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**Proceedings of the workshop on formulation of
The National Social Security Strategy (NSSS)
Action Plan (2021-2026)**

Cabinet Division

2021



Proceedings of the Workshop on formulation of
**The National Social Security Strategy (NSSS)
Action Plan (2021-2026)**

15 March – 7 April, 2021

Chief Guest: Md Kamal Hossain, Secretary (Coordination and Reforms), Cabinet Division
Chairperson: Mr. Shamsul Arefin, Additional Secretary, (Coordination), Cabinet Division
Venue: Conference Room, Cabinet Division, Transport Pool Building, Dhaka- 1000

Cabinet Division
Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh

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Foreword

The constitution of Bangladesh provides for fundamental responsibility of the state to achieve the right to social security for deserving people (Article 15-D) which may be seen as a moral obligation for ministries and division to endeavor for strengthening social security system of the country. In this regard the most relevant document of the government is the National Social Security Strategy (NSSS) Bangladesh and Its Action Plan has been prepared by the Cabinet Division.

Formulation of the NSSS action plan involves multiple issues relating to policy reforms, enactment of laws and administrative decisions requiring a time bound action plan. Ministries and Divisions have to work together to produce the NSSS Action Plan (2021-26). Over the next five years till 2026 the reform initiatives will be continued before making transition to a full-fledged lifecycle-centric social security system. The focus of the NSSS action plan is to consolidate social security programmes along a lifecycle framework and improve the overall delivery system. The action plan accumulates a detailed inventory of activities to be carried out by the ministries/divisions for next five years.

This report mainly contains the proceedings of the ten day long which is a series of workshop summarizing important points and recommendations as made by the Social security Focal Point members. The planning workshop was held in the Conference Room of Cabinet Division. Hon'ble Secretary (Coordination and Reforms) Md Kamal

Hossain was present as the Chief Guest at the workshop.

Ms. Murishida Sharmin, Deputy Secretary, Cabinet Division coordinated the workshop while Mr. Mohammad Khaled Hasan, Joint Secretary, Cabinet Division were present as the key facilitator for whole programme. Mr. Md Shamsul Arefin, Additional Secretary (Coordination), Cabinet Division chaired the workshop.

The workshop began with a welcome speech from the Secretary, Mr. Md Shamsul Arefin, Additional Secretary (Coordination), Cabinet Division, who also explained the main objectives of the workshop. Mr. Md Kamal Hossain, Secretary (Coordination and Reforms), Cabinet Division then delivered his speech as chief guest and formally inaugurated the proceedings of the workshop. The working sessions of the workshop started with a presentation on the Formulation of the National Social Security Strategy (NSSS) Action Plan Phase 2 by Mr. Mohammad Khaled Hasan, Joint Secretary, Cabinet Division. Mr. Aminul Arifeen, National Project Manager, SSPS Programme, Cabinet Division, Ms. Murshida Sharmin, Cabinet Division and Mr. Shahidul Islam Deputy Secretary, Cabinet Division and representatives from different ministries and divisions were present there. The workshop ended with a sketch of the draft NSSS Action Plan for 39 social protection implementing ministries/division.

Inauguration

Remarks of the Chair

Mr. Md Shamsul Arefin
Additional Secretary (Coordination)
Cabinet Division

The chair Mr. Md Shamsul Arefin, Additional Secretary, Cabinet Division, inaugurated the workshop with a note of heartiest welcome to the participants followed by a brief speech. He briefly explained the relationship among the National Social Security Strategy (NSSS) Action Plan, the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) with special reference to social security programmes and role of the ministries and division and Cabinet Division as coordinative body. He said that it was dream of our father of the nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman to ensure equal social security for all citizen, which is now being implemented by the government under the leadership of the Hon'ble Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina. The government is emphasizing on social security to build the country free of hunger and poverty and to be a developed and happy nation.

Remarks of the Chief Guest

Mr. Kamal Hossain
Secretary (Coordination and Reforms)
Cabinet Division

The Chief Guest Mr. Kamal Hossain, Secretary (Coordination and Reforms) then briefly discussed on the main objective of workshop and importance of the formulation of the National Social Security Strategy (NSSS) action plan and role of focal point of different ministries in social security programme. He said that under the leadership of the Hon'ble Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, we are trying to build the Sonar Bangla as envisioned by our father of the nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman. The government has been trying to develop the rural life through creating opportunities in the villages and decentralization of the development focuses. Social security was introduced as the key instrument for poverty alleviation and social empowerment of the woman by our Prime Minister in 1996 for the very first time in Bangladesh.

He added a well-structured and robust social security system is very important in Bangladesh as we are moving forward to be a developed country. The NSSS and the first phase of the NSSS Action Plan was designed in such a way that it would support elimination of extreme poverty and vulnerability. This is an investment for human development and economic growth. He also mentioned that the SDG has clear provision of social security specially in Goal 1. Bangladesh has put utmost importance to implementing the SDGs and thereby the social security goals. Therefore, He emphasized on the formulation of 2nd phase

of the NSSS action plan and its importance. He urged all representative to provide highly planned and prospective input so that this action plan can contribute as an instrument for becoming a developed country as envisioned in the NSSS.

Presentation

Mr. Mohammad Khaled Hassan
Joint Secretary
Cabinet Division

Mr. Mohammad Khaled Hassan, Joint Secretary, Cabinet Division then briefly presented the background and rationales of formulating the 2nd phase of the National Social Security Action plan in his presentation. He said that the government is working relentlessly to be a developed country by 2041 as envisaged by the Prime Minister which is strongly grounded with social security. Bangladesh has glorious achievements in most of the socio-economic sectors and ahead of most of south Asian countries in social security. The present programmes of social security contributed a lot in poverty reduction. It could have resulted still more benefits if it were more comprehensive and well surrounding every lifecycle of the citizens. Therefore, the National Social Security Strategy (NSSS) action plan has been formulated to provide a framework of lifecycle based social security. Now we are approaching to develop NSSS action plan phase 2 will be formulated to accelerate the process of social transformation. He then briefly shared each draft action plan of respective ministries/divisions accordingly.

(Presentation - Annex 1)

Working Sessions

Day 1

15 March 2021

1. Ministry of Social Welfare
2. Ministry of Women and Children Affairs

Joint Secretary

Ministry of Children and Woman Affairs

Joint Secretary, Ministry of Children and Woman Affairs said that We already have several acts, laws and policies in place, just need to implement these instruments to the right points. We need to develop a central MIS and authentic beneficiary database for reducing inclusion errors for the best use of our limited resource to this huge population. Ministries and Divisions should highlighted on resources mobilization and supports and capacity development of the human resources at all level especially in the fields. He added that maternity allowance and lactating mother allowance programmes are running for the poor women countrywide. So far, more than one million beneficiaries are covered under this scheme. A diagnostic study was conducted to identify the gaps in current programme for pregnant and lactating mother. Ministry of Children and Woman Affairs along with WFP piloted an improved Management Information System integrated with (G2P) payment system under an improved model of existing two programme in 8 Upazila successfully with the support of Ministry of Finance.

Deputy Secretary

Ministry of Social Welfare

Deputy Secretary, Ministry of Social Welfare emphasized on the scaling up disability benefits for the children and other schemes for working age group in next action plan of the ministry. She added, 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

Day 2

16 March 2021

1. Ministry of Primary and Mass Education
2. Secondary and Higher Education Division
3. Technical and Madrasah Education Division

Joint Secretary

Technical and Madrasah Education Division

Joint Secretary, Technical and Madrasah Education Division said that the NSSS stated that the secondary education stipend should cover 50 per cent of the secondary school students and the stipend rate will be raised. The coverage of secondary education has been increased recently by the government. The Honorable Minister of Education Dr. Dipu Moni inaugurated stipend payments to the students of Madrasah under the Bangladesh Madrasah Education Board through the G2P Payment System using an online platform on the 27th June 2020. The stipend of the Bangladesh Technical Education Board was also inaugurated at the

abandoned children. Lack of consolidation in social security programme often creates a negative impression on our capacity so, social security programme consolidation should be high priority tasks in the NSSS action plan phase 2. As we all know that demographic dividend lasts for a certain period normally for 20 to 30 years. So, need to put more importance on life cycle approach especially for the youth group for the best use of the demographic dividend.

same event. Initially, scholarship stipends were transferred to the bank accounts of 16,570 students of Ebtedayee and JDC 2019 through G2P Payment System. The stipend has been accruing in the respective bank accounts of the scholarship recipients since the 29th June 2020.

Joint Secretary

Ministry of Primary and Mass Education

Joint Secretary, Ministry of Primary and Mass Education said that primary stipend programme has been increased and made universal for 12 million students. We have rolled out school meal programme and planned to extend the programme to all primary schools both rural and urban areas in a phased manner. She added that this programme may be implemented through public private partnership and with a participation from the community for making this programme sustainable. She said, as per the NSSS a family will receive stipends up to 4 children. Already this programme has covered all rural students along with a portion of the urban students.

Day 3

21 March 2021

1. Ministry of Food
2. Ministry of Agriculture
3. Ministry of Fisheries and Livestock
4. Ministry of Liberation War Affairs

Senior Assistant Secretary

Ministry of Agriculture

The Ministry of Agriculture has some projects and programmes for creating informal jobs for people in the agricultural sector. We need to expand our agricultural livelihoods, as increased labour productivity in the agricultural sector is a principal requirement for our economic growth.

Government is providing several stimulus packages for farmers to tackle the aftershock of Covid-19 pandemic. We need to ensure that actual and deserving farmers are getting these social security programmes and benefit packages. Though we have a huge dependency on agriculture unfortunately, we don't have any database of our farmers and control over the agriculture market management. So, in many ways our farmers are getting exploited and deprived from financial benefits provided by government and other private organizations. Not only social protection but we need a healthier agriculture market system for our farmers so that they can contribute our economy with their own benefits.

Joint Secretary

Ministry of Fisheries and Livestock

Joint Secretary, Ministry of Fisheries and Livestock said, Seasonal unemployment is faced by fishermen communities due to the seasonal variation in the availability of fish,

bad weather, and a 2-month ban on the catching of young Hilsha fish. During this period, they need special food security programmes. The Ministry of Fisheries and Livestock has been creating a database of all deserving fishermen. An estimated 2 million fishermen will be brought under registration. These initiatives will help to identify actual beneficiaries and provide necessary social security support deserving people.

Additional Secretary

Ministry of Food

Additional Secretary, Ministry of Food said that Open Market Sales (OMS) is one of the biggest programmes of our ministry which is available in all upazilas in urban areas. Our ministry sincerely working to convert food-based workfare programmes to cash. It was decided that some of the programmes will be kept as food based as these are linked with food stock management and procurement of crops from farmers. He recommended that a digital database is very important to identify actual beneficiaries of the social protection. If we had a central MIS we could easily provide social security supports to our farmer, labour, women and other deserving people directly through G2P.

Joint Secretary

Ministry of Liberation War Affairs

Joint Secretary, Ministry of Liberation War Affairs said that the freedom fighter's benefits are special programmes which is related to the government's commitment to support the freedom fighters and their families. These programmes for freedom fighters will be maintained and consolidated under one scheme called the freedom fighters' benefit programme within very short time. He said that freedom fighters'

benefit programme is going on through four programmes. He added, Grievance redress system regarding this programme is currently recorded and coordinated centrally by the ministry and also in the district level in online or written forms. Ministry of Liberation War Affairs will incorporate updated information and feedback in the coming NSSS action plan phase 2 as per the decision.

Day 4

22 March 2021

1. Finance Division
2. Financial Institution Division
3. Economic Relations Division
4. Ministry of Labor and Employment

Deputy Secretary

Financial Institution Division

Deputy Secretary, Financial Institution Division added that the health/medical insurance is crucial for establishing an effective health care system in our country. It is revealed by the COVID-19 pandemic that how important the health insurance is for us. FID was working for conceptualizing a medical insurance as a pilot initiative for government employees, but this program has been transferred under the Ministry of health since this is very closed matched task with their ministry. He said that currently, we are working for piloting two insurance programme one for the non-resident's workers which is under process and another one is to be developed for education which is namely Bangabandhu Education Insurance.

Additional Secretary

Ministry of Labour and Employment

Additional Secretary, Ministry of Labour and Employment said that the Ministry of Labour and Employment has some consolidated initiatives to provide social insurance support to the private and public sector employees though it is yet to take up any comprehensive plan for a complete employee insurance. She added that only 12% of our manpower are working in the formal sectors and rest of them are directly or indirectly involved in informal sectors. So, If we run a pilot or small scale social insurance programme for the formal and informal sector employees, it could be further scaled up and used as a best practice in country.

Day 5

31 March 2021

1. Health Education and Family Welfare Division
2. Health Services Division
3. Cabinet Division
4. Ministry of Expatriates' Welfare and Overseas Employment

Deputy Secretary

Ministry of Expatriates' Welfare and Overseas Employment

Deputy Secretary, Ministry of Expatriates' Welfare and Overseas Employment shared some updates of Ministry of Expatriates' Welfare and Overseas Employment. She said that MOEWOE has taken many initiatives to modernize existing training system in accordance with the demand of the international labor market. Our ministry is working as a co-partner with STEP & SEIP. Under this program two MOUs were signed regarding training of the trainers and

accreditation with Guangzhou Industry & Trade Technical College, China and Nanyang Polytechnic international, Singapore. So far, we are working according to the action plan and hope to contribute meaningfully in next NSSS action plan phase 2.

Deputy Secretary

Cabinet Division

Deputy Secretary, Cabinet Division said that the NSSS action plan (2021-2026) will be much more focused on the reforms, consolidation, upscaling and ensuring good governance in the existing social protection mechanism which is linked with the National Social Security Strategy (NSSS). He added that the NSSS was intensively overseen by the Honorable Prime Minister since she committed to make Bangladesh a welfare state which is envisaged in the vision 2041. To accomplish this vision, we need to put all of our efforts in this NSSS action plan phase 2. We also need to keep align our action plans with SDGs. He added that we really need to enhance capacity development for our human resources. We have to increase logistics, ICT support and financial capacity for effective implementation our social protection programme.

Day 6

1 April 2021

1. Local Government Division
2. Chattogram Hill Tracts Affairs
3. Rural Development and Cooperative Division
4. Ministry of Youth and Sports

Joint Secretary

Local Government Division

Joint Secretary, Local Government Division, Joint Secretary said that consolidation of smaller programmes is a challenging task and it is under progress in many ministries and divisions. Our ministry is coordinating within our inter-ministerial agencies so that all the possible programmes can be delivered in a consolidated way. He also added that widow allowance and stipends for the students are very insignificant in terms of amount which should be increased horizontally and vertically. In many areas, it is found that many of vulnerable women cannot access to their deserving social security programmes. We need a strong and practical household database to include eligible people in social security programmes.

Additional Secretary

Rural Development and Cooperative Division

Additional Secretary, Rural Development and Cooperative Division shared that the Rural Development and Cooperatives Division has been contributing to poverty reduction in many ways among them the 'My House - My Farm' is one of the prioritized initiatives of the Honourable Prime Minister. There are a number of measures are underway to increase the number of beneficiaries of different social security programmes of our ministry. We have a number of capacity development programmes that helping the rural population in poverty reduction and to contribute in economic growth. He said that graduation approach is a very effective way to bring people out from the poverty cycle. But in many ways, the poor become poorer because of the debt and unplanned loan taken from different sources especially, from the NGOs with high interest rate.

Government should monitor and supervised these issues with some policy regulations.

Day 7

4 April 2021

1. Ministry of Disaster Management and Relief
2. Prime Minister Office
3. Ministry of Housing and Public Works
4. Ministry of Land

Additional Secretary

Ministry of Land

Additional Secretary, Ministry of Land explained that the Social protection programmes consolidation and reforms actions are really important for effective implementation of social protection programmes in country. He said that any reform activities or tasks got gear up when we receive an order or circular from the Cabinet Division, it really helps as it become a legal binding for us then. He added, there is no proper documentation or communication methodology in our ministries by how we can be updated from last activities done by the previous officer. So, we should develop a mechanism to transfer knowledge from officer to officer or intermetatarsal agencies. He also requested to provide necessary training to the respective officers on modern MIS and database systems so that they can contribute to develop a centrally controlled MIS for social protection system from the periphery.

Deputy Secretary

Ministry of Disaster Management and Relief

Deputy Secretary, Ministry of Disaster Management and Relief shared some of the progress of current action plan progress of his ministry. He informed that the supply food grain for food-based disaster relief programmes and budget for cash based programme are carried out by the ministry when it is required. Horizontal and vertical expansion of social protection programmes of the ministry depends on crisis or disaster situation like nationwide Covid-19 response or any response programme after cyclone or flood. He added, we need to reduce leakages in social protection at zero level to include more people in social protection coverage and to expand the service to the deserving people. If we can save some money from leakages that is a social protection fund for other group of people in needs.

Day 8

5 April 2021

1. General Economics Division
2. Implementation Monitoring and Evaluation Division
3. Statistics and Informatics Division
4. Planning Division

Joint Secretary

Implementation Monitoring and Evaluation Division

Joint Secretary, Implementation Monitoring and Evaluation Division said that the IMED is supposed to be responsible for programme performance monitoring (both physical and financial independently and will report to the CMC of the Cabinet Division. The IMED usually monitors and evaluates the development programmes. However, most of the social security programmes are

financed from the revenue budget. Therefore, it may be considered extra work for the IMED to conduct monitoring and evaluation of revenue budgeted social security programmes.

Joint Secretary
Planning Division

Joint Secretary, Planning Division said that the planning division has been playing a key role for formulating long, medium and short term national development plans, policies and strategies for the attainment of socio-economic development of the country. The NSSS requires merging or elimination of many small programmes. Any ministry considering some of their minor programmes to be continued and scaled up, will have to send proposals with justification.

Joint Secretary
Statistics and Informatics Division

Joint Secretary, Statistics and Informatics Division said that for social security programmes, there is no single registry database that can be accessed by all the social security implementing authorities. Such a database is necessary to avoid undue duplication in beneficiary coverage. Further, the shift from current discretionary to a targeted universal approach to avoid leakages and under-coverage envisaged in the NSSS requires a social registry from where eligible beneficiaries can be sourced.

Day 9

6 April 2021

1. Information and Communications Technology Division
2. Postal and Telecommunication Division
3. Ministry of Water Resource
4. Ministry of Cultural Affairs
5. Ministry of Industries

Joint Secretary
Ministry of Industries

Joint Secretary, Ministry of Industries said that many ministries have social security programme for the rural poor but these programmes need replication in the urban areas too. We need to expand social security programmes for the urban poor with a different strategic plan for the urban areas. Increasingly, the number of industries and EPZs are now growing up in many rural parts of our country. This industrialization has many positive and negative impacts on the society and environment that requires for social protection programmes. The Injury insurance for labor is most important among them. Besides, there are many environmental and socioeconomic hazards induced from industrialization that requires for social protection for day labors, farmers, women and small entrepreneurs.

Joint Secretary
ICT Division

Joint Secretary, ICT Division said that child social protection is very common social programme in many countries. If we fail to provide enough nutrition and healthier food to a child in its first 1000 days, a child will be living with a vulnerable intellectual capacity

for whole life. So, we should concentrate to increase more child focused social protection in our country. We already have a number of social protection programmes for women and children but we cannot provide to the right persons due to the corruption. Political interference in social protection beneficiary selection is a huge problem in our country. Even, sometimes it is found that ineligible persons are receiving social protection service. It should be controlled with strict hands.

Joint Secretary

Post and Telecommunication Division

Joint secretary, Post and Telecommunication Division said that we have a big database in the BTCL. This database includes a huge information of students and youth groups that may be used for beneficiary selection and programme designing for youth groups. This database also can help to develop a central MIS as well as can act as an information hub for the youth social protection programmes. He also added that we are providing a huge number of free SIM cards for students that should be counted as a social protection programme.

Day 10

7 April 2021

1. Ministry of Commerce
2. Ministry of Religious Affairs
3. Ministry of Public Administration
4. Ministry of Textile and Jute
5. Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate change

Deputy Secretary

Ministry of Commerce

Deputy Secretary, Ministry of Commerce said that the NSSS objective for the ministry is to support and collaborate with stake holders in ensuring food supply in the market at fair price. The Ministry of Commerce is a ministry of Bangladesh which is responsible for regulation and implementation of policies applicable to domestic and foreign trade. Though the ministry has no direct programme of social security, still it plays important supportive roles in enhancing food security through maintaining fair price of essential food items by policy intervention and direct participation in the market. Our ministry Contributing to the national development by creating a business-friendly environment, facilitating trade, facilitating export growth, diversifying export products and markets, increasing capacity in foreign trade, ensuring supply of daily necessities and stabilizing commodity prices.

Joint Secretary

Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate change

Joint Secretary, Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate change said that Government's programmes to address climate change and disaster prevention should be further strengthened as a part of its broader development effort. In this respect, schemes like conditional cash transfers for co-management of natural resources can be considered. The ministry already has some programmes like embankment and reforestation programmes, disaster preparedness etc. In lowering the vulnerability of the population to climate change and natural disasters. In the meantime, the Delta Plan of Action has been approved. The Ministry will follow the Delta Plan for management of climate change and disaster prevention.

Joint Secretary

Ministry of Textile and Jute

Joint Secretary, Ministry of Textile and Jute highlighted that The NSSS identifies a number of reasons for social exclusion of people with spatial manifestation. The causes are exclusion from political decision, exclusion from employment and resources, and exclusion from cultural integration. The factor of profession and sectoral affiliation often results in social exclusion of certain segments of people. The Ministry of Textile and Jute has a project for social upliftment of the weaver community. The project is called 'Providing working capital to improve the socio-economic condition of Weavers and modernization of handlooms'.

Decision

- a) Ministries/divisions are requested to provide feedback and finalize formulation of the forthcoming NSSS action plan (2021-2026) phase 2 by each concerned ministry/division by their own with in the given timeframe.
- b) Social protection implementing ministries and divisions which didn't have any action or activities in current NSSS action plan (2016-2021), So they will prepare an articulated and concrete action plan according to their ministry/division mandates as per NSSS guideline.