



Implementation of National Social Security Strategy (NSSS)

Civil Registration and Social Protection Branch
Cabinet Division



Venue: Grand Sultan Tea
Resort & Golf, Moulvibazar





Organized by **CABINET DIVISION**

Supported by Social Security Policy Support
(SSPS) Programme with technical assistance
from UNDP Bangladesh and DFAT Australia.

Chief Guest: Khandker Anwarul Islam

Cabinet Secretary
Government of People's Republic of Bangladesh

Content: Record Notes of the Consultation Workshop



Introduction:

The workshop on Implementation of National Social Security Strategy (NSSS) was organized on 30 September to 1 October 2022 at Sreemangal, Moulvibazar. The Cabinet Division with assistance from the Social Security Policy Support (SSPS) Programme UNDP Bangladesh with the support from DFAT Australia organized the workshop where the Cabinet Secretary Mr. Khandker Anwarul Islam was the Chief Guest. The workshop was also anchored by the presence of the Senior Secretary, ICT Division, Secretary, SID, Secretary, MoDMR and Member (Secretary), GED and other Secretaries of the ministries and division.

The consultation workshops with the social protection implementing and coordinating ministries and division was a key to strengthen inter-ministerial coordination and better comprehension of the Implementation of National Social Security Strategy (NSSS) phase 2 (2021-2026). This workshop also plays a key role in creating the footprint in developing consensus on social protection reforms and kick off of preparing the NSSS 2026+.

The event also participated by the senior official of the Ministry of Women and Children Affairs; Ministry of Labour and Employment; Ministry of Climate Change; Secretary, Ministry of Food; Secretary, Financial Institutions Division; Secretary, Ministry of Primary and Mass Education, Faculties of University of Dhaka, and focal points of the 39 Ministries/divisions including officials of SDGs Coordinator Office, Cabinet Division, others will actively take part in the consultative workshops and provide necessary guidance. The high officials of UNDP and DFAT of Government of Australia, WFP, ILO, UNICEF and other development partners attended in this workshop as observance.

The Social Security Policy Support (SSPS) Programme is the flagship policy programme of the Cabinet Division that has been working with the Government support to reconfigure the current social protection system as guided in the NSSS. The programme supports the Government in two areas in the light of NSSS: better governance of social protection; and the strengthening of social protection systems. The SSPS Programme provided the necessary technical support for successfully organizing this consultative workshop.

Background:

In the middle of 2015, the Cabinet of the Government of Bangladesh approved the National Social Security Strategy (NSSS). It is the very first strategy in the field of social protection in Bangladesh. The strategy streamlining the national social safety net programmes in line with the National Social Development Framework and the perspective and vision plans, five-year plans, with an expectation to play an effective supplementary role in reducing poverty and inequality, improve gender status, increase employment opportunities, and address the shock and vulnerability of the climate induced disabled and marginalized population, including people living in urban and hard-to-reach areas under the human lifecycle approach.

The NSSS is a ten-year-long living social protection reform strategy for Bangladesh commencing from 2015 and will follow up to 2025. The successful implementation of NSSS is one of the priority agendas of the Government of Bangladesh, and the fiscal budget allocated close to 3% of the GDP and more than 16% of the total budget every year.

To date, Bangladesh has achieved tremendous progress in both macro and microeconomic areas. Simultaneously, NSSS guided reforms helped the Government of Bangladesh to initiate a number of notable policy initiatives, namely, addressed COVID-19 vaccination through Surokhkha Aps, universal private pension, social insurance, G2P through institutional e-payment system either through bank account or mobile account, single registry MIS or integrated MISs, data protection, engagement of 39 key ministries to address the social protection through an effective governing system lead by the Cabinet Secretary for policy and programme guidance through Central Management Committee (CMC) for Bangladesh Social Protection Programmes, and subsequent different committees constituted by the CMC. Pilot initiatives in progress, namely on old age, persons with disabilities, MISs integration using the National Household Data base and Population Register, social insurance, and consisute of private pension authority.

All these initiatives brought a discipline in the social protection governance and system. Many ghost beneficiaries are eroded from the system, and beneficiary automation in the process link to iBASS system. On the other hand, the Honorable Prime Minister of the Government of Bangladesh took her personal initiative 'Ashrayon Project' – the largest project in the world for providing land and house for the homeless people. This largest project addresses the multi-dimension poverty, and its impact will reduce the social and economic inequality of the population.

Two subsequent NSSS Action Plans have been developed by the CRVS and Social Protection Section of the Coordination and Reforms Wing of the Cabinet Division through a rigorous process of coordination and participation of 39 ministry and division of the GoB. The Second NSSS Action Plan 2021-26 (Phase – II) approved by the CMC under the Chair of the Cabinet Secretary, and the Honorable Prime Minister of the GoB has given her kind consent on the approval. The NSSS Action Plan Phase II incorporated to develop the NSSS 2026+.

The implementation of both the SDGs and NSSS is spearheaded mainly by the Cabinet Division under its coordination structure through the effective guidance from the Central Management Committee (CMC) of the national social security programmes headed by the Cabinet Secretary, where Secretaries of 39 ministries and divisions are the members.

The Government is committed to attaining the Middle Income Country (MIC) status permanently by 2026, and excelling in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) by 2030, where social security is also one of the prioritized agendas, and closely linked with most of the goals of the SDGs. At present, the 8th five year plan developed and implementation on progress, and vision 2041, and centennial Delta Plan 2100 on progress and created huge interest among the international community for financing more in Bangladesh development. The blue economy and link to social protection, urban and climate inductive shock-responsive social protection addressing No One Leave Behind (NOLB) lifecycle approach now

opened a new chapter for 2026+ social protection. A strategy always required a good number of evidence-based background papers, and lessons learnt, consensus-based dialogues.

Objective:

The objective of the workshop is to brief the officials on:

1. Annual Performance Agreement (APA) and National Integrity Strategy (NIS) relating to Social Protection
2. National Social Security Strategy (NSSS) and Single Registry MIS - Progress and Implementation Roadmap
3. Integrating National Household Database (NHD) with Single Registry MIS Readiness of the Data
4. Key implementation progress of NSSS social protection reforms;

**Consultation with Districts Level Officials on
Annual Performance Agreement (APA) and
National Integration Strategy (NIS)**

Friday, September 30, 2022

Day 1

Chief Guest: Khandker Anwarul Islam

Cabinet Secretary

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh

Inaugural Session:

Mr. Mir Nahid Ahsan, Deputy Commissioner and District Magistrate, Moulvibazar facilitated the Inauguration session of the workshop with his warm greetings to the presence followed by a round of short self-introduction of the participants. He then stated that the main objective of workshop is to discuss the Annual Performance Agreement (APA) and National Integrity Strategy (NIS) relating to Social Protection, National Social Security Strategy (NSSS) and Single Registry MIS - Progress and Implementation Roadmap, Integrating National Household Database (NHD) with Single Registry MIS Readiness of the Data and Key implementation progress of NSSS social protection reforms.

He mentioned that 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.

Remarks by Cabinet Secretary:

The Cabinet Secretary, Mr, Khandker Anwarul Islam 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. The 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 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. He then provided some specific instructions and advice to the district level government official as bellow mentioned:

Food Security, Rice Production and Agriculture

The Cabinet secretary then asked to the districts agriculture office to regularly monitor and inspect the rice mills of the districts so that mill owners properly maintain rice production rules and other regulations related to food security and proper production rice. He then instructed to formulate a team including SP, DC, NSI, DG Food, Agriculture Office and Statistics office

He said for decades, the rice grain, modified from coarse to fine by machine, lived up to its billing as the brand for upper-middle-class families. Extra money is for extra thin, extra white rice but little do they know that they're losing both ways. The modification process of miniket gets the rice less nutritious and hampers almost 30% of total rice production of the country. Using modern rice husking machine, millers cut and polish hybrid coarse variety into fine rice before whitening it with chemicals. This bad practice have to be stopped immediately.



He instructed DC office to sit with the with Businessmen, Rice Mil owners, consumer association, political leader, and other related stakeholders to resolve the issue of doing rice tampering. If they don't obey the instruction, then government will take necessary measure like fine or any other actions by the law enforcement agencies.

He then advised relevant DC offices and other agricultures related offices for the countrywide knowledge dissemination of advantage and innovation of composite variety rice of BR 88 and BR 89 rice production in replacement of old BR 28, 29 so that we can go for more rice production it within 2-3 years. He said it's a revolutionary innovation of rice by our own scientists and it should be highly disseminated all over the world.

He also instructed all the relevant government officials to properly nurture the crop diversification for food security. He insisted to promote cooperation between BADC and Private companies to boost up crop diversification. To mitigate the fertilizer Crisis Management, he advised to maintain proper stock verification at the district and sub district level and to do GD at Police station for each transection of

fertilizer with a team SP, DC and DD Agriculture. He also advised district fisheries office to promote and cultivate the more Moha Shol , Panags and other highly productive fish in the hoar water so that food security is ensured.

Water Development, Flood, Disaster, Climate Change Adaptation and Mitigation

Considering the devastating flood in Sylhet division the Cabinet Secretary instructed to all district officials to have regular updates of Flood situation, Crisis Overcome and Food Security. He reminded that due to the Ukrain War and Covid-19 pandemic a global food crisis may occur. So as a nation we should have enough preparation and precautionary measures for the coming situations.

He recalled that a decade ago each and every household used to keep a Dinggi Nouka so that they can save themselves during devastating flood in hao areas but these traditions have been declining that caused a huge transportation and rescue challenges in last year's flood. He insisted to motivate people so that they use Dinggi nouka as their savior during flood as a person belonging. He advised to PWD, Water Development Board, District level Engineering Departments and Local Government Institutions to not construct anymore culverts in Haor areas instead of Bridges. He also instructed to work in coordinated manners to all government departments, wings, agencies, and offices to control and mitigate flood and other challenges in the districts.

Socioeconomic Cultural Awareness Building and Education

The Cabinet Secretary emphasized on the Socioeconomic and Cultural Awareness Building through government offices. He said early marriage should be eliminated by anyhow. He instructed all govt offices to work on these issues. He said that government is working to control VAW and early marriage, but still early marriage is happening at the 16-17 years of age. We need to increase coordination among Family Planning, Civil Surgeon, Social Welfare, MoWCA to stop early marriage.

He advised DC, SP, Family Planning, Civil Surgeon, Social Welfare, MoWCA to work together to make people aware while delivering Jumma day's Khutba at mosque so that people can realize how a girl's dream can be spoiled/ended by early marriage. He advised to Islamic Foundation, DC, SP, Family Planning, Civil Surgeon, Social Welfare, MoWCA to develop a common narrative of Khutba for the mosques to build awareness and sensitization among mass people. He also instructed to the DC and SP to visit the mosques at least once in a week to monitor the progress of the activities. The Cabinet Secretary then instructed the relevant officials to take measures to stop coaching center and promote education by letting the students know about all essential information regarding child marriage, BR – 88,89, food security, crop diversification, drugs, violence against women, flash food management, emergency numbers etc.

Annual Performance Agreement & (APA) National Integrity Strategy (NIS)

The Cabinet Secretary then discussed on the Annual Performance Agreement (APA) National Integrity Strategy (NIS). He mentioned that Bangladesh is an emerging, developing, progressive and democratic country. The cherished goal of the nation – ‘Vision 2042 – envisages that within the next decade the country will be free from hunger, illiteracy, unemployment, deprivation and poverty; consequently, peace, prosperity and harmony will prevail in the society.

He said that the Government believes that it is the prime obligation of the State to promote good governance, prevent corruption and ensure the highest integrity in all affairs of the state and society. Different institutions, laws, rules, regulations, policies, and a number of organizations established by the present Government, and different measures taken by it, are in operation to achieve these objectives. But enforcement of law and punishment may not suffice to eradicate corruption.

He explained that Integrity generally means behavioral excellence influenced by ethics, morality and honesty. It also implies adherence to time-tested norms, values, customs and principles of a society. At the individual level, it means being duty-bound and honest. For promotion of integrity, strictness in observing the proprieties at individual level is of critical importance; it is equally true about organizations, as they are the manifestation of the overall goal of the individuals.

The Bangladeshi society is promoting integrity in its different sectors – state, business, civil society and NGOs – by following multifarious laws, regulations, tradition and culture and reforming and developing them in the contexts of changed circumstances.

To explain APA he said that the Government of Bangladesh envisages materialization of Vision 2021, and ensuring good governance is one of the most important agenda in this regard. It has been rightly identified by the government that an effective, efficient and dynamic administrative system is absolutely essential to ascertain better governance. Keeping this in mind, with a view to ensuring institutional transparency, accountability, proper utilization of resources and above all enhancing institutional efficiency the Government has taken an initiative to introduce a Performance Management System (PMS) in public sector organizations.

The Prime Minister’s Office (PMO) has pioneered this process by signing Performance Contracts (in the form of a Memorandum of Understanding) with each of the organizations working under the purview of the PMO.

He explained that with the objective of introducing PMS across the Government it has been decided to have the Annual Performance Agreements (APAs) between the Cabinet Division as the 1st party and all other ministries/divisions as the 2nd parties. Main purposes of introducing Annual Performance Agreement are: (a) moving the focus of the ministry from process-orientation to result-orientation, and (b) providing an objective and fair basis to evaluate overall performance of the ministry/division at the end of the year.

Open Discussion:

Local Government Engineering Department

The representative of Local Government Engineering Department, Moulvibazar said that we'll comply with the instructions of the Cabinet Secretary accordingly and currently we not building or constructing any culverts in haor areas but bridges. He added all district level officials are working together to repair the Roads and Highways, Bridges and other government construction that has been damaged by the devastating flood this year.

District Police

SP Moulvibazar District Police said that we are working day nights to provide service to the people of the district according to the instruction of government. We have filed 1097 Case this year and provided 780 number of 999 Services and 1500 Police Verification services to the people this year in Moulvibazar. He added that Bangladesh Police have been working in cooperation with all District Administration Offices and agencies properly under the coordination of DC Office.

Rapid Action Battalion (RAB) and BGB

Rapid Action Battalion (RAB) and BGB representatives mentioned that we are working 24 hours to Control Narcotics and to Stop drug and Human trafficking in this district. He mentioned that we need a modern scanner in Customs Division for better services in immigration. He said that we have a very good coordination mechanism in place by the leadership of the DC Moulvibazar. We are also playing a vital role in disaster management and flood related rescue and safety security measure in all areas over the years.

Women and Children Affairs

Representative of the Ministry of Women and Children Affairs explained 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.

Department of Statistics

Representative of the Statistics and Informatics 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.

Department Social Welfare

Representative of the 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 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.

**Consultation with Districts Level Officials on
Annual Performance Agreement (APA) and
National Integration Strategy (NIS)**

Saturday, October 1, 2022

Day 2

Chief Guest: Khandker Anwarul Islam

Cabinet Secretary

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh

Presentation on NSSS and Single Registry MIS:

Mohammad Khaled Hasan

Joint Secretary, Civil Registration and Social Protection Branch

Cabinet Division

Synopsis of the Presentation

The Government bears a constitutional obligation of ensuring citizens' rights to social security. In the long-term, the objective is to move towards building a Social Security system that is available to all the people of Bangladesh who are in need of support, providing them with a guaranteed minimum income but also a comprehensive safety net for those who suffer shocks and crises that may push them into poverty.

Therefore, the long-term vision for Social Security is to "Build an inclusive Social Security System for all deserving Bangladeshis that effectively tackles and prevents poverty and inequality and contributes to broader human development, employment and economic growth.



He said that Bangladesh Acceded to the social protection floors initiative of UN in 2008 that meaning every citizen should enjoy minimum income security through transfers in cash or kind aiming at facilitating access to essential goods and services, such as nutrition, education and care and have access to a nationally defined set of essential health care services

The Single Registry is an instrument of shared management of Social policies under the control of the central government. The efficient administration of Social Security schemes requires that high quality Management Information Systems (MISs) are in place. A number of developing countries have shown that it is possible to establish effective MIS using advanced technologies. In effect, a form of national Single Registry can be established, based on a network of independent but interlinked scheme-specific MISs.

The effective management of Social Security schemes requires that high quality management information systems (MISs) are in place. Given the high level of investment by the nation in Social Security schemes, the weakness of current Management Information Systems puts these investments at risk, and

undermines the ability to manage and monitor the programmes. Furthermore, government as a whole does not have the ability to bring together national level data so that we can ensure that our investment is reaching the right people and having the greatest impact.

A number of developing countries have shown that it is possible to establish effective MIS using advanced technologies. Furthermore, countries like South Africa and Kenya have demonstrated that the MISs of different schemes can communicate with each other and deliver comprehensive national level performance data to government, drawing information from all major national schemes. In effect, a form of national Single Registry can be established, based on a network of independent but interlinked scheme-specific MISs including Household Database and National ID.

The Government will, therefore, establish a national Single Registry that is based on building scheme-specific MISs that communicate with each other and deliver comprehensive information across government. The Single Registry would be based on a national identity system of all Bangladeshi citizens. The SID will take the lead in establishing the Single Registry. GED will commission a review of MISs across all of Bangladesh's Social Security schemes. The review will be tasked with making recommendations on how best to establish a Single Registry and the costs of implementation. The Government will initially test the MIS within the respective line ministries. Over time, the MIS will be extended nation-wide.

The Government expects a fully functioning national Single Registry to be in place by 2018. The key features of the MIS are likely to include:

- The use of similar software for the MIS database across all schemes.
- Investment in high quality computer hardware.
- The use of telecommunication networks for the transmission of data.
- The ability for data entry to take place at local level and for the MIS to be accessed at all levels of government, according to agreed protocols.
- Professionally competent staff to manage the MISs.
- The highest level of security to ensure that personal data on citizens is protected.

The Government will, therefore, establish a national Single Registry that uses the database from the national identity system and is based on building scheme-specific MISs that communicate with each other and deliver comprehensive information across government. The SID will take the lead in establishing the Single Registry in coordination with other concerned Ministries/Divisions. To support the national reform process, preparation of the Bangladesh Household Database will be completed by 2017.

Presentation on Introducing Single Registry MIS and Implementation Roadmap:

Mr. NM Zeaul Alam PAA

Senior Secretary, ICT Division and his team

Synopsys of the presentation

The current social security system in Bangladesh consists of a number of programs. There are about 115 SafetyNet Programme in more than 30 ministries. Existing platform to exchange information or validation among the programs MIS needs strengthen Inclusion and Integration needed among the potential databases for upgrading Social registry MIS. Current limitation includes-

- ✓ Monitoring and Evaluation
- ✓ Reporting
- ✓ Inclusion and Exclusion Error



Central Aid Management System [CAMS]

The ICT Division and the Department of ICT are working to establish a happy and prosperous Sonar Bangla through reliable digital access at the grassroots level, development of information technology-rich human resources, and the use of people-friendly information technology. The Department of ICT has developed the Central Aid Management System (CAMS) platform during Corona in 2020 for the purpose of implementing an integrated database and digital monitoring platform for the implementation management of SafeNet programs with the aims and objectives of:

- ✓ Verified Central Beneficiary Database
- ✓ Strengthen of Monitoring, Evaluation and Reporting
- ✓ Minimizing the Inclusion and Exclusion Error
- ✓ Ensuring Transparency and Accountability

NSSS and Single Registry MIIS in Bangladesh:

Bangladesh has for more than five years experienced a significant growth in expenditure on social security programmes. This year, the Government spends more than 16.7% of the national budget, equivalent to 2.6% of GDP, on its 115 social security programmes, implemented and coordinated by 39 ministries. In terms of coverage and the number of beneficiaries is considered challenging for Bangladesh social protection programme management. A Single Registry will help policy makers in appropriate decision making in the social security sector in Bangladesh. The Government will establish a national Single Registry that is based on programme-specific MISs that communicate with each other and deliver comprehensive information across government. The Government expects a fully functioning national Single Registry to be in place under NSSS Action Plan Phase – II 2021-26 time period.

Absence of consolidated record of beneficiaries and expenditure, and different programmes have different reporting templates, and system-wide aggregation is difficult. Line ministries have different requirements of reporting to Finance Division, which in turn differ from reporting to the Cabinet Division. Templates change over time and creation of time series of data is difficult. Policymakers often do not get required data in time. Efficiency and transparency in social security programme delivery, and minimizing inclusion and exclusion errors in selecting beneficiaries, are key to the success of social security programmes. There is a need for an integrated MIS to improve monitoring of the social security system.

The National Social Security Strategy (NSSS) envisages a Single Registry based on a national identity system of all Bangladeshi citizens. Intended users of the Single Registry include the Central Management Committee (CMC) on Social Security Programmes of the Cabinet Division, the General Economics Division (GED) of the Planning Commission and Ministry of Finance for social security system oversight, and individual line ministries for programme improvements with the help of ICT Division. Different high-level fora have in a number of meetings unanimously agreed that the current MIS needs to be substantially upgraded to increase the efficiency and effectiveness of social security programmes. Recently, the Cabinet Secretary initiated an indoor consultation dialogue on single registry MISs with the participation of key Senior Secretaries and high officials of different ministries. In the dialogue several issues were came up front.

These were National Household Database, use of population register and geo-code to identify the beneficiaries, already functional integrated MISs link to iBASS++ in the Finance Division link to NID, integrated MIS model in Gopalganj District to address the COVID shocks beneficiaries, Union Parishad integrated MIS model in absence of NHD, ICT Division's recent development on integrated MISs, study visits to follow Indonesian and Turkey integrated MIS models, and SSPS Programme conducted situation analysis study provided an outline of implementation road map of single registry MISs. After a threadbare discussion the Cabinet Secretary provided guidance and delegated coordination responsibility to the Senior Secretary, ICT Division to lead a consultative workshop bringing the key ministries on board and provide guidance to develop an implementation road map of single registry MISs. While the NSSS gives primary responsibility for establishing a Single Registry MIS to the Statistics and Informatics Division (SID) with the data protection and preservation support from ICT Division, the initiative will be coordinated and

supported by the Cabinet Division and the General Economics Division. As Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics (BBS) is the responsible office for creating a Bangladesh Household Database under the SID, a Single Registry capacity building programme may be conducted by BBS.

The Social Security Policy Support (SSPS) Programme of the Cabinet Division and GED under UNDP assisted DFAT (Government of Australia) Fund support has been providing policy support in social protection governance and reform outlined in the NSSS and roll out articulated in NSSS Action Plans Phase – I and Phase II. Strengthening delivery of the protection programmes through a Single Registry is one of key activities to bring synergetic change in Bangladesh social protection system.

Presentation on Integrating National Household Database (NHD) with Single Registry MIS and Readiness of the Data:

Dr. Shahnaz Arefin, NDC

Secretary, Statistics and Informatics Division and her team

And Mr. Md. Matiar Rahman DG, BBS

Synopsys of the presentation

The five of the largest SSN programs are implemented by the Ministry of Disaster Management and Relief (MoDMR), and constitute a little more than a third of the total social protection budget (which was about 14% of the Government budget in FY13). These five SSN programs include the EGPP, FFW, TR, GR and VGF, and together these programs received an allocation of US\$678 million in FY13.

According to a 2011 IFPRI survey, even though these programs are relatively more pro-poor than some of the other SSNs, there is scope for improved targeting of their resources. With its more stringent eligibility criteria relative to the other programs and bank-transfer payment system, EGPP is much better targeted than other SSN



programs – it has the highest proportion of its beneficiaries who belong to the poorest twenty percent of the population compared to any other SSN program.

According to the HIES 2010, on average, there is a variation in the leakage in benefits by programs as reported by beneficiaries. While households reported their expectations for benefits under VGF and GR were 14 kg and 18 kg respectively, program guidelines report GR entitlements to be 10 to 20 kg, while in the case of VGF the range is also between 10 to 20kg. Leakage in benefit amounts is not unique to Bangladesh, and is a challenge faced by many developed and developing nations.

The MoDMR recognizes these challenges with regards to coverage, targeting, leakage and administration of its five major safety net programs, and understand the urgency to improve their performance. A more effective targeting and efficient program administrative system that improves beneficiary identification and reduces opportunities for leakage in benefit amount could substantially increase the coverage of poor households within the existing budget envelope and have a larger impact on poverty. Thus, in a nutshell, this is the genesis of the project.

The broad objective of the project is to assist the MoDMR in developing an integrated system of safety nets administration that focuses on improved targeting, and efficient and transparent implementation. Investing in these systems for implementing these large safety nets would not only help to increase a much needed coverage of the poor in the short term, it would also help GoB improve the quality of a large amount of public expenditure earmarked for SSN programs in the medium term.

Strengthening of the Ministry of Disaster Management and Relief (MoDMR) Program Administration, more popularly known as SNSP-DDM Project, commences its official journey from 1 July, 2013 and supposed to be completed on 31 December, 2017. However, the actual activities of the project could not take off till the second half of FY 2014-2015. The sponsoring agency of the project is the Ministry of Disaster Management & Relief (MoDMR) while Department of Disaster Management (DDM) is the executing agency.

The World Bank, as the project stipulates, will support the Government of Bangladesh with a USD 500 million IDA Credit which will reimburse a portion of expenditures under selected MoDMR programs upon achievement of agreed performance targets and provide technical assistance to help achieve these performance targets. This Credit will be implemented through the Safety Net Systems for the Poorest (SNSP) Project, which will consist of three components, the first two of which will be implemented by MoDMR (through DDM), while the third will be implemented by the Statistics & Informatics Division (SID), through the Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics (BBS).

The components of the project are as follows:

- (1) Support to MoDMR Social Safety Net Programs (USD 430m): This component aims at improving the implementation of selected MoDMR programs by incentivizing the achievement of pre-determined performance targets. Upon achievement of these performance targets, known as Disbursement Linked Indicators (DLIs), the Bank would reimburse up to 80% of wages paid to

beneficiaries of EGPP and TR during the relevant fiscal year. There are eight DLI focus areas, each having a specific target during the period from, and including, FY 2013-14 to FY 2016-17.

- (2) Strengthening of MoDMR Program Administration and Transparency (USD 30m): This component will provide technical assistance for DDM to help enhance institutional capacity towards improved implementation of MoDMR programs.
- (3) Developing the Bangladesh Poverty Database (USD 40m): This component will provide technical assistance for BBS to collect data for, and manage, the BPD.

Activities as in Component 2, equivalent to USD 30 million, will support the achievement of the performance targets required for the partial reimbursement of EGPP and TR, and aim to improve targeting of program resources to the poorest households in Bangladesh; strengthen administrative capacity to manage MoDMR safety net programs; and enhance governance and accountability measures related to MoDMR programs.

The broad objectives of this Project is to improve the equity, efficiency, and transparency of major social safety net programs to benefit the poorest households. In order to achieve the objective, the technical assistance project will focus on three key results areas: Improving targeting of program resources to the poorest households to promote more pro-poor coverage; Strengthening management, program information systems, and monitoring capacity to ensure efficient administration; and Strengthening governance and accountability measures for increased transparency.

The IDA Credit is expected to commence financing (inclusive of any retroactive requirements) from July 1, 2013, and end on December 31, 2017. As such, this will provide direct support to MoDMR programs (i.e. EGPP and TR) for four full fiscal years (i.e. FY 2013-14 to FY-2016-17) and an additional six months to complete other project activities, including transfer of resources, submission of necessary reports, etc.

The Government's total budget for EGPP and TR exceeds Tk. 2,500 crore in FY 2012-13, and this trend is expected to continue during the period of IDA financing. The World Bank will reimburse up to 80% of Government expenditures on cash based wages (i.e. eligible expenditures) paid to beneficiaries of these two MoDMR program, not to exceed the equivalent of USD 430 million over the course of the SNSP Project.

The reimbursement of eligible expenditures require the achievement of performance targets – disbursement linked indicators (DLIs) across eight strategic areas. These include incremental improvements to the following:

- (1) Geographic Targeting,
- (2) Household Targeting,
- (3) Gender Targeting,
- (4) Administrative Systems,
- (5) Implementation And Monitoring Capacity,
- (6) Payment Systems,
- (7) Access to Information, And
- (8) Grievance Redress Systems;

and have been agreed between MoDMR/DDM and the World Bank. Timely implementation of activities under this technical assistance project will ensure that DLI targets are met, which will mean that MoDMR programs will see improvements in their design and operations, and IDA financing will help support the Government budget for EGPP and TR. This technical assistance project, is a successor to the ongoing Operations Support to the EGPP Project being implemented by MoDMR, and as a second phase of a long-term programmatic engagement with the World Bank aimed at improving the design, implementation and monitoring of safety programs.

Presentation on Core Diagnostic Instrument (CODI):

Mohammad Khaled Hasan

Joint Secretary, Civil Registration and cabinet Division Branch

Cabinet Division

Synopsys of the presentation

Core Diagnostics Instrument (CODI) is a diagnostic tool designed to map the key elements of a social protection system in a country. CODI provides a coherent framework for a systematic analysis of SP systems. It facilitates mapping of the elements of the national social protection system; analysis of the SP system performance against national objectives and an agreed standardized set of criteria; and identification of a set of entry level policy reform options.

It analyses social protection system performance against national social protection objectives and track progress against a standardized set of performance criteria over time. It may serve as an evidence base for country dialogue on how to strengthen a social protection system. However, CODI is not meant to do cross-country comparisons.

CODI has three separate modules to diagnose different aspects of social protection. The modules are social protection system analysis, programme performance assessment and analysis of delivery system. The practitioners of social protection may sometimes come across the topic CODI or Core Diagnostic Instrument. This tool, developed a few years back by a team of Inter Agency Social Protection Assessment (ISPA), is very important for social protection diagnostic studies. It has been recommended in the NSSS Action Plan as an important instrument to assess and diagnose the social protection systems of the country and evaluate performance of the programmes.

The workshop on 'Core Diagnostic Instrument (CODI) for evaluation of Bangladesh's Social Security Programmes,' took place on 4 August 2022 at Hotel InterContinental, Dhaka. Mr Md. Shamsul Arefin, Secretary, Coordination and Reforms, Cabinet Division graced the occasion as Chief Guest, while it was chaired by Ms. Sanjida Sobhan, ndc, Additional Secretary (Reforms), Cabinet Division. The participants



included the senior level officials of social security implementing ministries, development partners, academicians of Dhaka University and IT specialists.

Mr. Mohammad Khaled Hasan, Joint Secretary, Civil Registration and Social Security, Cabinet Division briefly explained that the Core Diagnostics Instrument (CODI) has a total of 37 fields under 10 broader areas for assessment of social protection performance. Each field is assessed by a scale from one to four. The CODI provides detailed and specific guidelines regarding the scoring. The CODI allows for adjusting or modifying the field specific questions according to the national contexts. The SSPS team has already prepared a customized version for assessment of Bangladesh position in performance of social protection. He added that this tool is part of the Inter Agency Social Protection Assessments (ISPA) initiative, a set of practical tools that help countries improve their social protection system by analyzing its strengths and weaknesses and offering options for further action. Countries can apply this tool periodically to track performance over time. CODI is unique in providing a unified framework to carry out a comprehensive assessment of social protection system performance, allowing governments to identify duplications, fragmentation, and inefficiencies across schemes and programmes.

By using a customized questionnaire of CODI, the SSPS of Cabinet Division and GED conducted a base line evaluation of the social protection system of Bangladesh in 2016. The governments can conduct periodic evaluation of the programmes to assess the progress. Therefore, another assessment will be carried out soon by using the tool.

Evaluation Areas/Criteria

There are ten broader area or criteria for assessing the progress of social protection programmes. Each area has several fields with a specific question. The number of total fields or questions are 37 under 10 broader areas. The broader areas are as follows:

- **Inclusiveness:** The social protection system should guarantee that everyone is protected along the life cycle. This requires ensuring nondiscrimination, gender equality, availability of and accessibility to social protection programs and benefits. The goal is to eliminate coverage gaps and secure the inclusion of the poorest and most vulnerable.
- **Adequacy:** It assesses the programmes and schemes that make up the system provide regular and predictable benefits and quality services that are adequate to meet the social protection needs of the population and achieve national/program objectives. At a minimum, benefits contribute to poverty reduction, equity, ensure income security, access to health and other services along the life cycle, and promote productive economic activity.
- **Appropriateness:** At the system level, appropriateness means that the system, as a whole, ensures optimal protection to fulfill the social protection needs of the population. It includes the formulation of clear and realistic targets and timeframes to better address social protection needs over time.
- **Respect for Rights & Dignity:** Programs and benefits design and their delivery are in line with human rights standards and principles to avoid humiliation of the persons covered. The citizens

are informed of their rights and privileges about social protection programmes. Efficient and accessible complaint and appeal procedures are available. Furthermore, private individual information contained in administrative data systems needs to be secured and protected by law.

- **Governance & Institutional Capacity:** Clear internal rules, regulations, reporting mechanisms, and operating procedures specify the relationships, roles, and responsibilities of bodies and actors involved in social protection.
- **Financial & Fiscal Sustainability:** The financial resources raised and allocated are aligned with actual and expected program outcomes, demographic patterns, and economic development. Contributions are designed based on beneficiaries' contributory capacity.
- **Coherence & Integration:** Social protection policies are balanced with related social, economic, and sectoral policies (external coherence). They are also aligned to ensure that the set of existing programs complement each other (internal coherence).
- **Responsiveness:** The social protection system is flexible enough to evolve and adapt to the balance and scale of programs in light of changing social protection needs. Changes in social protection needs may arise from socio-economic, sociodemographic, natural or political developments.
- **Cost-effectiveness:** Delivery systems are in place to implement existing programs with the minimum resources required to achieve the desired impact and reduce the cost for beneficiaries to access social protection programs.
- **Incentive Compatibility:** Programs are designed in a way to create incentives for persons of working age to work, save, participate in risk-pooling arrangements; incentives for employers to register their workers in the social protection system and pay the required contributions;; for social protection service providers to enroll all eligible beneficiaries and provide good quality services and for eligible beneficiaries to become a member of a scheme and take up benefits. Each field is evaluated by a scale of 4, but Bangladesh has reduced the scale down to 3 for making the evaluation simpler. It is mentionable that, for using the CODI tools no research work is required; rather, the evaluation can be done on the basis of available information.

Remarks From the Special Guests:

Mr. N M Ziaul Alam PAA **Senior Secretary, ICT Division**

Mr. N M Ziaul Alam PAA Senior Secretary, ICT Division said that he main objective of this Division is to establish e-governance by realizing Digital Bangladesh. Formulating policies, strategies, Acts, Rules to realize the potential of the ICT eco-system to support the implementation of programmes and projects relating to information communication are within the purview of the ICT Division.

He added that the NSSS objectives of the Division is to support the digitalization of the Social Security Systems and provide IT skill development Training at all levels.



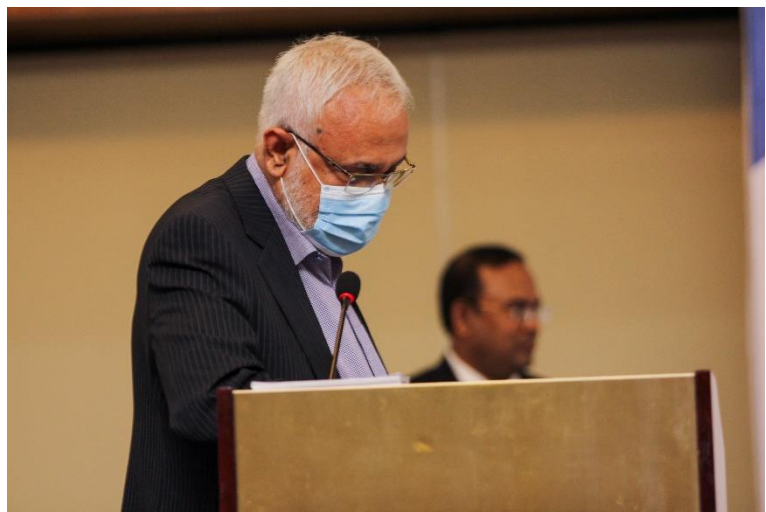
The main objectives of the ICTD to strengthen the activities of NSSS are as follows:

- Digitalization and Data Integration of Social Security Benefits,
- Capacity development through training for inclusive sustainable development
- The best use of ICT in service delivery and awareness building among service receivers of NSSS
- Service Process simplification for value for money.

He said that the present action plan is for five years from 2021 to 2026, after which further action plans will be required for transition to a comprehensive lifecycle-centric social security system. The action plans have been prepared with participation of representatives from the implementing ministries. Therefore, it is highly expected that they will own it and put full efforts in its implementation. I would assure that the action plan sub-committee will provide necessary supports in overcoming any possible challenges faced by the ministries in implementing the plan. He appreciated the members of the NSSS Action Plan formulation sub-committee, focal points, and all representatives of all ministries and divisions for their tremendous supports to develop this action plan successfully.

Dr. Md Kawser Ahmed
Member (Secretary)
General Economics Division (GED)

Dr. Kawser Ahmed, Member (Secretary), General Economics Division (GED) said that Bangladesh Planning Commission of the Ministry of Planning is the prime policy and planning organ of the Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh. The division is responsible for preparing the country's long-term and medium-term development policies, strategies, and plans. Being one of the six divisions of the Bangladesh Planning Commission, it provides



secretarial assistance to the Bangladesh Planning Commission as well as to the NEC (National Economic Council) and the ECNEC (Executive Committee of the National Economic Council) in various matters concerning plan preparation and economic policy/strategy formulation. GED is the national poverty and SDG focal point of the Government. GED has prepared the National Social Security Strategy, 2015 and set the road map of establishing a solid social security system in Bangladesh.

He added that GED aims at accomplishing the assigned tasks by maintaining policy coherence with the Government's existing plans and strategies, including the Perspective Plan and Five-Year Plans and Delta Plan-2100. In addition, GED will ensure cohesion among the policies, plans, strategies, so that the whole process would be visual under the broader inclusive Social Development Framework. The NSSS action plan combines a comprehensive timeline of the major action to be accomplished by all the social protection implementing ministries/divisions which is based on the National Social Security Strategy (NSSS). A time bound and goal-oriented set of actions for different ministries/divisions and thematic cluster have been framed in order to comply with the NSSS guideline and directions.

Ms. Kamrun Nahar
Former Information Secretary
Advisor to a2i

Ms. Kamrun Nahar, Former Information Secretary and Advisor to a2i said communications play a significant role delivering services to the door step of people. We need to promote our government services to the people so that they understand that there are services for them. She mentioned that we need to develop a common platform so that government agencies and wings can communicate in single way for their operational coordination.



She added that the National Social Security Strategy (NSSS) of Bangladesh was formulated in 2015 through an extensive process of inter-ministerial collaboration with a view to provide social security benefits to all deserving people for establishing a country free of poverty and vulnerability. Key areas of the NSSS were improvement of the delivery system, consolidation of small social security programmes and to adopt a life cycle based social protection.

The NSSS implementation process requires for vigorous efforts in reforms, reconfiguration, system strengthening, rescoping and coordination among all the social security implementing ministries and divisions. The government formulated an action plan for a well-planned, good governed and foster implementation of the NSSS to ensure collaboration and participation of all ministries and divisions. The second phase of the NSSS action plan will create a comprehensive and common platform for all ministries and division to achieve the goal together.

Dr. Muhammad Mosharrof Hossain
Divisional Commissioner
Additional Secretary

He expressed his gratefulness to the action plan subcommittee for their continuous support to submit the action plan to the CMC for review. The appreciated Cabinet Division for this huge task and approved the action plan. The NSSS action plan combines a comprehensive timeline of the major action to be accomplished by all the social protection implementing ministries/divisions which is based on the National Social Security Strategy (NSSS). A time bound and goal-oriented set of actions for different ministries/divisions and thematic cluster have been framed in order to comply with the NSSS guideline and directions.



Dr.A.E. Md Muhiuddin Osmani
Additional Secretary

He said that the Ministry of Women and Children Affairs is assigned the responsibility of implementing the programme by consolidating the existing maternity allowance and lactating mother allowance programmes. MoWCA has already consolidated, piloted, and launched Mother and Child Benefit Programme in 2019 and presently implementing it in 66 Upazilas. The targeted number of beneficiaries is 50 per cent of the households with children. Already, more than 1.2 million mothers and children have been covered. The two programmes are being operated by MOWCA and MOSW with different programme designs. MOWCA has started ICVGD which is an improved version of the VGD programme and planned to gradually transform the VGD and ICVGD into VWB. However, the aggregate number of beneficiaries of the two programmes nearly reached the total target of 32 lakh women.



He added that the Ministry of Social Welfare is taking measures for necessary expansion. Already 49 lakh old age people have been covered. Around 11 lakhs more beneficiaries will have to be added. This programme has been made universal in 112 Upazilas and will be gradually universalized in other Upazilas.

Beneficiaries of vulnerable women and disabilities will be merged within this programme upon exceeding the age threshold.

Mr. Sk Md. Moniruzzaman
Additional Secretary
Ministry of Disaster
Management and Relief

Mr. Sk Md. Moniruzzaman, Additional Secretary, Ministry of Disaster Management and Relief said that we are working to achieve a paradigm shift in disaster management from conventional response and relief to a more comprehensive risk reduction culture, and to promote food security as an important factor in ensuring the resilience of communities to hazards.



He said that all Social safety nets programmes of MoDMR can ensure that the most vulnerable and poorest households reach a minimum level of food consumption, food security and cover basic needs, that they can help build household resilience to economic shocks, and that they promote longer-term opportunities for productive inclusion. MoDMR's social safety net programmes affect not only beneficiary households but, through local economy effects and spillovers, also non-beneficiary households and business activities. Resilience outcomes include the ownership of productive assets for livelihood strengthening. Construction of Shelters and Mujib Killa created rural employment generation. Thus, these social safety nets programmes can contribute a lot to the rural economy.

Mr. Aminul Arifeen
National Project Manager
Social Security Policy Support (SSPS) Programme, UNDP
Cabinet Division and GED

Mr. Arifeen said that in the middle of 2015, the Cabinet of the Government of Bangladesh approved the National Social Security Strategy (NSSS). It is the very first strategy in the field of social protection in Bangladesh. The strategy streamlining the national social safety net programmes in line with the National Social Development Framework and the perspective and vision plans, five-year plans, with an expectation to play an effective supplementary role in reducing poverty and inequality, improve gender status, increase employment opportunities, and address the shock and



vulnerability of the climate inducive disabled and marginalized population, including people living in urban and hard-to-reach areas under the human lifecycle approach.

He added that the NSSS is a ten-year-long living social protection reform strategy for Bangladesh commencing from 2015 and will follow up to 2025. The successful implementation of NSSS is one of the priority agendas of the Government of Bangladesh, and the fiscal budget allocated close to 3% of the GDP and more than 16% of the total budget every year. Two subsequent NSSS Action Plans have been developed by the CRVS and Social Protection Section of the Coordination and Reforms Wing of the Cabinet Division through a rigorous process of coordination and participation of 39 ministries and division of the GoB. The Second NSSS Action Plan 2021-26 (Phase – II) approved by the CMC under the Chair of the Cabinet Secretary, and the Honourable Prime Minister of the GoB has given her kind consent on the approval. The NSSS Action Plan Phase II incorporated to develop the NSSS 2026+. The implementation of both the SDGs and NSSS is spearheaded mainly by the Cabinet Division under its coordination structure through the effective guidance from the Central Management Committee (CMC) of the national social security programmes headed by the Cabinet Secretary, where Secretaries of 39 ministries and divisions are the members.

He mentioned that the Government is committed to attaining the Middle Income Country (MIC) status permanently by 2026, and excelling in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) by 2030, where social security is also one of the prioritized agendas, and closely linked with most of the goals of the SDGs. At present, the 8th five year plan developed and implementation on progress, and vision 2041, and centinal Delta Plan 2100 on progress and created huge interest among the international community for financing more in Bangladesh development. The blue economy and link to social protection, urban and climate inducive shock-responsive social protection addressing No One Leave Behind (NOLB) lifecycle approach now opened a new chapter for 2026+ social protection. A strategy always required a good number of evidence-based background papers, and lessons learnt, consensus-based dialogues.

Remarks From the Cabinet Secretary:



The Cabinet Secretary said that Social security is one of the major priorities of the government to tackle down poverty and to be a welfare state as envisioned by the father of the nation and mandated in our national constitution. The government of Bangladesh formulated the National Social Security Strategy (NSSS) for transforming the existing social safety net schemes into lifecycle based social security programmes in 2015.

He added that the National Social Security Strategy NSSS has been premeditated very consistently with the national and international priorities, with a special focus on the Social Protection Floors Initiatives of the UN. The NSSS has emphasized on two phases for reforming the designs and delivery system of the existing social security programmes in two phases of five years each, 2016 – 2021; and 2021 - 2025. In order to implement the NSSS successfully, the NSSS Action Plan was developed with the coordination and guidance from the sub-committee headed by the Central Management Committee (CMC) – the lead inter-ministerial committee for national social security programmes. The sub-committee was headed by the

Secretary, Coordination and Reforms of the Cabinet Division. Its one the great achievement in Bangladesh social security upgradation that the first phase of the NSSS action plan has been implemented by all the social security implementing ministries and divisions successfully. This action plan impacted a lot of positive changes in social protection governance system. As of now Bangladesh has been approved its largest budget in the history of social security.

He acclaimed that I am very happy to see that the formulation of the second phase of the NSSS action plan has been accomplished after extensive consultative process with the social security line ministries and other stakeholders. This action plan has been given an utmost priority on the impacts of the COVID 19 shocks, gender and disability inclusion along with ensuring timely implementation of this action plan as agreed by the ministries.

He appreciated the members of the NSSS Action Plan formulation sub-committee, focal point officers, and all representatives of ministries and divisions for their tremendous supports to develop this action plan successfully. I would also thank the officials of the line ministries and divisions who worked hard in preparing their respective portion of the action plans and shared their action plan after kind approval from the respective ministers of the ministries/divisions.

Open Discussion:

Joint Secretary, Ministry of Social Welfare

Joint Secretary, Ministry of Social Welfare said that Bangladesh has made significant strides in the past 50 years in reducing poverty and vulnerability, and provide food security and nutrition at the national level although there remains some pockets of destitution and poverty which requires social protection measures. The progress has been notable in most of the socio-economic indicators like basic education, life expectancy and gender equality.

Deputy Secretary, Ministry of Food

Joint Secretary, Ministry of Food said that the rapid economic progress coupled with strong political commitment enabled Bangladesh to embark upon establishing a lifecycle based inclusive social security system through formulation of National Social Security Strategy (NSSS) Bangladesh in 2015. This is a long-term roadmap for reforming the social security system of the country building upon already existing diverse social safety net programmes.

Joint Secretary, Health Services Division

Joint Secretary, Health Services Division said that in compliance with Article 15 of Bangladesh constitution, the government dedicated and focused all its productive resources to the social and economic development of the country, with most prominent and ubiquitously perceptible social protection interventions in the country.

Deputy Secretary, Cabinet Division

Deputy Secretary, Cabinet Division remarked that Honorable Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has emphatically expressed her optimism that the NSSS is capable of establishing a true welfare state which is the main objective of the NSSS. Since the launching of the NSSS, a five-year long Action Plan of the NSSS was formulated for the period July 2016 to June 2021. The formulation of the second phase of NSSS Action Plan has been completed.

Additional Secretary, Ministry of Women and Children Affairs

Additional Secretary, Ministry of Women and Children Affairs mentioned that the constitutional provision mandates the government to accelerate productive forces through planned economic growth with the objective of fulfilling basic necessities of life, employment generation, cultural and recreational facilities and, above all, the social security of the most deserving citizens.

Joint Secretary, Ministry of Disaster Management and Relief

Joint Secretary, Ministry of Disaster Management and Relief shared that in compliance with the constitutional directives, the government has designed and implementing a number of social protection interventions in the country. Bangladesh has thus achieved extraordinary progress in combating poverty and vulnerability in addition to successfully progressing in most other areas of socio-economic indicators like nutrition, life expectancy and gender equality.

Deputy Secretary, Local Government Division (LGD)

Deputy Secretary, Local Government Division (LGD) said that the proportion of people living below the poverty line in Bangladesh has gone down from 59 percent in 1991-92 to 20.5 percent in 2019. But still one fifth of the country's population live under the poverty line and this call for strengthening social security programmes to improve their living conditions and pull them out of poverty.

Deputy Secretary, IMED

Deputy Secretary, IMED said that the Social security has been one of the most prioritized agenda of the Honorable Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina. In her message in the NSSS, she clearly mentioned that 'With a strong political commitment of Bangladesh to become a welfare state, I firmly believe that this National Social Security Strategy can do what it has set out to achieve.' She also expressed that the National Social Security Strategy (NSSS) would help people move out of poverty.

Wrap up Session:

Chief Guest

Mr. N M Ziaul Alam PAA

Senior Secretary, ICT Division

Remarks from the Guest:

Mr. Alam shared that the National Social Security is necessitated in the constitution of Bangladesh as it says 'it shall be a fundamental responsibility of the State to attain, through planned economic growth, a constant increase of productive forces and a steady improvement in the material and cultural standard of living of the people, with a view to securing to its citizens' (d) the right to social security, that is to say, to public assistance in cases of undeserved want arising from unemployment, illness or disablement, or suffered by widows or orphans or in old age, or in other such cases.



He recalled that the Social security system in Bangladesh before the NSSS was a complex system with multitude of programmes, most of which are very small both in terms of resources they provide and the number of beneficiaries they cover. With a view to exploring the evidence as stated by the National Social Security Strategy (NSSS), the General Economics Division (GED) prepared a number of background research papers along with a framework paper for preparing the National Social Security Strategy of Bangladesh.

He explained that the Social security systems are shaped by the need to address the causes of poverty and are designed to address the risks and challenges associated with different stages of the lifecycle. As countries build their social security systems, they need to decide the relative balance between public expenditure-financed and social insurance schemes. Proper administrative arrangements involving a coordinating agency, strong implementing agencies, professional staff, a sound MIS, a payment system based on financial institutions, a proper M&E and an appeals system to resolve beneficiary grievances are all elements of a sound Social Security delivery system.

