Report on SDG Citizen Scorecard in Bangladesh

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The world faces a turning point, the Covid-19 pandemic exposing underlying inequalities and aggravating the social, economic and climate crises. As civil society organisations, we call upon all to take clear actions for a just recovery and set out a plan to build a more just and sustainable world.

Now in September as world leaders gather around the UN General Assembly Week, we call on them to turn it around for people and the planet. In 2015 world leaders signed historic agreements - the Paris Agreement, the Sustainable Development Goals and the broader 2030 Agenda to push for a more just and sustainable world by 2030. These inter-linked agendas promised to transform the world, to end poverty, to reduce inequality, ensure peace and combat climate change.

We the CSOs are working together for a joint Week of Action on 19-26 September all over the world. Campaign for Good Governance-SUPRO, SDG Action Alliance Bangladesh, Global Call to Action Against Poverty-GCAP has taken initiative to campaign on SDG localization and to remind policy leaders about their promises to deliver SDGs by 2030.

The Peoples Scorecard is a process to draw attention of the policy leaders on SDG Actions needed to end poverty, inequality and climate change. We have conducted perception survey in twenty districts and six organizations participated in providing comments on qualitative issues.

**Process of SDG Scorecard**

Campaign for Good Governance (SUPRO) adapted consultative processes at different levels of expertise including academics, research experts, CSOs and NGOs for defining the scope and design the SDG scorecard for the quantitative scoring. In order to avail guidance and input in overall scorecard design process facilitation SUPRO formed a National Working Group (NGW) comprising National networks including SDG Action Alliance Bangladesh, Action for Sustainable Development and six organizations working on six selected goals along with CSOs and expert individuals. These six specialized organizations evaluated the progress of the goals in a qualitative approach to record their perception. Finally, the scorecard questionnaire based quantitative scores and National Network organizations’ qualitative evaluation is combined for an overall findings followed by recommendations for each of the goals.

**Methodology**

**Quantitative Survey** for collecting primary data on people’s opinion/perception on the progress of SDG through a questionnaire, based on ranking (1-5) method on selected Targets of selected goals.
Qualitative Analysis based on secondary materials by National Level Networks and NGOs specialized on selected goals to evaluate the SDG progress, gap analysis and recommendations.

**Goal 2: Zero Hunger:**

Perception survey on following Targets:

2.1 End hunger and ensure access to food for all
2.3 Double the agricultural productivity and the incomes of small-scale food producers
2.4 Ensure sustainable food production systems and implement resilient agricultural practices

• For 2.1, majority scored Average progress (39.37%), second majority scored little progress (27.25%) and least scored Strong progress (4.12%) while a handful number scored No progress (13.87%)

• For 2.3, majority scored Average progress (38.75%), second majority scored little progress (34.87%) and least scored (Strong progress) 2.5% while a handful number scored No progress (13.87%)

• For target 2.4, majority scored 3 (Average progress) 37% , second majority scored 2 (little progress) 34.12% and least scored 5 (Strong progress) 1.0%

CSOs Review on Zero Hunger:

Current Scenario:
• Despite having the sound food policy and social protection policy, around 40 million people are starved and half-starved.
• Clear majority of people suffering from hunger and malnutrition are poor and marginalized.
• About 50 per cent of people suffering from hunger are smallholders and 30 per cent are rural landless, pastoralists, fisher folk and forest users. The remaining 20 per cent live in urban areas (FAO, 2018).
• Poor and marginalized are often lack of access to enough productive resources, such as land, water, fertilizers and seeds, as well as to markets, information and technology.
• Food is too expensive or their income too low, they may compromise on the quality and the quantity of food they eat.

Policy Recommendations:
• Actions for the formulation and implementation of the ‘Right to Food Act’ with some immediate attentions.
• Promote well-regulated agriculture market system for profitable agriculture, development of market chain for small and marginalized farmers.
• National plan of action should ensure Small holder farmers access to capital, sustainable market and crop damage recovery insurance scheme.
• Enough investment for agriculture, irrigation and mechanization of agriculture.
• Direct subsidy to Small holder farmers on their crops and products.
• Support to establish cooperative marketing and establishment of Krishi bazzar should be promoted by the government.

Goal 3: Good Health & Wellbeing

Perception Survey on following Targets:
3.1 Reduce the global maternal mortality ratio to less than 70 per 100,000 live births
3.2 End preventable deaths of newborns and under-5 children
3.8 Achieve universal health coverage

• For 3.1, majority scored 3 (Average progress) 34.87%, second majority scored 2 (Little progress) 28.12%and least scored 5 (Strong progress) 5.87% while a handful number scored good progress 24.37%
• For target 3.2, majority scored 2 (little progress) 33.50%, more or less same scored 3 (average progress) 33.37% and least scored 1 (No progress) 5.125% while a handful number scored good progress 17.75%
For target 3.8, majority scored 2 (little progress) 37.12%, second majority scored 3 (average progress) 34.12% and very few scored 5 (Strong progress) 2.25% while a handy numbers scored no progress 13.5%

CSO Review on Current Scenario:

- Achievements in reducing maternal, infant, and under-5 mortality rates, increased vaccination coverage, higher life expectancy at birth have great impact on health.
- Universal health coverage means that every people has access to quality health services, without any financial hardship., but Out of pocket expenditures of households in Bangladesh comprise 64.3%, share of the total health expenditure.
- Bangladesh has a pluralistic healthcare system, which is highly unregulated. Consequently, the OOP expenditures for health care services have been costly in Bangladesh. Due to wide-ranging privatization of health services.
- Public expenditure of total budget for health is too low. In FY 2018-2019, public health expenditure is only 5% of the total budget.

Policy Recommendations

- Actions needed to increased number of rural health facilities to ensure Primary health care through the Community Health Clinics, Union Health Centre and Upazilla Health Canters.
- Recruitment of adequate Health care professional specially doctors, health technicians and nurses according to the global standard.
• Steps needs to achieve UHC, including financial risk protection, access to quality essential healthcare services and access to safe, effective, quality and affordable essential medicines and vaccines for all
• Health Card for all citizens to locate and record the health service.
• Budgetary allocation in the health sector must be at least 15% of the total budget of a country as per WHO recommendation.

Goal 4: Quality Education
Perception Survey on following Targets:
4.1 Ensure that all girls and boys complete free, equitable and quality primary and secondary education
4.5 Eliminate gender disparities in education and ensure equal access to all levels of education and vocational training
4.7 Ensure that all learners acquire the knowledge and skills needed to promote sustainable development

• For target 4.1, majority scored 3 (Average progress) 38.37%, second majority scored 4 (satisfactory progress) 26.12%and least scored 5 (Strong progress) 7.125%

• For target 4.5, majority scored 2(little progress) 36.00%, second majority scored 3 (average progress) 32.62%and least scored 1(No progress) 6.125%

• For target 4.7, majority scored 2 (little progress)35.00%, second majority scored 3 (average progress) 32.37%and least scored 5 (Strong progress) 4.0%
**CSO Review on Current Scenario:**

- Between 2015 and 2020, despite progress in enrolment, about 4 million children remain out of schools (such as working children, persons with disabilities, indigenous children, and children living in remote areas or slums)
- The quality of education and competency level of students are serious issues to be looked further to achieve quality education for all.
- Quality is a significant concern at all levels of education. (The proportion of grade 9 students who mastered grade 8-level competencies in Bangla, English, and Mathematics are respectively 44%, 44%, and 35%. In class five, it is 25% and 24%, respectively, for Bangla and Mathematics).
- Substantial inequalities in educational attainment remain, even though equity in education is a central. Weak governance is crucial to understanding these persistent inequalities.

**Policy Recommendations**

- Increase access to information related to education and improve the CSO engagement in policy and practice change at different levels.
- Increase ICT based teaching-learning process and improve the infrastructure and build the capacity of the teachers and educators;
- Implementation of Primary Education up to Class 8 and ensure mid-day school meal for all children.
- Full implementation of SDG4 Strategic Framework for Bangladesh, using National Indicator Framework for collecting robust and disaggregated data and use those for decision making;
- Early action to enact the comprehensive education act, review the National Education Policy 2010.
- The education budget needs to be raised to 20% of the national Budget and ensure better and targeted use of resources through a judicious formula-based financing.

**Goal 05-Gender Equality**

**Perception Survey on following Targets:**

5.1 Ensure that all girls and boys complete free, equitable and quality primary and secondary education
5.2 Eliminate gender disparities in education and ensure equal access to all levels of education and vocational training
5.5 Ensure that all learners acquire the knowledge and skills needed to promote sustainable development
For target 5.1, majority scored 2 (little progress) 42.37% , second majority scored 3 (Average progress) 24.25% and least scored 5 (Strong progress) 4.0%

For target 5.2, majority scored 2 (little progress) 34.37% , second majority scored 3 (Average progress) 34.00% though the rating has fractional difference between 2 &3 and least scored 5 (Strong progress) 4.0%

For target 5.5, majority scored 3 (Average progress) 35.12% , second majority scored 2 (little progress) 32.62% and least scored 5 (Strong progress) 3.87%

**Goal 10-Reduce Inequalities**

**Perception Survey on following Targets:**

10.1 Progressively achieve and sustain income growth of the bottom 40 per cent of the population at a rate higher than the national average

10.4 Adopt policies, especially fiscal, wage and social protection policies, and progressively achieve greater equality

10.7 Facilitate orderly, safe, regular and responsible migration and mobility of people
• **For target 10.1,** majority scored 2 (little progress) 36.50%, second majority scored 3 (Average progress) 33.62% and least scored 5 (Strong progress) 3.12%

• **For target 10.4,** majority scored 2 (little progress) 37.12%, second majority scored 3 (Average progress) 33.75% and least scored 5 (Strong progress) 4.12%

• **For target 10.7,** majority scored 2 (little progress) 37.12%, second majority scored 3 (Average progress) 41.37% and least scored 5 (Strong progress) 3.62%

**CSO Review on Current Scenario:**

• Bangladesh has achieved a high growth rate in recent decades, during which its GDP growth rate is projected is around 7.00 percent. But the incidence of poverty and income inequality is very high among Asian countries.

• High economic growth is not adequately benefiting a large majority of the citizens. According to recent Oxfam report, 82% of the wealth generated last year went to the richest 1% of the global population, which the 3.7% billion people who make up the poorest half of the world population had no increase in their wealth.

• In addressing growing inequality and disparity, GoB has been following a pro-poor development strategy which combines promotion of economic growth and reduction of poverty and inequality.
• A National Social Security Strategy (NSSS) in 2015 adopted to address the challenges of poverty, vulnerability and marginalization.

Policy Recommendations

• A progressive tax system is crucial to fight inequality both through raising sufficient revenue to invest in essential public services which benefit the less wealthy by directly reducing income and wealth inequality.

• Implementation of National Strategy for Social Protection 2015 is important to cover vulnerable population under social safety programs. Share of 4% of GDP for Social Protection.

• Participation and representation of marginalized, socially excluded and indigenous peoples and organisations in decision-making.

• CSOs and Citizens actors should be engaged in monitoring, reporting and holding the relevant government agencies accountable for SDG implementation.

Goal 13: Climate Action:

Perception Survey on following Targets:

13.1 Strengthen resilience and adaptive capacity to climate-related hazards and natural disasters in all countries

13.2 Integrate climate change measures into national policies, strategies and planning

13.3 Improve education, awareness-raising and human and institutional capacity on climate change mitigation, adaptation, impact reduction and early warning
• For target 13.1, majority scored 2 (little progress) 39.75%, second majority scored 3 (Average progress) 33.75% and least scored 5 (Strong progress) 4.25%

• For target 13.2, majority scored 2 (little progress) 34.87%, second majority scored 3 (Average progress) 30.50% and least scored 5 (Strong progress) 5.12%

• For target 13.3, majority scored 2 (little progress) 36.62%, second majority scored 3 (Average progress) 30.50% and least scored 5 (Strong progress) 6.62%

**CSO Review on Current Scenario:**

• Availability of resources required at the national level to attain climate resilience and to address greenhouse gas emission reduction is inadequate.

• Lack of dedicated fund/resources in lead and associated line agencies to implement the programme and projects suggested under BCCSAP and NDC

• Process to access resources from UN Framework Convention on Climate Change is very cumbersome and time consuming.

• Weak coordination among relevant ministries, and agencies to collect data and Apparent lack of awareness/knowledge related to goals and targets of SDGs and climate change.
Policy Recommendations:

• Community resilience actions should be taken forward and funded where community management and transparency is the key.

• Engage community in building Green belt in the whole coastal areas in southern Bangladesh.

• Strengthen the capacity of officials to prepare quality projects in dedicated formats of Green Climate Fund, Global Environment Facility and other funds.

• Enhance the capacity of monitoring and evaluation of project implementation

• Enhance the capacity of officials for international fund management.

Basic Information’s on Citizens’ Perception Survey:

Among the respondents 53% of them were from urban areas and 47% was from rural areas.

Gender Ratio of the respondents:

Among the respondents 55% of them were male, 41% was female and 4% was from third gender.

Respondents Categories:

The respondents were selected using Random sampling method from 20 districts and 50 participants from each; a total of 1000 respondents picked from different clusters mentioned below,

• Development and NGO workers- 30%
• Professional class (Farmers, doctors, Engineers, Lawyers, teachers, businessmen etc)-24%
• Political party leaders & workers- 16%
• Transgender & People living with disabilities- 10%
• Ethnic & Religious Minorities- 10%
• Youth & Community leaders-10%