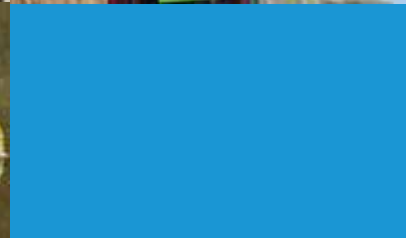


United Nations Development Assistance Framework

UNDAF 2017-2020



United Nations Development Assistance Framework UNDAF 2017-2020



Signature Page

The signing of the UNDAF 2017-2020 reaffirms the strength of the relationship between the UN System and the Government of Bangladesh. It underscores the commitment of the UN System to work together to 'deliver as one' so that development assistance results in greater impact and relevance to the people of Bangladesh as envisioned in the Government's 7th Five Year Plan 2016-2020, and the Sustainable Development Goals. The framework facilitates closer partnerships between UN system agencies, which will work together, drawing on their comparative advantages, to better support national development priorities. It further advances the UN System's long history of support to, and alignment with, the national development priorities and adds a stronger emphasis on coherence and coordination.



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Senior Secretary, Economic Relations Division
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Robert D. Watkins
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Date: 03 November, 2016

¹ The UN System in this document refers to all UN funds and programmes, specialized agencies and other UN entities, including the non-resident UN agencies working in Bangladesh, and thereby the signatories of this document. It refers to the following organizations: FAO, ILO, IOM, UNAIDS, UNDP, UNESCO, UNFPA, UNHCR, UNICEF, UN Women, WFP, WHO, UNOPS, and non-resident agencies: IAEA, IFAD, OHCHR, UNCDF, UNEP, UNIDO, UNODC, UNHABITAT, UNV, UNCTAD, UNIC and UNDSS. World Bank and IMF are also members of the UNCT.

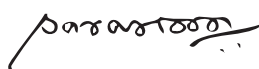
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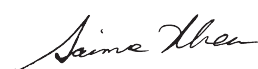
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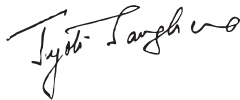
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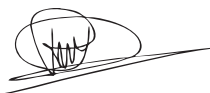
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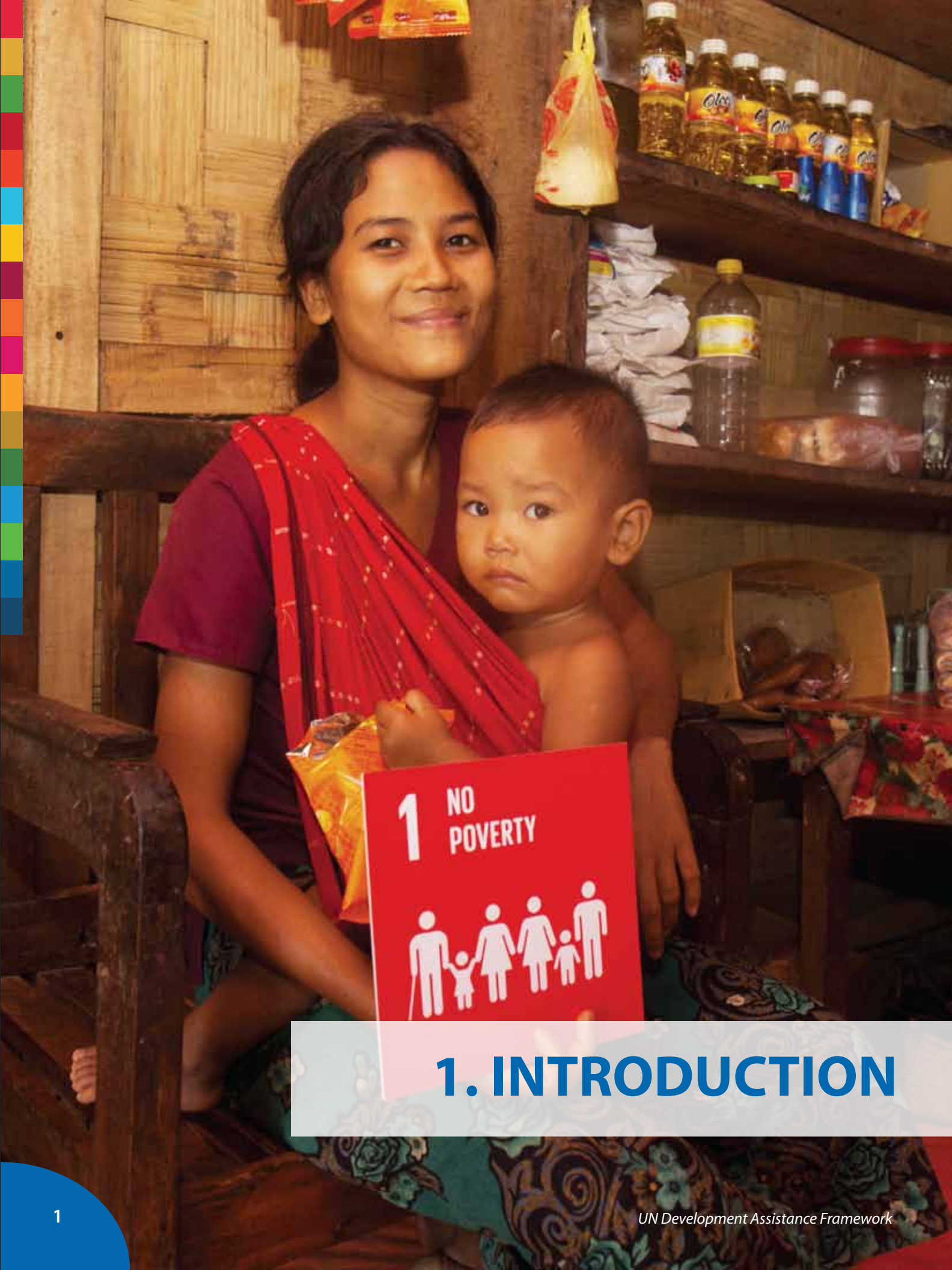
7FYP	Seventh Five Year Plan
AIDS	Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome
AIMS	Aid Management Information System
AWP	Annual Work Plan
BBS	Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics
BCA	Basic Cooperation Agreement
CCA	Common Country Assessment
CCVI	Climate Change Vulnerability index
CD/VAT	Customs Duty/Value Added Tax
CDST/VAT	Customs Duty and Sales Tax/Value Added Tax
CEDAW	Convention on the Elimination of all forms of Discrimination Against Women
CHT	Chittagong Hill Tracts
CPD	Country Programme Document
CRC	Convention on the Rights of the Child
CSO	Civil Society Organisation
DAO	Delivering As One
DRF	Disability Rights Fund
ECOSOC	Economic and Social Council
ERD	Economic Relations Division
FACE	Fund Authorization and Certificate of Expenditures
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organisation
FCL	Full Container Load
FIES	Food Insecurity Experience Scale
GCERF	Global Community Engagement and Resilience Fund
GDP	Gross Domestic Product
GED	General Economics Division
GMS	General Management Support
HACT	Harmonised Approach to Cash Transfers
HIES	Household Integrated Economic Survey
HIV	Human Immunodeficiency Virus
HRC	Human Rights Council
IAEA	International Atomic Energy Agency
IASC	Inter-Agency Standing Committee
ICCPR	International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights
ICSC	International Civil Service Commission
IFAD	International Fund for Agricultural Development
IGO	Inter-Governmental Organisation
ILO	International Labour Organisation
IMF	International Monetary Fund
INGO	International Non-Governmental Organisation
IOM	International Organisation for Migration
ISIC	International Standard Industrial Classification
LSD	Local Storage Depot
LTSH	Landside Transport, Storage and Handling

M&E	Monitoring and Evaluation
MDG	Millennium Development Goal
MPO	Master Plan of Operations
MT-CBF	Medium Term Common Budgetary Framework
NGO	Non-Governmental Organisation
OAI	Office of Audit and Investigations
OHCHR	Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights
OMT	Operations Management Team
PFDS	Public Food Distribution System
PVE	Prevention of Violent Extremism
RC	Resident Coordinator
RCO	Resident Coordinator's Office
SAI	Supreme Audit Institution
SBAA	Standard Basic Assistance Agreement
SDG	Sustainable Development Goal
SSNP	Social Safety Net Programme
TAPP/DPP	Technical Assistance Project Proposal/ Development Project Proposal
ToR	Terms of Reference
UN	United Nations
UN Women	United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women
UNAIDS	United Nations Joint Programme on HIV and AIDS
UNCAG	United Nations Communications and Advocacy Group
UNCDF	United Nations Capital Development Fund
UNCT	United Nations Country Team
UNCTAD	United Nations Commission on Trade and Development
UNDAF	United Nations Development Assistance Framework
UNDG	United Nations Development Group
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNDSS	United Nations Department of Safety and Security
UNEA	United Nations Environment Assembly
UNEP	United Nations Environment Programme
UNESCO	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation
UNFPA	United Nations Population Fund
UNHABITAT	United Nations Human Settlements Programme
UNHCR	United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
UNIC	United Nations Information Centre
UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund
UNIDO	United Nations Industrial Development Organisation
UNODC	United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime
UNOPS	United Nations Office for Project Services
UNV	United Nations Volunteers
UPR	Universal Periodic Review
VAT	Value Added Tax
VGD	Vulnerable Group Development
WFP	World Food Programme
WHO	World Health Organisation



TABLE OF CONTENTS

1.	Introduction.....	1
2.	UNDAF Narrative Strategic Priority Areas.....	5
2.1.	Outcome 1 All people have equal rights, access and opportunities.....	7
2.2.	Outcome 2 Sustainable and resilient environment.....	15
2.3.	Outcome 3 Inclusive and shared economic growth.....	23
3.	Operationalisation of the UNDAF 2017-2020.....	28
4.	Commitment to the advancement of rights approach in UNDAF 2017-2020.....	30
5.	UNDAF resources and resources mobilization.....	32
6.	Monitoring and Evaluation.....	34
7.	UN Communication and Advocacy.....	36
8.	UNDAF Results Matrix.....	38
9.	Partnerships, Values and Principles (Legal Clauses).....	46
	Annex I Conceptual Framework of UNDAF 2017-2020.....	54
	Annex II UNDAF 2017-2020 Implementation Structure.....	56
	Annex III Outcome Statements and Definitions.....	58
	Annex IV Documentation for Specific UN Agencies.....	63



1 NO POVERTY



1. INTRODUCTION

The UNDAF 2017-2020 responds to imperatives of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and will address the complex and interconnected nature of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) through a coherent systemic approach and substantive engagement based on UN norms, standards, principles and values. Arising from the UN norms, standards and principles, the core UN programming elements are - human rights, gender equality and women's empowerment, sustainable development and resilience, leave no one behind and accountability. Specifically, in this context, these elements will effectively address the interconnected nature of 2030 Agenda through national ownership and inclusiveness, strategic focus on key areas, effectiveness and technical excellence, and strengthening and building new partnerships.

The UN Country Team (UNCT) in Bangladesh envisages a Development Assistance Framework for 2017 to 2020 at outcome level that aligns its work to the national priorities presented in the 7th Five Year Plan of the Government of Bangladesh and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).² It builds on the areas of UN's comparative advantage and overall normative agenda. It is conceived as a concise framework that is highly visible and provides strategic vision to the UN System, contributes to an enabling environment for sustainable development in Bangladesh, and frames the contribution and role of the UN System within Bangladesh's overall development.

The last five-year UNDAF, 2012 to 2016, aligned fully to national priorities, contributed to accelerating the achievements of the MDGs. In order for the next UNDAF to remain in sync with the national development planning cycle, and thus relevant to the changing country context, particularly in meeting the aspiration to graduate to a middle income economy, the UNCT agreed to shorten this UNDAF to four years, i.e. 2017 to 2020. The subsequent UNDAF will revert to the five-year cycle.



Summary of the country context

A common country analysis (CCA) conducted in 2015 by the UNCT was a gap and causal analysis of country's development challenges, through the lens of the UN's five programming principles. The analysis is based on existing and relevant analytical work. It articulates clearly the root causes of the challenges, the capacity gaps among stakeholders i.e. duty bearers and rights holders, potential vulnerabilities and finally, the comparative advantage of the UN agencies. The analysis found that, although the stage has been set for the realisation of a perceived 'population dividend', and the optimisation of the role of the people of Bangladesh as the country's greatest resource, many challenges stand in the way of attaining this goal. Population growth, in itself, has brought about rapid growth in some urban centres, particularly Dhaka, while the impacts of climate change have seen large numbers of people moving from climatically vulnerable and damaged coastal areas to major urban centres. At the same time, there are negative environmental, and ultimately climatic, impacts from unplanned and uncontrolled urbanisation, characterised by the spread of under-serviced and overcrowded slums, accompanied by increasing industrialisation.

² Outputs contributing to the three UNDAF outcomes will be implemented and monitored through programmes/projects developed by each individual UN agency with their respective counterparts.

The root causes identified in the CCA are founded in issues of inequality and inequity, institutional and governance weaknesses, and environmental and geographic factors. Inequality and growing disparity, based on gender, ethnicity, place of residence, disability or other variables, reflect the persistence of harmful and sometimes discriminatory social and legal norms, attitudes and practices in a context of overall limited service provision. Yet they have, to a large extent, been masked by a focus on national averages (which tend to suggest strong development progress), rather than measurement of incomes, and access to or enjoyment of rights, services and wellbeing at community, household or intra-household level.

Strengthening of legislative and institutional potential is a necessity in both economic and social sectors. For example, persistence pockets of poverty despite national economic progress requires attention on policy measures that creates financial access for the poor to alleviate them from that challenge. Applying gender responsive and participatory mechanisms to develop evidence-based policy, strengthening sub-national capacity for implementation are some of the required means of system strengthening.

The interrelated issues of poor capacity, particularly female skilled participation, among both duty bearers and rights holders indicate that not only are services inadequate, ineffective and inefficiently distributed, but those needing the services are not sufficiently aware of their rights to take advantage of available services. Thus, an enhanced understanding and internalisation of human rights is necessary for the effective development of human capital and capacities at every level. This includes capacities for collection and generation of reliable, disaggregated data, for inclusive, appropriate and responsive policy-making. It also encompasses technical capacities and skills for both men and women, and political will to identify the causes and consequences of potential discrimination, and to implement policy accordingly.

Indeed, alongside high level policy advice, capacity strengthening of both men and women, in the technical, institutional and managerial aspects of development is identified in the CCA as among the comparative advantages of the UN System in Bangladesh. Acting upon this advantage will enable enhanced strategising by the government, strengthened processes and systems that are gender responsive; better developed and equitable human resources. In particular, the UNCT is recognised as an unbiased partner, strongly backed by a global framework of development and human rights instruments, and offering skills in collaboration and consensus-building among national and international partners, including in the mobilisation of development resources.

While it was evident from the CCA that the central theme of the overall development response needs to be ‘capacity development of right holders and duty bearers’, in terms of knowledge, awareness, resources, mandate, tools, etc., the analysis also highlights a range of ‘vulnerabilities’. Recognition of these areas of risk to development – weak institutions, climate change, gender inequality, gendered social norms and economic and geographic disparities – needs to underpin the response. The CCA recommends that the UN’s programming be ‘driven’ by its normative agenda and approach, building on the opportunities provided by the youth dividend, current economic growth, and other potential government strengths. At the same time, capacity development is one of the UN’s five enabling programming principles. Therefore, the recommendation from the CCA task team to the UNCT was “to undertake capacity development of the right holders and duty bearers” as the strategic framework approach within the new UNDAF.

Within this approach the Outcome areas that have been defined are broad. The Outcomes focus on ‘People – Planet – Prosperity’, matching the three basic elements of the UN Secretary General’s ‘Road to Dignity by 2030’ vision. These are also linked to the priorities in the 7th Five Year Plan of the Government of Bangladesh, as well as to specific thematic Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and four cross-cutting SDGs.

The linkages are outlined in the Conceptual Framework, in Annex I. The three priority areas of the UNDAF 2017-2020 are:

*Outcome Area One: **PEOPLE**– All people have equal rights, access and opportunities*

*Outcome Area Two: **PLANET**– Sustainable and resilient environment*

*Outcome Area Three: **PROSPERITY**– Inclusive and shared economic growth*

Furthermore, the UNDAF 2017-2020 takes on board lessons learnt from the implementation of earlier development assistance frameworks, including the recommendations of an evaluation of the UNDAF 2012-2016. The evaluation notes a clear contribution by the UNCT to the achievement of Bangladesh's national development priorities but suggests a lack of evidence that the normative agenda of the UN has been understood or addressed throughout the UN System. Therefore, it calls for a standardised, UNCT level quality assurance system for the normative agenda such as the Social and Environmental Safeguards and the Gender Marker System. In addition, there is room for strengthening awareness of the UNDAF itself as a guiding framework among all UN agencies and within government structures. A more streamlined (Outcome level) UNDAF that is temporally aligned to the government's planning cycle is expected to create a higher level of awareness and buy-in by all government and UN agencies.

The UNDAF 2012-2016 evaluation makes a series of specific recommendations around the UN's comparative advantage, and the design and content of the UNDAF 2017-2020. The 'light' and concise design of the UNDAF 2017-2020 aims to guide the application of the UNCT's identified comparative advantage in terms of global linkages, policy and advocacy, and capacity development, according to development priorities determined by the Government of Bangladesh. Central to this will be a horizontal and vertical whole-of-government approach, interacting with a UNCT level quality assurance system for programming around the normative agenda which will include the use of existing tools and systems. Systematic capacity development is specifically recommended as a long term sustainability strategy which responds to likely declining levels of international support as Bangladesh's economic status rises. Finally, it is recommended that the planning and monitoring process for the current and future UNDAF be broadened across national and sub-national level.





2. UNDAF NARRATIVE STRATEGIC PRIORITY AREAS

Given the country's attainment of lower middle-income status and likely promotion to an upper middle income status, the nature of UN support to Bangladesh will shift over the period 2017 to 2020, particularly towards the areas of capacity development and technical assistance for policy and advocacy, management, and data and knowledge generation. Central to this imperative, is to prepare Bangladesh at national level - the government and non-government including civil society, private sector, to take on greater ownership and responsibility for its own development. Nevertheless, during this transition period, a range of equity focused, accessible and gender friendly service delivery interventions will also be necessary.

Across the three outcome areas – **People, Planet, Prosperity** – which are discussed below, the UNCT proposes an implementation strategy with a common focus on addressing the inequalities and needs of Bangladesh's most vulnerable people, predominantly through joint programming (across UN agencies, and between the UN and civil society) approach. Thus the UN's collective responses encompass capacity strengthening and technical assistance for programmes that, as a minimum criterion, work with the most vulnerable. Likewise, the UN's support to rights holders, in partnership with civil society actors, will target the most vulnerable.

The UNCT's contribution towards national priorities is illustrated in the results matrix which appears as Section 8. This together with the narrative comprehensively illustrates the UN's contribution towards the theory of change that each outcome statement depicts. There are additional targets within each Outcome area which provide important evidence to create a full picture of progress expected in the Outcome. However, these indicators do not appear in the concise results matrix provided, either because they are not measurable at the required level (at impact level and therefore, too high, or at output level and therefore, at too low a level to measure within the current matrix) or because they cannot be measured within the timeframe of the current UNDAF. To ensure that systematic and disaggregated tracking of these indicators is not lost, they have been listed (in text boxes) under the relevant outcome subsections below.





2.1. OUTCOME 1

ALL PEOPLE HAVE EQUAL RIGHTS, ACCESS AND OPPORTUNITIES

Falling under the UNDAF Priority area of **PEOPLE**, the Outcome is stated as:

By 2020, relevant State institutions, together with their respective partners, develop and implement improved social policies and programmes that focus on good governance, reduction of structural inequalities and advancement of vulnerable individuals and groups.

Programming under this Outcome builds upon substantial progress under the MDGs. At the same time, it seeks to meet the distinct commitment of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and accompanying SDGs to ensure that ‘no one will be left behind’, i.e. a commitment to meeting the needs of the most vulnerable and marginalised first to achieve inclusive delivery of equal, equitable, and quality services for all. This is in line with the dual emphasis of Bangladesh’s 7th Five Year Plan (2016-2020) on ‘accelerating growth and empowering every citizen’. Thus this Outcome, which represents the greatest portion of the work of the UNCT in Bangladesh, addresses issues of disparity between and within geographical areas, as well as between different population groups and ethnicities. Furthermore, it is concerned with the lack of resources in terms of skills, capacity and finance. Programming under Outcome 1 is directed towards overcoming discrimination and ensuring greater equality and equity in terms of distribution of the economic, social and human rights benefits of development. And thus contributing particularly towards achieving SDG 16 - peace, stability, human rights and effective governance based on the rule of law - important conduits for sustainable development. At the same time, it seeks to promote efficient, equitable and responsive prioritisation of development resource expenditure.

Bangladesh’s notable economic growth during the MDG era has brought about a reduction in the extent and depth of poverty. Alongside this, achievements in respect of the ‘People’ theme include the attainment of gender parity in primary and secondary education, in the context of close to total primary and improved secondary enrolment. In addition, there have been substantial reductions in maternal and under-five mortality, linked to improved indicators of the nutritional status of infants and children and enhanced immunisation coverage, with a consequent reduction in the incidence of some communicable diseases.

Table 1 Related MDG Achievements in Bangladesh

Indicator	2000 Status	Current	Target
5.1 Maternal mortality ratio (per 100000 live births)	318	197 (2013)	143
4.1 Under-5 mortality rate (per 1000 live births)	84	46 (2014)	48
1.8 Prevalence of underweight children (6-59 months) %	57.0	32.6 (2014)	33

Nevertheless, a number of groups that are either especially vulnerable to risk or are in some way excluded from the benefits of development have been identified. For instance, children in the poorest households have the highest unmet health needs (as measured in infant and child mortality rates, and child morbidity), as a result of inadequate access to and poor quality of antenatal, pre-natal and child health services. Social structural inequalities have an impact upon adolescents and youth in terms of their access to health, education and other social services. Women and girls at every age are subject to interrelated vulnerabilities in terms of all forms of violence, marginalisation, child marriage and lack of social and legal protection, as well as deprivations relating to health, education, nutrition, access to resources, information and rights to participation, decision making and voice. Particularly child marriage and childbearing at a young age are high in urban slums compared to the national average of 66 percent.

Locating the Outcome 1 Response

Within Bangladesh's Vision 2021
- to become a participatory democracy
- to have an efficient, accountable, transparent and decentralised system of governance
- to have a nation of healthy citizens
- to develop a skilled and creative human resource
- to be a more inclusive and equitable society
Within Bangladesh's 7FYP Priorities
- Quality and relevant education
- Health, nutrition and population development
- Safe drinking water and sanitation
- Social protection
- Urban development
- Transparent, accountable and effective democratic governance and justice
- Gender equality and empowerment of all women
Within the SDGs
SDG 1 – end poverty
SDG 2 – zero hunger
SDG 3 – good health and wellbeing
SDG 4 – quality education
SDG 5 – gender equality
SDG 6 – clean water and sanitation
SDG 8 – decent work and economic growth
SDG 9 – industry, innovation and infrastructure
SDG 10 – reduced inequalities
SDG 16 – peace, justice and strong institutions
SDG 17 – partnerships for the goals



Women, children and elderly people who are dependents of a sole household wage earner are often vulnerable to a changed or unstable economic conditions, due to less adaptability resulted from illiteracy, lack of appropriate life skills including technical and vocational skills. Absence of social insurance makes the dependents vulnerable in the event of premature demise or permanent disability to occupational accident/disease or other types of injury to the wage earner. According to World Bank Financial Inclusion data of 2014,³ only 27 percent women have any sort of accounts and 7 percentages formal savings. People with functional disabilities have limited mobility and access to occupational rehabilitation and reintegration services. People infected with, affected by or at risk of HIV are subject to social and economic discrimination which both causes and exacerbates their inadequate access to social services. About 28 million⁴ people living in hard to reach areas (including tea gardens), vulnerable geographic locations (in haor, char land, and coastal areas) and groups belonging to ethnic and language minorities have limited access to basic health and education services including access to information, access to print and electronic media and opportunities for lifelong learning and adult education for adaptability, are often unable to attain their legal rights. Often because of climate related shocks and stress these people are at risk of losing hard-won improvements in livelihoods and food security. A large segment of the poor population lacks the means of access to an adequate nutritional diet and costing Bangladesh more than Tk. 7,000 crore (US\$ 1 billion) in lost productivity every year.⁵ Finally, refugees (both documented and undocumented) are deprived of the most basic requisites, often including protection, access to justice, shelter and food.

Thus, there are specific aspects of development in which the country still needs to aim for major nationally owned accountable improvement, as expressed in the Vision 2021 and the 7th Five Year Plan. The social policies and programmes focus on unmet health, education, nutrition, social protection, governance and justice needs, and require a particular cross cutting emphasis on meeting the needs and rights of women and girls through both targeted programming and gender mainstreaming. In terms of sectors, health and nutrition are closely linked and the greatest gaps are evident in access to and quality of services and information that gender and youth sensitive, for women, children and adolescents. The health sector is also characterised by ineffective decentralisation (thereby limiting access), inadequate infrastructure and equipment, prohibitive treatment charges and specific gaps in terms of female doctors and health workers, sanitation facilities and awareness. Similarly, food security and safety is constrained by persistent poverty in inaccessible areas and among marginalised population groups, low resistance to shocks, and factors linked to a lack of awareness, such as detrimental coping strategies and limited dietary diversity among individuals. Despite improvements in primary and secondary education, the technical and vocational sector suffers from poor linkages to the labour market and massive gender disparities in vocational skills, market access, income, livelihood and financial control. Social protection is limited by poor institutional and functional capacities, with a specific gap in terms of the social work profession.

These continued needs and constraints highlight the importance of investing in adolescents and youth, especially for their health and education, and in gender equality, to take advantage of the demographic ‘window of opportunity’ that is currently open. This should be coupled with accelerated efforts to enhance the technical and soft/life skills of young people and women, thereby increasing their employability. Such imperatives, in combination with expressed national priorities, shape the UNCT programming response, as they did also during the implementation of previous UNDAFs.

³ <http://datatopics.worldbank.org/financialinclusion/country/bangladesh>

⁴ Data from a WB report on “Hard to Reach Areas- Proving Water Supply and Sanitation Services for All”, 2012

⁵ Undernutrition in Bangladesh – A common Narrative (2014), a UN REACH publication

UN contributions to policy and advocacy, capacity development, technical assistance and partnership

The areas of policy advocacy, technical assistance and capacity development for the delivery of quality services proposed by the UNCT under this Outcome as well as areas of joint programming are outlined below:

Policy and advocacy, technical assistance and capacity development

The UNCT is driven by a clearly defined and internationally endorsed normative agenda, enshrining principles of equality and non-discrimination, equity, accountability, empowerment and participation.⁶ These reflect global experience, as well as lessons learnt in terms of governance and social protection in the Bangladesh context. The UN has a comparative advantage in the support of policy and advocacy processes, which resides in its being acknowledged as a collaborative, neutral and responsive partner, able to broker dialogue and build consensus nationally, in south-south or regional settings, and globally, including on critical and sensitive issues. As such, it is also well positioned to celebrate the positive by increasing Bangladesh's international visibility, showcasing best practices and enhancing the country's credibility through policy and advocacy support towards increased gender and child budgeting and prioritisation of and capacity for public expenditure on social protection, health and education outcomes, particularly for children and other vulnerable groups.

Furthermore, the UN offers comparative advantages in the technical, institutional and managerial realms, all of which can contribute to effective systems reforms. This UNDAF contributes towards the fulfillment of the UN normative and cross-cutting agenda through the achievement of rights-based, gender equitable and sustainable, Outcome level results. The focus is on strengthening capacity of local institutions in the relevant sectors – health, water and sanitation, food security and nutrition, education, and social justice and rights – to mitigate disparities in development delivery. In addition, the UNCT will seek to consolidate the country's development successes by strengthening coordination and accountability mechanisms within the framework of 'aid effectiveness'.

Joint programming

The UN also has the potential to foster tripartite – Government, development partners and civil society – partnerships towards the achievement of a common agenda. Thus joint programming within and outside the UN, and working with the civil society are focal implementation strategies. These will be driven by a shift towards knowledge management, policy advocacy and south-south cooperation, as well as the more technical/service oriented interventions discussed below. Civil society organisations are already active in Bangladesh in data collection and evidence generation, generally mobilising their own resources for this work. The role of the UNCT will be to collaborate with these organisations towards the creation of centres of data excellence that also strengthens national statistical entities to generate, promote, and analyze disaggregated national data and create real time monitoring system for improved results.

The UN will also maintain an internal collective role and accountability under this Outcome, mainly in the areas of rights to health and education, and access to quality basic services such as water, sanitation, food security and nutrition, social justice, democratic governance and social protection.

.....
⁶ Specific information and recommendations in this regard can be found in respective documents from CEDAW (CEDAW/C/48/3/Add1); CRC (CRC/C/BGD/CO/5) and Universal Periodic Review (A/HRC/24/12)

Overall, the interventions will address gaps in the systems, processes and institutions that generate and perpetuate structural inequalities and potential discrimination between groups and individuals, that is, the inequalities systemically rooted in societies and the operations of dominant social institutions. Geographically vulnerable communities that suffer inequalities due to repeated climate shocks and stresses will also be considered under this Outcome. The responses of the UN will be founded in equal rights – to livelihoods and employment, health, medical and social protection and other social services, food security and nutrition – particularly for women and girls, children, indigenous and ethnic groups, refugees, minorities, those with physical or intellectual challenges, and people living with HIV.

Through improved social policies and programmes, public-private partnerships and good governance, below are some highlights of where the UN will continue to support and contribute to:

- Improving quality of and access to publically available essential health services with key service readiness, focusing on increasing family planning, antenatal care and child/adolescent health services, as well as diagnosis and treatment of HIV;
- Ensuring access for all to safe drinking water and basic sanitation, and increasing access to improved sanitation facilities;
- Ensuring access to social protection in critical phases of the life cycle and in times of distress, including by enhancing the efficiency and effectiveness of social safety nets as part of a comprehensive social protection reform;
- Ensuring access of all people to safe, nutritious and sufficient food and adequate dietary diversity;
- Ending malnutrition, specifically targeting stunting and wasting of children under the age of 5, and addressing the nutritional needs of adolescent girls and pregnant and lactating women;
- Building a well-educated, well-informed and skilled population, with a focus on youth and women, through the promotion of diversified, life-long learning opportunities within the formal education sector and through non-forma, informal and community-based learning, with an emphasis on support for science and technical and vocational education;
- Ending child marriage and all forms of violence against women and girls, through advocacy, empowerment and legal reform initiatives;
- Increasing access to justice, through enhanced use of legal aid by the poor and disadvantaged;
- Increasing access to adequate compensation for those injured and the dependents of incapacitated workers.



Outcome 1 Indicators falling outside the 2017-2020 Results Matrix

Impact indicators:
• Proportion of stunting and wasting among male and female children under 5
• Percentage of male and female children born with low birth weight
• Prevalence of population undernourished
Indicators with no baseline but critical to measure:
• Proportion of household with acceptable diet diversity
• Education completion rate tertiary level disaggregated by sex, ethnicity, wealth quintile, religion, age, urban and rural
• Prevalence of severe food insecurity in the population based on Food insecurity experience scale (FIES)
Agency specific and/or output level indicators:
• Percentage fully vaccinated children by 12 months; disaggregation: gender, urban/rural, education, wealth quintile
• Secondary school net attendance adjusted ratio
• Percentage of girls and boys achieving nationally defined learning achievements in grade 6 and 8 in Bangla, English and Mathematics.
• Percentage of boys and girls aged 1-14 years reporting physical violence
• Percentage of adolescent girls aged 15-19 years with low body mass index (<18.5kg/m ²)
• Percentage population having access safe drinking water disaggregated by urban/rural and wealth quintile
• Coverage of primary school children in poverty prone districts under the school feeding programme
• Percentage of male and female headed households with acceptable level of food consumption
• Coverage of beneficiaries under fortified rice in safety net programme
• Weighted average of national case disposal rate
• Percentage of workers in formal sector who have access to compensation and rehabilitation services.



UN joint initiative on Prevention of Violent Extremism (PVE)

Based on the UN Secretary General's Plan of Action to Prevent Violent Extremism (PVE) in December 2015, the UN Country Team pledges a coherent approach on mutually shared priorities of the Government of Bangladesh as well as the development partners. In April 2016 at the International Conference for the Prevention of Violent Extremism the Government of Bangladesh endorsed the plan. Additionally, the UNCT will work to support Bangladesh's participation in the Global Community Engagement and Resilience Fund (GCERF) to prevent violent extremism and promote peace and tolerance in the country.

The UNCT will assess current and future programming with a view to contributing to the PVE agenda in Bangladesh. The UN will review ongoing work and potentially refocus or identify new programmes that may be developed either independently or jointly, based on the comparative advantages of agencies. Central to the UN Plan of Action are seven priority areas:

1. Dialogue and Conflict Prevention
2. Strengthening Good Governance, Human Rights and the Rule of Law
3. Engaging Communities
4. Empowering Youth
5. Gender Equality and Empowering Women
6. Education, Skill Development and Employment Facilitation
7. Strategic Communications, the Internet and Social Media



2.2. OUTCOME 2 *SUSTAINABLE AND RESILIENT ENVIRONMENT*

Falling under the UNDAF Priority area of **PLANET**, the Outcome is stated as:

By 2020, relevant State institutions, together with their respective partners, enhance effective management of the natural and man-made environment focusing on improved sustainability and increased resilience of vulnerable individuals and groups.

The role of this Outcome is to balance ecological, environmental and sustainability imperatives, including the threat posed by climate change and natural disaster, against the demands of economic growth and industrial expansion. In doing so, it must prioritise the needs of those who have yet to benefit from Bangladesh’s impressive economic growth, and those most vulnerable and least resilient to the impacts of climate change, noting the substantial overlap between the two. It must also recognise the need to enhance the capacity of the Government at national and sub-national level to respond adequately in the face of a Level 3 emergency⁷ such as an earthquake. It is only in this way that work under Outcome 2 will contribute effectively to meeting the equality and equity objectives inherent in national and global level visions and strategies. Vision 2021, for example, envisages a society that, “democratizes economic opportunity [and] takes care of those who are vulnerable”. At the same time, it emphasises environmental protection, within a broader ‘sustainability’ approach that also encompasses democracy, participation and valuing diversity.

Table 2 Related MDG Achievements in Bangladesh

Indicator	2000 Status	Current	Target
7.1 Proportion of land area covered by forest %	11.3	13.4 (2014)	20.0
7.8 Proportion of population using an improved drinking water source %	76.0	98.5 (2013)	100.0
7.9 Proportion of population using an improved sanitation facility %	45.0	64.2 (2013)	100.0

The 11 percent forest area coverage is a result of some level of reforestation, ecosystem conservation, and protection of natural forest and biodiversity. However, environmental sustainability has been identified as one of the areas of shortfall coming out of the MDG era.⁸ This is reflected in sea level rise, severe flooding specifically affecting livelihood, waterlogging, land loss and salinisation as results of climate change. According to Human Development Report (HDR) 2015, on average 28,112 per million people annually require immediate assistance during a period of emergency as a result of natural disasters. Forest degradation and excessive human interference continues and has negative impacts upon natural heritage such as the Sundarbans. While embankments along the coast and river banks are supposed to protect the population in these areas, these are often not adequate and the task of maintaining the existing structure adds a further burden to the already stretched resilience capacity of local populations. Related to these are population movements from areas of high population pressure or perceived low livelihood opportunity, to poorly serviced urban slums, most notably creating Dhaka ‘mega city’, to which there has been migration from all parts of the country. Internal migration is particularly common among young women and girls, and male seasonal workers, and includes rural-to-rural movements as well as urbanisation among those from the densely populated areas and marginal rural lands that are particularly vulnerable to natural disasters.

Rapid industrialisation has formed the basis of the country’s marked economic growth but also contributed to the environmental challenges already mentioned as well as causing land, water and air pollution. The pace of industrialisation is set to increase in the coming years as Bangladesh strives to attain middle-income status. At the same time, the primary – agriculture, forestry and fisheries – sector still employs around 48 percent⁹ of Bangladesh’s labour force and is thus a leading contributor to livelihoods and the economy, as well as being essential to food security. A history of indiscriminate and excessive use of fertiliser and pesticides, as a result of rapid and unregulated industrialization, has led to land and water contamination with damaging effects for the country’s biodiversity and food security.

⁷ The Emergency Relief Coordinator, together with the Inter-Agency Standing Committee (IASC) define a major sudden-onset humanitarian crises triggered by natural disasters or conflict and that require a system-wide mobilization, are called Level 3 or L3 emergencies. Please refer to IASC Humanitarian System-Wide Emergency Activation, 13 April 2012

⁸ UNCT, Bangladesh Country Analysis, December 2015, p22.

⁹ HDR 2015

Therefore, it is essential that industrialisation take place in a manner that is sustainable in terms of the level of production from the natural resource base, and that it does not circumscribe diverse social and cultural livelihood choices. A key strategy in this regard will be to promote greening of industries and establishment of environmentally sound enterprises offering decent jobs.

Bangladesh lies at the juncture of several active tectonic plate boundaries and is in a seismically active zone, making the occurrence of major earthquakes a realistic possibility. Dhaka city is particularly vulnerable due to its high population density, lack of planning and paucity of open spaces. The 2015 earthquake in Nepal represents a cautionary signal for Bangladesh. While Bangladesh has made progress in disaster management response to floods and cyclones in coastal areas, less attention has been paid to earthquake response preparedness, and further capacity assessment for enhanced response to Level 3 disasters is needed.

As noted, vulnerabilities in terms of environment are multiple, and tend to overlap with economic and social vulnerability as well as with deficits in terms of inclusion, participation and power. Thus the most vulnerable groups are also those identified under Outcome 1 as having inadequate access to social rights and opportunities. Women are particularly vulnerable due their social exclusion, generally lower incomes (noting the widely acknowledged correlation between poverty, and environmental and disaster risk), and limited ownership and control of natural resources, particularly land. In addition, women and girls face increased vulnerability to gender-based violence in the aftermath of disasters and are often unable to access information, assistance, and relief programmes. People with disabilities and members of indigenous communities face similar dynamics and their vulnerability may be worsened by stigma and discrimination. Households based in the most disaster prone areas are highly vulnerable (especially female headed households) and are likely to be caught in cycles of low resilience, high incidence of environmental and other shocks, food insecurity and undernutrition, and lack of access to essential public services. At the next level, the extent of risk to these individuals and groups remains high, precisely because the equitable relief distribution and protection mechanisms that should be in place— via central and district level officials, policy and decision makers, education providers and media – are themselves poorly informed, resourced and capacitated.

Given the increasing demand for natural resources arising from factors such as industrialisation and population growth, which at the same time are factors contributing to environmental degradation, the development response needs to be focused on creating more from less, in order to achieve both growth and equity objectives. Central to this, and consistent with the UNCT's approach to this point, will be efficiency improvements in the use of natural resources, as well as the strengthening and capacitation of effective, responsible and democratic governance mechanisms. Direct action will be needed to conserve, protect and enhance existing natural resources, in response to broader biodiversity and ecosystem imperatives, as well as to enable the protection and improvement of rural livelihoods. Interventions in this area will need to promote equity in terms of social and economic well-being, in order to arrest environmental degradation and initiate a virtuous cycle of enhanced resilience and increased capacity for environmental protection:

UN contributions to policy and advocacy, capacity development, technical assistance and partnership

The programme responses of the UNCT in terms of technical assistance and capacity development, and joint programming responses towards social and economic sustainability within a sustainable and resilient environment represent a process of building upon programming under the previous UNDAF. They are outlined below.

Policy and advocacy, technical assistance and capacity development

Bangladesh has ratified numerous international environment conventions, treaties and protocols and is active at the global, regional and national levels in the formulation of policies and strategies. These are driven by long-standing recognition of the links between environmental sustainability and the achievement of all other development aims, and a move towards a culture of resilience building and risk reduction. Against this backdrop, the UNCT will support the further development of national and sub-national policies and guidelines for production and use of renewable energy, protection of at-risk areas and resources, addressing pollution, declaring biodiversity reserves and disaster risk reduction.

Further capacity development for environmental sustainability is needed at all levels of government, as well as among individuals and communities. This will be the means to ensure that both duty bearers and rights holders become well-informed actors in preserving and benefitting from their environment, and communities are adequately prepared to manage climate related risks to livelihoods, food security and nutrition. The UNCT will seek to enhance the competence of the Government in planning, mitigation, responding and delivering to increasingly severe climate events, natural disasters and environmental challenges in a likely context of declining external resources. In line with the Government of Bangladesh's drive for increased resilience, the UN technical and capacity support will be in the areas of disaster risk reduction, protection and conservation of biodiversity, planning for and responding to Level 3 emergencies, and provision of sustainable urban housing. Role of various key actors in building resilience in the country will be defined per the resilience model of the Sendai Framework, to effectively implement local disaster risk reduction strategies and plan. Specific attention will be paid to strengthening national capacities to support vulnerable communities and individuals in preparing for, coping with and adapting to the impacts of climate shocks and climate change.

Joint programming

It has been noted that direct service delivery for development is a declining area for UN programming in Bangladesh, and this will be limited to addressing the resilience gaps that persist on the ground among the most vulnerable and those in extreme poverty.

However, nearly all nations need emergency and disaster assistance from time to time in order to cope with unexpected events beyond their capacity to recover. As in the past, the UNCT stands ready to provide critical life-saving assistance, and other support for recovery from actual disasters to meet needs still beyond the resilience and capacity of affected communities and the Government. The focus of such assistance will be on ensuring delivery in hard to reach areas and to the most vulnerable communities and individuals. In addition, the UNCT will exercise its comparative advantage in coordination and advocacy roles in disaster situations, and in securing international assistance as needed.

Locating the Outcome 2 Response

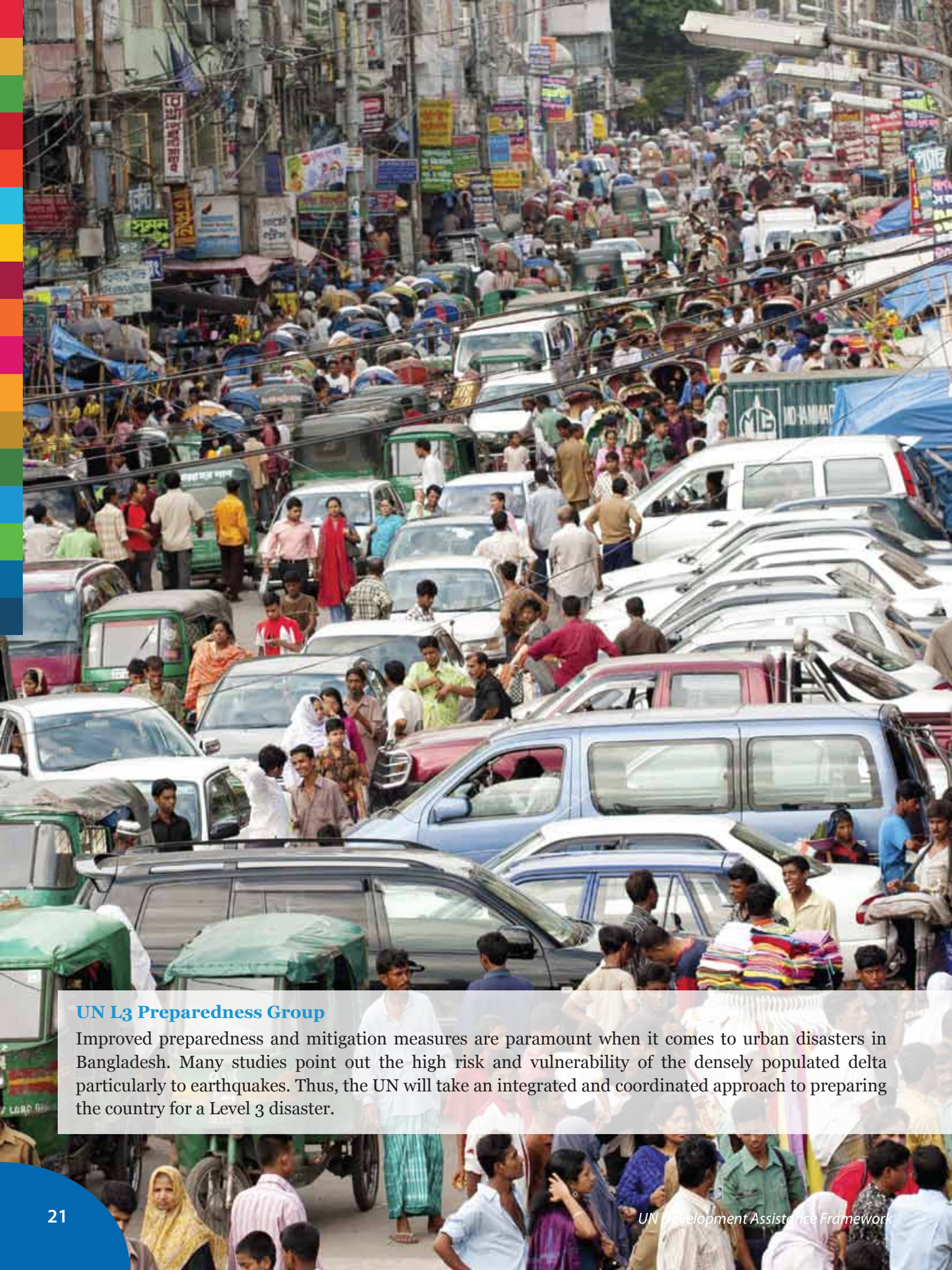
Within Bangladesh's Vision 2021
- to be environmentally sustainable
Within Bangladesh's 7FYP Priorities
- Environment, climate change and disaster management
- Production, consumption and use of energy and mineral resources
- Urban development
- Agriculture and water resources
Within the SDGs
SDG 2 – zero hunger
SDG 6 – clean water and sanitation
SDG 7 – affordable and clean energy
SDG 9 – industry, innovation and infrastructure
SDG 11 – sustainable cities and communities
SDG 12 – responsible production and consumption
SDG 13 – climate action
SDG 14 – life below water
SDG 15 – life on land
SDG 16 – peace, justice and strong institution



Outcome 2 Indicators falling outside the 2017-2020 Results Matrix

Indicators with no baseline but critical to measure:
• Proportion of agricultural area under productive and sustainable agriculture
• Climate change vulnerability index (CCVI) disaggregated by sex, urban/rural
• Coping Strategy Index of targeted households is reduced or stabilized
• Government spending on a) disaster risk reduction b) environmental conservation c) employment programmes as a percentage of GDP
• Cost and lead time of emergency response to large scale natural disasters reduced
Agency specific and/or output level indicators:
• Proportion of climate change adaptation projects of UN including gender analysis at the design/inception phase
• Annual increase in number of UN (national) Volunteers recruited to support implementation of UN Agencies development programmes
• Percentage of climate resilience and inclusive urban development plans
• Number of local government staff trained in urban planning disaggregated by gender, geographical area
• Mainstreaming climate change issues in urban planning
• Participation of poor people in urban planning disaggregated by gender, geographical area and wealth quintile
• Comprehensive and equitable National Physical Plan is initiated under the umbrella of Planning Commission in line with upcoming Habitat III (October 2016) declaration
• Coverage of urban people in piped water supply and quality sanitation disaggregated by gender, geographical area and wealth quintile
• Number of biodiversity reserve declared by government
• Number of people aware on importance to protect the Natural World Heritage Site (the Sundarbans) disaggregated by gender, geographical area and wealth quintile
• Number of measures undertake to protect the Natural World Heritage Site (the Sundarbans)
• Proportion of protection and relief delivery strategies that address the needs of men, women, boys and girls equitably
• Percentage of facilities that provide confidential sensitive care for survivors of sexual violence as per the IASC GBV guidelines





UN L3 Preparedness Group

Improved preparedness and mitigation measures are paramount when it comes to urban disasters in Bangladesh. Many studies point out the high risk and vulnerability of the densely populated delta particularly to earthquakes. Thus, the UN will take an integrated and coordinated approach to preparing the country for a Level 3 disaster.



UNCT joint approach in Cox's Bazar

Cox's Bazar district of Chittagong Division, is one of the key geographic and economic zones in Bangladesh for its uninterrupted stretch of natural sea beach hosting 2.5 million (2014 census) people and a booming tourism industry. The district also hosts almost half a million refugees (documented and undocumented) from the northern Rakhine State of Myanmar. The social indicators of the district are behind the national and divisional indicators—extreme poverty 16.2 percent, 41 percent children under 5 are underweight, only 55 percent primary school completion rate and 11 percent child marriage before the age of 15. Thus, the UNCT jointly assesses critical needs of the population, undertakes initiatives based on those needs and advocates for the rights of the refugee, vulnerable and marginalised population. The Government of Bangladesh has selected Cox's Bazar as a pilot district in rolling out the GCERF mechanism in Bangladesh. The UNCT will support PVE efforts in the area.



2.3. OUTCOME 3 *INCLUSIVE AND SHARED ECONOMIC GROWTH*

Falling under the UNDAF priority area of **PROSPERITY**, the Outcome is stated as:

By 2020, relevant State institutions, together with their respective partners, increase opportunities, especially for women and disadvantaged groups to contribute to and benefit from economic progress.

Perhaps Bangladesh's most visible achievement is the attainment of 'lower-middle-income' status in mid-2015 (according to World Bank classification), marking a significant step in the country's progress set out in its Vision 2021. Yet membership of this economic grouping may limit opportunities for the expansion of development programming, given the implication that the country's development assistance needs have declined, and a likely consequent withdrawal of funding support by major development partners. In this context, application of the UN enabling principles/strategies of capacity development and results-based management will be imperative to ensuring that the Government of Bangladesh is capacitated to meet the country's continuing and emerging development needs, drawing on its own economic, institutional and human resources.

Table 3 Related MDG Achievements in Bangladesh

Indicator	2000 Status	Current	Target
1.1 Proportion of population below \$1 (PPP) per day %	58.6	43.3 (2010)	35.1
1.2 Proportion of population below national upper poverty line (2122kcal) %	48.9	24.8 (2015)	29.0
1.3 Poverty gap ratio %	12.9	6.5 (2010)	8.0

The government has ambitious plans, outlined in Vision 2021 and the 7th Five Year Plan, for further industrialisation and the creation of a 'globally integrated regional economic and commercial hub'. Thus there is demonstrated capacity and will for further public-private partnership and economic development. Given this, and building upon indicators of social progress also made by Bangladesh in MDG implementation, the UNCT's focus in areas related to employment, industrial management etc. will be on issues of equality, equity, and rights for groups, among whom these are not currently being realised, as well as on the generation of relevant and appropriately disaggregated data.

Geography and accessibility play a major role in rendering groups and individuals vulnerable through their inability to participate in the economy and, thereby, to benefit from economic development. Thus those residing in hard-to-reach coastal and forest zones, and rural areas are often disengaged from the economy and have little or no access to economic opportunities, skill building, vocational training and social services. Ultra-poor women and their households, and ethnic minorities are noteworthy in this marginalised group. Given the country has 30 percent of the population aged between 10 to 24 years,¹⁰ specifically those young people at the point of entering the workforce need to be equipped with life skills as well as formal education to enhance their employability and capacity for economic engagement. Within this framework, volunteerism plays an important role in both acquisition of life skills and enhancing employability. Some categories of workers—migrant workers, women (particularly in underpaid employment in the ready-made garment sector), and informal workers; including people with special needs— are also particularly vulnerable and need greatly enhanced access to (legislated and enforced) labour and employment rights and opportunities for collective bargaining. Those infected with, affected by, or at risk of HIV may also find that stigma and discrimination preclude them from employment opportunities. According to the HDR 2015, the employment to population ratio is 68 percent, and 85 percent are on vulnerable employment i.e. engaged as unpaid family workers and own account workers.

The UN Data Group

Data will be vital to the 2030 Agenda's of 17 Sustainable Development Goals and its 169 associated targets and 230 indicators. In Bangladesh, the Statistical Act, 2013 mandates the Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics (BBS) as the stand alone agency for generating official statistics. There are also other national entities that produce critical data and many other avenues that can be strengthened for data management. The UN has a long-standing relationship with these national entities. In the SDG era, it is imperative to develop a coherent approach to strengthening national statistical capacity to meet SDG data needs and fostering national accountability that leaves no one behind.

¹⁰ Population Projection of Bangladesh 2011-2061, Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics, 2015

UN contributions to policy and advocacy, capacity development, technical assistance and partnership

The programme responses of the UNCT in terms of technical assistance and capacity development are outlined below. Because of the success of Bangladesh in securing economic development, no direct service delivery is envisaged. Generation of disaggregated data, evidence and knowledge is a key area of joint programming between the UNCT and its partners, and is particularly relevant under this Outcome:

Policy and advocacy, technical assistance and capacity development

In providing support to policy and advocacy under Outcome 3, the UNCT will seek to instill the normative values of human rights, equality and non-discrimination, equity and participation.¹¹ In this regard, it will draw on international standards for labour and employment rights that proscribe discrimination on the basis of gender or any other distinction, and advocate for adequate remuneration, health and safety provisions, and rights to association, resources, training, information sharing, participation and negotiation.

Joint programming

The achievement of Outcome 3 entails the UN System delivering specific outputs both jointly and through individual agency programmes, which work in collaboration with government and civil society. Specifically, the UNCT will promote evidence-based advocacy and policy making through support to the collection, and generation of disaggregated data on earning and incomes, and workplace-based rights.

Enhanced data collection and generation, is expected to enable accurate and specific needs identification, responsive programming and nuanced monitoring and evaluation, in line with the principle of results based management. The UNCT will support the Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics (BBS) by partnering in gender sensitive and disaggregated data collection on poverty and inequality, social protection and employment, to create a robust evidence base for advocacy, policy recommendations and programme design. This will build upon existing undertakings, to observe poverty dynamics among the beneficiaries of a Government social protection programme (VGD). In addition, the enhancement of the Social Safety-Net Programme (SSNP) participation module in the Household Integrated Economic Survey (HIES) 2016 is envisaged.

¹¹ Specific information and recommendations in this regard can be found in respective documents from CEDAW (CEDAW/C/48/3/Add1); CRC (CRC/C/BGD/CO/5) and Universal Periodic Review (A/HRC/24/12)



Locating the Outcome 3 Response

<i>Within Bangladesh's Vision 2021</i>
- to become a poverty-free, middle-income country
- to develop a skilled and creative human resource
- to become a globally integrated regional commercial and economic hub
<i>Within Bangladesh's 7FYP Priorities</i>
- Reduction in poverty and inequality
- Productive and decent employment opportunities
- Gender equality and empowerment of all women
<i>Within the SDGs</i>
SDG 1 – no poverty
SDG 2 – zero hunger
SDG 4 – quality education
SDG 5 – gender equality
SDG 8 – decent work and income growth
SDG 9 – industry, innovation and infrastructure
SDG 10 – reduced inequalities
SDG 16 – peace, justice and strong institutions
SDG 17 – partnerships for the goals



Outcome 3 Indicators falling outside the 2017-2020 Results Matrix

Indicators with no baseline but critical to measure:

- Percent of household receiving benefit from Social Safety Nets Programme disaggregated by female-headed households

Agency specific and/or output level indicators:

- Rate of growth of sectoral GDP in constant prices; (a) agriculture (b) industry, (c) service
- Frequency rates of fatal and non-fatal occupational injuries, by sex and migrant status (SDG indicator 8.8.1)
- Participation of youth and adults in volunteer activities that build soft/life skills disaggregated by sex, age, urban/rural, wealth quintile
- Percentage of youth and adults in apprenticeships
- Number of people received capacity building trainings for ensuring sustainable livelihoods disaggregated by sex, age, urban/rural, wealth quintile





3. OPERATIONALISATION OF THE UNDAF 2017-2020

The mechanism for implementation of the UNDAF 2017-2020 is foreseen also as 'light' or streamlined, with a limited number of 'coordination structures'. The implementation structure will be flat and will incorporate technical and substantive representation as necessary, including:

- The **UNDAF Steering Committee**, the joint oversight and decision making body, comprised of the RC, ERD and GED, more clearly defined and taking on further roles and responsibilities according to the ToR. The committee will also provide leadership on integrating programming principles in UN programmes and interventions. The RCO and the UN Wing of ERD will function as the Secretariat to the UNDAF Steering Committee.
- **Results Groups** for each of the Outcomes, co-chaired by Government representative and a UN representative, will provide coordination support to the UNDAF Steering Committee and ensure the implementation of the UNDAF. It will also prepare the UNDAF Annual Report that will be submitted to the UNDAF Steering Committee. Further elaboration of the role and responsibilities of the Results Group will be detailed in its ToR. The engagement with the civil society organizations and non-governmental partners will be facilitated by the Results Groups.
- Internal to the UN, under the leadership of the UNCT, the **UN Deputy group**, the **M&E task team**, the **UN Communications and Advocacy Group (UNCAG)** and the **Operations Management Team (OMT)** are envisaged, and respective ToR will define the new composition and strengthened membership of these groups. The M&E task team will include members from the Government including ERD and GED. A **HACT task** team is in place to implement global HACT framework.
- Inter-agency 'thematic groups', with clearly defined terms of reference for the chair/lead/convenor and the members, will be formed. Membership and modus operandi of these groups will depend on the nature of the group. Leadership of the inter-agency groups may be rotated annually or biennially and each group will be expected to have annual or biennial work plans as appropriate.

The implementation structure in Annex II will be developed further with clear Terms of Reference and/or a work plan for each group.





4. COMMITMENT TO THE ADVANCEMENT OF RIGHTS APPROACH IN UNDAF 2017-2020

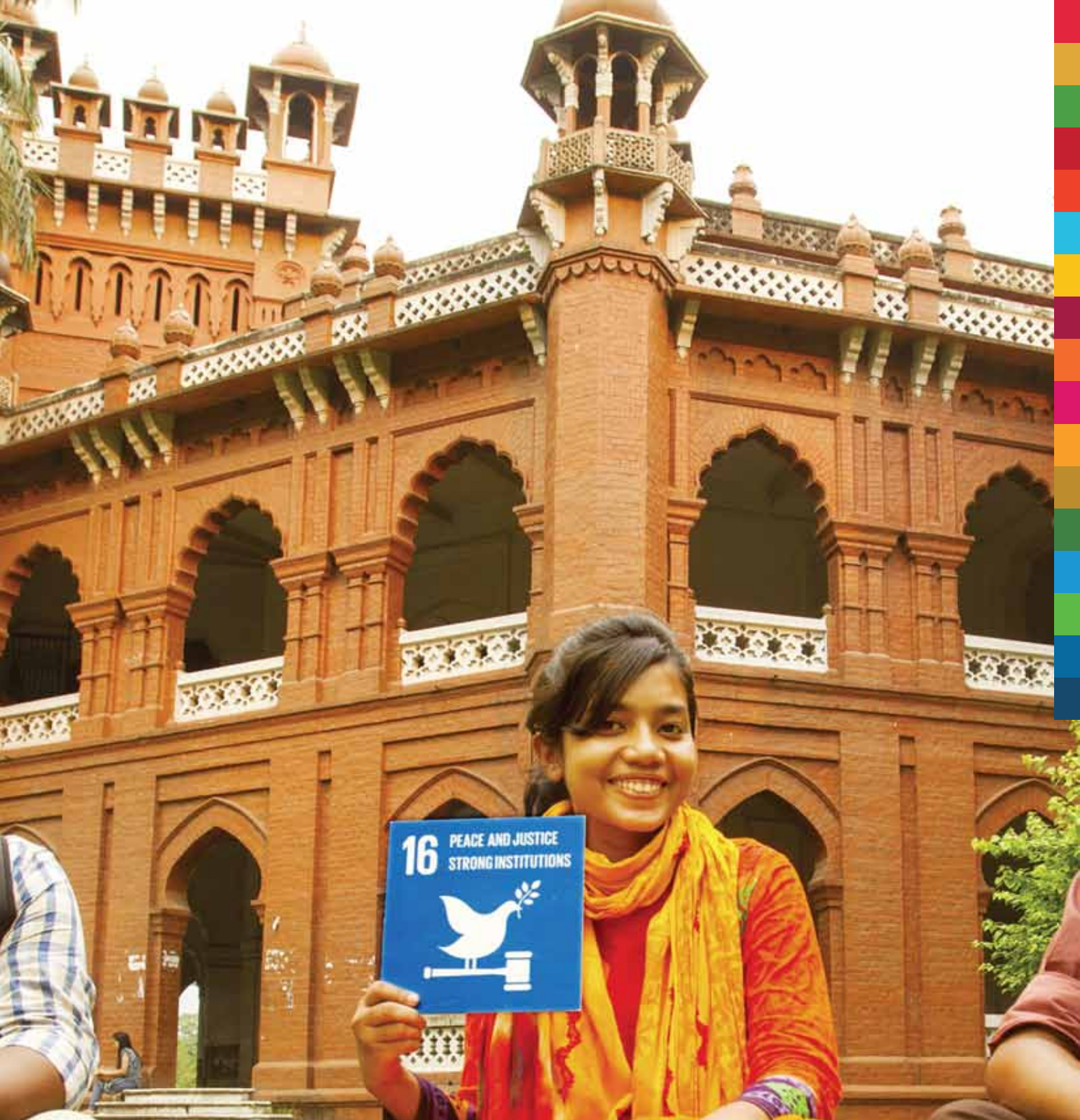
Bangladesh is State Party to eight of the nine human rights treaties¹² and is thus committed to providing civil, cultural, economic, social and political rights to all its citizens and peoples without distinction of any kind. A national human rights commission has been in place since 2009. Since the mid-90s Bangladesh has regularly engaged with the United Nations treaty bodies on the elimination of discrimination against women and girls (CEDAW), and the rights of the child (CRC). The country's human rights record was also reviewed in the Universal Periodic Reviews (UPR) in 2009 and 2013. These processes generated a number of recommendations that have been taken up by the Government and supported within the UNDAF. The Special Rapporteur of the Human Rights Council (HRC) on freedom of religion or belief visited Bangladesh in 2015 and provided recommendations on various aspects of this mandate. Further recommendations and guidance to the Government will be provided in 2016 and 2017, when Bangladesh will be considered by the Human Rights Committee (ICCPR) and in terms of CEDAW.

Bangladesh's recent socio-economic strides have contributed to the enjoyment of human rights to education, health, standard of living and work, with all of these rights being realised by more people. However, progress is not reaching everyone and economic and geographical disparities, and discrimination against women and girls are a reality. While the Constitution includes fundamental rights and many references to civil and political rights, and laws have been promulgated towards implementation of the human rights framework, legislative inconsistencies, and weak implementation have been reported. The UN System will partner with national authorities and human rights organizations to enhance capacity to apply human rights based approaches in all areas.

The evaluation of the 2012-2016 UNDAF concentrated on the use of the normative principle of gender equality, and the human rights based approach as an enabling principle. The finding that a new UNDAF needs to incorporate these principles more thoroughly has guided the country analysis and UNDAF design process. Consequently, at the same time as addressing some of the above-mentioned challenges, the UNDAF 2017-2020 seeks to strengthen normative and operational linkages. It focuses on overcoming structural inequalities, promoting the advancement of women and disadvantaged or vulnerable individuals and groups, strengthening governance and management structures, and developing the capacities of rights holders and duty-bearers. This focus is guided by internationally agreed treaty obligations and development goals.

The importance of strengthening the enabling environment to achieve social change for people, planet and prosperity is at the core of the 'theory of change' of the current UNDAF. One cross-cutting tool for achieving such change is volunteerism, which is applied to reinforce the key development principles of national ownership, sustainability, a human-rights-based approach, gender equality, and capacity development. Ensuring the involvement of civil society (including in hard-to-reach, marginalised and poor communities) via volunteer networks facilitates multiplier effects from specific outputs and transforms them into outcomes, as well as enabling participatory data collection, monitoring and analysis. All agencies are committed to adopting a holistic community approach, leveraging the comparative advantage of volunteerism and volunteer networks.

¹² Refer to www.ohchr.org



5. UNDAF RESOURCES AND RESOURCES MOBILIZATION

United Nations agencies will provide support to the development and implementation of activities under the UNDAF, part of which may be provided to Government, workers, employers, and non-governmental and civil society organisations, within the framework of joint and/or individual work plans and project documents. Additional support may include: access to global information systems managed by specific UN agency; the agencies' network of country offices and specialised information systems (e.g. rosters of consultants and providers of development services); and access to support by the network of UN organizations including the Secretariat and Regional Commissions, specialised Agencies, Funds and Programmes; strengthened UN and government capacities to support the integration of the UNDAF programming principles; access to gender expertise and related resources; and capacity assessments in priority areas that will inform the development of relevant capacity development initiatives for both the UN and the government. The UN System agencies shall appoint staff and consultants for programme development, programme support, technical assistance, and monitoring and evaluation activities. The UN System shall consult with the Government for the recruitment of the consultants and experts in accordance with the basic agreements signed between the UN System and the Government of Bangladesh.

Subject to annual reviews and progress in the implementation of the programme, the UN System agencies' funds are distributed by calendar year and in accordance with the UNDAF. Budgets are reviewed and elaborated further in joint and/or agency specific annual work plans and project documents. By mutual consent between the Government and the UN System agencies, funds not earmarked by donors to the UN agencies for specific activities may be re-allocated to other programme activities considered of equivalent value.

A medium term common budgetary framework (MT-CBF) of estimated value of 1.2 billion USD, attached to the results matrix (Refer Section 8) has two types of resources indicated in the framework, i) resources projected to be available, and ii) the gap, or resources still to be mobilised. The first are funds available from all sources and already secured (including under contract), about 419 million USD at the time of the MT-CBF preparation. They include core/regular budget funds, as well as donor contributions received in-country, funds allocated from HQ or regional level, and funds received through global funding mechanisms or multi-donor trust funds. The gap, which is about 800 million USD is the difference between resources already secured and definitely available and the resources required to implement the UNDAF. The UNCT will consider a potential joint resource mobilization strategy to address these gaps.

The Government will support the UN System's efforts to raise funds required to implement this UNDAF and will cooperate with the UN agencies, including by: encouraging potential donor governments to make available to the UN System the funds needed to implement unfunded components of the programme; endorsing the UN agencies' efforts to raise funds for the programme from other sources, including the private sector and workers' organisations, both internationally and in Bangladesh; and permitting contributions from individuals, corporations and foundations in Bangladesh to be tax exempt for the donor, as far as permissible under applicable law. The UN System will ensure that any contributions received from sources within Bangladesh is registered in the national system.

The Government of Bangladesh's Aid Management Information System (AIMS) is a key platform for tracking the UN's development support. The UN System through the UN Resident Coordinator's Office shall ensure the regular data entry into the AIMS.



6. MONITORING AND EVALUATION

Progress will be monitored on a regular basis and evaluated in the penultimate year of the UNDAF jointly with the Government. The monitoring and evaluation of the UNDAF will enable the UN to assess the effectiveness and efficiency of the UN in supporting the Government of Bangladesh in achieving the planned development results as elaborated in its Results Framework.

The UNDAF Results Framework 2017-2020 provides evidence to the UNCT to enable the agencies to position themselves strategically in sectors, and around themes and issues concerning the Outcome areas. The disaggregated data values are critical evidence for monitoring the change and helping the UNCT in decision making. This framework is not intended merely to provide a consolidation of UN results in Bangladesh. The UNCT will identify ‘joint results’ (executing through initiatives such as joint programmes, joint advocacy, and joint policy prioritisation) under each of the Outcome areas, and highlight where there is value addition, particularly in ensuring the normative and operational linkages of the UN system. In order to ensure relevance of the UNDAF to the changing country context, and unforeseen situations, the UNCT, as needed, will review and make necessary adjustments to the results framework. The UNCT will also undertake periodic risk assessment of the Outcomes as deemed necessary.

The UNCT will establish suitable tools and implementation structures to facilitate effective monitoring and evaluation. In addition to the implementation structures presented in Section 3 and the UNDAF Results Framework, a monitoring and evaluation calendar outlining the priorities and frequency of outcome level monitoring and evaluation across the UNDAF period will be developed. The calendar will also shall also include surveys, assessments, evaluations and studies that are expected to provide evidence for reporting progress towards the Outcomes.

Progress Reports will be prepared for each Outcome by the Results Group and will be submitted to the UNDAF Steering Committee. The Report, in addition to the progress towards the Outcomes, will highlight key achievements, challenges and priorities for the next year. The frequency of this reporting will be agreed with the Government.

An independent evaluation will be undertaken in the penultimate year of the UNDAF. It will assess to what extent the UN has effectively, with the support of the Government, contributed to progress towards the Outcomes and the achievement of the planned development results. The evaluation will be guided by the United Nation’s Evaluation Group’s evaluation norms and standards. It will also assess the extent to which the UN has been successfully in mainstreaming the normative principles.





7. UN COMMUNICATION AND ADVOCACY



Communication around the UNDAF and promotion of the priority areas will be planned and implemented by the UN Communication and Advocacy Group (UNCAG) in Bangladesh. The Group will develop consistent and coherent messaging, and a succinct strategic communications vision for the UNDAF 2017-2020, and keep the UNCT updated as this proceeds. The communications strategy will be implemented through yearly action plans, designed to promote the SDGs, selected thematic areas and targets prioritised under the UNDAF 2017-2020 to a wide and diverse audience, and to initiate dialogue among all stakeholders for enhanced engagement and coordination.



8. UNDAF RESULTS MATRIX

This UNDAF Results Framework 2017-2020 **provides evidence to the UNCT members** to enable them to **strategically position themselves in sectors, themes and issues** concerning the Outcome areas. The disaggregated data values generate critical evidence for monitoring change and helping UNCT in decision making. The proposed indicators largely provide proxy measures of the change in results stated in the outcome.

The existing **UNDAF Info online platform** will be used to monitor the framework. The available disaggregated data value of each of the indicator will be entered into the online platform, indicating source of data/means of verification.

In order to maintain data quality, the M&E group will set a standard guideline on the use of data, while the responsible agency in each case will help in identifying credible source of disaggregated data.

Broad selection criteria of the indicators

The indicators used in the measurement of UNDAF results are required to be:

- At Outcome level, reflecting the ‘change stated in the outcome statements’, aligned to the targets of the SDGs and 7th Five Year Plan;
- Currently measurable and having a credible means of verification, a target and a baseline;
- Usually common to the 7th Five Year Plan, DRF and SDG lists;
- Relevant to the collective work of UN agencies; and
- Not at impact or output level.



SDG Theme/ UNDAF Priority Area	UNDAF Outcome Statement	Outcome Indicator & Disaggregation	Baseline & Target	Means of Verification, Frequency of Monitoring	Contributing Agencies	MT-CBF (US\$ million)					
						Projected to be available	To be mobilised	Indicative total			
<p>1. People: All people have equal rights, access and opportunities</p> <p>SDGs: 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 8, 9</p> <p>Cross-cutting: 10, 16, 17</p>	<p>By 2020, relevant State institutions, together with their respective partners, develop and implement improved social policies and programmes that focus on good governance, reduction of structural inequalities, and advancement of vulnerable individuals and groups.</p>	Health, Water and Sanitation									
		Coverage of essential health services (SDG indicator 3.8.1.)	Baseline (2014): FP: 38.2%; ANC: 7.8%; CHS: 6.7% Target (2020): FP: 70%; ANC: 50%; CHS: 50%	BHFS	UNFPA, WHO, UNICEF, IOM, IAEA	198.05	448.5	646.56			
		1.1a Percentage of public facilities with key service readiness as per approved Essential Service Package									
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Family Planning (FP) Anti-Natal Care (ANC) Child Health Services (CHS) 									
		1.1b ANC coverage (at least 4 visits)	Baseline: 31.2% (2014) Target: 50% (2020)	BDHS	UNFPA, WHO, UNICEF, IOM						
		1.1c Percentage of deliveries by SBA	Baseline: 42.1% (2014) Target: 65% (2020)	BDHS	UNFPA, WHO, UNICEF, IOM						
		1.1d Percentage of people living with HIV who have been diagnosed and are on antiretroviral therapy	Baseline: Women (15+): 16.3% (2015) Men (15+): 13.5 (2015) Target for both: 90% (2020)	Annual National Spectrum Projections/AEM Projections, Global and National target	UNAIDS, UNICEF, WHO, UNFPA, IOM						
		1.2 Percentage population having access to a) basic sanitation b) improved sanitation facilities (similar to 7FYP indicator and SDG indicator 6.1.1)	Baseline (2014): a) 80%; b) 61% Target (2020): a) 100%; b) 80%	WHO-UNICEF Joint Multipurpose Programme for Water Supply and Sanitation	UNICEF, WHO, UNHABITAT (urban)						
		Food security and nutrition									
		1.3a Percentage of children 6-23 months receiving a minimum acceptable diet	Baseline: 23% (2014) Target: 27% (2020)	BDHS	UNICEF, WFP, IAEA						
1.3b Proportion of children under 6 months who are exclusively breastfed	Baseline: 55% (2014) Target: 65% (2020)	BDHS Report	UNICEF, WFP								
1.3c Percentage of women with adequate diet diversity score (at least 5 out of 10 food groups)	Baseline: 46% (2014) Target: 50% (2020)	FNSP	FAO, WFP, UNICEF, IAEA								
1.3d Share of cereal energy as part of dietary energy supplies from food groups	Baseline: 78% (2013) Target: 60% (2020)	Food Balance Sheet, BBS Report	FAO, WFP, IAEA								

SDG Theme/ UNDAF Priority Area	UNDAF Outcome Statement	Outcome Indicator & Disaggregation	Baseline & Target	Means of Verification, Frequency of Monitoring	Contributing Agencies	MT-CBF (US\$ million)	
						Projected to be available	To be mobilised
Education							
		1.4a Completion rate in a) primary and b) secondary, disaggregated by gender	Baseline (2014): a) National 79%, Boys 75%; Girls 82% b) National 66%; Boys 52%; Girls 65% Target (2020): a) 85% b) 90%	BANBEIS DPE_APCS Report, MoE and MoPME	UNESCO, WFP (primary level), UNICEF		
		1.4b Adult literacy rate (%) +15 Disaggregation: gender, ethnic group, rural-urban (7FYP and similar SDG indicator 4.6.1)	Baseline (2013): National: 61% Rural: 57%; Male: 64%; Female: 58% Urban: 74%; Male: 73%; Female: 71% Rural: 60%; Male: 60%; Female: 54% Urban: 74%; Male: 73%; Female: 71%	BBS_SVRS Report MOE/IMLI (Ethnolinguistic Survey)	UNESCO		
		1.4c Percentage of girls and boys achieving nationally defined learning competencies in grade 5 in a) Bangla and b) mathematics (Similar to SDG indicator 4.6.1)	Baseline (2013): a) National: 25%; Boys: 24%; Girls: 25% b) National: 25%, Boys: 25%, Girls 25% Target (2020): a) 50%, b) 50%	National School Assessment Report	UNICEF, UNESCO		
Social justice and rights							
		1.5 Percentage of women aged 20-24 who were married a) before age of 18 and b) before age of 15 (7FYP indicator and similar SDG indicator 5.3.1)	Baseline (2014): a) 59%; b) 16% Target (2020): a) 30%; b) 0%	BBS_BDHS, MoWCA	UNICEF, UNFPA, UNWOMEN		
		1.6 Percentage of women and girls aged 15 years and older a) who experience any type of violence within past 12 months b) who experience physical violence in past 12 months c) who experience sexual violence in past 12 months	Baseline (2013): a) Current husband: 77% Previous husband: 35% b) Current husband: 46% Previous husband: 20% c) Current husband: 24% Previous husband: 9%	VAW survey, BBS	UNFPA, UNICEF, UNWOMEN		

SDG Theme/ UNDAF Priority Area	UNDAF Outcome Statement	Outcome Indicator & Disaggregation	Baseline & Target	Means of Verification, Frequency of Monitoring	Contributing Agencies	MT-CBF (US\$ million)		
						Projected to be available	To be mobilised	Indicative total
		d) who experience psychological violence in past 12 months (SDG indicator 5.2.1)	d) Current husband: 72% Previous husband: 32% Target (2020): 10% decrease is realistic within the UNDAF period (calculate)	Supreme Court's case statistics report, National Legal Aid Services Organizations (NLASO), District Legal Aid Committee reports	UNDP, UNWOMEN			
		1.7a Percentage of poor and disadvantaged accessing and using legal aid services as compared to the total litigants (similar to 7FYP indicator)	Baseline: 2%(2015) Target: 4.5% (2020)					
		1.7b Number of cases settled per year under Alternate Dispute Resolution (ADR) compared to total cases	Baseline: 14,000 (2014) Target: 25,000 (2020)	Law and Justice Division, MoLJPA	UNDP			
		1.8 Percentage of refugees on Bangladesh territory who have a legal status and civil documentation	Baseline: 11% (2016) Target: 100% (2020)	BBS census	UNHCR IOM			
		1.9 Number of national laws or policies revised to remove discriminatory provisions	Baseline: 0 (2016) Target: 6 (2020)	MoLJPA, GoB Gazette	UNDP, UNWOMEN, UNFPA, ILO, UNCDF			
		1.10 Percentage of Ministry oversight hearings held by the Parliamentary Standing Committee regularly	Baseline: 13 (2014) Target: 25 (2020)	Annual Parliament Secretariat Report	UNDP			
		Social expenditure (similar to SDG indicator 1.a.2)						
		1.11a Public expenditure on children as a percentage of national budget	Baseline: 11.4% (2015) Target: 14% (2020)	Ministry of Finance	UNICEF			
		1.11b Public expenditure a) health b) education as percentage of GDP	Baseline: Health: 3.5% (2015) Education: 2.2% (2015) Target: Health: 5% (2020) Education: 2.5% (2020)	Bangladesh National Health Accounts Planning, 7th 5 Year Plan	WHO, UNICEF, UNFPA, UNESCO			

SDG Theme/ UNDAF Priority Area	UNDAF Outcome Statement	Outcome Indicator & Disaggregation	Baseline & Target	Means of Verification, Frequency of Monitoring	Contributing Agencies	MT-CBF (US\$ million)		
						Projected to be available	To be mobilised	Indicative total
2. Planet: Sustainable and resilient environment SDG: 2, 7, 9, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15 Cross-cutting: 5, 10, 16, 17	By 2020, relevant State institutions, together with their respective partners, enhance effective management of the natural and man-made environment, focusing on improved sustainability and increased resilience of vulnerable individuals and groups.	Environment 2.1 Share of renewable energy to total electricity generation (%) (7FYP and SDG indicator 7.2.1)	Baseline: 3.6% (2015) Target: 10% (2020)	Source: Power Division, MoPEMR	UNDP, UNEP, IAEA	84.9	217.87	302.77
		2.2 Percentage of a) coastal, b) marine and c) forest areas that are protected (7FYP and combination of similar SDG indicators 14.5.1, 15.1.2)	Baseline (2013/14): a) 1.2%; b) 0.0%; c) 1.8% Target (2020): a) 5%; b) 1.3%; c) 5%	Dept. of Forest, MoEF BFD_MoEF	UNDP, FAO, UNESCO, UNHABITAT, UNEP			
		2.3 Forest areas as a percentage of total land area (7FYP and SDG indicator 15.1.1)	Baseline: 11% (2015) Target: 20% (2020)	National Forest Inventory, Forest Dept.	FAO, UNDP, UNEP			
		Disaster Management 2.4 Proportion of local governments (union level) that adopt and implement local disaster risk reduction strategies in line with the internationally agreed instruments (Sendai Framework) for Disaster Risk Reduction (SDG indicator 11.b.1)	Baseline: 16% (2015) Target: 60% (2020)	Union level assessment reports, annual reports, mid-term and final evaluation reports	UNDP, WFP, UNICEF, FAO, UNHABITAT, IOM, UNCDF, IAEA			
		2.5 Percentage of urban people living in temporary structures (housing) reduced in urban areas (similar to SDG indicator 11.1.1)	Baseline: 43.4% (2010) Target: 25% (2020)	Ministry of Housing and Public Works, UDD	UNHABITAT, UNDP, UNCDF			
		2.6 Volume of persistent organic pollutants (POPs) reduced from environment (similar to SDG indicator 12.5)	Baseline 0 (2015) Target 500 tonnes (2020)	Department of Environment, PDB, REB, PGCB, DPDC	UNIDO			

SDG Theme/ UNDAF Priority Area	UNDAF Outcome Statement	Outcome Indicator & Disaggregation	Baseline & Target	Means of Verification, Frequency of Monitoring	Contributing Agencies	MT-CBF (US\$ million)	
						Projected to be available	To be mobilised total
3. Prosperity: Inclusive and shared economic growth SDG 1, 2, 5, 8, 9 Cross-cutting: 10, 16, 17	By 2020, relevant State institutions, together with their respective partners, increase opportunities, especially for women and disadvantaged groups to contribute to and benefit from economic progress.	Poverty and inequality					
		3.1a Poverty headcount, gap and severity (Forster Greer Thornback) - poverty gap - poverty severity	Baseline: 6.5% (2010) Target: 4% (2020) Baseline: 2 (2010) Target: TBD	HIES	UNDP, UNHABITAT	135-89	133-15
		3.1b Percentage of population in severe multi-dimensional poverty, national, by location	Baseline (2012/13): National: 17.4%; Urban: 9.3%; Rural: 19.5% Target (2020): National: 11%; Urban: 6%; Rural: 13.5%	UNDP HDR/MPI	UNDP, UNICEF, WFP, FAO, UNHABITAT		
		3.1c Degree of inequality, Palma ratio (richest 10% to poorest 40%)	Baseline: 1.3 (2005-2013) Target: <1.3 (2020)	Human Development Report, HIES	UNDP		
		Social protection and employment:					
		3.2 Wage gap of average hourly earnings of female and male employees Disaggregation: occupation, age, persons with disabilities (similar to SDG indicator 8.5.1)	Baseline: 21.1% (2007); Male: 17.2 taka; Female: 14.2 taka Target: 10% (2020)	BBS National Occupational Wage Survey (2007)	ILO, UNWOMEN		
		3.3 National compliance of rights at workplace (freedom of association and collective bargaining) a) increase in labour inspection b) increase in signing of collective bargaining agreement c) Increase in workplaces with committee (or other mechanism) in place to address sexual harassment Disaggregation: sector wise for labour inspection (SDG indicator 8.8.2)	Baseline: a) 24,197 (2014); b) 83 (2016) SHC: ILO, UNFPA, and UNWOMEN will establish Target: 5% yearly increase Labour inspection: (2020) Collective bargaining agreement: 500	Annual Dept of Inspection for Factories and Establishments (DIFE), Dept of Labour (DOL) reports SHC: propose to incorporate in periodic BBS labour force survey	ILO, UNFPA, UNWOMEN		
						135-89	269.04

SDG Theme/ UNDAF Priority Area	UNDAF Outcome Statement	Outcome Indicator & Disaggregation	Baseline & Target	Means of Verification, Frequency of Monitoring	Contributing Agencies	MT-CBF (US\$ million)		
						Projected to be available	To be mobilised	Indicative total
		3.4 Proportion of children aged 5-17 years engaged in child labour, by sex and age (SDG indicator 8.7.1)	Baseline (2013): National: 1.7 million Target: 1.27 million (2020)	BBS national CLS	ILO, UNICEF			
		3.5 Percentage of employed men and women 15 years and above having employment in the a) formal b) informal sector	Baseline (2013): a) National: 12.6% Men: 13.7%; Women: 9.7% b) National: 87.4% Men: 86.3%; Women: 90.3% Target (2020): a) 15%; b) 85%	LFS_2013 and forthcoming 2016, 7FYP	UN WOMEN, ILO, UNIDO			
		3.6 Percentage of overseas migrant by type a) skilled b) semi-skilled Disaggregation: gender, region/district, ethnic group (7FYP indicator)	Baseline (2015): a) 37%; b) 17% Target (2020): a) 38%; b) 22%	BMET_MoE WOE	IOM, ILO			
		3.7 Participation rate of youth and adults in a) formal and b) non-formal technical, vocational education and training in the previous 12 months c) volunteer activities that build soft/life skills, by sex (SDG indicator 4.3.1)	Baseline (2014): a) National: 11% ; Male: 15.10 % ; Female: 8.4% b) 1.1 million (2012) c) Volunteer activities (2010): 16,586 volunteers (18%) of total population aged 15 and above; Male: 12,660 Female: 3,926 Target: a) 23% (interpolated value in 2020); b) 0.5 million (2020) c) 25%	Formal: BANBEIS, MoE Non-formal: BNFE, MoPME Volunteer activities : BBS Labour Force Survey	UNESCO, ILO, UNV, UNIDO, IAEA			
		3.8 Proportion of people below the lower poverty line benefiting from social protection(Similar to SDG indicator 1.3.1)	Baseline: 38% (2015) Target: 60% (2020)	HIES	UNDP, UNICEF, WFP, ILO, FAO			
		3.9 Proportion of time spent on unpaid domestic and care work, by sex, employment status and location (division) a) Average time spent of not employed in doing HH work b) Average time spent of employed in doing HH work	Baseline (2012): a) Male: 1.2 hours; Female: 6.2 hours b) Male: 1.4 hours; Female: 3.6 hours Target:	BBS Time Use Pilot Survey 2012	UNWOMEN			
		3.10 Gender budget as percentage of total budget	Baseline: 27.7% (FY 2014) Target: 30% (2020)	7FYP_Finance Division and MoWCA	UN WOMEN, UNICEF, UNFPA			

A photograph showing the silhouettes of two people, likely a woman and a child, standing in shallow water and pulling a fishing net. The scene is set during sunset or sunrise, with a warm, golden light reflecting on the water's surface. The background shows gentle waves and a hazy horizon. On the right edge of the page, there is a vertical bar with a series of colorful rectangular segments in shades of red, yellow, green, blue, and orange.

9. PARTNERSHIPS, VALUES AND PRINCIPLES (LEGAL CLAUSES)

The UNDAF 2017-2020 has multiple functions, including as a mechanism to ensure accountability and as part of the legal framework establishing the relationship between each UN System agency and the Government of Bangladesh. The legal basis of the document stems from the operational agreements outlined below. At the same time, country-level strategic planning documents will continue to guide the country-level programmes of UN agencies. The Government and the UN System will work together on national capacity development at both central and local levels. All resident and non-resident UN agencies will subscribe to the UNDAF 2017-2020. In doing so, they will respond to national priorities in the spirit of national ownership and leadership, and will promote harmonisation and simplification of procedures and guidelines, increased use of national systems and enhanced accountability of all parties.

The UNDAF builds on both the experience of previous UN programmes in the country and the unique strengths and expertise of the UN System in Bangladesh. This includes: 1) overall high-level advocacy for, access to and leadership on international norms and standards, focusing on both rights holders and duty bearers; 2) promotion of international best practices and lessons learned, while working to develop the capacities of national institutions; 3) impartial, evidence-based programming toward achievement of international and national development goals; 4) piloting of innovative programmes, projects and social development models, with particular emphasis on the link between innovations and quality support, and partnership with Government on scaled-up initiatives at district, regional and national levels; and 5) convening authority to mobilise national and international partners.

9.1 UN System Commitments

This assures the highest possible degree of compliance with the UN Charter and Standards of Conduct of the International Civil Service, exemplifying fundamental qualities such as inclusiveness, integrity and ethics, transparency and accountability, trust, respect for diversity, non-discrimination, freedom from harassment, and creativity. In addition, the UN System values teamwork, participatory management, open communication, timely dissemination of information, quality performance and oversight, and results orientation. In line with this, the UN System in Bangladesh has adopted a compact delineating a specific set of values and principles to which it adheres. Under this compact, the UNCT agrees to:

- 1 Uphold fundamental principles and standards of the UN System
- 2 Ensure UNDAF outcomes are consistently linked to national development priorities
- 3 Pursue a rights-based approach to development programming
- 4 Proactively seek opportunities for enhancing UN System coherence, coordination and harmonisation of programmes and activities
- 5 Collaborate respectfully and constructively in the spirit of enhanced UN System coherence
- 6 Be patient and understanding, and proactively promote the interests of the UN System in Bangladesh
- 7 Consult fully before meeting with Government and development partners when pursuing any matter that relates to other UN agencies' mandates or interests, particularly in the context of UNDAF, country programmes and UN joint programming or activities, thereby delivering common messages to the Government and development partners, and ensuring that the UN System speaks with one voice
- 8 Make it a priority to assist one another when the reputation of the UN System at large or of specific UN agencies is at stake
- 9 Share information in a transparent spirit of cooperation and collegiality
- 10 Invest time and effort to better understand, respect and build on each other's agency mandates, activities, operating procedures and constraints

- 11 Endeavour to ensure internal coherence between offices at country, regional and headquarters levels
- 12 Carefully weigh the costs and benefits of joint UN system activities so as to avoid the imposition of unnecessary burdens on each other and our partners, given the high transaction costs acknowledged to be associated with large partnerships
- 13 Communicate with one another in a respectful, courteous and professional manner
- 14 Avoid pettiness and institutional ‘turf’ issues in the interest of the common good
- 15 Resolve disagreements and disputes respectfully and collegially and defer to UN Resident Coordinator’s guidance in the event of unresolved disputes.

9.2 Legal Clauses

The UNDAF should be read, interpreted and implemented in accordance with the basic agreements between the UN system and the Government of Bangladesh. Specifically, these are:

- a) WHEREAS the Government and the United Nations Development Programme (hereinafter referred to as UNDP), have entered into a basic agreement to govern UNDP’s assistance to the country (Standard Basic Assistance Agreement [SBAA]), which was signed by both parties on 25/11/86. Based on Article I, paragraph 2 of the SBAA, UNDP’s assistance to the Government shall be made available to the Government and shall be furnished and received in accordance with the relevant and applicable resolutions and decisions of the competent UN organs, and subject to the availability of the necessary funds to the UNDP. In particular, decision 2005/1 of 28 January 2005 of UNDP’s Executive Board approved the new Financial Regulations and Rules, and along with them the new definitions of ‘execution’ and ‘implementation,’ enabling UNDP to fully implement the new Common Country Programming Procedures resulting from the undg simplification and harmonization initiative. In light of this decision, this UNDAF and CPD, together with an Annual Work Plan (AWP) constitute together a project document as referred to in the SBAA.
- b) With the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), the SBAA concluded between the Government and UNDP on 25/11/1986 mutatis mutandis applies to the activities and personnel of UNFPA, in accordance with the agreement concluded by an exchange of letters between UNFPA and the Government which entered into force on 15/10/1998. This UNDAF together with any work plan concluded hereunder, which shall form part of this UNDAF and is incorporated herein by reference, constitutes the Project Document as referred to in the SBAA.
- c) With the United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF), a Basic Cooperation Agreement (BCA) which was signed with the Government on 02/01/1996.
- d) With the World Food Programme (WFP), a Basic Agreement of Assistance which was signed with the Government on 02/10/1974.
- e) With the Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations (FAO), an Agreement which was signed with the Government on 16/02/1977.
- f) With the International Labour Organisation (ILO), an Agreement which was signed with the Government on 25/06/1973.
- g) With the International Organisation for Migration (IOM), a Cooperation Agreement which was signed with the Government on 02/02/1998.
- h) With the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS), through the SBAA signed by UNDP and the Government on 25/11/1986.
- i) With the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO), an Agreement which was signed with the Government on 06/11/1995.

- j) With the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), a Memorandum of Understanding which was signed with the Government on 12/05/1993.
- k) With the World Health Organisation(WHO), a Basic Agreement for the Provision of Technical Advisory Assistance which was signed with the Government on 29/06/1972.
- l) With the United Nations Environment Programme through the United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA) and the UNEA's approval of UNEP's Medium Term Strategy 2014-2017, 2018-2021 and related programmes of work.
- m) With the United Nations Women (UN Women), the SBAA concluded between the Government and UN Women on 25/11/1986 mutatis mutandis applies to its premises, property, assets as well as personnel of UN Women, in accordance with the agreement concluded by an exchange of letters between UN Women and the Government which entered into force on 09/10/2014.

9.3 Programme Management and Accountability Arrangements

The programme will be executed nationally under the overall coordination of the Economic Relations Division (ERD), Ministry of Finance. Government ministries, NGOs, INGOs and UN agencies will implement programme activities. The UNDAF will be made operational through the development of joint work plan (s) and/or agency specific bi-annual/annual work plans and/or project documents that describe the specific results to be achieved. These documents will form an agreement between the UN agencies and each implementing partner on the use of resources. The UN agencies and partners will use the minimum documents necessary, namely, the signed UNDAF and Annual Work Plan project documents, to implement programmatic initiatives. However, as necessary and appropriate, project documents can be prepared using, inter alia, the relevant text from the UNDAF and joint or agency specific work plans and/or project documents. For nationally executed projects, the formal TAPP/DPP process, including ERD's sign-off, explicitly ensures ERD's engagement in and approval of UN project implementation.

9.4 Commitments of the Government

Cash assistance for travel, stipends, honoraria and other costs shall be set at rates commensurate with those applied in the country, but not higher than those applicable to the UN System (as stated in the ICSC circulars).

The Government of Bangladesh will honour its commitments in accordance with the provisions of the cooperation and assistance agreements outlined in the above paragraph.

The Government of Bangladesh shall apply the provisions of the Convention on the Privileges and Immunities of the United Nations agencies to the agencies' property funds, and assets, and to its officials and consultants. In addition the Government will accord to the agencies and their officials, and to other persons performing services on behalf of the agencies, the privileges, immunities and facilities as set out in the cooperation and assistance agreements between the agencies and the Government. The Government will be responsible for dealing with any claims brought by third parties against any of the agencies or its officials, advisors or agents. None of the agencies nor any of their respective officials, advisors or persons performing services on their behalf will be held responsible for any claims and liabilities resulting from operations under the cooperation and assistance agreements, except where it is mutually agreed by Government and a particular agency that such claims and liabilities arise from gross negligence or misconduct of that agency, or its officials, advisors or persons performing services.

[If required]: Without prejudice to the generality of the foregoing, the Government shall insure or indemnify the agencies from civil liability under the law of the country in respect of vehicles provided by the agencies but under the control of or use by the Government.

- (a) Nothing in this Agreement shall imply a waiver by the UN or any of its Agencies or Organisations of any privileges or immunities enjoyed by them or their acceptance of the jurisdiction of the courts of any country over disputes arising of this Agreement.
- (b) Nothing in or relating to this document will be deemed a waiver, expressed or implied, of the privileges and immunities of the United Nations and its subsidiary organs, whether under the Convention on the Privileges and Immunities of the United Nations of 13th February 1946, the Convention on the Privileges and Immunities of the Specialized Agencies of 21st November 1947, as applicable, and no provisions of this Note Verbale or any Institutional Contract or any Undertaking will be interpreted or applied in a manner, or to an extent, inconsistent with such privileges and immunities.

9.5 HACT Implementation

For the agencies committed to applying harmonised cash transfer procedures and coordinated monitoring and assurance activities with other UN agencies, the Harmonised Approach to Cash Transfers (HACT) will apply and they will be subject to standard HACT procedures, such as macro/micro-assessments.

All cash transfers to an implementing partner are based on the Work Plans (WPs)¹⁴ agreed between the implementing partner and the UN system agencies.

Cash transfers for activities detailed in WPs can be made by the UN system agencies using the following modalities:

1. Cash transferred directly to the implementing partner, or to the relevant national institution for forwarding to the implementing partner in countries where it has been agreed that cash will be transferred to institutions other than the implementing partner (e.g. the Treasury):
 - a. Prior to the start of activities (direct cash transfer), or
 - b. After activities have been completed (reimbursement);
2. Direct payment to vendors or third parties for obligations incurred by the implementing partner on the basis of requests signed by the designated official of the implementing partner;
3. Direct payments to vendors or third parties for obligations incurred by UN system agencies in support of activities agreed with implementing partners.

Where cash transfers are made to the national institution, this institution shall transfer such cash promptly to the implementing partner.

Direct cash transfers shall be requested and released for programme implementation periods not exceeding three months. Reimbursements of previously authorised expenditures shall be requested and released quarterly or after the completion of activities. The UN system agencies shall not be obligated to reimburse expenditure made by the implementing partner over and above the authorised amounts.

Following the completion of any activity, any balance of funds shall be refunded or programmed by mutual agreement between the implementing partner and the UN agencies.

¹⁴ Refers to results groups/thematic groups' joint or agency specific annual, bi-annual or multiyear work plans.

Cash transfer modalities, the size of disbursements, and the scope and frequency of assurance activities may depend on the findings of a review of the public financial management capacity in the case of a government implementing partner, and of an assessment of the financial management capacity of the non-UN¹⁵ implementing partner. A qualified consultant, such as a public accounting firm, selected by the UN system agencies may conduct such an assessment, in which the implementing partner shall participate. The implementing partner shall also participate in the selection of the consultant.

Cash transfer modalities, the size of disbursements, and the scope and frequency of assurance activities may be revised in the course of programme implementation based on the findings of programme monitoring, expenditure monitoring and reporting, and audits.

In case of direct cash transfer or reimbursement, the UN system agencies shall notify the implementing partner of the amount approved by the UN agencies and shall disburse funds to the implementing partner within the number of days stated in the UN system agency schedule.

In case of direct payment to vendors or third parties for obligations incurred by the implementing partners on the basis of requests signed by the designated official of the implementing partner; or to vendors or third parties for obligations incurred by the UN system agencies in support of activities agreed with implementing partners, the UN agencies shall proceed with the payment within the number of days agreed by the UN system agencies.

The UN system agencies shall not have any direct liability under the contractual arrangements concluded between the implementing partner and a third party vendor.

Where the UN system agencies provide cash to the same implementing partner, programme monitoring, financial monitoring and auditing will be undertaken jointly or coordinated with those UN system agencies.

The Supreme Audit Institution (SAI) may undertake the audits of government implementing partners. If the SAI chooses not to undertake the audits of specific implementing partners to the frequency and scope required by the UN system agencies, these agencies will commission the audits to be undertaken by private sector audit services.¹⁶

A standard Fund Authorisation and Certificate of Expenditures (FACE) report, reflecting the activity lines of the work plan, will be used by implementing partners to request the release of funds, or to secure the agreement that a UN agency will reimburse or directly pay for planned expenditure. Implementing partners will use the FACE to report on the utilisation of cash received, and shall identify the designated official (s) authorised to provide the account details, and request and certify the use of cash. The FACE will be certified by the designated official(s) of the implementing partner.

Cash transferred to implementing partners should be spent for the purpose of activities and within the timeframe as agreed in the WPs only.

¹⁵ For the purposes of these clauses, 'the UN' includes the international financial institutions.

¹⁶ Seen through a south-south lens, the capacity assessment process presents an opportunity to identify capacity assets that a particular country could offer to other developing countries and the capacity gaps that could be filled by other developing countries. For UNDP, the audit of NGO or nationally implemented projects can be assigned to the national Supreme Audit Institution (SAI) only on the condition that the institution has a demonstrated capacity to carry out the audits in an independent manner. To this effect, the Office of Audit and Investigations (OAI) has made available on its Intranet site guidance on the assessment of SAIs along with a questionnaire to be completed, signed and communicated to OAI to attest that due diligence has been exercised prior to opting to have such audits undertaken by the national SAI.

Cash received by the Government and national NGO implementing partners shall be used in accordance with established national regulations, policies and procedures, consistent with international standards, in particular ensuring that cash is expended for activities as agreed in the WPs, and ensuring that reports on the utilisation of all received cash are submitted to the appropriate UN agency within six months (or agency specific timelines) of receipt of the funds. Where national regulations, policies and procedures are not consistent with international standards, the UN system agency financial and other related rules, as well as regulations, policies and procedures will apply.

In the case of international NGO/CSO and IGO implementing partners, cash received shall be used in accordance with international standards, in particular ensuring that cash is expended for activities as agreed in the WPs, and ensuring that reports on the full utilisation of all cash received are submitted to the relevant UN agency within six months (or agency specific timelines) of receipt of the funds.

To facilitate scheduled and special audits, each implementing partner receiving cash from a UN system agency will provide the agency or its representative with timely access to:

- all financial records which establish the transactional record of the cash transfers provided by the agency, together with relevant documentation;
- all relevant documentation and personnel associated with the functioning of the implementing partner's internal control structure through which the cash transfers have passed.

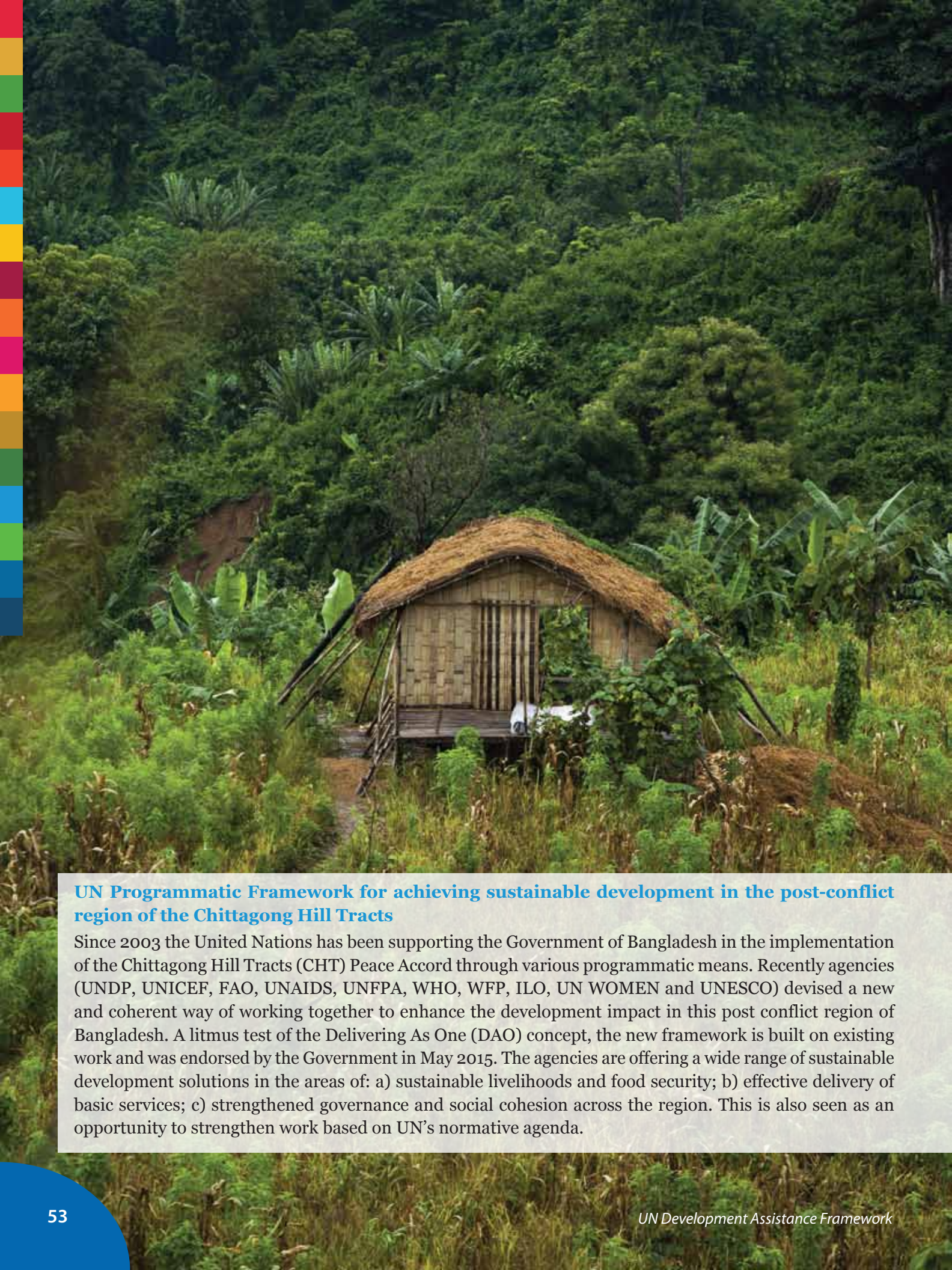
The findings of each audit will be reported to the implementing partner and the UN system agency. Each implementing partner will, furthermore:

- Receive and review the audit report issued by the auditors;
- Provide a timely statement of the acceptance or rejection of any audit recommendation to the UN agency that provided cash (and to the SAI, where the SAI has been identified to conduct the audits) so that the auditors include these statements in their final audit report before submitting it to the UN agency;
- Undertake timely actions to address the accepted audit recommendations;
- Report on the actions taken to implement accepted recommendations to the UN system agencies (and to the SAI, where the SAI has been identified to conduct the audits), on a quarterly basis (or as locally agreed).

Implementing partners agree to cooperate with the UN system agencies for monitoring all activities supported by cash transfers and will facilitate access to relevant financial records and personnel responsible for the administration of cash provided by the UN agencies. To that effect, implementing partners agree to the following:

1. Periodic on-site reviews and spot checks of their financial records by the UN agencies or their representatives, as appropriate and as described in specific clauses of their engagement documents/ contracts with the UN agencies;
2. Programmatic monitoring of activities following the UN system agencies' standards and guidance for site visits and field monitoring,
3. Special or scheduled audits.

Each UN organisation, in collaboration with other UN system agencies (and in consultation with the respective coordinating Ministry where so desired) will establish an annual audit plan, giving priority to audits of implementing partners to whom large amounts of cash assistance are provided by the UN system agencies, and those whose financial management capacity needs strengthening.



UN Programmatic Framework for achieving sustainable development in the post-conflict region of the Chittagong Hill Tracts

Since 2003 the United Nations has been supporting the Government of Bangladesh in the implementation of the Chittagong Hill Tracts (CHT) Peace Accord through various programmatic means. Recently agencies (UNDP, UNICEF, FAO, UNAIDS, UNFPA, WHO, WFP, ILO, UN WOMEN and UNESCO) devised a new and coherent way of working together to enhance the development impact in this post conflict region of Bangladesh. A litmus test of the Delivering As One (DAO) concept, the new framework is built on existing work and was endorsed by the Government in May 2015. The agencies are offering a wide range of sustainable development solutions in the areas of: a) sustainable livelihoods and food security; b) effective delivery of basic services; c) strengthened governance and social cohesion across the region. This is also seen as an opportunity to strengthen work based on UN's normative agenda.



ANNEX I
CONCEPTUAL FRAMEWORK OF
UNDAF 2017-2020

Comparative Advantage

Strategic Outcome Areas,SDG and 7FYP alignment

Outcome Statements

**CAPACITY-STRENGTHENING OF RIGHTS-HOLDERS AND DUTY-BEARERS
UN NORMATIVE AGENDA**

**PEOPLE: SDG 2,
SDG 3, SDG 4,
SDG 5, SDG 6,
SDG 8, SDG 9**

**PLANET: SDG 2,
SDG 7, SDG 9,
SDG 11, SDG 12,
SDG 13, SDG 14,
SDG 15**

**PROSPERITY
SDG 1, SDG 2,
SDG 8, SDG 9**

CROSS-CUTTING: SDG 5, SDG 10, SDG 16, SDG 17

**Education, Health,
Water and sanitation,
Governance, Urban
development, Social
Protection**

**Environment, climate
change and disaster
management, Power
energy and mineral
resources, Agriculture
and water resources**

**Poverty reduction,
Employment growth,
Gender equality and
empowerment of all
women.**

OUTCOME 1: By 2020, relevant State institutions, together with their respective partners, develop and implement improved social policies and programmes that focus on good governance, reduction of structural inequalities and advancement of vulnerable individuals and groups.

OUTCOME 2: By 2020, relevant state institutions, together with their respective partners, enhance effective management of the natural and man-made environment, focusing on improved sustainability and increased resilience of vulnerable individuals and groups.

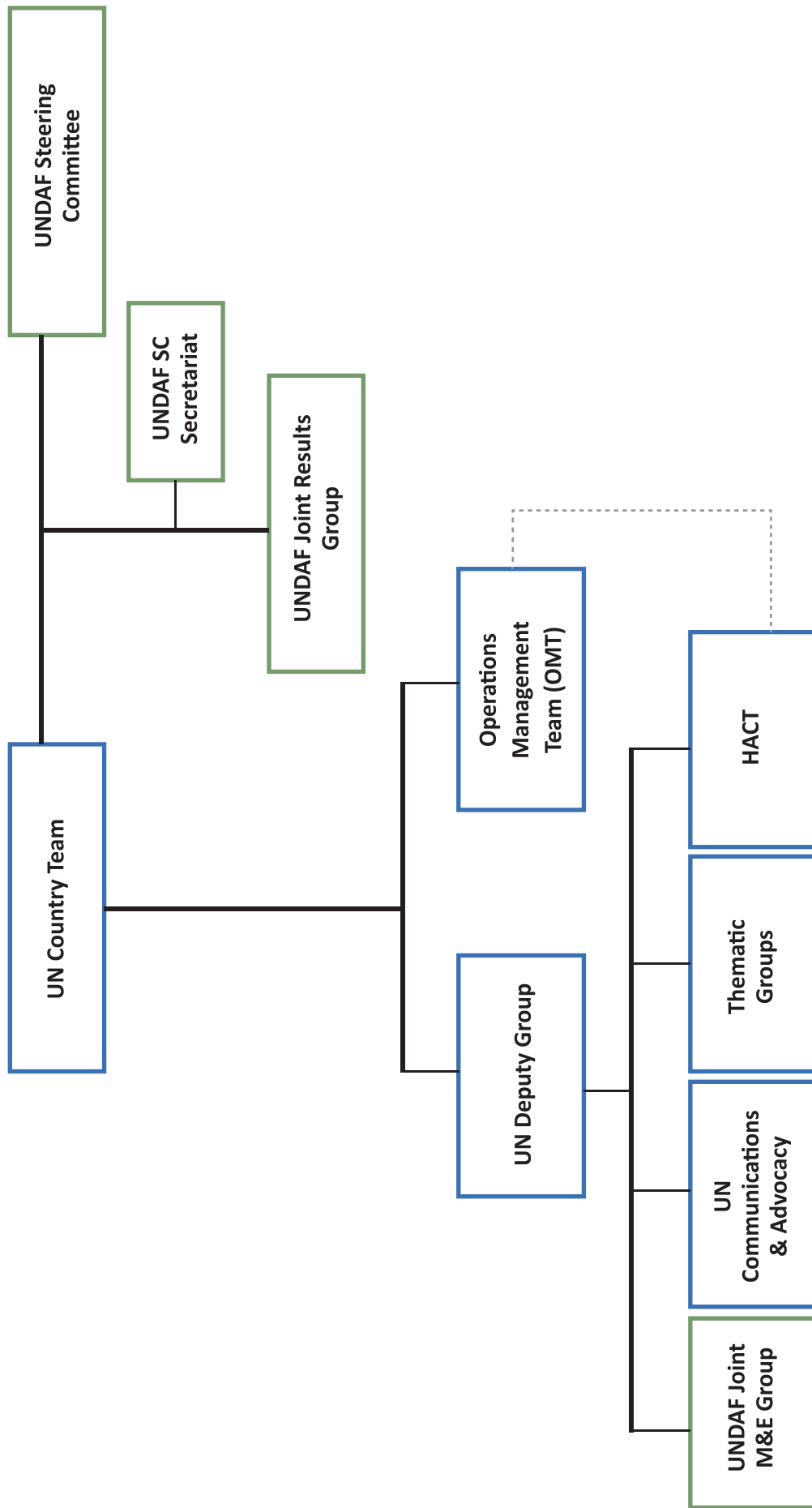
OUTCOME 3: By 2020, relevant state institutions, together with their respective partners, increase opportunities, especially for women and disadvantaged groups to contribute to and benefit from economic progress.

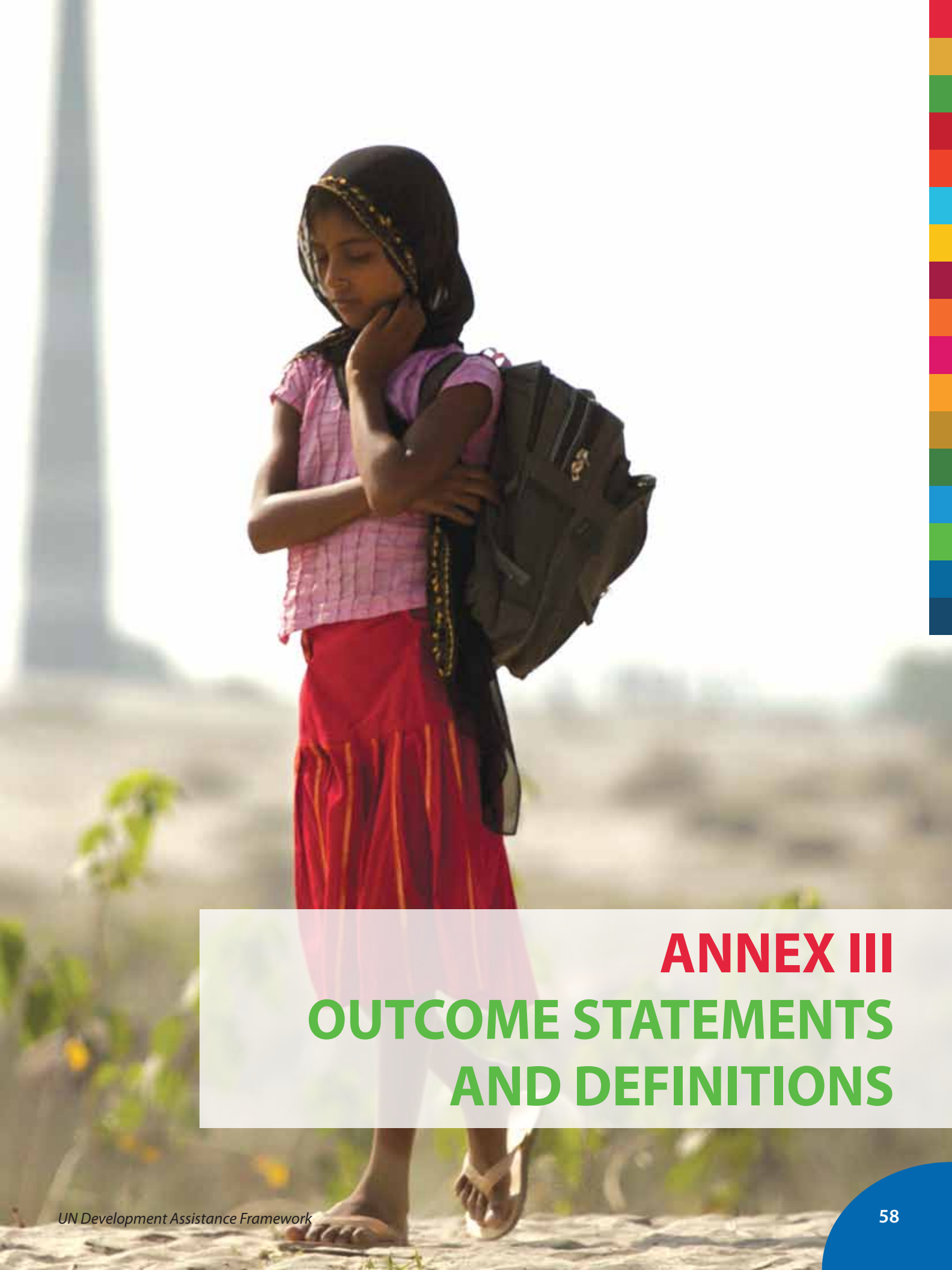


ANNEX II
UNDAF 2017-2020
IMPLEMENTATION STRUCTURE



Green boxes have external representation
Blue boxes are only UN





ANNEX III

OUTCOME STATEMENTS AND DEFINITIONS

1. Capacity-strengthening and advocacy include, but not limited to:

- Resources (tools, material, financial, human capital, volunteerism, etc.)
- Skills and knowledge
- Mandate and authority (policy support, legislation, etc.)
- Conducive environment for effective development (participation, community outreach, transparency, accountability)
- Capacity strengthening of rights holders and duty bearers, addressing their intersectionality.

2. Relevant state institutions¹⁷ include but not limited to:

- State institutions and entities whose mandate and authority corresponds to UNDAF outcomes
- National and sub-national government institutions
- Line ministries, Directorates, Divisions, Departments
- Divisional level entities
- Local entities
- Commissions and Boards
- Research councils and institutes.

3. Respective partners¹⁸ include, but not limited to:

- National and international non-governmental organisations
- Civil society organisations
- Community based organisations
- Think tanks and academia
- Private sector
- Media.

Those who are **vulnerable** refers to individuals and groups affected by disparities, exclusion, and marginalisation.¹⁹ These rarely occur in a single dimension, and social, cultural, economic, political and geographic factors all interact and intersect to create and reinforce different forms of vulnerability. Many people in Bangladesh may also belong to several categories of vulnerability, and may experience multiple and unique forms of disparity, exclusion, and marginalisation. As such, ‘vulnerable’ is defined according to the context and intervention relating to the outcome area. The country analysis document highlights some vulnerable individuals and groups in relation to the proposed outcome areas. Those who are vulnerable specifically because of their marginalisation include people in particular (including hard to reach) geographical locations, members of ethnic or religious minorities, and refugees and persons with an ‘irregular status’, while others who are vulnerable include:

¹⁷ The relevant and actual authorities will need to be specified for the respective M&E frameworks based on and in line with actual outputs and activities of UN agencies, programmes and funds. The Country Analysis document outlines some of the main line ministries but is not comprehensive.

¹⁸ Ibid.

¹⁹ Taken from the Country Analysis.

- Adolescents and youth
- Adult illiterates
- Children engaged in child labour, including the worst forms of child labour
- Persons living with disabilities and special needs
- Dependents of deceased or incapacitated workers
- People in urban slums
- Persons living with HIV
- Young children in the poorest households
- The poor and ultra-poor
- Unskilled laborers
- Rural migrants
- Sex workers
- Transgender persons and other sexual minorities
- Injecting and other drug users
- Tea garden workers
- Older person

While gender equality is a cross-cutting theme of all the outcome areas, and is to be incorporated and considered at all stages and levels, the Country Analysis document also highlights women and girls as vulnerable under particular circumstances and situations. The following circumstances and groups of women and girls are mentioned:

- Poor women
- Illiterate adolescent girls and women
- Young or adolescent girls
- Girls engaged in child labour, including domestic work
- Unskilled and uneducated women
- Women and girls who are at risk of, or victims of, violence including child marriage
- Women in particular geographical locations
- Female migrants
- Pregnant or young mothers
- Female headed households.

OUTCOME 1:

By 2020, relevant State institutions, together with their respective partners, develop and implement improved social policies and programmes that focus on good governance, reduction of structural inequalities and advancement of vulnerable individuals and groups.

Structural inequalities²⁰ refer specifically to the systems, processes, and institutions that generate and perpetuate inequality between groups and individuals, and which are systemically rooted in the operations of dominant social institutions. It is a condition in which one category of people is attributed an unequal status in relation to other categories of people. This relationship is perpetuated and reinforced by a confluence of unequal relations in roles, functions, decisions, rights, and opportunities. Structural inequalities occur in a number of areas, including education, health, employment, and geography, and can be manifested along gender, sexual orientation, cultural and ethnic lines, among others, defined as ‘vulnerable individuals and groups’.

Structural inequality is not necessarily the same as structural discrimination, which refers to the norms, behaviours, and attitudes within institutions and social structures that deny rights or opportunities to members of certain groups, thereby denying them access to the same opportunities available to other, privileged groups. However, these two concepts are interrelated and mutually reinforcing.

OUTCOME 2:

By 2020, relevant State institutions, together with their respective partners, enhance effective management of the natural and man-made environment focusing on improved sustainability and increased resilience of vulnerable individuals and groups.

Natural and man-environment refers to the environmental footprint of institutional and development programmes, policies and plans on the natural environment, biodiversity, natural resources, and agriculture and food productivity. It also refers to the impact on vulnerability due to unsustainable practices such as pollution, waste generation, and over use/consumption. In particular, it refers to the environment in relation to the effects of climate change, biodiversity loss, man-made and natural disaster, human settlements, rapid urbanisation and industrialisation.

OUTCOME 3:

By 2020, relevant State institutions, together with their respective partners, increase opportunities, especially for women and disadvantaged groups, to contribute to and benefit from economic progress.

Increased opportunities refers to the ability of people in Bangladesh to contribute to and benefit meaningfully from economic development and growth, including:²¹

²⁰ Definitions are taken and adapted from standard sociology terminology, the World Bank (2008) and the United Nations Research Institute for Social Development (2010).

²¹ Some of these areas have been taken from corresponding SDG targets.

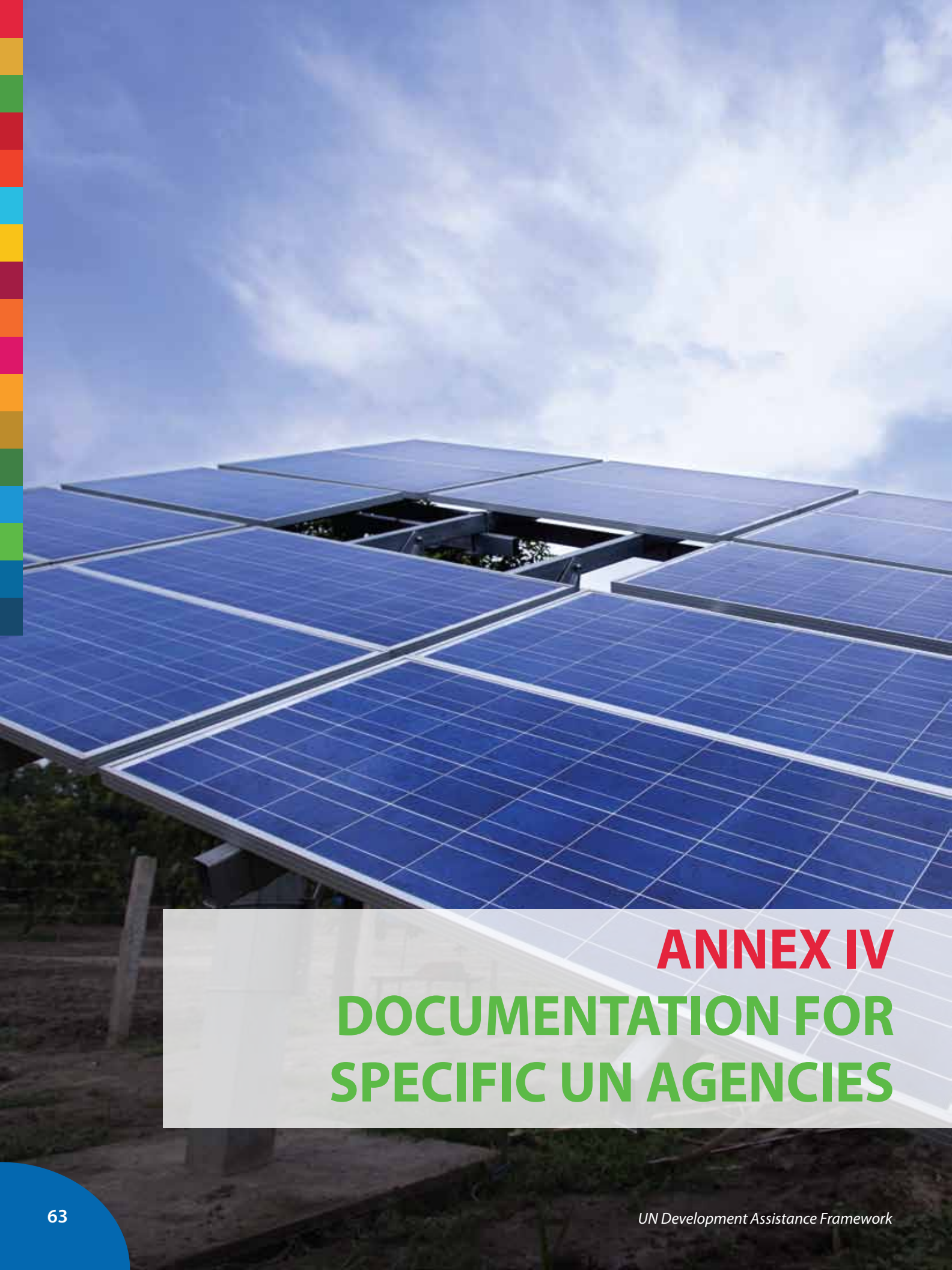
²² The full breadth of economic activity in Bangladesh can be cross-referenced with ECOSOC's International Standard Industrial Classification of all Economic Activities (ISIC) (4th revision, 2008).



- Livelihoods, job creation, and income-generation
- Decent work and productive employment
- Ownership of land and productive assets
- Financial inclusion and access to formal credit
- Entrepreneurship, innovation and social enterprise
- Volunteerism for capacity strengthening, civic engagement and social entrepreneurship, e.g. volunteer mentorship schemes in which the private sector mentors young entrepreneurs from a disadvantaged group
- Skills development and investment in different sectors
- Connecting people to the mainstream economy.

Economic activity refers to the production, distribution and consumption of goods, services, and commodities at all levels within a society.²²

²² The full breadth of economic activity in Bangladesh can be cross-referenced with ECOSOC's International Standard Industrial Classification of all Economic Activities (ISIC) (4th revision, 2008).



ANNEX IV
**DOCUMENTATION FOR
SPECIFIC UN AGENCIES**

UNDP: Mandatory text on security

Where a Government agency is the implementing partner of a particular project under this UNDAF, consistent with Article III of the Standard Basic Assistance Agreement (SBAA) [the Supplemental Provisions], the responsibility for the safety and security of the implementing partner and its personnel and property, and of UNDP's property in the implementing partner's custody, rests with the implementing partner. To this end, each Implementing Partner shall:

- a) Put in place an appropriate security plan and maintain the security plan, taking into account the security situation in the country where the project is being carried out;
- b) Assume all risks and liabilities related to the implementing partner's security, and the full implementation of the security plan.

UNDP reserves the right to verify whether such a plan is in place, and to suggest modifications to the plan when necessary. Failure to maintain and implement an appropriate security plan as required hereunder shall be deemed a breach of the implementing partner's obligations under this UNDAF, and its constituent AWP.

Each implementing partner agrees to undertake all reasonable efforts to ensure that none of the UNDP funds received pursuant to the Project Document (UNDAF and annual work plan) are used to provide support to individuals or entities associated with terrorism and that the recipients of any amounts provided by UNDP hereunder do not appear on the list maintained by the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1267 (1999). This provision must be included in all sub-contracts or sub-agreements entered into under/further to each Project Document.

The foregoing shall also apply to projects under this UNDAF where the implementing partner is an Inter-governmental organisation that has signed a standard basic executing agency agreement with UNDP.

It shall also apply where UNDP or other UN agencies serve as implementing partners. UN agencies serving as implementing partners shall also comply with all other policies, procedures and practices of the United Nations safety and security management system.

Mandatory text on Government cost sharing, (Extracts from UNDAFAP)

In case of Government cost sharing:

- i. A schedule of payments shall be determined and UNDP bank account details provided.
- ii. The value of the payment, if made in a currency other than United States dollars, shall be determined by applying the United Nations operational rate of exchange in effect on the date of payment. Should there be a change in the United Nations operational rate of exchange prior to the full utilisation by the UNDP of the payment, the value of the balance of funds still held at that time will be adjusted accordingly. If, in such a case, a loss in the value of the balance of funds is recorded, UNDP shall inform the Government with a view to determining whether any further financing could be provided by the Government. Should such further financing not be available, the assistance to be provided to the UNDAF may be reduced, suspended or terminated by UNDP.
- iii. The above schedule of payments takes into account the requirement that the payments shall be made in advance of the implementation of planned activities. It may be amended to be consistent with the progress of UNDAF delivery.
- iv. UNDP shall receive and administer the payment in accordance with the regulations, rules and directives of UNDP.
- v. All financial accounts and statements shall be expressed in United States dollars.

- vi. If unforeseen increases in expenditure or commitments are expected or realised (whether owing to inflationary factors, fluctuation in exchange rates or unforeseen contingencies), UNDP shall submit to the Government in a timely manner a supplementary estimate showing the further financing that will be necessary. The Government shall use its best endeavours to obtain the additional funds required.
- vii. If the payments referred to above are not received in accordance with the payment schedule, or if the additional financing required in accordance with paragraph [v] above is not forthcoming from the Government or other sources, the assistance to be provided to the UNDAF under this Agreement may be reduced, suspended or terminated by UNDP.
- viii. Any interest income attributable to the contribution shall be credited to UNDP's account and shall be utilised in accordance with established UNDP procedures.
- ix. In accordance with the decisions and directives of UNDP's Executive Board reflected in its Policy on Cost Recovery from Other Resources, the contribution shall be subject to cost recovery for indirect costs incurred by UNDP headquarters and country office structures in providing General Management Support (GMS) services. To cover these GMS costs, the contribution shall be charged a fee of 3% minimum. Furthermore, as long as they are unequivocally linked to the specific project(s), all direct costs of implementation, including the costs of executing entity or implementing partner, will be identified in the project budget against a relevant budget line and borne by the project accordingly.
- x. Ownership of equipment, supplies and other properties financed from the contribution shall vest in UNDP. Matters relating to the transfer of ownership by UNDP shall be determined in accordance with the relevant policies and procedures of UNDP.
- xi. The contribution shall be subject exclusively to the internal and external auditing procedures provided for in the financial regulations, rules and directives of UNDP.

Mechanisms for participatory planning, monitoring and evaluation on the progress of the country programme involving civil society and other development partners will be implemented. The Government is also committed to organising periodic programme review, planning and joint strategy meetings and, where appropriate, coordination of sectoral and thematic development partners' groups to facilitate the participation of donors, civil society, private sector and UN agencies. In addition, the Government will facilitate periodic monitoring visits by UNDP staff and/or designated officials for the purpose of monitoring, meeting beneficiaries, assessing the progress and evaluating the impact of the use of programme resources. The Government will make available to UNDP in a timely manner any information about policy and legislative changes occurring during the implementation of the UNDAF/CPD that might have an impact on cooperation.

A standard Fund Authorization and Certificate of Expenditures (FACE) report, reflecting the activity lines of the Annual Work Plan (AWP), will be used by Implementing Partners to request the release of funds, or to secure the agreement that UNDP will reimburse or directly pay for planned expenditure. The Implementing Partners will use the FACE to report on the utilization of cash received. The Implementing Partner shall identify the designated official(s) authorized to provide the account details, request and certify the use of cash. The FACE will be certified by the designated official(s) of the Implementing Partner.

Cash transferred to Implementing Partners should be spent for the purpose of activities as agreed in the AWP's only.

Cash received by the Government and national NGO Implementing Partners shall be used in accordance with established national regulations, policies and procedures consistent with international standards, in particular ensuring that cash is expended for activities as agreed in the AWP's, and ensuring that reports on the full utilization of all received cash are submitted to UNDP within six months after receipt of the funds.

Where any of the national regulations, policies and procedures is not consistent with international standards, the UN agency regulations, policies and procedures will apply.

In the case of international NGO and IGO Implementing Partners cash received shall be used in accordance with international standards in particular ensuring that cash is expended for activities as agreed in the AWP, and ensuring that reports on the full utilization of all received cash are submitted to UNDP within six months after receipt of the funds.

To facilitate scheduled and special audits, each Implementing Partner receiving cash from UNDP will provide UNDP or its representative with timely access to:

- i. All financial records which establish the transactional record of the cash transfers provided by UNDP; and
- ii. All relevant documentation and personnel associated with the functioning of the Implementing Partner's internal control structure through which the cash transfers have passed.

The findings of each audit will be reported to the Implementing Partner and UNDP. Each Implementing Partner will furthermore:

- i. Receive and review the audit report issued by the auditors;
- ii. Provide timely statements of the acceptance or rejection of any audit recommendation to the auditors and UNDP so that the auditors can include those statements in their audit report and submit it to UNDP;
- iii. Undertake timely actions to address the accepted audit recommendations; and
- iv. Report on the actions taken to implement accepted recommendations to the UNDP on a quarterly basis (or as locally agreed).

UNICEF – Commitments of the UN Agency and Government

Commitments of UNICEF

1. The UNICEF Executive Board has approved a total commitment not exceeding the equivalent of \$90 million from UNICEF Regular Resources, subject to availability of funds, to support the activities detailed in this UNDAF, for the period beginning 1 January 2017 and ending 31 December 2020.
2. The UNICEF Executive Board has also authorised UNICEF to seek additional funding to support the programmes specified in this UNDAF, referred therein as Other Resources, to an amount equivalent to \$250 million. The availability of these funds will be subject to donor interest in proposed projects. To this end, UNICEF will undertake to advocate their support within the local and international donor community.
3. The above funding commitments and proposals are exclusive of funding received in response to emergency appeals, which may be launched by the Government or by the United Nations System in response to a Government request.
4. UNICEF support to the development and implementation of activities within the United Nation Development Assistance Framework UNDAF may include technical support, cash assistance, supplies and equipment, procurement services, transport, funds for advocacy, research and studies, consultancies, programme development, monitoring and evaluation, training activities and staff support. Part of UNICEF support may be provided to Non-Governmental and Civil Society Organisations as agreed within the framework of the individual programmes.
5. UNICEF shall appoint project staff and consultants for programme development, programme support and technical assistance, as well as monitoring and evaluation activities.

6. Subject to annual reviews and progress in the implementation of the programme, UNICEF funds are distributed by calendar year and in accordance with the United Nations Development Assistance Framework. These budgets will be reviewed and further detailed in the AWP. By mutual consent between the Government and UNICEF, if the rate of implementation in any project is substantially below the annual estimates, funds not earmarked by donors to UNICEF for specific projects may be re-allocated to other programmes with equally worthwhile projects that are expected to achieve faster rates of execution.
7. UNICEF will work with Implementing Partners on the timely planning and requisitioning of cash assistance, supplies and equipment, or services and implementation through NGOs. UNICEF will keep concerned officials informed of the movement of commodities in order to facilitate efficient and timely clearing, warehousing and distribution.
8. In case of direct cash transfer or reimbursement, UNICEF shall notify the Implementing Partner of the amount approved by UNICEF and shall disburse funds to the Implementing Partner within 6 working days of notification.
9. UNICEF maintains the right to request the return of any cash, equipment or supplies it has furnished which are not used for the purposes specified in the AWP. In consultation with the Government focal cooperation department, UNICEF maintains the right to request a joint review of the use of commodities supplied but not used for the purposes specified in this UNITED NATIONS DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE FRAMEWORK (UNDAF) and AWP, for the purpose of Re-programming those commodities within the framework of the UNITED NATIONS DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE FRAMEWORK (UNDAF).
10. In case of direct payment to vendors or third parties for obligations incurred by the Implementing Partners on the basis of requests signed by the designated official of the Implementing Partner; or to vendors or third parties for obligations incurred by UNICEF in support of activities agreed with Implementing Partners, UNICEF shall proceed with the payment within 15 days.
11. UNICEF shall not have any direct liability under the contractual arrangements concluded between the Implementing Partner and a third party vendor.
12. UNICEF shares a commitment with other UN agencies to apply common resource transfer procedures and coordinate monitoring and assurance activities with the other UN agencies when they are using the same Implementing Partner as UNICEF. Where more than one UN agency provides cash to the same Implementing Partner, programme monitoring, financial monitoring and auditing will be undertaken jointly or coordinated with those UN agencies.

Commitments of Government

13. When organising periodic programme review and planning meetings, including annual reviews, annual planning meetings and the Mid-Term Review, Government shall encourage and facilitate the participation of donors, United Nations agencies, members of the UNICEF Executive Board, non-governmental organization or civil society organisations, as appropriate.
14. The Government will provide all personnel, premises, supplies, technical assistance and funds, and recurring and non-recurring support necessary for the programme, except as provided by UNICEF and/or other United Nations agencies, international organisations or bilateral agencies, or non-governmental organisations. When possible, a description of the estimated capital and recurrent costs to government will be provided in the AWP, which are agreed upon jointly by the Government and UNICEF.

15. The Government will support UNICEF's efforts to raise funds required to meet the financial needs of the Programme of Cooperation and will cooperate with UNICEF by: encouraging potential donor governments to make available to UNICEF the funds needed to implement the unfunded components of the programme; endorsing UNICEF's efforts to raise funds for the programme from the private sector both internationally and in Bangladesh; and by permitting contributions from individuals, corporations and foundations in Bangladesh to support this programme which will be tax exempt.
16. A standard Fund Authorization and Certificate of Expenditures (FACE) report, reflecting the activity lines of the AWP, will be used by Implementing Partners to request the release of funds or to secure the agreement that UNICEF will reimburse or directly pay for planned expenditure. The Implementing Partners will use the FACE to report on the utilization of cash received. The Implementing Partner shall identify the designated official (s) authorized to provide the account details, request and certify the use of cash. FACE will be certified by the designated official(s) of the Implementing Partner.
17. Cash transferred to Implementing Partners should be spent for the purpose of activities as agreed in the AWPs only.
18. Cash resources received by the Government and national NGO Implementing Partners shall be used in accordance with established national regulations, policies, and procedures consistent with international standards, in particular ensuring that cash is expended for activities as agreed in the AWPs, and ensuring that reports on the full utilization of all received cash are submitted to UNICEF within six months after receipt of the funds.
19. In the case of international NGO and Inter-Governmental Organization (IGO) Implementing Partners cash received shall be used in accordance with international standards in particular ensuring that cash is expended for activities as agreed in the AWPs, and ensuring that reports on the full utilization of all received cash are submitted to UNICEF within six months after receipt of the funds.
20. To facilitate scheduled and special audits, each Implementing Partner receiving cash from UNICEF will provide UNICEF or its representative with timely access to: all financial records which establish the transactional record of the cash transfers provided by UNICEF; all relevant documentation and personnel associated with the functioning of the Implementing Partner's internal control structure through the cash transfers have passed.
21. The findings of each audit will be reported to the Implementing Partner and UNICEF. Each Implementing Partner will furthermore:
 - Receive and review the audit report issued by the auditors.
 - Provide a timely statement of the acceptance or rejection of any audit recommendation to UNICEF that provided cash
 - Undertake timely actions to address the accepted audit recommendations.
 - Report on the actions taken to implement accepted recommendations to the UN agencies on a quarterly basis (or as locally agreed).
22. In accordance with the BCA, the Government will be responsible for absorbing all expenses related to the clearance, receipt, warehousing, distribution, inland transportation and logistics, repair and maintenance and accounting of supplies and equipment made available by UNICEF. UNICEF supplies will be maintained and recorded separately. The concerned Government department/agencies shall make provision for payment of taxes, fees, tolls or duties levied on supplies, equipment, or services furnished by UNICEF under this UNITED NATIONS DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE FRAMEWORK.

23. The equipment and supplies provided by UNICEF shall be consigned to the Government. UNICEF shall hand over shipping documents to the Government counterparts for clearance of the shipments.
24. In cases of vehicle procurement provided by UNICEF under this UNITED NATIONS DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE FRAMEWORK (UNDAF), the concerned government department/agencies shall make provision for payment of customs duties and taxes, as well as for the operational and maintenance costs, prior to requesting the procurement of such transport by UNICEF.
25. The Government will maintain separate accounts and statistical records on the clearance, receipt, warehousing, transportation, distribution, repair and maintenance of all UNICEF supplies and equipment in a mutually agreed upon form. Such accounts and records will be made available to authorized officials from UNICEF upon request.
26. The Government and UNICEF will jointly review the quarterly reports prepared by the Government of cleared and un-cleared, distributed and undistributed UNICEF consignments from port/customs warehouses/Government warehouses to improve on a continuous basis the existing procedures and practices in clearance, reception, storage and distribution of UNICEF-provided supplies.
27. As a basis for planning, the Government and UNICEF will jointly review the annual inventory of undistributed UNICEF supplies and equipment and will readjust future requirements of UNICEF supplies and equipment accordingly, contributing to a systematic approach of supply planning.
28. The Government/project authority will clear all the consignments imported by UNICEF for various projects from the port/customs warehouses within 14 days from the date of discharge/ arrival after payment of applicable customs duties, sales tax, supplementary tax, advance income tax, development surcharge, import permission and other associated costs). No demurrage should be charged to UNICEF on such consignments at either seaports, airports or land port. If there is any demurrage, it should be charged to the Government after the above 14 days of demurrage free time.
29. In the event of a Government request to UNICEF to provide imported emergency supplies, the request must be accompanied by a written assurance for UNICEF from the Government for payment of CD/VAT by concerned Government department/agency.
30. The Government will delegate its authority to its appointed clearing and forwarding agents for the completion of Outturn Reports/Delivery Note, stating the condition of the UNICEF consignments at the time of clearance and will submit them to UNICEF within 14 days from the date of clearance. The Government will submit the Government Receipt, duly signed by the responsible official, to UNICEF within 45 days from the date of clearance.
31. The Government will be responsible for the speedy clearance of air-freighted vaccines and time/temperature sensitive and perishable supplies and equipment by accepting a “provisional” clearance procedure and will ensure that vaccines are kept in a cold room until finally cleared. In case of vaccines, the authorization for customs clearance of the vaccine shipments will be issued by UNICEF directly to customs authority for saving processing time due to the fact that vaccines are to be customs cleared in the same day of arrival.
32. The Government will be responsible for completion, immediately upon arrival, of the “Vaccine Arrival Report” (VAR) for all vaccine shipments and submission to UNICEF of the VARS.
33. All direct taxes, VAT or duties levied on locally procured supplies, equipment, other materials, and Services intended for programmes of cooperation, in accordance with the United Nations Development Assistance Framework UNDAF shall be paid by UNICEF to the vendors and reimbursed to UNICEF within 6 months upon submission of claims in full by the respective Government VAT Authority in accordance with the current VAT rules and regulations.

Reimbursement of VAT: The applicable VAT rate for the locally procured goods and contracted services will be settled as per applicable/prevaling government VAT rates law.

In order for UNICEF to make payment of the applicable VAT and thereafter submit claim for refund of the same from the relevant government VAT authorities, the supplier and service provider will be required to submit Tax invoice with proof of valid VAT payment with mandatory particulars/contents of legal VAT requirements and acceptable to government VAT authority.

Please note the details below:

- (i) Original VAT Challan(s) issued in favor of UNICEF-BCO mentioning relevant Purchase Order Number duly countersigned and sealed by the VAT authorities of the Government of Bangladesh.
 - (ii) VAT amount must be mentioned in the original VAT Challan(s) and the same amount should be deposited to the Government account by Treasury Challan(s) mentioning UNICEF Purchase Order Number.
 - (iii) Copy(ies) of the Treasury Challan(s) duly countersigned and sealed by the respective VAT Authority in support and proof of VAT payment must be submitted with the Invoice.
 - (iv) VAT charged to UNICEF must not be mixed with Vendor's other business transactions so that UNICEF may duly receive the reimbursement from Government according to set procedures.
34. In exceptional cases and when deemed appropriate by UNICEF, UNICEF may undertake on behalf of the GOB and implementing partners distribution of UNICEF provided supplies to project sites. Related costs will be charged to the programme budget.
 35. UNICEF will provide cash grants to the appropriate implementing agencies according to disbursement procedures mutually agreed upon with Government and in accordance with UNICEF financial rules and regulations. Financial assistance may be provided to both Government and NGOs, or through reimbursing actual expenditure. As far as possible, the Government will use its own resources which will be reimbursed by UNICEF upon receiving appropriate certification from respective Project Directors.
 36. With respect to cash assistance from UNICEF, the Government shall designate the names, titles and account details of recipients authorized to receive such assistance. Responsible officials will utilize cash assistance in accordance with Government regulations and UNICEF regulations and rules, in particular ensuring that cash is expended against prior approved AWP budgets and ensuring that full financial and technical reports on proper utilization of Cash Transfers submitted to UNICEF within three months after receipt of the funds. Any balance of funds unutilized or which could not be used according to the original plan shall be reprogrammed by mutual consent between the Government and UNICEF or returned to UNICEF. Failure to do so will preclude UNICEF from providing further cash assistance to the same recipient. Cash assistance for travel, stipends, honoraria and other costs shall be set at rates commensurate with those applied in the country, but not higher than those applicable to the United Nations System as stated in the ICSC circulars.
 37. Each of the Government institutions concerned—through its respective technical personnel at national and local¹ levels—shall provide periodic status reports to UNICEF on UNICEF-assisted programmes and projects. Key indicators of physical and financial progress shall be developed for each activity, showing the targeted and achieved objectives in each period. The Government and UNICEF shall mutually agree on the proforma to be used and the frequency of reporting.
 38. The Government will authorise the publication and dissemination (broadcasting/airing) through various national, private and international media of the results and advocacy of the Programme of Cooperation, and experiences derived from it.

39. As per the provision of the BCA, the Government will be responsible for dealing with any claims, which may be brought by third parties against UNICEF and its officials, advisors and agents. UNICEF and its officials, advisors and agents will not be held responsible for any claims and liabilities resulting from operations under this agreement, except where it is mutually agreed by Government and UNICEF that such claims and liabilities arise from gross negligence or misconduct of such advisors, agents or employees.
40. Without prejudice to the generality of the foregoing, the Government shall insure or indemnify UNICEF from civil liability under the law of the country in respect of project vehicles under the control of or use by the Government.

Other Provisions

41. This UNITED NATIONS DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE FRAMEWORK (UNDAF) shall supersede any previously signed Master Plan of Operations (MPO) or United Nation Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF) and become effective upon signature, but will be understood to cover programme activities to be implemented during the period from 1 January 2017 through 31 December 2020.
42. Upon completion of any programme activity outlined in the UNDAF or the related Annual Work Plans any supplies, equipment or vehicles furnished (and to which UNICEF has retained title) shall be disposed of by mutual agreement between the Government and UNICEF, with due consideration to the sustainability of the project.
43. Nothing in this UNITED NATIONS DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE FRAMEWORK Action Plan shall in any way be construed to waive the protection of UNICEF accorded by the contents and substance of the Convention on Privileges and Immunities of the United Nations adopted by the General Assembly of the United Nations on 13 February 1946, to which the Government of Bangladesh is a signatory.

WFP – Commitments of the UN Agency and Government

Commitments on contributions to WFP programmes

Government will make an in-kind contribution, up to 20,000MT annually in support of WFP's school feeding programme for the production of fortified biscuits. The in-kind contribution by Government will be confirmed on an annual basis and is subject to the availability of resources within the Government's approved budget.

Commitments on transportation of UN commodities

- Government support will include 50 percent contribution of the costs related to the Landside Transport, Storage and Handling (LTSH) of commodities that are transported in accordance with the UN programme. UN will cover the remaining 50 percent of the costs subject to availability of funds.
- Government will share the detailed expenditures for various LTSH components; port operations, internal transport, storage, and handling but not losses in any form. These expenditures will be taken into account in calculating the LTSH budget and its periodic review for the programme requirements by UN agencies.
- Government will submit periodic reports to UN agencies with a written request to settle LTSH payments.

Commitments on receiving UN commodities

- Government, as and when commodities are landed onto the quay or, in the event of lighterage, upon discharging into the lighter, will take delivery of and title to commodities shipped by UN agencies on liner terms. However, when the lighterage is arranged by and/or is the responsibility of ship owners, the delivery will take place upon landing onto the quay from the lighter.

- In the case of commodities shipped by UN agencies pursuant to a charter party entered into between UN and Owners or Despondent Owners, delivery of and title to commodities shipped shall be taken by the Government in Chittagong in the hold of the ship, or in the case of lighterage, in the hold of the ocean vessel, as the commodities are taken up in the discharging tackle or apparatus.
- In the case of commodities imported by land transit, delivery of and title to the commodities will be taken by the Government at the agreed point(s) of delivery, in the case of transport by rail at any (local storage depot) LSD near Darshana border and, in case of road transport, at the LSD or (central storage depot) CSD nearest to the border crossing, to be specified by an exchange of letters.
- The provisions above apply equally to the delivery of non-food resources supplied by UN agencies. However, in case non-food items are imported by air, the Government will take the delivery and title in Dhaka.
- In all cases, the Government undertakes to ensure the expeditious unloading of the vessel, truck or other conveyance. If so required, the Government will lighter part of the cargo of mother vessels at outer anchorage and the remaining cargo at Chittagong Silo or jetty.
- From the agreed point of delivery, all expenses, including the cost of import duties, taxes, levies, as well as harbour, wharfage, warehousing, lighterage, landing, sorting, Terminal Handling Charge, documentation processing charges, shipping agent's fees and other charges as applicable for containerised shipments and similar dues, including specifically all formalities and expenses relating to legalisation of shipping documents and other certificates, will be paid or waived by the Government.
- In the case of discharge of commodities shipped pursuant to a charter party between UN agencies and Owners or Despondent Owners, any demurrage caused by the Government failing to arrange prompt berthing and/or discharge ex-vessel or conveyance, will be for the account of the Government and refundable to UN agencies upon demand. On the other hand, any dispatch earned by a quick turn-around of the charter vessel will be allowed to the Government. Accounts for demurrage/dispatch will be settled on a yearly basis.
- For Chartered vessels, the discharge rate of 3,000 metric tonne/day for vessels up to 40,000 MT bulk cargo and 5,200 MT/day for vessels carrying more than 40,000 metric tonne bulk cargo will be implemented and be the basis for calculating the demurrage/dispatch. The basis for calculating the demurrage/dispatch set in this clause may be reviewed during the programme duration and be adjusted as /when required upon agreement by both parties.
- In all other contracts of carriage, damages for detention caused by the Government failing to take prompt delivery will be on the Government's account.
- If any of the above charges are paid by UN agencies in the first instance, it will subsequently be adjusted against LTSH subsidy payable to Government.
- The Government will arrange a joint survey along with UN-appointed superintendents of the condition of commodities at the time of discharge or unloading at the agreed point of delivery, or as soon as possible thereafter, to determine their condition and the extent of losses and/or damages so that an outturn certificate can be prepared and, if necessary, action can be taken against the carrier or insurance underwriter for such losses and/or damages.
- Notwithstanding any other terms contained herein, the UN shall have the sole right to pursue all claims against a sea or land carrier in relation to loss of, or damage to, the goods which occurs prior to the passage of title and to pursue, abandon or settle such claims at its discretion and that, if and insofar as property and/or risk may have passed, UN agencies shall do so as agent on behalf of the Government, who shall lend its name to any legal proceedings if WFP so requires.

- Without prejudice to the definition of ‘passage of title’ described above, when physical delivery extends beyond the point of passage of title, UN will have the right, at its discretion, to claim on behalf of the Government, for losses sustained between passage of title and physical delivery.
- In any event, the time and place of passage of title, as stated above, shall not be affected by any endorsement or consignment of the bill of lading. Any such endorsement or consignment will be solely for the administrative convenience of WFP or the recipient authorities
- In respect of shipments in bulk on chartered vessels, the weights stated in the bill of lading or non-negotiable cargo receipt are to be considered as final between UN agencies and the recipient Government. On arrival of the vessel, the UN will arrange for a draft survey to ascertain, by close approximation, the quantity of cargo on board. Should the weight on board, as ascertained by the draft survey, indicate a substantial discrepancy between that weight and the Bill of Lading weight, the UN will investigate such discrepancy in full co-operation with the Government. Failing a mutually satisfactory resolution, the draft survey shall be the final deciding factor. The stevedore’s report cannot be considered to determine the quantity of cargo. On completion of discharge, it is the responsibility of the recipient government to ensure that no cargo is left on board the vessel. If the vessel carries cargo for more than one port (outside Bangladesh), it is the responsibility of the recipient government to ensure that the correct quantities are discharged at Chittagong port. The UN will also arrange a light draft survey after completion of discharge of a vessel when necessary.
- As regards shipments arriving in containers loaded and carried under Full Container Load (FCL) terms, the recipient government is responsible for the un-stuffing of the entire consignment, including damaged cargo if any. After proper identification/quantification of the damaged quantity in the presence of the UN Cargo Superintendent, necessary arrangements will be made by the recipient authority for disposal/destruction of the damaged quantity following the standard Government and UN system guidelines in the presence of the UN Cargo Superintendent. In the event of programme requirements, UN agencies will handle the commodities including port-clearance, storage and transportation arriving by sea/land through WFP-appointed Cargo & Freight (C&F) agents.
- The UN superintendent should be present at the un-stuffing of the containers in the discharge port, which should take place on unloading 130 from the vessel. Any damage or losses found at that time will be considered to have occurred during the period when UN had title to the cargo. If the un-stuffing of the containers is delayed and/or takes place without UN superintendents being present, any damage or losses will be considered to have occurred after the time which UN has passed title to the recipient government. If the containers are transported from/to port at discharge, unopened, to the project site, for the convenience of the recipient government, UN superintendents will not be requested to travel to the place of un-stuffing and any losses or damages will be for the account of the Government, who will have the right to claim for such losses from the carriers. It is advisable that cargo carried in FCL containers should not be unstuffed and delivered from inside the port. Containers should be taken to the designated warehouse located outside port and damaged cargo found during un-stuffing should be kept segregated from other cargo and destruction should be done according to standing government procedure. In cases when delivery is taken from inside the port, the damaged cargo should be taken out simultaneously and can be segregated in the designated warehouse, to be disposed-off as per standard procedure.
- Where food commodities are purchased locally in the country for the programme, the purchase will be undertaken by WFP in accordance with the WFP rules and procedures. The Government will exempt such purchases from all local duties, VAT and taxes. In case of inspection of commodities, UN-appointed superintendents at the designated point of delivery will verify the quality and quantities of commodities.

- Relevant Government line agencies will be responsible for the issuance of customs duty and sales tax/value added tax (CDST/VAT) exemption certificates for food commodities imported for UN-assisted activities. Government shall exempt UN from all duties, VAT, and taxes for the goods and services directly purchased and/or contracted by UN agencies for the programme/operations.
- Government, through the Ministry of Food, will be responsible for overall management of cereals imported by UN agencies or purchased locally, including the tracking and delivery through the public food distribution system (PFDS) as required under this agreement. The Government shall ensure that all cereals received under the programme are merged with national stocks on arrival to Bangladesh and will make an equivalent quantity and quality of cereals available as requested by UN agencies from its depots at the nearest location to the programme implementation sites. Moreover, based on donor's preference, Government will also ensure separate storage facilities of UN agencies' cereal commodities ensuring the same wheat is used for its programme.



