

Report

on the Proceedings

of the Learning Sharing Workshop with Social Protection Focal Points

Cabinet Division

10.30 am to 12:30 pm

Tuesday, 04 December 2018

Social Security Policy Support (SSPS) Programme

Cabinet Division and General Economics Division of Planning Commission



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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

A workshop was organized with participation of the Social Protection Focal Point Officers of line ministries at the Cabinet Division for review and reflect on the learning and experience achieved from the Bangladesh Social Security Conference and the Fair 2018 organized in November 2018. The workshop was attended by the representatives from different ministries and Divisions and chaired by Mr. N M Ziaul Alam, Respected Secretary, Coordination and Reforms of Cabinet Division. The workshop shared different learning and experiences on the conference and the fair. Participants of the workshop also identified some improvement areas of the conference like communication, logistic support and other management issues.

The workshop came up with a valuable learning sharing through the discussion. A total 31 Social Security Focal Points from different Ministries and Divisions participated in the workshop and contributed in arriving at some valuable recommendations:

Some of the major recommendations are as follows:

1. A framework should be developed for GO and NGO collaboration under the Social Security Programme.
 2. Awareness materials and related publications on the Social Security Programmes should be published for outreach communication.
 3. A specially designed cultural programme should be added as an event in the next conference highlighting the interventions of the Social Security Programme.
 4. Beneficiaries from community level should be involved in the presentation where they may express how they are benefitted and get changes in their life by the Social Security Programmes.
 5. An International conference on Social Security may be organized in Bangladesh under the supervision and coordination of Cabinet Division.
 6. The Conference report should be published in both Bangla and English languages and shared with all stakeholders including Development Partners of in Bangladesh.
 7. The Conference should be organized every year with more public awareness and participation from community level.
 8. An Impact Analysis should be conducted which may contain the learning and experiences on Social Security Programme.
 9. A Case Study booklet should be published highlighting the Good Examples and Best Practices on Social Security Programs in Bangladesh.
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BACKGROUND

Bangladesh government is implementing the National Social Security Strategy (NSSS) for promoting the rights to social protection for all. The NSSS is contributing to the existing social protection systems to reduce poverty and enable peoples' capacity to protect themselves in different shocks induced from disasters and other socio-economic vulnerabilities of the country. The NSSS is being implemented with an Action Plan titled as Action Plan, Implementation of The National Social Security Strategy - 2016-2021 that has been launched in the Bangladesh Social Security Conference 2018. Two more publications titled as the Background Research Papers for Preparing the National Social Security Strategy of Bangladesh and the ABCD of Social Protection in Bangladesh were also unveiled in this conference. The Conference was accompanied with a simultaneous 3-day Fair. Bangladesh Social Security Conference 2018 was organized by Cabinet Division with technical support from the Social Security Policy Support (SSPS) Programme which is being implemented by the Cabinet Division and the General Economics Division (GED) of Planning Commission.

The present workshop was organized for learning sharing and to reflect on the gaps/challenges of the Social Security Conference and Fair. The workshop was attended by the Social Protection Focal Points from different Ministries and Divisions to discuss and provide feedback. The workshop discussed issues like presentations and reports on social protection by different ministries, participants, working sessions, organization of different events and other relevant facts of the conference and the fair.

OBJECTIVE

Overall objective of the workshop was to share different learning and experiences on the Conference and Fair. Some specific objectives of the workshop are as follows:

- To share Learning and Experiences of the Social Security Conference and Fair
- To document Feedback and Recommendations of the Conference and Fair
- To identify Challenges and Improvement areas of the Conference and Fair

OPENING REMARKS

Mr. N M Zeaul Alam, Respected Secretary, Coordination and Reforms of Cabinet Division chaired the workshop. He welcomed all the representatives from different Ministries and Divisions and the Social Protection Policy Support (SSPS) Programme team for letting a successful conference on Social Security in Bangladesh for the very first time. He acclaimed that the conference was an inclusive event in terms of GO and NGO collaboration and participation. He advised to develop a framework for GO and NGO collaboration for the Social Security Programme. He also inquired about the report of the Conference and its progress. Mr. Aminul Arifeen, Project Manager of the Social Protection Policy Support (SSPS) Programme informed him that a Report is in progress and this report will contain all the Presentations and Reports of the conference including M&E information of the programme.

PRESENTATION

A video presentation of the conference and fair was shared by Mr. Mohammad Khaled Hasan, (Deputy Secretary), Social Protection Specialist, Social Security Policy Support (SSPS) Programme. The documentary was a collection of photographs of different sessions, discussions and events of the conference and the fair. During the presentation he mentioned that, we are here to share our learning and challenges regarding the Social Security Conference and Fair. He added, this a platform where we can learn from our reflection over our doings and errors that we had over the time of togetherness.

OPEN DISCUSSION

Respected Chair opened the floor for audiences after the video presentation. Representatives and the Social Protection Focal Points of different Ministries and Divisions shared their opinions and feedback on different issues of the conference and experience of the fair. Some of the major discussions are as follows:

MD FAIZUL ISLAM

**JOINT CHIEF, GENERAL ECONOMIC DIVISION (GED), PLANNING COMMISSION
NATIONAL PROJECT DIRECTOR, SOCIAL SECURITY POLICY SUPPORT (SSPS) PROGRAMME**

The open discussion was commenced by the speech of Mr. Md Faizul Islam, National Project Director, Social Security Policy Support (SSPS) Programme. He expressed his greetings to the participants of the workshop. He thanked all the Social Security Focal Points including the other representatives of different Ministries and Divisions for their support to organize a successful Conference and the Fair on the Social Security of Bangladesh. He expressed his gratitude to all the Technical Committees, Paper Presenters and Stakeholders of the conference and fair.

MR. AMINUL ARIFEEN

PROJECT MANAGER, SOCIAL SECURITY POLICY SUPPORT (SSPS) PROGRAMME

Mr. Arifeen said, the Central Management Committee (CMC) has already become like a club or forum which is working for installing an internationally recognized social protection policy in Bangladesh. He said, this team is enriched by a group of Focal Points of different Ministries and Divisions who have been playing significant roles in the social protection system in Bangladesh. Mr. Arifeen commented, we organized a national conference and a fair on social security for the very first time in Bangladesh. He mentioned, our social protection policy has reached such an extent that other countries showed interest to replicate our policies and craving for our learning. It's a milestone towards poverty reduction and for the peoples with vulnerabilities in this country. He requested to the representatives for a critical analysis and feedback on the conference and the fair. He assured that a consolidated report will be shared to all stakeholders containing a complete profile of the conference and the fair.

**MR. MOHAMMAD KHALED HASAN
(DEPUTY SECRETARY),
SOCIAL PROTECTION SPECIALIST, SOCIAL SECURITY POLICY SUPPORT (SSPS) PROGRAMME**

Mr. Mohammad Khaled Hassan, Deputy Secretary, Social Protection Specialist, Social Security Policy Support (SSPS) Programme shared a status of the Report and Presentation submitted by different Ministries and Divisions in the conference. Mr. Hasan expressed his gratitude to the Social Protection Focal Points of concerned Ministries and Divisions for their cooperation regarding the conference and fair.

**MR. AZIZUL ALAM
ADDITIONAL SECRETARY, FINANCE DIVISION**

Mr. Azizul Alam said that, the conference and fair were successful in many aspects. The conference was like an umbrella where all Ministries and Divisions had submitted their programme updates and reports. He added, if we compile and consolidate all presentations to develop a report, it will be an asset for future policy reformation, decision making and programme designing. He acclaimed that, the conference was one of the best conferences of the government in collaboration with GO and NGO.

**MD. ABDULLAH AL MAMUN
DIRECTOR, IMPLEMENTATION MONITORING AND EVALUATION DIVISION**

Mr. Mamun said, awareness raising activities and publications related to the Social Security Conference and Fair were needed. He added, a cultural programme could be organized simulating the Social Security Policy Support (SSPS) programme interventions and its beneficiaries. It was informed that a small cultural programme in the genre of *Poter Gan* was organized at the end of the conference where the social protection activities of the government was highlighted with use of pictures, music and dance. Everybody lauded the splendid rendition by the Sushilon Cultural Society to provide a precise and vivid picture of national social security initiatives of the government in a pleasant way. Everybody agreed that cultural programmes should be added as one of items of the formal schedules of the programme in the next conference.

**MS. SHAHINA FERDOUSI
DEPUTY SECRETARY, MINISTRY OF EXPATRIATES' WELFARE AND OVERSEAS EMPLOYMENT**

Ms. Ferdousi said, some beneficiaries from community level could be involved in the presentations where they could express how they are benefitted and got changes in their life by the Social Security Programs of the government.

MR. MD. NASIR UDDIN
ADDITIONAL SECRETARY, MINISTRY OF SOCIAL WELFARE

Mr. Md. Nasir Uddin urged upon arranging an International Conference on the Social Security in Bangladesh which would be organized under the supervision and coordination of Cabinet Division. He also requested to print the Conference report in Bangla and English both languages and to share it with relevant foreign missions in Bangladesh.

MR. MD. ABDUL KARIM (NDC)
ADDITIONAL SECRETARY, MINISTRY OF WOMAN AND CHILDREN AFFAIRS

Mr. Abdul Karim stated that the conference was like other international events and it was a successful conference. He also acclaimed that, the overall management of the conference and the fair was well organized. He added, the conference was organized complying with international standard in many ways. He thanked to Cabinet Division, General Economics Division (GED) of Planning Commissions and SSPS team for organizing such a brilliant conference.

MS. SAKEUN NAHAR BEGUM (NDC)
ADDITIONAL SECRETARY, MINISTRY OF LABOR AND EMPLOYMENT

Ms. Sakeun Nahar Begum commented that it was excellent to see the exquisite example of GO and NGO coordination in the Conference. He recommended that the Conference should be organized every year with more public awareness and participation from community level.

OTHERS

Other participants also discussed some important issues and provided valuable feedback regarding the conference and fair. One of the participants, proposed to conduct an Impact Analysis that may be used for learning sharing and replication. Another representative proposed to publish a Case Study booklet with some Best Examples and Best Practices on the Social Security Programs in Bangladesh.

CONCLUDING REMARKS OF THE CHAIRMR. N M ZEAUL ALAM SECRETARY, COORDINATION AND REFORMS, CABINET DIVISION

The Chair expressed his gratefulness to the representatives for providing their valuable feedback and sharing learning and challenges. He assured that in next conferences more diversified and varied events will be added in terms of Social Security Programmes. He also provided some guidance according to his own findings on the conference and the fair. He emphasized to develop a framework for GO and NGO collaboration for the Social Security Programme. Again, he offered his gratitude to all ministries and SSPS team for organizing such a brilliant conference and the fair on Social Security which is a milestone in the history of Bangladesh in the sectors of Social Protection.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The workshop was well attended and invigorated with active participations of the representatives. It shared various issues on the conference and the fair that let some valuable recommendations.

Some major recommendations are as follows:

1. A framework modality should be developed for GO and NGO collaboration under the Social Security Programme.
2. Awareness building materials and related Publications on the Social Security Programme should be circulated in different media for outreach communication.
3. A detailed cultural programme should be added as an event in the next conference highlighting the interventions of the Social Security Programme.
4. Beneficiaries from community level should be involved in the presentation where they may express how they are benefitted and get changes in their life by the Social Security Programmes.
5. An International conference on Social Security should be organized in Bangladesh under the supervision and coordination of Cabinet Division.

6. The Conference report should be published in Bangla and English both languages and shared with relevant foreign missions and development partners in Bangladesh.
7. The Conference should be organized every year with more public awareness and participation from community level.
8. An Impact Analysis should be conducted which may contain the learning and experiences on Social Security Programme.
9. A Case Study booklet should be published highlighting the Good Examples and Best Practices on Social Security Programs in Bangladesh.

PARTICIPANTS

The workshop was well attended with the Social Security Focal Point officers. 31 representatives from different Ministries and Divisions participated in the workshop and contributed in a vibrant and well-organized conversation on social protection.

Participant detail is given as follows:

SL	Name	Designation	Organization
1.	Mr. A K Mohiuddin	Additional Secretary	Cabinet Division
2.	Mr. Md. Azizul Alam	Additional Secretary	Finance Division
3.	Mr. Dr. Md. Nasir Uddin	Additional Secretary	Ministry of Social Welfare
4.	Mr. Zakir Hossain Akand	Additional Secretary	Ministry of Disaster Management and Relief
5.	Mr. Md. Zafar Ullah	Additional Secretary	Ministry of Land
6.	Mr. Manik Lal Banik	Additional Secretary	Ministry of CHT Affairs
7.	Mr. AKM Zakir Hossain Bhuiyan	Additional Secretary	Technical and Madrasah Education Division
8.	Ms. Sakeun Nahar Begum (NDC)	Additional Secretary	Ministry of Labor and Employment
9.	Mr. Md. Abdul Karim (NDC)	Additional Secretary	Ministry of Woman and Children Affairs
10.	Mr. Faizul Islam	Joint Chief	General Economics Division
11.	Mr. Mesbah Uddin	Joint Secretary	Local Government Division
12.	Mr. Md. Shafi Ul Haque	Joint Secretary	Ministry of Food
13.	Mr. S.M. Rezaul Mostofa Kamal	Joint Secretary	Ministry of Water Resource
14.	Mr. Towfiqul Arif	Joint Secretary	Ministry of Fisheries and Livestock
15.	Mr. Dr. Tarun Kanti Sikder	Joint Secretary	Ministry of Primary and Mass Education

16.	Mr. Mohammad Zakir Hossain	Joint Secretary	Ministry of Industries
17.	Mr. Shawkat Ali	Joint Secretary	Ministry of Cultural Affairs
18.	Md. Tariqul Alam	Joint Secretary	Statistics and Information Division
19.	Mr. Enamul Haque	Joint Secretary	Medical Education Family Welfare Division
20.	Mr. A.B.M. Badiuzzaman	Deputy Secretary	Post and Telecommunication Division
21.	Ms. Taslima Akter	Deputy Secretary	Ministry of Youth and Sports
22.	Ms. Shahina Ferdousi	Deputy Secretary	Ministry of Expatriates' Welfare and Overseas Employment
23.	Mr. S.M. Hamidul Haque	Deputy Project Director	Ashroyon-2, PMO
24.	Mr. Mohammad Shahidul Islam	Deputy Secretary	Cabinet Division
25.	Mr. Md. Sayed Kutub	Deputy Secretary	Financial Institution Division
26.	Mr. Md. Monirul Islam	Deputy Secretary	ICT Division
27.	Mr. Md. Abdullah Al Mamun	Deputy Secretary	Implementation Monitoring and Evaluation Division
28.	Mr. Md. Huzur Ali	Deputy Chief	Health Science Division
29.	Mr. Rathindra Nath Roy	Senior Assistant Chief	Ministry of Agriculture
30.	Mr. Mohammad Rafiqul Islam	Senior Assistant Chief	Secondary and Higher Education Division
31.	Mr. Ridwanur Rahman	Assistant Chief	Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change.

CONCLUSION

The workshop initiated an important discussion on reflecting different aspects of the Social Security Conference and the Fair 2018 in terms of learning and experience sharing. Participants provided their feedback regarding the important role of different Ministries and Divisions to organize such great event successfully. They discussed and elaborated their observations about the Presentations, Reports, Session of the conference and stalls of fair. Participants also shared some new ideas for next conference and identified few challenges and gaps regarding overall management and logistics of the events. Most importantly, they made some remarkable recommendations regarding arrangement of conference and fair that will help enrich next events with more dimensions. This workshop portrayed an overall picture of the conference and fair as its evaluation by the Central Management Committee (CMC) of Social Protection Programme.