



Social Security Policy Support (SSPS) Programme

Third Project Steering Committee (PSC) Meeting 16 August 2018



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Empowered People.
Resilient Nations.

Brief on SSPS

Estimated total cost: BDT 45.3492 Crore [5.7m USD]

Project Aid: BDT 44.2992 Crore; and

GoB: BDT 105 Lakh

Sponsoring ministry: Cabinet Division (Lead) & Planning Division (Co-sponsor)

Executing Agency: Cabinet Division and General Economics Division (GED)

Mentorship Supports:

Member (Senior Secretary), GED, Planning Commission; and
Secretary, Coordination & Reforms, Cabinet Division; and
Additional Secretary, Coordination, Cabinet Division

Funding Agencies

Government of Bangladesh; Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT) from Australian Government; and UNDP

Objective

Ensuring that Government of Bangladesh develops a fully functional social protection system, which supports and facilitates best practice delivery models.

Broad Activities

Activity – 1: Better governance of social security by strengthened coordination, M&E, and reporting functions and stronger research and analysis capacity building for a more effective evidence base for policy development; and

Activity – 2: Modern social security infrastructure developed and capable of supporting a nationally integrated delivery system for reliable, transparent and developmental GoB social transfers, while promoting linkages to ensure effective coordination.

Year wise Expenditure (in lakh taka)

ADP	Budget		Total	Expenditure		Total	Progress by ADP
	DPA	GoB		DPA	GoB		
2015-16	1,052.00	7.00	1,059.00	1,071.83	-	1,071.83	101.21%
2016-17	1,142.00	8.00	1,150.00	1,066.30	4.00	1,070.30	93.07%
2017-18	884.00	8.00	892.00	688.00	8.00	696.00	78%
2018-19	1,179.00	10.00	1,189.00	36.00		36.00	03.02%
2019-20							
Total	4,257.00	33.00	4,290.00	2,862.13	12.00	2,874.13	67.0%

Agenda Item-1

Confirmation of the minutes of the 2nd PSC meeting


- The minutes have been circulated to all the relevant ministries and agencies including the UNDP. Moreover, copies of the minutes have been served in the table along with the agenda. Discussion may be held if some members draw attention to any anomalies or errors in the minutes. Thereafter, the minutes of the last meeting may be confirmed subject to any proposed amendment.

Review the implementation progress of the decisions of the 2nd meeting

Decision - A

- The minutes of the last meeting of PSC held on 20 June 2017 is confirmed without any amendment.

Implementation Progress


- Meeting minutes approved.
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Review the implementation progress of the decisions of the 2nd meeting

Decision - B

- The UNDP is thanked for allocation of funds to continue the SSPS Programme up to December 2017 as per TPP and ProDoc. Also, the UNDP will continue this project in 2018 with the fund stipulated for this project for 2014 – 2017 time period. UNDP will also sort out the unfunded issue mentioned in the ProDoc as well as try to find out new donors' funding to continue NSSS reform.

Implementation Progress


- The UNDP arranged necessary fund for leftover period of 2017; DFAT co-financing started, which will continue up to **December 2019**. UNDP will also try to mobilise fund and continue NSSS reform 1st phase up to 2021. UNDP and DFAT TA support will expedite the progress in NSSS reforms. UNDP Representative and DFAT Representative may pass few comments in this regard.
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Review the implementation progress of the decisions of the 1st meeting

Decision - C

- UNDP and ERD will arrange necessary measures for extending ProDoc time period with no cost extension, and further funds to continue the SSPS Project from January 2018 to December 2018, and accordingly SSPS Programme will furnish relevant formalities and revision in TPP.

Implementation Progress


- The project has been extended up to December 2018 after completing all the formalities. TPP needs to amend for the period 2019-2020 time period.
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Review the implementation progress of the decisions of the 2nd meeting

Decision - D

- The draft of the NSSS Action Plan is endorsed by the meeting and recommended for submission in the next meeting of the Central Management Committee (CMC) of the Cabinet Division for approval.

Implementation Progress

- The NSSS Action Plan was approved by the CMC (20 October 2017). The print copies are available. Ministries involved in social security programmes start using this Action Plan, and new programmes are developed on the basis of action plan. The Action Plan document, book on Background Research of Social Protection, and other books are now awaiting for formal launch.
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Review the implementation progress of the decisions of the 2nd meeting

Decision - E

- The BPATC will be provided technical support in designing contents on social protection for different courses run by BPATC.

Implementation Progress

- A a number of workshops have been conducted with trainees of foundation, ACAD and SSC courses. An elementary book on social protection called 'ACBD on Social Protection in Bangladesh' has been developed and print copies were well appreciated by the trainees and resource persons including donors and others. A small pilot was done with the foundation trainees in March 2018, where Secretary, Coordination and Reforms attended as resource person.
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Review the implementation progress of the decisions of the 2nd meeting

Decision - F

- The BTCL will be requested to allocate www.socialprotection.gov.bd as the website link for the SSPS Programme and the BCC will be sent a request letter to host it in its server. The line ministries will be requested to embed the link in their respective websites.

Implementation Progress

- The BTCL and BCC was requested accordingly, and the link has been duly registered and hosted by them respectively. The website has been launched formally by the Cabinet Secretary in CMC meeting held on 10 December 2017.
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Review the implementation progress of the decisions of the 2nd meeting

Decision - G

- The website will be managed by the Cabinet Division as per the directions of the CMC.

Implementation Progress

- It is managed.

Agenda Item-2: Brief progress of SSPS Programme activities and Key Achievements

Policy Strategy and Plan

- The National Social Security Strategy (NSSS) formulation, draft, shared and approved by the Cabinet.
- NSSS launched with honourable Speaker of National Parliament as the Chief Guest, Social Welfare Minister and Chairman of Parliamentary Standing Committee for Planning as the Special Guests, while Planning Minister chaired.
- NSSS Action Plan has been approved by the CMC and print copies are available. Now it is in the process of being formally launched.
- Social protection gender policy has been prepared and approved by the CMC.

National Social Security Governance

- Committees on social protection at the CMC and different focal points, thematic cluster, division, district and upazela levels have been formed and/or reformed.
- A Sub-committee has been constituted by the Cabinet Division to lead the roll out of NSSS action plan.
- SSPS website has been developed and launched. This is designed to be a repository for social protection related information in Bangladesh.

Orientation / Capacity Building

- Inclusion NSSS in BPATC training curriculum.
- ABCD social protection in Bangladesh developed and print copies available for orientation and training programmes.

Agenda Item-2: Brief progress of SSPS Programme activities and Key Achievements

- NSSS orientation trainings have been organized for 5-6 officials each from 35 ministries /divisions/ departments, 94 Hon'ble Members of Parliament, all Deputy Commissioners and UNOs and 120 ADCs.
- NSSS inclusion in Union Parishad Capacity Building Programme through NILG. In collaboration with NILG, 472 Upazila Resource persons have been trained on NSSS to conduct training for the UP chairmen and members of about 5,000 Union Parishads.
- A total of 22 officials (20 government and 2 SSPS) participated in a week-long knowledge sharing study tour to India from 6 to 12 November 2016.

Research Works

- Nine background studies; eight diagnostic studies (Policy Assessment of NSSS; Policy Diagnostic of NSSS Implementation; NSSS Research Needs Assessment; NSSS Monitoring and Evaluation Framework; Scope of Adaptive Social Protection of Bangladesh; Urban inclusion of NSSS; and NSSS gender diagnostic) related to social security conducted and published.
- Training Needs Assessment of Union Parishad Representatives for Social Security Programme Implementation validated in a national workshop and final report published.
- Pilot on G2P e-payment in SWAPNO Project areas (Kurigram and Satkhira districts) under Local Govt. Division.
- Several Op-Eds and *National Social Security Comparative Analysis* were prepared and published.

Agenda Item-2: Some photographs on key activities



Agenda Item-2: Some Key Publications



Website on Social Protection (www.socialprotectionbd.org)



Social Security Policy Support (SSPS) Programme

An initiative of the Cabinet Division and the General Economics Division (GED), Planning Commission, Government of Bangladesh



About SSPS

Bangladesh has over the years built a good foundation for social security as a core strategy to deal with the triple problem of poverty, vulnerability and marginalization. However, unplanned growth of the social safety net portfolio has caused fragmented implementation, with 114 programmes under 25 Ministries. The Government of Bangladesh embarked upon the formulation of a comprehensive National Social Security Strategy to coordinate and consolidate the existing programmes to achieve better efficiency and results. The strategy was approved by the Cabinet in 2015.

SSPS, with TA from DFAT/DFID/UNDP, now 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 of the Planning Commission.

Social Security in FY 2017-18

- BDT 64,177 Crore Taka
- 2.53% of GDP (13.81% of Budget)
- 114 Social Security Programmes
- 25 Ministries / Divisions

Major Social Security Programmes in 2017-18 (% of Budget)

- Old Age Allowance
- Employment Programme for the Poor
- Vulnerable Group Feeding (VGF)
- Honorarium for Freedom Fighters
- Pension for Retired Government Employees and their Families
- See all programmes



Parliamentarians: Making Social Protection A Reality

Agenda Item-2: SSPS Programme's contribution in NSSS Reforms

Annex – A: Summary Progress of: NSSS Reform - *Programmatic*

Category	Progress to Date	SSPS Contribution
Child Benefit	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> MoWCA started work on reform ideas within their existing Social Security programmes and Action Plan (AP). The number of beneficiaries of <i>education stipend for disabled students at primary and secondary school level</i> was increased from 60,000 to 70,000 in FY 2016/17. The FY 2017/18 <i>budget increases</i> coverage to 80,000 students. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Inputs in Thematic Clusters & NSSS Action Plan
Primary & Secondary School Stipends	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> MoPME and MoE have been working on stipend programme reform. One of the visible progress in stipend is that payment system has <i>gradually been digitized</i>, with an aim to whole system digitization by 2017. AP indicates reform for stipend <i>targeted to needy students</i>. All school stipends are transferred through e-payment in order to <i>minimise leakage and "ghost" payments</i>. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Inputs in Thematic Clusters & NSSS Action Plan
Cont. Orphan's & School Meals	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> MoSW AP indicates - existing programmes (e.g. <i>government orphanages / shelter homes</i>) for the orphans are being <i>continued</i>. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Inputs in Thematic Clusters & NSSS Action Plan
Ensuring Child Maintenance Payment for abandoned children	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> MoSW APs indicate - existing programmes are directly or indirectly related to <i>child maintenance</i>. <i>Allowance for transgender</i> increased from BDT 500 to BDT 600 (last year the beneficiary allowance number was 2340). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Inputs in Thematic Clusters & NSSS Action Plan
Strengthen Immunization, Child Healthcare, Nutrition and Water and Sanitation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> MoHFW AP indicates – <i>sector programme emphasised</i> on strengthening of their existing programmes with reform ideas within the programmes. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Inputs in Thematic Clusters & NSSS Action Plan
Strengthen Education and Training	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>MoPME and MoE APs</i> informed on 6 on-going programmes with reform on qualitative improvement in education by <i>use of IT</i>. Improved and expanded <i>vocational / technical</i> training programmes nationwide. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Inputs in Thematic Clusters & NSSS Action Plan

Agenda Item-2: SSPS Programme's contribution in NSSS Reforms

Annex – A: Summary Progress of NSSS Reform: *Programmatic*

Category	Progress to Date	SSPS Contribution
Strengthen Workfare Programmes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> MoDMR and LGD APs informed on-going programmes and suggest consolidation will be happened in due process. The <i>100 days programme</i> has been changed to 40 days in the first phase; and then another 40 days. Disaster response programme to provide <i>food and cash support</i> to 330,000 families affected by flash floods in 2017. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Inputs in Thematic Clusters & NSSS Action Plan
Introducing Unemployment, Accident, Sickness and Maternity Insurance under National Social Insurance Scheme (NSIS)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The <i>allocation for tea garden labourer</i> is increased from BDT 100 million to 150 million. Tea labourers are likely to be given BDT 5,000 each instead of foo assistance. Financial Institutions Division (FID) in collaboration with Finance Division has been working on formulating a <i>plan for implementing NSIS</i>. Financial Institutions Division drafted a National Financial Inclusion Strategy of Bangladesh for 2019 – 2024 under UkAid supported Project Business Finance for the Poor in Bangladesh. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Inputs in Thematic Clusters & NSSS Action Plan
Consolidate into one VWB programme on a cash basis (taka 800 / month).	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> MoWCA AP indicates Vulnerable Women Benefit (VWB) <i>job opportunity programmes in 400+ upazilas</i>. <i>Widow and deserted women allowance</i> increased from BDT 400 to BDT 500. The number of beneficiaries is increased from 1.113 million to 1.15 million 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Inputs in Thematic Clusters & NSSS Action Plan
Provision of Childcare across all Formal & Informal Employment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> MoWCA plans run '<i>Day Care Programme for Lower and Middle Income Working Women</i>', will be replicated at the <i>district and upazila levels</i>. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Inputs in Thematic Clusters & NSSS Action Plan
Maternal health care	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> MoHFW AP indicates – <i>poorer will be more focus under sector programme in particular: 'Maternal, Neo-natal, Child and Adolescent Health'; and 'Maternal, Child, Reproductive and Adolescent Health' programmes</i>. Beneficiaries and allocation have been increased for <i>assistance to the people affected with cancer, kidney disease, liver cirrhosis, paralysis and heart disease</i> in since FY 2015-16. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Inputs in Thematic Clusters & NSSS Action Plan

Agenda Item-2: SSPS Programme's contribution in NSSS Reforms

Annex – A: Summary Progress of NSSS Reform: Programmatic

Category	Progress to Date	SSPS Contribution
Old Age Allowance (age 60+)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> MoSW AP proposes reform in <i>Old Age Allowance</i>: increased from BDT 400 to 500 per month; beneficiary figure increased from 3 million to 3.15 million (5% increment). The <i>freedom fighter's allowance</i> has been increased to BDT 10,000 from BDT 8,000. Benefits shifted to universal. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Inputs in Thematic Clusters & NSSS Action Plan
Government Service Pension	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Universal pension scheme for all, national budget 2018-19 declared. 	
The National Social Insurance Scheme (NSIS)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The FID has been working to find out a suitable model of NSIS. Negotiation process progressing with the insurance companies. The MoLE plans to upscale of their small scale programmes for unemployment insurance. Cabinet Division will provide assistance in scope of piloting social insurance. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A meeting with MoL and FID & Cabinet Division decided SSPS will organize a workshop on prospects of social insurance in Bangladesh with IDRA
Private Voluntary Pensions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Finance Division has been working to establish a 'Pension Fund Management Authority'. 	
Strengthening the System of Social Security for People with disability	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> MoSW AP indicates target based programmes for male, female and children with disability will be running with existing limited programmes on disable people. Allowance for insolvent disabled increased from BDT 500 to BDT 600; while the beneficiary figure increased from 0.6 million to 0.75 million. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Inputs in Thematic Clusters & NSSS Action Plan
Strengthening the Social Security System for the Urban Poor	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> World Bank UNDP / DFID jointly arranged urban poverty seminar and urban social security is emphasised. PMO urges the importance of Urban Social Protection and instructed the Cabinet Division for more urban inclusion in NSSS. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> SSPS Programme gave a presentation highlighted urban inclusion in NSSS in last LCG Urban at LGD.
Consolidate and Reform Food Security Type Programmes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ensure food security to the rural poor with subsidize price BDT 10 / kg under OMS. Major policy shift – Food to cash in workfare programmes. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Inputs in Thematic Clusters & NSSS Action Plan
Consolidate small schemes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The ministries are taking measures to identify the smaller programmes which need to be consolidated with or discontinued in consistence with the spirit of the NSSS. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Based on NSSS Action Plan, SSPS Programme drafted a Business Case in this regard.

Agenda Item-2: SSPS Programme's contribution in NSSS Reforms

Annex – A: Summary Progress of: NSSS Reform - Institutions

Category	Progress to Date	SSPS Contribution
Two-phase Reform: 1) CMC led Cluster Coordination Approach of Implementing Ministries 2) MoSW to implement Lifecycle Programmes and Coordinate with Social Security Programmes (2026)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reform in CMC completed from Monitoring to Management – a greater role of coordination and effective implementation of NSSS. CMC sub-committee led action plan preparation, and will monitor and policy guidance for AP implementation. Five thematic clusters established and meet quarterly coordination meetings. CMC focal points coordinate respective implementing ministries implementation of their action plans, and appraise reform including SSPS Programme activities. District and Upazila Social Safety Net Committee intensified coordination of social security programmes in respective areas. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Inputs in CMC, CMC Focal Points, and Thematic Clusters & NSSS Action Plan
Establish a Single Registry Management Information System	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> SID/BBS includes Single Registry in their AP. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Based on Action Plan, a Committee has been constituted composition of Cabinet Division, Finance Division, IMED, Registrar General, and SID/BBS under the Chair of Member, GED. The Committee will appraise CMC for endorsing a Single Registry Master Plan. SSPS Programme under DFAT support will commission a review of MISs across social security schemes implemented by ministries and will develop a Master Plan.
Strengthen G2P Payment Systems to Promote Financial Inclusivity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> FID and Bangladesh bank issued circular nation-wide G2P through e-payment in 2012. Social Security Programmes implemented by different ministries introduced G2P in order to ease the payment system. Finance Minister declares G2P e-payment in social security programmes. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Financial inclusivity (G2P and P2P) has been initiated under a pilot in SWAPNO Project of LGD in two districts under SSPS Programme. SSPS Programme initiated e-payment and financial behaviour pilot in SWAPNO Project districts
Establish a results-based M&E System	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Results-based M&E Framework developed. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> SSPS Programme developed a results-based NSSS M&E discussion paper and a national dialogue endorsed it. A high level committee under the chair of Member, GED will prepare a national report.

Social Security Reform Recent Update

NSSS Action Plan (2016-2021)

- Central Management Committee (CMC) for Bangladesh Social Security Programmes approved the NSSS Action Plan end of last year. Launch this action plan possibly in September 2018.
- Action plan composition of: 35 ministries/divisions (implementing and associate) action plans; 5 thematic clusters' plans, gender issues are covered.

Social Security Governance Reform

- **National Level**
 - ✓ **Central Management Committee (CMC):** Coordination and reform of social protection schemes up to 2025
 - ✓ **Action Plan Preparation Sub-committee** (under the CMC): Overseeing progress of implementation of the action plan by the ministries/divisions, and thematic clusters linked to APA

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Social Security Reform Update

- **Sub-national Level**
 - ✓ **Divisional Committee:** has been formed by the CMC lately for bottom-up coordination
 - ✓ **District Committee** and **Upazila Committee:** ToRs revised.

Responsibilities:

Review of progress of implementation of the action plan embedded social security programmes by

- the implementation coordination committees at sub-district,
- coordination committee at district and division level, and
- apprise to the CMC.

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Agenda Item-3: Work Plans of the SSPS Programme 2018 - 2019

SSPS Programme: Future Reform Areas under DFAT Fund for 2018 and 2019

- **Result-based M&E Framework:**
 - M&E Committee composition: Cabinet Division, Ministry of Finance, IMED, Statistical & Informatics Division (SID)/BBS and GED, will provide guidance.
 - ✓ As per the spirit of the NSSS, a framework has already been developed. Now, it will go through consultations.
 - ✓ Core Diagnostic Indicators (CODI) will be collected
- **Single Registry MIS at BBS, Feasibility Study and Master Plan:**
 - M&E Committee composition: Cabinet Division, Ministry of Finance, IMED, Statistical & Informatics Division (SID)/BBS and GED, will provide guidance.
- **Strategy & Action Plans (under the guidance of Sub-committee of CMC)**
 - ✓ **Gender:** Based on a approved gender policy, an action plan will be developed.
 - ✓ **NSSS urban inclusion:** NSSS urban diagnostic, strategy and an action plan.
 - ✓ **Advocacy and Communication:** NSSS advocacy and communication needs both supply and demand perspective: diagnostic, strategy and action plan are planned.

SSPS Programme: Future Reform Areas under DFAT Fund for 2018 and 2019

- **Strengthen Grievance Redress System (GRS):**
 - 2nd generation online platform draft developed
 - ✓ Pilot testing of GRS in 2 districts engaging Union Digital Centers (UDCs) and support to GRS section of Cabinet Division to monitor national dashboard and rectification, and demand generation activities, if any is required.
- **Orientation and Capacity Building**
 - ✓ **NSSS Orientation** : Parliamentarians and civil servants related to NSSS implementation and Action Plan in next year
 - ✓ **Capacity development of the Civil Servant in BPATC** – Partnership with BPATC for Foundation, mid-level and senior level officials for ToT curriculum
- **Setting up of an GO/NGO/Civil Society Platform**
 - Collaboration with Platform for Dialogue (P4D) of Cabinet Division

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SSPS Programme: Future Reform Areas under DFAT Fund for 2018 and 2019

- **Key Policy diagnostic / research on vital reforms on social security in Bangladesh (proposed)**
 1. Small programme consolidation: scope, principles and suggestions
 2. Social security needs of the urban poor
 3. Reaching the poor and marginalized groups with scope of better targeting
 4. Implications of changing demographics
 5. Long-term effect of livelihood promotion types of social security programmes
 6. Labour market integration based on job opportunities matched with skills
 7. Micro-simulation of what has greater effect on reduced poverty: expanding programme coverage or increasing transfer size
 8. Diagnostics study and feasibility study on social insurance
- **Other studies:**
 - **Mid-term Evaluation of the NSSS:** M&E Committee composition: Cabinet Division, Ministry of Finance, IMED, Statistical & Informatics Division (SID)/BBS and GED, will provide guidance.
 - **Pilot study** on Saving habit financial inclusivity under G2P and P2P – progressing in Kurigram and Satkhira District with LGD SWAPNO Project

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Major Expected Deliverable Plan: August – December 2018

SL	Activity	Status till to date	Implementation time
1	PIC/PSC/LCG/ Thematic Clusters/CMC Focal Points/SDGs-SP meetings	Continuous process on-going	August –December
2	Single registry MISs and M&E, CODI and small programme consolidation workshops/meetings/field visits (draft reports)	Concept note drafted and file approved.	August – December
3	Mid-term evaluation of NSSS, and selected studies (draft mid-term evaluation)	ToR drafted	August - December
4	Gender policy, strategy and action plan (draft)	ToR finalized	August - December
5	Urban inclusion in NSSS – diagnostic paper and Strategy, action plan (draft diagnostic paper)	Diagnostic paper outline drafted, will present in a dialogue	September - October
6	NSSS Advocacy and communication diagnostic paper, strategy and action plan (draft diagnostic paper)	ToR for finalized	August – December
7	Event: Book launch, SP programmes review, NGOs, Private Sector's programmes review in a national conference	NSSS Action Plan, NSSS Background research, ABCD SP launched, and social protection seminar and fair, programme leaf drafted	September – October
8.	Social development and corruption – dialogue by ACC	Concept paper under preparation	August – September
9.	Workshop on social insurance – selective supports	Concept paper under preparation	August – September
10.	Gender, Communication, Urban, ICT, GRS,NIS,APA MIS/M&E focal points workshops	Focal points finalized.	September – October
11.	District workshop on MIS & M&E, GRS and G2P and field visits	Proposal under development	September - October
12.	Printings: Adaptive social protection, gender policy	Draft study report ready. Gender policy in Bangla under preparation	November – December
13.	GRS Online platform test – demand creation	TBD after consultation with GRS Branch of Cabinet Division	September - December

Agenda Item-4:

Strengthening Social Protection for the Host Communities in areas of Cox's Bazar

Background Issues – Ukhiya and Teknaf of Cox’s Bazar District

▪ Economy

- Cox’s Bazar district is in the 20 (out of 64) identified ‘lagging district’ of Bangladesh.
- Ukhiya and Teknaf upazilas are among the 50 most socially deprived upazilas.
- High prevalence of poverty, as HIES, 2016, headcount poverty incidence indicates about 42% compared to national average at 24.3%.

▪ Land and Food Security

- Lack of cultivable land and dependence on markets for food in Ukhiya and Teknaf are suspected to have worsened food insecurity, and food availability.

▪ Law and order and Geographic Locations

- Serious protection concerns related to trafficking and organised crime, due to combination of poverty with its position on the border with Myanmar and the Bay of Bengal.

Background Issues - Cox’s Bazar District cont...

▪ Infrastructure

- Difficult terrain, roads and insufficient other infrastructures contribute to poor living conditions.
- Limited access to drinking water, particularly in remote rural areas.
- Only one-third of people have a drinking water source in their dwelling.
- Low access to improved sanitation facilities.
- Lack of portable water solutions have contributed to higher malnutrition.
- Access to health facilities is restricted by distance and limited capacity of facilities to provide services.

▪ Refugee and Host Community crisis affecting Bangladesh

- The massive refugee inflows within such short period has profound impact on the refugee Host Community in Cox’s Bazar District, in particular to two southern upazilas - Teknaf and Ukhiya.

Background Issues – Refugee Crisis

- Since August 2017, more than 700,000 Rohingya people fled and seek refuge across the border in Bangladesh.
- Bangladesh received more refugees in just first three weeks of the influx than the entire Europe received in a year in 2016 during Syrian crisis.
- It made Bangladesh 4.7% of the world's total refugee population hosting nations.
- At present, refugees constituted more than one-third of the local population in Cox's Bazar district.
- Ukhiya and Teknaf are the most affected upazilas (80% HHs), and the number of refugees (761,059) is more than three times of the host population (241,100).
- Currently, it becomes one of the density places in the world: density as high as 8 meters per square per person compared to internationally accepted standard of 45 metres per square per person.
- Current economy compatibility of about 300,000 population, try to coping up economy of 1.0 million population with limited socioeconomic infrastructure capacity.

Social Security Challenge Issues

- Since the occurrence of the Rohingya refugee crisis, several assessments showed refugee influx impact on host communities, as follows:
 - **Economy**
 - Rising prices of necessities,
 - Falling wages, particularly of low-skilled daily labourers,
 - Unemployment.
 - **Environment**
 - Environmental deterioration including deforestation (5,000 acre land destroyed, 750,000 kg timber uses daily as cooking fuel,
 - Water contamination,
 - Depletion of ground water level (5 to 9 meter in affected areas, and 4 to 25 million litres water uses daily).
 - **Infrastructure**
 - Excessive pressure on current inadequate physical infrastructure and public services.
 - **Social Cohesion**
 - Host community feels threat as outnumbered, and negative attitude built on Rohingya, along with law and order situation, trafficking and smuggling reached at critical condition.

Social Security Suggested Actions for Host Community

▪ Emergency Response

- Immediately rehabilitation: damaged, polluted and contaminated abandoned settlement sites to allow for resumption of regular use.
- Immediately restore damaged grounds and hills to facilitate later replanting and slope stabilisation.
- Seasonally appropriate, replant damaged vegetation and plant slope stabilising to mitigate risks to the environment and community members.
- Provide support to local government to restore damaged roads and footpaths, including additional structural reinforcement in preparation for the rainy season.
- Take counter measures against:
 - deletion of fish and shrimp stock,
 - awareness programmes,
 - development of alternative livelihood options for fish-dependent community.

Social Security Suggested Actions for Host Community cont...

▪ Social Cohesion

- Develop inter-communal human rights approaches to working together on shared areas of concerns, such as livelihoods, environmental protection and restoration of damaged areas.
- Promote inter-communal cohesion through targeted programming (e.g. messaging, dialogue, C4D, etc.) that counters the dominant anti-Rohingya narrative.
- Mitigate tension and impact on vulnerable host community households by addressing pressure on local livelihoods, environment and services.
- Ensure that host community support programmes taking into account the economic impact despite distance from the larger Rohingya camps and settlements.

Social Security Suggested Actions for Host Community cont...

▪ Extended Social Security Programmes

- Target the poor and vulnerable for activities supporting livelihoods and employment.
- Support in-kind and cash-based system to the affected community.
- Ensuring equitable inclusion of women beneficiaries and continue the existing government social security schemes with extended coverage to the affected populations and households.
 - Gender-sensitive Cash for Work approaches to create emergency employment.
 - Support the most marginal / subsistence men and women farmers.
 - Support small traders involved in such value chains, particularly opportunities for women.
- Provide capacity building and establish value chains and access to markets.
- Support development of livelihood opportunities in the transport sector through incentives.
- Continue/apply the best social security models those are nationally recognised with extended coverage.

Social Security Suggested Actions for Host Community cont...

▪ Advocacy and Communication

- Work with media to build capacity and strengthen collaboration between local and international structures.
- Advocate for making change in cash transfer modality in the affected areas i.e. e-payment.
- Advocate for restoration of fishing activities in the Naf river, if necessary not limiting these activities to specific sections or areas along the river.
- Produce and distribute quality information to both host and Rohingya communities.
- Sensitise family and community members so that the activities that may challenge the traditional gender norms do not put the women at risk of gender based violence, including sexual exploitation and abuse.
- Implement awareness programmes on hazards and disaster within the programmes, utilising existing IEC materials.

Social Security Suggested Actions for Host Community cont...

▪ Research

- Conduct host community census, and create an evidence-base framework and system for measuring satisfaction, perceptions, key social risk indicators, others.
- Introduce clear disaggregation between number of targeted Rohingya refugee beneficiaries and targeted host community beneficiaries with sex disaggregated data in planning for response activities.
- Utilise union profiles in planning and programming.
- Urgently assess ecosystem pressures and risks resulting from the influx and crisis response.
- Assess the needs of suitable capacity building for alternative work arrangements including market.
- Identify value chains that can benefit, i.e. for products that are in high demand in the market and opportunity for formal employment and entrepreneurship link to market.
- Conduct more in-depth survey on household economic and livelihoods opportunities and barriers to livelihood programming.
- Consider additional targeting criteria to ensure equitable inclusion of households affected by additional marginalisation or disadvantage.

Social Security Suggested Actions for Host Community cont...

▪ Capacity Building

- Provide capacity enhancement support to disaster management committees and the Cyclone Preparedness Programme, including targeted support to facilitate women participation.
- Capacity building while integrating community engagement mechanisms.
- Increase and prioritise capacity building in humanitarian response management for local NGOs, CSOs, CBOs representing women, youth and the most marginalised and disadvantaged population groups.

▪ NGO/CSO Engagement Programme

- NGOs engagement and apply best models those are nationally recognised.
- Create an inter-agency platform for local NGOs and to support access to basic requirements and joint training for building core capacities.
- Women and youth development forums in the community, and increase women's and youths' participation in governance.
- Increase opportunities for shared skill building for Rohingya and host community women and youth and design activities and programmes involving men and women in both communities.

Social Security Suggested Actions for Host Community cont...

▪ Coordination and Management

- Support to coordinating mechanism on disaster risk management within the crisis response architecture.
- Ensure that crisis response actors consistently apply a do-no-harm approach (humanitarian approach) when it comes to host communities and their resources.
- Provide need based support to local government institutions including office space in order to resume or stabilise regular programmes.
- Support to multi-hazard preparedness plan for upazilas, involving local government and crisis response actors.
- Ensure quality and quantity of service delivery in local / international structures.
- Set up a working group on host community within the response architecture to support planning and coordination of activities targeting the host community within the framework of the joint response plan.
- Examine the possibility and potential of establishing local employment offices for work opportunity at union level (acting as a centre for supply and demand basis labour opportunities in the Union) and set chain to formal sector employment and entrepreneurship.

Social Security Model for Host Community (Proposed)

▪ Input factors:

- Upscaling existing Govt. social security schemes with extended coverage for host communities.
 - Transfer in kind and cash
 - Informal employment: Livelihood social security programmes for both male and female
 - Other life-cycle based programmes
- Advocacy and communication
- Capacity building
- NGOs and community engagements
 - Asset development
- Private Sector engagement and market linkage and opportunities
 - Formal employment
 - Entrepreneurship

Output factors:

- Short term (livelihood, and temporary alternate employment);
- Mid and Long term (livelihood, and formal employment and small entrepreneurship).

Outcome factor:

- Sustainable social cohesion

Agenda Item-5: Organization of social protection conference/fair and launching of NSSS Action Plan

▪ One option may be considered from the following:

- **Option One:** Chief Guest - Honourable Finance Minister, Special Guests – Planning Minister, State Minister for Finance and Planning and Chair by Cabinet Secretary
- **Option Two:** Chief Guest – Honourable Speaker of Parliament; Special Guest - Planning Minister and State Minister Finance and Planning; and Chair by Cabinet Secretary.
- **Option Three:** Chief Guest – Honourable Speaker of Parliament; Special Guests – Honourable Minister for Planning, Minister of Social Welfare, Minister of Women and Children’s Affairs, Advisors to Prime Minister; and Chair by Cabinet Secretary

Programmes:

- Tentative date of arranging the conference/seminar would be 25 – 27 September 2018.
 - **first day afternoon**, NSSS Action Plan and books launch will be held prior to the conference/seminar on 25 September afternoon.
 - **second day**, the social security implementing ministries will present the current status of social security programmes of their respective ministry based on a draft business case.; and
 - **third day**, NGOs and Private sector will also present their respective current status of social security programmes based on business case.
 - **A social security fair** with the participation of GoB and NGOs and Private Sector will be held in the premises of the conference/seminar and highlight their respective achievements (for all three days).
- Closing session: Chief Guest: Cabinet Secretary

Agenda Item-6: Revision and extension of the SSPS Programme

- Social security is also one among the *top ten social development agenda of Prime Minister of Bangladesh*.
- In its past experience shows that *policy reform is a complex and time consuming* by different portfolio of social security programmes implemented by *35 ministries / divisions*.
- The *Ministry of Planning approved TPP of SSPS Programme for the period 2014-15 to 2017-18 in later part of 2015*.
- *Last PSC meeting discussed* the project activities and *its performance at length*, and *showed satisfaction* that the project has made remarkable contributions in many reform areas.
- The PSC *felt that many areas were still required extensive support from this project*, The PSC members *therefore agreed on extension of this project*, and due to shortage of UNDP and DFID fund, and upon request of UNDP Representative, *one-year extension (up to December 2018)* was recommended *with the provision of no cost*.
- After PSC recommendation, UNDP *joined with DFAT (AusAid of Australian Government)*, and *arranged necessary fund to meet the budget gap of TPP*. Hence, the *DFAT co-finance ensures to expedite the NSSS reforms for the fiscal period 2019-2020 with no-cost*.
- *CMC Focal Point meeting endorsed SSPS Programme plan for 2018 – 19 in March 2018*; and *SSPS Programme Planning Workshop* participated by the Cabinet Division and GED of Planning Commission *endorsed 2018 – 2019 Activity Plan in March 2018*.
- *SSPS Programme appraised last CMC meeting on project reform activities for 2018-19, on 27 May 2018*.
- *Considering the rolling out NSSS and Action Plan 2016 up to 2021*, SSPS Programme further no-cost extension for the fiscal year *2018-2019-20*.

Long-term Benefits from DFAT (Australian Government) Perspective



Target for 2018 - 2019

- Better governance of social security through NSSS gender policy, action plans, M&E framework, and GRS
- Evidence base generated on the effectiveness of NSSS reform to inform future government development plans
- Increased budget – as percentage of GDP
- Evidence of action plans being implemented.
- Partnership with BPATC for foundation, mid-level, and senior-level officials.
- Policy decision on single registry of social security MIS at SID/BBS as a data source to address target errors.
- Reduction in the number of social safety net programmes.

Agenda Item-7: Miscellaneous

- As the miscellaneous agenda some recent issues may be discussed. Also, any other matters raised by the members may be considered.



Thank You