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CENTRE FOR POLICY DIALOGUE

GO-GO and GO-NGO Coordination for Better Development Outcomes

Coordination among the various government ministries and divisions as well as between government and non-state actors (NGOs, CSOs, CBOs) are critically important to ensure the best use of limited resources, particularly in view of attaining such an ambitious agenda as the SDGs. GO-GO coordination is also necessary to avoid the so-called 'silo approach' which was a key shortcoming of the MDG implementation process. The ministry mapping exercise undertaken by the government of Bangladesh in 2016 confirmed that several ministries/divisions would need to come together to implement individual SDGs. For example, implementation of SDG 8 will require coordination among 38 government agencies. This calls for a greater emphasis on identifying concrete roles that concerned agencies will need to play in order to achieve the various targets under particular goals.

Indeed, a well-functioning GO-NGO coordination mechanism can contribute to serving three specific objectives in the context of SDG implementation. First, it can enhance better governance in the SDG-oriented services delivery system, including identifying the genuine beneficiaries. Second, it can create a system of tracking the contribution of NGOs and CSOs through their spending in various SDG-oriented programmes in the country. Third, it can reduce probable duplication and double-dipping problems.

> " The NGO Affairs Bureau will undertake more active efforts to ensure better coordination among the NGOs so that government relief activities can be effectively implemented. "
>
> — **Md. Rashedul Islam**
> *Director General, NGO Affairs Bureau, Prime Minister's Office speaking as the Special Guest at the sub-national dialogue held in Rangpur.*

Towards engaging the local administrations in the SDG implementation process, the government of Bangladesh, through gazette notifications issued on 16 May 2019, outlined a guideline to form divisional/district/upazila committees on implementation and coordination of SDGs at the local level, along with articulating the terms of reference (ToR) for the committees. Two of the five tasks of these committees, as per the ToR, specifically addressed the coordination issue. These include: i) adopting action plans, implementing, coordinating, and monitoring the SDGs implementation at the local level; and ii) coordinating and supporting the NGOs in implementing and monitoring respective SDG-related action plans at the local level. Consequently, one success indicator of the project would be the inclusion of members from local CSOs and CBOs (under the project) in the relevant local government committees at the local level.

Under the project, carried out jointly by the CPD and Oxfam, a total of eight sub-national dialogues were conducted through a planned method in Gaibandha, Sunamganj, Chattogram, Barguna, Rangpur, Netrokona, Sirajganj, and Pirojpur on the effectiveness of delivering public services at the local level.

These included social protection, sustainable livelihood, community clinics, disaster-targeted relief programmes and agricultural incentives. During all the pre-dialogue field visits and event-day discussions, LAs highlighted the need for GO-NGO coordination to attain better results and avoid duplication in delivering their services.

The findings and recommendations of the sub-national dialogues and several follow-up activities such as the half-yearly meetings of the District-level network and community consultation with service providers carried as part of the project were able to generate a number of concrete outcomes. These contributed to better GO-NGO coordination in three specific areas. These include: i) inclusion of CBOs and CSOs in local government committees; ii) greater GO-NGO coordination in delivering services; and iii) more effective GO-NGO coordination in reducing duplication.

Indeed, by drawing on the lessons emerging from these good practices, GO-NGO coordination can be institutionalised, scaled up and replicated in other areas of Bangladesh in order to improve public service delivery at the local level and overall implementation of the SDGs at the national level.

Inclusion of CBOs and CSOs in government local committees

Two CBO leaders from Gourichanna union of Barguna were included in the VGD selection committee, thanks to improved interaction of the district network members with the associated LAs and LGs

After the public hearing on agriculture services, the Project Coordinator of the local partner in Kishoreganj was included in Upazila Agricultural Committee

GO-NGO coordination in delivering services

Due to improved connection and linkages, a total of **150** CBO members and youth groups are coordinating with Department of Youth, Social Services in implementing activities as **demonstrations, disaster oriented support, blood donation** in Pirojpur.

CBO members in coordination with the LGs and affluent people of Chowhali upazila of Sirajganj has built a one km long culvert. About 2,000 people from 10 areas are getting the benefits of the culvert.

CBO members in close coordination with union parishad and villagers of Phulchari union repaired a **2 km long road**. A total of 100 villagers are getting benefitted using the road.

GO-NGO coordination in reducing duplication

Following the commitment during workshop with the local administration, a commendable initiative was taken in Pirojpur Sadar to prevent duplication and bring more people under relief services. Under this initiative, with the help of Pirojpur Statistics Office and Election Office, lists of GR beneficiaries are jointly prepared, exchanged and verified in the municipality and Sadar Upazila so that the beneficiary does not get the benefit from another place for the second time. This process made it possible to deal with the situation where one person is getting relief from different places while the other person is not able to get the relief at all.

In addition, thanks to matching the list prepared by NGOs it was possible to reduce duplication.

For more information, please visit:
www.localizingsdg.cpd.org.bd