



SOCIAL SECURITY POLICY SUPPORT (SSPS) PROGRAMME

SSPS Programme Newsletter

July - December
2016

IN THIS ISSUE

Amongst their constituency interests in Parliament, in terms of social protection, Members of Parliament bear a three pronged role: advocacy, representing the various interests of their constituency and playing an influential role in deciding how public funds should be allocated to help the extreme poor; thus, help make social protection a reality in

NSSS Orientation to Members of Parliament

their constituencies. Advocate Mir Showkat Ali Badsha MP Bagerhat 2, said "I am glad that the government is making social protection a top strategy, surely this strategy will carry our country to the top middle income bracket by 2021 and I thank the Cabinet Division and Bangladesh Parliament for taking this kind of initiative."

The core of the National Social Security Strategy of Bangladesh (NSSS) aims at programme consolidation along lifecycle risks, with programmes for children, working age people including specific focus on youth and vulnerable women, the elderly, and persons with disabilities. Also, the NSSS puts emphasis on reaching out to a range of socially excluded population groups that face various kinds of social discrimination. The NSSS has the vision of moving towards a right-based approach in line with provisions of Bangladesh's Constitution, by building "an inclusive Social Security System for all deserving Bangladeshis that effectively tackles and prevents poverty and inequality and contributes to broader human development, employment and economic growth."

Amongst issues which were discussed were on implementation of social security schemes, targeting beneficiaries, facilitative role of the MPs, increase in benefits, limiting leakages and monitoring and evaluation.

The workshops were organized by the Cabinet Division and Bangladesh Parliament with support from the Social Security Policy Support (SSPS) Programme, funded by Government of Bangladesh, UNDP and DFID. Dr. Shirin Sharmin Chowdhury MP, Speaker, Bangladesh Parliament speaking at the National Social Security Strategy orientation workshop for Parliamentarians, thanks the organisers Cabinet Division and Parliament Secretariat for holding this session. The discussion was participated in full by MPs and she thanked everyone for their active participation. The strategy had full endorsement of the Honourable Prime Minister in 2009 and this year, the budget has increased by manifold from our own revenue. This NSSS covers all areas, extreme poor, socially excluded population which is being implemented and there will be graduation schemes.

130 Members of Parliament (MPs) attended an orientation session on the 2nd and 4th October 2016 for the National Social Security System and Scope for Reform at the National Parliament House. The Speaker of the Parliament, Deputy Speaker, Chief Whip, Secretary, Cabinet Division, Senior Secretary of General Economics Division, Planning Commission and Secretary Parliament, jointly shared a common platform to address questions and suggestions from the MPs regarding the National Social Security Strategy and social safety nets.



Union Resource Team Members Trained on Social Protection

The Union Parishad is the last stage of administration in Bangladesh. [Page 2](#)



Training Needs Assessments

Local Government Institutions are crucial implementing agencies. Union Parishad (UP) is the main gateway [Page 2](#)



Study Tour to India

On 9th November 2016, a group of 15 Government of Bangladesh officials visited Madhya Pradesh in India on an one week study tour. [Page 3](#)

Union Resource Team Members Trained on Social Protection

The Union Parishad is the last stage of administration in Bangladesh. Today is the launch programme of a Training of Trainers (ToT) where members of the Upazila Resource Team (URT) will conduct training for Union Parishad representatives and secretaries all over Bangladesh.

Md. Monirul Islam, Deputy Chief, General Economics Division, and DNP, SSPS Programme, commented on Bangladesh's excellent economic growth which can be showcased to the world and that Bangladesh now belongs as a member of the USD 100 million club, but in a space of 7 years, Bangladesh, has doubled its GDP to USD 200 billion, which is a remarkable achievement.

Md. Monirul Islam, Deputy Chief, General Programme commented that we can find out whether poverty has increased by calculating the difference between the poverty line and measure of a household. We need to reduce the vulnerability of extreme poverty through the lifecycle approach and a rights based approach as is mentioned in the Bangladesh Constitution 15(d) (GED, pXXI).

Training and Consultancy, NILG Md. Golam Yahea also spoke at the launch saying that

NILG is a renowned establishment providing training to local government officials. Today the importance of the delivery of social safety nets in Bangladesh can be seen and he gave tips at the ToT to the Union Resource Team.

The TOT course was for two days where a total of 14 batches of URT members were trained. Three training sessions of one-day duration were also conducted for DD & AD of District Social Service Officers.



Union Resource Team Members Trained on Social Protection

Training Needs Assessment

Local Government Institutions are crucial implementing agencies. Union Parishad (UP) is the main gateway and implementing authority of social safety net programme at grassroots level. The 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 order to implement a successful capacity building and training programme, the SSPS programme assessed organisational training needs of UPs. The objectives of the training needs assessment (TNA) were to: (a) map the capacity gaps of elected UP representatives, officials pertaining to social security programme and suggest social security capacity enhancement programme; and (b) assess training needs to enhance the UPs representatives and officials capacity to support the implementation of the NSSS.

A draft TNA was shared with stakeholders and study participants, and based on their comments and inputs, the TNA was finalized and put to work for designing training programmes for the local level government institutions across the country. Policymakers, experts and resource persons selected from relevant ministries/divisions/local government institutions, academic/research institutions, CSOs and study participants—UP Chairmen, Secretaries, and Members took part in the workshop.



Training Needs Assessment

Study Tour to India

On 9th November 2016, a delegation of 15 Government of Bangladesh officials visited 4 different places in India on a one week study tour to New Delhi, Jaipur, Bhopal and Mumbai. The delegation began their visit from New Delhi. Later the participants split in 2 groups – one group went to Jaipur and the other one to Bhopal. The groups met at Mumbai.

A courtesy meeting with the UNDP Country Director and the Management Team was arranged at New Delhi. Later, an overview of social protection schemes in India was given. That was followed by overviews on financial inclusion of:

- 1) Pradhan Mantri Jan-Dhan Yojana, Stand up India Scheme
- 2) Atal Pension Yojana
- 3) Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA)
- 4) Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana National Rural Livelihood Scheme (NRLM)
- 5) National Pension System.



Study Tour to India

There was also a field trip where the delegation met the Chairperson and his team in the Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority (PFRDA).

In Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh, overviews were given on different programmes that included UNDP's Social Protection Programmes in MP, including electronic vaccine intelligence network (e-VIN); financial inclusion initiatives; innovations for the communities under NRLM programme; role of the State Planning Commission and decentralized planning in Madhya Pradesh; Jan Abhiyan Prishad initiative in social mobilization and community empowerment.

The delegation also had opportunities to visit the 'Bhamasah Yojna' scheme of the Rajasthan state government to build financial inclusion for empowerment of women. The team also visited a Community Health Clinic at Amre, Swastha Shakhi and the electronic vaccine logistics system called 'e-VIN.' The team also visited Chief Minister's Office in Mumbai where the delegation saw the online lodging and monitoring system (Aple Sarker) of public grievances, Women Empowerment Scheme, Financial Inclusion fund, Financial inclusion technology and rural financial institutions programme, India Innovation Grant Programme and creation of employment and entrepreneurship opportunities.

Reports / Publications / Op-ed

- জাতীয় সামাজিক নিরাপত্তা কৌশল: বাংলাদেশ (National Social Security Strategy of Bangladesh in Bangla)
<http://www.plancomm.gov.bd/wp-content/uploads/2015/04/NSSS-Bangla-Web-version.pdf>
- Why Copenhagen Consensus is wrong on cash transfers, op-ed, Nick Beresford
<http://www.thedailystar.net/op-ed/politics/why-copenhagen-consensus-wrong-cash-transfers-1291183>
- The role of private sector in SDGs implementation –Shamsul Alam
<http://www.thefinancialexpress-bd.com/2016/11/27/54473/The-role-of-private-sector-in-SDGs-implementation>

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



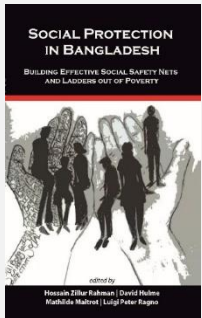
- **Donors**
Department for International Development (DFID), United Kingdom

Government of Bangladesh (GoB)

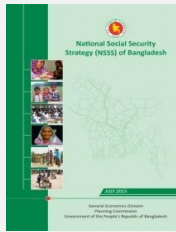
United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)
- **Key Partners**
The Cabinet Division

The General Economics Division (GED) of the Planning Commission

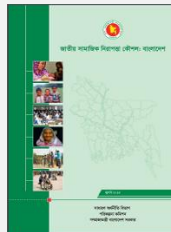
KEY PUBLICATION



UNDP book on "Social Protection in Bangladesh – Building Effective Social Safety Nets and Ladders Out of Poverty"



National Social Security Strategy (NSSS) of Bangladesh



জাতীয় সামাজিক নিরাপত্তা কৌশল: বাংলাদেশ



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