Policy Consultation Workshop on SDG 8.6:
“Proportion of youth (aged 15-24 years) not in education, employment or training - NEET population”
Organized by a2i & UN DESA
Venue: Krishibid Institute Bangladesh (KIB)
Date: 22 January 2019, Time: 9:00am-5:00pm

Concept Note

1. Background
UNDESA and a2i are jointly implementing a project entitled, ‘Evidence-based E-government Policies for Advancing Governmental Service Delivery and Accountability in support of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).’ The project focuses on the integration of information communication technology (ICT) in achieving SDG, and hence, has a short name ICT4SDG. The main purpose of this project is to build institutional capacity to encourage data-driven decision and to measure development progress through ICT enabled initiatives. As a prat of this ICT4SDG project, national capacity building workshop and consultation meeting with lead agencies was held based on 7 thematic areas: Social protection, ICT skills, Unemployment, NEET population, Financial inclusion, Access to justice and Digital identity. From the consultation workshop and meeting with lead agencies, an implementation framework is prepared where one of the major focus goes to “NEET Population”. NEET means not in education, employment or training. The Ministry of Youth and Sports is the lead ministry for implementing SDG Indicator 8.6.1, which focuses on reducing NEET (Not in employment, education and Training) population to 22.00 % in 2021, 12.00% in 2025 and 3.00% in 2030. Here, Ministry of Labour and Employment plays a pivotal role as co-lead agency.

Table 1 shows the relevant SDG target and indicator definition for the purpose of this concept.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SDG 8</th>
<th>Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all.</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Target 8.6</td>
<td>By 2020, substantially reduce the proportion of youth not in employment, education or training.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Indicator 8.6.1</td>
<td>Proportion of youth (aged 15-24 years) not in education, employment or training.</td>
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</tbody>
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According to the Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics (BBS), about 8 million people in Bangladesh, aged 15-24, are not in employment, education and training (NEET).

A study by International Labour Organization (ILO) finds that 40 percent young people in Bangladesh are NEET population. Drawing on updated data, the SDG Tracker shows about 47 percent women and 10 percent men are NEET population in Bangladesh and the total NEET population in the country is 29 percent of young population. These findings and data from different sources give some indication on the proportion of the NEET population. With these information as base, the Department of Youth Development (DoYD), under the Ministry of Youth and Sports (MoYS), is responsible for “Transforming the disorganized population”.

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and unproductive youth into a disciplined and productive workforce.” The 7th FYP also set an ambitious task of providing training to 1.9 million youths of which 30 percent would be involved in self-employment activities where Ministry of Youth and Sports plans to train 1.5 million persons and create self-employment for 3,50,000.

In addition, the government has planned to establish more youth training centres. The GoB (Government of Bangladesh) is committed to reduce the NEET population, which is part of a broader goal (SDG 8) that focuses on inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all.

The SDG Monitoring and Evaluation Framework drafted by the MoYS has assigned targets for concerned co-lead and associate ministries to reduce NEET population. There are no publicly available data on whether the co-lead and associate ministries and divisions have agreed on this projected reduction in NEET population as assigned by the MoYS. In this regard, and integrated NEET youth data management system is very much needed to track the NEET population.

2. **Objective of the project**

The project explores how ICT tools, techniques, processes, and policies can support evidence-based decision-making in the domain of implementing SDGs.

3. **Objective of the workshop**

The workshop aims to explore how ICT tools, techniques, processes, and policies can support evidence-based decision-making in the domain of SDGs implementation. The specific aims are:

- To identify the gaps in skills sector in the existing framework as well as explore the areas of new policy formulation to enhance the use of ICTs in achieving SDGs and assess need for necessary new policy
- To introduce integrated digitized SDG skills platform to track national training institutions activities and progress towards reducing the rate of NEET population (National Youth Policy 2017, article 15.4.1)
- To track the Proportion of youth (aged 15-24 years) not in education, employment or training.
- To facilitate evidence-based decision making for future plans and policy decisions

4. **Reduce the rate of NEET population integrated digitized SDG skills platform will enable**

- Bringing all training institute in one dashboard
- Connecting Youth development centers
- Connecting all training institute

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- Tracking NEET population location wise and gender wise

5. Challenges of implementing SDG 8.6

- Disaggregate data for the ‘people not in education’
- Absence of needs assessment and appropriate and disaggregate baseline data
- Partially digitized data for the ‘people not in employment’ (Bureau of Manpower Employment and Training & Department of Youth Development)
- Lack of identification and data generation by different training institute, training areas, participants etc.
- Lack of monitoring in the field of decent work, economic growth and youth development
- Tracking the growth of youth development, decent work and economic growth.
- Lack of inter-agency collaboration to implement the SDG 8.6

6. Expected outcome

- Substantially reduce the proportion of youth not in employment, education or training
- Ensure that no youth is left behind.