

Record Notes
Meeting of the Food Security and Disaster Allowance Cluster
Social Security Branch
Cabinet Division

Chairperson: Mr. Shamsul Arefin, Secretary, Coordination & Reforms
Special Guest: Mr. Rahat Anwar, Additional Secretary, Coordination, Cabinet Division.
Discussant: Mr. Mohammad Khaled Hasan, Joint Secretary, Civil Registration and Social Security Branch, Cabinet Division
Time and Date: 28 June 2022, 10.00 am – 11:30 pm
Venue: SSPS Conference Room, Cabinet Division, Transport Pool Building, Dhaka.

Participants: Annexure 1

The chair Mr. Mr. Shamsul Arefin, Secretary, Coordination & Reforms, Cabinet Division, inaugurated the meeting 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), the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) with special reference to social security programmes and role of the thematic clusters of 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.

The special guest Mr. Rahat Anwar, Additional Secretary, Coordination then briefly discussed on the main objective of meeting 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.

Mr. Mohammad Khaled Hassan, Joint Secretary, Cabinet Division then briefly presented the background and rationales of formulating the thematic cluster. He said that since the emergence of Bangladesh in 1971, food security and disaster response categories of programmes have received the highest attention of the government in terms of budget allocation and establishment of a strong and responsive delivery mechanism. Prioritization of such programmes may be attributed to the regular devastating onslaughts of severe natural calamities in the form of floods, cyclones, droughts, and epidemics/pandemics threatening scarcity of food and other necessities. Bangladesh has, consequently, learned to overcome the effects of different catastrophic events of any magnitude largely utilizing its efficient and effective management and appropriate planning.

Open Discussion

Deputy Secretary
Ministry of Food

Deputy 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.

**Deputy Secretary
Ministry of Social Welfare**

Deputy Secretary, Ministry of Social Welfare shared that 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. 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, we need to put more importance on life cycle approach especially for the youth group for the best use of the demographic dividend.

**Joint Secretary
Health Services Division**

Joint Secretary, Health Services Division stated that Bangladesh has established more than 13,000 community clinics (CCs) to provide primary healthcare with a plan of each covering a population of around 6,000. The inception of CCs in the country has revolutionized healthcare delivery to reach the doorstep of people. The provision of healthcare through CCs is truly participatory since the community people donate land for building infrastructure and involve in the management process. The programme has been implemented by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare.

Decision:

1. Thematic Clusters' lead ministries are requested to organize cluster meetings every three months and regularly send minutes to the Cabinet Division.
2. New ministries and divisions including ministry of religion, Ministry of Public Administration will be included in the thematic Cluster accordingly.

Then, the Chair of the workshop responded to the questions and observations of the participants on their respective projects. Afterwards, there being no other issues for discussion, the chair concluded the meeting with thanks to the participants.

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