**Press Release**

BUILD/04/2025/156 **Date:** April 24, 2025

**Attn:** News Editor/ Chief Reporter/ Assignment Editor /Business Page-in-Charge

**Title:** **Policy Support Needs for Green Procurement through Sustainable Public Procurement (SPP) Policy**

BUILD in collaboration with International Trade Centre (ITC)’s She Trades Initiative and the Bangladesh Public Procurement Authority (BPPA) with the support from UK Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO) convened a **survey on Sustainable Public Procurement (SPP) Policy to** identify Policy Implementation Challenges and Opportunities. The results of the Survey have been presented at a Policy Dialogue **on April 24** at the Six Seasons Hotel in Dhaka.

This timely dialogue brought together key stakeholders from the government, women-owned enterprises (WOEs), development partners, and public procurement entities to reflect on the progress, challenges, and future direction of implementing the SPP Policy. The dialogue was also an opportunity to share findings from a recent needs assessment survey that reviewed the status of SPP implementation and monitoring and evaluation (M&E) practices, with a specific focus on gender inclusion.

Ferdaus Ara Begum, CEO of BUILD presented the survey report highlighting some specific requirements for WoEs to be in business and their participation in Public Procurement activities. Survey findings shows that 90% of surveyed Women Owned Enterprises (WOEs) participate in public procurement, of which 60% favoring the simpler Request for Quotation (RFQ) method, and only 30% using the more complex Open Tendering Method (OTM. It revealed a significant lack of SPP Policy awareness among WOEs(60%) and procuring entities (15%), while regarding SPP guide, 30% of PEs are aware about it.

 The report recommends for forming a joint BPPA-procuring entity taskforce to develop an SPP action plan and gender-responsive M&E framework; standardizing the definition of women-owned businesses and collecting relevant data via e-GP; raising awareness among procuring entities using direct communication and workshops; training BPPA and PEs on SPP implementation etc.

The event was addressed by Mirza Ashfaqur Rahman, CEO of BPPA informed that a high powered steering committee headed by the Planning Adviser is working on it. He also mentioned that SPP is a paradigm shift in the sustainability issues.

The event was attended by a number of Women Entrepreneurs, Procuring Entities, IMED and Development partners to interact on the issue and they raised their challenges they face in participating in the public procurement.

Ms. Jem from SheTrades initiatives in her presentation has highlighted a gender responsive monitoring and evaluation framework with a standard definition of women owned business. She underscored the need for the women entrepreneurs to understand the gender provisions in the public procurement processes and their ways to navigate the process. She presented an action plan to measure the impacts created by the gender responsive M&E framework. She stressed the output indicators to be SMART to be impactful. Finally, she stressed need for an Action Plan side by side a well planned Roadmap for this a structured data base from all the PEs in the country is required.

ITC and BPPA presented approaches to designing and institutionalizing a gender-responsive monitoring and evaluation system, outlining key metrics, data needs, and stakeholder responsibilities. Group sessions further explored how gender indicators could be integrated and how mechanisms for data sharing between government agencies and women-owned businesses could be developed.

The event concluded with a groupwork on developing a roadmap to strengthen implementation, monitoring, and evaluation of the SPP Policy. Stakeholders aligned on actionable next steps, including Government commitments to enabling policy adoption at all levels, tailored capacity-building initiatives for WOEs and procurement officials and Development of inclusive data systems and performance indicators.

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