

Summary of Overview Report on
Four Years of SDGs in Bangladesh

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1. Introduction

Bangladesh, as a signatory of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, is engaged in implementing the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) for the last three years, and has also been playing an active role in the global discourse on the SDGs. The Government of Bangladesh (GoB) has involved various stakeholders in implementing the SDGs within a ‘whole society approach’ to this end. The non-state actors have also been playing important roles in carrying out activities towards implementation of the SDGs. Keeping the agenda of the upcoming High-Level Political Forum (HLPF) in July 2019, and the SDG Summit in September 2019 in the purview, the motivation of the present report is to contribute towards more effective implementation of the SDGs in Bangladesh over the coming years.

The present report has the following objectives: (a) critically examine the implementation progress of the SDGs in Bangladesh in six goal areas identified for review at the upcoming HLPF; (b) assess the contribution of non-state actors in Bangladesh in attaining the SDGs; (c) identify key implementation-related challenges and draw lessons to raise the efficacy of SDG implementation; and (d) recommend measures to attain the SDGs in Bangladesh by 2030.

The theme of HLPF 2019 is *‘Empowering people and ensuring inclusiveness and equality’*, which resonates very closely with aspirations of Bangladesh in relation to SDGs. The HLPF will undertake a review of progress concerning six of the 17 Goals and the associated targets. The goals identified for the 2019 review are particularly critical for Bangladesh, because of their overriding importance in the context of the current state of development of the country. The six SDGs selected for 2019 review are: Goal 4: Quality Education; Goal 8: Decent Work and Economic Growth; Goal 10: Reduced Inequality; Goal 13: Climate Action; Goal 16: Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions; and Goal 17: Partnerships for the Goals.

The present report has made extensive use of the six goal-specific reports prepared by dedicated groups of the Citizen’s Platform for SDGs, Bangladesh. The reports and underlying ideas were shared with key stakeholders, and feedbacks were received through four consultations that were organised by the Platform. Key stakeholder communities, such as government officials, international development partners, media professionals and representatives from the private sector were present in these consultations. Various government documents, secondary materials, and national and global data sources were consulted to get the needed information. Analytical tools were deployed and trend analysis was undertaken to make necessary projections.

2. Integration of SDGs into National Policies

Bangladesh is one of the front-runners in institutionalising the SDG implementation mechanism. Its specific measures in this regard include—establishing high-level platforms, coordination of intergovernmental agencies, integration of policies, undertaking priority-setting exercise and devising action plans. Initiative

has also been taken to involve non-state stakeholders in the official institutional framework of SDG implementation process through adopting a 'whole society approach'. However, these initiatives suggest that more success has been achieved in the 'upstream', and that there is a lack of progress in the 'downstream'. A number of future challenges may be drawn from the experience of first four years of integrating SDGs into the national development process in Bangladesh.

First, the government has achieved major strides in aligning the SDG targets with the Seventh Five Year Plan (7FYP). Curiously, some of the critical areas (such as targets under SDG 4) were not found to be aligned with the 7FYP. There is no clear direction and timeline as to how, through revisions, the 'not-aligned' targets will be integrated into the current or future SDG-oriented national development plans, policies and strategies. This calls for further scrutiny and fine-tuning of the national action plan for SDGs.

Second, the concept of 'localisation of SDGs' has received a great deal of attention among the government officials and policymakers; a manifestation of which can be observed in the planned upscaling of the 'Natore Model'. However, ensuring its proper implementation in an inclusive manner still remains a major challenge. Here, further actions are required to strengthen the local government through overcoming the structural bottlenecks. Local solutions have to be devised through identifying local priorities and problems, and utilising local knowledge and resources.

Third, while financial resource requirement for implementing the SDGs has been estimated and their possible sources have been identified, mobilising funds from the potential sources at the projected rate would be a difficult task, particularly for a country like Bangladesh, which has one of the lowest revenue-GDP (gross domestic product) ratios in the world. Flow of funds through foreign aid, foreign direct investment (FDI), South-South cooperation and blended finance are still low, compared to their targets. Therefore, the major effort should be put on tax reforms, attracting private investments and identifying other innovative sources. Additionally, non-financial resources should be tapped. These include facilitating technology transfer, seeking favourable market access and urging for conducive international trade rules.

Fourth, efforts in identifying the data gaps for SDG indicators is well-appreciated. However, limited or no progress has been made so far in generating new data from various sources, such as through initiating new surveys, from administrative sources, and by recognising non-official data. Meanwhile, while financial support for the national statistics office (NSO) has almost doubled in absolute terms, it has declined as a share of total budget during the last five fiscal years. Budget allocation for the Statistical and Informatics Division (SID) of the government has increased from Tk. 381 crore in FY2014-15 to Tk. 599 crore in FY2018-19, but declined as a share of total budget, from 0.2 per cent to 0.1 per cent over the same period. There is also not much progress with regard to harnessing more disaggregated data for addressing the vulnerable and marginalised groups, and ensuring that 'no one is left behind'.

Fifth, there is no formal platform as yet for institutionalising partnership with the private sector, though some attempts were observed in organising dialogues with them. In some cases, private sector representatives were called as special observers. As the resource requirement suggests, the private sector will have to play a pioneering role in financing the SDGs. Hence, involving them in each step of the SDG implementation process from early on is critically important. Same is also applicable for the non-government organisations (NGOs) and civil society organisations (CSOs). Furthermore, the role of the parliamentarians is still unclear. There is no framework till date for the parliamentarians to discuss and debate on progress, challenges and success stories of SDG implementation during the parliament sessions.

There are also a few more issue which require further attention. These include: trade-off and synergies are not adequately conceptualised and put into policy priorities; opportunities of collaboration at the sub-regional level are not adequately explored; systemic concerns, such as trade war, deteriorating global and regional circumstances and national transitions should be taken into consideration while planning and reviewing Bangladesh's progress on SDGs. Also, it is often noticed that, government's efforts are confined within the traditional conceptualisation of inclusiveness. Hence, fulfilment of the aspiration of 'leaving no one behind' during the SDG implementation process may prove to be difficult.

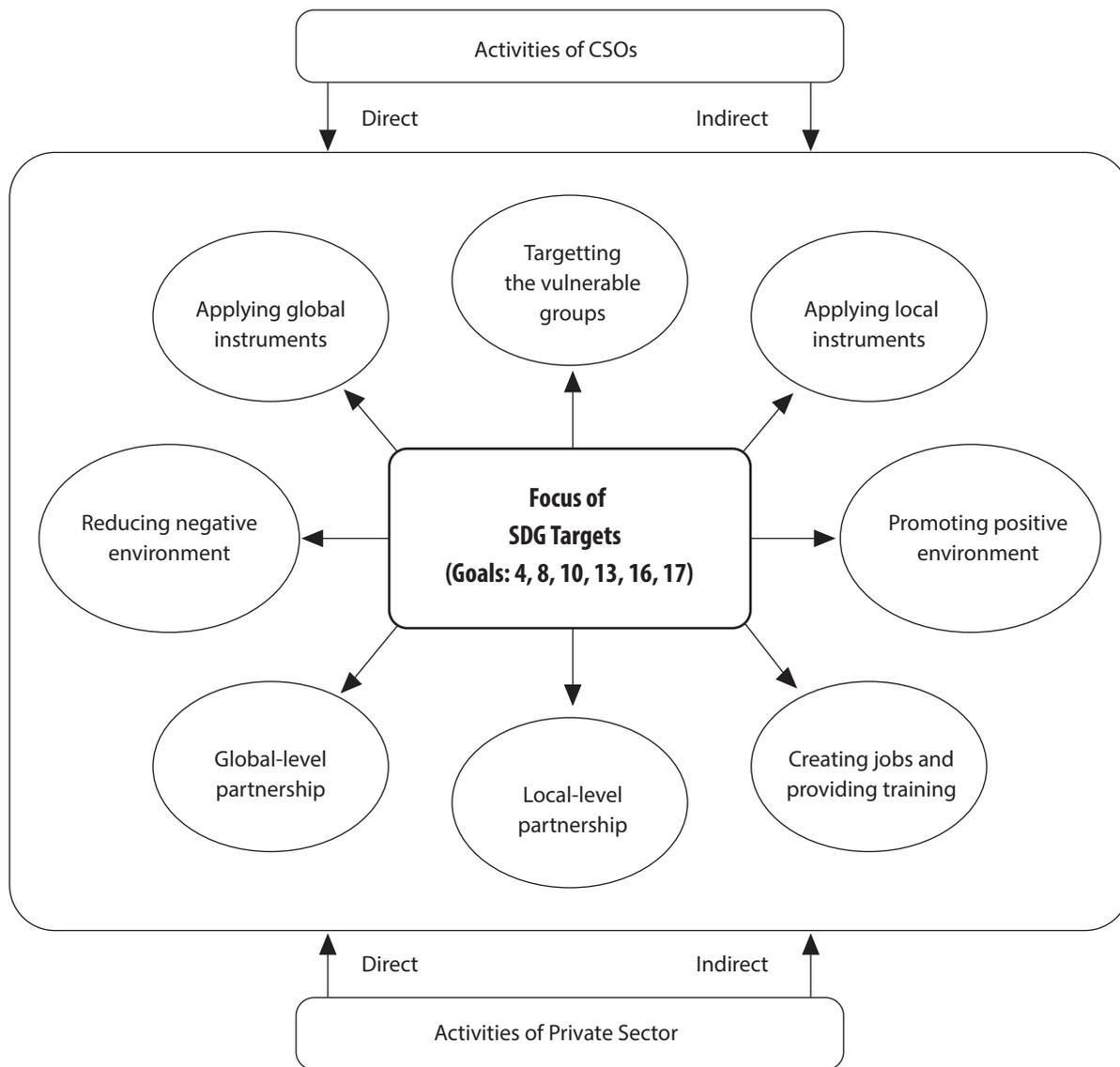
Overall, it may be said that, often at the implementation level, 'business as usual' actions have been put under 'SDG bracket', rather than transforming these types of practices for delivering SDG aspirations. It appears that, the SDGs Implementation Review (SIR) and the Annual Performance Agreement (APA) are considered as key annual follow-up and review processes at the national level. However, one may expect a more rigorous mechanism under these processes, which will need to be followed by concrete policy actions. It has been almost four years since the adoption of the SDGs on 25 September 2015. Therefore, it is high time to address the SDG implementation-related challenges.

3. Changes in Non-state Actors' Activities and Priorities

Implementation of the SDGs has been promoted under a 'whole society approach', with the engagement of state and non-state actors in different goals. However, scope of the actors' engagement is guided by the targets under different goals. A review of scope, nature and level of engagements of non-state actors indicate that their engagements vary across different targets of the selected six goals. Figure 1 and the analyses below present a summary of their engagements in various SDG-related activities.

In the post-2015 period, CSOs have largely been involved in activities in line with their traditional areas of experience and expertise. Some CSOs have set up internal SDG team within the organisation, while some are continuing their regular or ongoing activities that are already in place, and which resonate with the objectives of the SDGs. The most prominent initiative in Bangladesh has been the launch of the *Citizen's Platforms for SDGs, Bangladesh*, comprising like-minded CSOs and private sector organisations with a view to

Figure 1: Different focus of selected SDGs and scope of engagement of non-state actors



Source: Illustration by the author.

contribute to the national SDG process along with the government. The Platform Partners have attempted to work towards fulfilling the core commitment of the SDGs, i.e. 'leave no one behind'.

Hence, CSOs have enhanced their focus on vulnerable groups, particularly the poor and marginalised communities, such as the dalits and harijans, adivasis and differently-able people, sex workers, transgender groups, climate-vulnerable population, among others.

Notable difference is observed in case of Goal 13 which focuses on climate change. This is also because, the issue has received increased attention following the 2015 Paris Climate Conference. CSOs are now more aware with regard to greater accountability of the use of climate funds for adaptation-related programmes. Besides, the notion of human rights activism at community level is developed—to uphold citizen's rights and environmental promotion through community forums.

Another change in focus is observed in case SDG 17. During the pre-2015 period, CSOs' focus was mainly on trade and aid-related issues. CSOs have now expanded their attention towards other issues, such as technology transfer from the developed countries and capacity development. There is also a renewed realisation regarding the importance of partnership with various stakeholders for implementation of the SDGs.

Several activities are being undertaken by CSOs which are geared towards reducing inequality (SDG 10). Some of these include: capacity development and leadership promotion; sensitisation of service-providers; alliance, network and linkage building; community awareness and capacity development on human rights and violence against women; legal aid support to victims of violence against the marginalised people, including women; skills development training and linkage with trade and job markets; linkage with financial institutions for credit facilities; monitoring and strengthening of service-providing institutions by applying social accountability tools; advocacy and lobbying for law and policy implementation; beggar rehabilitation; and enhancing resources and increasing capacities of poor households.

CSOs have also been applying new instruments or programmes through setting up new networks and institutions. Rights-based CSOs have undertaken policy activism to enact new policies, laws and rules to lessen the adversities of weak governance situation (SDG 16).

In case of funding, it can be observed that, the share of official development assistance (ODA) for least developed countries (LDCs) has increased only by a modest level since 2000. The flow of fund targetted to Bangladesh's CSOs has experienced a change in recent years, particularly following the influx of Rohingya population from Myanmar since 2017. A large part of the recent rise in the flow of foreign fund is particularly for supporting the Rohigya people. It is to be noted that, CSOs and NGOs do not have alternate sources of funds at the national level to carry out their intended activities in relation to the SDGs.

The private sector in Bangladesh has enhanced its activities related to social compliance to some extent. More specifically, they are active in ensuring decent jobs, and are more aware of the need to reducing pollution created from industries. The private sector has formed different entities such as foundations and funds, as part of their corporate social responsibility (CSR) activities. They also support educational institutions and provide training to workers. The private sector has been collaborating with CSOs in SDG implementation through the Citizen's Platform for SDGs, Bangladesh.

Awareness raising has been another area of SDG-related activities by CSOs. There are examples of CSO activities in developing inclusive education model in rural areas in collaboration with communities. There are also initiatives to increase awareness of trade union members, women peer leaders and workers, regarding their rights and entitlements (SDG 8). A few organisations are working with dalit, harijan and transgender communities for upholding their rights.

A number of CSOs are working towards implementation of programmes for developing effective, accountable and transparent institutions at all levels (SDG target 16.6). They are involved in ensuring responsive, inclusive, participatory and representative decision-making at all levels under SDG target 16.7.

In a number of cases, CSOs have to interface their SDG-related activities with the government. The Citizen's Platform for SDGs, Bangladesh has been working with different government ministries and institutions at central and local levels on various aspects of SDGs. CSOs undertook activities in collaboration with different ministries and departments or other public authorities. A Strategic Framework and Action Plan on SDG 4 has been prepared under the leadership of the Ministry of Primary and Mass Education (MoPME) and Ministry of Education (MoE), where a number of organisations provided inputs. Both in case of Goals 8 and 17, the private sector is working as the research and advocacy support partner, and secretariat for the Private Sector Development Policy Coordination Committee (PSDPCC) at the Prime Minister's Office, headed by the Principal Secretary. PSDPCC has representation from 13 trade- and business-supporting ministries and five leading private sector bodies. With regard to Goal 13, the Ministry of Disaster Management and Relief (MoDMR), along with a number of CSOs, has prepared a scoping paper to explore the potentiality of the National Mechanism on Climate Change-induced Disaster Losses and Damages in Bangladesh. With regard to Goal 16, CSOs are working with the government for promoting legal identity for all, including birth registration, by 2030 (SDG target 16.9).

The above discussion indicates that, CSOs and the private sector are carrying out SDG-related activities in different manners, forms and structures. Since the inception of SDGs, there has been a shift in their understanding towards their organisational planning of programme interventions, which is guided by their increased awareness on SDGs—their importance, scope and prospects in the Bangladesh context. Based on the above discussion, it is clear that their involvement in the SDG process is reflected in five specific areas. These are: (a) strategic change in focus of the actors' activities and interventions; (b) new initiatives focusing

the SDGs; (c) changes in funding pattern for CSOs; (d) awareness raising done by the actors; and (e) interfacing of SDG-related activities with the government.

4. Outlook for Reaching the SDGs by 2030

In this section, an attempt has been made to project the progress of a select group of indicators under the six SDGs that will be reviewed during the HLPF 2019. The objective is to show if the current trends of progress continue, how much will be achieved by 2030. This exercise can be a guide for the policymakers and non-state actors as to how they should prioritise their actions depending on the distance they have to travel towards achieving the SDGs by 2030.

There are 68 targets and 95 indicators under the specified six SDGs. However, forecasting of all the indicators was not possible, mainly for two reasons. First, all SDG indicators are not quantifiable. Second, data for forecasting those indicators, particularly reliable long-term data, are not available. Hence, this research could include 38 targets and 50 indicators of those six SDGs for the forecasting exercise.

In order to understand the possibility of achieving the SDGs by 2030, forecasting has been done using long-term official data from various sources. One important caveat of this exercise is that, the results of the projection relate only to the specific SDGs indicators, and cannot be interpreted as the future performance of the whole SDG itself. The present study has ranked the six SDGs based on the performance of the targets and indicators related to those SDGs.

In doing so, colours have been put to indicate the state of progress, and then values were assigned to the colours. Hence, *first*, in order to get a bird's eye view of the state of the six selected SDGs in Bangladesh, Red-Amber-Green statuses have been assigned for each of the indicators considered in this report. 'Red' status represents that the indicator is going in the wrong direction; it requires radical policy changes and significant efforts from all involved stakeholders in order to reverse the trajectory. 'Amber' status represents that the indicator is going in the right direction, but requires some policy interventions to steer it towards SDG target achievement by 2030. 'Green' status represents that the indicator is going in the right direction, and the target will be achieved within 2030. *Second*, scores have been assigned based on the performance. Indicators that fall within the Red category are assigned a score of 1, Amber category indicators get 2, and Green category indicators receive 3. Based on the colour-based classification system, Table 1 presents the status of the performance of the selected indicators.

SDG 4 has 11 indicators in total. However, data could be obtained on seven indicators. All the indicators for SDG 4 are in Amber status, except for indicator 4.5.1, which is Green; and indicator 4.b.1, which is Red. Schooling completion rates, pre-school enrolment rates and literacy rates are increasing, and educational facilities are improving. Nonetheless, progress of these indicators is, in most cases, both slow and

Table 1: Heat map of selected SDG indicators in Bangladesh

SDG 4 Education	SDG 8 Decent Work	SDG 10 Inequality	SDG 13 Climate Action	SDG 16 Peace and Justice	SDG 17 Partnership
4.1.1: Schooling completion rate	8.1.1: Annual growth rate of real GDP per capita	10.1.1: Growth rate of income of poorest 40 per cent	13.1.1a: Households affected by disasters	16.1.1: Intentional homicide per 100,000 people	17.1.1: Tax-GDP ratio
4.2.2: Pre-primary participation rate	8.2.1: Annual growth rate of real GDP per employed person	10.5.1: Financial soundness indicators	13.1.1b: Aggregate economic loss due to disasters	16.1.2: Conflict-related deaths per 100,000 population	17.2.1: Net ODA received as % of GNI
4.5.1: Gender parity index of literacy rate	8.3.1: Informal employment rate in non-agriculture	10.B.1: Net ODA received	13.1.1c: Sickness and injury due to disasters, by area	16.1.3: Prevalence of violence against women	17.3.1: Net FDI inflow
4.6.1: Literacy rate	8.4.2: Domestic material consumption per capita	10.C.1: Remittance costs	13.1.1d: Sickness and injury due to disasters, by disaster	16.2.1: Proportion of children with aggression experience	17.3.2: Volume of remittances as a proportion of total GDP
4.A.1: Schools' access to electricity, technology and sanitation	8.5.2: Unemployment rate		13.1.1e: Average economic loss per household due to disasters	16.3.1: Reporting of violence	17.4.1: Debt service as proportion of exports
4.B.1: Volume of ODA for scholarships	8.6.1: Proportion of youth NEET		13.1.1f: Non-schooling days due to disasters	16.4.1: Illicit financial outflows	17.6.2: Fixed internet broadband subscriptions
4.C.1: Proportion of trained teachers	8.7.1: Proportion of children in child labour		13.2.1a: Growth rate of greenhouse gas emissions	16.4.2: Number of arms act cases	17.8.1: Proportion of individuals using the internet
	8.10.1a: Commercial bank branches per 100,000 adults		13.2.1b: Annual average temperature change	16.5.1: Public official bribery rate	17.11.1: Share of global exports

(Table 1 contd.)

(Table 1 contd.)

SDG 4 Education	SDG 8 Decent Work	SDG 10 Inequality	SDG 13 Climate Action	SDG 16 Peace and Justice	SDG 17 Partnership
	8.10.1b: ATMs per 100,000 adults			16.7.1: Proportions of parliament seats held by women	17.17.1: Investment in energy with private participation
	8.10.2: Proportion of adults with a bank account			16.10.1: Kidnappings per 100,000 people	17.19.1: Resources for strengthening statistical capacity
	8.A.1: Aid for trade commitments and disbursements				

Source: Author's compilation.

qualitatively inadequate. Gender parity in literacy has already been achieved, and is expected to be maintained up to 2030. However, the volume of ODA inflows for scholarships is declining, and is unlikely to rise in the coming years.

For the SDG 8, 11 out of a total of 17 indicators have been evaluated. Four indicators are found to be in Red status, four indicators in Amber status, and three indicators in Green status. GDP per capita, GPD per employed person and number of commercial bank branches are all expected to continue increasing till 2030. The share of youth not in education, employment or training (NEET) and the share of children in employment are both decreasing, but need greater policy attention. The number of automated-teller machines (ATMs) and the proportion of adults with bank accounts are increasing, but the volume of cashless transfers and the level of inclusion in the formal financial system remain rather low. Both youth unemployment and informal employment in the non-agricultural sector are high, and expected to rise.

As for the SDG 10, the prospect of achieving it appears bleak. Among the 11 indicators, four were considered in this report. Three out of these four indicators are in the Red status, with only one indicator being in the Amber status. The income share held by the poorest 40 per cent is expected to keep falling from the already low level that was present in 2015. This will lead to an increase in income inequality in the country. In the meanwhile, the state of the banking sector, which accounts for the largest part of the financial sector, is

in a difficult situation. Non-performing loans (NPLs) are at high levels, and they are creating a drain on public resources since the government is bailing out banks with taxpayers' money year after year. While total resource flows for development have increased in recent years, it was mainly in the form of project aid, and was inflated after the influx of the Rohingyas from Myanmar since August 2017. The transaction cost of sending remittances is on the rise, and this is particularly disconcerting, since it creates incentive for diverting the flow of remittances from the legal to the illegal channels.

The situation of SDG 13 looks most grim. Country-specific quantifiable indicators on climate change are almost non-existent. So the present study had to rely on proxy indicators which are closely related to climate change for two targets under SDG 13. And, though there are eight indicators under five targets of SDG 13, eight proxy indicators have been included within two targets of SDG 13. All of the considered eight indicators fall in the Red category. The number of households affected by natural disasters is rising, and by 2030 around 30 million households are expected to be affected by natural disasters. The effects of natural disasters in the forms of economic losses to households and the economy, incidence of sickness and injury, as well as loss of schooling days—are all at high levels, and expected to get worse in the coming years. Greenhouse gas emissions are forecasted to increase at faster rates in 2030, which will also be accompanied with warmer average temperatures. Overall, the analysis of SDG 13 indicates that, Bangladesh is in a precarious situation with respect to climate change, and has to take preparations to deal with the impact of climate change.

Except for three, all 10 indicators considered for SDG 16, out of a total of 23 indicators, are in the Red status. Three indicators are in Amber status. However, even the Amber status of these indicators is largely due to poor reporting and information gaps, rather than an actual positive scenario. Murder, violence against women and children, bribery and illicit financial flows—are all disturbingly high, and most of these crimes will increase in 2030, if they follow their historic trends. On the other hand, reporting of violence is quite low, and reporting of detention or kidnapping is virtually non-existent, except for high profile cases. Therefore, it is unlikely that the official data on these indicators provide an appropriate representation of the ground reality.

Finally in case of SDG 17, out of 25 indicators, 10 could be examined. It is found that, three indicators are in Red status, five indicators are in Amber status, and two indicators are in Green status. Apart from debt service, the other indicators of finance which are critical for SDG implementation, such as tax-GDP ratio, net ODA and volume of remittances, all are in unfavorable positions. Indicators of technology, such as number of fixed broadband subscriptions, show that Bangladesh is significantly lagging behind the rest of the world. Bangladesh's trade regime is anticipated to carry forward its traditionally strong performance as the share of Bangladesh's exports in global exports is forecasted to keep rising till 2030. Resources for strengthening statistical capacity will dry up, if the current declining trends continue.

In the *second* phase of the present exercise, the SDGs are ranked based on the trend of current and projected performance by assigning scores on the colours. The rankings presented in Table 2 show that SDG 4 tops

Table 2: Ranking of SDGs based on projected performance by 2030

Rank	SDG
1	Goal 4: Quality Education
2	Goal 17: Partnerships for the Goals
3	Goal 8: Decent Work and Economic Growth
4	Goal 16: Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions
5	Goal 10: Reduced Inequality
6	Goal 13: Climate Action

Source: Based on author's analysis.

the list, while SDG 13 is at the bottom of the six SDGs considered. However, it may be mentioned that, SDGs 4, 8 and 17 are close in terms of their achievements on the targets and indicators considered. Similarly, in case of SDGs 10 and 16, indicators considered for analysis followed almost similar trend of performance. It is important to keep in mind that, the ranks assigned to each goal are on the basis of analysis of quantitative data. Therefore, qualitative aspects of education and information gaps in the governance-related data are not accounted for.

Based on the target- and indicator-level performance of the six SDGs, overall Red, Amber or Green statuses are assigned to each of the six selected SDGs in Figure 2. Here, Deep Red represents the worst status and Deep Green represents the best status. SDG 13 is in Deep Red status, SDGs 10 and 16 are in Red status, and SDGs 4, 8 and 17 are in Amber status.

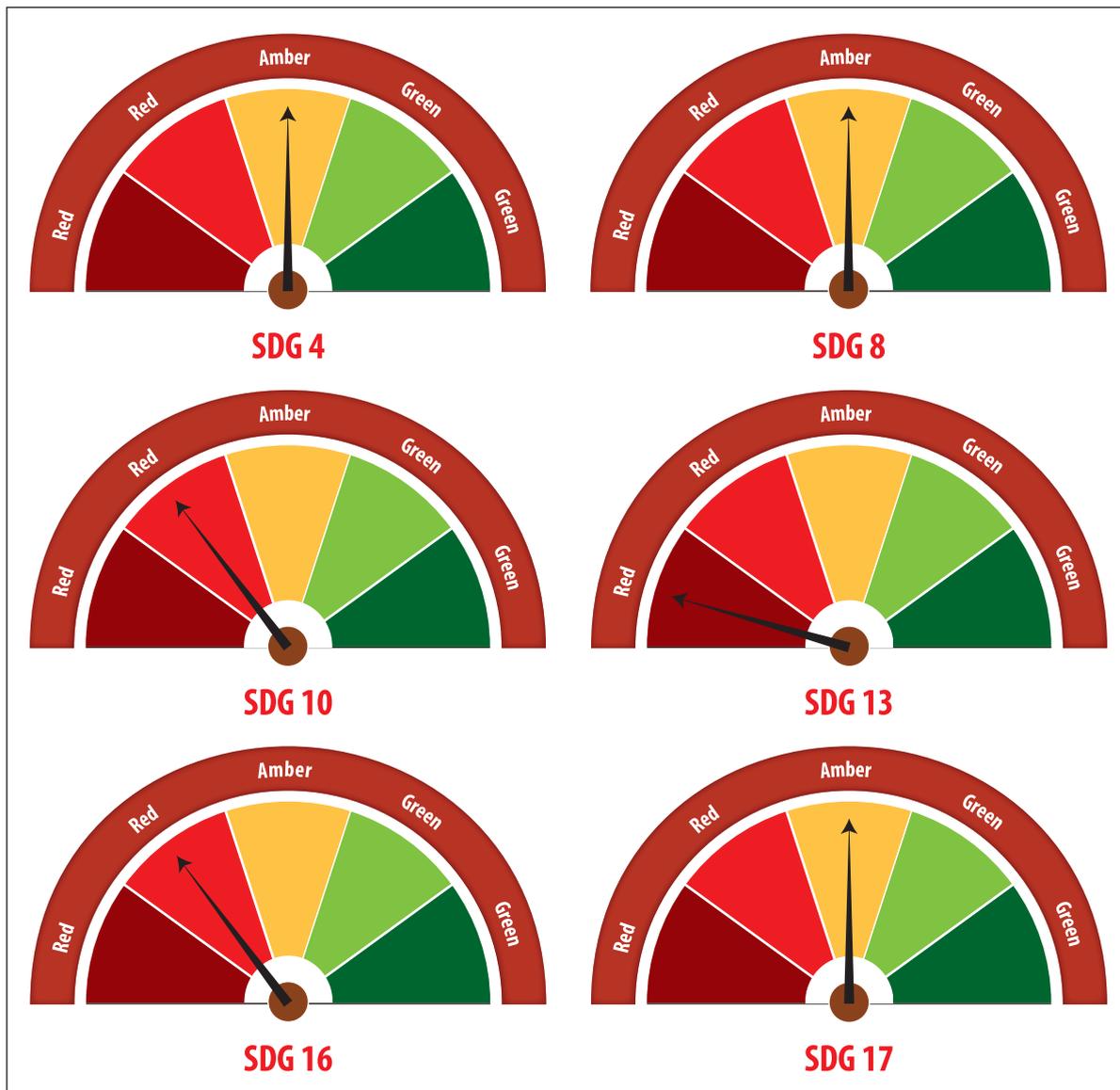
On the whole, from the exercise on the basis of averaging the status of the indicators under each goal, it can be deduced that, SDGs 4, 8 and 17 are going in the right direction, but require some policy interventions to steer them towards their achievements by 2030. On the other hand, SDGs 10, 13 and 16 are NOT going in the right direction, and require radical policy changes and significant efforts from all involved stakeholders in order to reverse their trajectories. Of course, climate change (SDG 13) is an issue which is not created by Bangladesh, and global initiatives are needed to reverse the trend in climate action.

5. Lessons Learnt

From the present exercise, a number of important lessons have been learnt which can be summarised as follows:

- Non-state actors are a key player in SDG delivery. While the private sector is making an overall discernible contribution towards achieving the SDGs, they are yet to fully align their activities with goals and targets of the global agenda. The CSOs, on the other hand, are working more at disaggregated level.

Figure 2: Red-Amber-Green status of selected SDGs in Bangladesh



Source: Author's illustration.

- Both the private and non-profit sectors are demonstrating sensitivity to the new global demands in areas, such as decent work, institutional accountability, qualitative improvement in intervention impacts, which are critical to realising the SDGs.
- A stable working relationship between the government and non-state actors based on mutual respect is key for the effectiveness of collaborative activities.

6. Challenges

- Data limitations have been a major challenge in undertaking this study. For many indicators, up to date and real-time data was not available; for others, there was no data at all. This made the task of assessing implementation progress difficult. Availability of data at the disaggregated level is crucial to measuring progress of SDG implementation, particularly if the perspective of 'leave no one behind' is to be captured. Detailed analysis of progress was constrained in the absence of disaggregated data concerning many indicators.
- There are several SDG targets, which are not quantifiable. As a result, projections on some of those have been done using proxy indicators, while for others the exercise could not be performed.
- National framework does not specify the role of CSOs and the private sector. The institutional framework for SDG implementation in Bangladesh does not recognise CSOs as partners. Thus, the role of non-state actors is underplayed at the official level.
- Establishment of a direct link of the work of CSOs and the private sector with SDG 17 (partnership) is difficult. This is because their activities are largely at the grassroots and in the field levels.
- CSOs have not received new and additional funds for carrying out SDG-related activities. Hence, their engagement is constrained by limited resources.

7. Recommendations

- CSOs need support for scaling up their activities on SDG implementation. Support for the Rohingyas by development partners should be allocated and reported separately. At the national level, the government should form a special fund for SDG implementation by CSOs.
- A voluntary initiative at national and global levels may be undertaken to ensure proper recognition of the contribution of the CSOs and the private sector. Such initiative should identify a set of proxy indicators to be called 'associated indicators', which will capture the activities and initiatives of CSOs and the private sector.
- All out efforts need to be taken at national and global levels for meeting up the data gap. More resources should be allocated for generating real-time data through primary surveys on a regular basis. The non-state actors and all citizens should have access to those data.

- The projections on targets and indicators of six SDGs indicating where the country is heading should be taken into consideration by the policymakers seriously. Clearly, the SDGs that are lagging behind, will require much more effort than what is given at present.
- The role of the non-state actors should be recognised adequately at the official level. Non-state actors have to be considered as partners in the institutional framework for SDG implementation in Bangladesh.