

3rd Global conference on Big Data for Official Statistics

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High-Level Panel on Big Data for SDG Indicators

Introductory Statement of

Mohammad Abdul Wazed

Director General, Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics

Good Morning!

Ladies and Gentlemen, I don't have any slide and power point presentation. There is no visual, only audio. So, I would request your keen attention.

Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics (BBS)- the national statistics office of the country – is mandated to provide official statistics for development planning. BBS produces a wide range of statistics covering all the aspects of economic, social and environment sectors. Our main task will be to work on all the indicators and set the reference/base year for better monitoring of the SDGs.

Bangladesh implemented most of the Millennium Development Goals and targets within the time and our Prime Minister received many awards. So we are politically committed to implement the SDGs.

Responding to data needs for SDG monitoring, BBS has worked and sorted out data gaps corresponding to each of the goals and targets. BBS has tried to find out the data gaps in a broader context reviewing the goals and targets of SDGs and 7th FYP (we have 3 FYPs in SDGs monitoring period). We aligned the SDGs and the targets of Development Result Framework (DRF) of 7th FYP with the action plan of our National Strategy for the Development of Statistics (NSDS), and thus prioritized the areas where data should be collected through undertaking projects and programmes in order to fill the gaps, in order to set the reference / base year to monitor the implementation of SDGs.

In our view, a robust follow-up and review mechanism for the implementation of the new 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development will require statistical data, big data, and administrative data to monitor progress, inform policy and ensure accountability of all stakeholders. Good, available, and well-used data can be of a big help for SDGs monitoring and evaluation.

Data are now recognized as central to achieving the 2030 sustainable development agenda as effective public policy requires quality data which is now being themed as 'Data for Development-D4D'.

'Data Revolution' and 'Big Data' can be thought of as a new areas and new sources where BBS can play a big role in integrating them into national statistical system and mainstreaming them into official statistics in order to provide data support in a comprehensive monitoring process.

We formed a SDG Cell in BBS to develop methodology for new data/statistics, mainstream administrative data, integrate big data, mine existing data, and make sure data availability.

So we are working on

- i) Identification of data those are currently available in BBS. BBS can provide data support directly for monitoring of SDGs
- ii) Identification of data those are available outside BBS, might be with the development agencies, ministries of the Government. BBS needs to mainstreaming 'administrative data' and authenticating the sources and statistics
- iii) Identification of data not available at all that necessitates new data sources and new statistics. We need to implement new projects to collect data. BBS can also play a leading role in exploring data and taking comparative advantage in data revolution.

In our exercise we have seen that we have official data available fully in respect of SDGs 1,2,3,4,5 and 8 and partial in respect of goals 6,9,11,13,16,and 17. Similarly we have administrative data available fully in respect of goals 2,5,6,7,9,11, 13, and partially in respect of goal17 only. We don't have data in respect of goals 10, 12, 14 and 15.

Out of 169 Targets against 17 Goals, we have seen that data available fully for 32 targets, partially for 18 targets, and not available for 119 targets.

We are working intensively with civil society organizations (CSO) and NGOs and other data producers, data users, stakeholders, UN agencies, and development partners to make available all the indicators for better monitoring and effective evaluation of SDGs. CSOs and NGOs are vibrant in Bangladesh.

So, we see that the CSOs and NGOs have come up with new proposals and started working on SDG issues and implementation procedures so that no one should be left behind.

Focusing on the implementation process of the SDGs the leading non-government and civil society organizations in the country declared the launch of the Citizen's Platform for SDGs, Bangladesh on 18 June 2016.

They formed Citizen's Platform for SDGs, Bangladesh with the objective to contribute to effective and efficient implementation of the SDGs) and enhance accountability in its process. The new initiative will work closely, among others, with private sector, civil society and development partners

to help expedite the government initiatives and activities of stakeholders to attain the 2030 Agenda for sustainable development.

A group of four NGOs who are implementing a three-year European Union project on the ethnic minorities in plain lands organized the discussion in a national workshop on leaving no one behind: exclusion and marginalization challenges in Bangladesh as part of their process to map out their current status, and ways of strengthening their capacity and partnerships.

BBS has undertaken a programme to conduct a census on marginalized and disadvantaged communities in Bangladesh in making them statistically visible for policy formulation and programme interventions.

Now I would say few words on Big Data as how we see it. In respect of-

Dimension-Storing of Big Data requires advanced data architectures to handle not- structured data. Processing of Big Data is quite a very hard job because of complexities.

Quality-quality dimensions i.e., accuracy, timeliness consistency is an vital issue for Big Data. For instance- the quality of sensor data, that takes into account sensor precision and sensor failures. Cleaning up data to ensure that incomplete, inaccurate, and duplicate data is removed should be the first step.

Accessibility-Sometimes it is not easy task to access some giant Big Data produces (Viz. Google, Facebook). Their data may be locked. People talk about Open Government, Open Data and the Open Government Data (OGD). But Big Data are not always open data.

Big Data technologies-The NSO's like BBS have to adopt new technologies and methods to enable sound statistical analysis on Big Data.

Policies -There is in need to formulate policies relating to Big Data and the roles of the NSOs.

Budget-We need sufficient and huge budget to handle big data. It needs investment in IT equipment, technologies and skills training.

However, Bangladesh is working on it. The “Digital Bangladesh” program and the Vision 2021 of the government have initiated the process of e-services for government service delivery and capacity building. In 2009 the National ICT Policy was broadly reformulated across areas including education, science and technology, infrastructural development, employment generation, private sector development, agriculture, health and nutrition. The GoB included an e-governance vision and promotion program for the ICT sector in the Five Year Plan. The Big Data issue conform to our ICT Policy and offers opportunity to get benefits from it.

Lastly, I would like to say few words on “Business Model” proposed by GWG on Bid Data. The objectives of Business Model are to provide data, services, application and infrastructures. The

objectives will be obtained through development of partnership, networking and cost estimate. SDGs one of the goals is to develop partnership at the global, regional and national level. Bangladesh has already started developing partnership and networking between and among the government organizations, and development partners including NGOs. So, we are in favour of the process of proposed “Business Model”. But I have a concern. As you know under Paris21 a programme was taken for the LDCs to formulate “National Strategy for the Development of Statistics”. Most of the 78 LDCs have adopted this NSDS. I don’t know how far they have able to implement their NSDS. With World Bank support Bangladesh formulated NSDS in 2013. # years have gone. But no financial or technical support we received except World Bank’s recent commitment of US \$ 60 million. For implementation of NSDS huge budget is required. So, I would request GWG to make a quick survey on the implement of status of NSDS in developing countries. Only then we will understand the real picture of partnership. Under the circumstances I would request Global Forum of small committee whatever you want, please allow to raise our voices.

Thank you all.