

SDGs and country process in Bangladesh:

The Missing Links and where Assistance is an Obligation of International Community especially in Climate Compensation and Stopping Illicit Flow



1. Current Context of SDG

In September 2015, heads of states and governments met at the UN (United Nation) headquarter in New York and agreed on a new generation of 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) with 169 targets to succeed the MDGs (Millennium Development Goals) and to guide global development over the next 15 years till 2030.

Before the SDGs, the MDGs were the first ever global blueprint for fighting poverty on such scale. When the Millennium Declaration was adopted in September 2000, no one perhaps had any illusion that it would be managed and able to address global problems. Nevertheless, over time, MDGs have achieved notable progress in many global issues and also have given the hope to create a new world within existing means. **That's why the 2030 Agenda for SDGs has also offered a set of bold, ambitious and innovative package to transform the world. Therefore, the expectations around the goals are high.** The experience with the MDGs implies that, Bangladesh has many reasons to feel excited about the promises that are beckoning us for another decade and a half.

2. MDG's success paves the way of SDGs

In view of success in achieving the MDGs, the score card of Bangladesh has proved that the country can attain the goals through inclusive, multi-stakeholder partnerships and that investments made in Bangladesh are worth its dividends. In the last fifteen years, Bangladesh has witnessed one of the fastest reductions in poverty anywhere in the world with a limited resource base. **The country has met the target of reducing the proportion of population below the national poverty line three years ahead of time, which presently stands at 22.4 per cent (Official Assessment of Planning Commission of Bangladesh and govt. budget speech 2016-17).** It has reached the targets of reducing infant mortality rate from 92 per 1000 live births in 1990 to 46 now; and of decreasing the prevalence of underweight children below the age of 5 years from 66 per cent in 1990 to 32.6 per cent at present. In terms of education, the country has achieved nearly hundred percent enrollments

in primary schools; attained gender parity with more girls than boys in primary and secondary schools. It has met the targets of preventing malarial deaths and of raising the share of people using an improved drinking water source as well. **As one of the top performing countries of MDGs, Bangladesh is equally confident to embrace the new targets of SDGs and the Prime Minister of our country has expressed her deep commitment to achieve the SDGs' targets before the time frame of 2030.**

3. Country Initiatives in achieving the SDGs

a. Planning process

i. Govt. has Integrated the SDGs with 7FYP

Apparently the 7FYP (7th Five Year Plan 2016-2020) has been prepared in coordination with the targets of SDGs. Government has claimed that the preparation

and launching of the plan coincided with the global discourse on SDGs and Bangladesh was one of the forefront countries that played a significant role in formulating the SDGs at that time. The 7FYP has made a reflection on the core goal of SDGs especially in ending poverty in all its form. Bangladesh has achieved remarkable success in reducing the poverty in last few decades. **Nevertheless, about a quarter of the population of 160 million is still living below the poverty line, hence setting that target is a necessary condition for attacking poverty with delineating 7.4% expected annual growth rate that was suggested by SDGs (SDG 8.1).** The following table has reflected the major SDGs' targets that are integrated with government 7FYP.

Overview of integration the SDGs with Govt.7FYP

SDGs	Integrated Issues (Development Targets)
SDG 1. End poverty in all its forms everywhere.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Reduction in the head-count poverty ratio by about 6.2 percentage points (from 24.8% to 18.6%) ii. Reduction in extreme poverty by about 4.0 percentage points (i.e. 8.9 % in 2020) iii. Spending on Social Protection as a share of GDP to be increased to 2.3%. iv. Creation of a Lagging Region Fund
SDG 2. End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Consolidation of Food Transfer Program as suggested by National Social Security Programme. ii. Reduce proportion of stunting among under-five children from 36.1% to 25%. iii. Reduce proportion of underweight children among under-five children from 32.6% to 20%.
SDG 3. Ensure healthy lives and promote wellbeing For all at all ages.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Under 5 mortality rate to be reduced from 41 to 37 per 1000 live births. ii. Maternal Mortality Ratio to be reduced from 170 to 105 per 100,000 live births. iii. Immunization, measles (percent of children under 12 months) to be increased to 100 percent. iv. Births attended by skilled health staff to be increased to 65 percent. v. Reduction of Total Fertility Rate to 2.0 vi. Increasing Contraceptive Prevalence Rate to 75%
SDG 4. Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Achieving 100% net enrollment rate for primary and secondary education. ii. Ensure quality education at primary, secondary and tertiary education. iii. Percentage of cohort reaching grade 5 to be increased to 100% from current 80%.
SDG 5. Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Gender Parity Index in tertiary education to be raised from current 0.70 to 1.0. ii. The ratio of literate female to male for age group 20-24 to be raised to 100% from the current 86%. iii. Increase the share of female officers (Grade-9 and above) in the public sector to 25% by 2020.

SDGs	Integrated Issues (Development Targets)
SDG 6. Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Safe drinking water to be made available for all rural and urban population ii. Proportion of urban population with access to sanitary latrines to be increased to 100 percent and 90 percent for rural population.
SDG 7. Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Generation of electricity to be increased to 23,000 MW. ii. Electricity coverage to be increased to 96%. iii. Increase energy efficiency by 10%
SDG 8. Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Attaining average real GDP growth rate of 7.4% per year over the plan period. ii. Total revenue to be raised from 10.7% of GDP to 16.1% by FY20. iii. 12.9 million additional jobs will be available during 7th FYP including some 2 million jobs in abroad. iv. FDI (Foreign Direct Investment) to be increased substantially to \$9.6 billion by FY20 from present \$1.57 billion.
SDG 9. Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and foster innovation.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Focus on fast tracking a number of transformational infrastructure projects. ii. Increase the contribution of the manufacturing sector to 21.5% of GDP by FY20 from 17.8% of FY15.
SDG10. Reduce inequality within and among countries.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Spending on Social Protection as a share of GDP to be increased to 2.3% of GDP. ii. Reduce Income Inequality from 0.458 to downward.
SDG 11. Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Access to improved water source will be ensured for all urban dwellers. ii. Ensure sustainable urban development that supports increased productivity, investment and employment.
SDG 12. Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns.	No Action Plan
SDG 13. Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Environmental, Climate Change and disaster risk reduction considerations are integrated into project design, budgetary allocations and implementation process. ii. 500 meter wide green belt to be established and protected along the coast
SDG 14. Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Develop law & regulation in pollution control including sea vessel and ship breaking industries.
SDG 15. Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Increase productive forest coverage to 20 percent with 70% tree density.
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.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. To ensure all persons are able to live securely under the rule of law. ii. Enhancing Integrity & Controlling Corruption. iii. Strengthen Right to Information (RTI) and Access to Information process. iv. Making parliamentary process effective.
Goal 17. Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the Global Partnership for Sustainable Development.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Develop effective Aid Information Management System (AIMS). ii. Ensure development partners' policy alignment and system harmonization. iii. Effective national Policy on Development. Cooperation to guide development cooperation in Bangladesh.

ii. Target of SDGs and priority development issues for Bangladesh

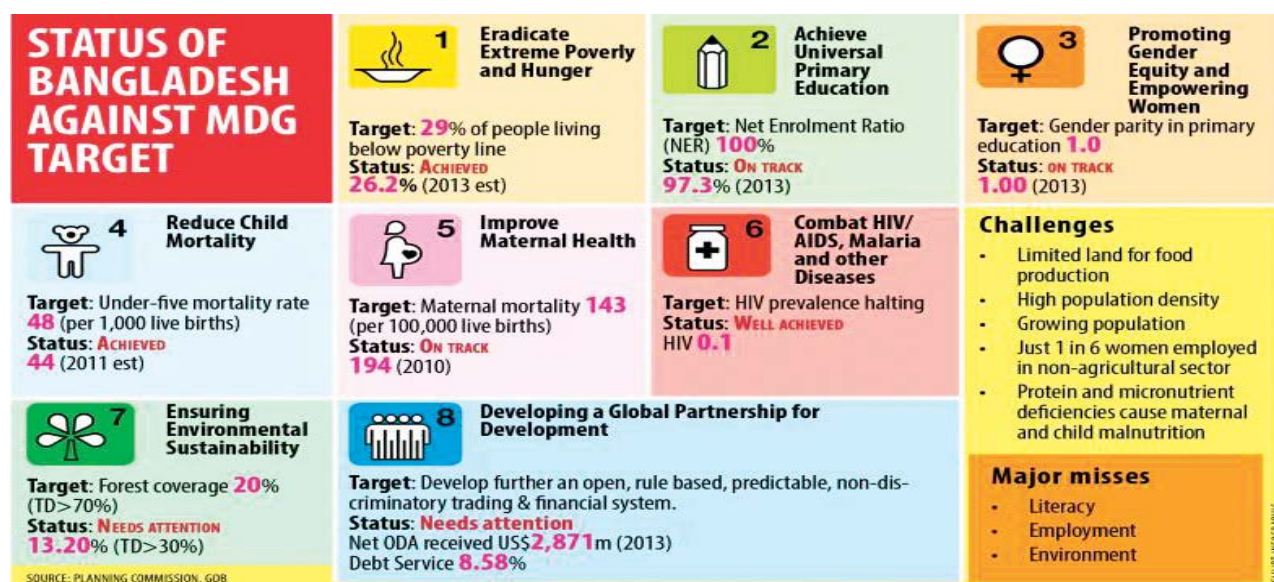
Before the SDGs, it is very important to review the performance of MDGs in Bangladesh. **Despite of progress in many development indicators among the MDG targets, experts opine that, major challenges remain for Bangladesh, especially with regard to the hunger-related indicators like MDG-1 (eradicate extreme poverty and hunger), MDG-5 (improve maternal health) and MDG-7 (ensure environmental sustainability), which is fully off track and is unlikely to be met.** Government has shown limited capacity as well in tackling the growing geographical, gender-based and group-based inequalities apart. For example, income distribution has tended to be asymmetrical in our country that shows the Gini-coefficient increasing from 0.39 in the early 1990s to 0.45 in 2000 to 0.47 in 2010 (Household Income and Expenditure Survey-HIES Report 2010), indicating a growing income gap between the rich and the poor. Another shift to consider is the changing geographical poverty in Bangladesh. The HIES-2010 report also shows that the pockets of poverty have been shifted between the two regions from east to west zone (i.e. from plain land to coastal zone).

In case of education, Bangladesh has been facing challenges in attaining the targets linked to primary education completion rate. **Education facilities are observed asymmetric between cities and rural considering the need of remote and outreach which**

creates the dropout rate higher than expectation. The quality of education has been a major challenge at all tiers of the education system. Experts have called for better mechanisms to measure the quality of both students and teachers.

Achieving the SDG-8, creating jobs and supporting sustainable livelihoods are central to the development process. Following the issue, **how marginalized groups, youth and children are exploited or deprived from the benefit of economic growth processes is also important to look after.** Despite having a constant and stable GDP growth, the income inequality in Bangladesh remains persistently high. Growth has been achieved, but serious concerns remain in terms of creating decent jobs and facilitating necessary structural changes in the economy for benefiting the marginalized people.

In MDG process, core development strategy of Bangladesh was to reduce poverty. While focusing on poverty reduction effort, Bangladesh has taken few initiatives or ignored other development indicator of MDGs. So taking learning from this strategy, government should prioritize their development strategies that commensurate with achieving the SDG targets following sustainable development.



Considering the MDGs' limitation, **the SDG issues have created an opportunity for us to stimulate effective response to next pressing issues such as inequality, employment and inclusive growth, child nutrition, maternal health, education, energy, the environment and governance simultaneously along with poverty reduction.** As the government moves forward with defining new development goals of sustainability, it is important to build the milestone of achievement before going with SDGs and set up the priority of actions to address gaps on the above issues that remain unresolved.

b. Implementing Process

- i. Government has developed a mapping document including all ministries, division and agencies by SDGs and target for fast track implementation

As Bangladesh has significant role and contribution to formulate the SDGs, it also needs to show its implementation commitment and achievement

pathway for sustainable development. Fortunately the country's long term development plan (7FYP) and SDGs are both launched in the same year of 2015. Hence opportunities have been created for government to align the development strategies in view of 2030 global goal. We think this process will allow Bangladesh to become an example to other countries for SDG implementation as was the case for MDG implementation. This has been observed that government has realized this technique properly and developed a mapping document including the development ministries, divisions, agencies and authorities by SDG targets for them to implement and achieve. Here, a table provides as sample design of mapping by ministries and authorities by SDGs and targets;

Govt. mapping on SDG implementation process	
SDG-1. End poverty in all its forms everywhere.	
Lead govt. Ministries or Agencies	Cabinet Division & General Economic Division-GED
Associate Ministries or Agencies	Economic Relation Division, Local Govt. Department, Ministry of Agriculture, Forest, Social Welfare, Fisheries & Livestock, Industries and Disaster Mgt and Relief etc.
Action to achieve SDG in 7FYP period	Reduce extreme poverty by 4.0 percentages to 8.9% by 2020.
List of Policy Instruments for SDG achievement	National Social Security Strategy (NSSS) 2015
Proposed global indicator to measure performance	Proportion of Population below international poverty line by sex, age and employment status by location.
SDG-3. Ensure healthy lives and promote wellbeing For all at all ages.	
Lead govt. Ministries or Agencies	Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MoHFW)
Associate Ministries or Agencies	Local Govt. Department, Ministry of Social Welfare, Women and Children Affairs, Information and Statistics & Informatics Division etc.
Action to achieve SDG in 7FYP period	Provision of ANC services for all pregnant women including TT. Training of CSBAs. Expansion of CEmOC in more Sub-district level health complexes. Piloting of demand-side financing through providing maternal vouchers. Demand creation for utilization of ANC, PNC and institutional deliveries etc.
List of Policy Instruments for SDG achievement	National Health Policy-2011 and Bangladesh Population Policy-2012.
Proposed global indicator to measure performance	Maternal Mortality Ratio, Under-5 mortality rate and rate of skill birth attendant etc.

The respective Ministries/Divisions or govt. development agencies will follow the above mapping document by SDGs targets and will also initiate process of devising action program interventions by phases. The 7th FYP will only cover the first phase of SDG period. The achievement of SDG will take three consecutive long term development (7th, 8th and 9th FYP) plans by 2030. Ministries/Divisions have to keep in mind their Medium Term Budgetary Framework (MTBF) and its possibility of incremental increase. They may also suggest innovative ways or measures to help generate additional funds that may be generated. The General Economics Division (GED) of the Planning Commission would play a coordinating and catalytic role in this regard of attaining consensus on feasible action plans and assessing fund requirement as a government focal point on poverty and SDGs. In case of proper implementation, GED will arrange training workshops for the SDG focal point officials of Ministries, Divisions along with the relevant officials from implementing agencies. All the above, “SDG Implementation and Monitoring Committee” has been formed by the Prime Minister’s office, which is responsible to follow up whole process.

ii. Budget and Resource allocation scenario according to govt. priorities

Finance and resource mobilization are the key component in coming years in achieving the SDG targets. Bangladesh has not yet prepared any financial need assessment for SDG implementation, but has a plan to do it. **The 7th FYP has made a primary financing estimation which is amount of US\$ 403.8 billion from both public and private sectors for the fiscal year of 2016-2020. But this amount does not reflect the need or demand based financial allocation to achieve the SDG targets.** Expert says that, in achieving the SDGs in Bangladesh, domestic resource mobilization need to be raised to at least 18 percent from the present 12.1 percent over the next 5 to 10 years, but the projection of domestic resource mobilization is far more distance (14.2-16.2% of GDP) in the 7th FYP. So concern is raised whether government will be able to ensure quality financing to SDGs despite integration of the targets to achieve.

The term “Sustainable Development” includes poverty reduction, human development including health &

job oriented education and sustainable environmental management come first in context of Bangladesh. **The 7th FYP said that all these spending plans will essentially entail that the budget size be increased to about 21.1% of GDP (7th FYP, Chapter-5 “Investment Program and its Financing”). At least 5 percentage points financial allocation will be needed to increase in relation to GDP at the terminal year of the 7th Five Year Plan. The overview and analysis of budgetary expenditures says that the investment in social sector (poverty, health and education) was less than 9% of GDP in last year during MDGs and it would be increased by 13.9% during the 7th FYP (Page-167). So it easily can be said that govt. projection of financing is insufficient indeed.** The investment from private sector was also found to be stagnant and moving around 24-25% of GDP in last couple of years which needs to be at least 35% per annum during implementation of the 7th FYP.

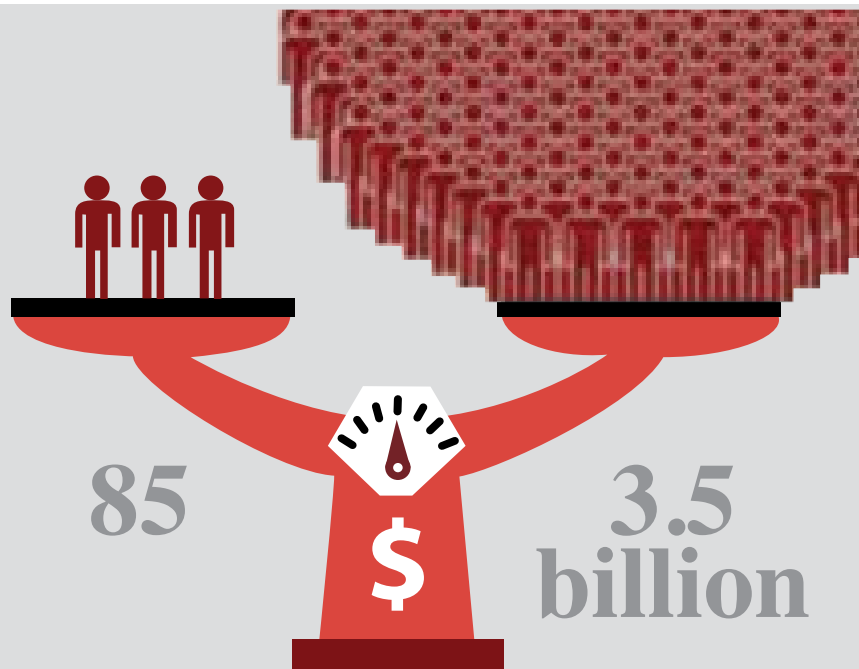
4. Missing links and challenges for Bangladesh in achieving the SDGs

a. Reducing Inequality should be key focus

The concern with equity has emerged strongly in recent global debates on economic progress. Bangladesh has been generating stable economic growth of more than 6% yearly. This growth has contributed to the country’s drive in poverty reduction as well as emergence as a middle income country from the LDC (Least Developed Country) as grossly. But if we look critically, improper distribution and lack of pro poor development initiatives by the government, inequality has been rising in trend. **The people may be able to come out from extreme poverty but this has happened due to trickle-down effect of country’s growth benefit because the resources have been concentrating among a few rich individuals (10% rich people are owner of 1/3 of asset in Bangladesh. Ref: Prothom Alo-14 Nov**

Inequality

The 85 richest individuals have the same wealth as the bottom half of the world's population.



2016, A daily bangla news paper). In case of MDG, it has somehow lost the opportunity to specify the target on inequality issue; but strong advocacy campaigns have been held at locally and globally experiencing the MDG. That's why the goal of inequality reduction is set as a core element of the SDGs and their targets. Along with achieving growth, Bangladesh has been facing growing inequality among people. **The measuring indicator of inequality (Gini-Coefficient is 0.45 in HIES-2010) reflects as increasing trend and indicating a growing income gap between the rich and the poor in country.** It has also been witnessing government's reduction of budgetary allocation in education, health and other common pro poor development activities during MDG period. Instead, the national revenue is going more to the sector of export promotion, re-financing the govt. banks, where money is embezzled by the political fraudulent and big corporations etc.

Government will have to take effective measures and initiatives to meet the challenges in the coming years. In relation to the distribution of the gains from growth, regional approach needs to consider the coastal vulnerability, income generation opportunity etc and plan accordingly. Pro poor development strategies especially social safety net program, allocation to public health, education and job oriented program

need to be implemented to help to improve current inequality situation.

b. Coastal People got less integration and priority in govt. national plan

The IPCC (Inter-Governmental Panel on Climate Change) report has treated Bangladesh as one of the top most climate impacted country in the world despite having a little contribution to carbon emission. The country is also considered to be one at most risk to the effects of climate change for its coastal areas. **The coastal region of Bangladesh covers about 20% of its geographical area where more than 50 million people are living and most of the population is poor and living below the poverty line and the government report (HIES 2010) also said that the poverty is shifting to west zone, that is the coastal area in Bangladesh.** Multidimensional impact of climate change is being observed in coastal areas. Salinity intrusion along with severe water crisis is taking place which is causing crop yield to decline and scarcity of drinking water and endangering livelihood. Thousands of affected people every year

have been migrating and taking shelter in urban slum in cities such as Dhaka, Chittagong etc. The climate change impact has also increased the frequency and also severity of natural calamities that cause losses of livelihood and economy. **IOM (International Organization for Migration) has predicted that increased natural disasters and loss of livelihoods due to climatic factors would displace around 6 million people from their homes in Bangladesh in upcoming decades. IDMC (Internal Displacement and Monitoring Center) also made similar prediction and said 30-50 million people will be displaced.** But as a frontline state in the fight for survival against the impact of climate change, country preparedness in terms of strategic planning and financial support is not visible yet. The severe cyclone SIDR-2007 had caused an economic loss of US\$ 3 billion which it has not recovered yet. Poverty increased by 5% during that time according a UN study (Early Assessment Report on SIDR-2007, Published in 2008). **Government has committed to protect coastal people through building most essential and protection oriented critical infrastructure like embankment and polders in most vulnerable coastal areas and**

providing economic opportunities for their adaptation and ensuring sustainable livelihood, but the current long term plan (7th FYP) and its implementation has been following very traditional approach and focused on growth-oriented development infrastructure like transport facilities and export processing Zone (EPZ) etc. Government has conducted a study on “Coastal Zone Management” to make the coastal areas resilient and sustainable, where recommendation was made by experts to develop a “Coastal Development Board” and separate development plan & budget, but these recommendations are yet to be implemented.

c. Climate compensation is the right as a vulnerable country

To fight the climate change impact, a global fund (Green Climate Fund-GCF) has been developed in 2011. Developed countries have pledged to provide US\$100billion to this fund to assist climate vulnerable countries for their adaptation and mitigation actions. Though develop countries did not keep their promise but contributed million of dollar in last few years. **Most of the funding has gone to support mitigation actions in a few of the larger developing countries such as China, India, Brazil, Indonesia and South Africa while only a small proportion has gone to the most vulnerable and poorest developing countries, such as Bangladesh, for adaptation (Dr. Saleemul Haque).** Bangladesh has got an approval of US\$80 million so far from GCF for adaptation [Climate-Resilient Infrastructure Mainstreaming in Bangladesh] but not any cash received yet. This amount is very small considering its climatic impact, vulnerability and adaptation requirements. Expert also says that due to the process and system complication in GCF, LDCs face difficulties to fare access in the fund.



The Sustainability Compass and the SDGs



Bangladesh government has formed a Trust Fund (Bangladesh Climate Change Trust Fund-BCCTF) in 2009 and allocating fund in implementing adaptation and mitigation related development activities. From 2009-10 to the current 2016-17 fiscal year, a total of US\$ 400 million approximately (BDT 3100 crore) has been allocated to BCCTF. On the other hand, the BCCTF has disbursed with an estimated cost approximately US\$ 330 million (BDT 2630.48 crore) selecting 472 projects at the same period through govt. agencies and NGOs. But now it has been observed that government has been reducing its fund support to BCCTF.

Government also formed another fund (Bangladesh Climate Change Resilient Fund-BCCRF) to draw financial assistance from development partners. This fund was managed by the World Bank (WB) and there are only US\$ 190 million has been received (BCCRF Annual Report 2014). At present this fund is not in operation so far, as WB has shown little interest and attitude with this process.

This is also true that the **development of critical infrastructure will require huge amount of financial allocation and technical support. Bangladesh is an innocent victim and not responsible for global warming and current climatic impact and doesn't have enough capacity to finance the above mentioned sectors. So getting the ODA (Official Development**

Assistance) should be a legitimate right of Bangladesh from those developed countries who are historically responsible for carbon emission and global warming.

d. CSO participation yet to be facilitated by govt. as effective

This is fact and universal acknowledgement that, in current development strategies participation of all CSO stakeholders, including public representatives, government, private sector & NGOs, media, civil society, knowledge community and development partners are required. Furthermore, the implementation process and follow-up and review of progress will be critically important for the attainment of the SDGs.

Since the independence, the CSO and NGOs are playing key role in economic and social development of Bangladesh. CSOs or NGOs have been engaging in various development sectors like health, education and economic uplifting of poor people parallel with government. Media has played a significant role in making the people and communities aware on different development issues. CSO has put their effort to achieve the MDG targets and now they have the potential to be involved with the SDG process based on their vast experience. But there is no legislative or constitutional provision or framework that supports the CSOs in engaging in the development planning and implementation process with government with equal footing. A few CSOs in national level are now proactively engaged with government's different planning and development process with their own capacity but their selection and invitation by govt. has been happening without any commonly agreed criteria. **The Government of Bangladesh (GoB) has acknowledged the crucial role of CSOs in SDG implementation, but lack of policy space; it is often less effective because government officials hardly pay proper**

importance to their role and contributions.

The implementation and achievement of SGDs are dependent on inclusive participation of government, private sector and other development agencies like CSO and NGOs (SDG 17.17). Hence, government should develop a policy framework that will support to the CSOs for their capacity development and effective engagement in SDG implementation at all levels.

Autonomous local government seems to be very important for development and poverty reduction in Bangladesh. **Strengthening the local government by giving autonomy with decentralized management system could help to prepare appropriate development strategies in their local context of resource mobilization, poverty reduction, local leadership with ensuring people participation for effective development and establishing accountability.**

e. Resource Mobilization: Stop the loopholes of illicit finance flow

Earlier it has been stated that, it would not be possible for Bangladesh government solely to ensure necessary financing to implement and achieve the SDGs target; there are many reasons behind the lack of capacity in financing. Plugging in illicit financial flow will be a major challenge for us. The trend of illicit finance flow traps the government a shortfall situation in case of domestic resource mobilization effort. In the last few decades an average of 1.2% GDP has moved out through illicit financial flow. Private, business sector and MNCs (Multi National Corporations) are engaged with these illegal financial outflow processes.

As per latest report-2015 of Global Financial Integrity (GFI) an estimated of US\$ 55.88 billion has illicitly been transferred from Bangladesh to foreign countries during the year from 2003 to 2014 which is roughly 1.5 times of the national budget 2015-16 of Bangladesh. **Every year around US\$ 6 billion has been transferred illicitly to other countries and Bangladesh has been ranked 26th in the world in respect of illicit financial flow.** The highest illicit financial flow happened in 2013 which is US\$ 9.7 billion and around 12 times more than the foreign aid and 141% excess of foreign loan of

FY2015-16 **Many developed countries have created so-called tax haven for individual and corporations. They entice or lure to shift money with illegal process. Swiss Bank deposition and Malaysian second home facilities are such burning examples of money laundering scheme.** According to annual report -2014 published by the central bank of Swiss (SNB) shows that there has been increase of up to 40.72% by Bangladeshi depositor in different Swiss banks i.e. about US\$ 170 million has been deposited excess in comparison to the year 2013. Same example could be given in case of Malaysia. Since its inception in 2002 to June 2013, a total of 2370 Bangladeshis has received second home package facilities under its “My Second Home Program” (MM2H). More than US\$1.28 billion has been transferred illegally.

Since the independence, our government has been receiving ODA (Official Development Assistance) from development partners. Furthermore, the government has been facing illicit flow simultaneously as an increasing trend. Illicit flow is one of the major causes hindering domestic resource mobilization as required. The so-called development finance or ODA has contributed to the debt burden of our country along with repatriate the domestic resource also as DSL (Debt Service Liabilities). **This is being observed that the DSL and illicit flow of finance together are becoming higher compared to receiving ODA in every year. The illicit outflows ate away US\$ 1.31 billion in average every year which is 1.1 percent our country's GDP and US\$ 8.6 per capita** (Daily Star, June 2015). Apart, government has been receiving ODA of only 1.19% of the GDP per year (Economic Review 2016, Page-51). This ODA has now created foreign debt burden of US\$ 169 per capita which is 17% of GDP along with



additional DSL per year. So the stopping of illicit flow must be imperative to financing the SDGs as well as get relief from debt burden as poor country.

The current money laundering policy & act is hardly able to control these incidents. Because, it would not be possible for Bangladesh to stop illicit flow alone. Global coordination and support is needed to control the situation which support our government to stop tax dodging by MNCs and illegal mobilizing of resource. Regarding the issue, **developed countries especially EU (European Union) countries have initiated BEPS (Base Erosion and Profit Shifting) but they didn't include the developing countries and LDCs in this process. This reflects vested interest of developed countries along with a lukewarm approach to illicit flow from the LDCs. The GFI report said that, in 2012, more than US\$ 3.3 trillion have flown out from developing and poor countries to the developed countries. This amount of money is more than triple compared to receive of so called aid as US\$1.3 trillion in same time.** However the SDG's implementation relies on domestic resource mobilization rather depending on aid which requires stopping loopholes and so-called tax heavens of money laundering activities and urged to develop a global coordination system through UN process or inter-state action. Regarding the issue, CSO demands to upgrade the UN-Tax committee in to UN Tax Commission to prepare Internal Bank & Tax

Transparency rules that reduce the practice of "Race to Bottom" by countries for attracting foreign capital.

f. Reduce corruption, save public resources and improve development effectiveness

Corruption is one of the issues that are hampering the domestic resource mobilization as well as development effectiveness. According to the study (TIB-Transparency International Bangladesh), more than 2-3% of our GDP has been lost in every year due to corruption. The most prevailing cause was that the low salary among government officials provokes the corruption. Following this assumption, government has increased salary more than 100% in 2016, but corruption is still in practice like before. This situation is prevailing as the political and democratic institutions in country have become weaker now a days and accountability mechanism hardly work in the different levels of government officials due to vested political interest and also suppress the dissenter rights. All above, this has been going on due to the lack of effective and strong political opposition at all levels, from grass root to the national parliament. However our Prime Minister (PM) has shown her commitment to fight against corruption that we see a flickering light in the tunnel. But PM will have to do more to realize her commitment that includes (i) Strengthening of the democratic institutions, e.g., independent judiciary, free media, free and fair election system, independent anti-corruption commission, professionalization of bureaucracy without political interference, (ii) Developing strong monitoring system, information disclosure and complain response mechanism and evaluation of development projects, and (iii) Strengthening of local government with accountability of bureaucracy



with enhancing space for people participation, accountability and transparency in all levels.

g. We need an effective partnership for achieving the SDGs

The past experience of global partnership especially on the issue of ODA (Official Development Assistance) was not impressive for Bangladesh and even other developing and LDCs globally. According to need assessment, Bangladesh needed at least US\$ 7.5 billion per year, but received only US\$ 1-1.5 billion as ODA during MDG period. Developed countries did not keep their promise on ODA to support MDG achievement. That's why many targets were unmet in Bangladesh. The progresses made in Bangladesh were achieved due to sole initiative and political commitment of our government. **Financial need assessment yet to be done for SDG in Bangladesh, but the primary assessment by experts is that the figure would be three or four times of MDG's financial requirement.** However Bangladesh is expecting her rights in case global partnership in SDGs which must be commensurate with LDCs perspectives. Bangladesh deserves to have ODA support according to the developed countries commitment (0.7% of their GNI). Furthermore a fair and equitable share of trade with duty free and quota free access is needed that facilitate the achievement of the SDGs. **Bangladesh as climate vulnerable country also has rights to get financial support from the developed countries and GCF for adaptation of poor people in view of poverty reduction and sustainability.**

The global ODA process must be followed and directed by IPoA (Istanbul Plan of Action), Bangladesh as a LDC, ODA will facilitate the process to overcome its structural limitation, human resource development, reducing economic and climate shock and vulnerabilities.

h. Downward accountability for SDGs: Building Democratic Institutions is a Must

Government has been preparing the development and progress report for donor and other development partners timely. Bangladesh has opted for preparing a national voluntary report on SDGs in UN. But in national level, government has little interest to show accountability to its own people. Accountability toward local government, media, civil society, private sector at the end must also be important for government to achieve the SDGs which will impact resource mobilization, accelerating the citizen initiatives in this regard.

There is a wrong theory prevailing among some of the political quarters that "Development first and Democracy later". Amartya Sen (Nobel Laureate in Economics) said that, people will not die in a democratic society. Historically, Bangladeshi people fought for peoples' sovereignty and democratic institutions. Bangladesh liberation war took place in the spirit of democracy, socialism, secularism and nationalism. **Any idea of limiting the space for free & fair election, free media, independence of judiciary, rule of law, autonomous local government and independence of different constitutional commission will hamper the accountable development. Bangladesh, where, government is not only the driver of development, it is also the multi-driver development society. So building democratic institutions should come first.**

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