

**REPORT  
ON  
THE PROCEEDINGS OF THE  
WORKSHOP ON  
URBAN SOCIAL PROTECTION IN  
BANGLADESH: PRACTICE AND  
WAY FORWARD**

Social Security Policy Support (SSPS)  
Programme  
Cabinet Division and General Economics  
Division of Planning Commission



**Social Security Policy Support (SSPS) Programme**

**Cabinet Division and General Economics Division (GED) of Planning Commission**



## **Report**

### **On the Proceedings of the Workshop on Urban Social Protection in Bangladesh: Practice and way forward**

Cabinet Division,  
3:00 pm to 4:00 pm, 06 December 2018



**Social Security Policy Support (SSPS) Programme**

**Cabinet Division and General Economics Division (GED) of Planning Commission**

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## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Social Protection Policy Support (SSPS) Programme is working for successful implementation of the National Social Security Strategy (NSSS) in collaboration with Cabinet Division and General Economics Division (GED) of Planning Commission with supports from the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and DFAT. One of the major focuses of the NSSS is to cope with the growing social crisis associated with rapid urbanization of the country.

A workshop was organized at Cabinet Division to discuss the issue of urban social protection and to formulate a draft outline of urban inclusion in social protection programme with the participation of urban focal points or representatives of social protection implementing ministries/divisions. The workshop was chaired by the respected Secretary, Coordination and Reforms of Cabinet Division, Mr. N M Zeaul Alam.

It was discussed in the workshop that the NSSS stressed upon promoting social protection interventions in urban areas. The house conferred contemporary thoughts of urbanization with updated data and information on urban vulnerabilities and challenges. A power point presentation was shared highlighting the facts and figures of urbanization and scopes to intervene in designing urban social protection. It also mentioned some specific programme concepts and interventions to tackle and minimize the upcoming urban social protection challenges and risks.

The workshop successfully illustrated a primary sketch of the Urban Social Protection demands and different aspects of urban vulnerabilities requiring early intervention. However, it was also discussed that the urban social protection should be designed strategically so that it may not promote unnecessary urban migration. After an elaborate discussion in the light of NSSS the workshop came up with some valuable recommendations, some of which are as follows:

1. A suitable and unified definition of Urban and Rural area should be decided reconciling with NSSS and other legal documents of the government as there is an ambiguity and confusion about the definition of urban and rural area.
2. Immediate measures should be taken to include urban population in the Social Protection system of the country as mandated in the NSSS.
3. The social protection interventions which are especially planned in the NSSS Action Plan for urban people, such as NSIS, Private Pension, Day Care for Children, etc. should be implemented in time.
4. Measures should be taken to increase collaboration with NGOs for enhancing Urban Social Protection Programmes for slum dwellers and floating people.
5. A committee should be formed for mapping all social protection programmes in terms of their urban/rural coverage or focus with mutual expansion potentiality.

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## **BACKGROUND**

The National Social Security Strategy (NSSS) and its action plan has been adopted by Bangladesh government which is a millstone in the history on social protection policy of the country. The National Social Security Strategy (NSSS) has been aligned with the 7<sup>th</sup> Five Year Plan, Vision-2021 of the government and Sustainable Development Goals (SDG).

In the recent days, the NSSS is being criticized as a rural biased or rural centric policy. If we do research, we find some rationalities and justification behind the criticism. Evidence says, 47 million peoples were living under the poverty line which was 32.5% of the total population in 2010. 39.2 million of the population which was 24.8% of the total population were under the poverty line in 2015. Moreover, 17.6% peoples were under extreme poverty line in 2010 and it became 12.9% in 2015. As a result, whenever policy makers adopted any social protection programme that was focused on the rural areas and the poverty situation of the country.

In fact, The National Social Security Strategy (NSSS) has also concentrated upon the rural poverty, which had leaded the strategy into a rural biased or rural centric policy. On the other hand, the urban poverty and vulnerabilities are becoming crucial phenomenon day by day in terms of social protection. A report of Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics (BBS) says, during 1974-2011 the Annual Exponential Growth Rate (AEGR) of the population in the urban areas had overtaken the rate of the rural areas. The report also mentioned, in 2011 the urban AEGR was 4.01 whether the rural was 1.24.

The NSSS is considered as the Bible of the social protection in Bangladesh. So, it needs to take immediate actions for creating an enabling environment for the urban social protection. This workshop was organized aiming the discussion to draw a primary sketch of the urban social protection and to identify scopes of intervention in the light of the National Social Security Strategy (NSSS).

## **OBJECTIVE**

The workshop was organized mainly to discuss the issues of urban social protection and to formulate a draft outline of urban inclusion is social protection programme with participation of urban focal points or representatives of social protection implementing ministries/divisions.

Some specific objectives of the workshop are as follows:

1. To identify the scopes and areas of analyses for urban social protection programme

2. To discuss about urban vulnerabilities, exposures, needs and challenges in terms of urban social protection
3. To share learning, commitment and future exposures of the NSSS on the Urban Social Protection
4. To accumulate recommendations, references and ideas on Urban Social Protection Programmes

## **OPENING REMARKS**

Respected chair Mr. N M Zeaul Alam, Secretary (Coordination and Reforms) of Cabinet Division made an opening speech highlighting the objective of the workshop and thanked all respective representatives of different Ministries and Divisions. He mentioned, Social Protection is fairly a burning issue of the time and we need to discuss in depth about the prospect of the urban social protection to include our urban citizens under the social protection coverage.

## **PRESENTATION**

The workshop was introduced by Mr. Mohammad Khaled Hassan, (Deputy Secretary), Social Protection Specialist, Social Security Policy Support (SSPS) Programme. He welcomed the participants and briefly explained the objective of the workshop and invited Mr. Faizul Islam, Joint Chief, General Economics Division (GED) of Planning Commission, National Project Director of Social Security Policy Support (SSPS) Programme to share his presentation.

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## **Mr. Faizul Islam**

Joint Chief, General Economics Division (GED) of Planning Commission  
National Project Director of Social Security Policy Support (SSPS) Programme.

Mr. Islam started the presentation with a background of the Urban Social Protection as a genesis and explained the objective of the workshop. He mentioned, this is very first time while all ministries are together for conferring the prospect of Urban Social Protection in a formal setting. He recapped some of the relevant statements of the mandate that was narrated in the National Social Security Strategy (NSSS) regarding Urban Social Protection. He said that NSSS had an obligation to promote



Urban Social Protection Programme. He also mentioned, the NSSS and current social security schemes are more rural centric or rural biased. In an addition, he raised some interrogations regarding the Urban Social Protection strategy to be developed like; nature and scopes of the Urban Social Protection strategy, thematic cluster of the Urban Social Protection and coordination mechanisms of the Urban Social Protection Programme to be invented.

He shared different trends of the urbanization in Bangladesh along with the socio economic and demographic diversities, prospect of the Urban Social Protection and challenges of urban peoples in his presentations. Mr. Islam shared some significant data and information on the trend of urbanization in Bangladesh from 1901 to 2011. He mentioned, migration seems to contribute most in urban population growth in Bangladesh and the share of migration is as high as 60% in Dhaka city. He also stated, the percentage of urban population living in urban slums, squatters, fringes were 33% in 2015-16.

## **PRESENTATION IN DETAIL**

A power point presentation was shared by Mr. Faizul Islam, Joint Chief, General Economics Division (GED) of Planning Commission, National Project Director of Social Security Policy Support (SSPS) Programme. There were total 28 slides in the presentation containing different information, data, references and statements on urbanization trends and Inclusion of urban social protection in the NSSS. The key information of the slides are as follows;

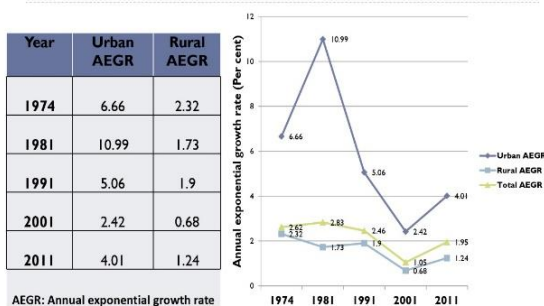


#### Trends of Urbanization in Bangladesh (1901-2011)

- ▶ Bangladesh, a small and predominantly rural country, is undergoing a transformation towards urbanization at a remarkable pace.
- ▶ During 1974-2011, the annual exponential growth rates of population in the urban areas in Bangladesh have been consistently overtaking the growth rate in the rural areas.
- ▶ Rapid growth of the urban population in Bangladesh has taken place during the last four decades (since 1980s). The major factors behind rapid urban growth are the following:
  - ✓ A persistently high natural increase of native urban population
  - ✓ Rural to urban migration: provoked by (i) massive growth of employment opportunities due to free market economy and globalization, and (ii) rural push factors like, increased population pressure, surplus labour force in rural areas, rural poverty and environmental disasters, due largely to climate change.
- ▶ Migration seems to contribute most in urban population growth in Bangladesh. For Dhaka city, the share of migration is as high as 60%.
- ▶ Percentage of urban population living in (urban) slums, squatters, fringes etc.: 33% in 2015-16.

▶ 2

#### Annual Growth Rates of Population: Urban, Rural and Total: 1974-2011



▶ 4

#### Trends of Urbanization in Bangladesh (1901-2011)

Year	Urban Population (in million)	Rural Population (in million)	Percentage Urban	Urban annual exponential growth rate (per cent)	Rural annual exponential growth rate (per cent)
1901	0.7	28.23	2.43	-	-
1911	0.81	30.75	2.56	1.39	0.86
1921	0.88	32.38	2.64	0.85	0.52
1931	1.07	34.53	3.02	2	0.64
1941	7.54	40.46	3.66	3.59	1.58
1951	1.82	40.24	4.33	1.69	-0.05
1961	2.64	48.2	5.19	3.72	1.8
1974	6.27	65.21	8.78	6.66	2.32
1981	13.54	73.58	15.54	10.99	1.73
1991	22.46	89	20.15	5.06	1.9
2001	28.61	95.25	23.1	2.42	0.68
2011	42.7	107.8	28.37	4.01	1.24

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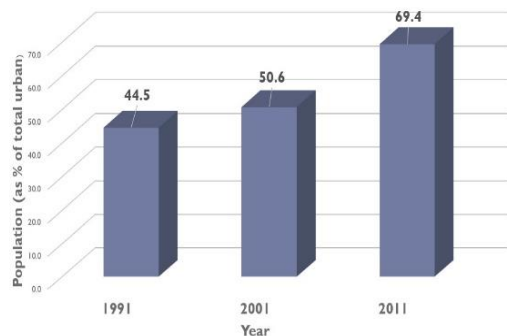
#### Total Urban Population by Major Cities, 2011

	In million		
	1991	2001	2011
Dhaka Megacity	6.5	9.7	14.2
Chittagong Metropolitan City	2.1	3.0	3.7
Khulna Metropolitan City	0.9	1.2	1.1
Rajshahi Metropolitan City	0.5	0.7	0.7
4 cities total	10.0	14.5	29.6
<b>Total Urban (Mega cities, cities, towns, and municipalities)</b>	<b>22.5</b>	<b>28.6</b>	<b>42.7</b>
Share	44.5	50.6	69.4

▶ 5

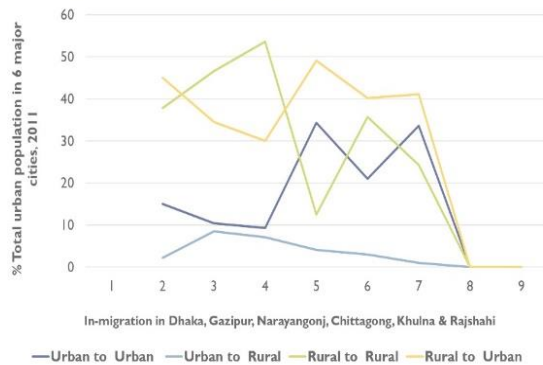
Mr. Islam drew a scenario on the trends of urbanization in Bangladesh from 1901 to 2011 in his presentation. He shared different statistics on Annual Growth Rates of Population, total urban population by major cities, rural urban distribution and total urban population by major cities in his first 04 slides.

### Dhaka, Chittagong, Khulna and Rajshahi Metropolitan Cities: Percent of urban population: 1991-2011



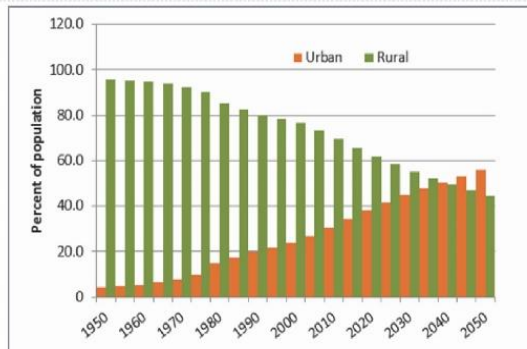
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### % Total urban population in 6 major cities, 2011



7

### Rural-Urban Distribution (%) 1950-2010 and Projected to 2050



Urban population in Bangladesh will not exceed the rural population until about 2040.

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### Spatial Pattern of Urban Centres in Bangladesh

- ▶ Bangladesh has some 570 urban centres, of which Dhaka is the only one megacity.
- ▶ Chittagong, Khulna, Rajshahi and Sylhet are metropolitan areas.
- ▶ 25 urban centres are cities (with population of over 100,000) each and the rest are smaller towns.
- ▶ There are 11 City Corporations and over 324 Paurashavas (Municipalities).
- ▶ The other towns have the Union Parishad type of local government (small town).
- ▶ Primacy of Dhaka is very prominent. Dhaka enjoys a very distinctive and unique single city primacy, comprising 44.26 per cent of the urban population, and 12.56 per cent of the total population, in 2011.
- ▶ Dhaka's population with respect to the second largest city, Chittagong, has risen from 2.47 times in 1981 to 3.58 times in 2011. Also, Dhaka's population with respect to the sum of the second, third and fourth largest cities in Bangladesh, which are Chittagong, Khulna and Rajshahi respectively, has increased from 1.50 times in 1981 to 2.26 times in 2011.

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There was a significant message for social protection policy makers that was shown in the slide no 08 of the presentation. Its described that by 2040 people living in urban and rural areas both will be almost same. He also mentioned urban social protection will be a burning issue with in the years that we must think about as it is an obligation by the National Social Security Strategy (NSSS).

#### Primacy of Dhaka City in Different Population Census

Year	Population (in million)	Per cent of urban population	Per cent of total population	Share with respect to the second largest city	Share with respect to the sum of the second, third and fourth largest cities
1981	3.44	25.41	3.95	2.47	1.5
1991	6.84	30.46	6.14	2.91	1.76
2001	10.71	37.44	8.65	3.16	1.97
2011	18.9	44.26	12.56	3.58	2.26

► 10

#### Distribution of Slums by Urban Areas (City Corporations and Municipalities) in Bangladesh, 1997 and 2014

Urban Area(s)	Slum Census 1997		Slum Census 2014		% Change
	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage	
Barisal	0	0.0	137	1.0	0.0
Chittagong	186	6.2	2216	15.9	1091
Comilla	0	0.0	41	0.3	0.0
Dhaka (North)	0	0.0	1639	11.8	0.0
Dhaka (South)	0	0.0	1755	12.6	0.0
Gazipur	0	0.0	1285	9.2	0.0
Khulna	202	6.8	1134	8.1	16691
Narayanganj	0	0.0	82	0.6	0.0
Rajshahi	84	2.8	104	0.7	23.8
Rangpur	0	0.0	49	0.4	0.0
Sylhet	0	0.0	671	4.8	0.0
Dhaka Total	1579	52.8	3394	24.4	115
City Corporation: Total	0	0.0	9113	65.4	0.0
Municipality	940	31.4	3357	24.1	257
Other urban area(s)	0	0.0	1465	10.5	0.0
<b>Bangladesh</b>	<b>2991</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>13935</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>366</b>

► 14

#### Households having Urban services of Dhaka District, 2011

Urban service (s)	Number of Households	% of Households
<b>Housing: Ownership and tenancy</b>		
Owned	710,009	25.5
Rented	1,849,318	66.4
Rent-free	80,303	2.9
<b>Source of Drinking Water</b>		
(a) Tap	1,752,969	62.9
(b) Tubewell	842,709	30.2
(c) Others	43,952	1.6
<b>Toilet facilities</b>		
(a) Sanitary	2,467,687	88.6
(c) Non-sanitary	161,935	5.8
(d) None	10,008	0.4
<b>Electricity connection</b>		
(a) With electricity	2,560,764	91.9
(b) Without electricity	78,866	2.8
<b>Total household (s): Dhaka district</b>	<b>2,786,133</b>	<b>-</b>

► 13

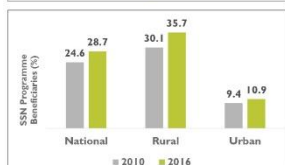
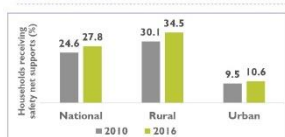
#### Nature of Urban Poverty in Bangladesh

- In Bangladesh, even though income poverty is much lower in urban areas, there are emerging vulnerabilities for the urban poor: social insecurity, housing, tenancy rights, health, sanitation, nutrition, etc. Research shows that the condition of life of the urban poor is normally worse than those of rural poor.
- **Urban poverty is often associated with such factors:**
  - ❑ Lack of wage employment: low-paid informal sector workers
  - ❑ Lack of access to housing, basic utility services, education and health services
  - ❑ Food insecurity and malnutrition
  - ❑ Very high rate of rural-urban migration
  - ❑ Weak social network, and low voice and low power
  - ❑ Lack of finance and micro-credit
  - ❑ Violence
  - ❑ physical and psycho-social insecurity

► 15

Primacy of Dhaka city in different populations census, Household having urban service in Dhaka, Distribution of slums and Nature of the urban poverty and other varied aspects were discussed in the above mentions slides by Mr. Islam.

### Urban Social Protection in Bangladesh: Rural-urban dimension



➤ Rural population is significantly ahead of urban population in terms of receiving Social Security benefits even in this broader coverage, as figure indicates 4.4 point percentage increase in rural areas than 1.1 point percentage increase in urban areas during 2010 and 2016 time period. The below figure as shows that in 2016, families had received more than one benefits in both areas.

➤ NSSS says, some 85 percent of all Social Security benefits go to the rural poor while urban poor receive only 15 percent (Please see next table). ➤ **Rural bias**

➤ 16

### Distribution of All Social Security Benefits by Location

Description of Programme	Area of Residence		
	Rural	Urban	Total
All Social Security	85.1	14.9	100
All social insurance (SI)	79.1	20.9	100
Old age allowance: SI	84.1	15.9	100
Allowance for widowed, deserted and destitute women: SI	90.1	9.9	100
Private insurance: SI	73.1	26.9	100
Pension, Gratuity and Provident Fund: SI	59.4	40.6	100
All labour market programmes (LM)	100	0	100
Cash/food for work: LM	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.
100 Days employment: LM	100	0	100
All social assistance (SA)	87.0	13.0	100
GR/TR: SA	93.9	6.1	100
VGD/VGF: SA	100	0	100
Stipend: SA	93.8	6.2	100
Agriculture rehabilitation: SA	88.2	11.8	100
Private assistance: SA	83	17	100
Other assistance: SA	100	0	100
Open market sale: OMS: SA	0	100	100

➤ 17

### Countrywide urban social protection schemes: some examples

Country	Scheme	Specification
China	Di bao (minimum livelihood guarantee scheme)	Cities set poverty line by costing 20 items of goods and services needed for basic subsistence known as the Di bao line. It differs from city to city. The scheme aims to provide transfers (regular cash and/or in-kind support) to all registered urban households with income below Di bao line.
	Social insurance programmes under 'Urban five'	An old-age pension; health care insurance; unemployment insurance; work injury insurance; and maternity insurance. These schemes are contributory (individual and employer contributions).
	Labour regulations and broader social services	Accompanied.

➤ 18

### Countrywide urban social protection schemes: some examples (contd.)

Country	Scheme	Specification
India	Public Distribution System (PDS)	The PDS is a public, non-market system of procuring, transporting, storing and 'selling' essential goods through Fair Price Shops, which is universal on paper.
	Swarna Jayanti Shahari Rozgar Yojana (SJSRY) scheme	Alleviate urban poverty, increase skills and training and encourage communities to tackle poverty through community groups. There are five major components of the SJSRY, including the Urban Self-employment Programme, the Urban Women Self-help Programme, Skill Training for Employment Protection among the Urban Poor, the Wage Employment Programme and the Urban Community Development Network.

➤ 19

Urban Social Protection in Bangladesh, Distribution of benefits by location, Country wide social protection schemes and Country wise urban social protection issues were discussed in the sides no 16 to 19. He also provided some examples of other Asian countries how they are intervening Social Protection Programme for their citizen.

### Countrywide urban social protection schemes: some examples (contd.)

Country	Scheme	Specification
Indonesia	PNPM-Urban (Community Life Improvement Programme for the Urban Poor)	PNPM-Urban is a slum upgrading programme that combines top-down approach with the local conditions.
Philippines	NISUS (National Informal Settlers Slum Upgrading Strategy)	NISUS is intended to guide the National Government and local government units in the preparation and implementation of effective policies and programmes on upgrading of slums.
Cambodia	UPDF (Urban Poor Development Fund)	Communities of the urban poor are setting up savings and credit groups for activities like upgrading houses, securing tenure, and improving livelihood projects as well.
Pakistan	UPAP (Urban Poverty Alleviation Programme)	UPAP extends microcredit services to finance income-generating activities of the poor.

► 20

### Urban Social Protection +++: Principles

#### Principle 01: Inclusion of urban poor in existing social protection schemes (Social Transfers ► Mostly cash transfer type):

In order to include the urban poor in the social protection system, the NSSS proposes that some rural biased social protection programmes should be expanded to urban areas as well. For strengthening the Social Security System for the Urban Poor, the relevant programmes could include:

- child benefits
- programmes for vulnerable women
- old age allowance
- disability benefits

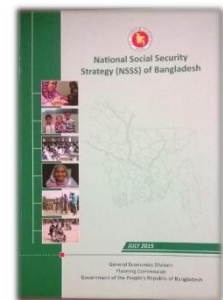
#### Principle 02: Introduction of Social Insurance

- For urban poor working in formal sector: employer-employee contributory pension
- For urban poor working in informal sector: some form of poor people-government contributory pension

► 22

### Social Security Reform : National Social Security Strategy

- The Government of Bangladesh has approved a National Social Security Strategy (NSSS) on 1<sup>st</sup> June 2015.
- The NSSS outlines the reform process of the existing social protection in Bangladesh in order to move in the coming years based on a Life Cycle Approach.
- NSSS has recognized reaching out urban poor. However, clear strategies are not delineated either for taking up new urban social protection schemes or for reforming existing schemes. ► ► Rural bias



► 21

### Urban Social Protection: Principles (contd.)

#### Principle 03: Social protection schemes should be coupled with other social service and poverty reduction programmes (towards efficiency)

- Labour market interventions: job and legislation
- Education: primary, secondary, vocational and technical, non-formal etc.
- Livelihood training (Capabilities, Skill development, asset management, income earning, savings generation, petty investment, etc.)
- Building physical infrastructures: Roads, roads, culverts, bridges, low-cost inclusive housing, water and sanitation, sewerage, etc.
- Utilities: safe drinking water, electricity, water and gas supply, waste management etc.
- Health and Nutrition
- Access to micro-credit for income generating activities: community activities
- Slum Improvement, rehabilitation, relocation and resettlement
- Environmental management
- Law and order: inefficiency may create further risks
- Inclusive Urban Planning
- Coordination among spatial organizations ( Development Authorities, City Corporations, Municipalities, LGED, Urban Development Directorate (UDD) of PW Division, WASAs, electricity authorities, DPHE etc.)

► 23

Social Security Reformation, National Social Security Strategy, Urban Social Protection Policy and Principles were highlighted in the above-mentioned sides along with some way forward. Some evidences and justifications were also discussed in the presentation that show how the NSSS has become a rural biased policy in many ways.



#### Urban Social Protection: Principles (contd.)

- Implementation, and monitoring and evaluation of the schemes will be done in 2 separate phases (as per the NSSS):
  - ✓ Phase I (2015-2025): Central Management Committee (CMC) of the Cabinet Division may coordinate the schemes (run by various ministries)
  - ✓ Phase II (2025+): Ministry of Social Welfare would implement the schemes solely
- An Action Plan will be devised under the leadership of the Cabinet Division and with the assistance of the lead and other ministries in a thematic cluster.
- Capacity development of the implementation ministries.
- Urban social protection diagnostic study could be carried out by the General Economics Division (GED) of Planning Commission: vulnerability mapping, nature of the existing schemes, new schemes to be included, beneficiary database, targeting, implementation, cash transfer, coordination among ministries/agencies etc.

▶ 25

#### Urban Social Protection: Principles (contd.)

- A lead ministry would be fixed. LGD may be in-charge. Other ministries will be included in the urban social protection thematic cluster (cross-cutting issues).
- Implementation, and monitoring and evaluation of the schemes will be done in 2 separate phases (as per the NSSS):
  - ✓ Phase I (2015-2025): Central Management Committee (CMC) of the Cabinet Division may coordinate the schemes (run by various ministries)
  - ✓ Phase II (2025+): Ministry of Social Welfare would implement the schemes solely
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▶ 27

#### Urban Social Protection: Principles (contd.)

##### **Operational issues: What is required for implementing urban social protection schemes**

- Vulnerability mapping
- Urban Social Protection Strategies
- Poverty database
- Targeting: transient and non-transient urban dwellers
- G2P cash transfer
- M&E
- Grievance Redress Mechanism

##### **Organizational issues (Following the structure suggested in the NSSS):**

- Urban social protection strategies will be a part of the existing NSSS (embedded).
- There are 5 thematic areas with the Cabinet Division: Social Allowance, Food Security and Disaster Assistance, Social Insurance, Labour/Livelihood Interventions, and Human Development and Social Empowerment. Urban social protection could be included as a separate theme in the NSSS (along with the existing 5 themes) implementation.

▶ 26

#### Urban Social Protection: Principles (contd.)

##### **Organizational issues (contd.):**

- Involvement of ministries in implementation:
  - ❑ Lead ministry: LGD
  - ❑ Other associate ministries in the thematic group of urban social protection: Finance Division, Ministry of Social Welfare, Ministry of Public Works, Ministry of Power, Energy and Mineral Resources (MPEMR), Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Ministry of Education, Ministry of Labour and Employment etc.
  - ❑ Coordinator of reform and implementation until 2025: Cabinet division
  - ❑ Monitoring and evaluation of the schemes: IMED
  - ❑ Monitoring and evaluation of the related policies: LGD
  - ❑ Preparing urban social protection strategies, and Macro monitoring: GED
- Involvement of the NGOs in beneficiary selection and group formation in urban areas, including slums. Example: Targeting the Ultra Poor (CFPR-TUP) programme of BRAC
- Involvement of the development partners: Fund, developing the strategies, implementation of the projects etc. with the GOB.

▶ 28

Discussions on Social protection efficiency, Operational and Organizational issues of Urban Social Protection, Action plan, Diagnostic study on urban social protection, Vulnerability Mapping, Poverty database formulation issues were key issues of the last slides of the presentation. Mr. Islam also discussed about the lead ministry for coordination, Monitoring and evaluation mechanism for Urban Social Protection Programme in his presentation.



## **DISCUSSION**

Participants of the workshop took part in an active discussion on different components and elements of the Urban Social Protection after the presentation. Representatives from the ministries shared their opinions and provided feedback about the Urban Social Protection and its prospects. Some major and important discussions are as follows:

## **REMARKS OF THE CHAIR**

Respected chair of the workshop Mr. N M Zeaul Alam, Secretary (Coordination and Reforms) of Cabinet Division, mentioned some valuable observations on “Urban Social Protection in Bangladesh: Practice and way forward”. He also answered some relevant queries of the audiences regarding the Urban Social Protection and urban vulnerabilities. Mr. Alam also endorsed the statement of the presentation that the National Social Security Strategy (NSSS) is rural biased or centric. After the discussion he opened the floor for open discussion.

## **OPEN DISCUSSION**

The workshop was well attended by the Urban Social Protection Focal Points and Representatives of different Ministries and Divisions. Participants took part in the open discussion with their valuable feedback and opinion. They added some important dimensions upon the presentation with their thoughtful deliveries. Some of the key discussions are as follows:

### **Mr. N M Zeaul Alam**

Secretary, Coordination and Reforms,  
Cabinet Division.  
Chair of the workshop.

The respected chair of the workshop Mr. N M Zeaul Alam, Secretary, Coordination and Reforms of Cabinet Division thanked Mr. Islam for his informative presentation. He also endorsed the statement that the NSSS is rural centric as it was naturally expected to be such. He inquired some pros and cons on the mandates of Social Security Policy



Support (SSPS) Programme and its implementations. He also asked about the provision of the Urban Social Protection in the Social Security Policy Support (SSPS) Programme. In an addition, he said, we can adopt the definition of urban and rural area which is usually used by the LGED in their official statements. He also added, according to the NSSS we have an obligation for Urban Social Protection, so we should go forward to take immediate action for embedding Urban Social Protection in collaboration with respective Ministries and Divisions.

### **Mr. Aminul Arifeen**

Project Manager,  
Social Security Policy Support (SSPS) Programme.

Mr. Arifeen stated, one of the main objectives of the Social Security Policy Support (SSPS) Programme is to create an enabling environment for enrolling the NSSS. He added that SSPS Programme has already have developed a gender strategy and an action plan to ensure the gender equality in social protection mechanism which is being led by Ministry of Woman and Children Affairs. Mr. Arifeen recalled, NSSS states that Social Protection



Programme will be replicated in urban as an inclusion. Moreover, Urban Social Protection

must be included in the NSSS along with a diagnostic paper, strategy and action plan. He mentioned, SSPS Programme is working to establish an institutional governance mechanism and strengthen collaboration among all the Ministries for their active participation. The project also envisions for ownership creation among all the stakeholder for rolling out a successful social protection mechanism in Bangladesh.

**Mr. Mohammad Khaled Hassan**

(Deputy Secretary)

Social Protection Specialist, Social Security Policy Support (SSPS) Programme.

Mr. Hasan shared some specific issues on Urban Social Protection Programmes. He remarked, according to an estimation of UN, by 2030 the urban population will be 57% in developing countries and Bangladesh is supposed to have more than the estimation. He said, this figure is a significant message to us for coping with the upcoming Urban Social Protection challenges. He added, 02 specific actions have been stated as recommendations for addressing the Urban Social Protection challenges in the NSSS. 1) National Social Insurance Scheme (NSIS) and 2) Day Care Service for the children of the working mothers.

In addition, Mr. Hasan emphasized about the inclusion of non-poor people in the social protection programmes and described how the people of urban areas are irrespectively vulnerable in terms of social protection. He recapped, the National Social Insurance Scheme (NSIS), Day Care Service for working mother and Private Pension Scheme need to be introduced in the Urban Social Protection as it is a mandate of the NSSS.

Mr. Hasan mentioned, a definition of urban area according to the NSSS and he described Urban areas are those area that have a dominance of formal economy. He also stated, many of the conventionally defined urban areas are excluded from social protection schemes just because of their status as urban. For example, many Social Protection Programmes are not allowed in municipality and city corporation areas. He emphasized, these Social Protection Programme should be extended to urban areas to include all eligible citizens in social protection to protect them from exploitation like drop out and child labor etc.

He said, according to the NSSS, all Social Protection Programme must be designed strategically so that the programme can be replicated to both areas vice versa. He explained that presently the rural social protection programmes are to be extended in the urban areas. Already some programmes like school stipend and maternity allowances etc. are already included in the urban areas. All other major rural social protection programmes are to be replicated for urban people. On the other hand, the new urban social protection programmes like social insurance and private pension will be newly introduced in the urban areas with plan for their expansion in the rural areas later. Therefore, he urged that the social insurance

including private pension, and the day care centers etc. must be designed keeping in view the future expansion in the rural areas.

**Mr. Mesbah Uddin**

Joint Secretary, Local Government Division

Mr. Mesbah Uddin referred, there are several projects that are being implemented in different urban areas. These projects are working for health, sanitation and education and so on. He emphasized to develop a Programme Mapping to prevent the duplication of the programmes in an area.

**Mr. Md Azizul Alam**

Addition Secretary, Finance Division.

Mr. Alam mentioned, the NSSS is a national strategy so it must cover rural and urban both areas in terms of social protection. He said, poverty has shifted from rural to urban areas and Bangladesh government has the obligation to include them in social protection. He added, peoples from urban areas are being excluded from social security programme just because of their living place and this exclusion need to be addressed immediately. He said, peoples from slums also have the rights to basic needs and rights to other social protection as it's an obligation by the constitution of Bangladesh. He added, urban poverty is one of the reasons that pushes these poor peoples into violent and illegal activities. So urban social protection programme should be intervene. He also recommended to identify the social protection programmes according to its implementing area for analysis and decision making on the urban social protection programme.

He made some recommendations as follows:

1. A Programme Mapping should be developed to identify all social protection programme which are being implemented in only urban area, only rural area and urban & rural both areas.
2. A committee should be formed for mapping of the social protection programme
3. Social protection programme need to expand to urban areas as it's a demand of the time.

## **Md. Oliullah**

Joint Secretary, Ministry of Industries.

Mr. Md. Oliullah said, we should consider decentralization mechanism in urban social protection programme so that people of rural areas can be devised and occupied themselves by in their own. He also added that urban programme should be coordinated with NGOs and other development partners to avoid duplication and to strengthen sustainability of the programme.

## **OTHERS**

Representatives of the Ministry of Labor and Employment, Ministry Woman and Children Affairs, Ministry of Forest and Climate Change and Ministry of Expatriates' Welfare and Overseas Employment and other Divisions also shared their opinion and provided feedback on Urban Social Protection Programme.

## **RECOMMENDATIONS**

The workshop was revived with rich conversations and positive feedbacks of the respected representatives and the Urban Social Protection Focal Points. Participants of the workshop provided valuable guidance and made some significant recommendations to sketch the Urban Social Protection Programme.

The recommendations are as follows:

6. A suitable and unified definition of Urban and Rural area should be decided reconciling with NSSS and other legal documents of the government as there are ambiguities and confusion about the definitions of urban and rural area.
7. Immediate measures should be taken to include urban population in the Social Protection system of the country as mandated in the NSSS.
8. The social protection interventions which are especially planned in the NSSS Action Plan for urban people, such as NSIS, Private Pension, Day Care for Children etc. should be implemented in time.
9. Measures should be taken to increase collaboration with NGOs for enhancing Urban Social Protection Programmes for slum dwellers and floating people.

10. A committee should be formed for mapping all social protection programmes in terms of their urban/rural coverage or focus with mutual expansion potentiality.

## COMMITTEE FORMATION

After strong recommendation and approval, a committee was formed by the lead of respected chair. The committee was formed in collaboration with 08 Ministries. The committee detail is given below:

SL	Name	Designation and Organization	Responsibility
1.	Mr. A K Mohiuddin	Additional Secretary, (Coordination), Cabinet Division)	Convener
2.	Mr. Md. Azizul Islam	Additional Secretary, Finance Division	Member
3.	Mr. Md. Abdul Karim, NDC	Additional Secretary, Ministry Woman and Children Affairs	Member
4.	Ms. Abeda Akter	Joint Secretary, Ministry of Social Welfare	Member
5.	Mr. Mesbah Uddin	Joint Secretary, Local Government Division	Member
6.	Mr. Aminul Arifeen	Project Manager, Social Security Policy Support (SSPS) Programme	Member
7.	Ms. Sakeun Nahar Begum, NDC	Additional Secretary, Ministry of Labor and Employment,	Member
8.	Mr. Shahidul Islam	Deputy Secretary, Cabinet Division	Member
9.	Mr. Faizul Islam	Joint Chief, General Economics Division (GED) of Planning Commission	Member Secretary

## TOR OF THE COMMITTEE

The proposed committee will have to map the existing social protection programmes having coverage in the rural and urban areas and recommend which rural protection programmes can be expanded in the urban areas. It was agreed that the committee will recommend a primary outline of plans for urban inclusion in social protection programmes within 45 working days. The report of the committee will be reviewed in the next focal point coordination committee meeting. The SSPS programme was requested to provide technical



support to the committee. The notification for the committee formation will be issued from the.

## **PARTICIPANTS**

The workshop on Urban Social Protection in Bangladesh: Practice and way forward was enriched by 25 respected participants from different ministries and divisions. The participants were vibrant and very proactive during the discussion on various issues. The participants details are as follows:

SL	Name	Designation and Organization	Mobile
1.	Mr. A K Mohiuddin	Additional Secretary, (Coordination), Cabinet Division.	01715627064
2.	Mr. Md. Azizul Islam	Additional Secretary, Finance Division.	01712172170
3.	Mr. Md. Abdul Karim, NDC	Additional Secretary, Ministry Woman and Children Affairs.	01715421764
4.	Ms. Sakeun Nahar Begum, NDC	Additional Secretary, Ministry of Labor and Employment.	01817066430
5.	Mr. Md. Zafar Ullah	Additional Secretary, Ministry of Land	01711131151
6.	Mr. Manik Lal Banik	Additional Secretary, Ministry of Chittagong Hill Tract Affairs.	01715220636
7.	Mr. A K M Zakir Hossain Bhuiyan	Additional Secretary, Technical and Madrasa Education.	01711822439
8.	Mr. Shawkat Ali	Joint Secretary, Ministry of Cultural Affairs.	01716813947
9.	Ms. Dr. Asma Akhter Jahan	Joint Secretary, Planning Division.	01552365116
10.	Ms. Abeda Akter	Joint Secretary, Ministry of Social Welfare.	01715390150
11.	Mr. Mesbah Uddin	Joint Secretary, Local Government Division.	01715422038
12.	Mr. Aminul Arifeen	Project Manager, Social Security Policy Support (SSPS) Programme.	01787687034
13.	Mr. Nazmul Mobarak	Joint Secretary, Finance Division.	01716604300
14.	Mr. Md. Oliullah	Joint Secretary, Ministry of Industries.	01745707209
15.	Mr. Md. Siddique Rahman	Director General, Implementation Monitoring and Evaluation Division.	01780748974
16.	Mr. Mohammad Shahidul Islam	Deputy Secretary, Cabinet Division.	01815461772

SL	Name	Designation and Organization	Mobile
17.	Mr. A.B.M. Badiuzzaman	Deputy Secretary, Post and Telecommunication Division.	01550153789
18.	Ms. Jasmin Akter	Deputy Secretary, Statistics and Information Division (SID).	01727750168
19.	Ms. Shahina Ferdousi	Deputy Secretary, Ministry of Expatriates' Welfare and Overseas Employment (MOEWOE).	01797499730
20.	Mr. Md. Monirul Islam	Deputy Secretary, ICT Division.	01882406482
21.	Mr. Md. Motiar Rahman	Deputy Secretary, Ministry of Liberation war.	01736112222
22.	Mr. Shoib Ahmed Khan	Deputy Secretary, Ministry of Fisheries and Livestock.	0171767022
23.	Mr. Rathindra Nath Roy	Senior Assistant Chief, Ministry of Agriculture.	01723270216
24.	Mr. Ridwanur Rahman	Assistant Chief, Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change.	01777743238

## CONCLUSION

The workshop induced an important discussion on Urban Social Protection, challenges of Urban dwellers, learning and the way forward. Remarkably, the workshop sketched a primary picture of the Urban Social Protection and inclusion of urban social protection as a mandate of the NSSS in the mainstream social protection schemes. To achieve the Vision-2021, 7<sup>th</sup> Five Year Plan and Sustainable Development Goals (SDG), the NSSS was a significant step and Urban Social Protection will fulfil its last brick of the wall. The workshop has also strengthened cooperation among the Ministries, Divisions and other development partners for alleviating poverty and promotion of an inclusive growth.