

Implementing Agenda 2030

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Detailed data on the ground realities are needed for properly designing action programmes and measuring progress against targets. In the 2030 Agenda itself, it has been recognised that for the successful implementation of the Agenda, a data revolution is necessary. In Bangladesh, gaps are daunting in this regard. A research and data gathering and analysis programme, keeping in perspective the 2030 Agenda implementation plans and guidelines, needs to be designed with proper prioritisation and implemented on that basis. This is an important action area for which external resources may be tapped in a major way.

Another area of action is to develop, revamp or strengthen institutions to be congruent with the policies and strategies adopted for 2030 Agenda implementation. It may also serve a useful purpose if assigning of responsibilities and tasks are rearranged—such as giving local governments a major role in

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local actions. This is surely a complex task, but one that needs serious attention. The Agenda itself recognises the importance of policy and institutional congruence for its proper implementation. Monitoring the implementation of the SDG action programmes focusing on the concrete results being achieved is a must in order to understand the extent and quality of the outcomes with reference to the targets set.

A major challenge is the large-scale need for human capability development and improvement at all levels of society and in all areas of human action. The essential means to this end includes education, skills development, and health services. In all these areas, there has been significant advancement in recent years. But, still there are major gaps. Functionally educated proportion of the adult population is perhaps about 50 percent, skill training covers a

negligible proportion of even the youth segment of the population, and affordable and quality primary health services remain way short in relation to the goal of universal primary healthcare coverage. Illiterate people need to be educated and trained, the literates and those with higher levels of education need appropriate skill training in their respective chosen fields and higher level

functionaries in all sectors need exposure nationally and internationally. How best to develop and improve the human capabilities, over the coming years, at various levels and in different areas of human endeavour must be properly planned with reference to the projected requirements over the years, derived from the planned 2030 Agenda implementation processes. But, besides this process, many more skilled people will be needed in other areas, which must also be kept in perspective in

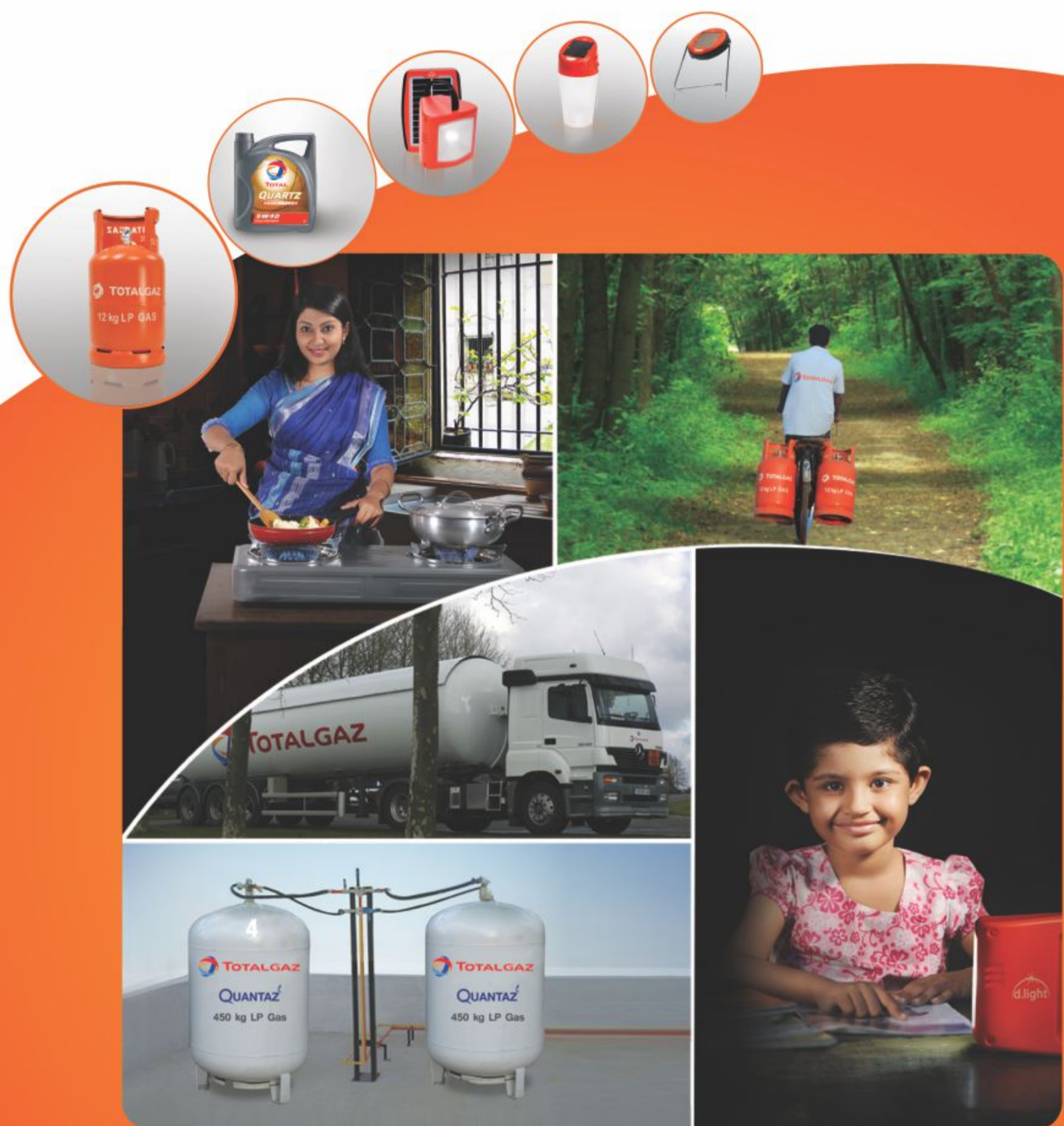
planning human capability development and improvement in Bangladesh.

Financing the implementation of the 2030 Agenda is going to be a huge challenge. It is expected that individual countries will mobilise domestic resources to the maximum extent possible for implementing this Agenda. This would require improved public revenue collection mechanisms to eliminate evasion and leakages and extend the tax net to cover the potential taxpayers who are not paying taxes. The government has been taking steps in terms of, for example, simplifying the tax payment procedure, introduction of online payment facilities and encouraging people to use these, according recognition to major taxpayers, and raising awareness through tax fairs and other means about the liability of those who have taxable incomes. Efforts should be strengthened to identify tax evaders and

bring them to book so that others are discouraged to traverse this path. Other sources of funding that should be tapped for implementing the Agenda include: encouraging civil society and community-based organisations, the private corporate sector, and people of small means interested in micro-enterprises to invest, attracting more foreign direct investment (FDI), and securing more official development assistance (ODA) from developed countries.

Many civil society and community-based organisations were enthusiastically active in promoting MDGs and are already gearing up to play a part in the process of 2030 Agenda implementation. Although these organisations may not raise much fund for tasks to be undertaken, they can undertake awareness raising, monitoring, and reviewing activities to help effective utilisation of funds and focused implementation of the Agenda.

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