

Technical Workshop

Private sector engagement through development co-operation:

Opportunities for business to bring solutions to scale for the SDGs

4-5 February 2017

Ministry of Finance, Dhaka, Bangladesh

Background

Realizing the 2030 Agenda requires unprecedented and diverse resources – public and private, domestic and international. Governments around the world are increasingly conscious that the first step to building more inclusive and prosperous societies is to ensure that businesses deliver for society in order to enhance their full economic potential.

The Global Partnership for Effective Development Co-operation, a partnership of governments, private sector, civil society, international organisations and others, generates evidence on how private sector engagement through development co-operation – financial and otherwise – delivers shared value for the people most in need and the private sector. It facilitates evidence-based and inclusive country dialogue on the drivers of effective private sector engagement that is mobilized through the diverse modalities of development co-operation – from research, knowledge and information sharing to policy dialogue, technical assistance and capacity building, to finance (including blended finance).

The project will inform global guidelines for effective private sector engagement through development co-operation. A draft country case study will be the basis for discussion.

This workshop is hosted by the Government of Bangladesh, Co-Chair of the Global Partnership, and co-organised with the ICC Bangladesh and the Global Partnership Secretariat, and with generous support from the Government of Germany.

Objectives

- Identify positive examples and real opportunities to harness the ingenuity of small and medium-sized enterprises, and other domestic and multinational corporations in Bangladesh through development co-operation to contribute to sustainable development and grow business.
- Examine the most pressing concerns for private sector engagement in Bangladesh and how stakeholders across sectors can address concerns together.

Participants

The workshop will bring together representatives of the following groupings for an informal and frank dialogue at eye level: the Government of Bangladesh, large domestic and transnational firms; business associations, civil society organisations, trade unions, parliamentarians, foundations, research institutes and Bangladesh's key international development partners.

A number of representatives from neighbouring countries will be invited to share experiences and promote peer learning.

Draft Agenda

Day 1: SUNDAY 4 FEBRUARY 2017

9:30 – 11:00: Part I: BUSINESS CONSULTATION: CREATING “SHARED VALUE” – WHAT DO WE NEED?

[Open only to representatives of the business sector]

National representatives from MNCs, large domestic firms and SMEs will meet for a structured, informal brainstorming, guided by the GPEDC Joint Support Team and consultant, on the finding of the country case study. The discussion will prepare the business sector for the workshop and debate with other actors. It will address specific questions arising from the country case study, including:

- Perception of legal framework and government institutions to support PSE;
- The SDGs – what do they mean for us?
- What support is provided and what else do we need? Access to PSE windows, Impact and results of such windows for business etc.
- Drivers of successful partnerships – good practices of impact and scalability, etc.
- Moving from beneficiary to active partner – perceived value PPD structures, access for businesses, in particular SMEs, etc.

Guiding question: What support do businesses need to create “shared benefits”? What are challenges to engage with the government and development partners? What modalities and solutions have worked and could be scaled up?

11:00 – 11:30 COFFEE BREAK

11:30 – 12:30 OPENING OF THE WORKSHOP: Introduction and outline of workshop objectives

- Brief welcome by Bangladesh (Monowar Ahmed, MoF)
- Introduction by GPEDC Joint Support Team and consultant

The opening session - open to all participants: government, business, civil society, development partners – will set the scene for the discussions and provide an overview of the preliminary findings of the Bangladesh country case study on private sector engagement through development co-operation. Participants are invited to raise issues and propose ways forward to scale up PSE in Bangladesh for further discussion in subsequent sessions.

12:30-13:30 LUNCH

[Suggest inviting all stakeholders for lunch. Relevant networking opportunity]

13:30 – 17:30 Part II: STAKEHOLDER EXCHANGE ON KEY ISSUES ARISING

Guiding question: What are challenges and concerns in working with the private sector, and how can they be addressed? What are positive experiences, and how can they be scaled up?

13:30 – 14:15: Targeting private sector engagement to leave no one behind

14:45 – 15:30: Good practice on country ownership – what can development partners do?

15:30 – 16:00: Coffee

16:00 – 16:45: Impact, transparency and results: how to measure and scale impactful projects?

16:45 – 17:30: Engaging the private sector around the SDGs (PPD, which modalities, etc.)

[To be fleshed out based on issues emerging. These and related topics could be refined and we could organise small table discussions (even in parallel).]

Day 2: MONDAY 5 FEBRUARY 2017

9:30 – 10:30: WELCOME BACK AND OVERVIEW OF OUTCOMES OF STAKEHOLDER EXCHANGE

PART III: OTHER ISSUES MORE SPECIFICALLY RELEVANT FOR BANGLADESH

10:30 – 11:15: SMALL GROUP DISCUSSIONS

Guiding questions: What are the main opportunities and challenges for improving outcomes in the areas identified for group discussion? How can government and development partners support better outcomes working with the private sector?

- CSR to core business practices and “shared value”
- Women’s economic empowerment
- Formalisation
- Social Dialogue
- PSE in climate change

[recap and “national issues”, in part]

11:15-11:45: COFFEE BREAK

11:45-12:15: REPORT BACK FROM GROUP WORK

Part IV: PEER LEARNING WITH NEIGHBOURING COUNTRIES

12:15 – 13:15: PANEL PRESENTATIONS (Plenary)

Guiding question: What are lessons from positive PSE successes that involve development co-operation in your country? What is missing?

13:15-13:30: CLOSING REMARKS

13:30-14:30: LUNCH