

Technical Workshop

Private sector engagement through development co-operation:

Opportunities for business to bring solutions to scale for the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

4-5 February 2018

Economic Relations Division, Ministry of Finance, Dhaka, Bangladesh

Day 1: Golden Tulip Hotel Grandmark Dhaka - Day 2: NEC II Conference Room, ERD Ministry of Finance

Background

Realizing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development 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 (GPEDC), a partnership of governments, private sector, civil society, international organisations and others, promotes effective development cooperation in support of sustainable development. As part of one of its workstreams, it 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 (PSE) 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.

The work of the Global Partnership on PSE 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 Economic Relations Division, Ministry of Finance of 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, SMEs, 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 share experiences to promote peer learning.

Day 1: SUNDAY 4 FEBRUARY 2017

9:00 – 9:30 ARRIVAL AND REGISTRATION

9:30 – 10:30 OPENING SESSION

The opening session 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.

Workshop Facilitator: Shannon Kindornay (consultant)

Welcome - 10 minutes

- Welcome by Mr. Andreas Hartmann, Head of Co-operation Germany
- Introduction by Ms Rokia Afzal Rahman, Vice President, ICC Bangladesh
- Official Opening by Aftab Ahmad, Joint Secretary, Economic Relations Division, Ministry of Finance, Bangladesh

Introduction to key findings from the report – 15 minutes

- Introduction and key findings by Thomas Boehler (OECD) and Shannon Kindornay (consultant)

Plenary Discussion with respondents and Q & A - 35 minutes

10:30 – 11:00 Coffee Break

11:00 – 12:00 CREATING “SHARED VALUE” – WHAT DO BUSINESSES NEED TO ENGAGE ON SDGs?

This session will provide an opportunity to create a better understanding of the needs and opportunities of the business sector to engage with the national government and relevant development co-operation actors in working towards achieving the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the SDGs.

Introduction - Ms Rokia Afzal Rahman, Vice President, ICC Bangladesh – 5 minutes

Moderated plenary discussion around two sets of questions:

- **The SDGs – what do they mean for us? (20 minutes)**
 - What do you see as the key advantages of engaging on the SDGs for your business?
 - How does your business support the SDGs and how can it be better supported to engage?
 - Who do you see as the main partners for the private sector in supporting SDG implementation and what form should partnership take?
- **Support for PSE through development co-operation (35 minutes total)**
 - Tour de table on engagement with development partners / participated in multi-stakeholder partnership, asking about elements that worked and one that did not
 - What is the value of public-private dialogue in supporting PSE? Are such mechanisms accessible, in particular for SMEs? How can they be improved?

- What are the main institutions that provide support for PSE through development co-operation? What support is provided and what else is needed? How could impact be improved from a business perspective? What could be scaled up?
- End with a tour de table- key drivers of successful partnerships and scaling impact.

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?

**INTERACTIVE SESSIONS:
EFFECTIVE PRIVATE SECTOR ENGAGEMENT THROUGH DEVELOPMENT CO-OPERATION:
WHAT HAVE WE LEARNED SO FAR AND WHAT REQUIRES PRIORITY ATTENTION?**

Running order

Each thematic block will be briefly introduced by Shannon Kindornay (consultant) and a few informal inputs by participants as food for thought to kick-off debate. Participants will then discuss questions in small groups at tables for about 20'. One group will then begin reporting back, and others will complement and add other issues.

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?

12:00 – 13:00: SESSION 1: Good practice on country ownership – what can development partners do?

Introduction and kick-off inputs – 20 minutes

Group discussion – 20 minutes on the following questions:

- What is the current state of capacity by government and other stakeholders in Bangladesh to participate in PSE through development co-operation? How should their capacities be improved if needed?
- What are the barriers to including local stakeholders in PSE projects that are supposed to benefit the entire country and how are they being addressed?
- How can development partners ensure that their PSE activities align with country priorities? What can local stakeholders do in this regard?

Reporting back to plenary: 20 minutes

13:00 – 14:00 LUNCH BREAK AND NETWORKING

14:00 – 14:45: SESSION 2: Impact and results: how to measure and scale impactful projects?

Introduction – 5 minutes

Tour de table in plenary – 20 minutes:

- Participants share how they measure results and impact when working across sectors. Identify what works and what does not.
- What is need to better measure and scale impactful projects?

Discussion – 20 minutes

14:45 – 15:45: SESSION 3: Sharing information, follow-up and review of progress in PSE

Introduction and kick off inputs – 20 minutes

Group discussion – 25 minutes on the following questions:

- What are the main challenges to ensure transparency in PSE? How can information on PSE projects be made more readily available? What kind of information can stakeholders realistically expect to be made available?
- What do you see as the key national and international frameworks that guide accountability for PSE through development co-operation in Bangladesh? What are the main challenges to ensuring compliance in implementation?
- How can PSE through development co-operation be made more accountable in Bangladesh overall?

Reporting back to plenary: 20 minutes

15:45 – 16:00: Coffee

16:00 – 16:45: SESSION 4: Engaging private sector around SDGs and leaving no one behind

Introduction and kick off inputs – 20 minutes

Group discussion – 25 minutes on the following questions:

- How can the private sector be better engaged on the SDGs and ensuring that no one is left behind? How can public-private dialogue be improved to this end?
- Which modalities of development co-operation tend to best support PSE to realise the SDGs? Are some modalities better at targeting those left behind than others? How can they be scaled up?

Reporting back to plenary: 20 minutes

17:00: Closing

- Brief words of thanks by the Government of Bangladesh to all those that participated in day 1 and agenda for day 2

Day 2: MONDAY 5 FEBRUARY 2017

9:30 – 10:00: WELCOME BACK AND OVERVIEW OF FINDINGS

Welcome back by the Government of Bangladesh – 5 minutes

Presentation of findings from group discussion – 10 minutes

Discussion of key findings – comments on what is presented, gaps, etc. – 15 minutes

10:00 – 11:15: NEW OPPORTUNITIES AND ISSUES RELEVANT FOR BANGLADESH

Introduction and organisation of table discussion – 10 minutes

Table discussions on specific themes below – 30 minutes

- **Formalisation:** What are the biggest challenges to SME formalisation in Bangladesh? What efforts exist by development partners to support SME formalisation through PSE? What is working and where could additional efforts be made?
- **Social Dialogue:** What is the current status of social dialogue in Bangladesh? How are development partners supporting social dialogue in PSE activities? What is needed to improve social dialogue? Are there any examples of efforts to support social dialogue that have been particularly effective? Why?
- **PSE in climate change:** How can the private sector play a greater role in addressing climate change? What kind of support is needed from government, development partners and other stakeholders in this context? What modalities of PSE through development co-operation are most effective in supporting climate friendly investments and partnerships?
- **Women's economic empowerment:** What are the key constraints and opportunities for women's economic empowerment? How can development partners and the private sector better support women's economic empowerment in Bangladesh? What are the lessons learned from previous initiatives aimed at supporting women's economic empowerment through PSE?

Reporting back to plenary and discussion – 30 minutes

Guiding questions: What are 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?

11:15-11:30: COFFEE BREAK

11:30-12:30: PEER LEARNING WITH NEIGHBOURING COUNTRIES

Guiding question: What are lessons from positive PSE successes that involve development co-operation in your country? What is missing? Are there any striking differences to PSE through development co-operation between Bangladesh and neighbouring countries?

Introduction and discussion of country and regional good practices and issues

Q & A from the floor – 20 minutes

12:30 – 13:15: DEVISING AN ACTION PLAN FOR EFFECTIVE PSE IN BANGLADESH (Plenary)

Tour de Table to raise concrete action proposals to update the recommendations of the draft country case study.

13:15-13:30: CLOSING REMARKS AND ACTIONS ARISING FOLLOWED BY LUNCH