

BANGLADESH

TERRITORIAL ORGANIZATION

The People's Republic of Bangladesh is a unitary country with a three-tiered subnational structure. Rural local governments include 64 districts, which are divided into 489 sub-districts, comprising a total of 4 553 unions of villages. Urban areas include 11 city corporations and 324 municipalities.¹



Unless otherwise indicated, all the information in this profile is taken from the previously published Voluntary National Reviews (VNRs).²

1. NATIONAL STRATEGIES FOR SDG IMPLEMENTATION

The government has adopted **Vision 2041** as a continuation of Vision 2021. It seeks to eliminate extreme poverty and reach Upper Middle-Income Country (UMIC) status by 2031, and High-Income Country (HIC) status by 2041 with poverty approaching extinction. The SDGs are aligned with the **Seventh Five Year Plan (2016-2020)**, the **National Action Plan to Achieve the SDGs**, the **SDGs M&E Framework** and **SDG Financing Strategy**. National Conference on SDGs Implementation Review (SIR) is a mechanism developed first by the government in 2018.

1.1 NATIONAL COORDINATION MECHANISMS

The **Inter-ministerial SDGs Implementation and Review Committee** (multistakeholder) is headed by a Principal Coordinator (SDG Affairs) within the Prime Minister's Office (PMO). The General Economics Division (GED) of the Bangladesh Planning Commission serves as a secretariat. There is an **SDG Working Team** headed by the Director General of Governance Innovation Unit (GIU) of the PMO and represented by government officials and non-government think tanks and academia. Bangladesh has adopted a whole-of-society approach for SDG implementation involving the government, NGOs, CSOs, development partners, private sector, business people, academia, professionals, local authorities, members of the Parliament and other relevant stakeholders. The government has agreed in principle that every three years it will take part in the SDG global review process.

1.2 VNR ELABORATION PROCESS

The **SDG Working Team** was in charge of the 2020 VNR first draft. The PMO delegated 17 ministries/divisions to coordinate SDG reporting. Local governments were also involved (see below).

1.3 MONITORING

The Monitoring & Evaluation framework has highlighted three milestone targets for 2020, 2025 and 2030, which correspond to the end of the 7th, 8th and 9th Five Year Plans. The government is in the process of revisiting the framework. Also, an innovative SDGs tracker, a web-based data repository system, has been launched to assist the monitoring of the implementation of SDGs.³ In addition, the government has formed the **National Data Coordination Committee (NDCC)** to identify data gaps, ensure the availability of quality data and coordinate among ministries and divisions to make data available for SDGs. In 2018, 40 priority indicators were approved for SDG localization; 39 indicators from the 17 Goals were selected which were considered to be crucial for the local level of the country. An additional priority indicator was left to achieve the 'leaving no one behind' principle according to the circumstances of a specific District or Sub-district, meeting the ground reality of that particular geographical area. It is expected that the localization of SDGs will promote the collection of disaggregated data and reporting exercises at the local level.

1. See: https://www.sng-wofi.org/reports/SNGWOFI_2019_report_country_profiles_DEC2019_UPDATES.pdf

2. See: <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/15826Bangladesh.pdf> (2017);

https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/26302VNR_2020_Bangladesh_Report.pdf (2020)

3. Available at <https://sdg.gov.bd/>

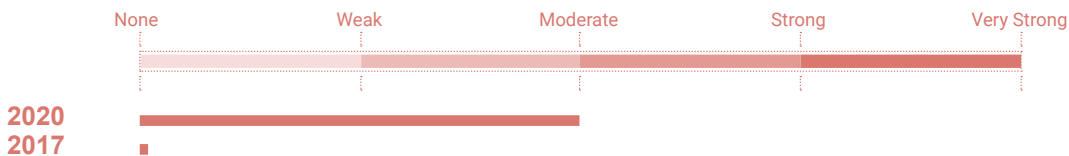
2. LRGs INVOLVEMENT IN SDG LOCALIZATION

As part of the national coordination mechanisms for SDG implementation, in addition to the national committee, the Cabinet Division has formed **three committees at the Divisional, District and Sub-district levels**, which are chaired by the Divisional Commissioner, the Deputy Commissioner (DC) and Upazila Nirbahi Officer (UNO) respectively.

To have grassroots-level involvement in the VNR processes, Divisional Commissioners were requested to convene consultations locally, with local government representatives and other stakeholders. However, in the end, only two Divisions (**Rangpur, Chattogram**) could arrange workshops in which around 250 local officials of Division, District and Sub-district levels participated.

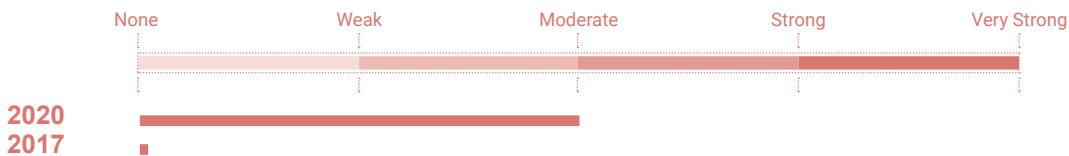
2.1 LRGs PARTICIPATION

► In the VNR process



Comments: The 2020 VNR constantly mentions SDG localization as an important process, but no specific information concerning LRGs participation can be found.

► In national coordination mechanisms for SDG implementation



Comments: There are three committees for better implementation and coordination of SDGs localization works at the Divisional, District and Sub-district levels.

This assessment is based on the information collected in the VNRs and in the Global Taskforce of Local and Regional Governments' annual survey on the localization of the SDGs.

2.2 VNR REFERENCES

There is a subsection called "Localization of SDGs in the context of Bangladesh" (see the VNR, 2020, p.162). It describes, briefly, the monitoring and evaluation system implemented at the local level.

2.3 SPECIFIC PROJECTS AND CASES

► The national government initiated in 2016 the Bangladesh-Pro-poor Slums Integration Project funded by the World Bank, to construct some 10,000 residential flats for slum dwellers in **Dhaka**. The Mass Rapid Transit (MRT-6) and Bus Rapid Transit (BRT, Airport to Gazipur) system are also being constructed. The government is implementing the revised Strategic Transport Plan (2015-2035) to oversee and implement a huge urban transport network in and around Dhaka city plus neighbouring areas. Dhaka's transport system is supposed to be improved substantially after completion of the construction of five metro railings, two rapid bus routes, 1,200 km of new roadways, six flyovers and three-ring roads in Dhaka by 2035. A metro rail line between **Uttara** and **Motijheel** and a rapid bus line from **Ghazipur** to **Mohakhali**, which will be built by 2021, will also ease the transportation problem.

► Rajdhani Unnayan Kartripakkha, or RAJUK – literally the Capital Development Authority of the Government of Bangladesh – is a public agency responsible for coordinating urban development in **Dhaka**. RAJUK has taken a project of "Conservation of Flood Flow Zone and Compact Township Development" and "Waterfront West City".

► **Dhaka** North City Corporation (DNCC) has set the target for hazard waste treatment up to 15% by 2030. Dhaka South City Corporation (DSCC) has a target/plan to modernize the equipment of solid waste management. Both DNCC and DSCC and other major city corporations are working on the safe removal of medical waste through public-private partnerships. National 3R Strategy for Waste Management was launched in Bangladesh in 2010. The City Corporations and municipalities are making efforts to incorporate the concepts and guidance of this strategy in their solid waste management activities.

2.4 VOLUNTARY SUBNATIONAL AND/OR LOCAL REVIEWS (VSRs / VLRs)

The municipality of **Singra** was the first local government in Bangladesh to develop a VLR in 2022.⁴

5. See: <https://gold.uclg.org/sites/default/files/singra.pdf>

2.5 MEANS OF IMPLEMENTATION

The government has been increasing its contribution to urban local government institutions through **Annual Development Programme allocation** as well as through block allocations. Yet, more resources are required. The Annual Performance Agreement (APA) is a result-based performance management system across the whole spectrum of the public sector with a view to improving efficiency as well as ensuring transparency and accountability. The government has already integrated the SDG targets into the APA system so that the long-term objectives can be translated into the annual work plan of the ministries. The government has conducted an analytical study in the field of international cooperation for attaining the SDGs in the country. It is expected that regular budgetary support will be earmarked to advance towards SDG localization in the coming years.

3. RELEVANT INFORMATION

3.1 WOMEN PARTICIPATION

Considering women's empowerment, Bangladesh is at the top of South Asia and the situation is improving consistently as 15,000 women were elected out of over 60,000 representatives in local governments. Bangladesh is a country with a dominant leadership of women in the national parliament and government. Currently, the Speaker of the National Parliament, the Prime Minister, and the Leader of the Opposition and the Deputy Leader of the House are all women. There is a National Women Development Policy 2011 to give women the rights to wealth and resources at all levels.

3.2 COVID 19

Committees have been formed at city corporation, municipality, district, and union levels. Specific hospitals have been set up in **Dhaka** for coronavirus patients. Directorate General of Health Services (DGHS) together with a2i Programme and other stakeholders (government institutions, telecom companies, development partners, NGOs, academia, etc.) developed a data intelligence platform to minimize the fatalities based on data-driven decision-making.⁵ The analytics help to identify hotspots and high-risk cases, analyze and predict requirements for additional patient management and guide resource allocation (health workers, testing facilities, hospitals, isolation units, ICT, etc.) and guide the government with timely policy responses.

4. SDG INDICATORS⁶

5.5.1. (b) Proportion of seats held by women (%) in local governments		23.3 (2020)
6.1.1. Proportion of population using safely managed drinking water services (%)	Urban	53 (2020)
	Rural	62 (2020)
6.2.1. (a) Proportion of population using safely managed sanitation services (%)	Urban	34 (2020)
	Rural	42 (2020)
11.1.1. Proportion of population living in slums, informal settlements or inadequate housing (%)		47.2 (2018)
11.6.1. Proportion of municipal solid waste collected and managed (%)		55 (2012, Dhaka)
11.6.2. Air pollution – annual means of particulate matter in cities (population weighted)		62.8 (2016)
11.b.2. Proportion of local governments that have adopted local disaster risk reduction strategies in line with national strategies (%)		11.9 (2020)

5. See it here: <https://www.corona.gov.bd>

6. The data used for this table come from the UN SDG Indicators Database. See: <https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/UNSDG/IndDatabasePage>. More information on the country's progress towards the SDGs here: <https://country-profiles.unstatshub.org/bgd>