



# CSOs in SDG Implementation in Bangladesh

## Role of CSOs in SDGs

Participation of all stakeholders, including public representatives, government, private sector, civil society, knowledge community and development partners, in the implementation process and 'follow-up and review of progress', will be critically important for the attainment of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). SDGs are the result of over two years of intensive public consultation and engagement with civil society and other stakeholders around the world. The UN document titled, *Transforming Our World: The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development* has one dedicated target (on stakeholder partnership) and one explicit paragraph (on review mechanism) on the role of civil society organisations (CSOs) in SDG implementation.

"Encourage and promote effective public, public-private and civil society partnerships, building on the experience and resourcing strategies of partnerships" (SDG 17.17)

"We encourage member states to conduct regular and inclusive reviews of progress at the national and sub-national levels. Such reviews should draw on contributions from indigenous peoples, civil society, the private sector and other stakeholders, in line with national circumstances, policies and priorities" (Paragraph 79)

-- *Transforming Our World: The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development*




The Government of Bangladesh (GoB) has also acknowledged the crucial role of CSOs in SDG implementation. The General Economics Division (GED), in its outcome document titled, *Integration of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) into the 7th Five Year Plan* states that effective coordination among all stakeholders, including the civil society, is key for SDG implementation. However, till date, no institutional framework has been developed to ensure effective CSO participation.

Citizen's Platform for SDGs, Bangladesh aims to contribute towards achieving SDGs by: tracking the implementation of SDGs in Bangladesh; sensitising policymakers towards challenges in implementation and allocative efficiency in resource deployment; bringing more transparency in the implementation process (social accountability); and facilitating exchange of information and coordination with all those working on the SDGs.

## CSO Involvement in SDG Areas, Bangladesh

The Citizen's Platform for SDGs, Bangladesh, in partnership with the Centre for Policy Dialogue (CPD), organised a workshop titled, *Appreciation Course on 2030 Agenda: Framework Issues and Implementation Challenges* on 19 November 2016 at the BRAC Centre Inn Conference Room, Dhaka. A total of 42 participants from 36 Partner Organisations of the Platform identified their areas of involvement, and recommended potential areas where CSOs can build partnership with the GoB in the overall SDG implementation process.

Current CSO Involvement in SDG Areas in Bangladesh		
SDG	More Involved	Less Involved
<b>1 NO POVERTY</b> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Poverty eradication</li> <li>Social protection measures</li> <li>Equal rights to economic resources</li> <li>Resilience building of the poor to climate and other shocks</li> </ul>	
<b>2 ZERO HUNGER</b> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Hunger and all forms of malnutrition</li> <li>Agricultural productivity increase</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ensuring sustainable food production system</li> <li>Maintaining genetic diversity of seeds, cultivated plants, animals and their related wild species</li> </ul>
<b>3 GOOD HEALTH AND WELL-BEING</b> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Maternal and child mortality</li> <li>Epidemics of AIDS, tuberculosis, malaria</li> <li>Universal access to sexual and reproductive healthcare services</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Premature mortality from non-communicable diseases</li> <li>Prevention of substance abuse</li> <li>Global deaths and injuries from road traffic accidents</li> <li>Universal health coverage</li> <li>Deaths from air, water and soil pollution</li> </ul>
<b>4 QUALITY EDUCATION</b> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Access to pre-primary, primary and secondary education</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Access to technical, vocational and tertiary education</li> <li>Gender disparities in education</li> <li>Youth and adult literacy</li> </ul>
<b>5 GENDER EQUALITY</b> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Discrimination against women</li> <li>Violence against women</li> <li>Child protection</li> <li>Unpaid care and domestic labour</li> <li>Women's participation in decision-making</li> </ul>	
<b>6 CLEAN WATER AND SANITATION</b> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Access to safe and affordable drinking water and sanitation</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Water pollution</li> <li>Water use efficiency</li> <li>Protection of water-related ecosystem</li> </ul>
<b>7 AFFORDABLE AND CLEAN ENERGY</b> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Renewable energy</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Access to energy services</li> <li>Improvement in energy efficiency</li> </ul>
<b>8 DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH</b> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Sustainable economic growth</li> <li>Youth unemployment</li> <li>Child labour</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Higher economic productivity</li> <li>Full and productive employment</li> <li>Global resource efficiency in consumption and production</li> <li>Protection of labour rights and promote safe working environment</li> <li>Sustainable tourism</li> <li>Access to financial institutions</li> </ul>

Current CSO Involvement in SDG Areas in Bangladesh		
SDG	More Involved	Less Involved
<b>9 INDUSTRY, INNOVATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE</b> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Small and medium enterprise (SME) access to finance</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Resilient infrastructure</li> <li>• Inclusive and sustainable industrialisation</li> <li>• Infrastructural and technological upgradation of industrial sectors</li> </ul>
<b>10 REDUCED INEQUALITIES</b> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Income inequality</li> <li>• Social, economic and political inclusion</li> <li>• Elimination of discriminatory laws</li> <li>• Responsible migration and mobility of people</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Monitoring of global financial markets</li> <li>• Voice of developing countries in decision-making</li> </ul>
<b>11 SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND COMMUNITIES</b> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Affordable housing and basic services</li> <li>• Disaster deaths</li> <li>• Access to safe and green public spaces</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Affordable, safe transport system</li> <li>• Sustainable urbanisation</li> <li>• Safeguarding the world's cultural and natural heritage</li> </ul>
<b>12 RESPONSIBLE CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION</b> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Efficient use of natural resources</li> <li>• Environmentally sound waste management</li> <li>• Awareness of sustainable development</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Food waste management</li> <li>• Reduction of waste generation</li> </ul>
<b>13 CLIMATE ACTION</b> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Climate change measures in national planning</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Awareness raising on climate change</li> </ul>
<b>14 LIFE BELOW WATER</b> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sustainable use of marine resources</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Marine pollution</li> <li>• Coastal and marine ecosystem</li> <li>• Overfishing, illegal fishing and fisheries subsidies</li> </ul>
<b>15 LIFE ON LAND</b> 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Terrestrial and inland freshwater ecosystems</li> <li>• Reforestation and desertification</li> <li>• Mountain ecosystem</li> <li>• Utilisation of genetic resources</li> <li>• Biodiversity loss</li> <li>• Poaching and trafficking of protected species</li> <li>• Invasive and alien species</li> </ul>
<b>16 PEACE, JUSTICE AND STRONG INSTITUTIONS</b> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Violence-related deaths</li> <li>• Trafficking and violence against children</li> <li>• Rule of law and justice for all</li> <li>• Corruption and bribery</li> <li>• Accountable and transparent institutions</li> <li>• Inclusive and participatory decision making</li> <li>• Access to information</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Illicit financial and arm flows</li> <li>• Birth registration</li> </ul>

## CSO Partnership with Government of Bangladesh

### *Tracking Implementation*

- GoB should coordinate with CSOs and other non-state stakeholders to develop well-defined responsibilities for non-state actors, and work together to implement SDGs.
- GoB should create well-defined scope for the CSOs to participate during the preparation and finalisation of national consensus and policies.

### *Sensitising Policymakers*

- GoB can facilitate CSO participation by creating a platform for consultation prior to preparing budget and getting feedback after the finalisation of the budget to better reflect the demands of the citizen.
- CSOs can promote gender equality through reviewing the discriminatory laws and policies, put concerted effort to provide services to the vulnerable and disadvantaged groups, develop capacity of service providers, and integrate government and non-government legal aid services.
- Government and CSOs may jointly review the existing laws and policies in order to address various forms of inequality.

### *Bringing Transparency*

- Non-state actors can be involved in monitoring, reporting and holding the relevant government agencies accountable.
- CSOs can represent marginalised and minority groups through participatory forums and dialogues with the government.

### *Facilitating Exchange of Information*

- GoB can collaborate with the CSOs and the private sector to create an accessible database on SDGs to reduce any possible information gap.
- GoB can assign specific tasks to CSOs to resolve the grassroots level issues that the government may not be able to address on its own.

The **Citizen's Platform for SDGs, Bangladesh** is a civil society initiative, taken at the national front, to contribute to the implementation of globally adopted 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The Platform was formally launched in June 2016, at the initiative of a group of individuals; the objective has been to track the delivery of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in Bangladesh and enhance accountability in its implementation process. The concept of the Platform was inspired by the participatory and multi-stakeholder approach promoted as a vital element for success in the attainment of all the SDGs. The Platform currently includes 40 Partner Organisations working on SDG issues across the country.



[www.bdplatform4sdgs.net](http://www.bdplatform4sdgs.net)



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