



## Parallel Session A3



# Goal 16: Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions

Presented by

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# Background

- **Peaceful, just and inclusive societies are necessary to achieve the SDGs - transformational goal and key to ensuring that the SDGs can be accomplished**
- **Only a handful of efforts to assess the progress of Bangladesh in terms of achieving Goal 16 – among the 23 indicators of the 12 Targets under this Goal, official government data available only on eight indicators of six Targets; readily available (green) data for four, partially available (yellow) data for five, and data not available (red) for 14 indicators (GED 2018)**
- **Progress of achieving Goal 16 under red category, scoring 54 out of 100; overall score of Bangladesh 56.2; ranks 120<sup>th</sup> out of 157 countries (SDG Index and Dashboards Report 2017)**
- **Partners in the group – Transparency International Bangladesh (TIB), BROTEE, Nagorik Uddyog (NU), Acid Survivors Foundation (ASF), Action Aid Bangladesh (AAB), Bandhu Social Welfare Society, Bangladesh Legal Aid and Services Trust (BLAST), HEKS/EPER, *Naripokkho*, The British Council, DHRUBOTARA Youth Development Foundation, World Vision**

# Objectives and Methodology

## • Objectives

- i. To assess the progress of Goal 16 in Bangladesh
- ii. To capture the lessons learnt – best practices and challenges, particularly identified by the Partner Organizations' programs and initiatives in the concerned areas
- iii. To assess the way forward for more effective delivery identifying the concrete steps the government should take and the Partners need to pursue

## • Method

- Literature review of national and international index, survey and research reports
- Secondary data collected from reliable sources at national and international levels, different sectoral reports of Bangladesh government, and publications of Civil Society Organizations (CSOs)
- Feedbacks on the structure and content of the report sought from four consultative meetings – with international development partners, government functionaries, media, and the private sector

## Progress achieved so far

- **Multi-pronged approach – necessary exercises conducted – mapping of relevant bodies and gaps in data, preparing monitoring mechanisms and tracking tools, needs assessment of funds and possible sources; adopted approach of promoting integrity and good governance among the public administration**
- **Adequate preparedness in terms of having laws, policies and institutional arrangements required for implementing Targets under Goal 16**
- **In spite of various initiatives, corruption and bribery, money laundering, violation of fundamental freedoms and human rights continuing in Bangladesh**
- **National Integrity System (NIS) Institutions not effective up to the expected level; no framework to hold them accountable to the people in most of the institutions and internal accountability system of these institutions also weak; increasing trend of politicization; pro-active disclosure of information of some institutions not sufficient**
- **Government yet to develop specific strategy and plan of action for achieving a number of Targets under Goal 16**

## Progress achieved so far (cont.)

- **Despite different initiatives, the government planning lacks adequate emphasis on SDG 16 – significant gaps in baseline data**
- **Official information in light of target indicators not available – corruption and bribery (16.5), public satisfaction on public services and institutions (16.7), extra-judicial killings (16.10)**
- **Partial information available on some issues – all forms of violence and related death rates everywhere (16.1), abuse, exploitation, trafficking and all forms of violence against and torture of children (16.2), rule of law at the national and international levels and ensure equal access to justice for all (16.3), money laundering and recovery of stolen assets (16.4), legal identity for all, including birth registration (16.9)**
- **Tendency of denial from a section of the government to accept information on corruption and bribery, violation of human rights, fundamental freedom and freedom of expression as generated through research by national and international organizations**

# Engagement of CSOs

CSOs engaged in implementing different programs for achieving Targets of Goal 16

- **16.1 (reducing all forms of violence and related death rates everywhere) – NU, ASF, Bandhu, Ain-O-Salish Kendra (ASK)**
- **16.2 (End abuse, exploitation, trafficking and all forms of violence against and torture of children) – NU, ASK**
- **16.3 (Promoting rule of law at national and international levels and ensure equal access to justice for all) – Bandhu, BLAST, ASK, BROTEE, ASF, NU, HEKS/EPER**
- **16.5 (Reducing corruption and bribery in all their forms) – TIB, NU**
- **16.6 (Developing effective, accountable and transparent institutions at all levels) – TIB, Sujan, BROTEE, NU, HEKS/EPER, AAB, Democracywatch**
- **16.7 (Ensuring responsive, inclusive, participatory and representative decision-making at all levels) – HEKS/EPER, The British Council, AAB, NU, TIB, Democracywatch**

## Engagement of CSOs (cont.)

- **16.9 (By 2030, providing legal identity for all, including birth registration) – NU**
- **16.10 (Ensuring public access to information and protect fundamental freedoms) – TIB, MJ, MRDI, Sujan, NU, Democracywatch**
- **16A (Strengthening relevant national institutions for building capacity at all levels to prevent violence and combat terrorism and crime) – NU**
- **16B (Promoting and enforcing non-discriminatory laws and policies) – HEKS/EPER, NU**

## Engagement of CSOs (cont.)

### **Types of programs/ activities implemented by CSOs**

- Knowledge generation such as research
- Research-based policy advocacy, consultations, dialogues
- Social accountability tools – public hearing, citizens' report card, face the public, choose the right candidate, budget tracking, open budget, community score card
- Community-level volunteers/ group development, inter-community dialogue
- Community-level information dissemination – street theatre, folk music production and airing of television commercials, information fair, and competitions in different mediums (e.g., debate competitions, cartoon competitions, photography competitions and moot court competition)
- Legal support – advice centers



## Engagement of CSOs (cont.)

- CSOs providing support to government initiatives through
  - **Institutional, policy and legal reforms** – NIS institutions such as the Parliament, Judiciary, EC, ACC, CAG, IC, PSC; public institutions such as BTCL, NCTB, passport; policy reforms such as gold, education, health, NIS, anti-corruption, climate finance; legal reforms such as anti-corruption, right to information, anti-discrimination, acid related laws; private sector such as RMG
  - **Information dissemination** – through research and advocacy campaign on different issues covered under Goal 16
  - **Raising awareness** – through social mobilization, engagement and advocacy at community level on governance and anti-corruption
  - **Legal support** – for ensuring access to justice especially for the poor, women victims of acid/ domestic violence, marginalized, ethnic/ *adibashi*, *dalit* communities
  - **Capacity building** – for community people, youth on right to information, legal and human rights, labour rights, social accountability tools
  - **Community participation** – in monitoring and decision-making of public representatives, public service delivery organizations (health, education, land etc.) through formation of committees/ groups at the grassroots

## Key Lessons Learnt

- **Engaging authorities pays off**
- **Political environment jeopardizes partnership activities**
- **A section of Government officials reluctant to work with CSOs**
- **Dearth of official data**
- **Government's reluctance in corruption data generated by CSOs**

## Conclusion

- **CSOs playing an important role along with the government to achieve different Targets of Goal 16**
- **CSOs playing such roles both as watchdogs and through implementing programs**
- **In some cases successful in keeping the government policy making on the right track, and providing direct support through different activities**
- **Most of the CSOs providing support to the poor and marginalized groups, covering a wide spread of population, and thus contributing in promoting the 'Leave No One Behind' approach of the SDGs**
- **The government should realize the need of CSOs in achieving the SDGs, particularly Goal 16, and recognize their contribution and attributions**

## Way forward

- **Legal reforms recommended by CSOs with regard to limitations existing in different laws pertaining to ensuring human rights, protection of freedom of speech and expression, right to information, right to life and livelihood, and strengthening NIS institutions should be sincerely considered by the government**
- **Institutional and financial capacity of NIS institutions should be increased for better performance**
- **Government should conduct a nation-wide survey to determine the baseline on the state of corruption and bribery, people's satisfaction and trust on NIS institutions**
- **The CSOs should develop more partnerships with the government on different issues such as capacity building, data generation, service delivery, information dissemination**

## Way forward

- **The participation of youth volunteers and social workers should be increased from both the government and CSOs. Their capacity should be strengthened to promote good government, transparency and accountability of different institutions, to act as a driving force against corruption, human rights violation, violence against women and children, and to promote peace and justice in the social sphere**
- **Coordination among different public and CSO stakeholders should be increased to give special attention to gender-based violence**
- **Legal aid and service providers including state and non-state actors who are working across the country should work together to create a central database which identifies and measures the reach and operations of legal aid and services**
- **To ensure sustainable development of *dalits* and *adibashis* who are lagging behind for various reasons, need institutional mechanisms such as a separate ministry (like the Chittagong Hill Tracts) and/ or a commission for *dalits* and *adibashis***



**Thank You**