

Post 2015 Development Framework and Climate Change

Demystifying the Relevance & Realities for Bangladesh

Briefing Note

The year 2015 is of a greater significance in 'development' history of +195 countries that agreed to work on a development pathway that is sustainable and 'leaves no one behind'¹. This development framework includes three major agreements, which are:

- Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction (SFDRR)
- Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)
- Paris Agreement on Climate Change.

The SDGs are integrated and indivisible, global in nature and universally applicable, taking into account different national realities, capacities and levels of development and respecting national policies and priorities.

Bangladesh is a 'PARTY' to all these agreements and they have significant implications over the next 15 years (till 2030) and beyond. It is therefore considered imperative for all development stakeholders to understand the inter-linkages of the Agreements as well as the implications of those on future growth pathways in Bangladesh.

Inseparability of the Agreements:

To understand the inseparability of these agreements, it is important to unpack the objectives.

SFDRR

The substantial reduction of disaster risk and losses in lives, livelihoods and health and in the economic, physical, social, cultural and environmental assets of persons, businesses, communities and countries

SDGs

People: End Poverty and Hunger
Prosperity: Fulfilling lives in harmony with nature
Peace: foster peaceful, just and inclusive society
Partnership: implement the agenda
Planet: Protect natural resources and climate for future

Paris Agreement

Reduce GHGs and associated impacts
 Adapt to changes in climate system
 Finance/ capacity support for adaptation to vulnerable / developing countries
 Address loss and damage

The adoption and roll out of the Paris Agreement in order to achieve SFDRR is now being discussed as preconditions to achieve sustainable development goals. At the same time, ensuring substantial financing to operationalise these framework agreements is critical and calls for political commitment.

Post 2015 and Bangladesh:

Bangladesh, one of the 'Next 11'² countries, envisions becoming a middle income country by 2021³. The per capita income in Bangladesh has risen from \$1,190 to \$1,314⁴ - placing it under the 'lower middle income country' status before the targeted timeline. However, the question remains on how the growth pathway can be sustained in a way that addresses current inequality and social difference. Bangladesh is also one of the most 'at risk' countries when it comes to climate change-associated adverse impacts and disasters.

As UNEP Adaptation Gap Report 2014 suggests, the world is on the pathway to an average 3°C raise. The average annual temperature of Bangladesh is expected to increase by 0.6°C to 1.4°C⁵, meaning change in the

precipitation system, increased evapotranspiration – agriculture will be under serious threat. Due to increased frequency and intensity of disasters, there will be irreversible losses of life and ecosystem while damage to properties will be greater in terms of economic values. Not addressing the problem will lead to loss of opportunity and outright reverse the development gains. Eventually, the country will fall back into poverty trap (at present 30% of the population living below the poverty line) unless climate change is addressed seriously.

People's voice:



Yasin Hawlader, Charipara, Patuakhali, 2015

“I rushed back only to find that there was nothing left. I feel really sad. I cannot even express my feelings. I have nothing left and nowhere to go.”



Sabita Rani, Nilganj, Patuakhali, 2013

“[Post-cyclone Mahasen] we formed two committees with 22 women. We went to affected locations. Weather was bad. It was tough work, but we were a team and nothing could deter us. We assessed thirty badly damaged houses. The assessment team provided findings to the procurement team. The supplies were procured; repair started... If any other Mahasen strikes, we will again team up. We will talk to people how we can help. We know we can respond to emergencies as a team.”

Few questions to answer:

Globally, it is being suggested that the SDGs will require about 3 trillion USD a year⁶. What will be the level of investment and fund required for Bangladesh to rollout and implement SDGs in country?

The INDC of Bangladesh estimates that it will require about 40 billion USD by 2030 for adaptation alone (considering the 1.4°C temperature rise?). What will be the amount if temperature rises to 2°C? What will be our strategy for mitigation? What are the potential alternatives, beside business as usual, to realise INDC?

We have seen in Bangladesh over 4 million disaster related displacement over the period of 2008 to 2013⁷. With increasing disasters due to climate change, there will be more people displaced (in country and beyond border). How will we deal with the conflicts over resources such as land and water in such circumstance?

Bangladesh has already proven its leadership and commitment in realising MDGs and managing climate induced disasters. What will be the governance, architecture and mechanisms of operationalising the post 2015 framework? Inspired by the global level of ambition and taking into account our national circumstances, we hope you would contribute to this discussion and debate!

1. SDGs2. <http://www.goldmansachs.com/our-thinking/archive/archive-pdfs/brics-book/brics-chap-13.pdf>

3. Vision 2021

4. BBS cited in bdnews24.com - <http://bdnews24.com/economy/2015/05/14/bangladeshs-per-capita-income-rises-to-1314>

5. BCCSAP

6. <http://www.ipsnews.net/2015/08/u-n-targets-trillions-of-dollars-to-implement-sustainable-development-agenda/>

7. NRC, 2015. Community Resilience and Disaster-Related Displacement in South Asia