



Transformative Economic Policy Programme (TEPP)

28 February 2023



Project Summary

Project Title	Transformative Economic Policy Programme (TEPP)
Award ID & Project no.	00127845
Project Duration	July 2021 - February 2023
Executive Agency	United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)
Implementing Partner(s)	General Economics Division (GED)
Donor(s)	FCDO and UNDP TRAC
Total Budget (US\$)	\$ 5,000,000 ((funded \$ 3,347,963.59)
Total Expenditure (US\$)	\$ 2,864,384.99 (up to 31 December 2022)
Related UNSDCF outcome(s)	UNSDCF Outcome 1: By 2026, more people in Bangladesh, particularly the most vulnerable and marginalized from all gender and social groups and those from lagging districts, benefit from sustainable livelihoods and decent work opportunities resulting from responsible, inclusive, sustainable, green, and equitable economic development.
Related SP outcome(s)	SP Output 1.1: The 2030 Agenda, Paris Agreement and other intergovernmentally-agreed frameworks integrated in national and local development plans, measures to accelerate progress put in place, and budgets and progress assessed using data-driven solutions.
Related CPD outcome(s)	CPD Output 1.1: The Government is supported to design and implement conducive policies, regulatory framework, and SDG financing governance mechanism to attract investment from diversified sources in labour-intensive, responsible, and green economic sectors.
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GLOSSARY OF TERMS/LIST OF ACRONYMS

A2i	Aspire to Innovate
ADP	Annual Development Programme
AWP	Annual Work Plan
BB	Bangladesh Bank
BBS	Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics
BICC	Bangabandhu International Conference Center
BIGD	BRAC Institute of Governance and Development
CHT	Chittagong Hill Tract
CMSME	Cottage Micro Small Medium Enterprises
CPD	Country Programme Document
CPD	Centre for Policy Dialogue
CSO	Civil Society Organization
CST	Core SDGs Team
DBID	Digital Business Identification
DIM	Direct Implementation Modality
DIU	Daffodil International University
DFA	Development Finance Assessment
DRF	Development Results Framework
EALG	Efficient and Accountable Local Governance
ECOSOC	United Nations Economic and Social Council
EI	Engaging with Institutions
ERD	Economic Relations Division
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization
FDI	Foreign Direct Investment
GED	General Economics Division
GIS	Geographic Information System
GoB	Government of Bangladesh
GPS	Global Positioning System
HLPF	High-Level Political Forum
IAEG-SDGs	Inter-Agency Expert Group on SDGs
IFI	International Financial Institutions

IFPA	Indicator of Food Price Anomalies
INFF4SDGs	Integrated National Financing Framework for Accelerating achievement of SDGs
INGO	International Non-Governmental Organisation
LDC	Least Developed Countries
LGD	Local Government Division
LNOB	Leave No One Behind
MoA	Ministry of Agriculture
MoC	Ministry of Commerce
M&E	Monitoring & Evaluation Framework
MoF	Ministry of Finance
MoFood	Ministry of Food
MoFL	Ministry of Fisheries and Livestock
MoEFCC	Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change
MoL	Ministry of Land
MoPA	Ministry of Public Administration
NDCC	National Data Coordination Committee
NGO	Non-Government Organizations
NIM	National Implementation Modality
NOC	No Objection Certificate
NPI	National Priority Indicator
NRA/NCA	Natural Resource (Capital) Accounts
NSO	National Statistics Office
PEN	Poverty-Environment Nexus
PKSF	Palli Karma-Sahayak Foundation
PMO	Prime Minister's Office
PWDs	Persons With Disabilities
RAPID	Renowned Economist and Chairman of Research and Policy Integration for Development
RBM	Result Based Monitoring
RR	Resident Representative
RS	Remote Sensing
SANEM	South Asian Network on Economic Modeling
SC4SDG	Strengthening Institutional Capacity for SDGs Achievement in Bangladesh
SDGs	Sustainable Development Goals

SDSN	Sustainable Development Solutions Network
SEEA	System of Environmental Economic Accounting
SFS	SDG Financing Strategy
SID	Statistics and Informatics Division
SID-CHT	Strengthening Inclusive Development in Chittagong Hill Tracts
SIR	SDGs Implementation Review
SIRC	SDGs Implementation and Review Committee
SP	Strategic Plan
SPARRSO	Bangladesh Space Research and Remote Sensing Organization
SSIP	Support to Sustainable and Inclusive Planning
SWAPNO	Strengthening Women's Ability for Productive New Opportunities
ToC	Theory of Change
ToR	Terms of Reference
TT	Task Team
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNEP	United Nations Environment Programme
UNGA	United Nations General Assembly
UNRCO	United Nations Resident Coordinator Office
UNSDCF	United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework
UNYSAB	United Nations Youth and Students Association of Bangladesh
VNR	Voluntary National Review

1. INTRODUCTION

"Strengthening Institutional Capacity for SDGs Achievement in Bangladesh (SC4SDG)"⁵ is a multi-year initiative to support the Government of Bangladesh (GoB). This was the successor of the 'Support to Sustainable and Inclusive Planning (SSIP)' and 'Engaging with Institutions (EI)', IP projects. Since SDGs cover a wide range of issues/areas, unlike MDGs, the implementation of SDGs is a daunting challenge and cannot be achieved without the contribution from state and non-state stakeholders. ~~The UN is well-positioned to support implementing the SDGs.~~ It has established a UN Framework for the SDGs and UNDP is prepared to facilitate and integrate UN efforts to support the achievement of the SDGs. The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), with the support from Poverty-Environment Action of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), through its SC4SDG project, has supported the Government of Bangladesh (GoB) in implementing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development at the national and local levels. As the implementation of SDGs goes forward, the SC4SDG project supported GoB, in association with the GoB, to put effort into formulating evidence-based policies and plans, monitoring and evaluating the SDGs progress, financing the SDGs, implementing the SDGs at the local level, and partnership with wider stakeholders for SDGs implementation following the 'Whole of Society' approach. Besides, the project has provided technical assistance to the Government to promote green growth policies and recover from the COVID-19 pandemic.

SC4SDG project supported the General Economics Division (GED) in the evidence-based policy formulation, implementation, localization, monitoring, evaluation, reporting, and outreach of SDGs in Bangladesh. The project has strengthened the data sets, promote cutting-edge tools and link the monitoring of policy and its financing around the poverty-environment-climate nexus. Capacity building of the public officials was one of the key mainstays of SC4SDG's intervention targeted towards supporting the Government with matters related to SDGs. Developing human capital and building institutional capacity were also other instruments that stepped towards improving the quality of service delivery systems and enhancing the effectiveness of monitoring and evaluation (M&E) processes.

The Project also extended support to the Government in formulating policy and institutional framework, developing data ecosystems, incorporating inclusive approaches, and scaling up innovative service delivery models to intensify the ongoing efforts of SDG localization at the Upazila level in an attempt to develop an integrated model for SDGs localization at the grassroots level. Therefore, the project rolled out an integrated programmatic framework to localize the SDGs at the selected five Upazilas commissioned by the GED. Primarily 16 Upazilas were recommended (two from each division) for piloting SDG localization based on the latest poverty mapping. Among these Upazilas, five Upazilas have high poverty incidence and weak socio-economic criteria. These Upazilas are located in disadvantaged geographic areas, with low employment opportunities, and are environmentally vulnerable.

The project also extended support in scoping innovative financing options and adopting apt financing strategies for SDGs implementation. Besides, the project, in partnership with the Aspire to Innovate (a2i) project, provided technical assistance to GoB for green and sustainable economic recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic. UNDP has been a long-standing partner of the GoB in achieving global goals since the MDGs era. In previous interventions, UNDP worked largely with the public sector; but for SDGs, it also buoyed the non-state stakeholders given the wideness and depth of the 2030 Global Development Agenda. This project achieved this through the partnership with the private sector, NGOs, CSOs, think tanks, academia, and media to ensure the 'whole of the society' approach to attain SDG goals and targets.

1.1 Project Outline

The five components of the project are as follows:

1. Evidence-informed SDG policy and plans formulated;
2. Systems and capacities in place to localize the SDGs;
3. Financing for SDG Implementation secured and prioritized;
4. Partnerships and outreach for enhancing society-wide participation in SDGs ensured; and
5. Green and sustainable economic recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic supported.

1.2 Context

The Government of Bangladesh has demonstrated commendable readiness for achieving the SDGs. To support its efforts, the project helped in developing and sharing cutting-edge policy thinking and innovative models for delivery across government and in partnership with other non-governmental actors – particularly the private sector. The project also worked with other government institutions, including finance, local government as well as key sector ministries, to develop integrated policy and financing frameworks for implementation.

GED led the project as a nodal government agency and actively promoted the engagement and capacity development of other key government agencies and the private sector. For example, in establishing the essential data for monitoring and evaluating progress against the SDGs, the Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics (BBS) was also supported in reaching out to other actors to develop more comprehensive data sets, including the private sector. Localization of the SDGs was also forwarded by GED along with the other partners to implement the SDGs efficiently and effectively in the selected five Upazilas. The project assisted the GED in collecting reliable and disaggregated baseline data to understand the current status of sustainable development goals, targets, and indicators at the local level. The project supported the Government in exploring innovative financing tools such as blue bonds and blended finance and collaborating with wider stakeholders to increase the investment in SDGs. Meanwhile, the National Development Finance Assessment (DFA) and SDG Financing Strategy (SFS) were updated to take strategies for increasing SDG-focused investment. The SC4SDG project supported the “Integrated National Financing Framework for Accelerating Achievement of Sustainable Development Goals (INFF4SDGs) to update the SFS along with the financing strategies on SDG 6 (Water and Sanitation) and SDG 13 (Climate Finance).

The project actively reached out and engaged with CSOs, media, women, youth, and the private sector to build awareness and promote a ‘whole of society approach’ to achieving the SDGs. The project also focused on COVID-19 recovery strategies (green and sustainable recovery, better data governance for better COVID-19 recovery decision-making, etc.).

Lastly, to support the GoB’s COVID-19 recovery strategies, the project also worked with the Bangladesh Investment Development Authority (BIDA) to contribute to green and sustainable COVID-19 recovery. As a program built around innovation and new thinking, the government was supported in accessing thinking from outside Bangladesh as well as sharing its innovations with the international community. As such, the project acted as a knowledge platform in promoting access to new approaches and adopting new capacities for achieving the SDGs inside and outside Bangladesh.

1. PROJECT RESULTS & ACHIEVEMENTS

SC4SDG project has achieved its objective and intended outcomes in formulating evidence-based policies and plans, implementation, localization, monitoring, evaluation, reporting, and outreach of SDGs in Bangladesh. Likewise, the project is also on track to inform green growth policymaking to accelerate the COVID-19 economic recovery to eradicate extreme poverty by 2030 through the lens of 'leave no one behind'.

The project contributed to preparing Bangladesh's Five-Year plans and national SDG documents. These include Leave No One Behind (LNOB) (background study for 8FYP); Development Results Framework (DRF) for the 8FYP; SDGs Progress Reports for 2020 and 2022; Voluntary National Review 2020; UNGA Booklet 2021; Revised SDGs Monitoring & Evaluation Framework 2020; Revised Mapping of Ministries/Divisions and Custodian/Partner Agencies for SDGs Implementation in Bangladesh 2022, etc. It has supported the GoB in building its capacity to generate and report SDG-related data. As a result of this support, GoB has started reporting on SDG indicators 5.c.1 and 16.7.1. Moreover, data for the indicators 17.14.1, 17.15.1, 17.16.1, 12.2.1, 12.2.2, and 14.2.1 are expected to be available in 2023.

The project completed a baseline study to assess the current socioeconomic situation, environmental status, and other relevant issues of the selected five Upazilas (Bishwambarpur Upazila of the Sunamgonj District, Daulatkhan Upazila of Bhola District, Belkuchi Upazila of the Sirajganj District, Dumuria Upazila of the Khulna District, and Ulipur Upazila of the Kurigram District) in Bangladesh. Under the same study, a time-bound action plan is also under preparation for rolling out the SDGs in the selected five Upazilas. The project assessed the feasibility of instituting the blue bond in the bond market for promoting the blue economy in Bangladesh. This has helped GoB to think about floating the blue bond in the bond market following the recommendations made in the blue bond study. Besides, A study on "Inclusive Business Model to Encourage Investment in CMSMEs in Bangladesh" was conducted to design an 'inclusive business model' to bolster investment in CMSMEs in Bangladesh. The project also completed a study on "Promoting Blended Finance to Support Green Growth and Deliver Sustainable Development in Bangladesh" to assess the possibilities and strength of blended finance to bridge the investment gap in promoting green growth in Bangladesh. A Research and Analytics Unit (RAU) has been established in BIDA for evidence-informed economic policymaking on the investment climate. Also, in collaboration with a2i, a platform - Digital Business Identification (DBID) has been developed to help businesses, especially the CMSEs to register and get a unique ID allowing GoB to regulate business activities.

The project promoted SDGs by showcasing the voices of people through the 'My Goal', 'SDG Youth Conference' and 'Youth Campaign'. All these initiatives brought together more than 2000 youths including deprived persons, persons of the third gender, youth representatives of the ethnic minority communities, disabled persons, and persons from remote areas of the country. Under the 'My Goal campaign' a microsite was developed where 648 youths shared their thoughts on different SDGs. Nearly 10,000 people accessed the microsite. The 'SDG Youth Campaign' also reached out to 752,975 people online, while 81,333 people participated through various online communication. At the end of the SDG Youth Conference, "Youth Declaration 2022" was adopted. Under Green and Sustainable Economic Recovery from COVID-19 Pandemic conducted a study on "Promoting Blended Finance to Support Green Growth and Deliver Sustainable Development in Bangladesh". A platform – Digital Business Identification (DBID) has been developed to streamline business start-up procedures by integrating government agencies, 3rd parties & KYC into a single platform.

Besides, a socio-economic dashboard has been developed to update employment, education, Bangladesh's economy, social protection, and relief data.

Top 3-5 Results

Result 1: Strengthen the capacity of the SDG Focal Points for ensuring and generating high-quality, detailed, timely, and relevant statistics related to SDGs

Data is required to implement and monitor sustainable development goals, and proper data sources can complement official statistics where gaps exist. To produce the required standardized data and fill the existing data gap, the project, in collaboration with the GED and BBS, organized a series of metadata workshops to train and coach SDG Focal Points from different ministries, divisions, and agencies. It has strengthened their capacity to generate quality and timely data disaggregated by area, sex, age, etc., for SDGs monitoring and reporting progress towards SDG indicators. Besides, these data generation exercises enabled the GoB to report on SDG indicators 5.c.1 and 16.7.1 on the system, filling the country's existing data gap. The capacity-building exercise helped the government officials to provide data and statistics and meaningfully contributed to achieving the sustainable development agenda's fundamental vision and goals – eliminate poverty and ensure no one is left behind. The project was able to strengthen the end-to-end data ecosystem of BBS. The data gap has been substantially reduced due to this intervention, and collaboration with the UN Agencies, and non-residential Custodian Agencies through UNRCO was equally important to strengthen this data ecosystem. The project successfully supported the government for better development outcomes in M&E arenas. Presently baseline data is available for 176 indicators, which is expected to be updated with the rest of the indicators by 2023. This indicates that the project was also on the right track to direct the government toward creating results pathways.

Result 2: Evidence-based knowledge generated, and research conducted on emerging issues for improved policy planning.

The SC4SDG project, since the MDG era, has continued to support the GoB in producing knowledge products on emerging economic, social, and other critical issues. The project assisted the GED in preparing and publishing SDG progress reports, LNOB study, UNGA Booklets, and VNR to showcase the country's progress in SDGs achievement. This has supported to create and disseminate the knowledge on specific SDG targets for evidence-based policy and planning. Findings from the studies have benefitted GoB directly in the SDGs implementation process as well as track the Five-Year Plans more robustly and effectively. The knowledge products were also widely disseminated with relevant stakeholders to support national SDG implementation.

Study on ‘Leave No One Behind’:

The project supported GED with a background study on ‘Leave No One Behind’ (LNOB) to promote equitable and inclusive growth and development. This report addressed the need to make faster progress in achieving the SDGs among disadvantaged social groups and in the lagging regions. Without quicker improvements among those lagging behind, the existing disparities will not narrow down and these groups/regions will continue to be left behind; hence, the policy priority needs to be focused on the ‘endeavor to reach the furthest behind first’.

LNOB study highlighted that nearly 13 percent of the population live in extreme poverty and the top 10 percent of the population hold around 38 percent of total income; and several regions such as the north western, southern coastal, haor, and the CHT regions are lagging behind. The study also identified several marginalized and socioeconomically ‘fallen behind’ communities in the country including ethnic minority groups, tea garden workers, cleaners/sweepers, landless peasants, transgender community, commercial sex workers, environmental refugees, traditional fisher folk, traditional artisans, chronically ill poor people, rural extreme poor groups particularly older women, homeless and unemployed and their families, persons with physical and mental disabilities, and poor female-headed households. The study suggested several agendas for the 8th Plan with regard to the SDGs. The 8th Plan policy framework needs to focus on four pillars: (i) moderate income inequality; (ii) reduce gaps in health, nutrition, and education; (iii) remove social and gender exclusion and discrimination; and (iv) introduce explicit budgeting for the marginalized people and lagging behind regions.

The report further focused on regular monitoring of progress is important to assess the degree of convergence between the left behind and the relatively advanced population groups and the lagging and the well-off regions of Bangladesh. For success, timely availability of data on the indicators disaggregated by different population groups and geographic locations is a major challenge and special efforts should be given to overcome the data availability issue.

SDG Progress Reports:

The project supported GED in carrying out two SDG progress reports in 2020 and 2022. The main objectives of these two reports were to capture the implementation progress of SDGs in Bangladesh. The SDG progress report 2022 is intended to evaluate the existing gaps with an overall aim to speed up the implementation of SDGs in Bangladesh. It also targeted to gauge the progress of the goal-wise successes, challenges, and lessons learned to show where the gaps exist in SDGs implementation in the country. The report highlighted the positive progress that Bangladesh has made in several SDGs at least until the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic. The report also captured the good practices from global and regional contexts, detailed indicators-wise updates, and key challenges. It also conveyed the way forward, including gaps and areas for support. Several challenges to SDGs implementation in Bangladesh have also been identified to make a better plan to achieve SDGs by 2030.

Study on ‘Assessing Synergies and Trade-Offs in SDGs - The case of Bangladesh’:

SDGs are all-encompassing and interconnected - suggesting that the attainment of one SDG may have a corresponding effect on the others. In other words, investment in one SDG may impact other SDGs. High and strong synergies among SDGs may require lesser investment compared to a situation with a lesser level of synergies or a higher level of trade-offs. However, without a proper understanding of synergies and trade-offs among SDGs, Bangladesh may fail to deliver the full potential of the SDGs. Therefore, a comprehensive analysis is required to guide the policymakers to understand the nature and extent of inter-dependence among SDGs. The project in coordination carried out and completed the study on ‘Assessing Synergies and Trade-Offs in SDGs - The case of Bangladesh’. This study highlighted the potential trade-offs and identified the synergies between the SDGs considering Bangladesh's economic, social, political, and environmental circumstances. The study used two approaches- correlation analysis and total interaction score to assess potential trade-offs and synergies between SDGs in Bangladesh. However, a lack of data was evident, therefore,

estimation of the correlation coefficient has been limited. The total interaction score has been adopted to supplement the correlation coefficient as well as to provide further insights into the assessment of trade-offs and synergies. Despite the limitations, the report generated some useful and important outcomes (i) identified ten indicators with moderate to high synergies, which recommend having a higher level of spending and investment in the Social Sectors specifically on social protection, nutrition, primary education, health services, and gender-based violence (ii) identified four indicators with a relatively high trade-off indicating the failure to overcome inefficiency in energy use and deforestation may have deleterious impacts on the achievement of other SDGs. The project is yet to receive feedback from GED on the final draft of this report. Upon receiving approval from GED, the project will proceed for publication.

VNR and UNGA Booklet:

SC4SDG prepared Bangladesh Voluntary National Review (VNR) to support GED to present the report along with 46 other countries at the High-Level Political Forum (HLPF) under the auspices of the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC). The VNR 2020 is titled ‘Accelerated action and transformative pathways: realizing the decade of action and delivery for sustainable development’. Because of the unprecedented health crisis of the COVID-19 pandemic, Bangladesh presented VNR 2020 virtually on 13 July 2020. The session started with an audio-visual clip on its SDG progress and the Covid-19 response by Bangladesh. Bangladesh’s VNR was presented by Mr. M A Mannan MP, Honourable Minister, Ministry of Planning, Government of the People’s Republic of Bangladesh. Furthermore, the Hon’ble Prime Minister of Bangladesh gave an opening statement in VNR 2020. Besides, the project also provided technical and financial support to GED to prepare a booklet titled “Bangladesh Moving Ahead with the Sustainable Development Goals” for Bangladesh delegation to the 76th United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) session 2021. This booklet provided a broad picture scenario on the assessment of progress made under each SDG in Bangladesh. It mentions the importance of multi-stakeholder partnerships for achieving SDGs, means of SDGs implementation, the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on SDGs implementation, and SDGs localization. It also discussed the challenges and pathways to implementing the sustainable development agenda.

Result 3: Baseline report published, and Upazila-specific action plan developed for piloting SDGs localization at five Upazilas in Bangladesh

Under key result 3, the baseline study report for SDG localization assessed the current socio-economic status of the five Upazilas (Bishwambarpur, Doulatkhan, Belkuchi, Dumuria, and Ulipur) and also identified the critical areas in each of the Upazilas where SDG localization should focus on. The key findings of this study will help understand the local needs and design interventions for the localization of SDGs at the sub-district level, eventually leading to integrating local needs into national-level policy planning. The Upazila-specific action plan is expected to guide the local government in rolling out SDG localization in the selected five Upazilas. It also strengthened the capacity of the local governments and other local stakeholders to implement SDGs at the Upazila level.

The baseline study has been critical because this was a first-of-a-kind attempt to understand the local context by collecting primary data. The firm engaged in collecting socio-economic data for the

baseline study accommodated the government's request to increase the sample size from 2000 to 5000 to ensure the robustness of the findings of this study. Working with an esteemed organization helped to complete the baseline study amid various project implementation challenges.

Result 4: Explored innovative financing solutions for reducing the SDGs financing gap

SDGs Financing Strategy: SC4SDG supported INFF4SDGs, to update the SDGs Financing Strategy (SFS) and Development Finance Assessment (DFA). Updated DFA and SFS offers a comprehensive analysis of the public and private financing outlook, financing policies and institutional structures, and opportunities to build a more integrated approach to financing the SDGs. The project also funded the assessment of financing strategies for two critical areas – Water and Sanitation (SDG 6) and Climate Finance (SDG 13). The reports are expected to be shared with the GoB by 2023.

Blue Bond Study: The project assessed the feasibility of instituting the blue bond in the bond market for promoting the blue economy in Bangladesh. GoB has started thinking about floating the blue bond in the bond market following the recommendations made in the blue bond study.

Report on Blended Finance: A report on "Promoting Blended Finance to Support Green Growth and Deliver Sustainable Development in Bangladesh" has been prepared to assess the possibilities and strength of blended finance to bridge the investment gap in promoting green growth in Bangladesh.

Result 5: Increased engagement of youth, women, the private sector, media, and other state and non-state key actors to ensure the 'Whole of Society Approach' in SDGs implementation

The 'My Goal' campaign created a platform for the youth to contribute their thoughts and ideas to ensure their ownership in implementing SDGs in an organized way. A microsite was developed under this campaign initiative where 648 youths shared their thoughts on SDGs. Of them, three outstanding young participants were selected and awarded by the Resident Representative (RR) of UNDP Bangladesh.

National SDG Youth Conference: More than 500 youths were brought to a single platform by organizing a national SDG youth conference titled "SDGs and Youth in Bangladesh: Present Perspectives and Future Outlook" to motivate the youths and ensure their voices are heard in the country's policymaking process. Students from different universities were engaged in preparing and presenting policy papers on i) Poverty and social protection ii) Climate action iii) Peace and Justice Strong Institutions iv) Gender Equality v) Responsible consumption and production vi) Decent Work and Economic Growth. At the end of the conference, "Youth Declaration 2022" was adopted.

SDG Youth Campaign: 1200 youths, especially young women, including under-representative women (disabled women, ethnic women, transgender, and poor women), were reached to create awareness and inspire them to get involved in implementing the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) at the grass root level. As part of this campaign, four events were organized in Rajshahi, Chattogram, Sylhet, and Dhaka, where youths were provided a platform to share their stories, concerns, and voices with the policymakers and development partners. This campaign also reached out to 752,975 people online, while 81,333 people participated through various online communication.

Round table Discussion: Online service providers were sensitized about their responsibilities in building eco-friendly green businesses and achieving SDG 12 through a roundtable discussion titled 'Role of Online Service Providers in Promoting Responsible Consumption and Production.' Two wider stakeholder consultations were organized to learn about the experience of the left behind citizens in terms of getting the benefits of development triumphs as well as their accessibility to public resources.

It is proven that platforms like the My Goal and SDG Youth Campaign can encourage other cohorts of society, aside from youth, to get involved to influence SDGs implementation. The campaign is also a good communication instrument for reaching out to the people living at the margin. The project's collaboration with reputed think tanks, such as the Centre for Policy Dialogue (CPD), youth organizations, like UNYSAB, and partnership with prominent media houses, for instance, The Daily Star and Daily Prothom Alo, helped to reach the wider stakeholders and increased the youth and women's engagement, including the left-behind communities and all-inclusive audience.

2. PROGRESS REVIEW

Component 1 of the SC4SDG project “Evidence Informed SDG Policy and Plans Formulated”, focused on formulating evidence-based policy analysis for SDGs implementation and monitoring. In total, 11 metadata training and two follow-up consultation workshops were organized to assess the status of data availability on these indicators on the SDG tracker and discuss the support line ministries required to make the relevant data available soon. Besides, the project published 02 Bangladesh SDGs Progress Report (both English and Bangla), VNR, the first SDG Action Plan and its review, revised mapping document, revised SDG and M&E Framework, study on LNOB, synergies, and trade-offs, etc. Therefore, capacity building of public officials is indispensable for successfully attaining SDGs in Bangladesh.

Under component 2, two preparatory studies: (a) 'An assessment to identify the selection criteria of Upazilas (Sub-Districts) for localizing the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs),' and (b) 'Mapping of Resources Required to Localise the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in Selected Upazilas' were carried out in 2020 as a precursor to pilot and roll out SDG localization at the Upazila level. In 2022, a baseline study report was prepared, which analyzed the current socio-economic situation, environmental status, and other relevant issues of Bishwambarpur, Doulatkhan, Belkuchi, Dumuria, and Ulipur Upazilas. In addition, the project also took the initiative to develop a time-bound action plan for rolling out the SDGs in the aforesaid Upazilas.

Under Component 3, two studies on i) “Promoting Blended Finance to Support Green Growth and Deliver Sustainable Development in Bangladesh” and ii) “Inclusive Business Model to Encourage Investment in CMSMEs in Bangladesh” was finalized. Furthermore, two regional consultations on “Voice of the Local Citizens: Investment for Sustainable Blue Economy in Bangladesh” in Chattogram and Khulna were organized. The consultations discussed the opportunities, challenges, and required policy actions to attract blue investment, especially from the private sector, and promote a sustainable blue economy in Bangladesh. Following these regional consultations, a national workshop was organized on the findings of the regional consultations.

Under Component 4, more than 2000 youths, especially young women, including under-representative women (disabled women, ethnic women, transgender, and poor women), were reached to create awareness and inspire them to get involved in implementing the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) at the grass root level. Moreover, a platform for the youth was created under 'My Goal' Campaign to contribute their thoughts and ideas to ensure their ownership in implementing SDGs in an organized way. Furthermore, relevant stakeholders from different grounds like development practitioners, universities (national and international), civil society organizations, private sectors, and non-governmental organizations were made aware of creating commitment for their deeper engagement in SDGs implementation in the light of the 'Whole of Society Approach.'

Finally, under component 5, a Research and Analytics Unit (RAU) has been established in Bangladesh Investment Development Authority (BIDA), Prime Minister’s Office (PMO), in 2022 to provide BIDA with research support for evidence-based economic policymaking on the investment climate. In addition, a study on “Promoting Blended Finance to Support Green Growth and Deliver Sustainable Development in Bangladesh” was prepared to identify the possibilities and strengths of blended finance to bridge the investment gap, accelerate green economic development, and achieve SDGs in Bangladesh. Also, Digital Business Identification (DBID) platform has been developed to help businesses register and get a unique business ID. This digital platform aims to unify the fragmented businesses in Bangladesh. DBID will issue unique identifiers for businesses that will

allow the government to identify, maintain and regulate the activities of businesses in Bangladesh. Besides, a socio-economic dashboard has been developed for tracking economic activities and making evidence-informed policies. This dashboard contains updated data on employment, education, Bangladesh's economy, social protection, and relief.

3.1 Component 1: Evidence-informed SDG policy and plans formulated

The main objective of this component was to integrate SDGs into Government Business and Partnership through evidence-informed policies and plan. In this regard, SC4SDG increased coordination efforts with partners to strengthen capacity building and increasingly ensure integration of its activities in the national documents. In this vein, SC4SDG in collaboration and coordination with General Economics Division (GED) and Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics (BBS), conducted various metadata training workshops, provided support to carry out action plans and its review, prepare SDG progress reports, VNR, UNGA Booklet along with other SDGs related knowledge products.

3.1.1 Output 1.1: Capacity of public officials enhanced to integrate SDGs into National Planning and Policy:

Capacity Building on SDG Metadata:

- In total, 11 metadata training on SDG indicators 17.14.1; 17.15.1; 17.16.1; 16.7.1; 16.7.2; 5.c.1; 14.2.1; 12.2.1; 12.2.2, 2.c.1 and 11.3.1; and 02 follow-up consultation workshops on SDG indicators (i) 17.14.1, 17.15.1, 17.16.1 and (ii) 12.2.1, 12.2.2, 14.2.1 were also organized to enhance the capacity of the Public Officials/SDG Focal Points and deliver detailed knowledge about the concepts and methodology for compiling and generating data. SDG 17 focuses on strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the Global Partnership for Sustainable Development. While SDG 16 promoting peaceful and inclusive societies, providing access to justice for all and building effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels. SDG 5 focused the gender equality; SDG 14 aspires on conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources; SDG 12 on sustainable consumption and production patterns. SDG 2 is about to creating a world free of hunger and SDG 11 is to make cities inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable. All these indicators were selected based on the GED and UNEP's requirements.
- A total of 592 (M: 446; F: 146) Government Officials and SDG Focal Points attended the SDG metadata training and consultation workshops. Almost 43 ministries/divisions/agencies participated in these training workshops. Among them, Ministry of Commerce (MoC), Ministry of Food (MoFood), Ministry of Public Administration (MoPA), Statistics and Informatics Division (SID), BBS (NAW-Prices and Wages), The Ministry of Housing and Public Works, Ministry of Land (MoL), Local Government Division (LGD), Ministry of Agriculture (MoA), Ministry of Industries, relevant development authorities, Bangladesh Space Research and Remote Sensing Organization (SPARRSO), Ministry of Planning, Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC), Ministry of Fisheries and Livestock (MoFL), Bangladesh Bank etc were mentionable.
- As a result of this training Government started reporting on SDG indicators 5.c.1 and 16.7.1 on the SDG tracker. A few more SDG metadata indicators will be uploaded to the tracker soon.

Capacity Building of M&E Officials and Gender Focal Points

- A total of 53 (23F:30M) M&E Officials and Gender Focal Points attended the training in two batches on “Gender Responsive M&E System”. This training helped to improve gender mainstreaming in their core processes to ensure compliance and meaningful integration of gender perspectives into their work.

Consultation Workshops on "Reviewing Progress of Implementation of National SDGs Action Plan"

- SDGs will be implemented through three consecutive Five Year Plans i.e., 7th, 8th, and 9th Five Year Plans covering the duration of SDGs period. The first National SDGs Action Plan was developed considering the country’s National Medium Plan (7th Five Year Plan), in which the SDGs goals and targets have been integrated. The first Action Plan was prepared to achieve the twin objectives of attaining Bangladesh’s development aspiration and the SDGs. The National SDGs Action Plan is a living document. Hence, it requires revisiting as and when a new five-year plan is formulated. Against this backdrop, three progress review workshops were organized involving 46 ministries/divisions/agencies. The first consultation workshop on "Reviewing Progress of Implementation of National SDGs Action Plan" was held on 29 November 2020. The workshop was attended by 30 officials from 12 ministries/divisions, representing the top 12 ministries/divisions regarding Annual Development Programme (ADP) spending. In the second workshop on 22 March 2021, 46 officials from 15 ministries/divisions participated. The third and last consultation workshop was organized on 19 September 2021, which brought together 63 participants from 19 ministries/divisions/agencies to review the implementation progress of the remaining ministries/divisions. The series of consultation workshops involving all the ministries and divisions (43 lead ministries/divisions according to SDG mapping) helped the Government assess the progress of the existing National SDGs Action Plan. In turn, GED has started to develop the second SDG Action Plan.

Review Report of the First National SDGs Action Plan

- To give impetus to SDG implementation, SC4SDG project helped GED to carry out a review on the first SDG Action plan. GED developed this Action Plan in June 2018 to implement the goals and associated targets specified in the SDGs through the 7th Five-Year Plan of the Government of Bangladesh. The 7th Five Year Plan was the guideline for the ministries/divisions responsible for the implementation of the SDGs in the country to determine the types of projects/ programmes and interventions needed to reach the targets set in the 2030 agenda not only during the period of the 7th FYP but also during the following two consecutive plans until 2030. So, reviewing the 1st SDG Action Plan became a pertinent issue in devising the 2nd SDGs Action Plan. This review report of the first SDGs Action Plan has provided an overview of ministries/divisions/agencies’ efforts, opportunities, and challenges for addressing the SDG implementation gaps toward achieving the SDGs. It extracted the scope for the ministries/divisions/agencies for adjustments to priorities and course corrections which will help minimize the problems of implementation of the SDGs Action Plan and to be aware of limitations.
- Furthermore, the report has provided an opportunity to inject urgency and catalyse new commitments from all Government ministries/divisions/agencies for implementing the SDGs. This report will also help to evaluate the progress and adopt necessary actions in the right time. Finally, it highlighted that coordination among the ministries/divisions/agencies is critical. In addition, the capacity building of the ministries/divisions/agencies is imperative to effectively deliver on the SDGs in Bangladesh.

Support to organize CST Meetings

- 05 Core SDGs Team (CST) meetings were held to review the Annual Work Plan (AWP), update the status of the project activities, and discuss the challenges and solutions to carry forward the planned activities.

Support to organize National Conference on SIR

- The SC4SDG project provided technical support to organize the three-day National Conference on SDGs Implementation Review (SIR). HE Shiekh Hasina, Honorable Prime Minister Bangladesh, inaugurated the national conference as the Chief Guest. The conference brought together more than 3,000 guests and participants from forty-three Lead Ministries/Divisions, Offices of the Divisional Commissioners, Private Sector, Development Partner Agencies, NGOs/INGOs, CSOs, Academia, and Research Organizations who participated in the discourse actively. During the conference, nine parallel sessions including a session on SDGs localization and a plenary session were organized successfully. Each parallel session facilitated discussion on the implementation status of SDG-related plans, policies, projects, and programs; initiatives undertaken in implementing SDGs at the local level; implementation challenges, and the ways forward. Similarly, in the plenary session, the Private Sector, Development Partners, and NGOs/CSOs presented the initiatives taken so far to help Bangladesh in achieving SDGs at the national and local levels. Also, they discussed the challenges and outlined what plans/policies/strategies could be adopted in the coming days to enhance the implementation of the SDGs taking cognizance of the challenges. The project also assisted GED in preparing the key paper, summary, and way forward on SDG implementation review progress at the national conference. GED published the synthesis report for the second national conference on SIR 2022.

Support to BBS to Organize Executive seminar on SEEA

- SC4SDG project, in collaboration with the Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics (BBS), organized a two-day executive seminar on “Roadmap to implement the System of Environmental Economic Accounting (SEEA) including Blue Economy and Poverty-Environment Nexus (PEN) in Bangladesh”. A total 98 (20F:78M) senior to mid-level officials from relevant Ministries, Divisions, Departments, Academics, Private Sector, CSOs, INGOs, and NGOs participated in the seminar. The workshop explored a range of integrating Remote Sensing (RS), Geographic Information System (GIS), and Global Positioning System (GPS) technologies to help ‘institutionalize’ the environmental data value chain to build a gateway for disseminating Natural Resource (Capital) Accounts (NRA/NCA) Statistics in collaborative ways so that policy interventions of the Government are taken based on nature-based solutions. It will also guarantee the management of Sustainable Development in a holistic approach through improved capacity of environmental resources accounts and statistics, including Blue (Ocean) Economy and Poverty-Environment Nexus (PEN). NRA/NCA will ensure a sound database that would help policymakers understand the potential impact of sustainable decisions. In the National Strategic Plan of Bangladesh, i.e., the 8th Five Year Plan, Perspective Plan 2041, and Bangladesh Delta Plan 2100, it is emphasized to provide necessary, relevant, and timely data on natural resources. The roadmap is expected to be completed and published by June 2023. Once it is completed, Bangladesh will be fully ready to build UN-mandated SEEA and ensure poverty-environment nexus.

Support to SID to Prepare Second SDG Action Plan

- SC4SDG Project helped GED to prepare the first National SDGs Action Plan in light of the country's 7th Five Year Plan. As the 7th Five Year Plan of the country integrated SDGs goals and targets, achieving the objectives of the first Action Plan would automatically help achieve the twin objectives of attaining Bangladesh's development aspiration and the SDGs. Against this backdrop, the Government has initiated the preparation of the Second Action Plan, considering Bangladesh's additional challenges, such as graduating from the list of the LDC countries and the uncertain external environment. Therefore, the SC4SDG has assisted the Statistics and Informatics Division (SID) in organizing a day-long consultation workshop on "Preparation of Second SDG Action Plan of Statistics and Informatics Division (SID)". 65 (23F:42M) participants from 30 ministries/divisions/agencies and custodian agencies have joined this consultation workshop. This consultation workshop also guided the co-lead and associate ministries to track the progress of Bangladesh's medium plan objectives and 2030 global agenda and indicate resource requirements for implementing SDG targets 17.18 and 17.19, for which SID is the lead Division.

3.1.2 Output 1.2 Results based M&E System and capacities of 8th FYP established to track SDG performance:

Revised Monitoring and Evaluation Framework of SDGs

- In order to keep pace with the changes in the global data domain, the project took the initiative with the GED to revisit the country's SDGs Monitoring & Evaluation Framework (M&E). The 'Revised Monitoring and Evaluation Framework of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs): Bangladesh Perspective', was prepared and published to reflect the changes made in the SDGs Global Indicators Framework and accommodate changes in the global and national data domain. Baseline data has been provided for 161 indicators, while this revisited SDGs M&E Framework has been developed for 138 indicators out of 247 indicators. Bangladesh SDG Progress Report 2020 and 2022; and Voluntary National Review (VNR) 2020 have been prepared based on this Revised SDGs M&E Framework.

Workshop on Revised Monitoring and Evaluation Framework of SDGs

- The project organised the inter-ministerial consultation workshop on "Revised SDGs Monitoring and Evaluation Framework for the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs): Bangladesh Perspective" to introduce the revised SDGs M&E Framework for Sustainable Development Goals. As more and more data are now made available by the BBS and from administrative sources, the older version of the M&E Framework warrants updating to accommodate changes in line with the global and national data domains. This workshop was organised to sensitise the SDG Focal Points across 46 ministries and divisions about all the changes made in the revised M&E Framework so that they would be able to provide the required information to BBS and the GED regularly.

DRF of 8FYP

- The culture of monitoring was largely absent from the planning process of Bangladesh. Due to the continuous persuasion of the SC4SDG project, the Government included a Development Result Framework (DRF) in the plan document. The DRF of the 8FYP contains 104 indicators, including 63 SDG indicators for the 8FYP to monitor and evaluate the implementation of SDGs and 8FYP to enhance informed policy decisions.

A chapter on ‘Monitoring and Evaluation’ in 8FYP

- The project also wrote a chapter on ‘Monitoring and Evaluation’ to ensure robust results-based monitoring and evaluation of the mid-term development plan. This chapter was critical in helping the Government to track and monitor the progress of implementing the plan targets and taking corrective actions when significant gaps or divergences emerge. The M&E was flexibly used as an instrument for securing mid-term corrections. This was also used to link the successive 5-year plans by looking at the results achieved in each medium-term plan and identifying the gaps. The gaps were then informed and guided the agenda, policies, and strategies of the next 5-year plan.

Consultation Workshops on the revised mapping

- SC4SDG project and GED jointly organized a consultation workshop on the revised mapping titled “Inter-Ministerial Consultation on Revised Mapping of Ministries/Divisions and Custodian Agencies for SDGs Implementation: Bangladesh Perspective” with the SDG Focal Points of all the ministries and divisions on 14 March 2021. Over 80 participants from different ministries/divisions and UNDP participated in this consultation. Another follow-up consultation workshop on “Revised Mapping of Ministries/Divisions and Custodian Agencies for SDGs Implementation: Bangladesh Perspective” was arranged on 22 September 2021, where 43 participants from ministries/divisions as well as custodian/partner agencies joined the discussion. The consultations emphasized getting feedback on the revised mapping document, re-assigning the responsibilities of custodianship of the non-resident agencies, and facilitating discussion on how custodian agencies can help the GoB to strengthen national monitoring and reporting capacity. The revised mapping document was revised further based on the recommendations received from these two consultations. Finally, the revised mapping document was finalized with approval from the SDGs Implementation and Review Committee (SIRC). The revised mapping document was published in January 2022.

Publication of the Revised Mapping Document

- Being one of the most active and committed countries to achieve the SDGs, Bangladesh mapped the ministries/divisions by SDG targets and prepared a report on “Mapping of Ministries by Targets in the implementation of SDGs aligning with 7th Five Year Plan (2016-20)” in September 2016. This was the first formal document by GoB on the implementation strategy of SDGs. The mapping of ministries/divisions by SDG targets certainly helped Bangladesh to identify the responsible ministries/divisions for each target and eventually, guided to take the related actions to achieve the SDGs. Nevertheless, this mapping document, published five years ago, needed to be revisited and revised considering the development of new challenges and a renewed commitment to take a more synergized effort to progress in implementing SDGs. Therefore, SC4SDG project provided technical assistance to GED to review and revise the first mapping document in 2021. The “Revised Mapping of Ministries/Divisions and Custodian/Partner Agencies for SDG Implementation in Bangladesh” is a well-thought-out exercise where the latest SDG indicators have been taken into consideration and the responsibilities of the ministries/divisions have been altered as required. Besides, this revised mapping has for the first time recognized that the custodian/partner agencies are important actors in the implementation of SDGs, and accordingly defined their role and responsibilities. This report has provided an overview of ministries/divisions/agencies’ efforts, opportunities and challenge for addressing the

gaps in SDGs implementation towards achieving the SDGs. It extracted the scope for the ministries/divisions/agencies for adjustments to priorities and course corrections which will help minimize the problems of implementation of SDGs Action Plan and to be aware of limitations. Further, the report has provided a key window of opportunity to inject urgency and catalyse new commitments from all Government ministries/divisions/agencies for implementing the SDGs. This report has been duly recognized and the insignia of UNDP and UNDP-UNEP Poverty-Environment Action is engraved in the document. The revised mapping document was unveiled by the Honorable Prime Minister H.E. Sheikh Hasina during the Second National Conference on SDGs Implementation Review (SIR).

3.1.3 Output 1.3: Research conducted on emerging issues on economic, social, environment and climate change to inform policy and planning:

Study on Leaving No One Behind (LNOB)

- A background study titled ‘Leaving No One Behind (LNOB)’ in Bangladesh: Strategy and Recommendations for the 8FYP for implementing Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)’ suggested six specific LNOB action programmes for the 8th Plan. These are: 1) adopt an integrated strategy to develop a national database and strategic LNOB fund for the marginalised groups within ADP; 2) develop and implement region- and community-specific strategic actions to combat marginalities; 3) formulate target specific action plans to increase income levels and access to productive resources of the lagging behind communities; 4) address limited access to education, health and nutrition services in the lagging regions and marginalised communities on a priority basis; 5) increase socio-political participation of marginalised communities through adopting integrated approaches; and 6) ensure special focus on lagging behind regions/communities in all national development plans and strategies.

Publication of SDG Progress Reports, VNR and UNGA Booklet

- 02 reports on the progress of implementation of SDG, ‘Sustainable Development Goals: Bangladesh Progress Report’ were published by SC4SDG in 2020 and 2022. The report intended help Bangladesh to measure the status of and progress in SDGs implementation. This progress report is also a source of motivation for all stakeholders to undertake actions to enhance their performances in SDGs implementation for achieving the milestones set under the SDGs by 2030. Besides, these reports have also been published in the native language (Bangla) for broader circulation and a better understanding of the global development agenda among the general public and various stakeholders to build ownership in implementation, tackling challenges, and way forward. The SDG Progress Report 2022 highlighted the positive progress that Bangladesh has made in several SDGs at least until the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic. The report captured the good practices from global and regional contexts, detailed indicators wise update, key challenges as well as conveying way forward, which include gaps, and areas for support. Several challenges to SDGs implementation in Bangladesh have also been identified which will help to make a better plan to achieve SDGs by 2030.
- Voluntary National Review (VNR) titled ‘Accelerated action and transformative pathways: realising the decade of action and delivery for sustainable development’ published in 2020 to present the report along with 46 other countries at the High-Level Political Forum (HLPF) under the auspices of United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC).

- SC4SDG helped GED to prepare a booklet titled “Bangladesh Moving Ahead with the Sustainable Development Goals” for Bangladesh delegation to the 76th United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) session 2021. This booklet provided a broad picture scenario on the assessment of progress made under each SDG in Bangladesh. It mentioned the importance of multi-stakeholder partnerships for achieving SDGs, means of SDGs implementation, the impact of COVID-19 pandemic on SDGs implementation, and SDGs localization. It also discussed the challenges and pathways to implement the sustainable development agenda.

Study on ‘Assessing Synergies and Trade-Offs in SDGs - The case of Bangladesh’

- The project in coordination with GED carried out the study on ‘Assessing Synergies and Trade-Offs in SDGs - The case of Bangladesh’. This study highlighted the potential trade-offs and identified the synergies between the SDGs considering Bangladesh's economic, social, political, and environmental circumstances. The study used two approaches- correlation analysis and total interaction score to assess potential trade-offs and synergies between SDGs in Bangladesh. However, a lack of data was evident, therefore, estimation of the correlation coefficient has been limited. The total interaction score has been adopted to supplement the correlation coefficient as well as to provide further insights into the assessment of trade-offs and synergies. Despite the limitations, the report generated some useful and important outcomes (i) identified ten indicators with moderate to high synergies, which recommend having a higher level of spending and investment in the Social Sectors specifically on social protection, nutrition, primary education, health services and gender-based violence (ii) identified four indicators with a relatively high trade-off indicating the failure to overcome inefficiency in energy use and deforestation may have deleterious impacts on the achievement of other SDGs.

3.2 Component 2: Systems and capacities in place to localize the SDGs

3.2.1 Capacities of local governments strengthened to mainstream SDGs in local plans and implementation frameworks:

This activity was contingent upon the start of the piloting of SDG Localization at the Upazila level.

3.2.2 SDG localization models piloted to encourage inclusive approaches for rolling out of SDG at local level:

- SC4SDG project, on request, is supporting the GED to develop, pilot, and roll out an integrated programmatic framework to localize the SDGs in selected five Upazilas (Bishwambarpur Upazila of the Sunamganj District, Doulatkhan Upazila of Bhola District, Belkuchi Upazila of the Sirajganj District, Dumuria Upazila of the Khulna District, and Ulipur Upazila of the Kurigram District) of Bangladesh. The piloting of SDG localization was scheduled to commission in 2023 based on the baseline study findings and Upazila action plan.

3.2.3 Policy papers on SDG localization informing policies and strategies to roll out SDG localization in Bangladesh:

Studies:

- The Government of Bangladesh (GoB) is committed to implementing SDGs at the local level to reinforce the 'Leave No One Behind' (LNOB) lens. Because of this, the project commissioned and prepared two preparatory studies: (a) 'An assessment to identify the selection criteria of Upazilas (Sub-Districts) for localising the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs),' and (b) 'Mapping of Resources Required to Localise the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in Selected Upazilas' as a precursor of localisation activities of the SDGs at the grass-root level.
- **Baseline Study on SDGs Localization:** It was imperative to understand the current status of sustainable development at the local level to roll out the SDG localization efficiently and effectively in the selected Upazilas. Therefore, in collaboration with GED, the project undertook a baseline study to assess the current socio-economic situation, environmental status, and other relevant issues in the selected five Upazilas. A leading think-tank of Bangladesh - BRAC Institute of Governance and Development (BIGD) was hired to conduct the study. This baseline study emphasized selecting indicators based on the Upazilas' Five-Year Action Plan and the Local Government's priority activities for achieving the SDGs. Upazila Parishad/administration is supposed to make choices and prioritize these targets and indicators in line with their legal areas of responsibilities that best respond to their specific contexts and needs. Under the same study, a time-bound action plan has also been prepared for rolling out the SDGs in the selected Upazilas. Data were collected from primary and secondary sources for the baseline study. For the primary research, mixed methodology (quantitative and qualitative) was used to understand the selected Upazilas' socio-economic conditions comprehensively. The baseline data was primarily collected through the survey (household and facility -5000 sample size), and the qualitative data complemented this. The secondary data collection was guided by the documents provided by BBS and key administrative line ministries. Following are some key findings of the report:
 - Regarding National Priority Indicator (NPI) 14 (Drop to zero of the prevalence of early marriage before age 15 among the women aged 20-24 years), early marriage before 15 is lowest in Bishwambharpur (4%) and highest in Ulipur (16%). Early marriage before 18 is lowest in Bishwambharpur (36%) and highest in Ulipur (60%). All Upazilas are at below 7%, except for Belkuchi, where female manufacturing employment percentage is at 43.2%.
 - With regard to availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all, most have good sources of drinking water (tube well) and water is available. But for Bishwambharpur, Daulatkhan, and Dumuria, they are not easily accessible on premises (location is not nearby). Most have good toilets, but they are not single-use. As in, they are shared toilets.
 - Regarding affordable, reliable, sustainable, and modern energy for all, around 98% households in all Upazilas have access to electricity. Load-shedding is common, highest in Bishwambharpur (7.7 hours avg. per day). Renewable energy is lower than 10%, highest 7%.
 - Regarding NPI 22 (Reducing unemployment rate below 3%) Bishwambharpur and Daulatkhan have more than 3% employment. Others are below 3%.
 - For NPI indicator 23 (Downsize the proportion of youth population (15-29 years) not in education, employment, or training to 10%) Dumuria and Ulipur are marginally below 10%. Highest in Bishwambharpur (19.3%).

- With regard to NPI 26 (Increase manufacturing employment as a proportion of total employment to 25%, all Upazilas are at below 25%) except for Belkuchi, where manufacturing employment percentage is at 40.4%. They are mostly engaged in Handloom textile and readymade garments.
- Data for NPI 36, (Increase the proportion of children under 5 years of age whose births have been registered with a civil authority to 100%) Highest in Ulipur (52%) and lowest in Belkuchi (26.4%).
- Data for NPI 39 (Increase the proportion of individuals using the internet to 100%) showed that Around 30% use internet on average in each Upazila.
- Data for Indicator 2 (Reduce the proportion of population living below national poverty line below 10%) showed that the upper headcount ratio is 70.8% in Ulipur (highest) and 12.2% in Daulatkhan (lowest). (Poverty Map, BBS).
- Data for NPI 3 (Reduce the prevalence of stunting among children under 5 years of age to 12%) showed that Upazila Level percentage of Stunted Children – lowest in Dumuria (38%) and highest in Belkuchi (50%)

Consultations/Workshops

- The project organized two consultation workshops on SDG localization at the regional level.
- The first consultation was organized during 12-14 December 2021 on "**Annual High-Level Consultation on SDG Localization and Efficient Use of Ocean Resources**" in Cox's Bazar. This consultation brought together political leaders, senior government officials, development practitioners, researchers, and academicians to exchange views on localizing SDGs in Bangladesh. Experts from abroad also joined different sessions virtually and shared their experiences on relevant issues. Five critical areas were identified and discussed during the consultation. They were national and international experiences on SDGs localization; local data governance; institutional arrangement for SDGs localization; green growth and ocean resources for SDG localization; and financing the SDGs localization. The discussions emphasized how policymakers and other critical state and non-state actors could effectively mainstream the SDGs into the local level policy planning and implementation so that the local level voices are taken into consideration in the national level planning. The guests and participants also discussed the opportunities of using the local data to generate baseline data for national priority indicators with a renewed emphasis on climate and environmental ecosystem and use of ocean resources optimally in the context of SDG localization.
- The second regional consultation - "Accelerating SDGs localization in Bangladesh: Opportunities and Challenges" was organized on 17 October 2022 at The Grand Placid Hotel, Khulna. This regional consultation aspired to achieve the following objectives:
 - I. To inform wider stakeholders (decision makers, local government officials, and local citizens) regarding the ongoing SDG localization process and sensitize them on how to effectively play role in mainstreaming the SDGs into the local planning, budgetary, financing, and investment processes.
 - II. To understand the challenges and bottlenecks of aligning SDGs with the local level planning and identify the potential of increasing own-source revenue.

- III. To identify the local intervention priorities and map investment opportunities at the local level for achieving SDGs.
 - IV. To establish a linkage between SDGs localization policies and national-level policies
- This consultation, aside from the local level government officials, ensured the participation of the wider stakeholders, including civil society organizations (CSOs), non-government organizations (NGOs), academics, the media, and the private sector to sensitize and stock-taking about SDG localization and its way forward for implementing SDGs at the north-western region of Bangladesh. Participants of the consultation unanimously agreed that the achievement of SDGs depends, more than ever, on the ability of local governments to make integrated, inclusive, and sustainable development an actuality at the regional level. Thus, it is important to empower all local stakeholders and to build a common understanding at the local level, which will help and empower local government and citizens to participate in the SDGs implementation process. The effectiveness of SDG implementation at the local level can be significantly improved with the help of SDG localization frameworks, designed jointly with the participation of representatives of local administrations, local governments, and local non-state actors. In the group exercise session of this regional consultation, policymakers, practitioners, academics, media, and representatives of civil society and non-government organizations exchanged views on localizing SDGs in Bangladesh, focusing on development interventions at their respective Upazilas, and exchanged knowledge to promote inclusive and sustainable development to eradicate poverty in all its dimension and ensure that no one is left behind from the development process.

Workshop Proceeding

- Based on the consultation, a workshop proceeding on "Annual High-Level Consultation on SDG Localization and Efficient Use of Ocean Resources" was also published in 2022. The workshop proceeding highlighted the views of the policymakers and other critical state and non-state actors in Bangladesh to mainstream the SDGs into local-level planning, budgetary, financing, and investment processes. It also described the opportunities of using local data to generate baseline data for national priority indicators including the government-determined 39+1 Upazila-specific SDG indicator with the renewed emphasis on climate and environmental eco-system and use of ocean resources optimally in the context of SDG localization. It is evident from the deliberation that impetus in SDG implementation can be ensured if wider stakeholders are involved to supplement and complement public sector efforts in accelerating and efficacy in SDG localization. The proceeding drew a number of concrete recommendations such as introducing transparent and proper data governance and management at the local level; strengthening the financial capacities of the local government; integrated strategies for achieving 12 SDGs (all except 9, 12, 13, 14, and 17) at the community level; develop a business model to attract private sector investment for SDG localization etc. These recommendations will be helpful for the implementation of SDG localization at the Upazila level.

3.3 Component 3: Financing for SDG Implementation is secured and prioritized

3.3.1 Models for mobilizing public and private resources towards key sectors and SDG targets tested and replicated

Study on Blue Bond:

- SC4SDG project conducted a study on “Assessing the Feasibility of Instituting Blue Bond in the Existing Bond Market of Bangladesh”. This study endeavored to understand the possibility of promoting the blue economy in Bangladesh through the issuance of blue bonds. The report titled "Promoting Sustainable Blue Economy in Bangladesh through Sustainable Blue Bond: Assessing the Feasibility of Instituting Blue Bond in the Bond Market of Bangladesh" was published in June 2021. It discusses the blue economy, composition of the blue economy in Bangladesh, economic valuation of the blue economy in Bangladesh, and sustainable bonds for sustainable financing, particularly the blue bond. It recapitulates the bond market in Bangladesh and recently introduced the Islamic bond “Sukuk”. Also, the report explains the importance, opportunities, and challenges of promoting the sustainable blue bond and blue economy in Bangladesh. The report also highlights the required actions to institute the blue bond in the existing bond market of Bangladesh. The recommendations of the report have been well accepted by the policymakers and the private sector and because of this intervention of the project, the Government is planning to initiate the blue bond in the bond market and create new space for private investment, especially to finance SDG 14.

Inclusive Business Model for CMSMEs:

- In collaboration with the General Economics Division (GED), the project commissioned a study on “Inclusive Business Model to Encourage Investment in CMSMEs in Bangladesh”. The main objective of this study was to develop an inclusive model to encourage investment in CMSMEs in Bangladesh with an emphasis on promoting female entrepreneurship. The report produced under this study explains the inclusive business model, gives an overview of CMSMEs in Bangladesh, discusses the impact of COVID-19 on CMSMEs, analyses the investment situation in CMSMEs, and elucidates how the integration of a model can help in stimulating CMSMEs in Bangladesh. The study findings will guide the policymakers to mobilize resources towards CMSMEs and protect the existing jobs as well as create new jobs in the CMSME sector. The unusual deferral by GED in offering their final comments on the report delayed publishing the report. However, the report is planned to be published by GED in Q1, 2023.

Financing Strategy for SDGs:

The joint programme “Integrated National Financing Framework for Accelerating Achievement of Sustainable Development Goals (INFF4SDGs)” in Bangladesh has updated the National Development Finance Assessment (DFA) and SDG Financing Strategy (SFS). SC4SDG has supported this initiative, especially to update the SFS and assess the financing strategies for two critical areas – Water and Sanitation (SDG 6) and Climate Finance (SDG 13). The finalization of DFA and SFS along with the financing strategies on SDG 6 and SDG 13 has been delayed due to several extensions of Consultants’ contracts. However, the Task Team (TT) of INFF4SDGs is in the process of submitting them to the Government of Bangladesh (GoB).

Consultation on Blue Economy:

SC4SDG organized two regional consultations on “Voice of the Local Citizens: Investment for Sustainable Blue Economy in Bangladesh” in Chattogram - the south-eastern region and Khulna - south-western region on 25 September 2022 and 16 October 2022 respectively. Both consultations

were attended by a diverse group of people representing the government, private sector, development agencies, NGOs, CSOs, think tanks, universities, etc. The participants were sensitized about the blue economy and its importance for sustainable development in Bangladesh. During the consultations, the potential “blue investment” areas were discussed. The consultation also facilitated discussion on the opportunities, challenges, and required policy actions to attract investment, especially from the private sector, and promote a sustainable blue economy in Bangladesh. Following the regional consultations, a national workshop was arranged on 22 December 2022 in Savar, Dhaka. During the national workshop, the potential areas for “blue investment” identified in the regional consultations were discussed in the presence of relevant stakeholders including the private sector. The workshop also facilitated discourse on the prospects, national as well as regional challenges, and required policy actions to promote investment for the potential blue economy sectors in Bangladesh.

3.4 Component 4: Partnerships and outreach for enhancing society wide participation in SDGs implementation ensured

3.4.1 Partnership with think-tanks, academia, CSOs and media established:

Communication and Advocacy Strategy:

- The SC4SDG project began to make headways in establishing partnership with think-tanks, academia, Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) and media from the third quarter of 2020. The project developed a communication and advocacy strategy to foster partnerships to empower key stakeholders to achieve the SDGs and generate enough evidence to achieve the project goals.

Wider Stakeholder Consultation:

- To foster a partnership between the government and wider stakeholders (e.g., NGOs, CSOs, Think-Tanks, and Private Sector), the project organised a consultation workshop, 'Engaging the Wider Stakeholders in Implementing SDGs at the Local Level in Bangladesh'. Representatives from government, development organisations, NGOs, CSOs, think-tanks, and private sectors were brought together and approached to share their thoughts and suggestions on the wider stakeholders' role in localising SDGs. Thus, along with sensitising the SDG localisation, this consultation facilitated discussion on the potential areas of engagement for wider stakeholders within the horizon of localising SDGs; good practices of wider stakeholders for promoting the SDGs at the local level; and rolling out the SDGs localisation framework prepared by GED for achieving SDGs at the local level.
- SC4SDG project, in collaboration with the Daffodil International University (DIU) - a renowned private university in Bangladesh, organized two online webinars on the role of academia in achieving the SDGs. The Chief Technical Advisor of the project participated as a key discussant in both the webinars. The discussion sessions focused on the importance of incorporating SDGs in the academic curriculum of the universities and sensitizing the youths about SDGs. The panelists highlighted the need for an inter-disciplinary education system with an emphasis on development issues such as poverty, environment, and climate change. Moreover, social cohesion through youth participation was identified as indispensable to establishing a systematic approach in the education system. Furthermore, the webinars captured discussion on the role of media in generating evidence-based solutions and disseminating best practices on SDGs.

- SC4SDG project, from the start, has been helping the Government in implementing the "Whole of Society" approach through involving non-state actors in the achievement of SDGs. The project partnered with Bangladesh's leading national English newspaper - The Daily Star and organized a roundtable consultation titled "Consultation with Wider Stakeholders on SDGs 5, 8, and 13 through the Whole of Society Approach" with high-profile political leaders, senior government officials, think tanks, academia, INGOs, CSOs, and media on 23 September 2021. The event emphasized the importance of the "Whole of Society" approach in achieving SDGs, especially SDGs 5, 8, and 13. The Daily Star published a supplement¹ of this wider stakeholders' consultation highlighting the summary of the discussion. The supplement was also shared on The Daily Star's official Facebook page which has 3.3 million followers.

Campaign:

- **‘My Goal Campaign’:** The project, in collaboration with The Daily Star, also launched an online campaign "My Goal", to showcase the voices of people from different walks of life to promote the SDGs. The campaign received support and participation from several key Bangladeshi influencers, including the Resident Representative of UNDP Bangladesh. Under this campaign, a microsite was developed where 648 youths shared their thoughts on different SDGs. The microsite was accessed by nearly 10,000 people. Through the screening process, three outstanding young participants were selected and awarded by the Resident Representative of UNDP Bangladesh in this quarter. The first prize was awarded to a nine-year-old girl who wrote on SDG 13 with the title "My goal for a better future". The other two awardees wrote on SDG 6 and SDG 4. The goal of the second awardee was to set water purifiers outside of the mosques for people from low-income backgrounds, including women and children, who do not have access to clean water. The third awardee's goal was to implement free quality education for the poverty-stricken population of her area. The Daily Star featured the news and published a supplement with the title "#MyGoal campaign winners awarded". The contents of this campaign were widely shared on social networks such as Facebook and Twitter. The campaign reached out to wider readers of The Daily Star (4 million readers per month). Also, an article² on the "My Goal" campaign got published.
- **SDG Youth Campaign:** The Project, in collaboration with the Daily Prothom Alo, launched a nationwide SDG Youth Campaign to reach the youth, especially young women, including under-representative women (disabled women, ethnic women, transgender, and poor women), to create awareness and inspire youth, especially young women, to get involved in implementing the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) at the grass root level.

As part of this Campaign, three divisional-level events were held at Rajshahi, Sylhet, and Chattogram respectively. The campaign was rounded off with a national-level event in Dhaka. The national event was attended by the Hon'ble State Minister of Planning; Resident Coordinator, United Nations Bangladesh; Deputy Resident Representative, UNDP Bangladesh, and Editor, Prothom Alo. This national event showcased the youths' ideas

¹ <https://www.thedailystar.net/round-tables/news/achieving-sdgs-5-8-13-through-whole-society-approach-2201926>

² <https://www.thedailystar.net/youth/news/my-goal-better-future-2233516>

gathered from the regional level events and provided them a platform to share their stories, concerns, and voices with the policymakers and development partners.

These events included, among others, rallies, art, debate competition, plenary session, open discussions, PowerPoint presentations on SDGs, and quiz competitions followed by cultural events with youth's active participation. To reach out to as many youths as possible, the campaign also arranged six radio talk shows, six podcasts, six video documentaries, 12 photo stories, and ten video messages from ten influential persons focusing on six SDGs (SDG 5, 8, 10, 13, 14, 15) and widely disseminated through social media. An online essay competition was also launched to receive the ideas of youth across the nation.

This campaign brought together around 1200 youth and young women, including deprived persons, persons of the third gender, youth representatives of the ethnic minority communities, disabled persons, and persons from remote areas of the country. This campaign also reached out to 752,975 people online, while 81,333 people participated through various online communication. The youth who participated in this campaign are expected to contribute to promoting SDGs in their educational institutions and communities.

SDG Youth Conference:

- The project, in collaboration with the Centre for Policy Dialogue (CPD), one of the leading think tanks in Bangladesh, organized a day-long national youth conference on "SDGs and Youth in Bangladesh: Present Perspectives and Future Outlook" in Dhaka. This conference brought the students of public and private universities across the country to a single platform, sensitized them about SDGs, and engaged them in promoting SDGs by ensuring that their voices are taken into consideration in national planning. More than 500 participants, including high-profile personnel, youth representatives from different parts of Bangladesh, youth organizers, leaders of civil platform affiliates, international development partners, and students across the nation, attended the Conference. In addition to that, the conference also included youth representatives from left-behind communities such as transgender, persons with disability, indigenous, women, etc.

As part of this conference, the project collaborated with the United Nations Youth and Students Association of Bangladesh (UNYSAB) and invited students from public and private universities and colleges across the country to register and participate in an online competition. Around 2000 students participated in this competition. Out of 2000, 100 students had been selected to work on five SDG thematic areas. These five areas are (i) poverty (SDG 1), (ii) women empowerment (SDG 5), (iii) responsible consumption and production (SDG 12), (iv) climate action (SDG 13), (v) and good governance (SDG 16). In addition, the campaign contents such as, five photo stories, five thematic videos were also prepared and widely disseminated among the participants of the conference.

The conference featured over six presentations in six parallel sessions on i) Poverty and social protection ii) Climate action iii) Peace and Justice Strong Institutions iv) Gender Equality v) Responsible consumption and production vi) Decent Work and Economic Growth. Public and private university students (selected through online competition) presented their thoughts and views on respective themes at the parallel sessions.

At the end of the conference, "Youth Declaration 2022" was adopted. CPD produced and published the conference report and event detail on their Citizen's Platform for SDGs website. In addition to it, the event news has been widely covered by media partners - Daily Prothom Alo and The Daily Star. Moreover, two supplements and an op-ed were published by the Daily Prothom Alo and The Daily Star based on the event.

3.4.2 *Private sector engagement in achieving SDGs promoted:*

Workshop

- In collaboration with Integrated National Financing Framework FOR SDGs (INFF4SDGs), the project organised a technical workshop with private sector titled "Investing in Water and Sanitation, Climate Finance, and Renewable Energy in Bangladesh: Market Analytics, Financing Instruments, and Networking". Representatives from the private sector, UN agencies, International Financial Institutions (IFIs), Chambers, Stock Exchange attended the workshop. The workshop successfully facilitated constructive discussion on developing a shared understanding of SDGs financing by public and private sectors; sharing market/context analytics and available/existing financing tools and identifying bottlenecks to build data-driven advocacy.

Roundtable

- The project, in partnership with the Daily Prothom Alo, organized a round table discussion titled "Role of Online Service Providers in Promoting Responsible Consumption and Production" with online service providers. This round table aimed to raise the awareness and responsibilities of online service providers in achieving SDG 12. The discussion of this round table was beneficial in raising awareness among the private sector (online service providers) regarding efficient management of our shared natural resources while producing and consuming goods and services, thereby achieving economic growth and sustainable development. The distinguished guests at the round table discussion unanimously agreed that Bangladesh needs to focus on creating eco-friendly products as well as eco-conscious consumers to achieve sustainable development goals by 2030. This requires policy formulation, including training arrangements on every level.

Professor Bazlul Hoque Khondker, Chairman of the South Asian Network on Economic Modeling (SANEM) chaired the roundtable discussion, while Dr. Nazneen Ahmed, Country Economist, UNDP Bangladesh presented the keynote paper. Dr MA Razzaque, Renowned Economist and Chairman of Research and Policy Integration for Development (RAPID); Mr. Mahfuzul Islam, Deputy General Manager of Palli Karma-Sahayak Foundation (PKSF); Mr. Fakrul Ahsan, Chief Technical Adviser, UNDP Bangladesh; Ms Ambareen Reza, Chief Executive Officer of Foodpanda Bangladesh; Mr. Mohammad Aminul Haque, Executive Director of Nagad Limited; Mr. Mahfuz Sadique, Chief Communication Officer of bKash Limited and Mr. Biplob Ghosh, Chief Executive Officer of eCourier also spoke in the roundtable discussion. A supplement and detailed coverage were prepared and published by the Daily Prothom Alo in English and Bengali followed by the event.

3.4.3 *Parliamentarians' engagement in achieving SDGs promoted:*

- The role of the Parliamentarian Standing Committee is highly crucial in achieving the SDGs. Therefore, at the beginning of the project, initiatives were taken to engage different

Parliamentarian Standing Committees in achieving SDGs. However, no significant progress made in this regard as the targeted parliamentarians were too busy to tackle some national issues, including economic instability and the power sector crisis.

3.5 Component 5: Green and sustainable economic recovery from COVID-19 pandemic supported

3.5.1 COVID-19 recovery approach for smaller business rolled out

Develop a Digital Business Identification (DBID) platform

- A platform – Digital Business Identification (DBID) has been developed to help businesses to register and get a unique business ID. This digital platform aims to unify the fragmented businesses in Bangladesh. DBID will issue unique identifiers for businesses that will allow the government to identify, maintain and regulate the activities of businesses in Bangladesh.

3.5.2 Resource mobilization for COVID-19 recovery and SDG implementation strengthened

Study on blended finance

- The TEPP, in collaboration with the General Economics Division (GED), has conducted a study on “Promoting Blended Finance to Support Green Growth and Deliver Sustainable Development in Bangladesh” to identify the possibilities and strengths of blended finance to bridge the investment gap and accelerate the green economic development and achieve SDGs in Bangladesh. A validation workshop was organized on 23 November 2022 at NEC Conference Room, Bangladesh Planning Commission on the final draft report submitted by the Consultant. The workshop was attended by a diverse group of people from government agencies, private sector, international financial institutions, development partners, research organizations, universities, etc. The Consultant has addressed the comments/feedback received in the workshop and submitted the final report. UNDP is currently reviewing the final report. The report will be published by June 2023.

3.5.3 Informed policymaking for COVID-19 economic recovery supported

Establish a Research and Analytics Unit (RAU) in a relevant government agency

- A Research and Analytics Unit (RAU) has been established in Bangladesh Investment Development Authority (BIDA), Prime Minister’s Office (PMO) in 2022 based on a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) signed between BIDA and UNDP. RAU aspires to provide BIDA with research support for evidence-based economic policymaking on the investment climate. The Unit will provide an analysis of contemporary economic issues relevant to business development and recommend appropriate strategies to accelerate policymaking for sustainable investment in Bangladesh.

Develop a Socio-Economic Dashboard

- A socio-economic dashboard has been developed for tracking economic activities and making evidence-informed policies. The dashboard contains updated data on employment, education, Bangladesh's economy, social protection, and relief. This dashboard will help the

Government to track the data on economic activity and the impact of Covid-19 and generate insights to support policymaking.

3.6 Gender and Youth

The gender mainstreaming approach throughout the project was one of the key implementation strategies of SC4SDG in compliance with UNDP's corporate guidelines and integrating gender dimension was fundamental in every initiative under all outputs. According to UNDP's global gender marker toll SC4SDG ranks as GEN 2- (project promotes gender equality is a significant objective).

The SC4SDG project had vivid and continuous initiatives to advance gender equality and women's empowerment throughout the project implementation. The project supported GoB to integrate gender equality and women empowerment into the Five-Year Plans and SDGs. In this context, project pursued the government to accelerate structural transformation for gender equality through its different actions. The study on "Assessing Synergies and Trade-offs in SDGs-The case of Bangladesh" emphasized the importance of investment in interventions targeting reducing violence, particularly gender-based violence. The SDGs Progress Report 2022 provided recommendations and a way forward realizing SDGs is gender equitable, which should be mainstreamed across all SDGs, including Goal 5.

To promote gender equality, the project strategically engaged GED, strengthened capacity of government women official and women SDG Focal, enhanced sensitization of marginalized/LNOB groups include transgender, persons with disabilities, vulnerable women and ethnic minorities to include their voices in policies and plans. As part of the state's capabilities to deliver gender equality, the National SDG Youth Campaign and Youth Conference have engaged, mobilized, and empowered around 2000 youth and young women (850), including women with disabilities, ethnic minorities, and transgender. This engagement allowed them to become change agents in bringing change in their communities and meaningfully participate in SDGs implementation. 'My Goal Campaign' created space for young women to participate and share their ideas to reduce the gender gap. Two out of the three awardees of this campaign were young girls who emphasized a long-term vision to end poverty, access to education for girls, and protect the planet. In addition, UNDP's partnership with the media played a significant role in increasing outreach and helping to reach the wider stakeholders, including women folk, for increasing public awareness and involvement of young women in SDG implementation.

"My Goal" campaign created a space for girls and women to participate and share their ideas on reducing the gender gap. Two of the three awardees of this campaign were young girls who emphasized a long-term vision to end poverty, access to education for girls, and protect the planet.

The project intensively worked with the GED for embedding gender equality and women's empowerment in the 8th Five -Year Plan of GoB. With SC4SDG's support, measurement of gender equality has been incorporated in the Development Results Framework of the 8FYP though inclusion of 9 gender-focused indicators, of which 7 are from SDG indicators. 07 SDGs indicators (4.3.1, 4.5.1, 5.2.1, 5.2.2, 5.5.2, 5.3.1, and 5.5.1) from SDGs Global Indicators Framework have been included in these 9 indicators. It helped the government to analyze and measure the progress towards achievement of SDG Goal 5 in Bangladesh.

The project also supported GoB to realize Vision 2021 by promoting women leadership through capacity building of SDG Focal Points. The project also ensured 30-35% women's participation in

the SDG metadata training workshops. UNDP's data capacity building training helped Government to provide gender-disaggregated data to measure progress for vulnerable groups. This has ensured evidence-based gender-driven data eco-system progress on the SDGs. The project also supported a roundtable consultation held on SDG 5, 8 and 13 where one of the focus was on engaging private sector to achieve gender equality and raise awareness on violence against women and make workplaces safer for them.

In addition, the COVID-19 interventions under SC4SDG project were primarily targeted female headed household and destitute women as the female are disproportionately affected by a pandemic/or natural calamities. 1,300 poor female -headed households were provided with BDT 1,500 per household in Kurigram via bKash for meeting their daily need during 'Stay at Home' call. Also, 1,500 poor female-headed households received food baskets to meet their food crisis during COVID-19 outbreaks in Bandarban and more than 50% of them were recipients from indigenous community. The beneficiaries list gave priority to women particularly those are widow and disable. The entire programme was designed so that project intervention to some extent addresses the issue of gender inequalities and enhance women's empowerment and reach out to the people that are disadvantaged.

3.7 Leave No One Behind

The project contributed to improving the livelihoods of people in Bangladesh through continuous advocacy by helping government to develop plans for SDG implementation. A "Whole of Society" approach was adopted by engaging all relevant stakeholders and advocate incorporating the feedback received from the stakeholders into policy planning. Through its activities, the project ensured that issues relating to women, youth, people with disability, and marginalized populations were well addressed while formulating plans/policies/strategies to ensure the aspiration of SDGs, "Leave No One Behind". In this regard, project launched two campaigns to bring voices from people from different walks of life to promote SDGs.

3.8 Social and Environmental Considerations

Since SC4SDG is a strategic level project, therefore, the implementation of the project didn't involve any adverse impact on social and environmental areas. However, the project assessed the Social and Environmental Safeguard (SES) during the project design and found the likelihood of negative impact on the social and environmental settings are very low.

4. IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGY

SC4SDG project during its implementation period was able to create an 'win-win' strategies with GoB by addressing inequalities at multiple levels and supporting them to achieve SDGs and Five-Year Plans. Through the Direct Implementation Modality (DIM), UNDP has assumed the role of executing agency while the SC4SDG has assumed the role of implementing agency. In consultation with the GED, UNDP has executed the project and ensured efficient, transparent administration and management of the project fund. GED being the Secretariat of the inter-ministerial SDG Implementation and Review Committee, the project focused on developing and sharing cutting edge policy thinking and innovative models for delivery across government and in partnership with other non-governmental actors – particularly the Private Sector, CSOs, NGOs and media. Being a core partner, the GED's strong decision-making powers guide the project to achieve its goal. It has also

worked with other government institutions including Prime Minister's Office, Local Government, as well as key Upazilas to carry out SDG localization baseline study.

The project has supported the GED in determining strategies for addressing LNOB issues through commissioning a background study for the 8FYP on "Leave No One Behind (LNOB)." The project has also developed the "Development Results Framework (DRF)" of the 8FYP that was the monitoring log for tracking the progress of implementation during the 8FYP period. Besides, the SC4SDG project has revisited and revised the "SDGs M&E Framework for Bangladesh" to keep continue the pace of progress tracking and preparation of monitoring reports on SDGs implementation. Both the DRF and M&E framework helped the ministries to establish a result-based monitoring system for tracking the progress of implementation of SDGs and 8FYP. The project also supported the PMO and GED in organizing the conference on SDG implementation review (SIR) for evaluating the progress implementation of SDGs.

As a nodal government agency GED in collaboration with Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics (BBS) actively promoted the engagement and capacity development of the ministries/divisions/agencies in establishing the essential data for monitoring and evaluating progress against the SDGs. This capacity building training enhanced their capacity to produce, interpret, and utilize the data to monitor and report progress towards SDG indicators as well as filled the existing data gap.

SC4SDG project together with government has adopt 'whole-of-the-society' approach for SDGs implementation involving Government Agencies, NGOs, INGOs, CSOs, Development Partners, Private Sectors, Academia, Professionals, Local Authority, and other relevant stakeholders in order to reach out and engage the furthest behind first. As part of the implementation strategy, the project focused on COVID-19 recovery strategies such as green and sustainable recovery, better data governance for better COVID-19 recovery decision-making, etc. Therefore, the project established Research and Analytics Unit (RAU) to provide research support for informed economic policymaking in the context of LDC status graduation and support the formulation of accelerated economic recovery.

4.1 Accountability

SC4SDG project maintained a robust management system to support implementation of its programmatic activities based on the principles of the governance. It operated under the Direct Implementation Modality (DIM) in close consultation with the GED and other counterparts in executing the project to ensure accountability. All policies and procedures, including UNDP financial rules and regulations as well as the internal control frameworks, were applied for the implementation of the programme (e.g., the procurement of goods and services, recruitment of project personnel etc.) to ensure accountability.

The project not only created its own accountability but also have ensure implementing agency also be held accountable to the country which is mandated to fulfil by contributing towards achieving its FYP, Delta Plans and SDGs. During its implementation, it was able to continuous increasing transparency and accountability by addressing institutional and policy weaknesses, through establishing rule of law, upholding LNOB rights and boosting good governance of the GED and other relevant ministries/divisions/agencies. Among them, the project has supported GoB to map the ministries/divisions by SDG targets and prepared the revised mapping document on "Revised Mapping of Ministries/Divisions and Custodian/Partner Agencies for SDG Implementation in

Bangladesh” in 2021. Through this formal SDGs implementation strategy each ministry also held accountable to government for their progress towards achievement of SDGs both in national and international level. Following this document, GoB prepared the first SDG Action plan in align with the 7th Five Year Plan which has also created opportunity to align their performance accordingly APA. In addition to this, project has provided technical cooperation to GED to develop SDGs monitoring and reporting activities as such VNR reports, SDGs Progress reports, SDGs M&E framework development etc. All these efforts have influenced policymakers to take decisions to create a more enabling environment through setting a precedent of accountability and providing data for evidence-based decisions.

The project also remained well positioned with strong connections, collaborative and accountable to UNDP and UNDP-UNEP PEA by managing it planned activities, implementation and reporting effectively. Accountability towards different government agencies was ensured through Core SDGs Team (CST) meetings. Funding was granted following and according to UNDP processes, policies, and regulations. In addition, for each output, SC4SDG has consulted the relevant institution for planning, implementation, and approval purposes. Such coordinating and management systems are important measures to prevent corruption and to ensure accountability, transparency, non-discrimination, participation and efficiency and successful execution of the project. Moreover, Annual Work Plan (AWP) and progress have been shared with CST committee members for their approval. The core members of CST include representatives from General Economic Division, Economic Relations Division, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Prime Minister’s Office, Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics.

Besides, SC4SDG being the strategic project has to monitor the government’s SDGs implementation along with 8FYP. UNDP supported GoB in preparing the revised SDG mapping document, M&E Framework, SDGs Progress Reports and review of the First SDG Action Plan. These documents are pivotal for the Government and UNDP to monitor, track, assess and analyze the SDG impact management and finance as well as accelerate the implementation of SDGs in Bangladesh. This has established a robust system contributing to greater accountability.

4.2 Quality of Partnerships with Stakeholders

SC4SDG project has identified a number of initiatives across a number of divergent sectors and in the process of a formal working relationship with government relevant ministries/division/agencies along with well-established academic and research institution has been developed through partnership. To reach out the most disadvantage and marginalized people such as disadvantaged women and girls, ethnic minorities, persons with disabilities, youths and students, the project established partnership with CSOs, the Daily Newspapers, Think-Tanks, Academia which have implemented different thematic based interventions. The key partners were General Economic Division (GED), Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics (BBS), Prime Minister’s Office (PMO), Centre for Policy Dialogue (CPD), The Daily Star and Prothom Alo, Daffodil International University (DIU), United Nations Youth and Students Association of Bangladesh (UNYSAB), Aspire to Innovate (a2i) project, INFF4SDGs project etc. SC4SDG project has established linkages with these organizations to make sure that public interest issues related to SDGs can be more deeply anchored in public demand. These partnerships have fostered more inclusive, collaborative and responsive environment within and among the organization in formulating evidence-informed SDG policy and plans and hence added great value to means and end-results of the project.

SC4SDG project throughout its implementation has demonstrated the importance of partnership and communication for enhancing society-wide participation in SDGs and achieving long-lasting and positive impacts on SDGs implementation. Therefore, the project was committed to demonstrate its communication and outreach activities throughout its implementation time.

SC4SDG project, in collaboration with the Daffodil International University (DIU) - a renowned private university in Bangladesh, organized two online webinars on the role of academia in achieving the SDGs. The discussion sessions focused on the importance of incorporating SDGs in the academic curriculum of the universities and sensitizing the youths about SDGs. The panellists' highlighted the need for an inter-disciplinary education system with an emphasis on development issues such as gender, poverty, environment, and climate change. Moreover, social cohesion through youth participation was identified as indispensable to establishing a systematic approach in the education system. Furthermore, the webinars captured discussion on the role of media in generating evidence-based solutions and disseminating best practices on SDGs.

The project in partnership with the Centre for Policy Dialogue (CPD), few major activities were carried out. Among them, a conference on "SDG and Youth in Bangladesh: Present Perspectives and Future Outlook", brought together more than 500 participants, including high-profile personnel, youth representatives from different parts of Bangladesh, youth organizers, leaders of civil platform affiliates, international development partners, and students across the nation attended. The national youth conference on SDGs was live streamed through social media platforms including the Citizen's Platform which increased the visibility of the project's activities. A wider stakeholder consultation on Bangladesh's development experience in Sylhet and Rangamati. CPD reported event detail on their Citizen's Platform for SDGs, Bangladesh with the title - Giving Voice to the "Left Behind": Sylhet Consultation and Giving Voice to the "Left Behind": Rangamati Consultation.

In addition to this, the project continues to enhance partnership with The Daily Star (Daily English Newspaper) and Prothom Alo (Daily Bangla Newspaper). They have contributed to wider dissemination of SC4SDG project's outreach programme. The Daily Star launched an online campaign "My Goal", to showcase the voices of people from different walks of life to promote the SDGs. The campaign received support and participation from several key Bangladeshi influencers, including the Resident Representative of UNDP Bangladesh. Under this campaign, a microsite was developed where 648 youths shared their thoughts on different SDGs. The microsite was accessed by nearly 10,000 people. The contents of this campaign were widely shared on social networks such as Facebook and Twitter. The campaign reached out to wider readers of The Daily Star (4 million readers per month). Also, an article on the "My Goal" campaign was published. The Daily Star published another OP-ED on roundtable consultation and a supplement on the 'My Goal' campaign which helped to increase the outreach potential for reaching wider audience.

One more OP-ED was published in the Daily Star on the importance of youth's participation in SDG implementation titled "Let the youth participate in our SDG journey." Besides, The Daily Star organized a roundtable consultation titled "Consultation with Wider Stakeholders on SDGs 5, 8, and 13 through the Whole of Society Approach" with high-profile political leaders, senior government officials, think tanks, academia, INGOs, CSOs, and media. The event emphasized the importance of the "Whole of Society" approach in achieving SDGs, especially SDGs 5, 8, and 13.

Along with this, The Daily Bangla Newspaper – 'Prothom Alo' has published a Bangla supplement and a snapshot of the event in their youth magazine on national youth summit. Another OP-ED on "Role of Online Service Providers in Promoting Responsible Consumption and Production" with

online service providers was published in both English and Bangla by Daily Prothom Alo. Also, they organized a divisional-level SDG youth campaign titled “SDG Youth Campaign 2022: Importance of Participation of young women and men in SDGs” with a special focus on young women to inform and inspire a larger number of youths, especially women, to support the implementation of the SDGs. The campaign was launched both online and physically to reach as many youths as possible.

The SC4SDG project recognized the importance and potential of partnership for achieving the long-lasting and positive impacts of Sustainable Development Goals specially for building capacity for generating data, bringing economic prosperity, reaching LNOB objective and attaining social inclusion and environmental protection & establishing peaceful society. To make it more sustainable, the project was continued to strengthen its partnership through constant communication with UNDP-UNEP PEA for SDGs project, Country Office, social media and media houses.

Moreover, SC4SDG project implemented COVID-19 response initiative in collaboration with the LGIs and other projects of UNDP - Efficient and Accountable Local Governance (EALG), Strengthening Women's Ability for Productive New Opportunities (SWAPNO), and Strengthening Inclusive Development in Chittagong Hill Tracts (SID-CHT) projects. The COVID-19 project was taken up as an emergency initiative to provide income and food support to the poor/ultra-poor of the project area, stem transmission of the highly infectious disease and economic loss to the most vulnerable segments of the population. The COVID-19 interventions under SC4SDG project were primarily targeted female headed household and destitute women as the female are disproportionately affected by a pandemic/or natural calamities. 1,300 poor female -headed households were provided with BDT 1,500 per household in Kurigram via bKash for meeting their daily need during ‘Stay at Home’ call. Also, 1,500 poor female-headed households received food baskets to meet their food crisis during COVID-19 outbreaks in Bandarban and more than 50% of them were recipients from indigenous community. The beneficiaries list gave priority to women particularly those are widow and disable. The entire programme was designed so that project intervention to some extent addresses the issue of gender inequalities and enhance women’s empowerment and reach out to the people that are disadvantaged.

4.3 Technical Capacity

Strengthening institutional capacity as well as building capacity of the public officials was one of the key mainstays of the project towards supporting the Government with matters related to SDGs. Providing the technical capacity support to GED was as part of human capital and building institutional capacity towards improving the quality-of-service delivery systems and enhancing the effectiveness of monitoring and evaluation (M&E) processes.

SC4SDG provided support to GED in a wide-ranging groundwork towards the achievement of SDGs by providing evidence-based information about the opportunities and challenges of the country in its way of achieving SDGs through research, analysis, training, stakeholder consultations, and mapping available information etc. Furthermore, the project mainstreamed the poverty, gender equality, climate and environment agenda through integrating these into all relevant sections of the plans and policies in making economic growth more environmentally sustainable. GED provided the overall coordination and leadership role by revising the mapping document and reassigned the role and responsibilities of the ministries. To implement this properly, a series of workshops, meetings and consultations engaging relevant ministries/divisions and other stakeholders were arranged to advance the SDGs agenda.

SC4SDG in collaboration with GED and BBS organized 11 metadata training (on SDG indicators 17.14.1; 17.15.1; 17.16.1; 16.7.1; 16.7.2; 5.c.1; 14.2.1; 12.2.1; 12.2.2, 2.c.1 and 11.3.1) and 02 follow-up consultation workshops on SDG indicators (i) 17.14.1, 17.15.1, 17.16.1 and (ii) 12.2.1, 12.2.2, 14.2.1 to generate the data for informed-based policy decision and monitoring the SDG implementation progress. This capacity building exercise enabled themselves to provide data and statistics to achieve the fundamental vision and goals of the sustainable development agenda, eliminate poverty and ensure no one is left behind. As a result of this Government started reporting on SDG indicators 5.c.1 and 16.7.1. This fast-tracking of data generation was an important enabler to leverage the change in achieving SDGs and measures Bangladesh's progress in SDGs achievement. Project was focused to strengthen the end-to-end data ecosystem of BBS. Project supported government for better development outcome on monitoring and evaluation arenas by preparing and reviewing the first SDG Action Plan, DRF of 8FYP and revised SDG M&E framework etc.

SDGs will be implemented through three consecutive Five Year Plans, i.e., 7th, 8th, and 9th Five Year Plans covering the duration of SDGs period. GED with the technical support of the SC4SDG project, prepared and published the first "National Action plan of Ministries/Divisions by Targets for the Implementation of SDGs" to realize the twin objectives of achieving the goals and targets of the 7th Five-Year Plan and the SDGs. Since the 8th five-year plan has already been rolled out, this warranted a thorough review of the first Action Plan to pave the path for developing the next version of the Action Plan in alignment with the 8th Five Year Plan. In line with this, the project commissioned a study to review the performance of the first national SDG action plan. To this end, the project organized a series of consultation workshops involving various ministries, divisions and agencies of the government responsible for the implementation of the SDGs in the country, to determine the types of projects/ programs and intervention needed to attain the SDGs targets set in the "Development Results Framework (DRF)" of the 8th FYP to be implemented till 2025. These exercises helped the Government to develop the second SDG Action Plan in alignment with the 8th Five Year Plan.

4.4 Communication and Advocacy

A key aim of the SC4SDG project is to encourage greater use of evidence based studies to inform policy decisions and engage a wider community in developing public interest driven solutions. The outcome, recommendations and findings of different consultations, meetings and workshops was shared at the national level key policy makers including ministries/divisions/agencies as well as with CST members to identify areas where more initiatives from different parts are required. Project also took bold and transformative steps to shift the paradigm to find out areas where project can intervene in future or advocate at local and national level.

- The SC4SDG project recognized the importance of partnership, visibility, and communication for enhancing society-wide participation in SDGs and achieving long-lasting and positive impacts on SDGs implementation. Therefore, the project was committed to strengthening its communication and outreach activities.
- The activities to enhance partnerships, visibility and communication were impeded during the first wave of the COVID-19 crisis. However, the project developed a 'Communication and Advocacy Strategy' in 2020 to help the project identify and address priorities for the project's efficient implementation and visibility. In this context, the project has created a

Facebook page, YouTube channel, and Twitter account to increase the project's visibility and establish communication with the wider stakeholders through social media. Correspondingly, a project logo was also designed for branding purpose of the project.

- The project advocated to engage wider stakeholders in SDG implementation across the nation. It also emphasized on strengthening partnership and coordination among government, private sector, NGOs, media and civil society through various activities. To achieve the objective of the leave no one behind, the project organized a national youth conference as well as online and offline campaigns to engage youths in implementing SDGs.
- The project has also collaborated with the prominent English and Bangla media outlet, the Daily Star and Daily Prothom Alo, which created an opportunity for the project to reach out to their reader and youth-based organizations. Partnerships with media houses and think tanks played a significant role in increasing outreach as well as reaching the wider stakeholders including the left-behind communities and comprehensive audience. Partnering with the prominent media houses has helped in reaching out to a large section (2000) of the youths, women, and marginalized groups at the national as well as regional levels.
- The project has also made significant strides in expanding the visibility of the project's activities through social media and print media platforms. As a result of the media partnership, several news reports, supplements, op-eds were published in the Daily Prothom Alo and Daily Star on the importance of wider stakeholders' participation in SDG implementation.
- The project posted the news of all events such as workshops, training, and consultation meetings on its official Facebook and Twitter handles, YouTube channel and other social media accounts. The project also posted the news of all events, including training and consultation meetings, on its official Facebook page. The project has also regularly shared the event briefs with UNDP Bangladesh and UNEP-PEA4SDGs to facilitate uploading of posts on their respective websites. The Bangladesh country page of the UNEP-PEA4SDGs website contains all the latest news on the activities undertaken by the SC4SDG project. The news of project's activities was also published in UNDP's weekly magazine "THE WEEK" and "FORTNIGHT" to communicate the learnings and outcomes of the events with the colleagues of UNDP Bangladesh.

5. MANAGEMENT EFFECTIVENESS

5.1 Project Design

“Strengthening Institutional Capacity for SDGs Achievement in Bangladesh (SC4SDG)” was a multi-year initiative to support the Government of Bangladesh (GoB). This initiative is the successor of the “Support to Sustainable and Inclusive Planning (SSIP)” project and “Engaging with Institutions (EI)”, IP project and aims at providing technical assistance in the formulation of evidence-based policy, implementation, localization, monitoring, evaluation, reporting and outreach of SDGs in Bangladesh. The project was designed aiming to extend support in scoping innovative financing options and adopting financing strategies for SDGs implementation. Besides, the project, in partnership with the Aspire to Innovate (a2i) project, intends to provide technical assistance to GoB for green and sustainable economic recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic. UNDP has been a long-standing partner of the GoB in achieving global goals since the MDGs era. In previous interventions, UNDP worked largely with the public sector; but for SDGs, it cannot be achieved without the support of non-state stakeholders given its wideness and depth of the 2030 Global Development Agenda. Therefore, the project worked beyond the conventional partnership with the government to the private sector, NGOs, CSOs, think tanks, academia, and media to ensure the ‘whole of the society’ approach to attain SDGs.

Six years ago, member states of the United Nations (UN) adopted the 2030 Agenda with 17 identified Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) to achieve inclusive, people-centered, and holistic development together. The Government of Bangladesh (GoB) as a signatory of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, is committed to pursuing and achieving the SDGs by 2030. To demonstrate the deep commitment, the project facilitated the Government to its pledge made to the international community at the UN, the project has prioritized the integration of the SDGs into its national plans and policies (medium-term plans of 7FYP and 8FYP, ministries and divisions wise SDGs mapping, SDGs M&E framework, SDGs need assessment and financing strategy, SDGs action plan, etc.) and has created the institutional arrangements (establishment apex SDGs Implementation and Review Committee supported by implementation committees at the division, district and sub-district levels) that will be devising appropriate policies, programs, institutional and financial arrangements to accelerate the implementation of SDGs in Bangladesh. In addition, the project started engaging the government in the process of localizing SDGs, particularly at the District and Upazila level. Accordingly, the Government has identified a set of 39+1 priority indicators for the localization of SDGs in order to reach out and engage the furthest behind first. In this context, the project has adopted the Whole-of-the-Society approach for SDGs implementation involving Government Agencies, NGOs, INGOs, CSOs, Development Partners, Private Sectors, Academia, Professionals, Local Authority, and other relevant stakeholders.

The project has encouraged and supported Government of Bangladesh to prioritize the integration of the SDGs into its national plans and policies. Ministries/Divisions/Agencies/Custodian Agencies given responsibilities for SDGs implementation, National Action Plan finalized, Data gap analysis conducted, Monitoring and Evaluation Framework finalized, Financing strategy regulated to accelerate the implementation of SDGs in Bangladesh. With the help of the project, Bangladesh has already published two SDGs Progress Reports in 2020 and 2022 to track the implementation status of SDGs in the country. This work has enabled Bangladesh to be recognized (Hon'ble Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina received SDG Progress Award 2021) by the UN-sponsored Sustainable Development Solutions Network (SDSN) for its endeavours in responding to the Global Agenda 2030.

The project also emphasized data generation as without credible and quality data, illustration of progress on SDGs implementation would be challenging. Therefore, the National Data Coordination Committee (NDCC) has been constituted 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 COVID-19 crisis brought about a set of new challenges that project had to face. The pandemic resulted not only in the loss of thousands of lives, but also the loss of innumerable numbers of livelihoods, with millions of the country's populations losing jobs and falling into poverty. Particularly affected have been low-skilled wage-earners and other vulnerable and marginalized groups who have been particularly adversely affected. In this backdrop and to ameliorate the suffering of the poor, the SC4SDG project took the initiative to stand by the poorest and disadvantaged communities as COVID-19 response and crisis recovery facility. COVID-19 response initiative of SC4SDG successfully extended support by providing necessary food/ cash support to the poor, disable, and women headed households who are depended on day-to-day income and is facing a serious income loss due to stay at home call. Assistance was offered to local administration and Union Parishad by providing Personal Protective Equipment (PPE), Thermal Scanner (Infrared Thermometer), megaphone (hand mike) and Pulse Oximeters to manage their COVID-19 response ensuring health precautions. In collaboration with other projects of UNDP, these immediate supports have been provided to Government of Bangladesh to prevent the COVID-19 and limiting the local transmission and District Administration, Government of Bangladesh.

5.2 OVERSIGHT

A wide range of partners and stakeholders, UN agencies, other development partners, civil society organizations and the private sector were fully and actively engaged in the process. They played a lead role in project decision-making, implementation and monitoring throughout the project. The national level key stakeholders including Government ministries/divisions/agencies, General Economics Division (GED) of Bangladesh Planning Commission, Prime Minister's Office (PMO); Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics (BBS); Local Government Division (LGD); Ministry of Finance (MoF); SDGs Implementation and Review Committee; Bangladesh Bank (BB); Ministry of Commerce (MoC); Ministry of Labour and Employment (MoL); Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC); Key Upazilas; other local level subnational agencies and the Core SDG Team (CST) who were fully engaged in the implementation and monitoring of the project activities. They played pivotal roles in policy directions and decisions of the Project.

The Core SDG Team (CST) - the highest-level policy and oversight body for the project, Chaired by the Joint Chief, GED and the Adviser Body lead by the GED Member (Secretary) - provides policy guidelines, reviews progress against targeted results, and ensures coordination with other national initiatives and development projects. The main responsibilities of the CST are:

- Review national level reports from the project and provide policy direction;
- Endorse and approved the Annual Work Plan (AWP);
- Provide oversight and review progress against targeted results;
- Provide policy guidelines adjusted to meet changing management needs;
- Recommend actions to reflect new or changed policy direction in national planning documents;
- Provide inter-ministerial coordination and cross-sectoral coordination;

- Promote better coordination through supporting the SDG Implementation and Review Committee;
- Support implementation review and commission progress evaluation to showcase achievement;
- Promote sharing knowledge and best practices.

5.3 Monitoring and Evaluation

The project was embedded with a rigorous monitoring and evaluation system to ensure effective and efficient interventions throughout the project period. The project followed a multi-dimensional approach to monitoring the quality and quantity of the activities. This system was built following the UNDP's Result Based Monitoring (RBM) system, where all the activities measured through SMART results indicators. The project has a specific Results and Resource Framework following the Theory of Change (TOC) to measure the achievements. Most of the output and outcome logically fit in this TOC. The project time to time monitored and updated the risk and assumption which has been identified at design phase to see if it has any effect in achieving targeted results.

The SC4SDG's Theory of Change (ToC) remains a central tool for monitoring the progress of project implementation and decision making on adaptations that are made to strategic interventions. Following achievement of the key results, the project conducted its Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) activities against the results and the set of measurable indicators that clearly specify the baselines and targets. The M&E framework of the project was developed based on intensive consultations with the GED once the project was initiated. Results-based management principles was applied in the design and implementing the M&E framework and plan. In CST meeting team members discussed the implementation progress, challenges, performance monitoring, and identify areas for further collaboration on a half-yearly basis.

5.5 Cost-Effectiveness and Timely Delivery

The project has designed its activities within the available resources to achieve the expected results though there was shortage of funds till the end of the project. The project had an updated procurement plan, and it annually reviewed operational bottlenecks to procuring inputs in a timely manner and addresses them through appropriate management actions. The project's procurement plan was carefully reviewed and updated every year and being shared with country office of UNDP every year. The project conducted its procurement as per plan under DIM modality. Any bottleneck was addressed as and when required.

The Project monitored its own cost as regular basis as well as monitored the expenditure and analysed cost efficiencies in terms of geographical coverage, beneficiaries outreach and fund disbursement. Quarterly progress data has informed regular reviews of the project work plan to ensure that the activities implemented are most likely to achieve the desired results. The data and lessons learned have been used to inform course corrections, as needed and necessary budget revisions were made. The AWP were reviewed regularly in every year based on the information received/gathered from GED and the necessary budget revisions were made through these reviews. Besides, the project was run in a cost-effective manner by following the competitive project management and procurement procedures of best value for money; fairness, integrity and transparency; effective competition; and the interest of UNDP. Multiple products were procured in a single bid that ensured timeliness of procurement and cost-effectiveness.

6. IMPLEMENTATION CHALLENGES & LESSONS LEARNED

6.1 Challenges

Since the project started its implementation in 2020 and faced unprecedented interruptions due to the persistence of COVID-19 in Bangladesh. Implementation of the planned activities halted due to COVID-19 continuation in 2021 too. The country went under a nationwide lockdown throughout the first and second quarter of 2021 and gradually re-opened with COVID restrictions. Hence, the project had to face enormous challenges in implementing the AWP. Ensuring physical distance, maintaining health protocol, and frequent switching to alternative work modalities were the hurdles that the project had to overcome to maintain the work tempo. Some critical prescheduled activities had to be rearranged, for instance, residential SDG metadata training workshops, research studies, and the piloting of SDG localization. Moreover, the transition in the leadership in GED and limited coping mechanisms of the government counterparts have also deferred some of the planned activities of the project.

6.1.1 Change in implementation modality:

SC4SDG faced major difficulties in implementing the activities scheduled 2022 as a decision came from the Government for changing the project implementation modality from Direct Implementation Modality (DIM) to National Implementation Modality (NIM). Senior Management of UNDP intervened and tried to resolve the issue in consultation with the Government.

6.1.2 Change in GED leadership and transfer of GED Officials:

The change in leadership and transfer of some of the experienced GED officials impacted the project's planned activities. The project adopted alternative strategies, for example, conducting a study on blended finance or organizing the youth conference under the banner of UNDP, arranging metadata training workshops in collaboration with BBS, etc., to implement the activities planned during 2021 and 2022.

6.1.3 Disruption of activities due to the pandemic

A spike in Covid-19 cases stalled project activities, particularly in the first two years. The country was under movement restrictions during 2020-2022 imposed by the Government due to the alarming rise of the new COVID variant Omicron. Therefore, the many scheduled activities of the project were postponed. The project adopted alternative working modalities (e.g., work from home) and did all preparatory works for implementing the planned activities. However, ensuring physical distance, maintaining health protocol, and frequent switching to alternative work modalities were the hurdles that the project had to overcome to maintain the work tempo. Some critical prescheduled activities had to be rearranged, for instance, the fieldwork of the baseline study of SDG localization slowed down due to the COVID movement restrictions. The project was in constant touch with GED to find a suitable alternative mechanism to deliver this activity.

6.1.4 Unavailability of disaggregated data

Data paucity is a major challenge that Bangladesh is facing with. Unavailability of disaggregated data is another challenge. BBS and GED's focus were to create the disaggregated data so that they can provide government a complete picture of an indicator. However, it is not possible for government alone to collect this level data. To overcome this data challenge GoB is being pursued

to use data from wider stakeholders' such as private sector, NGOs, CSOs, think-tanks, research studies etc. to reduce data gap.

6.1.5 Database on environmental statistics

NRA/NCA will ensure a database on environmental statistics for proper intervention of the Sustainable Environmental Management and measuring the progress of the targets of the Five-Year Plans, Perspectives Plan, Delta Plan and SGDs by timely disseminating statistical information. However, due to fund crunch, this database is yet to in place which hampering to create proper statistics on environment and climate change. To implementing the United Nations System of Environmental-Economic Accounting (SEEA) requires vast public finance and private investment.

6.1.6 Blue Bond - an innovative tool for finance public investment

The bond market in Bangladesh is taking shape and has an appetite for absorbing new types of bonds. There are opportunities and demands from investors in Bangladesh. A recent example is an introduction of the 'Sukuk' bond in the country, which has been over-subscribed. In Bangladesh, the blue economy has an enormous prospect. However, the lack of consciousness and expertise in this area needs to be addressed to explore the full potential of the blue economy in the country. It is also urgent to develop a strong pipeline of bankable projects. Bangladesh will require to emphasize investigating new innovative financing strategies to engage the private sector in financing the overarching SDGs. In this regard, the blue bond can be an innovative tool to finance public investment, particularly in projects related to ocean and marine that will ultimately contribute to environmental sustainability and poverty reduction in the country. Strong collaboration among key agencies of the Government will be crucial to launching the blue bond in the bond market.

6.1.7 Strong network among different UN agencies

SC4SDG's one of the key challenges was to provide metadata training to the government official on SDG indicators. It was difficult to finding an international expert to provide training on scoring and computation methodology on SDG metadata. Maintaining a strong network among different UN agencies and other international organizations was the immediate solution to secure the services of international experts. This inter-agency collaboration should increase by taking joint interventions.

6.2 Lessons Learned

6.2.1 Lessons Learned 1: Pre-assessment exercise explored the data generation challenges

During the metadata training workshops, the pre-assessment exercise revealed that ministries/divisions/agencies might face various data generation challenges for SDG reporting. Therefore, communication and coordination between the BBS, custodian agencies and designated ministries/divisions/departments must be ensured to report and implement SDGs in Bangladesh. Nevertheless, the designated ministries and agencies ensured that all methods would be developed that are aligned with existing international statistical standards and frameworks. Moreover, participants of these workshops are expected to generate quality SDG data, which can be used in monitoring the progress of SDGs implementation. Moreover, it is expected that participants of these

training workshops will be able to provide future training to share the good practices in their organisations, countries, and regions.

6.2.2 Lessons Learned 2: Strong network with Civil Society and Thinktanks

Since Bangladesh is a heaven of NGOs/INGOs and has a very strong network of Civil Society and Thinktanks, it is important that a regular interaction and exchange of ideas calls for separate intervention. This vast area of knowledge wealth cannot be achieved through few interventions. A combined interaction between the public and non-state stakeholders can ameliorate the disconnect and make ‘Whole of the Society’ approach meaningful by connecting dots.

6.2.3 Lessons Learned 3: Regular reviews are fundamental to achieving SDGs

Monitoring and evaluation are key to measuring any progress. Regular, robust, and inclusive reviews are fundamental to achieving SDGs. The recent review of the National SDGs Action Plan has critically assessed the progress made by the Ministries/Divisions and analyzed the gaps. This review of the current SDGs Action Plan helped government to identify the challenges and pave the way for preparing the second SDGs Action Plan in line with the 8FYP.

6.2.3 Lessons Learned 4: Media’s role for better outreach

Strong collaboration with partner institutions can help to develop alternative strategies to minimize the multi-faceted disruption during a pandemic. There is no alternative to collaboration with key partners and stakeholders to raise awareness. It is worth mentioning that the partnership with the Prothom-Alo for the divisional-level campaign made a strong impact in reaching out to a wide section of the youths, including young women and young from left-out communities of the country. So, the media partnership with the Daily Prothom Alo for this national event will add value to showcase the campaign's success to our development partners and other senior members of the UN system. Due to this partnership, the overall campaign and the national event will have a lasting impact on youth, especially young women.

7. SUSTAINABILITY AND EXIT STRATEGY

SC4SDG project developed best practices for sustainable change and achieving SDGs which were embedded in the project objective. The project was designed to support GED in implementing SDGs in the country. The project also worked with SDGs Implementation and Review Committee, Local Government Division (LGD), Prime Minister's Office (PMO), key Upazilas, local level subnational agencies, Private Sectors, Civil Society Organizations (CSOs), Non-Government Organizations (NGOs), academia and media. The project maintained the 'whole-of-society' approach in engaging all relevant stakeholders and incorporating the feedback received from the stakeholders into policy planning. Through its activities, the project enabled the issues relating to women, youth, people with disability and marginalized populations were addressed while formulating plans/policies/strategies in order to ensure the aspiration of SDG's 'Leave No One Behind'. All these activities ensured that the project has embedded sustainability through integrating whole of society approach along with LNOB.

- ❖ **Financial:** The project has promoted financial sustainability in terms of proper utilization of funding and providing models and best practices of capacity building training for government officials to fill the data gap in achieving SDGs; providing technical support to adopt the Whole-of-the-Society approach for SDGs implementation involving Government Agencies, NGOs, INGOs, CSOs, Development Partners, Private Sectors, Academia, Professionals, Local Authority, and other relevant stakeholders; adopting financing strategies for SDGs implementation etc.
- ❖ **Best practices of government officials training:** It is envisaged that the capacities built in governments, coupled with long term advisory support beyond the project duration. This process should be maintained and strengthened over time by the government as well as UNDP. This longer-term advisory support should be captured in a second phase UNDP SDG project to cover the period beyond 2023 (up to a maximum of 2030).
- ❖ **Use of SDGs knowledge products:** From the outset, this project directly aimed to generate ownership and therefore long-term sustainability by responding to the needs identified by the GED. The project produced SDGs related knowledge products is aligned with the Government's 8th national development plans July 2020-June 2025 and the Vision 2021 strategy that places strong emphasis on establishing a legacy of good governance by focusing on three fundamental principles of governance, ensuring the rule of law, avoiding political partisanship, and building a society free from corruption.
- ❖ **Integrated financing framework:** Incentives for inclusive environmental sustainability include a green financing strategy and roadmap for the national integrated financing framework. The project developed a sustainable financial system for "SDG Need Assessment and Financing Strategy: The Bangladesh Perspective" has provided a well-defined work plan that highlighted all the actions necessary to attain significant progress in the SDGs in Bangladesh. It has also identified the key development interventions and to develop a well-defined roadmap for long term planning. This report provided an estimate of the annual resource gap and an opportunity to revise the government interventions and financing strategies accordingly.
- ❖ **Created a stronger network with wider stakeholder:** The project has created a stronger network of 'Whole-of-the-Society' approach for SDGs implementation involving Government

Agencies, NGOs, INGOs, CSOs, Development Partners, Private Sectors, Academia, Professionals, Local Authority, and other relevant stakeholders.

- ❖ **NDCC and CST:** The project has supported NDDC Platform and CST which is oversight for national level SDGs monitoring. This platform will continue to be strengthening the technical capacity of the committee and support the government in SDGs achievement.
- ❖ **Policy Practice:** Project has helped government to produce reports, research papers, reviewing action plan for evidence-based policy decision. These resources will be useful until 2030 to influence policymakers to take decisions to create a more enabling environment for attaining SDGs and five-year plans.

8. FINANCIAL REPORTING

Year	Budget	Utilization	Difference	Reason of Variance
Year 1:2020	677,883.23	677,882.70	0.53	
Year 2: 2021	986,192.34	884,433.60	101,758.74	
Year 3: 2022	1,426,479.00	1,302,068.69	124,410.31	
Year 4: 2023 (Jan-Feb)	257,409.02			2023's information will be provided after finalization of Q1 CDR
Total	3,347,963.59	2,864,384.99	226,169.58	

9. CONCLUDING SUMMARY AND FUTURE DIRECTIONS

The project was extensively involved in the preparation of all the medium-term plans since the launch of SDGs. The project was, therefore, better positioned to influence the Government to integrate the SDGs in the national plan documents. Plans are the blueprints for achieving the country's development aspirations of becoming upper-middle-income country and achieving the SDGs. To achieve the SDGs, government need accurate, reliable and disaggregated data. GED needs to be well equipped in understanding these critical dimensions of the data and SDGs linkages with other commitments. They also need to be able to translate this understanding into concrete measures to realize SDGs commitment in an integrated manner. In this regard, the project could play a vital role in building capacity as well as supporting them at least before preparing the 9th FYP in align with SDGs.

- In partnership with the BBS, UNDP can work more robustly to make the data available for regular monitoring or updating to check the implementation progress of SDG. UNDP could be more actively engaged with BBS in understanding and addressing the business imperative to improve more disaggregated data to improve data governance. It is also evident that making the data available for some SDG indicators require extra budget. So, UNDP can assist the NSO to mobilize required fund to generate data for tracking SDG progress.
- Generation of credible and quality data is fundamental for SDG monitoring and evaluation in Bangladesh. Unfortunately, like many developing countries, data paucity hinders close monitoring of the SDGs implementation in Bangladesh. In order to generate SDG related data for reducing the problem of information asymmetry during monitoring of SDGs implementation require information of those living at the furthest (e.g. ethnic communities, disabled people, transgender people, etc.) making it a challenging job. Collaboration with key partners and stakeholders is crucial to raising awareness about identifying the data gaps and making the data available to implement the SDGs in Bangladesh.
- In addition to the public sector, it is necessary that in future the project should engage with the private sectors and think tank in generating data for reducing data gap in Bangladesh. It is difficult for the public sector alone to make available all the data required for SDG monitoring.
- Presently baseline data is available for 176 indicators, updating the rest of the indicators by 2023 will be critical. Baseline information needs to be established for the rest of the indicators, which also need to be in line with international reporting standards. Therefore, continuous capacity building of government officials on SDG metadata is indispensable.
- As a result of the project activities, data paucity in Bangladesh has significantly reduced. The availability of baseline data has increased from 68 to 176 SDG indicators. Bangladesh has started producing data on climate change, environment, and disaster management for the first time in the country's history. BBS is now in the process of collecting data on the environment, climate change, and disasters from primary sources. This exercise needs to be further supported.

- The first National Action Plan based on the plans of 43 Ministries and Divisions was reviewed recently. However, This report as well as 8FYP recognizes the inadequate capacities, technical knowledge and staffing due to very limited resources and inadequate coordination between ministries. This requires a strong coordination along with support from UNDP to regularly monitored and updated to check the progress of SDGs.
- UNDP should continue its partnership with the media houses to reach out to the wider stakeholders and disseminate the SDGs related knowledge products.
- The project should create more platforms like the ‘My Goal’ campaign to encourage the participation of wider stakeholders for SDG implementations, ensuring gender equality and promoting LNOB through its activities.
- PEA activities have made a difference in the integration of poverty-environment and climate change nexus in policy planning. Policy planners understand the importance of this issue to make development sustainable. These poverty-environment and climate change nexus should take forward.
- PEA support in localizing SDGs may help reach out to the poor living at the margin and empower them in order to improve their standard of living and raise their voices in national planning. Furthermore, it is a known fact that the involvement of local communities in safeguarding the climate and biodiversity of their respective areas is much more effective in protecting the environmental climate.
- The SDGs and its associated targets provide a suitable framework directly related to the responsibilities of local governments. Thus, local governments are increasingly considered as key stakeholders for combining the integrated and universal goals of the 2030 Agenda at the local level. However, support of other non-government entities like NGOs, CSOs, think-tanks level, and private sector and the local ownership of the SDGs is essential to reach out to the people at the furthest and speed up SDG localisation. Thus, a multi-stakeholder strategy needs to be employed to involve both local and national stakeholders, such as the Local Government Division (LGD), local government agencies, Upazila administration, NGOs, CSOs, media, researchers, businesses, and local communities, at various steps of mainstreaming the SDGs into local development perspectives and practices.
- Mobilising finance from actors beyond the government for the SDGs will require a policy and enabling environment that is conducive to sustainable, inclusive development of the private sectors and civil society. It will require effective collaboration between government and private stakeholders including dialogue on policy issues as well as specific targeted interventions.

ANNEX 1

Results Framework

Indicator	Baseline	EOP Target	Achievement	Remarks
Component 1: Evidence-informed SDG policy and plans formulated				
Output 1.1: Capacity of public officials enhanced to integrate SDGs into 8th Five Year Plan and develop related policies				
1.1.1: # of GoB officials trained on contextualization and prioritization of SDGs including poverty-environment	0 (Sep 2019)	400	592 (M: 446; F: 146)	
1.1.2: Progress towards operationalization of Core SDGs Team (CST) to support in activities relating to the global goals ³	2 (Sep 2019)	6	5	Due to NIM/ DIM modality, 02 planned meetings could not take place in 2022.
1.1.3: The extend of engagement in the preparation of 8 th Five Year Plan ⁴	0 (Sep 2019)	5	5	
1.1.4: # of public planners coached and trained on integration of SDGs into national policy plans	0 (Sep 2019)	200	259 (M: 208; F: 51)	
Output 1.2: Results based M&E System and capacities of 8th FYP established to track SDG performance				
1.2.1: # of public planners coached and trained on SDGs monitoring and evaluation	0 (Sep 2019)	200	237 (M:196; F: 41)	
1.2.2: # of Progress Report (or VNR) on SDG implementation, UNGA prepared regularly	7 (Sep 2019)	15	12	Since the project will be closing on 28 February 2023. Therefore, planned activities for 2023 was not included
1.2.3: # of stakeholder consultation workshops organized to receive feedback on SDG and 8 th FYP progress reporting	0 (Sep 2019)	3	1	Since the project will be closing on 28 February 2023. Therefore, planned activities for 2023 was not included
1.2.4: Development of and an agreement on DRF for the 8 th FYP through an inclusive process ⁵	0 (Sep 2019)	5	5	
Output 1.3: Research conducted on emerging issues of economy, social, environment and climate change and inclusion or analysis of gender dimension in all these areas to inform policy and planning				
1.3.1: # of knowledge products produced to enhance knowledge and capacity of the government policy makers to tackle emerging and challenging issues in SDGs achievement, including poverty-environment	1 (Sep 2019)	5	2	Since the project will be closing on 28 February 2023. Therefore, planned activities for 2023 was not included
1.3.2: # of consultations organized to receive feedback from wider stakeholders on knowledge products	0 (Sep 2019)	4	1	
Component 2: Systems and capacities in place to localize the SDGs				
Output 2.1: Capacities of local governments strengthened to mainstream SDGs in local plans and implementation frameworks				
2.1.1: # of training modules developed for enhancing capacity of local government officials on SDG localization	0 (Sep 2019)	1	0	This activity was planned for 2023
2.1.2: # of local government officials and wider stakeholders trained on SDG localization implementation	0 (Sep 2019)	45	0	This activity was planned for 2023
Output 2.2: SDG localization models piloted to encourage inclusive approaches for rolling out of SDG at local level				
2.2.1: # of all stakeholder Platform established for implementation of SDG localization	0 (Sep 2019)	5	0	This activity was planned for 2023
2.2.2 # of Upazila Action Plan developed to localize SDGs in five Upazilas ⁶	0 (Sep 2019)	1	1	A draft action plan has been submitted by the consulting firm. The draft is currently under review by the GED
2.2.3: # of Upazilas where SDG localization model rolled out	0 (Sep 2019)	5	0	This activity was planned for 2023
2.2.4: # of progress report on SDG localization developed and disseminated	0 (Sep 2019)	2	0	This activity was planned for 2023
Output 2.3: Policy papers on SDG localization informing policies and strategies to roll out SDG localization in Bangladesh				
2.3.1 # of research papers and case-studies on ‘SDG Localization’ produced, including poverty-environment	0 (Sep 2019)	3	2	The final report of the Baseline Study for SDG Localization has been submitted by the consulting firm. The

³ Formation of CST was completed in 2019. Operationalization refers to # of CST meeting organized to help the GoB in resolving issues relating to SDGs implementation, localization, monitoring, evaluation and reporting

⁴ Scale from 0 to 5: Inputs provided to the development of the Concept Note of the 8FYP – 1, 2 Background Studies conducted – 2, Involvement in the 8FYP Review Committee as member – 1, Reviewed Sector Documents and provide recommendations on the draft 8FYP - 1

⁵ Scale from 0 to 5: Sectors identified to be included in the DRF of the 8FYP – 1, Indicators developed – 1, Indicators Matrix developed (including data sources, baselines, milestones and targets) – 1, Chapter on Development Results Framework drafted – 1, Chapter accepted and included in the 8FYP – 1.

⁶ Modification may be required as per Upazila need

				draft is currently under review by the General Economics Division
2.3.2: # of consultation workshops organized to showcase the implementation status of SDGs localization	0 (Sep 2019)	2	1	
2.3.3: 'Annual High-Level Forum on 'SDG Localization' organized in collaboration with GED and LGD regularly	0 (Sep 2019)	3	1	Any initiative could not be taken in 2022 due to the project implementation modality issue. This activity was postponed to 2023.
Component 3: Financing for SDG Implementation is Secured and Prioritized				
Output 3.1: Gap analysis of resource requirement and revenue mobilization to identify weakness and anomalies and address those for SDGs achievement				
3.1.1 # of structured dialogue between public and private sector on regular basis organized	0 (Sep 2019)	6	1	
3.1.2 Analysis of resource gap conducted on regular basis (biannually) in light of SDGs Action Plan	0 (Sep 2019)	6	0	No activity was taken
Output 3.2: Models for mobilizing public and private resources towards key sectors and SDG targets tested and replicated				
3.2.1: # of studies conducted on integrated financing framework for aligning public and private resources	0 (Sep 2019)	5	1	
3.2.2 # of consultations organized involving private sector and other relevant stakeholders for exploring innovative strategies of resource mobilization	0 (Sep 2019)	3	2	
3.2.3 # of studies conducted on SDGs financing mechanism	0 (Sep 2019)	5	1	
Output 3.3: Budget reforms implemented to incorporate SDGs into budget formulation and tracking				
3.3.1 # of KPI developed for preparation of SDGs sensitive budgetary framework	0 (Sep 2019)	40	0	No activity was taken
3.3.2 # of GoB trained on SDG sensitive budget formulation, KPI development and SDG budget coding	0 (Sep 2019)	60	0	No activity was taken
Component 4: Partnerships and outreach for enhancing society wide participation in SDGs implementation ensured				
Output 4.1: Partnership with think-tanks, academia, CSOs and media established				
4.1.1 # of consultations organized involving think-tanks, academia, CSO, NGOs, youth, as well as differently abled groups on SDGs implementation and review process including poverty-environment	0 (Sep 2019)	8	5	A spike in Covid-19 cases stalled project activities, particularly in the first two years. Therefore, some of the scheduled activities of the project were postponed to 2023.
4.1.2 Annual conference/workshop organized involving students and youth engagement from different universities/institutions including poverty-environment	0 (Sep 2019)	3	1	
4.1.3 # of innovative campaign supported to youth-lead organization to raise awareness on SDGs including poverty-environment	0 (Sep 2019)	13	2	A spike in Covid-19 cases stalled project activities, particularly in the first two years. Therefore, some of the scheduled activities of the project were postponed to 2023. however, it has been decided that the SC4SDG project will be closed on 28 February 2023.
Output 4.2: Private sector engagement in achieving SDGs promoted				
4.2.1 # of regular consultation organized with all private sector actor for promoting SDGs implementation, including poverty-environment	0 (Sep 2019)	5	2	A spike in Covid-19 cases stalled project activities, particularly in the first two years. Therefore, some of the scheduled activities of the project were postponed to 2023. however, it has been decided that the SC4SDG project will be closed on 28 February 2023.
Output 4.3: Parliamentarians' engagement in achieving SDGs promoted				
4.3.1 # of parliamentarians trained to participate actively in SDGs implementation, including poverty environment	0 (Sep 2019)	70	0	It was not possible to organize this activity

4.3.2 # of engagement established with different Parliamentary Standing Committees and All-party Parliamentary Group in SDGs implementation and monitoring including poverty-environment	0 (Sep 2019)	15	0	as the targeted parliamentarians were too busy to tackle some national issues, including economic instability and the power sector crisis.
Component 5: Green and sustainable economic recovery from COVID-19 pandemic supported				
Output 5.1: COVID-19 recovery approach for smaller business rolled out				
5.1.1 Unified Business ID system developed	0 (Jun 2021)	1	1	
5.1.2 # of small business received Unique ID	0 (Jun 2021)	20000	17953	
5.1.3 # of digital Government-to- Business Services (G2B) developed for small businesses	0 (Jun 2021)	100	76	
5.1.4 Digital credit models for small businesses to improve access to finance piloted	0 (Jun 2021)	1	0	No activity was taken in 2022
5.1.5 # of policy advocacy and consultation workshop organized	0 (Jun 2021)	7	0	No activity was taken in 2022
5.1.6 # of One-stop physical service point/hub established for small business services	0 (Jun 2021)	400	0	No activity was taken in 2022
5.2 Resource mobilization for COVID-19 recovery and SDG implementation strengthened				
5.2.1 # of studies conducted on innovative financing solutions for post pandemic green growth and sustainable development	0 (Jun 2021)	3	2	
5.2.2 # of consultation meetings/workshops organized with public, private, and other stakeholders	0 (Jun 2021)	9	5	
5.2.3 Pilot conducted to provide policy support to channel micro-savings for public sector investment	0 (Jun 2021)	1	1	
5.3 Informed policymaking for COVID-19 economic recovery supported				
5.3.1 Progress of operationalization of Economic Policy Unit	0 (Jun 2021)	5	5	
5.3.2 # of indicators with availability of updated data	8 (Jun 2021)	30	15	
5.3.3 # of agencies providing updated data	3 (Jun 2021)	10	5	
5.3.4 # of consultations organized with relevant stakeholders	3 (Jun 2021)	17	10	

ANNEX 2

List of Publications

Sl #	Title of Publication	Year
1.	Consultation on Private Sector Engagement (PSE) in attaining Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in Bangladesh: Bonding & Beyond. Proceedings	January 2020
2.	Revised Monitoring and Evaluation Framework of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs): Bangladesh Perspective	April 2020
3.	Sustainable Development Goals: Bangladesh Progress Report 2020	April 2020
4.	†UKmB উন্নয়ন Afxó : evsjv†`k AMÖMwZ cÖwZ†e`b 2020 (Bs†iwR †_†K evsjvq Abyw`Z)	GwcÖj 2020
5.	Bangladesh Voluntary National Review 2020	June 2020
6.	Leaving No One Behind (LNOB) in Bangladesh; Recommendations for the 8th Five Year Plan for implementing Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)	September 2020
7.	Promoting Sustainable Blue Economy in Bangladesh Through Sustainable Blue Bond: Assessing the Feasibility of Instituting Blue Bond in Bangladesh	June 2021
8.	Bangladesh Moving Ahead with SDGs (Prepared for Bangladesh Delegation to 76th UNGA session 2021)	September 2021
9.	Revised Mapping of Ministries/Divisions and Custodian/Partner Agencies for SDG Implementation in Bangladesh	January 2022
10.	Workshop Proceedings on Annual High-Level Consultation on SDGs Localization and Efficient Use of Ocean Resources	May 2022
11.	Sustainable Development Goals: Bangladesh Progress Report 2022	December 2022

ANNEX 3

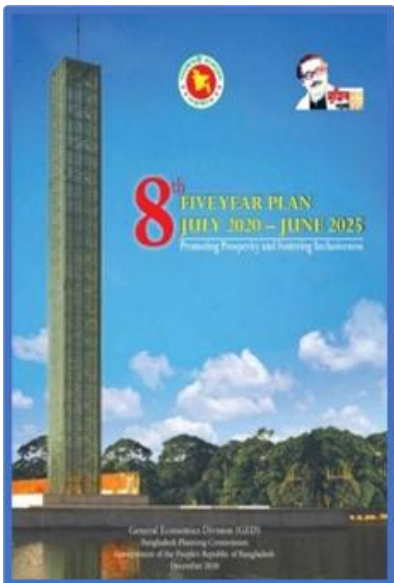
Pictorial Illustration of Project Activities



SC4SDG's photos tell the stories of different activities, including training, workshops, consultations, and knowledge products (2020-2022)

Case Story 1: Strengthening Institutional Capacity for Sustainable Development Goals project supports the formulation of Bangladesh’s 8th Five-Year Plan

The government of Bangladesh has been using five-year plans as a blueprint for realizing the country’s development aspirations for decades. The five-year plans have proven highly useful in implementing the Millennium Development Goals, the predecessor to Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The current plan is the country’s 8th Five-Year Plan (FYP), spanning from 2020 to 2025. This plan will be crucial to realizing the SDGs by 2030. The key focus of 8th FYP during the 2020-2025 period will be on creating sustainable jobs and reduction of poverty for inclusive growth. The 8th FYP also plans to ensure equal opportunities for all, mitigate the damages caused by the Covid-19 pandemic, and tackle the looming threat of climate change.



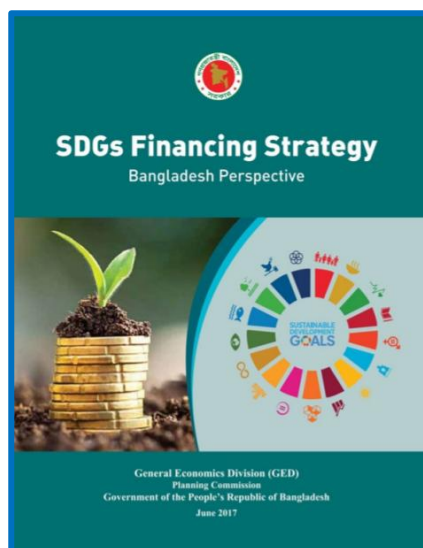
United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)’s Strengthening Institutional Capacity for SDGs Achievement in Bangladesh (SC4SDG) project with support from UNDP-UNEP Poverty-Environment Action for Sustainable Development Goals and Bangladesh Planning Commission’s General Economic Division has actively assisted the preparation of Bangladesh’s 8th FYP. The project provided technical support to add a separate chapter on the environment and climate change (Part 2, Chapter 8) in the 8th FYP and contributed to other chapters.

Poverty, environment, and climate change have been mainstreamed in the entire document. The discussion on poverty, environment and climate change in the five-year plan will direct the country’s policy strategies on the poverty-environment-climate nexus. 2

The country’s efforts in measuring the progress towards strategic objectives gained momentum following SCS4DG project’s intervention of including the Development Result Framework (DRF) in the FYPs. The DRF, containing 104 indicators for several SDGs, has been transformative in aligning the long-term strategic plans of the country with an evidenced-based approach to monitoring and evaluation. These indicators will help the government monitor and evaluate progress in the SDGs and assist in reaching the goals within the 2030 deadline with a priority on climate action, poverty alleviation and environmental sustainability.

“The key focus of inclusive growth strategy during the 8FYP period would be to create more jobs and reduce poverty than was possible in the 7FYP, ensure equal opportunities for all and tackle the adverse effects of COVID-19 and climate change.”

⁷ The series *Stories of Change* was prepared by UNDP–UNEP Poverty-Environment Action for Sustainable Development Goals



Case Story 2: Reviewing Bangladesh’s Sustainable Development Goals Financing Strategy to Encourage Investment in Critical Areas

Considering the rapidly approaching deadline for the achievement of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), Bangladesh is one of the pioneering countries to have undertaken a study on assessing additional financing needs for SDG implementation. The study determined that Bangladesh needs an additional US\$928.48 billion to implement the SDGs between 2017 and 2030. Of the estimated total additional cost, 85.1 per cent will be mobilized

from domestic sources. On average, the public sector will account for 33.5 per cent and the private sector would contribute 42.1 per cent. However, investment from the private sector is one of the key bottlenecks for Bangladesh. It has been stagnant at around 23.3 per cent of Gross Domestic Product for the fiscal years 2016-2020.

The country’s low score in The World Bank’s ease of doing business index points toward an environment that does not favour investment. There is low awareness of the SDGs among private investors as well.

“Updating SDG financing strategy with a special focus on Climate Finance, Renewable Energy and Water and Sanitation to guide the government to identify the bankable projects and encourage for more SDG-focused investment from the private sectors.”

With support from UNDP–UNEP Poverty-Environment Action for Sustainable Development Goals, the UNDP Strengthening Institutional Capacity for SDGs Achievement in Bangladesh (SC4SDG) project is supporting a review of the SDG Financing Strategy for

Bangladesh.

Considering the country’s aspirations for graduating from least-developed status, its 8th five-year plan, and the challenges created by the ongoing Covid-19 pandemic, this review is a necessary step towards improved resource mobilization for the SDGs Agenda goals. The Poverty-Environment Action for SDGs project is assisting in updating the SDG Financing Strategy with an emphasis on three critical areas of financing – climate action, renewable energy, and water and sanitation. Bangladesh Planning Commission’s General Economics Division is evolving its policy strategies to meet the additional financing requirement for SDG implementation. A concerted effort from the public and private sectors is key to reaching the 2030 deadline for the global goals.

The revision of the SDG Financing Strategy will be completed by August 2021. This timely intervention will guide the government in identifying bankable projects to encourage SDG-focused investments from the private sector in the three critical areas mentioned above.

The SC4SDG project in Bangladesh is supported by the General Economic Division, SDG Monitoring and Implementation Committee, Local Government Departments, Bangladesh Parliament, key Upazilas and the National Board of Revenue.

Poverty-Environment Action has already supported the inclusion of SDGs in Bangladesh's 8th Five-Year Plan providing an enabling environment for realization of 2030 Agenda goals. The Poverty-Environment Action for SDGs project is assisting in updating the SDG Financing Strategy with an emphasis on three critical areas of financing – climate action, renewable energy, and water and sanitation. Bangladesh Planning Commission's General Economics Division is evolving its policy strategies to meet the additional financing requirement for SDG implementation. A concerted effort from the public and private sectors is key to reaching the 2030 deadline for the global goals.

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Case Story 3: Blue Bonds for Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) financing in Bangladesh

The concept of the blue bond as a development financing tool is fairly new in Bangladesh and still remains largely unexplored. Bangladesh is facing a financing gap in reaching the SDGs by 2030. The private sector would be a key player in addressing this gap.

“Establish collaborative platform between the Government and the private sector for enabling an eco-system for SDG-focused private investment”

“Promote the blue bond in Bangladesh as a sustainable financing instrument for promoting blue economy projects”

United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)’s Strengthening Institutional Capacity for SDGs Achievement in Bangladesh (SC4SDG) project with support from UNDP-UNEP Poverty-Environment Action (PEA) for Sustainable Development Goals and Bangladesh Planning Commission’s General Economic Division recently conducted a study on “Assessing the Feasibility of Instituting Blue Bond in the Bond Market of Bangladesh”.

The study has considered three scenarios for the Bangladesh Blue Economy (BBE) through 2035. They are: BBE will grow at (i) 5 per cent, (ii) 8 per cent, and (iii) 10 per cent rates. Under these three scenarios, the size of BBE could reach between US\$12.9 billion to US\$25.9 billion in 2035.

The study has also tried to estimate the required investment for the three scenarios since one of the key preconditions of 5 to 10 per cent growth rates of BBE is appropriate

investment. The results show that Bangladesh will need to invest between US\$2.45 billion to US\$7.22 billion annually during the years 2021-2035.

The SC4SDG project is working to establish a collaborative platform between the Government and the private sector to enable an ecosystem for SDG-focused private investment. In this context, Bangladesh has recently introduced sustainable bonds such as the Sukuk bond and green bond in the financial market.



Realizing the efficacy of the blue bond for promoting the ocean economy is considered a niche for the country as it holds huge economic potential. The study has created renewed enthusiasm for the ocean economy among policymakers and captured the attention of private sector players as well.

This marks the first time that the country endeavored to critically analyze the possibility of promoting blue bonds in Bangladesh as a sustainable financing instrument for promoting blue economy projects. A national dialogue was organized to disseminate information and sensitize stakeholders about blue economy and sustainable bonds. Through this innovative intervention of the SC4SDG project, the Government of Bangladesh has decided to take up recommendations of the study and present them to the Cabinet of Bangladesh.