



# Outcome Document:

Bangladesh Summit on  
Sustainable Development 2014  
Mission for 100 Years

Hosted by



Organizer

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Bangladesh Summit on  
Sustainable Development  
2014



## Overview

In spite of notable and positive progress, many issues of sustainable human development remain to be addressed within countries of all levels of development. Bangladesh and other developing countries are still struggling, facing many challenges, particularly in the areas of nutrition; maternal health; education; agricultural, environmental and ecological sustainability; and social inequalities. As we move toward the post-2015 era of goal revision and international progress, it is expected that a myriad of development constraints and opportunities will emerge for the entire global community. Hence, the world is transforming toward a new framework of development which will be built upon the principles of the Sustainable Development Agenda.

The Bangladesh Summit on Sustainable Development took place in Dhaka, Bangladesh, August 16-19, 2014. 'Mission for 100 Years' was this year's event theme.

True sustainable development not only looks at sustainable and renewable energy and environmental conservation; true sustainable development must incorporate environmental, economic, and social issues such as population growth, universal health, access to rights, sustainable infrastructure, sustainable livelihoods, etc. It requires moving away from superficial solutions and moving toward measurable and attainable interventions, pledges backed by actions, contributory goal setting in the intermediate and long-term contexts, and agenda that is holistic and develops linkages. So, it is for this that the conference stands for long-term thinking and action, headlining as "Mission for 100 Years." The conference objectives and outcomes are geared toward making sustainable development a mission more than a goal that goes beyond a short sight.

The summit serves as a platform for civil society members, key government actors, donor partners, academia and national and international researchers to share and justify their views on a post-2015 Sustainable Development agenda and policy framework. Through facilitating debates among the participants, the conference developed pathways to attain a sustainable development agenda, particularly for developing countries.

The Bangladesh Summit on Sustainable Development 2014 provided an opportunity through a collaborative gathering of international experts, donors, partners, and concerned citizens to discover pathways that can attain the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) more comprehensively and competently. This event enabled participants to collectively explore adoptable approaches within developing countries for achieving the SDGs; the event invited discussion on feasible and attainable options for confronting new and emerging development constraints. In addition, the conference was a space for peer-learning and mobilization to empower concerned actors to take informed initiative to face development challenges in the post-2015 era.





Bangladesh Summit on Sustainable Development 2014: Mission for 100 Years presented a bureau of speakers, presenters, and collaborators that gave knowledgeable insight for moving into the post-2015 era of SDGs and beyond!

In order to uphold this overarching objective, the summit inspired specific goals within the planned agenda and activities. These included:

- Expand knowledge on global initiatives; disseminate plans and agenda for post-2015 SDGs and other internationally governed social development objectives to enhance the global effort, further these goals into internationally recognized and regionally customizable tactics and implementable strategies.
- Structure and finalize the governance system of the proposed Global Citizens' Forum that will create and sustain a functional monitoring and evaluation framework to gauge real progress of the SDGs within Bangladesh and other nations
- Promote oversight and progress of effective structuring and activities planning for newly established Global Citizens' Forums on Sustainable Development; empower and embolden these units through access to resources, information, and advocacy tools to act on the post-2015 SDGs
- Assess and advance the position of civil society organizations while establishing specific, measurable, achievable, realistic, and time-bound indicators for success in sustainable development initiatives and community-based interventions

The summit embraced many relevant issues of sustainable growth and related impacted social segments; for this, the summit expected to directly result in the following five key outcomes as a result of summit activities, objectives and goals, and publications.

- To identify the scope of mainstreaming SDGs in national and international development agendas
- To launch a vibrantly diverse and dynamic global civil society that is ready to tackle the extraneous social segments impacted by development and sustainable development agenda creation
- To sensitize and inform key actors on the implications of pursuing the SDGs
- To ascertain the link between national development and sustainable growth
- To share the voice of the community advocates for sustainable human development among the major stakeholders
- To draw a framework for attaining SDGs internationally

## Objectives



## Outcomes



## Thematic Areas



The summit covered twelve specific thematic areas directly related to sustainable development. Speakers and presenters enlightened participants on these core thematic areas and their overall relationship to the global outlook. In organizing the sessions and presentation topics, Eminence also incorporated several measureable indicators from the Sustainable Development Leadership Council.

1. Universal access to water and sanitation;
2. Sustainable agriculture and food security;
3. Quality education and lifelong learning;
4. Sustainable management of natural resources;
5. Healthy life and access to health services;
6. Sustainable livelihoods and equitable growth;
7. Gender equality and women empowerment;
8. Sustainable land and ecosystem management;
9. Democratic governance and effective institutions;
10. Sustainable energy and green technology;
11. Climate change and disaster risk management and
12. Sustainable urbanization and resilient cities.

These themes were based on the 10th Session of the Open Working Group on Sustainable Development Goals, which we convened March 31-April 4, 2014. The sessions were divided among plenary sessions and parallel sessions. Mostly, the plenary session represented the stand alone goals while the parallel sessions incorporated the proposed indicators for each goal.

## Session Strategy

The sessions were organized in two categories; parallel and plenary. The general strategy for assigning the sessions was based on the current draft of the Sustainable Development Goals. Each main goal was aligned with a plenary session and then given relevant parallel sessions based on the indicators. Then, based on internal discussion, relevance, and interest among the organizing committee, the session were restructured and reorganized, keeping to the original strategy. Organizing partners took ownership of the plenary sessions and the abstract submissions were presented in the parallel sessions. This gave an interesting combination of facts, research, concepts, and expertise from a variety of sources on similar topics. The parallel sessions were conducted in the introductory part of the conference while the plenary sessions were held during the last three days of the event. For this report, the sessions have been compiled into shared themes in order to get a comprehensive discussion and outcome for core topics based on the pillars of sustainable development; social, environmental, and economic. The core topics include:

- Social Equality: Women and Children
- Democratic Governance and Effective Institutions
- Food Safety, Security, Nutrition, and Agriculture
- Universal Access to Health and Health Rights
- Climate Change and Disaster Risk Management
- Livelihoods and Poverty Reduction
- Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene
- Natural Resources Management and Urbanization
- Education for All
- Sustainable Energy and Green Technology





## Introductory Session

The introductory session opened the Bangladesh Summit on Sustainable Development 2014. The introductory session took place on August 16, 2014. The session was chaired by Mr. MA Hamid, President, IDEB. Dr. Qazi Kholiquzzaman Ahmad, Conference Convener, served as Chief Guest. Prof. Shamsul Alam, Member, General Economic Division, Planning Commission, presented the welcome address to the participants. Ms. Alyson Hayes, Associate Coordinator, Eminence shared the conference objectives. Professor AKM Nurunnabi, Vice Chancellor, Begum Rokeya University, Rangpur, was present as Special Guest.

The opening session contained points by Mr. MA Hamid on the demand for economic growth for infrastructural development, need for improved resource utilization for industrialization, the task of moving forward in a human-centric focus.

Prof. Shamsul Alam put his speech focus on the correlation of planning and sustainable development. He cited several examples from varying decades of sustainable development strategizing and discourses as examples for effective planning and community development. He shared his thanks for conference convener and conference organizer.

Ms. Alyson Hayes shared the objectives of the conference and post-conference outlook for the Global Citizens' Forum on Sustainable Development. She shared the desired outcome in which strategic initiative is laid out for promoting the oversight, monitoring, and accountability for sustainable development goal monitoring through clear and transparent indicators as presented by the United Nations General Assembly.

Dr. Qazi Kholiquzzaman Ahmad opened his speech by stating the active involvement that Bangladesh is playing in the post-2015 discussion process. He shared that Bangladesh has already sent three recommendation reports to UN on behalf of Peoples Forum on Sustainable Development, Government and Civil Societies. He gave acknowledgement to Eminence (conference organizer) proactively engaging in goal monitoring. His concluding remarks encouraged mobilization from non-governmental stakeholders, as these alliances are more effective.



## Inauguration Session

The inauguration session took place in the Auditorium of Nabab Nawab Ali Chowdhury Senate Bhaban, University of Dhaka. The session was attended by Chief Guest, Honorable Minister Mr. Abul Maal A. Muhith, Ministry of Finance; and Special Guests Prof. Dr. AAMS Arefin Siddique, Vice Chancellor, University of Dhaka, and Ms. Argentina Matavel Piccin, Country Director, UNFPA Bangladesh. Dr. Qazi Kholiquzzaman Ahmad gave the key note address and Dr. Shamim Hayder Talukder shared the welcome address.

Dr. Shamim Hayder Talukder opened the conference with recommendation for identifying sustainable development goal indicators that are contextual for Bangladesh. The post-2015 development agenda must include lessons learned from the MDG era as well as achievements. These indicators must be included as part of the UN agenda.

Dr. Qazi Kholiquzzaman Ahmad shared his expert insight on maintaining focus on sustainable development for any level of national or global development. In so much, he put forward that in the Government of Bangladesh planning for 2021, there must be cognizance for sustainable development. He praised Bangladesh for the achievement of the MDGs and mentioned the global acknowledgement for this from the international community. He gave synopsis of sustainable development strategy by keeping human-centric focus on economic, social, and environment. Key points of sustainable development in Bangladesh include water and sanitation, education, and agriculture.

Ms. Argentina Matavel Piccin urged the importance of investing in maternal health for sustainable development. She gave gratitude to the minister of finance, Honorable Mr. Abul Maal A. Muhith for making an enabling economy for the 100% increase of maternal health nurses within Bangladesh. She urged for more discussion and continuous advocacy to make maternal health a priority on the post-2015 development agenda.

Prof. Dr. Arefin Siddique stated that sustainable development goals must incorporate environmental concerns as well as social and economic issues. He urged awareness of the environmental condition and mindful of energy consumption. Sustainable development must be given full priority as it is not only the current issue of international discussion, but it is absolutely critical.

Honorable Minister of Finance, Mr. Abul Maal A. Muhith graced the Bangladesh Summit on Sustainable Development 2014 with his presence and thoughtful remarks. He discussed sustainable development as a very lucrative and discussable topic in the present time. He put forward that natural resources management is key for ensuring a sustainable future. In order to ensure a clean and healthy future for all, the discussion and strategy for sustainable development action must remain top focus and by 2030, the goals must be ensured for global sustainability. Moreover, within the rural areas, there is a critical information gap, which poses challenges and threats for sustainable social development.

Economically, microcredit has played a positive role in achieving the 2015 era goals. In addition, stakeholders must support microcredit with action on promoting education, health, employment, and fair wages. Individual incomes must increase and the human development index must improve as it is currently suffering due to the low per capita income.

The session concluded with positive remarks for the conference organizers. The session was aired live on ATN Bangla.





## Closing Session

The summit concluded with high praise for the overall thematic discussions and motivated call to proceed into action. Bangladesh has made great achievements in the MDG era and is on track in multiple areas for the 2015 deadline. With this, it is important for Bangladesh to take an active and deliberate step into the post-2015 to continue the progress of the MDGs as well as tackle the SDGs. The session was chaired by Dr. Qazi Kholiquzzaman Ahmad with Chief Guest, Honorable Mr. Tofail Ahmed, Minister of Commerce. Panelists included Dr. Jo Ivey Boufford, President of the New York Academy of Medicine; Prof. Anthony Capon, Director of the International Institute for Global Health, United Nations University; Mr. Negash Teklu, Executive Director, Population Health Environment, Ethiopia Consortium; and Dr. Shamim Hayder Talukder, CEO and Founder of Eminence.

Discussion surrounded the evolution of the eight Millennium Development Goals into a post-2015 sustainable development agenda. In response, Bangladesh civil society and conference organizers are preparing the zero draft of the Bangladesh Declaration of Bangladesh Summit on Sustainable Development 2014. This declaration lists the contextual priorities and plan of action. The declaration focuses on the current gaps in sustainable development while identifying key opportunities for national participation and benefit.

The honorable minister put forth that despite the international relationships that Bangladesh has made with the UN and major donor networks, these must extend for encouraging and demanding sustainable development beyond NGOs and the traditional development networks. Bangladeshi trade and commerce spans in the world and for this, we as a nation must promote development standards, better import/export practices, and demand accountability for maintaining sustainable development. As we move beyond the 2015 era and into the post-2015 development agenda, he expects to see more ethical trade and fair trade agreements.

This is an important point in realizing sustainable development. Just as in the inclusion of social equity, there must be organizational equity and full participation; the basic foundations of sustainable development must permeate activity in all levels, from individual, to communal, to national, to global. In our globalized community, there must be a fully united front for sustainable development. Consumer demand, government regulation, and corporate practice must align for ethical and fair standards. In a world that is being transformed by technology, links and connections make extending networks a very viable and required opportunity for global relations and worldwide human development. International standards are more in reach and achievable through awareness and technical resource availability.





## Outcome Summaries



In conclusion, the sessions and presenters gave valuable and worthwhile knowledge for moving Bangladesh into the post-2015 era. The participant engagement confirmed a large consensus for wanting sustainable progress in Bangladesh. Audience engagement enhanced the sessions and discussions through personal examples of activities, gaps, and achievements. Many private, public, and NGO sector individuals represented their organizations. The overall outcome was a strengthened network of sustainable development activists, very relevant and usable case studies and recommendations, and motivation to bring Bangladesh into the post-2015 era.

### Social Equality: Women and Children

#### Plenary session 3: Recognizing child rights and child protection

Save the Children hosted this plenary session 1 on Recognizing Child Rights and Child Protection. The session panel was as follows: Moderator, Mr. Shamsul Alam, Deputy Director, Child Rights Governance, Save the Children; Panelists, Mr. Kazi Reazul Hoque, Full Time Member, National Human Rights Commission; Mr. Michael McGrath, Country Director, Save the Children; Mr. AKM Masud Ali, Executive Director, INCIDIN Bangladesh, Mr. Md. Mamunur Rashid, Civil Society, Child Rights Governance, Save the Children; Ms. Eliza Islam, Program Advisor, Food Security and Livelihood, Save the Children; and Mr. Ehsanul Chowdhury, Director, Child Protection, Save the Children.

The session identified 12 goals which must be achieved by 2023 to ensure child safety. Moreover, the session panelists identified three fundamentals for achieving the goals: equity, sustainability, and human rights. Child rights and child protection is an extension of the overall state of poverty within Bangladesh.

This session was organized to address several areas where the MDGs were insufficient in including reduction of inequality, ending violence against children and combating child abuse. Children represent the future of the world so they should be given top priority and link has to be created between the SDGs and children's rights. Moreover, various UN agencies recognize the impact and paramount importance for investing in youth, youth empowerment programs, and global youth engagement for sustainable progress. The emerging sustainable development goals identify "a post-2015 world fit for children."—UNICEF.





In so, the session focused on areas of child based food security, child rights and governance, and child protection.

- Food Security & Livelihoods
  - ▶Ensure year round access to adequate food (quantity, quality and safe) for nutritionally vulnerable groups (Children under 2, pregnant and lactating mother and adolescent girls)
  - ▶Improve multi-sectoral coordination at all levels (Within and between government and civil society actors)
- Child Rights & Governance
  - ▶Ensure that government is accountable for child rights violations and effective institutions established to make the laws and policies meaningful for children
  - ▶Ensure sufficient allocation for children and spending in a transparent manner to ensure access to services available for children.
- Child Protection
  - ▶Children's voices, choices and participation are critical for the sustainable future
  - ▶Protection, care and rights of children can strengthen resilience and promote the ability of children to contribute to their societies in the future

In order to achieve these areas of concern, core strategic priorities must be established universally. These include:

#### **Core Strategic Priorities:**

Priority 1: Children without Appropriate Care

Priority 2: Violence against Children

Priority 3: Working Children

#### **Crosscutting Priorities:**

Priority 4: Children Affected by Emergencies

Priority 5: Program Quality, Scale and Sustainability

In addressing these priorities, there must be engagement from all sectors and social levels. Policies and practices must ensure a child rights approach in which every child has a right to be protected and cared for. National capacities must be increased and policy makers must be sensitized to child protection. Monitoring systems must be in place to protect children and national systems must be strengthened. Supporting community-based and National Child Protection Systems should remain holistic, inclusive, sustainable and well-coordinated to protect all children, keeping mind their specific needs. Partnership with governments and civil society actors can promote meaningful participation and engagement as well as increased capacity.

#### **Parallel session 1: Women empowerment and gender equity**

This session was hosted by the Department of Gender and Women Studies of Dhaka University. Session guests included Chair, Dr. Prof. Tania Haque, Chairperson, Department of Women and Gender Studies, University of Dhaka; Moderator, Ms. Aditi Sabur, Lecturer, Department of Women and Gender Studies, University of Dhaka; Presenters, Mr. Helal Hossain Dhali, Assistant Professor, Department of Women and Gender Studies, University of Dhaka ; Mr. Md. Aminul Haque, Associate Professor, Department of Population Sciences, University of Dhaka; Ms. Sabiha Rosy, Associate Professor, Department of Population Sciences, University of Dhaka; Prof. Dr. Arun Kumar Goswami, Professor, Department of Political Science, and Director, South Asian Study Circle, Jagannath University; Ms. Monica Islam, Sylvia Global Media Network, Mr. Marat Yu, Associate, Partnership Development, BSR.



### Parallel session 14: Clean, safe, and women friendly environment for sustainable development

The session chair was Mr. Helal Hossain Dhali, Assistant Professor, Department of Women and Gender Studies, University of Dhaka with Mr. Md. Rayhanul Islam as moderator. Prof. Dr. Gulshan Ara Latifa, Professor and Former Chairman, Department of Zoology, University of Dhaka; Mr. Jannatul Islam, Lecturer, Business Administration, World University of Bangladesh; and Ms. Shatil Ara, Country Programme Officer, GIZ served as presenters. The Bridging Institutions and Innovations in Action for Sustainable Development (BIASD) hosted the session.

### Plenary session 3: Gender equality and women empowerment

Mr. MA Jalil, Chair, BUP and Former Vice Chancellor, BRAC University attended as chair. The presenters included Ms. Proma Rifaya Islam, Education Policy, Formulation Committee, Head of Program, Dhaka School of Economics; Prof. Salma Khan, Member of the Board of Trustees and Academic Council of BRAC University; and Mr. Md. Abdul Karim, Managing Director, PKSf. BUP hosted the session.

### Discussion

The speakers presented on the terminologies of the sector, the critical need for including gender equity in development models, and the achievements for gender inclusion. All panelists shared similar concern that without gender equity, sustainable development is impossible. Gender analysis within national budgets, improved government policies for an enabling gender equal environment, and social behavior change is recommended.

The sessions explored issues related to gender in higher education, female workforce and RMG workers, political representation of women and minorities, and the escalating problem of Bangladeshi women trafficking.

Some key points included the exploration of why increased representation of women in higher education systems is not producing the expected outcome of reducing discrimination and improving equity. Moreover, argument was made on the influence of media and the potential to improve the situation of inequality for women; showing evidence-based recognition on how popular culture often degrades women.

Next, it was determined that the under-representation of women and minorities has created a number of disorders in the society and politics of Bangladesh. Finally, a shocking presentation on the extent of trafficking in Bangladesh among women was shared, giving cause to lack of access and opportunity for women.

Gender based harassment and violence, gender friendly social environments, female entrepreneurship, and student responsibility for promoting equality in educational institutions was also focal points.

In several contexts, the overall consensus was building gender friendly environment is the responsibility of all and institutions must support this through creating enabling systems for access. These areas included female empowerment for economic growth, impacts and responsibilities for environmental policies for health, and workplace violence against women. In order to ensure sustainable human development and reduce negative environmental impact to secure future access to valuable resources, environmental policies must be enforced to ensure clean and safe environment. Current and new policies must not be limited but inclusive of the effects of pollution on our water, air, and land.





A cross-sectoral framework for advocacy, enforcement, and accountability will ensure participation from stakeholders of varying capacities, interests, and power for most effective implementation.

Economic development was discussed in context of women entrepreneurship. Gender equity and women empowerment in entrepreneurial activities renders many beneficial outcomes. However, there are still several severe limitations for women in the workplace. Women do not always have equal access to investment and financial services or education for improving their business skills. Moreover, violence against women in the workplace is prevalent. Many forms of gender based harassment exist creating hostile working environments. This must be combated in order to ensure productive and fair development. Moreover, social pressures for gender suppression must be dismissed. Without gender equity in society, there can be no sustainable development. Without equal opportunity and safe conditions, the full economy suffers

Furthering the intent and achievements of the MDGs, the proposed framework for gender equality puts forth a stand along goal with mainstreaming throughout the agenda. Despite achievements during the MDG era, huge disparities still exist. These disparities are core impeters for sustainable development; for this, awareness and action for gender equality and empowerment must not be ignored.

Some recommendations based on session discussion for considering in line with women and gender empowerments include:

- Shared accountability among private and public sectors for promoting and monitoring gender equality in workplace, education, society, et.al.
- Recognizing gender equality dually; as a standalone goal and a cross-cutting issue related to all sustainable development goals
- Sensitization to rights of women and girls, empowerment and choices for their own lives and health
- Improved response to gender based violence; working toward freedom from violence against women and girls

#### Parallel session 2: Democratic governance and effective institutions

In the Democratic Governance and Effective Institutions parallel session, presenters gave their input on challenges to social accountability, challenges in governance, and expanding human rights. The session structure included Chair, Mr. Lutfar Rahman, Vice Chancellor, Daffodil International University; Presenters Ms. Nazia Arifa, Lecturer, Department of Political Science, Jagannath University; Ms. Rudabeh Shahid, Lecturer, State University of Bangladesh; and Mr. Mizanur Rahman Jewel, Non-governmental organization, Bhola.

#### Plenary session 6: Democratic governance and effective institutions

The session was chaired by Mr. Khondkar Ibrahim Khaled, Former Deputy Governor of Bangladesh Bank and Former Chairman of Bangladesh Krishi Bank. Mr. Mohsin Ali served as moderator and key note speaker. Panelists included Prof. Dr. Sadeka Halim, Information Commissioner of Bangladesh; Dr. Tofail Ahmed, Head of Policies Democracy and Governance Cluster at BRAC; Dr. MM Akash, Professor, Department of Economics, University of Dhaka; Prof. Mahbuba Nasreen, Director, Institute of Disaster Management and Vulnerability Studies, University of Dhaka; and Mr. Shakeb Nabi, Country Director, Christian Aid. The session was hosted by Christian Aid and WAVE Foundation.



## Democratic Governance and Effective Institutions



## Discussion

Session presenters shared several insights, including the corruption in public and private sphere, election crisis, lack of accountability, political instability, nepotism, politicized recruitment of institutions, inactive law and order situation are obstacles on the way of establishing democratic governance and effective institutions for achieving sustainable development of Bangladesh.

The panelists gave a synopsis of true form of democracy and democratic institutions including political parties, media, and civil society. They gave clear outline of democracy with examples of decentralized power structures, rule of law, and people's representation. Discussion continued toward democratic process, challenges for democracy, and roles and responsibilities for all institutions.

It was determined that due to government insecurity and corrupted political systems, transparent governance is yet to be achieved. A survey of rising world economies would easily show that modern South Asia is the home of some of the fastest growing world economies, ranking India second and Bangladesh somewhere in the top ten. Yet, even with the increased economic growth and potential of the region, Bangladesh is perceived as a security problem by many western nations due to political unrest and underdeveloped legislated and executive frameworks.

Moreover, the current political system perpetuates socio-economic barriers to marginalized and elderly populations due to lack of government response and accountability.

In Bangladesh, the road to democracy is unsteady and paved with illegitimacy. The present understanding regarding democracy is limited to the organization of cursory elections every five years. Despite being a democratic state under a parliamentary system, an informal system of checks and balances keeps the power centrally focused with the Prime Minister. Moreover, any disbursement of power still remains within the ruling party as the parliament is composed of these supporters.

Despite a vague system of democracy, formal networks exist to encourage proper governance. These include the election commission, anti-corruption committee, public service commission, office of the comptroller and auditor general, information commission, and national human rights commission.

In order to ensure transparent and fair democratic governance and effective institutions in the post-2015 era, it is recommended that:

- Participation of civil society increase; this includes knowledge of government structures
- Citizen engagement is improved through awareness of rights, roles, and responsibilities
- A system of political plurality is enforced with inclusive people's representation through monitored electoral process
- Decentralization of power and local self government; including multi-partisan representation
- Improved rule of law that promotes civic engagement, freedoms of expression, and recognition of rights without discrimination





### Parallel session 8: Fisheries, livestock, and nutrition for all

This session on Fisheries, Livestock, and Nutrition for All was chaired by Mr. SK Mustafizur Rahman, Director, Department of Fisheries, Bangladesh and presented by Ms. Rimu Byada Asian University for Women; Dr. Md. Amimul Ehsan, Senior Fisheries Officer of Department of Fisheries, Bangladesh; Mr. Ashoke K. Sarker, Project Leader, WorldFish; Mr. Md Nahiduzzaman, Hub Manager/Fish Scientist, WorldFish; Dr. Md. Mahbubul Alam Miah, Hub Manager/Fish Scientist, WorldFish. The session reviewed a comparison of dietary characteristics among adolescents, fish farming practices for improving food security, and aquaculture-horticulture technology.

### Parallel sessions 3 and 5: Sustainable agriculture and ensuring food safety and food security

The Sustainable Agriculture session reviewed the relationship of improving income and household consumption and alternative modern agriculture approaches. The session was chaired by Dr. Md. Abdur Razzaque, Project Director, PCU-NATP-Phase 1, Bangladesh Agriculture Research Council.

The Ensuring Food Safety and Food Security Session was chaired by Dr. Lalita Bhattacharjee, Nutritionist and National Food Policy Capacity Strengthening Programme, FAO. She conducted an open exchange with the audience for discussion on current food safety and security related topics and trends.

### Plenary session 10: Sustainable agriculture and food security

Partner, WorldFish, arranged this session, Sustainable Agriculture and Food Security. It was chaired by Dr. Abu Tweb Abu Ahmed, Professor, Department of Zoology, University of Dhaka with panelists Dr. Manoranjan Mandal, Collaborative Research Scientist, IRRI; Dr. Jahangir Alam, Professor and Former Dean, Faculty of Fisheries, BSMRAU and WorldFish; and Dr. Mazharul Aziz, National Project Coordinator, FAO.

### Plenary session 17: Nutritious diets with low food losses and waste

The session was sponsored by WorldFish and featured presentation from Ms. Anowara Begum, Asian University of Women; Mr. Md. Shafiqui Islam, Assistant Professor, University of Liberal Arts Bangladesh; and Dr. Mohammad Abdul Mannan, National Food Utilization and Nutrition Advisor, FAO Bangladesh. The session was chaired by Ms. Rumana Akter, Nutrition Coordinator, WorldFish.

### Plenary session 18: Ensure sustainable food production systems

This session is chaired by Dr. Kholiquzzaman, Key Note Paper Presentation Mr. Sharmin Neelomi and Panel discussants Mr. Ataur Rahman Miton, Country Director, Hunger Free World in Bangladesh, Dr. A K M Nazrul Islam, Associated Professor, Dhaka School & Economics (DScE). The session was hosted by Oxfam.

Food safety,  
security  
nutrition,  
and  
agriculture



## Discussion

Discussion for improving food yield, food-based livelihoods, and production and supply practices covered topics on coastal area agriculture, aquaculture, production technology, and the National Agricultural Extension System in Bangladesh. It was put forward that national frameworks must support agricultural/horticultural/aquacultural stakeholder participation, strategic planning, information, awareness raising and capacity building. Through modern agricultural practices and systems and alternative and progressive methods, there is potential to increase productivity, nutritive value, profitability, and resilience.

Small scale fisheries contribute to employment, food security, income and commodities resulting in direct regional gains—economic, health and nutrition, and skills development. Therefore discussion on fisheries and livestock is necessary for addressing challenges related to poverty reduction, livelihoods, environmentally sustainable agriculture and aquaculture practices, increasing food security, and scaling up initiatives. The purpose for this topic in the post-2015 discussion is to acknowledge global priority for sustainable practice, yield, environmental consciousness, safety, and nutritious value. Sustainable management of fisheries and livestock sources is critical for ensuring nutrition and ecosystem viability without overextending resources.

The session featured discussion on dietary trends and micro nutrition transition, homestead level farming beyond gardening such as aquaculture and horticulture practices and technology use, fishery resiliency with improved methods, increasing yields of micronutrient rich small fish, and land conversion and modification for fish farming. Overall, discussion focused on the need to ensure nutritional value through inputs and post-production activities. Education and skills training can ensure more efficient use of resources, land management, and yield increase. With particular regard to nutrition and dietary habits, children need special attention. Their food choices and food-based behaviors must be reinforced early in order to ensure healthy adult lives. It is seen that in Bangladesh, food habits are transitioning to higher intake of energy, saturated fat, sugar, low-fiber diets all resulting in higher prevalence of obesity. Needs among urban and rural populations must be seen as unique, requiring different motivational approaches. Moreover, special population nutrient needs must also be more carefully addressed and ensured through food production and harvesting practices. In relation to this, the nutritional benefits of species native to particular areas and financially accessible was discussed as a key component for including in diets.





A key concern for Bangladesh is resiliency to the impacts of climate change. For this, aquaculture and agricultural practices have changed in the last 40 years. More conservative and deliberate use of resources, including agricultural inputs and land/water management, coupled with beneficial technologies can maintain necessary yields while limiting environmental impact and increase job opportunities through alternative methods. One such area is cage fishing. Moreover, seasonal modification in production cycles can promote environmental regeneration, increased harvest yields, and improved nutrition. This can be alternate crop cycling or modern practices for alternating plant and animal culture systems. In Bangladesh, fresh water ghers allow for prawn-carp polyculture from April-December then Rice from January – March/April with other vegetables growing year round. Finally, all levels of farming, small or large, can contribute to improved livelihood and economic growth at community, national, and international levels. Sustainable practices, efficient use of technology, and safe and regulated pre-harvest, harvest, and post-harvest practices can ensure economic and environmental vitality while supporting human health and development.

Key points for sustainable agriculture included discussion on agricultural practices and greater need for increased yield and its impact on the environment and design and advantage of alternative agriculture practices in multi-strat fruit tree plantations.

Sustainable agriculture must prioritize protection of the environment, public health, human communities, and animal welfare. It must reconcile challenges of growing populations, reducing land masses, and changing climates. Moreover, agricultural practices must promote nutritious yields. Bangladesh as a nation has one of the highest rates of malnutrition in the world due to poor quality of agricultural inputs. Alternative methods to food production must be considered such as homestead or community farms and urban gardens. Regulation on agricultural inputs and monitoring of practices is also necessary for ensuring nutritious and safe foods. Finally, continued research on adaptable foods and use of improved technologies must continue to address regional specific needs.

Sustainable agriculture is one of the highlighted means for poverty eradication and environmental conservation. Modern practices in improving yields and preserving lands and ecosystems must be considered in post-2015 development planning.

Food security is a broad concept with varying degrees of priority and often disjointed approaches. It is directly impacted by climate and disaster and due to its sensitivity is the root of many development challenges. Food security is not simply the state in which there is enough. Food security is complex and multifaceted and through cross-sectoral involvement, must address these key areas:

1. Agriculture: This refers to all areas of production, yield, seasonality, crop diversification, production inputs and post-harvest practices.
2. Affordability: The overall socio-economic capacities of the community in relationship to the food market prices and food market stability
3. Accessibility: This point touches on affordability issues, as well as social or cultural barriers (particularly for women and children), economic issues in production and distribution, as well as geographic factors.



4. Availability: The diversification of crops through field production and homestead gardening as well as sufficiency for the population.
5. Nutrition: Access, availability, and affordability to foods that promote health and growth and provide energy. Community nutrition, especially the nutritional health status of women of reproductive age, will be determined through anthropometric measures and the baseline will compare these measures and findings to current food diversification, yield, and socio-economic factors.
6. Inclusion: Inclusive practices that mainstreams current social behaviors and attitudes to discourage and restrict inequities

Dr. Bhattacharjee shared her insights on the lack of knowledge, awareness, and community participation in food safety, acknowledging that although food security is a broad and well known concern, food safety serves as a known but misunderstood concern. She stated that food safety is one of the largest problems in Bangladesh. In so, food safety specific programs must emerge in priority. Agricultural inputs as well as post-harvest practices must be regulated to ensure safe distribution. Accountability must be placed on all involved; but for this, increased knowledge as well as economic incentives must be places to motivate safe food practices.

Sustainable agriculture, food security, and food safety jointly represent the production and supply chain of ensuring nutritious and safe food for the population. All in all, a triple focus on food security, nutrition assurance, and food safety must remain as connected mutually inclusive agenda points. Some key recommendations included:

- Increased community level monitoring for safe food; consumer level demand approach
- Improved regulation and motivation for ensuring safe food and sustainable agricultural practices
- Investment in sustainable agriculture technology, training, and quality inputs to reduce land spoilage and lost yield.

Other food security challenges include developing the farmer and farm communities in terms of building knowledge and capacity and accessibility for quality inputs. Loss of land due to rapid urbanization also poses grave challenges as does unstable markets. Government intervention is critical in solving these challenges.

In terms of nutrition, various areas must be within awareness for ensuring adequate nutrition among populations. Firstly, the nutrient content of the harvested product as well as transport and storage practices to avoid deteriorating the quality. Preparation practices must also be adequate to ensure less edible product waste and nutrient loss. Unconventional wild foods (plant and animal) can also serve as better sources for higher nutrient content. Special populations with different nutrition needs must be educated on their requirements; this includes pregnant and nursing mothers, children, elderly, those taking specialized medications, and sick or other vulnerable persons. In addition, wasting, stunting, and other development and growth challenges need to be addressed before they are chronic. This means educating families on child feeding practices, ensuring the skills and knowledge capacities of clinicians and school teachers, as well as engaging communities to be aware of proper nutrition and food consumption.





### Parallel session 7: Universal access to health services

In this session on Universal Access to Health Services, presenters shared on Lymphatic Filariasis and quality of life, health services in the post-2015 era, investing in youth, universal coverage of quality health, and practices of participation in community clinic health service systems. The session was chaired by Mr. Dhiraj Kumar Nath, Staff Consultant and Urban Health Specialist, Asian Development Bank. The presenters included Nusrat Zerín, Programme Officer, Sightsavers; Dr. Marzia Zaman Sultana, Lecturer, MPRHGD, Department of Social Relations, East West University; Dr. Runa Khan, Founder and Executive, Friendship; Ms. Shema Mahjabin, Research Assistant, Center for Inquiry Prevention and Research; and Mr. Kazi Robiul Alom, Assistant Professor, Department of Anthropology, University of Rajshahi. The session was moderated by Dr. MA Sabur, Independent Consultant, Public Health Specialist.

### Parallel session 12: Maternal and child health

UNFPA Bangladesh sponsored the session on Maternal and Child Health. The session was attended by Ms. Argentina Matavel Piccin, Country Director, UNFPA as chair; moderated by Prof. Iffat Ara, Professor, Dhaka Medical College and Hospital; with presenters Dr. Loshan, Family Planning Specialist, UNFPA; Dr. Begum Nasrim, Associate Professor, Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology, BSMMU; Ms. Taslima Khanam, Graduate, Asia University of Women; and Ms. Sharmin Jahan.

### Parallel session 13: HIV/AIDS and other communicable diseases

Dr. Hossain Sarwar Khan, Line Director, National AIDS & STD Programme, served as session chair and Mr. Leo Kenny, Country Representative for UNAIDS, served as moderator. Presenters included Dr. Mausumi Amin, Project Manager for Save the Children; Mr. Masud Reza, Senior Manager (M&E), ICDDR,B; Mr. ABM Shameem Ud-Dawla, Link-UP; Emily Gerardo, Partners for World Health; and Mr. Kamruzzaman Mozumder, Assistant Professor, Department of Clinical Psychology, University of Dhaka. UNAIDS Bangladesh sponsored this session.

### Plenary session 5: Healthy life and access to health services

Eminence hosted this session that reviewed the importance of promoting access to quality health, universal health coverage, and health education. The session was chaired by Dr. Jo Ivey Boufford, President, New York Academy of Medicine and moderated by Dr. Shamim Hayder Talukder, Founder and CEO, Eminence. The presenters included Key Note Speaker Prof. Tony Capon, Director, International Institute for Global Health, United Nations University; Mr. Negash Teklu, Executive Director, Population Health Environment Ethiopia Consortium; Dr. Mahbub Elahi Chowdhury, Scientist, Centre for Equity and Health Systems, ICDDR,B; Mr. Ashadul Islam, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare.

## Universal Access to Health and Health Rights



## Discussion

Key topics included inclusion of health rights and access to health in the post 2015 development agenda as a means toward poverty eradication, urban transition, discussion on varying policy approaches, and social and cultural barriers for access to health.

It was stated that climate change is the biggest health threat in the world. Furthermore, those most affected and suffering are rural and urban poor needing social change for improved access to health services and rights.

The major issue of discussion in relation to the post-2015 development agenda is extending universal access to health coverage while achieving balance in the healthcare system and environmental capacities. Some related challenges include land space for facilities and operations, investment for capital and physical capacity building, increased human resources and education faculties, bettered national administrative processes, and addressing social barriers to access to health. It is evident that striving for universal access to health implicates challenge beyond the health care system. Extending the MDGs into the SDGs requires contraction of consumption from high income and high populace countries while converging the development outcomes for health. It is clear that huge pressure exists on the environment from population which has a direct effect on health and disease prevalence. A health paradox exists in this light; populations must be healthy to contribute to development of the health agenda, but living environments must reinforce this healthiness. Moreover, the SDGs must enable people with disabilities (including mental) to engage in the execution.

Finally, in understanding pressures from population, advocacy must expand and strengthen for sexual and reproductive health access and rights; not simply to alleviate population pressures, but also to be a foundational component for improving health and health service delivery everywhere

Universal access to health, in the post -2015 discussion must address all components of health service delivery among all populations including youth. This includes affordability, accessibility to services, and health rights without social or political barriers. Universal access means inclusive access. Discrimination, stigma, and neglect or marginalization discourages sustainable health development. Furthermore, health access must recognize all areas of the field; from communicable to non-communicable diseases, sexual and reproductive health and education or youth and adults, urban health, and all specialized sectors. Incorporation of technology for the improved treatment and monitoring must not create financial or social burdens. Practitioners must remain motivated in their practices as well be encouraged in modern practices, knowledge and skills development, and improving service delivery. Governments, civil society, and the private sector are all responsible to ensuring all levels of access to promote a healthier society. More preventative practices must be instilled in every aspect of human development; from city planning to industrialized practices and expansion, to labor and resource utilization and more. Healthy societies yield productive and sustainable societies as does inclusion, empowerment, and cooperation.

Some specialized topics focuses on including response for communicable diseases in the post-2015 agenda as well as continuing the progress of effective family planning and sexual and reproductive health.





Discussion on the Reproductive Maternal and Newborn Health Workforce Assessment and the still high risk of mortality and morbidity among women and newborns ensued. Other points included the importance of key health and disease screening for pregnant women for ensuring healthy births, issues of maternal overweight, and abortion as a biological and socio-economic issue.

Core areas of discussion included access to reproductive health rights without gender based discrimination, sexual and reproductive service delivery, skills and capacity development for reproductive maternal and newborn health workforce, and maternal health and wellbeing. Maternal and reproductive health as an overall segment is critical for reviewing in the MDG era and furthering in the post-2015 era. Rights-based and service-based frameworks for ensuring safe, affordable, and quality access to SRH education and services. In order to ensure improved maternal and child health, other areas of development must improve concurrently such as women empowerment. The ability for women to make autonomous and free decisions regarding her and her child's health is essential for any progress in maternal and child health and family planning.

In the current draft of the Sustainable Development Goals, as drafted by the 13th session of the Open Working Group, there is no stand alone goal for maternal health, child health, or sexual and reproductive health. They are interspersed as indicators among gender equality goal and healthy lives goal. Recognizing this as a cross-cutting issue for women and health is important but also limiting. Focusing on SRH for women and girls removes focus or accountability for men and boys in this regard. Although women and girls should be empowered to make informed decisions regarding their SRH, boys and men are also core agents for this topic as they must support and participate. Related to this, men and boys must be active in family planning decisions as this must be a shared responsibility for sustainable human development. One final point to consider relates to maternal health. The current framework for SDGs only addresses maternal mortality, as did the MDGs, for monitoring maternal health. Although very important, other maternal health behaviors, as discussed in this session, must be encouraged, educated, and practiced for true sustained improvement to maternal health that will reflect positively for child health.

Presenters shared their presentations on the link between STIs and HIV, HIV/AIDS prevalence in Bangladesh, promoting improved sexual and reproductive health and rights for youth, HIV related diseases, and behavioral dynamics in communicable disease.



Some key points included level of prevention, including primary, secondary and tertiary activities and the importance of building knowledge, attitude, and practice for behavior change. Commonly, it is important to address the way of current testing methods and the embarrassing methods of testing. Strategies and goals for reducing HIV/AIDS also highlighted the session. The session was sponsored by UNAIDS.

The MDGs recognized reversing the AIDS epidemic as a key target for development progress. There have been considerable results under this strategy. Over the past decade new HIV infections have declined by 33%. Ten million people living with HIV in low- and middle-income countries are accessing life-saving treatment and, despite the global financial crisis, access is rapidly expanding. Still, new HIV infections continue to occur at high rates. Furthermore, it is now apparent that reducing risks for infections and increasing access to treatment and counseling for all cases is not enough. The response to the HIV/AIDS epidemic must be one of inclusiveness; a transformative approach in which the AIDS response is a cross-cutting issue that leaves no one behind. So, some key recommendations emerge for consideration:

#### 1. Identifying post-2015 goals and targets

A prominent position for AIDS in the next development as a public health priority, potential pathfinder, strategic partner and catalyst for more inclusive, gender-transformative and rights-based action, which puts people at the centre of development. A global commitment to ending AIDS as well as tuberculosis and malaria will hold the international community accountable to the unfinished MDGs—while demanding a paradigm shift towards breaking down governance, socioeconomic, legal and political obstacles to sustainable development and to ensuring healthy, productive and dignified lives for all. Adopting a strategy of getting to zero that includes addressing infection rate, stigma, and treatment/counseling.

#### 2. Positioning AIDS and strengthening social justice across the agenda

Ending the AIDS epidemic will require the global community to build on the MDGs but go beyond them to address fundamental development issues such as equality, social capital, community system strengthening, employment, the untapped potentials of young people, the realization of human rights and sustainable use of the environment.

#### 3. Toward a holistic and rights-based health goal

The post-2015 health goal, therefore, should be holistic and ambitious, along the lines of “ensuring healthy and dignified lives at all ages”. It could usefully include both impact and process targets, grounded in the right to health and with a focus on equity. A future health agenda should also ensure that political priority is given to the hardest to reach and most vulnerable and marginalized populations, with data disaggregated to measure progress in these populations.

#### 4. Accountability

Communities and individuals must be empowered to monitor progress, and demand accountability and action when results are inadequate. The post-2015 agenda would ideally establish and safeguard rigorous, inclusive and independent accountability mechanisms and include commitments to improving strategic information dissemination, guaranteeing civic rights, enhancing governance, allocating resources responsibly, and strengthening independent monitoring and transparency.





UNAIDS proposes a target of ending the AIDS epidemic, in the context of its vision. The proposed AIDS targets in Figure 1 should be considered both as possible elements of the post-2015 agenda as well as a starting point for discussions on the accountability framework of a possible Political Declaration to build on the 2011 UN Political Declaration on HIV and AIDS. The achievement of these targets directly translates into life, health and dignity for millions of people - including improved social, educational and economic outcomes. Modeling is currently underway to illustrate just how much will be gained through achieving these targets and the associated price tag. Other key areas for improving health rights and services includes:

- 1) Eliminating preventable child and maternal mortality
- 2) Universal access to sexual and reproductive health and rights
- 3) Reducing premature deaths as a result of non-communicable diseases.
- 4) Ensuring Universal Health Coverage, with explicit measures on the extent to which the most marginalized and vulnerable groups access prevention, treatment and financial risk protection services; that services are of good quality and match the needs of the population; and that financial risk protection eliminates cost as a barrier to access.
- 5) Empowering individuals, community systems and civil society and the private sector as agents of change for health and development, to engage in policy-making, decision-making and the delivery of health services.

Further conclusion was made that patient awareness and disease education results in direct and noticeable improvements to quality of life for those suffering with LF and other diseases. Ensuring patient understanding of their personal health and disease status empowers informed decision making and fuller awareness, giving patients ability to remain in control of their lives and make the correct choices for them. It was posited that health services of the country are not comprehensively focused on the needs of young people who are playing a leading role in the progress of economy and development. Investment in and focus on young people is not decentralized and sector wise approaches are lacking integration and collaborative coordination. In perspective of community based health, a presented study found that community peoples' access to services are not truly participatory. Moreover, inactive role of some, lack of information, influence of local power structure, lack of ownership, and socio-cultural differences of participants also act as barriers of true universal health access. Overall recommendations included empowering patients through knowledge and empowering communities in identifying and solving community health challenges. This process must be inclusive and equitable, collectively mobilizing those of all socio-economic, health, and physical strata. Areas of greatest concern must be prioritized, including traditionally marginalized populations such as those with disabilities and the elderly. Overall improvements to health are also dependent on improvements to quality of life beyond meeting basic needs; therefore, conditions must warrant and facilitate patient awareness.



# Climate Change and Disaster Risk Management

## Parallel session 6: Climate Change and Disaster Risk Reduction

The session on Climate Change and Disaster Risk Reduction was moderated by Dr. Atiq Rahman, Executive Director, Bangladesh Center for Advanced Studies, with presenters Mr. Md. Anjum Islam, Student, URP Discipline, Khulna University, Ms. Tashmina Rahman, Education Consultant, World Bank, and Mr. Sayed Mohammad Nazim Uddin, PhD Researcher, Department of Environmental Science and Engineering, University of Science and Technology, China. Abstract authors presented on climate migrants, conceptualizing climate adaptive capacity of the urban poor, and degradation of river water.

## Plenary session 16: Climate change and disaster risk management

This session was attended by Mr. Mohammad Abdof Wazed, Director General, Department of Disaster Management, MOFDM, as chair and Dr. Fazle Rabbi Sadeque Ahmed, Project Coordinator, Community Climate Change Project, PKSf as moderator. Mr. Muhammad Saidur Rahman, Director Bangladesh Disaster Preparedness Center attended as Guest of Honor. Mr. Muhammad Obaidur Rahman, Country Director, Muslim Aid sat on the panel as special guest. The key note speech was presented by Mr. Khurshid Alam with panel discussion by Mr. Sarder Shafiqul Alam, National Capacity Building Coordinator and Head of Field Research, Bangladesh Center for Advanced Studies. The session was sponsored by Muslim Aid.

## Discussion

As Bangladesh is highly climate disaster prone, this not only affects obvious common points of discussion such as health, food security, WASH, and livelihoods, but also affects housing prospects. Therefore, climate migrants are forced into poor housing conditions. Climate induced migration has increased since 2006 due to frequent disasters in the coastal region and the volume of climate induced migration spiked in 2007 and 2009 immediately after Cyclones SIDR and AILA. In that time millions of people in coastal marginal communities became homeless and helpless. Agricultural land was rendered useless therefore causing these citizens to relocate without source of livelihood. Once these migrants arrive in urban areas, they often face conditions of:





- dilapidated housing
- high density
- poor physical environment
- horrific waste disposal system
- unavailability of open space
- dreadful sanitary system
- awful drainage condition

The migrants must rely on unskilled labor jobs due to their lack of education. The low wage of such jobs puts them in a perpetual disadvantaged state.

In relation with disadvantaged population, personal adaptive capacity is often negligible due to current income levels of much of the urban poor. Due to increased urban-rural migration and lack of tenure security and legal address most of the time informal settlement dwellers specially the poorest urban households are unable to obtain banking services or financial loans from the formal finance sectors. Out of a total of 535 microfinance institutions (MFI), only 220 are operating in urban areas; 50 dedicated exclusively to urban financing. The poorest urban households who are unable to maintain the social connection through reciprocity, they are then required to borrow money from moneylenders in high interest rates which escalate debt burden.

Urban population density, weakly built housing on unsafe sites, lack of protective physical infrastructure, lack of basic public services, lack of access to legal and financial assistance and deficiency in terms of political recognition, institutional and community organization Dhaka's informal settlement dwellers are more adversely impacted by climate related stresses. Therefore, in terms of climate adaption, proponents of the asset-based approach emphasize the importance of accumulating and developing the asset holdings of low-income urban households for improvements in their livelihoods and subsequent climate adaptive capacity.

In relation with the intrinsic vulnerabilities of migrant and urban populations as a result of climate change, climate fragility also creates real challenges for water quality. Climate change and disasters degrade river water quality; with increase severity around Dhaka city because of numerous factors related to overpopulation, overconsumption, and poor infrastructure. Based on the water quality analysis, the various chemical parameters exceed the standard level in every river around Dhaka city. Because of unplanned dumping of industrial chemicals, rivers are being contaminated with heavy metals. As a result, fish breeding, agricultural cultivation, surrounding banks and land areas are being affected. These are also affecting human and environmental health. Waterbeds and rivers that are already fragile due to human damage, pollution, and pressure are more vulnerable to the effects of climate change and natural disaster, resulting in erosion, more rapid depletion of biodiversity, and restirring and resurfacing of settled pollutants and toxins in the waterways.

Climate change is a clear and inevitable global concern and has a plethora of direct and indirect affects. A socially inclusive agenda for Climate Change Adaptation and Disaster Resiliency must address economic capacities of affected populations, improved living standards, and already damaged resources.





- Climate change mitigation policies should incorporate the climate migrants.
- To ensure adequate housing they require available financial support by the Provisions for loan program
- Need to ensure a stable job
- The rent of adequate housing should be controlled
- Government authorities should be more diplomatic regarding on housing provision for the climate migrants.
- More work programmes and skill-orientated training
- Effective programmes simultaneously target urban poverty and climate risks
- Social safety nets in protecting the incomes and livelihoods of the most vulnerable urban groups, particularly ex-post climate events
- Innovate and design financial products that would cater to the needs of urban poor in Dhaka's informal settlements; e.g. collective insurance funding
- Greater research on access, utilization and scope for leveraging climate- sensitive financial products and services by local governments, MFLs and NGOs
- Uproot informal forms of governance in ensuring access to better employment, incomes and assets for Dhaka's urban poor
- Source identification and protection
- Treatment options
- Rules and regulation
- Institutional re-arrangement
- Awareness & involving civil societies
- Decentralizing the responsibilities of DoE

The key note speech, titled "Resilience Screening of Muslim Aid and Lessons for the Development Organizations" argued for evolution of resilience discussion and action. Due to the transnational and changing characteristics of risks, vulnerability levels must be screened. The key note concluded with recommendation for improving high level and international coordination efforts, investment for understanding risk, and informative sharing of programming process. The Government of Bangladesh must continue to adopt resiliency as a driving development principle.

Discussion followed on the critical importance of adapting technology for risk minimization as well as creating measures for reducing fossil fuel consumption. All presenters agreed that disaster risk management must be the focus of government and donor level stakeholders as well as community level participants.

On the whole, Bangladesh was praised for its overall success in developing government level DRR and CCA policies and strategies, and for creating a fully fledged Disaster Management Ministry within 40 years.

Climate change adaptation, building resiliency, and disaster risk management is intrinsically linked to the emerging sustainable development agenda and all goals. Discussion has now moved past climate change prevention strategies and into climate change adaptation strategies due to the increasing pressures of the increasing demands the human population is placing on the planet.



Although the effects of climate change are global, the impacts are most adverse to least developed and developing countries due to poor internal infrastructures, underdeveloped economies, existing social or cultural strains, and heightening vulnerabilities.

Climate change adaptation and disaster risk reduction is a keystone for sustainable human development.

- Through global governance, create a more proportionate system for retribution of CC contributors
- Identify climate and disaster financing as a national budget concern and priority
- Guaranteed visibility of climate change as a development issue and provide direction for climate change action
- Full implementation of the national Bangladesh Climate Change Strategy and Action Plan and National Adaptation Programme
- Cooperation and collaboration among varying Climate Change policy boards including national and international negotiation teams such as UNFCCC and post-2014 process
- Incorporated disaster response with strategic participation and role assignment that is noncompetitive and aligns with national frameworks
- Cross-sectoral engagement for promoting disaster management capacities, including first responder and community level engagement.
- Establishment of a national network for knowledge resource sharing for practitioners

#### Plenary session 7: Extreme poverty and sustainable livelihoods

PKSF sponsored this session which explored causes and effects of poverty and solutions for developing better livelihoods. The session was chaired by Dr. Qazi Kholiquzzaman, Chairman of PKSF and Bangladesh Summit Convener. The key note speech was given by Mr. AQM Golam Mawla, General Manager, PKSF with panel discussion from Mr. MA Baqui Khalily, Executive Director, Institute of Microfinance and Dr. Reazul Islam.

The session covered various topics on strategies for extreme poverty reduction. The presenters shared a common goal for reducing the level of poverty in the next 5 years. They gave several examples of projects and programs taking place in various areas throughout Bangladesh.



## Livelihoods and Poverty Reduction



### Plenary session 9: Sustainability, equity, and financial inclusion

The session was chaired by Dr. Qazi Kholiquzzaman Ahmad, Chairman, Institute of Microfinance with key note address by Prof. SR Osmani, University of Ulster, UK. Panelists included Dr. Quazi Mesbahuddin Ahmed, Former Managing Director, PKSF; Dr. A. Atiq Rahman, Executive Director, Bangladesh Center for Advanced Studies; and Dr. Binayek Sen, Research Director, Bangladesh Institute of Development Studies. The session was sponsored by Institute of Microfinance

#### Discussion

The sessions covered various topics on strategies for extreme poverty reduction. The presenters shared a common goal for reducing the level of poverty in the next 5 years. They gave several examples of projects and programs taking place in various areas throughout Bangladesh. Furthermore, the panelists shared insights on financial and social equity and growth of microfinance and microcredit. It was pointed out that legal frameworks must be developed to promote financial equity and inclusion, financial habits and knowledge of asset management must be increased among general population. Dr. Qazi Kholiquzzaman Ahmad concluded the session by stating the need for segregating climate change economics from socio-economics.

In the current draft of the SDGs, goal one states to end poverty in all its forms. Although this counters as an overall objective for sustainable development and can possibly actualize as an effect of achievement of all the other goals, specific poverty eradication strategies can be implemented. These must focus on participatory approaches, financial strengthening and asset building, and sustainable. Microcredit and microfinance models are beneficial for rural communities, but must be complemented with further support. This includes raising awareness and improving knowledge on financial systems, savings, and banking, developing inputs for secure livelihoods, and creating stronger community networks and community based economies. The presentation featured discussion on the need for more intergenerational equity for addressing poverty. Moreover, this equity is affected by impacts of environmental and climate changes on assets. Therefore, resiliency efforts directly can improve poverty.





## Parallel session 10: Water, sanitation and hygiene

The session was chaired by Mr. Alok Majumder, Country Director, Dutch WASH Alliance, Bangladesh with presentations from Mr. Azhar Ali, National Project Coordinator, UPPR, UNDP; Mr. Abdullah Al Arif, Legal Researcher and Journalist; Jeflin Hasnat, Islamic Relief Bangladesh; Ms. Allison Elgie, Student, University of Waterloo; and Mr. Abu Jubayer, BUET.

## Plenary session 11: Universal access to water and sanitation

Islamic Relief Bangladesh presented a session on WASH, chaired by Dr. Ainun Nishat, Professor Emeritus, Centre for Climate Change and Environmental Research with key note address by Mr. Munirul Islam, Program Manager Climate Change, IRB. Panelists included Mr. Shabel Firuz, Country Director, IRB; Dr. Khondaker Azharul Haq, Former Managing Director, Dhaka Water Supply and Sewerage Authority; Mr. Golam Motasim Billah, Head, Humanitarian Programmes; and Dr. Md. Taibur Rahman, Senior Assistant Chief General Economics Division, Planning Commission. Prof. Dr. AMM Safiullah, Vice Chancellor of Ahsanullah University of Science and Technology, also graciously attended the session.

### Discussion

The WASH sessions engaged the audience on legal and regulatory concerns for safe water, decentralized rain water and solid waste management, and an alternative water governance framework. The panelists presented insights to solutions, including involvement of different government initiatives and other stakeholders of the country coming forward for sustainable and responsible management of water in the country. Pathways for human right to water were shared: government regulation, price and privatization, and community management. Water as a human right was discussed as more than just filling basic needs, but also for ensuring improved quality of life for the future through recognizing, improving, and enforcing current laws. Water conservation measures were also discussed as it was identified that Bangladesh is among the top 10 water using countries in the world.

Sanitation and provision for safe water was presented as an urban health issue with key arguments around dehydration, diarrhea, and infection as common effects of poor urban WASH and intoxicated and polluted water sources. It is also important to note the rural challenges of water and sanitation including the salt water intrusion and unsafe desalination practices. Specific context was given for "Water as a human right" including indicator of affordability, quantity, quality, and ethical and moral authority. Suggestion was presented to make an inclusive water governance structure that enlists active participation from government, community, and privatized markets.

# Water Sanitation and Hygiene



Challenges for ensuring the human right for water are similar to challenges of all human rights. Economic, social, political, and environmental factors arise that must be addressed holistically. There is often times a general consensus with internal competition, rivaling agendas, and resource restraints. For sustainable development for ensuring global access to water, sanitation, and hygiene, the core theme of equity and sustainable consumption must remain forefront.

Summation dialogue pointed out the restraints and constraints for ensuring quality water, sanitation, and hygiene facilities in Bangladesh. Land space is a limited commodity, therefore, establishing public toilets in urban settings gets strong push back as this limited space has alternative preferred uses that are more lucrative. For mobile toilet designs that have been implemented, the monitoring and management of such facilities is not ongoing or sufficient. New construction laws include the inclusion of rain water harvesters for new buildings in Bangladesh; however, government oversight and enforcement is lacking.

The presenters spoke on implementing WASH campaigns and modern WASH facilities supplemented with education and training for communities. Moreover, presenters posited sustainable development is hindered by the level of corruption within the country. Specific areas of need can be prioritized when strategizing for improved WASH. The presentation focused on a national project with agenda for ensuring disaster resiliency and recovery for Water and Sanitation projects.

Bangladesh has achieved reasonably well in ensuring her people's access to drinking water and sanitation. However, the reality on the ground apparently differs significantly in terms of sustainable functioning of these facilities. The overall goal of this study was to contribute to ensure water and sanitation programme of the GoB are disaster resilient, thus complement commitment of the Government of Bangladesh towards achieving the Millennium Development Goal (MDG) number 7 on 'Ensuring Environment Sustainability' and the priority 4 under the Hyogo Framework for Action (HFA) on 'Reduce the Underlying Risk Factors'. Specific objectives of the study were:

- To establish evidence based learning for the need of DRR mainstreaming into selected rural focused water and sanitation programme of the Government of Bangladesh in view of achieving relevant MDG targets, and HFA priority
- To identify to what extent the GoB policies of mainstreaming DRR are implemented through the project cycle operation of WatSan projects; gaps and their reasons. and
- To find out probable ways to minimize those gaps and ensure mainstreaming of DRR into WatSan projects in compliance with the GoB policy suggestions.

Founding on the government's model of Disaster Management the study conceptualized WatSan Disaster Risk combining both the current and anticipatory risk of climate change. The variables included in WatSan Disaster Risk Analysis are WatSan exposure to hazard, vulnerability of existing WatSan and capacity of the community to cope with the adverse WatSan conditions and their secondary impacts. The study reviewed two national scale GoB WatSan projects including a GoB and a donor funded. In data generation and gathering, the study ensured exchange and supplementation between the secondary and primary as well as both quantitative and qualitative data.





WatSan MDG for Bangladesh is to achieve 89% population's access to safe drinking water and 70% population's access to improved sanitation by the year 2015. The study finds two reasons posing a serious challenge to achieve MDGs and GoB targets. These are achieving accelerated rate of coverage and push back of WatSan by disaster damage. According to the MDG progress report 2009, during last 20 years, Bangladesh has made 0.4% yearly progress for the population's access to safe drinking water and 0.75 % for sanitation per year.

Achievement of MDGs by 2015 demands an accelerated coverage rate of 0.55% for drinking water and 3.55% for sanitation. The study put forward that only acceleration of the coverage rate would not help achieve MDGs without promoting Disaster Resilient WatSan because since the year 2009 rural WatSan situation did not improve instead, the coverage has fallen down in areas affected by disasters, especially by flood. The consequences and the negative effects of WatSan Disaster were found to be multi-pronged, one related to another and those affecting women more severely than men. Extremely unhygienic environment, severe loss of poultry resources, increase of livestock diseases, acute scarcity of safe drinking water, increase of diseases and illness, sufferings from anxiety, huge work burden for rebuilding WatSan facilities and extra costs were the effects of WatSan disasters. Further, Bangladesh is currently ranked as the most climate-vulnerable country.

Towards mainstreaming of DRR into WatSan scheme/projects, the Government of Bangladesh provides policy guide in terms of both the content and process. Content wise the policy suggestion is to include both risk reduction and consequence management. For the process, the major sets of policy suggestions are:

- Undertaking participatory disaster risk assessment and planning process of the project development;
- Promotion of decentralized community participatory and self-reliant process; and
- Inclusion of participatory monitoring and evaluation

The study puts across the following key recommendations towards mainstreaming of DRR into the government's WatSan projects.

- Build conceptual clarity on WSDRR
- Integrate DRR in the WatSan sector policies and plans
- Develop and introduce policy accorded strategy
- Make methodological guide available
- Have required tools in place
- Design and deliver adequate capacity development support
- Allocate required person power and financial resources
- Get ready to offer disaster resilient hardware options

The study recommends to apply a systemic bottom-up process of WSDRR following the same approach as CDMP adopts but contextualizing the process in relation to WatSan.

The study observes that the major GoB policy suggestions have come into effect in the middle of 2010. Thus, it is not unusual to find gaps and challenges on its way forward by the timeline this study is conducted but certainly there are enormous opportunities for bridging the gaps. These opportunities are:

- Favourable support-context
- ECNEC decision
- Some useful tools
- Existing training facilities and resources
- Some hardware options applied





- Comprehensive structure of the local WatSan and Disaster Management Committees
- SHEWA-B facilitation model
- Government's emphasis on Result Based Monitoring and Evaluation

The study finds the most important things that the government policy suggested is the application of community and relevant stakeholders' participatory analysis and action process. The study finds that this is the most important policy suggestion of the government, thus the central option to be brought into a DPP is to facilitate the LGs and the local WatSan and DM committees to assess, plan and implement locally relevant WatSan DRR activities. The study submits the following specific provisions can be brought into a WatSan project for reduction of WatSan DRR are:

- Community mobilization and awareness creation on WatSan DRR including hygiene practices during emergencies ;
- Facilitating Community Risk Assessment (CRA) and CAP for WatSan DRR through the LGs and local committees;
- Participatory process facilitation;
- Resource support to RRAP implementation;
- Community management capacity development through on-the-job coaching, orientation and training;
- Operation and maintenance (O&M) of the hardware facilities which are established, especially facilities installed in the cyclone and flood shelters as well as in other community places.
- Arsenic testing facility in each of the Upazila DPHE offices;
- Inbuilt component of R&D for disaster-resilient WatSan Technology options

With regards to the disaster-friendly hardware options it is recommended that the relevant government department(s) should undertake an assessment and R&D for standardizing suitable technology options which are economically viable, technologically sustainable, environmentally sound and socially acceptable. The study proposes that WatSan projects should have those hardware options which are affordable and replicable at households.

The study finds that mainstreaming of DRR into a government WatSan project warrants the following crosscutting capacity development and institutional concerns which deserves due attention in future.

- Departure from the traditional culture of response and recovery to DRR;
- Genuine empowerment of Upazila and Union level LGs by which they can serve as a forum of sharing between the GoB, civil society and market actors;
- Capacity to ensure WatSan DRR services reaching to the marginalized population in a elite dominated socio-political structure;
- Meeting the demand of having multi-expertise teams comprising multiple disciplines;
- Continuous promotion of the local innovations in a multiple changing circumstances through linking between indigenous and scientific knowledge; and
- Minimizing policy conflicts and contradictions between the intensive use of water resources against the growing demand and the conservation need.



Bangladesh is a disaster prone as well as the most vulnerable country to climate change impacts. It is one of the Asian countries lauded for its significant achievement in Disaster Consequence Management. Despite this achievement sustainable development seems to be a remote possibility if Risk Reduction is not factored in the development design and operations. Realizing this fact, the GoB policies suggest that from now on all DPPs have to include both Disaster Risk Reduction and Consequence Management. Water and sanitation is more critical than the hospitals for the human health and other wellbeing. Achievements of rural WatSan are facing a snatching risk by being exposed to frequently occurring disasters, and denote an unavoidable need of disaster-resilient WatSan promotion. Community-Led Total Sanitation (CLTS) is innovated and grown in Bangladesh which gives us lesson that if facilitated so that the common people can bring the desired change in WatSan. The priority discourse of DRR at the global level actors and policy makers, favorable government policies, already approved CRA & RRAP tool provide us a favorable context. Further, the SHEWA-B model of the GO-NGO partnership, local WatSan Committees and a technical institution like DPHE altogether offer us an immense opportunity to be the champions of disaster-resilient WatSan promotion. This is considered as an unavoidable need for the wellbeing of the rural population of Bangladesh.

#### Parallel session 11: Sustainable management of natural resources

The session was chaired by Dr. Mohammad Tamim, Ex-Advisor GoB; Head of the Department, Petroleum and Mineral Resources Engineering, Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology. The presenters were Dr. Md. Wahab Khan, Professor, Department of Economics, University of Dhaka; Mr. Abdullah Al Masum, AIN-WF, USAID, Jessore; and Engr. SM Shamim Hasan, Comfit Composite Knit Ltd.

#### Plenary session 12: Urban development-water, sanitation, slum development and planning

Water Aid hosted this session. Mr. Md. Akhtaruzzaman, Programme Manager and Representative, UN Habitat Bangladesh attended as chair with panelists Mr. Abul Hakim, Project Manager, DSK; Dr. Tanvir Ahmed, Assistant Professor, Department of Civil Engineering, BUET; and Dr. Tanveer F. Saeed, Assistant Professor, Department of Civil Engineering, Ahsanullah University of Science and Technology.

#### Plenary session 14: Sustainable land and ecosystem management

This session, sponsored by WorldFish, focused on environment and the link between human development and environmental conservation. The session was chaired by Dr. Md. Golam Mustafa, Scientist, WorldFish, Bangladesh with Key Note Presentation by Mr. Md. Yunus Ali, Chief Conservator of Forest, Department of Forest. Panelists included Mr. Ratan Kumar Mazumder, Deputy Chief Conservator of Forest, Department of Forest; Dr. Binay Kumar Chakraborty, Project Director, Department of Fisheries; and Mr. Md. Tariqul Islam, Assistant Chief Conservator of Forest, Department of Forest.



## Natural Resources Management and Urbanization



## Plenary session 15: Sustainable management of natural resources

Concern Worldwide facilitated a plenary session on Sustainable Management of Natural resources on August 19, 2014. Mr. Narayan Chandra Chanda-Honorable State minister for Fisheries and Livestock, Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh attended the session as chief guest while AKM Musha-Country Director of Concern Worldwide chaired the session. In the session panelist was Dr. M. Anisul Islam-Director of CNRS while the keynote was presented by Mr. Saroj Dash-Regional Technical Coordinator of Concern Worldwide. M. Anowar Hossain-Head of Technical Unit of Concern Worldwide was the moderator of the session.

### Discussion

Resources are finite; it is this realization that is the underlying concern for sustainable development. For sustainable development, several factors must be assessed and compared including current consumption rate, rate of regeneration, ecological and economic impact of extracting and using resources, and improving the current and next use of materials; mainly, the environment in which we live must be preserved to ensure future, uncompromised growth and development. This session reviewed various techniques, practices, and models for bettering use and consumption and waste of natural resources. Such topics included cage aquaculture by women, promoting green chemistry as an alternative to hazardous materials, and conservation of natural resources. Panelists all gave insights to the necessary changes needed for sustainable development. With increasing pressure for larger resource yields due to growing populations and increasing consumptions, it was posited that restrictions and controls on the intermediate processing steps and deliberate and aware practice for minimizing waste, recycling, reduction of energy consumption, and use of renewable resources can result in "greener" chemistry. Regionally relevant, presentation was given on incorporating more sustainable practices into garments manufacturing. The main consideration surrounded assessing water consumption for all stages of manufacturing. Other areas include more ethically sourced and environmentally friendly dyes and other chemicals and improved labor rights and wages.





Social equity in ecosystem based livelihoods will benefit society as well as building the labor pool for increased food security. This key point in this session included the inclusion and empowerment of women in the sustainable management of natural resources. The arguments that women and gender cannot be excluded, even in core environmental issues, substantiates that for true sustainable development, this key demographic must participate to ensure full economic, environmental, and social positive progress.

The sessions covered some of the most prominent challenges for maintaining balanced and sustainable urban development due to the innate problems of urbanized overdevelopment and sprawl. Different strategies must be implemented in creating solutions for urban conditions than rural.

In relation to environmental conservation, extensive dialogue gave stark examples of the critical issues facing Bangladesh if more attention is not given to ecosystem management. Effects can include reduced food security, increased health risks, and lowered natural environment resiliency. Bangladesh's geography is diverse and the speakers discussed this diversity with points regarding forests and coastlines.

Panelists were discussed overall issues and learning regarding sustainable land and ecosystem management and panelists also discussed Government's priority for sustainable management. Status and importance of land and ecosystems were also discussed thoroughly by panelists.

Md. Yunus Ali, Chief Conservator of Forests (CCF) has discussed about importance of ecosystem and biodiversity, and how natural renewable resources need ecological supports for their survival. He also highlighted importance of forests, fisheries products, and how we lost many wild varieties. He mentions that we have small land with high population density, and we have to ensure food security. So, rice production is the prime importance. However, we have to be careful with other biodiversity. He mentioned that different variety is necessary for bio-safety, and also for both aquatic and terrestrial. He mentioned about sustainability of natural resources and we have to plan for alternative energy. He mentioned that how we will afford once natural resources decline, so we have to use our ecosystem sustainably as well rationally.

Mr. Ratan Kumar Mazumder revealed that this is the vital time to think about ecosystem based conservation of natural resources. He also mentioned that unplanned development activities destructed both forest and fisheries. He emphasized about cost of forest and now we are passing very critical time: we have to continue development works and also have to maintain sustainable ecosystem. He mentioned about initiatives taken by the government of Bangladesh to protect biodiversity through conservation. He also mentioned about threats and administrative measure to prevent threats by the Forests department. He highlighted regarding conservation of forests, and harvesting through conservation and natural regeneration.

Dr. Binay Kumar Chakraborty presented a status paper on aquatic ecosystem and its threats in Bangladesh. He also presents about salinity intrusion into upstream rivers and vulnerability of aquatic ecosystems as well impact of climate change in fisheries sectors. He also highlighted effects of sea level rise on fisheries/aquaculture and other natural resources. He discussed different adaptation options to minimize climate change effect on aquatic resources.





Dr. Mustafa also presents a status paper on “Sustainable Land and Ecosystem Management”. He explains about Bangladesh wetlands and forests ecosystem. He presents details on protected areas in Bangladesh. Dr. Mustafa explains on ecosystem services to human well-being and how ecosystem secured benefits to us. He highlighted results based importance of different aquatic ecosystem with examples. He mentioned that every ecosystem is essential for species existence. Based on case study he explains how ecosystem benefits species breeding migration and development. He explains how healthy ecosystem provides diversity of species. He explains the risks of a changing ecosystem for migratory species. He also explains how wetlands ecosystem can managed sustainably through conservation.

Md. Tariqul Islam highlighted about chronological initiatives taken by the forests department to preserve forest ecosystem through learning, and importance of forests rules to conserve forests. He also mentioned forests are in critical situation and we have to highly careful to conserve these vital resources to protect our people and resources from climate change and biodiversity conservation.

Md Yunus Ali, CCF sum-up the session with summary presentation and discussion. He mentioned that the practices of encroachment of the wetlands will impact the overall natural resources and this need to be regulated. He has highlighted that this is prime time to think and make policy to use water rationally and management of natural resources.

In assessing management of natural resources, the Keynote presenter Mr. Saroj Dash highlighted Natural Resource Management for Sustainable Development approach of Concern Worldwide in the Coastal Context; Sundarbans Resource Management with an Adaptable blueprint of SRM and shared the Call for action and Recommendations from the session. He also shared the models on Sustainable Agriculture and Food Security along with the Management of Natural Resources to promote alternative livelihoods and equitable growth by using Green Technology. The relevance of Climate Change and Disaster Risk Reduction was presented to address the issues of sustainability from Concern Worldwide's experiences in Bangladesh as the learnings of ongoing program in coastal areas.

Panelist Dr. M. Anisul Islam-Director of CNRS emphasized on proper utilization of Water body and Common property to manage the natural resources equally and recommended to review the Government policy on use of common water body that are regulated by Government Engineering Department instead of Fisheries Department. In the open discussion some participants also raised the issues on proper use of water by the industries and requested to include all kind of natural resources management in the sustainable development issues discussion and plan of action.

The Chief Guest Mr. Narayan Chandra Chanda-Honorable State minister for Fisheries and Livestock praised Concern Worldwide for organizing such a relevant session. He has also committed to provide all kind of support for development and management of Natural Resources for the betterment of the livestock and fisheries sector. He has remarked to take initiative to reduce the salinity of coastal area of Bangladesh specially Khulna and Satkhira district.

As the Chair of the session Mr. AKM Musha-Country Director of Concern Worldwide has shared Concern Worldwide's experience of different projects. He also invited all actors and stakeholders to take initiatives for the proper utilization of Natural Resources and equal distribution of assets for the poor and vulnerable communities.





The session proposed the following recommendations for sustainable development:

- Access to and control over natural resources for people living in vulnerable areas to cope with the impact of natural disasters and safeguard the resources under climate change actions to adapt
- Comprehensive Protected Area management and action plans to be developed and implemented with Co- management practices for effective monitoring to ensure conservation of Sundarbans biodiversity
- Access and utilization of common property resource through direct engagement of vulnerable communities in the management and sharing the rights on khash lands and community water resources.
- Mainstreaming CCA and DRR priorities in the national development policies and the sectoral plans with support allocation for Social Safety Net Programmes for most vulnerable communities.
- Co-management of the SRF resources promoted and strengthened to rollout the practices in all areas including fisheries resources of the Sundarbans to be promoted and managed in a sustainable way;
- Integrated coastal zone management (ICZM) as an integrated approach to show the pathways to achieve SDGs.
- Regional cooperation in the Bay of Bengal and member countries of SAARC for the conservation of the Sundarbans and sharing lessons on common actions to address effects of climate change.

#### Plenary session 2: Quality education and lifelong learning

The session began with remarks by session chair, Prof. Dr. Amin Nishat. The key note speaker for the session was Prof. Sheikh Ekramul Kabir with presentation from Dr. Tofail Ahmed, Educationist and Researcher; Prof. Dr. Md. Azizur Rahman, CEO, Bangladesh Peace and development Mission; Prof. Dr. Sonia Nishat Amin, Department of History, University of Dhaka; Mr. Mahbub Elahi Chowdhury, Scientist, Centre for Equity and Health Systems, ICDDR,B; and Gawher Nayeem Wahra, Adjunct Faculty, Department of Disaster Management, University of Dhaka. The session was hosted by Sojag.

#### Plenary session 4: People oriented TVET for sustainable development

The session was graced by Chief Guest, the Honorable Minister of Planning, Mr. AHM Mustafa Kamal and chaired by Mr. AKMA Hamid, President, Central Executive Committee, IDEB. The session was moderated by MR. Jahangir Alam, Assistant Professor, TTTC with presenters Dr. Md. Rafiqul Islam Mir, Controller of Examination, Bangladesh Technical Education Board; Mr. Shorab Hossain, Additional Secretary, Ministry of Education; and Mr. Abdul Haque Talukder, Chairman, BTEB. The session was hosted by Institute of Diploma Engineers Bangladesh.



## Education for All



### Plenary session 13: Skill based education for life, livelihood and prosperity

The session was attended by Chief Guest Honorable State Minister of Finance, Mr. MA Mannan. Mr. AKMA Hamid, President Central Executive Committee, IDEB chaired the session with Mr. Jahangir Alam, Assistant Professor TTTC as moderator. The Key Note was presented by Mr. Abdur Rafique, Ex. Director General, Directorate of Technical Education. Mr. Francis De Silva, Senior Technical Specialist, Skills for Employment and Productivity Project, ILO also shared in this session. This was hosted by Institute of Diploma Engineers Bangladesh.

#### Discussion

The presenters shared their thoughts on socio-economic gaps in education hierarchy, difference between education and learning, national education policy, developing primary and secondary educational quality, and programming and planning for educational programs.

Key recommendations emerged relating to developing a supervised system for educational governance, a restructured education system for sustainability, promoting national level testing, and addressing the current overburdened class sizes.

In discussing a sustainable development agenda that addresses education, it was clearly pointed out that this must go beyond the traditional notion of primary and secondary education. Higher level and skills-based training seminars must be a part of the overall strategy for sustainable development in education. Panelists enlightened the audience by explaining TVET—technical vocational education and training—in terms of having relationship with education extension; however, with learning styles, programs, and institutions that provide alternate methods, systems, and outcomes from normal education systems. TVET focuses on specialized training. Panelists discussed how TVET can provide solutions for lack of education, the mass unemployment in young generations and reach goals toward middle income and developed country.

An informed session presented discussion on challenges with overpopulation and unemployment and the need for skill based training. Moreover, the training must recognize different skill levels. Skill based education can help bridge gaps in inadequacies of primary education, increase employment rates, and improve planning and development. 80% of the labor force is working in informal sectors. Informal sector labor is low in education and low in skills. Therefore, these laborers struggle for secure livelihoods, access to civil rights, and fail at any sort of self-promotion. Moreover, the economy suffers due to the immense lack of skilled trade as globalized competition is stifled by such lack of skilled and technical expertise. It is clear that the global community relies on Bangladesh labor for many areas of manufacturing; however, there could be more internal benefit through a stronger structure for ensuring improved skills-based education. On this, there must be different levels of skills building. Demand for skills must be assessed and addressed.





## Plenary session 8: Sustainable energy and green technology

This session was co-chaired by Prof. Ijaz Hossain, Professor, Department of Chemical Engineering, Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology and Prof. Rezwan Khan, Vice Chancellor of United International University. The session was moderated by Dr. Selim Mahmud with panel presentation by Mr. Paul Stefan Hattle, Senior Climate Change and Clean Energy Specialist, ADB; Dr. Abul Kalam Azad (presented by Mr. Jahed Ahmed), Department of Genetic Engineering and Biotechnology, Shahjalal University Science and Technology; Dr. Md. Wahab Khan, Department of Chemistry, Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology; and Mr. Dipal Chandra Barua, Founder and Chairman, Bright Green Energy Foundation.

The presenters discussed topics on energy insufficiency and proposed solutions, municipality solid waste (MSW) and other biomass energy production, and solar household systems. It is universally agreed among the panelists that energy is the fuel of development. Bangladesh was praised as one of the first nations to embrace solar energy; however, many challenges still persist due to technology constraints, poor planning, insufficient financing, and lack of management. More discussion pursued on the market size and economic benefit for biomass fuels and MSW, with example of the European MSW market at 36 million USD. ADB sent a representative to the session to share the current role and work of ADB in the renewable energy sector in Bangladesh and green sector financing. This is a key component for ensuring sustainable human development; various financing strategies must complement and reinforce for use and implementation of more efficient technologies, infrastructure, programs, and practices.

Advancing and utilizing green technologies will improve development efforts in every area, socially, environmentally, and economically. Research and development will augment the job market and create demand for more skilled-based and technical jobs. Use of efficient technology will also lessen the cost burden on the economies of developing nations.

Energy conservation, renewable energy use, and green technologies will decrease emissions and environmental wastes, promoting healthier regeneration of ecosystems. Ethical sourcing of materials will also reduce the burden of destruction on the environment.

Finally, improved technology can promote social equality and better social frameworks for governance, monitoring and accountability, reporting mechanisms, and information sharing. Since the MDGs, we have seen immense changes in the field of technology. Globalized networks and spaces are driving development. If harnessed and regulated, the wealth of knowledge, resources, and tools can be beneficial for overall sustainable development.

## Sustainable Energy and Green technology



## Special Session

### Monitoring progress and mobilizing resources for development

The Sustainable Development Goals, as they are at this point in time, represent 17 mutually inclusive goals for sustainable human development. The anthropocentric agenda recognizes the limitation of resources and need to take action for preservation in order to ensure uncompromised future generations. The goals are formed on three pillars, social, environmental, and economic. The plenary and parallel sessions of the Bangladesh Summit on Sustainable Development were themes primarily around the social and environmental components. This special session focused on the economic capacity development and overall relationship building and network fortification for ensuring sustainable growth and development. In realizing the development agendas, it has become apparent, that funding and aid from developed nations cannot be the main source. These nations have not met their pledge of .7% GDP for development in least developing nations; only .2% of this amount has been given. So, development financing strategies must be restructured and also be in themselves, sustainable.

Participatory accountability in ensuring sustainable development funding must be complemented with improved practice. This means, private sector organizations must play a strong role in reducing emissions and promoting social equality while enabling economic growth. Community participation must also seek to reduce the burdens of human development while improving economic development through increased awareness of finance and banking systems, creating demand for formal labor structures, and ensuring community level fair and equal access to business and financial services for all. Civil society can expedite and facilitate the promotion of community level strategies as a vehicle to the established structures (government, donor, and international governing bodies) to sensitize stakeholders of interest and/or authority. The government must remain transparent and practice good governance in ensuring effective sustainable development financing strategies. This is not limited to resource mobilization, but also building a wider gap in consumed resources. This means that through decreased consumption of unsustainable materials, and reduced emissions, and increased social equity, the burden of financial resource mobilization can be mitigated. Through better industry practices, improved governance, and shared accountability, sustainable development financing strategies can utilize bottom-up and top-down approaches; reduced spending and lessened burdens coupled with increased productivity, greater fund sources, and coordinated contribution means more secure and stable resource mobilization and utilization for sustainable development.

It was also discussed on convergence for monitoring the progress of the SDGs after 2015. The 15 year Millennium Development Goal agenda set a strong foundation for human development that sought to address major areas of population challenges. Despite the great effort to sensitize the global community on development priorities, progress toward the MDGs is often globally disproportional and the need to address the identified factors is still as relevant today as 15 years ago.





Moreover, the goals, as a preliminary agenda, were very basic and did not include any guidance for strategy or indicator; this made initial adoption of the goals challenging. The Sustainable Development Goals are being linked with flexible indicators. These indicators can be made contextually relevant. Moreover, there are stronger bilateral and multilateral networks with fuller understanding of development needs and knowledge resources for global sharing.

It is these networks and forums that must take responsibility for identifying contextual indicators and impose monitoring strategies for SDG achievement. The place that civil society holds in societies gives them ability to play a vital role in addressing key development challenges. Civil society engagement promotes regional cooperation, knowledge resource sharing, advocacy and awareness raising, stimulate citizen participation, and cross-sectoral collaboration. Civil society serves to empower the public to address inequality and hardship in a unified manner. Primarily, civil society serves to promote transparent governance, monitoring, and accountability.

Civil society engagement is advantageous on several fronts. Civil society serves as strong advocates, amplifying the voice of the people. Civil society has strong and direct access to media and use of various communications tools for promoting agendas. Civil society advises governments and can have influence on national budgets. It is the responsibility of civil society to exercise all of these engagements for assuring right to health for urban populations.

With these strengths and cross-sector links, building networks, forums, and promoting cooperative collaborations within and without regional limits is a core strategy for ensuring sustainable development for all. Transforming cases and models of achievement will promote effective implementation for the sustainable development agenda. Moreover, this cross-utilization and relationship building will also promote economic efficiency.

The session was chaired by Prof. Niaz Ahmed Khan, Chairman, Department of Development Studies, University of Dhaka; and Prof. Hannana Begum, Director, Board of Directors, Bangladesh Bank. Panelists included Mr. MD. Rezaul Karim Chowdhury; Project Director, COAST Bangladesh; Mr. S.K. Sur Chowdhury, Deputy Governor, Bangladesh Bank; Mr. Anwar-Ul-Alam Chowdhury Parvez, Managing Director, Evince Group, Former President, BGMEA; and Prof. AFM Ruhul Haque, Member of Parliament, Constituency Sathkhira-3. Mr. Dhiraj Kumar Nath shared the keynote speech and Dr. Qazi Kholiquzzaman Ahmad graciously attended as Chief Guest.





# Conclusion and Post-Summit Activities

## Conclusion

In conclusion, the summit brought together over 26 organizing partners, 10 countries, and over 1000 participants from all sectors. Moreover, nearly 100 high-quality abstracts were collected, each with beneficial research and recommendation for various current and conceptual topics for sustainable development. The conference was graced by 5 state and national ministers. The diversity within the four day event showed the ability to build cooperation and positive discussion on sustainable development. The dialogue showed the deliberate and conscientious efforts and will for promoting a more sustainable society through economic, social, and environmental improvements. The session presentations, discussions, and collaborative planning culminated in the outcome document, Bangladesh Civil Society Declaration on Sustainable Development Goals 2014. Moreover, proposed recommendations and viable measures for sustainable development activities and monitoring, as discussed in the summit were presented at two side events during the 69th United Nations General Assembly Meeting.

## Bangladesh Civil Society Declaration

The Bangladesh Civil Society Declaration on Sustainable Development Goals 2014 combines the voices of the civil societies in Bangladesh with an aim to persuade the UN negotiation process of outlining the post-2015 development agenda. For the last three years, Eminence has been actively following the discussions in different UN, international and regional platforms and engaging other civil societies, national and local organizations with this process to raise awareness, build consensus and promote our priorities in the upcoming global development framework.

The declaration has been prepared through an innovative participatory process. Around 20 donor agencies, international NGOs, national autonomous organizations and NGOs, and civil societies sponsored more than forty sessions of the three day summit and debated with different priorities and cross cutting issues of sustainable development, which are especially relevant for Bangladesh. Based on these discussions, the outcome document was prepared and announced in the closing session. Moreover, through a side event in the 69th session of UN general assembly, GCFSD is disseminating the declaration with the international communities.

The declaration prioritizes thirteen issues among which human development, poverty reduction, health service security, food and nutrition, inclusive growth, and clean energy solutions are notable. As the civil societies have identified; the homogenous culture, adaptive population, active social sector and civil society, political consciousness, and inclusive democracy and representative governance are the opportunities that will help Bangladesh to overcome the challenges of sustainable development in future.





## Bangladesh Civil Society Representation

Eminence Associates for Social Development and the Global Citizens' Forum on Sustainable Development organized two side events during the 69th United Nations General Assembly Meeting in New York, USA. The side events focused on sustainable development in the post-2015 framework with specific discussion on recognizing and including urban health for a sustainable future, and mobilizing civil society for active participation in goal monitoring and accountability.

### Urban Health for a Sustainable Future: The Post 2015 Agenda

The Global Citizens' Forum on Sustainable Development, an initiative of Eminence, New York Academy of Medicine and International Society for Urban Health hosted a side event during the 69th United Nations General Assembly on 20th September titled: Urban Health for a sustainable Future: The post 2015 Agenda. The primary objective of this initiative was to support a concerted effort to track the preparation, implementation and outcome of the post-2015 development goals related to urban health. The focus of this side event was to ensure that urban health is well integrated into the post-2015 development framework. The speaker's panel of this side event included Bangladesh Government Representatives, Mr. M M Neazuddin, Secretary, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Mr. Monzur Hossain, Senior Secretary, Ministry of Local Government Rural Development & Cooperatives and Mr. Ashok Madhob Roy, Additional Secretary, Ministry of Local Government Rural Development & Cooperatives. The other speakers included Dr. Shamim Hayder Talukder, Chief Executive Officer, Eminence, Dr. Jo Ivey Boufford, President of New York Academy of Medicine (NYAM), Eugenie L. Birch, Co-Director, Penn Institute for Urban Research, University of Pennsylvania, Co-chair, Transforming Cities Initiative of the Rockefeller Foundation, Mr. Anthony Capon, Director, International Institute for Global Health, United Nations University, Malaysia, Mr. Jacob Kumaresan, WHO office at the UN and Mr. AKM Hamid, President, Institute of Diploma Engineers of Bangladesh (IDEB). The discussions in the side event centered on discussing the initiatives and activities that need to be fostered to assure the health needs of urban populations can be met in the SDGs and the post-2015 development framework.

The representatives from Government focused on the initiatives taken by Bangladesh Government as a developing country to tackle the challenges of burgeoning trend of urbanization and discussed the interdisciplinary methods Bangladesh takes to involve multiple sectors of the government into reaching a decision. Dr. Talukder in his speech stressed on united approach for global advocacy regarding this. The other speakers discussed integrative approaches to sustainable development and poverty eradication and mention to make collaborative effort for bringing positive change. The conversation highlighted the importance of urban development strategy to deal with the associated challenges emerge with the process of urbanization. The side event ended with a constructive discussion and some recommendations worthy to bring change to the national, regional and global urban health scenario.

### Role of Civil Society for Monitoring the Progress of SDGs after 2015

The second side event was organized to discuss the Role of Civil Society for Monitoring the Progress of SDGs after 2015. The event was organized by Eminence Associates for Social Development and the Global Citizens' Forum on Sustainable Development with partnership from Bangladesh Summit on Sustainable Development 2014 Organizing Partners, United Nations University, and The New York Academy of Medicine. The event took place on September 23, 2014 at The New York Academy of Medicine.





Panelists included Dr. Mohammad Obaidur Rahman, Country Director, Muslim Aid Bangladesh; Mr. AKMA Hamid, President, Institute of Diploma Engineers of Bangladesh; Mr. Ashok Madhab Roy, Additional Secretary, Ministry of Local Government Rural Development and Cooperatives, GOB; Mr. Monzur Hossain, Senior Secretary, Ministry of Local Government Rural Development and Cooperatives, GOB; Nazmul Haque Prodhan, Member of Parliament, Panchagorh-1 GOB; Dr. Shamsul Alam, Member, GED, Planning Commission, GOB; Mr. Eric Sawyer, Civil Society Partnership Advisor, UNAIDS New York Office; Dr. Tony Capon, Director, International Institute for Global Health, United Nations University, Malaysia and Member, ICSU Urban Health Scientific Committee; Eugenie L. Birch, Co-Director, Penn Institute for Urban Research, University of Pennsylvania and Co-Chair, Transforming Cities Initiative of the Rockefeller Foundation; and Mr. MD. Shahidul Haque, Secretary, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, GOB. Dr. Qazi Kholiquzzaman Ahmad, Convener, Global Citizens' Forum on Sustainable Development, Coordinator of Bangladesh Climate Change Negotiation Team, and Member of the UNFCCC Clean Development Mechanism Executive Board. Dr. Shamim Hayder Talukder, CEO and Founder of Eminence and Member Secretary of the Global Citizens' Forum on Sustainable Development moderated the session.

The panel discussions focused on (1) ensuring effective service delivery for achieving sustainable development and (2) incorporating planning and collaboration for economic, social, and environmental prosperity. The Bangladesh Declaration was presented at the event. The Bangladesh Declaration puts forward pledge and responsibilities for Bangladesh Civil Society in supporting the post-2015 development agenda in Bangladesh.

### Next Steps

Based on the successful outcomes and achievements of this summit, side events, and presented declaration, the Global Citizens' Forum on Sustainable Development and Eminence Associates for Social Development, with the support of the organizing partners will coordinate the 4th Bangladesh Summit on Sustainable Development 2015. The summit will take place in December 2015 and will serve to present outcomes on development achievements of the Millennium Development Goals while creating constructive and progressive strategies for implementing, monitoring, and reaching the SDGs and ensuring progress in the post-2015 era. The event will encourage international participation, knowledge sharing, and collaborative engagement to identify specific and contextual indicators, identify networks, and map key relationships among all stakeholders for addressing social, environmental, and economic development issues. With the determined SDGs, the conference will create a foundation for future progress for 2015-2030 agenda.

Civil society and civic engagement and empowerment will be key themes for the conference. The summit topics will be based on the SDGs. Major areas of discussion will also include resource mobilization, environmental policy and regulation, social engagement and inclusion, and further discussion on stakeholder identification, mapping and effective networks for achieving the sustainable development goals.

The Bangladesh Civil Society Declaration will be disbursed more broadly and efforts will be made to engage Bangladesh civil society networks to work for the common positions for strengthening goal impact. Consultative workshops and forums will ensue to develop the role of civil society in the post-2015 framework, nationally. Mainstreaming the agenda while empowering civil society will be the core strategy for moving toward a sustainable future in Bangladesh.

