

Press release

For immediate release

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Advocacy Session on Gender-Disaggregated Data Collection to Advance SDG Localization in Bangladesh

Dhaka, Bangladesh | 23 May 2026 — The United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS) Bangladesh, in collaboration with the Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics (BBS), organized an “Advocacy Session on Gender-Segregated Data Collection” under the *Accelerate SDG Localization in Bangladesh* project.

Implemented by UNOPS in partnership with UN Women, the project aims to develop a “Bangladesh Model” for localizing Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 5 — Gender Equality, and SDG 16 — Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions.

The advocacy session brought together representatives from the BBS, district administrations, local government institutions, civil society organizations, women’s think tanks, and other key stakeholders to strengthen the collection, analysis, and utilization of gender-segregated data at the local level.

Mr. Mohammad Obaidul Islam, Director General (ad interim) of BBS, graced the session as the chief guest, with Mr. Md. Emdadul Haque, Director of the Demography and Health Wing, presiding as the chair. The event also featured Ms. Shirin Sultana, Partnership Advisor at UNOPS, as the guest of honour, while welcome remarks were presented by Mr. Md. Alamgir Hossen, Focal Point of the SDG Cell.

Accurate and disaggregated data is central to achieving the SDGs and ensuring that development efforts respond effectively to the realities faced by women and marginalized communities. While BBS serves as the national custodian of official statistics, local-level engagement remains essential for translating national commitments into inclusive planning and evidence-based policymaking.

The session aims to enhance awareness among district-level stakeholders on the importance of gender-segregated data for inclusive governance and SDG monitoring. It will also strengthen the capacity of local leaders to advocate for gender-responsive policies and improve alignment between local data systems and national standards established by BBS.



The discussions focused on the Government of Bangladesh's 39+1 National Priority Targets, with particular emphasis on SDG 5 and SDG 16 indicators at the sub-national level. Key technical focus areas included tracking female labor force participation, reducing child marriage, promoting women's participation in local governance, monitoring birth registration, strengthening access to justice, and improving institutional responsiveness to women's safety concerns.

The initiative is expected to result in stronger commitments from local authorities to maintain and report gender-disaggregated datasets, while also supporting improved localized reporting into the National SDG Tracker. Through these advocacy sessions, the project aims to establish a network of 190 "SDG Data Champions" across Dhaka, Rajshahi, and Chittagong divisions.

About BBS

The Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics (BBS) is the National Statistics Office (NSO), responsible for collecting, compiling, analyzing, authenticating and disseminating data to support evidence based policymaking and planning.

About UNOPS

The United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS) supports the UN and partners worldwide in delivering peacebuilding, humanitarian, and development projects through expertise in infrastructure, procurement, human resources and project management.

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