Project: 1617B. Evidence-based e-government policies for advancing governmental service delivery and accountability in support of the Sustainable Development Goals

Activity A1.2: First National Capacity Development Workshop, 6-7 June 2017

Country: Bangladesh

Purpose

This project falls within the mandate of the Division for Public Administration and Development Management (DPADM), UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs (DESA). The objective of DPADM is to assist countries to develop effective, accountable and transparent institutions at all levels for the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. This involves, among others, strengthening public sector institutional capacities and developing of capacities related to the use of information and communication technologies (ICTs) for development including through e-government. Within this framework, as requested in the Development Account project 1617B, DPADM will organize, in cooperation with the Prime Minister’s Office of Bangladesh (through a2i), a First National Capacity Development Workshop to build institutional capacity to collect, analyse and publish e-government data and related sectoral data, with a view to develop e-government policies, directives, laws, legislations, etc., to support the SDGs.

Background

Bangladesh is the top performing country among the least developed countries in e-government development, with a global ranking of 124th and medium-E-Government-Development-Index (EGDI) of 0.3799, as compared to global EGDI average of 0.4623¹. The role of information communication technologies (ICTs) including e-government in national development is recognised at the highest level of its administration, with H.E. Mrs. Sheikh Hasina, Bangladesh’s Prime Minister, advocating for “Digital Bangladesh” strategy as a main driver of the national 7th five-year plan that is also integrated to implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). In view of the priority and commitment to digital government, the Government has made remarkable progress in e-government development and digital innovation. For example, over 5200 “Digital Centers” have been established to provide more than 110 online services such as enrolment to primary education, with a view to bring inclusive online services to the rural communities.

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development² - adopted by world leaders in September 2015 at an historic UN Summit - has at its core 17 goals and 169 targets. A global indicator framework was developed by the Inter-Agency and Expert Group on SDG Indicators (IAEG-SDGs) and agreed upon at the United Nations Statistical Commission held in March 2017³. The 17 goals, 169 targets and 232 indicators will provide critical reference points for national governments in designing or revamping institutional arrangements, policies, strategies and plans to eradicate poverty and achieve a better, more sustainable world.

There are, however, several gaps in data related to progress in sectoral areas such as education, health and employment, among many countries including Bangladesh. The UN Statistical Commission has clearly defined indicators for some targets, envisioning the adoption of global indicators and nationally defined complementary indicators. But there are institutional and capacity challenges in defining other indicators, such as the quality of public service delivery (Target 16.6) or collecting relevant data, as well as other complementary indicators at the national and sub-national

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level. In Bangladesh, even though there is a strong leadership drive and institutional support for digital government to deliver effective and inclusive services in all sectors, not all government senior officials, at both national ministerial and local district levels, have a good level of understanding and experience in integrated e-government services (both horizontally and vertically) as well as the whole-of-government approach to implementing the SDGs.

Bangladesh has been identified as one of the three recipient countries of the United Nations 10th Tranche Development Account Project on “Evidence-based e-government policies for advancing governmental service delivery and accountability in support of the Sustainable Development Goals” (DA 1617B). This project will build on the momentum and outcomes of the 9th Tranche Project 1415H in Bangladesh on “Strengthening capacities of Developing Countries to Provide Access to Information for Sustainable Development through Open Government Data”, for example, through making available e-government data and indicators on the open government data (OGD) platform that has been developed.

An initial list of SDG targets have been identified through the assessment mission conducted by UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs in October 2016, and in close consultation with the Prime Minister’s Office, along with lead agencies and associated ministries (see Annex 1).

**Objective**

In supporting one of the two expected accomplishments of the project, “Strengthened institutional capacity in target countries to implement evidence-based government policies and strategies, in support of selected SDGs and Targets”, the first national workshop will be jointly organised by the Prime Minister’s Office (through a2i), and the UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs (through its Division of Public Administration and Development Management) to build institutional capacity to collect, analyse and publish e-government data and related sectoral data, with a view to develop e-government policies, directives, laws, legislations, etc., to support the SDGs. This workshop will also support the first deliverable of the project, in identifying and supporting a set of SDG targets and indicators that the Government of Bangladesh seek to strengthen in this project, with relevant data and implementation road map to guide the next phase of project implementation.

**Participants**

A total of 30 – 40 participants are expected:

- Decision-makers and senior officials from lead agencies and sectoral ministries, identified as lead offices responsible for driving the implementation of identified SDG targets and indicators (refer to Annex 1)
- Selected representatives of the private sector, academia, research institutions, and civil society, who will play a role in the implementation of selected SDG targets (to be recommended by the Government)

**Expected outcomes**

The national workshop is expected to deliver the following outcomes:

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4 Note: There are two expected accomplishments for the project: (i) EA1 Improved institutional capacity in target countries to collect, analyse and publish e-government data and related sectoral data; (ii) EA2 Strengthened institutional capacity in target countries to implement evidence-based government policies and strategies, in support of selected SDGs and Targets.

5 Note: a2i is main agency responsible for implementing and facilitating all ICT innovations and e-government across all government agencies; a2i is part of the Prime Minister’s Office of the Bangladesh Government (http://a2i.pmo.gov.bd/)
• Enhance the understanding for the need of integrated plans and policies in delivering the SDGs, including through the use of ICTs/e-government for service delivery

• Enhanced the knowledge of ICT/e-government data and indicators in integrated implementation of the SDGs

• Start to identify a set of targets and indicators that the Government of Bangladesh seeks to strengthen in this project; and draft the implementation road map to collect, use and publish relevant e-government data with indicators for analysis, monitoring and evaluation

• Strengthen institutional capacity and approaches to implement e-government policies and strategies in support of selected SDGs and targets through data-informed decision-making

**Workshop sessions**

Four sessions will be conducted during the two-day workshop, as follow:

I. **Session 1. Overview**
   - Part I – Understanding the need for integrated plans and policies for using ICT/e-government to support national development plans including SDGs
   - Part II - Understanding data-based and evidence-based policymaking and implementation

II. **Session 2. ICT/e-government to deliver on specific SDGs Targets**
   - A. Emerging drivers for ICTs/e-government and its use in the public sector
   - B. METER – self assessment tool on e-government

III. **Session 3. Inclusion for effective policy planning implementation in ICT4SDGs**
   - A. Engaging all segments of the population to leave no one behind
   - B. METEP and stakeholder inclusion/engagement – self-assessment tool on participation and inclusion in SDG Implementation

IV. **Session 4. ICT/e-government data and indicators for SDGs**
   - A. Data and data governance
   - B. Indicators for SDGs (global/regional/national/sectoral)

**Date and venue**
Date: 6-7 June 2017
Venue: Karabi Dinning Hall, Prime Minister’s Office, Dhaka

**Organisers**
a2i, Prime Minister Office, Government of Bangladesh
UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs