

PEI Bangladesh's work on inclusive and sustainable planning through the 7th Five Year Plan and sectoral planning

- UNDP/UNPEI's initiative achieved credible results by accomplishing a number of activities in the areas of policy planning, capacity development of GoB officials and support to attaining global goals.
- **Support to the 7th Five Year Plan Preparation:** The SSIP project funded by UNDP/UNPEI extensively supported and coordinated with the General Economics Division (GED) of the Planning Commission in preparing the national Seventh Five Year Plan (2016-2020).
- The project supported 16 background studies which were used as inputs for the preparation of the Plan Document. The technical support was provided for preparing ToR for 16 background studies, reviewed background papers, prepared guidelines for external reviewers, writing separate chapters on "DRF/RBM&E" and "Environment and Climate Change", provided data support, helping with estimates (e.g., elasticity measures), reviewing chapters of the Plan document, providing framework for organizing the chapters in 14 sectors.
- As a result 7FYP is widely recognized as pro-poor, inclusive, gender sensitive and climate resilient sustainable development document
- SSIP experts' has taken a lead in designing a RBM&E system in close collaboration and consultation with government and non-government stakeholders. The RBM&E covers 14 priority areas and 88 indicators including specific indicators for monitoring environment and climate areas (**covered under national priority with 9 indicators**).
- RBM&E system would help the government to monitor performance of and progress on implementation of the 7th Five Year Plan and evaluate its public sector performance against planned outcomes, impacts and goals rather than only recording financial and physical inputs and activities.
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- **Sector Alignment:** Four decades old anomaly¹ in sector divide was removed between Planning Commission and Finance Ministry to allocate public resources for different implementing ministries. This was initiated by the SSIP by preparing a technical paper expert that pen pictured misclassification of development sectors by different

¹The Planning Commission followed 17 sectors, Finance Ministry 13 and Sixth Five Year Plan followed 10 thematic areas for allocating public resources for different ministries/divisions resulting in duplication and wastage.

ministries involved in resource distribution for public investment². General Economic Division grasped this idea and championed this reform agenda.

- The Government in 2015 agreed to adopt uniform classification of sectoral divide into 14 sectors for preparation of the 7FYP and resource allocation under ADP (PIP) as well as annual budget. Prior to this, each of those key ministries used different sectoral divide for preparation of five year plan and resource allocation leading to duplication and wastages of public resources. Accordingly, the 7th plan was recast into 14 sectors with the direct technical support of SSIP project.
- **Sector Action Plan:** The other major policy reforms the SSIP project initiated in 2016 was the preparation of a uniform standard framework for all Sectoral Action Plans (SAPs) to remove anomalies in sectoral divide by the Planning Commission and the Finance Division for the purpose of preparation of Plan Document, ADP and Budget. The SDGs indicators will also be integrated in SAP Framework to help achieve the SDGs targets through planning mechanism.
- In 2016, the SSIP took initiative for preparation of Sector Action Plan (SAP) in order to attain 7th Five Year Plan (7FYP) set goals and targets. Though mandated, the Planning Commission has never before prepared Sector Action Plan (SAP). SAP is designed to deliver a comprehensive picture of sector performance, issues and opportunities, and sectoral development objectives, policies and strategies that follow from the National Plan/SDGs. This provision for preparation of the Sectoral Plan was included in the 7FYP at the initiative of the SSIP.
- SSIP is helping General Economics Division (GED) for preparation of model Sector Action Plan on (I) ‘Education & Technology Sector’ and (II) “Economic Governance”. The Economic Governance will look into the possibility of promoting green financing. To maintain uniformity in preparing SAP for the rest of the sectors, GED has taken initiative to ensure that all Sectoral Plans are prepared in the same template designed by the SSIP. This is one of the major breakthroughs that the SSIP successfully advocated that has been appreciated by all concerned.
- The SAP on “Education and Technology” has received the Steering Committee approval. It reflects a comprehensive scenario of sector performance, challenges and opportunity, as well as policies and strategies reflected in the 7th FYP and SDGs.
- For preparation of SAP on “Economic Governance”, a local firm has been engaged. Green Financing is included in the ToR of the SAP on “Economic Governance”. The Inception Report on SAP on “Economic Governance” has been submitted. The first draft report is expected by 20 December 2017.

²An assessment on Rationalization of Sectors in Development Planning and Budgeting

- These two SAPs will guide other sector divisions of the Planning Commission to prepare the rest of the Sector Action Plans.
- **Environment and Climate Change (CC) Policy Gap Analysis for Inclusive & Environmentally Sustainable Planning:** The project has identified some critical environmental and climate change hotspots cases to sensitize policy planners.
- In 2015, the project organized on field workshop at the Sundarbans, to analyze environment and climate change policy gap in the world's largest mangrove area.
- In 2016, the SSIP organized similar local workshop on '*Environment and Climate Change (CC) Policy Gap Analysis in the Haor area*' in August 2016 for better understanding of how the *Haors* (20,022 sq. kilo meter) are managed and to understand and address livelihood problems of the poor surrounding the *Haors* while maintaining the ecological balance.
- *Haor*, a unique ecosystem and deeply flooded basin of northeast Bangladesh located at the foothills of Meghalaya, India is considered one of the hotspots prone to recurrent natural disasters and adverse effects of climate change. In order to get an insight, beside a daylong multi-stakeholders' workshop, an exposure visit for the policy level officials arranged in one of the largest *Haor* called Hakaluki .
- The Environment and Climate Policy Gap Analysis initiatives have successfully sensitized public policy planners about the urgency of preparing inclusive and balanced development plan and programme for the ecologically sensitive areas. In addition the findings and recommendation from the analysis would help to determine appropriate indicators for monitoring SDGs especially Goal 13, 14 and 15.
- **Mainstreaming Environment, Climate Change and Disaster Risk Reduction into Development Planning:** As part of capacity building of national planning officials from the lens of environment, climate changes and disaster risk reduction and to design and implement adaptation and mitigation actions, a training program was developed in 2015 by the SSIP and conducted by the National Academy of Planning and Development (NAPD).
- The project trained up 210 GoB officials/public planners (including the Planning Commission) on '*Mainstreaming Environment, Climate Change and Disaster Risk Reduction into Development Planning*' thru National Academy for Planning and Development (NAPD). An impact study of the training programme has also been conducted in November 2016.

- These training programme have not only developed the knowledge and skill of the public planners, but also strengthen institutional capacity of the NAPD. Earlier, no public institution, including NAPD, has ever conducted training in this area. The NAPD, with the strong technical inputs from the SSIP, has developed the curriculum and traced out resource persons' pool for the training. The NAPD has now acquired the capacity to conduct training on environment and climate change issues.