

National SDG Report (VNR) 2025 Addressing the Concerns of LNOB Communities

Youth and the SDGs

A Citizen's Assessment of Progress and Challenges, and the Way Forward

Elma Hoque Sharna

Programme Officer

Knowledge Management, Outreach & Media Engagement

ActionAid Bangladesh

Dhaka: 20 March 2025



Citizen's Platform for SDGs, Bangladesh

এসডিজি বাস্তবায়নে নাগরিক প্ল্যাটফর্ম, বাংলাদেশ



Acknowledgement

Anchor Organisations

ActionAid Bangladesh

Associate Organisations

Access Bangladesh Foundation

Bandhu Social Welfare Society

Bangladesh Youth Leadership Center (BYLC)

British Council in Bangladesh

Caritas Bangladesh

Educo Bangladesh

Good Neighbors Bangladesh

JAGO NARI

Plan International Bangladesh

Save the Children in Bangladesh

SERAC Bangladesh

UCEP Bangladesh

Youth for Change Bangladesh Foundation

Youth Policy Forum

Methodology

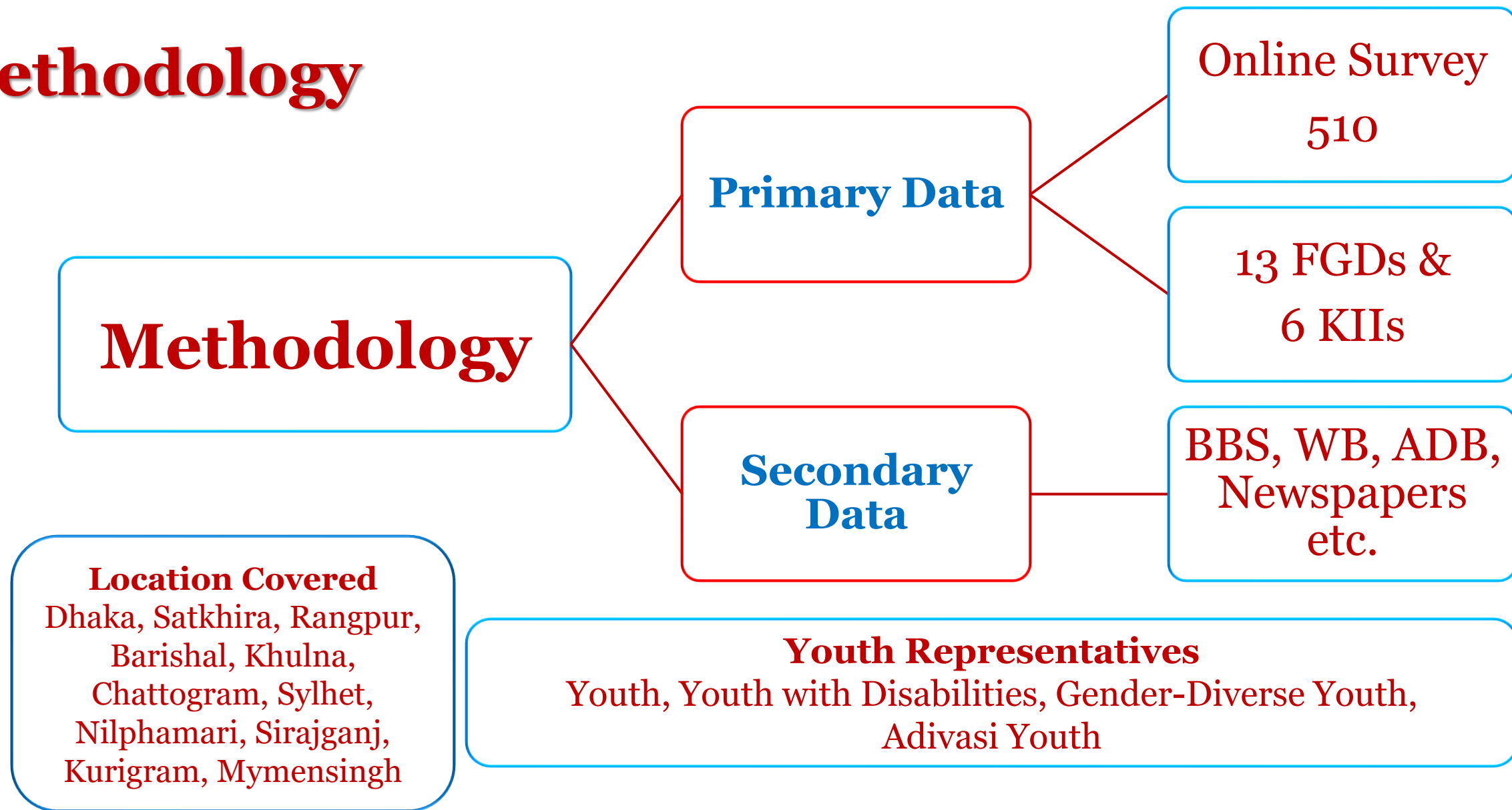


Table of contents

1. Youth Status in Bangladesh

2. SDG Progress on Youth Development in Bangladesh

3. Key Challenges on SDG Implementation

4. Recommendations

1. Youth Status In Bangladesh

Who are Youth?

Youth Age 18- 35

33% of the total population

Drivers of change & Innovation

BD | LNOB | 16 Categories

Ethnic Minority Groups, Tea Garden Workers, Cleaners/sweepers, Landless Peasants, Transgender Community, Commercial Sex Workers, Environmental Refugees, Traditional Fisher Folk, Artisans, Chronically Ill Poor People, Rural Poor: particularly Women, Homeless and Unemployed and their families, Persons with Physical and Mental Disabilities & Poor Female-Headed Households etc.

VNR Exercise

NEET Youth (41%), Economically vulnerable youth (26%), and Youth with disabilities (19%)

2. SDG Progress on Youth Development in Bangladesh

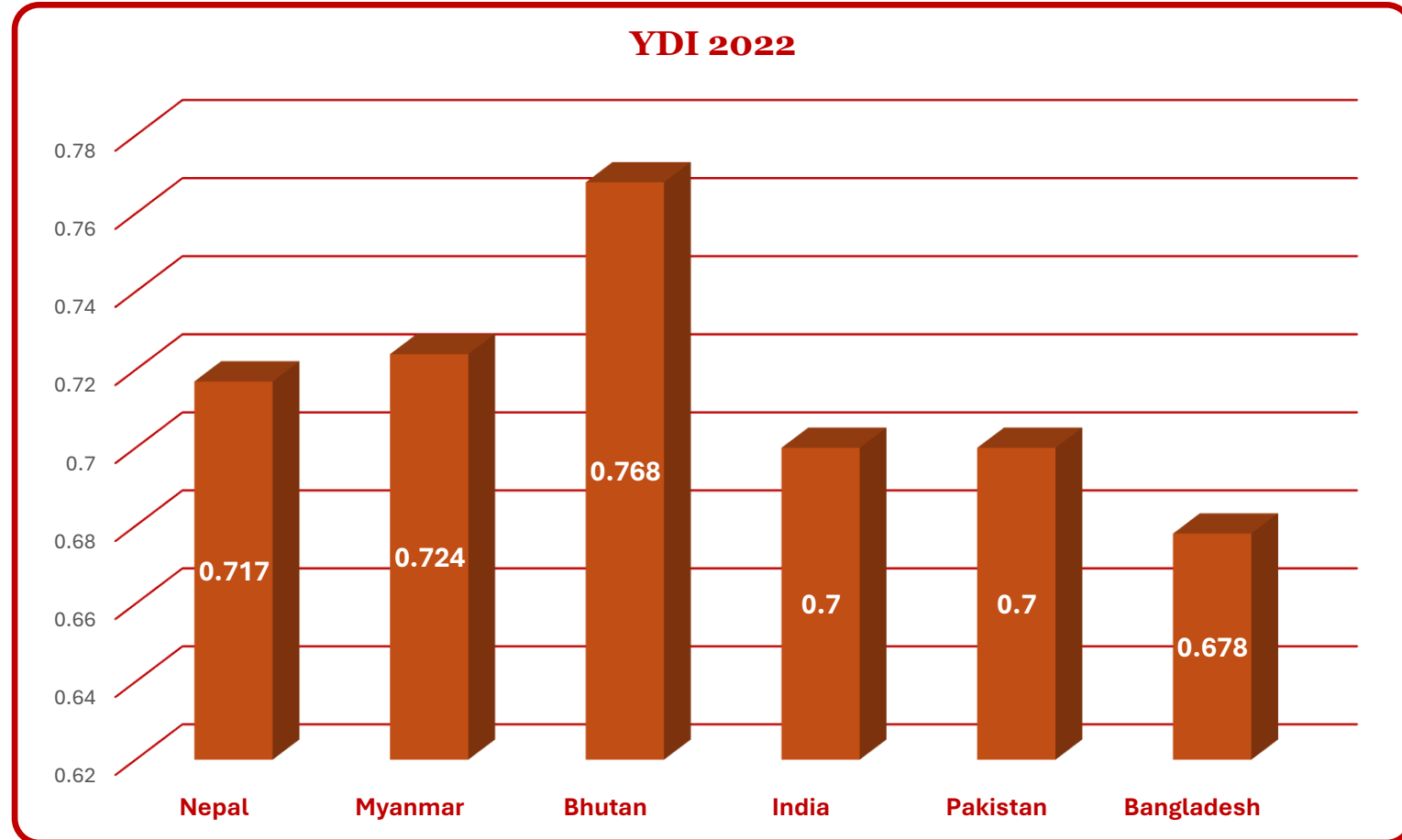
Have Youth progressed in terms of SDG implementation in Bangladesh?

**Global Youth
Development Index 2022**

**Bangladesh | Medium
growth**

Highest rank | Singapore

Lowest rank | Afghanistan



SDG 3 Ensure Healthy Lives & Promote Well-being

The status of youth's progress in terms of SDG implementation in Bangladesh

Maternal Mortality Rate

2023 | 13.6%

2020 | 16.3%

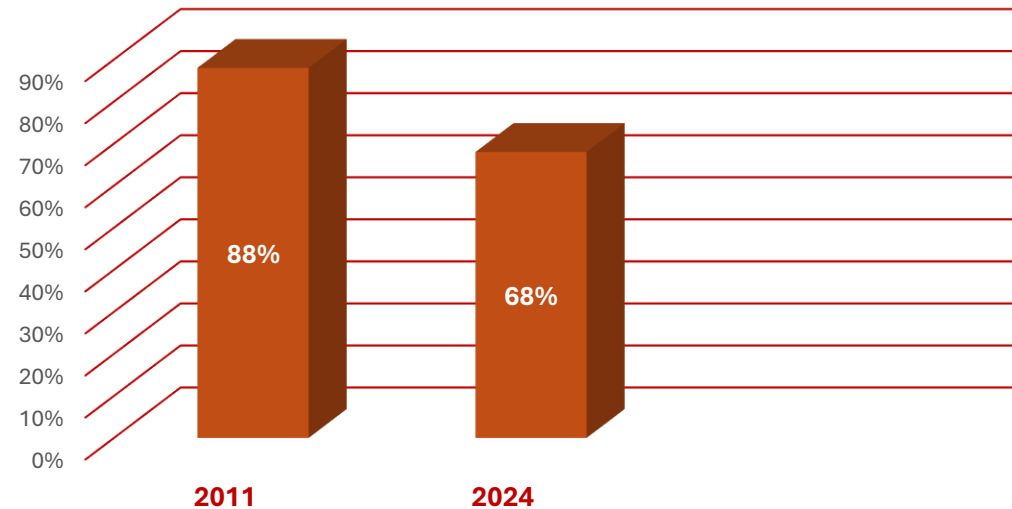
Online Survey Response

Youth Receive Adequate Health Services

Agree | 30%

Disagree | 25%

Adolescent Birth Rate (15-19y)



FGD Findings from Youth

Immunisation campaigns have reduced child mortality, yet rural healthcare remains inadequate, with limited reproductive health services and mental health support

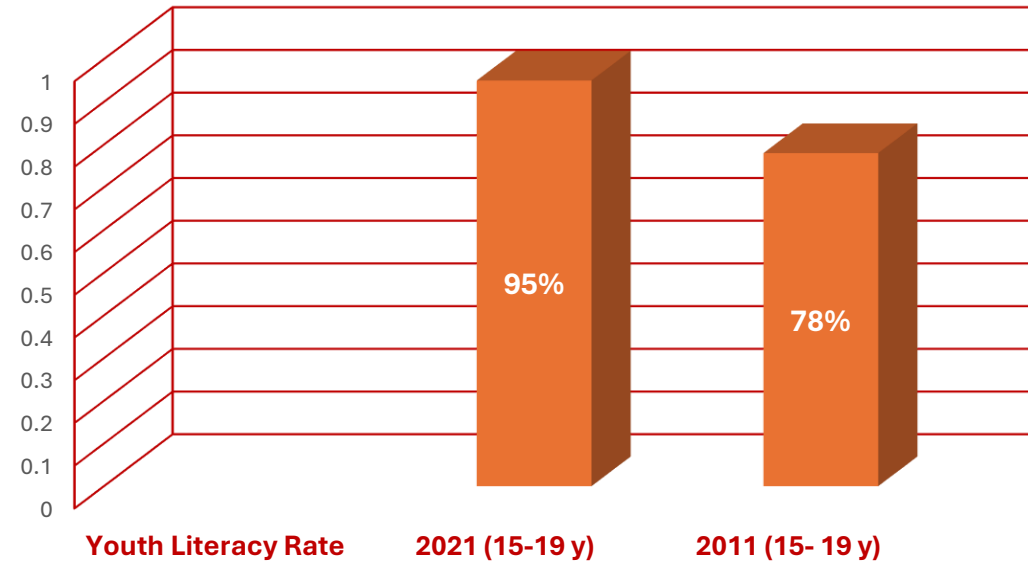
SDG 4 Progress on Quality Education for Youth

The status of youth's progress in terms of SDG implementation in Bangladesh

Female Literacy Rate 96% |
Male Literacy Rate 94% |
2021

Online Survey Response
Quality Education 25%

Youth Literacy Rate



FGD Findings from Youth

Marginalised youth from rural, indigenous and lower socioeconomic realities often lack access to quality education, which disproportionately disadvantages them

SDG 5 Progress on Gender Equality & Empower All Women and Girls

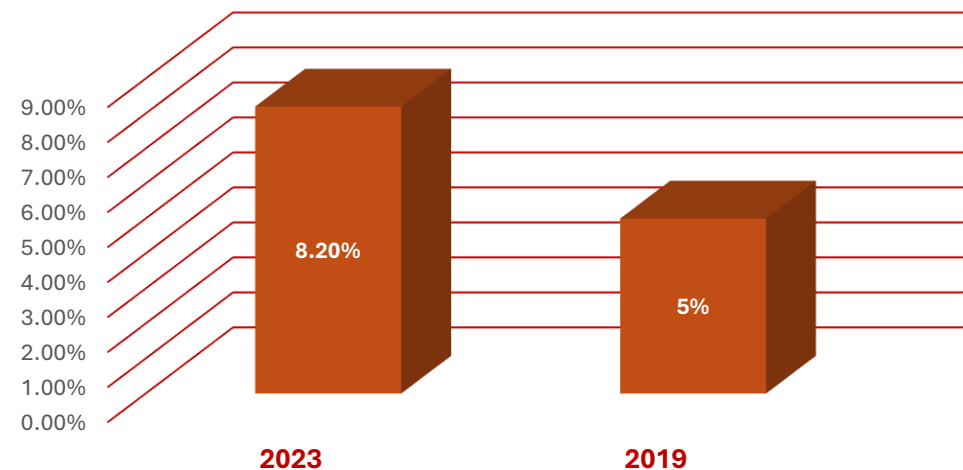
The status of youth's progress in terms of SDG implementation in Bangladesh

Married before 18 (2023) 41.6%
Married before 18 (2019)
31.3%

VAW (2024) 70%
VAW (2011) 87%

Online Survey Response
Progress in gender equality and women
empowerment 27%

Young Girls Married Before 15y



FGD Findings from Youth

Gender-diverse community faces significant stigma and religious barriers to gender equality, along with a lack of effective measures that could ensure equal rights for people of different genders

SDG 8 Progress on Decent Work & Economic Growth

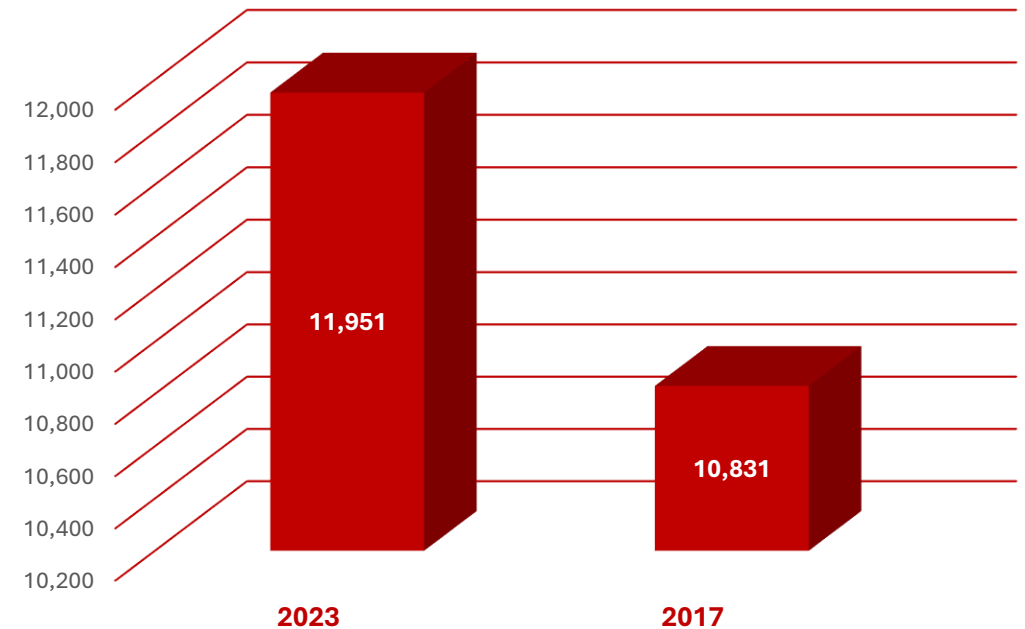
The status of youth's progress in terms of SDG implementation in Bangladesh

Informal Employment 2023 | 38.3%
Informal Employment 2017 | 31%

National University Graduates
Unemployment rate 2023 | 28.24%

Online Survey Response
Moderate Progress in Achieving SDG 8 | 44.1%

Average monthly Income of Youth



FGD Findings from Youth
A 24-year-old male participant mentioned that, “We want jobs, but we don’t have the skills they ask for in the interviews.”

3. Key Challenges on SDG Implementation

For Youth Development in Bangladesh

Lack of Monitoring & Review

Limited Direct Youth Welfare Programs

Budget Allocation Priorities

Symbolic Youth Participation

Youth Employment Tracking Gaps

Urban-Rural Skill Divide

4. Recommendations

Key Recommendations from Youth & Experts for Achieving SDGs

Recognising & Supporting
Marginalised Youth

Establishing a Separate
Ministry for Youth
Development

Enhancing Education & Skill
Development

Youth Health & Well-being

Reducing Youth
Unemployment

Increasing Youth
Participation in Governance

Thank You



www.bdplatform4sdgs.net



BDPlatform4SDGs



bdplatform4sdgs



coordinator@bdplatform4sdgs.net