

Bangladesh's SDG Journey in the Last Decade from the LNOB Lens

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and Development (July 2026-June 2031) and SDGs**

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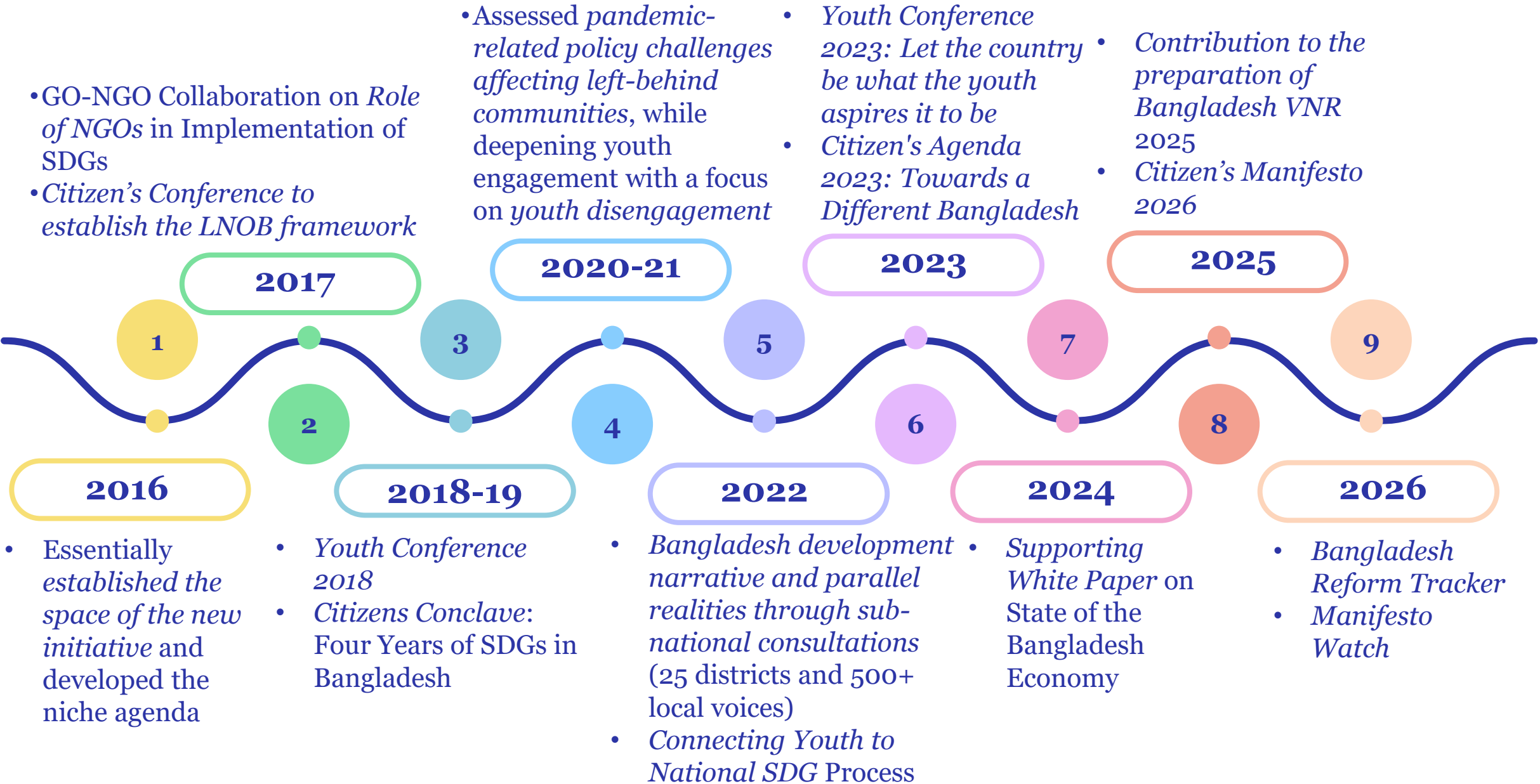


Citizen's Platform for SDGs, Bangladesh

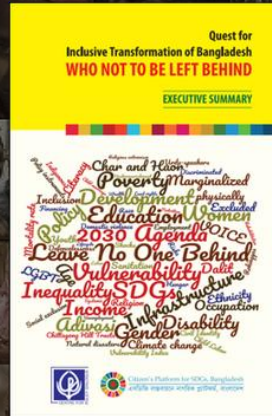
এসডিজি বাস্তবায়নে নাগরিক প্ল্যাটফর্ম, বাংলাদেশ



Citizen's Platform's journey



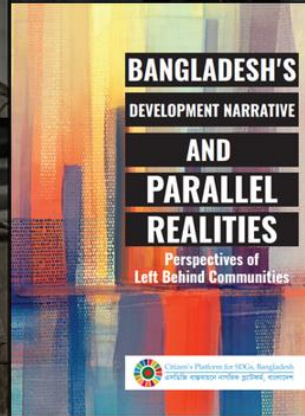
Over the past decade, Citizen's Platform has been driven by one unwavering belief — rooted in the SDGs' 'Leave No One Behind' principle — that every citizen deserves to be seen, counted, and given a true voice in building a more inclusive future.



2017



2020



2022



2023



2025



2026

33K+
Reached in-Person

10m+
Online Engagements

173 Partner Organisations

Consultations, dialogues and digital engagement shaped Citizen's Platform's knowledge journey

Understanding the spirit of 'Leaving No One Behind' (LNOB)

Who not to be left behind: Vulnerability criteria



Source: Bhattacharya et al., 2017

- ❑ *Citizen's Platform for SDGs, Bangladesh*, identified **multi-dimensional vulnerabilities** as the **primary factor driving the exclusion** of certain groups.
- ❑ It further developed a **framework to define and understand left-behind communities**.
- ❑ **People who meet more vulnerability criteria are more vulnerable** in terms of income

Source: Bhattacharya, D., Khan, T. I., Khan, S. S., Sinha, M. M., Fuad, S. M., Biswas, S. and Muzib, A. (2017). Quest for Inclusive Transformation of Bangladesh: Who Not to be Left Behind. Centre for Policy Dialogue (CPD) and Citizen's Platform for SDGs, Bangladesh.

In search of inclusive development: the development narrative and parallel realities

	DEVELOPMENT NARRATIVE	PARALLEL REALITY
Employment generation	Robust economic growth and significant poverty alleviation.	Educated youth face unemployment, skill mismatch and LNOB youth face deeper exclusion.
Infrastructure development	Mega projects signal national progress.	Development remains urban-centric, with regional neglect and poor quality of service delivery.
Gender rights and violence	Progress in school enrolment and economic participation.	Violence, child marriage, unsafe mobility and barriers to justice persist.
Climate adversity	Climate action targets vulnerable areas.	Climate risks are spreading nationwide, while rehabilitation support remains inadequate.
Efficacy of public institutions	Higher public spending aims to improve services.	Corruption, weak enforcement and poor accountability undermine delivery.
Democratic Accountability and Voice	Progress toward long-term national development.	Shrinking civic space, fear, and self-censorship weaken citizen voice and accountability.

Source: Citizen’s Platform for SDGs, Bangladesh, Bangladesh’s Development Narrative and Parallel Realities (2023)

In search of inclusive development: the development narrative and parallel realities

	DEVELOPMENT NARRATIVE	PARALLEL REALITY
Education	Expansion of schools, education infrastructure and full enrollment in the primary level was achieved.	Quality gaps, coaching costs and the digital divide reinforce exclusion.
Health	Improved health outcomes and life expectancy.	Quality healthcare remains inaccessible for many remote and marginalised communities.
WASH	Water and sanitation services improved.	Geographic and political inequalities in access persist.
Social Protection	Social security programmes expanded.	Exclusion, targeting error, political bias and inadequate benefits limit impact.
Transport	Improved connectivity and transport infrastructure.	Poor maintenance, corruption and unsafe roads impose disproportionate costs on marginalised people.

Looking into SDG progress through a disaggregated lens

SDG & Indicators	Lowest case	Best case	National Average	Target by 2030
SDG 1: Poverty rate	Madaripur (54%)	Noakhali (6.10%)	18.70%	0%
SDG 2: Food insecurity	Chattogram (18%) and Rangpur (18%) (WFP, 2026)	Rajshahi (13%)	16% insecure overall (WFP, 2026)	0%
	Poorest households (70% severe insecurity)		22% moderate to severely insecure	
SDG 3: Infant mortality rate	Bandarban (86.40 per 1,000 live births)	Bagerhat (4.80 per 1,000 live births)	26.90 per 1,000 (SVRS, 2023)	0%
SDG 3: Under-5 mortality rate	Bandarban (113.50 per 1,000 live births) (SVRS, 2023)	Magura (15.20 per 1,000 live births) (SVRS, 2023)	32.70 per 1,000 (SVRS, 2023)	25%
SDG 3: Neonatal mortality rate	Bandarban (77.90 per 1,000 live births) (SVRS, 2023)	Madaripur (0 per 1,000 live births) (SVRS, 2023)	19.50 per 1,000 (SVRS, 2023)	12%
SDG 3: Unmet need for family planning	Chuadanga (39.70%) (SVRS, 2023)	Nilphamari (15.70%) (SVRS, 2023)	25.80% (SVRS, 2023)	0%
SDG 4: Primary education completion rate	Narsingdi (64.40%) (SVRS, 2023)	Jhalokathi (86.90%) (SVRS, 2023)	77.40% (SVRS, 2023)	95%
SDG 4: Lower secondary completion rate	Cox's Bazar (52.20%) (SVRS, 2023)	Jhalokathi (83%) (SVRS, 2023)	68.80% (SVRS, 2023)	80%
SDG 4: Upper secondary completion rate	Cox's Bazar (33%) (SVRS, 2023)	Jhalokathi (63%) (SVRS, 2023)	47.40% (SVRS, 2023)	50%

Looking into SDG progress through a disaggregated lens

SDG & Indicators	Lowest case	Best case	National Average	Target by 2030
SDG 5: Child marriage before age 15	Chapainawabganj (29.60%) (SVRS, 2023)	Sunamganj (0.60%) (SVRS, 2023)	8.30% (SVRS, 2023)	0%
SDG 5: Child marriage before age 18	Chapainawabganj (69.60%) (SVRS, 2023)	Sunamganj (10.40%) (SVRS, 2023)	41.60% (SVRS, 2023)	10%
SDG 6: Access to safe drinking water	Shariatpur (1.20%) (SVRS, 2023)	Dhaka (83.60%) (SVRS, 2023)	71.22% (SVRS, 2023)	100%
SDG 6: Access to proper sanitation services	Bandarban (15.90%) (SVRS, 2023)	Pirojpur (77.80%) (SVRS, 2023)	45% (SVRS, 2023)	80%
SDG 7: Access to electricity	Rangamati (51%) (SVRS, 2023)	Chandpur/Narsingdi (99.90%) (SVRS, 2023)	97.50% (SVRS, 2023)	100%
SDG 9: Access to internet	Lalmonirhat (25.40%) (SVRS, 2023)	Munshiganj (67.60%) (SVRS, 2023)	45.70% (SVRS, 2023)	100%

Source: BBS (HIES 2022; Poverty Map 2022; Food Security Statistics 2023; SVRS 2023; LFS 2023), SDG Tracker Bangladesh (Accessed: March 2025)

Review of SDG progress from the perspectives of six LNOB groups

LNOB Group	Disaggregated data availability	Key Challenges	Most Affected SDGs	Comments
Children	Lack of disaggregated data Among the 42 Child-specific indicators, many remain off-track/outdated	Rising malnutrition, increasing child labour particularly among the marginalised groups, reversal in neonatal and under-five mortality, and child marriage	SDG 2 (Hunger), SDG 3 (Health), SDG 4 (Education), SDG 5 (Gender), SDG 8 (Decent Work)	Moderate progress, however, concerns as regards reversals in health, nutrition and education
Climate-Vulnerable Communities	Absence of disaggregated data	High displacement, health vulnerabilities, rising child labour in climate-vulnerable areas, worsening gender violence, lack of climate finance access	SDG 1 (Poverty), SDG 13 (Climate), SDG 5 (Gender), SDG 3 (Health)	One of the most vulnerable groups due to climate shocks
Dalit & Adivasi	Absence of disaggregated data Data manipulation	Discrimination in access to jobs, healthcare, land rights, existing gender disparity, exclusion from decision-making	SDG 1 (Poverty), SDG 5 (Gender), SDG 10 (Inequality), SDG 16 (Peace, Justice and Institutions)	Most politically and economically marginalised

Review of SDG progress from the perspectives of six LNOB groups

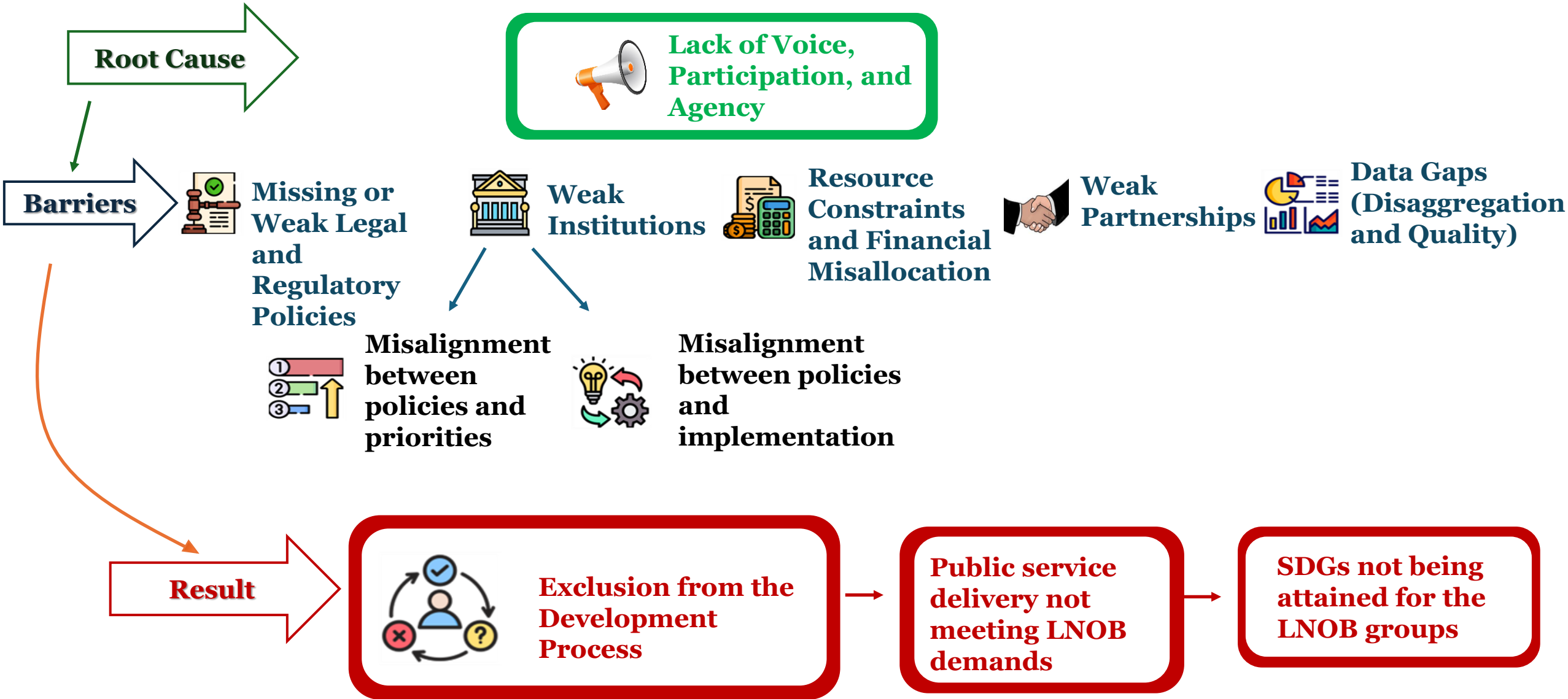
LNOB Group	Disaggregated data availability	Key Challenges	Most Affected SDGs	Comments
Persons with disabilities (PWDs)	Data discrepancies between official statistics and realities Lack of disaggregated data	Limited access to healthcare, employment, severe gender employment gap	SDG 3 (Health), SDG 5 (Gender), SDG 8 (Employment),	Least included in terms of access to opportunities
Women	Underreporting and delays in data collection, particularly on gender-based violence issue Lack of disaggregated data	High gender gap, increased share in informal employment declining contraceptive use, lack of political representation	SDG 5 (Gender), SDG 8 (Employment), SDG 16 (Governance)	Strong policy focus, however, persistent institutional loopholes and structural barriers

Review of SDG progress from the perspectives of six LNOB groups

LNOB Group	Disaggregated data availability	Key Challenges	Most Affected SDGs	Comments
Youth	Absence of disaggregated data	Education-to-employment gap, digital divide, informal job precarity, rising female NEET youth unemployment, lack of representation of marginalised youth	SDG 4 (Education), SDG 5 (Gender), SDG 8 (Employment), SDG 9 (Innovation), SDG 16 (Governance)	Moderate improvements, however, gender disparity remains a challenge. Concerns remains regarding the participation and representation of marginalised youth

Barriers to accelerating SDG progress for LNOB groups

A Vicious Cycle of LNOB Exclusion



Key recommendations to accelerate actions

Bangladesh, in the present new context, must truly uphold the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR)

- Establish a national **LNOB Data Framework** to generate more disaggregated data and allow citizen-generated data to improve policymaking. This framework will be developed in alignment with the **‘Pact for the Future’ to dismantle the ‘tyranny of the average’**
- Institutionalise **LNOB representation in national and local decision-making bodies** to ensure marginalised voices are included.
- Close **legal and policy gaps** by finalising key reforms, including the **Anti-discrimination Bill**, and establishing mechanisms to monitor implementation.
- Improve **inclusive public service delivery** in education, health, and social protection, with equitable access to public resources.
- **Strengthen partnership among all state and non-state actors** to truly uphold the principle of the ‘whole of society’ approach
- Make the **best use of financial resources** and improve fiscal space.
- **Translate SDG- and LNOB-related manifesto commitments** into concrete, time-bound actions with regular progress disclosure and **engagement with independent monitoring initiatives** e.g., **Manifesto Watch** domain of **Bangladesh Reform Tracker**.

Examples of pledges for the LNOBs in the manifesto

Several BNP's election manifesto commitments that speak directly to LNOB groups.



Family Card & Farmers Card

*BDT 2,500/month cash or essentials for low-income families.
Subsidies, easy loans and insurance for farmers.
Farm-loan waiver up to BDT 10,000 and one year's microloan instalments.*



Universal Healthcare

E-health card, 5% of GDP to health; need-based care plus a Health Protection Fund of up to BDT 500,000 for complex illness.



Educational Support

Education spending will be raised to 5% of GDP; mid-day meals for students in marginalised, hard-to-reach areas, free school uniforms, overseas education loans, etc.



Transparency

All social security benefits displayed publicly on billboards to curb corruption, nepotism, interference.



Unemployment Allowance

*Financial allowance for *educated youth* for six months to a year, or until they secure employment.*



Informal Sector Protection

Fair wages and safe conditions for rickshaw pullers, day laborers, hawkers, domestic workers.

Examples of pledges for the LNOBs in the manifesto

Several BNP's election manifesto pledges are tailored to specific vulnerable groups.



Women

Economic Support

Family Cards issued in the name of the female head of household.

Education & Health

Free education up to Masters level; sanitary napkin vending machines in all secondary schools & madrasas.

Workplace Rights

Mandatory six months paid maternity leave; day-care centers & breastfeeding corners at all workplaces.



Persons with Disabilities

Mobility & Health

Free travel on buses, trains & launches; specialised health units at every district.

Education & Employment

District-level schools using sign language & Braille; tax benefits for businesses hiring PWDs; stipends for students with disabilities.

Governance

A separate directorate to manage and coordinate all plans for PWDs.



Climate Vulnerable

Employment and Rehabilitation Support

An “Environmental Start-up Fund” and a “Climate Youth Fellowship.”

Safe rehabilitation and improved living standards for floating populations and those displaced by climate change.



Elderly, Widows & Orphans

Pension Increases

Pensions for destitute, widowed & vulnerable elderly will be raised in line with inflation.

Orphan Welfare

A national maintenance fund for destitute orphans, ensuring free education and employment.



Ethnic & Social Minorities

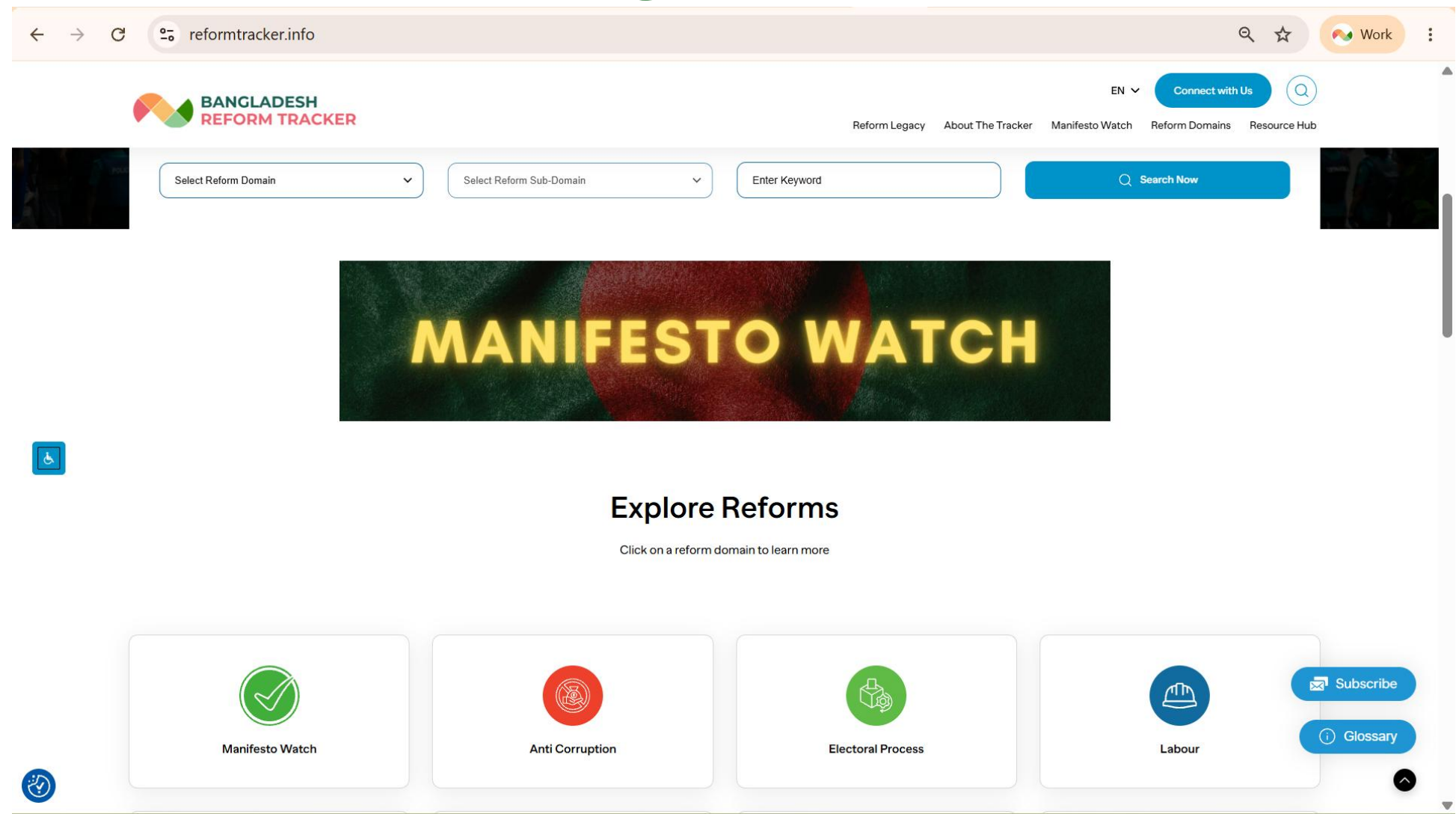
Priority Coverage

Third gender, Bede & Dalit communities prioritised for full social protection coverage.

Cultural Preservation

Small Ethnic Communities Development Directorate" to preserve the linguistic & cultural identity of indigenous groups.

Citizen's Platform is tracking the manifesto commitments



<https://reformtracker.info/>



THE MEASURE OF SUCCESS

The success of delivering the Election Manifesto, the Five-Year Strategic Framework, and the SDGs should be assessed not only by Bangladesh's overall progress, as indicated by averages, but also by the extent to which we reduce the gap between the national average and the conditions of those who are furthest behind.

Thank You



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