decelerating trend in the flow of fund for CSOs will shrink their involvement in SDG-related activities. It is to be noted that CSOs and NGOs do not have alternate sources of the funds at the national level to carry out these activities. Taking this into consideration, the government should consider creating an SDG Trust Fund for CSOs for undertaking projects related to various SDGs.

Figure 2: Flow of foreign grants through the NGO Affairs Bureau



Source: NGO Affairs Bureau (n.d.).

3.4 Awareness raising by the actors

Awareness raising is one of the key instruments applied by CSOs in implementing different targets. The nature of awareness raising initiatives varies in terms of intervention required to implement particular targets. This study focuses on a few specific initiatives which have been initiated during the post-2015 period and has made progress in implementing SDGs.

In case of Goal 4, the Center for Disability and Development (CDD) is working to develop an inclusive education model in the rural area (at Kulaura

upazila under the Moulvibazar district) of Bangladesh, in collaboration with community partnership under a project titled 'Public Health Reform Programme Board (PHRPB)', supported by the CBM. With the combined effort of the government and NGOs, and active participation of all related stakeholders, including upazila education officers, teachers, local government representatives and the community people, including persons with disabilities are engaged in project planning from the very beginning. They were also involved in monitoring.

ActionAid Bangladesh has established 25 women's café in and around workers' colony, slums or adjacent to the selected industrial areas. Trade union members, women peer leaders and workers gather there for the common goal of demanding rights and entitlements of the workers (SDG 8). These cafés have provided a unique opportunity for the RMG workers for an innovative approach to create a breathing space for female factory workers. The cafés foster a learning environment and offer a wide range of services. Female RMG workers come to the these cafés to acquire knowledge and information relating to labour law and workers' rights, receive healthcare and legal aid, and share personal issues with other workers. After the project funding had ended, the cafés sustained through opening up daily product shops, tailoring shops and beauty parlours for workers. A total of 550 women peer leaders, trained through the project, can use their skills to support the management of these cafés. Factory management has benefitted through a reduction in disputes and increase in business productivity, while becoming more gender-sensitive and concerned about employee welfare.

British Council in Bangladesh also supported other CSOs to develop Migration Grievance Management Committees (MGMCs) under a common platform. These committees manage migration-related grievances or complaints at the local level, raise migration-related awareness, and provide necessary information for the aspiring migrants. Some of the district offices of the project's field-level partners are also acting as Migration Information Support Centres (MISCs) by engaging the MGMC members. The model is effective given the local coverage and influence of the CSOs who run the MGMCs. MGMCs receive capacity building support, which strengthens its ability to protect labour right in access to justice and information.

In the case of SDG 10, a unique initiative has been undertaken by Avijan, which is a dalit-focused NGO working exclusively for upholding the rights of this community, especially their women. The organisation is engaged more

in grassroots policy advocacy, local-level campaign and movements, CBO building and raising the voice of dalit women for their rights and dignity. Avijan is engaged in campaign for adopting the Anti-Discrimination Act, running pre-primary schools for dalit children at the grassroots and dalit colonies, organising free medical camps for dalits, facilitating dialogues to eliminate caste system, organising training programmes for dalit women's leadership, promoting income-generating activities, running cultural centre, and providing legal assistance. By doing these activities, Avijan has been successful in building the leadership of dalit women, changing the mindset of people towards dalits, creating employments for dalits, sensitising duty-bearers regarding the need for Anti-Discrimination Act, among others. Similar activities have been carried out by other CSOs. For example, Indigenous Peoples and Development Society (IPDS) is working for the indigenous people, Bangladesh Mahila Parishad for dalit and harijan communities, Nagorik Uddyog for dalits, and Bandhu Social Welfare Society for the hijras, the transgender community people.

In case of Goal 16, CSOs such as Transparency International Bangladesh (TIB), Shushashoner Jonno Nagorik (Shujan), Brotee, Nagorik Uddyog, HEKS/EPER, ActionAid Bangladesh, Democracywatch and Sushasoner Jonny Procharavizan (Supro) implement programmes for developing effective, accountable and transparent institutions at all levels (Table 5). CSOs including HEKS/EPER, the British Council, ActionAid Bangladesh, Nagorik Uddyog, TIB, Wave Foundation and Democracywatch are involved in ensuring responsive, inclusive, participatory and representative decision-making at all levels under Target 16.7. This is done through an open budget, *ward shavas* (ward meetings), face the public/public hearings and multi-stakeholder meetings.

On SDG 17, ActionAid Bangladesh has organised the Citizen's Tax Tribunal in 2018. The tribunal had two hearings: hearing 1 included three case petitions, including (i) implications of VAT on workers; (ii) implications of VAT on students; (iii) implications of VAT on slum-dwellers. Hearing 2 covered two case petitions that included: (i) impact of corporate tax avoidance on financing of local government; and (ii) implications of corporate tax avoidance on basic services. Reports published under Media Fellowship provided evidences on the case petitions covering the following issues: (i) tax paid by mass people versus what the government actually receives; (ii) tax avoidance by large multinational and national corporations; (iii) reform of taxation system through incorporation of progressive taxation; (iv) political parties'

perception on tax justice and inclusion of progressive taxation issue in election manifestos; (v) tax avoidance by expatriates working in Bangladesh; (vi) illicit financial flow by multinational companies.

3.5 Interfacing of SDG-related activities with the government

In a number of cases, CSOs undertook activities in different areas in collaboration with different ministries/departments or other public authorities. The Citizen's Platform for SDGs, Bangladesh has been working with different government institutions at central and local levels on various SDGs.

In case of Goal 4, a Strategic Framework and Action Plan on SDG 4 has been prepared under the leadership of MoPME and Ministry of Education, where the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), Bangladesh National Commission for UNESCO (BNCU) and CAMPE have been involved as associate partners. The findings have come out from a consultative process which included 35 key informant interviews (KIIs) with relevant field experts (both government and CSO), eight sub-national-level focus group discussions (FGDs), four sub-national-level consultations, feedbacks of the draft report by the Steering and Technical Committees on SDG 4 Strategic Framework of the government and a national-level consultation.

Both in cases of Goals 8 and 17, the Business Initiative Leading Development (BUILD) is working as the research and advocacy support partner and secretariat for the Private Sector Development Policy Coordination Committee (PSDPCC) at the PMO, headed by the Principal Secretary. PSDPCC has representation from 13 trade and business-supporting ministries and five leading private sector bodies. BUILD receives advisory support directly from the Advisor to the Prime Minister for private sector and investment. It provides policy inputs to the government for balanced policy prescriptions for private sector development and for creating a level playing field for investment through five specific thematic areas, such as trade and investment, taxation, SME development, sustainability and green growth, and financial sector development.

With regard to Goal 13, after the unpacking of the Warsaw International Mechanism (WIM) in 2016, the Ministry of Disaster Management and Relief (MoDMR) along with the ActionAid Bangladesh, International Centre for Climate Change and Development (ICCCAD), CARE Bangladesh and Nature

Conservation Management prepared a scoping paper to showcase the work done so far, and to explore the potentiality of the National Mechanism on Climate Change Induced Disaster Loss and Damage in Bangladesh. The scoping paper was prepared through consultation workshops held both at local and national levels with relevant stakeholders.

With regard to Goal 16, CSOs such as Nagorik Uddyog are working with the government for promoting legal identity for all, including birth registration by 2030 (Table 5). The Birth and Death Registration Act, 2004 has provision for registration of every child born in Bangladesh irrespective of race, colour, sex, language, religion, national or social origin, property or birth. CSOs are working with dalits, linguistic minorities, plantation (tea) workers, marginalised groups, poor and informal sector workers who are left out to register their birth through raising awareness about birth registration. They also offer support to government efforts to improve access to registration services. They work to get the civil documents such as passport, national ID, license, etc. for linguistic minorities (particularly the Bihari community) who are often denied to have the legal identity by the authority.

3.6 Summary of the review findings

A review of different targets of six goals indicates that scope, nature and level of engagements of the NSAs widely vary between different goals. On the one hand, there are goals and related targets which demand specific interventions by the actors in different areas, such as Goals 4, 8, 16 and 17. On the other hand, there are goals and targets which demand broader engagement.

A mapping exercise of the focus area of 105 NSAs which are partners of the Citizen's Platform for SDGs, Bangladesh (as of July 2019) reveals that majority of the NSAs work on SDG 10 (45 organisations). Goals 13 and 17 are the least focused areas by the partners (Table 6).

Table 6: Primary involvement of partners of the Citizen's Platform for SDGs, Bangladesh

Component	SDG 4	SDG 8	SDG 10	SDG 13	SDG 16	SDG 17
Total organisations	25	20	45	11	35	11
Percentage of total organisations	24	19	43	10	33	10

Source: Secretariat of the Citizen's Platform for SDGs, Bangladesh.

Note: (i) Primary SDG involvement implies a minimum level of involvement since most organisations are involved in multiple SDGs; (ii) Percentage should be interpreted of as a minimum proportion of partners involved with that particular goal.

3.7 Lessons learnt and way forward

National framework does not specify the role of CSOs and the private sector

The review report prepared by the Planning Commission has mentioned about taking a whole of society approach in implementing the SDGs (GED, 2017a; 2018a). However, the M&E framework for the SDGs in Bangladesh does not recognise the role of CSOs and the private sector as effective actors for the implementation of the SDGs. Often the reference of CSOs and the private sector has been ‘ornamental’ in nature; in some instances, they are mentioned as a ‘beneficiary’ in the SDG implementation process. The institutional process for SDG implementation has stipulated the role of different departments and ministries and other public agencies as Lead and Co-lead organisations to facilitate the process. However, the role of other important actors, such as CSOs, the private sector and other NSAs have not been recognised in the monitoring framework with specific responsibilities.

It is expected that the M&E framework will recognise the role of CSOs and the private sector by adding responsibility under a separate head called ‘associate partners’. Under this head, a group of NGOs/their alliances/leading NGOs which are specialised on specific goal areas, could be mentioned. These specific NGOs, with the support of other CSOs, will work closely with the lead/co-lead public agencies in implementing relevant targets of goals.

Gap between activities related to indicators and those of CSOs

The SDG is a country-driven process, and indicators are set mostly for the government to report. Therefore, there is little space for the CSOs to report against targets and indicators. It is therefore important, that the GoB, in collaboration with other actors, such as CSOs and the private sector, develops a mechanism to capture contributions of the non-government institutions.

Most targets and indicators of Goal 17 are by default economic in nature, which are to be attained through the national government and inter-governmental process. Establishment of a direct link of the work of CSOs and the private sector with SDG 17 is difficult. This is because their activities are largely at the grassroots and field levels. Therefore, the direct link of their works with those indicators is difficult. However, the NSAs make a significant contribution in attaining those targets and indicators. Besides, the nature of engagement of CSOs and the private sector are largely qualitative in nature, and somewhat difficult to be synchronised with related indicators of the goals.

Reluctance in working with CSOs

It is observed that, the government is not willing to work with CSOs in all areas of SDG implementation. The contribution and attribution of CSOs, particularly in achieving Goal 16, are hardly mentioned or recognised in government's documents. It is more obvious, when it comes to the issue of corruption, irregularities and malgovernance in public offices. The strategy of the government in addressing corruption at present is not to identify the corrupt, but to motivate people through encouraging good practices and improving the quality of services by the public officials.

Engagement of CSOs have widened and partly shifted in the post-2015 period

The engagement of CSOs have gradually shifted during post-2015 period. It is apprehended that the flow of fund directed to CSOs may shrink after Bangladesh's graduation from the LDC to developing country category. This will put a pressure on CSO activities on SDG-related issues. In extreme cases, some CSOs may even stop their operation. In this backdrop, CSOs need to strategise their activities taking into account the changing scenario of flow of fund. Given the huge fund required for implementation of the SDGs, development partners should further increase their allocation for Bangladesh. Support for the Rohingyas by the development partners should be allocated and reported separately. At the national level, the GoB should form an SDG Trust Fund for CSOs to work on SDG implementation.

Political environment hindering partnership activities

In few cases, it is difficult to influence policy-level changes in key institutions of the state, e.g. the parliament, judiciary, etc. Transition of authority often hampers the ongoing partnership relation. Frequent follow-up is required to make the partners (government authority) for moving forward. Sometimes dealing with government institutions and officials might be difficult for smooth implementation of the targets. There may be possible instability or unforeseen clash of schedule or venue. High demand and expenditure-based proposals for collaborative programmes often minimises the scope of joint initiative.

Right targetting is essential to avoid overlapping of skills development

Before designing skills-development initiatives and allocating funding, the CSOs need to do a proper consultation with the private sector entities,

especially with associations, to identify the demand–supply gap in employable labour with specific skill set and availability of jobs. Again, the CSOs need to do proper identification of the ultra-poor and marginalised communities to decide whom to provide training for free and whom to be charged a fee. Donors need to find out the market demand for which model of training, philanthropic or cost recovery, and also deduce which model will work best in a particular geographic location. A proper national monitoring and auditing system can be useful in identifying which person has been given skills training and on which trade. This would ultimately result in creating decent work, targeted job placement and increased productivity.

Government’s approach to data on corruption

The elected governments have so far been suffering from a ‘denial syndrome’ when it comes to admitting the existence of corruption in different public sectors and institutions, revealed by NGOs and international organisations through their surveys and research reports. Moreover, many government officials are still used to a certain culture which is closed and reserved. It is taking time for them to adapt to a culture of openness ushered in by the Rights to Information (RTI) Act 2009.

Resources for CSOs engaged in SDG implementation

The engagement of CSOs has gradually shifted during the post-2015 period towards SDG-related activities. However, the resource landscape has been changing internationally. Besides, Bangladesh’s graduation from low-income country status to lower middle-income country status, and prospective graduation from LDC status to developing country status by 2024 may potentially reduce the flow of funds. As a result, CSOs and NGOs will face challenges in carrying out their activities Bangladesh’s CSOs need more support for working exclusively for Bangladeshis apart from those of humanitarian support for non-Bangladeshis (e.g. Rohingya people forcefully displaced from Myanmar).

SECTION FOUR

State of Six SDGs in Bangladesh

Bangladesh has made remarkable accomplishments in terms of economic development since its independence. Nevertheless, the SDGs represent an ambitious and comprehensive set of targets that will be a challenge to achieve within 2030. Thus, it is imperative to track the progress on the SDGs, so that policies can be prioritised on the basis of empirical evidence. This section of the report will focus on the current status of the six specific SDGs in Bangladesh, and discuss their probable outlook in 2030. As mentioned in the Section 1 of this report, the six SDGs for review in 2019 are: SDG 4 (Quality Education); SDG 8 (Decent Work and Economic Growth); SDG 10 (Reduced Inequalities); SDG 13 (Climate Action); SDG 16 (Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions); and SDG 17 (Partnerships for the Goals).

In this section, an attempt has been made to project the progress of a select group of indicators under the six SDGs that were agreed by the global community in 2015 under the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The objective is to show if the current trends of progress continue, how much will be achieved by 2030. This exercise can be a guide for the policymakers and actors as to how they should prioritise their actions depending on the distances their respective sectors have to travel towards achieving the SDGs by 2030.

4.1 Uniqueness of the exercise

This is the first exercise of its kind in Bangladesh which attempts to track the progress in a business as usual scenario. The GED has prepared an M&E framework which provides milestones on various indicators at three points in time, i.e. 2020, 2025 and 2030, based on GoB data (GED, 2018b). The progress report on the SDGs prepared by the GED presents information in most cases till 2016, in some cases up to 2014, 2015 and 2017 (GED, 2018d). Hence, real progress on the SDGs could be tracked for two years at most, not for four years.

There are 68 targets and 84 indicators under these six SDGs (UN, 2019). However, forecasting of all the indicators is not possible, mainly for two reasons. *First*, all SDG indicators are not quantifiable. *Second*, data for forecasting those indicators, particularly reliable long-term data, are not available. Hence, this research could include 38 targets and 50 indicators for analysis. Within these 50 indicators, forecasting has been done for 20 indicators. The other indicators have been analysed based on their past performance. In order to understand the possibility of achieving the SDGs by 2030, forecasting has been done using long-term official data from various sources. One important caveat of this exercise is that the results of the projections relate only to the specific SDG indicators and cannot be interpreted as the future performance of the whole SDG itself.

There are a few differences with the progress report of the SDGs prepared by the GoB and this study undertaken by CPD. *First*, this study has examined the long-term trend of the indicators even when the forecasting was not done. Hence in many cases, data from other official sources such as international organisations have been used, whereas GED of the GoB has mostly used data for only a few years and from the GoB sources. *Second*, there are a number of SDG indicators for which proxy data are used. In some of those cases, CPD's proxy indicators were different from that of the GoB.

Before going into the analysis of the state of the SDGs, a few words on the limitations and justification of forecasting will be useful for readers. Forecasting the prospects of SDG implementation is critically important for Bangladesh, since the country is determined to carry forward its impressive development record of the past. Forecasting is necessary to determine whether a certain future event or outcome will occur, so that adequate measures may be taken at present (Makridakis, Wheelwright and Hyndman, 1997). It is also a tool for effective and efficient planning (Hyndman and Athanasopoulos, 2018), which can aid in the attainment of goals. Forecasts can be used for scheduling, acquiring resources, or determining resource requirements (Makridakis, Wheelwright and Hyndman, 1997). Therefore, by predicting the trajectory of SDG indicators, a country can better understand the actions required to attain the SDGs and plan accordingly.

Nonetheless, it is important to be cognisant of the limitations of forecasting. An event or quantity may be predicted successfully if the factors that influence it are known, the data required for prediction are available, and the advance knowledge of the prediction does not affect the future outcome (Hyndman and Athanasopoulos, 2018). Forecasts are generally conditional on the

assumption that the trends of the past will continue into the future (Chatfield, 2000). Therefore, if there is substantial reason to believe that patterns of a time series will be different in the future, then extrapolation of past trends may be misleading. Forecasts also cannot take into account sudden systematic changes that may take place due to changes in legislation, policy or behavioural shifts. Moreover, anomalies and outliers can seriously affect the accuracy of forecasts. For example, the influx of Rohingyas from Myanmar in August 2017 was followed by an increase in the foreign aid in Bangladesh. However, such an occurrence is an exception rather than the norm. Unless the difference between a random fluctuation and a genuine pattern can be established, it can be difficult to decide what to include and what to exclude from a forecasting model.

Keeping the above limitations of forecasting in mind, this research has forecasted 20 out of 50 SDG indicators. Table 7 lists which indicators were forecasted, and provides explanations as to why the other indicators were not forecasted.

Table 7: Information on forecasting exercise

Goal	Forecast status	Comment
SDG 4: Quality Education		
SDG 4.1.1 Lower secondary schooling completion rate	Yes	-
SDG 4.2.2 Participation rate in organised learning (one year before the official primary entry age)	No	Data is available for only one year (2018).
SDG 4.5.1 Gender parity index (GPI) literacy rate, youth (aged 15–24)	No	Gender parity has already been achieved; forecast is unnecessary.
SDG 4.6.1 Literacy rate, aged 15 and above	Yes	-
SDG 4.a.1 Educational facilities at secondary schools (in per cent)	No	It is not clear from the data if educational facilities in secondary schools are used specifically for pedagogical purposes or not. Hence, forecasts would be misleading.
SDG 4.b.1 Total official flows for scholarships (at 2016 constant million USD)	No	Total official flows for scholarships may be affected by a large number of exogenous variables which cannot be

(Table 7 contd.)

(Table 7 contd.)

Goal	Forecast status	Comment
		modelled. Hence, trends of the past may not be able to predict the future accurately.
SDG 4.c.1 Trained teachers (per cent of total teachers)	No	Level of disaggregation of the data means that there are nine time series (trained teachers as percentage of total, male and female teachers at the primary, lower secondary and upper secondary levels). Each of the time series has its own trend, so it is best to analyse them independently. It is unlikely that nine separate forecasts would be able to produce a single coherent prediction of the overall state of training of teachers.
SDG 8: Decent Work and Economic Growth		
SDG 8.1.1 Annual growth rate of real GDP per capita	Yes	-
SDG 8.2.1 Annual growth rate of real GDP per employed person	Yes	-
SDG 8.3.1 Informal employment (as percentage of total non-agricultural employment)	No	Data is available for only three years (2010, 2013 and 2017).
SDG 8.4.2 Domestic material consumption per capita (in tonnes)	No	Domestic material consumption depends on behavioural factors which are difficult to model. Hence, forecasts would not be accurate.
SDG 8.5.2 Unemployment rate	Yes	-
SDG 8.6.1 Youth NEET (not in education, employment or training)	Yes	-
SDG 8.7.1 Children in employment (per cent of children aged 7–14)	No	Data is available for only three years (2003, 2006 and 2013).
SDG 8.10.1a Commercial bank branches per 100,000 adults	No	It is unlikely that the trend of increase in number of commercial bank branches in Bangladesh will follow the same pattern in the future. This is because the need for opening new

(Table 7 contd.)

(Table 7 contd.)

Goal	Forecast status	Comment
		branches will diminish as the coverage of the bank branches increases. So it is likely that banks will choose to open less branches in the future than they did in the past. These choices made by banks cannot be modelled, and so a forecast would be misleading.
SDG 8.10.1b Automated teller machines (ATMs) per 100,000 adults	No	It is unlikely that the trend of increase in number of ATMs in Bangladesh will follow the same pattern in the future. First, as the coverage of the ATM network increases, there will be less need to open new ATMs. Second, as electronic cash payment systems, such as mobile payment, gain popularity, people may feel a lesser need to withdraw cash. So it is difficult to predict the future of the number of ATMs based on the past trends only.
SDG 8.10.2 Account ownership at a financial institution or with a mobile-money-service provider	No	Data is available for only three years (2011, 2014 and 2017).
SDG 8.a.1 Aid for trade (at 2016 constant million USD)	No	Aid for trade (Aft) may be affected by a large number of exogenous variables which cannot be modelled. Hence, trends of the past may not be able to predict the future accurately. Instead, indicators of foreign aid and international trade are forecasted separately under the Goal 17.
SDG 10: Reduced Inequalities		
SDG 10.1.1 Income share of bottom 40 per cent	Yes	-
SDG 10.5.1 Gross non-performing loans as a share of total loans	Yes	-
SDG 10.b.1 Net official development assistance received	No	Net ODA received has spiked recently due to the Rohingya influx. This anomaly would make any forecasts about the future very misleading.

(Table 7 contd.)

(Table 7 contd.)

Goal	Forecast status	Comment
SDG 10.c.1 Average transaction cost of sending remittances (as proportion of remitted amount)	No	Average transaction cost of sending remittances may be affected by a large number of exogenous variables which cannot be modelled. Hence, trends of the past may not be able to predict the future accurately.
SDG 13: Climate Action		
SDG 13.1.1 Number of households affected by natural disasters	Yes	-
SDG 13.1.1a Proportion of households affected by disasters, by division and type of disaster (2009-2014)	No	Data is an aggregate figure for five years (2009-2014) and not a time series. So forecasting is not possible.
SDG 13.1.1b Aggregate economic loss due to disasters (2009-2014)	No	Data is an aggregate figure for five years (2009-2014) and not a time series. So forecasting is not possible.
SDG 13.1.1c Proportion of individuals suffering from sickness and injury due to natural disasters, by division and age group (as percentage of relevant group) (2009-2014)	No	Data is an aggregate figure for five years (2009-2014) and not a time series. So forecasting is not possible.
SDG 13.1.1d Proportion of individuals suffering from sickness and injury due to natural disasters, by type of disaster and age group (as percentage of relevant group) (2009-2014)	No	Data is an aggregate figure for five years (2009-2014) and not a time series. So forecasting is not possible.
SDG 13.1.1e Average annual economic loss per household due to natural disasters, by household income quintile groups and type of loss (in BDT)	No	Data is an aggregate figure for five years (2009-2014) and not a time series. So forecasting is not possible.
SDG 13.1.1f Number of days children missed school due to natural disasters, by division and gender (2009-2014)	No	Data is an aggregate figure for five years (2009-2014) and not a time series. So forecasting is not possible.
SDG 13.2.1a Growth rate of total greenhouse gas emissions	Yes	-

(Table 7 contd.)

(Table 7 contd.)

Goal	Forecast status	Comment
SDG 13.2.1b Annual average temperature change (in per cent)	Yes	-
SDG 16: Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions		
SDG 16.1.1 Number of victims of intentional homicide per 100,000 population, by sex and age	Yes	-
SDG 16.1.2 Conflict-related deaths per 100,000 population, by sex, age and cause	No	Conflict-related deaths may be affected by a large number of exogenous variables which cannot be modelled. Hence, trends of the past may not be able to predict the future accurately.
SDG 16.1.3 Prevalence of partner violence experienced by women at least once in last 12 months (in per cent)	No	Data is available for only two years (2011 and 2015).
SDG 16.2.1 Proportion of children aged 1–14 years who experienced psychological aggression or physical punishment during the last one month (in per cent)	No	Data is available for only one year (2012–2013).
SDG 16.3.1 Proportion of ever-married women who disclosed experiences of partner physical or sexual violence (in per cent)	No	Data is available for only one year (2015).
SDG 16.4.1 Illicit financial outflows (in million USD)	Yes	-
SDG 16.4.2 Number of arms act cases per 100,000 people	No	Number of arms act cases may be affected by a large number of exogenous variables which cannot be modelled. Hence, trends of the past may not be able to predict the future accurately.
SDG 16.5.1 Proportion of households who paid bribe during interactions with different service-providers (in per cent)	Yes	-

(Table 7 contd.)

(Table 7 contd.)

Goal	Forecast status	Comment
SDG 16.7.1 Proportion of seats held by women in national parliament compared to the proportion of the female population	No	Proportion of seats held by women in the national parliament depends on law and the outcome of elections, none of which are possible to predict.
SDG 16.10.1 Number of kidnappings per 100,000	No	Number of kidnappings may be affected by a large number of exogenous variables which cannot be modelled. Hence, trends of the past may not be able to predict the future accurately.
SDG 17: Partnerships for the Goals		
SDG 17.1.1 Tax revenue (as percentage of GDP)	Yes	-
SDG 17.2.1 Net official development assistance received (as percentage of GNI (gross national income))	Yes	-
SDG 17.3.1 Net foreign direct investment inflows (as percentage of GDP)	Yes	-
SDG 17.3.2 Personal remittances received (as percentage of GDP)	Yes	-
SDG 17.4.1 Debt service as a proportion of exports of goods and services	No	Debt servicing performance in the future will depend on both past debts and new debts that the government will take. Since it is not possible to foresee what new debts the government will take in the future, forecasts of debt service would be misleading.
SDG 17.6.2 Fixed-broadband subscriptions per 100 inhabitants	Yes	-
SDG 17.8.1 Proportion of individuals using the Internet	No	There is a discrepancy between the data reported by GoB and the International Telecommunication Union (ITU). So forecasts were avoided.
SDG 17.11.1 Share of global exports (in per cent)	Yes	

(Table 7 contd.)

(Table 7 contd.)

Goal	Forecast status	Comment
SDG 17.17.1 Investment in energy with private participation (current million USD)	No	Investment may be affected by a large number of exogenous variables which cannot be modelled. Hence, trends of the past may not be able to accurately predict the future.
SDG 17.19.1 Dollar value of all resources made available to strengthen statistical capacity in developing countries (current USD)	No	Resources made available for strengthening statistical capacity may be affected by a large number of exogenous variables which cannot be modelled. Hence, trends of the past may not be able to predict the future accurately.
Overall status: Forecasted: 20 Could not forecast: 30		

Source: Authors' elaboration.

4.2 State of SDG 4: Ensure Inclusive and Equitable Quality Education and Promote Lifelong Learning Opportunities for All

SDG 4.1.1: Proportion of children and young people (a) in grades 2/3; (b) at the end of primary; and (c) at the end of lower secondary achieving at least a minimum proficiency level in (i) reading and (ii) mathematics, by sex

Primary and lower secondary completion rates in Bangladesh have increased for both male and female students in recent years (Table 8). The overall lower secondary completion rate has increased by almost 30 percentage points over the 20 years from 1998 to 2017 (UNESCO, n.d.). In 2017, the overall lower secondary completion rate was 77.58 per cent (UNESCO, n.d.). Improvements in the schooling completion rates during the four years of SDG implementation period are largely due to the improvements in schooling enrolment rates during the MDG period. Interestingly, both the primary and lower secondary completion rates are higher for female students compared to male students. One of the reasons behind this could be that the incidence of child labour is higher among male children compared to female children (World Bank, n.d.a). It is obvious that a child cannot be both at work and at school at the same time. Therefore, higher schooling completion rates could have been achieved if the incidence of child labour could be reduced.

Table 8: Completion rates (as percentage of relevant age group)

Year	Primary completion rate			Lower secondary completion rate		
	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female
1998	NA	NA	NA	48.70	47.67	49.77
1999	NA	NA	NA	51.09	48.54	53.75
2000	NA	NA	NA	53.05	49.77	56.47
2001	NA	NA	NA	57.36	50.30	64.71
2002	NA	NA	NA	58.51	50.41	66.96
2003	NA	NA	NA	58.76	51.27	66.57
2004	NA	NA	NA	54.36	51.24	57.62
2005	64.26	61.86	66.76	52.42	49.31	55.65
2006	NA	NA	NA	52.31	49.24	55.52
2007	NA	NA	NA	53.16	50.19	56.27
2008	57.17	54.38	60.07	NA	NA	NA
2009	63.36	60.50	66.32	55.27	49.66	61.13
2010	65.58	61.91	69.40	53.76	48.96	58.75
2011	NA	NA	NA	58.20	52.08	64.57
2013	NA	NA	NA	67.49	61.88	73.36
2016	NA	NA	NA	76.53	69.32	84.07
2017	118.55	114.32	122.97	77.58	NA	NA

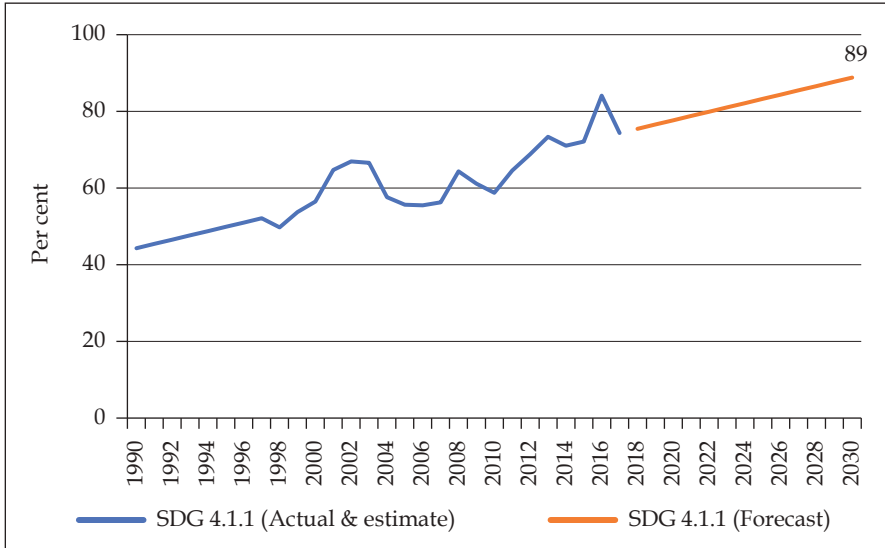
Source: UNESCO (n.d.).

Note: NA denotes 'not available' throughout this section.

SDG 4.1.1 emphasises for a minimum level of proficiency in reading and mathematics at the end of various years of schooling. However, the data available for Bangladesh simply accounts for the proportion of children who have completed schooling. Since children who complete schooling achieve different levels of proficiency in different subjects, it is not possible to draw any conclusion regarding the reading and mathematics skills of Bangladeshi children who have completed a primary and lower secondary school based on the data that is currently available.

In the business as usual scenario, the overall lower secondary completion rate is forecasted to be 78 per cent in 2020, 83 per cent in 2025 and 89 per cent in 2030 (Figure 3). This falls short of the target of achieving 100 per cent lower secondary completion rate by 2030. Hence, greater efforts will be required in the coming years in order to ensure that all children complete lower secondary school. It is worth pointing out that although completion of lower secondary school does not guarantee a minimum level of proficiency in reading and mathematics, it is nevertheless a step in the right direction.

Figure 3: SDG 4.1.1 Lower secondary completion rate for both genders: Actual, estimate and forecast



Source: Authors' calculations based on UNESCO (n.d.).

Note: (i) Missing values imputed with maximum likelihood estimates; (ii) Forecasts based on averaging of autoregressive integrated moving average (ARIMA) model forecasts.

'Sustainable Development Goals: Bangladesh Progress Report 2018' published by the GED of Bangladesh Planning Commission recognises the low proficiency of students in English as alarming. The report presents data of 2015 and mentions that due to lack of new data, progress in such areas cannot be assessed (GED, 2018d). Thus, the milestones set in the report on 'Monitoring and Evaluation Framework of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs): Bangladesh Perspectives' (GED, 2018b) cannot be verified without data collected through new survey.

SDG 4.2.2 Participation rate in organized learning (one year before the official primary entry age), by sex

There is a voluminous body of research, most notably by Nobel laureate Professor James Heckman, that investing in early childhood education pays off enormous dividends later in life (Heckman, 2011, 2019; Heckman, Pinto and Peter, 2013). In 2018, around 80 per cent of all children in Bangladesh participated in organised learning one year before the official primary school entry age (DPE, 2018). The participation rates were similar for male and female children, although it was surprisingly lower than the national average for

Table 9: Participation rate in organised learning (one year before the official primary entry age) in 2018 (as percentage of relevant age group)

Region	Total	Male	Female
Barishal	86.33	85.10	87.60
Chattogram	77.76	76.90	78.60
Dhaka	75.27	75.40	75.20
Khulna	78.59	78.20	79.00
Mymensingh	80.79	80.70	80.80
Rajshahi	82.93	82.60	83.30
Rangpur	90.55	90.30	90.90
Sylhet	79.28	80.10	78.50
<i>National</i>	<i>80.07</i>	<i>79.80</i>	<i>80.30</i>

Source: DPE (2018).

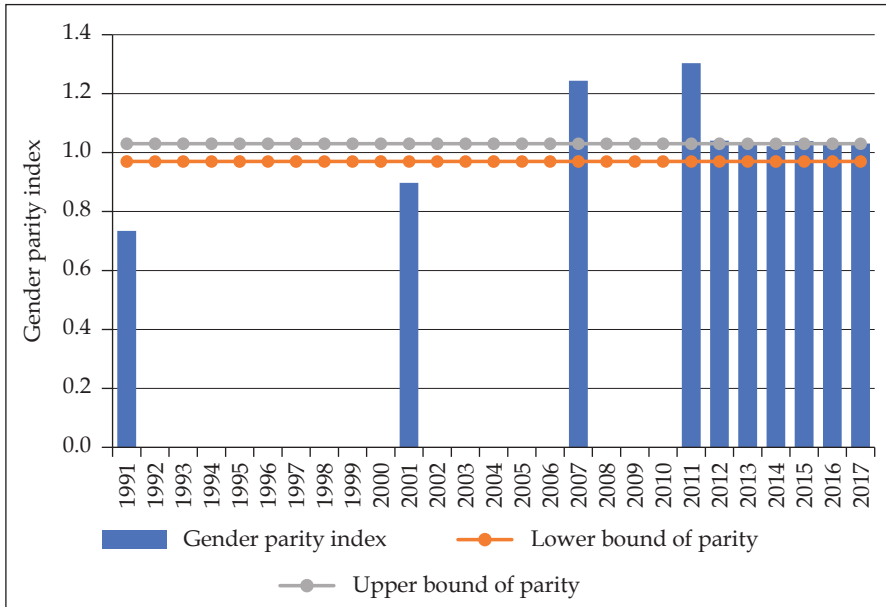
affluent regions like Dhaka and Chattogram (Table 9). As with most of the other data on education, merely participation in organised learning before entering primary school may not be enough to ensure that the next generation will get a jump start in life. The challenge of ensuring high quality is as valid for early childhood education as it is for all other levels of education in Bangladesh.

It may be mentioned that GED has used pre-primary gross enrolment ratio as the participation rate in organised learning. In 2015, this rate was 31.2 per cent for both girls and boys, which has increased to 34.3 per cent in 2016 (GED, 2018d). The GoB also sets milestone in increase this rate to 80 per cent by 2020, 90 per cent by 2025 and 100 per cent by 2030 for both girls and boys (GED, 2018b).

SDG 4.5.1 Parity indices (female/male, rural/urban, bottom/top wealth quintile and others such as disability status, indigenous peoples and conflict-affected, as data become available) for all education indicators on this list that can be disaggregated

The gender parity index (GPI) of the literacy rate of youth between the ages of 15–24 shows that in 1991 and 2001, literacy rates were lower among female youth compared to male youth. On the other hand, in 2007 and 2011, literacy rates were higher among female youth compared to male youth. Although perfect gender parity has not been achieved, since 2012, the GPI of youth literacy rate has been very close to, or within, the upper and lower bounds of

Figure 4: SDG 4.5.1 Gender parity index (GPI) of literacy rate, youth (aged 15–24)



Source: UNESCO (n.d.).

Note: (i) Lower bound of parity is at 0.97; (ii) Upper bound of parity is at 1.03; (iii) All values between lower and upper bounds indicate parity.

parity (Figure 4). Data on parity indices based on disability status or ethnicity could not be found at the time of preparing this report.

GPI in primary and secondary education both in 2015 and 2016 as mentioned in GED's progress report (based on the World Bank data) was in favour of female students (GED, 2018d). However, in case of tertiary education, female students are way behind. In 2016, the GPI for tertiary education was 0.701 (GED, 2018d). The milestone targets for GPI in tertiary education are 0.9 in 2020 and 0.95 in 2025 (GED, 2018b).

SDG 4.6.1 Proportion of population in a given age group achieving at least a fixed level of proficiency in functional (a) literacy and (b) numeracy skills, by sex

Literacy rate of the adult population, aged 15 and above, increased from 35.32 per cent in 1991 to 47.49 per cent in 2001 (UNESCO, n.d.). However, there was almost no improvement in the adult literacy rate in the next 10 years, as literacy rate remained at 47.08 per cent in 2011 (UNESCO, n.d.). Since 2011,

the adult literacy rate did show signs of improvement, and by 2017, the adult literacy rate stood at 72.9 per cent (UNESCO, n.d.). Two interesting trends can be observed when comparing the adult literacy rate for individuals aged 15 and above, and the youth literacy rate for individuals between 15 and 24 years of age. First, the youth literacy rates are higher than adult literacy rates during the period 1991–2017. This implies that there has been a steady improvement in literacy in Bangladesh over time, and that every generation is better educated than its previous generation. Second, while adult literacy rates are higher for males, youth literacy rates are higher for females, starting from the year 2007. This shows that Bangladesh has managed to improve access to education for females during the period 2007–2017 (Table 10).

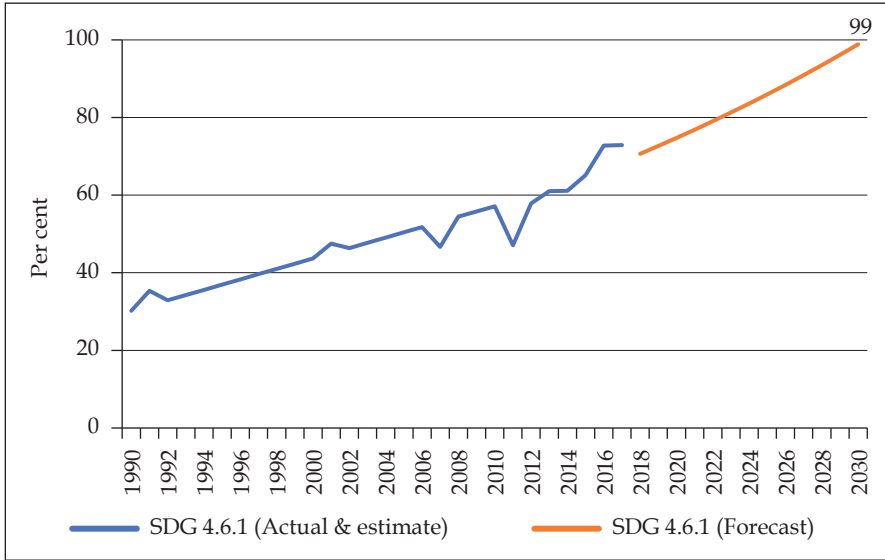
Table 10: Literacy rate (as percentage of relevant age groups)

Year	Literacy rate (Share of population aged 15 and above)			Literacy rate (Share of population aged 15–24)		
	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female
1991	35.32	44.31	25.84	44.68	51.74	37.99
2001	47.49	53.90	40.82	63.62	67.16	60.26
2007	46.66	49.83	43.74	61.87	54.27	67.49
2011	47.08	47.45	46.74	65.71	55.75	72.65
2012	57.86	61.54	54.24	77.83	76.28	79.37
2013	61.02	64.21	57.79	85.53	84.10	86.93
2014	61.10	64.37	57.86	85.55	84.63	86.48
2015	65.14	68.06	62.25	87.89	86.19	89.54
2016	72.76	75.62	69.90	92.24	90.91	93.54
2017	72.90	75.70	70.09	92.95	91.54	94.38

Source: UNESCO (n.d.).

Forecast of the adult literacy rate shows that if historical trends continue, then 75 per cent of all adults aged 15 and above will be literate in Bangladesh by 2020, 86 per cent by 2025 and 99 per cent by 2030 (Figure 5). This prediction indicates that with a bit more effort, it will be possible to ensure literacy for all. The progress report of the GED on SDGs indicates increase in adult literacy rate both for male and female adults during 2015–2017 period (GED, 2018d). Surprisingly, the M&E framework of GED does not have any milestones for this target (GED, 2018b), even though in 2017, adult literacy rate was 72.9 per cent, of which 75.7 per cent was for male adults and 70.1 per cent for female adults (GED, 2018d).

Figure 5: SDG 4.6.1 Literacy rate for all individuals aged 15 and above: Actual, estimate and forecast



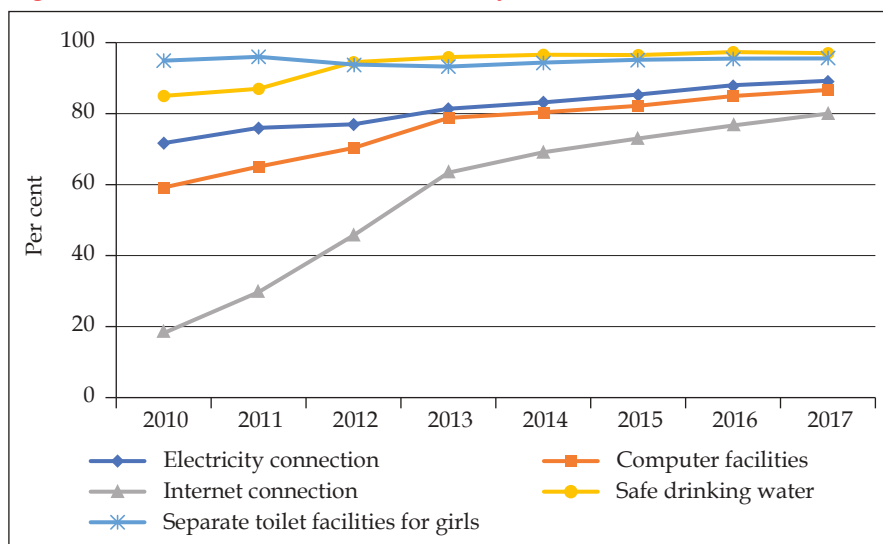
Source: Authors' calculations based on UNESCO (n.d.).

Note: (i) Missing values imputed with maximum likelihood estimates; (ii) Forecasts based on averaging of autoregressive integrated moving average (ARIMA) model forecasts.

SDG 4.a.1 Proportion of schools with access to (a) electricity; (b) the Internet for pedagogical purposes; (c) computers for pedagogical purposes; (d) adapted infrastructure and materials for students with disabilities; (e) basic drinking water; (f) single-sex basic sanitation facilities; and (g) basic handwashing facilities (as per the WASH indicator definitions)

Facilities at secondary schools in Bangladesh have improved during the period 2010–2017 (Figure 6). From 2012 onwards, more than 90 per cent of secondary schools had safe drinking water and separate toilets for girls (BANBEIS, n.d.). The proportion of secondary schools with electricity connections increased from 70.71 per cent in 2010 to 89.26 per cent in 2017 (BANBEIS, n.d.). Availability of computer facilities at schools increased from 59.21 per cent in 2010 to 86.65 per cent in 2017, while the availability of internet connection jumped from 18.18 per cent in 2010 to 79.99 per cent in 2017 (BANBEIS, n.d.). However, while safe drinking water, separate toilets for girls and electricity connection are facilities which all school students would benefit from, it is not entirely clear from the data whether the students benefitted from computer and internet facilities or not. This is because even if a school has one computer with an internet connection, it may still be counted as a school with computer

Figure 6: Educational facilities at secondary schools

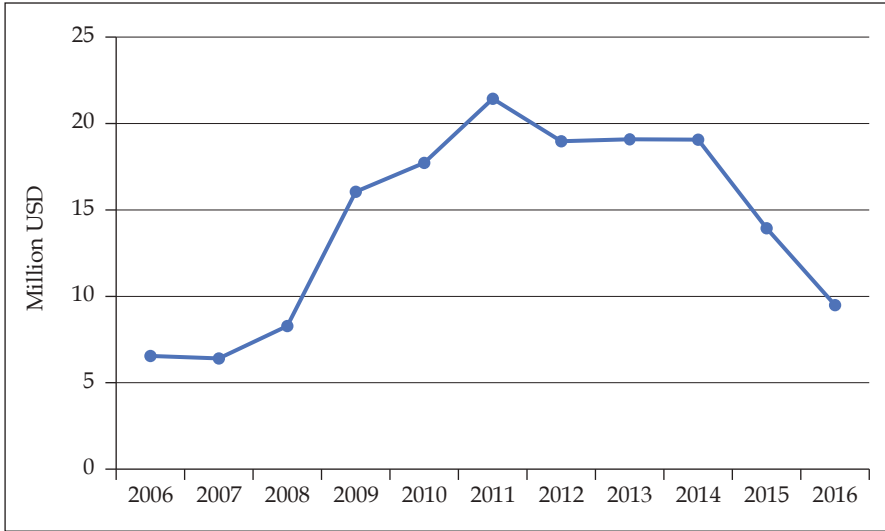


Source: BANBEIS (n.d.).

and internet facilities. However, such facilities may not be available for the students, and therefore, they may derive no benefit from it. Further reasons for doubt have been provided by the findings of the ICT Use and Access Survey 2013, which showed that only 4 per cent of individuals who do not have computers in their household can use computers (BBS, 2015b). Clearly, it is rather strange that even though 78.77 per cent of secondary schools had computer facilities in 2013, only 4 per cent of individuals who did not have computers at home could use computers. In addition to access to basic services, the quality of those services has been an issue of concern. This has also been echoed in the GoB report on progress of the SDGs (GED, 2018d).

SDG 4.b.1 Volume of official development assistance flows for scholarships by sector and type of study

Total ODA flows for scholarships have exhibited a declining trend since 2011, after surging between the years 2006–2010 (UN, n.d.) (Figure 7). Such trends are understandable, given that Bangladesh attained the lower middle-income country status in 2015, and met the criteria for graduating from the LDC status in 2018. Due to the double graduation, Bangladeshi students could potentially face tough competition in availing scholarships. However, GED indicates that ODA for scholarships could increase to USD 15 million in 2020, to USD 20 million in 2025 and to USD 25 million in 2030, compared to USD 8.76 million in 2015 (GED, 2018b).

Figure 7: Total official flows for scholarships (at 2016 constant prices)

Source: UN (n.d.).

SDG 4.c.1 Proportion of teachers in (a) pre-primary; (b) primary; (c) lower secondary, and (d) upper secondary education who have received at least the minimum organized teacher training (e.g. pedagogical training) pre-service or in-service required for teaching at the relevant level in a given country

The proportion of trained teachers in lower and upper secondary school has increased during the period 1998–2016 (UNESCO, n.d.). However, the proportion of trained teachers in primary school decreased during the period 2005–2017 (UNESCO, n.d.). There was virtually no gap between the proportion of male and female teachers in lower secondary school, although the proportion of trained male teachers was higher than the proportion of trained female teachers both in upper secondary and primary schools (Table 11).

Summary and recommendations on SDG 4

Most indicators under Goal 4 have made decent progress in the right direction. Educational attainment and literacy rates have been rising steadily. Literacy for all may be a reality in 2030, although not everyone may be able to complete lower secondary education by that time. Gender parity in literacy rate has been achieved, and literacy rate among young women is already higher than young men. The data makes it clear that the people of Bangladesh are getting more education than before, but it is impossible to infer anything regarding

Table 11: Trained teachers (as percentage of total teachers)

Year	Lower secondary education			Upper secondary education			Primary education		
	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female
1998	36.25	53.75	33.66	18.84	31.75	17.02	NA	NA	NA
1999	36.29	54.06	33.57	20.55	29.13	19.21	NA	NA	NA
2000	36.84	54.28	34.12	22.41	30.32	21.17	NA	NA	NA
2001	35.51	51.32	32.95	20.83	22.51	20.52	NA	NA	NA
2002	37.09	62.29	33.04	21.31	24.56	20.73	NA	NA	NA
2003	36.96	46.64	35.22	25.25	24.67	25.37	NA	NA	NA
2004	37.61	44.35	36.21	25.63	27.56	25.18	NA	NA	NA
2005	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	53.40	54.40	52.81
2006	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	51.43	53.97	49.89
2007	44.51	54.28	42.14	32.96	26.46	34.59	56.00	57.25	55.15
2008	57.14	75.30	52.74	42.00	38.36	42.89	54.36	57.41	52.17
2009	57.44	71.73	53.81	41.72	37.65	42.71	58.41	63.09	54.81
2010	58.49	68.10	56.06	40.69	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
2011	59.67	72.21	56.18	46.81	40.76	48.45	57.73	55.98	59.77
2012	59.66	78.91	54.87	57.86	56.68	58.18	NA	NA	NA
2013	59.61	78.89	54.82	56.19	54.14	56.76	NA	NA	NA
2015	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	47.58	48.07	46.85
2016	67.20	67.61	67.05	58.54	70.83	55.79	50.43	52.06	47.97
2017	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	50.43	51.18	49.24

Source: UNESCO (n.d.).

the quality of such education. More data is needed to ascertain the reading, writing and numeracy skills of students and to understand the effectiveness of teacher training. Furthermore, the state of infrastructural facilities at educational institutions needs further scrutiny, since the available data does not make it clear whether facilities, such as computers and internet are used for pedagogical purposes or not. With scholarships following a declining trend in recent years, many Bangladeshi students may find it more challenging to pursue higher education in foreign universities in the coming years. In order to achieve SDG 4, a few recommendations may be made as follows:

- Instil good governance in educational institutions by increasing the participation of students and parents in their functioning and operation;

- Increase funding for educational institutions in remote rural areas and educational institutions that serve left-behind communities;
- Improve means of assessment of learning, so that both cognitive and non-cognitive skills are adequately tested;
- Encourage international cooperation to strengthen university education and research;
- Improve the quality of teacher training and implement continuous M&E systems to check the effectiveness of training.

4.3 State of SDG 8: Promote Sustained, Inclusive and Sustainable Economic Growth, Full and Productive Employment and Decent Work for All

SDG 8.1.1 Annual growth rate of real GDP per capita

The annual growth rate of GDP per capita at constant 2005 BDT increased from 2.96 per cent in 1997 to 5.55 per cent in 2007 (BBS, n.d.a). However, the increase was more modest in the next decade between 2007 and 2017, as annual growth rate of GDP per capita at constant 2005 BDT increased from 5.55 per cent to 6.06 per cent in 2017 (Table 12). Small changes in the annual

Table 12: Annual growth rate of real GDP per capita

(in Per cent)

Year	World Bank estimate (at 2010 constant USD)	BBS estimate (at 2005 constant BDT)
1997	2.31	2.96
1998	3.02	3.66
1999	2.58	3.18
2000	3.25	3.82
2001	3.10	3.78
2002	1.94	2.26
2003	2.92	3.25
2004	3.54	3.69
2005	4.96	5.07
2006	5.25	5.15
2007	5.77	5.55
2008	4.83	4.54
2009	3.89	3.60
2010	4.40	4.14

(Table 12 contd.)

(Table 12 contd.)

Year	World Bank estimate (at 2010 constant USD)	BBS estimate (at 2005 constant BDT)
2011	5.25	5.15
2012	5.28	5.17
2013	4.77	4.56
2014	4.84	4.62
2015	5.37	5.14
2016	5.96	5.77
2017	6.16	6.06

Source: World Bank (n.d.b) and BBS (n.d.a).

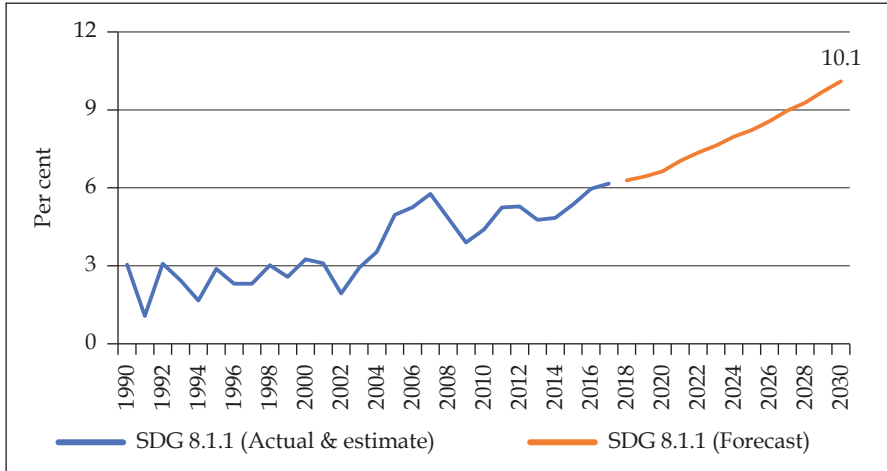
growth of GDP per capita can have significant impacts in the long run. For example, using simple methods of approximation, such as the rules of 69.3, 70 or 72 (Pacioli, 1494; Slavin, 1999), it can be shown that the GDP per capita will take around 24 years to double, if the growth rate is 2.96 per cent, but only 12 years if the growth rate is 6.06 per cent. Growth of GDP per capita in Bangladesh has been driven by the twin forces of rising economic growth and falling population growth. For instance, the annual real GDP growth rate increased from 4.43 per cent in fiscal year 1997 to 7.86 per cent in fiscal year 2018 (BBS, n.d.a), while on the other hand, the annual population growth rate decreased from 1.49 per cent in 1997 to 1.17 per cent in 2018 (BBS, n.d.a).

Based on the 7FYP of Bangladesh, GED (2018b), indicates that per capita GDP growth rate will be 6.7 per cent by 2020, 7 per cent in 2025 and 7.5 per cent by 2030. However, CPD's estimates show that if current trends continue, then the annual per capita GDP growth rate in Bangladesh will reach 6.63 per cent in 2020, 7.04 per cent in 2021, 8.22 per cent in 2025 and 10.1 per cent in 2030. Thus, from 2021 onwards, Bangladesh will meet the SDG target of having a sustained per capita GDP growth of more than 7 per cent annually (Figure 8). One of the reasons for CPD's higher growth projection could be due to pick up in the GDP growth rate during the recent few years. It is worth mentioning that if Bangladesh can indeed achieve a per capita GDP growth rate of 10.1 per cent annually and sustain such growth, then per capita GDP will double roughly every seven years.

SDG 8.2.1 Annual growth rate of real GDP per employed person

Annual growth rate of real GDP per employed person increased from 1.31 per cent in 1997 to 5.65 per cent in 2007 (ILO, n.d.). However, in the subsequent

Figure 8: SDG 8.1.1 Annual growth rate of real GDP per capita (at 2010 constant USD): Actual, estimate and forecast



Source: Authors' calculations based on data from World Bank (n.d.b).

Note: (i) Missing values imputed with maximum likelihood estimates; (ii) Forecasts based on averaging of autoregressive integrated moving average (ARIMA) model forecasts.

decade, the annual growth rate of real GDP per employed person decreased, and reached 5.27 per cent in 2017 (ILO, n.d.) (Table 13).

Table 13: Annual growth rate of real GDP per employed person

Year	GDP growth rate per employed person
1997	1.31
1998	1.97
1999	1.48
2000	2.19
2001	2.46
2002	1.31
2003	2.58
2004	2.63
2005	4.06
2006	4.06
2007	5.65
2008	4.70
2009	4.15
2010	2.14

(Table 13 contd.)

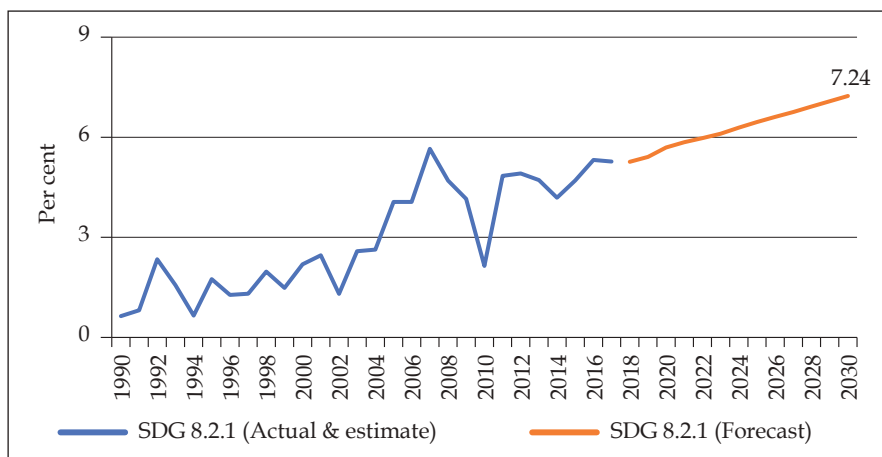
(Table 13 contd.)

Year	GDP growth rate per employed person
2011	4.84
2012	4.91
2013	4.72
2014	4.19
2015	4.71
2016	5.32
2017	5.27
2018	5.17

Source: ILO (n.d.).

In general, GDP has always grown faster than employment (BBS, n.d.a; ILO, n.d.) in the past 20 years, which has resulted in positive growth rates of GDP per employed person. Assuming a business as usual scenario, GDP per employed person is expected to keep growing at around 7.24 per cent per year in 2030 (Figure 9). Growth rate of GDP per employed person is shown to be 5 per cent in 2020, 5.5 per cent in 2025 and 6.5 per cent by 2030 in GoB document (GED, 2018b). CPD’s exercise indicates growth rate of GDP per employed person will be 5.69 per cent in 2020, 6.45 per cent in 2025 and 7.24 per cent in 2030.

Figure 9: SDG 8.2.1 Annual growth rate of real GDP per employed person: Actual, estimate and forecast



Source: Authors’ calculations based on ILO (n.d.).

Note: (i) Missing values imputed with maximum likelihood estimates; (ii) Forecasts based on averaging of autoregressive integrated moving average (ARIMA) model forecasts.

SDG 8.3.1 Proportion of informal employment in non-agriculture employment, by sex

The share of workers in the informal non-agricultural sectors increased from 82.19 per cent in 2010 to 91.3 per cent in 2017 (ILO, n.d.). Whilst informal employment increased gradually for female workers, in the case of male workers, there was a sudden increase in informal employment between the four-year period of 2013 and 2017 (Table 14). Nonetheless, the increase in informal employment makes it clear that the formal labour market in Bangladesh has failed to create jobs which are sufficient in number and adequate in terms of pay. The widespread nature of informal employment means that the vast majority of workers in the non-agricultural sectors are working without any labour contract and without any form of social protection. The baseline data for 2015-16 shows that the proportion of informal employment in non-agricultural sector is 77.5 per cent (GED, 2018b). The milestone is to reduce it to 75 per cent in 2020, to 70 per cent in 2025 and to 65 per cent by 2030 (GED, 2018b). Whichever sources of data are used, the informality in employment will continue to be a challenge in future.

Table 14: Informal employment (as percentage of total non-agricultural employment)

Year	ILO estimates			BBS estimates		
	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female
2010	82.19	80.48	89.12	NA	NA	NA
2013	82.38	80.66	87.69	78.86	78.38	80.32
2015	NA	NA	NA	77.80	75.20	88.70
2017	91.30	91.16	91.86	78.00	76.00	85.50

Source: ILO (n.d.) and BBS (2018b).

SDG 8.4.2 Domestic material consumption, domestic material consumption per capita, and domestic material consumption per GDP

Domestic material consumption of all raw materials per capita increased from 1.93 tonnes per year in 2000 to 2.65 tonnes per year in 2017 (UN, n.d.). During the period 2000–2017, per capita consumption of coal, natural gas, petroleum and fossil fuels doubled, while per capita consumption of wood decreased from 0.15 tonnes per year to 0.12 tonnes per year (UN, n.d.) (Table 15). These changes can be partly explained by the substitution of firewood with natural gas for cooking, as well as the increase in the use of motor vehicles for transportation. This implies that the pattern of domestic natural resource

Table 15: Domestic material consumption per capita

(Tonnes)

Year	Biomass	Coal	Crop residues	Crops	Ferrous ores	Fossil fuels	Natural gas	Grazed biomass	Metal ores	Non-ferrous ores	Non-metals in agriculture	Non-metals in construction	Non-metallic minerals	Petroleum	Wood	All raw materials
2000	1.35	0.01	0.47	0.44	0.01	0.08	0.05	0.27	0.02	0.01	0.01	0.49	0.50	0.02	0.15	1.93
2001	1.30	0.01	0.44	0.45	0.01	0.09	0.05	0.27	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.49	0.50	0.03	0.15	1.90
2002	1.31	0.01	0.45	0.43	0.01	0.09	0.05	0.28	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.52	0.53	0.03	0.14	1.93
2003	1.33	0.01	0.45	0.43	0.01	0.09	0.06	0.28	0.01	0.01	0.02	0.47	0.49	0.03	0.14	1.91
2004	1.29	0.00	0.42	0.44	0.01	0.09	0.06	0.29	0.01	0.01	0.02	0.49	0.51	0.03	0.14	1.89
2005	1.36	0.01	0.46	0.43	0.01	0.10	0.06	0.29	0.01	0.01	0.03	0.65	0.68	0.03	0.14	2.15
2006	1.36	0.01	0.46	0.46	0.02	0.10	0.07	0.30	0.02	0.02	0.02	0.63	0.65	0.02	0.13	2.13
2007	1.42	0.01	0.48	0.46	0.02	0.11	0.08	0.31	0.02	0.02	0.02	0.62	0.65	0.03	0.13	2.19
2008	1.48	0.01	0.52	0.49	0.01	0.12	0.08	0.31	0.01	0.01	0.03	0.59	0.62	0.03	0.13	2.23
2009	1.49	0.01	0.51	0.51	0.02	0.12	0.09	0.32	0.02	0.02	0.03	0.57	0.59	0.03	0.13	2.23
2010	1.55	0.01	0.54	0.52	0.02	0.13	0.09	0.33	0.02	0.02	0.03	0.66	0.69	0.03	0.13	2.39
2011	1.57	0.01	0.54	0.55	0.02	0.13	0.09	0.34	0.02	0.02	0.03	0.66	0.70	0.03	0.13	2.43
2012	1.55	0.01	0.54	0.55	0.02	0.14	0.09	0.34	0.02	0.02	0.03	0.68	0.72	0.03	0.13	2.43
2013	1.58	0.01	0.55	0.54	0.02	0.15	0.10	0.34	0.02	0.02	0.04	0.70	0.73	0.03	0.13	2.48
2014	1.59	0.01	0.55	0.56	0.02	0.15	0.10	0.33	0.02	0.02	0.04	0.72	0.75	0.04	0.13	2.51
2015	1.61	0.02	0.56	0.56	0.02	0.16	0.11	0.34	0.02	0.02	0.04	0.73	0.77	0.04	0.13	2.56
2016	1.63	0.02	0.57	0.57	0.02	0.17	0.11	0.34	0.02	0.02	0.04	0.75	0.79	0.04	0.13	2.60
2017	1.65	0.02	0.58	0.60	0.02	0.17	0.11	0.35	0.02	0.02	0.04	0.76	0.80	0.04	0.12	2.65

Source: UN (n.d.).

utilisation in Bangladesh has shifted from renewable sources to exhaustible sources. Such a transition is anticipated with economic development. However, it means that the exhaustible natural resources of the country are being depleted faster with every passing year, and so, greater quantities of imports may be required in future to meet the demand. Additionally, it is important to be cognisant of the fact that SDG 8.4.2 is also cross-listed as SDG 12.2.2, which calls for sustainable consumption and production. Therefore, sustainable consumption and production practices can be conducive to the implementation of more than one SDG. This target is not included in the progress report of GED (2018d), and there are no milestones for this SDG target in the M&E framework of GED (2018b).

SDG 8.5.2 Unemployment rate, by sex, age and persons with disabilities

The overall adult unemployment rate, for individuals of both genders aged 25 years and above, increased from 0.9 per cent in 1998 to 3.8 per cent in 2009, before falling back to 2.5 per cent in 2018 (ILO, n.d.). However, the scenario of youth unemployment was worse, especially for females. The overall unemployment rate for youth aged between 15 and 24 years increased from 7.8 per cent in 1998 to 12 per cent in 2018, while the unemployment rate for female youth aged from 15 to 24 years increased from 7.5 per cent in 1998 to 16 per cent in 2018 (ILO, n.d.) (Table 16).

Table 16: Unemployment rate (ILO modelled estimates)

(in Per cent)

Year	Total			Male			Female		
	Age 15+	Age 15-24	Age 25+	Age 15+	Age 15-24	Age 25+	Age 15+	Age 15-24	Age 25+
1997	2.7	7.1	0.9	2.8	7.3	0.9	2.4	6.4	0.8
1998	2.8	7.8	0.9	2.9	7.9	0.9	2.6	7.5	0.8
1999	3.1	8.8	0.9	3.1	8.8	0.9	3.0	8.9	0.8
2000	3.3	9.6	0.8	3.3	9.4	0.8	3.3	10.3	0.7
2001	3.6	9.1	1.4	3.5	9.0	1.4	3.7	9.6	1.6
2002	4.0	8.2	2.4	3.9	8.2	2.2	4.2	8.1	2.9
2003	4.3	6.6	3.5	4.2	6.8	3.2	4.8	6.1	4.4
2004	4.3	7.8	3.1	3.8	7.3	2.5	6.0	9.3	4.9
2005	4.3	8.8	2.7	3.4	7.6	1.9	7.1	13.1	5.1
2006	3.6	7.3	2.4	2.7	5.9	1.6	6.5	12.3	4.7
2007	3.8	7.5	2.6	2.9	6.2	1.8	6.5	11.9	4.9
2008	4.1	7.9	2.9	3.3	6.7	2.2	6.5	11.7	5.0

(Table 16 contd.)

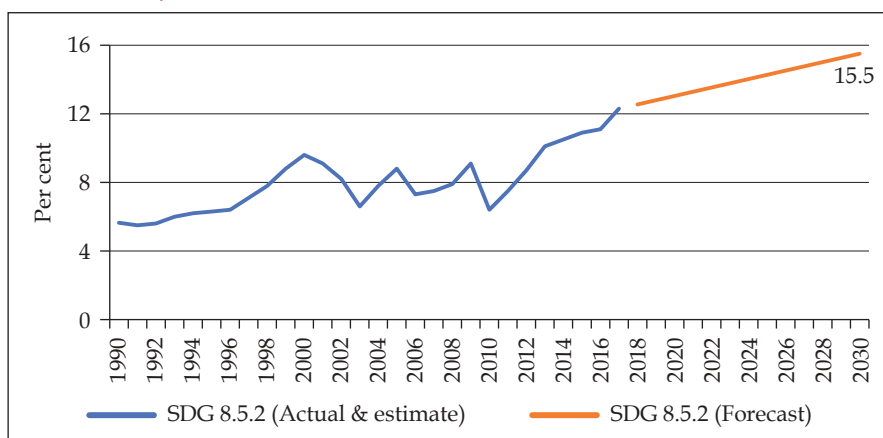
(Table 16 contd.)

Year	Total			Male			Female		
	Age 15+	Age 15-24	Age 25+	Age 15+	Age 15-24	Age 25+	Age 15+	Age 15-24	Age 25+
2009	5.0	9.1	3.8	4.2	8.0	3.0	7.4	12.6	5.9
2010	3.4	6.4	2.5	3.0	5.9	2.1	4.4	7.7	3.5
2011	3.7	7.5	2.7	3.1	7.1	2.0	5.4	8.7	4.6
2012	4.1	8.7	2.8	3.2	8.3	1.7	6.5	9.7	5.6
2013	4.4	10.1	2.9	3.2	9.8	1.5	7.6	10.9	6.7
2014	4.4	10.5	2.9	3.2	9.9	1.5	7.5	12.0	6.4
2015	4.4	10.9	2.9	3.2	9.9	1.6	7.5	13.2	6.1
2016	4.4	11.1	2.8	3.1	9.8	1.6	7.4	14.3	5.7
2017	4.4	12.3	2.5	3.3	10.3	1.7	6.7	16.8	4.4
2018	4.3	12.0	2.5	3.3	10.2	1.7	6.5	16.0	4.3

Source: ILO (n.d.).

If the overall rate of youth unemployment continues in its historical upward trend, then it is forecasted to reach as high as 15.5 per cent in 2030 (Figure 10). This is a matter of serious concern for Bangladesh since the country can potentially benefit from a demographic dividend if it can utilise the enormous potential of its vast young labour force. Based on data of the LFS of BBS, GED

Figure 10: SDG 8.5.2 Unemployment rate, all individuals between ages 15-24: Actual, estimate and forecast



Source: Authors' calculations based on ILO (n.d.).

Note: (i) Missing values imputed with maximum likelihood estimates; (ii) Forecasts based on averaging of autoregressive integrated moving average (ARIMA) model forecasts.

(2018b) set milestones for unemployment rates for both sex reducing from baseline (2015) 4.18 per cent to 4 per cent in 2020, to 3.5 per cent in 2025 and to 2.5 per cent in 2030. The GED report does not provide milestones for youth unemployment.

SDG 8.6.1 Proportion of youth (aged 15–24 years) not in education, employment or training

The share of youth not in education, employment or training (NEET) has decreased from 31 per cent in 2005 to 26.2 per cent in 2018 (ILO, n.d.). However, this decrease was mainly driven by the fall in female youth NEET, which fell from 56.3 per cent in 2005 to 43.7 per cent in 2018 (ILO, n.d.). On the other hand, the share of male youth NEET increased from 6.6 per cent in 2005 to 9.4 per cent in 2018 (ILO, n.d.) (Table 17). This has two implications. First, a transformation in cultural and social norms has led to increased participation of women in the labour force, which explains the fall in female youth NEET. And second, the economy could not generate sufficient jobs to accommodate a large number of entrants in the labour market, which explains the rise in the male youth NEET. There is also informality of employment with low pay and insecure jobs.

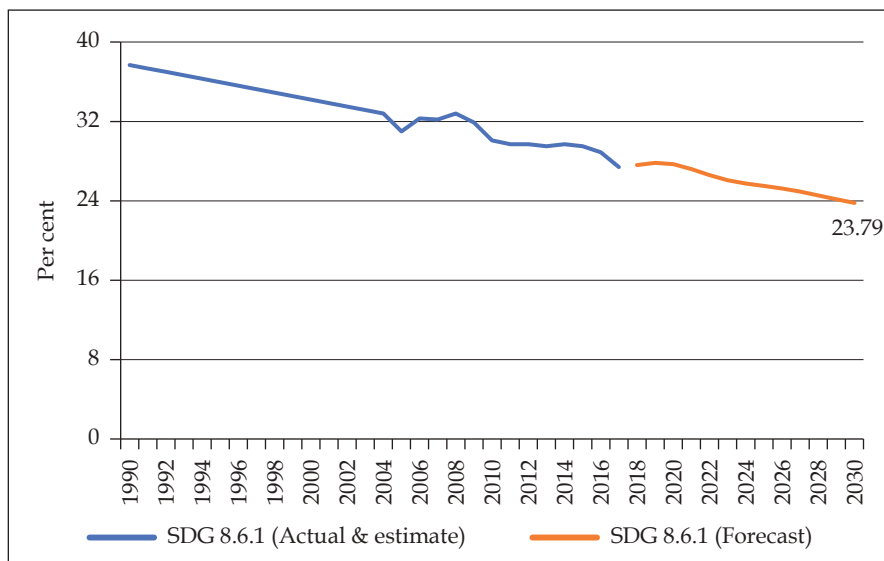
Table 17: Share of youth in NEET (ILO modelled estimates)

(in Per cent)

Year	Total	Male	Female
2005	31.0	6.6	56.3
2006	32.3	7.2	58.1
2007	32.2	9.2	55.9
2008	32.8	12.2	53.9
2009	31.9	13.9	50.3
2010	30.1	14.8	45.7
2011	29.7	14.2	45.6
2012	29.7	13.8	46.0
2013	29.5	13.0	46.4
2014	29.7	12.6	47.3
2015	29.5	11.8	47.8
2016	28.9	10.2	48.2
2017	27.4	10.0	45.4
2018	26.2	9.4	43.7

Source: ILO (n.d.).

Figure 11: SDG 8.6.1 Share of youth in NEET: Actual, estimate and forecast



Source: Authors’ calculations based on ILO (n.d.).

Note: (i) Missing values imputed with maximum likelihood estimates; (ii) Forecasts based on averaging of autoregressive integrated moving average (ARIMA) model forecasts.

If current trends continue till 2030, then the overall youth NEET rate will be 27.69 per cent in 2020, 25.5 per cent in 2025 and 23.79 per cent in 2030 (Figure 11), which is still alarmingly high. Therefore, the time to act is fast running out for Bangladesh if it hopes to make full use of its youth bulge to reap the demographic dividend. However, the GoB has promising milestones for reducing NEET. Based on LFS 2016 data, milestones for NEET are 22 per cent in 2020, 12 per cent in 2025 and only 3 per cent in 2030 (GED, 2018b). These are indeed quite optimistic milestones which will require significant employment generation efforts through higher private investment. At present, high economic growth is not being able to create enough jobs for the aspiring job-seekers. In future, this will become more challenging with technological progress. For example, with the advent of artificial intelligence, many will be displaced from the labour market. Hence, linear projection of employment generation may not automatically hold in future.

SDG 8.7.1 Proportion and number of children aged 5–17 years engaged in child labour, by sex and age

Data on child labour is not up to date. The proportion of children aged 7–14 years who are engaged in child labour decreased from 17.54 per cent in 2003

to 5 per cent in 2013 (World Bank, n.d.a). Disturbingly, the proportion of male children aged 7–14 years who were engaged in employment increased from 20.9 per cent in 2003 to 25.7 per cent in 2006 (World Bank, n.d.a). However, this perverse trend was reversed in 2013, when the proportion of male children aged from 7–14 years who were engaged in employment decreased to 5.73 per cent (World Bank, n.d.a) (Table 18). The GoB has plans to abolish child labour totally by 2030 (GED, 2018b).

Table 18: Children in labour (as percentage of children aged 7–14)

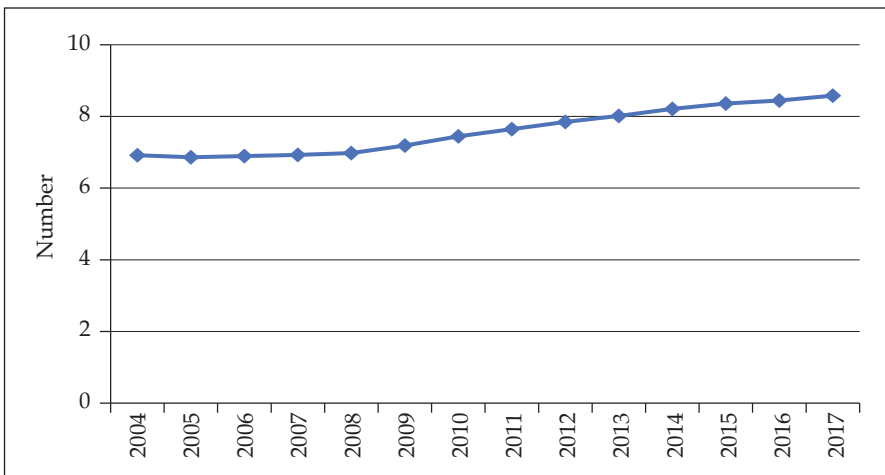
Year	Total	Male	Female
2003	17.54	20.90	13.91
2006	16.20	25.70	6.40
2013	5.00	5.73	4.22

Source: World Bank (n.d.a).

SDG 8.10.1a Number of commercial bank branches per 100,000 adults

Despite having pervasive and deep-rooted governance problems in its banking sector, Bangladesh still has a very large number of banks, compared to the size of the country and the economy. The number of commercial bank branches per 100,000 adults has increased from 6.91 in 2004 to 8.57 in 2017 (World Bank, n.d.a) (Figure 12). The GED (2018b) presents milestones of nine branches of commercial banks for 100,000 persons by 2020, 10 in 2025 and 12 in 2030. However, a simple increase in the number of branches of commercial

Figure 12: Number of commercial bank branches per 100,000 adults



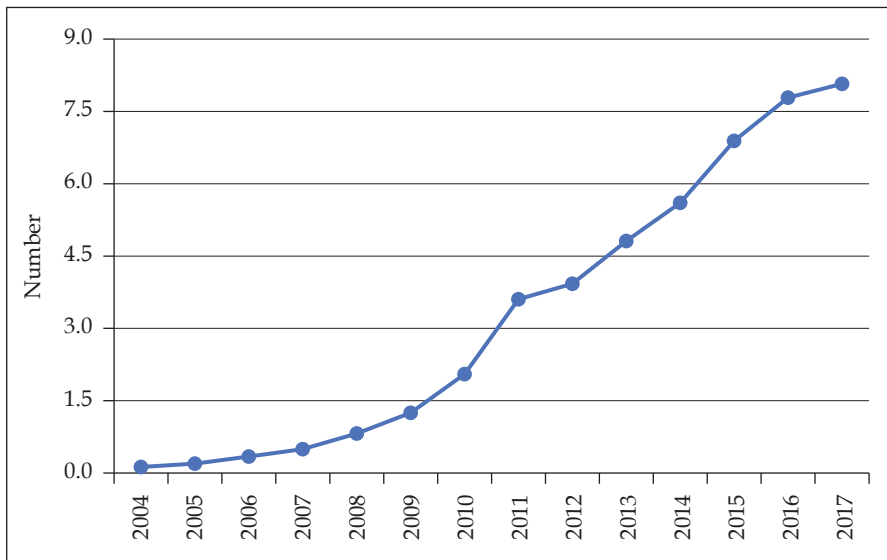
Source: World Bank (n.d.a).

banks cannot increase financial inclusion of the left behind. In fact, mobile banking may be a more potent driver of financial inclusion in the remote rural areas of Bangladesh, where most of the financially excluded live.

SDG 8.10.1b Number of automated teller machines (ATMs) per 100,000 adults

The ATMs per 100,000 adults increased from 0.12 in 2004 to 8.07 in 2017 (World Bank, n.d.a) (Figure 13). This has two opposing implications. First, and more obvious, is that the increase in the number of ATMs means that more people have easier access to their money. However, an increase in the number of ATMs also implies that more people are going to use these ATMs to withdraw cash – which is contrary to the aims of creating a cashless society in Bangladesh. Milestones set by the GED indicate that there will be seven ATMs per 100,000 adults in 2020, eight in 2025, and nine in 2030 (GED, 2018b).

Figure 13: Number of ATMs per 100,000 adults



Source: World Bank (n.d.a).

SDG 8.10.2 Proportion of adults (15 years and older) with an account at a bank or other financial institution or with a mobile-money-service provider

The proportion of adults aged 15 years and older with an account in a bank, financial institution or mobile-money-service provider increased from 31.74 per cent in 2011 to 50.05 per cent in 2017 (World Bank, n.d.a). More

Table 19: Account ownership in a financial institution or with a mobile-money-service provider (as percentage)

Year	Age 15+							Age 15-24	Age 25+
	Total	Male	Female	Poorest 40%	Richest 60%	Primary education or less	Secondary education or more	Total	Total
2011	31.74	37.29	26.01	19.06	40.18	21.06	42.51	20.32	36.76
2014	30.99	35.37	26.45	23.03	36.29	24.90	37.21	20.83	35.44
2017	50.05	64.59	35.84	40.08	56.68	39.84	57.23	40.99	53.53

Source: World Bank (n.d.a).

importantly, this increasing trend was observed across the board, starting from males and females to the poorest 40 per cent and the richest 60 per cent, as well as those who had less than primary education and those who had more than secondary education (Table 19). Therefore, it may be concluded that financial inclusion in Bangladesh increased during the period 2011–2017. GED (2018b) presents such information differently where information on adults with other financial institutions or with mobile-money service providers are presented separately. And it is projected to increase by 2030.

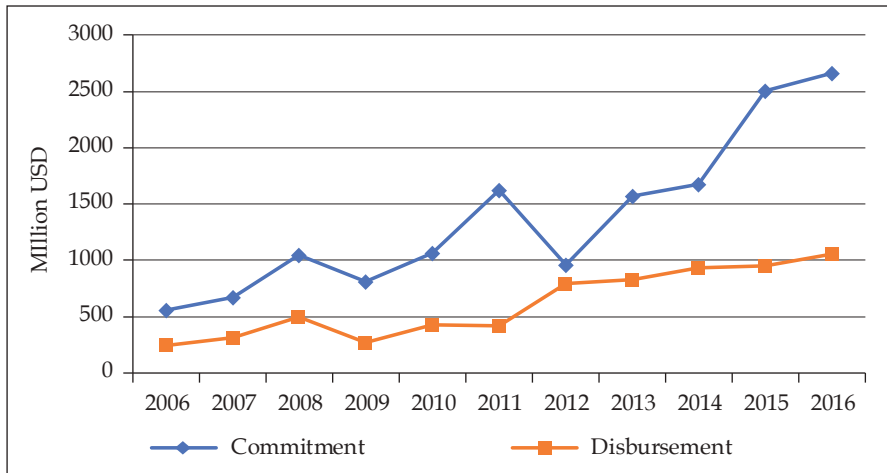
SDG 8.a.1 Aid for trade commitments and disbursements

Aid for trade (AfT) commitments increased from USD 554 million in 2006 to USD 2,664 million in 2016 (UN, n.d.). However, the gap between commitment and disbursement remains problematic. The commitment–disbursement gap increased from USD 307 million in 2006 to USD 1,200 million in 2011, then fell to USD 748 million in 2014, before rising again to USD 1,612 million in 2016 (UN, n.d.) (Figure 14). The trend of increasing commitment–disbursement gap is a worrying sign, since the benefits of AfT can only be realised if the aid is disbursed, rather than merely committed. Studies on AfT in case of Bangladesh revealed that its effectiveness depends on timely and adequate disbursement (Khatun, Dewan and Hossain, 2013).

Summary and recommendations on SDG 8

The rapid growth of the Bangladesh economy means that the country is performing well on targets related to growth under Goal 8. The target for growth rate of GDP per capita will be met well ahead of 2030, and the growth rate of GDP per employed person is also showing a positive trend. Unfortunately, such growth has not succeeded in creating decent jobs.

Figure 14: Aid for trade commitment and disbursement (at 2016 constant prices)



Source: UN (n.d.).

Rates of informal sector employment and NEET are both high, and youth unemployment is on the rise. The increase in per capita consumption of raw materials also casts a shadow of doubt on the sustainability of economic growth. Nonetheless, the growth of the economy has improved people’s lives, as the proportion of child labour has declined and financial inclusion has increased. In this context, a few suggestions are made below.

- Revisit curricula of educational institutions to improve quality and increase market relevance of skills, competencies and knowledge;
- Conduct research on changing demands for skills, in order to make sure that appropriate measures may be taken to empower workers with the right skills, so that they may positively respond to rapidly changing labour market dynamics;
- Engage all stakeholders in the design and delivery of training programmes to ensure high quality;
- Create a central database of youth in NEET in order to provide targeted skills training and match workers to employers.

4.4 State of SDG 10: Reduce Inequality within and among Countries

SDG 10.1.1 Growth rates of household expenditure or income per capita among the bottom 40 per cent of the population and the total population

The share of income held by the poorest 40 per cent of households decreased from 17.41 per cent in 1991 to 13.01 per cent in 2016 (BBS, n.d.b). Data from the period 1991-92 to 2015-16 shows that the income share held by the richest 5 per cent of households in Bangladesh increased from 18.85 per cent in 1991-92 to 27.89 per cent in 2015-16, whilst the income share held by the poorest 5 per cent of households in Bangladesh fell from 1.03 per cent in 1991-92 to 0.23 per cent in 2015-16 (BBS, n.d.b) (Table 20). The income share of the richest 5 per cent households as a multiple of the income share of the poorest 5 per cent households increased dramatically over the past few years. In 2010, the richest 5 per cent households were 31.55 times richer than the poorest 5 per cent households, but this difference magnified astronomically in 2015, when the richest 5 per cent households were 121.26 times richer than the poorest 5 per cent households (BBS, n.d.b). Thus, there exists ample evidence that the gap between the rich and the poor is rapidly widening in Bangladesh.

Table 20: Distribution of income

(in Per cent)

Criteria	1991-92	1995-96	2000	2005	2010	2015-16
Poorest 5%	1.03	0.88	0.93	0.77	0.78	0.23
Richest 5%	18.85	23.62	28.34	26.93	24.61	27.89

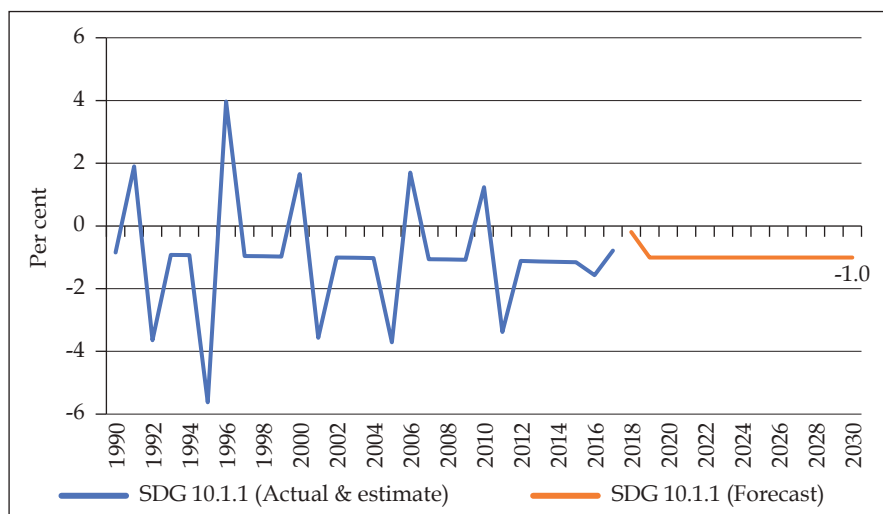
Source: BBS (n.d.b).

If the historical dynamics of income distribution in Bangladesh continue into the future, then it is predicted that the share of income held by the poorest 40 per cent of households will decrease at an annual rate of 1 per cent in 2030 (Figure 15). GED (2018b) shows that growth rates of household expenditure or income per capita among the bottom 40 per cent of the population and the total population will be 8 per cent in 2020, 9 per cent in 2025 and 10 per cent in 2030.

SDG 10.5.1 Financial soundness indicators

State-owned commercial banks (SCBs) have failed to maintain minimum capital adequacy requirements since 2013 (Bangladesh Bank, 2019). On the other hand, specialised banks (SBs) have remained critically undercapitalised

Figure 15: SDG 10.1.1 Growth rate of income share held by bottom 40 per cent: Actual, estimate and forecast



Source: Authors' calculations based on BBS (n.d.b).

Note: (i) Missing values imputed with maximum likelihood estimates; (ii) Forecasts based on averaging of autoregressive integrated moving average (ARIMA) model forecasts.

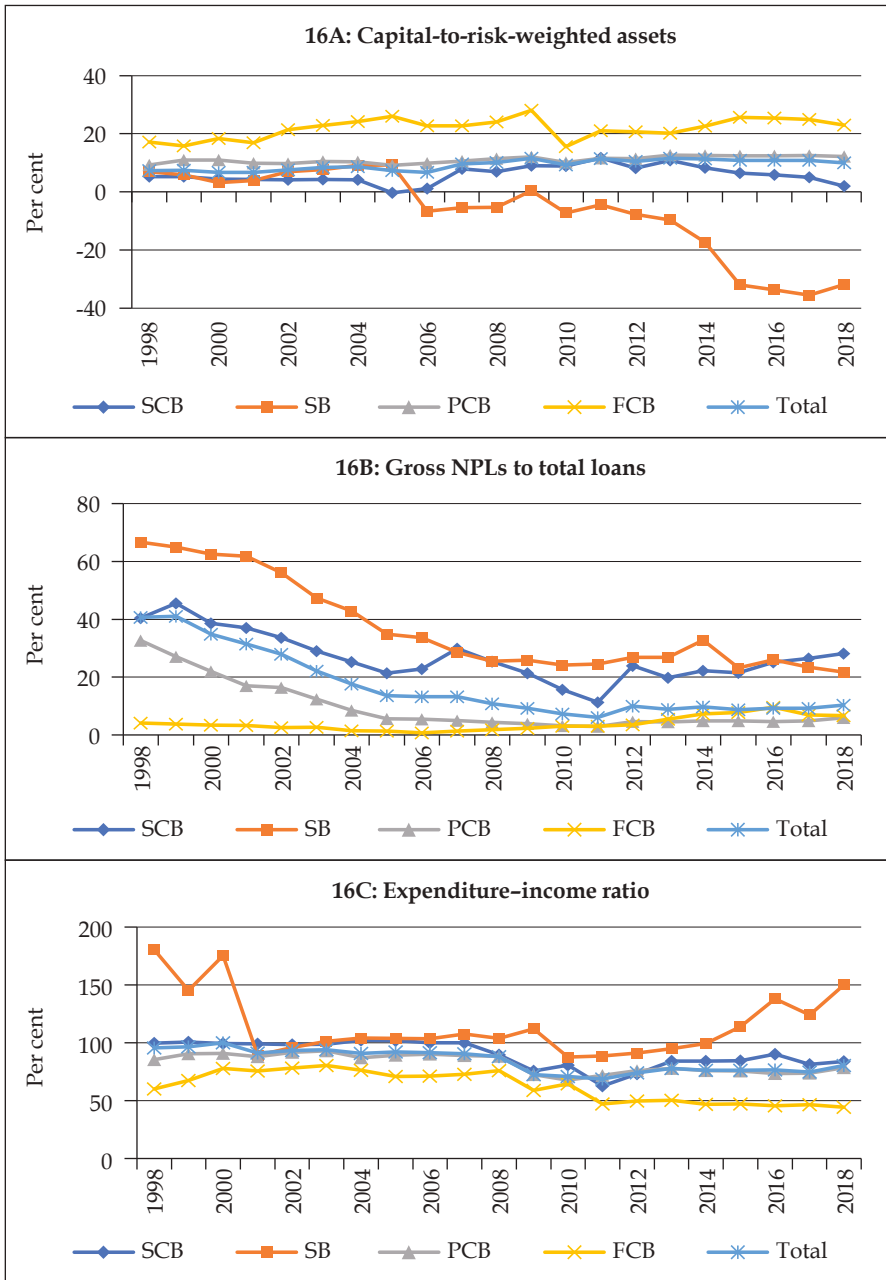
during 2008–2018 (Figure 16A) (Bangladesh Bank, 2019). Non-performing loans (NPLs) as a share of total loans have been exceptionally high in SCBs and SBs in the recent few years (Figure 16B). As of 2018, SCBs had 28.2 per cent NPL, which is highest in the last 10 years (Bangladesh Bank, 2019). As of 2018, return on assets (ROA) and return on equity (ROE) of the banking industry stood at 0.3 per cent and 5.3 per cent, respectively (Bangladesh Bank, 2019). Overall, the performance of foreign commercial banks (FCBs) and private commercial banks (PCBs) were much better as compared to that of SCBs during 2008–2018 (Figures 16C–F). The GoB has no milestones on this and meta data are yet to be finalised (GED, 2018b).

If past trends continue, then NPL as a share of total loans will remain as high as 8.88 per cent in 2020 and 8.19 per cent in 2025, but will eventually fall to 1.24 per cent in 2030 (Figure 17).

SDG 10.b.1 Total resource flows for development, by recipient and donor countries and type of flow (e.g. official development assistance, foreign direct investment and other flows)

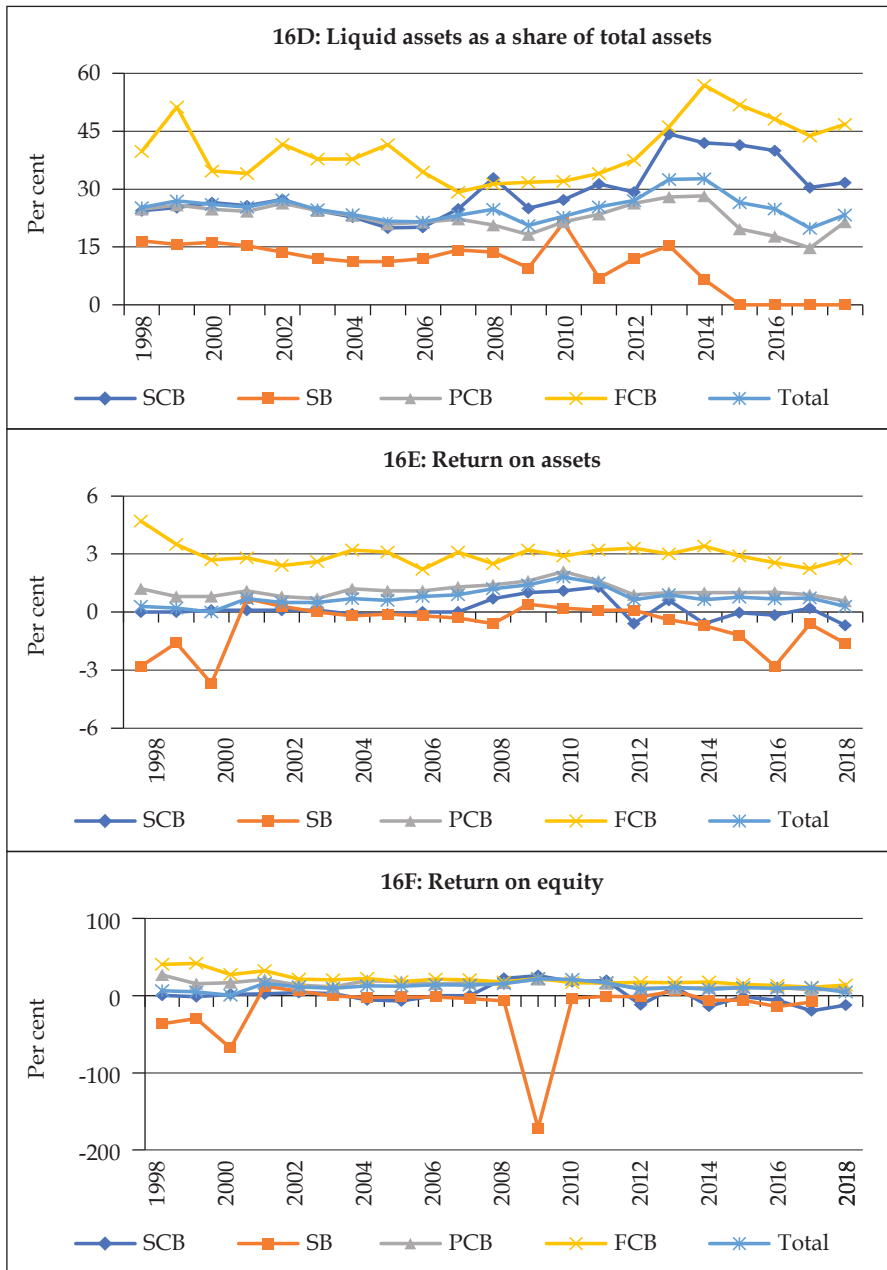
Net ODA received fluctuated between USD 1,000 million to USD 1,500 million between 1995 and 2006 (OECD, n.d.). However, net ODA received

Figure 16(A-F): Financial soundness indicators of commercial banks



(Figure 16 contd.)

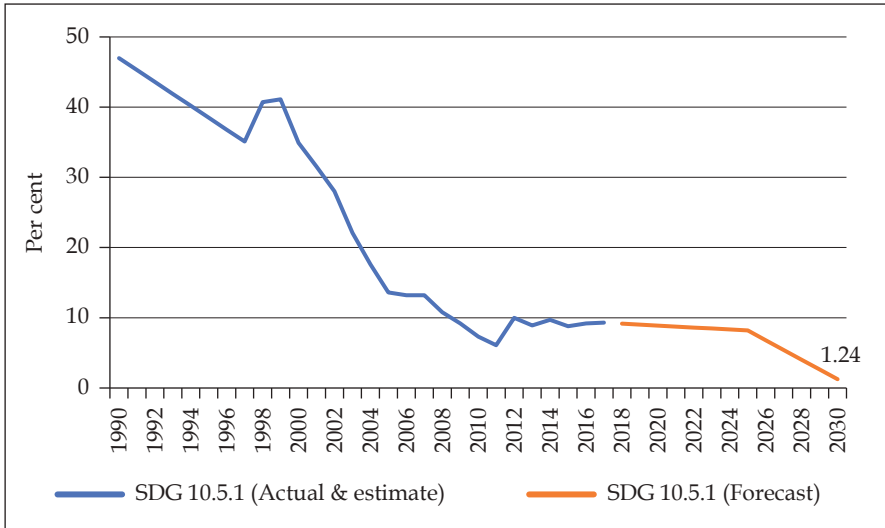
(Figure 16 contd.)



Source: Bangladesh Bank (2019).

Note: Data for 2018 are as of June.

Figure 17: SDG 10.5.1 Gross NPLs as a share of total loans (for commercial banks): Actual, estimate and forecast

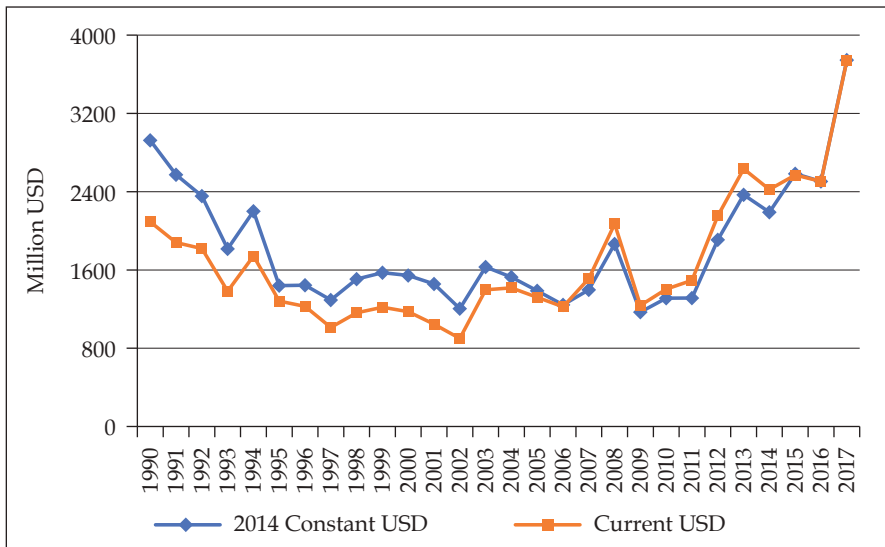


Source: Authors’ calculations based on Bangladesh Bank (2019).

Note: (i) Missing values imputed with maximum likelihood estimates; (ii) Forecasts based on averaging of autoregressive integrated moving average (ARIMA) model forecasts.

has been increasing in 2009 and reached USD 3,740 million at current prices in 2017 (OECD, n.d.) (Figure 18). Bangladesh’s upcoming graduation from

Figure 18: SDG 10.b.1 Net ODA received



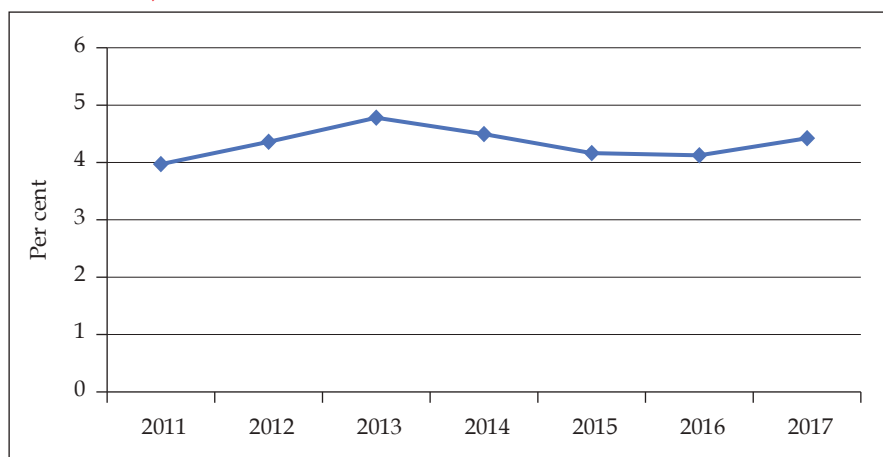
Source: OECD (n.d.).

the LDC status, which may potentially take place in 2024, has generated renewed interest in the country's ability to mobilise finance for development from external and domestic sources. Over the years, foreign aid received by Bangladesh has become more project-specific, multilateral and loan-dominated. A broad-based empirical analysis shows that foreign aid is not a statistically significant determinant of economic growth in Bangladesh (Khatun, 2018). However, a more disaggregated analysis reveals that foreign aid to the health sector can significantly improve health outcomes (Khatun, 2018). These findings show that, while foreign aid may not be a driving force of economic growth per se, it is still an important source of support for the social sectors of the country which receive limited resource from the government. Hence, Bangladesh will have to improve the efficiency in aid utilisation. However, the country cannot expect to continue receiving foreign aid perpetually, and must prudently prepare for a gradual and systematic phase-out. Since graduation to a developing country status will make obtaining external finances more difficult and expensive, improving the generation of domestic resources and their efficient use will be of critical importance for Bangladesh in the coming years.

SDG 10.c.1 Remittance costs as a proportion of the amount remitted

The average transaction cost of sending remittances as a percentage of the amount sent declined from 4.78 per cent in 2013 to 4.12 per cent in 2017, but increased again to 4.42 per cent in 2017 (World Bank, n.d.a) (Figure 19).

Figure 19: Average transaction cost of sending remittances (as percentage of amount sent)



Source: World Bank (n.d.a).

These changes may be small in percentage terms, but on an aggregate level, they may have a much larger impact. With Bangladesh's dual graduation, from low-income country to lower middle-income country and from LDC to developing country, remittances are expected to play an increasingly important role as a means of implementation of the SDGs. Therefore, it is in the country's best interest to make sure that the transaction costs of sending and receiving remittances are kept as low as possible, so that there is little incentive for sending remittances through unofficial channels. In order to encourage remitting money through formal channels, the GoB has announced a 2-per-cent incentive on the amount of money remitted by Bangladeshi migrants in the national budget of FY2019-20 (GoB, 2019).

Summary and recommendations on SDG 10

Inequality has been soaring in Bangladesh in recent years, as the distribution of income has become more polarised. The share of income held by the rich has increased at the expense of the share of income held by the poor. Financial soundness indicators of the banking sector portray a gloomy picture, especially those of SCBs. ODA has increased recently, mainly due to the influx of the Rohingyas from Myanmar. Remittance costs as a proportion of the amount remitted has increased a little in the past few years, which may divert the flow of remittances to the unofficial channels. In view of the current situation, strong measures, such as the following, have to be undertaken by policymakers.

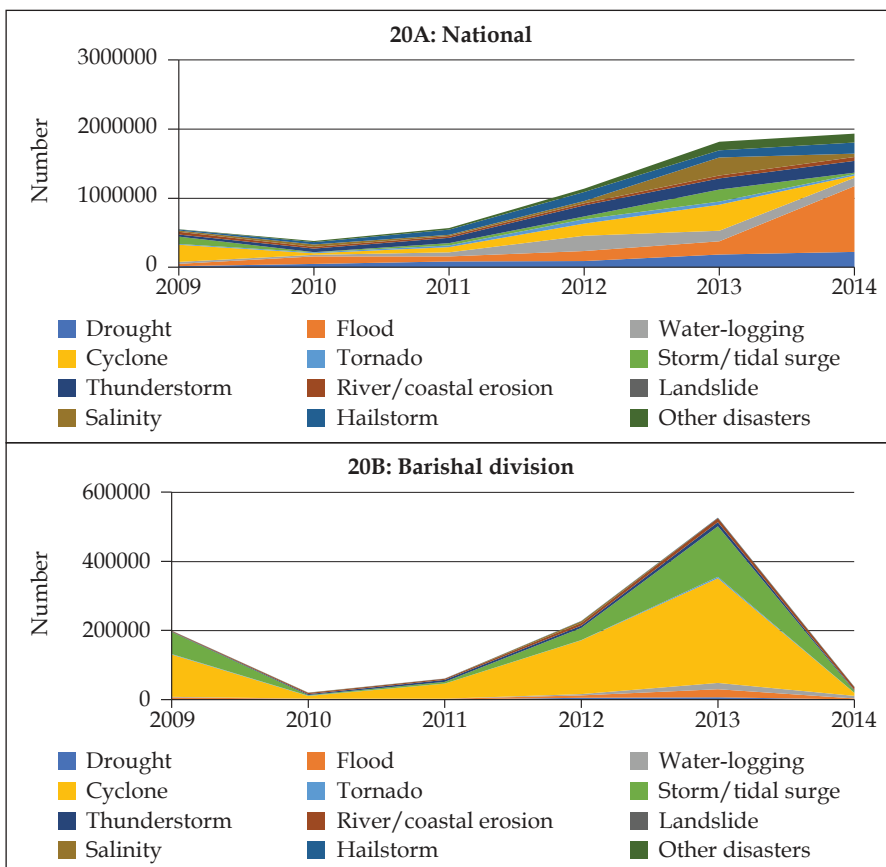
- Democratise educational opportunities by reserving a certain portion of seats in private schools for children from underprivileged families and providing free education to such children;
- Explore opportunities for providing primary producers with an equity stake in private sector agro-processing companies;
- Broaden the asset ownership of the excluded by establishing labour-exporting enterprises owned by overseas migrant workers;
- Decouple pension of government officials from social protection budget and gradually shift from the humanitarian approach to the rights-based approach on social protection;
- Improve targetting of social protection programmes to minimise leakages and adverse selection.

4.5 State of SDG 13: Take Urgent Action to Combat Climate Change and its Impacts

SDG 13.1.1a Number of deaths, missing persons and directly affected persons attributed to disasters per 100,000 population

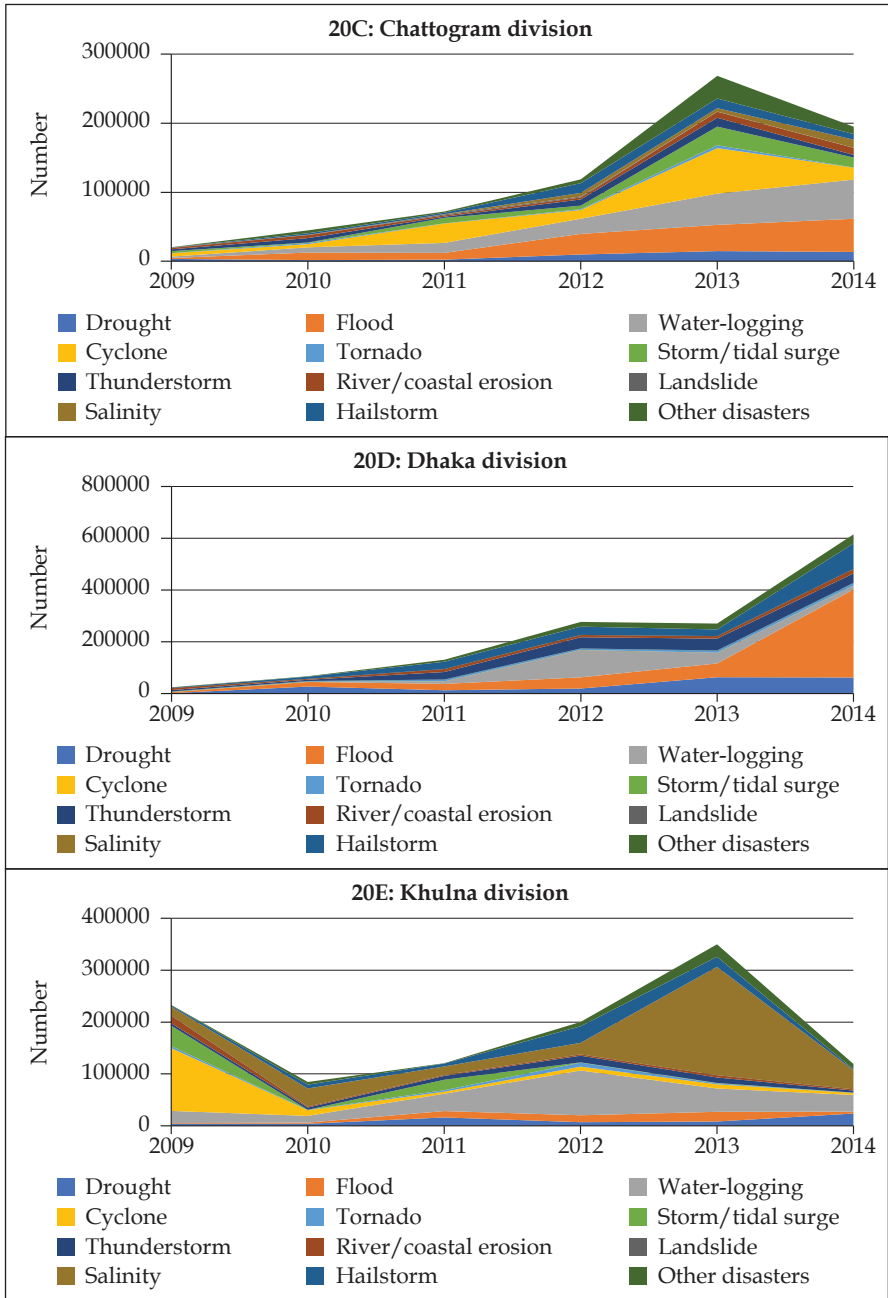
Bangladesh is one of the countries of the world which are most vulnerable to climate change. The number of households affected by natural disasters in Bangladesh has increased from 550,555 in 2009 to 1,934,629 in 2014 (BBS, 2015a). This implies that as high as 44.36 per cent of all households in Bangladesh were affected by natural disasters. During the period 2009–2014, the total number of households affected by natural disasters increased in five of the seven geographic divisions (Figures 20A–H).

Figure 20(A–H): Number of households affected by natural disasters, by division and type of disaster during 2009–2014



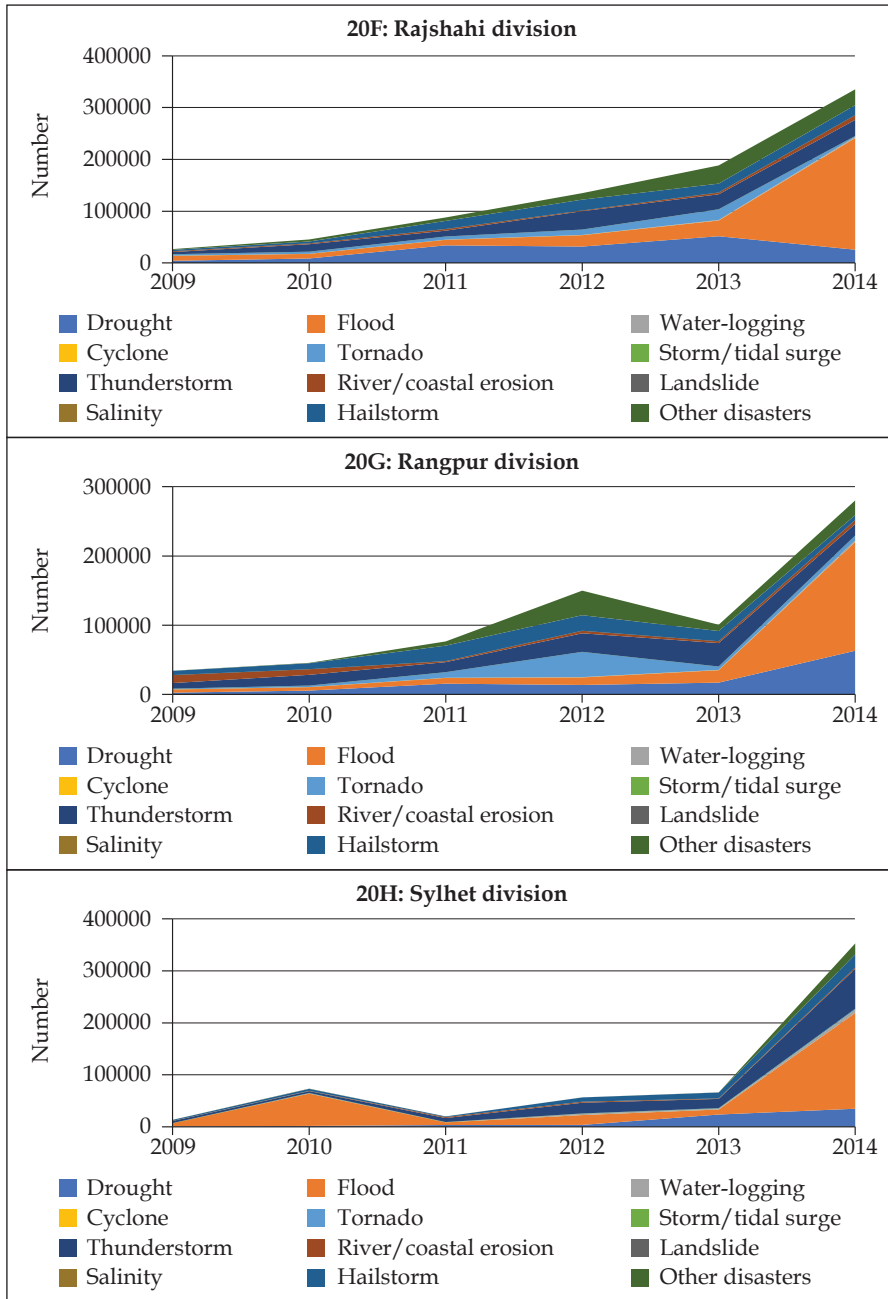
(Figure 20 contd.)

(Figure 20 contd.)



(Figure 20 contd.)

(Figure 20 contd.)

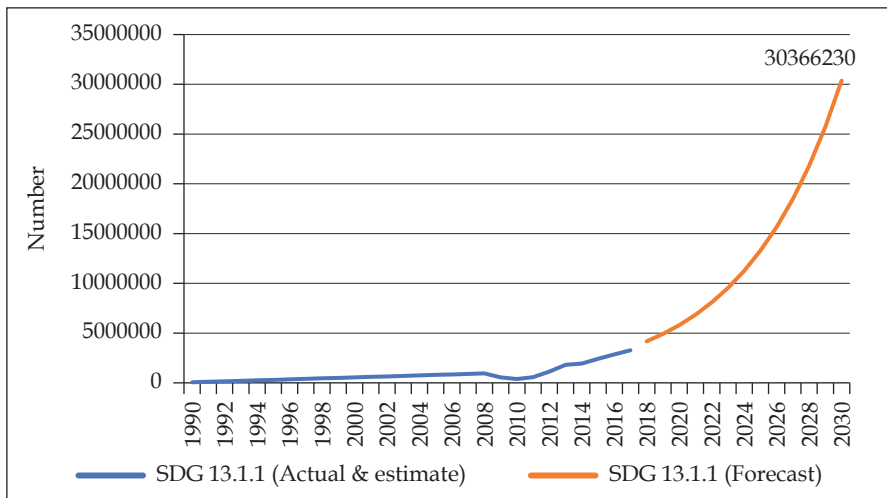


Source: BBS (2015a).

Note: Household, throughout this sub-section, is defined as a group of people who share the same kitchen, including single persons.

Although all natural disasters cannot be directly attributed to climate change, there is substantial evidence that anthropogenic climate change is responsible for the increase in the frequency, intensity and amount of heavy rainfall globally (Hoegh-Guldberg et al., 2018). Hence, the increase in the number of households affected by natural disasters in Bangladesh over the years can be at least partly explained by climate change. If the trend of increasing frequency and intensity of natural disasters continues, then 30,366,230 households in Bangladesh will be affected by natural disasters in 2030, which is 12.52 times higher than the number in 2015 (Figure 21).

Figure 21: SDG 13.1.1 Number of households affected by natural disasters: Actual, estimate and forecast



Source: Authors' calculations based on BBS (2015a).

Note: (i) Missing values imputed with maximum likelihood estimates; (ii) Forecasts based on averaging of autoregressive integrated moving average (ARIMA) model forecasts.

Floods affected 1,503,742 households or 34.48 per cent of all households in Bangladesh during the period 2009–2014, which was the highest among all the type of disasters (BBS, 2015a). In Dhaka, Rajshahi, Rangpur and Sylhet divisions, flood was the most common natural disaster, although in Barishal division, cyclone was more common, and in Khulna division, cyclone and salinity were major concerns during the period 2009–2014 (BBS, 2015a) (Table 21).

Table 21: Proportion of households affected by natural disasters, by division and type of disaster during 2009–2014

Region	Drought	Flood	Water-logging	Cyclone	Tornado	Storm/tidal surge	Thunderstorm	River/coastal erosion	Landslide	Salinity	Hailstorm	Other disasters
National	14.80	34.48	13.88	21.31	4.14	8.65	14.94	4.95	0.08	4.09	11.88	7.90
Barishal	1.41	5.24	3.91	78.31	0.91	31.51	3.72	4.35	0.00	0.85	0.31	0.05
Chattogram	10.61	32.03	34.39	30.96	1.80	13.51	8.39	7.01	0.80	5.30	9.46	12.86
Dhaka	19.89	51.89	18.68	0.00	3.88	0.00	17.69	6.42	0.00	0.00	20.86	9.27
Khulna	9.30	7.68	34.88	23.23	2.62	9.16	7.39	4.15	0.00	22.24	10.31	7.32
Rajshahi	25.39	48.47	0.65	0.00	7.51	0.00	20.40	3.39	0.00	0.00	12.86	14.73
Rangpur	23.99	41.74	0.68	0.00	12.30	0.00	23.53	6.87	0.00	0.00	16.62	8.34
Sylhet	16.51	69.97	2.57	0.00	1.30	0.00	31.84	1.95	0.02	0.00	12.54	5.42

Source: BBS (2015a).

SDG 13.1.1b Aggregate economic loss due to disasters

The total economic loss due to natural disasters during the period 2009–2014 was BDT 184,247.34 million (BBS, 2015a). Sector-wise disaggregation of the same period shows that crops suffered the greatest economic loss due to natural disasters, which amounted to BDT 66,703.42 million (BBS, 2015a) (Table 22).

On the other hand, Dhaka division suffered economic losses due to natural disasters equivalent to BDT 46,055.3 million during the period 2009–2014, which was the greatest among all the geographic divisions of the country (BBS, 2015a) (Table 23).

SDG 13.1.1c Sickness and injury due to disasters, by area

Children were disproportionately affected by climate change, as 69.53 per cent of individuals who fell sick due to natural disasters during 2009 to 2014 were 17 years old or younger (BBS, 2015a). On the other hand, adults were more prone to injury, as 47.33 per cent of individuals aged 18 to 60 suffered from injuries due to natural disasters during 2009 to 2014 (BBS, 2015a) (Table 24).

SDG 13.1.1d Sickness and injury due to disasters, by disaster

In terms of natural disasters, floods had the most damaging impact on human life as 47.91 per cent of all individuals suffered from sickness and 41.9 per cent of all individuals suffered from an injury due to floods (BBS, 2015a) (Table 25).

SDG 13.1.1e Average economic loss per household due to disasters

Average annual economic loss per household due to natural disasters was estimated to be BDT 7,040 per year or around 5.1 per cent of average annual household income during the period 2009–2014 (BBS, 2015a). However, these losses were not equally shared among all households. Average annual economic loss per households due to natural disasters was as high as 15.7 per cent of average annual household income for the poorest quintile of households, but only 3.1 per cent of average annual household income for the richest quintile of households. Thus, the poorest households were disproportionately affected by climate change-induced natural disasters during the period 2009–2014 (BBS, 2015a) (Table 26).

Table 22: Economic loss due to natural disasters, by sector and type of disaster during 2009–2014

(Million BDT)

Disaster type	All sectors	Crops	Livestock	Poultry	Fishery	Land	Houses	Homestead & forestry
All natural disasters	184247.34	66703.42	8772.16	2224.88	10713.99	49229.73	31676.89	14926.27
Drought	10569.20	9144.99	191.14	81.93	189.65	698.15	0.00	263.34
Flood	42807.19	22163.26	2373.29	593.81	1986.77	8966.45	5040.03	1683.58
Water-logging	16062.24	8660.70	702.99	204.59	2466.43	1541.53	1769.64	716.36
Cyclone	28384.81	4194.25	3137.51	750.92	2109.46	0.00	10833.38	7359.29
Tornado	4299.03	984.46	145.80	28.02	0.00	0.00	2484.62	656.13
Storm/tidal surge	12676.02	2343.78	769.93	321.96	3271.24	3318.00	1847.69	803.42
Thunderstorm	10940.12	2493.63	432.28	103.39	0.00	0.00	6212.35	1698.47
River/coastal erosion	36408.92	1076.20	729.30	33.90	338.72	31742.12	2034.28	454.40
Landslide	249.01	7.78	0.16	0.11	0.00	200.23	21.44	19.29
Salinity	6072.94	2162.73	142.23	11.01	0.00	2763.21	46.92	946.84
Hailstorm	11471.69	9679.63	53.38	27.01	0.00	0.00	1386.53	325.14
Other natural disasters	4306.11	3792.00	94.14	68.24	351.73	0.00	0.00	0.00

Source: BBS (2015a).

Table 23: Economic loss due to natural disasters, by division and type of disaster during 2009–2014

(Million BDT)

Disaster type	National	Barishal	Chattogram	Dhaka	Khulna	Rajshahi	Rangpur	Sylhet
All natural disasters	184247.34	36974.39	19029.86	46055.30	29212.54	21690.37	15614.68	15670.23
Drought	10569.20	70.33	476.45	2938.59	753.97	2663.93	2049.42	1616.54
Flood	42807.19	1028.85	3327.15	14490.14	1627.01	7811.03	5209.37	9313.71
Water-logging	16062.24	696.42	2955.37	4188.42	7907.72	59.16	80.91	174.25
Cyclone	28384.81	19827.45	3358.18	0.00	5199.17	0.00	0.00	0.00
Tornado	4299.03	245.48	236.89	872.74	420.96	1035.58	1056.96	130.41
Storm/tidal surge	12676.02	9285.54	999.72	0.00	2390.77	0.00	0.00	0.00
Thunderstorm	10940.12	241.42	1411.20	3069.49	769.74	2059.35	1462.44	1926.44
River/coastal erosion	36408.92	5276.16	3905.81	14175.58	3221.95	4926.18	4085.82	817.40
Landslide	249.01	0.00	248.96	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.05
Salinity	6072.94	284.07	650.34	0.00	5138.54	0.00	0.00	0.00
Hailstorm	11471.69	17.83	684.08	5314.29	1021.23	1599.98	1323.12	1511.13
Other natural disasters	4306.11	0.87	475.68	1006.08	761.42	1535.16	346.62	180.28

Source: BBS (2015a).

Table 24: Proportion of individuals suffering from sickness and injury due to natural disasters, by division and age group (as percentage of relevant group) during 2009–2014

Region	Sickness				Injury			
	Total	Age 0–17	Age 18–60	Age 61+	Total	Age 0–17	Age 18–60	Age 61+
National	100.00	69.53	25.83	4.63	100.00	36.54	47.33	16.13
Barishal	12.12	9.21	2.27	0.65	13.04	3.72	5.04	4.28
Chattogram	12.65	8.86	3.27	0.52	17.80	6.45	8.19	3.17
Dhaka	20.97	15.09	4.58	1.29	15.43	4.74	8.23	2.46
Khulna	12.97	7.62	4.54	0.82	16.09	3.85	8.96	3.28
Rajshahi	16.17	10.73	4.79	0.64	15.89	6.66	7.94	1.29
Rangpur	12.07	8.44	3.27	0.35	9.26	4.55	3.68	1.03
Sylhet	13.04	9.58	3.10	0.36	12.49	6.58	5.30	0.61

Source: BBS (2015a).

Table 25: Proportion of individuals suffering from sickness and injury due to natural disasters, by type of disaster and age group (as percentage of relevant group) during 2009–2014

Disaster type	Sickness				Injury			
	Total	Age 0–17	Age 18–60	Age 61+	Total	Age 0–17	Age 18–60	Age 61+
All disasters	99.99	69.53	25.83	4.63	100.00	36.54	47.33	16.13
Drought	7.07	4.71	2.03	0.33	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Flood	47.91	33.76	12.24	1.91	41.90	19.87	17.94	4.09
Water-logging	12.42	8.45	3.29	0.68	7.67	1.77	4.39	1.51
Cyclone	12.07	8.44	2.91	0.72	15.21	4.32	5.34	5.55
Tornado	1.19	0.86	0.28	0.05	8.42	2.05	5.29	1.08
Storm/tidal surge	4.56	3.08	1.27	0.21	3.87	0.76	2.39	0.72
Thunderstorm	4.75	3.71	0.92	0.12	6.69	2.60	3.63	0.46
River/coastal erosion	0.85	0.55	0.22	0.08	4.16	2.01	1.64	0.51
Landslide	0.04	0.02	0.02	0.00	0.01	0.00	0.01	0.00
Salinity	0.80	0.36	0.41	0.03	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Hailstorm	3.49	2.24	0.97	0.28	9.09	1.93	5.53	1.63
Other disasters	4.84	3.34	1.27	0.23	3.00	1.23	1.17	0.60

Source: BBS (2015a).

Table 26: Average annual economic loss per household due to natural disasters, by household income quintile groups and type of loss

(in BDT)

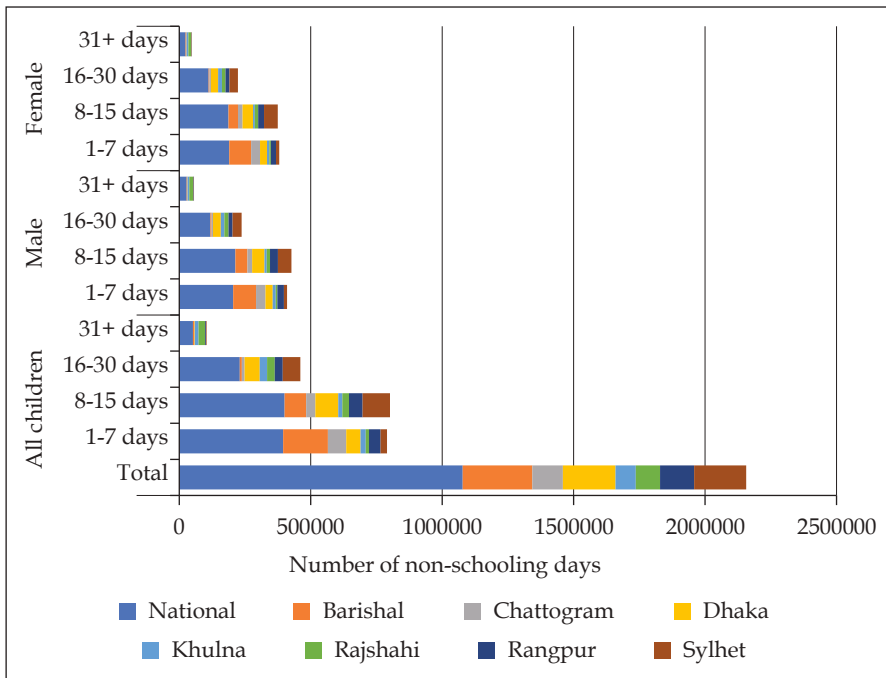
Quintile	Average annual household income	Crops	Livestock	Poultry	Fishery	Land	Houses	Homestead & forestry	Total	Economic loss as a proportion of household income (%)
1	34957	2038	279	75	268	1351	1066	394	5471	15.7
2	74590	1776	270	77	220	1397	1231	382	5353	7.2
3	105986	1987	331	87	300	1888	1255	529	6377	6.0
4	152092	2566	353	92	395	2026	1260	743	7435	4.9
5	357897	4665	460	95	934	2877	1244	846	11121	3.1
Average	139357	2549	335	85	409	1881	1211	570	7040	5.1

Source: BBS (2015a).

SDG 13.1.1f Non-schooling days due to disasters

In the aftermath of a natural disaster, there is often widespread damage to infrastructure and disruptions of transportation links. As a result, children may not be able to travel to their schools, or even worse, the schools themselves may be destroyed. Additionally, schools in remote rural areas of Bangladesh are often utilised as storm shelters, which means that sometimes classes cannot continue during inclement weather. During the period 2009–2014, children in Bangladesh missed a total of 1,078,118 days of school due to natural disasters (BBS, 2015a). Boys missed school marginally more than girls; and children in Barishal division were the worst affected due to natural disasters (BBS, 2015a) (Figure 22).

Figure 22: Number of days children missed school due to natural disasters, by division and gender during 2009–2014



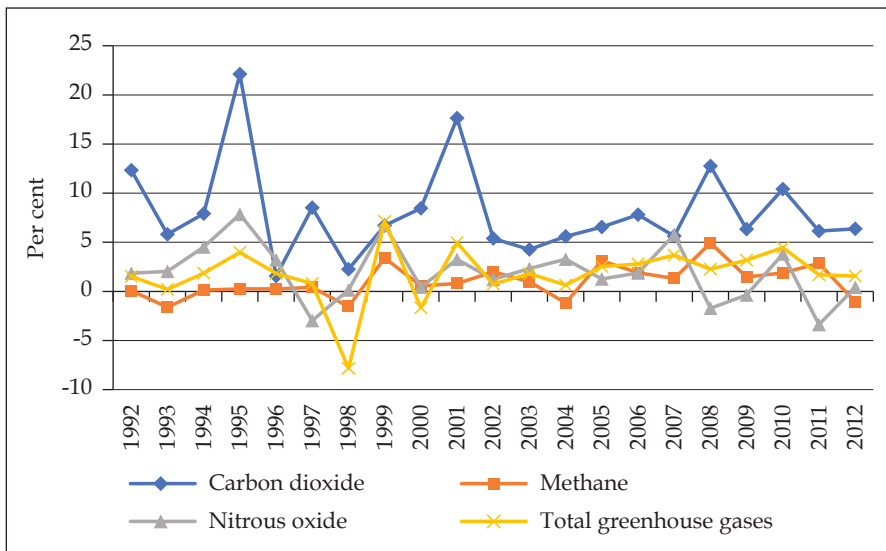
Source: BBS (2015a).

SDG 13.2.1a Number of countries that have communicated the establishment or operationalization of an integrated policy/strategy/plan which increases their ability to adapt to the adverse impacts of climate change, and foster climate resilience and low greenhouse gas emissions

development in a manner that does not threaten food production (including a national adaptation plan, nationally determined contribution, national communication, biennial update report or other)

Per capita emissions in Bangladesh are generally much lower than those in developed countries. Nevertheless, with rapid economic advancement, emissions have been growing in recent years. On average, carbon dioxide emissions increased at 8.11 per cent, while methane and nitrous oxide emissions increased by 0.99 per cent and 1.98 per cent, respectively, during the period 1992–2012 (EC-JRC and PBL, n.d.) (Figure 23).

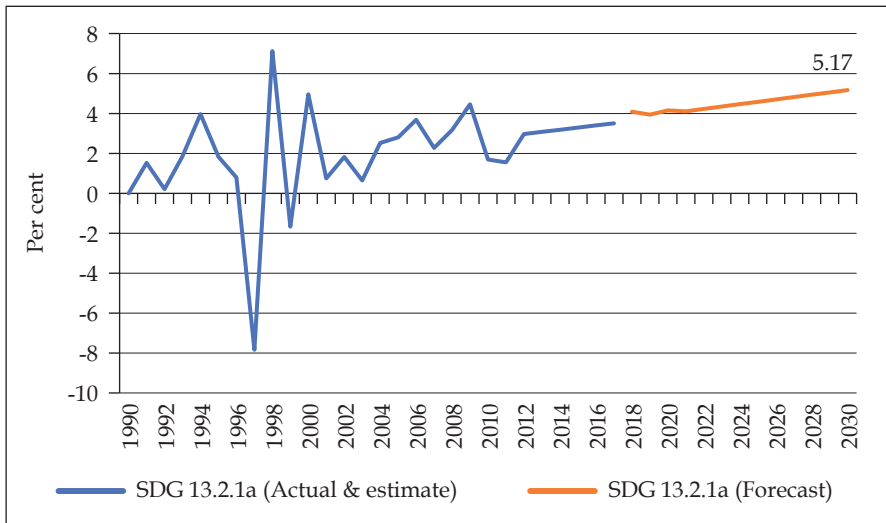
Figure 23: Growth rate of emissions



Source: EC-JRC and PBL (n.d.).

On the other hand, total greenhouse gas emissions increased by 1.81 per cent per year on average during the period 1992–2012 (EC-JRC and PBL, n.d.). If this increasing trend continues, then in 2030, total greenhouse gas emissions in Bangladesh will increase by 5.17 per cent per year (Figure 24). Climate change is a global phenomenon for which Bangladesh alone is not responsible. Nonetheless, since Bangladesh is one of the most vulnerable countries in the world to the adverse impacts of climate change, it is imperative for the country to leave no stone unturned in its efforts to mitigate the causes and adapt to the consequences of climate change. Thus, steps must be taken to promote sustainable production and consumption practices, as well as to develop an environmentally-aware lifestyle.

Figure 24: SDG 13.2.1a Growth rate of total greenhouse gas emissions: Actual, estimate and forecast



Source: Authors’ calculations based on EC-JRC and PBL (n.d.).

Note: (i) Missing values imputed with maximum likelihood estimates; (ii) Forecasts based on averaging of autoregressive integrated moving average (ARIMA) model forecasts.

SDG 13.2.1b Annual average temperature change

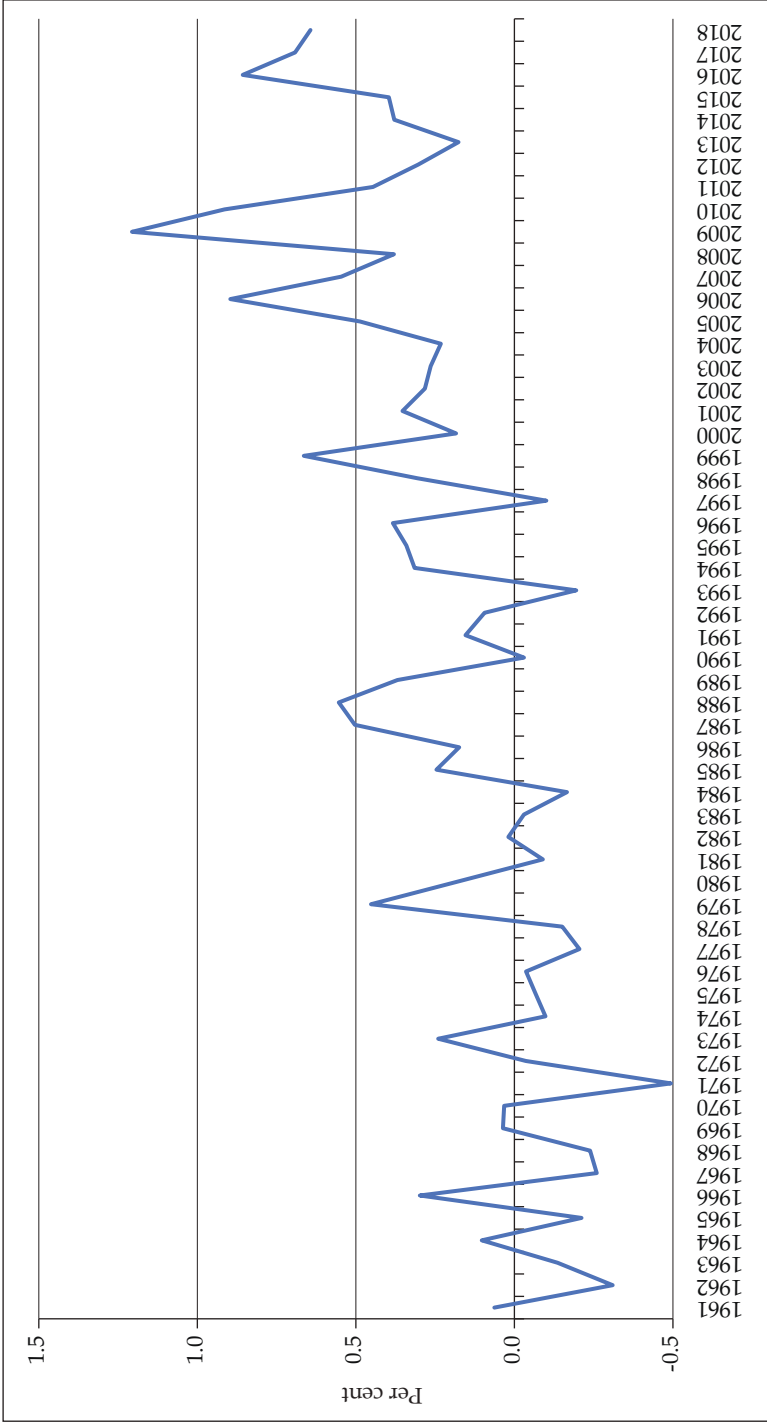
Global warming is wreaking havoc all over the world, and its impacts are being overtly felt in Bangladesh as well. Many countries of the world are witnessing a rise in annual average temperatures and records of temperature highs are being broken repeatedly. In Bangladesh, annual average temperatures increased by 0.64 per cent per year in 2018, which was 10.2 times faster than the annual average temperature increase of 0.06 per cent in 1961 (FAO, n.d.) (Figure 25).

If the disturbing trend of increase in annual average temperature continues, then by 2030, annual average temperature in Bangladesh will increase by 0.95 per cent each year (Figure 26). Such warming is bound to have effects adverse effects of agricultural productivity and human well-being, while causing an increase in electricity consumption and frequency of severe cyclones.

Summary and recommendations on SDG 13

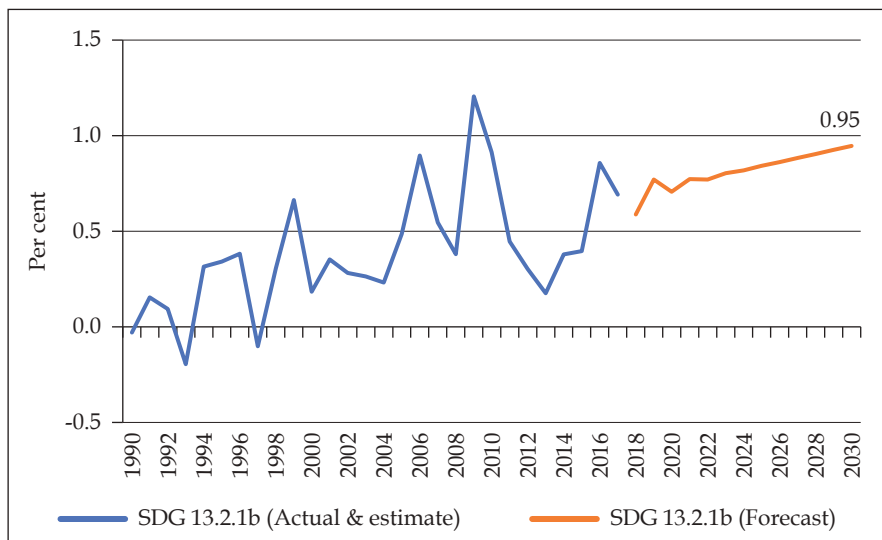
Bangladesh’s high climate vulnerability is evident from the state of the indicators under Goal 13. In recent years, the country has faced an increasing

Figure 25: Annual average temperature change



Source: FAO (n.d.).

Figure 26: SDG 13.2.1b Annual average temperature change: Actual, estimate and forecast



Source: Authors’ calculations based on FAO (n.d.).

Note: (i) Missing values imputed with maximum likelihood estimates; (ii) Forecasts based on averaging of autoregressive integrated moving average (ARIMA) model forecasts.

number of natural disasters – many of which are most likely induced by anthropogenic climate change. The total number of households affected by natural disasters has increased year-by-year, and if such trends continue, then forecast suggests that more than 30 million households will be affected by climate-induced natural disasters in 2030. Climate-induced natural disasters have had substantial adverse impacts on individuals and communities, with high economic losses accompanied by large numbers of people suffering from sickness and injury, and children missing schooling days. The drivers of climate change show no signs of abatement, as greenhouse gas emissions keep rising. On the other hand, annual average temperatures are forecasted to keep increasing continuously till 2030, if the trends of the past persist. Following measures are needed to tackle the risks of climate change:

- Scale up adaptation measures to enhance adaptive capacity, strengthen resilience and reduce vulnerability to climate change;
- Implement national adaptation plans through participatory measures, and strengthen adaptation-related institutional arrangements;
- Increase investment in renewable energy to make agriculture and manufacturing greener;

- Campaign for greater funding of climate change adaption measures and join forces with other climate-vulnerable countries to persuade developed countries to fulfil their climate funding commitments;
- Consider trans-boundary action and collaboration on mitigation and adaptation by setting up a separate fund amongst climate-vulnerable countries to address the impacts of climate change on the lives and livelihoods of people;
- Increase natural disaster preparedness by improving the efficiency of multi-hazard early warning systems.

4.6 State of SDG 16: Promote Peaceful and Inclusive Societies for Sustainable Development, Provide Access to Justice for All and Build Effective, Accountable and Inclusive Institutions at All Levels

SDG 16.1.1 Number of victims of intentional homicide per 100,000 population, by sex and age

The number of intentional homicides per 100,000 people has been fluctuating at around 2 to 3 homicides per 100,000 people per year during the period 2000–2018 (Table 27). Interestingly, the numbers reported by Bangladesh

Table 27: Intentional homicides per 100,000 people

Year	UN Office on Drugs and Crime	Bangladesh Police
2000	2.54	NA
2001	2.74	NA
2002	2.56	2.65
2003	2.50	2.59
2004	2.76	2.87
2005	2.50	2.61
2006	2.87	2.98
2007	2.63	2.72
2008	2.75	2.85
2009	2.80	2.89
2010	2.62	2.70
2011	2.58	2.65
2012	2.64	2.71
2013	2.79	2.86
2014	2.83	2.90
2015	2.50	2.56

(Table 27 contd.)

(Table 27 contd.)

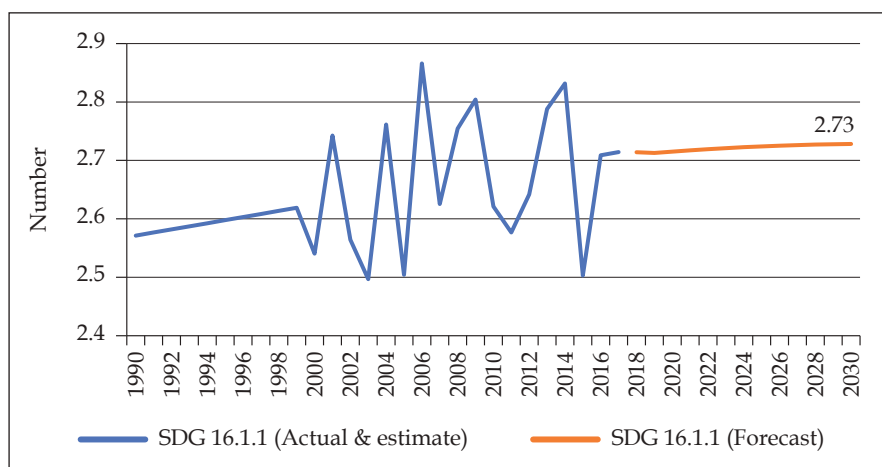
Year	UN Office on Drugs and Crime	Bangladesh Police
2016	NA	2.25
2017	NA	2.19
2018	NA	2.34

Source: World Bank (n.d.a) and Bangladesh Police (2019).

Police are higher than those reported by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime for all the years for which data are available from both sources. Despite such discrepancies, homicides followed a cyclical pattern with a high rate of homicide in one year followed by a low rate of homicide in the subsequent year.

Findings from the model forecast show that Bangladesh is completely off-track in its pursuit of attaining SDG target 16.1 by 2030. If current trends continue, then the model forecast predicts that there will 2.73 intentional homicides per 100,000 individuals in 2030 (Figure 27). This is clearly higher than the target of 1 intentional homicide per 100,000 individuals (GED, 2018d) by 2030 and inconsistent with the idealistic scenario of zero intentional homicides. Therefore, establishing the rule of law has been identified as a key challenge for the country (GED, 2018d).

Figure 27: SDG 16.1.1 Number of intentional homicides per 100,000 individuals: Actual, estimate and forecast



Source: Authors' calculations based on data from World Bank (n.d.a).

Note: (i) Missing values imputed with maximum likelihood estimates; (ii) Forecasts based on averaging of autoregressive integrated moving average (ARIMA) model forecasts.

SDG 16.1.2 Conflict-related deaths per 100,000 population, by sex, age and cause

Conflict-related deaths are defined as “deaths in battle-related conflicts between warring parties in the conflict dyad (two conflict units that are parties to a conflict). All deaths – military as well as civilian – incurred in such situations, are counted as battle-related deaths” (UN, n.d.). While Bangladesh is not directly involved in any war or conflict with any country in the world, many of its troops are stationed in highly conflict-prone countries on duty as UN peacekeeping forces. Thus, the majority of the conflict-related deaths for Bangladesh are understood to be accruing from those sources (Table 28).

Table 28: Number of battle-related deaths

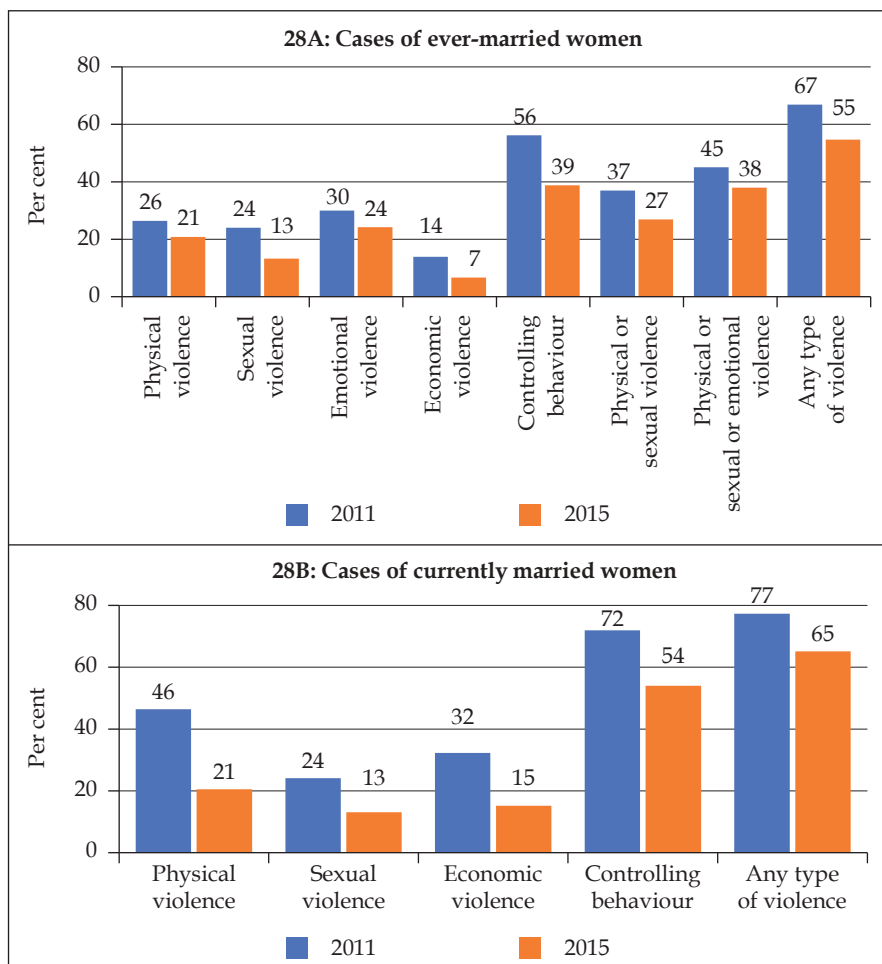
Year	Battle-related deaths
1990	45
1991	25
2005	62
2006	57
2016	41
2017	47

Source: UN (n.d.).

SDG 16.1.3 Proportion of population subjected to (a) physical violence, (b) psychological violence and (c) sexual violence in the previous 12 months

The prevalence of partner violence experienced by ever-married women at least once in the last 12 months decreased from 67 per cent in 2011 to 55 per cent in 2015 (BBS, 2016) (Figure 28A). The prevalence of partner violence experienced by currently married women at least once in the last 12 months also decreased from 77 per cent in 2011 to 65 per cent in 2015 (BBS, 2016) (Figure 28B). Nevertheless, 55 and 65 per cent are both still very high proportions in terms of women experiencing violence from their partners. Unfortunately, these numbers are best interpreted as lower bounds or minimum values, since a large number of incidents of violence against women remain unreported. Therefore, the actual scenario may be far worse than is being portrayed by the findings of the surveys. Moreover, many Bangladeshi women also fall victims to violence from other individuals who are not their partners. Taking that into consideration would provide a better estimate of the actual violence against women.

Figure 28(A-B): Prevalence of partner violence experienced by women at least once in last 12 months

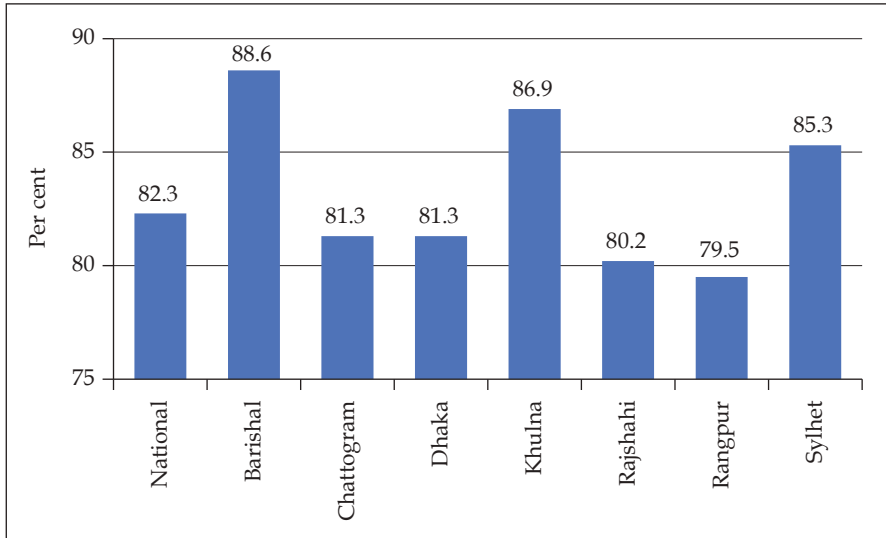


Source: BBS (2016).

SDG 16.2.1 Proportion of children aged 1-17 years who experienced any psychological aggression and/or physical punishment by caregivers in the past month

The proportion of children aged between 1 to 17 years who experienced corporal punishment or psychological aggression was 82.3 per cent in Bangladesh in 2012-13 (BBS and UNICEF, 2015). The highest incidence of corporal punishment or psychological aggression against children was found

Figure 29: SDG 16.2.1 Proportion of children aged 1-14 years who experienced psychological aggression or physical punishment during the last 1 month (2012-2013)



Source: BBS and UNICEF (2015).

to be 88.6 per cent in the Barishal division (BBS and UNICEF, 2015) (Figure 29). Regrettably, for all geographic divisions of the country, the incidence of corporal punishment or psychological aggression against children was nearly 80 per cent or higher. Thus, the belief in the adage that “spare the rod, and spoil the child” seemed to be widespread all over Bangladesh.

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

In 2015, an estimated 72.7 per cent of ever-married women in Bangladesh did not disclose their experiences of violence to anyone (BBS, 2016). Disaggregating by geographic division as well as by urban-rural regions reveals a similarly dismal picture, as nearly 70 per cent or higher proportion of ever-married women in Bangladesh did not disclose their experiences of violence to anyone in 2015 (BBS, 2016) (Table 29). This means that the incidence and impact of violence against women that is revealed through surveys only shows the tip of the iceberg.

Table 29: Proportion of ever-married women who disclosed experiences of partner physical or sexual violence in 2015*(in Per cent)*

Assaulter	Total	Rural	Urban	Barishal	Chattogram	Dhaka	Khulna	Rajshahi	Rangpur	Sylhet
No one	72.7	72.5	73.4	75.9	72.8	72.9	71.3	72.8	72.9	69.2
Own parents	16.6	17.0	14.8	13.2	15.4	16.1	18.3	15.9	18.3	20.5
Husband's parents	10.3	10.4	9.9	10.8	8.0	11.3	10.4	10.8	9.8	10.0
Brother or sister	6.7	6.6	7.2	6.4	6.9	6.7	5.3	6.8	7.2	9.4
Sister-in-law or brother-in-law	4.1	4.4	3.0	4.6	4.6	4.3	5.7	2.9	2.8	3.4
Other relatives	0.1	0.1	0.2	0.3	0.1	0.2	0.1	0.2	0.1	0.1
Friend	0.8	0.8	0.9	0.4	1.0	0.8	1.1	1.1	0.4	0.7
Neighbour	9.1	9.0	9.5	4.9	7.2	7.7	9.8	12.8	11.5	9.4
Doctor or health worker	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.0	0.0	7.7	0.0	0.1	0.3	0.0
Religious leader	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.0	0.3	0.1	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.0
NGO	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.5	0.1	0.0	0.1	0.0	0.1	0.0
Local leader	2.1	2.1	2.0	2.3	3.0	2.0	1.3	2.4	1.6	1.9
Others	1.1	1.0	1.5	0.7	1.5	0.9	1.0	1.2	1.4	1.0

Source: BBS (2016).

SDG 16.4.1 Total value of inward and outward illicit financial flows (in current United States dollars)

Illicit financial outflows from a country can cause severe damage to the economy by diverting valuable resources abroad and depriving a nation from tax revenue. It has been estimated that illicit financial outflows from Bangladesh were as high as USD 9,666 million in 2013 (Kar and Spanjers, 2015). While a number of different methodologies have been utilised for estimating illicit financial outflows, they all unambiguously point out that illicit financial outflows from Bangladesh have been increasing in recent years (Table 30).

Table 30: Illicit financial outflows*(Million USD)*

Year	GFI Report 2001–2010	GFI Report 2002–2011	GFI Report 2003–2012	GFI Report 2004–2013	GFI Report 2005–2014 (Low)	GFI Report 2005–2014 (High)
2001	864					
2002	740	636				
2003	967	830	830			
2004	945	840	840	3347		
2005	1162	1055	1054	4262	2747	3987
2006	2778	2648	2667	3378	3393	4539
2007	2737	2583	2436	4098	3258	4849
2008	848	1086	1229	6443	6881	9721
2009	649	1406	1063	6127	5307	7685
2010	2367	2191	672	5409	7499	9470
2011		2805	593	5921	5263	7148
2012			1780	7225	6212	8736
2013				9666	6666	10043
2014					6057	8972

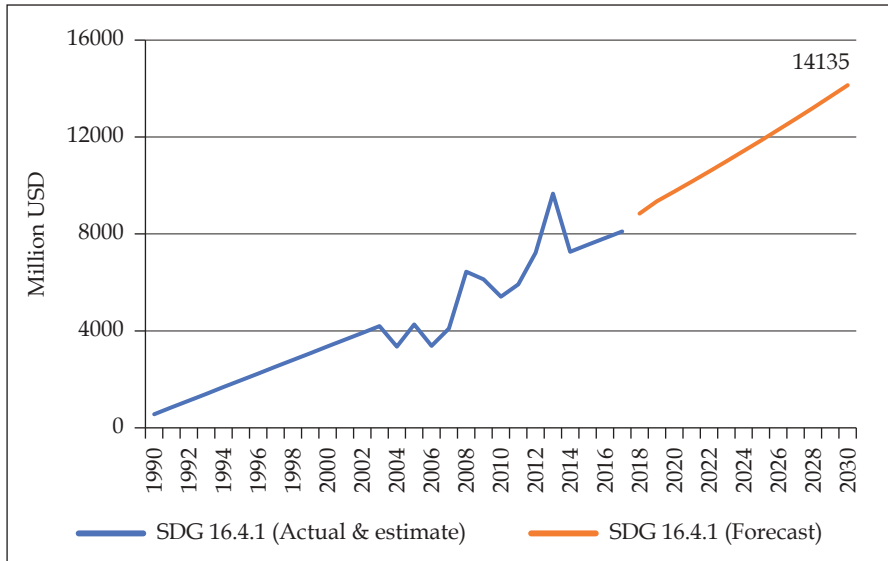
Source: Global Financial Integrity (GFI) reports, various years.

If illicit financial outflows from Bangladesh continue business as usual, then in 2030, it is predicted that USD 14,135 million will be leaving Bangladesh through unofficial channels (Figure 30). These trends will significantly hamper Bangladesh's ability to successfully implement the SDGs by 2030.

SDG 16.4.2 Proportion of seized, found or surrendered arms whose illicit origin or context has been traced or established by a competent authority in line with international instruments

The number of arms act cases per 100,000 people fell from 2.32 in 2002 to 0.74 in 2012 (Bangladesh Police, 2019). Subsequently, the number of arms act cases increased again, and reached 1.54 cases per 100,000 people in 2018 (Bangladesh Police, 2019) (Figure 31). While it is better to have cases under the arms act than to have firearms at large in the hands of the general public, an increase in the number of arms act cases can be assumed to be linked to higher levels of gun-related violence in the country.

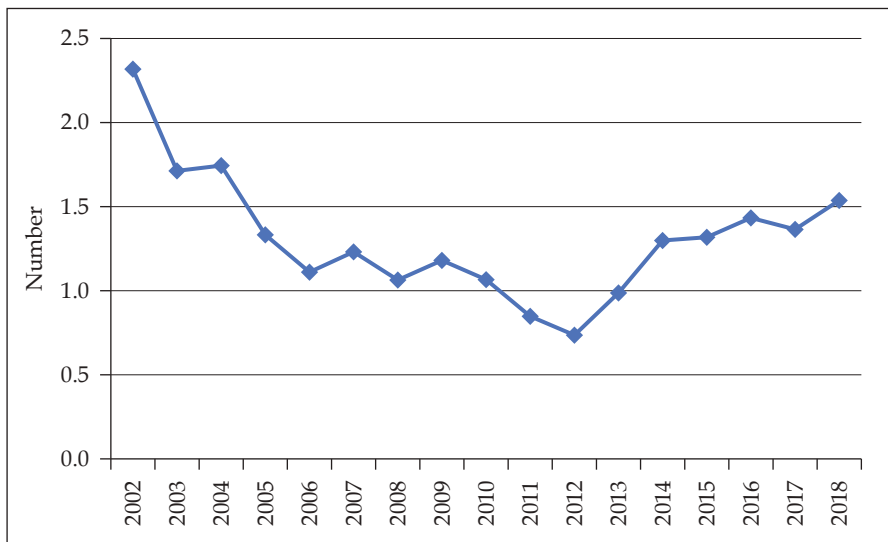
Figure 30: SDG 16.4.1 Illicit financial outflows: Actual, estimate and forecast



Source: Authors’ calculations based on data from Kar and Spanjers (2015).

Note: (i) Missing values imputed with maximum likelihood estimates; (ii) Forecasts based on averaging of autoregressive integrated moving average (ARIMA) model forecasts.

Figure 31: Number of arms act cases per 100,000 people



Source: Bangladesh Police (2019).

SDG 16.5.1 Proportion of persons who had at least one contact with a public official and who paid a bribe to a public official, or were asked for a bribe by those public officials, during the previous 12 months

The proportion of households who paid bribes increased from 42.2 per cent in 2007 to 49.8 per cent in 2017 (TIB, 2018). During the period 2007–2017, the incidence of bribery increased in services sectors, such as tax and customs, insurance, electricity, education and health, but decreased in sectors, such as the NGOs (Table 31). In 2017, law enforcement agencies were the most corrupt of all services sectors, as 60.7 per cent of all households reported to have paid bribes during their interactions with the law enforcement service-providers (TIB, 2018).

If bribery continues business as usual, then in 2030, it is predicted that 53.04 per cent of all households will be paying bribes during their interactions with all service-providers (Figure 32). Bribery in particular, and corruption in general, are both completely incompatible with the principle of ‘leave no one behind’. This is because those who cannot afford to pay bribes are either deprived of essential public services or able to avail such services after prolonged delays. Bribes act as tickets and speed money to public services, and hence, create an exclusive club or corrupt patrons and service-providers. Therefore, corruption benefits only those who help it thrive and harms everyone else.

SDG 16.7.1 Proportions of positions in national and local institutions, including (a) the legislatures; (b) the public service; and (c) the judiciary, compared to national distributions, by sex, age, persons with disabilities and population groups

The GoB has been headed by female leadership since 1991. According to the voting system of the national parliament of Bangladesh, political parties contest for 300 out of 350 seats. The remaining 50 seats are reserved for women and distributed among the parties according to the proportion of the 300 seats that they win through elections. Women are obviously also allowed to run for elections and contest for 300 regular seats as well. Despite such rules, men traditionally outnumber women in the 300 regular seats of the parliament, and as a result, the overall proportion of women in the parliament is almost always much lower than that of men. In 2018, women held 20.3 per cent of seats in the parliament (UN, n.d.), which is less than half of the 49.59 per cent of females in the population of Bangladesh (World Bank, n.d.b) (Figure 33).

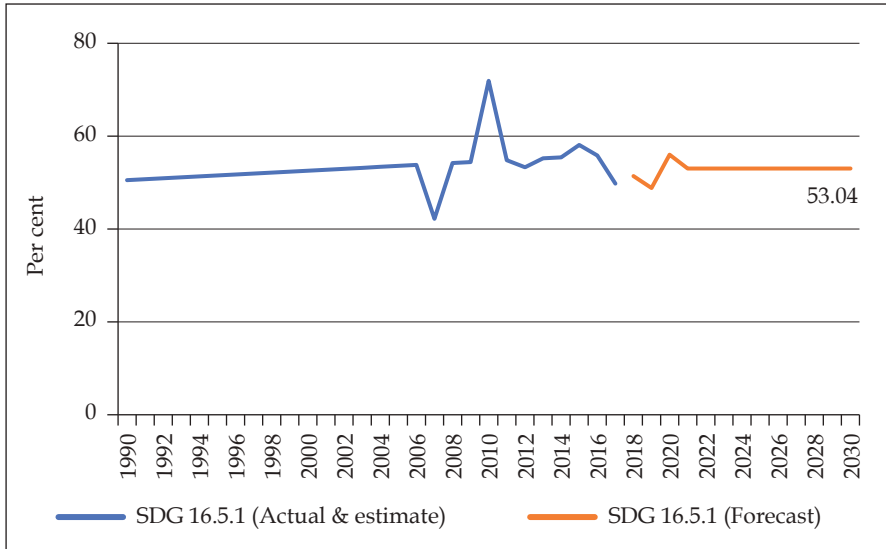
Table 31: Proportion of households who paid bribe during interactions with different service-providers

(in Per cent)

Year	Judiciary	Law-enforcement agency	Land administration	Tax and customs	Electricity	Agriculture	Local government	Health	Insurance	Banking	Education	NGO	Others	Overall
2007	41.7	64.5	51.1	5.1	14.3	NA	32.5	16.3	NA	15.7	8.8	6.5	16.6	42.2
2010	59.6	68.1	67.0	43.9	27.6	38.1	36.7	13.2	15.0	12.7	15.0	7.2	35.5	71.9
2012	38.1	66.9	54.8	12.4	12.0	16.2	25.5	21.5	3.2	4.9	30.7	0.4	34.0	53.3
2015	28.9	65.9	49.8	14.7	28.4	18.2	22.3	16.7	1.8	1.8	56.9	1.0	10.0	58.1
2017	32.8	60.7	37.9	9.4	18.6	30.5	18.3	19.8	4.9	1.1	34.1	1.5	5.7	49.8

Source: TIB (2018).

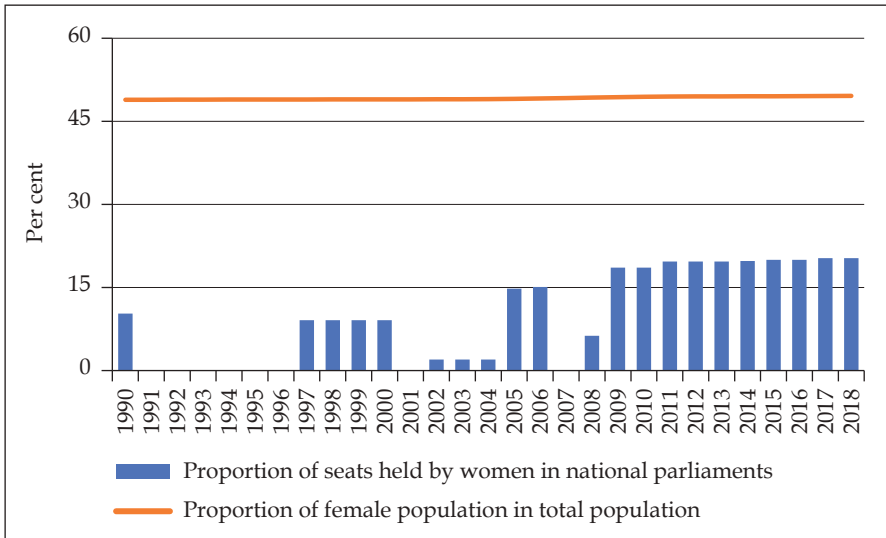
Figure 32: SDG 16.5.1 Proportion of households who paid bribes during interactions with all service-providers: Actual, estimate and forecast



Source: Authors' calculations based on TIB (2018).

Note: (i) Missing values imputed with maximum likelihood estimates; (ii) Forecasts based on averaging of autoregressive integrated moving average (ARIMA) model forecasts.

Figure 33: Proportion of seats held by women in national parliament compared to the proportion of the female population

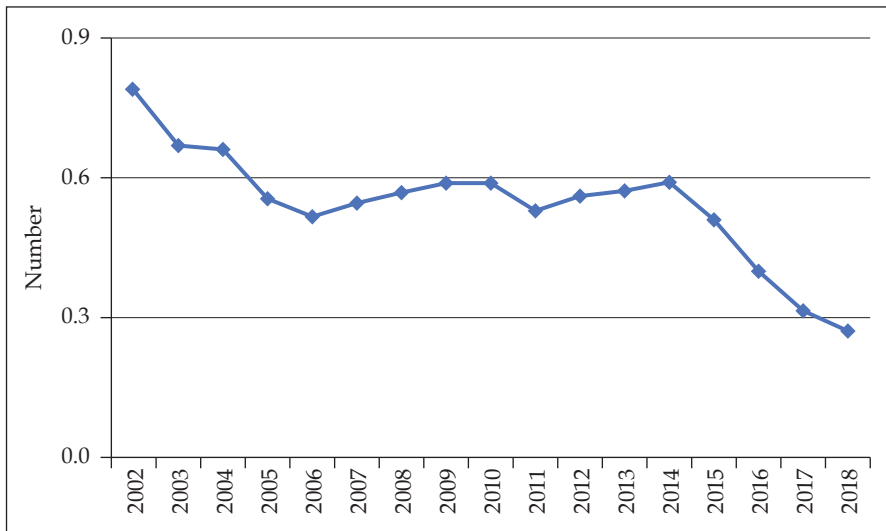


Source: UN (n.d.) and World Bank (n.d.b).

SDG 16.10.1 Number of verified cases of killing, kidnapping, enforced disappearance, arbitrary detention and torture of journalists, associated media personnel, trade unionists and human rights advocates in the previous 12 months

According to officially reported data by Bangladesh Police, the number of kidnappings per 100,000 people has fallen from 0.79 in 2002 to 0.27 in 2018 (Bangladesh Police, 2019) (Figure 34). These numbers appear to be dubious at best, and totally inconsistent at worst, with respect to reports published by local and international newspapers and by human rights organisations (Human Rights Watch, 2019).

Figure 34: Number of kidnappings per 100,000 people



Source: Bangladesh Police (2019).

Summary and recommendations on SDG 16

The indicators under Goal 16 exhibit a mixed outlook, mainly because of poor reporting of sensitive data. In most cases, the incidence of violent crime is not low enough to be able to meet the targets by 2030. For example, if past trends continue, then intentional homicides are forecasted to increase in 2030. Violence against women and children remain high, whilst reporting by victims on violence on them remains low. Incidence of bribery and illicit financial outflows both show trends of increase, and are projected to keep rising till 2030. The proportion of parliament seats held by women has not changed

much in the 10 years from 2009 to 2018. Some of the recommendations for achieving SDG 16 are as follows:

- Build local and national capacity for arbitration, mediation and alternative dispute resolution;
- Address the underlying drivers of conflict and violence, such as drug trafficking;
- Ensure that decision-making at all levels is responsive, inclusive, participatory and representative, and institutions that tackle corruption are transparent and accountable;
- Uphold rule of law and ensure access to justice, especially for women, children, poor and marginalised groups;
- Build the capacity of government agencies, such as the Transfer Pricing Unit of the NBR, to ensure enforcement of law in all areas related to illicit financial outflows.

4.7 State of SDG 17: Strengthen the Means of Implementation and Revitalize the Global Partnership for Sustainable Development

SDG 17.1.1 Total government revenue as a proportion of GDP, by source

Domestic revenue mobilisation must play the leading role as a means of implementing the SDGs by 2030 in Bangladesh. However, tax revenue as percentage of GDP in Bangladesh has been traditionally lower than the regional and global average. Tax revenue as percentage of GDP increased from 6.61 per cent in 2001 to 9.02 per cent in 2012, before falling back to 8.77 per cent in 2016 (World Bank, n.d.a) (Table 32). A low tax–GDP ratio is a sign of

Table 32: Tax revenue (as percentage of GDP)

Year	Tax revenue
2001	6.61
2002	6.69
2003	6.97
2004	7.05
2005	7.14
2006	7.04
2007	6.92
2008	7.66
2009	7.50
2010	7.83

(Table 32 contd.)

(Table 32 contd.)

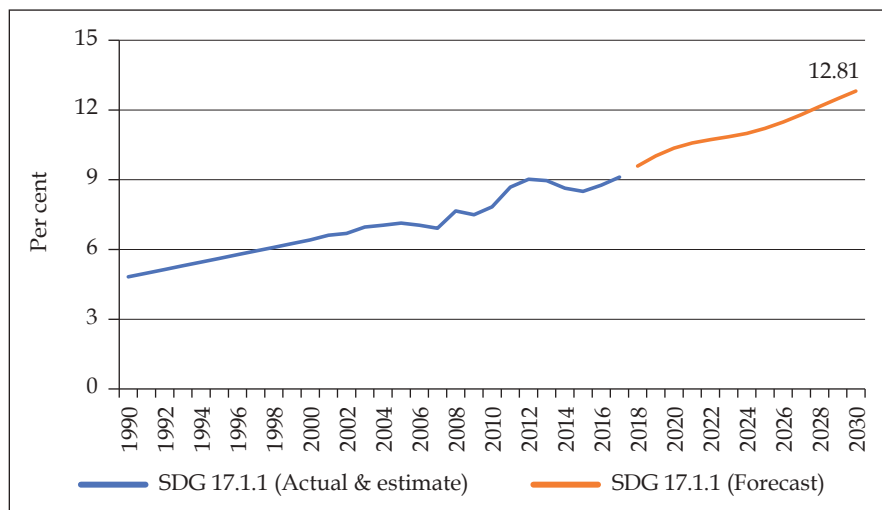
Year	Tax revenue
2011	8.69
2012	9.02
2013	8.96
2014	8.64
2015	8.50
2016	8.77

Source: World Bank (n.d.a).

tax evasion. Thus, those are escaping the tax net are reaping benefits from the state without paying their due shares in taxes. Additionally, the government’s inability to collect taxes adequately is depriving the nation of the resources it needs to finance its development.

If such trends continue till 2030, then Bangladesh’s tax revenue as percentage of GDP will reach a mere 12.81 per cent, which is far below the target of 18 per cent (which is more than double the level that was present in 2015) (Figure 35). At this rate, the taxes collected by the government will not be sufficient to provide the necessary funds for implementing the SDGs. Hence,

Figure 35: SDG 17.1.1 Tax revenue (as percentage of GDP): Actual, estimate and forecast



Source: Authors’ calculations based on World Bank (n.d.a).

Note: (i) Missing values imputed with maximum likelihood estimates; (ii) Forecasts based on averaging of autoregressive integrated moving average (ARIMA) model forecasts.

improving domestic revenue mobilisation through an increase in the tax-GDP ratio is of paramount significance if Bangladesh is serious about successfully implementing the SDGs.

SDG 17.2.1 Net official development assistance, total and to least developed countries, as a proportion of the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) Development Assistance Committee donors' gross national income (GNI)

Net ODA received as percentage of the GNI of the donor countries has fallen from 6.49 per cent in 1990 to 1.44 per cent in 2017 (OECD, n.d.) (Table 33). This declining trend of ODA shows that many developed countries have failed to keep their SDG commitment of providing ODA to LDCs, such as Bangladesh. More importantly, it also shows that ODA is already drying for Bangladesh,

Table 33: Net ODA received (as percentage of GNI)

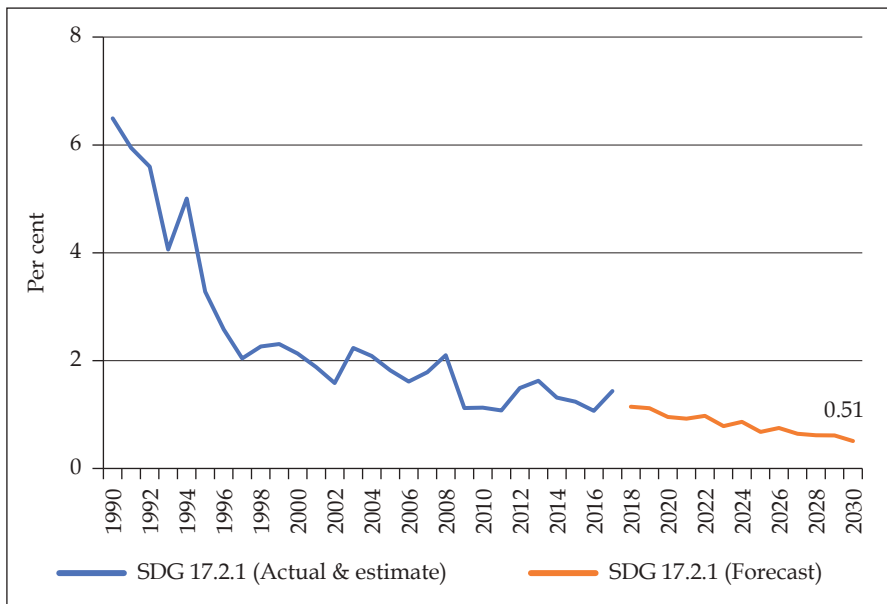
Year	Net ODA received
1997	2.04
1998	2.26
1999	2.31
2000	2.13
2001	1.88
2002	1.58
2003	2.23
2004	2.09
2005	1.82
2006	1.61
2007	1.79
2008	2.10
2009	1.12
2010	1.13
2011	1.08
2012	1.49
2013	1.63
2014	1.31
2015	1.24
2016	1.07
2017	1.44

Source: OECD (n.d.).

and its economy must make the transition from being aid-dependent to traded in the coming years.

If the trend of declining foreign aid continues, then in 2030, ODA as percentage of the GNI of the donor countries will reach 0.51 per cent (Figure 36). At such low levels of aid, the vast majority of development finance will have to come from domestic sources combined with exports and remittances.

Figure 36: SDG 17.2.1 Net ODA received (as percentage of GNI): Actual, estimate and forecast



Source: Authors’ calculations based on OECD (n.d.).

Note: (i) Missing values imputed with maximum likelihood estimates; (ii) Forecasts based on averaging of autoregressive integrated moving average (ARIMA) model forecasts.

SDG 17.3.1 Foreign direct investment (FDI), official development assistance and South–South cooperation as a proportion of total domestic budget

FDI inflows as percentage of GDP have increased from 0.29 per cent in 1997 to 1.74 per cent in 2013, before dropping to 0.86 per cent in 2017 (World Bank, n.d.a). FDI is crucial for Bangladesh not only for its own sake, but also because it creates employment and acts as a vehicle of technology transfer. However, Bangladesh’s poor ranking in the global ease of doing business survey conducted by the World Bank explains why FDI has stagnated in some years and fallen in others (Table 34).

Table 34: Net FDI inflows (as percentage of GDP)

Year	Net FDI inflows
1997	0.29
1998	0.38
1999	0.35
2000	0.53
2001	0.15
2002	0.10
2003	0.45
2004	0.69
2005	1.10
2006	0.64
2007	0.82
2008	1.45
2009	0.88
2010	1.07
2011	0.99
2012	1.19
2013	1.74
2014	1.47
2015	1.45
2016	1.05
2017	0.86

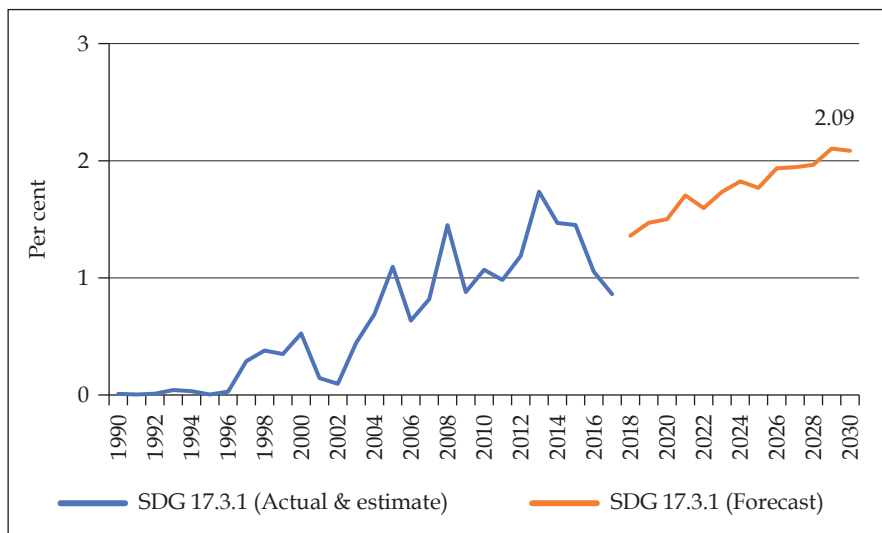
Source: World Bank (n.d.a).

Despite the recent decline in FDI, if its historical trend continues, then FDI will increase almost continuously and reach to 2.09 per cent of GDP in 2030 (Figure 37). This may be partly explained by the fact that some countries, such as China, are known to be persistent investors who often pursue their investments even in countries that have poor governance. Since Bangladesh has joined the Belt and Road Initiative, it is anticipated that the amount of Chinese investment in the country will probably rise in the coming years.

SDG 17.3.2 Volume of remittances (in United States dollars) as a proportion of total GDP

Personal remittances received as percentage of GDP increased from 3.16 per cent in 1997 to 10.59 per cent in 2012, before falling again to 5.41 per cent in 2017 (World Bank, n.d.a) (Table 35). The recent fall in remittance may have

Figure 37: SDG 17.3.1 Net FDI inflows (as percentage of GDP): Actual, estimate and forecast



Source: Authors' calculations based on World Bank (n.d.a).

Note: (i) Missing values imputed with maximum likelihood estimates; (ii) Forecasts based on averaging of autoregressive integrated moving average (ARIMA) model forecasts.

Table 35: Personal remittances received (as percentage of GDP)

Year	Personal remittances received
1997	3.16
1998	3.21
1999	3.52
2000	3.69
2001	3.90
2002	5.22
2003	5.31
2004	5.50
2005	6.69
2006	7.56
2007	8.24
2008	9.76
2009	10.27
2010	9.41
2011	9.38
2012	10.59

(Table 35 contd.)

(Table 35 contd.)

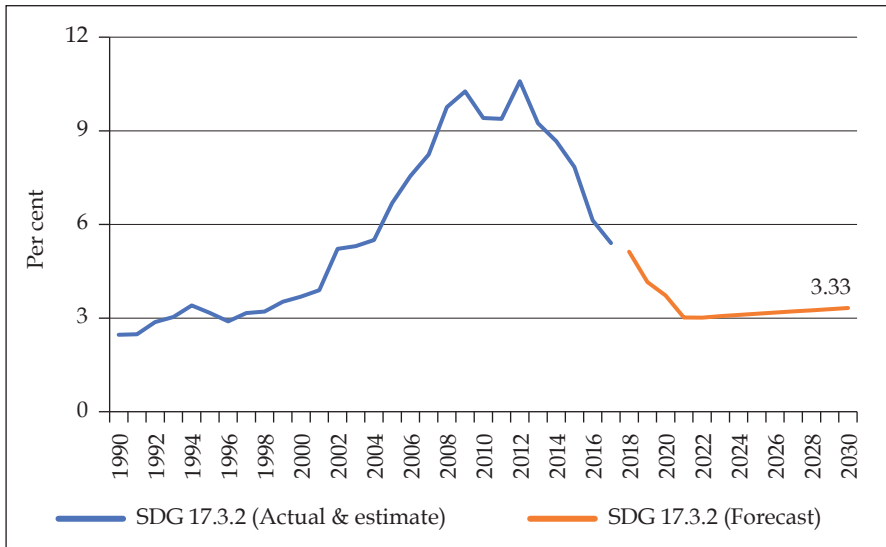
Year	Personal remittances received
2013	9.25
2014	8.67
2015	7.84
2016	6.13
2017	5.41

Source: World Bank (n.d.a).

several reasons. One explanation could be that due to the higher cost of sending remittances through official channels, many workers are choosing to send remittances back home via unofficial channels. In this case, the regulatory authorities need to rethink their overall approach towards remittances and revisit efforts to keep the transaction costs of remittances as low as possible. Obviously, remittances may have actually declined as well. If this is really the case, then it is an adverse indication for the economy as a whole, which is planning to use remittances as a means of implementing the SDGs by 2030.

If remittances continue to decrease, then in 2030, personal remittances received as percentage of GDP will reach 3.33 per cent (Figure 38). Stagnating

Figure 38: SDG 17.3.2 Personal remittances received (as percentage of GDP): Actual, estimate and forecast



Source: Authors' calculations based on World Bank (n.d.a).

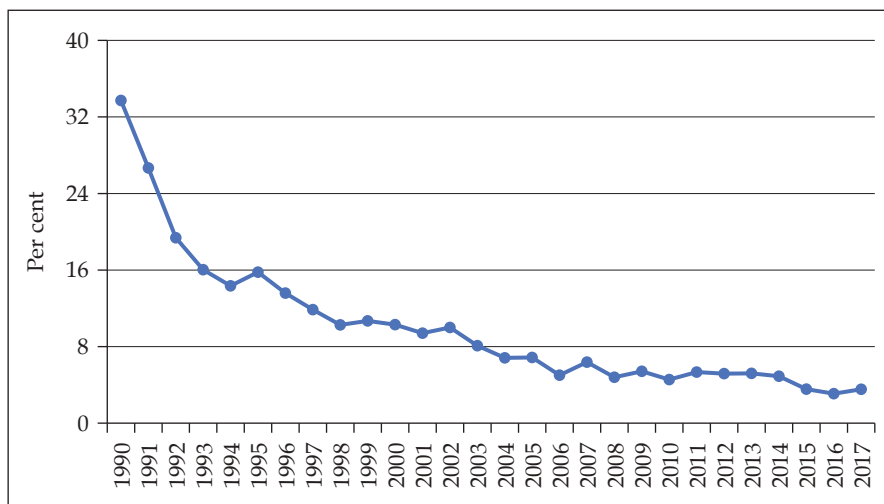
Note: (i) Missing values imputed with maximum likelihood estimates; (ii) Forecasts based on averaging of autoregressive integrated moving average (ARIMA) model forecasts.

remittances, accompanied by falling ODA and low tax-GDP ratio, will leave few options on the table for Bangladesh for successfully achieving the SDGs in 2030.

SDG 17.4.1 Debt service as a proportion of exports of goods and services

Trade has traditionally been a key driver of the economy of Bangladesh. This makes Bangladesh unique among the LDCs, since very few other LDCs have similarly export-oriented economies. As a consequence of Bangladesh’s strong trade performance, debt service as percentage of exports has fallen continuously from 33.73 per cent in 1990 to 3.54 per cent in 2017 (World Bank, n.d.a) (Figure 39). This means that the economy of Bangladesh is favourably placed to pay off its foreign debts by making use of foreign currency earned through exports.

Figure 39: Debt service to exports



Source: World Bank (n.d.a).

Note: Debt service is the sum of principle repayments and interest actually paid in currency, goods, or services. This series differs from the standard debt to exports series. It covers only long-term public and publicly guaranteed debt and repayments (repurchases and charges) to the International Monetary Fund (IMF). Exports of goods and services include primary income, but do not include workers’ remittances.

SDG 17.6.2 Fixed Internet broadband subscriptions per 100 inhabitants, by speed

The vast majority of internet users access the internet through their cellphones, and are thus unable to make full use of the enormous potential of the internet.

Table 36: Fixed-broadband subscriptions per 100 inhabitants

Year	Fixed-broadband subscriptions
2007	0.03
2008	0.03
2009	0.21
2010	0.27
2011	0.30
2012	0.39
2013	0.97
2014	1.94
2015	3.04
2016	4.05
2017	4.43

Source: World Bank (n.d.a).

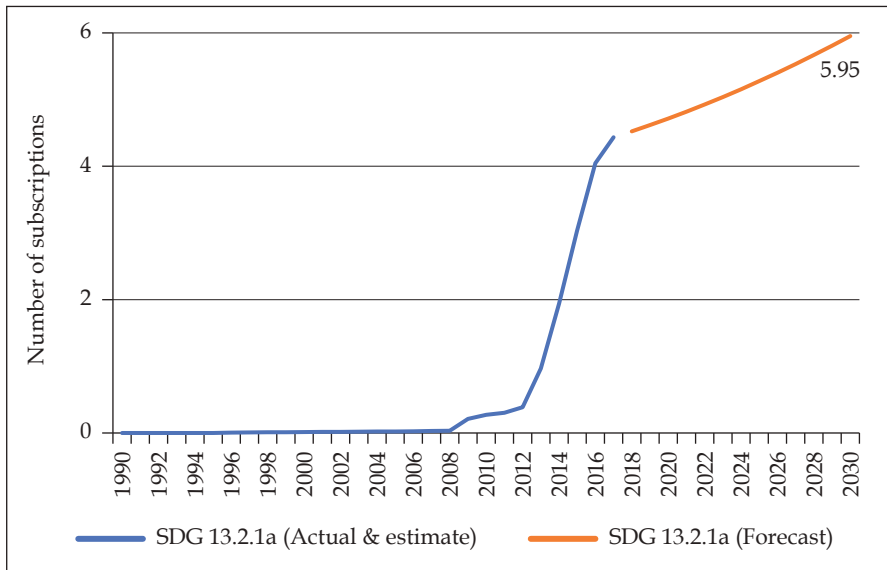
Fixed-broadband subscriptions per 100 individuals increased from 0.03 in 2007 to 4.43 in 2017 (World Bank, n.d.a). This means that in a matter of merely 10 years, the fixed broadband subscription per 100 individuals has increased more than 149 times (Table 36). While such explosive growth is impressive, it is worth keeping in mind that there is still a long way to go in terms of realising the dream of a ‘Digital Bangladesh’, and also achieving SDG 17.6.

If the increase in fixed broadband subscriptions continues business as usual, then by 2030, there will be 5.95 fixed broadband subscriptions per 100 individuals in Bangladesh (Figure 40). In other words, even in 2030, around 94 out of every 100 people will not have access to fixed broadband internet.

SDG 17.8.1 Proportion of individuals using the Internet

The proportion of individuals using the internet has sky-rocketed in Bangladesh in the last decade or so. In 2006, only 1 per cent of individuals were using the internet, whereas by 2016 around 18 per cent of individuals were using the internet (World Bank, n.d.a). Despite the growth in the number of internet users, the majority of the households in Bangladesh did not have access to the internet in 2017 (Figure 41). In fact, since most households do not own a computer (BBS, 2015b), it can be easily implied that internet in Bangladesh is being predominantly being used through mobile phones.

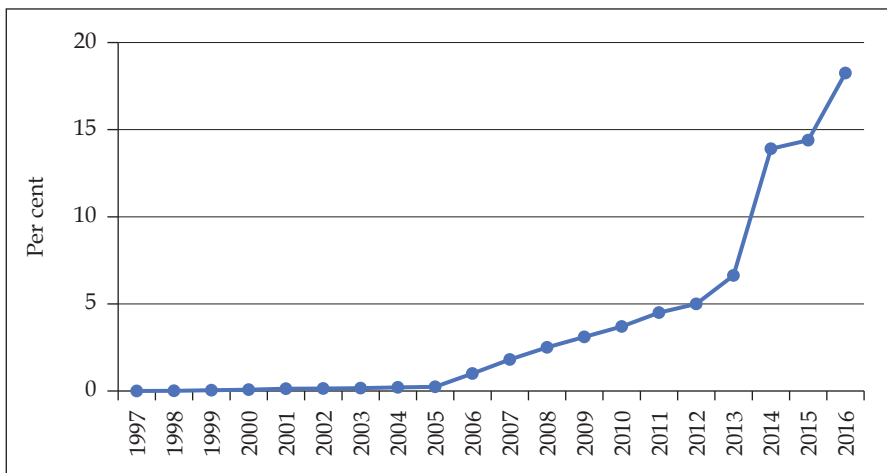
Figure 40: Fixed-broadband subscriptions per 100 inhabitants: Actual, estimate and forecast



Source: Authors’ calculations based on World Bank (n.d.a).

Note: (i) Missing values imputed with maximum likelihood estimates; (ii) Forecasts based on averaging of autoregressive integrated moving average (ARIMA) model forecasts.

Figure 41: Individuals using the internet (percentage of population)



Source: World Bank (n.d.a).

Note: Internet users are individuals who have used the internet (from any location) in the last three months. The internet can be used via a computer, mobile phone, personal digital assistant, games machine, digital TV, etc.

SDG 17.11.1 Developing countries' and least developed countries' share of global exports

Bangladesh's share of exports in global exports has increased impressively over the long run. Between the period 1997 to 2007, Bangladesh share of global exports only increased from 0.07 per cent to 0.09 per cent (CEPII, n.d.). However, in the subsequent decade from 2007 to 2017, Bangladesh share of global exports doubled from 0.09 per cent to 0.18 per cent (CEPII, n.d.) (Table 37). Increase in an individual country's share of global exports implies that the particular country is growing faster and producing more competitively than the rest of the world.

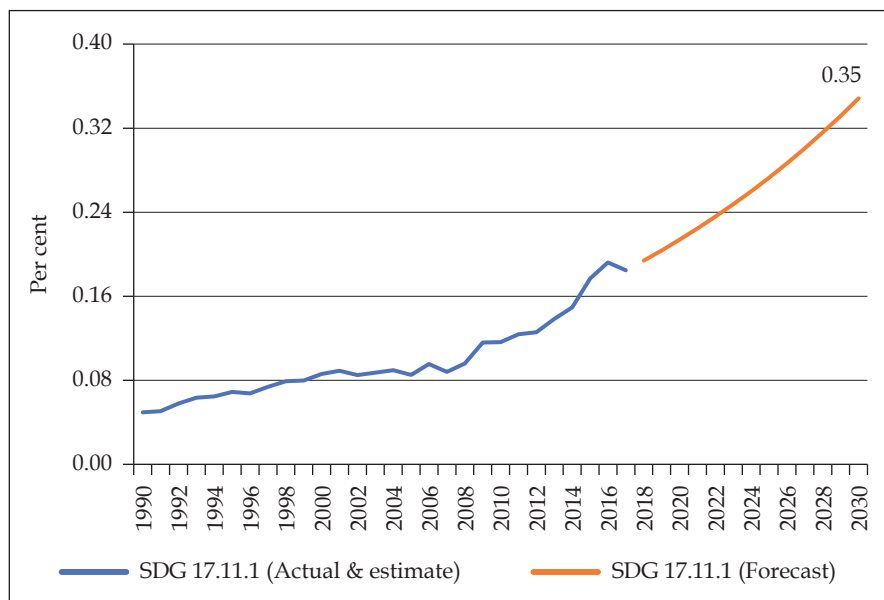
Table 37: Share of global exports

(in Per cent)

Year	Share of global exports
1997	0.07
1998	0.08
1999	0.08
2000	0.09
2001	0.09
2002	0.08
2003	0.09
2004	0.09
2005	0.09
2006	0.10
2007	0.09
2008	0.10
2009	0.12
2010	0.12
2011	0.12
2012	0.13
2013	0.14
2014	0.15
2015	0.18
2016	0.19
2017	0.18

Source: CEPII (n.d.).

Figure 42: SDG 17.11.1 Share of global exports: Actual, estimate and forecast



Source: Authors’ calculations based on CEPII (n.d.).

Note: (i) Missing values imputed with maximum likelihood estimates; (ii) Forecasts based on averaging of autoregressive integrated moving average (ARIMA) model forecasts.

The increasing trend of Bangladesh’s share of global exports is indeed a positive one; and if it continues till 2030, then Bangladesh share of global exports will be 0.35 per cent, which is almost double the level in 2017 (Figure 42).

SDG 17.17.1 Amount of United States dollars committed to (a) public-private partnerships and (b) civil society partnerships

Bangladesh is investing heavily in its infrastructure, particularly in its capacity to generate, transmit and distribute electricity. The present government is unabashedly making an effort to increase access to electricity for the people of Bangladesh. Therefore, a number of projects in the power sector are being carried in conjunction with private partners. Investment in energy projects with private participation increased from USD 313.7 million in 1997 to USD 1,527.8 million in 2012, before settling down at USD 438 million in 2017 (World Bank, n.d.a) (Table 38).

Table 38: Investment in energy with private participation (current million USD)

Year	Investment amount
1997	313.70
1998	225.00
1999	16.15
2000	18.50
2001	483.00
2006	40.50
2007	25.40
2008	177.40
2009	88.53
2010	137.13
2011	324.51
2012	1527.80
2013	40.30
2014	516.50
2015	305.00
2016	170.00
2017	438.00

Source: World Bank (n.d.a).

SDG 17.19.1 Dollar value of all resources made available to strengthen statistical capacity in developing countries

Bangladesh is lagging behind the world average in terms of availability of data on the SDG indicators. In the absence of readily accessible, high-quality reliable data, M&E progress on SDG implementation will be difficult and ensuring transparency and accountability will be challenging. In this regard, it is critical to strengthen the statistical capacity of the country in order to be able to successfully implement the SDGs. Unfortunately, the dollar value of foreign funds made available for strengthening statistical capacity in Bangladesh has fallen from USD 1.25 million to USD 1.06 million during the period 2006–2016 (World Bank, n.d.a) (Table 39).

Summary and recommendations on SDG 17

Indicators of means of implementation under Goal 17 show dismal performance. Domestic resource mobilisation has improved in the recent

Table 39: Dollar value of all resources made available to strengthen statistical capacity in developing countries (current USD)

Year	Dollar value
2006	1.25
2007	5.05
2008	8.73
2009	0.55
2010	29.00
2011	1.32
2012	1.35
2013	53.60
2014	0.53
2015	4.02
2016	1.06

Source: World Bank (n.d.a).

past, but still remains inadequate. At the same time, net ODA received as a percentage of the donor country's GNI and personal remittances received have been falling. However, FDI has showed some signs of picking up in the past few years. Access to fixed broadband internet, and the internet in general, have both been increasing rapidly, although the number of fixed broadband internet users remains low. Trade remains as the forte of the Bangladesh economy, and trade-related indicators under Goal 17 show robust performance. The resources dedicated to improving statistical capacity have stagnated, which makes it unlikely that the existing gaps in data will be filled any time soon. A few recommendations may be made for successful implementation of SDG 17.

- Implement full automation of the VAT collection process within a clearly specified deadline;
- Impose wealth, property and inheritance taxes, following international best practices, in order to generate additional revenue and create a more equitable society;
- Utilise the electronic taxpayer's identification number (TIN) database to pursue individuals who are registered in the system, but are not submitting returns;
- Introduce electronic tax deduction at source, with issuance of tax certificates by the NBR against an electronic TIN linked to each instance of tax deducted at source;
- Pass legislation that puts a ceiling on the price of fixed broadband and mobile internet, in order to ensure affordability for all.

Outlook for Reaching the SDGs in Bangladesh by 2030

The six SDGs reviewed under the present study have been ranked based on the performance of the targets and indicators related to those SDGs. In doing so, different colours have been used to indicate the state of progress, and then values were assigned to the colours. Hence, *first*, in order to get a bird's eye view of the state of the six selected SDGs in Bangladesh, Red-Amber-Green statuses have been assigned for each of the indicators considered in this research. Red status represents that the indicator is going in the wrong direction; it requires radical policy changes and significant efforts from all involved stakeholders in order to reverse the trajectory. Amber status represents that the indicator is going in the right direction, but requires some policy intervention to steer it towards SDG target achievement by 2030. Green status represents that the indicator is going in the right direction and the target will be achieved within 2030. *Second*, the study has used a scoring based on the performance. Indicators that fall within the Red category are assigned a score of 1, Amber category indicators get 2 and Green category indicators receive 3. Based on the colour-based classification system, Table 40 presents the status of the performance of the selected indicators.

SDG 4 has 11 indicators in total. However, data could be obtained on seven of these. All the indicators for SDG 4 are in Amber status, except for indicator 4.5.1, which is Green, and indicator 4.b.1, which is Red. Schooling completion rates, pre-school enrolment rates and literacy rates are increasing, and educational facilities are improving. Nonetheless, progress on these indicators is in most cases both slow and qualitatively inadequate. Gender parity in literacy has already been achieved, and is expected to be maintained up to 2030. However, the volume of ODA inflows for scholarships is declining, and is unlikely to rise in the coming years.

For SDG 8, 11 out of a total of 17 indicators have been evaluated. Five indicators are found to be in Red status, four in Amber status and three in Green status. GDP per capita, GPD per employed person and number of

Table 40: Heat map of selected SDG indicators in Bangladesh

SDG 4 Education	SDG 8 Decent Work	SDG 10 Inequality	SDG 13 Climate Action	SDG 16 Peace and Justice	SDG 17 Partnerships
4.1.1: Schooling completion rate	8.1.1: Annual growth rate of real GDP per capita	10.1.1: Growth rate of income of poorest 40 per cent	13.1.1a: Households affected by disasters	16.1.1: Intentional homicide per 100,000 people	17.1.1: Tax-GDP ratio
4.2.2: Pre-primary participation rate	8.2.1: Annual growth rate of real GDP per employed person	10.5.1: Financial soundness indicators	13.1.1b: Aggregate economic loss due to disasters	16.1.2: Conflict-related deaths per 100,000 population	17.2.1: Net ODA received as % of GNI
4.5.1: Gender parity index of literacy rate	8.3.1: Informal employment rate in non-agriculture	10.b.1: Net ODA received	13.1.1c: Sickness and injury due to disasters, by area	16.1.3: Prevalence of violence against women	17.3.1: Net FDI inflow
4.6.1: Literacy rate	8.4.2: Domestic material consumption per capita	10.c.1: Remittance costs	13.1.1d: Sickness and injury due to disasters, by disaster	16.2.1: Proportion of children with aggression experience	17.3.2: Volume of remittances as a proportion of total GDP
4.a.1: Schools' access to electricity, technology and sanitation	8.5.2: Unemployment rate		13.1.1e: Average economic loss per household due to disasters	16.3.1: Reporting of violence	17.4.1: Debt service to exports
4.b.1: Volume of ODA for scholarships	8.6.1: Proportion of youth NEET		13.1.1f: Non-schooling days due to disasters	16.4.1: Illicit financial outflows	17.6.2: Fixed internet broadband subscriptions
4.c.1: Proportion of trained teachers	8.7.1: Proportion of children in child labour		13.2.1a: Growth rate of greenhouse gas emissions	16.4.2: Number of arms act cases	17.8.1: Proportion of individuals using the internet

(Table 40 contd.)

(Table 40 contd.)

SDG 4 Education	SDG 8 Decent Work	SDG 10 Inequality	SDG 13 Climate Action	SDG 16 Peace and Justice	SDG 17 Partnerships
	8.10.1a: Commercial bank branches per 100,000 adults		13.2.1b: Annual average temperature change	16.5.1: Public official bribery rate	17.11.1: Share of global exports
	8.10.1b: ATMs per 100,000 adults			16.7.1: Proportion of parliament seats held by women	17.17.1: Investment in energy with private participation
	8.10.2: Proportion of adults with a bank account			16.10.1: Kidnappings per 100,000 people	17.19.1: Resources for strengthening statistical capacity
	8.a.1: Aid for trade commitments and disbursements				

Source: Authors' compilation.

commercial bank branches are all expected to continue increasing till 2030. The share of youth in NEET and the share of children in employment are both decreasing, but need greater policy attention. The number of ATMs and the proportion of adults with bank accounts are increasing, but the volume of cashless transfers and the level of inclusion in the formal financial system remain rather low. Both youth unemployment and informal employment in the non-agricultural sector are high and expected to rise.

The prospect of achieving SDG 10 appears bleak. Among the 11 indicators, four were considered in this study. Three out of the four indicators considered are in the Red status, with only one indicator being in the Amber status. The income share held by the poorest 40 per cent is expected to keep falling from the already low level that was present in 2015. This will lead to an increase in income inequality in the country. In the meanwhile, the state of the banking sector, which accounts for the largest part of the financial sector, is in a difficult situation. NPLs are at high levels, and they are creating a drain on public resources since the government is bailing out banks with taxpayers' money year after year. While total resource flows for development have increased in recent years, it was mainly in the form of project aid and was inflated after the influx of the Rohingyas from Myanmar since August 2017. The transaction cost of sending remittances is on the rise, and this is particularly disconcerting since it creates an incentive for diverting the flow of remittances from the legal to the illegal channels.

The situation of SDG 13 looks most grim. Country-specific quantifiable indicators on climate change are almost non-existent. So the study had to rely on proxy indicators which are closely related to climate change for two SDG targets under SDG 13. And, though there are eight indicators under five targets of SDG 13, the study could include eight proxy indicators within two targets of SDG 13. All of the eight indicators considered fall in the Red category. The number of households affected by natural disasters is rising, and by 2030, around 30 million households are expected to be affected by natural disasters. The effects of natural disasters in the forms of economic losses to households and the economy, the incidence of sickness and injury, as well as the loss of schooling days are all at high levels, and expected to get worse in the coming years. Greenhouse gas emissions are forecasted to increase at faster rates in 2030, which will also be accompanied by warmer average temperatures. Overall, the analysis of SDG 13 indicates that Bangladesh is in a precarious situation with respect to climate change and has to take preparations to deal with the impact of climate change.

Except for three, all 10 indicators considered for SDG 16 out of a total of 23 indicators are in the Red status. Three indicators are in Amber status. However, even the Amber status of these indicators is largely due to poor reporting and information gaps rather than an actually positive scenario. Murder, violence against women and children, bribery, and illicit financial flows are all disturbingly high, and most of these crimes will increase in 2030 if they follow their historic trends. On the other hand, reporting of violence is quite low, and reporting of detention or kidnapping is virtually non-existent, except for high profile cases. Therefore, it is unlikely that the official data on these indicators provide an appropriate representation of the ground reality.

Finally, in case of SDG 17, out of 25 indicators, only 10 could be examined. It is found that three indicators are in Red status, five indicators are in Amber status, and two indicators are in Green status. Apart from debt service, the other indicators of finance which are critical for SDG implementation, such as tax-GDP ratio, net ODA and volume of remittances evince a disquieting scenario. Indicators of technology, such as a number of fixed-broadband subscriptions, show that Bangladesh is significantly lagging behind the rest of the world. Bangladesh’s trade regime is anticipated to carry forward its traditionally strong performance, as the share of Bangladesh’s exports in global exports is forecasted to keep rising till 2030. Resources for strengthening statistical capacity will dry up if the current declining trends continue.

In the second phase, the SDGs are ranked based on the trend of current and projected performance by assigning scores on the colours. The rankings presented in Table 41 show that SDG 4 tops the list, while SDG 13 is at the bottom of the six SDGs considered. However, it may be mentioned that SDGs 4, 17 and 8 are close in terms of their achievements on the targets and indicators considered. Similarly, in the case of SDGs 16 and 10, indicators considered for analysis followed almost similar trend of performance. It is

Table 41: Ranking of SDGs based on projected performance by 2030

Rank	Goal
1	SDG 4: Quality Education
2	SDG 17: Partnerships for the Goals
3	SDG 8: Decent Work and Economic Growth
4	SDG 16: Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions
5	SDG 10: Reduced Inequalities
6	SDG 13: Climate Action

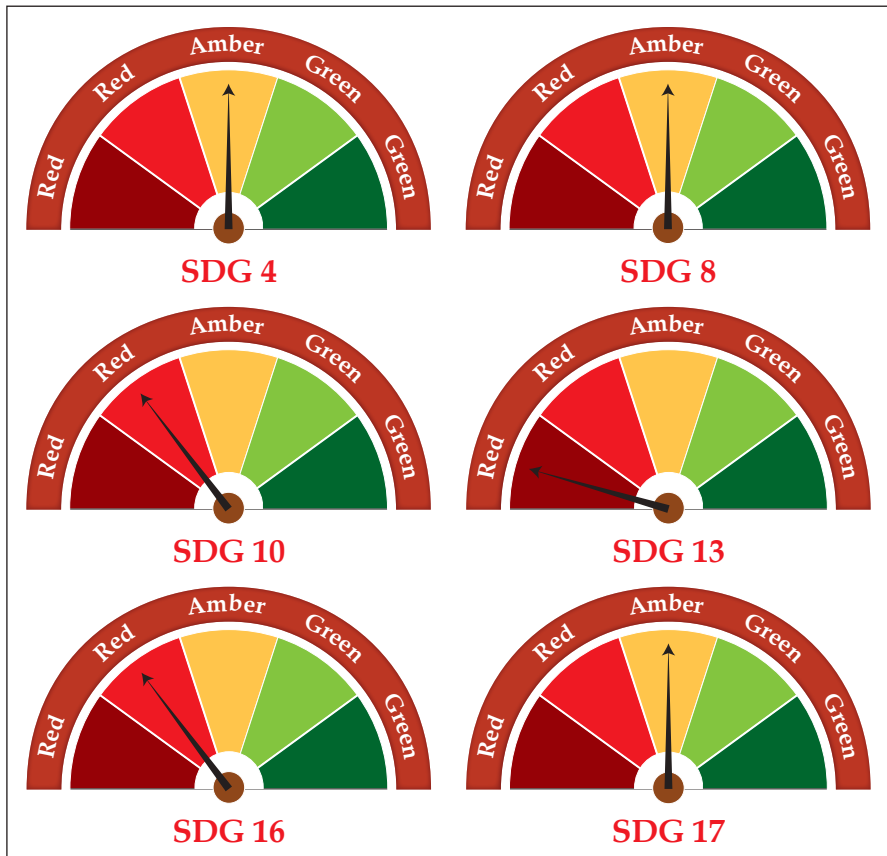
Source: Based on authors’ analysis.

important to keep in mind that the ranks assigned to each goal are on the basis of the analysis of quantitative data. Therefore, the qualitative aspects of education and information gaps in the governance-related data are not accounted for.

Based on the target- and indicator-level performances of the six SDGs, the overall Red, Amber or Green statuses are assigned to each of the six selected SDGs in Figure 43. Here, Deep Red represents the worst status and Deep Green represents the best status. SDG 13 is in Deep Red status, SDGs 10 and 16 are in Red status, and SDGs 4, 8 and 17 are in Amber status.

On the whole, from the exercise on the basis of averaging the status of the indicators under each goal, it can be deduced that SDGs 4, 8 and 17 are going

Figure 43: Red-Amber-Green status of selected SDGs in Bangladesh



Source: Authors' illustration.

in the right direction, but require some policy interventions to steer them towards their achievements by 2030. On the other hand, SDGs 10, 13 and 16 are NOT going in the right direction, and require radical policy changes and significant efforts from all involved stakeholders in order to reverse their trajectories. Of course, climate change (SDG 13) is an issue which is not created by Bangladesh, and global initiatives are needed to reverse the trend in climate change.

SECTION SIX

Conclusions and Recommendations

6.1 Newness of the study

The present study is first of its kind in Bangladesh. It has reviewed the achievements of NSAs in Bangladesh, examined what has worked and why, captured lessons learned and the attendant challenges, and presented how best to move forward to raise the efficacy of SDG-related initiatives in Bangladesh over the coming years. It has also assessed and analysed the trend of SDG indicators under six SDGs which were selected for review during the HLPF 2019. The contributions of this research can be summarised in the following manner.

First, it has endeavoured to assess the progress attained till now in Bangladesh, in the context of the six identified SDGs. This has been done by reviewing various documents and datasets, both national and global, through data gap analysis, and by drawing on goal-specific reports prepared by the six Goal-Groups formed with partners of the Citizen's Platform for SDGs, Bangladesh. The research has also examined whether there has been any departure in the pace of attaining the various targets in view of the SDGs. The study has made projections as regards the likelihood of meeting the targets by 2030 under the current scenario and identified the emerging gaps.

Second, the study has documented the policies and institutional framework that have been put in place in Bangladesh to implement the SDGs. It has made extensive use of the reports prepared by the CSOs on the activities being implemented in various goal areas, lessons learned and challenges confronted in implementing the SDGs.

Third, the study has presented an analysis of whether there has been discernible changes in actions, approaches and strategies pursued by the CSOs in view of the SDGs. Here, the focus has been on new initiatives, new ways of doing, new funding sources, and new and innovative collaborations with both state and non-state actors, as also with global partners.

Fourth, by drawing on insights gleaned from the review of goal-specific reports by partners of the Citizen’s Platform for SDGs, Bangladesh and relevant documents, the study has presented key lessons learned in the course of the past four years. It has put forward recommendations, both for policymakers and NSAs, based on identified challenges, gaps and deficits which have emerged in the course of the SDG praxis. This research has also come up with concrete suggestions in the areas of coordination, resource generation, prioritisation, leveraging and drawing synergies towards achieving the SDG goals and targets by 2030.

Fifth, this study has presented new information through forecasting several indicators of six selected SDGs. This research has tracked the progress of SDG indicators under six SDGs and forecasted the performance of the indicators till 2030. Out of 84 indicators under six selected SDGs, 50 indicators could be analysed based on available data. Within these 50 indicators, forecasting has been done for 20 indicators as long-term quantifiable data are available for only those. The other indicators have been analysed based on their past performance. In order to understand the possibility of achieving the SDGs by 2030, forecasting has been done using long-term official data from various sources. This study has assessed the long-term trend of the indicators even when the forecasting was not done. The progress report on the SDGs prepared by the GED presents information in most cases for two years, not for four years, from various GoB sources. There are a number of SDG indicators for which proxy data had to be used (GED, 2018d). In some of those cases, CPD’s proxy indicators were different from that of the GoB. Hence, the progress of those indicators cannot be compared.

6.2 Engagement of NSAs in SDG implementation: Lessons, challenges and recommendations

Based on the review of integration of the SDGs in the national development process, change in NSAs’ activities and priorities, and progress of the six SDGs and their future outlook presented in the previous sections of this research, a number of important lessons can be learnt and a few challenges may be identified. These lessons and challenges along with recommendations to move forward are presented below.

Lessons learnt

- NSAs are a key player in SDG delivery. While the private sector is making an overall discernible contribution towards achieving the SDGs, they are

yet to fully align their activities with goals and targets of the global agenda. CSOs, on the other hand, are working more at disaggregated level. Some CSOs' activities are also interfacing with the GoB activities.

- Both the private and non-profit sectors are demonstrating sensitivity to the new global demands in areas, such as decent work, institutional accountability, qualitative improvement in intervention impacts, which are critical to realising the SDGs.
- A stable working relationship between the government and NSAs based on mutual respect is key for the effectiveness of collaborative activities related to SDG implementation.

Challenges

- Data limitations have been a major challenge in undertaking this study. For many indicators, up to date and real-time data were not available; for others, there were no data at all. This made the task of assessing implementation progress difficult. Availability of data at the disaggregated level is crucial to measuring the progress of SDG implementation, particularly if the ambition of 'leave no one behind' is to be fulfilled. Detailed analysis of progress was constrained in the absence of disaggregated data concerning many indicators.
- National framework does not specify the role of CSOs and the private sector. The institutional framework for SDG implementation in Bangladesh does not recognise CSOs as partners. Thus, the role of NSAs is underplayed at the official level.
- Establishment of a direct link of the work of CSOs and the private sector with SDG 17 (partnership) is difficult. This is because their activities are largely at the grassroots and field levels.
- CSOs have not received new and additional funds for carrying out SDG-related activities. Hence, their engagement is constrained by limited resources.

Recommendations for engaging NSAs in SDG implementation

- Efforts need to be taken at national and global levels for meeting up the data gap. More resources should be allocated for generating real-time data through primary surveys on a regular basis. NSAs and all citizens should have access to those data.
- CSOs need support for scaling up their activities on SDG implementation. Support for the Rohingyas by development partners should be allocated and reported separately.

- At the national level, the government should form a special fund for SDG implementation by CSOs. In allocating and disbursing such funds to NSAs, transparency and accountability should be ensured.
- The role of NSAs should be recognised adequately at the official level. NSAs have to be considered as partners in the institutional framework for SDG implementation in Bangladesh.

6.3 Recommendations for achieving six selected SDGs

The projections on indicators of six SDGs reflecting where the country is heading in terms of SDG implementation should be taken into consideration by the policymakers seriously. Clearly, the SDGs that are lagging behind will require much more effort than what is exerted at present. Major recommendations which have emanated from this study are recapitulated below.

SDG 4: Quality Education

- Instil good governance in educational institutions by increasing the participation of students and parents in their functioning and operation;
- Increase funding for educational institutions in remote rural areas and educational institutions that serve the left-behind communities;
- Improve means of assessment of learning, so that both cognitive and non-cognitive skills are adequately tested;
- Encourage international cooperation to strengthen university education and research;
- Improve the quality of teacher training and implement continuous M&E systems to check the effectiveness of training.

SDG 8: Decent Work and Economic Growth

- Revisit curricula of educational institutions to improve quality and increase market relevance of skills, competencies and knowledge;
- Conduct research on changing demands for skills, in order to make sure that appropriate measures may be taken to empower workers with the right skills, so that they may positively respond to rapidly changing labour market dynamics;
- Engage all stakeholders in the design and delivery of training programmes to ensure high quality;
- Create a central database of youth in NEET in order to provide targeted skills training and match workers to employers.

SDG 10: Reduced Inequalities

- Democratise educational opportunities by reserving a certain portion of seats in private schools for children from underprivileged families and providing free education to such children;
- Explore opportunities for providing primary producers with an equity stake in private sector agro-processing companies;
- Broaden the asset ownership of the excluded by establishing labour-exporting enterprises owned by overseas migrant workers;
- Decouple pension of government officials from social protection budget and gradually shift from the humanitarian approach to the rights-based approach of social protection;
- Improve targetting of social protection programmes to minimise leakages and adverse selection.

SDG 13: Climate Action

- Scale up adaptation measures to enhance adaptive capacity, strengthen resilience and reduce vulnerability to climate change;
- Implement national adaptation plans through participatory measures, and strengthen adaptation-related institutional arrangements;
- Increase investment in renewable energy to make agriculture and manufacturing greener;
- Campaign for greater funding of climate change adaption measures and join forces with other climate-vulnerable countries to persuade developed countries to fulfil their climate funding commitments;
- Consider trans-boundary action and collaboration on mitigation and adaptation by setting up a separate fund amongst climate-vulnerable countries to address the impacts of climate change on the lives and livelihoods of people;
- Increase natural disaster preparedness by improving the efficiency of multi-hazard early warning systems.

SDG 16: Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions

- Build local and national capacity for arbitration, mediation and alternative dispute resolution;
- Address the underlying drivers of conflict and violence, such as drug trafficking;
- Ensure that decision-making at all levels is responsive, inclusive, participatory and representative, and institutions that tackle corruption are transparent and accountable;

- Uphold rule of law and ensure access to justice, especially for women, children, poor and marginalised groups;
- Build the capacity of government agencies, such as the Transfer Pricing Unit of the NBR, to ensure enforcement of law in all areas related to illicit financial outflows.

SDG 17: Partnerships for the Goals

- Implement full automation of the VAT collection process within a clearly specified deadline;
- Impose wealth, property and inheritance taxes, following international best practices, in order to generate additional revenue and create a more equitable society;
- Utilise the electronic TIN database to pursue individuals who are registered in the system, but are not submitting returns;
- Introduce electronic tax deduction at source, with issuance of tax certificates by the NBR against an electronic TIN linked to each instance of tax deducted at source;
- Pass legislation that puts a ceiling on the price of fixed broadband and mobile internet, in order to ensure affordability for all.

6.4 Final comments: Synergies and trade-offs

On the whole, it is clear that there are several similarities with overall findings and conclusions between the GoB progress report and CPD's research on the state of the six selected SDGs. While it is encouraging to note that the GoB has recognised the challenges of implementation of the SDGs, efforts towards mitigating those challenges fall short of the commitments. In this final part of this study, a few issues are reiterated for successful implementation of the SDGs by the GoB. This sub-section also briefly highlights the issue of synergies and trade-offs in implementing the selected SDGs.

In case of education (SDG 4), the quality of education has been recognised as a challenge. Though the enrolment rate has increased over time, access to quality education by all sections of the society will require more effort. Those who are disadvantaged and left behind, including the physically-challenged children, poor girls and the dalit population have to be provided with opportunities. Education is an important determinant of social inclusion and intergenerational mobility. It is also an enabler for achieving a number of SDGs, such as SDG 1 (end poverty), SDG 2 (end hunger), SDG 5 (women's empowerment), SDG 8 (decent job) and SDG 10 (reduced inequalities). While

higher budgetary allocation for education is urgently required, efficient utilisation of resources is no less important. In the advent of fast technological advancement, the country will have to rely more on productivity and efficiency. Therefore, more investment on skills development is required, so that the youth can take opportunities created through new technologies.

At present Bangladesh is experiencing jobless growth. Despite high GDP growth, unemployment rate among the youth is very high. Also, more than 80 per cent of jobs are in the informal sector, which are low-paid and insecure. Therefore, achievement of SDG 8 is also challenging. Additionally, high growth has not reduced inequality. Hence, achievement of SDG 8 has also implications for other SDGs, such as SDGs 1 and 10. Specifically, if the erosion of real wages continues, fulfilment of SDG 8 will be challenging. On the other hand, achievement of SDG 12 (sustainable consumption and production), SDG 14 (life below water) and SDG 15 (life on land) may be influenced negatively, if policies for implementing SDG 8 are not well crafted. In countries with limited resources, avoiding such trade-off may pose challenges for the policymakers.

The achievement of SDG 10 is facing challenge due to the emerging and persistent inequality, despite higher economic growth. Since achievement of SDG 10 is closely related to SDG 1 on poverty reduction, more coherent policies are required focusing concerns and interests of the disadvantaged and the marginalised people. Inequality is indeed undesirable for any country as it could erode social cohesion resulting in social and political instability. Therefore, along with income inclusion, the other two requirements – social and political inclusions – are to be ensured in order to reduce inequality. Moreover, appropriate fiscal policies and social protection measures are necessary for reducing inequality. This implies that opportunities for income generation have to be created through better access to credit to the marginalised, particularly women and youth. In doing so, domestic resource mobilisation through more tax efforts have to be expedited. The GoB has prepared an action plan based on the NSSS. Successful selection of the beneficiaries of the NSSS will require a comprehensive national household database. Though such a database was to be prepared by 2017, the task is yet to be accomplished. This database can help create a more equitable and inclusive society and facilitate the fulfilment of the ‘leave no one behind’ aspirations. If programmes under the NSSS have to be implemented by 2026 as planned by the GoB, necessary infrastructural and human resource development will be needed.

Much of the progress made by Bangladesh may be lost if the country cannot prepare for dealing with the impact of climate change. Hence, concerted climate action under SDG 13 is one of the most important priorities for Bangladesh. The GoB has invested on disaster management infrastructure to save the country from natural disasters, such as flood and cyclone. However, skills of the government officials have to be improved in order to secure fund from Global Climate Fund. It is to be mentioned that achievement of SDG 13 is linked with SDG 1 and SDG 11 (sustainable cities). The poor are more vulnerable to climate risks. Following a climate disaster, people who have graduated from poverty may fall back to the poverty level and may find it difficult to improve their economic conditions for a long time. The fulfillment of SDG 11 can also help reduce climate-related vulnerability of the country since SDG 11 essentially calls for green, clean, resilient and sustainable environment in cities.

SDG 16 is a cross-cutting goal in the sense that issues of accountability, transparency and good governance are relevant for all institutions. Therefore, coordination among various government departments and ministries is required. Institutions, such as the National Parliament of Bangladesh, National Human Rights Commission, Office of the Comptroller and Auditor General, Information Commission, Anti-Corruption Commission and Election Commission should take strong, visible and effective initiatives. A National Governance Assessment Framework has been prepared in 2015. The Framework is expected to improve if reporting under this initiative is done and published regularly.

Achievement of the SDGs depends on successful implementation of SDG 17, which in other words, referred to as the means of implementation. Partnership among various stakeholders both within the country and among countries is thus a key requirement. Resource mobilisation has also been identified as one of the most critical requirements for implementation of the SDGs. The GoB has estimated the resource requirement and also identified sources of fund. Mobilisation of domestic resources is fraught with several challenges including small tax net and the practice of tax avoidance by prospective taxpayers. Hence, SDG 17 is linked with achievement of SDG 16 and vice versa. Given the declining share of ODA in Bangladesh's budgetary expenses, the country needs to explore innovative sources of finance and attract more FDI. Bangladesh can also earn more remittances through skills development in line with the requirement of the destination countries. This target is linked to materialisation of SDG 4.

It is no denying that political commitment is the precondition for fulfilling the ethos of the SDGs, which is to 'leave no one behind'. As has been discussed in this study, initiatives of the GoB in implementing the SDGs are praiseworthy on many counts. It is among the very few countries which have undertaken several noteworthy initiatives. Some of these include integrating the SDGs into the national development agenda, making institutional arrangements for achieving the SDGs, mapping of ministries by the SDGs and their targets, preparation of ministry/division action plan and National Action Plan for implementation of the SDGs, data gap analysis for the SDGs, M&E framework of the SDGs, financing strategy for SDG implementation and introduction of the Annual Performance Agreement.

However, the recognition of the role of NSAs is less pronounced in the GoB documents. Since the fulfillment of the SDGs stands on partnership among stakeholders, there should be more space for NSAs to contribute effectively towards implementation of the SDGs. Bangladesh is famous for the positive role of NGOs, CSOs and grassroots-level organisations in the development effort of the country. Several NSAs have proved to be very effective in accessing the marginalised people, comprehending their vulnerabilities and finding practical solutions to the problems of those people. If NSAs are taken into confidence as partners of this journey, Bangladesh can aspire to be an equitable and inclusive country by fulfilling the SDGs by 2030.

References

Ahmed, N., Boex, J., Monem, M. and Panday, P. (2014). *The Local Government System in Bangladesh: A Comparative Analysis of Perspective and Practices*. Report prepared for the UPGP and UZDP projects. Dhaka: Union Parishad Governance Project (UPGP) and Upazila Governance Project (UZGP), Government of Bangladesh (GoB). Available at: http://www.bd.undp.org/content/bangladesh/en/home/library/democratic_governance/the-local-government-system-in-bangladesh--a-comparative-analysi.html [accessed: 15 May 2019].

Alam, S. (2018). Bangladesh: SDG implementation: Ensuring localisation and inclusiveness. Commentary. *South Asia Journal*. Available at: <http://southasiajournal.net/sdg-implementation-ensuring-localisation-and-inclusiveness> [accessed: 4 November 2018].

BANBEIS. (n.d.). *Bangladesh Education Statistics*. BANBEIS Educational Database. Dhaka: Bangladesh Bureau of Educational Information and Statistics (BANBEIS), Ministry of Education, Government of Bangladesh (GoB). Available at: <http://data.banbeis.gov.bd/> [accessed: 14 April 2019].

Bangladesh Bank. (2019). *Annual Report 2017-2018*. Dhaka: Bangladesh Bank.

Bangladesh Police. (2019). *Crime Statistics 2019*. Dhaka: Bangladesh Police, Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of Bangladesh (GoB). Available at: https://www.police.gov.bd/en/crime_statistic/year/2019 [accessed: 23 May 2019].

BBS. (2015a). *Bangladesh Disaster Related Statistics 2015*. Dhaka: Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics (BBS), Government of Bangladesh (GoB).

BBS. (2015b). *Bangladesh ICT Use and Access Survey 2013*. Dhaka: Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics (BBS), Government of Bangladesh (GoB).

BBS. (2016). *Violence Against Women (VAW) Survey 2015*. Dhaka: Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics (BBS), Government of Bangladesh (GoB). Available at: <http://203.112.218.65:8008/WebTestApplication/userfiles/Image/LatestReports/VAWSurvey2015.pdf> [accessed: 23 May 2019].

BBS. (2018a). *Action Plan and Methodological Guidelines for Data Generation and Disaggregation for Monitoring and Evaluation of SDGs*. Dhaka: Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics (BBS), Government of Bangladesh (GoB).

BBS. (2018b). *Labour Force Survey (LFS) 2016-17*. Dhaka: Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics (BBS), Government of Bangladesh (GoB).

BBS. (n.d.a). *GDP of Bangladesh*. Dhaka: Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics (BBS), Government of Bangladesh (GoB). Available at: <http://www.bbs.gov.bd/site/page/dc2bc6ce-7080-48b3-9a04-73cec782d0df/> [accessed: 14 April 2019].

BBS. (n.d.b). *Household Income and Expenditure Survey (HIES)* (various issues). Dhaka: Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics (BBS), Government of Bangladesh (GoB).

BBS and UNICEF. (2015). *Bangladesh – Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey 2012-2013, Progotir Pathhey: Final Report*. Dhaka: Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics (BBS), Government of Bangladesh (GoB) and United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF). Available at: http://203.112.218.65:8008/WebTestApplication/userfiles/Image/LatestReports/MICS_2012-13.pdf [accessed: 23 May 2019].

Bhattacharya, D., Monem, M. and Rezvana, U. S. (2013). *Finance for Local Government in Bangladesh: An Elusive Agenda*. CPD-CMI Working Paper No. 6. Dhaka: Centre for Policy Dialogue (CPD) and Bergen: Chr. Michelsen Institute (CMI). Available at: <http://cpd.org.bd/wp-content/uploads/2013/11/CPD-CMI-Working-Paper-6-v2.pdf> [accessed: 15 May 2019].

Bhattacharya, D., Khan, T. I. and Sabbih, M. A. (2016). *Delivering on the Promise: Ensuring the Successful Implementation of the 2030 Agenda in Bangladesh*. Dhaka: Save the Children in Bangladesh. Available at: https://bangladesh.savethechildren.net/sites/bangladesh.savethechildren.net/files/library/Delivering%20on%20the%20promise_1.pdf [accessed: 23 October 2018].

Bhattacharya, D., Khan, T. I., Rezvana, U. S. and Moshtaque, L. (2016). *Moving Forward with the SDGs: Implementation Challenges in Developing Countries*. Berlin: Department for Asia and the Pacific, Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung (FES). Available

at: <http://www.fes-bangladesh.org/files/daten/Publications/Moving%20forward%20with%20the%20SDGs.pdf> [accessed: 22 October 2018].

CEPII. (n.d.). *Country Profile: Bangladesh*. Harmonized Accounts on Trade and Global Economy (CHELEM) database. Paris: Center for Prospective Studies and International Information (CEPII). Available at: <http://visualdata.cepii.fr/panorama/en/?country=Bangladesh> [accessed: 23 May 2019].

Chatfield, C. (2000). *Time-series forecasting*. Boca Raton, Florida: Chapman & Hall/CRC.

Citizen's Platform for SDGs, Bangladesh. (2019). *Review Report on Goal 16*. Dhaka: Citizen's Platform for SDGs, Bangladesh. Available at: https://4yearssdgs.bdplatform4sdgs.net/wp-content/uploads/2019/04/SDG-16_Peace-Justice-and-Strong-Institutions-Full-Report.pdf [accessed: 20 May 2019].

DPE. (2018). *Annual Primary School Census 2018*. Dhaka: Directorate of Primary Education (DPE), Ministry of Primary and Mass Education (MoPME), Government of Bangladesh (GoB).

EC-JRC and PBL. (n.d.). *Global Air Pollutant Emissions EDGAR v4.3.2: Timeseries (1970-2012)*. Emissions Database for Global Atmospheric Research (EDGAR). Copenhagen: Joint Research Centre, European Commission (EC-JRC)/Netherlands Environmental Assessment Agency (PBL). Available at: https://edgar.jrc.ec.europa.eu/overview.php?v=432_AP [accessed: 23 May 2019].

FAO. (n.d.). *Temperature Change*. FAO Statistical Database (FAOSTAT). Rome: Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO). Available at: <http://www.fao.org/faostat/en/> [accessed: 23 May 2019].

GED. (2015). *Seventh Five Year Plan (FY2016 - FY2020): Accelerating Growth, Empowering Citizens*. Dhaka: General Economics Division (GED), Planning Commission, Government of Bangladesh (GoB). Available at: http://plancomm.portal.gov.bd/sites/default/files/files/plancomm.portal.gov.bd/files/aee61c03_3c11_4e89_9f30_d79639595c67/7th_FYP_18_02_2016.pdf [accessed: 16 May 2019].

GED. (2016a). *A Handbook: Mapping of Ministries by Targets in the Implementation of SDGs Aligning with 7th Five Year Plan (2016-20)*. Dhaka: General Economics Division (GED), Planning Commission, Government of Bangladesh (GoB).

Available at: http://plancomm.portal.gov.bd/sites/default/files/files/plancomm.portal.gov.bd/files/19da51a5_b571_4158_beaefc3e798c1f7/A-Handbook-Mapping-of-Ministries_-targets_-SDG_-7-FYP_2016.pdf [accessed: 22 October 2018].

GED. (2016b). *Integration of Sustainable Development Goals into the 7th Five Year Plan*. Dhaka: General Economics Division (GED), Planning Commission, Government of Bangladesh (GoB). Available at: http://www.plancomm.gov.bd/wp-content/uploads/2016/11/Integration_SDG_7FYP_Final.pdf [accessed: 3 November 2018].

GED. (2017a). *Bangladesh Voluntary National Review (VNR) 2017: Eradicating Poverty and Promoting Prosperity in a Changing World*. A report on progress of SDGs implementation of Bangladesh submitted to the High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development (HLPF) of the United Nations (UN). Dhaka: General Economics Division (GED), Planning Commission, Government of Bangladesh (GoB). Available at: http://www.sd.gov.bd/public/img/upload/resources/5d39814178ea7_doc_file.pdf [accessed: 23 October 2018].

GED. (2017b). *Data Gap Analysis of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs): Bangladesh Perspective*. Dhaka: General Economics Division (GED), Planning Commission, Government of Bangladesh (GoB). Available at: http://bbs.portal.gov.bd/sites/default/files/files/bbs.portal.gov.bd/page/3acbc97e_6ba3_467b_bdb2_cfb3cbbf059f/Final_Data-Gap-Analysis-of-SDGs_Bangladesh-Perspective_23_02_2017.pdf [accessed: 1 November 2018].

GED. (2017c). *SDGs Financing Strategy: Bangladesh Perspective*. Dhaka: General Economics Division (GED), Planning Commission, Government of Bangladesh (GoB). Available at: <http://pkssf-bd.org/web/wp-content/uploads/2018/11/2.-SDGs-Financing-Strategy-Bangladesh-Perspective.pdf> [accessed: 25 October 2018].

GED. (2018a). *Journey with SDGs: Bangladesh is Marching Forward*. Dhaka: General Economics Division (GED), Planning Commission, Government of Bangladesh (GoB).

GED. (2018b). *Monitoring and Evaluation Framework of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs): Bangladesh Perspective*. Dhaka: General Economics Division (GED), Planning Commission, Government of Bangladesh (GoB). Available at: <http://plancomm.portal.gov.bd/sites/default/files/files/plancomm.portal>.

gov.bd/files/dc350cdc_4c6d_4a81_b72a_3afe082187ac/Monitoring_and_Evaluation_Framework_of_SDGS_Book_Proof.pdf [accessed: 6 January 2019].

GED. (2018c). *National Action Plan of Ministries and Divisions by Targets in the Implementation of Sustainable Development Goals*. Dhaka: General Economics Division (GED), Planning Commission, Government of Bangladesh (GoB).

GED. (2018d). *Sustainable Development Goals: Bangladesh Progress Report 2018*. Dhaka: General Economics Division (GED), Planning Commission, Government of Bangladesh (GoB).

GED. (2018e). *Synthesis Report on First National Conference on SDGs Implementation Review*. Dhaka: General Economics Division (GED), Planning Commission, Government of Bangladesh (GoB).

GoB. (2019). *Bangladesh on a Pathway to Prosperity: Time is Ours, Time for Bangladesh*. Budget Speech 2019-20. Dhaka: Ministry of Finance (MoF), Government of Bangladesh (GoB). Available at: https://mof.portal.gov.bd/sites/default/files/files/mof.portal.gov.bd/page/b29661b6_927f_4012_9f83_5ac47dbd6ebd/Budget%20Speech%202019-20%20English%20Final%20Print.pdf [accessed: 10 August 2019].

Heckman, J. (2011). The economics of inequality: The value of early childhood education. *American Educator*, 35 (1), pp. 31–35, 47.

Heckman, J. (2019). *4 Big Benefits of Investing in Early Childhood Development*. Posted on The Heckman Equation. Available at: https://heckmanequation.org/www/assets/2017/01/F_Heckman_FourBenefitsInvestingECDevelopment_022615.pdf [accessed: 15 April 2019].

Heckman, J., Pinto, R. and Peter, S. (2013). Understanding the mechanisms through which an influential early childhood program boosted adult outcomes. *American Economic Review*, 103 (6), pp. 2052–2086.

HLP. (2013). *A New Global Partnership: Eradicate Poverty and Transform Economies through Sustainable Development*. The report of the High-Level Panel of Eminent Persons on the Post-2015 Development Agenda (HLP). New York: United Nations (UN). Available at: <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/8932013-05%20-%20HLP%20Report%20-%20A%20New%20Global%20Partnership.pdf> [accessed: 18 November 2018].

Hoegh-Guldberg, O., Jacob, D., Taylor, M., Bindi, M., Brown, S., ... Zhou, G. (2018). Impacts of 1.5°C global warming on natural and human systems. In Masson-Delmotte, V., Zhai, P., Pörtner, H.-O., Roberts, D., Skea, J., Shukla, P. R., ... Waterfield, T. (Eds.) *An IPCC special report on the impacts of global warming of 1.5°C above pre-industrial levels and related global greenhouse gas emission pathways, in the context of strengthening the global response to the threat of climate change, sustainable development, and efforts to eradicate poverty*, pp. 175–311. Geneva: Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC). Available at: https://www.ipcc.ch/site/assets/uploads/sites/2/2019/02/SR15_Chapter3_Low_Res.pdf [accessed: 6 May 2019].

Human Rights Watch. (2019). *World Report 2019: Events of 2018*. New York: Human Rights Watch. Available at: https://www.hrw.org/sites/default/files/world_report_download/hrw_world_report_2019.pdf [accessed: 16 May 2019].

Hyndman, R. J. and Athanasopoulos, G. (2018). *Forecasting: Principles and practice* (2nd ed.). Melbourne: OTexts. Available at: <https://otexts.com/fpp2/> [accessed: 6 March 2019].

ILO. (n.d.). *ILOSTAT – Key Indicators of the Labour Market (KILM)*. Geneva: ILO Department of Statistics, International Labour Organization (ILO). Available at: <https://www.ilo.org/ilostat> [accessed: 14 April 2019].

Kar, D. and Spanjers, J. (2015). *Illicit Financial Flows from Developing Countries: 2004-2013*. Washington, D. C.: Global Financial Integrity. Available at: https://www.gfintegrity.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/12/IFF-Update_2015-Final-1.pdf [accessed: 23 May 2019].

Khan, T. I. (2018). “Localisation of SDGs in Bangladesh: Reflections from a Set of Lagging Regions.” Presentation made at the dialogue on *Let the Grassroots Speak: Localizing SDGs for Inclusive Development*, organised by the Oxfam in Bangladesh and Centre for Policy Dialogue (CPD), held on 5 December, in Dhaka. Available at: <https://cpd.org.bd/wp-content/uploads/2018/12/Presentation-on-Localisationof-SDGs-in-Bangladesh-Reflections-from-A-Set-of-Lagging-Regions.pdf> [accessed: 18 February 2019].

Khatun, F. (2018). “Can Bangladesh do without Foreign Aid?” Presentation made at the dialogue on *Catalysing Development Finance for Bangladesh: Mobilisation and Utilisation Challenges*, organised by the Centre for Policy Dialogue (CPD), held on 8 November, in Dhaka. Available at: <https://cpd.org>.

bd/wp-content/uploads/2018/11/Can-Bangladesh-do-without-Foreign-Aid.pdf [accessed: 15 April 2019].

Khatun, F., Dewan, N. and Hossain, S. (2013). *Evaluating Aid for Trade on the Ground: Lessons from Bangladesh*. Issue Paper No. 30. Geneva: International Centre for Trade and Sustainable Development (ICTSD). Available at: http://www.ictsd.org/downloads/2014/01/evaluating-aft-on-the-ground_lessons-from-bangladesh.pdf [accessed: 15 April 2019].

Makridakis, S. G., Wheelwright, S. C. and Hyndman, R. J. (1997). *Forecasting: Methods and applications* (3rd ed.). New York: Wiley.

NGO Affairs Bureau. (n.d.). <http://www.ngoab.gov.bd> (website of the NGO Affairs Bureau, Prime Minister's Office (PMO), Government of Bangladesh (GoB)) [accessed: 20 March 2019].

OECD. (n.d.). *International Development Statistics (IDS) Online Databases*. Paris: Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD). Available at: <http://www.oecd.org/dac/stats/idsonline.htm> [accessed: 10 April 2019].

Pacioli, L. (1494). *Summa de arithmetica geometria proportioni et proportionalita*. Venice: Paganini.

Rahman, M. and Khan, T. I. (2017). Bangladeshe besorkari unnayan sangstha: Notun boishik unnayan karmasuchi, notun bhumika (NGOs in Bangladesh: New global development agenda, new role). In *2030 boishik unnayan agenda o Bangladesh: Bastobayoner shondhikhone sorkari-besorkari sangsthar onghshidaritto (2030 global development agenda and Bangladesh: GO-NGO partnership at the implementation cross-road)*. Dhaka: Citizen's Platform for SDGs, Bangladesh and NGO Affairs Bureau, Prime Minister's Office (PMO), Government of Bangladesh (GoB).

Rahman, M., Khan, T. I. and Sadique, M. Z. (2014). Public Expenditure Trends in Low-Income Countries in the Post-MDG Context. Background paper prepared for the *European Report on Development (ERD) 2015*. Available at: https://ec.europa.eu/europeaid/sites/devco/files/erd5-background-paper-public-expenditure-trends-2015_en.pdf [accessed: 16 May 2019].

Rahman, M., Khan, T. I., Sadique, M. Z. and Sabbih, M. A. (2016). *Addressing the Deficits: An Action Plan for Data Revolution in Bangladesh*. Southern Voice

Occasional Paper 34. Dhaka: Southern Voice on Post-MDG International Development Goals. Available at: <http://southernvoice.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/08/SV-OP-34.pdf> [accessed: 6 November 2018].

Slavin, S. (1999). *All the math you'll ever need: A self-teaching guide*. Volume 148 of Wiley Self-Teaching Guides. New Jersey: John Wiley & Sons.

TIB. (2018). *Corruption in Service Sectors: National Household Survey 2017*. Dhaka: Transparency International Bangladesh (TIB).

UN. (2019). *Global Indicator Framework for the Sustainable Development Goals and Targets of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development*. A/RES/71/313 – E/CN.3/2019/2. New York: United Nations (UN). Available at: https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/indicators/Global%20Indicator%20Framework%20after%202019%20refinement_Eng.pdf [accessed: 15 April 2019].

UN. (n.d.). *United Nations Global Sustainable Development Goals Database*. New York: United Nations (UN). Available at: <https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/indicators/database/> [accessed: 14 April 2019].

UNDG. (2014). *Delivering the Post-2015 Development Agenda: Opportunities at the National and Local Levels*. New York: United Nations Development Group (UNDG). Available at: <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/1909UNDP-MDG-Delivering-Post-2015-Report-2014.pdf> [accessed: 13 November 2018].

UNDP. (2017). *Institutional and Coordination Mechanism: Guidance Note on Facilitating Integration and Coherence for SDG Implementation*. New York: United Nations Development Programme (UNDP). Available at: https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/2478Institutional_Coordination_Mechanisms_GuidanceNote.pdf [accessed: 16 May 2019].

UNDP. (2018). *What does it mean to Leave No One Behind?* Discussion Paper. New York: United Nations Development Programme (UNDP). Available at: <http://www.undp.org/content/undp/en/home/librarypage/poverty-reduction/what-does-it-mean-to-leave-no-one-behind-.html> [accessed: 15 October 2018].

UNESCO. (n.d.). *UNESCO Institute for Statistics data*. Paris: United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO). Available at: <http://uis.unesco.org/> [accessed: 14 April 2019].

UNGA. (2014). *The Road to Dignity by 2030: Ending Poverty, Transforming All Lives and Protecting the Planet*. Synthesis report of the Secretary-General on the post-2015 agenda. A/69/700. New York: United Nations General Assembly (UNGA). Available at: <https://www.un.org/en/development/desa/publications/files/2015/01/SynthesisReportENG.pdf> [accessed: 16 November 2018].

World Bank. (n.d.a). *Sustainable Development Goals Database*. Washington, D. C.: The World Bank. Available at: <https://databank.worldbank.org/data/home> [accessed: 14 April 2019].

World Bank. (n.d.b) *World Development Indicators*. Washington, D. C.: The World Bank. Available at: <http://databank.worldbank.org/data/source/world-development-indicators> [accessed: 23 May 2019].

Annex

Annex 1: Key policies, plans, strategies and programmes targeted for the SDGs

SDGs	Policy /Act/Strategy/Programme/Plan
1. No Poverty	National Sustainable Development Strategy (NSDS) – 2010–21
	National Social Security Strategy (NSSS) of Bangladesh 2015
	National Plan for Disaster Management (2016–29)
2. Zero Hunger	National Food Policy Plan of Action (2008–2015)
	National Nutrition Policy – 2015
3. Good Health and Well-being	National Health Policy, 2011
	4th Health Nutrition and Population Sector Program (4th HNPSP), 2017–22
4. Quality Education	National Education Policy, 2010
	National Skill Development Policy 2011
	Primary Education Development Programme (PEDP-4) 2018–23
	National Skill Development Authority Act 2018
5. Gender Equality	National Women Development Policy (NWDP) – 2011
	National Child Policy – 2011
6. Clean Water and Sanitation	Sector Development Plan (2011–2025), Water Supply and Sanitation Sector
	Bangladesh Delta Plan 2100
7. Affordable and Clean Energy	Energy Efficiency and Conservation Rules, 2013
	Power System Master Plan 2016
8. Decent Work and Economic Growth	Bangladesh Labour Act 2006, amended in 2013
9. Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure	Industrial Policy 2016
	Road Master Plan (2010–30)
	Bangladesh Public Private Partnership Act 2015
	Revised Strategic Transport Plan 2016

(Annex 1 contd.)

(Annex 1 contd.)

SDGs	Policy /Act/Strategy/Programme/Plan
10. Reduced Inequalities	National Social Security Strategy (NSSS) of Bangladesh 2015
	Disabled Persons Rights and Protection Act 2013
	Rights and Protection of Persons with Disabilities Rules 2015
	Expatriates' Welfare and Overseas Employment Policy 2016
11. Sustainable Cities and Communities	The Metro Rail Act, 2015
	Bus Rapid Transit Act 2016
12. Responsible Production and Consumption	Consumer Rights Protection Act 2009
13. Climate Action	Bangladesh Climate Change Strategy and Action Plan (BCCSAP) 2008, updated revised 2009
14. Life below Water	National Shrimp Policy 2014
	National Water Policy 1999
	Bangladesh Oceanographic Research Institute Act 2015
15. Life on Land	-
16. Peace, Justice and Strong Institution	Strategic Plan of C&AG (2013-18)
	National Integrity Strategy 2012
	Right to Information Act 2009
17. Partnerships for the Goals	Public Money and Budget Management Act 2009
	Statistics Act 2013
	National Strategy for the Development of Statistics (NSDS)
	One Stop Service Act 2018

Source: GED (2016a).

This publication takes stock of the progress made by Bangladesh in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) during the first four-year cycle (2015–2019) of the 2030 Agenda. The volume is the product of a unique participatory exercise which deploys a non-state actor's (NSA) lens in discerning the country's recent development experience.

The volume not only seeks to assess the contribution of the NSAs in delivery of the SDGs in the country, but also identifies the post-2015 changes in their programmatic approaches. The authors of the volume provide an evidence-based expose of the progress made in the areas of a number of critical SDGs. What is revealing is a set of projections indicating the challenges of full and faithful realisation of the 2030 Agenda in Bangladesh. The authors have not, of course, shied away from suggesting the possible pathway for overcoming these challenges.

The volume comes at a very opportune moment as the country prepares its second Voluntary National Review (VNR), to be placed at the High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development (HLPF) 2020 at the United Nations in New York.



bdplatform4sdgs.net



[@BDPlatform4SDGs](https://www.facebook.com/BPlatform4SDGs)



[@BDPlatform4SDGs](https://twitter.com/BPlatform4SDGs)



cpd.org.bd



[cpd.org.bd](https://www.facebook.com/cpd.org.bd)



[cpdbd](https://twitter.com/cpdbd)



[CPDBangladesh](https://www.youtube.com/CPDBangladesh)



9 789843 487506