

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh
Bangladesh Planning Commission
General Economics Division

Subject: Minutes of the 3rd Meeting of NSSS Monitoring and Evaluation Committee.

Date : 04 February 2019
Time : 2.00-3.00 PM
Venue : NEC Committee Room-1, Planning Commission Premises, Sher-e-Bangla Nagar, Dhaka
Chairperson : Dr. Shamsul Alam, Member (Senior Secretary), General Economics Division (GED), Bangladesh Planning Commission
Participants : Appendix - A

The chairperson inaugurated the meeting with warm greetings to the presence followed by a round of short self-introduction of the participants. The chair then stated that one of the major objectives of the NSSS Monitoring and Evaluation Committee was to track, monitor, supervise and provide feedback on the progress of the NSSS Action Plan and implementation of social protection programmes. He commented that this committee had been playing a crucial regulatory role for the implementation of the NSSS Action Plan with substantial adeptness. He also apprised that all ministries and divisions had been contributing to the implementation of the NSSS aiming at poverty reduction. He then requested the presence to proceed by the agenda. As per the agenda he requested to share the inception report of the studies being conducted under the SSPS programme. Before going to the presentation, he asked to share the ToR of each study and requested the presence to enjoy the presentation.

PRESENTATIONS

Inception report on the Barriers of Accessing Social Protection Programmes for the Poor and Marginalized by Dr. M A Razzaque, Research Director, Policy Research Institute (PRI) Bangladesh.

1. **Synopsis of the Presentation:** The Social security programme is one of the major weapons of the government to tackle poverty and vulnerability of the people but still there are some exclusion and inclusion errors which are hampering the ultimate objective of the NSSS. The problems arise from both supply and demand sides. The objective of this research is to find out the demand side problems keeping aside the supply side issues. This research, thus, is



about identifying barriers to access in social security programmes by the poor and marginalized groups. The major objective of the research is to identify the reasons behind the high rate of exclusion for poor and marginalized people in social security programmes, to highlight the specific barriers including those at socio-cultural and political spheres devise specific policy recommendations for eliminating the barriers. Methodological approaches of the research have included desk research for literature review, qualitative methods, empirical approach using micro-econometrics, field survey for gathering first-hand information. In an explanation it was shared that the qualitative method has been conducted at least twenty Key Informant Interviews (KII) for citizens from marginalized communities, local community members, political leaders and knowledgeable people from the community and six FGDs in six different districts in three different divisions. The study will be using micro econometric approaches for data analysis with stress on HIES 2016 data which is currently available to gather some insights and focus on the use of the Bangladesh Integrated Household Survey 2015 with 6,500 HHS from 325 villages from 64 districts. Primary fieldwork of the research has induced responses from a total of 360 citizens from the poor and marginalized groups which are peoples living below the lower poverty line income, women-headed households below the poverty line, persons with disabilities, people with serious illness and HIV, dalits, etc, people living in Chittagong Hill Tracts (CHT) and people living in remote border areas. A total of 6,435 households with 47.54 eligible and 52.46 non-eligible households were covered in the data analysis.

Inception report on the Midterm Review of the NSSS Implementation by Mr. Dr. M A Razzaqu, Research Director, and Policy Research Institute (PRI) Bangladesh.

2. Synopsis of the Presentation: The NSSS was approved in the middle of 2015 and on-going reforms have been taking place since. The NSSS is considered as the bible of the social protection of the country to reform the existing social safety nets and security programme with other mandates on social security. It's very important to evaluate the progress of the NSSS action plan on a qualitative and comprehensive manner to track the progress. The Social security programme portfolio has increased manifolds in terms of number of beneficiaries and amount of funds disbursed currently in 114 schemes implemented through by 30+ ministries and divisions which is costing 2% of GDP more than 13% of the government budget for addressing poverty and vulnerability. According to the ToR the objective of the midterm review is to assess reforms in different ministries and divisions, performance and achievements to date, review of gender perspective, assess reforms through the lens of those with disabilities, analysis institutional arrangements, small programme consolidation progress, progress of the action plan and review of issues crucial to NSSS. The study is generally qualitative in nature. It will assess the progress achieved to date as against the NSSS intended timeline against the action plan intended activities, mapping NSSS reforms on to the action plan, programme specific ministry level updates, and some quantitative data work from programme level information and HIES 2016. The study will review the reports, the NSSS and its action plan, NSSS gender policy, NSSS Background papers, 7FYP and Mid-term Implementation Review of

7FYP; 6FYP and Final review of 6FYP, reports produced under other projects conducted by Ministry of Finance, GED, SPPS and other reports. It also has used Key data sources like HIES 2016, BIHS 2015, data, KIIs from the relevant stakeholders. The evaluation report will have seven as Chapter 1: Introduction, Chapter 2: Methodology, Chapter 3: An evolution of SSP and Bangladesh's NSSS, Chapter 4: NSSS reforms, performance and challenges, Chapter 5: Social Protection for people with disabilities, Chapter 6: NSSS Review from Gender perspective, Chapter 7: Institutional arrangements and M&E. As a summary of methodological approaches, the evaluation includes Analysis of NSSS target indicators and Action Plan, Information from KIIs, Use of concrete data as available, initial draft report, Final report towards the implementation Review of the NSSS action plan.

DISCUSSION

The Chair requested the participants for their comments and queries.

3. **Additional Secretary, Finance Division:** The research methodology and process of the study is well designed, and it has covered all the vital sections in terms of the policy evaluation. Most importantly the study has reviewed all necessary documents and data sources for its analysis. The study has also emphasized on the diversifications and multi-dimensional sources of data collection which is crucial for analyses and decision making for policy recommendation on the NSSS action plan. The evaluation should have specific recommendations on the barriers of accessing social protection programmes for the poor and marginalized.
4. **Director General, IMED:** IMED monitors all projects including the Social Security Policy Support (SSPS) Programme. IMED would require the findings and results of the study thus the study should consider the detail address with contact numbers in KIIs and other data collection questionnaires from the respective ministries and divisions that will help to further monitor and recheck the information of the studies.
5. **Member Senior Secretary, General Economics Division:** According to the background research on the NSSS, 27% of the populations were getting social protection benefits. As implementation of the NSSS was started in June 2015, does it now contribute to making difference in the number/rate of social protection beneficiary because of the NSS implementation? That needs to be seen in the study.
6. **Director, Policy Research Institute (PRI):** He responded to the Chair and Member (Senior Secretary), General Economics Division that the study has used the data and information of Bangladesh Integrated Household Survey (IFPRI)-2015 and HIES -2016 survey so the study will show the number/rate of that time. More specifically, as there was no baseline survey, the study cannot show the changed rate of the social protection beneficiary caused by the NSSS implementation. He also added that the study mainly focused on the research

question that was mentioned in the ToR which is to find out the impact of the NSSS on the social protection beneficiaries.

7. Social Protection Specialist (Deputy Secretary), SSPS programme: Added that the Study is showing that eligible population rate is 48% which is almost matched with data used in the NSSS. He said NSSS mentioned 46% according to the statistics of year of 2013/2014 and poverty rate was higher than before during drafting period of the NSSS. He said the NSSS also emphasized to consider the near poor as eligible. He also mentioned that total 25% of the total population is in the below near/vulnerability line that should be considered eligible for the social protection. Thus, the preliminary survey of PRI shows that the rate of eligible beneficiaries is even higher than the NSSS estimation around 4 years back. Therefore, he suggested that the data should be used carefully to avoid any unnecessary debate or controversy.

8. Director General, IMED: He said the recently we have received the progress report of the SDG which should be considered in the document review for the study as this has linkage to SDG target attainments.

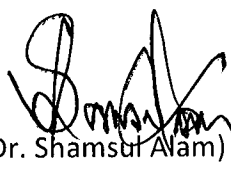
9. Additional Secretary, (Reforms and Coordination) Cabinet Division: The NSSS is considered as the key resource and guideline for all social protection programmes. If we get strong recommendations from the study, it would be an asset for further review and reform in the NSSS as well as for the decision and policy making on social protection.

10. Member Senior Secretary, General Economics Division: Ensuring the presence of senior researchers of SANEM, another round of meeting might be called to share the inception reports on the findings of the study.

DECISION

11. After elaborate discussion the following decision was made:

- A.** One more meeting will be held on the same agenda to share the research methodologies, the process along with inception report on the studies of the SSPS programme. SANEM will share their inception report and brief presentations on the research methodologies in next meeting with participation from the senior management and/or research organization.



(Dr. Shamsul Alam)

Member (Senior Secretary)
General Economics Divisions (GED)
Bangladesh Planning Commission

Appendix "A"

SL	Participants	Designation	Organization
1.	Dr. Shamsul Alam	Member, Senior Secretary	GED
2.	Feroza Begum	Chief	GED
3.	A K Mohuiddin Ahmad	Additional Secretary (Coordination and Reforms)	Cabinet Division
4.	Md. Azizul Alam	Additional Secretary	Finance Division
5.	Mahmuda Akter	Additional Secretary	SID
6.	Kabir Uddin Ahmed	Director	BBS
7.	Mohammad Khaled Hasan	(Deputy Secretary) Social Protection Specialist	UNDP
8.	Daniel Winstanley	Policy Analyst	UNDP
9.	Mehrin Karim	Research Officer	UNDP
10.	Farhana Noor	M&E officer	UNDP
11.	Md. Mahbubul Alam Siddique	Senior Assistant Chief	GED
12.	Dr. Euosuf	Professor	Dhaka University
13.	Dr. M A Razzaque	Director	PRI
14.	Faizul Islam	Joint Chief	GED
15.	Dr. Md. Mustafizur Rahman	Joint Chief	GED
16.	Dr. Md. Masiur Rahman	Director General	IMED
17.	Aminul Arifeen	Project Manager	UNDP
18.	Khadija Nazneen	Deputy Secretary	MoSW
19.	Sheikh Moinul Islam Moin	Senior Assistant Chief	GED
20.	Mahtab Uddin	Lecturer	Dhaka University
21.	Md. Jahid Ibn Jalal	Research Associate	SANEM
22.	Sunera Saba Khan	Research Economist	SANEM
23.	SK Faijon Bin Halim	Research Associate	SANEM
24.	S.M. Siam	Admin and Finance Assistant	UNDP
25.	Md. Mukul Hossain	Project Assistant	UNDP

