

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh

Cabinet Division

Social Protection Branch

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Record Notes of the Review Workshop on NSSS Gender Strategy and Action Plan.

Date and Time: 23 April 2019, 02.00-04.30 PM.
Venue: Conference Room No-22, Building No-01, Cabinet Division, Bangladesh Secretariat, Dhaka.
Chairperson: Dr. Md. Shamsul Arefin, Senior Secretary (Coordination and Reforms), Cabinet Division.
Participants: Appendix 'A'.

1. The chairperson inaugurated the workshop with a note of heartiest welcome to the participants followed by a brief speech. The chair then appreciated the presence from different ministries and divisions and representatives from development partners for being part of the collaboration. He said that gender strategy is critical in social security programmes as women are the majority among the poor. Women face different types of vulnerabilities, have very limited endowments to live as equal to men and often they are subject to gender-based discrimination and harassment. This workshop is to review the NSSS Gender Strategy and Action Plan by each ministry and division to finalize the strategy and action plan for NSSS.
2. Respected Secretary and the Chair of the workshop said that Bangladesh has made significant progress in economic growth and social indicators and progressing towards a middle-income country, but still some people face extreme poverty or face other vulnerabilities and shocks including climatic. Therefore, the Government provides social security services and benefits to reduce vulnerability and promote resilience to shocks and stresses at individual, household and community levels. Bangladesh government has been operating a number of social security programmes that targets women and girls to reduce the gender imbalance and reduce inequality. He emphasized that the full potentials for gender equality could not be harnessed in the absence of concrete guidance and planning for gender equality. This strategy and action plan will incorporate actions for all concerned ministries and divisions delivering and supporting social security programmes aiming at reducing gender gap and empowering women and girls. He requested the presenter to present her presentation and requested the audience to provide their valuable feedback and comments to finalize gender strategy and action plan for national social security strategy of Bangladesh.

3. Presentations (Appendix B)

Summary of the Presentation: Gender Strategy and Action Plan for National Social Security Strategy of Bangladesh.

Ms. Ferdousi Sultana Begum, Gender and Social Development Specialist of the Social Security Policy Support (SSPS) Programme shared a presentation on gender strategy and action plan for national social security strategy of Bangladesh. Ms. Ferdousi Sultana Begum began her presentation with a short background of the gender strategy of the NSSS and socio-economic rationalities and justifications for gender inclusion in social protection strategy. She said that this gender strategy and action plan for national social security strategy of Bangladesh is the next step of the Gender Diagnostic Study of Social Protection, 2016 and the Gender Policy 2018 for the Implementation of the National Social Security Strategy (NSSS) 2015 – 2025. Bangladesh government has decided to develop a gender strategy action plan according to the recommendations and feedback evolved from the gender diagnostic of the existing social protection and safety net programmes. She mentioned government has already adopted a gender policy in the NSSS that requires an action plan from each ministry and division to include gender issue so that the programmes and actions taken by the ministries and divisions become gender inclusive. Gender strategy is not any isolated strategy, just we need to consider gender issue in our existing programmes. She elaborated Identified priority areas for social security, crosscutting important social security support, strategies related to programme design and delivery for gender equality, roles of the concerned ministries and divisions in implementation and monitoring of the strategy and action plan. She then opened the floor for feedback and comments of the presentation.

4. The Gender Focal Point Officials/Representatives from different ministries and divisions discussed diverse issues on the gender strategy and action plan and decided to provide their feedback through written document by each ministry and division. They also recommended that each ministry will provide their written feedback and comments after consultation with their team and send it to Cabinet Division by 5 May 2019.

5. Recommendation/Decision

Participants of the workshop provided valuable feedback on the issues that led to make some significant decisions towards sketching the next pathway of the GO-NGO collaboration platform. The decisions were as follows:

- a) Cabinet Division will send the soft copy of the draft strategy by email to all concerned ministries and divisions;
- b) Each ministry will review the gender strategy and action plan and provide their feedback and comments to Cabinet Division by 05 May 2019;
- c) If no comment/feedback from ministries or divisions is received by 02 May 2019 it will be deemed that the concerned ministries are fully consent on this draft strategy and action plan;
- d) Cabinet Division will accumulate and incorporate all feedback and comments and revise the draft of the strategy;

- e) Cabinet Division will place the revised strategy before the CMC for final approval;
 - f) Time line for the gender strategy and action plan should be consistent with the NSSS action plan;
- 6.** There being no other agenda for discussion, the chair concluded the sessions of the workshop with thanks to all the participants.