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United Nations Development Programme – UN Environment Poverty Environment Action for SDGs Bangladesh

Strengthening Institutional Capacity for SDGs Achievement in Bangladesh (SC4SDG)

Annual Project Progress Report 2020

Implementing Agency:	United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)
Country:	Bangladesh
Project Title and ID:	Strengthening Institutional Capacity for SDGs Achievement in Bangladesh (SC4SDG); 00087607
Project Duration:	January 2020 - August 2023
Reporting Time Frame	January - December 2020
Contact Person/s:	CO Management Fakrul Ahsan Chief Technical Adviser SC4SDG Project
Funded by:	PEA Donors (EU, Austria and UNEP pooled funds – Norway and SIDA) UNDP TRAC Local Donors

Acronyms

8FYP	8th Five Year Plan
ADA	Australian Development Agency
AWP	Annual Work Plan
BBS	Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics
CPD	Country Programme Document
CSO	Civil Society Organization
CST	Core SDGs Team
DIM	Direct Implementation Modality
DRF	Development Results Framework
ECOSOC	United Nations Economic and Social Council
EU	European Union
GED	General Economics Division
GoB	Government of Bangladesh
HLPF	High-Level Political Forum
IFI	International Financial Institution
INFF	Integrated National Financing Framework
LGD	Local Government Division
LNOB	Leaving No One Behind
M&E	Monitoring and Evaluation
NGO	Non-Governmental Organisation
PEA	Poverty-Environment Action
SC4SDG	Strengthening Institutional Capacity for SDGs Achievement in Bangladesh
SDGs	Sustainable Development Goals
SIDA	Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency
SP	Strategic Plan
SSIP	Support to Sustainable and Inclusive Planning
UNDAF	United Nations Development Assistance Framework
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme

UNEP United Nations Environment Programme
VNR Voluntary National Review

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I. Project Status Information

Project Title	Strengthening Institutional Capacity for SDGs Achievement in Bangladesh (SC4SDG)
Project ID/Output ID	00087607 / 00094549
Reporting Timeframe Start Date/End Date	January - December 2020
Implementing Modality	DIM – Direct Implementation with 100% CO Support
Implementing Partner(s) Responsible Party(ies)	United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) General Economics Division (GED), Bangladesh Planning Commission
Donors	PEA Donors (EU, Austria, and UNEP pooled funds – Norway, and SIDA) UNDP
UNDP Strategic Plan RRF Outcome	SP Outcome 1: Advance Poverty Eradication in all its forms and dimensions
UNDP Strategic Plan RRF Output	SP Output 1.1.1: Capacities developed across the whole of government to integrate the 2030 Agenda, the Paris Agreement and other international agreements in development plans and budgets, and to analyse progress towards the SDGs, using innovative and data-driven solutions
UNDAF/ UNDP CPD Outcome (s)	UNDAF Outcome 1: All people have equal rights, access and opportunities CPD Outcome 1: Increase opportunities, especially for women and disadvantaged groups to contribute to and benefit from economic progress
Project Objective	The main objective of the project is to ‘Integrate SDGs into Government Business and Partnership’. The project aims to support GOB to facilitate whole of society approach from the lens of leaving no one behind, mobilise resources towards implementation at national and local level for attainment of SDGs.

Donor (ID & Description)	Annual budget (USD)	Expenditure (USD)	Delivery Rate (%)	Commitments (USD)
10159 – EU (European Union)	106,185.00	105,702.08	99.55%	0
11266 – ADA (Austrian Development Agency)	22,323.60	22,555.40	101.04%	0
11793-UNDP POOLED FUNDS	118,648.56	117,977.15	99.43%	0

II. Project Progress

PEA Global Output 1: Development planning, budgeting and monitoring systems integrate environmental sustainability and climate objectives for poverty eradication

PEA Global Key Deliverable 1.1.1 (Capacity of public officials enhanced to integrate SDGs into 8th Five Year Plan and develop related policies) Progress:

The ‘Strengthening Institutional Capacity for SDGs Achievement in Bangladesh’ (SC4SDG) Project has maintained the support it provided under its predecessor project, ‘Support to Sustainable and Inclusive Planning’ (SSIP) in extending assistance to the Government of Bangladesh (GoB) to adopt pro-poor growth, climate-resilient, gender-responsive and SDGs focussed strategies into the national development plan of Bangladesh. As a continuous process of providing support to the GoB, the project has been working with the General Economics Division (GED) of the Bangladesh Planning Commission from the very early stage of the formulation of the 8th Five Year Plan (8FYP). The project has provided inputs for formulation of the Concept Note, a chapter on Monitoring and Evaluation as well as the Development Results Framework (DRF) of the 8FYP. The DRF encompasses 104 indicators, of which 61 indicators are from the SDGs Global Indicators Framework.

Despite the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, the project gained momentum particularly during the last two quarters when the GoB lifted the strict lockdown measure of ‘Stay at Home/General Holidays’. In collaboration with the Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics (BBS), the project organised three training workshops on metadata for SDG indicators 17.14.1, 16.7.1, and 5.c.1 in the fourth quarter of 2020. UNDP and UNEP are the custodian agencies for these SDG indicators. The three workshops aimed to enhance the knowledge of the SDG focal points of different ministries/divisions/agencies to contextualise and prioritise SDGs, including poverty, environment, climate, governance, and gender issues.

The workshop on the Indicator ‘17.14.1: Number of countries with mechanisms in place to enhance policy coherence of sustainable development’ themed as ‘Capacity Building for Generating SDGs Data on Environment, Climate Change and Disaster Management Issues with Special Focus on Policy Coherence for Sustainable Development’ was organised from 15-

17 October 2020. The three-day training workshop's primary objective was to assess the current situation and status of environmental data availability, data gaps, data management system, and environmental data sharing and reporting. The training workshop participated by 66 SDG Focal Points from 22 relevant Ministries/Divisions/Departments/Agencies encompassed 12 technical sessions on metadata explanation of environmental indicators, mechanisms to enhance policy coherence, poverty linkage to the environment and disaster management, economic and non-economic damages and losses from climate change-related impacts, challenges for national development and planning, national approach towards SDGs monitoring and related issues.

The training workshop, 'SDG Metadata and SDMX Template: Exercise on SDG Indicator 16.7.1 (*Proportions of positions in national and local institutions, including (a) the legislatures; (b) the public service; and (c) the judiciary, compared to national distributions, by sex, age, persons with disabilities and population groups*)' was held between 01 and 02 November 2020. The overall goal of the training workshop was to increase awareness of SDG indicator 16.7.1 and enhance the knowledge and capacity of key stakeholders, including government representatives and statisticians, on the monitoring and reporting process of this indicator. In the same month, the training workshop for indicator 5.c.1 titled 'SDG Metadata and SDMX Template: Exercise on SDG Indicator 5.c.1' was organised from 20-21 November 2020. The training workshop represented an opportunity to enhance participants' knowledge of the main concepts and methodology for generating data on '*SDG indicator 5.c.1: Proportion of countries with systems to track and make public allocations for gender equality and women's empowerment*' and enhance the capacity of national institutions.

A pre-training and post-training assessment were conducted during both the workshops. In both workshops, the pre-training and post-training assessments showed stark contrasts in response to the question regarding awareness about the metadata, associated target, relevant tier, lead ministry, data source, and global custodian for the indicators. The pre-training survey for indicator 16.7.1 indicated that 88.9% (32 out of the total 36) of the participants were unaware of the metadata; however, 100% of the respondents had reported having learned about the indicator in the post-training assessment. Similarly, for indicator 5.c.1, the pre-training assessment reported that 81.8% (27 out of the total 33) of the training

workshop participants were not familiar with the indicator, whereas 100% of the respondents assured of learning about the indicator in the post-training assessment. Although the pre-assessment exercise demonstrated challenges in the data generation process of the indicators, the post-training evaluations indicated that the training workshops significantly enhanced the capacity of the government officials from associated ministries/divisions/agencies on the methods, techniques, compilation, and interpretation of SDG data for the indicators mentioned above. These workshops' participants are expected to generate quality SDG data, which can be used to monitor SDGs implementation.

PEA Global Key Deliverable 1.1.2 (Results based M&E System and capacities of 8th FYP established to track SDG performance) Progress:

In order to keep pace with the changes in the global data domain, the project took the initiative with the GED to revisit the SDGs Monitoring & Evaluation Framework (M&E) of the country. The “Revised Monitoring and Evaluation Framework of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs): Bangladesh Perspective”, was prepared and published to reflect the changes made in the SDGs Global Indicators Framework and to accommodate changes occurred in the global and national data domain. Baseline data has been provided for 161 indicators, while this revisited SDGs M&E Framework has been developed for 138 indicators out of 247 indicators. Bangladesh SDG Progress Report 2020 and Voluntary National Review (VNR) 2020 have been prepared based on this Revised SDGs M&E Framework. This framework will be used for all future SDGs progress monitoring reports.

The first meeting of the Core SDGs Team (CST) was held on 22 March 2020. The CST specially invited SDG Focal Points from relevant ministries/divisions to discuss the Revised SDGs M&E Framework. The final draft of the Revised SDGs M&E Framework for Bangladesh was shared with the GED incorporating the inputs and comments received from the ministries, divisions, data producing agencies, UN Data Group members and custodian agencies. During the last quarter, the project also organised a meeting of the Core SDGs Team (CST) and a preparation workshop for Annual Work Plan (AWP) 2021 in the first week of November 2020. The SDGs related activities that are planned to be carried out in 2021 by the project were shared and finalised in the AWP workshop.

The project has developed the ‘Chapter-6: Monitoring and Evaluation’ of the Eighth Five Year Plan (8FYP). This chapter is critical in helping the Government to track and monitor the progress of implementing the plan targets and taking corrective actions when significant gaps or divergences emerge. The M&E will be flexibly used as an instrument for securing mid-term corrections. This will also be used to link the successive 5-year plans by looking at the results achieved in each medium-term plan and identifying the gaps. The gaps will then inform and guide the agenda, policies, and strategies of the next 5-year plan.

In partnership with the GED, the project organised the first ~~consultation~~ of the series of consultation workshops on "Reviewing Progress of Implementation of National SDG Action

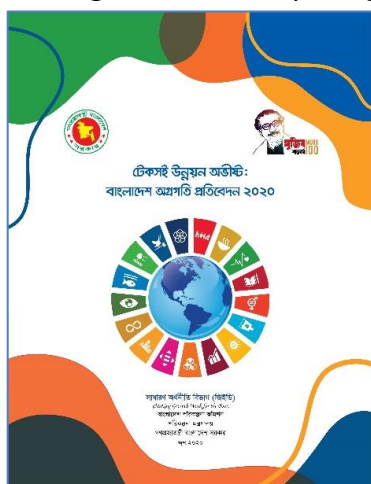
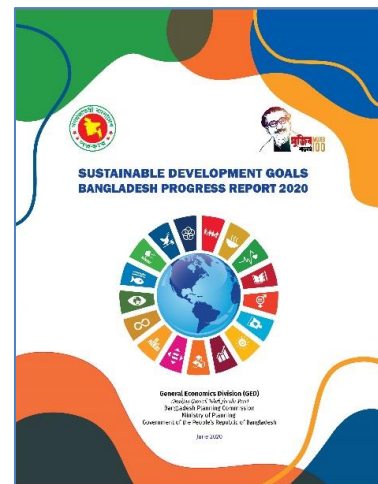
Plan" in the fourth quarter. In line with the development budget of the GoB, the national SDG Action Plan was developed in 2018. Since the Action Plan is a living document, it needs further revision in compliance with the 8 FYP. Discussions from these consultation review workshop series will be considered as guiding documents for developing the next Five-year Development Plan. The workshop was attended by 53 officials from 17 ministries/divisions, while representatives from the top 12 top consuming ministries/divisions of the public investment (Annual Development Programme - ADP) allocation presented their progress against the SDG Action Plan commitment.

The project also organised the inter-ministerial consultation workshop on “Revised SDGs Monitoring and Evaluation Framework for the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs): Bangladesh Perspective” on 20 December 2020 to introduce the revised SDGs M&E Framework for Sustainable Development Goals. As more and more data are now made available by the BBS and from the administrative sources, the older version of the M&E Framework warrants updating to accommodate changes in line with the global and national data domains. This workshop has been organised to sensitise the SDG Focal Points across 46 ministries and divisions about all the changes made in the revised M&E Framework so that they would be able to provide required information to BBS and the GED regularly.

PEA Global Key Deliverable 1.1.3 (Research conducted on emerging issues on economic, social, environment and climate change to inform policy and planning) Progress:

The project has successfully influenced the government to incorporate context and action on Leave No One Behind, the aspiration for attaining the SDG, into the 8FYP through commissioning a background study 'Leaving No One Behind (LNOB) in Bangladesh: Strategy and Recommendations for the 8FYP for implementing Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)'.

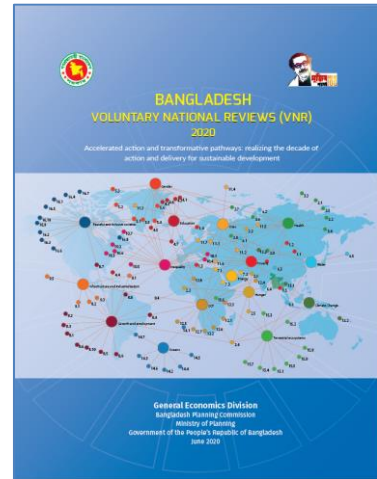
To this end, the GED of the Bangladesh Planning Commission with the technical and financial assistance of the UNDP and PEA has prepared 'Sustainable Development Goals: Bangladesh Progress Report 2020'. This is the second formal SDGs Progress Report produced by Bangladesh. This report reflected progress on 118 indicators. The report will help Bangladesh to measure the status of and progress in SDGs implementation during the last 4 years so that the country can adopt appropriate strategies and policy actions for the goals



and targets the country is lagging. This progress report is also a source of motivation for all stakeholders to undertake actions to enhance their performances in SDGs implementation for achieving the milestones set under the SDGs by 2030. In this regard, the important priority is to capture real progress (or lack of it) in specific SDGs targets using reliable data and help overcome existing weaknesses in data generation and ensure availability, timeliness, quality and disaggregated data for monitoring. The report has also been published in the native

language (Bangla) for broader circulation and a better understanding of the global development agenda among the general public and various stakeholders to build their ownership in implementation, tackling challenges, and way forward.

Furthermore, Bangladesh has for the second time prepared Bangladesh Voluntary National Review (VNR) with the support from UNDP and PEA to present the report along with 46 other countries at the High-Level Political Forum (HLPF) under the auspices of United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC). The VNR 2020 titled 'Accelerated action and transformative pathways: realising the decade of action and delivery for sustainable development'. Because of the unprecedented health crisis of COVID-19 pandemic, Bangladesh presented VNR 2020 virtually on 13 July 2020. The session started with an audio-visual clip on its SDG progress and Covid-19 response by Bangladesh. Bangladesh's VNR was presented by Mr. M A Mannan MP, Honourable Minister, Ministry of Planning, Government of the Peoples' Republic of Bangladesh. Furthermore, the Hon'ble Prime Minister of Bangladesh gave an opening statement in VNR 2020.



In the third quarter, the project in association with the GED organised a public awareness meeting on "Bangladesh SDGs Progress Report 2020" on 27 August 2020. Hon'ble Planning Minister, Mr. M. A. Mannan MP, presided over the meeting. Principal SDG Coordinator, Planning Secretary, Foreign Secretary and Resident Representative of UNDP Bangladesh also attended the meeting. Dr. Samsul Alam, Member (Senior Secretary) of the GED, made a presentation on the background, current status, and achievements of SDGs and its prospects and challenges in Bangladesh. The project distributed the hard copy of the SDGs Progress Report 2020 and VNR among participants to ensure wider dissemination of SDG-related information.

PEA Output 1: Data Sheet Update

Country Indicators	Baseline	Target	Target Status
Country indicator 1.1.1 (Links to PEA joint project indicator 1.1): # of GoB officials trained on contextualisation and prioritisation of SDGs including poverty-environment	Year: 2019 Status: 0	Year: 2020 Value: 20	<u>Achieved</u> 135 GoB officials were trained [M: 104; F: 31]
Country indicator 1.1.2 (Links to PEA joint project indicator 1.3): Progress towards operationalisation of Core SDGs Team (CST) to support in activities relating to the global goals	Year: 2019 Status: 2	Year: 2020 Value: 3	<u>Achieved</u> 2 meetings of the CST were organized
Country indicator 1.1.3 (Links to PEA joint project indicator 1.1): The extend of engagement in the preparation of 8 th Five Year Plan	Year: 2019 Status: 0	Year: 2020 Value: 5	<u>Achieved</u> The engagement of the project was very effective and contributed heavily in the preparation of the 8FYP. The Plan was approved by the Government.
Country indicator 1.1.4 (Links to PEA joint project indicator 1.1): # of public planners coached and trained on integration of SDGs into national policy plans	Year: 2019 Status: 0	Year: 2020 Value: 25	<u>Achieved</u> A total of 59 (M: 50; F: 9) public planners were trained
Country indicator 1.2.1 (Links to PEA joint project indicator 1.3): Progress towards establishment and operationalisation of National SDGs M&E Platform, including poverty-environment	Year: 2019 Status: 0	Year: 2020 Value: 5	<u>Not achieved</u> The CST has recommended not to establish the platform to avoid duplication but to support the National Data Coordination Committee (NDCC)
Country indicator 1.2.2 (Links to PEA joint project indicator 1.1): # of officials coached and trained on SDGs monitoring and evaluation (disaggregated by sex)	Year: 2019 Status: 0	Year: 2020 Value: 50	<u>Achieved</u> 118 (M: 98; F: 20) officials coached and trained on SDGs monitoring and evaluation
Country indicator 1.2.3 (Links to PEA joint project indicator 1.4): # of Progress Report (or VNR) on SDG implementation, UNGA prepared regularly	Year: 2019 Status: 10	Year: 2020 Value: 11	<u>Achieved</u> Voluntary National Review 2020, SDG Progress Report 2020 and Bangla version of the

			SDG Progress Report 2020 have been prepared
Country indicator 1.2.4 (Links to PEA joint project indicator 1.1): # of stakeholder consultation workshops organised to receive feedback on SDG and 8 th FYP progress reporting	Year: 2019 Status: 0	Year: 2020 Value: 2	<u>Partially achieved</u> One stakeholder's consultation was organized
Country indicator 1.2.5 (Links to PEA joint project indicator 1.1): Development of and an agreement on DRF for the 8 th FYP through an inclusive process	Year: 2019 Status: 3	Year: 2020 Value: 5	<u>Achieved</u> The DRF of the 8FYP was developed by the project with support from the GED
Country indicator 1.3.1 (Links to PEA joint project indicator 1.2): # of knowledge products produced to enhance knowledge and capacity of the government policy makers to tackle emerging and challenging issues in SDGs achievement, including poverty-environment	Year: 2019 Status: 1	Year: 2020 Value: 3	<u>Partially achieved</u> LNOB Background Study for the 8FYP has been conducted
Country indicator 1.3.2 (Links to PEA joint project indicator 1.1): # of consultations organised to receive feedback from wider stakeholders on knowledge products	Year: 2019 Status: 0	Year: 2020 Value: 1	<u>Achieved</u> Public awareness meeting on SDGs Progress Report 2020 has been organised with wider stakeholders

PEA Global Output 2: Public finance and investment frameworks incentivise shift in public and private investments towards environmental sustainability and climate objectives for poverty eradication

PEA Global Key Deliverable 2.1.1 (Policy papers on SDG localisation informing policies and strategies to roll out SDG localisation in Bangladesh) Progress:

The GoB is committed to implementing SDGs at the local level to reinforce the ‘Leave No One Behind’ (LNOB) lens. In view of this, the project commissioned and prepared two preparatory studies: (a) ‘An assessment to identify the selection criteria of Upazilas (Sub-Districts) for localising the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs),’ and (b) ‘Mapping of Resources Required to Localise the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in Selected Upazilas’ as a precursor of localisation activities of the SDGs at the grass-root level. In order to start piloting of the SDGs Upazila Action Plan to localise SDGs in eight Upazilas, the project developed a concept note on SDG localisation.

In addition to that, the project also prepared the Upazila Action Plan and Training Module for Localisation of SDGs in the later quarters. These documents have been prepared to encourage local-level ownership of the SDGs through inclusive and enhanced stakeholders’ participation. Both the knowledge documents are anticipated to strengthen the government and local government officials' ability to facilitate the local level SDG localisation process.

The Upazila Action Plan present context-specific local sustainability strategies to achieve the SDGs and serve as a guiding document for the SDG implementing agencies. This Action Plan will also work as a supporting document for the local government in terms of planning and budgeting as well as monitoring and evaluation of the SDGs at the local level. On the other hand, the training module will help the participants learn how to facilitate SDG localisation, support community capacity building, resource mobilisation, and networking efforts. In particular, the training module presents tools that support the follow-up and review of SDG implementation at the local level.

PEA Global Key Deliverable 2.1.2 (Models for mobilising public and private resources towards key sectors and SDG targets tested and replicated) Progress:

The project is conducting an assessment titled “Assessing the Feasibility of Instituting Blue Bond in the Existing Bond Market of Bangladesh”. The study targets to evaluate the feasibility of introducing the blue bond in the existing bond market of Bangladesh for financing sustainable marine and ocean-based projects (or blue projects) as potential avenues to contribute in environmental sustainability and poverty eradication, for instance, sustainable fisheries, offshore energy, tourism and waste management. The project is working with the Integrated National Financing Framework (INFF) team in updating the exercise of DFA and SDG financing strategy in the light of the country’s 8FYP (Medium Term Plan). The project is providing technical and financial support to the INFF4SDGs to conduct three studies on Water and Sanitation, Climate Finance, and Government Relation Development.

PEA Global Key Deliverable 2.2.1 (Partnership with think-tanks, academia, CSOs and media established) Progress:

The SC4SDG project began to make headways in establishing partnership with think-tanks, academia, Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) and media from the third quarter due to leniency in lockdown measures. The project has developed a communication and advocacy strategy to foster partnerships to empower key stakeholders to achieve the SDGs and generate enough evidence to achieve the project goals.

To foster a partnership between the government and wider stakeholders (e.g., NGOs, CSOs, Think-Tanks, and Private Sector), the project organised a consultation workshop “Engaging the Wider Stakeholders in Implementing SDGs at the Local Level in Bangladesh” on 17 December 2020. Representatives from government, development organisations, NGOs, CSOs, think-tanks, and private sectors were brought together and approached to share their thoughts and suggestions on the wider stakeholders' role in localising SDGs. Thus, along with sensitising the SDG localisation, this consultation facilitated discussion on the potential areas of engagement for wider stakeholders within the horizon of localising SDGs; good practices of wider stakeholders for promoting the SDGs at the local level; and rolling out the SDGs localisation framework prepared by GED for achieving SDGs at the local level.

In order to build skills, knowledge and capacity of the youth, the project has been preparing a mini handbook on SDGs. As the educational institutions across the country are closed due to the current COVID-19 crisis, the project has planned to arrange Zoom meeting or Webinar series to disseminate the SDG related knowledge among the target group. The printed copies of the handbook are expected to be distributed among university teachers and students once universities reopen in 2021.

**PEA Global Key Deliverable 2.2.2 (Private sector engagement in achieving SDGs promoted)
Progress:**

Similar to output 2.2.1, the deliverables under output 2.2.2 were impeded till the third quarter because of the COVID-19 restrictions. In collaboration with INFF4SDGs, the project organised a technical workshop with private sector titled “Investing in Water and Sanitation, Climate Finance, and Renewable Energy in Bangladesh: Market Analytics, Financing Instruments, and Networking” on 28 December 2020. Representatives from the private sector, UN agencies, International Financial Institutions (IFIs), Chambers, Stock Exchange attended the workshop. The workshop successfully facilitated constructive discussion on developing a shared understanding of SDGs financing by public and private sectors; sharing market/context analytics and available/existing financing tools and identifying bottlenecks to build data-driven advocacy.

PEA Global Key Deliverable 2.2.3 (Parliamentarians' engagement in achieving SDGs promoted) Progress:

The role of the Parliamentarian Standing Committee is highly crucial in achieving the SDGs. Therefore, the project had taken the initiative to engage different Parliamentarian Standing Committees in achieving SDG in the fourth quarter of 2020. However, the proposed Consultation workshop on 'Engaging Parliamentarian Standing Committees' scheduled in December 2020 was cancelled due to the second-wave of COVID-19.

PEA Output 2: Data Sheet Update

Country Indicators	Baseline	Target	Target Status
Country indicator 2.3.1 (Links to PEA joint project indicator 1.2): # of research papers and case-studies on 'SDG Localization' produced, including poverty-environment	Year: 2019 Status: 0	Year: 2020 Value: 2	<u>Achieved</u> Two studies on 'Upazila Selection Criteria' and 'Resource Requirement of SDG Localization' have been completed
Country indicator 2.3.2 (Links to PEA joint project indicator 1.3): # of consultation workshops organised to showcase the implementation status of SDGs localisation	Year: 2019 Status: 0	Year: 2020 Value: 0	<u>N/A</u> No activities are set for 2020
Country indicator 2.3.3 (Links to PEA joint project indicator 1.3): 'Annual High-Level Forum on 'SDG Localization' organised in collaboration with GED and LGD regularly	Year: 2019 Status: 0	Year: 2020 Value: 0	<u>N/A</u> No activities are set for 2020
Country indicator 3.2.1 (Links to PEA joint project indicator 2.4): # of consultations organised involving private sector and other relevant stakeholders for exploring innovative strategies of resource mobilisation	Year: 2019 Status: 0	Year: 2020 Value: 1	<u>Not achieved</u> No activities have started yet due to COVID-19 pandemic
Country indicator 3.2.2 (Links to PEA joint project indicator 2.1): # of studies conducted on SDGs financing mechanism	Year: 2019 Status: 0	Year: 2020 Value: 1	<u>Not achieved</u> No activities have started yet due to COVID-19 pandemic
Country indicator 4.1.1 (Links to PEA joint project indicator 2.4): # of consultations organised involving think-tanks, academia, CSO, NGOs, youth, as well as differently abled groups on SDGs implementation and review process including poverty-environment	Year: 2019 Status: 0	Year: 2020 Value: 1	<u>Not achieved</u> No activities have started yet due to COVID-19 pandemic
Country indicator 4.1.2 (Links to PEA joint project indicator 2.4): Annual conference/workshop organised involving students and	Year: 2019 Status: 0	Year: 2020 Value: 1	<u>Not achieved</u> No activities have started yet due to COVID-19 pandemic

youth engagement from different universities/institutions including poverty-environment			
Country indicator 4.1.3 (Links to PEA joint project indicator 2.4): # of innovative campaign supported to youth-lead organisation to raise awareness on SDGs including poverty-environment	Year: 2019 Status: 0	Year: 2020 Value: 1	<u>Not achieved</u> No activities have started yet due to COVID-19 pandemic
Country indicator 4.2.1 (Links to PEA joint project indicator 2.4): # of regular consultation organised with all private sector actor for promoting SDGs implementation, including poverty-environment	Year: 2019 Status: 0	Year: 2020 Value: 2	<u>Partially achieved</u> 1 consultation was organized
Country indicator 4.3.1 (Links to PEA joint project indicator 2.4): # of trainings organised for active participation of parliamentarians in SDGs implementation, including poverty environment	Year: 2019 Status: 0	Year: 2020 Value: 1	<u>Not achieved</u> No activities have started yet due to COVID-19 pandemic
Country indicator 4.3.2 (Links to PEA joint project indicator 2.4): # of engagement established with different Parliamentary Standing Committees and All-party Parliamentary Group in SDGs implementation and monitoring including poverty-environment	Year: 2019 Status: 0	Year: 2020 Value: 1	<u>Not achieved</u> No activities have started yet due to COVID-19 pandemic

III. Partnerships, Visibility & Communication

The activities to enhance partnerships, visibility and communication were impeded during the first wave of the COVID-19 crisis. However, at the beginning of the fourth quarter of 2020, the project developed a 'Communication and Advocacy Strategy' to help the project identify and address priorities for the project's efficient implementation and visibility. In this context, the project has created a Facebook page, YouTube channel, and Twitter account to increase the project's visibility and establish communication with the wider stakeholders through social media. Correspondingly, a project logo has been designed for branding purpose of the project.

In addition, the project has made significant strides in expanding the visibility of the project to establish communication with wider stakeholders through social media. For this reason, the project posted the news of all AWP events such as workshops, training, and consultation meetings held in the fourth quarter on its official Facebook and Twitter handles, YouTube channel and other social media accounts. The project has also regularly shared the event briefs with UNDP Bangladesh and UNEP-PEA to facilitate uploading of posts on their respective websites. The news of the consultation workshops was also published in UNDP's weekly magazine 'THE WEEK'.

IV. Risk Log

Risk Log					
#	Description and Date Identified	Type	Probability and Impact	Countermeasures / Management Response	Last Update
1	<p>Description: Weak interactions / coordination among the partner agencies and GoB relations.</p> <p>Date Identified: 2019</p>	Political, Administrative	Impact = 3 Probability = 2	<p><u>Management Response:</u> Apart from the General Economics Division, the SC4SDG project will work with other government institutions i.e. Bangladesh Planning Commission, Prime Minister's Office (PMO), Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics (BBS), Local Government Division (LGD), Ministry of Finance (MoF), SDGs Implementation and Review Committee, National Board of Revenues (NBR), Parliament, key upazilas and other local level subnational agencies. Effectiveness of the planning process depends on adequate coordination of government agencies notably with PMO and BBS.</p> <p><u>Countermeasures:</u> The project aims to secure better understanding and commitment among the partner agencies especially with Ministry of Planning, Prime Minister's Office (PMO) and Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics (BBS). The project intends to scale up regular interaction with government agencies and UNDP.</p>	January 2020

V. Challenges

The project's overall targeted outcome for 2020 faced unprecedented interruptions due to the persistence of COVID-19 in Bangladesh. Output-2 (SDGs Localization) related activities were delayed because of the pandemic, mainly due to the prolonged lockdown/general holidays and ban on field travel. However, the project has completed the preparatory works relating to SDGs Localization (background studies). The project has also developed the training modules that will be used as guiding documents during the piloting of the SDG Localization Model.

The intensified health measures due to the new strain of COVID-19 impeded the progress for a crucial activity on an awareness campaign for the Parliamentarian Standing Committee in December 2020. Besides, the GED officials' deep engagement in the review process of the draft 8FYP and the parliament members apathy to attend any such meeting due to their strong involvement in activities relating Covid - 19 management in their own constituencies contributed to the postponement. Since effective communication with Parliamentarians is crucial to achieving the SDGs at the national and local level, the project intends to organise the campaign in 2021.

Another critical challenge for the project in the past year was to recruit Consultants and commence the studies on water and sanitation, climate finance, and government relations development that are supposed to be conducted under the INFF4SDGs project.

VI. Lessons learnt

The key lessons learnt in the first year of the SC4SDG projects are as follows:

- Capacity development efforts are fundamental for SDGs implementation. However, the ‘work from home’ and ‘social distancing’ measures due to COVID-19 imply that training, workshops, and consultations require redesigning in line with the new normal. The project has taken the current COVID-19 pandemic seriously and prepared every action, including timeframes and milestones, for implementing target activities to operate amidst the pandemic. All these COVID-19 responses (maintain hygiene, single -room occupancy for residential training) served as guiding principles to work in these unprecedented situations.
- Inclusion of custodian agencies is warranted in metadata development, data generation from global sources and quality improvement of SDGs related documents. Collaboration with custodian agencies in Bangladesh helped obtain baseline data for 30 out of 165 indicators to revisit SDGs M&E Framework. In addition, custodian agencies have been involved in the process of revisiting the SDGs M&E Framework. Agencies that have physical offices in Bangladesh were requested to take the custodianship of the agencies that have no office in the country, e.g. UNDP has taken the national custodianship of the SDGs indicators assigned to UNEP for custody.
- Inter-project collaboration helps provide COVID-19-related support to the targeted beneficiaries on the ground, which enables to increase the scope of work of the project. In the second quarter of 2020, a total of 300 thermal scanners and 320 pulse oximeters were distributed through the Efficient and Accountable Local Governance (EALG) project among project beneficiaries in 9 districts (Faridpur, Chandpur, Rajshahi, Khulna, Patuakhali, Sunamganj, Rangpur, Netrokona and Cox’s Bazar). In partnership with the Strengthening Women's Ability for Productive New Opportunities (SWAPNO) project, 1,300 poor female-based households in Kurigram (SFLP Working District) have received BDT 1500 per household by bkaash (financial remittance service) for meeting their daily need during ‘Stay at Home’ call by the government.
- During the training workshops, the pre-assessment exercise revealed that ministries/divisions/agencies might face various data generation challenges for SDG

reporting. Therefore, communication and coordination between the BBS, custodian agencies and designated ministries/divisions/departments must be ensured to report and implement SDGs in Bangladesh. Nevertheless, the designated ministries and agencies ensured that all methods would be developed that are aligned with existing international statistical standards and frameworks. Moreover, participants of these workshops are expected to generate quality SDG data, which can be used in monitoring the progress of SDGs implementation. Moreover, it is expected that participants of these training workshops will be able to provide future training to share the good practices in their organisations, countries, and regions.

VII. Recommendations

The SDGs and its associated targets provide a suitable framework directly related to the responsibilities of local governments. Thus, local governments are increasingly considered as key stakeholders for combining the integrated and universal goals of the 2030 Agenda at the local level. However, support of other non-government entities like NGOs, CSOs, think-tanks level, and private sector and the local ownership of the SDGs is essential to reach out to the people at the furthest and speed up SDG localisation. Thus, a multi-stakeholder strategy needs to be employed to involve both local and national stakeholders, such as the Local Government Division (LGD), local government agencies, Upazila administration, NGOs, CSOs, media, researchers, businesses, and local communities, at various steps of mainstreaming the SDGs into local development perspectives and practices.

Generation of credible and quality data is fundamental in making data available for SDG monitoring and evaluation in Bangladesh. Unfortunately, like many developing countries, data paucity hinders close monitoring of the SDGs implementation in Bangladesh. In order to generate SDG related data for reducing the problem of information asymmetry during monitoring of SDGs implementation require information of those living at the furthest (e.g. ethnic communities, disabled people, transgender people, etc.) making it a challenging job. Collaboration with key partners and stakeholders is crucial to raise awareness about identifying the data gaps and making the data available for implementing the SDGs in Bangladesh.

The administrative issue encountered during the first year of the project in recruiting a suitable candidate for the position of a Climate Finance Expert could be addressed by maintaining regular coordination with the INFF4SDGs team and adopting the alternative approach of head-hunting considering the time constraint to find an experienced Consultant for the mentioned position.

The Annual Work Plan needs to be revised and adjusted to attain the AWP activities and a comprehensive assessment must be undertaken for this year's achievements and challenges in terms of reaching the targeted activities. A comprehensive strategy for mitigating risk factors may need to be adopted to realise the targeted activities and objectives of the project.

This strategy could be formulated in collaboration with the partner institutions of the project. Thus, coordination efforts with key partners may ensure the integration of activities that were falling behind due to the COVID-19 crisis.

The news of the events and activities undertaken by the SC4SDG project should be regularly shared and updated on social media and virtual platforms (e.g., Facebook, Twitter, YouTube, and Websites) to disseminate the knowledge produced and connect with the targeted stakeholders.

In conclusion, innovative solutions need to be adopted to handle the challenges posed by COVID-19 and implement the project more efficiently. Health protocols (e.g., Physical distancing, face mask, and hand sanitiser) must be maintained while organising in-person workshops and consultation meetings.

VIII. Financial Overview¹

ATLAS Project ID: 00087607

ATLAS Output ID: 00094549

Donor (Name & ID)	Budget (USD)	Expense (USD)	Balance (USD)	Delivery (%)	Commitments (USD)
10159 – EU (European Union)	106,185.00	105,702.08	482.92	99.55%	0
11266 – ADA (Austrian Development Agency)	22,323.60	22,555.40	-231.80	101.04%	0
11793-UNDP POOLED FUNDS	118,648.56	117,977.15	671.41	99.43%	0
TOTAL	247,157.16	246,234.63	922.53	100.01%	0.00

¹ Detailed Quarterly Expenditure Report can be found in Annex 1

IX. 2020 Work Plan

Priority actions and key output or process targets planned for the following reporting period.

Indication of any major adjustments in the strategies, targets or key outcomes and outputs.

Components	Outputs	Planned Activities	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	
PEA OUTPUT 1: Development planning, budgeting and monitoring systems integrate environmental sustainability and climate objectives for poverty eradication															
Component 1: Evidence-informed SDG policy and plans formulated	1.1 Capacity of public officials enhanced to integrate SDGs into 8 th Five Year Plan and develop related policies	1.1.1 Training for SDGs Ministry Focal Points on SDGs Metadata (GED, UNDP, UNEP indicators)													
		1.1.2: Training on various issues (*Knowledge Exchange Visit on SDGs)													
	1.2 Results based M&E System and capacities of 8FYP established to track SDG performance	1.2.1: Revise the SDGs M&E Framework													
		1.2.2: Review and update SDGs Action Plan													
		1.2.3: SDGs Mapping													
		1.2.4: Prepare DRF Chapter of 8 th Five Year Plan													
		1.2.6: Prepare SDG Report to 75 th UNGA													
	1.3 Research conducted on emerging issues on economic, social, environment and climate change to inform policy and planning	1.3.1: Background study on "LNOB", as a background study for the 8FYP of Bangladesh													
		1.3.2 SDGs Progress Report 2020 and Voluntary National Review 2020													
		1.3.3: Quarterly Core SDG Team (CST) Meeting													
1.3.4: National SDGs M&E Platform															
PEA OUTPUT 2: Public finance and investment frameworks incentivise shift in public and private investments towards environmental sustainability and climate objectives for poverty eradication															
Component 2: Systems and capacities in place to localise the SDGs	2.3 Policy papers on SDG localisation informing policies and strategies to roll out SDG localisation in Bangladesh	2.3.1: Conduct SDG Localization Studies (2 studies)													
Component 3: Financing for SDG Implementation is Secured and Prioritised	3.2 Models for mobilising public and private resources towards key sectors and SDG targets tested and replicated	3.2.1: Integrated National Financing Framework (INFF) developed													
		3.2.2: Training on SDGs sensitive budgetary framework													
Component 4: Partnerships and outreach for enhancing society wide participation in SDGs implementation ensured	4.1 Partnership with think-tanks, academia, CSOs and media established	4.1.1: Annual Conference organised													
		4.1.2: Campaign organised on SDGs sensitisation with Universities													
		4.1.3: Consultation with wider stakeholders													
		4.1.3. Develop a Communication Strategy													
	4.2 Private sector engagement in achieving SDGs promoted	4.2.1: Consultation (Follow-up) with Private Sector Organized													
4.3 Parliamentarians' engagement in achieving SDGs promoted	4.3.1: Awareness campaign for the parliamentarians (including All-Party Standing Committee)														

ANNEX 2: Pictorial Illustration (SDG Progress Report 2020 Launching)



Launching of SDGs Progress Report 2020



Hon'ble Planning Minister



Guests of the event in one single frame



SDG Principal
Coordinator, PMO



Senior Secretary,
Planning Division



Secretary, Ministry of
Foreign Affairs



Resident
Representative, UNDP



Member
(Senior Secretary), GED

ANNEX 2: Pictorial Illustration (Other Events)



Training on SDG Indicator 16.7.1



Training on SDG Indicator 5.c.1



Consultation on Review of SDG Action Plan



Consultation on SDG Localization



Consultation on Revised SDGs M&E Framework



Consultation with Private Sector