



SOCIAL SECURITY POLICY SUPPORT (SSPS) PROGRAMME

# SSPS Programme Newsletter

July - December  
2015

## IN THIS ISSUE

The Social Security Policy Support (SSPS) Programme supports the government with reforming the current social security system based on the National Social Security Strategy (NSSS), ensuring that economic growth is achieved in a more inclusive manner.

approved by the Cabinet on 1 June 2015. The core of the strategy is programme coordination and consolidation along life cycle risks, with programmes for children, working age people – including specific focus on youth and vulnerable women – the elderly, and persons with disabilities. The strategy puts emphasis on reaching out to a range of

## What we do?

Social security is mandated by the Constitution of Bangladesh, with Article 15 (d) obligating the State to secure the right to social security for its citizens. At a Social Protection Conference in Dhaka in 2011, the Government of Bangladesh announced a commitment to develop a national strategy for social protection in Bangladesh. Over past decades the country's social safety net portfolio has incrementally increased every year, now comprising some 142 projects implemented through 23 ministries. An unplanned growth of the portfolio has caused fragmented implementation, with both duplication and under-coverage. Assisted by UNDP, the Government of Bangladesh embarked upon the formulation of a comprehensive National Social Security Strategy (NSSS) to coordinate and consolidate the existing safety net programmes to achieve better efficiency and results.

A series of consultations took place to ensure engagement of all stakeholders and to reach consensus about the principles and framework of the strategy. The NSSS was

socially excluded population groups that face various kinds of social discrimination and often have special needs.

UNDP supports the Government to roll out the National Social Security Strategy through the Social Security Policy Support (SSPS) Programme, in partnership with the Cabinet Division and the General Economics Division (GED) of the Planning Commission. Department for International Development (DFID) is the principal programme donor.

The SSPS Programme has two components: Governance of Social Security and Strengthening of Delivery Systems. Strengthened governance will ensure better coordination, M&E and reporting functions and develop Government research and analysis capacities, building a more effective evidence base for effective policy decisions. Developing modern social security infrastructure will build capacity to support a nationally integrated delivery system for reliable and transparent social transfers.



## National Social Security Strategy Launched on 5th November 2015

The Government of Bangladesh, in collaboration with UK's Department for International Development (DFID) and UNDP Bangladesh launched the National Social Security Strategy. 2015 on Thursday 5th November 2015

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## Knowledge Sharing in Kurigram

Informal meeting with Deputy Commissioner (DC) of Kurigram: The TNA team traveled from Dhaka to Kurigram on 24th January, 2016

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## Achievements

- The National Social Security Strategy (NSSS) formulated, approved by the Cabinet and launched.
- A Central Management Committee under the Cabinet Division constituted to oversee implementation of social security system reforms.
- MoU and agreement between SSPS, Cabinet Division and GED with the National Institute for Local Government (NILG) for capacity building of Union Parishad.
- Five thematic clusters constituted for effective inter-ministerial programme coordination.
- NSSS Implementation Units established at the Cabinet Division and GED.
- 10 background research papers supporting NSSS development produced.
- NSSS orientation training given to officials of 30 ministries /divisions/ departments, Members of Parliament and to all Deputy Commissioners and ADCs.
- Development of ministerial Action Plans for NSSS implementation initiated.

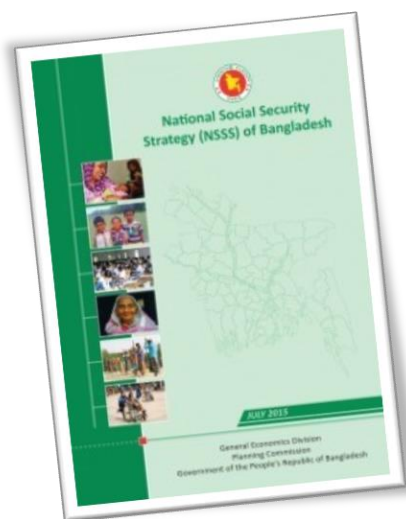


- Write-up on inclusion of socially excluded groups provided for the seventh Five-Year Plan.
- UNDP book on "Social Protection in Bangladesh – Building Effective Social Safety Nets and Ladders Out of Poverty" published.
- Grievance Redress Systems of all ministries mapped for development of a consolidated online system. Training Needs Assessment of Local Government Institutions conducted; MoU with

National Institute of Local Government (NILG) on NSSS training agreed, with training modules being drafted.

- UNDP has demonstrated its leading position strategically in the social protection policy area through assisting the Government in the development of the NSSS from beginning to end.

## National Social Security Strategy Launched on 5th November 2015



*National Social Security Protection Strategy (NSSS) of Bangladesh*

The Government of Bangladesh, in collaboration with UK's Department for International Development (DFID) and UNDP Bangladesh launched the National Social Security Strategy 2015 on Thursday 5th November 2015 at the NEC Auditorium, GED, Planning Commission, Dhaka. For the first time, the National Social Security Strategy 2015 will address the triple problems of poverty, vulnerability and marginalization which will pave the way for sustainable social development in Bangladesh. The Government embarked on the task of framing a comprehensive strategy for its social security engagement, to coordinate and consolidate the existing safety net programmes for better efficiency and results. The National Social Security

Strategy has been developed under the joint leadership of the Cabinet Division and the General Economics Division, with close involvement of an inter-ministerial committee. After a broad consultative process, the strategy was approved by the Cabinet in June 2015 and launched today. The core of the strategy is a life cycle approach looking at the particular needs, people have over their entire life; benefitting mother and child, youth, vulnerable working age, the elderly and persons with disabilities. Social inclusion of marginalized groups is a central principle, with an expansion of schemes for the extremely poor and most vulnerable people.

## Knowledge Sharing in Kurigram



*Knowledge Sharing in Kurigram*

One of the focused interventions of the SSPS Programme is to strengthen capacity of the Government to roll out and implement the NSSS. SSPS will develop an overall training plan for the duration of the programme, design training courses and produce training manuals.

Union Parishads (UP) are the main implementing gateway for social safety net program at grassroots level. In this regard, capacity building and training of UPs and their representatives is very important to ensure quality to implement and strengthen the management system, including those of finance and monitoring

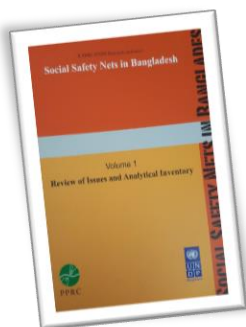
In this regard, a team of officials traveled to Kurigram on 24th January, 2016. The objective of their visit was to talk to collect information for a Training Needs Assessment (TNA). The TNA team was led by Mst. Nasima Begum- Joint Secretary- Cabinet Division; and SSPS and SWAPNO team members. A report of the TNA will be validated at a workshop held at a later date.

### Objectives of the Training Needs Assessment (TNA)

- ➔ To map the capacity gaps of elected UP representatives (13 members including chairman), officials (UP secretary & focal point of SSN) pertaining to social security programme and suggest social security capacity enhancement programme.
- ➔ Assess training needs to enhance the UPs representatives and officials capacity to support the implementation of the NSSS, including assessing and strengthening relationships within the administrative hierarchy.
- ➔ Identify the required knowledge and skills of Union Parishad members/staff.
- ➔ Recommend a training strategy, subject matter and training curricula related to social security programmes.
- ➔ Prepare a monitoring and evaluation framework complete with indicators to follow up on the progress and effectiveness of the training plan.

# Reports / Publications / Op-ed

- National Social Security Strategy (NSSS) of Bangladesh. Government of Bangladesh  
<http://www.plancomm.gov.bd/wp-content/uploads/2015/04/NSSS-3rd-Version-Web-version.pdf>



- Hossain, ZR. 2012. Social Safety Nets in Bangladesh - Review of Issues and Analytical Inventory. Vol. I  
<http://www.bd.undp.org/content/bangladesh/en/home/library/poverty/social-safety-nets-in-bangladesh-v1.html>



- Hossain, ZR. 2012. Social Safety Nets in Bangladesh - Ground Realities and Policy Challenge, (Volume 2)  
<http://www.bd.undp.org/content/bangladesh/en/home/library/poverty/social-safety-nets-in-bangladesh-volume-2.html>

- Hossain, ZR. et al. 2014. Social Protection in Bangladesh Building Effective Social Safety Nets and Ladders out of Poverty.  
<http://www.uplbooks.com/book/social-protection-bangladesh-building-effective-social-safety-nets-and-ladders-out-poverty>

- National Social Security Strategy: A mission with a vision - op-ed- Pauline Tamesis  
<http://archive.dhakatribune.com/op-ed/2015/nov/06/national-social-security-strategy-mission-vision>

- A roadmap to poverty reduction in Bangladesh - op-ed –Shamsul Alam  
<http://www.thedailystar.net/op-ed/economics/roadmap-poverty-reduction-bangladesh-167923>



# Overview

- **Project Start Date**  
1 January 2014
- **Estimated End Date**  
31 December 2017
- **Geographic Coverage**  
Entire Country
- **Focus Areas**  
Inclusive growth, Resilience
- **Sustainable Development Goals**  
SDG 1, 5 and 10
- **National Project Director**  
Faizul Islam, Deputy Chief, GED
- **Project Manager**  
Aminul Arifeen



➤ **Donors**  
Department for International Development (DFID), United Kingdom

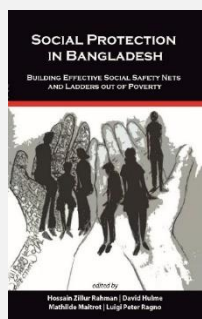
Government of Bangladesh (GoB)

United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)

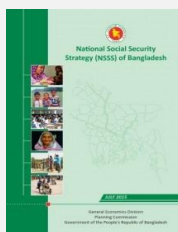
➤ **Key Partners**  
The Cabinet Division

The General Economics Division (GED) of the Planning Commission

## KEY PUBLICATION



UNDP book on  
“[Social Protection in Bangladesh – Building Effective Social Safety Nets and Ladders Out of Poverty](#)”



**National Social Security Strategy (NSSS) of Bangladesh**



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