

Addressing inequality through Social Impact Assessment

*a case study of
Bangladesh*

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Social Impact Assessment (SIA)



- Assess and manage social aspects of development
- Contribute to reduction in inequality
- Limit disproportional impacts
- Identify measures to protect vulnerable groups
- Support equal distribution of benefits and costs

Relative inequality in society

- *'differences in people's:*
 - *access to economic opportunities*
 - *socio-political participation*
 - *ability to live a fulfilling life'*
- **Hampers economic development and poverty alleviation**



Inequality of opportunities

- Access to resources (land, water, capital)
- Access to services: education, health, markets
- Job availability
- Age and ability

Drivers

- Discrimination
- Governance
- Social policies

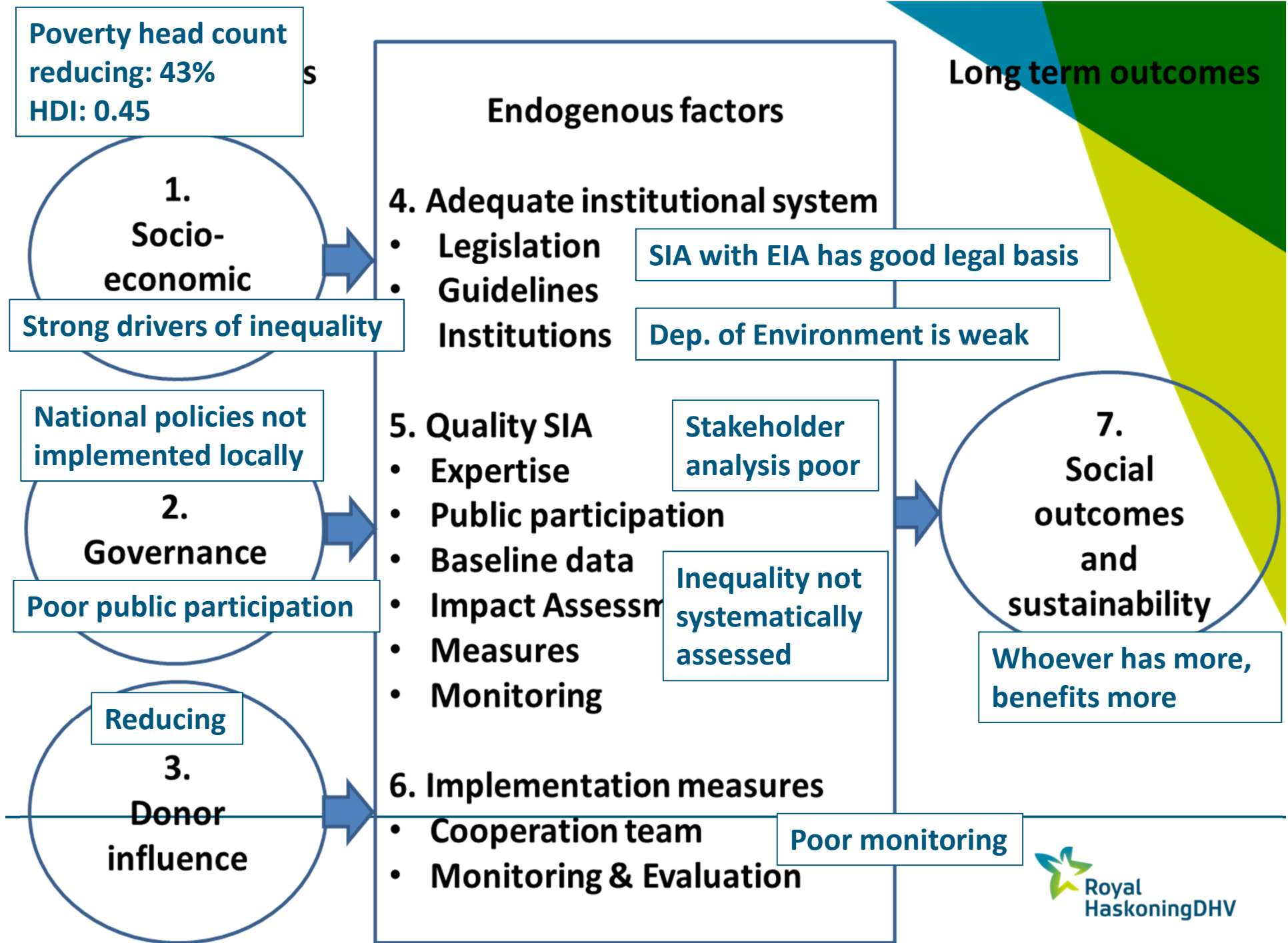
Inequality of outcomes

- Income and wealth
- Education attainment and literacy
- Health and nutrition
- Security and safety
- Political influence
- Human wellbeing

How effective is SIA in addressing inequality in Bangladesh?

- Literature
 - Legislation
 - 8 recent SIA reports
 - Interviews of 7 key informants
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- Thematic Analysis





Recommendations

Do not wait for changes in **exogenous** factors

Start with improvements in **endogenous** factors



**Address inequality rigorously
in SIA process**

Recommendations

- **Analyze stakeholders: unequal relations**
- **Give vulnerable groups a voice**
- **Differentiate in impacts per group**
- **Include measures for vulnerable groups**
- **Formulate measures specifically**
- **Incorporate measures in planning docs**
- **Prescribe long term monitoring**



Long term effectiveness

- **Good quality SIA processes will raise awareness**
 - In society
 - In implementing organisations and
 - In the government
- **SIA cannot reduce inequality by itself, but can support reducing the drivers of inequality**



Good quality SIA at project level can support reducing inequality in society

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