

WORKING GROUPS ON MDG: LESSONS FOR THE SDG TRANSITION

SheepaHafiza
Director BRAC
Gender Justice & Diversity, and
Migration Program
Bangladesh

Expert group meeting on 'integrated approach to sustainable development on
May 27-29, 2015, UNDESA, New York

Objective

- ▣ Share lessons learnt from the MDG experience and reflect on the implications for the SDG transition.
- ▣ The groups are expected to come up with recommendations on capacity development support and partnerships for this transition.

Bangladesh



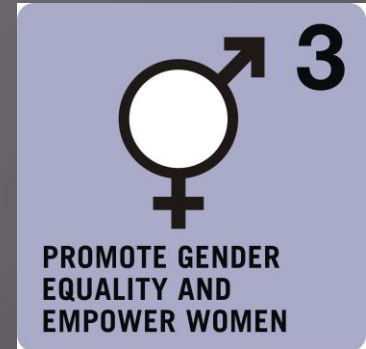
Bangladesh: the changes over years:

Bangladesh has resulted in impressive poverty reduction from 57 percent in 1991-92 to 32 percent in 2010; the latest Household Income and Expenditure Survey (HIES) 2010 data show that the incidence of poverty has declined on an average 1.74 percentage points in Bangladesh during 2000 to 2010 against the MDG target of 1.20 percentage points.

The country has already met one of the indicators of target 1 by bringing down the poverty gap ratio to 7 against MDG target of 8 (MDGs Country report, 2013)



Bangladesh: the changes over years:



- ▣ Bangladesh has achieved the targets of gender parity in enrolment of primary and secondary education at the national level. Overall 37% increase in girl's enrollment in primary education as of baseline year 90-91 where in 2013 shows 98% achievements (MDGs Country report, 2013).
- ▣ According to Maternal Mortality Survey (BMMS) maternal mortality declined from 322 in 20101 to 194 in 2010, a 40% decline in nine years. The average rate of decline from the base year has been about 3.3% per year, compared to the MDG 2015 requirement of 3.1%. (MDGs Country report, 2013).

Bangladesh: the changes over years:

- ▣ Again crossed the MDG target by decreasing Overall infant mortality rate to 23/1000 live birth compared to MDG baseline year 2000 was 58/1000. (MDGs Country report, 2013).
- ▣ Bangladesh ranked 68th in 2014 out of 182 countries while was 82 in 2010 on some selected indicators like economic participation, educational attainment, health and survival and political empowerment (*Global Gender Gap Report, World Economic Forum, 2014*)

Strategies

- ▣ The growth is complemented by both public and private sectors contributions
- ▣ Non-government sectors played very crucial and complex roles, setting multiple and proxy indicators for a comprehensive and sustainable development.

Remaining Challenges

- ▣ The country ranks 111th out of 186 countries in Gender Inequality Index, 2013 Human Development Report;



- ▣ Violence against women & children in different forms (domestic by intimate partners, early marriage, dowry, rape, sexual harassment, trafficking, and cyber based crime) are alarmingly increasing or reporting increased. A very recent national survey report (2013) reveals intimate partner violence as 87% and UN Women report 2014 says 76% women became the victims of sexual harassment. Still challenges remain to introduce a comprehensive legal framework which includes prevention, protection and redressal of all forms of VAWC as well as to break the culture of impunity.

- ▣ Child marriage is the highest (65%) among the South Asian countries and fourth in the world; Though Ending child marriage is a commitment of Bangladesh government and recently revised and drafted Child Marriage Restraint Act 2014 with proposing provision that allows marriage to be legal under the age of 18 contravenes with many other low and conventions that the government has already committed to.

- ▣ High drop-out of girls from schools is alarming; 30 % in primary and 60% in secondary level by the year 2011-2012. Social security and Safe public space for girls, reaching out off school children issues are still a major concern for girl's completion of secondary and higher education.

- ▣ The issues of VAW, Child marriage and girl's completion of education have inseparable link with the socio-cultural gender discriminatory norms and practices relates to women and girls in Bangladesh. Acknowledging sexual education and sexuality rights is still a taboo. Without which greater progress in relation to the respect, promotion and protection of sexual and reproductive health and reproductive rights for women will not be attained.

- ▣ Wage employment rate for women are still very low by South Asian standards. Despite growth in employment, the labor market is highly segmented along lines of gender. Women are still concentrated in domestic services and home-based work, for which many do not report income;

- ▣ Still now, Bangladeshi women do not have the equal rights on property and assets. Absence of uniform family code creates discrimination among women and men and increase violence; Civil society, NGOs and networks have been lobbying with Bangladesh Government to withdraw CEDAW reservation (article 2 and 16 C) and introduce a uniform family code. However, this does not happen due to lack of political will and presence of extreme religious conservatism in places. Note that Bangladesh ratified CEDAW in 1984 with few reservations.

Way forward in setting SDGs

- Alignment of targets and goals with the international agreed documents, conventions and national /international political process is the big challenge. Moreover consistency implement ability and measurability of the SDGs are yet missing in process of national, regional and international dialogues and documents. Implementing SDGs shall be the shared responsibility of national and international actors.
- The SDG framework should encourage some degree of transformation across all three dimensions of sustainability
- Key systemic barriers to sustainable development such as inequality, unsustainable consumption patterns, weak institutional capacity, and environmental degradation that the MDGs neglected how those are addressed in SDGs yet to be cleared.
- Cross country mobility of people for better livelihood is a significant phenomenon for both the developed and the developing countries economy– issues related to current global political unrest was not addressed in MDG goals, need a especial attention and analysis in the SDGs.

The principles for SDGs implementation

- ▣ While UN –declared six essential elements (people, dignity, prosperity, justice, partnership and planet) for delivering the SDGs, how each country translates these elements in their country context should narrates with set principles:
- ▣ equality and empowerment of women are set in different goals and targets, which requires to declare as a cross – cutting agenda with all other goals, considering inclusion of equality & rights as the mandatory principles of integration, ownership, participation and accountability.

Thank you!