NGOs’ contribution in reducing inequality

*SDG 10*

Presented by

*Dr Rezwan-ul-Alam*

Director, Knowledge Management, Manusher Jonno Foundation (MJF)
About SDG 10

The most broad-based

10 targets
11 indicators

Encompass the universality of the 2030 Agenda ‘no one will be left behind’

• Linkages with 60 SDG targets
• Linkages with 9 international HR instruments
SDG 10- Reducing inequality within and among countries

- Reducing income inequality (10.1)
- Promoting social, political and economic inclusion (10.2)
- Addressing discrimination and inequalities of opportunity and outcomes, and ensuring equal opportunities and ending discrimination (10.3).
- Adopting fiscal and social policies that promote equality (10.4),
- Improving regulation of global financial markets and institutions (10.5),
- Enhancing representation for developing countries in financial institutions (10.6)
- Pursuing responsible and well-managed migration policies (10.7).
- According special and differential treatment for developing countries (10.A)
- Encouraging development assistance and investment in the least developed countries (10.B)
- Taking steps to reduce transaction costs for migrant remittances (10.C).
Approach and methodology

14 NGOs, MJF Anchor, Oxfam Co-Anchor

Objective:
- a) capture NGOs’ contribution in SDG 10
- b) highlight lessons learnt
- c) offers recommendations to address challenges in attaining the targets of Goal 10 by 2030.

**METHODODOLOGY**

- Group formation
- Workshop
- Review of secondary material (GOB, UN, CSOs, newspapers, websites)
- Data collection from associate NGOs
- Draft by MJF
- Peer reviewed by Secretariat and finalization
Background

Article 19 Constitutional obligations

7FYP target Gini Co-efficient 0.45 or below

Inequality on the rise at national, rural and urban levels

Inequality increased in last 6 years: 0.483 in 2016
Income disparity: bottom 5% (32 times) Top 5% (121 times)

Wealth inequality at 0.74

148 out of 157 countries in global index 2018 of Commitment to Reducing Inequality (CRI)
Findings: NGOs’ contributions in SDG 10

• **10.1: Human development programmes** with emphasis on:
  • alleviating access gap for the poor
  • vocational trainings for facilitating livelihood activities

• **10.2: Social inclusion programmes**
  • irrespective of age, sex, disability, race, ethnicity and origin, religious or economic or other status.
  • Specific programmes for marginalized people, Adibashis, Dalits, fisher-folks, Hijras, third gender, MSMs, AIDS patients
  • Specific programmes for **persons with disabilities**.
  • **Women empowerment programmes** for excluded women to attain knowledge and skills in income opportunity activities
Continued...

- **10:3**: Advocating for equal opportunities for all and the elimination of all discriminatory laws
  - Anti-Discrimination Act

- **10.4**: Promoting the cause of fiscal justice and progressive fiscal policies, and for better and universal social protection

- **10.5 and 10.6**: Engaged in various global fora demanding greater voice and representation of the countries from the South in various global rules-setting institutions that deal with trade, finance, technology transfer etc.

- **10.7**: A few NGOs facilitating **safe migration** including implementation of planned migration policies.

- **10a, 10b and 10c**: Cross-national; some think tanks are strongly arguing for more effective contribution by developed countries in making the three means of implementation work for attaining SDG 10
Learning

• Social safety net programmes can reduce vulnerabilities

• Education, health and livelihood support like skills training, asset transfer and creation of income opportunities are crucial

• GO-NGO well-coordinated and well-sequenced collaboration can generate important synergies

• When NGOs and other non-state actors work in tandem and collaborate, the likelihood of success in Goal 10 areas is found to increase manifold

• Concerted campaigns by NGOs, civil society, media and social support groups can play a catalytic role in protecting the rights of various marginalized communities
Challenges

• Dearth of community-specific and disaggregated data on Dalit, Harijan, *Hijra/third gender, Bede* and other marginalized groups.

• No formal coordination mechanism among Law, Social Welfare and GED with NGOs

• Exclusion of indigenous peoples from decision-making process

• Urgent need for job creation, enhancing labour productivity and wages, expansion of micro-credit and loans to SME and effective women empowerment initiatives
Recommendations

• Introduce prudent fiscal policies to help reduce inequality and lead to better distributive justice.

• Enact Anti-discrimination Act

• Accelerate implementation of work plans under National Social Security Strategy (NSSS)

• Separate comprehensive database for all types of marginalized communities

• A separate table showing annual allocation in national budget under Leave No One Behind theme of SDG

• Ministries should introduce official coordination forum involving relevant NGOs

• Further strengthen local government institutions

• Non-state actors should be engaged in monitoring, reporting and holding relevant government agencies accountable

• Accelerate implementation in the areas of
  • Job creation
  • enhancing labour productivity and wages
  • expansion of micro-credit and loans to SME
  • effective women empowerment initiatives
Conclusion

• The growing inequality over income, wealth, access to resources and justice poses a serious threat to disadvantaged and marginalized population

• While political commitment of the government is laudable, the implementation of various government programmes through
  • transparent and accountable governance and
  • creating enabling environment to exercise constitutional rights to have all voices heard and represented

will help Bangladesh to reduce inequality and become a more inclusive society
Let’s meaningfully celebrate 50 years of Bangladesh by reducing all types of inequality among marginalized people.