VNR 2020 of Bangladesh: Situation of Child Rights

Md. Zahidul Kabir
National Coordinator, Social Inclusion and Policy Analysis
World Vision Bangladesh

Presented at the Conference on
VNR 2020 of Bangladesh: Positioning Non-State Actors

Dhaka: 11 March 2020

Acknowledgement

- **EDUCO**
- **PLAN International**
- **Save the Children**
- **SOS Children's Village**
- **Terre des Hommes**
- **Manusher Jonno Foundation**
- **CPD**

CONTEXT AND BACKGROUND

❑ About 47 percent of the population is below the age of 18.
❑ Children and young people will be impacted by all SDGs goals
❑ The presentation is focused on the following goals-

- **No Poverty (1)**
- **Quality Education (4)**
- **Gender Equality (5)**
- **Decent Work (8)**
- **Peace and Justice (16)**

❑ A key commitment "Leave No One Behind"
❑ Ethnicity, race, gender, age, disability…
❑ Children are one broad group under LNOB framework
❑ Children are also one of the most heterogeneous groups

METHODOLOGY

❑ Focus on Children who are excluded or at risk of exclusion
❑ Secondary sources of data
❑ Eight FGD with children with diverse situation
❑ 113 children participated

- **Adolescent girls**
- **Working Girls and boys**
- **Girls and boys in disaster prone area**
- **Plain Land Adivasi children**
- **Girls and boys with disabilities**
- **Girls of hard to reach area**

THE PROGRESS

No Poverty

❑ Among the children, different marginalized groups are covered by the safety net program

Type of children	Current FY	Starting year	children at the beginning
Children with disabilities	100000	2007-8	12209
Transgender children	1247	2012-13	135
Children of beday community	4000	2012-13	875
Children of Dalit and other marginalized group	21900		

❑ Allocation is increased significantly
❑ Stipend have a significant impact on the life of the children
❑ Lack of accountability in the beneficiary selection process
❑ The gap of authentic data is a major barrier for all

Quality Education

❑ Significant progress in increasing enrolment rate

❑ National Focus: Completion

❑ SDGs Focus: learning outcome

❑ Bangla reading proficiency 54%

❑ English reading proficiency 19% **Alarming!**

❑ Mathematics proficiency 57%

❑ Gross and Net Enrolment Rate in Primary education increased

❑ Dropout rate of girl at the secondary level is still very high

❑ 18.9% children are attending ECD which was 13.4% in 2013.

❑ 77.4% children are attending one year preprimary education

❑ Preprimary education to be for two years.

Quality Education

❑ Stipends for 100,000 students with disabilities
❑ Inadequate inclusive teaching learning pedagogy
❑ Accessibility and transportation
❑ Addressed in the foundation training of primary teachers
❑ Dalit children face class based discrimination
❑ 28.5% of the Dalit children remain out of enrollment.
❑ 68% of the Dalit children drop out
❑ Dalits girls to manage household responsibilities.
❑ Child Marriage is very common among Dalit

Quality Education

❑ Children of sex workers have limited access to education
❑ Identity makes it stressful to continue going to school
❑ Girls face sexual harassment and are at risk of trafficking
❑ Children of beday community mostly do not go to the School
❑ The school dropout rate among the ethnic children 33%
❑ Children in Tea garden have limited opportunity of education
❑ Family tradition to become garden worker
❑ Many children stay at home to take care of their siblings
❑ Poverty and parent's awareness is common issue for all group

Gender Equality

❑ No official data on gender based violence against girls
❑ Different forms of violence against girls strongly exists
❑ Child marriage is decreased

Proportion of women aged 20-24 years who were married or in a union	2012-13	2019
(a) before age 15	18.1	15.5
(b) before age 18	52.3	51.4

❑ Beday Girls got married by the age of 13/14
❑ In urban slums 30% girls become mother by the age of 15-19.
❑ The rate is 13% outside the slum area
❑ 15-20 thousands children work in the street as sex workers

Gender Equality

- ❑ **Marshal Art for girls becoming popular**
- ❑ **Helps to be physically and mentally stronger**
- ❑ **Boost self-confidence**
- ❑ **Helps to be disciplined**
- ❑ **Contribute to stop child marriage**

Decent Work

❑ 6.8% of children age 5-17 years are involved in child labour
❑ Approximately 3.45 million working children
❑ 1.28 million are engaged in hazardous work
❑ The Bangladeshi society as a whole accept child labour
❑ Exposed to various forms of mental, physical and moral abuse and exploitations

Peace and Justice

❑ Physical punishment and/or psychological aggression

❑ 88.8 percent in 2019

❑ 82.3 percent in 2013

❑ Lack of comprehensive and updated database

❑ Calling a child offensive names is psychological aggression

❑ This is common for children with disabilities

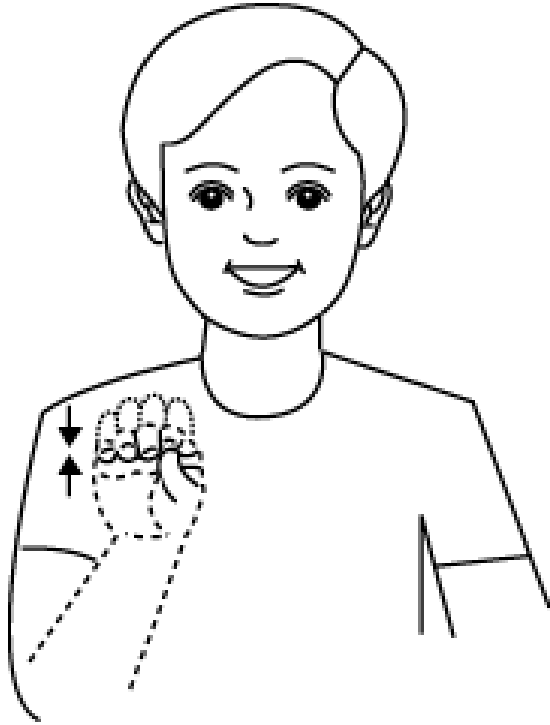## Bayles, the 9-year-old Australian boy

RECOMMENDATIONS

- ❑ Invest in children benefits of the demographic dividend
- ❑ Strengthen systems and build structures and capacities
- ❑ Priority to address the data gap
- ❑ Enact anti-discrimination law
- ❑ Inclusive primary and secondary education
- ❑ Technical and vocational education facility
- ❑ Strengthen the reporting and response mechanism
- ❑ Introduce Marshal Art for girls in secondary education

THANKS