This report was supported by Asia Pacific Forum on Women, Law and Development (APWLD). We thank the representatives of APWLD who provided their insights and expertise to enrich the report.

We are grateful to the Slum Dwellers of Dhaka City who participated in consultations and focused group discussions and helped us with their comments, opinion and experiences sharing. We thank the Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) who participated in consultation and gave their insights and recommendations of way forward. We are also thankful to Fatema Akhter (General Secretary, Nagar Daridro Basti Unnayan Sangstha, NDBUS), Md. Mahabubur Rahman (Community Development Organizer, PEHUP Project, Dushtha Shasthya Kendra DSK), Salina Akhter (President, Community Based Organization, CBO, Mohakhali Slum) and Laila Akter (Community Organizer, Manabik Shahajya Sangstha, MSS) for helping us in organizing the Focused Group Discussions. We are also indebted to Centre for Policy Dialogue (CPD), Campaign for Popular Education (CAMPE), Bangladesh Legal Aid and Services Trust (BLAST), Dushtha Shasthya Kendra (DSK) who made a number of data available for this study. We thank the entire ASK team especially to the documentation, litigation, investigation, ICT administration department for providing information, logistics and technical support.

Specially, we are immensely grateful to Sanam Amin (Program Officer, APWLD) who has guided us from the initial stage and her insights on Development Justice in the National Consultation with CSOs and comments on the earlier version of the report has guided us to the right track. We would like to show our gratitude to Diyana Yahaya (Program Officer, APWLD) for guiding us at every stage of this report through comments, insights and all other supports.

We also thank Ferdousi Sultana Begum (Independent Consultant) for her comments and insights on the earlier version of the report.

We are thankful to Qumrunnnessa Nazly (Independent Consultant) for guiding us from initial stage in data collection and analysis and taking the responsibility to support in writing the report.

Finally, we would thank Subarna Dhar, Coordinator of the project titled, "Women 2030 Project: National Monitoring and Review of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and Development Justice" for coordinating the research.

Sheepa Hafiza  
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Ain o Salish Kendra (ASK)
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As a global development framework, the SDGs provide the opportunity to strengthen Bangladesh’s national policy framework and to ensure more systematic and coordinated implementation of national strategies and actions towards sustainable development of the country. Government of Bangladesh expressed its enthusiastic position to be an ‘early starter’ in the implementation process of the SDGs.

Bangladesh already took several initiatives to establish institutional framework for implementation of SDGs. Meanwhile, government has established an inter-ministerial committee to monitor implementation of SDGs. Seventh Five Year Plan of Bangladesh (2016-2020) has been aligned with the SDGs framework. In June 2016, the General Economic Division (GED) of the Planning Commission of Bangladesh has conducted a mapping of the Ministries/Divisions by each of the 169 targets of SDGs to identify responsible Ministries/Divisions.

This shadow report on National Monitoring and Review of the Sustainable Development Goals and Development Justice focuses on right to housing of the slum dwellers, right to education, and rule of law and access to justice. As indivisibly linked with all SDGs, this report highlights the perspectives of inclusion and gender equality. Primary objective of this review report is to highlight the citizens’ perspectives on the implementation of SDGs in the respective areas.

The analysis shows that though there has been a number of legal and policy directions on sustainable urban development, lack of coherence among the existing policy framework, lack of clear policy priority for the improvement of the informal settlements, lack of responsiveness to the ground reality related to the informal settlements, and lack of guidelines for resettlements of the slum dwellers are the major challenges to sustained and inclusive urban development.

Low participation of women in tertiary and technical education, and inequality at larger scale, lack of participation, transparency and accountability at different levels, are some of the major challenges in attaining SDGs goal on education. Patriarchal values and increasing religious fundamentalism have been identified as one of main constraints to promote gender equality in Bangladesh.

Regarding the goal on rule of law and access to justice, the report highlights various challenges including lack of complete separation of judiciary, corruption, non responsiveness of the duty bearers, lack of transparency and accountability in various service deliveries.

The report underlines the need for better alignment of the SDGs targets with national policy framework; and for ensuring an effective participatory monitoring and accountability framework involving all key stakeholders.
The goal specific recommendations are summarized below:

**Goal 4 on Education**
1. Undertake special education schemes for the slum dwelling children focusing on employment oriented skills education;
2. Ensure schooling of hard to reach children and the children in remote locations by establishing government or NGO run schools;
3. Improve the standard of pre-primary and ECD and ensure proper implementation for all children including those in remote areas and marginalized;
4. Increase public financing for education and ensure quality education by devising measers to attract talented people to join in education profession, and improving teachers training service;

**Goal 5 on Gender Equality**
5. Reform all existing laws and policies to repeal discriminatory provisions and ensure women's equal rights in both public and private spheres;
6. Ensure effective monitoring to ensure full and effective implementation of legislations for the protection of women's and girls' rights;
7. Adopt a comprehensive awareness programme to overcome stereotypical attitudes about the roles and responsibilities of women and men in the family and in society and promote positive images of women;
8. Repeal the special provision of the Child Marriage Restraint Act 2017 to allow no exceptions to minimum age of marriage; and address the root causes by raising awareness about the reproductive health issues and about negative effect of child marriage on the health and well-being of a girl child;

**Goal 11: Improving Urban Informal Settlements**
9. Ensure implementation of the High Court Judgements and introduce a practical resettlement policy to stop slum eviction without serving adequate notice and resettlement; Ensure compensation to the people aggrieved by the slum eviction and fire;
10. Ensure participation of the slum dwellers in any sort of plan involving their rehabilitation or involving any of their rights;
11. Take a multi pronged project to improve informal settlements and devise congenial provisions so that poor urban population can have an improved permanent housing with all basic services;
12. Ensure better alignment of SDG targets on goal 11 with the national policy framework; and introduce or reform the policy instruments as required;

**Goal 16: Rule of Law and Access to Justice**
13. Strengthen institutional monitoring to reduce corruption and ensure accountable, responsive service delivery by the public institutions like police administration and judiciary;
14. Take effective measures to ensure full independence of judiciary and stop all sorts of executive and political interference over the judicial functions;
15. Take steps to ensure that urban slum population can access govt legal aid fund; and raise their awareness about different legal and human rights;
16. Ensure required support services in the slum and in cities for safe mobility of women and girls and against crime;
17. Ensure better alignment of SDG targets related to goal 16 with the national policy framework; Strengthen the local governance system and enhance citizens' participation in different decision making affecting their lives;
National Context
Bangladesh emerged as an independent nation state in 1971 after a nine-month long war against Pakistan. To uphold the spirit of the liberation war, the first Constitution of the Country embodied secularism, nationalism, democracy, and socialism (meaning economic and social justice for all) as the fundamental principles of the state. However, with the passage of time, principle of secularism has now been diluted, as the latest version of the Constitution keeps secularism as the state policy while declaring Islam as the state religion. The Constitution of the country guarantees equality and non-discrimination (article 27-29 of the Constitution of Bangladesh) as fundamental human rights.

As a member of international community, Bangladesh is signatory to a number of international and regional human rights and development agreements including the core UN human rights treaties. At national level, Bangladesh has comprehensive policy frameworks covering both macro and sectoral issues like education, health, food, social security, urban planning, climate change and disaster management. In the recent years, Bangladesh has made noticeable progress in poverty reduction and in other different socio economic indicators like in education, maternal and child health, increased life expectancy, and in gender parity in school enrolment.

According to Asian Development Bank (ADB), Bangladesh’s GDP growth accelerated to 7.1% in 2016 from 6.6% in 2015. Human Development Report (HDR) 2016 ranked Bangladesh in the medium human development category-positioning it at 139 out of 188 countries and territories. Per capita income of the country increased to 1,466 in 2016, and the country envisions of attaining middle income status in 2021. According to General Economic Division (GED) estimation, the current (2015) poverty rate is 24.8 percent.
Contrary to the above-mentioned progress scenario, a total of 37.6 million people still live under poverty in Bangladesh, according to the latest figures of the General Economic Division (GED)\(^1\). Unemployment, income inequality, spatial disparity, low economic participation of women remains as a challenge. Bangladesh's geographical position makes it one of the most vulnerable countries to climate change and natural calamities like cyclones and floods.

Accompanied by economic growth, Bangladesh has been experiencing quite rapid and unplanned urbanization during the last few decades. Between 1961 and 2011, the urban population increased from 2.6 million to about 43.43 million thus registering a growth of nearly 1600% (BBS, 2011). Dhaka City is projected to reach 27.4 million by 2030\(^2\). Lack of adequate housing for Bangladesh's large urban population is a key problem in all of the cities and towns. Housing deficit in urban areas grew from 1.13 million units in 2001 to 4.6 million units in 2010. The deficit is projected to reach 8.5 million units in 2021 if investment in the housing sector does not keep pace with the growth of population\(^3\).

Informal settlements are the common feature of urban settlements. According to 2014 statistics, over 1.5% people of the country live in slums across the country, and 1.06 million people live in slums in Dhaka division. Slums are characterized by high population density, poor access to services, and low socio-economic status of residents, poor governance and threat of eviction.

**Systematic and Structural Barriers towards Achieving Development Justice**

Though Bangladesh has made noticeable progress in economic growth and in some social indicators, various systematic and structural barriers stand as threat to the sustained growth. These barriers prevent poor and marginalized people to equally benefit from the increasing growth. Political instability, corruption, lack of accountability, ineffective and non-inclusive institutions, political domination over judiciary, and patriarchal social structures create hindrance to secure development justice. Intolerance, rise of religious extremism, political violence, gradual shrinking of space for freedom of thoughts and expression, and freedom of association are few other grave issues for exercising democratic rights.

**Income Inequality:** Income inequality is one of the major challenges to attain sustainable development goals in Bangladesh. As mentioned in an Oxfam Report, a CEO of a company, which is part of the Financial Times Stock Exchange 100 Index, earns as much in a year as 10,000 people working in garment factories in Bangladesh\(^4\). The number of billionaires overwhelms the reality of economic condition of Bangladesh. Data shows that the top 10% of the population control 46.2% of total income while the bottom 40% controls only 13.4%. The extent of disparity in income shares is severest in Dhaka City where the top 10% controls 55.7% of total income while the bottom 40% controls only 10.5% \(^5\).

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4. http://www.thedailystar.net/backpage/eight-richest-wealthy-half-humanity-1346389
5. Bangladesh 2016, Politics, Governance and Middle Income Aspirations Realities and Challenges, an empirical study
Bangladesh is one of the lowest minimum wages providing country. The national minimum wage is 1,500 Taka ($19) per month for all economic sectors not covered by industry-specific wages; as effective since 1 December 2013, this minimum wage fails to meet the wage required for a decent standard of living, it is only near 20 percent of that required to live a decent life.

**Trade and Investment:** Though Bangladesh’s economy has been gradually growing, the country is still in trade deficit (Trade balance is -US$6274 million in FY 2015-16). Bangladesh is a founding member of the World Trade Organization and as a least developed country (LDC), Bangladesh is largely affected by rules and regulations set by the WTO. Bangladesh is signatory to four free trade agreements, with three in effect, and is in negotiations for two more.

Bangladesh’s major export items include textile items, frozen food items, fish and seafood, jute and leather goods. Textile items being the top export earning source for Bangladesh, this sector employs around 4.4 million workers, overwhelming majority are women. They are the poor people migrating from rural to urban with the hope of better lives.

While this sector sets the target to reach to USD 50 billion by 2021, the workers’ rights, workplace safety and security remains as concern. Though various initiatives to improve the working conditions have been taken after the Rana Plaza collapse, and Tazrin Fashion fire that killed 2000 mainly workers in 2013, the progress is not satisfactory. In the garment industry the current minimum wage is 5,300 taka ($68) per month, which is very insufficient to meet the basic needs.

The statistics show that Bangladesh has been experiencing growth without creating adequate employment opportunities which is a clear challenge. The official surveys reveal a decreasing trend in employment generation, during 2013-2015; employment has been increased to 1.4 million, meaning 0.7 million each year, where in 2010-13 it increased to 4 million meaning 1.3 million each year.

While participation of Bangladeshi workers in the global labour market increased, which resulted in increased remittances to the country, Bangladesh sends mostly unskilled labor with low wage premium. On the other hand, Bangladesh imports skilled workforce from neighboring countries, this number is growing and every year, and from 3 to 5 million dollar is being spent for this purpose.

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7. http://www.thedailystar.net/backpage/eight-richest-wealthy-half-humanity-1346389
9. Signed and in effect: South Asian Free Trade Area; Asia Pacific Trade Agreement; Preferential Tariff Arrangement-Group of Eight Developing Countries
Signed, not yet in effect: Trade Preferential System of the Organization of the Islamic Conference
13. Editorial, Samakal, 13 June 2017
**Land and Resource Grabbing:** Land grabbing by both state and non-state actors has been a concern in Bangladesh for many years. In most cases, resource poor religious and ethnic minority are the victims of land grabbing. The grabbing of public land is also endemic, though available data on extent of grabbing of public land differs substantially. It has been observed that 88.5% of the agricultural khas land is illegally occupied by the rich and powerful, where only 11.5% has been distributed to the landless and poor\(^{14}\). Political influence, weak legal framework and complicated land registration procedure, bribery of the govt. officials assigned for land registrations are the factors contributing to the continued occurrence of land grabbing.

A fact-finding mission carried out by a group of citizens (report published on 31 March 2017), revealed that the population of the Rakhaine people of two southern coastal districts - Patuakhali and Borguna - has gone down to as low as five percent over past few decades as a result of rampant land grabbing and persecution\(^{15}\). In 2014, some 3,911 acres of land in the Chittagong Hill Tracts (CHT) had been taken over by state and non-state actors, and another 84,647 acres were in the process of being acquired and occupied\(^{16}\).

The most controversial Rampal Coal Power Plant which is under construction 14km away from the buffer zone of the Sundarbans, has expropriated a total of 350.80 acres of land in Koigordasmouja and 1,483.20 acres in Shapmari and Katakhlimouja\(^{17}\). A Report of the Fact Finding Mission by South Asians for Human Rights recognized several irregularities in the land acquisition process, and many people have been allegedly displaced without adequate compensation\(^{18}\).

**Corporate Capture:** After independence, Bangladesh started its journey with a vision for a socialist economy. Gradually it shifted to market-based economy, privatization and deregulation has been a common trend in Bangladesh. As part of World Bank prescribed


\(^{15}\) http://kapaeeng.org/land-grabbing-dropped-rakhaine-population-to-5-percent-in-coastal-region-in-bangladesh/

\(^{16}\) http://unpo.org/article/17998


\(^{18}\) Ibid.
structural adjustment program, in 90s, the government closed 9 of 29 SOE mills and downsized 2 SOE mills. At least 18 mills were privatized from remaining 20 mills and retrenched about 20,000 employees.19

Privatization of the health and education sectors are the most striking phenomenon to this trend, in 2015 the total number of hospitals in Bangladesh was 1683. Of these 1683 hospitals, 678 were government hospitals and 1005 were non-governmental20. While lack of effective regulatory mechanism, accountable and quality service delivery by the private institutions has been a matter of concern,21 there have been instances that some private schools including madrassa promote religious extremist ideology that are detrimental to women’s rights and human rights in general.22 Due to high cost, poor people cannot access the private schools and hospitals. The improved and extended especial curative treatment facilities in private sector in recent decades are out of reach of the poor.23

These important service sectors receive less allocation in annual budget process. Since FY2003, spending on health both as a percentage of GDP and of the total budget has been decreasing. The health sector budget is only 5.1 percent of the total budget of 2016-17, which was 5.6 percent in the previous year. A CPD and CAMPE study (2016) reported the declining trend of education budget in recent years both as a share of GDP and as a share of total budget. Share of education budget as a proportion of the total budget decreased to 11.6% in FY 2016 from 15.9% in FY 2007. The same report stated a stagnant position of education budget at around 2% of GDP in over last 14 years where the UNICEF recommends allocating 6% of GDP, 20% of the total budget.

In August 2010, the Government of Bangladesh issued the Policy and Strategy for Public Private Partnership (PPP) to facilitate the development of core sector public infrastructure and services vital for the people of Bangladesh.24 Bangladesh enacted its first Public-Private Partnership (PPP) Act, 2015.25 The law does not include any provision related to compensation to the people who are to suffer loss due to the projects under Public-Private Partnership. It also doesn’t have any provision regarding dispute resolution between the companies and aggrieved people at loss.26

**Militarism and Conflict:** Bangladesh is not in a military administration or not in a conflict situation. However, the country faces internal conflicts arising out of political and communal violence. In recent years, the rise of fundamentalist activism has led to killing of number of writers and online activists including the foreigners. The attacks on the foreigners at the
Holey Artisan Bakery attack on 01 July 2016 and the Sholakia attack 07 July 2016 were the most barbaric ones. From 2013-2015, 8 bloggers and activists were killed. ASK documentation unit recorded 1070 incidents of destroying homes of Hindu community, 204 incidents of attacks on their business centers, and 714 incidents of destroying temples and statutes, 425 incidents of injury and 9 deaths from Jan 2014- April 2017. Holey Artisan Bakery attack on 01 July 2016 and the Sholakia attack 07 July 2016 were the most barbaric ones.

ASK documented total 907 incidents of political violence in 2016 that resulted in 177 deaths and 11462 injuries. The country also experienced violation of human rights in the border as before. According to the statistics of ASK, and news published in different media in 2016, 23 people were shot dead, 7 underwent corporal torture, 39 wounded. Moreover, 24 Bangladeshi citizens were abducted from the border.

For the last three decades, Rohingya issues have been a concern for Bangladesh. There are about 32,000 registered and 0.25 million unregistered Rohingya refugees who live in Cox’s Bazar. And, followed by recent year’s persecution in Myanmar, another 69 thousands of them have taken shelter in Bangladesh. Though on humanitarian grounds, Bangladesh has been providing shelter to Rohingya refugees, continuous intrusion of Rohingyas has an alarming impact on socio-economic equilibrium of Cox’s Bazar, including on the law and order situation of the area.

The budget for Defense service was 6.5 percent of total budgetary expenditure in FY17 which was 6.2 percent in FY 16. The 2017-18 defence budget also amounts to about 6% of total annual government expenditure and about 1.25% of GDP, this allocation is a 16% increase over the original budget for 2016-17.

**Patriarchy, Gender Inequality and Gender-based Violence:** Notwithstanding progresses in Bangladesh in areas of girls’ education in primary and secondary education, gender inequality and gender based discrimination is extensively present in both public and private life. Patriarchal values and increasing religious fundamentalism are one of main constraints to promote gender equality in Bangladesh.

Gender Gap Report 2016 ranked Bangladesh 72 out of 144 countries. Bangladesh has recorded progress on the political empowerment indicator, but with a huge gap on women’s labour force participation, estimated earned income, wage equality for similar work, in senior managerial and technical professional jobs.

Despite existence of different laws, violence against women continues. Data from ASK documentation unit reveals that a collective of 3,848 women and children were raped or were victims of attempted rape between January 2013 till April 2017, with 14.2% of them committed suicide following the occurrence of rape.

27. ASK Bulletin, March 2017
Stereo-types and harmful practices continue to be practiced in both public and private affairs. Textbooks contain stereotypical messages in many forms. In a recent move, to satisfy the demands of the extremist Islamist groups, a revision of the text books of primary grade scrapped the write ups by the prominent authors in excuse that those contains messages against Islam which appears as a threat to an inclusive secular society.

**National Context as it Pertains to the Agenda 2030**

Following the path of the millennium development goals, on 25 September 2015, the UN adopted, declaration titled 'Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development' to set the new development framework for the next 15 years. As a transformative plan of action, sustainable development agenda sets 17 interrelated development goals accompanied by 169 targets. These goals are indivisible and integrate the three dimensions of sustainable development: the economic, social and environmental.

In pursuit of the full realization of human potential and contributing to shared prosperity, the sustainable development framework embraces the principles of universal respect for human rights and human dignity, the rule of law, justice, equality and non-discrimination. On 1 January 2016, the world officially began implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development to address urgent global challenges.

Bangladesh has been actively involved with the SDGs negotiation process from the initial stages. The General Economics Division (GED) of the Planning Commission prepared Bangladesh’s own post-2015 Development Agenda and contributed to the international discourse through UN. Seventh five-year plan (7th FYP), the principal long term planning document of the country coincides the start of the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Considering this ongoing five-year plan as the base period for implementing SDGs by 2030, this planning document has broadly integrated the SDGs. This integration reflects political interest of the government to uphold the state responsibility to advance social and economic development of the country in light of the global development agenda.

Given that Bangladesh made exemplary success in achieving MDGs, in Bangladesh MDGs Progress Report 2015, government expressed its enthusiastic position to be an ‘early starter’ in the implementation process of the SDGs.

As a global development framework, the SDGs provide the opportunity to strengthen Bangladesh’s national policy framework and to ensure more systematic and coordinated implementation of national strategies and actions towards sustainable development of the country.
**Scopes and Objectives of this Shadow Report**

As a legal aid and human rights organization, ASK has been actively engaging in various issues pertaining to the protection of human rights including the protection of the right to housing of the slum dwellers, right to education, gender equality and access to justice. ASK has been engaged in advocacy on SDGs since its formulation. It is also a member of Citizen’s Platform for SDGs, Bangladesh, a CSOs initiative on SDGs.

Given that SDGs framework embraces the issues of inclusion, equality, rule of law and access to justice as important goals, ASK in partnership with APWLD, has undertaken to review and prepare a shadow report on the progress made by Bangladesh in implementation of SDGs.

This shadow report on National Monitoring and Review of the Sustainable Development Goals and Development Justice focuses on right to housing of the slum dwellers, right to education, and rule of law and access to justice. As indivisibly linked with all SDGs, this report highlights the perspectives of inclusion and gender equality.

Primary aim of this review report is to highlight the citizens' perspectives on the implementation of SDGs in the areas of right to housing of the slum dwellers, right to education, access to justice and rule of law and on gender equality, and advocate for the timely attainment of the targets of SDGs under the specific goals.

The report is designed to advocate and influence the position of Asia Pacific governments at the HLPF 2017. The report will provide an alternative civil society perspective and report to the government’s own Voluntary National Report, presenting perspectives from the ground reflecting on the issues and perspectives of women and communities on the ground.

The specific objectives of this report include:
- Review the implementation status of the specific SDG goals and targets;
- Identify the challenges in implementation of the SDGs targets as mentioned above;
- Formulate recommendations to the attainment of the mentioned SDGs goals and targets;

The report has used mainly the IAEG indicators, and the development justice indicators developed by civil society in Asia and Pacific as new development model, a model of Development Justice.

**Relevant Development Justice Indicators for this report**
- The inclusion of 'homeless or “at risk” of homelessness' as per an agreed global definition of homelessness that is inclusive of regional differences. Strongly advocate for its inclusion at regional and national level indicators if not possible now.
- Proportion of population, especially women, involved in planning, design, decision making and management of urban spaces, disaggregated by age, sex, income, disability and other relevant categories. Support proposal by UN statistical organization 'percentage of cities with direct participation structure of civil society in urban planning and management" with addition of "particularly women"
- Percentages of people who live within reasonable reach of affordable and effective basic legal service providers and of a justice institution whose resolutions are fair, timely and enforced.
Methodology
This report has been prepared using mainly secondary data from both government and non-government sources. This report also relied on media news. Apart from that, FGDs and consultation workshops were organized with the slum dwellers, CSOs and media.

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<td>5.2 Eliminate all forms of violence against all women and girls in the public and private spheres, including trafficking and sexual and other types of exploitation</td>
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Total 25 women and 20 men from Mohakhali, Rayer bazaar, and Kallyanpur slums participated in three different FGDs. 14 women and 12 men from different 14 slums participated in a consultation workshop with the slum dwellers.

A national consultation titled 'Slum Dwellers’ Rights and Reality: Challenges and Way Forward in Achieving Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)' was also organized where CSOs, media and slum dwellers participated and shared their opinions and observations on the issues of the slum dwellers' rights from SDGs perspectives.
Institutional Framework for SDGs Implementation

Government of Bangladesh has already undertaken several initiatives to establish institutional framework for implementation of SDGs. In November 2015, the GoB established an inter-Ministerial committee on ‘SDG Monitoring and Implementation’. The Principal Secretary of the Prime Minister’s Office (PMO) acts as the chair of the Committee and the GED serves as the Secretariat.

SDG Monitoring and Implementation Committee include 16 key implementing ministries including Planning Commission (GED). The Committee has started working on priority setting and contextualizing global goals with the national ambitions requesting all ministries to identify relevant goals and targets and reflect these in their respective sectoral plans, as well as in newly introduced Annual Performance Appraisal (APA).  

31. CPD, December 2016
As the base period for the SDGs implementation, the Seventh Five Year Plan of Bangladesh (SFYP), “Accelerating Growth, Empowering Every Citizen” for the years 2016-2020, has been integrated with the SDGs framework with further commitment of alignment in the next two five year plans that will overlap with the SDGs period. An assessment of the alignment between 7FYP targets and SDG targets shows that there is no relevant target for 35 (20.7 per cent) out of 169 SDG targets in either the core or sectoral targets of the 7FYP.

With regards to the list of 59 core 7FYP targets, only 33 targets are aligned with SDG targets. The remaining targets are nevertheless important in the context of national priorities. Only 3 percent of core 7FYP targets fully overlap with SDG targets. While Goal 4 and 5 are better integrated, goal 11 and 16 are less integrated in 7FYP (Delivering on the Promise; Ensuring the Successful Implementation of the 2030 Agenda in Bangladesh, Save the Children & CPD, 2016).

In June 2016, the General Economic Division (GED) of the Planning Commission of Bangladesh has conducted a mapping of the Ministries/Divisions by each of the 169 targets of SDGs to identify responsible Ministries/Divisions (Annex 1: a synopsis of the mapping). Government is in the process of developing a National Action Plan for implementing the SDGs in alignment with the 7th FYP which is expected to be completed by June 2017. According to GOB statement, the Development Results Framework (DRF) for monitoring the implementation of the 7th FYP considers SDGs indicators; however, a CPD-Save the Children study (2016) reported insufficient consideration of SDGs issues in the said DRF. The DRF has only a few indicators that monitor gender equality mainly in social sector and in employment, but no indicator to monitor gender based violence. Also, the DRF indicators do not suggest adequate disaggregation by gender, ethnicity, and other inclusions perspectives.

The Planning Commission is in the process of finalizing a Monitoring and Evaluation Framework for SDG implementation. This framework will have a macro level web-based data repository system to facilitate data collection, analysis, progress tracking and reporting.

**Development Finance Framework**

Government is at the final stage of determining the financing needs for SDG implementation with a view to mobilizing internal and external resources accordingly.

As estimated in 7th FYP, the country will need US$ 409 billion to implement this five year plan and the plan mentions that 78 percent of the estimated amount will be covered from private investment and remaining 22 percent will be covered from public investment. The plan envisions a huge number of private investments for achieving the targets under 7thFYP and SDGs.

A study by Bhattacharya et al. suggests that resource allocation in the 7thFYP is better for the sectors which are better aligned with the SDGs at the planning level (2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development; Implementation Challenges for Bangladesh, A CPD presentation, 10 December 2016).

As annual budgetary planning is the key instrument for annual financing, the annual budget should also follow the sectoral needs as to be identified by the government. The Economic and Social Survey of the Asia and the Pacific 2013 estimates the investment needs to deliver a package of policies to promote inclusive and sustainable development. In addition to financial resources, there is also need for non financial resources, such as market access for goods and services, intellectual property rights, technology transfer, climate finance to implement the SDGs agenda.

**CSOs and SDGs**

SDGs are the result of over two years of intensive consultation and engagement with civil society and other stakeholders around the world. CSOs in Bangladesh were also engaged in this consultation process in different capacity in both at state and global level. CSOs led by the People Forum on MDGs (PFM) produced a post development agenda titled as “a people-centered, equitable, inclusive, and sustainable Post-2015 Development Agenda” to influence the Post 2015 framework.

The UN declaration on SDGs explicitly mentioned the role of CSOs in SDG implementation in the section on review mechanism. The declaration has also one dedicated target on multi stakeholder partnership where effective public, public-private and civil society partnerships, have been encouraged.

It is undeniable that attainment of SDGs will require a strong and effective institutional mechanism involving all stakeholders including private sector, civil society, NGOs, knowledge community and development partners. And, CSOs and development organizations, and academia are working on SDGs in Bangladesh. To mention, Citizen's Platform for SDGs, Bangladesh and SDG Watch Bangladesh are the two different CSOs platforms on SDGs.

Launched in June 2016, Citizen's Platform for SDGs, Bangladesh is a platform 40 partner organizations. Centre for Policy Dialogue is the Secretariat of the Platform. The Platform aims at participatory and multi-stakeholder approach for enhancing accountability in the implementation of the SDGs.

On 19 November 2016, the Citizen's Platform for SDGs, Bangladesh, in partnership with the Centre for Policy Dialogue (CPD), organized a workshop titled, 'Appreciation Course on 2030 Agenda: Framework Issues and Implementation Challenges' where participants identified their areas of involvement, and recommended potential areas where CSOs can build partnership with the GoB in the overall SDG implementation process.

The Government of Bangladesh (GoB) in various occasions has acknowledged the crucial role of CSOs in SDG implementation. The GED, in its outcome document titled, Integration of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) into the 7th Five Year Plan recognizes the need for effective coordination among all stakeholders, including the civil society, as key for SDG implementation. In March 2016, the planning commission has arranged a stakeholder meeting with CSOs on 7th Five Year Plan and Roadmap for Implementing SDGs in Bangladesh. However, till date, CSOs engagement largely includes consultation, and no institutional framework has yet been developed to ensure effective CSOs participation all throughout the process.

34. Ibid
Data Availability

In January 2017, Government published a data gap analysis report titled "Data Gap Analysis of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs): Bangladesh Perspective" which is supposed to guide the government to produce necessary data for tracking the SDGs achievement in Bangladesh. It will also play a vital role in formulation of a Monitoring and Evaluation Framework for SDGs. The analysis reveals that Bangladesh has readily available data for 70 indicators and partially available data for 108 indicators. It needs to devise new mechanism for data mining for the remaining 63 indicators.

However, the major challenges in data availability will be on accessibility, coordination among national statistical agency and private sector, ensuring finance for data, independence functioning of statistical office and capacity to generate high quality data in a timely manner.

CHAPTER- Three

Thematic Analysis: Women's Priorities

Goal 11: Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable

Goal 11 of SDGs outlines the goal and targets for urban development in a sustainable and inclusive manner. It has 10 targets and 15 IEAG indicators. This shadow report covers 3 targets: ensuring access for all to adequate, safe and affordable housing and basic services and upgrade slums (Target 11.1); enhancing inclusive and sustainable urbanization and capacity for participatory, integrated and sustainable human settlement planning and management (Target 11.3); supporting positive economic, social and environmental links between urban, peri-urban and rural areas by strengthening national and regional development planning (Target: 11.a)

Target 11.1: By 2030 ensure access for all to adequate, safe and affordable housing and basic services and upgrade slums

IAEG Indicator: 11.1.1 Proportion of urban population living in slums, informal settlements or inadequate housing

7th FYP of the country has specific focus on sustainable urban development. As a priority of urban development, 7th FYP (2016-2020) sets the targets for improving inclusive housing and
other civic services for urban inhabitants including for people living in informal settlements and slums; and providing housing for all including shelter less and implanting the goals and objectives of the Housing Policy through construction of 7000 residential flats, and 5000 plots during the 7th FYP.\textsuperscript{36}

Development Result Framework (DRF) for monitoring this five-year plan has set the target of reducing the percentage of urban population living in slums to 31.4% in 2016, and 25% in 2020. Similarly, the framework has set the target of increasing the coverage of the urban population having access to public health service, safe drinking water and sanitation services to 89.6%, 82.4% and 84% respectively in 2016, and 100% in 2020.

Data gap analysis of SDGs (2016) identified Slum Census of Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics (BBS) as the source of data to monitor the progresses in these mentioned areas. \textbf{The last Slum Census was published in 2014, and there is no updated data for 2016 to see the progress achievements in 2016.}

The latest Slum Census (2014) reveals a gradual increase in the number of slum dwellers resulting in the increase in the number of slums and areas coverage compared to the 1997 census. The total number of slums was 13935 in 2014 which was 2991 in 1997. The Census found that Dhaka City Corporation (combining both Dhaka North and Dhaka South) has the largest number of slums, followed by Chittagong City Corporation.\textsuperscript{37} 55 percent of the population of Dhaka city are slum dwellers. \textbf{Annex 2: Number of Slums by districts.}

With regard to access to basic services like water supply, sanitation facilities, the 2014 census revealed progress comparing to 1997. For instance, use of tap water has increased from 21.59% in 1997 to 45.21% in 2014, where use of sanitary (water sealed) toilets increased from 7.93% in 1997 to 26.25% in 2014. Despite the comparative progress over the years, a huge percentage of slum dwellers still cannot access these basic services.

In FGDs conducted as part of this reporting, the participating slum dwellers shared various challenges they face in their day to day life. They informed about the lack of direct and regular supply of safe water. They mentioned that most of the time, particularly during the rains, the water is with bad smells and Mud as the water points gets waterlogged. Most worrisome is the use pattern of toilets, as per 2014 census, only 4.91% in DCC North and 1.56% in DCC South has access to toilets by single household; the rest is shared by multiple household. The FGD participants from the three slum areas mentioned that nearly 10-12 families’ share single toilet, and every time they have to wait in queue for using toilets.

Since the toilets remain outside of their rooms, use of toilets at night appears as a security concern for the women and girls.

\begin{quote}
Tanha, a 10th standard student of Rayer Bazar Basti said,

"We face severe problem during our menstruation. It is very difficult to wait in line for washroom, also there is no specific place to dry the clothes used in menstruation, we dry it hiding under some other clothes, most of the time the women put those in washroom only"
\end{quote}

It is to be noted that NGOs are playing a facilitating role in providing sanitary latrine facilities in slum areas. However, since these establishments are not properly connected to the city sewerage system, blockage and overflowing particularly during rains causes inconvenience. Improper drainage or lack of proper sewerage connectivity contribute to the pollution of the environment, the water gets highly contaminated causing a number of health problems for the slum dwellers.

With regard to electricity and gas usage, most of the connections are illegally set up by some agents, and often they pay much higher than the rate fixed by the authorities as shared by the participants of FGDs in Kallyanpur Pora Basti and Mohakhali Sattola Basti.

With regard to health scenario, large disparities exist between slum and non-slum areas within the City Corporations as well as with the municipality and other urban areas. They suffer from various illness and malnutrition. A BBS survey on the Child Well-being in urban areas of Bangladesh conducted between February and April 2016 shows that 26.3% under-five children in urban areas are stunted (height-for-age); children in the slum areas of city corporations have much higher prevalence (40 percent) when compared to those from non-slum areas (25 percent).38

The Bangladesh Health Watch Report (BHW) 2014 titled, "Urban Health Scenario: Looking Beyond 2015", found that approximately 30% to 45% of slum dwellers were ill and 60% of their children were chronically malnourished at any given time. The report showed, only 36.3% slum dwellers were food secured against 52.4% such people in rural areas.39

Salina Akhter, President CBO, Mohakhali Sattola Basti said, "We don't have any community clinic or other government clinic for maternal care, Mary Stopes, Nari Moitri are the options we go during delivery, moreover the roads creates great obstacles to carry woman to hospital during pregnancy".

The respondents in FGDs reported about the lack of government health services. Though the government has initiated urban primary health care services for the low income people of slums, the services are concentrated in Dhaka and large cities and still inadequate in reaching all slum dwellers. Annex 3: Health Status in Slums and National Level.

A report titled, 'Health Care Seeking Behavior of Slum Dwellers in Dhaka City- Results of Household Survey' (2010-2013) Dhaka reveals that the average monthly household income of slum dwellers was 27% lower than the average monthly income of urban population of Bangladesh. House rent is also higher compared to the formal furnished settlements. To quote a media news: a Dhanmondi resident pays 28 Taka per square feet but a slum dweller pays 34 Taka for the same space. A slum dweller living in an 80-square-feet accommodation pays 3,000 Taka, which has a higher square feet rate than a person living in the furnished concrete accommodation.40

On top of all above mentioned challenges, slum dwellers live on constant threat of eviction. Notwithstanding existing constitutional and international guarantees against forced evictions and earlier High Court judgments\(^41\) directing the Government to provide for proper notice and rehabilitation measures before displacement, slums have been demolished and their residents evicted every year. In the last five years, the slum people saw bulldozers swoop on them in as many as seven eviction drives\(^42\). Some of these evictions took place in the same areas again and again.

On January 21, 2016 several hundred people were made homeless in Kallyanpur slum by an eviction move driven by the Ministry of Housing and Public Works, though the eviction, however, the eviction was halted following a High Court order after a petition filed by the ASK.

Fatema Akter, of Kallyanpur Pora Basti ’We cannot take fire as accidental phenomenon as whenever there is attempt to eviction or stay order against eviction, fires breaks out mostly at night, and no investigation report has been published till the date’.

On December 7, 2016 nearly 10,000 people of Agargaon slum lost their homes to another eviction drive carried out by the Public Works Department.

Fires have been a common phenomenon in slums. In the year 2016, 12 such fire incidents broke out in different slums of the country. Single Korail Basti of Mohakhali faced 4 incidents of fire in 2016 .\(^43\)

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\(^{42}\) http://www.dhakatribune.com/bangladesh/dhaka/2017/03/03/rehabilitation-slum-dwellers-taking-right-approach/projects/

\(^{43}\) From different news reports.
**Target 11.3 by 2030, enhance inclusive and sustainable urbanization and capacity for participatory, integrated and sustainable human settlement planning and management**

IAEG Indicator 11.3.1 Ratio of land consumption rate to population growth rate

Given the multiple usages of land, in a country like Bangladesh, land deficit is a severe development issue to ensure sustainable and resilient human settlement. The increasingly high rates of urbanization have generated pressure on land use for housing developments and all other services that are required to sustain an urban population.

Though there is no data readily available indicating the ratio of land consumption rate to population growth rate, a 2015 study on Improving Land Administration and Management in Bangladesh stated Bangladesh as the lowest land-person ratio in the world, which is estimated to be 0.06 hectares (ha) per person.

In supplementing the target 11.3 of the SDGs, the 7th FYP has envisioned following specific actions to be carried out:

- Ensuring better utilization of land resources and mitigating increased demand for housing and urban services;
- Protecting, preserving and improving the urban environment, particularly those of the water bodies;
- Devolving authority at the local urban level and strengthening local governments through transfer of appropriate powers, governance improvement program, capacity development activities
- " Improve resource mobilization, provide better service delivery and regulatory functions

IAEG Indicator: 11.3.2 Proportion of cities with a direct participation structure of civil society in urban planning and management that operate regularly and democratically

The Municipal act 2009 and the City Corporation Act 2009 provide for citizens' participation in planning through town and ward level committees and consultation on budget preparation. The said laws provide for involvement of citizens from various groups including women in urban planning. The some other policy and acts, such as the urban sector policy 2011 also include provisions to involve people at the marginalized level in development panning. The Rajshahi Metropolitan Development Plan (RMDP 2004) emphasized on inclusion of the local land owners, and other stakeholders like local service agencies in development planning for the residential areas. But, it does not advocate for the inclusion of the people at large including the CSOs or the vested groups.

44. Rajshahi Metropolitan Development Plan (2004), Structure Plan and Master Plan, Rajshahi Development Authority, Rajshahi,
7th FYP includes following several targets to make urbanization participatory:

- Engagement of community including women and the poor in participatory decision making and implementation processes
- Involving public and private agencies with the urban local government institutions and ensure inclusiveness in planning and implementation of service delivery.
- Strengthen coordination among urban service providers. Capacity is built in CBOs/NGOs to assist people in assessing and negotiating their lease conditions, setting up cooperatives associated with group tenure, assisting people in creating land administration rules for their group tenure and in

However, the provisions of laws and policies remain largely ineffective. The marginalized people who are affected by the development initiatives do not have the opportunity to participate in the planning and implementing process. In the consultation with the slum dwellers, the participants said that they do not have any participation in any sorts of decision making at government level.

Though provisions of women’s participation in several decision-making bodies indicate a positive policy shift towards gender parity at the decision makes level, in reality, women heading the committees or being members does not affect the decisions unless their capacity for leadership is improved and a congenial environment for exercising right to expression and providing free opinion is ensured.

Though community participation has not been encouraged or institutionalized, the country has experienced extensive activism on the eve of unsustainable urbanization initiatives particularly in case of slum eviction. Such activism was not confined only within the people at the community level; it also created space at national, regional and international level for advocacy through the engagement of civil societies. Different women lead CSOs had been engaged in different actions against unplanned urbanization, particularly on the issue of right to housing for the urban poor and environmental aspects.

**Target: 11.a Support positive economic, social and environmental links between urban, peri-urban and rural areas by strengthening national and regional development planning**

IAEG Indicator: 11.a.1 Proportion of population living in cities that implement urban and regional development plans integrating population projections and resource needs, by size of city

With the unplanned growth of urban population and infrastructure, it is a challenging task to ensure planned cities with residential and commercial infrastructure, utility, transportation and service facilities.

Government Data Gap Analysis reveals data unavailability against this indicator. However, National Sustainable Development Strategy (NSDS) 2010-2021 envisions for preparing a National Spatial Plan to create a more rational territorial organization of land uses and the linkages between them, to balance demands for development with the need to protect the environment and to achieve social and economic development objectives.

The housing policy proposed to form a ‘Land Bank’ with the khas and unused land of the urban and rural areas as well as to form housing credit fund for the middle and lower income group people. The 7th Five Year Plan emphasized on strengthening the local government through addressing regulatory environment, basic services and spatial dimension of urbanization that particularly includes developing low cost housing and construction material industry.

National Housing Authority is the lead implementing of the housing policy, having jurisdiction all across Bangladesh. However, it does not have specific means for enforcing the policy. The ministry of housing and public works is the lead ministry in relation to goal 11; other ministries and divisions like the ministry of communication, ministries for environment and climate change, disaster management, local government, road and transport development, women and children affairs, Urban Planning Directorate (UDD) are relevant for achieving different targets of goal 11.

The institutional setup for the urban planning and management can be divided in three broad categories: national level agencies, regional or sectoral level agencies such as Department of Environment (DOE), Department of Social Welfare (DSW), and local level agencies, i.e. the city corporations and municipalities. In addition, some special agencies like Rajdhani Unnayan Kartripakhya (RAJUK), Water and Sewerage Authority, (WASA), and Electric Supply Authority (ESA), the Bangladesh Road Transport Authority (BRTA) have also active role in urban planning and management.

**Implementation progress:**
Bangladesh Country Report for Habitat III (2016) reported that National Housing Authority (NHA) has completed so far more or less 40,000 flats for low-income people including nucleus houses and 30,000 plots. NHA has ongoing flat (5000) and plot (7) projects and upcoming flat project for 2000 slum dwellers payable on daily installment basis. The report also highlights another World Bank supported scheme namely Pro-Poor Slums Integration Project (PPSIP) for resettling 7500 families at different township. The project is in initial stage and few administrative task has begun. The government has recently announced to build 10,000 rental-based residential flats in Dhaka to rehabilitate the slum dwellers.

45. Bangladesh Country paper for Habitat III
46. Ibid.
However, these planning improvements cannot give any hope to the slum dwellers as previous experiences show no positive progress on the ground. Many such projects failed in past. For instance, the Bhasantek rehabilitation project which was planned in 2000 to provide housing for 2,600 poor families on a hire purchase basis through public private partnership. Changes in payment system, from long-term payment over ten years to short-term payments over a two-year period made it unaffordable for the poor people. And, the allottees were to receive the apartments after payment of the total installments, which was calculated at a monthly rate of around Taka 14,000 to cover the full price within two years time. Many of the existing residents of the Bhashantek slum claimed that they could not afford this amount.49

Also, the Bhashantek Rehabilitation Project which was undertaken for the construction of 13,248 low cost flats for the families living in slums or having low earnings, only with 18 buildings, with 2,016 low cost flats, the project was subsequently stopped followed by an allegation of corruption against the developer partner. And, later on the government diverted the plan to use the remaining land for building the quarters for government employees. The project is just not a major failure on the government’s part, but it made the poor people suffer as they exhausted their hard-earned money in investing for the flats for a better living.50

Challenges:

Bangladesh Country Report for Habitat III (2016) reported that National Housing Authority (NHA) has completed so far more or less 40,000 flats for low-income people including nucleus houses and 30,000 plots. NHA has ongoing flat (5000) and plot (7) projects and upcoming flat project for 2000 slum dwellers payable on daily installment basis. The report also highlights another World Bank supported scheme namely Pro-Poor Slums Integration Project (PPSIP) for resettling 7500 families at different township. The project is in initial stage and few administrative task has begun. The government has recently announced to build 10,000 rental-based residential flats in Dhaka to rehabilitate the slum dwellers.

Though there has been a number of legal and policy directions on sustainable urban development, lack of coherence among the existing policy framework, overlapping of the mandates among the implementing agencies, lack of clear policy priority for the improvement of the informal settlements, power play among the different stakeholders, such as real state agencies, lenders, land developers, and manufacturers, lack of responsiveness to the ground reality related to the informal settlements, and lack of guidelines for resettlements of the slum dwellers are the major challenges to sustained and inclusive urban development,

Planning without consideration of ground reality is also a challenge for meeting the project objectives. For instance, the Land Ministry is currently working on a project “for the poor and landless,” consisting of 15,000 small flats in high-rise buildings. Considering the costs of finished flat units, there is little chance that the officially-targeted households will be able to pay for them. Thus, units built through public programs are likely to be bought by (lower) middle income households, unless very generous subsidies - amounting to several times the annual income of beneficiaries - are delivered to a small share of the population that can be served.51

49. http://www.askbd.org/web/?page_id=508
CPD (2016) analysis identified less integration of goal 11 in the seventh five-year plan. It has been observed that 10% of national development targets partly relate to SDGs, 40% of the targets are not directly matched but have the same essence, and no target fully match with the SDGs. GoB data gap analysis reveals that data is readily available for 2 indicators and partially available for 8 indicators. There is no data available for 5 indicators.52

There is no specific sectoral allocation for sustainable cities and communities in the national budget. However, public spending on this SDG can be partially tracked through the ADP allocation for ‘Physical Planning, Water Supply and Housing’53

**Goal 4: Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and provide lifelong learning opportunities for all**

Goal 4 of SDGs envisages for ensuring quality education for all, with lifelong learning opportunities. The goal has set 10 targets with multiple indicators to measure the progress. Aligning with the SDGs targets, 7th FYP plan of Bangladesh sets different priority actions. This report in the following section provide an analysis about ensuring primary and secondary education, access to early childhood development care and pre primary education and elimination of gender disparities in education on targets 4.1, 4.2 and 4.5 respectively.

**Target: 4.1 by 2030 ensure that all girls and boys complete free, equitable and quality primary and secondary education leading to relevant and effective learning outcomes.**

IAEG Indicators: 4.1.1 Proportion of children and young people a) in grades 2/3; b) at the end of the primary; c) at the end of lower secondary level achieving at least a minimum proficiency level in (i) reading and (ii) mathematics, by sex

The major policy and legal instruments in relation to target 4.1 are: Compulsory Primary Education Act, 1990; National Education Policy, 2010; and Prime Minister’s Education Assistance Act, 2011. The 7th FYP outlines targets of achieving 100 percent net enrolment rate for primary and secondary education by 2020, and 100% adult literacy by 2020. The plan has set gender disaggregated target for completion rate in primary, secondary and tertiary level.

Bangladesh is already in good track of primary education. The net enrollment rate at the primary school level increased from 80 percent in 2000 to 97.7 percent in 201554, and secondary school net enrollment is now around 54 percent, from 45 percent in 2000. Furthermore, the percentage of children completing grade 5 is close to 81.0 percent.55

53. Save the Children & CPD, 2016
55. Ibid.
However, dropout rates are still significant in Bangladesh, and only 50 percent of the students who enroll in first grade reach grade 10. In 2015, the dropout rate in primary level was approximately 20.4 percent. In secondary level, the rate was much higher, constituting a total of 14.9 percent in 2014 and among the total 48.4 percent girls and 34.0 percent boys cannot complete secondary education.

The remarkable girls' drop out in both primary and secondary level education is influenced by various socio-economic factors. Child marriage and various forms of gender based violence are among the major causes hindering the completion of education of the girls. In the year 2016, about 5 girls stopped going school due to harassment on the way to school. Moreover, poverty, urgency of entering to the job market, weak teaching method, weaker base of students and failing test and final examinations are the main causes of drop out for both female and male students.

National Learning Assessments conducted by the Government of Bangladesh in 2011 shows poor literacy and numeracy skills among students - only 25 percent to 44 percent of the students in grades 5 through 8 have mastery over Bangla, English, and Mathematics, and performance on these measures is especially low among poor students. A serious gap exists between the learning from the school system and existing demands of the market. There also exists a gap in teacher-students ratio. DRF of the 7th FYP indicates a baseline that 62% schools meet the standard student's teacher ratio of 46:1 and target has been set to increase this to 78% schools by 2020.

Coverage of teachers' training has been increased but in all types of in-service training women lagged men, with 64.4% of men having had subject-based training compared to 58.4% of women, 24.9% of men having had classroom-based training compared to 13.7% of women. The reasons included the inability of women to participate due to household responsibility, lack of child care facilities at home and in institutions and inadequate infrastructure for women.

Most schools lack adequate water facilities and clean sanitation in rural areas. Toilets in schools lack basic facilities such as water connections, soaps, napkins, ventilation and bins for dumping waste. This creates reluctance among girl students to attend school and contributes to increasing dropout of the girl students.

A large number of children with special needs, vulnerable groups and children in remote locations remain out of the school system. Education scenario in slums is much frustrating even compared to the national average. In DCC North and South only 22.33 percent and 27.86 percent are literate. Literacy rate of women is lower than the men in both the areas.

58. BANBEIS Report 2014
Lack of government schools near the slum areas creates the obstacles to the education of slum children. In consultation with slum dwellers, the participants gave an overview which reveals minimal presence of government public services like education. There are NGO run schools in slums, but in most cases this system lacks adequate integration with the mainstreamed education. Ankhi Akter of Korail Basti said, 'the main problem with the NGO run schools is, these are not permanent in nature. Most of these schools are dependent of foreign donations, and they continue their activities till the funds are available. Likewise, 'Suravi School' that has been working in a larger scale is shutting down as they do not have any fund; the existing students have no other options except skipping education'.

London-based Overseas Development Institute (ODI) research published in December 2016 found that 32 percent of children aged between 10 and 14 living in Dhaka’s slum settlements were out of school and engaged in full-time work in garment factories.

**Target 4.2 by 2030**, ensure that all girls and boys have access to quality early childhood development, care and pre-primary education so that they are ready for primary education

IAEG Indicator: 4.2.1 Proportion of children under 5 years of age who are developmentally on track in health, learning and psychosocial well-being, by sex

Existing Policy Instruments related to Early Childhood Development (ECD) are: Comprehensive Early Childhood Development Policy, 2013; and National Health and Nutrition Sectoral Program. 7th FYP outlines following targets and actions:

- One-year pre-primary education for all entering primary;
- Community based childcare centers for clusters of families;
- Expand 2-year pre-primary education (for children 3-5 years);

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**Helena Akhter of Bijli Moholla argued,**

'the government says education is free but we do not see it, we admit our students to Kindergarten school paying 500-1000 admission fees. But we cannot afford it for long so their education gets stopped.'
Bangladesh has started to develop Early Learning Development Standards (ELDS), but interventions and practices are quite substandard and low in most cases. MICS 2012-2013 report shows that only 13.4 percent of children below five attend to ECD program nationally. In 2008, the Pre primary Education (PPE) Operational Framework was approved by MOPME with a long-term vision that "all children, 3-5 years of age, are attending pre-school programs of some kind and have access to programs of health, nutrition, social, physical and intellectual development, and being initiated into formal education." The short-term vision of PPE operational Framework was to introduce one-year pre-primary education for all children of 5 to below 6 ages.

Almost 100 percent of the Government Primary School (37,680) is now offering pre-primary classes. At present pre-primary education program is serving children aged 5 to below 6 years all over Bangladesh with priority given to children of poor families, children from disadvantaged communities, children of ethnic minorities, children with various disabilities, and children living in geographically remote areas.

The GoB has established 2100 community learning centers in most disadvantaged areas (Urban slums, Brothels, Tea gardens, Central Jails, Haor, Ashrayan Project areas & Former enclave areas) through ELCD 2nd Phase Project under the MoWCA & UNICEF assistance where no primary schools exist. 4,000 Para-centers in 03 hilly district areas (ethnic minority groups) have been established under the Ministry of Chittagong Hill Tracts Affairs.

However, Annual Sector Performance Report (ASPR) 2015 by DPE shows that 51.1 percent of Grade-1 students in primary schools have attended pre-primary education, meaning still around half of the Grade 1 students do not attend pre-primary education.

NGOs have always played important role to reach the children out of formal education. And since 1990s, non-governmental organizations have been active in early and pre-primary education.

"We haven't seen any government initiative for Early Childhood Development or Pre-Primary education in our locality, whatever support we get, are provided by NGOs like BRAC, Suravi Schools etc. There is only one vocational education program only for girls run by BLAST SHOKHI Project, no government initiatives for vocational training and education in our

Target 4.5 by 2030, eliminate gender disparities in education and ensure equal access to all levels of education and vocational training for the vulnerable, including persons with disabilities, indigenous peoples and children in vulnerable situations.

IAEG Indicator 4.5.1 Parity indices (female/male, rural/urban, bottom/top wealth quintile and others such as disability status, indigenous peoples and conflict-affected, as data become available) for all education indicators on this list that can be disaggregated

In addition to constitutional guarantee of equality of opportunities, there exist a number of national laws and policies to ensure equal access to education that include: Education Policy 2010, National Women Development Policy 2013, National Skills Development Policy 2012, National Strategy for Promoting Gender Equality in TVET 2012, the Rights and Protection of persons with Disabilities Act, 2013. Integrating with SDGs target 4.5, 7th FYP has adopted some targets and actions which include:

- By 2020 the ratio of literate female to male for age group 20-24 to be raised to 100 percent from the current 86 percent;
- Female-male ratio in tertiary education to be raised from 70 percent to 100 percent;
- Increase female enrolment in Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET);
- Reduce current female income inequality ratio of 0.45 percent;
- Spending on social protection as a share of GDP to be increased to 2.3 percent of GDP.

Though Bangladesh has made commendable progress in bringing gender parity in primary and secondary education, still there is a huge disparity in secondary and tertiary level. The country still lags behind in terms of girls' access to tertiary level education. The enrollment of students in secondary level in 2016 was 67.84 percent, of which girls were 73.10 percent and boys were 63.85 percent. Fewer than 1,500 students have access to a special education in schools sponsored by the Government of Bangladesh. Children with intellectual and developmental disabilities tend to be the most marginalized as their education is dependent on NGOs. Special education services for children with autism or intellectual impairments are primarily being provided by Jatiyo Protibondhi Unnayan Foundation (JPUIF), NGOs and private organizations. The schools run by NGOs are dependent on donor funding, which is not sustainable in the long term.

Women's participation in (TVET) in Bangladesh is strikingly low, ranging from 9 percent to 13 percent in public institutions and 33 percent in private institutions, the average calculated is approximately 24 percent. DRF has set a gender disaggregated indicator for increasing participation in TVET; the target has been set to increase women's participation to 28.08% by 2020, where baseline is 27.43% (2014) which is undoubtedly a very poor target and also to compare with the target set in The National Strategy for Promoting Gender Equality in TVET 2012. The National Strategy for Promoting Gender Equality in TVET includes a target for 40% women's participation in TVET by 2020 and a 30% quota for women teachers.

Attitudinal barriers, financial constraints, inappropriate training environment, lack of security in access and accommodation including sexual harassment, information and knowledge gaps, low prospects for decent work, and low self-confidence and fear of challenging the status quo are the major challenges for the low participation of women.

There are also spatial disparities in educational achievements. For instance, functional literacy rate was 45.2% in Sylhet, while it was 61.9% in Barisal, and the rates were found lower for women than men in all divisions. Besides, there were also found rural-urban disparity in this indicator across all divisions. Regional disparity also exists in primary completion rates. Among the divisions, Rajshahi has the highest completion rate (92.5%), where Dhaka has the lowest completion rate 71.2%.

Table 3: Regional variations in functional literacy rates in %

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Division</th>
<th>Rural</th>
<th>Urban</th>
<th>Male</th>
<th>Female</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Barishal</td>
<td>57.8</td>
<td>74.9</td>
<td>63.8</td>
<td>59.9</td>
<td>61.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chittagong</td>
<td>51.5</td>
<td>64.4</td>
<td>57.1</td>
<td>51.6</td>
<td>54.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dhaka</td>
<td>48.6</td>
<td>62.3</td>
<td>54.8</td>
<td>58.2</td>
<td>51.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Khulna</td>
<td>53.3</td>
<td>68.7</td>
<td>59.2</td>
<td>52.8</td>
<td>56.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rajshahi</td>
<td>50.3</td>
<td>65.6</td>
<td>56.9</td>
<td>48.6</td>
<td>53.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sylhet</td>
<td>39.9</td>
<td>62.0</td>
<td>49.1</td>
<td>41.1</td>
<td>45.2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: BBS (2013)

Absenteeism and dropout rates at both primary and secondary levels, low participation of women in tertiary and technical education, and inequality at larger scale (inequality that hinders the access to education of marginalized sections of the society), lack of participation, transparency and accountability at different levels, the downward trend in public funds for education as share of national budget and of GDP are some of the practical issues that need to be addressed to attain educational goals.

The quality of education is a major challenge at all tiers of the education system which needs immediate attention for better mechanisms to ensure the quality of both students and teachers. Leakage of examination questionnaire, corruptions and irregularity in teachers’ recruitment, dysfunctional learning assessment with too many public examinations, low teacher-student ratio, inadequate quality enhancing training facilities for teachers, substandard early childhood care development, and poor content and teaching method hinders the quality education. Recent moves of islamisation of text book, and inserting new gender stereotypes messages also pose threat to the achievement of quality and inclusive education for all.

70. Education Budget in Bangladesh, an analysis of trends, gaps and priorities, June 2016
Besides, shifting the notion of education from public service to profitable business, lack of government education institutions particularly in slum areas, poor quality of the NGO governed and private school, different types of education system, uncertainty of the NGO governed schools in terms of duration as those depends on donations.

Dr. Mustafa K. Mujeri, Executive Director of Institute for Inclusive Finance and Development (InM) said, the main challenge of education in Bangladesh is absence of peoples’ participation. Moreover, the system lacks inclusiveness, accountability and transparency.

CPD (2016) analysis identified that SDGs goal on education has been better integrated in national prioritization process. It has been observed that 70% national development targets partly relate to SDGs, 10% of the targets are not directly matched but have the same essence, and no target fully completely match with the SDGs. GoB data gap analysis reveals that data is readily available for 2 indicators and partially available for 6 indicators. There is no data available for 3 indicators. DRF of the 7th FYP has included gender disaggregated performance indicators on education, but not by other disadvantaged category.

Regarding public spending on education, growth has decelerated since FY2000 in Bangladesh, where performance in terms of attaining the MDGs has been otherwise commendable. The share of the budget - in terms of allocation and expenditure - on education has been hovering around 2 per cent of GDP over the last 10 years, but the UN Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) stipulates that the allocation should be 6 per cent of GDP.  

**Goal 16: Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions**

The goal 16 of SDGs is to promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development and provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions. This goal embraces basic notions of human rights and democracy which are essential to ensure a sustainable and inclusive socio economic development of a country. Amongst others, this goal is the addition to the recent past MDGs. The absence of these aspects, such as lack of access to justice and lack of effective, accountable institutions hinders uninterrupted development and deprives marginalized segments of a population in accessing available resources and opportunities and other services.

This goal includes 12 interrelated targets that include reducing violence, promoting rule of law and access to justice, and ensuring a responsive and participatory decision making.

71.Save the Children & CPD, 2016
Target 16.1: Significantly reduce all forms of violence and related death rates everywhere

16.1.3 Proportion of population subjected to physical, psychological or sexual violence in the previous 12 months

In line with constitutional obligation of ensuring rule of law, peace and public order, various reform initiatives have been undertaken in different times. Different institutions like Human Rights Commission, Anti corruption Commission, Right to Information Commission have been established to promote human rights, access to justice and reduce corruption and ensure accountability.

Other initiatives to address violence and maintain public order includes community-based policing, victim support centre, one stop crisis centre, national help line centre on violence against women and children, Local Trust-builders Network in Chittagong Hill Tracts etc.

7th FYP of the country integrates target 16.1 by including following actions:
- Government will enhance the capacity of National Legal Aid Services Organization (NLASO) through management systems and procedures, as well as human resources, particularly in supporting the poor and women.
- The NLASO will appoint District Legal Aid Officers in 64 districts.

The reflection of the mentioned initiatives in reducing violence is frustrating. ASK Human Rights Situation Report 2016 noted different forms of violence between January to December 2016. During the period, a total of 195 deaths occurred due to shoot, encounter and crossfire, 97 persons were enforcedly disappeared, 177 persons died and 11462 injured followed by 907 political violence. Violence against minority also took place rampantly resulting destruction of 192 homes and 197 temples and 7 killed.

Followed by her opinion expressed in a TV talk show, on 28 May 2017 prominent Human Right Activist, Sultana Kamal received violent threats received from the "radical Islamist group Hefazat-e-Islam. This incident is one of many such instances of shrunken freedom of expression.

On 2 June 2017, a violent attack on Indigenous Pahari peoples in Langadu, Rangamati Hill District killed a 75-year-old woman, Gunamala Chakma and burned almost 300 homes, and displaced hundreds of families including children and adolescents.

In April 2017, Romel Chakma (20), a student of Higher Secondary School at Naniarchar Degree College, in Rangamati Hill District of the Chittagong Hill Tracts, had been tortured to death by officers of the Bangladesh Army. As per the information received from different news media and ASK's own source, visually challenged Romel Chakma, was picked up by the members of Bangladesh army from Naniarchar Bazaar on April 5, 2017, and died on 19 April in hospital under police custody.

73. ASK human rights situation report 2016
During Jan-April 2017, ASK Documentation unit recorded total 167 incidents of rape, 6 deaths after rape and suicide as aftermath of rape, and out of 167 incidents, cases have been filed in 95 incidents. Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics (BBS) Survey on VAW (2015) reveals that 72.6 percent of ever married women faced violence in lifetime and 54.7 percent faced in last 12 months. Of lifetime experiences, controlling behaviour was most common, reported by more than half of ever married women (55.4%). This was followed by physical violence (49.6%), emotional violence (28.7% of women), sexual violence (27.3%) and economic violence (11.4%)

**Target 16.3: Promote the rule of law at the national and international levels, and ensure equal access to justice for all**

16.3.1 Proportion of victims of violence in the previous 12 months who reported their victimization to competent authorities or other officially recognized conflict resolution mechanisms

As an action for achieving this target, 7th FYP identified the Government Servants Act as a critical first step.

Since its inception Government Legal Aid Programme made signification improvements over the year to provide legal support to the poor litigants. However, poor people can’t fully benefit from this initiative due to many reasons. Absence of provision for incidental legal costs, and lack of knowledge and awareness about the programme among the community people are the most prevalent challenges of accessing the government legal aid services.

A perception study (2013) conducted by Community Legal Services (CLS) programme reveals that 97% of respondents (95.5% of men and 97.5% women) in the household survey are unaware of government legal aid offices and committees. BBS survey 2015 reveals that few ever-married women (2.4%) know about the government telephone helpline for reporting violence. Apart from lack of knowledge and awareness about the programme, weakness of the legal framework and procedural complexities prevent the poor and disadvantaged women and men to access to justice.

It is to be noted that numerous non-governmental organizations (NGOs) in Bangladesh also provide legal aid to the poor and marginalized women and men. But the biggest barrier to their services is clearly their limited outreach.

The World Justice Project Rule of Law Index rated Bangladesh 0.39 out of 1.00 for civil justice, ranking fifth out of the six countries of the South Asia region. The index rated 0.33 out of 1.00 for criminal justice, fourth out of the six countries of the region.
Politically motivated action by law enforcement agencies and even at times by judiciary makes it difficult to access justice. The lengthy and complicated legal system and lack of adequate human resources in judiciary creates backlog and makes it difficult for justice seekers.

In the Access to Justice in Bangladesh Situation Analysis Summary Report 2015, corruption was mentioned by 58% of respondents in the household survey and by 41% of experts as the main problem people face when dealing with the police. The same report says that 33% of respondents in the household survey believe it has become harder to access District courts generally, with similar answers received when respondents were asked whether it has become easier or harder for women and the poor to find justice there.

People with physical, hearing, speaking and sight related disabilities also face particular challenges when it comes to attending and giving evidence in court while women victims in particular pointed to inadequate facilities at court for women and that many were physically attacked and beaten or otherwise harassed by the accused or members of their families whilst at court. 75

The judiciary in Bangladesh has been playing a great role in judicial activism by delivering progressive judgments in various issues. However, lack of complete separation of judiciary is one of the main challenges in establishing rule of law in Bangladesh. Appointment and transfer of judicial officers at the lower courts are still dealt by the executive. There are allegations of politicization with respect to judicial appointments and regarding the conduct of politically sensitive cases, including decisions regarding bail and detention for political opponents of the government. 76

**Target 16.7: Ensure responsive, inclusive, participatory and representative decision-making at all levels**

IAEG Indicator: 16.7.2 Proportion of population who believe decision-making is inclusive and responsive, by sex, age, disability and population group

Although Bangladesh has been experiencing parliamentary democracy, election boycotts, political divisions and intolerance to dissenting views has weakened the democratic environment of the country. The country performed terribly poor in protecting the civil and political rights of its citizens as stated in annual human rights report(2016) of ASK. It experienced gross human rights violation in diverse forms, by different individuals, groups, agencies including the law enforcers.

74. World Justice Project (2015), Rule of Law Index
75. Access to Justice in Bangladesh Situation Analysis Summary Report 2015
76. Civil society report on the implementation of the ICCPR, December 2015
Despite a variety of participatory mechanisms for citizens to influence government, the highly centralized government in Bangladesh limits the effectiveness of direct citizens' participation. Particularly, in spite of remarkable economic contribution in recent times, women's participation in decision making has not been improved much. Similarly, other marginalized people like the persons with disabilities, ethnic minority and other vulnerable groups also have under-representation in decision making process.

The Gender Statistics of Bangladesh, 2012 observed that in the year 2010, out of 4638 officers in civil service only 773 i.e 20.0% were women. The percentage of women at the rank of Secretary is observed 4.26 % and 6.80% were in the rank of Additional Secretary. The proportion of women as Joint Secretary constituted 14.21%, Deputy Secretary 13.81%, Senior Assistant Secretary 26.64% and Assistant Secretary 33.71%. It is notable that the percentage of women participation decreased with the increase in higher position.

A report titled, 'Current status of Rights of Persons with Disabilities in Bangladesh: Legal and Grassroots Perspectives 2015' stated that 76% of those surveyed said that PWDs cannot take part in the whole election process, 44% of the respondents have said that the voting centers are inaccessible.

There is low level of decentralization in the Government of Bangladesh, with few functions assigned to local governments. Expenditures by sub-national governments represent from 3 to 4 per cent of total national expenditures.\(^77\) Ministries, directed by the prime minister and the cabinet, maintain central control over essential government functions. Opportunities for elected representatives of local government to influence government policy, spending, and activities are limited.

To enhance community participation, education and health sectors, among others, have created different participatory forum, such as schools management committee, parents' forum. The Ministry of Health and Family Welfare has experimented with the use of technology when addressing grievances. Citizens can text their complaints into a system that logs them for the central ministry, who can then seek to respond.\(^78\) The Cabinet Division has established a grievance mechanism where the citizens can complain against any public sector agency, if they fail to provide services. However, this has not been widely disseminated and people make very little uses of it.

The participants of FGDs disclosed that they are not part of any kind of decision making regarding any matter. Sometimes they even cannot cast their votes, as it is casted before by the party agents. The FGD respondents in Mohakhali Sattola Bosti said they have opportunity to opine in non-government forum through Community Based Organizations (CBOs), or different seminars, conferences. But there is no such opportunity to give their opinion in government forum.


This goal is less integrated with the national policy framework, only 25% of the national targets partly relate SDGs targets, and 25% of the targets have same essence with SDGs targets, though not directly match. DRF has set performance indicator to increase average national case disposal rate to 50% and provide legal aid services to 37,000 the poor and disadvantaged group annually by 2020. There is a need to improve data availability to track progress on these areas, since only a few of the associated indicators of different targets have readily available official data.

In terms of resource flow, government expenditure to maintain public order and safety has been hovering around 1% of GDP over the last fourteen years, though it has increased to 0.9% of GDP in FY2015 from 0.6% of GDP in FY2002.

However, achieving this goal would necessitate fundamental changes in governance-culture and the mind-set of all concerned. In a dialogue organized by the Citizen's Platform for SDGs, Bangladesh on 18 March 2017, the discussants stated that though in the past few years, the government of Bangladesh has taken measures to reform laws and strengthen institutional initiatives to establish good governance in the administrative system, unfortunately advantages of these initiatives have not reflected in people's life. They emphasized on the urgent need to increase citizen's awareness, strengthen administrative capacities and make the political willingness visible. There also needs better integration and alignment with national policy framework.
CHAPTER- Four

Common Ground Analysis
(based on the annual HLPF theme)

The HLPF 2017 theme is "Eradicating poverty and promoting prosperity in a changing world" with the sets of Goals to be reviewed being Goal 1, Goal 2, Goal 3, Goal 5, Goal 9, Goal 14 and Goal 17. Though these goals are not focus of this study, as interrelated, goal 1, 3, 5 and 17 has clear relevance in relation to the goal 11, 4, and 16, the focused goals of this report. This section provides a brief analysis on the goal 5, goal 14 & 15. It is expected that the HLPF will take these issues into consideration and call upon the Government to take strong measures to the attainment of the SDGs implementation.

Goal 5. Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls

This goal on gender equality and women's empowerment has nine interrelated targets including the targets for eliminating all forms of violence against all women and girls in the public and private spheres, including trafficking and sexual and other types of exploitation; and eliminate all harmful practices, such as child, early and forced marriage and female genital mutilation.

Target 5.1: Eliminate all forms of violence against all women and girls in the public and private spheres, including trafficking and sexual and other types of exploitation

Target 5.2: Eliminate all harmful practices, such as child, early and forced marriage and female genital mutilation.

Violence against Women and Girls

Promoting gender equality is crucial to achieving sustainable development. Discrimination and violence against women and girls is not only a human right issue, it has multiplying effects on all other development areas. Inequality and violence prevent women and girls to flourish as independent human being with full potentials and to fully participate in both private and public life.

Despite having good number of laws, policies and high court judgments, violence against women and children is in increasing trend. According to a report published by One Stop Crisis Centre (OCC), 22,386 women and children were admitted to 10 government hospitals during 2001-2015 after being victims of rape and other forms of violence. A third of these victims are children, 80 percent of whom are victims of rape, while the others are victims of violence as housemaids. 5,003 cases have been filed, but judgement has been given for 820 cases and only 101 offenders have been punished. In other words, only 3.66 percent of cases have been completely settled and 0.45 percent of offenders have been brought to justice.
There are multiple reasons behind this chronic issue of women’s human rights. Influenced by the ideology of treating women as object, violence against women is regarded as acceptable even by women themselves. BBS survey 2015 found that 39.3% of the respondents did not consider it necessary to report the violence. Women generally are reluctant or unable to report cases in fear of cost and time involvement and social stigma. Women from religious and ethnic minority communities such as Dalits, Hindus and indigenous groups remain at higher risk of gender based violence in Bangladesh.

Inequality and unequal relationships between men and women, underpinned by the persistence of patriarchal attitudes towards women, stereotypical views and harmful social and religious norms about the roles and responsibilities of women and men, weak application of laws, procedural delays in justice system, undue influence on the justice procedure by the powerful invested people, lack of responsiveness and sensitivity about the women’s rights of the duty bearers, discriminatory legal provisions, humiliating medical examination are some of the challenges to address the violence against women in Bangladesh.

Child marriage
In any context, child marriage is a harmful practice that hinders girl children; in some cases the boy children as well to attain their full potentials. Bangladesh has the highest rate of child marriage in Asia and fourth highest rate in the world, according to UNICEF. According to their statistics, 52 percent of girls in Bangladesh are married before age 18, and 18 percent married before age 15. According to a (2015) report, 81% of the surveyed respondents said that the rate of child marriages was higher within girls with disabilities. In FGDs, the slum dwellers claimed over the period of time the ratio of child marriage has decreased at some point but still it is frequent enough mostly among the households with high poverty.

Child marriage has been one of the major causes behind the constant drop out of the female students, increasing the numbers of out of reach children, contributing towards pervasive poverty, low education, income and health attainments and an inter-generational cycle of low nutrition and ill health. All these hinder the inclusive human development in the country. Bangladesh has ensured remarkable achievement in terms of enrollment into primary education. But that inclusion did not result in mitigating child marriage or increasing women’s labour force participation or income.

This is to be noted that government provided different incentives to increase primary and secondary enrollment of female students so that they do not dropout for marriage. Also, huge public awareness engaging religious and local leaders to stop dowry and child marriage had been carried out. There has been a commendable administrative effort at the local level to stop child marriage. Government has revised the Child Marriage Restraint Act (1929). The new law of 2017 increase in the penalty of the perpetrators and also extended the category of perpetrators.

However, in contrast to such positive efforts, the new law kept the option for underage marriage under special circumstances. National and international civil society organizations, human rights organizations and development partners including UN consider this as a step backward. The civil society and human rights organizations of the country criticised the provision claiming it will increase child marriage in the country, and encourage different gender based offences like rape and harassment. This provision is contradictory to the SDGs targets for eliminating violence against women and girls and for eliminating harmful practices of child and early marriage, forced marriage and will prevent attainment of other SDGs goals on poverty reduction, health, education and employment.

This is against Bangladesh's national and international commitments of providing a discrimination free enabling environment for both women and men, and raising awareness on gender equality and removing gender stereotypes and harmful practices.

**Climate Change & Protection of Biodiversity**

**Goal 13. Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts**

**Goal 14. Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development**

**Goal 15. Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss**

Goal 13 of SDGs is about taking urgent actions to combat climate change and its impacts. However, goal 14 and 15 are also interlinked with the management of climate change to ensure sustainable development while protecting other natural resources and biodiversity. Each of these goals is very much pertinent to Bangladesh. While Bangladesh is now considered as an emerging economy of the world, the country is one of the most climate vulnerable countries in the world. Bangladesh has been ranked 6 among the top 10 worst affected countries in the report released by Bonn-based advocacy group Germanwatch. Bangladesh lost 0.732% of its GDP in last 20 years due to extreme weather events.

Sustainable use of natural resources and preservation of biodiversity is also a concern to the development pathway of Bangladesh. In this context, this report provides a short analysis on the much discussed Rampal coal-fired power plant.

**Proposed Rampal Power Plant** is an example of bilateral investment of Bangladesh and India. The agreement for Rampal coal plant was first drawn up in August 2010 between the Indian government-owned National Thermal Power Corporation (NTPC) and Bangladesh Power Development Board. This proposed construction has arisen much concern from various perspectives of social and genders aspects, ecological, environmental and climate change aspects.

The proposed site of the Rampal coal power plant is located only 12-14 km away from the Sundarbans, which is a World Heritage Site and the largest remaining mangrove forest in the world covering a total area of 10,000 km with high species diversity. Sundarbans is home to more than 4 million people, who depend on the mangrove forests as their main source of food and income.

The Environmental Impact Assessment of the Rampal power plant proposal conducted by the government of Bangladesh stated that toxic gas levels will rise significantly, and the high presence of coal ash produced will increase the risk of hazardous and radioactive metals and chemicals within the project area. The proposed power plants will negatively affect soil and water as well as the area of arable land available, consequently diminishing the livelihood prospects of local community members. UNESCO’s monitoring mission in 2015 reported that the plant would lead to increased pollution from wastewater, waste ash and coal ash. It also noted adverse impacts due to shipping, dredging, and industrial and infrastructure development, adding that the site lacked prior comprehensive evaluations on the effects of coastal development. The UNESCO has already recommended the immediate cancellation of the Rampal power plant project.

Considering the short distance separating the planned power plants and the Sundarbans, the coal power plants will directly endangering the biodiversity of the mangrove forest. In addition, the plant will be dependent on imported coal, shipping coal will also cause increased pollution, and the risks of environmental disasters will also be heightened. During the last three years, three coal-carrying vessels sank in the Sundarbans. In December 2014, an oil tanker capsized, and the spilled oil spread to far corners of the forest with the flow of the Shela River. Plants and wildlife were seriously affected.

The livelihood around the Sundarbans impact zone is likely to be endangered by the project. The Rampal Plant will directly impact the livelihoods of about half a million people— including fishers, farmers and forest dwellers and make millions more vulnerable to natural disasters, according to the National Committee to Protect Oil, Gas, Mineral Resources, Power and Ports. The production of crops will be decreased since fertility will reduce drastically as a result of coal related pollution from the very beginning of the plant operation. According to some non-profit groups, "Women are particularly at risk, as displacement is linked to increase in gender violence, including falling victim to trafficking and prostitution."

In all consideration, where the coal-fired Rampal Power plant will meet the first target of SDG-7 in helping "ensure universal access to affordable, reliable and modern energy services" but this will negatively impact on SDG-13: climate change by contributing to global CO2 emissions, goal 14, and 15.

83. https://www.banktrack.org/rampal/about_rampal/
As presented in Chapter 2, the Planning Commission has already established a Ministerial committee on 'SDG Monitoring and Implementation" and assigned responsibilities to various ministries to take care of the different goals and their targets under SDG. Bangladesh has also volunteered for an assessment of SDG in 2017 for the HLPF.

Government is in the process of finalizing a Monitoring & Evaluation Framework for SDGs implementation which will comprise a macro level web based data repository system to facilitate data collection, analysis, progress tracking and reporting.

Given that resource mobilization would be a challenging job for the successful implementation of SDG, government is at the final stage of determining the financing needs for SDGs implementation with a view to mobilizing internal and external resources.

Meanwhile, as forecasted in the 7th FYP, the country will need Bangladeshi Taka 31.9 Trillion (US$ 409 billion) to implement the 7thFYP and 78 percent of the estimated amount is expected to be covered from private investment. The public investment will be combination of domestic and external resources. The private investment will also be a combination of external and domestic sources.
Conclusion and Recommendations

Bangladesh has made progress in poverty reduction, economic growth and social development over the past years. The performance of Bangladesh on the MDGs related to poverty reduction, gender parity at primary and secondary enrollment, and under-five mortality rate, improving immunization coverage and reducing the incidence of communicable diseases has drawn global attention.

However, there were a number of unachieved areas under MDGs. These include the employment-to population ratio, the drop-out rate at the primary and secondary levels, literacy rate of 15-24 year-olds; share of women in wage employment in the non-agricultural sector; improving maternal health, prevalence of tuberculosis; and proportion of land area covered by forest. MDGs also did not succeed to reduce inequality that deprives large segments of the population to benefit from MDGs achievements. There are inequalities in different consideration. Women, ethnic & religious minorities, people living in geographically remote areas and in disaster prone areas are particularly vulnerable. While Bangladesh gets ready to take off for the implementation of SDGs, these unfinished agenda should be taken into consideration.

SDGs framework has some fundamental differences from its predecessors. Inclusiveness, reducing inequality and non discrimination of any nature, environmental protection, ensuring peace, rule of law and access to justice are the core to this new global development framework. Therefore, to succeed in SDGs implementations, Bangladesh must take into account all these aspects in an integrated manner to all its actions and ensure a strong and participatory democratic environment. Bangladesh also needs to provide attention on resource availability and ensure effective utilization of the resources by strengthening institutional performance.

Following the above mentioned analysis, the report concludes on following recommendations to ensure effective achievements of SDGs in Bangladesh:

**Goal 4: Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and provide lifelong learning opportunities for all**

1. Undertake special education schemes for the slum dwelling children focusing on employment oriented skills education;
2. Ensure schooling of hard to reach children and the children in remote locations by establishing government or NGO run schools;
1. Undertake special education schemes for the slum dwelling children focusing on employment oriented skills education;
2. Ensure schooling of hard to reach children and the children in remote locations by establishing government or NGO run schools;
3. Improve the standard of pre-primary and ECD and ensure proper implementation for all children including those in remote areas and marginalized;
4. Increase public financing for education and ensure quality education by devising measurers to attract talented people to join in education profession, improving teachers training service, and increasing teacher-student ratio;
5. Ensure infrastructural facilities such as toilet facilities, water facilities, ramp for easy access of the persons with disability in educational institutions allowing an enabling environment for all diverse category of students
6. Introduce community based pre-primary education in slum areas; and establish government primary school in every slum area (at least one school for 2900 families);
7. Following the Education Policy 2010, take measures to run a unified education system by merging different system of Government, Private, English Medium, Madrassa education etc.; and finalize the Education Act to strengthen accountability mechanism;
8. Strengthen monitoring of the private educational institutions;
9. Take immediate steps to review the text books and education curriculum to scrap all gender insensitive/stereotypes and ensure secular messages;
10. Carry out massive social awareness to increase women's participation in technical education; and work with the employers to ensure women's employment in technical occupations.
11. Include topics on gender sensitization including sexual harassment and gender equality in the training of school officials, teachers and students and provide safe educational environments free from discrimination and violence;
12. Reform all existing laws and policies to repeal discriminatory provisions and ensure women's equal rights in both public and private spheres;
13. Take visible efforts to introduce unified family code to ensure the equality of women in matters of marriage, divorce, inheritance, and child custody;
14. Ensure effective monitoring to ensure full and effective implementation of legislations for the protection of women's and girls' rights;
15. Adopt a comprehensive awareness programme to eliminate stereotypical attitudes about the roles and responsibilities of women and men in the family and in society and enhance positive images of women;
16. Repeal the special provision of the Child Marriage Restraint Act 2017 to allow no exception to minimum age of marriage; and address the root causes by raising awareness about the reproductive health issues and about the negative effect of child marriage on the health and well-being of a girl child;

**Goal 5: Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls**

12. Reform all existing laws and policies to repeal discriminatory provisions and ensure women's equal rights in both public and private spheres;
13. Take visible efforts to introduce unified family code to ensure the equality of women in matters of marriage, divorce, inheritance, and child custody;
14. Ensure effective monitoring to ensure full and effective implementation of legislations for the protection of women's and girls' rights;
15. Adopt a comprehensive awareness programme to eliminate stereotypical attitudes about the roles and responsibilities of women and men in the family and in society and enhance positive images of women;
16. Repeal the special provision of the Child Marriage Restraint Act 2017 to allow no exception to minimum age of marriage; and address the root causes by raising awareness about the reproductive health issues and about the negative effect of child marriage on the health and well-being of a girl child;
Goal 11: Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable

17. Adopt a time bound multi pronged project to improve informal settlements and devise congenial provisions so that poor urban population have an improved permanent housing with all basic services and locally available employment opportunities;
18. Ensure that utility services are extended to the low-income communities at an affordable rate with adequate coverage;
19. Ensure implementation of the High Court Judgements and introduce a practical resettlement policy and stop slum eviction without serving adequate notice and adequate resettlement; Ensure compensation to the people aggrieved by the slum eviction and fire;
20. Ensure participation of the slum dwellers in any sort of plan involving their rehabilitation or involving any of their rights;
21. Ensure better alignment of SDG targets related to goal 11 with the national policy framework; and reform the policy instruments as required;

Goal 16: Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective,

22. Strengthen institutional monitoring to reduce corruption and ensure accountable and responsive service delivery by the public institutions like police administration and judiciary;
23. Take effective measures to ensure full independence of judiciary and stop all sorts of executive and political interference over the judicial functions;
24. Make justice system simpler and ensure adequate number of courts to ensure timely delivery of justice;
25. Create a democratic environment where each individual irrespective of his/her identity can exercise civil and political rights, such as freedom of expression, freedom of movement, freedom from illegal arrest or detention without any fear or threat;
26. Ensure that application of law, and administration of justice can take place on its own course without any outside pressure;
27. Strengthen the local governance system and enhance citizens' participation in different decision making affecting their lives;
28. Take steps to ensure that urban slum population can access govt legal aid fund; and raise their awareness about different legal and human rights;
29. Ensure required support services in the slum and in cities for safe mobility of women and girls and against crime;
30. Introduce extensive capacity building programmes for the judiciary and law-enforcement officers on women's rights and sensitize them on all forms gender based violence and gender stereotypes to ensure effective application of laws and ensure gender responsive service delivery;
31. Ensure better alignment of SDG targets related to goal 16 with the national policy framework; and generate required data as per different indicators set for different targets of goal 16 on rule of law and access to justice;
32. Take immediate steps to shift the Rampal power plant project to other suitable areas and to increase investments in renewable energy;
33. Introduce an effective participatory monitoring and accountability framework involving all key stakeholders as provided in the SDGs framework.
34. Strengthen capacity of national statistics organisations (NSOs) through allocating adequate resources including skilled human resource to generate required data for monitoring the SDGs;
35. Ensure better alignment of the (less integrated) SDGs targets with the national policy framework
36. Adopt a specific action plan targeting the marginalized section of the population.
37. Take meaningful measures to prevent spread of extreme ideology and ensure a secular environment;
### ANNEX

#### Annex 1: A synopsis of the Mapping

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SDGs</th>
<th>Lead Responsible Ministries/Divisions</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Goal 1: No poverty</td>
<td>CD; GED; MoEF, MoDMR; FD</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Goal 2: Zero hunger</td>
<td>MoA; MoFood; MoHFW; Molnd; ERD; MoC; FD</td>
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<tr>
<td>Goal 3: Good health and well-being</td>
<td>MoHFW; MoHA; RTHD; MoLE; MoEF; ERD</td>
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<tr>
<td>Goal 4: Quality education</td>
<td>MoPME; MoE; ERD</td>
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<tr>
<td>Goal 5: Gender equality</td>
<td>MoWCA; MoSW</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Goal 6: Clean water and sanitation</td>
<td>LGD; MoA; MoWR; ERD</td>
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<tr>
<td>Goal 7: Affordable and clean energy</td>
<td>PoD; EMRD; ERD</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Goal 8: Decent work and economic growth</td>
<td>FD; MoC; MoInd; MoA; GED; MoLE; MoYS; MoCAT; MoCA; BFID</td>
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<tr>
<td>Goal 9: Industry, innovation and infrastructure</td>
<td>CRTHD; LGD; MoInd; MoEF; MoST; MoA; ERD; ICTD; PTD</td>
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<tr>
<td>Goal 10: Reduced inequalities</td>
<td>GED; LJD; FD; ERD; MoEWOE; MoC; BFI</td>
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<td>Goal 11: Sustainable cities and communities</td>
<td>MoHPW; RTHD; MoR; MoCA; MoDMR; LGD; MoWCA; ERD</td>
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<td>Goal 12: Responsible consumption and production</td>
<td>MoFA; MoEF; MoF; MoA; LGD; Molnd; IMED (CPTU); MoE; MoPME; ERD; MoCAT; FD</td>
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<td>Goal 13: Climate action</td>
<td>MoDMR; GED; MoEF</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Goal 14: Life below water</td>
<td>MoWR; MoS; MoST; MoFL; MoEF; MoD</td>
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<td>Goal 15: Life and land</td>
<td>MoEF; ERD; FD; MoFA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Goal 16: Peace, Justice and strong institutions</td>
<td>MoHA; MoWCA; MoFA; LJD; LPAD; BB; CD; MoPA; GED; ERD; LGD; Molnf</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Goal 17. Partnerships for the goals</td>
<td>IRD; FD; ERD; PMO (Bol); BB; MoST; PTD; MoEF; ICTD; GED; MoC; PMO (PPPA); SID (BBS)</td>
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## Annex 2: Number of Slums by Districts

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SDGs</th>
<th>Slum Census 2014</th>
<th></th>
<th>Slum Census 1997</th>
<th></th>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Number</td>
<td>Percentage</td>
<td>Number</td>
<td>Percentage</td>
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<tr>
<td>Chittagong</td>
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<td>15.90</td>
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<td>Barisal</td>
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<td>NA</td>
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<td>Comilla</td>
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<td>NA</td>
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<td>Dhaka North</td>
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<td>11.76</td>
<td>1579</td>
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<td>Dhaka South</td>
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<td>12.59</td>
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<td></td>
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<td>Gazipur</td>
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<td>Khulna</td>
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<td>202</td>
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<td>Narayangonj</td>
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<td>Rajshahi</td>
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<td>0.75</td>
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<td>Rangpur</td>
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<td>0.35</td>
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<td>Sylhet</td>
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<td>City Corporation Total</td>
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<td>Municipalities</td>
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<td>24.09</td>
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<td>Other Urban Areas</td>
<td>1465</td>
<td>10.51</td>
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<td>National</td>
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Source: Slum Census, BBS 2014
## Annex 3: Health Status in Slums and National Level

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Indicator</th>
<th>Slum</th>
<th>Non-Slum</th>
<th>Dhaka</th>
<th>National</th>
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<tr>
<td>Neonatal mortality rate</td>
<td>31.7</td>
<td>NA</td>
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<tr>
<td>Post-neonatal mortality rate</td>
<td>18.0</td>
<td>NA</td>
<td>10.0</td>
<td>10.0</td>
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<tr>
<td>Infant mortality rate</td>
<td>49.0</td>
<td>NA</td>
<td>35.0</td>
<td>38.0</td>
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<tr>
<td>Child mortality rate</td>
<td>9.0</td>
<td>NA</td>
<td>5.0</td>
<td>8.0</td>
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<tr>
<td>Under-five mortality rate</td>
<td>57.0</td>
<td>NA</td>
<td>41.0</td>
<td>46.0</td>
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<tr>
<td>Underweight Children</td>
<td>42.5</td>
<td>26.4</td>
<td>28.5</td>
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<td>ARI Prevalence</td>
<td>2.6</td>
<td>2.3</td>
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<td>ARI Treatment</td>
<td>56.2</td>
<td>66.1</td>
<td>43.2</td>
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<td>EBF (median months)</td>
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<td>2.8</td>
<td>NA</td>
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<td>PBF (median months)</td>
<td>3.4</td>
<td>2.8</td>
<td>3.1</td>
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<td>Health Facility Delivery</td>
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<td>Antenatal Care</td>
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<td>Skilled Birth Attendance</td>
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<td>Postnatal Care (mother 2 days)</td>
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<td>36.4</td>
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<tr>
<td>Postnatal Care (mother 2 days)</td>
<td>26.5</td>
<td>49.2</td>
<td>30.5</td>
<td>31.5</td>
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Data Source: Slum Census, 2014, BBS
### Annex 4: Details of Consultation with Slum Dwellers

**Consultation with Slum Dwellers on ‘Slum Dwellers’ Rights and Reality: Challenges and Way Forward in Achieving Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)’**

17 April 2017

Topics of Discussion: Right to Shelter, Right to Education and Access to Justice

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Total Participants</th>
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<th>Male</th>
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<td>12</td>
<td>14</td>
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### Annex 5: Details of National Consultation with CSOs and Media

**National Consultation with CSO and Media on ‘Slum Dwellers’ Rights and Reality: Challenges and Way Forward in Achieving Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)’**

17 April 2017

Topics of Discussion: Right to Shelter, Right to Education and Access to Justice

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Total Participants</th>
<th>Female</th>
<th>Male</th>
<th>CSOs</th>
<th>Media</th>
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