



Strategic Guidelines and Action Plans for

ADAPTIVE SOCIAL PROTECTION IN BANGLADESH

Cabinet Division
Government of Bangladesh

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Executive Summary

Since gaining independence in 1971, Bangladesh has embarked on a transformative journey in the realm of social protection. What began as a focus on disaster response and relief has matured into a more holistic understanding of social protection, as evidenced by the comprehensive National Social Protection Strategy (NSSS). This strategy adeptly incorporates responses to varied shocks such as natural disasters and economic crises, embodying the essence of adaptive social protection in Bangladesh.

Emergence of Adaptive Social Protection

The concept of adaptive social protection has gained prominence, particularly in light of the COVID-19 pandemic. This global crisis brought to the forefront the necessity for robust, adaptable, and responsive social protection systems. Bangladesh's response, through the institutionalization of adaptive social protection, is encapsulated in the "Guidelines on Adaptive Social Protection in Bangladesh," marking a significant evolution in the nation's social protection approach.

Core Principles and Strategic Objectives

The guidelines are grounded in principles of inclusivity, responsiveness, sustainability, and adaptability. They aim to enhance coordination, increase system responsiveness, foster risk-informed decision-making, ensure sustainable financing, and build capacities at various levels. Integral to these objectives are the establishment of inter-ministerial and field-level committees and the commitment to integrated sectoral efforts.

Detailed Strategic Objectives

Enhanced Coordination Across Sectors: This includes forming an Inter-ministerial Committee on ASP and field-level Social Security Management Committees to align strategies across social protection, disaster management, and climate adaptation. **Capacity Building:** Implementing comprehensive training programs for Social Security Focal Points and key committee chairpersons, targeting government officials, NGO representatives, and public representatives to integrate ASP into various policy frameworks and on-ground implementations.

Readiness and Anticipatory Measures: Focusing on continuous information collection for early risk identification, enhancing administrative preparedness, community awareness, and providing anticipatory allowances to vulnerable communities.

Conduct Studies on the ASP Situation: Undertaking an in-depth analysis to evaluate and refine the ASP framework, leading to the development of a tailored model of ASP. **Novel Data Strategy for Beneficiary Selection:** Leveraging big data and digital sources for efficient and accurate beneficiary targeting.

Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E): Developing an M&E framework to assess the efficacy of ASP, emphasizing the integration across key sectors.

This is gender and disability-inclusive and child-sensitive ensuring that the needs and rights of all community members are addressed. The focus extends beyond mere financial assistance, recognizing the diverse challenges faced by different groups. By prioritizing community engagement, this strategy fosters a sense of belonging and participation among all members.

Roadmap for Implementation

The guidelines offer a comprehensive framework to guide policymakers, stakeholders, and practitioners, ensuring the adaptability of Bangladesh's social protection framework to current and future challenges.

Conclusion and Forward Outlook

The "Guidelines on Adaptive Social Protection in Bangladesh" represent a strategic, forward-thinking approach to enhance the resilience and adaptability of the nation's social protection systems. More than just directives, these guidelines provide a strategic blueprint for building a resilient, adaptable social protection system, prioritizing the well-being and security of all citizens, especially the most vulnerable. They stand as a testament to Bangladesh's dedication to sustainable development and serve as an exemplary model for other nations facing similar challenges.

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1. Introduction:

Since its independence in 1971, Bangladesh has undergone a significant transformation in its approach to social protection. Initially focused on disaster relief, the nation has expanded its scope to include a comprehensive range of social protection measures. This evolution is reflected in the National Social Protection Strategy (NSSS), which addresses various covariate shocks such as natural disasters and economic crises, marking a significant shift towards adaptive social protection strategies.

In an era of evolving global and local socio-economic challenges, the need for a robust and adaptive social protection system has become increasingly apparent. Bangladesh, with its distinct socio-economic profile and vulnerability to risks like natural disasters and climate change, has strategically developed the Guidelines on Adaptive Social Protection (ASP). This initiative aims to safeguard the well-being and security of the most vulnerable segments of its population, especially in light of the challenges highlighted by the COVID-19 pandemic.

Bangladesh's social protection strategies have broadened from disaster relief to encompass poverty reduction, healthcare, education, and employment. The COVID-19 pandemic has underscored the importance of a social protection system that is both resilient and responsive to immediate needs and future shocks.

The ASP adopts a holistic strategy that seamlessly blends traditional social protection with disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation. This approach aims to establish a social protection system that not only acts as a safety net but also fosters resilience and sustainable development.

Recognizing Bangladesh's vulnerability to climate change, the ASP guidelines are crafted to integrate climate change adaptation and disaster risk management, creating a robust system capable of withstanding immediate crises and adapting to future challenges.

The guidelines are built on principles of inclusivity, responsiveness, sustainability, and adaptability, with a focus on enhancing coordination across sectors, building capacities, ensuring sustainable funding, and establishing effective monitoring and evaluation mechanisms.

The development of these guidelines was a comprehensive process, involving a wide range of stakeholders from various sectors, ensuring relevance and applicability to Bangladesh's socio-economic context. As the country progresses, the ASP guidelines stand as a vital blueprint, reflecting a commitment to a resilient, sustainable social protection system, poised to meet current and future challenges.

The Guidelines on Adaptive Social Protection in Bangladesh represent a transformative approach, integrating social protection, disaster risk reduction, and climate change adaptation into a unified framework. Built on four pillars—risk identification, reduction, transfer, and coping—the guidelines aim to create an agile, comprehensive, and resilient system, particularly for the vulnerable. They emphasize cross-sectoral coordination, system responsiveness, risk-informed decision-making, sustainable financing, efficient risk management, capacity building, knowledge management, and community engagement. These guidelines serve as a strategic roadmap for enhancing Bangladesh's social protection system, making it more adaptive, inclusive, and resilient against various risks and uncertainties.

2. Key Objectives and Expected Outcomes

The Guidelines on Adaptive Social Protection (ASP) in Bangladesh set forth several key objectives to enhance the nation's social protection framework:

Enhanced Integration and Coordination: Aimed at integrating social protection with disaster management and climate adaptation strategies, the expected outcome is a more efficient, streamlined system that effectively targets and addresses socio-economic and environmental challenges.

Increased System Responsiveness and Flexibility: This objective focuses on adapting the social protection system to be agile and responsive to immediate crises such as natural disasters or pandemics. The anticipated outcome is a quicker, more effective mobilization of resources and assistance during emergencies.

Risk-Informed Decision-Making: Embedding data-driven, proactive risk management in social protection planning is a key goal. The desired result is a system that anticipates, mitigates, and reduces vulnerability to potential risks.

Sustainable Financing and Efficient Management: This involves diversifying funding sources and managing resources effectively, aiming for a well-funded, efficiently operated ASP system capable of sustaining and scaling up operations as needed.

Capacity Building and Community Engagement: Strengthening institutional capacities and involving communities in ASP processes are crucial. The outcome is a more inclusive, effective, and community-participative social protection system.

Monitoring, Evaluation, and Learning: Establishing robust mechanisms for ongoing assessment and adaptation ensures that the ASP system evolves based on feedback and changing needs.

These objectives collectively aim to create a resilient, adaptable, and effective social protection system in Bangladesh, poised to meet both current and future challenges, especially for the most vulnerable populations. In conclusion, these objectives collectively aim to build a social protection system in Bangladesh that is not only capable of addressing current needs but is also resilient and adaptive to future challenges, ensuring the well-being and security of its most vulnerable populations.

3. Concept of Adaptive Social Protection (ASP)

The concept of adaptive social protection has emerged as a critical response to the increasing challenges posed by climate change and natural disasters, evolving significantly over the past few decades. Initially, social protection, climate change adaptation, and disaster risk management operated as distinct policy domains, each with separate objectives, frameworks, and funding streams. However, over time, the interlinkages between these areas became increasingly evident, particularly in the context of how climate change and natural disasters exacerbate vulnerabilities and poverty.

The concept of adaptive social protection took root in the early 2000s, with international development agencies, prominently the Department for International Development (DFID) of the United Kingdom, leading the way. Collaborative efforts with other influential global organizations played a pivotal role in shaping this concept, bringing together principles of social protection, climate change adaptation, and disaster risk management.

DFID's innovative contribution was pivotal in reshaping the design of social protection systems, making them agile and responsive to climate-induced shocks and pressures. This marked a departure from conventional development paradigms, reflecting a broader shift in international development philosophy. This transformation recognized the urgency of comprehensive solutions to tackle the interconnected challenges of poverty, vulnerability, and climate change. The adaptive social protection framework, championed by DFID and its peers, aimed to bolster the resilience of the most marginalized and vulnerable communities. It achieved this by not only providing immediate relief during shocks but also by empowering these communities to navigate enduring changes and uncertainties, thereby fostering sustainable development.

The concept of adaptive social protection gained even greater prominence in the aftermath of the COVID-19 pandemic. International organizations highlighted its pertinence and effectiveness, as the pandemic underscored the critical need for safety nets that could swiftly respond to unforeseen crises. Consequently, the concept of adaptive social protection has evolved into what can be termed the "third wave" of social protection. This contemporary perspective positions adaptive social protection as a frontrunner, emphasizing its capacity to effectively navigate the evolving challenges of the modern world. These challenges encompass global health crises, climate change impacts, and socio-economic disparities. Adaptive social protection epitomizes a dynamic and forward-looking approach, prioritizing resilience, inclusivity, and sustainability in the pursuit of global development objectives.

3.1. Definitions of ASP

Adaptive Social Protection (ASP) is a framework that has been developed and conceptualized by various organizations, each contributing to a nuanced understanding of the concept. At its core, ASP aims to build resilience in poor and vulnerable households against a range of large, covariate shocks, including natural disasters, economic crises, pandemics, conflict, and forced displacement.

The Department for International Development (DFID), now known as the Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office (FCDO) views Adaptive social protection as a holistic and dynamic framework that integrates social protection with climate change adaptation and disaster risk management. It recognizes that vulnerable populations, particularly in developing countries, face multiple and interconnected challenges, including poverty, climate-related risks, and exposure to natural disasters.

The World Bank's perspective on ASP emphasizes its role in building the resilience of poor and vulnerable households to the impacts of large, covariate shocks such as natural disasters, economic crises, pandemics, conflict, and forced displacement. It focuses on the provision of transfers and services directly to these households, supporting their capacity to prepare for, cope with, and adapt to these shocks before, during, and after their occurrence. Over the long term, ASP aims to provide a pathway to a more resilient state for households that may otherwise lack the resources to move out of chronically vulnerable situations.

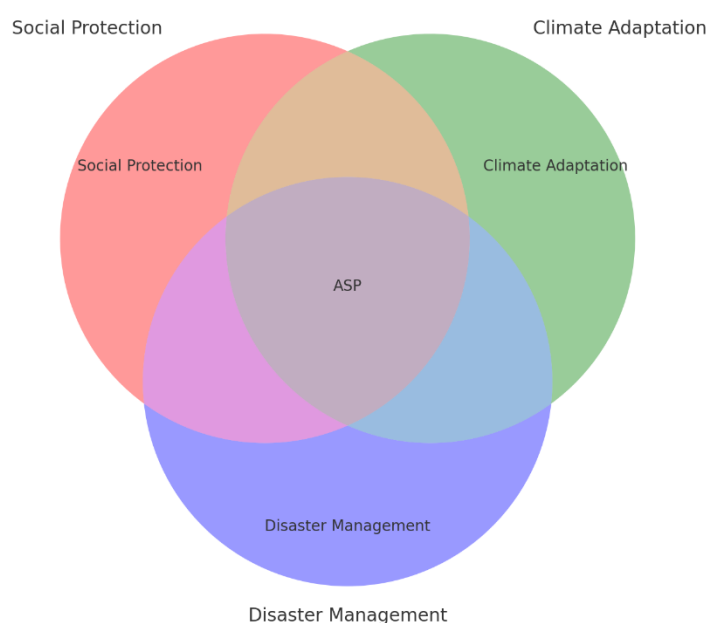
Socialprotection.org describes ASP as initially conceptualized to build the resilience of the poorest and most vulnerable people to climate change by combining elements of social protection, disaster risk reduction, and climate change adaptation. This definition has evolved to include adapting social protection to all types of shocks.

The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) describes Adaptive Social Protection (ASP) as an integration of social protection, disaster risk reduction, and climate change adaptation practices. The goal is to create and foster synergy between these areas to reduce the impacts of shocks and hazards on individuals and communities. This approach encourages collaboration and coordination to address overlapping agendas and overcome institutional constraints. However, a direct definition from the UNDP was not found.

Therefore, Adaptive Social Protection (ASP) can be viewed as a comprehensive approach that integrates social protection, disaster risk reduction, and climate change adaptation to build resilience among the most vulnerable populations. It aims to equip these groups with the tools and resources needed to effectively prepare for, cope with, and adapt to various large-scale shocks, including natural disasters, economic crises, pandemics, conflict, and forced displacement. ASP's core objective is to ensure sustainable and long-term resilience, fostering synergy between different protective and adaptive practices while addressing institutional and coordination challenges.

The concept of Adaptive Social Protection can be further elaborated by the following diagram:

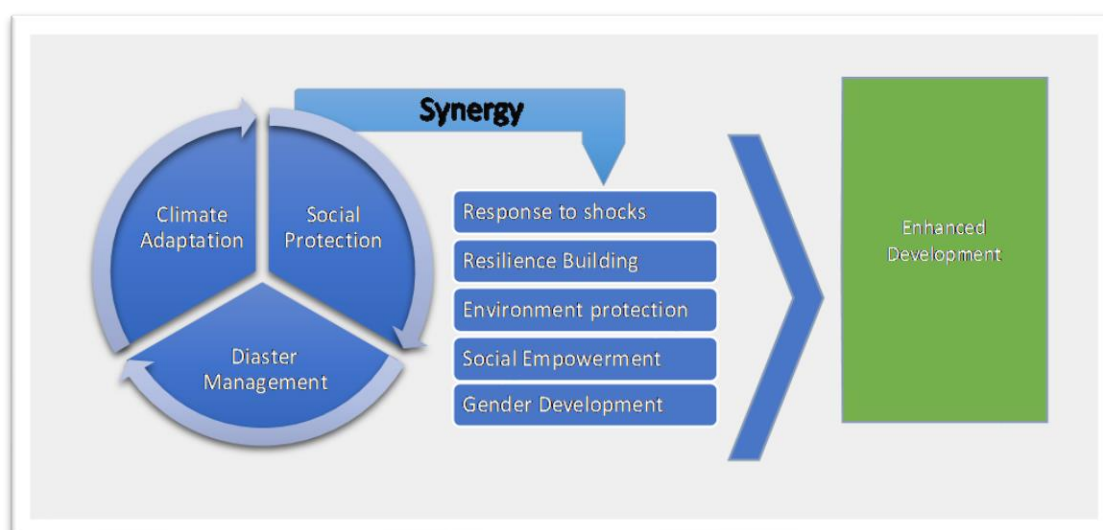
Adaptive Social Protection (ASP) Diagram



Here is a diagram illustrating the concept of Adaptive Social Protection (ASP). The diagram shows the integration of three key components: Social Protection, Climate Adaptation, and Disaster Management. The overlapping area in the centre, labelled as "ASP," represents the synergy of these components, highlighting how they collectively contribute to the framework of Adaptive Social Protection. This intersection is where strategies and policies are developed to build resilience among vulnerable populations against various shocks and stresses.

3.2. Conceptual Framework:

The conceptual framework of adaptive social protection in Bangladesh is explained in the following diagram:



The conceptual framework of adaptive social protection represents a nuanced and all-encompassing approach, integrating three vital sectors: climate adaptation, social protection, and disaster management, each linked to the overarching goal of national development. Climate adaptation is increasingly crucial in the modern era, focusing on preparing for and mitigating the impacts of climate change. This sector's strategies aim to address challenges such as extreme weather events, rising sea levels, and various

climate-induced predicaments. Conversely, social protection encompasses policies and initiatives aimed at reducing poverty and vulnerability. It seeks to promote more efficient labour markets, reduce exposure to socio-economic risks, and enhance individuals' abilities to manage risks related to unemployment, social exclusion, illness, disability, and ageing.

The coordinated and integrated approach of these sectors greatly amplifies the government's ability to respond effectively to diverse shocks and stressors. This integration not only bolsters resilience against immediate disasters but also aids in adapting to long-term climate shifts. It plays a pivotal role in environmental protection by harmonizing disaster management and climate adaptation strategies with sustainable development principles. Furthermore, this comprehensive approach is key to empowering marginalized communities, including women and individuals with disabilities. By tailoring social protection measures to address specific needs and vulnerabilities, the framework promotes inclusivity and equity. This, in turn, contributes more substantially to the country's overall development. Ultimately, the synergy forged by merging climate adaptation, social protection, and disaster management into a unified framework is a critical step toward fostering a resilient, inclusive, and sustainable future.

3.3. Evolution Towards Adaptive Social Protection

The evolution towards ASP in Bangladesh is a reflection of the country's commitment to safeguarding its citizens against a spectrum of risks. It represents a paradigm shift in understanding and addressing vulnerabilities, moving towards a more holistic, anticipatory, and resilient social protection system. This evolution is not just about expanding the range of protections but also about transforming how social protection is conceptualized and implemented in the face of an ever-changing world.

Bangladesh's journey towards establishing an Adaptive Social Protection (ASP) framework is a story of gradual evolution, resilience, and innovative policy-making in the face of diverse challenges. The country's social protection landscape has undergone significant transformation since its independence in 1971, adapting to the dynamic socio-economic and environmental contexts.

In the early years, Bangladesh's approach to social protection was predominantly reactive, focusing primarily on disaster response and relief. This was a natural response to the country's geographical vulnerability to natural calamities like cyclones and floods. Over time, as the nation grappled with the complexities of poverty, unemployment, and social inequality, the scope of social protection policies expanded. These policies began to include more comprehensive programs such as food security initiatives, cash transfer schemes, and employment generation projects, all aimed at mitigating poverty and enhancing the livelihoods of the vulnerable population.

However, the turning point in the evolution towards ASP was marked by the increasing impacts of climate change and the heightened frequency and intensity of natural disasters. Bangladesh, being one of the most climate-vulnerable countries in the world, recognized the need for a more proactive and integrated approach to social protection. This realization was further cemented by the global challenges posed by events like the COVID-19 pandemic, which highlighted the limitations of traditional social protection systems in responding to large-scale shocks.

The concept of ASP emerged as a strategic response, intertwining the elements of traditional social protection with disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation. This approach signifies a shift from a reactive to a proactive stance, where social protection systems are designed not only to address the existing vulnerabilities but also to anticipate, prepare for, and adapt to future risks and uncertainties.

Central to this evolution has been the recognition of the interconnectedness between social vulnerabilities and external shocks. ASP frameworks in Bangladesh are therefore designed to be dynamic and flexible, capable of scaling up in response to shocks and encompassing a broader range of risks. These include economic shocks, health crises, environmental disasters, and the impacts of climate change.

The development of the National Social Protection Strategy (NSSS) and its subsequent updates reflect this evolution. The NSSS incorporates principles of risk-informed planning, resilience-building, and adaptive capacity enhancement. It underscores the importance of data-driven decision-making, inclusive policy design, and the integration of social protection with broader developmental agendas.

4. Rationale for the Guidelines on Adaptive Social Protection in Bangladesh

The rationale for developing the Guidelines on Adaptive Social Protection (ASP) in Bangladesh is rooted in the country's unique socio-economic and environmental context, marked by its vulnerability to a range of risks and the evolving nature of these challenges. Bangladesh, as a rapidly developing nation, faces the dual challenge of sustaining its growth trajectory while protecting its population from various shocks, including economic downturns, natural disasters, and health crises like the COVID-19 pandemic.

Historically, Bangladesh's social protection measures, while robust in certain aspects, primarily focused on immediate disaster relief and poverty alleviation. However, the increasing frequency and severity of climate-induced disasters, coupled with socio-economic shocks, have highlighted the need for a more dynamic and comprehensive approach. Traditional social protection systems have proven inadequate in addressing the multifaceted nature of these challenges, particularly in terms of rapid response, scalability, and resilience building.

The ASP guidelines are conceived to address these gaps. They propose an integrated approach that combines social protection with disaster risk management and climate change adaptation strategies. This integration aims to create a system that is not only capable of responding swiftly to immediate crises but is also equipped to anticipate, adapt to, and mitigate future risks. It emphasizes the importance of being proactive rather than reactive, ensuring that social protection measures contribute to long-term resilience and sustainable development.

Moreover, the guidelines recognize the critical role of inclusivity and equity in social protection. They are designed to ensure that the most vulnerable and marginalized populations, who are often the hardest hit by shocks, are adequately protected and supported.

5. Policy and Institutional Context

5.1. Constitutional Provision

Article 18A of the Constitution of Bangladesh lays a foundation for the nation's commitment to environmental preservation and the protection of natural resources. It explicitly states, "The State shall endeavour to protect and improve the environment and to preserve and safeguard the natural resources, bio-diversity, wetlands, forests, and wildlife for the present and future citizens." This constitutional mandate underscores the paramount importance of environmental stewardship. In this context, adaptive social protection measures emerge as a critical tool to achieve this objective effectively. By infusing climate resilience principles into social protection programs, Bangladesh can ensure that its citizens possess the necessary resources and support systems to recover and rebuild in the aftermath of climate-induced disasters, ultimately advancing the cause of sustainable development within the nation.

Furthermore, Article 15 of the Constitution emphasizes the significance of social security measures aimed at safeguarding the interests of the poor and vulnerable segments of Bangladesh's population. Given the substantial portion of its populace living under conditions of social and economic vulnerability, the implementation of adaptive social protection guidelines becomes a compelling necessity. The intersection of climate vulnerability and existing socio-economic challenges accentuates the plight of these vulnerable groups. Hence, traditional social security measures alone may not suffice to adequately address their predicaments. It is the amalgamation of climate adaptation and social security initiatives that proves indispensable in mitigating the multifaceted vulnerabilities faced by these individuals.

The intricate interplay between environmental preservation, social security and disaster management in Bangladesh's context necessitates a holistic approach to policy-making and implementation. It is through the convergence of these domains that the nation can forge a path towards a more equitable, resilient, and sustainable future. By heeding the constitutional call of Article 18A and Article 15, Bangladesh can not only protect its natural resources and vulnerable populations but also foster an environment where the well-being of all citizens is upheld as an intrinsic part of its national identity and ethos.

5.2. Social Protection System in Bangladesh

The social protection system in Bangladesh is guided by constitutional provisions outlined in Article 15, which obligates the government to prioritize economic growth and address the basic needs of its citizens. Over the years, Bangladesh has made remarkable progress in poverty reduction and socio-economic development, enabling it to meet the eligibility criteria for transitioning from a Least Developed Country (LDC) to a lower-middle-income country in 2018. The government's commitment to these goals is reflected in its efforts to establish a comprehensive, lifecycle-based social security system, as articulated in the National Social Security Strategy (NSSS) approved in 2015.

The NSSS serves as a long-term roadmap for reforming the country's social protection system. It emphasizes inclusivity, targeting vulnerable populations such as children, women, the elderly, and persons with disabilities. The strategy also advocates for a shift from discretionary approaches to targeted universal interventions, aiming to minimize leakage and expand coverage. Additionally, the NSSS recognizes the importance of social insurance, covering risks related to old age, disability, unemployment, and pregnancy, while also addressing disaster response and mitigation for covariate risks like natural disasters and epidemics. Overall, Bangladesh's commitment to social protection aligns with its broader development goals and aspirations, seeking to provide social security for all deserving citizens while fostering socio-economic advancement and resilience.

Bangladesh, demonstrating a strong commitment to social welfare and poverty alleviation, allocates over 13 billion USD to social protection programs, a figure that represents more than 2.5% of its Gross Domestic Product (GDP) and approximately 16% of its national budget. This substantial investment underscores the country's dedication to addressing the needs of its most vulnerable populations, including the elderly, women, children, and persons with disabilities. By channelling a significant portion of its resources into social protection, Bangladesh aims to enhance social safety nets, improve living standards, and reduce socio-economic disparities. This level of expenditure reflects the government's recognition of the pivotal role social protection plays in promoting inclusive growth and sustainable development.

A distinctive feature of Bangladesh's social protection reform is its steadfast commitment to adopting a lifecycle-based approach, a key element of the National Social Security Strategy (NSSS). This approach recognizes the varying needs and vulnerabilities individuals face at different stages of life, including childhood, working age, old age, and periods of disability. Moreover, it places a significant emphasis on addressing covariate shocks, such as natural disasters, diseases, and epidemics, within the realm of social protection. This distinctive focus on shock responsiveness and adaptability makes Bangladesh's social protection system inherently robust and capable of swiftly responding to unforeseen challenges and crises. By integrating a lifecycle perspective and prioritizing covariate shock response, Bangladesh aims to create an adaptive social protection that can effectively safeguard the well-being of its citizens throughout their lives while taking into consideration the issues of climate change and disasters.

The Government, in a concerted effort to implement social protection reforms as outlined in the National Social Security Strategy (NSSS), formulated an action plan spanning from 2016 to 2021. This strategic plan, developed by the relevant wing of the Cabinet Division and approved by the Central Management Committee (CMC), laid the groundwork for comprehensive reforms across various sectors. The first phase of the action plan focused on creating a cohesive and integrated approach to social security, addressing various aspects such as climate adaptation, disaster management, and overall

poverty reduction. This phase involved extensive capacity building within line ministries, coordination of efforts across different governmental departments, and the development of individual action plans by each ministry. The culmination of this first phase in June 2021 marked a significant milestone in the country's pursuit of the overarching vision set forth by the NSSS.

Following the successful completion of the first phase, the second phase of the action plan, covering the period from 2021 to 2026, was initiated. This phase continued to build upon the foundational work of the previous plan, emphasizing both program and institutional reforms. Program reforms in this phase included the expansion of coverage, introduction of new schemes, and strategic discontinuation or consolidation of programs to align more closely with the life-cycle framework of the NSSS. These reforms aimed at enhancing the efficiency and effectiveness of social protection initiatives, making them more responsive to the evolving needs of the population. On the institutional front, significant strides were made in governance reforms. These included the acceleration of a single registry-based Management Information System (MIS), effective utilization of the Grievance Redress System for better governance, expansion of online-based cash transfer modalities (G2P), and the implementation of a results-based Monitoring and Evaluation Framework. Together, these reforms represented a holistic and forward-thinking approach to social security, positioning the government to better meet the challenges and opportunities of the coming years.

5.3. Climate Adaptation Programmes in Bangladesh

Bangladesh, positioned seventh on the 2021 World Climate Risk Index, confronts significant vulnerability to climate change due to its geographical attributes, including a flat, low-lying topography, and a high population density. Furthermore, widespread poverty and dependence on climate-sensitive sectors such as agriculture and fisheries exacerbate this vulnerability. Despite its minimal contribution to global emissions, the nation grapples with severe climate-induced disasters, including cyclones, floods, droughts, sea-level rise, and salinity intrusion, all of which substantially hinder its developmental and socioeconomic progress.

The government of Bangladesh dedicates around 6-7% of its annual budget to initiatives aimed at enhancing climate resilience, notably financing a substantial part of this through domestic resources. Despite this considerable investment, the ever-evolving dynamics of climate change persist in exerting substantial pressure on the nation's economy and its ambitions for sustainable development. Looking ahead, Bangladesh faces a challenging future in the context of climate change, characterized by an anticipated rise in internal climate migration and escalating economic losses. This scenario underscores the critical need for ongoing and strengthened efforts in climate adaptation and resilience building to safeguard the nation's developmental progress.

Recognizing its climate change vulnerabilities, Bangladesh has actively pursued adaptation strategies, a commitment reinforced by its constitution. The nation's efforts are encapsulated in the National Adaptation Plan (NAP), spearheaded by the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change. The NAP aligns with international frameworks like the Cancun Framework and the Paris Agreement, focusing on addressing medium- and long-term climate adaptation needs within its broader development agenda.

This initiative builds upon earlier strategic efforts, including the National Adaptation Programme of Action (NAPA, 2005) and the Bangladesh Climate Change Strategy and Action Plan (BCCSAP, 2009), which laid the foundation for the country's climate resilience. Subsequent policies like the Bangladesh Delta Plan 2100 and the Mujib Climate Prosperity Plan, along with the updated National Environment Policy (2018), further reinforced this framework. These policies collectively represent a comprehensive approach to building a climate-resilient Bangladesh.

The NAP encompasses eight critical sectors, with social security being one of the focal areas. The other sectors include water resources, agriculture, fisheries, urban development, and ecosystems, among

others. It endeavours to mitigate climate risks and vulnerabilities, striving to build a nation resilient to the impacts of climate change through effective adaptation strategies.

The NAP's comprehensive and inclusive approach is designed to integrate climate adaptation into the fabric of Bangladesh's development planning. This strategy supports the country's aspiration to transition into a high-income nation by 2041 while concurrently achieving the Sustainable Development Goals by 2030. Similarly, the National Social Security Strategy (NSSS) aligns with these objectives, aiming to contribute to national development through robust social protection programs. Thus, the objectives of the NAP and the NSSS converge, representing a cohesive effort to enhance the nation's resilience and sustainable growth in the face of environmental challenges and socio-economic disparities.

5.4. Disaster Management in Bangladesh

Disaster management in Bangladesh has evolved significantly over the years, culminating in the comprehensive formulation of the Standing Orders on Disaster Management (SOD) 2019. This pivotal document marks a milestone in the nation's approach to disaster risk management, integrating modern methodologies and inclusive strategies into the framework. Recognizing Bangladesh's unique vulnerability to natural disasters due to its geophysical characteristics and climatic conditions, the SOD 2019 aligns with both national development plans and international disaster risk reduction commitments, such as the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the Sendai Framework. It underscores the importance of inclusive participation, ensuring that women, children, the elderly, and persons with disabilities are integral to disaster management processes. By outlining specific roles and responsibilities for various stakeholders at all levels of governance, the SOD 2019 facilitates coordinated and efficient disaster response and preparedness. This landmark document symbolizes Bangladesh's commitment to a proactive, inclusive, and adaptive approach to disaster management, setting a benchmark for other disaster-prone regions worldwide.

The Standing Orders on Disaster (SOD) 2019 of Bangladesh represents a comprehensive framework for disaster risk management, reflecting the country's commitment to national and international disaster risk reduction standards. These orders incorporate modern concepts, technical knowledge, and methodologies for disaster management, with a focus on inclusion and participation from all stakeholders at every level of society.

The SOD 2019 aligns with Bangladesh's development plans, including the Fifth Five Year Plans, Delta Plan 2100, and National Strategic Plans, emphasizing the integration of disaster risk management in all development initiatives. It also complies with international commitments like the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction.

The orders advocate for inclusive disaster risk management, ensuring the participation of women, children, elderly people, and persons with disabilities. This approach moves beyond traditional disaster management models to a more comprehensive and socially inclusive framework.

The SOD outlines specific responsibilities and functions of stakeholders at all levels, from national to local government institutions. Ministries, divisions, departments, and agencies are required to prepare their own action plans respecting their responsibilities under the Standing Orders for efficient implementation.

Coordination Mechanism: The National Disaster Management Council (NDMC), Inter-Ministerial Disaster Management Coordination Committee (IMDMCC), and Cabinet Committee on Disaster Response (CCDR) are responsible for coordinating disaster-related activities at the national level. Coordination at the district, upazila, and union levels is carried out by respective disaster management committees.

The document acknowledges Bangladesh as one of the most disaster-prone countries, influenced by its geophysical location, land characteristics, and climate. The SOD is updated to address the increased

vulnerability due to natural and human-induced hazards, emphasizing the importance of disaster risk reduction and emergency response strengthening.

5.5. Convergence of the Three

Bangladesh has established robust frameworks in social protection, disaster management, and climate adaptation, each contributing significantly to the nation's resilience. The intricate interplay between these domains underscores the necessity for a unified and comprehensive strategy to effectively confront the complex challenges confronting the country. Despite the remarkable progress achieved in these individual sectors, there is an evident opportunity to enhance synergy and solidify the connections between them. The current initiatives to craft a framework for shock-responsive and adaptive social protection underscore this imperative. This endeavour aims to interlink these sectors more cohesively, thereby forging a system that is not only equipped to respond promptly to immediate crises stemming from disasters and climate change but also adept at preemptively addressing the enduring vulnerabilities of the Bangladeshi populace. Adopting such an interconnected approach is vital for Bangladesh's sustainable development, ensuring that its trajectory of growth is not only resilient and adaptable but also inclusive, effectively meeting the challenges of both the global landscape and local exigencies.

5.6. Core Principles of Adaptive Social Protection

Adaptive Social Protection (ASP) integrates strategies from social protection, disaster risk management, and climate change adaptation. This approach helps protect the most vulnerable populations from various shocks and stresses. In an ever-changing world marked by the unpredictability of climate change, economic fluctuations, and societal challenges, the concept of Adaptive Social Protection (ASP) has emerged as a crucial framework for safeguarding the welfare of vulnerable populations. ASP represents a dynamic approach that seeks to provide resilient and responsive social protection systems. At its core, ASP is guided by a set of fundamental principles that underpin its effectiveness. These principles, namely Flexibility and Responsiveness, Inclusivity and Targeting, Coordination and Integration, and Sustainability and Resilience-Building, form the cornerstone of ASP, ensuring that it can adapt to evolving circumstances, reach those in need, foster collaboration among stakeholders, and ultimately build sustainable resilience within communities. This discussion will delve into these basic principles, exploring how they shape the foundation of ASP and its capacity to address the complex challenges faced by vulnerable populations.

5.7. Coordination and integration

Adaptive coordination refers to a dynamic and flexible approach to collaboration and decision-making among different sectors, organizations, or agencies. This approach is particularly relevant in contexts where conditions and needs are constantly changing, such as in response to social, economic, and environmental challenges

Adaptive coordination in social protection is increasingly crucial as it bridges the gap between social protection, disaster management, and climate adaptation. This integrated approach is vital for a comprehensive response to the multifaceted challenges posed by changing socio-economic and environmental conditions.

The importance of adaptive coordination lies primarily in its ability to create a holistic response framework. Traditional siloed approaches often lead to inefficiencies and missed opportunities for synergy. For instance, when a natural disaster strikes, a coordinated approach ensures that social protection mechanisms can swiftly provide relief while disaster management teams focus on immediate response and rehabilitation. Simultaneously, climate adaptation strategies can be integrated to build long-term resilience against future occurrences. This synergy maximizes resource utilization, ensures a rapid response to crises, and enhances the overall effectiveness of interventions.

Furthermore, adaptive coordination helps in aligning goals and strategies across different sectors. Social protection, disaster management, and climate adaptation each have unique objectives, but they often overlap in the communities they serve and the types of interventions they implement. By coordinating efforts, these sectors can avoid duplication of services, identify gaps in coverage, and develop comprehensive strategies that address multiple aspects of vulnerability, such as economic instability, environmental degradation, and social inequity.

Establishing and enhancing an adaptive coordination mechanism involves several key steps. First, there needs to be a clear understanding of the roles and responsibilities of each sector. This clarity can be achieved through joint planning sessions and the development of integrated policies and frameworks. It's important that each sector acknowledges the interconnected nature of their work and commits to a shared vision of resilience and social well-being.

Effective communication and information sharing are also critical. Establishing platforms for regular dialogue, data exchange, and joint monitoring and evaluation can significantly enhance coordination. These platforms can be supported by technology, such as shared databases and collaborative tools, which enable real-time information sharing and decision-making. This level of transparency and collaboration ensures that all sectors are informed about ongoing initiatives, challenges, and opportunities for joint action.

Capacity building is another important aspect. Training programs that focus on integrated approaches to social protection, disaster management, and climate adaptation can foster a common understanding and skill set among professionals in these fields. Additionally, engaging local communities in the planning and implementation processes ensures that interventions are grounded in local realities and needs.

Finally, institutionalizing adaptive coordination through legal and policy frameworks is essential for its sustainability. Governments can play a key role by enacting policies that mandate and facilitate coordination across sectors. This might include setting up dedicated coordination bodies or committees, allocating resources specifically for joint initiatives, and incorporating integrated approaches into national development plans.

Adaptive coordination is a pivotal element in enhancing the effectiveness and impact of social protection, disaster management, and climate adaptation. Through clear roles and responsibilities, effective communication, capacity building, and supportive policies, a well-established coordination mechanism can ensure a more resilient, efficient, and comprehensive approach to addressing the multifaceted challenges faced by vulnerable populations.

5.8. Dynamic Data and Information Sharing

Dynamic data sharing in the context of adaptive social protection refers to the dynamic and responsive exchange of information and data among various stakeholders involved in social protection programs. This approach is essential for making informed decisions, especially in rapidly changing environments marked by social, economic, and environmental uncertainties.

The significance of adaptive data sharing lies in its ability to enhance the effectiveness and efficiency of social protection initiatives. By sharing real-time or relevant data among government agencies, non-governmental organizations, community groups, and other stakeholders, programs can be tailored to meet the evolving needs of the population. For instance, data on employment trends, climate impacts, or health crises can be used to adjust social protection measures accordingly, ensuring that they remain relevant and impactful. This kind of data sharing facilitates a more nuanced understanding of vulnerabilities and needs, allowing for targeted interventions.

To implement adaptive data sharing in social protection, several key steps are required. First, establishing a robust data infrastructure is crucial. This involves developing systems for data collection, storage, and analysis that are secure, reliable, and capable of handling large volumes of data from diverse sources. It also means ensuring that data standards are harmonized across different agencies and organizations to enable seamless sharing and integration of data.

Next, creating legal and policy frameworks that support data sharing while protecting privacy and data security is essential. This includes developing data-sharing agreements that define the terms of data exchange, including what data can be shared, for what purposes, and with whom. These agreements should also address issues of data ownership, consent, and confidentiality to ensure that the rights and privacy of individuals are safeguarded.

Building capacity for data analysis and use is another critical component. Stakeholders involved in social protection need to have the skills and tools to analyze and interpret data effectively. This might involve training personnel in data analytics, investing in analytical software, and fostering a data-driven culture within organizations. By enhancing the capacity to use data effectively, stakeholders can make better-informed decisions about program design, implementation, and adaptation.

Finally, fostering a culture of collaboration and trust among stakeholders is vital for effective adaptive data sharing. This requires regular communication, transparency in how data is used, and a commitment to collective goals. Establishing forums or platforms for stakeholders to come together to discuss data findings, share insights, and plan collaborative actions can strengthen relationships and build trust. Such collaboration ensures that data sharing is not just a technical process but a cooperative effort that contributes to the overall goal of adaptive social protection.

5.9. Flexibility of Programming and Responsiveness

program flexibility is vital for adaptive social protection systems to remain effective in a rapidly changing world. Achieving this flexibility involves continuous monitoring and evaluation, stakeholder engagement, cross-sector partnerships, and supportive policy frameworks. With these elements in place, social protection programs can not only respond to immediate crises but also contribute to building a more resilient and inclusive society.

Program flexibility in adaptive social protection is essential for several key reasons. Firstly, it enables these programs to be responsive to changing socio-economic and environmental conditions. In an era marked by rapid shifts due to factors like climate change, technological advancements, and global pandemics, a one-size-fits-all approach to social protection is insufficient. Flexible programs can quickly adjust their strategies and operations to provide targeted support during crises, such as scaling up benefits in response to a natural disaster or modifying eligibility criteria during an economic downturn. This responsiveness is crucial for mitigating the immediate impact of such crises on vulnerable populations and preventing long-term socioeconomic decline.

Secondly, program flexibility enhances inclusivity and relevance. Different communities and individuals face unique challenges and thus require tailored support. Flexible social protection programs can adapt their offerings to meet these diverse needs, ensuring that assistance reaches the most vulnerable, including marginalized or traditionally underserved groups. For example, a flexible program might offer different types of assistance to urban unemployed youth as compared to rural farmers facing climate-induced challenges. Such adaptability ensures that social protection remains relevant and effective across varying contexts and demographic groups.

Thirdly, flexible programs are better positioned to build long-term resilience among beneficiaries. Instead of merely offering short-term relief, adaptive programs can focus on empowering individuals and communities to better withstand future shocks. This could involve integrating skill development,

education, or sustainable livelihood initiatives into traditional welfare programs. By doing so, these programs not only provide immediate support but also contribute to the long-term economic and social stability of beneficiaries.

Achieving this level of program flexibility requires a multi-faceted approach. It starts with the incorporation of strong monitoring and evaluation systems. These systems should be designed to continuously gather data and feedback, enabling program administrators to understand the impact of their interventions and identify adjustment needs. Regular assessments allow for timely modifications in response to changing circumstances. Additionally, investing in robust data analytics and predictive modelling can help in anticipating future trends and needs, enabling proactive adjustments to programs.

Another key aspect is stakeholder engagement. Involving beneficiaries, local communities, and other stakeholders in the design and implementation of programs ensures that the support provided is closely aligned with actual needs. This participatory approach not only increases the effectiveness of the programs but also enhances community ownership and acceptance.

Furthermore, building partnerships with various sectors, including the private sector, non-governmental organizations, and international agencies, can enhance the resource base and innovative capacity of social protection programs. These collaborations can bring in additional expertise, technology, and funding, facilitating more dynamic and responsive program design.

Fostering a policy environment that supports flexibility is crucial. This involves developing legal and institutional frameworks that allow for rapid programmatic adjustments without being hindered by bureaucratic processes. Governments need to ensure that social protection policies are adaptable, with built-in mechanisms for scaling and modification based on changing needs.

5.10. Flexible Funding

The importance of funding flexibility in adaptive social protection cannot be overstated, particularly in a world increasingly characterized by unpredictable economic, climatic, and social changes. Firstly, the core benefit of funding flexibility lies in its ability to respond swiftly and effectively to emergent needs. Traditional social protection schemes often struggle with rigidity, unable to adapt to sudden crises such as natural disasters, pandemics, or economic shocks. Flexible funding, on the other hand, allows for rapid scaling up or modification of social protection measures, ensuring timely and adequate support to those most affected. This responsiveness is critical not just for immediate relief, but also for maintaining long-term stability and trust in social protection systems.

Secondly, funding flexibility fosters innovation and adaptability within social protection programs. It allows for the testing of new approaches and strategies to meet evolving challenges. This could include the integration of technology in delivering services, or the development of new models of support for populations facing unique vulnerabilities, such as gig economy workers or climate refugees. With flexible funding, programs can pivot more easily, experimenting with and adopting practices that prove most effective in real-world scenarios. This adaptability is key in an era where demographic, technological, and environmental landscapes are constantly shifting.

Ensuring funding flexibility, however, requires a multifaceted approach. One critical aspect is the diversification of funding sources. Relying solely on government budgets, which can be subject to political shifts and economic fluctuations, might not be sufficient. Incorporating funding from international donors, private sectors, and innovative financing mechanisms like social bonds or impact investing can provide more stability and flexibility. Additionally, establishing contingency funds specifically for emergency responses can ensure that resources are available when sudden needs arise, without diverting funds from ongoing programs.

Moreover, policy frameworks must be designed to allow for flexibility in the allocation and use of funds. This involves creating legal and administrative structures that enable quick reallocation of resources in response to changing circumstances. It also means investing in data collection and analysis capabilities to identify emerging needs and assess the impact of various interventions. A data-driven approach ensures that decisions on resource allocation are informed and targeted. Furthermore, engaging with local communities in the decision-making process ensures that the allocation of funds is responsive to the actual needs on the ground, enhancing the effectiveness of social protection programs.

Funding flexibility is essential for adaptive social protection systems to be truly effective and responsive. It allows for timely interventions during crises, supports innovation and adaptability, and ensures that resources are utilized in the most impactful manner. Achieving this flexibility requires a combination of diversified funding sources, flexible policy frameworks, robust data capabilities, and community engagement.

6. Successful Initiatives of ASP in Bangladesh During COVID-19

Bangladesh, under the guidance of the Honourable Prime Minister, implemented a pioneering approach to social security during the COVID-19 pandemic, aligning with its National Social Security Strategy (NSSS) of 2015. The strategy, a comprehensive roadmap for social protection reform, became instrumental in addressing the challenges posed by the pandemic.

The NSSS, with its emphasis on digital transformation and a lifecycle framework, was crucial in the country's response to COVID-19. Recognizing the disproportionate impact of the pandemic on the poor and near-poor, the government adopted a balanced approach, focusing on both life and livelihood. This strategy entailed increasing social protection spending to over 3% of GDP, surpassing the NSSS's recommended 2.3%.

6.1. Digital Cash Transfer Program:

A landmark initiative was the Digital Cash Transfer program, designed to aid low-income groups such as day labourers, farmers, and house workers. The program successfully distributed a one-time payment of 2500 taka (around 30 USD) to approximately 35 lakh beneficiaries. The utilization of mobile financial services (MFS) like Nagad, Bkash, Rocket, and Surecash facilitated the efficient and widespread distribution of funds. This program showcased the government's commitment to leveraging technology for social welfare.

6.2. Selection Procedure:

The selection of beneficiaries was a testament to the innovative use of technology. The Bangladesh Telecommunication Regulatory Commission (BTRC) collaborated with mobile operators to analyze phone usage patterns, identifying households facing economic hardships. This data, linked with the National ID (NID) database, helped create a comprehensive list of eligible households. A meticulous verification process ensured that the aid reached the most deserving, filtering out ineligible candidates through various criteria, including government service holders and those with substantial savings.

6.3. Coordination and Management:

The execution of this extensive program was a collaborative effort, coordinated by the Prime Minister's office and involving multiple government divisions. The Finance Division, Bangladesh Bank, Ministry of Disaster Management, Local Government Division, and Cabinet Division all played crucial roles in the seamless implementation of the program.

Bangladesh's response to the COVID-19 pandemic, guided by the NSSS, stands as a remarkable example of effective government intervention in times of crisis. The use of digital technology, comprehensive planning, and inter-departmental coordination exemplified a model approach to social security. This initiative not only provided immediate relief to millions but also set a precedent for future social protection strategies in the face of global challenges.

7. Strategic Objectives and Actions

This chapter delineates the strategic objectives of the guidelines, emphasizing their critical role in realizing the aims of the Adaptive Social Protection (ASP) program. Strategic objectives are essential in steering the execution of any initiative, particularly those as comprehensive and intricate as ASP. They act as specific, actionable goals that shape the program's direction and focus. These objectives not only facilitate the monitoring of progress and effectiveness but also allow for continuous assessment and necessary modifications. They transcend the realm of mere administrative tools, embodying key elements that craft the identity, approach, and impact of Adaptive Social Protection programs. Among these strategic objectives are enhancing coordination, improving data and information sharing, tailoring program design to meet specific needs, and ensuring flexible funding. Each of these objectives is further expounded upon in the sections that follow.

7.1. Enhance Multi-Sectoral Coordination

Enhanced coordination between social protection, disaster management, and climate change adaptation is vital for the effective implementation of Adaptive Social Protection (ASP) in Bangladesh. This integration is crucial in creating a synergistic approach that maximizes the impact of each sector's resources and expertise. By bridging these traditionally separate domains, Bangladesh can develop more comprehensive and resilient strategies to protect its vulnerable populations against a wide range of risks, including natural disasters, economic shocks, and the adverse effects of climate change. This coordinated approach ensures that social protection measures are not only responsive to immediate needs, such as in the aftermath of a disaster but also adaptive to long-term climate risks and capable of supporting sustainable development goals. To actualize this coordination, specific action plans are required.

- 1. Establishment of inter-ministerial Committee on ASP:** Establishing an inter-ministerial committee involving the key ministries such as the Cabinet Division, Ministry of Social Welfare, Ministry of Forest Environment and Climate Change, Ministry of Disaster Management, and Finance Division. This committee would provide a platform for regular dialogue and integrated planning. This committee would be tasked with developing joint policies and programs that align disaster management with social protection schemes and climate adaptation strategies. The functions of this committee will be facilitated by single registry MIS and other arrangements for data sharing. The committee will be reporting to the CMC for making decisions at the higher level.
- 2. Coordination at the field-level:** The management and coordination of field-level activities for social protection, disaster management, and climate adaptation in Bangladesh will be streamlined through Social Security Management Committees. These committees, operational at the division, district, and upazila levels, will play a pivotal role in synchronizing the efforts across these critical sectors. Tasked with the integration and alignment of activities, these committees will serve as the central hubs for coordination, ensuring that the strategies and actions in social protection are effectively harmonized with disaster management initiatives and climate adaptation measures. To enhance the effectiveness of these committees, their mandates will include specific responsibilities such as facilitating regular inter-sectoral meetings and monitoring the implementation of integrated strategies at the local level. They will also be responsible for fostering community engagement, ensuring that local insights and needs inform the adaptation and disaster management efforts. Additionally, these committees will liaise with

national-level ministries to ensure that local actions are in alignment with broader national policies and objectives.

Action Plans and Timeframe:

Sl No	Objectives	Action	Responsibility	Timeframe
1.	Establishment of Committee on Adaptive Social Protection at the central level	The Cabinet Division will undertake immediate action to establish a dedicated committee on Adaptive Social Protection at the central level, functioning under the Central Management Committee (CMC). This initiative represents a strategic move towards enhancing the synergy and effectiveness of social protection measures in Bangladesh. The primary role of this newly formed committee will be to oversee, guide, and align the various aspects of social protection with the broader objectives of disaster management and climate adaptation.	Cabinet Division	June 2024
2.	Issue Directives to the Management Committees on Social Protection at Field Levels to follow the guidelines on ASP	The Cabinet Division will issue directives to the Social Protection Management Committees at the field level, ensuring they play a pivotal role in fostering robust coordination among social protection, disaster management, and climate adaptation initiatives. These field-level committees will be instrumental in translating central policies into actionable strategies and ensuring their effective implementation at the division, district, and upazila levels. Through this dual approach – central oversight coupled with empowered local execution – the Cabinet Division aims to establish a	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cabinet Division • Divisional Management Committee (DivMC) on Social Protection • District Management Committee (DMC) on Social Protection • Upazila Management Committee (UMC) on Social Protection 	June 2024

		cohesive and integrated framework for Adaptive Social Protection, thereby reinforcing the resilience and responsiveness of Bangladesh's social protection system to environmental, economic, and social challenges.		
3.	Sensitize Subordinate Departments and Offices under line ministries	<p>The other key ministries involved in the Adaptive Social Protection (ASP) program will take proactive steps to ensure that their respective subordinate offices are thoroughly informed and sensitized about ASP principles and practices. This initiative is crucial for fostering a comprehensive understanding of the ASP framework across all levels of government. These ministries will not only disseminate information about ASP but will also actively encourage their subordinate offices to align their operations and strategies with the guidelines set forth in the ASP program. This will ensure that all personnel, from top-level officials to field workers, are equipped with the knowledge and skills necessary to effectively contribute to the ASP objectives. Moreover, these ministries will monitor and support the integration of ASP guidelines into the day-to-day functioning of their subordinate offices, ensuring a cohesive and unified approach towards social protection, disaster management, and climate adaptation across the nation.</p>		

4.	Coordination and Integration of Programs	<p>The coordination and integration of programs, particularly those implemented by various ministries such as the Ministry of Social Welfare and the Ministry of Disaster Management, are paramount to achieving maximum efficiency and effectiveness in addressing complex societal challenges. Without adequate coordination, there is a significant risk of duplication, resource wastage, and fragmented service delivery.</p> <p>To mitigate this risk, measures should be taken to foster collaboration and synergy among ministries and their respective programs. Ministries should actively engage in dialogue and knowledge sharing, leveraging each other's expertise and experiences.</p>	<p>Cabinet Division</p> <p>Ministry of Social Welfare</p> <p>Ministry of Disaster Management</p> <p>Ministry of Forest, Environment and Climate Change</p>	Continuous
5.	Coordination with Development partners and NGOs	<p>The coordination with Development Partners (DPs), and NGOs is a pivotal aspect of the nation's approach to adaptive social protection. This coordination is facilitated through forums such as the Local Consultative Group (LCG) Working Group on Governance and Social Protection, which serves as a platform for engaging with DPs. This group's role is crucial in aligning the strategies and resources of various stakeholders, ensuring that the efforts in adaptive social protection are cohesive and effective.</p> <p>Additionally, collaboration with NGOs will be streamlined through the GO-NGO collaboration forums, a mechanism that fosters</p>	<p>Cabinet Division</p> <p>Line ministries</p>	

		<p>partnership at both central and local levels. The Cabinet Division leads this process at the central level, ensuring a unified approach in policy implementation and coordination.</p> <p>The local-level coordination is also crucial as it allows for the direct and efficient implementation of social protection initiatives, particularly in vulnerable and hard-to-reach communities. The local management committees on social security will ensure such coordination.</p>		
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7.2. Capacity Building

The need for capacity building in Adaptive Social Protection (ASP) is paramount, particularly in a country like Bangladesh, where the impacts of climate change, natural disasters, and socio-economic vulnerabilities intersect. For ASP to be effectively implemented and sustained, it is essential that those at the helm of policy-making, execution, and oversight possess the necessary knowledge, skills, and tools. This includes not only understanding the theoretical underpinnings of ASP but also being adept at applying these concepts in real-world scenarios. Capacity building in this context goes beyond mere training; it encompasses a holistic approach to enhancing the competencies of individuals and institutions in planning, managing, and evaluating ASP programs. Such an approach ensures that the strategies developed are not only responsive to current needs but are also adaptable to future challenges.

The target groups for capacity building in ASP are diverse and include government officials at both the central and field levels, NGO representatives, and public representatives. For government officials, especially those in ministries like Social Welfare, Disaster Management, and Climate Change, capacity building would focus on integrating ASP into policy frameworks, program design, and implementation strategies. At the field level, officials need to be equipped with skills for on-ground execution, monitoring, and community engagement. For NGOs, training would emphasize collaboration with government programs, community mobilization, and localized implementation of ASP strategies. Public representatives, including local leaders and elected officials, play a crucial role in advocating for ASP and ensuring its alignment with community needs. Educating them about ASP principles and practices is vital for fostering community trust and participation. Overall, capacity building across these groups creates a well-informed, skilled network of individuals and organizations, collectively strengthening the ASP ecosystem in Bangladesh.

Action Plans and Timeframe:

Sl No	Objectives	Action	Responsibility	Timeframe
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1.	Capacity Building of the Social Security Focal Points	The Cabinet Division will orchestrate a comprehensive training program specifically designed for the Social Security Focal Points and their alternates across the 39 ministries involved in implementing social protection initiatives. This training program represents a strategic initiative to bolster the capabilities and effectiveness of these key personnel who play a crucial role in the execution and management of social protection schemes. The curriculum of this training program will encompass a wide range of topics, including the latest developments in social security frameworks, climate adaptation and disaster management.	Cabinet Division	December, 2024
2.	Training for the Chairpersons of DivMC, DMC and UMC	The implementation and supervision of social protection programs in Bangladesh are critically overseen by the chairpersons of the Divisional Management Committee (DivMC), District Management Committee (DMC), and Upazila Management Committee (UMC), who are the Divisional Commissioners, Deputy Commissioners, and Upazila Nirbahi Officers, respectively. Recognizing the pivotal role these officers play in the effective delivery and management of social protection initiatives, there is a significant need for intensive and specialized training. To address this need, the Cabinet Division will organize a comprehensive training program, specifically tailored for these key officials,	Cabinet Division	By December 2025 (In phases)

		<p>approximately numbering around 600.</p> <p>Given the extensive scope of this training requirement, the Cabinet Division may consider implementing a 'Training of Trainers' (TOT) model. This approach would involve initially training a select group of these officers, who would then be equipped to effectively disseminate their knowledge and skills to their peers.</p>		
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7.3. Readiness and Anticipatory Measures

Continuous information collection and data sharing among line ministries in Bangladesh play a pivotal role in proactively assessing the likelihood of disasters or socio-economic shocks. The country is particularly vulnerable to a range of hazards, including cyclones, floods, and economic fluctuations. Therefore, the ability to anticipate such events is crucial for minimizing their adverse consequences. Continuous data exchange allows for the early identification of warning signs and triggers, enabling the government to take anticipatory actions that can make a significant difference in disaster response and recovery.

Anticipatory actions encompass a spectrum of measures, from enhancing administrative preparedness to community engagement and providing anticipatory allowances. Firstly, administrative preparedness involves ensuring that government agencies at all levels are well-equipped, trained, and ready to respond swiftly to impending disasters or shocks. This includes having clear protocols, resource allocations, and coordination mechanisms in place. Secondly, community caution plays a pivotal role in ensuring that the population is aware of potential risks and knows how to respond appropriately. Public awareness campaigns, early warning systems, and community drills are instrumental in this regard. Lastly, providing anticipatory allowances to vulnerable households can help alleviate the immediate financial burdens that often accompany disasters or shocks, enabling families to take proactive measures to protect their livelihoods. Together, these anticipatory actions constitute a proactive approach that can save lives, reduce suffering, and promote resilience in the face of adversity.

Action Plans and Timeframe:

Sl No	Objectives	Action	Responsibility	Timeframe
1.	Review the Readiness of the Social Security and Disaster Response Agencies	The readiness of Social Security and Disaster Response Agencies, overseen by field-level committees and offices, depends on a continuous and rigorous assessment of their resources, manpower, and	Committee on ASP Line Ministries Management Committees at the Field Level	Continuous

		<p>logistics to ensure preparedness for unforeseen crises. These assessments involve thorough scrutiny of personnel capabilities, the availability and condition of equipment and supplies, as well as financial allocations. Through a combination of comprehensive disaster response plans, ongoing training and exercises, and robust communication systems, agencies aim to enhance their resilience in the face of sudden shocks. Regular evaluations are carried out by ministries, field-level offices, and local social security committees to maintain this state of readiness.</p>		
2.	Community Cautioning	<p>In this collaborative effort, the Ministry of Forest, Environment and Climate Change regularly disseminates vital information regarding climate change trends, risks, and potential crises to line ministries and field administrations. Armed with this knowledge, these agencies will play a crucial role in cautioning and educating the community about the impending environmental crises and shocks that may arise due to climate change. By delivering timely warnings and recommending precautionary measures, they empower communities to make informed decisions, adapt to changing climate conditions, and take necessary steps to mitigate the impacts, ultimately fostering resilience and sustainable practices at the local level.</p>	<p>Ministry of Forest, Environment and Climate Change</p> <p>Ministry of Disaster Management</p> <p>Local Government Division</p>	Continuous

3.	Anticipatory Allowances	The concept of anticipatory measures in disaster management represents a highly efficient and forward-thinking approach to safeguarding vulnerable populations. Under the purview of the Ministry of Disaster Management and Relief, these measures involve the timely provision of allowances and resources to potentially affected communities before a disaster strikes. By proactively allocating funds and resources in advance, the ministry ensures that victims have a financial safety net and the necessary means to enhance their resilience. This approach not only accelerates the response process but also minimizes the immediate suffering of disaster-affected individuals and families, enabling them to better withstand the shocks and recover more effectively in the aftermath of a crisis. Ultimately, anticipatory measures exemplify a proactive and compassionate approach to disaster management that prioritizes the well-being and resilience of those at risk.	Ministry of Disaster Management and Relief Ministry of Social Welfare Local Government Division	Continuous
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7.4. Conduct Studies on ASP Situation

As a crucial next step, a comprehensive study will be conducted to evaluate the current state of Adaptive Social Protection (ASP) in Bangladesh. This study will aim to thoroughly assess the effectiveness, challenges, and opportunities within the existing ASP framework. The insights gleaned from this research will be instrumental in refining and updating the strategic actions for ASP, ensuring that they are responsive to the evolving needs and conditions in the country.

Following the completion of this study, its findings will be meticulously integrated into the upcoming National Social Security Strategy (NSSS) for 2026. This integration will not only enhance the relevance and effectiveness of the NSSS but also ensure that it is grounded in the latest empirical evidence and best practices in the field of ASP. The updated NSSS will reflect a deepened understanding of the social, economic, and environmental dynamics affecting social protection, disaster management, and climate adaptation in Bangladesh. This forward-looking approach signifies a commitment to continuously

improve and adapt the national strategy, making it a robust and resilient blueprint for the future of social protection in the country.

Action Plans and Timeframe:

Sl No	Objectives	Action	Responsibility	Timeframe
3.	Conduct a Study on the Adaptive Social Protection Situation in Bangladesh	<p>The Cabinet Division will spearhead an in-depth study on Adaptive Social Protection (ASP) to comprehensively analyze and evaluate its existing policy and legal frameworks, identifying strengths, weaknesses, and areas for improvement. This study is pivotal in ensuring that the ASP framework in Bangladesh is robust, responsive, and aligned with the nation's socio-economic and environmental contexts. By meticulously examining the current policies and legal provisions governing ASP, the Cabinet Division aims to uncover insights that can inform more effective and inclusive social protection strategies.</p> <p>In addition to policy analysis, the study will also involve a thorough review of ASP practices at the field level. This will include assessing the on-the-ground implementation of ASP programs, understanding the challenges faced by local administrations, and gauging the impact on the targeted populations. Based on these comprehensive evaluations, the Cabinet Division will formulate tailored recommendations aimed at establishing a model of social protection that is both exemplary and adaptable.</p>	Cabinet Division	June 2025
4.	Formulate a Model of	Following the in-depth study, the Cabinet Division will	Cabinet Division	

	Adaptive Social Protection in Bangladesh	<p>embark on the critical task of formulating a comprehensive model of Adaptive Social Protection (ASP) tailored to the unique context of Bangladesh. This model will be crafted with the insights and data gathered from the study, ensuring it is grounded in real-world evidence and local dynamics. The formulation of this model represents a significant stride towards enhancing and optimizing social protection strategies in the country, addressing the multifaceted challenges of poverty, climate change, and disaster risks.</p> <p>Once the model is developed, the Cabinet Division will initiate a series of strategic measures to implement it nationwide. This rollout will involve a coordinated effort across various levels of government and sectors, ensuring a unified and effective approach to ASP.</p>	Ministry of Social Welfare Disaster Management Local Government Division	
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7.5. Novel Data Strategy for Beneficiary Selection

Leveraging novel data sources is increasingly recognized as a crucial strategy in targeting genuine beneficiaries for adaptive social protection programs. Traditional methods of beneficiary selection often rely on outdated or limited data sets, which can lead to inefficiencies and inaccuracies in identifying those most in need. These conventional approaches may not fully capture the dynamic and complex nature of vulnerability, especially in rapidly changing social and economic environments. As a result, there is a risk of either excluding deserving individuals or including those not in dire need, thereby diminishing the effectiveness of the social protection initiatives.

The integration of big data and other digital data sources offers a transformative solution to these challenges. Big data analytics, encompassing a wide range of information from various digital platforms, can provide a more nuanced and real-time understanding of individual and community needs. This includes data from mobile phone usage, banking transactions, social media activity, and satellite imagery, among others. By analyzing these diverse data streams, policymakers can gain deeper insights into the socio-economic conditions of potential beneficiaries, enabling more precise and equitable targeting. Additionally, digital data can help in identifying emerging patterns and trends, such as the onset of economic downturns or environmental crises, allowing for a more proactive and adaptive approach in social protection. This use of technology in beneficiary selection not only enhances the efficiency of resource allocation but also ensures that support reaches those who need it most, when they need it. Moreover, this is also consistent with the vision of building Smart Bangladesh.

Action Plans and Timeframe:

Sl No	Objectives	Action	Responsibility	Timeframe
1.	Leveraging Novel Data Source for Beneficiary Selection	In the pursuit of refining beneficiary selection the Cabinet Division, the ICT Division, and other relevant line ministries will explore the possibilities of using novel data sources. This collaborative effort aims to harness the power of advanced data analytics and emerging technologies to identify and assist those most in need. By tapping into unconventional data streams, such as mobile phone usage patterns, social media activity, geographic information systems (GIS), satellite imagery, and financial transaction data, these ministries can gain a more comprehensive and real-time understanding of the socio-economic conditions of potential beneficiaries. This approach represents a significant shift from traditional methods, which often rely on static and outdated data, leading to inefficiencies in targeting and resource allocation.	Cabinet Division ICT Division BBS	June 2025

7.6. Gender Inclusiveness

The importance of gender inclusiveness is underscored in the National Social Security Strategy (NSSS). This approach is crucial as it ensures equitable consideration and support for both men and women in social protection policies and programs, recognizing that vulnerabilities to social, economic, and environmental shocks often differ based on gender, influenced by societal norms and roles. Women, in particular, face unique challenges such as lower income levels, limited resource access, and greater unpaid care responsibilities. Gender-inclusive ASP effectively addresses these disparities, ensuring interventions are equitable and responsive to everyone's needs, enhancing overall societal resilience and promoting sustainable development.

Adding to this, women's existing vulnerabilities due to their gender status are significantly amplified by the impacts of climate change and disasters. These external stresses can deepen gender inequalities, making women even more susceptible to economic and social instabilities. Recognizing this compounded vulnerability, it's imperative to implement special programs focused on women's security within the framework of ASP. These programs should be tailored to mitigate the heightened risks women face and ensure their protection and empowerment. By integrating gender-specific considerations into climate change and disaster response strategies, ASP can provide a more

comprehensive safety net. This not only helps in immediate disaster response but also fosters long-term resilience, empowering women to overcome systemic barriers and actively participate in their communities' socio-economic development. Such targeted measures are essential for achieving true gender equality and building a more inclusive, resilient society.

Action Plans and Timeframe:

Sl No	Objectives	Action	Responsibility	Timeframe
1.	Proritize the poor and distressed women in targeting	The need for prioritizing poor and distressed women in targeting ASP programs is essential, especially considering the compounded vulnerabilities women face due to gender status and the impacts of climate change and disasters. These factors exacerbate existing gender inequalities, making women more susceptible to economic and social instability. Recognizing this, the Ministry of Social Welfare and Ministry of Women and Children Affairs need to prioritize vulnerable women in targeting ASP initiatives.	Ministry of Social Welfare Ministry of Women and Children Affairs	Continuous

7.7. Child Sensitive Social Protection

The emphasis on child-focused and sensitive social protection is another key objective within the framework of Adaptive Social Protection (ASP), aligning with the principles outlined in both the Guidelines on ASP and the National Social Safety Net Strategy (NSSS). This focus stems from the understanding that families with children often face higher poverty rates compared to those without, primarily due to additional expenses and care responsibilities associated with child-rearing. Children, as a particularly vulnerable demographic, require special consideration in social protection strategies. By prioritizing families with children, ASP initiatives can more effectively address the root causes of poverty and provide support that is directly aligned with the needs of these families. This approach not only assists in meeting the immediate needs of children and their families but also plays a crucial role in breaking the cycle of intergenerational poverty. It ensures that children have access to essential resources like nutrition, healthcare, and education, which are foundational for their development and future opportunities.

Moreover, the vulnerability of children is significantly heightened in disaster and climate change scenarios, making it imperative to provide additional support during such times of distress. Children are often the most affected during crises, facing risks to their physical safety, mental well-being, and

overall development. Therefore, ASP programs must include provisions for extra support to families with children during emergencies. This support goes beyond regular social benefits, encompassing targeted interventions like emergency childcare, educational support, and psychological assistance to help children cope with the aftermath of disasters. Such targeted and child-sensitive responses are essential for safeguarding the well-being of children in crisis situations and ensuring their continued development. Implementing these measures within ASP not only addresses the immediate needs of children in emergencies but also contributes to building long-term resilience in communities, ensuring that the youngest and most vulnerable members are not left behind in efforts to create a more equitable and secure society.

Action Plans and Timeframe:

Sl No	Objectives	Action	Responsibility	Timeframe
1.	Strengthen Child Sensitive Social Protection	<p>In light of the heightened vulnerabilities that children face, especially during emergencies and in the context of climate change, the Ministry of Women and Children Affairs must take proactive steps to devise specialized measures for children, supplementing their regular social protection benefits. This action is crucial because children are disproportionately impacted during disasters, experiencing heightened risks to their physical and emotional well-being.</p> <p>Similarly, the Ministry of Disaster Management and Relief plays a pivotal role in this ecosystem and must prioritize families with children in their relief activities. This prioritization acknowledges the additional challenges and vulnerabilities that these families face during disasters. The Ministry's strategies should include the allocation of resources and services that cater specifically to the needs of families with children, ensuring that these families receive enhanced support during crises.</p>	<p>Ministry of Women and Children Affairs</p> <p>Ministry of Social Welfare</p> <p>Ministry of Disaster Management and Relief</p> <p>Local Government Division</p>	Regular

7.8. Disability Inclusive Social Protection

Disability inclusiveness forms a critical component of the objectives in Adaptive Social Protection (ASP), recognizing that individuals with disabilities represent one of the most vulnerable segments in society. This prioritization is essential, as people with disabilities often face unique challenges, including higher risks of poverty, social exclusion, and limited access to essential services. This involves not just the provision of financial assistance but also ensuring access to healthcare, education, employment opportunities, and inclusive infrastructure. Such an inclusive approach is crucial not only for meeting the immediate needs of this group but also for empowering them to participate fully in society.

Furthermore, the Ministry of Disaster Management and Relief has a significant role in ensuring that the needs of individuals with disabilities are adequately met during emergencies. Disasters can exacerbate existing vulnerabilities for people with disabilities, making them more susceptible to harm and less able to access emergency services. Therefore, it is imperative that disaster preparedness and response plans include specific provisions for disabled individuals. Such targeted and inclusive measures are fundamental in building a resilient and equitable society where the rights and needs of all individuals, including those with disabilities, are acknowledged and addressed.

Action Plans and Timeframe:

Sl No	Objectives	Action	Responsibility	Timeframe
1.	Prioritize Persons With Disabilities (PWD) in social protection and disaster response	In recognition of the unique challenges faced by persons with disabilities (PWDs), the Ministry of Social Welfare and the Ministry of Disaster Management and Relief will take special measures to ensure their well-being and safety, particularly in times of crisis. This commitment involves not only the continuation of regular allowances but also the provision of specialized relief materials and services tailored to their needs. These measures will include adaptive equipment, accessible shelters, and customized healthcare services, ensuring that PWDs can access the same level of support and safety as the rest of the population. The Ministries will safeguard the dignity, rights, and well-being of PWDs, ensuring that they are not left behind in emergency situations and	Ministry of Social Welfare Ministry of Disaster Management and Relief	Continuous

		that their unique needs are adequately met.		
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7.9. Enhancing Climate Preservation and Forestation

Enhancing climate preservation and forestation through social protection programs, particularly workfare initiatives, represents a vital and innovative objective. This approach synergizes social welfare with environmental stewardship, creating a dual impact of providing support to beneficiaries while simultaneously contributing to environmental conservation. Workfare programs can be strategically designed to incorporate activities that directly contribute to the preservation of the environment. For instance, beneficiaries could be engaged in tree planting initiatives, which not only aid in forestation but also instill a deeper awareness and understanding of environmental issues. This hands-on involvement in environmental conservation serves a dual purpose: it provides meaningful work and income for participants, and it fosters a sense of responsibility and connection to the natural world.

In these programs, beneficiaries become active agents in combating climate change and environmental degradation. The activities they engage in, such as planting and nurturing trees, restoring degraded land, or participating in community-based environmental education programs, not only contribute to their personal growth and development but also have a lasting positive impact on the environment. By integrating environmental goals into social protection schemes, there is an opportunity to address urgent environmental challenges while also empowering communities, particularly those that are marginalized or vulnerable. This approach also aligns with broader sustainable development goals, creating a model where social welfare and environmental conservation go hand in hand. The success of such programs depends on careful planning, community involvement, and ongoing support, ensuring that both human and environmental well-being are enhanced for the present and future generations.

Action Plans and Timeframe:

Sl No	Objectives	Action	Responsibility	Timeframe
1.	Include forestation and climate preservation in social protection programs	Inclusion of forestation and climate preservation is a strategic approach to synergize social welfare initiatives with environmental sustainability. This plan emphasizes the incorporation of forestation and climate preservation activities into existing social protection frameworks, particularly in workfare programs. The core idea is to engage beneficiaries in environmental conservation efforts, such as tree planting and ecosystem restoration, as part of their participation in social welfare schemes.	Ministry of Disaster Management and Relief Ministry of Social Welfare Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change Local Government Division	Continuous

2.	Ensuring Environmental Sustainability in Small Workfare Projects under Social Protection Programs	<p>The critical need for environmental scrutiny in small-scale workfare projects, which often go overlooked compared to larger initiatives, is increasingly recognized. Unlike major projects, smaller endeavours like rural road construction frequently escape rigorous environmental assessments. Yet, these smaller projects can significantly impact the environment, including disrupting natural water flows, leading to potentially harmful ecological effects. Recognizing the impracticality for the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change to monitor and assess these numerous small-scale projects, a strategic shift is proposed. The Ministry will focus on raising awareness and providing guidance to relevant ministries responsible for these projects, ensuring that they are environmentally conscious in their planning and execution. The goal is not only to minimize negative environmental impacts but also to encourage the development of projects that positively contribute to environmental preservation. This proactive approach aims to integrate environmental sustainability into all levels of project planning, fostering a harmonious balance between development and ecological well-being.</p>	<p>Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change</p> <p>Local Government Division</p> <p>Ministry of Disaster Management and Relief</p>	<p>June 2025</p> <p>Continuous Followup</p>
3.	Take special programs for the hard-to-reach areas	Recognizing that hard-to-reach areas with high poverty levels and low social security coverage pose a potential threat to the environment, the Ministry of Environment,	Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change	Continuous

		Forest and Climate Change is committed to regular monitoring and taking proactive measures. These regions, often neglected, can become hotspots for environmental degradation due to the lack of adequate resources and support. To address this, the Ministry will focus on two primary strategies: firstly, working towards increasing social security coverage in these areas to alleviate poverty and reduce the pressure on natural resources; secondly, implementing other effective environmental management measures tailored to the unique challenges of these regions. Additionally, the Ministry will explore collaborations with non-governmental organizations (NGOs), leveraging their expertise and grassroots connections to enhance the effectiveness of these initiatives.		
4.	Engagement with Community			

7.10. Community Engagement

The role of community engagement and collaboration with non-governmental organizations (NGOs) is vital in the effective implementation of adaptive social protection programs. Recognizing this, the relevant ministries, along with field administrations and local government institutions, are committed to actively involving local communities in both the planning and execution phases of social protection initiatives. This approach is geared towards sensitizing these communities to the critical interplay between social protection and environmental stewardship. By fostering a participatory environment, the aim is to encourage community members to not only understand but also contribute to the development and refinement of social protection strategies. This inclusive method ensures that the programs are well-aligned with the actual needs and conditions of the local populace, thereby enhancing their effectiveness. Additionally, working alongside NGOs, known for their grassroots-level insights and expertise, will further enrich these initiatives. This collaboration is expected to bring innovative solutions and strengthen the overall impact of social protection programs, ensuring they are sustainable and responsive to both social welfare and environmental conservation needs.

Action Plans and Timeframe:

Sl No	Objectives	Action	Responsibility	Timeframe
1.	Enhance Community Engagement for Adaptive Social Protection	<p>In the pursuit of more effective and sustainable adaptive social protection programs, dedicated measures will be implemented to actively engage local communities and civil society organizations. Understanding the invaluable role these groups play, the approach will be twofold: sensitizing them to the importance and nuances of social protection and environmental issues, and fostering robust partnerships. This engagement aims to not only raise awareness but also to harness the unique insights and capabilities of these stakeholders. By encouraging collaboration and seeking support where possible, the initiative seeks to leverage the grassroots expertise and local knowledge of these groups. This inclusive strategy is designed to ensure that social protection programs are not only more attuned to the specific needs of communities but also benefit from the diverse perspectives and resources that local communities can offer.</p>	<p>Local Government Division</p> <p>Local Administration</p>	Continuous

7.11. Food and Nutrition Security

Food and nutrition security play a crucial role in adaptive social protection programs, addressing the interlinked challenges of poverty, food scarcity, and health vulnerabilities. Firstly, ensuring food and nutrition security in social protection schemes is fundamental for maintaining the health and well-being of vulnerable populations. Secondly, integrating food and nutrition security into adaptive social protection is vital for enhancing the resilience of communities to external shocks. Climate change, economic instability, and pandemics disproportionately affect the poorest, often exacerbating food insecurity. Adaptive social protection programs that include food and nutrition components can quickly adjust to meet the increased needs during such crises. For example, in the event of a drought, such programs can scale up food aid or provide support for accessing alternative

livelihoods, ensuring that the nutritional needs of the population are met despite environmental challenges. This flexibility not only mitigates the immediate impact of shocks but also supports long-term recovery and sustainability.

The National Food and Nutrition Security Policy Plan of Action (2021-2030) in Bangladesh is indeed a cornerstone policy, designed to ensure the provision of sufficient, safe, and nutritious food for all citizens, with a special emphasis on supporting those in vulnerable situations. This plan is a testament to the government's commitment to addressing the various aspects of food security, encompassing not just the availability of food but also its accessibility, nutritional value, and safety.

Furthermore, the integration of food and nutrition security into Bangladesh's National Social Security Strategy (NSSS) Action Plans underscores the country's holistic approach to this issue. The creation of a separate thematic cluster on food security within the NSSS framework demonstrates a strategic focus on this area. By establishing a dedicated cluster, the government aims to streamline and strengthen its efforts to ensure food security across different sectors and among various groups within the population.

Action Plans and Timeframe:

Sl No	Objectives	Action	Responsibility	Timeframe
1.	Ensure sufficient production, stocks and distribution of food	The coordination and information sharing between relevant ministries are key to ensuring efficient food production and distribution. The relevant ministries need to work together, the ministries of to optimize the use of resources and knowledge across these critical sectors. This collaborative approach facilitates the identification and addressing of challenges in food production, such as seasonal variations, climate change impacts, and resource limitations. Moreover, efficient stock and distribution systems, supported by shared logistics and market information, can help in reaching the most vulnerable and remote populations, ensuring equitable access to nutritious food.	Ministry of Food Ministry of Agriculture Ministry of Fisheries and Livestock Ministry of Disaster Management and Relief Ministry of Commerce	
2.	Production and supply of	In Bangladesh, where rice is a staple, fortifying it with essential nutrients is key to improving food security,	Ministry of Disaster Management and Relief	

	fortified food to beneficiaries	especially during disasters and climate changes that disrupt food supplies. Enhancing the supply of fortified rice, a government priority, can be bolstered by partnerships with development partners and NGOs. These collaborations bring additional resources and expertise, ensuring vulnerable communities receive nutritionally rich food, vital for resilience against environmental and economic challenges.	Ministry of Food	
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7.12. Monitoring and Evaluation

Adaptive social protection systems are dynamic frameworks designed to provide support to vulnerable populations, particularly in response to environmental, economic, and social shocks. Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) plays a critical role in these systems. For instance, the Cabinet Division, along with various line ministries, is tasked with establishing a robust M&E framework. This framework is crucial for efficiently monitoring and evaluating the functioning and effectiveness of adaptive social protection initiatives.

The primary goal of the M&E framework in adaptive social protection is to ensure that these programs are responsive to the changing needs of the population, particularly during crises or unexpected events. The framework helps in assessing the impact of these programs, identifying areas for improvement, and ensuring that resources are used efficiently and effectively. This involves collecting and analyzing data on various aspects of the program, such as its reach, the adequacy of support provided, and the timeliness of its response to crises. The M&E framework also facilitates the sharing of insights and learnings across different line ministries, fostering a more coordinated and cohesive approach to social protection.

Action Plans and Timeframe:

Sl No	Objectives	Action	Responsibility	Timeframe
3.	Formulate an M&E framework for tracking the efficacy of ADP	The Cabinet Division will formulate an M&E framework for the Adaptive Social Protection (ASP) program to effectively track and assess the program's efficacy. This framework will be designed to monitor the functional aspects of social protection and evaluate the coherence and integration	Cabinet Division	June 2025

		across the three key sectors: social protection, disaster management and climate adaptation.		
4.	Monitor and Evaluate	Utilizing the M&E framework, the Cabinet Division and the respective line ministries will engage in a systematic and ongoing process to monitor and evaluate the functions and effectiveness of the Adaptive Social Protection (ASP) program. Regular data collection and analysis, as outlined in the framework, will provide insights into the program's performance, highlighting areas of success and pinpointing potential areas for improvement. These evaluations will focus not only on the efficiency of program delivery but also on its impact on beneficiaries. The findings and insights gained from this rigorous M&E process will then be compiled into comprehensive reports. These reports will be submitted to the Central Management Committee CMC for review.	Cabinet Division Line Ministries	Annual

8. Conclusion

In an era marked by rapid socio-economic shifts and environmental uncertainties, the establishment of the Guidelines on Adaptive Social Protection (ASP) in Bangladesh is both timely and crucial. Representing a comprehensive response to evolving global and local challenges, these guidelines highlight the need for resilience and adaptability in social protection mechanisms. As Bangladesh continues its journey of development, grappling with unique vulnerabilities to natural disasters and climate change, the ASP guidelines emerge as a pivotal strategy to safeguard and empower its population, especially the most vulnerable.

Since its independence, Bangladesh has shown a steadfast commitment to developing social protection measures. From initial disaster relief responses, these efforts have expanded to encompass broader strategies aimed at tackling poverty, healthcare, education, and employment challenges. The advent of global phenomena like the COVID-19 pandemic has further underscored the necessity for an adaptive approach to social protection. This approach, encapsulated in the ASP guidelines, integrates social protection with disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation, establishing a responsive system that can effectively address both current and future challenges.

Anchored in principles of inclusivity, responsiveness, sustainability, and adaptability, the ASP guidelines aim to create a social protection system that acts as both a safety net and a ladder towards greater resilience and sustainable development. This vision is realized through strategic objectives focusing on enhanced coordination, increased system responsiveness, risk-informed decision-making, sustainable financing, capacity building, community engagement, and robust monitoring and evaluation mechanisms.

Operationalizing these objectives involves the establishment of inter-ministerial and field-level committees, fostering integrated and collaborative efforts across various sectors. Capacity building is emphasized to enhance the competencies of all stakeholders involved in ASP, ensuring effective implementation and participation. The innovative use of novel data strategies for beneficiary selection marks a significant leap in targeting efficiency and effectiveness.

The Monitoring and Evaluation framework, established by the Cabinet Division, underscores the commitment to accountability and continuous improvement. It ensures that the ASP program remains responsive and effective, continually adapting to the changing needs of the population.

In conclusion, the Guidelines on Adaptive Social Protection in Bangladesh are not just a set of directives; they are a strategic roadmap towards building a resilient and adaptable social protection system. Designed to address current needs and anticipate future challenges, this system aims to ensure the well-being and security of all citizens, particularly the most vulnerable. The collaborative efforts of various stakeholders, innovative program design, and commitment to continuous learning and adaptation contribute to shaping a secure, resilient future for Bangladesh. Thus, the ASP guidelines stand as a beacon of hope and a model of sustainable development, serving as an example for other nations navigating similar challenges.



Strategic Guidelines and Action Plans for

Adaptive Social Protection in Bangladesh

2023

Cabinet Division
Government of Bangladesh