Field Visit Matters!
SDGs in Kishoreganj District, Bangladesh

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Outline

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Why Field Visit Matters?

- Field visit provides first-hand knowledge of how SDG Action Plans of Lead Ministries and Divisions are implemented by local administrations and local government officials.

- Lessons from grassroots SDG practices provide unique insights to policymakers to initiate reforms based on knowledge of what works and what does not.
## Where did we visit?

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<th>Which SDG Indicator?</th>
<th>Which Office?</th>
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<td>Coordination</td>
<td>Office of Deputy Commissioner</td>
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<td>8.5.1 and 8.5.2</td>
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What did we learn?
District Level Administration

- The Deputy Commissioner (DC) is well sensitized about SDGs as prior to his current posting, he served at a Ministry HQ in Dhaka. DC regularly presides over SDG related events in the district.

- Deputy Director (Local Government) [DD-LG] monitors local government level implementation of Five Year Plans, some of which are aligned with SDGs.

- Additional Deputy Commissioner (ADC) [Education and ICT] and Assistant Commissioner (ICT) closely monitors applications of ICT.

- E-Filing system is widely used at the district administration.
SDG 1.3.1
[Social Protection]

- **Field Visit:**
  - District Social Service
  - Chauddhoshoto Union
  - Karimganj Upazilla Sadar

- **Findings:**
  - Nearly 1,450 people receive financial supports under the social safety net program in Chauddhoshoto Union.
  - Bank Asia’s agent banking system plans to implement electronic fund transfer service for direct fund transfer to social safety net beneficiaries.
  - Local government officials opine that the number of widow allowance need to be increased.
SDG 4.4.1 [ICT Skill Education]

- **Field Visit:**
  - Technical School and College (TSC)
  - Technical Training Center (TTC)
  - ICT Classroom of Youth Training Center (YTC)

- **Findings:**
  - Curriculum focus on general ICT education for SSC and HSC level students.
  - Compared to the TTC and Youth Training Center’s computer labs, the Technical Training Center’s computer lab is underdeveloped.
  - Most participants at the TTC and TYC are young people at their 20s
SDG 8.5.1 [Wage] and SDG 8.5.2 [Employment]

- **Field Visit:**
  - District Manpower and Employment Office (DEMO), under BMET

- **Findings:**
  - DEMO offers mandatory online registration and biometric fingerprint registration for all aspirant migrants using the formal channel of migration.
  - Using BMET’s formal channel, last year, more than 1 million Bangladeshis entered the international job market [in relatively low paid, unskilled or semi-skilled jobs]
SDG 8.6.1
[NEET Population]

- **Field Visit:**
  - Office District Youth Development
  - A2i Apprenticeship Program in Karimganj Upazilla
  - Kishoreganj TTC

- **Findings:**
  - In collaboration with ILO, a2i provides training and job placement to unemployed young people.
  - TTC offers a wide range of vocational training to the youth.
  - District Youth Development Center provides training and loan services for self-employment and enterprise development.
TVET for NEET
Field Visit:
- Meeting with Bank Asia’s Agent Banking Delegates at the Union Council Office.

Findings:
- A2i has partnered with Bank Asia to introduce electronic fund transfer (EFT) system for the recipients of cash benefits under the social safety net programs.
- Only fingerprint verification is required for regular banking transactions.
SDG 16.3.1
[Access to Justice]

- **Field Visit:**
  - District Legal Aid Office

- **Findings:**
  - A senior assistant judge serves on an ad hoc basis to fill up the post of District Legal Aid Officer
  - Two goals of the legal aid office:
    - Provide alternative dispute resolution support to reduce case backlogs
    - Provide financial and legal support to poor and vulnerable people seeking access to justice
SDG 16.9.1
[Birth Registration]

- **Field Visit:**
  - Union Council Chairman’s Office
  - Union Digital Center

- **Findings:**
  - UDC provides birth registration service at nominal cost.
  - Unsentenced under-5 population’s birth registration is low due to parents’ lack of interest. Until kids enter the primary school, parents do not do their birth registration.
  - Primary health care professionals are encouraged to sensitize people about birth registration.
Lessons for ICT4SDG Project of a2i and UN DESA

- ICT applications have positive effects on SDG implementation process in Bangladesh.

- Technical and capacity building support for field level officials can accelerate implementation of SDGs.

- Policy support for ICT-enabled inter-agency collaboration and real-time data sharing are needed for monitoring FYP and SDG-aligned projects at the field level.
Questions for Discussion

- Is there any mechanism for district level coordination of SDG implementation process?

- Are there any designated officials at the District Administration for the monitoring of SDGs?

- Are there any need for creating an SDG Wing/Cell at the District Level with a designated ADC/Deputy Director leading the Wing/Cell?