

Bangladesh PRS Implementation Forum

Session V: Aid Harmonization and Aid Effectiveness

Speaking Notes on Issue 4: Mainstreaming Managing for Results through capacity building and coordination of overarching (MDG/PRSP), sector- and project-level monitoring and evaluation

Introductory Remarks

- The Development Partners note and are encouraged by tenor of the ongoing dialogue and engagement with Government on the formulation of the National Harmonization Action Plan's specific parameters for managing for results.
- The Development Partners note that the PRS and efforts to formulate a National Harmonization Action Plan are in concordance with the Paris Declaration on Aid Effectiveness with its emphasis on managing for results, and in particular, with managing and implementing aid in a way that focuses on the desired results and uses information to improve public participation and decision-making.
- The PRS and National Harmonization Action Plan provides a viable framework for Partner Countries and Donors who are co-signatories to the Paris Declaration to address their individual and joint commitments on *inter alia*:
 - Linking national development strategies and annual and multi-annual budget processes;
 - Results-oriented reporting and assessment frameworks
 - Linking country programming and resources to results and performance assessment frameworks,
 - Harmonizing monitoring and reporting requirements
 - Strengthening country capacities and demand for results based management.
- Moreover, there is a need for a coordinated support of the PRSP and a mechanism to facilitate the expression of the MDGs in national goals included in the PRSP.
- Such initiatives will enhance the focus of the business plans of development partners to focus on how specific agencies can best support implementation of the PRSP and the attainment of the MDGs.
- The Development Partners would encourage complementarity and linkage between MDG Country Reports and PRSP annual reports that inform public debate for setting national targets, and as an open resource for the wider public and policy makers of progress towards poverty reduction.

Progress towards Managing Results

- The Development Partners can report on the **progress and status of the draft Harmonization Action Plan for Managing Results**, noting detailed discussions are underway in a number of critical areas:
 - Strengthening overall and sector-level monitoring and evaluation, in particular focusing on strengthening MDG and PRSP monitoring
 - Strengthening project-level monitoring and evaluation with a focus on harmonizing project evaluation, and avoiding the creation of unnecessary ad-hoc monitoring and reporting systems and project-specific surveys
 - Understanding and assessing the concerns around fiduciary risks of implementing projects and programmes

- The Development Partners would advocate that the PRSP focus its **Longer-term Actions on Managing Results** specifically through capacity building and coordination of overarching (MDG/PRSP), sector- and project-level monitoring and evaluation.
- Setting PRSP targets aligned with the MDGs is an effective way of splitting long-term MDG targets into time-bound intermediate steps.
- MDG-based PRSPs are a relatively new paradigm. However, integrating the MDGs into a PRSP takes effort, imagination and ambition. While current PRSP touch on several related areas within their national development strategy, there is a need to improve focus on the MDG agenda.

Specific Actions to Take in the Short-term

- **Short-term interventions** should be taken with a view to:
 - **MDG/PRSP monitoring capacity** will be strengthened by coordination of a wide range of monitoring and evaluation activities as well as concerted statistical capacity building efforts to enhance data quality, analysis and policy feedback (e.g. support for GED & BBS, formulation of Statistics Master Plan).
 - § The PRSP is designed to outline how the broad goals of economic growth and poverty reduction can be put into practice. Regular checking of a country's strategy against its intended results—as articulated in national interim MDG targets—is an ideal tool for making both evaluations and course corrections where necessary.
 - § The integration of the MDGs into the PRSP is key to avoiding duplicative, parallel processes.
 - § The first major step in integrating the two is to ensure that country-adapted MDG indicators and interim targets are monitored together with the economic indicators and targets of the PRSP through an integrated monitoring system.
 - § Data used for PRSP and MDG reporting should be of the highest quality. Data analysis as well as the use of such data analysis for policy making should also be strengthened. It is incumbent upon Government to build a credible MDG/PRSP monitoring system and re-vitalize its statistical architecture with clear roles and responsibilities for the GED and BBS, and elucidated under a Statistical Master Plan.
 - § It is important to un-bundle national progress into progress for women and men; for rural and urban residents; for young and older people; for the poor and the non-poor; and for regions, states and districts. Disaggregated data provide a clearer picture of social and economic disparities. Pro-poor reforms start with disaggregation, for what is measured influences what needs to be done.
- **Localization of poverty data** will need to be a major focus for monitoring. Sub-national comparative data by district, upazilla and unions can act as a powerful trigger for public action by revealing the geographical distribution of social and economic disparities. The process of adapting nationally defined targets to meet the needs and priorities of individual communities brings local authorities together with their constituents to agree on local priorities. Localization has become an increasingly common approach to creating greater citizen engagement in the development process. While developing meaningful local and regional equivalents of the MDG targets and indicators is a time-consuming and intensive process, successful localization can bridge the gap between national-level strategies and budgets and local-level implementation.