



Localisation and Contextualisation of the SDGs in Bangladesh

An effective tool to raise the quality of implementing the SDGs, is to contextualise their delivery by taking into account the local perspective.

The 'localisation' concept emerged from experience of the MDGs which generally followed a top-down approach, consequently undermining the aspirations of inclusive development. Towards inclusive participation, activities geared towards attaining the SDGs need to be localised, particularly to achieve the agenda's goal to "endeavour to reach the furthest behind first". It needs to be recognised that both the ownership and onus of implementation of SDGs is not vested only on central government but also lies on the sub-national and local authorities and actors. Thus, empowering local governments and providing them with the required resources should be seen as critically important steps to address SDG related challenges. Also, there is a need to help catalogue

partnerships among local stakeholders and put in place effective monitoring and evaluation process to ensure that the goals and targets are delivered on the ground. While Bangladesh is one of the front-runners in institutionalising SDG implementation, a lot is needed to be done in view of localising SDGs towards successful delivery of the outcomes. It is in this backdrop that CPD and Oxfam joined hands, with support from the EU in Bangladesh, to implement the current project which aimed to contribute to address this felt need. The project has followed a four step framework to operationalise this effort which has been visualised in the figure below.



To meet the objective, as a first step, CPD and Oxfam in Bangladesh, in collaboration with their local partners had organised day-long trainings for officials from local administration across the 13 districts in Bangladesh. The districts included Nilphamari, Gaibandha, Rangpur, Barguna, Jamalpur, Kurigram, Pirojpur, Satkhira, Netrakona, Chattogram, Kishoreganj, Sunamganj, and Sirajganj, areas which are generally perceived to be particularly affected by various vulnerabilities. A total of about 500 participants attended the workshops – about 65 per cent being representatives of local administration (LA) and local government (LG). The participants were encouraged to formulate an SDG localisation framework for their own zilas/upazilas following the ‘Natore SDG Localisation Framework’ model that envisaged four steps: i) problem identification (priorities); ii) potential opportunities and options; iii) adoption of development agenda/action plan; and iv) distribution of responsibilities among government departments and non-state actors.

SDG Localisation Framework



Source: Adapted from GED

Local government officials

Pledged

- that they will prioritise and try to include their set development agenda in their future action plans, activities and budgetary plans.

NGOs, media and other stakeholders

Committed

- to work closely with government to follow-up the progress in the realisation of SDGs at the local level.

LA representatives in partnership with NGOs and CSOs

Highlighted

- the need for enhancing coordination among different departments and offices towards better utilisation of limited resources and knowledge sharing;
- avoidance of duplication of programmes;
- speeding up the pace of implementing SDG-related programmes and projects at the local level.

The consolidated findings were shared with development practitioners, academicians, researchers, journalists, diplomats and development partners at a national level inception event titled 'Localising SDGs for Inclusive Development' held on 5 December 2018 at Lakeshore Hotel, Dhaka. Key national policy makers related to SDGs implementation and local government including Md. Abul Kalam Azad, former Principal Coordinator (Sustainable Development Goals - SDG Affairs), Prime Minister's Office, Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh, Professor Shamsul Alam, Member and Senior Secretary, General Economics Division, Planning Commission, and Dr. Zafar Ahmed Khan, former Senior Secretary, Local Government Division, Ministry of LGRD and Co-Operatives and Senior Secretary, Bangladesh Parliament attended the event. The high-level policymakers and key stakeholders attending the event praised the initiative as a unique contribution to ensuring effective SDGs related delivery at grassroots level. They acknowledged that delivery of services to the farthest behind was highly challenging and the CPD-Oxfam project which geared to launching the SDGs is playing a very useful role in this backdrop.

For more information, please visit:
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