

Record Notes
of the Workshop on the
Review of Implementation of NSSS Action Plan 2016-2021

Chairperson: Mr. N M Zeaul Alam, Secretary (Coordination and Reforms), Cabinet Division.

Date & Time: 23 January 2019, 11:00AM - 01.30 PM

Venue: Conference Room (1005), Cabinet Division

Participants: Social Protection Focal Point Officers (Appendix-1)

Introduction:

Bangladesh government has adopted The National Social Security Strategy (NSSS) and its Action Plan 2016-2021 for the reformation of the social protection programmes for its citizens in full swing. The Central Management Committee (CMC) is playing a key role to make the NSSS into practice through their utmost efforts. As a part of supporting the CMC, a workshop was organized on the Review of Implementation of NSSS Action Plan 2016-2021 on 23 January at the Cabinet Division. The workshop was well attended by the 39 representatives and focal point officers of the social protection from different ministries and divisions. Respected Secretary, (Coordination and Reforms) Mr. N M Zeaul Alam chaired in the workshop and Additional Secretary of Cabinet Division A K Mohiudin Ahmad was also present in the workshop. The workshop made some very important decisions on the Review of Implementation of NSSS Action Plan 2016-2021. The CMC focal point officers also made some significant recommendations regarding implementation of the NSSS action plan and its progress.

Objective:

The workshop had 02 specific objectives as follows:

1. To review the implementation of the NSSS Action Plan 2016-2021.
2. To share updates on the midterm review of NSSS action plan, study and research status, plan and other large programmes on the social protection programs.

Discussion:

The chairperson of the workshop Mr. N M Zeaul Alam, Secretary, (Coordination and Reforms) of Cabinet Division inaugurated the workshop by his welcome speech and he greeted all the participants including the representatives from the Social Security Policy Support (SSPS) Programme of Cabinet Division and General Economics Division (GED), different ministries and divisions. He mentioned that the NSSS and its action plan have been formulated for a well-designed and internationally recognized social protection programme installation in the country and he welcomed the CMC focal point officers and wished to gather a worthy discussion with their active participation.

1. Review of Implementation of NSSS Action Plan 2016-2021.

- With kind permission of the chairperson, Mr. Mohammad Khaled Hasan, (Deputy Secretary), Social Protection Specialist of SSPS programme of Cabinet Division, shared a consolidate report of the progress of the NSSS action plan of all ministries and divisions. During the discussion, the house demanded that the progress of the action plan will be reviewed by each ministries and divisions by their own and then they will submit the NSSS action plan progress report to the Cabinet Division. Chairperson of the workshop Mr. N M Zeaul Alam, Secretary, (Coordination and Reforms) of Cabinet Division endorsed the decision and requested to all concerned ministries and divisions to send their progress report to the Cabinet Division by 03 working days.
- During the discussion on programme reforms in 2016 up to 2021, the progress of actions on the strengthening social security for the children, strengthening programmes for working age, strengthening programmes for vulnerable women, comprehensive pension system for the elderly people, programmes for people with disabilities, programmes for urban poor, programmes for food security, programme consolidation were discussed elaborately.
- Establishing a single registry management information system, strengthen Government to Person (G2P) payment systems that promote financial inclusivity, strengthening processes for selecting recipients of social security schemes, establishing a complaints and grievance mechanism and results-based monitoring & evaluation system were also key issues in discussion about progress of the institutional reform in 2016 up to 2021. It was discussed that grievance system for social protection is to some extent different from any other programme grievance systems. The system required complaint mechanisms along with system for new beneficiary entry, amendment of beneficiary information for the social protection. So, it required special attention to the social security programme grievance systems.
- Progress from different ministries and divisions were shared in a brief regarding the support for vulnerable women, child benefit programme, workplace childcare

services, child maintenance payments, maternal health care, maternity insurance, skill development programme for young men and women aiming at the gender focused actions in the light of NSSS. It was also emphasized that according to the NSSS, a policy is required to establish Day Care Centre for working mother where minimum 40 persons work. It was elaborated that the commitment of the NSSS is to ensure Day Care Centre. The companies may open the Centre by their own or in collaboration with other private sectors.

- Progress of the action plan on spending on social security, ministry-wise allocation, lifecycle-based allocation, thematic cluster-based allocation, costing of reformed programmes for 2016 up to 2021, new programmes, programmes for scale-up and programmes to be continued as before issues were also key focused areas in the discussion by the CMC focal point officers and representatives of the ministries and divisions. Here focal point officers shared their latest information in the workshop.
- It was deliberated that the spirit of programme consolidation as suggested in the NSSS, the number of social security programmes have been reduced. In the beginning of the NSSS-reform, the total number of social security programmes was 145 in 2015, which came down to 142 in 2016, and further reduced to 136 in 2017 and to 118 in current fiscal year. Even though the number of social security programmes has been falling lately, the budget allocation for social security has shown a trend of gradual rise in total amount. The allocation has been around 02 per cent of GDP and around 13 per cent of the national budget in past ten years.
- The workshop shared that for evaluation of progress of social security programmes, an assessment matrix is required. For this purpose, the matrix named Core Diagnostic Instrument (CODI) seems to be very useful. Moreover, it was informed in the workshop that the M&E framework will ensure accountability of each ministry and division in implementation of the NSSS objectives. The CMC will have to monitor the progress of the NSSS implementation periodically, following this framework.

2. Sharing updates on the Midterm review of NSSS action plan, study and Research, Plan and other large programmes under Social Protection.

- A brief sharing took place in the meeting about the activity updates on the midterm review of NSSS action plan, ongoing study and research, plan and updates on the other large programmes under social protection. It was noted that there are several research works in progress which are being under supervision of General Economic Division (GED) of Planning Commission of the Government. It also discussed that

there are two more studies to be conducted on the Employment Opportunity and Comparative Study on the Beneficiary Selection Approach in Bangladesh by South Asian Network on Economic Modeling (SANEM) and Policy Research Institute (PRI).

Recommendation:

1. There is still some ambiguity and lack of understanding on how the fields of the MIS and Database should be used by different ministries and divisions which are related to the fields of the social protection programme/single registry MIS. So, it is highly required to organize an orientation programme on the single registry MIS data fill up.
2. A meeting should be organized with the involvement of Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics (BBS) on the prospects of the alignment of the single registry MIS and Database of the social protection programmes implemented by different ministries and divisions.
3. As the NSSS has emphasized to develop a Law/Policy for the abandoned children so the policy development process needs to be speeded up on the rights and protection of the abandoned children.
4. Trauma Centre in the accident-prone areas and on the highway should be established as per the mandate and commitments.
5. Food Friendly Programmes (Khaddo Bandhob Karmashuchi) under the Ministry of Food should be evaluated based on the cost benefit analysis or a mid-term analysis should be conducted.
6. Lack of consolidation in social security programme often creates a negative impression so social security programme consolidation should be high priority of the tasks of the government.
7. An orientation programme should be organized for the newly appointed Secretaries and the honorable Member of Parliament (MP)s of the newly constituted government.

Decision:

- a) It was decided that the progress of the implementation of NSSS Action Plan 2016-2021 will be reviewed by each concerned ministry/division by their own and then they will prepare a concrete and articulated report and submit to Cabinet Division. The Chairperson of the workshop Mr. N M Zeaul Alam, Secretary, (Coordination and Reforms) endorsed this statement as a decision that each ministry and division will prepare a complete and articulated review of the action plan and will submit to Cabinet Division within 03 working days.

- b) A workshop will be organized for the consolidation of the social security programmes of different ministries and divisions. The programme could be organized either in the Cabinet Division or any other external premises or venue and may be attended by the respective secretaries of the ministries and divisions.
- c) There is a huge gap in terms of the beneficiary selection process for social security programmes. so, a day long dedicated workshop may be organized on streamlining the beneficiary selection process in social security programmes.

Conclusion:

The workshop was a well-attended event with a view to discuss the progress of the NSSS action plan. Participants of the workshop from different ministries and divisions shared different issues like: latest update of different policy formulation, budget mobilization, ongoing research, intuitional reforms, establishment and other ongoing interventions. the workshop successfully made some important decisions and recommendations on the NSSS action plan. This workshop played an important role to the successful implementation of the National Social Security Strategy (NSSS) in Bangladesh.