

Post-2015 Data Test

Bangladesh Case Study in Progress

www.post2015datatest.com

In-Progress Note No. 4

Date: 20 May 2014

CURRENT STATUS: BANGLADESHI CASE STUDY

Progress to date

The work of the Bangladesh country team was initiated towards the end of February, 2014. On March 11th 2014, the Bangladesh country level Inception Workshop was held. Nearly 75 participants attended the workshop, including a wide range of relevant stakeholders from the public sector, academia, civil society, development partners and international organisations who deal with data-related issues as data producers, users and analysts as well as policymakers. The report from the workshop will be made available on the [Post-2015 Data Test's](http://www.post2015datatest.com) website. At the workshop, several key areas were discussed:

- progress on data scoping and mapping for goals, targets and indicators;
- possible choice of benchmarks for measuring progress; and
- the current state of national statistics.

At present the team is working on the data mapping exercise. Concurrently, the team is conducting key informant interviews (KIIs) with relevant experts and key stakeholders dealing with national data.

Implementation: opportunities

There is general interest among stakeholders in Bangladesh regarding the post-2015 development goals. This is further underwritten by the relative success demonstrated by Bangladesh in terms of achieving many of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) targets and indicators. The enthusiasm pervades both the government and civil society groups – manifested in their ambitions expressed in the [Bangladesh Consultation Report on Post-2015](#) as well as the

[report](#) on the UN's National Consultation in Bangladesh.

Implementation: challenges

The study team will need to address a number of challenges. First, data on a significant number of indicators are not readily available, however, many of these could be generated. Cross-checking existence of data for systematic and reliable production has been especially difficult. Second, there is a need for reliable qualitative indicators, as some of the indicators relate mainly to quantitative rather than qualitative aspects of measurement (e.g. access to education vs. access to quality education). Third, pruning the number of targets and indicators remains a major challenge, as there are differences of opinion among the experts regarding their priority and importance. Finally, there are significant challenges pertaining to the concepts behind and definitions for some of the targets and indicators.

SUBSTANTIVE FEEDBACK TO DATE

Targets and indicators

For the country level Inception Workshop, the Bangladesh country team prepared a comprehensive list of relevant targets and their measureable indicators, identified under five broad themes:

1. Poverty, Inequality, Food Security and Employment;
2. Health, Education and Gender;
3. Environment, Sustainable Energy and Water-Sanitation;
4. Governance and Peace-Security; and
5. Global Partnership.

Targets and indicators were then regrouped into eight key goal areas shown in Table 1. Seven of these were originally articulated in the CPD/NSI methodology and implementation guide and an additional goal, Health and Sanitation, was further included in view of the recommendations emerging from the workshop.

While selecting the goals and targets, the stakeholders agreed that the scope of Post-2015

development agenda needed to be broader compared to the MDGs. Participants viewed this opportunity to highlight key priorities in their respective areas. Given the interests of stakeholders around the table, it became difficult to whittle down the list of goals, targets and indicators to something manageable. However, in the course of the in-depth discussion, it became evident that there was a need to prune the list and keep ambitions viable.

Table 1: Selected Key Goal Areas for Bangladesh Country Study

KEY GOAL AREAS	TARGETS	INDICATORS
1. Poverty, Hunger, Food Security and Nutrition	13	49
2. Employment, Growth and Social Protection	9	47
3. Education	7	21
4. Environmental Sustainability and Disaster Resilience	14	83
5. Energy and Infrastructure	6	18
6. Governance and Human Rights	19	83
7. Global Partnership for Development	14	43
8. Health and Sanitation	7	31
Total	89	375

National statistics

In their examination of the availability and accessibility of nationally produced data, the Bangladesh country team sought perspectives from three groups of involved stakeholders: data producers, data analysts and policymakers. At present the team is exploring data availability, regularity of data generation and data accessibility for the post-2015 select goals, targets and indicators.

There is a general consensus that the National Statistical Organisation (NSO) of Bangladesh needs to take the core responsibility for producing official national statistics. At the same time, NSO needs to coordinate with other data producing agencies to generate robust data.

From the user side, data analysts at the workshop argued that there is a need for compatible and additional data to analyze the robustness of data and identify drivers of change. Analysts have particular difficulty in accessing micro level data, but it should be noted that producing data at

disaggregated levels has also been identified as a major challenge for data producers. Some stakeholders tend to be skeptical as to whether such data may be generated at all.

Enhancing the capacity to generate the required data in a timely manner is another key challenge. To avoid duplication and obtain value for money, it is important to have strengthened coordination among the various involved parties. While technology offers one potential solution to generating better and more data, the stakeholders in Bangladesh showed skepticism in using alternative technology to this effect.

NEXT STEPS

The Bangladesh country team expects to complete KIIs by mid-May. It is anticipated that interviews will help the team to undertake the data mapping exercise and acquire in-depth understanding on the availability of information for targets and indicators. The country validation workshop has been scheduled for May 25th 2014.