

Kick-off Meeting on 4th Monitoring Exercise of GPEDC in Bangladesh

Date: 09 December 2024 **Time:** 09:30 AM

Venue: NEC Conference Room, Economic Relations Division
Ministry of Finance, Sher-E-Bangla Nagar, Dhaka

Outcome Document

The Kick-off Meeting on 4th Monitoring Exercise of GPEDC in Bangladesh was held on 09 December 2024 at the NEC Conference Room at the Planning Commission Campus in Dhaka. Economic Relations Division (ERD), UN Resident Coordinator's Office (UNRCO), UNDP Bangladesh and Global Partnership for Effective Development Cooperation (GPEDC) jointly organized the event. Respected ERD Secretary Mr. Md. Shahriar Kader Siddiky graced the meeting as chief guest. UN Resident Coordinator in Bangladesh Ms. Gwyn Lewis, who was the special guest, joined the meeting through online platform. Additional Secretary and the Wing Chief of the Development Effectiveness Wing of ERD and the National Coordinator of the GPEDC 4th Monitoring Round in Bangladesh Mr. A. H. M. Jahangir chaired the meeting. Major decisions, discussions and recommendations coming from the event are documented below.



Chief Guest respected ERD Secretary Mr. Md. Shahriar Kader Siddiky speaking during the meeting

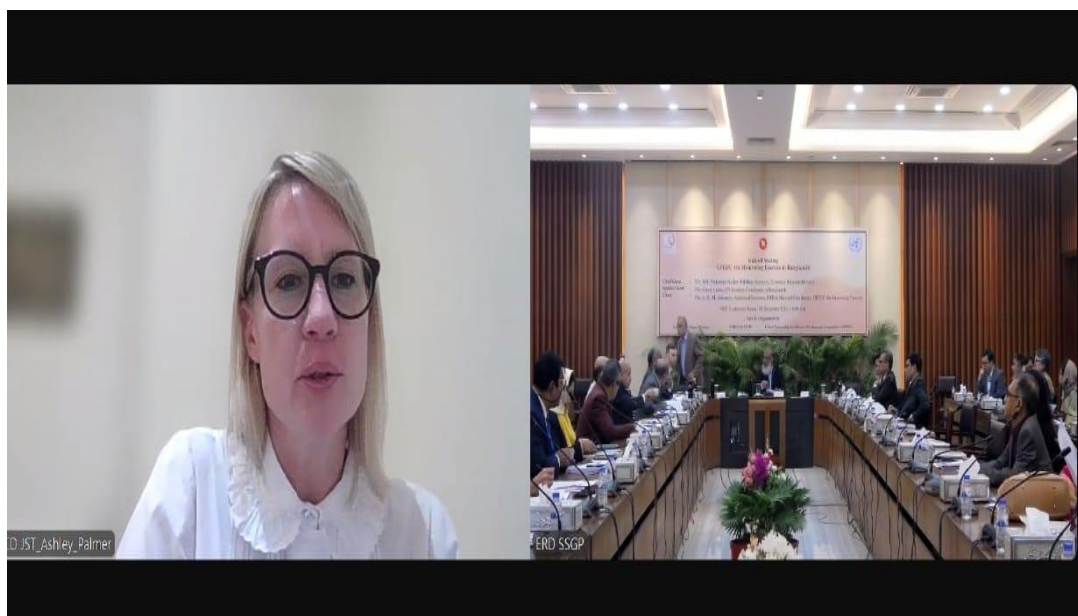
Welcome Address from Mr. A. K. Azad, Deputy Secretary, ERD & Alternate National Coordinator

Mr. Azad, in his welcome remarks, mentioned that GPEDC monitoring exercise is a unique and inclusive process designed to assess the effectiveness of development cooperation efforts worldwide. He also noted that the monitoring process provides evidence-based insights on how well development cooperation aligns with the Aid Effectiveness principles. Recalling that Bangladesh had actively participated in the three previous monitoring rounds—he observed that the 4th Monitoring Round is particularly significant as it comes at a time when Bangladesh is undergoing critical reforms to enhance transparency, accountability, and inclusivity across sectors.

Mr. Azad mentioned that the kick-off meeting is aimed at sensitizing the stakeholders; sharing insights on the monitoring process and frameworks, and establishing a roadmap for collaborative action.

Presentation on ‘Overview of GPEDC and the 4th Monitoring Round’ by Ms. Ashley Palmer, Policy Analyst at OECD

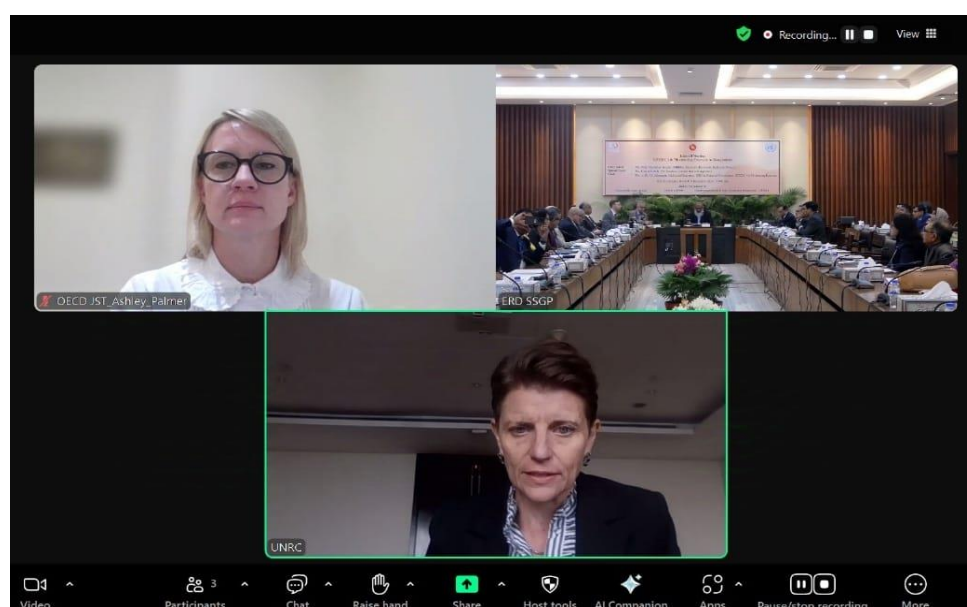
In the beginning of her presentation, Ms. Ashley Palmer reflected on the gradual evolution of the Development Effectiveness Agenda. She also highlighted the overarching vision and the key features of the Global Partnership Monitoring Exercise. Ms. Palmer informed that 59 countries are going to participate in the 4th monitoring round of GPEDC—out of which, 10 countries are in the phase of data collection while 11 countries had completed the data collection process. Afterwards, she explained, in detail, the global and country level monitoring process. She reflected on various phases of the country level monitoring process which includes (a) inception, (b) data collection, (c) data review and submission, (d) dissemination of results and (e) reflection, dialogue and action. She pointed that the last phase had gone through some enhancement for this 4th monitoring round. She pointed out that the last phase would focus not only on generating results at the country level, but also on encouraging the National Coordinator, the partner country government, and all the partners, to use the results for behavioural changes or substantial improvements. She also provided an overview of the monitoring framework—focusing on its dimensions and components. She also mentioned that for this monitoring round, GPEDC had launched an online reporting tool through which the relevant stakeholders will be able to complete the data collection online.



Focusing on the new features of the monitoring framework, Ms. Palmer pointed out that the framework incorporates added elements based on ‘Kampala Principles Assessment’ and ‘Leaving No One Behind’. She further mentioned that following the final submission of data by partner countries—an Excel sheet with results would be available within three weeks while the Country Results Brief would be available within three months. She also recalled that the mid-term brief would be unveiled by February 2025 while the Global Monitoring Report would be published by the year 2026.

Remarks by the Special Guest: Ms. Gwyn Lewis, UN Resident Coordinator

Ms. Lewis, in her speech said that the new Interim Government of Bangladesh has a valuable opportunity to assess the effectiveness of development cooperation in Bangladesh and to renew the country's collective commitment to these principles. Underlining the importance of country ownership, she said that the national development priorities must guide the process of development cooperation. Focusing on inclusive partnerships—she said that Bangladesh has a proven track record in leveraging collective resources and expertise through public private partnership, digital solutions or innovative financing for addressing challenges of climate resilience and SDG financing gaps. She also opined that by building on these efforts, Bangladesh could enhance private sector engagement and further localize the SDGs to empower marginalized groups. She also appreciated the role of the ERD Secretary Mr. Shahriar Kader Siddiky in coordinating with the development partners through LCG. She also noted that increased focus on results would require continued investment in real time data systems and technology to ensure progress and targeted action, she also observed that strengthening institutional capacities and addressing data gaps will support adaptive responses to emerging challenges.



In terms of transparency and mutual accountability, she said that open data monitoring helps in inclusive decision making while enhancing allocation efficiency. In this context, she underscored the leadership role to be played by ERD Secretary and the SDG Coordinator in allowing the DPs to track financial flows which, she opined, would strengthen transparency and would accelerate the implementation of SDGs. The UN Resident Coordinator observed that the fourth Global Partnership Monitoring Round presents a vital opportunity to evaluate developing cooperation in Bangladesh and engage a diverse range of stakeholders in the process.

Remarks by the Chief Guest: Mr. Md. Shahriar Kader Siddiky, Secretary, ERD

The chief guest, in his remarks, mentioned that the interim government had been putting a lot of emphasis on effective development cooperation. He observed that the Development Effectiveness Agenda aligns well with the concept of 'Three Zero'—zero poverty, zero unemployment, and zero carbon emissions championed by the hon'ble Chief Advisor Dr. Muhammad Yunus—as both shares the common principles of inclusive development, sustainability, and collaboration to drive global progress. He recalled that the current government had constituted a number of reforms

commissions to bring about necessary reforms in various sectors. He asked the organizers to look into the recommendations put forward by those commissions so that the positive outlooks of these reform initiatives of the government could be reflected in Bangladesh's monitoring results. ERD Secretary opined that this monitoring exercise is quite relevant and useful for Bangladesh for ensuring adherence to development effectiveness principles and for international knowledge sharing. He asked all the stakeholders to go through the process carefully to ensure reliability and accuracy of the monitoring results. Lastly, he called for active participation of all the relevant stakeholders including government agencies, development partners and CSOs in the process.

Opening Remarks of the Chair: Mr. A. H. M. Jahangir, Additional Secretary (DE Wing Chief), ERD and National Coordinator

The Chair, in his remarks, recalled that the present interim government had placed significant emphasis on development effectiveness. He mentioned that through institutions like ERD, the government had significantly strengthened coordination with development partners, ensuring better alignment of aid with national priorities. He said that Bangladesh's continuous and enhanced engagement with the GPEDC reflects this commitment. He observed that the 4th Monitoring Round would provide the country with a unique opportunity to reflect on the progress made, address gaps, and ensure that development cooperation is more responsive to local contexts. He noted that this round would specifically provide a scope for measuring the alignment of development cooperation with national priorities; strengthening multi-stakeholder partnerships; fostering collaboration between government, development partners, civil society, and the private sector; deepening efforts to localize the SDGs and embedding sustainability into the development planning.

Working Session

Presentation on Questionnaire for PCG: Section A of Annex 1.1: from Dr. Md. Rezaul Bashir Siddique, Additional Secretary, ERD and Mr. A. K. Azad, Deputy Secretary, ERD & Alternate National Coordinator:

At the outset, Dr. Md. Rezaul Bashir Siddique highlighted on the context and historic evolution of the Development Effectiveness Agenda. He recalled that Bangladesh is a founding member of GPEDC. He also highlighted the active role played by Bangladesh in GPEDC—firstly as a member and later as a co-chair of its steering committee. He observed that the fourth monitoring round presents a significant opportunity for Bangladesh. In this regard, the results from this survey would provide relevant evidence that could be used further to improve the outcomes of our development efforts.



Afterwards, Mr. A. K. Azad, in his presentation, explained in detail, various phases of the new country level monitoring process. He also presented a detailed roadmap and timeline of this process. He requested all the relevant stakeholders to submit the details of their focal points as soon as possible so that ERD could forward those to JST by 16 December 2024. He also informed that the data collection for the monitoring exercise is expected to be commenced on 01 January 2025. At the same time, he mentioned that data collection process is expected to be completed by March 2025. He also reminded that the subsequent data review process would be carried out by the national coordinator's team as well as the Joint Support Team. He then highlighted and explained the questions that are specific to the Partner Country Governments.

Presentation on Questionnaire for DPs : Section B of Annex 1.1 from Mr. Benjamin Morgan, Development Coordination Officer, Partnerships and Development Finance Office of the UN Resident Coordinator

In the beginning of his presentation, Mr. Benjamin Morgan opined that the Global Partnership monitoring exercise provides an opportunity to develop an evidence-based understanding of the quality and effectiveness of development cooperation. Later, he briefly highlighted the role of the development partners in this monitoring exercise. He clarified that each development partner would need to identify a focal point for this monitoring exercise who would receive a link to an online reporting tool through which they would submit their individual requested data. As such, he urged all the development partners to identify their respective technical focal points for this exercise. He also informed that the focal point from UNRCO or UNDP would respond to the CSO Enabling Environment Assessment on behalf of all the development partners. He also asked the DPs to help advocate for engagement in the monitoring. He also asked them to ensure that the respective capitals or headquarters of the DP agencies are brought into the questionnaire responses before they are submitted online. Mr. Morgan also assured that the UNRCO would follow up the process through LCG ExComm. Later, he highlighted on the components on which DPs would be asked to provide their response. He also presented some sample questions which the DPs would have to respond.

Presentation on Questions for CSOs and Trade Unions: Assessment of CSO Enabling Environment and Development Effectiveness and Kampala Principles by Mr. Towfiqul Islam Khan Senior Research Fellow, Centre for Policy Dialogue (CPD)

In the beginning of his presentation, Mr. Khan highlighted on the four modules based on which the questions for CSOs are designed. These modules are:

- Module 1: Space for CSO dialogue on national development policies
- Module 2: CSO development effectiveness: Accountability and transparency
- Module 3: Development co-operation with CSOs
- Module 4: Legal and regulatory framework

Later, he reflected on the questions under each of these modules. He also highlighted on the optional questions to be answered only by the civil society focal point. He discussed some potential issues that the CSOs might come across while responding to the questions and suggested some possible methods to address them.

Afterwards, Mr. Khan provided a brief overview of the Kampala Principles. He also highlighted on the questions framed in light of the Kampala Principles for CSOs and Trade Unions.

Presentation on ‘Questionnaire for Kampala Principle Assessment: 1. PCG 2. DPs 3. Pte Sector 4. CSOs’ by Md. Hafizur Rahman, Administrator, FBCCI

Mr. Md. Hafizur Rahman, in his presentation, provided a brief overview of the questions designed for private sector representatives. He noted the questionnaire contains four sets of questions based on the four pillars of the Kampala Principles. These are:

K-E1 The state of policies on private sector engagement in development co-operation

K-E2 Inclusive dialogue on private sector engagement in development co-operation

K-E3 The quality of private sector engagement in development co-operation in partner countries

K-E4 The ease of partnering in private sector engagement in development co-operation

Later, he reflected on the nature of the questions framed under each of these components. Mr. Rahman informed that there are scopes for engaging only two focal points (one for the large industries and one for the Cottage, Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises) for filling up this questionnaire. However, he opined that the number of focal points is too small given the huge gamut of business enterprises and associations operating in the country. He also opined that it would be difficult to incorporate the views of the small-scale businesses or rural enterprises through this monitoring exercise with just two focal points. As such, he requested to explore the possibility to increase the number of focal points for the private sector.

Open Discussion on Questionnaire

At this stage, the floor was opened for comments and feedback from the participants. During this phase, the following queries and feedback came from them:

- It was queried that how the responses from the parliamentarians can be collected in light of the present situation. In response, it was informed that a decision in this regard could be taken by the appropriate authority.

- Noting that the SMEs constitutes a large part of Bangladesh's private sector enterprises—it was queried that how the SMEs could be better integrated with this monitoring exercise so that their views are properly reflected in the process. Responding to this, it was mentioned that the SME foundation may come forward for ensuring the appropriate reflection of the SMEs views through a FGD engaging dedicated representatives of SMEs.
- Given the important role of agriculture sector in Bangladesh's economy—it was observed that farmers or representatives from the agriculture sector should also be integrated into this monitoring exercise. Responding to this, it was mentioned that the SME focal point can also simultaneously act as the focal point for the farmers.
- It was pointed out that the foreign aid received for Rohingya refugees/ FDMNs hosted by Bangladesh is calculated in Bangladesh's account. However, it was also pointed out that in most cases around the world, the fund received for refugees is not calculated in the account of the host country. It was opined that this issue could be raised with OECD and other appropriate global platforms. In response, it was mentioned that global entities like TOSSD, IATI and GPEDC had long been calling for including a separate column or data field in the national online aid data platforms like AIMS to record the overseas development fundings received for causes related to war, regional conflicts or refugees.
- It was opined that there should be a designated focal point to respond to any queries that may arise during the data collection phase of this monitoring process.
- It was proposed that a dedicated workshop can be organized on Kampala Principles Assessment for better understanding and sensitization of the CSOs and other stakeholders on this issue. It was also proposed that a separate workshop could be organized involving all the relevant CSOs to accumulate collective responses to the CSO specific questions.
- Responding to this, it was agreed that the DE Wing of ERD, with support from the SSGP project would take initiatives to organize such thematic workshops or FGDs.
- It was queried that how this monitoring exercise would support the process of coordination between development partners and the government with a view to address the LDC graduation related challenges. In response, it was informed that the government, with support from UNDESA, is at the final stage of formulating the Smooth Transition Strategy (STS). It was also informed that the STS features a comprehensive action plan outlining the timebound actions that would be implemented in collaboration with the private sector and development partners in the coming years to address the LDC graduation related challenges. It was also mentioned that the government would work in close consultation and collaboration with the DPs through STS related Joint Task Team and other platforms to mitigate the graduation related challenges.
- It was queried that which specific SDG indicators should development partners focus to ensure that this monitoring exercise will provide meaningful contribution to SDG attainment? In response, it was informed that the Global Partnership monitoring exercise directly informs the global tracking of SDG 17.16.1, SDG 17.15.1 and SDG 5.C.1.
- Participants observed that the CSOs can help the government in reflecting the concerns of the marginalized people in this monitoring process.
- It was queried that how the development effectiveness principles can be aptly applied for the effective use of foreign funds provided for the benefit of the Rohingya refugees/ FDMNs.

- It was queried that whether there is any question regarding climate financing issues in the questionnaires for this monitoring survey. In response, it was informed that GPEDC monitoring exercise is aimed at assessing and evaluating the effectiveness of development cooperation from a macro perspective. In this context, it was explained that the questionnaire does not contain any question aligned with any specific sector.

Remarks from Mr. Rezaul Karim Chowdhury, Executive Director, COAST Foundation (South Asian CSO Focal Point)

Mr. Rezaul Karim Chowdhury, in his remarks, asked ERD and UNRCO to take the lead in organizing a workshop on this monitoring exercise involving the development partners and CSOs. He highlighted on the important role played by the CSOs in making development cooperation process effective at the country level. Pointing out that the Kampala Principles had recognized the importance of the inclusion of marginalized people in implementing the development effectiveness agenda he also observed that CSOS can play a very effective role in voicing the concerns of the marginalized people. Lastly, he thanked ERD for coordinating the previous as well as the current round of Global Partnership monitoring exercise in Bangladesh.

Closing Remarks by Chair: Mr. A. H. M. Jahangir, Additional Secretary (DE Wing Chief), ERD and National Coordinator

The Chair, in his closing remarks, thanked all the participants for their active engagement and interactive discussions. He affirmed that ERD would organize a number of thematic workshops or FGDs in the coming times to facilitate active and fruitful participation of the relevant stakeholders in this monitoring process. He requested the development partners, government agencies and the CSOs to share the details of the focal points within the stipulated deadline. Lastly, he concluded the meeting by thanking all the participants.