## Post-2015 Data Test
### country level experiences

**Post-2015 Data Test**

*Unpacking the Data Revolution at the Country Level*

www.post2015datatest.com

# Inception Workshop Report
## Bangladesh

**May 2014**
**Dhaka, Bangladesh**

CENTRE FOR POLICY DIALOGUE (CPD)
B A N G L A D E S H
a civil society think tank

NSI The North-South Institute

Southern Voice
2015 On Post-MDG International Development Goals

# Content

# Acronyms and Abbreviations

BANBEIS      Bangladesh Bureau of Educational Information & Statistics
BBS          Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics
BEI          Bangladesh Enterprise Institute
BU-IED       BRAC University - Institute of Education and Development
CAMPE        Campaign for Popular Education
CPD          Centre for Policy Dialogue
EPB          Export Promotion Bureau
ERD          Economic Relations Division
GED          General Economics Division
GoB          Government of Bangladesh
HLP          High Level Panel
ICT          Information and Communications Technology
InM          Institute of Microfinance
MDGs         Millennium Development Goals
NIPORT       National Institute of Population Research and Training
NSDS         National Strategy for the Development of Statistics
NSI          North-South Institute
RED          Research and Evaluation Division, BRAC
SID          Statistics and Informatics Division
SV           Southern Voice on Post-MDG International Development Goals
WFP          World Food Programme

# Introduction

## 1. Context

### 1.1 About the Post-2015 Data Test Initiative

As momentum grows to reach a consensus on the post-2015 development agenda, the issue of data availability  has emerged as a major concern and point of discussion. This issue is primarily informed by five factors: (a) lack of data precluded the establishment of reference indicators for several of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs); (b) paucity and inadequacy of data prevented real-time measurement of progress on a number of MDGs, targets and indicators; (c) a number of MDG indicators did not have quantifiable targets given the absence of required data; (d) the post-MDGs will likely embrace many "soft issues" such as governance, which will necessitate the generation of new data and information matrices; and (e) in view of the availability of new techniques and tools to generate information, it is feasible to design the post-MDGs while keeping in purview the emerging opportunities in these areas. The report of the High Level Panel of Eminent Persons on the Post-2015 Development Agenda (HLP) has called for a "data revolution" that will enable governments and policy-makers to better track progress on the post-MDGs and equip relevant agencies and stakeholders with the data and information needed to establish benchmarks and demand more from governments with regard to monitoring progress on the new goals.

Against this backdrop, the Centre for Policy Dialogue (CPD) and The North-South Institute (NSI), in association with the Southern Voice on Post-MDG International Development Goals (SV), have launched the initiative titled "Post-2015 Data Test: Unpacking the Data Revolution at the Country Level". The initiative has set out the following objectives:
  i.      Identify key opportunities and challenges at the country level to improve the quality, accessibility and transparency of data.
  ii.     Assess the adequacy of data available for measuring post-2015 progress at the country level in a select number of countries.
  iii.    Identify opportunities and challenges that may arise from the implementation of a universal, country-relevant post-2015 framework.
  iv.     Enhance the capacity of Southern think-tanks to contribute to the global policy processes shaping the post-2015 agenda, while also ensuring that global-level decision-making, particularly on the data revolution, is informed by country-level realities.

Given these objectives, a number of country case studies were organised to address the following research questions:
  1.    What are some of the likely challenges of implementing a universal but country-relevant framework that consists of post-2015 goals, targets and indicators, particularly from a measurement perspective?
      - How appropriate and feasible are the goals, targets, indicators and baseline at the country level?
  2.    What is the adequacy of data, including disaggregated data, for measuring post-2015 progress across a select set of goals at the country level?
      - In the absence of required data, can proxy indicators be used?
      - What are the implications of data adequacy for setting the baseline that will be used in the post-2015 framework?
  3.    How feasible and relevant are select candidate "zero" or "global minimum standard" targets in different country contexts?

4. How could technology-enabled and non-traditional modes of data collection support measurement in the post-2015 agenda?
5. Where improvements in data quality, accessibility and transparency have been made, what have been the drivers? Where gaps exist, why?
6. What expectations do different stakeholders have for a data revolution? What are the likely opportunities and constraints?

## 1.2 About the Workshop

The CPD, which is implementing the Bangladesh case study, organised an inception workshop in Dhaka, Bangladesh, on 11 March 2014. The workshop brought together a total of 75 participants from a wide range of relevant stakeholders across the public sector, academia, civil society, donors and international organisations who have dealt with data-related issues. The workshop's aims were to:
   a) inform stakeholders about the design of the initiative and get feedback to refine the proposed objectives, methodology, and implementation and outreach plans of the initiative;
   b) test out the appropriateness of the preselected goals, targets and indicators in the country context; and
   c) gain a sound understanding about the state of data availability and accessibility.

This report brings together the discussions and outcomes of the workshop. Annex 1 presents the detailed programme schedule of the workshop, while Annex 2 provides the complete list of participants.

# Opening Session

## 2. Opening Remarks

The introductory session saw Professor Mustafizur Rahman, Executive Director, CPD, welcome all participants to the inception workshop on behalf of CPD, NSI and SV. Professor Rahman briefly outlined why the workshop had been organised and what were the expected outcomes. He hoped that in-depth interactions at various workshops held in different countries would generate a clear understanding about what it means to unpack the data revolution. He underscored the importance of the exercise by highlighting the fact that a sound understanding of the state of data and the measurability of proposed post-MDGs targets and indicators will help stakeholders to contribute to the realistic design the post-MDGs and pragmatic generation of needed data.

Dr. Debapriya Bhattacharya, Distinguished Fellow, CPD, called the initiative a pioneering one which was led from a southern capital, Dhaka. The initiative had already created a ripple effect. He recalled that the MDGs exercise was essentially a 'top-down' initiative, which was often criticised on the ground that the developing countries did not have adequate ownership and partnership. Stressing this point, in his presentation Dr. Bhattacharya highlighted two key reasons that led to this: the asymmetrical nature of power relationship between north and south and the paucity of knowledge and weak capacity that contributed to this.

Dr. Bhattacharya explained that the present initiative was an endeavour to highlight issues of transparency and accountability, as well as, examine the usefulness and effectiveness of data at the country level. As such, the inception workshop was intended as a "road test" towards this objective. Due to lack of information, progress could not be measured adequately for accountability and transparency indicators. He underscored that the aspirations of post-2015 development agendas would call for more diverse and disaggregated data at the country level. He also pointed out that in many countries generation and dissemination of data are often informed by the political economy and because of this stakeholder participation early on in the discourse was critical. Echoing the HLP report, Dr. Bhattacharya stressed that data on development progress during the post-2015 period needed to be SMART – S (Specific), M (Measurable), A (Accessible), R (Relevant), T (Timely).

Ms. Riti Ibrahim, Former Secretary, Statistics and Informatics Division (SID), Ministry of Planning, Government of Bangladesh (GoB), appreciated the initiative of undertaking a country level "data-test" because this meant that it was not a "top-down" approach. Recalling her experience as a former Secretary of SID, she maintained that the Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics (BBS) ought to play the role of a key stakeholder and an anchor in the course of the data revolution in the Bangladesh context. She mentioned that the BBS had already taken up a number of initiatives in view of the data related challenges. As part of the process, BBS had conducted a number of new surveys including in the areas of Literacy Assessment and Violence against Women. Moreover, BBS had also been involved in creating a database on poor households in Bangladesh, which in turn is expected to raise targeting and efficacy of social safety net programmes.

Dr. Mahabub Hossain, Advisor to Interim Executive Director, BRAC, considered the initiative of CPD-NSI-SV as a very important step not only in the context of the post-MDGs but also from the perspective of undertaking future development plans of Bangladesh. He explained that one of the reasons for the success of MDG was that it helped  identify key indicators for the  selected goals with measurable progress within certain time intervals. He stressed that the goals, targets and indicators for post-2015 development agenda would also need to be measurable along with being sustainable, which poses an additional challenge to the framework.

Dr. Hossain argued that data availability was so crucial that it should be seen as a determining factor for identifying the post-MDGs. For the MDGs, some data already exist for the indicators. However, in the case of post-2015, inclusion of new soft goals are currently being discussed. If these goals are accepted by the member countries, governments will face new challenges in developing statistical systems to measure benchmarks and monitor progress. So, while setting the indicators for those soft goals and targets, it is important to ensure that these indicators are able to measure progress. He was of the opinion that it is not judicious to be overambitious. It is better to pick a selected number of indicators rather than going for a large list that can lower a country's capacity to deliver the necessary results.

Professor Ainun Nishat, Vice Chancellor, BRAC University, praised the CPD-NSI-SV initiative as being a timely effort for three reasons. First, the UN system expects that development initiatives should be country-driven and countries should be free to execute those in keeping with their priorities. However, at the end of the day it often happens that many initiatives are imposed on them. If the initiatives like the present one are informed by country-driven strategies, developing countries will be able to lead the global process. Second, most of the processes in the UN system are dominated by diplomats. However, in case of issues like the post-MDGs, it is desirable that relevant experts make contributions. Third, goals, targets and indicators ought to be measurable and the baseline will need to be selected carefully. Experts can contribute on both counts.

Professor Nishat reminded the audience that 2015 was going to be a very important year, as at least five major global initiatives (Agenda 21, post-MDG, disaster risk reduction by the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction, Water for Life, Paris protocol on climate change) are going to be adopted in this particular year. He also suggested that in identifying post-MDGs, SV should give importance to issues such as equity, distributional aspects, vulnerable areas and weaker communities. He stressed that indicators should be simple, easily understandable, and measurable while the data should be transparent and accessible. There should be specific organisational framework for data generation and also a scope to make use of the data generated by other (private) sources. However, whether this information from private sector can be merged with national data will remain a concern that will need to be addressed.

# Goals, Targets and Indicators

## 3. Goals, Targets and Indicators: Part One

Dr. Debapriya Bhattacharya made a brief presentation highlighting the goal selection of the SV initiative. He proposed that the Bangladesh case study team covers at least seven candidate post-2015 goal themes:

  i.     Poverty
 ii.     Employment and inclusive growth
iii.     Education
 iv.     Environmental sustainability and disaster resilience
  v.     Energy and infrastructure
 vi.     Governance and human rights
vii.     Global partnership for development

He also informed workshop participants that in selecting the goals, several key issues needed to be considered. This includes: prominence of the selected goals in post-2015 reports and initiatives; a mix of MDG-type goals that are not included in the MDG framework; goal themes that comprise a mix of "zero" or "global minimum standard" target and country-specific target; likelihood of posing particularly acute data and measurement challenges; and expertise and capacity of participating think-tanks.

To guide discussion among participants, Professor Rahman further asked whether global debates adequately covered the development issues concerning Bangladesh. He inquired which development goals and targets were relevant for Bangladesh and in turn, what the country stance should be in view of the global debates surrounding the post-2015 development agenda.

A number of participants offered insightful comments during the open floor discussion. Their opinions are summarised below:

### 3.1 Global perspectives

- Gender equity may be considered a cross-cutting issue and may be covered under all goals.
- Like the MDGs that was framed around poverty alleviation, there is a need for an overarching theme for the post-2015 development agenda..
- Financing post-2015 at both the national and international levels may be included as a separate goal.
- The total number of goals should be between 10 and 15.

### 3.2 Goal/theme-specific issues

- The goal related to poverty may also include targets on development issues concerning post-graduation.
- "Education for all" should be a separate goal considered as a "global minimum standard".
- Skill is as important as education. So education-specific theme should also include issues pertaining to skill development.
- Issue of vulnerability in environment needs to be disaggregated.
- There should be a goal concerning 'unleashing human potential'.
- Sustainable human development should be a separate goal.

- Peace and security can include a number of issues, so the two could be included as one separate goal.
- Practice of democracy and strengthening local government needs to be included as a separate goal.
- Inequality aspect should be merged with the theme on poverty.
- Food security, hunger and nutrition are similar issues and may be included under the poverty goal.
- Sanitation should be included under health theme.
- Water resources should be under the environment theme.
- The goal on energy must use the word "energy" only, as "sustainable energy" covers only one aspect of energy.

### 3.3 Country-specific issues

- In Bangladesh, there is growing demand to have a separate goal on gender.
- Health is an important issue and the Bangladesh case study should cover it.
- For Bangladesh, the research theme should review the GoB document and include those issues that are not in it.

## 4. Goals, Targets and Indicators: Part Two

This session was a continuation of Session Two. It endeavoured to examine the adequacy, availability and feasibility of select set of post-2015 candidate targets and indicators under specific goals in the Bangladesh country context. Dr. Bhattacharya explained the objectives of the session through a short presentation. He informed that the objective was to assess data adequacy and target feasibility for those set of indicators that would need to be identified from the country level perspective.

Professor Rahman explained what was expected from the expert participants in the session. He pointed out that the groups were expected to prune the list of indicators identified in the GoB and CPD-NSI document. They also had to deliver individual group presentations at the plenary discussion following the group discussions.

Five groups were selected through a blending of workshop participants' background and self-selection. The groups were formed in a way that balanced required expertise with multidisciplinary approach for the discussion. Professor Rahman also suggested a guideline for preparing the group presentation. The groups were asked to consider the following questions:
- Which indicators needed omission against a specific target? What is the criterion for omitting an indicator?
    - Which targets required reconsideration to match the country needs, why?
- Which new indicators were being proposed by the group conceptualising the country context, why?
- What are the challenges related to identifying and conceptualising the indicators?
- What is the state of data availability for the selected indicators?
- Are there any benchmark figures for the indicators?

The facilitators presented a comprehensive list of targets and indicators to the participants. The list comprised of 89 targets and 357 indicators under five broad themes, illustrated in Table 4.1. The targets and indicators were scrutinised and compiled by the Bangladesh case study team. Five broad themes were identified to keep the number of working groups in the workshop at a manageable level.

| Table 4.1: Targets and indicators under broad themes | | No. of target(s) | No. of indicator(s) |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | Poverty, Inequality, Food Security and Employment | 23 | 102 |
| 2 | Health, Education and Gender | 17 | 68 |
| 3 | Environment, Sustainable Energy and Water-Sanitation | 21 | 96 |
| 4 | Governance and Peace-Security | 14 | 53 |
| 5 | Global Partnership for Sustainable Development | 24 | 38 |

The background resource materials used to prepare the list of candidate post-2015 targets and indicators included CPD/NSI methodology and implementation guide, HLP report, UN's thematic consultations document, GoB's proposed post-2015 development agenda that was submitted to the UN, and other documents based on which a set of candidate targets and indicators for the post-MDGs was prepared.

The organisers sought expert opinion, criticism, validation and suggestion from the participants of the five groups regarding the targets and indicators proposed under the five listed themes. After robust debate and discussion on the proposed targets/indicators, the 5 thematic groups prepared a consensus-based summary of their discussion. Each group selected a spokesperson to present their views. These were presented at the Plenary Session participated by all workshop participants. Among the total 357 indicators, the groups suggested to drop 43 indicators and proposed 22 new indicators for consideration under the different targets. Additionally, the groups proposed modifying 27 other indicators.

## 4.1 Group 1: Poverty, Inequality, Food Security and Employment

Led by Dr. Hossain, the group on Poverty, Inequality, Food Security and Employment  scrutinised 23 targets and 102 indicators. The experts suggested dropping 14 targets and 27 indicators. They also suggested redefining two targets and two indicators. In addition, two indicators were proposed to be shifted from one target to another. In examining the targets/indicators the group's recommendations were the following:

- Some targets required to be more specific with respect to the rate of change or percentage of ratio changes.
- It will not be feasible to have some indicators because of lack of national capacity to generate information.
- One indicator should be selected for  similar types of indicators proposed.
- Indicators that are not relevant to the specific theme should be dropped or considered under one theme.

The Group 1 experts also made specific comments on particular indicators. The experts felt that eradication of poverty was quite ambitious in the context of Bangladesh, within foreseeable future. However, poverty could be reduced by a certain margin within the Post-2015 timeframe. They also suggested redefining "Self-employment by gender" as an indicator for "promoting decent job" target while "decent job" was proposed to be changed to "productive employment."

## 4.2 Group 2: Health Education and Gender

Dr. Manzoor Ahmed, Senior Advisor, BRAC University-Institute of Education and Development (BU-IED) moderated the group on Health, Education and Gender. Among the 17 targets and 68 indicators proposed, the expert group did not recommend dropping any of the targets or indicators from the list; rather they proposed 4 new targets and 8 new indicators to consider for the country level Post-2015 MDG agenda. They also suggested 2 targets and 5 indicators to be redefined on the ground that definition of those was not clear in the Bangladesh country context.

In general, the experts  made the several suggestions. They emphasized that health-related data had to be collected at disaggregated level to the extent possible and sensitive information associated with it required greater attention. They also urged to solve country level definitional discrepancies for different themes. Finally, they pointed out that gender involved a number of cross-cutting issues and hence indicators regarding gender needed to be measured carefully.

A number of specific issues were also flagged by the group.

- Experts were of the view that targets for ending infant deaths are not feasible for Bangladesh. Rather, Bangladesh could take steps to reduce infant death to a targeted level.
- The percentage of women at reproductive age having tetanus toxoid (TT) should be included as a health related indicator in the Bangladesh context.
- To comply with a "basic health services for all" target, the group put forward "Increase in health insurance coverage" as an indicator.
- Experts suggested creating new indicators for ensuring quality of education. Use of information and communications technology (ICT) was also suggested by some of the participants. They pointed out the importance of measuring teacher qualification through appropriate indicator(s) and  some called for use of a public investment indicator to ensure quality and equity of education.
- There should be indicators to measure equitable access to higher education by demographic characteristics (e.g. by sex and by location).
- To avoid child labour, participants suggested that compulsory education be ensured for all up to the age cohort of 14.
- On gender issues, experts suggested the inclusion of a separate indicator to measure domestic violence against women and children.
- Experts stressed the need for a focus on minority issues.

## 4.3 Group 3: Environment, Sustainable Energy and Water-Sanitation

Dr. A K Enamul Haque, Professor at the School of Business, United International University, led the group on Environment, Sustainable Energy and Water-Sanitation. The group dealt with a diverse set of issues and considered 96 indicators. The experts did not suggest dropping any of the 21 targets suggested by CPD but felt that there was a need to drop six indicators from the  96 indicators in the provided list. They suggested the inclusion of six new indicators and redefined 11 others. The group felt two indicators needed to be shifted from one target to another. Moreover, 6 indicators for which data availability is a problem were identified. Some specific observations were made by the group as well.

- Some indicators are not relevant for Bangladesh. One example is the indicator "%  of countries with SCP national programmes or action plans in place."
- Bangladesh needs feasible indicators for ecosystem and biodiversity-related targets.

- Data for some indicators is not available in a readily usable format. For example, data is not readily available for the indicator , "Annual proportion of investment in disaster risk reduction in national budget reports"
- A few indicators require clarification in terms of what they capture. For example, indicators on pollution need to be more clearly defined. Some indicators should also be divided into two, such as "% of population that has access to climate resilient safe water sources and hygienic sanitation facilities").
- Experts suggested two new indicators to measure the target for "improved soil quality and combating desertification." However, they also felt that  new indicators may not have benchmark data.

### 4.4 Group 4: Governance and Peace-Security

Professor Nazrul Islam, Research Director, Institute of Microfinance (InM), moderated the group discussion on Governance and Peace-Security issues. From a list of 14 targets and 53 indicators, the group recommended exclusion of one target and seven indicators and the inclusion of four new indicators. They also felt that five indicators need to be revisited and one indicator should be shifted from one target to another. Experts made a number of specific comments on the targets and indicators, as well as data availability.

- Experts felt auto-registration during birth of new-borns should be considered as a measure to ensure universal legal identity.
- A number of indicators included in the study are cross-cutting, such as those related to gender outcomes. Experts suggested moving some to other theme areas.
- The group argued that multiple indicators are needed to build a composite index to safeguard child rights. The current proposed indicator on "the proportion of children covered under the Convention of the Rights of the Child" is not sufficient.
- Data for some governance-related indicators like freedom of speech may be available internationally. Work will be needed to include collected data on some governance indicators at the country level. Good governance related targets could be measured from internationally and nationally available private sector data.
- To assess the target "eliminate all forms of violence against children," experts called for indicators relating to: (i) domestic violence against children; (ii) domestic help; (iii) number of children killed in war/political violence; and (iv) sexual abuse against children.
- Experts suggested dropping similar indicators to reinforce a focus on the targeted goals. For example, they suggested that between "Perception surveys regarding freedom of expression' and "'Increase in the Cingranelli and Richards (CIRI) index of freedom of speech and press," only one should be selected.

### 4.5 Group 5: Global Partnership for Sustainable Development

Ambassador M Humayun Kabir, an eminent retired diplomat and expert on international issues, led the thematic group on Global Partnership for Sustainable Development. Experts reviewed 14 targets and 38 indicators. They recommended that one target and three indicators be dropped from the list. They proposed four new indicators for consideration, four for revision and that one indicator be shifted to another target. The group identified four indicators for which data is not readily available. The group flagged a number of other issues.

- Most of the indicators under the theme are critically dependent on international commitments.
- Some indicators need further clarification such as"Import and export restrictions, by country groups" and "Duty free, quota free (DF-QF) language from original MDG"..

- The group proposed "Carbon emission by the developed and advanced developing economies" as an indicator to measure the target to "hold the increase in global average temperature below $2^0$ C."
- Experts proposed two new indicators – "Number of agreements/Memoranda of Understanding signed" and "Number of patents registered internationally" – for the target to "promote collaboration on and access to science, technology, innovation, and development data."

# Data Availability and Accessibility

## 5. Data Availability, Accessibility and Capacity Building

Session 4 of the inception workshop looked at issues concerning data availability, accessibility and capacity building. During this session, participants were divided into three groups according to their interface with data: i) data producers; ii) data analysts; and iii) policymakers.

The groups were asked the following questions:
1. With respect to the key issues discussed in the earlier session, what is the data availability situation for potential Post-2015 indicators?
2. What are the major challenges in generating the necessary data?
3. With regard to the data revolution, what are experts' views on the following debates?
   - What is the magnitude of funding required to undertake various initiatives relating to the data revolution?
   - How should the data revolution be coordinated among stakeholders?
   - What opportunities exist for private-public partnership concerning the data revolution?
4. What capacity building initiatives (for data producers/analysts/policymakers) would be required in view of the data revolution?
5. What innovative ways exist for producing data (including use of ICT and new technology)?
6. What are the main challenges in making data easily and widely accessible?

Group representatives presented their views following the group discussions. The groups of data producers, data analysts and policymakers were, respectively, led by Dr. Dipankar Roy, Deputy Director, BBS, Dr. A K Enamul Haque, Professor, School of Business, United International University and Mr. Monirul Islam, Senior Assistant Chief, GED, Planning Commission, GoB.

### 5.1 Group 1: Data Producers

Regarding data availability, the data producers expressed that BBS, the national statistical organisation of Bangladesh, needs to take the core responsibility for producing national official statistics. BBS also needs to coordinate data collection with a number of agencies such as the Bangladesh Bureau of Educational Information & Statistics (BANBEIS), Bangladesh Bank, Export Promotion Bureau (EPB) and National Institute of population Research and Training (NIPORT).

Additionally, data producers noted that there is a need to ensure data is accessible to all. While data producers recognize that BBS is planning to provide onsite micro-data to interested researchers, they noted that the full range of information underlying metadata - concepts, definitions, classifications, methodology, data sources, accuracy etc. - should be properly documented and made accessible and available to users.

In terms of capacity building, data producers explained that a number of initiatives are already in place such as the Statistical Act (2013) and the National Strategy for the Development of Statistics (NSDS) 2013-2023. Efforts to build a strong ICT infrastructure are also underway. What is required now is to ensure that data users take advantage of these opportunities. Data producers also highlighted that there is a need to strengthen public-private partnerships and organizational infrastructure for data generating entities. Finally, they pointed out that there is a need for data to be collected in new areas, including new surveys to meet the data needs of stakeholders.

A number of key challenges were identified by data producers.

- Further efforts are needed to implement the NSDS.
- Operation and financial challenges exist to obtaining data disaggregation, particularly at the sub-national/sub-population level.
- Additional capacity building, particularly in relation to data analysis is needed.
- Non-cooperation from respondents, particularly industries remains a challenge.
- There is a need to build a National Population Register and keep it up-to-date.
- Harmonization of various administrative records is still needed.
- Indicators need to be generated to cope with ever increasing data demands.

## 5.2 Group 2: Data Analysts

Data analysts identified that data availability was a major problem faced by analysts and researchers. They explained that while data for some indicators such as health and education are available, data for analysing many other issues of developmental importance are missing or not available in a user-friendly format. Additionally, data aree not available for a number of indicators at a disaggregated level, as it is a major problem to generate such data. A large part of national data is also not comparable with international data and statistics. In terms of data accessibility, data analysts expressed that there are difficulties in contacting  responsible authorities to access data. Since government agencies do not generally have an appropriate data dissemination policy and analysts are unable to discern whether certain data are availability.

The analysts made several recommendations to address the difficulties faced with regard to data availability and accessibility. They urged for closer private-public partnership in the area of data generation and collection. They pointed out the importance of promoting technology such as mobile/personal digital assistance with trained surveyors. Finally, they explained that for some data, like data related to the Human Immunodeficiency Virus Infection/Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome,  maintaining confidentiality of respondents is particularly important.

The group also identified a number of specific key challenges.

- Often delivery of up-to-date data on a regular basis does not happen.
- Different organisations collect data using different sampling methods so the validity and comparability of data become difficult. Similarly, different surveys use different methodologies which undermine data comparability. Many agencies do not disseminate data according to analysers' demands.
- A set of useful data can be collected under a single survey if the design of the survey is appropriate.
- Many private agencies collect data which are not disseminated which underscores the need to develop public-private partnership.

## 5.3 Group 3: Policymakers

Policymakers were asked to identify available data in relation to indicators. They expressed that if the number of indicators is limited, it would be easier to track their progress. This is particularly evident for measuring progress on governance, as BBS lacks the capacity and practice to collect related data. They maintained that institutional capacity needs to be developed for measuring new indicators. A major challenge here is securing the necessary finance to generate data. In this regards, the national statistical office should lead the process with cooperation and coordination from other stakeholders.

In terms of data accessibility, policymakers felt that SID should work in a manner that supports access to data. There should be an interactive and dynamic website to facilitate user-friendly use of data, including data accessible through the BBS website. Finally, policymakers encouraged the active use of a Right to Information Act to access the data.

Policymakers also made a number of points regarding capacity building. They suggested that further efforts are needed to:

- recruit appropriate human resources;
- obtain training, equipment and logistics related to data generation;
- Digitise all data and ensure their proper maintenance; and
- obtain technology to support faster data transfer from lower administrative levels to higher levels.

# Conclusions

## 6. Conclusion and Wrap Up

Dr. Debapriya Bhattachrya expressed his sincere thanks to all workshop participants for their dedication, enthusiasm and hard work, and for their willingness to share their expertise, knowledge and experience. The workshop achieved its objectives. Dr. Bhattachyra informed participants of the next steps in the initiative. These include:

1. Research and analysis
    - Data mapping and scoping
    - Review of documents
    - Interview of key informants and focus group discussion
2. Drafting of In-Progress Notes
3. Drafting of the country report (based on report template developed by the CPD/NSI teams)
4. Validation meeting
5. Submission of draft
6. Peer review
7. Finalisation of the report

He informed workshop participants that they will again be invited for the validation workshop in which the draft report will be discussed. He sought participants' continuing support for the initiative, which is of national and global importance.

Professor Mustafizur Rahman joined Dr Bhattacharya in expressing his sincere appreciation for the contribution of the workshop participants.

# Annex 1. Programme Schedule

*Tuesday 11 March 2014 at 9.00 am at BRAC Centre Inn Auditorium, Dhaka*

| TIME | AGENDA | PERSONNEL |
|---|---|---|
| **08.45 - 09.00** | **Registration and Welcome Tea/Coffee** | |
| **09.00 - 10.00** | **INTRODUCTORY SESSION** | |
| | Welcome Remarks | Professor Mustafizur Rahman<br>Executive Director, CPD |
| | Introduction to the Initiative, Workshop Objectives and Implementation Plan | Dr Debapriya Bhattacharya<br>Distinguished Fellow, CPD |
| | *This session will outline the background, rationale, objectives and approach of the initiative. It will also outline the objectives of the workshop. Researchers will solicit feedback on the overall initiative.* | *Comments by*<br><br>Ms Riti Ibrahim,<br>Former Secretary<br>Statistics and Informatics Division (SID)<br>Government of Bangladesh (GoB)<br><br>Dr Ainun Nishat<br>Vice Chancellor<br>BRAC University<br><br>Dr Mahbub Hossain<br>Advisor to Interim Executive Director<br>BRAC |
| **10.00 - 10.15** | **Refreshments** | |
| **10.15 - 11.15** | **GOALS, TARGETS AND INDICATORS: PART ONE** | |
| | *This session will outline the goal areas being examined under the initiative and present participants with potential targets and indicators for the study. Participants will give concrete feedback on national priority areas and discuss the appropriateness of different targets and indicators.*<br>  1. Poverty, Inequality, Food Security and Employment<br>  2. Health, Education and Gender<br>  3. Environment, Sustainable Energy and Water-Sanitation<br>  4. Governance and Peace-Security<br>  5. Global Partnership | Dr Debapriya Bhattacharya<br>Distinguished Fellow, CPD<br>and<br>Professor Mustafizur Rahman<br>Executive Director, CPD |

| TIME | AGENDA | | | | PERSONNEL |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **11.15 - 13.30** | **GOALS, TARGETS AND INDICATORS: PART TWO** | | | | |
| | *This session will follow on from the first. Based on the earlier discussion, participants will discuss baselines, potential proxy indicators and the feasibility of targets in relation to a particular goal area.* | | | | Dr Debapriya Bhattacharya Distinguished Fellow, CPD |
| | **Group 1** | **Group 2** | **Group 3** | **Group 4** | **Group 5** |
| Theme(s) | Poverty, Inequality, Food Security and Employment | Health, Education and Gender | Environment, Sustainable Energy and Water-Sanitation | Governance and Peace-Security | Global Partnership |
| Moderator(s) | Dr Mahabub Hossain Advisor to the Interim Executive Director BRAC | Dr Manzoor Ahmed Senior Advisor BRAC University - Institute of Education and Development (BU-IED) | Dr A K Enamul Haque Professor, School of Business United International University | Professor Nazrul Islam Director (Research) Institute of Microfinance (InM) | Ambassador M Humayun Kabir Vice President Bangladesh Enterprise Institute (BEI) |
| **13.30 - 14.30** | **Lunch** | | | | |
| 14.30 - 15.20 | PLENARY DISCUSSION | | | | |
| **15.20 - 16.30** | **DATA AVAILABILITY, ACCESSIBILITY AND CAPACITY BUILDING** | | | | |
| | *This session will examine key issues relating to data availability and accessibility.* | | | Dr Debapriya Bhattacharya Distinguished Fellow, CPD | |
| Group(s) | **Team 1: Data Producers** | | **Team 2: Analysts** | **Team 3: Policymakers** | |
| | National Statistical Office | | Civil Society Representatives; Academia, UN, IMF | Government Officials | |
| Moderator(s) | Dr Dipankar Roy Deputy Director Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics (BBS) | | Dr A K Enamul Haque Professor, School of Business United International University | Mr Monirul Islam Senior Assistant Chief General Economics Division (GED) Planning Commission | |
| **16.30-16.45** | **Refreshments** | | | | |
| 16.45 - 17.15 | PLENARY DISCUSSION | | | | |
| **17.15 - 17.45** | **CONCLUSION AND WRAP UP** | | | | |
| | *This session will outline the key lessons and recommendations from the workshop. An implementation plan will also be agreed upon.* | | | Dr Debapriya Bhattacharya Distinguished Fellow, CPD | |
| | Way Forward and Implementation Plan | | | All | |

# Annex 2. List of Participants

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