

MGOS RESPONSE AND QUESTIONS FROM THE CSOS IN BANGLADESH TO THE VNR OF THE GOVERNMENT OF BANGLADESH

Bangladesh is progressing as a middle-income country but despite the accelerating growth, disparities continue to exist, now further exacerbated by the Covid19 pandemic. Our question to the government is therefore as follows:

Questions

1. Out of 244 indicators, baseline data is available for 143 indicators, currently updated data is available for 87 indicators, and data completely unavailable for 101 indicators and 108 is partially available. How will you ensure that collection and collation of data on progress (or lack of it) are disaggregated by income, sex, age, race, ethnicity, nature of work, migratory status, disability, geographic location, sexual orientation, and gender identity?
 2. What plans does the government have to follow-up on the VNR at national and subnational levels after the HLPF in addressing the existing inequalities and vulnerabilities among diverse social groups in the country?
 3. How will you ensure that the budget for essential service complies with the 8th five-year plan, national and international commitments in terms of size, share, and sensitivity and make information on expenditure available for scrutiny and policy debate through civil society engagement?
-

We recognize that over the last few years, Bangladesh has seen some consistent economic growth achieving a GDP average growth of 6.5 % making significant progress in poverty reduction, remittance earning, agriculture, enrollment in primary and secondary education, especially for girls, and women's economic empowerment, especially in the RMG sector.

Despite this growth, this progress has not been inclusive and equal as disparities still exist by In terms of localization of SDGs still the multisectoral approach has not been addressed effectively. To achieve the 2030 deadline, the government is yet to address the issues of excluded and marginalized communities, such as persons with disabilities, people living in grassroots and remote settings, persons displaced due to migration or climate change issues, violation of rights of indigenous communities in CHT and plain lands, and young people, especially those belonging to minority groups. In terms of localization of SDGs, the multisectoral approach has still not been addressed effectively

In the ongoing covid19 situation, the government should take appropriate intervention to address growing inequalities, health, and livelihood concerns of those who are excluded and marginalized by addressing pre-existing gaps that are now becoming even more clear in the wake of the pandemic. Our overall recommendation to the government is as follows:

Overall key recommendations

1. Strengthen legal, infrastructural and social protection to protect the rights of women and girls especially from sexual, gender-based and digital violence, persons with disabilities especially on accessibility issues, indigenous communities especially on land rights, minorities, and young people discriminated on the basis of gender, sexual identity and characteristics, through the enactment of the Anti-Discrimination Bill - to create an enabling environment for their empowerment through their meaningful participation, representation in all stages of private and public life.

2. In the long run, the government should finance, implement and monitor gender and disability sensitive interventions (including post COVID19 recovery plans) to address growing inequalities through use of alternative data generated by civil society, with respect to disaster management, climate change response, social safety net programme while maintaining a focus on improving education, WASH, health (especially with regards to sexual and reproductive health), food security and expanding digital divide amongst rural and urban areas. Such interventions should also address the livelihood concerns of workers in the informal sector, the poor, excluded, and marginalized communities and the need for income support and job-retention schemes for workers in the RMG sector as revealed by the pandemic.