

Bangladesh Country Report

CSO Review of National Accountability Mechanisms For SDG 6

(Clean Water and Sanitation)
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List of Acronyms

BBS	Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics
BAWIN	Bangladesh Water Integrity Network
CC	Community Clinic
CG	Community Group
DPHE	Department of Public Health Engineering
DWSS	Drinking Water Supply and Sanitation
EWP	End Water Poverty
FAWSA	Fresh Water Action Network South Asia
FYP	Five year Plan
GED	General Economic Division
GoB	Government of Bangladesh
HLPF	High Level Political Forum
LCG	Local Consultative Group
MDG	Millennium Development Goals
MoLGRD&C	Ministry of Local Government, Rural Development and Cooperatives
MoWR	Ministry of Water Resources
PMO	Prime Minister's office
SDG	Sustainable Development Goal
SWA	Sanitation and Water For All
VNR	Voluntary National Review
WASA	Water Supply and Sewerage Authority
WASH	Water, Sanitation and Hygiene
WAI	Wash Alliance International

Executive Summary

Introduction: In Bangladesh, the government operates with little effective accountability or other checks and balances. With high level of corruption and inefficiently damaging service provision, this is seen as a real challenge. However, Bangladesh is one of the committed countries which already initiated a number of works to reach the Sustainable Development Goal 6 (Clean Water and Sanitation). Our Prime minister's Office (PMO) is very much committed to redoubling our efforts to achieve SDG targets. Bangladesh has also incorporated the principle of "leaving no one behind".

This report is the follow up of the last (December 2017) study on Accountability Mechanisms under the auspicious of FANSA and IRC to the fact that national governments are accountable on progress towards achieving the water and sanitation (SDG 6). Bangladesh has made significant achievements attaining many of the targets of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). Achievements of Bangladesh in MDGs have laid down a strong footing for the country to take up the SDGs challenges. For instance, Bangladesh showed an impressive poverty reduction from 56.7% in 1991-92 to 24.8% in 2015; the rate of reduction being faster in the present decade than the earlier ones.¹ In the same report it cited that in 2015 the per cent of population using an improved source of drinking water varies from 78 per cent to 86 per cent if arsenic contamination is considered. The numbers go up to 97.9 per cent to 98 per cent if arsenic contamination is not considered.² Additionally, according to Sample Vital Registration System (SVRS)-2013³ sanitary toilet facility increased from 42.5 per cent in 2003 to 73.5 per cent in 2015. The Government of Bangladesh (GoB) views of an implementation of SDG as a continuation of its efforts on MDGs. In this procedure, the GoB has already taken several initiatives for ensuring progress on SDGs. One of the basic and important initiatives is to deploy a senior government official as chief coordinator of SDGs who is located at PMO. The country level study is qualitative and based on a reflection of a total of 30 individuals' views representing all segments within the sectors, collected through an online survey, semi-structured interviews and group discussions.

Country Reporting on SDG 6: In 2016 Honorable prime minister of Bangladesh has become a member of High Level Panel on Water (HLPW) for SDG 6, which introduced lots of activities related to SDG 6 and action plan has been formulated by Ministry of Water Resource (MoWR). Now 87% of the population has access to safe water sources (6.1), 61% population has access to safe sanitation (6.2) (Bangladesh SDGs Progress Report 2018⁴). Remarkable efforts were made to gather data by General Economic Division (GED) on the indicators from the Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics, the National Statistical Organization, and other concerned Ministers/Divisions to prepare the progress report on SDG. Local Government Division has set annual targets on milestones to achieve SDG 6.1 and 6.2. Data and information have also been collected from international sources such as the World Bank, the

¹ September 2016, *Millennium Development Goals: End-period Stocktaking and Final Evaluation Report (2000-2015)*; General Economics Division (GED), Bangladesh Planning Commission, Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh.

² Same as above

³ http://203.112.218.65:8008/WebTestApplication/userfiles/Image/LatestReports/MSVSB_Report_2013.pdf

⁴ [https://www.undp.org/content/dam/bangladesh/docs/Publications/Pub-2019/SDGs-Bangladesh_Progress_Report%202018%20\(1\).pdf](https://www.undp.org/content/dam/bangladesh/docs/Publications/Pub-2019/SDGs-Bangladesh_Progress_Report%202018%20(1).pdf)

United Nations (UN) and the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) to fill the data gap.

Mechanisms for Holding Governments Accountable Towards SDG 6: There are few systemic accountability mechanisms to hold GoB accountable for Sustainable Development Goals. There are some platforms for CSOs by which they can raise concerns about the accountability of GoB for improvement of SDG 6. CSOs are trying multiple channels to involve the government and enhance its accountability; including collective advocacy through Citizen's platform for SDGs. PMO has established SDG tracker (a web-based information repository)⁵ for monitoring the achievement in attaining SDGs. At national level the Local Consultative Group (LCG), sub group on Water supply and Sanitation is a space, where discussions and results related to the targets of SDG 6 are raised infrequently. In specific the National Forum for Drinking Water Supply and Sanitation-DWSS (Target 6.1 and 6.2), the National Sanitation Task Force (Target 6.2) and the National Policy Review Committee (theoretically, related to target no. 6.1, 6.2, 6.3 and 6.4) are the forums under Local Government Division (LGD), where GoB shares progress on related issues and CSOs get scope to share concerns. The majority of discussions mainly cover target 6.1, 6.2.

CSOs Participation in Accountability Mechanisms: The important thing is to balance the leadership of the civil society (which includes, obviously, the ordinary people) and the state. Sector events, in which the government gives information on the progress of the sector, are not regularized and occurs sporadic, 'need to know' basis. At the central events, the national CSOs get an invitation to participate and informed. CSOs try multiple channels to involve the government and enhance its accountability, including collective advocacy through platforms, like Citizen's platform for SDGs, Bangladesh; holding policy dialogues, conducting and disseminating policy research, lobbying, orientation to grassroots communities on raising questions in local government forums, etc. Therefore, accountability for sector progress lies across a range of Ministries and Departments. This is a challenge for CSOs to establish on the issues of importance of the sector. Whenever a public document on the sector progress is prepared, generally, this process involves consultation with CSOs, because of political commitment. Due to a lack of strong political commitment, rarely such consultation creates real scope for the CSOs to reflect and contribute. Despite existing limitations, the consultations can serve as vibrant knowledge-sharing events by sharing critical reflection and can facilitate strengthen the GO-NGO partnership.

Positive Experiences of Participation in the Accountability Mechanisms: The positive experiences with the involvement of the national accountability mechanisms include

1. Five year plan of GoB-which contributed to enhanced attention of GoB on issues related to water supply, sanitation and hygiene-as reflected in the final document,
2. Participating in the process of formulating and presenting separate action plans for each of the targets under SDG 6-that launched targets specific points of prioritized actions;
3. Pre-budget consultation with the participation of sector actors, including the GoB officials, where CSOs can convey sector demand from grass-roots to policymakers.
4. Involvement with the National Forum for DWSS.

⁵ <http://www.sdg.gov.bd/#1>

5. Meetings organized by the Department of Public Health Engineering (DPHE) that prepared and finalized action plans for SDG 6.1 and 6.2 with CSO representatives.

Conclusion: CSOs should raise the demand for social accountability of public service to provide feedback to GoB and should strengthen their capacities to influence the public policy process on WASH. The development partners should extend cooperation to both the public sector and civil society on recommended matters.

An abstract table describing changes observed from previous years report to this year's report as follows,

SL. No.	Topic	December 2017	April 2020
1	Status of National policy	i. Delta Plan-2100 was finalized in 2017. ii. 8 th Five Year plan development started. iii. Water Rules draft developed by Water Resource Planning Organization (WARPO)	a. Pro-poor Strategy reviewed for SDG in October 2019. b. Water Rules-2018 gazette published in August 2018. c. National Action Plan (NAP) for Institutional Regulatory Framework (IRF) development on Faecal Sludge Management (FSM) in 2020.
2	Accountability mechanisms and their functionality	SDG Tracker for information sharing and CSO participated in the 8 th Five Year plan. Bangladesh has a transparency score of 41 (out of 100) in the Open Budget Survey 2017.	Pre-budget consultation with the participation of sector actors, including the GoB officials, where CSOs can convey sector demand from grass-roots to policymakers. Bangladesh has a transparency score of 36 (out of 100) in the Open Budget Survey 2019. ⁶
3	water and sanitation coverage ⁷	Water Safely Managed: 55.5 Basic: 41.3 Sanitation Safely Managed: 30 (rural) Basic: 45.7	Water Safely Managed: 55.4 Basic: 41.6 Sanitation Safely Managed: 32.3 (rural) Basic: 48.2

⁶ <https://www.internationalbudget.org/open-budget-survey/country-results/2019/bangladesh>

⁷ <https://washdata.org/data/household#!/table?geo0=country&geo1=BGD>

1. Introduction

1.1. Background

“Water for Sustainable Development” has become a priority with the announcement made by the UN Secretary General of declaring 2018-2028 as the second Water Decade. Besides, the UN Resolution on Human Rights to Water and Sanitation has also contributed to the reinforcement of the SDG 6 globally. Under the SDG monitoring and review framework, national governments are encouraged to put themselves forward for voluntary reviews on progress. Reviews (results) are presented annually at the HLPF. In 2018 the review was conducted on SDG 6.

The UN Nations General Assembly at the 70th session, held on 25th September 2015, adopted the outcome document of the UN summit for the adoption of the post 2015 development agenda entitled Transforming Our World: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and decide on new global Sustainable Development Goals(SDGs). At the core of 2030 Agenda is a list of 17 sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and 169 targets. The SDGs are unprecedented in terms of scope and significance and go much beyond the MDGs by including economic growth, sustainable production and consumption, sustainable urbanization, innovation, data generation for tracking progress and the importance of peace and justice for all in agenda.

1.2. Country Context

Bangladesh has made significant developments on the target 7. C: (7.8: Proportion of population using an improved drinking water source and 7.9: Proportion of population using an improved sanitation facility) of Millennium Development Goals (MDG) by achieving coverage of 87% and 61% from 76% and 45% respectively. It achieved many targets within 2015 deadline. The Country has made great progress in the field of socio-economic development. Geographic location, burgeoning middle class and existence of an industries’ workforce have made Bangladesh a natural hub for business, investment and networking in the region and beyond.

The MDGs achievements have laid down a strong picture for the country to go ahead for SDG 6 challenges. Bangladesh recognizes that the 7th Five years plan (2016-2020) at the national level accordingly the sustainable development goals proposed by the UN Open Working Group (OWG) received serious consideration for integration into the national plan. The Ministry of Water Recourses (MoWR) takes 7th FYP targets about 6.1, 6.2, 6.3, 6.4, they have 16 targets (5 targets for 6.1, and 6.2) (Bangladesh SDGs Progress Report 2018).

Bangladesh has done an exercise of mapping of key lead/co-lead and associate divisions with specific responsibilities for implementation of 169 targets of SDGs. The exercise has figured out 30 ministries/Divisions. “The Monitoring and Evaluation Framework of SDG: Bangladesh Perspective”⁸ provide a guideline to follow-up the indicators and relevant stakeholders who are responsible to update the results. An inter-ministerial SDGs Implementation and Monitoring committee has also been formed by the government. Chaired by the Principal

⁸ http://pksf-bd.org/web/wp-content/uploads/2018/11/5.-Monitoring-and-Evaluation-Framework-of-Sustainable-Development-Goals-SDGs-Bangladesh-Perspective_opt.pdf

Secretary to the Prime Minister, the new group would facilitate and implement the country's SDGs Action Plan. Membership of the group includes twenty Senior Secretaries that represent all the country's ministries and agencies, and each of those departments is responsible for monitoring and auditing a portion of the SDG indicators. To drive broad participation of non-governmental organizations (NGOs), development partners, the private sector, media, and civil society organizations (CSOs), the Bangladeshi government has adopted a "Whole of Society" approach to the SDGs. The SDGs Implementation and Monitoring Committee is leading these efforts as it develops and implements the SDGs Action Plan. The respective GoB officials also do acknowledge that the GoB has yet to do more in terms of making celerity among the ministries on their specific responsibilities and among the Citizens on where and how to provide feedback- if certain entitlements are not being met. Timely updates of the data in line with the indicators and giving opportunity to the CSO to participate in the monitoring would improve the accountability mechanism at national level gradually.

The National Plans; 8th 5 years: The country has already integrated SDGs into national planning framework. Bangladesh will need a huge amount of financial resources till 2030 to implement SDGs. SDGs Needs Assessment and Financing Strategy- Bangladesh Perspective provides a well-defined framework that outlines the goal and target wise additional estimated cost. The additional costs for SDGs 6 in FY 2017 is 124,06 BDT, FY 2020 81.25 Billion BDT, FY 2025 69.48 Billion BDT, (at constant 2015-2016 prices) (SDGs Needs Assessment and Financing Strategy, 2017)⁹. The cost of arsenic mitigation has been calculated by using the source of UNICEF Bangladesh and considered as the additional cost for target 6.1. The additional cost SDG 6.2 has been calculated by using the source of MDG report and other government documents. Cost of building sufficient water treatment plants has been considered as the additional cost for target 6.3. Besides, additional cost of target 6.4, 6.6, and 6.a. are synchronized with SDG 14. During the periods of FY 2017-FY 2030 on average, public sector, private sector, PPP, external source and NGOs would account for 34%, 42%, 6%, 15% and 4% percent of the financing requirement respectively. The major challenge for the costing exercise was that many of the proposed indicators are newly introduced and data for these indicators are unavailable. Interdependencies among the goals and targets constitute another major challenge

A data gap analysis for monitoring SDGs has also conducted which identified that data for only 70 indicators is readily available out of 232 under 169 targets in the existing data generating system of Bangladesh. Data for other indicators can be generated by modifying census, survey etc. Based on SDGs data gap analysis, the monitoring and evaluation framework of the SDGs is in the process of development through a series of consultations with all government and non- government stakeholders. GoB prepares SDGs Tracker for monitoring the results. Bangladesh has conducted a study on "SDGs Needs Assessment and Financing Strategy" to estimate the resources needed for achieving the SDGs by 2030. This result shows the country would require around US\$ 928.48 billion for full implementation of SDGs from FY 17 to FY 30. This amount would be required for SDGs implementation over the period of FY 2017 - FY2030 which is 19.75 percent of the accumulated gross domestic products (GDP) under the 7th Five Year plan extended growth scenario. The annual coverage would be US\$ 66.32 billion (constant). Total additional costs required for SDG 6 in FY 2017

⁹ <http://pksf-bd.org/web/wp-content/uploads/2018/11/2.-SDGs-Financing-Strategy-Bangladesh-Perspective.pdf>

124.06 billion BDT, FY 2020 81.25 billion BDT, FY 2025 69.48 billion BDT, and FY 2030 58.30 billion BDT.

1.3. Study Objectives

- To identify and describe national mechanisms that enables or contributes to national accountability on achieving the targets of SDG 6.
- To assess the potentialities and limitations of the existing national accountability mechanisms.

1.4. Methodology

It is a part of global study, so here follow the global methodological guideline that has been followed in other countries, we select nationally representative. A quick review of available literature and select the respondents of the survey and interview in between 1st January to 25th January in 2020, and the team managed responses from 30 individuals through the online survey. Summary information on participants, eligibility criteria and aggregate information is provided. Please attach the annexes

2. Country Reporting on SDG 6

The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) are a collection of 17 global goals designed to be a "blueprint to achieve a better and more sustainable future for all" The SDGs, set in 2015 by the United Nations General Assembly and intended to be achieved by the year 2030, are part of UN Resolution 70/1, the 2030 Agenda. The goals are broad based and interdependent. The 17 SDGs each has a list of targets which are measured with indicators. SDG 6 calls for clean water and sanitation for all people. The official wording is: "Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all." The goal has eight targets to be achieved by at least 2030. Progress toward the targets will be measured by using eleven "indicators." SDG6 is closely linked with other Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). For example, improving sanitation also helps make cities more sustainable (Goal 11). Sanitation improvements can lead to more jobs (Goal 8) which would also lead to economic growth (Goal 8). SDG6 progress improves health (Goal 3) and social justice (Goal 16). The details targets and indicators of SDG 6 are as follows,

Targets		Indicators	
6.1	By 2030, achieve universal and equitable access to safe and affordable drinking water for all	6.1.1	Proportion of population using safely managed drinking water services
6.2	By 2030, achieve access to adequate and equitable sanitation and hygiene for all and end open defecation, paying special attention to the needs of women and girls and those in vulnerable situations	6.2.1	Proportion of population using safely managed sanitation services, including a hand-washing facility with soap and water
6.3	By 2030, improve water quality by reducing pollution, eliminating dumping and minimizing release of hazardous chemicals and materials, halving the proportion of untreated wastewater and substantially increasing recycling and safe reuse globally	6.3.1	Proportion of wastewater safely treated
		6.3.2	Proportion of bodies of water with good ambient water quality
6.4	By 2030, substantially increase water-use efficiency across all sectors and ensure sustainable withdrawals and supply of freshwater to address water scarcity and substantially reduce the number of people suffering from water scarcity	6.4.1	Change in water-use efficiency over time
		6.4.2	Level of water stress: freshwater withdrawal as a proportion of available freshwater resources
6.5	By 2030, implement integrated water resources management at all levels, including through trans-boundary cooperation as appropriate	6.5.1	Degree of integrated water resources management implementation (0-100)
		6.5.2	Proportion of trans-boundary basin area with an operational arrangement for water cooperation

Targets		Indicators	
6.6	By 2020, protect and restore water-related ecosystems, including mountains, forests, wetlands, rivers, aquifers and lakes	6.6.1	Change in the extent of water-related ecosystems over time
6.A	By 2030, expand international cooperation and capacity-building support to developing countries in water- and sanitation-related activities and programmes, including water harvesting, desalination, water efficiency, wastewater treatment, recycling and reuse technologies	6.A.1	Amount of water- and sanitation-related official development assistance that is part of a government-coordinated spending plan
6.B	Support and strengthen the participation of local communities in improving water and sanitation management	6.B.1	Proportion of local administrative units with established and operational policies and procedures for participation of local communities in water and sanitation management

SDGs demand concerted efforts with strong political commitment. The 2030 Agenda comes at a time when Bangladesh has already kicked off its journey towards a developed country by 2041. Bangladesh has incorporated priorities of SDGs in all her development policies. The Government has adopted an inclusive approach to development so that the poorest and the most vulnerable section of the country can be integrated into its national development efforts. To ensure Sustainable Development Goals in Bangladesh by leaving no one behind in most possible short time, a set of 39 indicators has been selected under the instructions of SDG Working Committee of The Prime Minister's Office. Under these indicators, some of the indicators are selected from the global Sustainable Development Goals and some of the indicators are selected after modification on Bangladesh perspective. All relevant ministries are connected with this process.

Bangladesh recognizes that the first and foremost step towards localizing SDGs is about ensuring proper alignment of national development plan with 2030 Agenda. However, Bangladesh is mindful of the fact that its success in realizing SDGs and targets would largely depend on our ability to overcome sector specific challenges, performance of our public and private sectors and above all regional and international cooperation. In this context, the Government consults with selected NGOs before reporting to UN HLPF. From this study, we have been informed that the Local Government Division played a leading role in reporting to the UN HLPF on SDG 6. The previous report to the UN HLPF was developed following the Voluntary National Review (VNR) report of Bangladesh 2017. Government of Bangladesh has undertaken a number of exercises in framing and drafting the VNR report. This year the report for the UN HLPF is made by the reflections of CSOs, relevant stakeholders, valuable opinion from some relevant Government service persons. Government has engaged all the stakeholders in a robust consultative process. They have shared the draft report with all relevant Ministries/Agencies and National Statistical Organization (NSO) and received their inputs. They have ensured incorporation of views and comments of all relevant ministries

through inter-ministerial consultations. They also have shared the report with the Civil Society Organizations (CSOs), Non-government Organizations (NGOs), private sector, development partners, academia and media to make sure that the review contains diverse opinions and evolve as an inclusive national document. For reporting SDG 6, the Government uses data from different sources i.e. Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics (BBS), Joint Monitoring Programme (JMP) 2019, Glass report 2018, Department of Public Health Engineering (DPHE), Water Supply and Sewerage Authority (WASA), and Local Government Institutions (LGIs).

SDG 6 Indicator	Source of data (Department / Ministry) ¹⁰	What data is collected	Frequency	Data availability in public domain ¹¹	Links to the data source
6.1.1 Proportion of population using safely managed drinking water services	(1) SVRS, BBS, SID (2) UNJMP (3) MICS, BBS, SID	Proportion of population	Yearly, Bi-Annually	Readily Available	https://sid.gov.bd/ ; http://www.sdg.gov.bd/dv/chart/2
6.2.1 Proportion of population using safely managed sanitation services, including a hand-washing facility with soap and water	(1) SVRS, BBS, SID (2) UNJMP (3) MICS, BBS, SID	Proportion of population	Yearly, Bi-Annually	Readily Available	http://www.bbs.gov.bd/ ; http://www.sdg.gov.bd/dv/chart/2
6.3.1 Proportion of domestic and industrial wastewater flows safely treated	(1) DPHE, LGD, (2) WASA for City Corporations, LGD (3) DoE, MoEF (4) WARPO, MoWR	Proportion of wastewater	Yearly, Bi-Annually	Partially Available	https://lgd.gov.bd/ ; http://www.dphe.gov.bd/
6.3.2 Proportion of bodies of water with good ambient water quality	(1) DPHE, LGD (2) DoE, MoEF	Proportion of water bodies	Yearly, Bi-Annually	Not Available	http://www.dphe.gov.bd/
6.4.1 Change in water-use efficiency over time	(1) DPHE, LGD (2) DoE, MoEF (3) DAE, MoA (4) WARPO, MoWR	Change in water-use	Yearly, Bi-Annually	Not Available	http://www.dphe.gov.bd/ ; https://lgd.gov.bd/
6.4.2 Level of water stress: freshwater withdrawal as a proportion of available freshwater resources	(1) WDB, MoWR (2) BADC, MoA (3) UNSC (4) BMDA, MoA	Level of water stress	Yearly, Bi-Annually	Partially Available	https://www.bwdb.gov.bd/ ; https://www.un.org/securitycouncil/
6.5.1 Degree of integrated water resources management implementation (0-100)	(1) WDB, MoWR	Degree of implementation (0-100)	Yearly, Bi-Annually	Not Available	https://www.bwdb.gov.bd/
6.5.2 Proportion of trans-boundary basin area with an operational arrangement for water cooperation	(1) JRC, MoWR (2) MOFA	Proportion of operational arrangement	Yearly, Bi-Annually	Partially Available	http://www.jrcb.gov.bd/

¹⁰ http://www.sdg.gov.bd/public/img/upload/resources/5d353c9911996_doc_file.pdf

¹¹ http://www.sdg.gov.bd/public/img/upload/resources/5d39808e52dbc_doc_file.pdf

SDG 6 Indicator	Source of data (Department / Ministry) ¹⁰	What data is collected	Frequency	Data availability in public domain ¹¹	Links to the data source
6.6.1 Change in the extent of water-related ecosystems over time	(1) DoE, MoEF (2) WDB, MoWR (3) Bangladesh Forest Department (BFD), MoEF (4) WARPO, MoWR	Change in ecosystems	Yearly, Bi-Annually	Not Available	http://www.doe.gov.bd/ ; https://mowr.gov.bd/
6.a.1 Amount of water and sanitation-related official development assistance that is part of a government coordinated spending plan	(1) ERD	Amount of related official development	Yearly, Bi-Annually	Partially Available	https://erd.gov.bd/
6.b.1 Proportion of local administrative units with established and operational policies and procedures for participation of local communities in water and sanitation management	(1) LGD	Proportion of local administrative units	Yearly, Bi-Annually	Not Available	https://lgd.gov.bd/

The government already brought its national policy for Water supply and sanitation 2018 “Pro-Poor Strategy” in line with SDGs. Long term sector development plan (SDP) is going to revised in line with SDGs. Local government division has established an action plan to achieve SDG 6.1 and 6.2 by 2030. These are quantitative targets only. The Local Government Division is mandated for water supply, sanitation and hygiene for Bangladesh through its departments. On behalf of LGD, the Department of Public Health Engineering (DPHE) monitors progress on WASH. The Government does not compile regular progress reports (annual or bi-annual) in the sector. The local government has a process of reviewing the progress of the Annual Development plan. The financial progress and bottlenecks of development projects are reviewed each month. The government shares its progress report through presentations in sector meetings jointly with lead donors. The Government has the mechanisms in place that enables the sector actors to engage with the government to sector progress. These mechanisms called the National Forum meeting and the National Task force meeting. The agenda of the mechanisms is defined by PSB in consultation with stakeholders and consent from the secretaries. The Government keeps documents on the national task force and national forum meetings on the progress of the sector but we least likely find a system of sharing government progress with the CSOs. Only 56% of the national population has access to safely managed water and 32% rural people have access to safely managed sanitation based on the definition JMP (JPM report 2017).

2.1. Voluntary National Review (VNR) Report

Accountability mechanism lies with government willingness and response to the people's demand as well as sharing progress transparently and regularly. Proper monitoring and documentation is an integral and important part of the processes. The outcome document entitled ‘Transforming Our World: The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development’ has integrated follow-up and review mechanism to track progress of implementing the Agenda of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Voluntary National Review (VNR) of SDGs is an important part of this mechanism to monitor the progress on implementation. Bangladesh, as part of her commitment to implement the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), decided to take part in the Voluntary National Review (VNR) at the UN High Level Political Forum (HLPF). SDG 17 i.e. strengthens the means of implementation and revitalizes the Global Partnership for Sustainable Development will be considered in each year's VNR.

We view VNR as an opportunity to create momentum and ownership for the implementation of SDGs. The 1st VNR by Bangladesh was published in 2017, which reported 6 goals where SDG 6 was not included though we see improvements in interdependent targets. General Economics Division (GED) of Bangladesh Planning Commission spearheaded preparation of the ‘Voluntary National Review (VNR), 2017’. In this regard, technical and financial support provided by the UNDP through the Support to Sustainable and Inclusive Planning (SSIP) Project. VNR happens at every 2 years while Bangladesh is going to report progress in 2019 as VNR 2020.

Localizing SDGs in line with domestic development plans and strategies is important issues have been highlighted in the VNR. Bangladesh is encouraging inclusive and enhanced stakeholders' participation for local level ownership of the SDGs. There were synergic efforts of all stakeholders in preparation of the report. Wide consultations were made in preparation of Bangladesh VNR on SDGs.

3. Mechanisms for holding Governments Accountable Towards SDG 6

3.1. Distribution of Implementation Responsibilities

Although 23 Ministers/divisions/institutions of GoB are engaged in responding to the targets under SDG 6 (table 1) Local Government Division (LGD) with support from Department of Public Health Engineering (DPHE) of Ministry of Local Government, Rural Development and Cooperatives (MoLGRD&C) is the lead organization for water supply and sanitation related targets (6.1, 6.2, 6.3, 6.4, 6.5, and 6.6) of SDG 6.

Table 1: Mapping of Ministers/Divisions by Targets under SDG 6:

Targets of SDG 6	Lead Ministries/ Divisions	Associate Ministries/Divisions
Target 6.1 Indicators NPI 17: Ensure 100% population using safely managed drinking water services (SDG Indicator 6.1.1) ¹²	Lead: Local Government Division (LGD) of Ministry of Local Government, Rural Development and Cooperatives (MoLGRD&C).	Ministry of Primary and Mass Education (MoPME); Bangladesh Accreditation Board (BAB) of Ministry of Industries (MoInd); Statistics and Informatics Division SID of Ministry of Planning (MoP).
Target 6.2 Indicators NPI 18 - Ensure 100% population using safely managed sanitation services (SDG Indicator 6.2.1) ¹³	Lead: Local Government Division (LGD)	Ministry of Education (MoE); Ministry of Information (MoInf); Ministry of Primary and Mass Education (MoPME); Ministry of Women and Children Affairs (MoWCA); Prime Ministers Officer (PMO); Ministry of Finance (MoF); Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MoHFW); Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEF); Statistics and Informatics Division SID
Target 6.3	Lead: Local Government Division (LGD); Co lead: Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEF)	Ministry of Industries (MoInd); Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MoFA); Ministry of Textiles and Jute (MoTJ); Ministry of Finance (MoF); Ministry of Water Resources (MoWR); Ministry of Shipping (MoS).

¹² <http://www.sdg.gov.bd/page/indicator-wise/5/439/3/0#1>

¹³ <http://www.sdg.gov.bd/page/indicator-wise/5/440/3/0#1>

Targets of SDG 6	Lead Ministries/ Divisions	Associate Ministries/Divisions
Target 6.4	Lead: Local Government Division (LGD) Co lead :Ministry of Agriculture (MoA); Ministry of Industries (MoInd)	Ministry of Shipping (MoS).; Ministry of Water Resources (MoWR); Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MoFA)
Target 6.5	Lead: Ministry of Water Resources (MoWR) Co lead : Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MoFA)	General Economic Division(GED), Local Government Division (LGD)
Target 6.6	Lead: Ministry of Water Resources (MoWR)	CD; Ministry of Chittagong Hill Tracts Affairs (MoCHTA); Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEF); Ministry of Fisheries and Livestock (MoFL); Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MoFA)
Target 6.a	Lead: Economic Relations Division (ERD) of Ministry of Finance (MoF), CO lead: Ministry of Water Resources (MoWR)	Local Government Division (LGD): Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEF); Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MoFA); Ministry of Industries (MoInd)
Target 6.b	Lead: Local Government Division (LGD)	Ministry of Public Administration (MoPA); Ministry of Water Resources (MoWR)

3.2. Existing Accountability Mechanisms

Findings from interviews and group discussions depict that there are few systemic accountability mechanisms for holding GoB accountable for sustainable Development Goal. The institutional arrangements for SDG progress is discussed below.

At central, the national parliament and the Local Consultative Group (LCG) –Sub group on Water and Sanitation are the spaces, where issues achievements related to the targets of SDG 6 are raised infrequently. In particular, the National Forum for Drinking Water Supply and Sanitation-DWSS (Target 6.1, 6.2), the National Sanitation Task Force (Target 6.2) and the National Policy Review Committee (6.1, 6.2, 6.3, 6.4) are the platforms formed and managed under the Ministry of Local Government, Rural Development and Cooperatives (MoLGRD & C) where GoB shares progress on relevant issues and the representatives of the NGOs and CSOs get scope to raise concerns.

At local level the opportunity for engagement exists in current local government process like open budget sessions. However, these forums are rarely used for discussions around sector progress (covers mainly target 6.1, 6.2). Besides, consultations organized (infrequently) by Water Supply and Sewerage Authorities (WASAs) also have scope for multi-stakeholders to hold the duty bearers accountable. The PMO has established the SDG Tracker for measuring the achievement of SDGs which is in use for monitoring SDG mechanisms.

Bangladesh has adopted 39+1 SDG National Priority Targets (NPT) for localization of SDG as priority to ensure leave no one behind. +1 Target is district wise priority which can be undertaken in consultation with local authority, CSOs and other local stakeholders. It is agreed that public representatives of Union/Paurashava and NGOs will enhance prompt actions toward SDGs through involvement of root level citizens. District Development Plan should be aligned with SDGs so that a one- line management can work to achieve SDGs.

The Accountability Mechanisms at national and local level on WASH are as follows,

Accountability mechanisms	Level (National, District / Local)	When did it commence	Responsible person or department	Who are all part of it / inclusiveness	Function (of accounting for the progress on SDG)	Its effectiveness
National Forum for Drinking Water Supply and Sanitation	National	2000	Local Government Division	MoWR, MoH&FW, MoE&F, MoP&ME, and MoE; CSOs, NGOs, networks etc.	Discussion and decide recommendations for Sharing with government.	Partially effective
National Sanitation Task Force	National	2014	Local Government Division	Sector agencies, CSOs, NGOs, private sector, networks etc.	Discussion and decide recommendations for Sharing with government.	Effective
National Policy Review Committee	National	2012	Planning Commission	Sector agencies,	Suggest the corrections in review.	Very effective
SDG Tracker	National	2018	Prime Minister's Office	All ministries	Provide data and information	Very effective
Citizen Platform	National	2016	Center For Policy Dialogue (CPD)	More than 100 CSO, NGO and Private sector organization	Provide data and information through producing reports	Effective
Open Budget Sessions	District / Local	2013	Union Parishad, Municipality,	Community people, various stakeholders	Provide data and information	Effective
Public hearing	District / Local	2011	Union Parishad, Municipality,	Community people, various stakeholders	Provide data and information	Effective
Citizen Scoring	District / Local	2017	CSO and NGOs	Community people, sector agencies	Provide data and information	Effective

4. CSO's Participation in the Accountability Mechanisms

Participation of all stakeholders, including public representatives, government, Civil Society, Knowledge community and development partners in the implementation process, follow up and review of progress will be critically important for the attainment of the SDG 6 goals. (The UN document titled “Transforming our World”). Historically, non-state actors in Bangladesh have played an important role in serving various development agenda at the community level, particularly in addressing the priorities of the people who are left behind. They have been doing this through activism, awareness raising, capacity building and direct support.

The Government of Bangladesh (GoB) has also acknowledged the critical role of CSOs in SDG implementation. The GoB should create well-defined scope for the CSOs to participate during the preparation and finalization of national consensus and policies. A review of scope, nature and level of engagements of non-state actors in national level committees chaired by respective government institutions indicate that their engagements vary across different targets of the Sustainable Development Goals. The Union and Upazila Parishad Act-2009 and Manual-2012 have provision of engagement of community people and NGOs in the government structures at local level in an inclusive manner. The Water Rules-2018 under the Water Act-2013 also has guidelines to include various stakeholders and NGOs in Integrated Water Resource Management Committee at District level and downwards. The discussion and decision of the meetings have share with higher authority as recommendation for taking into account the peoples demand. The NGOs and CSOs formed some networks nationally and internationally who along with individual organization and institutions are doing lobby and advocacy with respective ministries and departments of government to include them in the process of implementation and monitoring of target wise activities. As a result new members are getting access to the government structures.

The Citizen's Platform for SDGs, Bangladesh is a civil society initiative taken at the national front to contribute to the implementation of globally adopted 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The platform was formally launched in June 2016 as a congregation of organizations already working in different areas of SDGs, in order to promote greater interaction and coordination among themselves along with the government and other related stakeholders. The platform currently includes more than 100 civil society organizations, NGOs, private sector organizations for the SDGs implementation process. Recently these platforms will organize a daylong event titled citizen's conclave on “Four years of SDGs in Bangladesh” on Saturday 27th April 2019 in Dhaka. The aim is to put a concerted effort in realizing the global goals, and ensuring transparency and accountability in the national process (Citizens Conclave on Four years of SDGs in Bangladesh). Since its inception, the Platform has been playing an important role in highlighting the contribution of non-state actors in implementing the SDGs in Bangladesh, helping raise voice of non-state actors in this connection, and mobilizing them towards more effective SDG implementation in the country. However, this platform is not strongly proposing about SDG 6 to include into the VNR as country's one of priorities of 17 goal.

4.1. Status of accountability on SDG 6 from CSOs

Local Government ministry is taking the lead in reporting to UN HLPF on SDG 6. National Water and Sanitation Strategy pro-poor Strategy is already taken. The government established annual targets for achieving Universal drinking Water and Sanitation services by 2030. Local Government Division is responsible for monitoring progress. There is no regular system of sharing government progress with the CSOs other than National Forum meeting and National Task force meeting. The National Forum for Water Supply and Sanitation, having representatives from relevant ministries, agencies and the external support agencies and chaired by the Secretary, LGD, is responsible for coordination, monitoring and evaluation of the sector activities. The Forum is supported by two committees under it: i) Policy and Monitoring Committee chaired by the Joint Secretary (Water Supply), the LGD, with the PSU acting as the secretariat; and ii) Technical Support Committee chaired by Chief Engineer, DPHE. A number of thematic groups consisting of members from related government agencies, development partners, NGOs and academicians, have been created to support the implementation of various themes of the SDP. Since the Forum's inception in 2000, it has approved, supervised and coordinated a number of policy and strategy documents. The Forum will continue its functions with regards to this National Strategy. The water and sanitation subgroup of the Local Consultative Group (LCG), which is a platform for external support agencies, would coordinate with the two committees as and when required. The implementation plan of this committee has 17 strategies to achieve the targets. National Sanitation Taskforce leading by local government division is comprised with different stakeholders from national and international NGOs, CSOs, Private sectors, institutions etc. This task force is organizing national events, like meetings, seminars, observing international days etc. and providing data and information to the government regarding target 6.2 of sustainable development goals. This group also monitors the progress yearly on sanitation all over Bangladesh through collecting information and data from government and non-government organization and compare with other countries as well as provide recommendation to the local government division on how to achieve the targets and overcome challenges that occurs along with existing.

5. Positive Experiences of Participation in the Accountability Mechanisms

There is a great positive reflection found on survey respondents and interviewees' comments regarding involvement in the platforms i.e. the National Forum for Drinking Water Supply and Sanitation-DWSS, the National Sanitation Task Force and the National Policy Review Committee that can be regarded as part of accountability mechanisms. Acknowledging the demand and put the recommendations in the review of policies, planning and implementation gives the NGOs and CSOs inspiring feedback to play more concrete role for achieving SDGs together with government harmoniously. The responses show that in general the respondents who participated at relevant events are to some extent, satisfied with an extended scope by GoB. Some of the respondents gathered knowledge about the increasing scope of CSOs participation in this remarkable platform. According to GoB this is acknowledged as an indicator of GO-NGO partnership in the sector. According to some respondents, the GoB has started inviting the community Based Organization along with the NGOs in various events.

5.1. Statements from external category (ESA)

In a nutshell, according to ESAs accountability is the obligation of power-holders to take responsibility for their actions. The concept of accountability has a long tradition in both political science and financial accounting. When decision-making power is transferred from the citizens to government, there must be a mechanism in place for holding the government to account for their decisions. However, in the last 10 to 15 years, the concept of accountability has become fashionable not just in expanding circles of political scientists and economists but among the broader community of scholars and practitioners concerned with such diverse areas as administration, development, business ethics, governance, international organizations, policy networks, democratization, civil society, and welfare state reform. The respondents think that relationships of accountability between different social actors are central to improving service delivery and to making policy and planning processes more inclusive. However, from their experiences it is very common concept is that more accountable the government, more improved services. Participatory budgeting is an important example of more participatory governance, and it includes measures for creating environment of increased social accountability. They have experienced that in local areas where open budget dialogues take place regularly, peoples demand has been addressed and livelihood of that particular area developed rapidly. The citizen scorecard also was a good experience for them which reflect the overall situation of services at local and national level as well considering sustainability and system strengthening.

5.2. Statements from Research and learning institutions

CSOs' activities should be more transparent. Need to conduct lobbying and advocacy regularly the CSOs for holding government accountable for progress in the sector. Results of meetings can contribute in practice to develop proper mechanisms for accountability. The government can share all reports through its hierarchy. The reporting process must be transparent but state security must be maintained. The research and learning institutions are Center for Sustainable Development, University of Liberal Arts Bangladesh-ULAB,

International Center for Climate and Development, Bangladesh IUB, Bangladesh institute of International and strategic Studies, Power and Participation Research Centre (PPRC), etc. They are well-known institutions in the country that could play important role in accountability mechanism by participating in round tables with CSO and shared their views with the government and stakeholders. They are also member of various review committees of government like National Policy review committee. Non-state actors are a key player in SDG delivery. While the private sector is making an overall discernible contribution towards achieving the SDGs, they are yet to fully align their activities with goals and targets of the global agenda. Institutions, on the other hand, are working more at disaggregated level. The institutions are demonstrating sensitivity to the new global demands in areas, such as decent work, institutional accountability, and qualitative improvement in intervention impacts, which are critical to fulfilling the pledges of the SDGs. A stable working relationship between the government and non-state actors based on mutual respect is keys for the effectiveness of collaborative activities.

The followings are some examples as opined by the respondents of their favorable experiences in this regard.

1. Some of the respondents take part in the process of formulating and presenting separate action plans for each of the targets under SDG 6 at the SDG coordination cell of PMO, where opinions of the multi-stakeholders were reflected.
2. According to the interviewees, pre-budget consultations organized by the CSOs create space where the CSOs can control sector demand from grassroots to policymakers. Respondents of these events represent multiple groups including GoB officials, academia, business sector and media along with civil society.
3. Their involvement with the National Sanitation Task Force, National Forum for DWSS, allows them to have a positive experience. This is the mechanisms that enable the sector actors to engage with the government on sector progress.
4. GoB can collaborate with CSOs and the private sector to create an accessible database on SDGs to reduce any possible information gap.
5. Some participants mentioned about the Department of Public Health Engineering (DPHE) which invited the CSOs for preparation and finalization of Action Plans for SDG 6. They are satisfied about the events as those accepted their views and opinion on the subject manner.
6. The process of jointly planning and implementing projects is one of the most immediate ways to begin changing power relations in a district and downwards.

6. Areas of Improvement

The most important area of improvement is accepting CSOs and NGOs by government as significant actors for development works in Bangladesh. Accountability mechanism also has importance with the long-term pressure it generates for more efficient, accountable and transparent government. Capacity of the CSOs also being improved through participating in various workshops and seminars organized by government to develop policies and strategies in respective sectors. Local government division is playing important role in these processes. However, inclusiveness in the government structures have been improved a lot at local and national level as well which indicate the good intention of government to address the need of excluded people thus leave no one behind. Localizing SDGs is one of the major improvements in the mechanism of planning and implementation of many development works. This initiative has given space of CSOs to engage from the sub-district and district level. Thus it addressing Local needs to prioritize in district level has enhanced through localizing SDG mechanism.

7. Good Accountability Practices

- Allowing the citizens, CSOs, NGOs and private sectors in developing and reviewing policies and planning by the government of Bangladesh is a good practice being improved gradually.
- Accepting the citizens feedbacks on the services and trying to address those to develop the process at Union to National level is a growing practices monitored by the government.
- Accountability mechanism, whether initiated by governments, NGOs or grass-roots organizations, is one among many measures that have improved the delivery of services in both urban and rural areas and the accountability to citizens of service providers.
- Use of online platform for implementing various procurements and support considering transparency and integrity gradually improving the system, yet long way to go.
- Engaging non-state actors as well as community people in the budgeting at national and local level have helped the government to allocate need based budget thus contributing the achievements of SDGs.

8. Conclusion

Accountability mechanisms are not automatically inclusive, explicit efforts must link accountability mechanisms to the needs of the excluded and include them in social accountability processes so that outcomes benefit the most vulnerable and marginalized. Although there are positive experiences of participation in the accountability mechanism still long way to go to achieve the expected targets. There are improvement being happened gradually and we have some good accountability practices found in last couple of years. If we could be on this path up to 2030, we could achieve the targets set by national government in line with Sustainable Development Goals specially SDG 6.

Accountability mechanism demands that are targeted specifically towards marginalized groups are more likely to be inclusive. Disaggregated information is often not collected or is difficult to access. Additionally, narrow targeting of specific social groups might also alienate others from participating. Overcoming these constraints will shape whether accountability mechanism initiatives end up inclusive. Meetings can be arranged during times when women are able to attend, at locations that are easier for the disabled or use illustrations and enactments for illiterate populations. In the study it was clear that identifying the constraints that excluded groups experience and redressing them is essential for enabling inclusive accountability processes.

Local level learning is transferring to national level through group meetings, advocacy meetings, round table discussions and seminars. These sharing leads to There are data gaps for measuring the progress on targets of SDG 6 which will be managed later be setting process in a coordinated way. There are targets, which are not quantifiable. As a result, projections on some of those have been done using proxy indicators. The Government considers support to water supply and sanitation as vital for sustainable national development; raising the living standards and well-being of the population. That is why all stakeholders are bringing up to have a consensus on the processes to achieve SDG6 targets which is embedded with an appropriate accountability mechanism.

However, lack of participation by communities or particular groups may hinder accountability efforts. Whether or not people participate depends upon a range of factors, including trust in outcomes, fear of reprisal and past history of interactions with state institutions, which will vary by context. Building capacity for participation and mobilization is an essential element of social accountability work. CSOs participation in the accountability mechanism will be helpful for building capability and responsiveness in government and on building capacities for collective action within civil society stand a better chance of achieving improved accountability. Civil society has an important role as an information intermediary or bridge between the government and people, empowering them with the data with which they can use to exercise The political commitment of GoB has created scope for stakeholders to be engaged somewhat in the process of finalizing national level reports and to get access to relevant information that has been made available so far. Nevertheless, such commitment is still not strong enough and thereby involvement of the CSOs and other stakeholders in the process of reporting is yet “Tokenistic”.

Moreover, it leads to capacity building within the government for the implementation of SDG 6. Participation in accountability mechanisms can also lead to better and more effective ways

for the collection of data and monitoring practices which can successfully influence government policy making and increased attention on marginalized areas, grassroots communities, and vulnerable groups. We need to join our hands together and act collectively that we can build a safe, peaceful, and prosperous world where no one will be left behind.

9. Recommendations

For GoB, this study recommends the followings:

1. Take the lead by ensuring transparent allocation of roles responsibilities for data collection, monitoring and reporting on the implementation of commitments and progress on all SDG 6 targets.
2. Establishment of approval organization by appointing a main body/institution in charge of regulation and tracking of WASH services.
3. The institutional framework for SDG implementation in Bangladesh does not recognize CSOs as partners. Thus, the role of non-state actors is underplayed at the official level.
4. Establishment of a process for documentation and dissemination of discussion points and decisions of the existing accountability platforms in such a manner that secures incorporation of stakeholders' recommendations in public policy process.
5. The role of non-state actors should be recognised adequately at the official level. Non-state actors have to be considered as partners in the institutional framework for SDG implementation in Bangladesh.
6. Arranging focused public investment on sector-wide research, routinely in progress – the findings to be validated by all stakeholders, systemically, before finalization of the reports.
7. All out efforts need to be taken at national and global levels for meeting up the data gap. More resources should be allocated for generating real-time data through primary surveys on a regular basis. Non-state actors and all citizens should have access to those data.
8. Reinforcement of citizen charter for relevant public institutes engaged in delivery and quality control of WASH service.
9. Ensuring accountability mechanisms for SDG 6 targets include all stakeholders and ensure the representation of marginal groups.

For CSOs:

1. Increase capacity and raise awareness of SDG 6 targets among the citizens national policy in attaining those, service standards, and the existing mechanisms to hold the GoB to account on progress.
2. Participate actively in the budgeting of government at national and local level to address the need of excluded people focusing clean water and sanitation.
3. Actively involve grassroots groups to understand and take necessary steps due to their needs and necessity and inform GoB about these issues.
4. Keep the networks active for doing lobby and advocacy with government at national level with learning from grassroots for improving the accountability mechanism.
5. Identification, documentation, and sharing activities of various sectors in terms of accountability mechanisms.
6. Actively share feedback of activities that keeps the government accountable to SDG to SDG 6.
7. Make a good use of media through organizing events jointly and mass awareness on the best practices on WASH and the initiatives to be replicated.

For development partners:

1. Support governments and CSOs in establishing appropriate accountability mechanisms on SDG 6, including database on WASH.
2. Lobby with governments for development of inclusive structures for sharing demands of people and keep the CSO networks alive with funds.
3. Ensuring that the monitoring and reporting on the spending of invested funds have disaggregated data on progress towards reaching the most marginalized people.

Appendix 1: List of the Contributors

SL	Contributors			Category	Mode of contribution		
	Name	Designation	Organization		Survey	Interview	Group Discussion
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27	Anitta Mankhin	Monitoring, Evaluation and learning Manager	Water.org	INGO			
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