

Evaluation of the Implementation of Paris Declaration-Phase I Country Level- Bangladesh

Mr. Bijon Kumar Baishya
National Evaluation Coordinator

Aid Effectiveness Unit (AEU)
Economic Relations Division (ERD)
Ministry of Finance (MoF)
Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh (GoB)

The National Reference Group

- **Who was in it? Did it work well? What were the problematic issues (if any)?**

The evaluation was done under the aegis of National Evaluation Coordinator. In addition to the National Reference Group (Steering Committee), a Working Group was formed to assist the National Evaluation Coordinator.

National Evaluation Coordinator

Name: **Mr. Md. Munirul Haque**, Joint Chief
Agency: Economic Relations Division (ERD), MoF

Collaborators:

Name: **Mr. Monowar Ahmed**, Deputy Secretary
Agency: Aid Effectiveness Unit (AEU)/PRS-HAP Cell, ERD

Name: **Mr. Rafique Ahmed Siddique**, Senior Assistant Chief
Agency: AEU (Previously PRS-HAP Cell, ERD)

**Reference
Group/
Steering
Committee:**

From Partner Country (Bangladesh)

1. Secretary, Economic Relations Division, M/o Finance (MoF)
2. Secretary, Finance Division, MoF
3. Secretary, Planning Division, Ministry of Planning (MoP)
4. Secretary, Implementation Monitoring & Evaluation Div, MoP
5. Member, General Economics Division, Planning Commission
6. Representative, Civil Society-2
7. Joint Secretary/Chief (Coordination), ERD

From Development Partners

1. Country Director, ADB, Dhaka
2. Head of DFID, Dhaka
3. Ambassador of Sweden, Dhaka
4. Mission Director, USAID, Dhaka
5. Resident Coordinator, UNRC Office, Dhaka
6. Country Director, WB, Dhaka Office
7. Ambassador of Japan in Bangladesh
8. Ambassador of Netherlands in Bangladesh
9. Ambassador of Royal Norwegian Embassy in Bangladesh
10. Ambassador of Royal Danish Embassy in Bangladesh

**Working
Group :**

From Partner Country (Bangladesh)

Mr. Md. Munirul Haque, National Evaluation Coordinator, ERD

Mr. Monowar Ahmed, PRS-HAP Cell, ERD

Mr. Rafique Ahmed Siddique, PRS-HAP Cell, ERD

Representative, Finance Division

Representative, Planning Division

Representative, IMED, M/O Planning

Representative, GED, Planning Commission

Representative, FABA, ERD

From Development Partners

Ms. Kayo Torii, JICA

Ms. Ayshanie Labé, UNRC

[Alternate: Ms. Fariha Haque , UNDP

Mr. Bo Sundstrom, DFID

Mr. Leo van der Tang, Netherlands

Mr. Touhid Alam, UNFPA

Mr. Shamsur Rahman, JBIC), JBIC

Mr. Jan Møller Hansen, Denmark

Did it work well?

There was a commitment from the National Reference Group (NRG) to complete the evaluation process in time. The NRG worked very effectively with active support from the Working Group. NRG in Bangladesh played the supervisory role and endorsed overall activities taken by WG to produce a qualitative Report on PD Evaluation.

Problems encountered

- Due to the holy month of Ramadan and Eid holidays (Muslim Festival) in Bangladesh Govt offices were closed for around 15 days and for Christmas many of our colleagues working in different Donor Organisations were on vacation. As a result, we lost some time.
- In some cases, transfer of directly involved officials of both GoB and DPs to other positions hampered preparation of a qualitative Paris Evaluation report in time.
- No flexibility in the process. It would be appreciated if OECD-DAC Secretariat could consider the constraints of the partner country since the country system specifies timeframes at each stage.

Finance and Contracting

- **Who financed? Who contracted?**

- On behalf of Japan Government JICA funded the PD Evaluation in Bangladesh. Partner country procedure (Public Procurement Regulations) was followed to conduct the evaluation. A local consulting firm, "Natural Resources Planner (NRP)", was engaged to prepare the Report.
- Aid Effectiveness Unit (previously known as PRS-HAP Cell), ERD, on behalf of the GoB, closely monitored and coordinated the whole process of PD Evaluation in close collaboration with DPs in the Working Group.

Finance and Contracting: Contd.

■ Strengths of the process

- Partner country's procurement system was followed-good demonstration of **aligning to country procedure**
- **Low cost** (Budget: US\$ 200,000, Expenditure: US\$108,320)
- Establishing **Government leadership and ownership** through using country system
- **Capacity development** of the Government officials

Finance and Contracting: Contd.

- Weaknesses of the process
 - Time consuming
 - High turnover of the officials of GoB and DPs delayed the process.
 - No flexibility in the process:
 - The partner country system requires allowable time at each stage to follow necessary procedure to complete the process.

Conduct of the evaluation

Strengths

- Procurement of consulting services as per country system.
 - Using country procurement system helped to ensure that the whole evaluation process would be under the leadership of the Government. GoB ownership in the PD evaluation process was strengthened.
- Strengthening coordination between GoB and DPs through active Working Group
 - Working Group mechanism worked well to jointly implement the evaluation exercise. It helped to enhance coordination between GoB and interested DPs. This Working Group mechanism can be a very effective tool for other PD related issues.

Strengths : Contd.

- Through the evaluation exercise, i. e. interviews by consultants and workshops, an increasing number of GoB and DP officials are now aware of PD and its commitments.
- Through the consultation process, PD focal points of both GoB Ministries/Departments and DPs are now clearer about their own role. GoB has a list of focal points which contributes to other PD-related activities/initiatives.
- It also assessed the impact of the aid effectiveness initiatives set against the five axes of the PD and assessment of effects in terms of transaction cost.

Strengths: Contd.

- The **evaluation** was **managed and coordinated jointly** by the GoB and DPs which ensured shared responsibility for the evaluation and would help facilitate implementation of the recommendations of the study.
- **All stakeholders**, including GoB officials, DPs and members of the Civil Society, **were associated** with the evaluation process which strengthened ownership of the implementation of the PD.
- **Sharing** of the preliminary **findings of the evaluation** with other countries in an international workshop in South Africa has **helped to enrich the study** and brought a uniformity with the evaluation framework of other partner countries.

Conduct of the evaluation- Weaknesses

- The evaluation was made at a time when the PD was in its early stage of implementation and as such **lack of awareness and understanding of the issues** relating to the commitments of the PD by different stakeholders **posed constraints** to the evaluation.
- **The evaluation team** had to **face a challenging situation** due to the above constraints and also the lack of exposure of the members of the evaluation team to such types of evaluation.

Weaknesses: Contd.

- Procurement of consulting services as per country system.
 - It actually caused delay in procurement process, which makes everybody understand that alignment to country procurement system is in fact not easy and simple, and much needs to be done to make it really workable for both GoB and DPs.

Utility of the evaluation

— for domestic use with partners in Bangladesh

- The evaluation has sensitized both GOB and the DPs in Bangladesh on the PD commitments and the need for implementing them in order to improve aid effectiveness.
- The evaluation report has exposed some of the serious constraints of GOB, both systemic and capacity related, for efficient utilization of aid.
- The evaluation also identified the weaknesses and the bottlenecks of the DPs in implementing the commitments of the PD.

Utility of the evaluation: Contd.

- for domestic use with partners in Bangladesh
 - The evaluation has brought to the surface the need for promoting ownership for aid effectiveness and the endeavours that are needed on the part of both GOB and DPs to improve ownership.
 - The evaluation report has made some important recommendations for improving aid-effectiveness. Both GOB and DPs have already started implementing some of the recommendations.
 - The evaluation report suggests smooth aid disbursement by the DPs and optimum utilization of resources by the Govt.
 - The evaluation report suggests more aid delivery in critical sectors like power, energy, climate change etc.

Utility of the evaluation: Contd.

– for preparation for the 3rd HLF in Accra

- The evaluation report has been extensively used by the GoB in its preparation for the 3rd HLF in Accra and has helped the Bangladesh team to raise some of the important issues* in the forum that need to be addressed urgently by both DPs and partner countries to improve aid effectiveness.

(* Donor conditionalities, Joint analytical work, Joint mission, Reduction in parallel PIUs were the issues discussed in 3rd HLF. These were also reflected in the Accra Agenda for Action (AAA).

Thank you