**Responses to comments on the CPD for Bangladesh**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Asia Pacific Country** | **Comment by Member State** | **Suggested response** |
| **Bangladesh** | **Norway -** Reference is made to the draft UNDP country programme document for Bangladesh    **Ownership, relevance and alignment:**  The UNDP Bangladesh Country Program Document (CPD) for the 2017-2021 cycle aims to support the country with intervening programs based on areas where UNDP feels it is best placed to provide support. This is based UNDP’s experience and expertise on Bangladesh and its established partnerships with stakeholders. The CPD has strong link and alignment with the Government’s national development plan, such as the 7th Five Years Plans (July 2016-June 2021), the current government’s ‘Vision 2021’ strategic document, and the United Nations Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF) action plan.  UNDP has undertaken broad consultations with development partners in Bangladesh, including representatives of the government, bilateral and multilateral representations, civil society and local community actors as well as through online platform ([www.myundpvision-bd.org](http://www.myundpvision-bd.org) ) for consultations with mass people.  The country program will target disadvantaged groups and pockets of poverty in Bangladesh, building on the geographical targeting of the United Nations Development Assistance Framework. The CPD is primarily focused on two key agents of change: ‘Women’ and ‘Youth’ ▬ for addressing vulnerability and leveraging the opportunity of the demographic dividend to drive future growth in Bangladesh. It is expected to contribute to the government’s vision to ensuring that none is left behind in the development trajectory of Bangladesh.  **Contributions to national capacity development.**  Capacity enhancement, development of protocols, guidelines, training materials, supporting knowledge sharing activities have always been important elements of UNDP’s program here in Bangladesh. The current draft has also emphasized strengthening technical and institutional capacities of local partners. According to the 2015 partnership survey, 100 percent of the respondents from government and civil society, and 93 percent of the respondents from bilateral donors and agencies considered UNDP to play a relevant role in Bangladesh’s development.  Building on the mandate of the Prime Minister’s office to oversee the performance of government institutions, UNDP will mobilize a consortium of government and academic institutions to establish a nationally owned assessment and monitoring framework that will ensure evidence-based progress on sustainable development goal.  **Partnership / harmonization / coordination.**  There will be special emphasis on the role UNDP plays in relation UN coordination, including UNDAF. Over the years, UNDP Bangladesh has established a very close working relationship with the Government of Bangladesh. A National Execution Manual (NEX-Manual) is in place between the Government of Bangladesh and UNDP. This allows UN agencies to work in a more flexible manner with the respective national counterparts. It works through national and international expertise in the areas it is mandated. It maintains networks of expertise globally which they can solicit at the time needed. It has the experience to act as a facilitator and an advisor in many multi-donor funded arrangements in Bangladesh.  UNDP Bangladesh, compared to its sister UN agencies, has shown relatively strong presence in the country’s development affairs. With a varying degree of success, it has developed core capabilities and interventions relating to good governance including human rights and election issues, institutional development, disaster risks reduction and emergency response, peace and confidence building. As a result, UNDP is recognized as a lead partner in coordinating support in some of these areas, by the Bangladeshi authorities and development partners.  To coordinate, UNDP will support an inter-ministerial committee on the implementation and monitoring of the sustainable development goals, developing a widely owned, actionable and adequately financed implementation plan with measurable results and accountability mechanisms. UNDP will also support key government institutions in developing a rigorous, comprehensive and disaggregated national data ecosystem, working with the Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics, the General Economics Division and the Implementation Monitoring and Evaluation Division of the Planning Ministry. UNDP will support the Government in consolidating data from United Nations entities such as UNFPA, the World Food Program (WFP), the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), UN-Women, and the United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF) for a comprehensive national data ecosystem to inform sustainable development goals planning and monitoring efforts.  **Results and impressions:**  The Embassy has just completed a multi-donors supported (including Norway) partnership with UNDP on the Comprehensive Disaster Management Program (CDMP) of the Government of Bangladesh (GoB). This program was very much in line with the Norwegian Government’s Policy on the prevention, adaptation and management of humanitarian crises. CDMP’s goal was to contribute to poverty alleviation in Bangladesh through reducing the impact of natural disasters and other human-induced hazards. The primary target groups were the poorest and most vulnerable people with both the fewest resources and strategies to cope with additional climatic shocks and stresses.  From the embassy’s partnering experience, its achievement is considered as satisfactory and the project delivery mostly on track. However, its delayed performance sometimes attributes UNDP’s management capacity deficiencies. The quality of results reporting was a concern raised by development partners in few discussions and meetings. On financial reporting, it has failed to provide detail expenditure, cost break-down according to budget lines. As a result, it was impossible to assess whether the donors funds had been used as planned [*Note: not necessary to include this paragraph in the EB overview of comments, but useful feedback to the CO office in Dhaka*].  **Human rights and gender equality:**  The Government of Bangladesh has recognized that poor and socially marginalized people, who live in the most vulnerable areas such as river islands, low-lying flood plains and the exposed coast, are most impacted by natural disasters, climate variability and change. Based on this, the country program document has given due considerations for bringing work interventions towards the field level, down to affected communities. On rights issues, particularly at the local level, it aims to ensure involvement of local participation in program planning and support.  Integrating gender equality and human rights of women and girls is a major element of the country program. It is also in pertinent with national and sectoral laws, policies, strategies, plans and has rightly focused on women empowerment, raising awareness on gender issues, as well as prevention of gender based violence.  Finally, UNDP Bangladesh has so far been able to maintain a relatively large operation with broad range of development aid activities. However, being a lead contributory to the UNDP core funds, Norway and its funding is not visible in Bangladesh since our funds not are ear-marked or country specific. UNDP Bangladesh is not acknowledging Norway’s contribution in its country level cooperation and communication (i.e. not acknowledging its core donors in a country program). There should be a communication strategy which will to increase Norway’s image and visibility on a country’s development efforts through UNDP. [*Note: not necessary to include this paragraph in the EB overview of comments, but useful feedback to the CO office in Dhaka*]. | We would like to thank Norway for thoroughly reviewing the draft UNDP Country Programme Document for Bangladesh (2017-2020). We appreciate the positive comments that Norway has shared, in regard to the alignment with national development priorities, national ownership, targeting, partnerships, gender equality and human rights, and the country programme’s expected contribution to development of national capacities, and SDG implementation and monitoring. We have taken note of the feedback provided, in regard to the example of the just completed Comprehensive Disaster Management Programme, on the need for strong project management capacity to ensure that quality results are achieved in a timely manner, the quality of results reporting and the granularity of UNDP’s financial reporting. We will take these points into due consideration in UNDP’s ongoing and new projects that we will implement under the new country programme. The suggestion to put in place a communication strategy to ensure better visibility of Norway and other key donors is very useful. We will take this important issue on board in the new communications strategy for UNDP Bangladesh, which is currently being developed.  Norway’s comments have been shared with the Economic Relations Division in the Ministry of Finance, the Government coordinating authority for UNDP, and through them with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Permanent Mission of Bangladesh to the United Nations, for their information. |

***General comments from Canada on all UNDP CPDs***

* Canada would like to see more consultations with donor country missions in the field during the course of country program formulation to better coordinate and support country development priorities.

The request is well noted. UNDP will continue to make efforts towards greater consultation with development partners in the course of CPD formulation processes – as well as in the course of designing and implementing specific programmatic interventions.

* The inclusion and protection of the rights and health of women and girls are important in the implementation of Agenda 2030 and delivering development results. Canada encourages UNDP to further strengthen its programmes results and indicators so that they are gender-sensitive in Country Programme Documents.

The request is well noted. UNDP will continue to work to bolster the manner in which gender-mainstreaming and women’s empowerment priorities are reflected in country programmes, in line with UNDP’s Strategic Plan. Such efforts are already being reflected more explicitly in new CPDs. For instance, under the UNDP Mongolia Program, there is explicit reference to female-headed households as specific target groups. When challenges for gender-sensitive programming exist, these are also acknowledged: for instance the lack of national sex-disaggregated data in Mongolia has been noted in the draft CPD; in the course of the program implementation, UNDP intends to support the Mongolia government in overcoming the existing data gaps, which are critical for future gender-sensitive programming.

* Are theories of change being developed at the country level aligning country program results chains to UNDAF/One UN outcomes?

The theories of change are fully aligned and linked. Please see example of Mongolia and Vietnam.