



Report of the

NSSS ACTION PLAN PHASE -II

Dissemination and
Baseline Assessment
Workshop



2022

Social Security Policy Support (SSPS) Programme

Cabinet Division and General Economics Division

Table of Contents

Preface	4
Introduction	5
Objective.....	5
Background	6
NSSS Action Plan Phase - II (2021-26)	7
Workshop Methodology	7
Workshop on the NSSS Action Plan, Phase - II (2021-26) Baseline Assessment and Way Forward	8
Event Focus.....	8
Date and Venue.....	8
Policy Recommendations	19
Baseline Assessment of Ministries/Divisions	20
1. Ministry of Social Welfare.....	20
2. Ministry of Women and Children Affairs	21
3. Finance Division, Ministry of Finance.....	22
4. Ministry of Disaster Management and Relief	23
5. Ministry of Primary and Mass Education	24
6. Secondary and Higher Education Division.....	25
7. Technical and Madrasha Education Division.....	26
8. Ministry of Food	27
9. Ministry of Agriculture.....	28
10. Ministry of Fisheries and Livestock.....	29
11. Ministry of Liberation War Affairs	30
12. Financial Institutions Division (FID).....	31
13. Economic Relations Division (ERD)	32
14. Ministry of Labour and Employment	33
15. Medical Education and Family Welfare Division	34
16. Health Services Division	35
17. Prime Minister's Office (PMO)	36
18. Cabinet Division	37
19. Ministry of Expatriates' Welfare and Overseas Employment	38
20. Local Government Division.....	39
21. Ministry of Chittagong Hill Tracts.....	40

22.	Rural Development & Cooperatives Division	41
23.	Ministry of Youth and Sports	42
24.	Ministry of Housing and Public Works	43
25.	Ministry of Land	44
26.	General Economics Division (GED)	45
27.	Implementation Monitoring and Evaluation Division (IMED)	46
28.	Statistics and Informatics Division (SID)	47
29.	Planning Division	48
30.	Information and Communication Technology (ICT) Division	49
31.	Posts and Telecommunications Division	50
32.	Ministry of Water Resources	51
33.	Ministry of Cultural Affairs	52
34.	Ministry of Industries	53
35.	Ministry of Commerce	54
36.	Ministry of Religious Affairs	55
37.	Ministry of Public Administration	56
38.	Ministry of Textiles and Jute	57
39.	Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change	58
	Policy Recommendations	59

Preface

The Cabinet Division, as the coordinating authority for implementation of the National Social Security Strategy (NSSS) of Bangladesh, organized a flagship event titled as 'Dissemination workshop on NSSS Action Plan, Phase - II (2021-26) Baseline Assessment and Way Forward on 06-13 October 2022 at Bangabandhu International Conference Centre, Dhaka. With support from DFAT from the Government of Australia, and UNDP, the Social Security Policy Support (SSPS) Programme of the Cabinet Division and the General Economics Division (GED) of Planning Commission provided technical assistance in organizing the Dissemination workshop on NSSS Action Plan, Phase - II (2021-26) Baseline Assessment.

The inaugural ceremony of the Dissemination workshop on NSSS Action Plan, Phase - II (2021-26) Baseline Assessment was graced by the presence of Mr. Khandker Anwarul Islam, Cabinet Secretary, Government of Bangladesh as the Chief Guest. Ms. Sharifa Khan, Senior Secretary, Economic Relation Division (ERD) and Dr. Md Kawser Ahmed, Member (Secretary) General Economics Division (GED) adorned the occasion by their kind presence as a Special Guest while Mr. Md Shamsul Arefin, Secretary, Coordination and Reforms, Cabinet Division made the keynote presentation to set the tone of the whole workshop.

The workshop became even more significant with the vibrant presence of the heads/representatives of the development partners as guests of honour including Assistant Resident Representative, United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), Bangladesh, Country Director, ILO, Bangladesh, First Secretary, Development Cooperation, Australian High Commission, Bangladesh, Head of DFID Bangladesh; and, Head of Cooperation, European Union. The workshop was participated, among others, by representatives of social protection implementing ministries, practitioners, academics, NGOs and private sector organizations.

The main objective of Dissemination workshop on NSSS Action Plan, Phase - II (2021-26) Baseline Assessment and Way Forward was to disseminate the NSSS Action Plan, Phase - II (2021-26) and discuss the scopes along with:

- Evaluate/assess the baseline of the NSSS action plan implementation towards its agreed concrete action plans implementation status to drive forward as a welfare nation.
- Accelerate capacity building of the social protection stakeholders' particularly of the field level agencies and departments in the social protection sector in Bangladesh.
- Increase awareness and understanding of the social protection stakeholders on the NSSS and the NSSS Action Plan Phase-II
- Continue the reform momentum for an effective social protection system that aligns with emerging needs.
- Set further reform agendas, which would mark a significant move towards achieving permanent graduation for middle-income country status, 8th Five Year Plan (July 2020 – June 2025), SDGs 2030, and Bangladesh as a welfare state by 2041, where all citizens will be guaranteed with a minimum level of economic security and wellbeing.
- Harness and share experiences on implementation including innovative financing of social protection programmes and promoting the exchange of best practices among national and international partners.
- Initiate discussions around the agencies and institutions for agreed social security reforms at both programmatic and institution levels.

It was a wider consultative process paving the way for further reforms in social protection portfolio of Bangladesh in line with national social development goals of the country. The conference would provide important inputs for the upcoming 8th Five Year Plan 2021-2026.

The five-day long programme was divided into several sessions which included the inaugural ceremony, five working sessions and a dialogue followed by a short wrap up session. The inaugural ceremony featured a keynote presentation on 'Implementation NSSS Action Plan, Phase - II (2021-26)' by Mr. Md Shamsul Arefin, Secretary, Coordination and Reforms, Cabinet Division.

Specific thematic areas of social protection were deliberated upon during the working sessions, each of which featuring several presentations and discussions by renowned scholars and practitioners. The conference came up with recommendations that some of the NSSS agenda like consolidation of smaller programmes, single registry Management Information System (MIS), Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) mechanism and Government to Person (G2P) direct payment system should be meaningfully implemented without delay as timeline for those have already exceeded.

It was also recommended that some of the NSSS policies may be realigned with the practical needs and the actual situation of social protection in Bangladesh. It was also articulated that the initiatives for implementing the lifecycle based social security programme by the implementing ministries and agencies should be further enhanced. The technical assistance of the development partners for catalysing social security reforms were appreciated and recommended for continuation till the substantive implementation of the NSSS.

Introduction

The National Social Security Strategy (NSSS) has been formulated to provide a framework of lifecycle-based social security. The NSSS recommends reforming the designs and delivery system of the existing programmes in two phases of five years each, 2016 – 2021 and 2021 - 2025. With the formulation and completion of the first phase of the NSSS Action Plan (2016-21), now the country is already in its implementation phase of the NSSS Action Plan, Phase-II (2021-26) which has been formulated to accelerate the process of social transformation.

The Dissemination workshop on *NSSS Action Plan, Phase - II (2021-26) and Baseline Assessment and Way Forward* is going to be organized with an aim to disseminate the newly formulated NSSS Action Plan, Phase-II (2021-2026) within the social protection implementing ministries, departments, and relevant agencies along with the baseline assessment of the Action Plan.

This workshop would be a wider consultative workshop that would pave the way to implement the NSSS Action Phase-II which is already in implementation for further reform in the social protection portfolio of Bangladesh in line with national social development goals and set targets for SDGs 2030. Through the workshop, it is expected that a Baseline Assessment of the NSSS Action Plan, Phase-II will be developed that will help evaluate the implementation status and progress of the action plan.

Objective

The main objective of the workshop is to disseminate the newly formulated National Social Security (NSSS) Action Plan Phase-II (2021-2026). Other objectives of the workshop are to:

- Evaluate/assess the baseline of the NSSS action plan implementation towards its agreed concrete action plans implementation status to drive forward as a welfare nation.
- Accelerate capacity building of the social protection stakeholders' particularly of the field level agencies and departments in the social protection sector in Bangladesh.
- Increase awareness and understanding of the social protection stakeholders on the NSSS and the NSSS Action Plan Phase-II
- Continue the reform momentum for an effective social protection system that aligns with emerging needs.
- Set further reform agendas, which would mark a significant move towards achieving permanent graduation for middle-income country status, 8th Five Year Plan (July 2020 – June 2025), SDGs 2030, and Bangladesh as a welfare state by 2041, where all citizens will be guaranteed with a minimum level of economic security and wellbeing.
- Harness and share experiences on implementation including innovative financing of social protection programmes and promoting the exchange of best practices among national and international partners.
- Initiate discussions around the agencies and institutions for agreed social security reforms at both programmatic and institution levels.

Background

The constitutional provision of Bangladesh, as articulated in Article 15, mandates the government to accelerate economic growth that meets basic needs, create decent jobs, flourish the cultural and recreational facilities, and, above all, ensure the social security of the most deserving citizens. In compliance with the constitutional directives, the government dedicated all its productive resources to the country's social and economic development, with greater emphasis on inclusive, targeted universal, and resilient social protection programmes for the poor and vulnerable people.

Simultaneously, Bangladesh has made significant strides in poverty and vulnerability reduction, and other socio-economic indicators like nutrition, life expectancy, and gender equality. So much so that Bangladesh met all three eligibility criteria for graduation from LDC status to lower middle-income country status in 2018. Finally, Bangladesh was favorably reviewed in February 2021 by UN Committee for Development Policy (CDP), which found the country well-positioned for the developing country grouping in 2026.

As per the constitutional obligations and higher national aspirations in tandem with the country's socio-economic advancement, Bangladesh embarked upon establishing a lifecycle-based inclusive social security system. It was built upon existing social safety net programmes, which got momentum since the country's independence. As one of the major milestones toward the goal of establishing lifecycle coverage of social security, the government formulated the National Social Security Strategy (NSSS) of Bangladesh, which was approved by the Cabinet on 1 June 2015. This is a long-term roadmap for reforming the country's social security system in the spirit of the *Beveridge* model of social security as introduced in the UK in the wake of World War 2 and later in many other countries like South Africa and Kenya.

The core of the NSSS is programme coordination among the implementing ministries and consolidation of programmes along with a lifecycle framework, with programmes for different age groups of people, especially children, vulnerable women, the elderly, and persons with disabilities. The NSSS implies a shift from the existing discretionary approach to a targeted universal approach to avoid leakages and under-coverage, among others.

The NSSS recommends reforming the designs and delivery system of the existing programmes in two phases of five years each, 2016 – 2021 and 2021 - 2025. To implement the first phase. After the inception of the NSSS in 2015, a five-year-long Action Plan of the NSSS was formulated for implementation from July 2016 to June 2021. The formulation of the NSSS Action Plan during the First Phase (2016-21) is regarded as an important milestone in realizing NSSS with concrete and time-bound indicators. The NSSS Action Plan detailed major activities to be executed by the line ministries till 2021. The Central Management Committee (CMC) on Social Security, headed by the Cabinet Secretary assigned a Sub-Committee chaired by the Secretary, Coordination, and Reforms to complete the action plan formulation process. The Sub-Committee, after conducting a series of consultations with stakeholders, had finalized the Action Plan which was then approved by the CMC in its 11th meeting by the end of 2017.

It is the same Sub-Committee that has been entrusted by the CMC to formulate the second phase of the action plan. The Sub-Committee headed by the Secretary, Coordination and Reforms of the Cabinet Division steered a long process of training and orientations for the relevant officials of the ministries towards preparing the first drafts of their respective ministries. These action plans were reviewed by the ministries with the representatives of their subordinate departments. Later, the drafts were further reviewed by the action plan Sub-Committee, thematic clusters, and plenary group of the social security focal points before finally submitting it to the CMC for approval. Finally, the NSSS Action Plan, Phase-II has been reviewed and approved by the Honorable Prime Minister.

The Social Security Policy Support (SSPS) Programme of the Cabinet Division and the General Economics Division (GED) of the Bangladesh Planning Commission provided technical support in formulating the Action Plan. The project also provided support during the preparation of the first phase of the Action Plan and the National Social Security Strategy (NSSS) itself.

NSSS Action Plan Phase - II (2021-26)

In compliance with the constitutional provisions of Article 15, the Government has allocated adequate resources to sustained socioeconomic development, with a greater focus on underpinning inclusive and broad-based social protection interventions, anchored in the leaving no one behind principle. Honorable Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has emphatically expressed her optimism that the NSSS can establish a welfare-based society with the inclusion of the poor and marginalized, which is the main objective of the strategy. The NSSS recommends reforming the designs and delivery system of the existing programmes in two phases of five years each, 2016 – 2021 and 2021 - 2025. To implement the first phase, a five-year-long Action Plan was formulated with an implementation timeline from July 2016 to June 2021. The first phase of the Action Plan has already been implemented by relevant ministries and divisions. This is the second phase of the NSSS Action Plan for the next five years from July 2021 to June 2026.

The Action Plan of this kind has been formulated through comprehensive consultative and participatory exercises done by the representatives from 39 ministries/divisions, who have set their respective courses of action for the next five years. The National Social Security Strategy (NSSS) addresses the triple problems of poverty, vulnerability, and marginalization to pave the way for the formulation and implementation of the Government's development planning, such as the Perspective Plans, Five-Year Plans, etc. The Strategy provides a roadmap for establishing a lifecycle-based social security system covering people's needs over their entire life. Social inclusion of marginalized groups is also a major principle of the NSSS. Moreover, the NSSS seeks to switch from the current discretionary approach to a targeted universal approach, which among others, will minimize leakages and under-coverage.

One of the ground-breaking features of the NSSS is to install old age allowance, private voluntary pensions, and social insurance schemes. Apart from upgrading and increasing the coverage of the schemes based on life-cycle principle, such social protection tools are thought to mitigate risks and vulnerabilities of the poor and marginalized citizens. The NSSS has recognized that social assistance schemes and infrastructural development are also necessary for expanding coverage to the urban poor. The second Action Plan will continue to bear such commitments of the present Government. Moreover, an increase in resource allocation and monitoring of the implementation of the schemes will strengthen the social security system of Bangladesh.

The objective of this phase of the Action Plan is to complete the vision and mission of the NSSS over the next five years (2021-26), such as establishing a lifecycle-based inclusive social security system. The programs will be consolidated while expanding the coverage. The Action Plan incorporates social security action plans of 39 ministries/divisions along with five action plans for the thematic clusters. The Action Plan of each ministry and cluster incorporates detailed information about the organizational goals and background, legal instruments for social protection, objectives, and challenges. The ministries/divisions will have to work hard in collaboration with each other to implement the objectives of the NSSS Action Plan.

The Workshop on the NSSS Action Plan, Phase - II (2021-26) Baseline Assessment and Way Forward is important for the mid-term evaluation of NSSSS Action Plan 2021-26, Phase – II, scheduled to be held in early 2024. The baseline workshop will help ministries to assess their respective progress and provide guidance to achieve the set targets in the mid-term evaluation which would pave the way for a satisfactory end-line evaluation of the action plan. The baseline, mid-term and end-line evaluation would be the major base for developing the National Social Security Strategy for 2026 and onwards in Bangladesh. All line ministries will be given a presentation template, and prior to the workshop, all ministries will be orientated on the formatted template.

Workshop Methodology

- a. The Cabinet Secretary, the Chairperson of the Central Management Committee (CMC) of National Social Protection Programmes was the Chief Guest the workshop and inaugurated the workshop with his valuable presence.
- b. The Secretary, Coordination and Reforms, Cabinet Division was the Chairperson of the workshop. He also gave a keynote speech mentioning the main feature of the NSSS Action Plan, Phase – II (2021-2026), while the Additional Secretary, (Coordination) Cabinet Division will give the welcome speech.

- c. Senior Secretary, Economic Relation Division (ERD) and Member (Secretary), General Economics Division (GED) were be a special Guest of the workshop during the inauguration ceremony. All the Secretaries of the Government of Bangladesh were invited to the inauguration session. The officials of 39-line ministries (Joint Secretaries and above) also were invited to this ceremony. All the officials of the Cabinet Division and other key officials related to the social protection reforms attended this ceremony.
- d. After the presentation of the Secretary (Coordination and Reforms), the NSSS Action Plan 2021-26, Second Phase was unwrapped by the Cabinet Secretary.
- e. High Commissioner of Australian High Commission, Ambassador & Head of Delegation of European Union; Country Director of ADB, ILO and FCDO; Representatives of UNDP, and UNICEF were invited as Guests of Honour to attend this ceremony.
- f. The Vote of Thanks was provided by the Joint Secretary, Coordination, Cabinet Division in the closing ceremony of the workshop.

Workshop on the NSSS Action Plan, Phase - II (2021-26) Baseline Assessment and Way Forward

- Following the inauguration session of the NSSS Action Plan, four-day-long reform stock taking helped to develop a baseline of the current implementation status of social protection programmes and reforms by the implementing line ministries.
- 13 Technical Sessions were conducted for consecutive four days where the Secretary, Coordination and Reforms, and the Member (Secretary), General Economics Division (GED) will be the chairperson respectively.
- Implementing ministries/divisions – a good number of academics and institutions, social protection practitioners, research organisations, NGO delegates, private sector managers, and programmers participated in this baseline exercise.
- Considering the COVID-19 epidemic, the workshop was arrange a provision of virtual attend the event as observers.
- The development partners working in the field of poverty and vulnerability reduction, climate change, and social protection were invited to participate as an observer.

Event Focus

Unwrapping of NSSS Action Plan, Phase - II (2021-26)

Baseline Development Workshop

- National Social Security Programmes Review – a baseline for NSSS Action Plan 2021-26 by the implementing and coordinating ministries.
- Thematic dialogue and Interactive discussions

Guests

- Chief Guest: Khandker Anwarul Islam, Cabinet Secretary
- Chairperson: Md Shamsul Arefin, Secretary (Coordination and Reforms), Cabinet Division
- Special Guest: Ms. Sharifa Khan, Senior Secretary, Economic Relation Division (ERD), and Dr. Md. Kawser Ahmed, Member (Secretary), General Economics Division (GED)
- Head of Development partners; representatives from NGOs and Academia

Date and Venue

Date: 6, 10-13 October 2022

Venue: Bangabandhu International Conference Centre (BICC)

Inaugural Ceremony Day – 1 | 6 October 2022 Bangabandhu International Conference Centre (BICC)

Welcome Speech by Mr. Rahat Anwar Additional Secretary Coordination, Cabinet Division

Mr. Rahat Anwar, Additional Secretary, Coordination, Cabinet Division welcomed the presence to this landmark event “the Dissemination workshop on NSSS Action Plan, Phase - II (2021-26) Baseline Assessment”. He expressed his gratitude to the Chief Guest: Khandker Anwarul Islam, Cabinet Secretary, Chairperson: Md Shamsul Arefin, Secretary (Coordination and Reforms), Cabinet Division, Special Guest: Ms. Sharifa Khan, Senior Secretary, Economic Relation Division (ERD), and Dr. Md. Kawser Ahmed, Member (Secretary), General Economics Division (GED) and Head of Development partners; representatives from NGOs and Academia.



He said that the objective of the programme is to enhance mutual understanding of the social protection programmes and to consolidate supports and cooperation among government organizations, NGOs, private sectors and development partners. Another important objective is to share knowledge on different issues of social security. Your participation will have significant contribution in achieving the objectives of the overall programme.

Welcome Speech by Md Shamsul Arefin, Secretary, Coordination and Reforms Cabinet Division

Md Shamsul Arefin, Secretary, Coordination and Reforms Cabinet Division explained that assigned by the Central Management Committee (CMC) on National Social Security Programmes, the NSSS Action Plan Sub-committee, led by the Secretary, Coordination and Reforms of the Cabinet Division, has formulated the NSSS Action Plan, Phase – II (2021-2026) successfully with enormous support for the all social protection implementing ministries and divisions.

He then mentioned that the sub-committee conducted a series of consultative dialogues, meetings, and workshops with the concerned stakeholders and finalized the draft NSSS Action Plan. Then the first draft of the Action Plan was placed before the CMC in its 15th meeting on 27 June 2021. As per decision, the draft was sent to the concerned 39 ministries/divisions for their further review and feedback. Following the review comments and input of the ministries/divisions the final draft of the NSSS Action Plan 2021-2026 was thoroughly reviewed by the Action Plan preparation and monitoring



Sub-committee and then placed before the CMC. In the 16th meeting held on December 23, 2021, the CMC finally approved the NSSS Action Plan, Phase – II (2021-26). The Action Plan has also been vetted by the Honourable Prime Minister and advised to be published accordingly. He said that the dissemination workshop on NSSS Action Plan, Phase - II (2021-26) and Baseline Assessment and Way Forward is organized with an aim to disseminate the newly formulated NSSS Action Plan, Phase-II (2021-2026) within the social protection implementing ministries, departments, and relevant agencies along with the baseline assessment of the Action Plan.

He recalled that that our father of the nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman dedicated his life in establishing social justice and strong social security system for Bangladesh. Consequently, the honourable Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina put social security in her priority agenda for creating a true welfare state. One of the important tools for materializing the dream of Bangabandhu and the vision of present government is the National Social Security Strategy (NSSS) of Bangladesh. The two-day conference will involve us in contemplating on how to complete effective implementation of the NSSS in time.

The Keynote Presentation - Brief on NSSS Action Plan by the Chairperson

Mohammad Khaled Hasan
Joint Secretary
Civil Registration and Social Protection
Cabinet Division

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



He mentioned that formulation of the NSSS action plan involves multiple issues relating to policy reforms, enactment of laws and administrative decisions requiring a time bound action plan. Ministries and Divisions have to work together to produce the NSSS Action Plan (2021-26). Over the next five years till 2026 the reform initiatives will be continued before making transition to a full-fledged lifecycle-centric social security system.

He mentioned that the focus of the NSSS action plan is to consolidate social security programmes along a lifecycle framework and improve the overall delivery system. The action plan accumulates a detailed inventory of activities to be carried out by the ministries/divisions for next five years. The NSSS recommends reforming the designs and delivery system of the existing programmes in two phases of five years each, 2016 – 2021 and 2021 - 2025. With the formulation and completion of the first phase of the NSSS Action Plan (2016-21), now the country is already in its implementation phase of the NSSS Action Plan, Phase-II (2021-26) which has been formulated to accelerate the process of social transformation. He said that the dissemination workshop on NSSS Action Plan, Phase - II (2021-26) and Baseline Assessment and Way Forward is organized with an aim to disseminate the newly formulated NSSS Action Plan, Phase-II (2021-2026) within the social protection implementing ministries, departments, and relevant agencies along with the baseline assessment of the Action Plan. He said that workshop is a consultative workshop that will pave the way to implement the NSSS Action Phase-II which is already in implementation for further reform in the social protection portfolio of Bangladesh in line with national social development goals and set targets for SDGs 2030.

Unwrapping of NSSS Action Plan Phase II (2021-26)



Speech by Guest

Day – 1 | 6 October 2022

Bangabandhu International Conference Centre (BICC)

Speech by Guest of Honour

Mr. Matt Cannell

Development Director, FCDO

Mr. Matt Cannell, Development Director, FCDO said that it is a pleasure to be here today to speak to you about the importance of social protection in Bangladesh. The FCDO has been a longstanding partner of the Government of Bangladesh in its efforts to reduce poverty and promote inclusive growth. We believe that social protection programs are essential to achieving these goals.

They provide a safety net for the poorest and most vulnerable members of society, enabling them to access the basic necessities of life and build a better future for themselves and their families. Through our support for social protection programs in Bangladesh, we have seen the positive impact they can have on people's lives. Children are able to attend school, families are able to put food on the table, and communities are able to build a better future for themselves. However, there is still much work to be done. We must continue to invest in social protection programs to ensure that they are effective, efficient, and sustainable. We must also work to address the underlying causes of poverty and inequality, such as lack of access to education, health care, and basic services. At the FCDO, we remain committed to supporting the Government of Bangladesh in its efforts to promote social protection and reduce poverty. We believe that this is essential to building a better future for all Bangladeshis.



Speech by Guest of Honour

Dr. Saja Farroq Abdullah

UNICEF Representative to Bangladesh

Dr. Saja Farroq Abdullah, UNICEF Representative to Bangladesh said that I am honored to speak to you today about our work in promoting social protection for children and their families in this country. In Bangladesh, more than 30 million children live below the poverty line, facing daily challenges to access basic necessities such as food, shelter, education, and health care. The COVID-19 pandemic has exacerbated this situation, pushing even more families into poverty and worsening their living conditions.

She mentioned that social protection programs are critical to breaking the cycle of poverty and ensuring that every child has the opportunity to grow up healthy and reach their full potential. At UNICEF, we believe that every child deserves the



chance to thrive, and that social protection is a key tool to make this a reality. Over the years, we have worked in close collaboration with the Government of Bangladesh to design and implement effective social protection programs, including cash transfers, food assistance, and other forms of social support. Our programs are designed to reach the most vulnerable children and their families, ensuring that they have access to the basic necessities they need to survive and thrive.

We have also focused on innovative approaches to social protection, including the use of technology to improve the delivery and effectiveness of our programs. For example, we have supported the development of digital payment systems that allow families to receive cash transfers directly to their mobile phones, making it easier and more efficient for them to access the support they need. At UNICEF, we are committed to working with the Government of Bangladesh and our partners to build a comprehensive and sustainable social protection system that meets the needs of all children and their families. We believe that investing in social protection is not only the right thing to do, but also a smart investment in the future of this country. Together, we can ensure that every child in Bangladesh has the opportunity to grow up healthy, educated, and empowered to realize their full potential. Therefore, she mentioned that the Action Plan phase 2 will put much emphasis on social inclusion measures for people with disability, in addition to the conventional social protection programmes for them.

Speech by Guest of Honour
Mr. Tuomo Poutiainen
Country Director, ILO

Mr. Poutiainen expressed his gratitude to Bangladesh government, especially to the Cabinet Division and General Economics Division for developing the NSSS Action Plan phase 2 and organizing such a brilliant conference on social security.

He mentioned, social protection plays a crucial role in reducing poverty, promoting inclusive growth, and protecting the most vulnerable members of society. It is essential to ensure that everyone has access to the basic necessities of life, including food, shelter, and health care. At the International Labour Organization, we believe that social protection is a fundamental human right and a key driver of sustainable development. That is why we work closely with the Government of Bangladesh and other partners to support the design and implementation of effective social protection programs that meet the needs of all workers and their families.



He said that our focus is on ensuring that social protection programs are integrated with the world of work and are designed to protect workers and their families against the risks associated with employment. We support the development of social protection systems that provide coverage for all workers, including those in the informal sector, and that address the specific needs of women and vulnerable groups. We have also supported the development of social protection floors, which are nationally defined sets of basic social security guarantees that ensure that everyone has access to essential health care and income security throughout their lives.

In Bangladesh, we have worked closely with the Government and social partners to promote the extension of social protection coverage to informal sector workers, such as domestic workers and agricultural workers. We have also supported the development of maternity protection policies, child care services, and measures to prevent child labor. Our goal is to ensure that every worker in Bangladesh has access to social protection and that no one is left behind. We believe that this is essential to building a fair and inclusive society that promotes decent work and sustainable development..

Speech by Guest of Honour

Ms. Dandan Chen

**Operations Manager (Acting Country Director)
World Bank**

Ms. Dandan Chen Operations Manager (Acting Country Director), World Bank Mentioned that as per the constitutional obligations and higher national aspirations, in parallel with the country's socioeconomic advancement, Bangladesh embarked upon establishing a lifecycle-based inclusive social security system. It was built upon existing social security programmes, which had been gradually introduced since the country's independence.

He said that the World Bank has been actively supporting social protection programs in Bangladesh, which are aimed at reducing poverty and promoting inclusive growth. In a statement in 2019, the World Bank commended Bangladesh for its efforts in expanding social protection programs, such as cash transfers, food assistance, and employment programs, to vulnerable groups. He said we are also also highlighted the need for further investments in social protection, particularly in addressing the challenges faced by women, children, and people with disabilities. The bank stressed the importance of designing programs that are inclusive, efficient, and sustainable, and that can provide adequate support to those who need it most.

He mentioned that This is one of the major milestones towards the goal of establishing lifecycle coverage of social security interventions that the government formulated the National Social Security Strategy (NSSS) of Bangladesh, which was approved by the Cabinet Division and now its 2nd phase of the Action Plan has been introduced.



Speech by Guest of Honour

Ms. Van Nguyen

**Assistant Resident Representative
UNDP Bangladesh**

Ms. Van Nguyen Assistant Resident Representative, UNDP Bangladesh said that with the strongest commitment to ensuring inclusive social protection for all deserving people, the government of Bangladesh formulated the NSSS. It addresses Bangladesh's triple problems of poverty, vulnerability and marginalization to pave the way for implementing other development agendas of the government such as the Perspective Plans, Five-Year Plans, etc.

She said that it is expected that a Baseline Assessment of the NSSS Action Plan, Phase-II will be developed that will help in implementing the NSSS Action Plan, and thereby contribute to the creation of a modern social protection roadmap for this country.

She highlighted the importance of social protection in reducing poverty and promoting sustainable development in Bangladesh. She emphasized the need for a comprehensive social protection system that can provide support to vulnerable groups, including women, children, and people with disabilities.. Shae also stressed the importance of addressing the



underlying causes of poverty and inequality, such as lack of access to education, health care, and basic services. He noted that social protection programs should be designed in a way that can promote long-term development and help people break out of the cycle of poverty.

In addition, she highlighted the need for innovative solutions to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of social protection programs in Bangladesh. She mentioned the potential of technology, such as mobile payments and digital platforms, to improve the delivery of social assistance and increase transparency in the system. She mentioned that the UNDP has been a strong supporter of social protection in Bangladesh and has worked closely with the government and other partners to design and implement effective programs. The organization has recognized the importance of addressing poverty and inequality as key priorities in promoting sustainable development in the country.

Speech by Guest of Honour

Mr. Domenico Scalpelli

Resident Representative

United Nations World Food Programme, Bangladesh

Mr. Domenico Scalpelli, Resident Representative, United Nations World Food Programme, Bangladesh mentioned that It is an honor to be here today to speak to you about the World Food Programme's efforts in promoting social protection in Bangladesh. As you all know, Bangladesh has made significant progress in reducing poverty and improving the lives of its citizens in recent years. However, there is still much work to be done to ensure that everyone has access to the basic necessities of life, including food and shelter. At the World Food Programme, we believe that social



protection programs are essential to reducing poverty and promoting inclusive development in Bangladesh. Through our work with the government and other partners, we have supported the implementation of a range of social protection programs, including food assistance, cash transfers, and employment programs. One of our key priorities has been to ensure that social protection programs are designed in a way that is inclusive, efficient, and sustainable. We have worked closely with the government and other partners to identify the most vulnerable groups and provide them with the support they need to improve their lives.

He said that we have also focused on innovation and technology to improve the delivery of social protection programs in Bangladesh. For example, we have supported the use of digital platforms and mobile technologies to improve the efficiency and transparency of social assistance programs. We have also introduced new technologies, such as blockchain, to improve the accountability and effectiveness of our programs. Our work in Bangladesh has shown that social protection programs can make a real difference in the lives of the poor and vulnerable. We have seen families able to put food on the table, children able to attend school, and communities able to build a better future for themselves.

But there is still much work to be done. We must continue to invest in social protection programs to ensure that they are inclusive, efficient, and sustainable. We must also work to address the underlying causes of poverty and inequality, such as lack of access to education, health care, and basic services. At the World Food Programme, we remain committed to supporting the government and people of Bangladesh in their efforts to promote social protection and reduce poverty. Together, we can build a better future for all Bangladeshis.

Speech by Guest of Honour
Ms. Kate Sangster
First Secretary & Head of Development Cooperation
Australian High Commission, Bangladesh

Ms. Kate Sangster First Secretary & Head of Development Cooperation, Australian High Commission, Bangladesh shared that social protection programs play a critical role in reducing poverty, promoting inclusive growth, and protecting the most vulnerable members of society. Its an essential tool for ensuring that all citizens have access to the basic necessities of life, including food, shelter, and health care.



At the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT), we believe that investing in social protection is not only a moral imperative, but also a smart investment in the future of Bangladesh. That is why we have been working closely with the Government of Bangladesh and our partners to support the development of effective and sustainable social protection programs that meet the needs of all citizens. Our approach is focused on building the capacity of the Government of Bangladesh to design, implement, and evaluate social protection programs, in partnership with civil society and other stakeholders. We support the development of evidence-based policies and programs that are tailored to the specific needs of different groups, including women, children, and people with disabilities.

We have also supported the introduction of innovative approaches to social protection, such as the use of digital technologies to improve the delivery and effectiveness of programs. Through our support for social protection in Bangladesh, we have seen the positive impact it can have on people's lives. Families are able to access the basic necessities of life, children are able to attend school, and communities are able to build a better future for themselves. At DFAT, we remain committed to supporting the Government of Bangladesh and our partners in their efforts to promote social protection and reduce poverty. We believe that this is essential to building a fair, prosperous, and sustainable future for all Bangladeshis.

Speech by Special Guest
Dr. Md. Kawser Ahmed Member (Secretary)
General Economics Division (GED)
Bangladesh, Planning Commission

Dr. Md. Kawser Ahmed Member (Secretary), General Economics Division (GED) of Bangladesh, Planning Commission mentioned that it is my privilege to address you today on the topic of social protection in Bangladesh, and the role of the General Economics Division in promoting its development.



As you are aware, social protection is essential for reducing poverty, promoting inclusive growth, and protecting the most vulnerable members of society. It is a fundamental human right and a key driver of sustainable development. At the General Economics Division, we are committed to supporting the Government of Bangladesh in its efforts to develop and implement effective social protection programs that meet the needs of all citizens. Our focus is on ensuring that social protection policies are evidence-based, integrated, and inclusive, and that they promote the economic and social well-being of all Bangladeshis.

He said that we work closely with other government agencies, civil society organizations, and international partners to promote social protection policies and programs that are tailored to the specific needs of different groups, including women, children, and people with disabilities. Our approach is based on a commitment to evidence-based policy making, with a focus on ensuring that social protection programs are designed and implemented in a way that maximizes their impact on reducing poverty and promoting inclusive growth. We are also working to promote innovation and learning in the development and implementation of social protection policies and programs.

He explained that social protection is an evolving field, and we are committed to working with our partners to develop and implement new approaches that address emerging challenges and meet the evolving needs of Bangladeshis. Our goal is to ensure that all citizens have access to social protection, regardless of their socio-economic status, and that no one is left behind. We believe that this is essential to building a fair, just, and inclusive society that promotes sustainable development and economic growth. In closing he said, I would like to reiterate our commitment to promoting social protection in Bangladesh, and to working with our partners to ensure that all Bangladeshis have access to the basic necessities of life, including food, shelter, and health care.

**Speech by Chief Guest
Mr. Khandker Anwarul Islam
Cabinet Secretary
Government of Bangladesh**

Mr. Khandker Anwarul Islam Cabinet Secretary, Government of Bangladesh said that the people centric development model of the present democratic government of Bangladesh has promoted the economic advancement of the country while prioritizing the welfare of the citizens. Consequently, the government has embarked upon introducing a lifecycle based comprehensive social security system by adopting the National Social Security Strategy (NSSS) of Bangladesh.

The NSSS was approved by the Cabinet in 2015 under the prudent leadership of Hon'ble Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina. This document has been aligned with Bangabandhu's dream of

establishing a Golden Bengal – free from poverty, hunger and exploitation as also envisaged in Article 15 of our Constitution. The Action Plan (2021-2026) has been kindly endorsed by Hon'ble Prime Minister. Specific Action Plans of 39 ministries have been compiled together in this document for social protection programme reforms and strengthening institutional capacity. He expressed his profound gratitude to the Hon'ble Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina for kindly approving the Action Plan. He thanked the members of the CMC for their valuable efforts in order to refine the Action Plan. Finally, request the relevant officials of ministries/divisions/departments and field level offices, public representatives and others concerned to make their best efforts in implementing the NSSS Action Plan, and thereby contribute to the creation of a Golden Bengal.



Policy Recommendations

The presentations on different critical issues of social protection followed by elaborate discussion and guidance by chairpersons of working sessions came up with a number of recommendations. Some of the major recommendations of the conference are given below:

1. The universal vs targeted universal approach of the NSSS may be revisited and clarified in consistence with the already introduced universal schemes like school stipend, school feeding, disability benefits, and pensions (public and private);
2. Inclusion and exclusion errors must be avoided for attaining value for the money in beneficiary targeting;
3. Social Insurance needs to provision beyond the theme of social assistance (unemployment insurance; accident, sickness, maternity insurance etc);
4. Governance structures of NSSS such as the Central Management Committee (CMC), CMC focal Points, Thematic Clusters, and NSSS M&E Committees should be further strengthened and reformed;
5. Partnerships and cooperation should be expanded beyond public sector for adaptive social protection;
6. Severity of disability should be considered in the disability schemes and implementation of social insurance should be emphasized;
7. Adult disability benefit may be introduced or expanded for all with a severe disability within the age group of 19 to 60.
8. Need to adopt a benefit package for health care of disabled workers according to ILO convention C 121;
9. It is urgently needed to design and adopt an inclusive urban sector policy in line with the NSSS provisions;
10. The grievance redress system for social protection needs to be further strengthened and the poor and marginal groups of population should be informed about the grievance mechanisms of SSPs;
11. Participation of marginal and poor population, NGOs, local communities in the ward meeting and selection of beneficiaries should be ensured;
12. Selection criteria for Social protection beneficiary need to be standardized and disseminated among the common people;
13. List of SSP beneficiaries should be done through an open meeting at community level with mass gathering;
14. Following NSSS (2015), Bangladesh must start consolidating the social protection schemes into five core clusters. This would allow the authorities to design and determine an adequate administrative cost system for the SP system.
15. All cash transfers will be gradually brought under this G2P payment procedure and mandatory capacity development and training on G2P payment system;

NSSS Action Plan Phase 2

Baseline Assessment of Ministries/Divisions

1. Ministry of Social Welfare

The Ministry of Social Welfare is an important organizational unit of the government of Bangladesh for social security implementation. Its prominence rests not only on the huge number of direct beneficiaries it serves and the large amount of annual budgetary allocations it receives but also on its singularity of purpose and dedicated engagement in this sector. The ministry's significance along with its workloads is on the continuous rise following a recommendation of the NSSS to entrust the management and coordination of the Lifecycle-based social security programme upon this ministry. This ministry is implementing programmes like Old Age Allowances, Widow Allowances, Allowances for Persons with Disabilities, grants, and aid to acid burnt victims. The ministry has also a multidimensional and intensive programme for the welfare of the by-passed, disadvantaged segment, unemployed, landless, orphans, distressed, vagrants, homeless, socially, intellectually, and physically challenged, neuro-developmentally underdeveloped/challenged, poor, helpless patients, children at risk of the country's rural and urban areas. In line with the NSSS, all the programmes under this ministry are anchored in the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), the Management of Social Transformation (MoST), the Vision 2021, and the Eighth Five-Year Plan. To become more dynamic, transparent, and accountable, the ministry has taken a development approach instead of a charity-based approach. Family-centric programmes and pro-people work plans have made the Ministry popular to the country's people. The vision, mission, and strategic objectives of the ministry are as follows:

Vision

The ministry has the overall vision of a "better life and caring society", which is consistent with the vision of the National Social Security Strategy (NSSS) which provides for establishing inclusive social security for all.

Mission

The mission of the Ministry is "Creating a better life by providing social security, empowerment, and development for the poor, vulnerable group of people and persons with disabilities". The Ministry adopts social security as the most important tool for achieving its goals.

NSSS Objectives

The strategic objective of the Ministry is to consolidate the major lifecycle programme, making them more inclusive and efficient.

Challenges

The National Social Security Strategy (NSSS) envisages that the Ministry of Social Welfare will assume the responsibility of leading lifecycle-based social security programmes. Thus, the Ministry has a huge responsibility towards the transition of the social security system for achieving the above goal. In the short run, the Ministry has been assigned the responsibility of coordinating the thematic cluster on social allowance, simultaneously, participating in most of the other clusters as an important member. During the last five years, since the inception of the NSSS, the Ministry of Social Welfare has slightly under-achieved some targets, which will have to be accomplished during the next term of the Action Plan.

Baseline of the Action Plan of Ministry of Social Welfare

- Strengthen old age allowance programme mainly by expansion of coverage and introduce special allowance for people above age of 90.
- Scale up disability benefit for children and working age through preparing guidelines for

disability identification.

- Consolidate interventions for vulnerable women and introduce and integrated vulnerable women benefit (BWB) programme.
- Improve programmes for orphans and maintain quality of services and increase coverage.
- Strengthen programmes for marginalized and socially excluded people like tea garden workers, transgender and disadvantaged communities.

2. Ministry of Women and Children Affairs

Following the successful implementation of Vision 2021 and commitment under the Perspective Plan 2041, the government of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has taken various initiatives for the protection and development of women and children. The prerequisite for the development of the nation depends on the development of women and children, who belong to a greater part of the population. Overall rights of women and children, empowerment, and development are key milestones in the implementation of the Government's social security programmes.

Considering the Government's election manifesto, the Ministry of Women and Children Affairs (MoWCA) has taken various social protection measures to alleviate women's poverty, reduce vulnerability, and gender discrimination. A number of policies and legal frameworks have been introduced to prevent violence against women and protection of child rights. The Ministry through its various programmes and projects has empowered women, reducing violence against women, and women trafficking. The Ministry has taken several legal and programmatic actions for the protection of women in the workplace and bring women into the mainstream of socio-economic activities to ensure the full and equal participation of women in the country's overall socio-economic development. Besides, MoWCA has taken several initiatives to promote nutrition, early childhood care, and development through various social safety net programmes. The Ministry has established several training institutes and facilities for women to increase efficiency by providing comprehensive training, employment opportunities, together with expanding labour market participation. Through small and medium entrepreneurs, MoWCA patronizes the extensive activities being conducted to ensure economic empowerment. Under the NSSS 2nd phase Action Plan, MoWCA aims to contribute to national endeavours to promote prosperity with inclusiveness through implementing social protection programmes for women and children.

Vision

A society with gender equality and child protection.

Mission

Establishing the rights of women and children and women empowerment through mainstreaming in development.

NSSS objectives

The NSSS's strategic objectives are to ensure the rights to social security for women and children and to ensure a level of a minimum income for children and vulnerable women.

Challenges

MoWCA identified that more investment in human, technical and financial resources are required for effective and efficient implementation of quality social protection programmes assigned under the NSSS.

Baseline of the Action Plan of Ministry of Women and Children Affairs

- Consolidate mother and child benefit programme and increase the coverage from 1.2 million to around half of the children aged 0-4 years.
- Coordinate with Ministry of Social Welfare to strengthen and consolidate vulnerable women benefit (VWB).
- Workplace Childcare Services, Enactment of daycare Act, develop rules and operational manual on childcare services, Develop coordination mechanisms and monitoring guidelines.
- Formulate child maintenance policy for abandoned children, especially of broken families.

3. Finance Division, Ministry of Finance

The major functions of the Finance Division include preparation and review of the fiscal policy of the government and macroeconomic management; preparation of the budget, appropriation, re-appropriation, and examination and approval of budget proposals of autonomous bodies/corporations through monitoring of their activities; framing of financial rules and regulations and issuing necessary orders/instructions related to pay scale, pay fixation, leave, pension/gratuity, retirement benefits, travel allowance, general provident fund and other relevant financial matters; and dealing with treasury and public debt management along with loans and grants. In addition to that, Finance Division plays a key role in social security programmes design and implementation. It is responsible for allocation of budget, fund release, transfer and disbursement of the social security related fund. Finance Division also, prepared a report on 'Social Security Programmes' that is published on the website.

Vision

Achieve higher growth through prudent and sustainable management of public finance.

Mission

Ensure macro-economic stability and fiscal discipline through prudent and efficient fiscal management to achieve higher economic growth and poverty reduction.

NSSS objectives

The NSSS objective for the Finance Division is to provide enhanced budgetary allocation to social security programmes. The most important objective is to transform the current payment systems towards Government to Person (G2P) payment system to ensure greater financial inclusions of the recipients.

Challenges

The main challenges are macro-economic stability, sustainable debt management; improvement of efficiency and rationalization of public expenditure; enhancing the capacity of employees in public financial management.

Baseline of the Action Plan of Finance Division

- Continue pension with improvement in approval and disposal of pension cases and financial sustainability.
- Conduct a study on the format of universal pension within NSIS.
- Creation of financial management database for social security programmes,
- Maintain digital payment architecture G2P

4. Ministry of Disaster Management and Relief

The Ministry of Disaster Management and Relief is allocated the second largest portion of the social security budget of the government. This indicates the importance of the Ministry in terms of social protection which is mainly responsible for disaster risk management and relief. The Ministry is also involved in managing workfare programmes for the poor to ensure social safety including food security. The Ministry is closely related to the Ministry of Food, which supplies required food to many of its programmes. It also works in close collaboration with the Local Government Division. The Ministry has been assigned by the NSSS the responsibility of leading the Labour & Livelihood Intervention cluster.

Vision

To reduce the risk of people, especially the poor and the disadvantaged, from the effects of natural, environment and human-induced hazards.

Mission

To achieve a paradigm shift in disaster management from conventional response and relief to a more comprehensive risk reduction culture, and to promote food security as an important factor in ensuring the resilience of communities to hazards.

NSSS objectives

The strategic objective of the Ministry's social safety net is to strengthen disaster relief and workfare programmes.

Challenges

The nature and incidence of disasters are not the same in different geographical locations of the country, depending on hazard zones. Therefore, it is very important to identify the nature of disaster-prone areas and take necessary measures beforehand. If food markets collapse because of disasters, with the market failing to ensure the availability of food items, food-based disaster response is required. Therefore, the main challenge for the Ministry of Disaster Management and Relief is to prepare vulnerability maps and to update multi-hazard disaster maps to make the cash and food support more effective.

Baseline of the Action Plan of Disaster Management and Relief

- Supply food grain for food-based disaster relief programmes and provide budget for cash-based programmes.
- Consider horizontal and vertical expansion of existing programmes in the face of disasters.
- Prepare a disaster map based on hazard and vulnerability.
- Organize discussion with stakeholders for smooth transition.
- Gradually change food for work programmes to cash.

5. Ministry of Primary and Mass Education

The Ministry of Primary and Mass Education (MoPME) is responsible for ensuring inclusive and quality primary education for all as well as improving overall literacy. It has a great role in the development of human resources of the country. In consideration of its activities, the ministry has been assigned the responsibility of leading the coordination process of the thematic cluster on 'Human Development and Social Empowerment of NSSS.

Vision

To establish a knowledge-based and technologically oriented competent society to ensure that every school-age child has access to primary level institutions that provide all necessary facilities, continue in school to receive, and achieve quality education and provide opportunities to pre-school children, young persons, and adults to meet their learning needs in a competitive world.

Mission

Ensure primary, inclusive, and lifelong education for all through the extension of access and improvement of quality of primary education.

NSSS objectives

The NSSS strategic objective of the Ministry of Primary and Mass Education is to continue stipend to primary school students and to increase the stipend amount.

Challenges

Around 14 million children receive primary stipends under universal coverage. The stipend amount for primary students has increased over time. The G2P method of transferring stipends directly to the parents through mobile financial service is more efficient. However, the knowledge regarding the safety protocol of using the technology of parents, especially in rural areas is still an issue of concern. The school meal programmes have received political approval through National School Meal Policy in 2019, but the effective implementation of the policy is still a challenge as it requires huge resources and institutional arrangements. Moreover, the Executive Committee of the National Economic Council (ECNEC) in its meeting held on 1 June 2021 did not approve the Primary School Meal Project, a scale-up proposal of the existing modality and directed to explore an effective and practical alternative mechanism

Baseline of the Action Plan of Ministry of Primary and Mass Education

- Sustain primary stipend programme through rationalizing the stipend amount by adjusting inflation.
- Explore effective and implementable modality of Primary School Meal and expand program area.

6. Secondary and Higher Education Division

The Secondary and Higher Education Division is a division under the Ministry of Education, which is responsible for secondary and higher education in Bangladesh. It is the highest policy-making body concerning secondary and tertiary education in Bangladesh. It is responsible for overseeing high schools and universities. The Secondary and Higher Education Division of the Ministry of Education is the apex policy-making institution of the government regarding the administration and development of the post-primary education sector except for technical and madrasa education. The Secondary and Higher Education Division formulates policies and programmes for the development of post-primary to higher education. It also formulates laws, rules, and regulations for the management and administration of the post-primary education sector, and its institutions. There are several affiliated bodies for supervision and management of formal education in post-primary and secondary schools, colleges, and universities. There are about 25,227 post-primary secondary schools/colleges/madrashas and 37 public and 92 private universities.

Vision

Quality education for all.

Mission

Human resources creation with well-educated, skilled, and advanced morals by combining general, science, and technology-based education and training.

NSSS objectives

The NSSS strategic objective of the Secondary and Higher Secondary Education Division is to raise the coverage of stipends to 50 per cent of the secondary school students and to increase the stipend amount.

Challenges

Around 13 million children receive stipends, with the majority at primary school. Coverage is 17 per cent of secondary school-age children. Therefore, both the coverage and the transfer amount are low.

Baseline of the Action Plan of Secondary and Higher Education Division

- Expand coverage of Secondary Education Stipend Programme at least by 20% each year and also increase the rate.

7. Technical and Madrasha Education Division

The Technical and Madrasha Education Division is under the Ministry of Education, which is responsible for technical and madrasha education in Bangladesh. It is responsible for 113 public technical education institutes and 3 public madrassas and 4,727 private technical education institutes and 7,620 private madrassas. The primary education level is carried out through this department, all the activities of technical and madrasa education without secondary and higher education. In addition, technical and madrasa make laws, rules, and regulations for education administration and management. The agencies under this department monitor the management activities of the next recognized technical and madrassas at the primary level.

Vision

Quality work-oriented, technical, vocational, and madrasa education for all.

Mission

Creation of educated, trained, skilled, and ethical human resources with a combination of technical, vocational, science, and technology-based education and training.

NSSS objectives

The NSSS strategic objective of the Technical and Madrasha Education Division is to raise the coverage of stipends to around 50 per cent of the madrasha students and to strengthen technical education.

Challenges

Around 13 million children receive stipends, with the majority at primary schools. Coverage is 17 per cent of secondary school-age children. Therefore, both the coverage and the transfer amount are low.

Organizational Overview

Baseline of the Action Plan of Technical and Madrasha Education Division

- Expand Secondary Education Stipend Programme including extension of the programme to technical & madrasha students and increase the rate of stipend.
- Vocational Training Programme for the youth through expanding the scholarship programme to technical students.

8. Ministry of Food

Ministry of Food is the key organization of the government to take decisions on the overall issues related to food availability and storage. As per allocation of business, the Ministry is responsible for the formulation, review, and execution of legislation, policies, plans, procedures, etc. related to the overall food system and food policy. This Ministry is assigned with the task of establishment of a dependable national food security system. The procurement, storage, and movement of food grains are included in the broader activities of the government. Along with the Ministry of Food, and other ministries such as the Ministry of Disaster Management and Relief, Women and Children Affairs, etc. are also closely associated with the implementation of food security programmes.

Vision

To ensure dependable and sustainable food security.

Mission

Adoption of integrated food grain procurement policy strategies and sustainable food grain preservation management and ensuring food security of the people through the provision of adequate, safe, and nutritious food.

NSSS objectives

The strategic objective of the Ministry is to streamline the food security type of programme.

Challenges

The NSSS recognizes that the government has put a strong emphasis on ensuring food security for its citizens so that nobody dies from hunger. The Government, however, is aware that because of the changing nature of the economy and demography, the importance of this component of the social security programme is declining. The Ministry of Food will take measures to ensure that food is available in the market. The cash transfer programmes will ensure access of people to food when available in the market.

Organizational Overview

Baseline of the Action Plan of Ministry of Food

- Strengthening Open Market Sales (OMS) programme for the poor and extend it to rural areas.
- Extend Food Friendly Programme (FFP) in terms of duration and number of beneficiaries.
- Strengthening Nutrition sensitive Social Protection for Vulnerable People including food fortification
- Periodically review feasibility of converting food-based programme to cash.
- Ensure Congenial Food Stock Policy and Fair Price Policy through continuous monitoring and review.

9. Ministry of Agriculture

The role of agriculture is important in improving the wellbeing of a vast population through enhancing productivity, profitability, and employment generation in rural areas. Agriculture is directly related to food and nutritional security, income-generating opportunities, and poverty reduction. Hence, the improvement of the agriculture sector and acceleration of its growth is crucial for strengthening the social security of the country.

Vision

The vision of the Ministry is sustainable, safe, and profitable crop production.

Mission

The Ministry has a mission to ensure food security by increasing productivity and production in the crop sector, improving the marketing system as well as diversification of crops and production of more nutritious crops.

NSSS objectives

The NSSS objective for the Ministry is to support enhanced food security especially ensuring food availability and part of utilization by sustained growth in production and promoting agricultural employment for people.

Challenges

- A rapid decrease in agricultural land
- Population growth
- Climate change and variability
- Rapid urbanization
- Agricultural research and education
- Technology generation to the changing needs
- Technology dissemination to the farmers
- Alternate livelihoods/rehabilitation (off-farm and non-farm)
- Inadequate value addition/food processing
- Covid-19 impacts

Baseline of the Action Plan of Ministry of Agriculture

- Enhance availability of agricultural products and improve nutrition; Strengthen existing agricultural rehabilitation programme. And enhance research programmes for increasing productivity/production.
- Expand welfare of farmers and laborers and opportunities of their livelihoods; Enhance capacity building of farmers/farm laborers and sensitization programmes.

10. Ministry of Fisheries and Livestock

Ministry of Fisheries and Livestock is one of the very important ministries from the food and nutrition security aspect of social security. This Ministry has different programmes for human development and livelihood interventions.

Vision

The Vision of the Ministry is to ensure safe and secure animal protein for all.

Mission

The Ministry has a mission to meet the demand for animal protein by enhancing production, productivity, and value addition of fish and livestock products.

NSSS objectives

The NSSS objective for the Ministry is to provide social security to the fishermen during their seasonal unemployment and to improve livelihood development create self-employment of poor farmers related to the livestock sector in the different areas of Bangladesh. The food security programmes taken by this Ministry need to be converted to cash transfer where possible.

Challenges

The NSSS challenge for this Ministry is to reach out to the fishermen community, suffering from food insecurity arising out of unemployment during lean seasons.

Less attention on food security to the small farmer and marginal farmer and livestock during the natural hazard period. The inadequate opportunity of value addition process in dairy and poultry product.

COVID impact.

Baseline of the Action Plan of Ministry of Fisheries and Livestock

- Ensure registration of all fishermen for their identification.
- Coordinate with MoDMR to operate VGF for fishermen (based on demand).
- Expand opportunities for (self) employment in poultry and dairy production
- Support to Small and Marginal farmers, Resource Transfer to poor farmers.

11. Ministry of Liberation War Affairs

Ministry of Liberation War Affairs has been established in 2001 with the responsibility of preparing and preservation of freedom fighters' lists, providing honorarium and various benefits to the freedom fighters and their dependents, preserving history and memories of the great liberation war, and building monuments and war memorials. Under the social security programme of the Government, the total allocation of about Tk 170 billion has been made during the last five years for the welfare of more than 200,000 freedom fighters who risked their lives for the liberation of our motherland in 1971, resulting in the upliftment of the living standard of the great sons of the soil and empowerment of women members of those families.

Vision

The vision of the Ministry is to materialize “Bangabandhu's cherished dream of building a happy and prosperous Bangladesh by upholding the spirit and ideals of the great liberation war”.

Mission

Preservation of the real history and memory of the liberation war to implement the spirit and ideals of the great liberation war.

Planning and implementation of liberation war-based programmes in the light of the Vision-2021, the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) 2030, the Vision-2041, and the Delta Plan 2100 to build a society free from hunger and poverty.

To build a social safety net for the brave freedom fighters and their successors.

NSSS objectives

The NSSS objective of the Ministry is to consolidate social security programmes for all the freedom fighters and their descendants, upliftment of the living standard of the beneficiaries, empowerment of womenfolk, and engage women in the decision-making process in socio-economic life.

Challenges

The main challenge for the Ministry is to find out the freedom fighters remaining unnoticed, enlist them and bring them into the safety net and carry on the social security programmes for those already under the coverage and the new beneficiaries in a transparent and fastest way.

Baseline of the Action Plan of Ministry of Liberation War Affairs

- Continue Freedom Fighters' Benefit Programme
- Update the database of beneficiaries.
- Maintain benefit value in terms of growth in GDP ratio.

12. Financial Institutions Division (FID)

Financial Institutions Division started its function in January 2010. Earlier the related activities had been conducted through a separate wing of the Finance Division. FID deals with the law and policy issues related to the Banks, Non-Bank Financial Institutions, Capital Market, Insurance sector, and Microcredit sector. FID also coordinates the activities for formulating policies on capital adequacies as well as a review of related policies and programmes. s However, monitoring the utilization of foreign loans and other types of assistance channelled to different agencies like Bangladesh Bank, Bangladesh Securities and Exchange Commission (BSEC), Palli Karma-Sahayak Foundation (PKSF), Social Development Foundation (SDF), Bangladesh Municipal Development Foundation (BMDF) and Bangladesh NGO Foundation, etc. are also important activities of FID. Bangladesh Insurance Academy (BIA) and Bangladesh Institute of Capital Market (BICM) are conducting training programmes s for capacity building under this division.

Vision

The vision of the Division is to develop an efficient, inclusive, and robust financial market and services system.

Mission

To achieve the vision, the Division has the mission of strengthening the regulatory and institutional framework for the development of the financial market and services system.

NSSS objectives

The NSSS strategic objective of the Division is to institutionalize a social insurance system for Bangladesh.

Challenges

The NSSS entrusts upon the Finance Division, Ministry of Labor and Employment, Financial Institutions Division the responsibility of introducing a suitable framework of social insurance. Although the concept of social insurance is very common in the social security of developed countries, it is almost new in Bangladesh. People will invest in their social security during their needs. But for this, a strong legal and institutional framework is required.

Baseline of the Action Plan of Financial Institutions Division

- Conduct a study on NSIS.
- Support other ministries as required.
- Support in drafting legislative documents.

13. Economic Relations Division (ERD)

The Economic Relations Division (ERD) is one of the four Divisions of the Ministry of Finance (MoF) of the Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh. ERD, on behalf of the Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh, mobilizes development assistance from external sources for the socio-economic development of the country.

ERD leads as the focal point of the government for interfacing with the development partners as well as for coordination of all external assistance inflows into the country. Bangladesh has been maintaining macroeconomic stability and economic development with low external debt and greater resilience to external shocks over the last decades. The pace of development in Bangladesh got momentum through the first half of the fiscal year 2019-20 until the outbreak of Coronavirus (COVID19) emerged as a global pandemic.

Vision

Sustainable socio-economic development.

Mission

Management of foreign assistance and support the implementation of the national development strategy through strengthening relationships with development partners.

NSSS objectives

Provide coordination and technical support to strengthen the social security programme in Bangladesh.

Challenges

Create an effective organizational arrangement for coordination and collaboration with the development partners for continued and sustained inflow of foreign aid towards the implementation of the NSSS.

Baseline of the Action Plan of Economic Relations Division

- Engage with Development Partners for mobilization of funds including for social security programmes.
- Convince the Development Partners for funding the major lifecycle programmes.
- Engage with the Development Partners to provide augmented support for public workfare programmes in the context of migration to rural areas due to loss of livelihoods from Covid-19.
- Make publications highlighting success stories of government in social security.

14. Ministry of Labour and Employment

The Ministry of Labour and Employment is responsible for enforcing labour-related laws, rules, policies and overall social security of the working people. The Ministry has been assigned by the NSSS a major task of introducing an insurance scheme for the workers. Thus, the Ministry has a very important profile in terms of social security.

Vision

The vision of the Ministry is to ensure a decent workplace and healthier life of the worker and promote the welfare of the working people including all.

Mission

To achieve the vision, the Ministry has the mission of enhancing productivity through the creation of safe working conditions, maintaining harmonious employer and worker relations, eliminating child labour by any form and developing a skilled labour force.

NSSS objectives

The NSSS objective for the Ministry of Labour and Employment are:

To develop a social insurance system for workers.

To tackle socio-economic risks and vulnerability of the workers.

To ensure the social safeness of workers.

Challenges

The main challenge facing the Ministry are:

To implement the Labour Act and Labour Rules properly.

Disagreement between the employers and workers groups.

All sectors are not aware and not eager to comply with the insurance-related policies.

Unemployment (Accidental, Occupational Safety and Health-related diseases, 4th industrial revolution, lack of skill and education)

Baseline of the Action Plan of Ministry of Labour and Employment

- Conduct study on possible options of unemployment insurances.
- Introduce unemployment insurance on pilot basis.
- Expand unemployment insurance nationwide.
- Public awareness created on Childcare services in the workplaces and provide general instructions to relevant organizations.

15. Medical Education and Family Welfare Division

The Government of Bangladesh reorganized the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MOHFW) on March 16, 2017, into two Divisions, viz., Health Services Division (HSD) and Medical Education and Family Welfare Division (MEFWD) for ensuring intensive supervision and for accelerating performance. The new MEFWD has been established to give more emphasis on medical education and family welfare through expansion of medical education institutions, improvement of education standards, and development of human resources for effective service provision. The new Division also aims to expand quality services of Family Planning (FP) and reproductive health and strengthen maternal and child health services.

Vision

The vision of the Division is “to ensure affordable and quality Family Planning services and medical education to all”.

Mission

To achieve the vision, the Division has the mission “to ensure affordable and quality health and family planning services for all through developing the health, population and nutrition sector”.

NSSS objectives

The main NSSS objectives of the Division are to expand and ensure quality maternity and reproductive health, family planning services and child health for all who need it.

Challenges

The challenges to the family planning services are characterized by the high child marriage that contributes to a high adolescent fertility rate; low adoption of modern contraceptive practices; the incidence of high maternal mortality. Readiness of FP service facilities is inadequate especially in lagging Divisions: Chattogram and Sylhet.

Baseline of the Action Plan of Medical Education and Family Welfare Division

- Increase Maternal Health Care coverage by 10 percent and coordinate similar programmes of other ministries.
- Phase-wise scale-up the Adolescent Friendly Health Services (AFHS).

16. Health Services Division

The Health Service Division is a Bangladesh government division under the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare responsible for healthcare in Bangladesh. In the 1970s the Ministry had two divisions, but they were combined in 1985. Health Service Division was established on 16 March 2017 through the bifurcation of the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare.

Vision

The vision of the Division is to promote affordable and quality health services to all.

Mission

To achieve the vision, the Division has the mission “to ensure quality health service for all at an affordable cost by developing the service sectors in health, population, and nutrition.

NSSS objectives

The NSSS objective of the Division is to raise the coverage of maternal health care services to all the poor and vulnerable women who need them and to continue the nutrition programmes.

Challenges

The main challenges facing the Division are to ensure maternity health care and nutrition for all who need it. Building up a maternity health insurance, system is also a vital issue to be implemented by the Division.

Baseline of the Action Plan of Health Services Division

- Maternal Health Care: Make a need assessment for additional coverage and increase the coverage by 10 percent.
- Coordinate similar programmes by other ministries.
- Coordinate with FID to incorporate maternity insurance in the NSIS.

17. Prime Minister's Office (PMO)

The Prime Minister's Office (PMO) is playing the coordinating role for the establishment of Digital Bangladesh. Since, the Government is committed to ensuring efficiency, transparency, accountability and enhancing the capacity of ICT in all spheres of government including public administration in order to strengthen democratic processes and governance, The Prime Minister's Office is playing a significant role in establishing the Sonar Bangla envisioned by the Father of the nation.

Vision

To establish digital Bangladesh through social economic and human resource development.

Mission

Coordination of national programmes to establish Digital Bangladesh, creation of an investment-friendly environment and implementation of programmes for socio-economic and human resource development to improve the living standards of the marginalized segment of the population.

Organizational Overview

The Prime Minister's Office strives to ensure the implementation of the 10 initiatives of the Honorable Prime Minister. The initiatives include Amar Bari Amar Khamar, Ashrayan, Digital Bangladesh, Education Assistance Programme, Women Empowerment, Electricity for all, Community Clinic Development, Social Security Programme, Investment Development and Environmental Protection. These initiatives play a pivotal role in realizing the NSSS. Among these initiatives, Ashrayan is directly implemented by PMO. Moreover, the development programme for the small ethnic groups of the plain land is also carried out by PMO. Among the subordinate offices of PMO, NGO Affairs Bureau (NGOAB) and National Skills Development Authority (NSDA) have the major stakes related to NSSS implementation.

18. Cabinet Division

The Cabinet Division (previously Ministry of Cabinet Affairs) was established in 1972 to provide secretarial assistance to the government. In pursuance of a Presidential decision, the Cabinet Division was placed under the President's Office in 1975, and, later, it was brought back to the Ministry of Cabinet Affairs. The Cabinet Division is the apex body of the Government, primarily responsible for the management of the cabinet affairs of the government along with coordination across ministries/divisions.

The supervision and management of different administrative issues of the field administration are also within the purview of the job description of this division. This division has been also playing vital roles in administrative reforms and reinforcing good governance by implementing different strategies and tools like Annual Performance Agreement (APA), Grievance Redress System (GRS), National Integrity Strategy (NIS), and National Social Security Strategy (NSSS), etc. The Cabinet Division coordinates and monitors the implementation of the social security system of the country.

Vision

The Vision of the Cabinet Division is to enhance overall good governance in the country.

Mission

The NSSS mission of the Cabinet Division is to coordinate and oversee the implementation of a lifecycle-based comprehensive social security system.

NSSS objectives

The major objective of the Cabinet Division is to mobilize the Central Management Committee (CMC) on Social Security to streamline the country's social security system. Facilitating the establishment of a modern and efficient delivery mechanism of social benefits is another important objective of this Division.

Challenges

The main challenge for the Cabinet Division is to establish coordination among line ministries to establish an inclusive social security system by consolidating the fragmented and discordant social security schemes along with a lifecycle framework.

Baseline of the Action Plan of the Cabinet Division

- Strengthen the coordination of social security programme implementation.
- Integration of SP reforms plan in the Annual Performance Agreement (APA).
- Capacity building of the thematic clusters.
- Roll out GRS for social security governance.
- Complete the formulation of the NSSS Action Plan of the second phase and monitor its implementation progress.
- Strengthen and operationalize the field-level social security management committees.
- Organize dialogues and conferences with DPs and NGOs.

19. Ministry of Expatriates' Welfare and Overseas Employment

The Ministry of Expatriates' Welfare and Overseas Employment (MoEWOE) is responsible for the welfare of migrant workers and their families. It is also responsible for skills development and facilitating overseas employment which is a very important aspect of the socio-economic life of Bangladesh. It not only reduces unemployment but also enriches the country's economy, with increased remittance inflow. Employment empowers migrant workers, especially female migrant workers, and upgrades migrant workers' families economically and socially. Thus, the Ministry plays a very crucial supportive role in enhancing social security for the citizens of the country as envisaged in the NSSS. In the days to come, the role of the MoEWOE in implementing the NSSS is likely to be further enhanced.

Vision

The Vision of the Ministry is "socio-economic development of the country through expanding overseas employment opportunities, ensuring safe migration, protecting the rights of migrant workers and enhancing welfare for migrant workers and their families".

Mission

To achieve the vision, the Ministry has the mission of "Development of migration management to create a skilled workforce through training commensurate with the demands of the global labour markets, enhancement of opportunities for overseas employment, protection of the rights and interests of migrant workers, enhancement of the welfare of migrant workers and their families and ensuring of safe and orderly migration".

NSSS objectives

The NSSS objectives of the Ministry are to explore overseas employment opportunities for the aspirant migrants, develop skills, protection of the rights and interests of migrant workers, and ensure of welfare and social security of migrant workers and their families.

Baseline of the Action Plan of Ministry of Expatriates' Welfare & Overseas Employment

- Increase the number of social allowances programmes for the migrant workers and their family members.
- Issue a circular for providing mandatory insurance coverage for all aspirant migrant workers.
- Institutional capacity building by establishing new TTCs (Technical Training Centre) and IMTs (Institution of Marine Technology).
- Enhance capability through providing training of the trainers.
- Liaise and collaborate with reputed international training centres by signing MoUs for obtaining the international standard of skills and accreditation,
- Identify new areas of overseas employment and training.

20. Local Government Division

Local Government Division is an important unit of the government, charged to enhance local governance and socio-economic development of people, both in urban and rural areas. The division is working for the improvement of socio-economic conditions and poverty alleviation and is implementing different projects for the development of infrastructure such as constructions/reconstructions/rehabilitation of roads including bridges and culverts, development of small scale water resources, development of growth centre/rural markets, construction of Union Parishad Building, construction of cyclone/flood shelter, construction of bus terminal, construction of the municipal market, slum improvement, etc. and side by side successfully implementing tree plantation programme along both sides of the roads to contribute towards the ecological balance of environment by the departments/organizations related with this division.

Vision

The vision of the Division is to establish participatory and effective local governance.

Mission

To improve living standard of people by strengthening local government system, rural and urban infrastructural development and implementation of socio-economic programmes.

NSSS objectives

The National Social Security Strategy envisages that the Local Government Division will assume responsibilities related to supporting targeting the beneficiaries of social security programmes, following a community participation approach, providing support in resolving grievances and disputes related to the implementation of social security programmes and assisting monitoring and evaluation of programmes. To consolidate workfare programmes is another important task.

Challenges

One of the challenges of the Division is to consolidate its workfare programmes in collaboration with other ministries, especially the Ministry of Disaster Management and Relief. Other important issues include improvement of the targeting process and establishment of a grievance redress mechanism at the grassroots level

Baseline of the Action Plan of Local Government Division

- Coordinate with MoDMR to explore possibility of merging programmes
- Support measures to tackle the challenge of Urban Social Security
- SWAPNO Introduce the project in 200 Upazilas
- Support publishing beneficiary lists for all programmes
- Instruct the UDCs to receive grievances and forward to UNO office
- Maintain a register for grievances received and forwarded
- Provide relevant data on social security programmes regularly

21. Ministry of Chittagong Hill Tracts

The Chittagong Hill Tracts (CHT) is a distinct region in terms of its ethnic, cultural and environmental diversity to the rest of Bangladesh. The Chittagong Hill Tracts, combining three hilly districts of Bangladesh Rangamati, Khagrachhari and Bandarban hill districts. The Chittagong Hill Tracts (CHT) is a unique geographical and cultural section of Bangladesh comprised of a mix of rivers, hills, forests, lakes and natural fountains. Ministry of Chittagong Hill Tracts Affairs emerged on 15th July 1998.

The Ministry of Chittagong Hill Tracts has been established in 1998 to expedite the socio-economic development of the people of the Chittagong Hill Tracts (CHT) Region. There are a few organizations working under this ministry. These are Chittagong Hill Tracts Development Board, Chittagong Hill Tracts Regional Council, three Hill Districts Councils and Refugee Rehabilitation Taskforce.

Vision:

The vision of the Ministry is peaceful and prosperous the Chittagong Hill Tracts.

Mission:

The Ministry has a mission to ensure the socio-economic, political, and educational rights of the CHT people by implementing social welfare programme memes.

NSSS objectives

The NSSS objective for the ministry is to ensure food security for the people of the CHT.

Challenges

The NSSS challenge for the ministry is to overcome the existing food poverty of the people of the Chittagong Hill Tracts region.

Organizational Overview

Baseline of the Action Plan of Ministry of Chittagong Hill Tracts

- Strengthen food security programmes in CHT, Increase coverage
- Gradually shift to cash transfer programmes

22. Rural Development & Cooperatives Division

Rural Development and Cooperatives Division undertake different programmes for rural development by a range of activities including rural employment generation, skill development, research and formulation of relevant rules and policies. Formulation of rural development policy and laws, rules and policy relating to cooperatives. Initiate human resource development programmes for members of the cooperatives, provide education, training, and conduct research programmes on rural development and cooperatives. Innovate new model/strategy on rural development through action research, Assist in the socio-economic development and empowerment of rural women through formation of formal and informal groups under cooperative programmes.

Vision

The Division has the vision of a socio-economically developed Bangladesh.

Mission

To achieve the vision, the Division has the mission to eradicate poverty through cooperatives and integrated rural development activities, as well as research.

NSSS objectives

The NSSS objective for the Rural Development and Cooperatives Division is to assist rural poor people to move out of poverty by facilitating income-generating activities.

Challenges

Eradication of rural poverty is still a great challenge for the country. One of the main causes of rural poverty is unemployment or rather under-employment. Rural poverty must be reduced through labour and livelihood interventions and the poor have to be 'graduated' from poverty.

Baseline of the Action Plan of Rural Government & Cooperatives Division

- Scale up 'My House - My Farm' programme by increasing coverage of the programme by 15 percent every year.

23. Ministry of Youth and Sports

The Ministry of Youth and Sports is assigned the responsibility of dealing with youth and sports issues. Skill development of the youth to accelerate youth empowerment is a prime focus of the Ministry. All the citizens aged from 18 to 35 years are considered youth in the country. Engaging them in nation-building activities by harnessing their talent through skill and motivational training is of paramount importance. The Ministry strives to tap the young potential and thus contributes to the achievement of national strategic goals.

Vision

The vision of the Ministry is a skilled youth force for national development with sports for recreation and health.

Mission

The Ministry's mission is to create skilled and productive youth by training and by developing training infrastructure and to achieve excellence in sports at national and international levels.

NSSS Objectives

One of the objectives of the Ministry is to implement skill development programmes for young men and women to make sure that they become a human resource for the country. The NSSS emphasizes the need for strengthening programmes for the youth. There is a growing concern about the welfare of this segment of the Bangladesh population. Many young people are school dropouts, while a significant number of them complete secondary or higher secondary education but are unemployed or under-employed.

Challenges

The NSSS challenge for the Ministry is to ensure the welfare and empowerment of the vulnerable segments of the youth.

Baseline of the Action Plan of Ministry of Youth and Sports

- Skill development programme for young men and women
- Increase training programmes for youth

24. Ministry of Housing and Public Works

The constitution of the People's Republic of Bangladesh encompasses access to shelter for all citizens. On the behalf of GoB, the MoHPW has adopted housing policies in view of providing shelters to all citizens. The Ministry of Housing and Public Works is a ministry of the government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh which provides housing and regulates the state construction activities in the country. This ministry also looks after all types of Nationally Important Buildings, Offices of Deputy Commissioners, Judges Courts, Offices of Civil Surgeons, Police Lines, Jails, Circuit Houses, Police Station Complexes, Hospitals and Homes of Officers and Employees of the Government of Bangladesh.

Vision

Construction of sustainable and safe infrastructure through optimum use of land for cost-effective housing and planned urbanization.

Mission

Construction of sustainable and safe infrastructure through ensuring proper planning and adequate research and optimum use of land for cost-effective housing and planned urbanization.

NSSS objectives

The NSSS objectives of the Ministry is to provide supports to the relevant authorities in building houses for the poor and the homeless.

Challenges

The challenge for the ministry is to provide technical support in designing and planning housing facilities to the poor and homeless.

Baseline of the Action Plan of Ministry of Housing and Public Works

- Scale up Land tenure security through transfer of public land to the urban poor.
- Development of Tertiary Infrastructure (Land Development, Drainage system, Sewerage system, Water Supply system, Road, Street lights, etc.) in urban poor communities.

25. Ministry of Land

The Ministry of Land is mainly responsible for the administration of land-related matters. It has a limited range of social security programmes, with involvement especially related to the provision of land.

Vision

The vision of the Ministry is an efficient, transparent and people-friendly land management system.

Mission

The Ministry has a mission to ensure the best possible use of land and provide pro-people land services through efficient, modern, and sustainable land management.

NSSS objectives

The NSSS objective for the ministry is to tackle the marginalization of landless people.

Challenges

There are many people in the country who are socially excluded due to landlessness. Their marginalization may be overcome by providing them with the land.

Baseline of the Action Plan of Ministry of Land

- Scale up housing programmes for landless people Increase coverage of the programmes

26. General Economics Division (GED)

General Economics Division (GED) of the Planning Commission of the Ministry of Planning is the prime policy and planning organ of the Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh. The division is responsible for preparing the country's long-term and medium-term development policies, strategies, and plans. Being one of the six divisions of the Bangladesh Planning Commission, it provides secretarial assistance to the Planning Commission as well as to the NEC (National Economic Council) and the ECNEC (Executive Committee of the National Economic Council) in various matters concerning plan preparation and economic policy/strategy formulation. GED has prepared the National Social Security Strategy, 2015 and set the road map of establishing a solid social security system in Bangladesh.

Vision

The vision of the General Economics Division (GED) is "Making the country a prosperous one"

Mission

The NSSS mission of GED is to provide reform support in the social security system of the country consistent with national goals of higher socioeconomic growth and elimination of poverty.

NSSS objectives

The NSSS has assigned the GED with the following major tasks: devising a results-based M&E framework for social security programmes, facilitating to establish a single registry MIS, harmonization/consolidation of small schemes, developing a business case of selecting the beneficiaries of social security schemes, and carrying out a review of current socioeconomic policy, strategies and plans and check the consistency with NSSS. GED aims at accomplishing the assigned tasks by maintaining policy coherence with the Government's existing plans and strategies, including the Perspective Plan and Five-Year Plans and Delta Plan-2100. In addition, GED will ensure cohesion among the policies, plans, strategies, so that the whole process would be visual under the broader inclusive Social Development Framework.

Baseline of the Action Plan of General Economics Division (GED)

- Review the existing M&E System of social security
- Suggest technical details regarding the modalities of linking the M&E with single registry MIS
- Review the proposals and make recommendations of consolidation to CMC
- Prepare a report with recommendation for improving targeting of beneficiaries
- Monitor the consistency of social security policies with the NSSS
- Sensitize all ministries to make their major policies coherent with the NSSS with the support of Cabinet Division

27. Implementation Monitoring and Evaluation Division (IMED)

For carrying out monitoring activities of the ongoing development projects and impact evaluation of the completed projects, the Project Implementation Bureau (PIB) was established in January 1975. Later, PIB was transformed into the Implementation Monitoring and Evaluation Division (IMED) in 1984 and was placed under the supervision of the Ministry of Planning. A special unit called Central Procurement Technical Unit (CPTU) was added to IMED in May 2002 for the sake of maintaining transparency in the public procurement sector. IMED has got 9 (nine) sectors and each sector is being supervised by one Director General. The officials working in each sector carry out monitoring activities by visiting the project site and analyzing the work plan and procurement plans of the project. After such a visit and analysis, the IMED officials submit their recommendations within the purview of the DPP.

Vision

Proper monitoring and evaluation of the development projects for sustainable development.

Mission

To provide effective support in the socio-economic development of the country by doing proper monitoring of the implementation procedures including procurement activities and also by doing impact evaluation of the completed projects

Challenges

Carrying out monitoring and evaluation activities of the development projects with the existing manpower and logistic support is being treated as a huge challenge of IMED.

Objectives

To support the attainment of socio-economic development of the country through effective monitoring and evaluation of the development projects.

Baseline of the Action Plan of Implementation Monitoring and Evaluation Division (IMED)

- Monitor implementation activities of the ongoing projects and report to CMC (Central Management committee) of Cabinet Division
- Evaluate impacts of the development projects/ programmes and report to CMC of Cabinet Division

28. Statistics and Informatics Division (SID)

Statistics and Informatics Division is responsible for producing official statistics to help decision making and development progress. The Division conducts population censuses and surveys on agriculture, economic affairs and other matters including socio-economic affairs, demography, and environment.

Vision

The vision of the Division is dependable statistics for the development of the country.

Mission

To achieve the vision, the Division has the mission to collect, process, analyze and publish statistical information for the development of the country and the welfare of the people.

NSSS objectives

The NSSS objective for the Division is to develop, maintain and update the social security beneficiary database through creating a single registry MIS. SID is also creating a Bangladesh Household Database (NHD) which will be a source for eligible social security beneficiaries.

Challenges

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

Baseline of the Action Plan of Statistics and Informatics Division

- Create the database with GIS and socio-economic condition of people.
- Coordinate with GED to conduct a study on ideal framework of single registry MIS.
- Follow the NHD database for beneficiary selection and link the MIS with cash disbursement.

29. Planning Division

Planning Division has been playing a key role in formulating long, medium- and short-term national development plans, policies, and strategies for the attainment of socio-economic development of the country. The division has been simplifying the process of development project proposal preparation, evaluation, approval and amendment and preparing Annual Development Programme (ADP) and Revised Annual Development Programme (RADP) as per national plans, policies and strategies. It is also undertaking research for socio-economic development, providing incentives to the researchers; conducting need-based training, surveys and investigations for effective planning and economic development; and publishing reports/journals in this regard and performing administrative functions of the subordinate organizations/departments of the Planning Division including Planning Commission.

Vision

Sustainable, time-bound and effective development through the participatory national development plan, policy, strategy and effective resource management.

Mission

Facilitating supportive role for overall sustainable development of the country through the formulation of participatory national development plans, policies, strategies and effective distribution of wealth.

NSSS Objectives

The NSSS objectives of the Planning Division is to support in formulating plans, policies and strategies for strengthening the social protection of the country.

Challenges

The challenge for the ministry is to facilitate in creating effective coordination mechanism for formulating congenial strategies and policies for social protection system in the country

Baseline of the Action Plan of Planning Division

- Participate in dialogues with GED and Cabinet Division in reviewing social security policies.
- Support in strengthening social security policy and strategies.

30. Information and Communication Technology (ICT) Division

The Information and Communication Technology Division is a part of the Ministry of Posts, Telecommunications and Information Technology of the Government of Bangladesh. The main objective of this Division is to establish e-governance by realizing Digital Bangladesh. Formulating policies, strategies, Acts, Rules to realize the potential of the ICT eco-system to support the implementation of programmes and projects relating to information communication are within the purview of the ICT Division.

Vision

People-friendly information and communication technology in building Sonar Bangla.

Mission

Establishment of a happy prosperous Sonar Bangla through reliable cyber access at the grassroots level, development of IT-based human resources, export-oriented development of IT industry and the use of citizen-friendly IT technology.

NSSS objectives

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

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

Digitalization and Data Integration of Social Security Benefits,

Capacity development through training for inclusive sustainable development

The best use of ICT in service delivery and awareness building among service receivers of NSSS

Service Process simplification for value for money.

Challenges

The challenges for this division are to inter-link various databases of line ministries/divisions for the Whole-Of-Government Approach on the social security programme. In this connection, the main challenges are to integrate the accurate data of social security programmes among Ministries/Divisions, maintain data sharing for avoiding duplicity and data accuracy

Baseline of the Action Plan of Information and Communication Technology (ICT) Division

- Scale up ICT/ITES Skill Development Programme for Youth (young men /women).

31. Posts and Telecommunications Division

Posts and Telecommunications Division is responsible for posts and telecommunications under the Ministry of Posts, Telecommunications and Information Technology in Bangladesh and is located in Dhaka, Bangladesh. The Division deals with the law and policy issues related to the posts and telecommunications services. This Division has undertaken different initiatives for the digitization of its various departments and agencies to provide and ensure quality telecommunications and postal services at affordable cost.

Vision

Establish affordable, quality, and international standard telecommunications and postal services

Mission

Ensure affordable, quality, and international standard telecommunications and postal services through adaptation of institutional development and modern technology

NSSS objectives

The NSSS objective of the division is to ensure digital connectivity to the grassroots people and to facilitate digitization of cash payment

Challenges

The challenge for this ministry is to ensure last-mile connectivity to the hard-to-reach areas for delivery of social protection benefits digitally.

Baseline of the Action Plan of Posts and Telecommunications Division

- Support in Developing Single Registry MIS, Maintain and expand digital connectivity for smooth operation of MIS.
- Digitization of Cash Transfer through enhancing the postal cash card service.

32. Ministry of Water Resources

The Ministry of Water Resources is the apex body of the Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh for the development and management of the whole water resources of the country. It formulates policies, plans, strategies, guidelines, instructions and acts, rules, regulations, etc. relating to the development and management of water resources, and regulation and control of the institutions reporting to it. It prepares and implements development projects relating to Flood Control and Drainage (FCD); Flood Control, Drainage and Irrigation (FCDI); riverbank erosion control; delta development and land reclamation; etc. and provides irrigation, drainage, flood protection, bank erosion protection, land reclamation facilities by constructing barrages, regulators, sluices, canals, cross-dams, embankments and dikes along the banks of the rivers and the coast, etc.

Vision

Sustainable development through balanced and integrated management of water resources.

Mission

Ensure sustainable development through balanced and integrated management of water resources for the sake of the lives and livelihood of the people.

NSSS objectives

The NSSS objectives of the ministry are to enhance livelihood for the people of the poverty pockets in the haor areas and plain land.

Challenges

The challenge for this ministry is to implement programmes for the people of the haors and low-lying areas.

Baseline of the Action Plan of Ministry of Water Resources

- Livelihood development for the people of haor areas.
- Conduct needs assessment study of social protection for the people of haor land.
- Scale the programme according to the finding of the study.

33. Ministry of Cultural Affairs

The Ministry of Cultural Affairs has been working for a well-balanced social structure since its birth. It is more than three decades since the Ministry of Cultural Affairs has come into being as a separate ministry of the Government. Soon after the independence of Bangladesh, this ministry had started its journey as a division under the Ministry of Education, and afterwards also became a part of different ministries before becoming a full-fledged ministry in 1988. As is evident from the name, the ministry is assigned the responsibility of upholding the cultural and historical heritage of the country. Specifically, the ministry is responsible for the preservation, research and development of national cultural heritage, arts and fine arts. Though this ministry offers direct programmes to facilitate and preserve the country's own cultural identity, history and values, arts and heritage, the spirit of the liberation war, inculcating contemporary art and literature, it also creates employment opportunities for numerous insolvent artists directly or indirectly through its different development programmes. The functions of the ministry also include the social protection of the cultural activists fallen in poverty.

Vision

The vision of the ministry is to build a culture-oriented knowledge-based creative and meritorious nation.

Mission

Enhance and enrich the nation's intellect through preservation, research, development and promotion of native culture, history, and heritage, the spirit of liberation war and contemporary arts and literature.

NSSS objectives

The NSSS objective of the ministry is to enhance social inclusiveness and to ensure the welfare of the insolvent cultural activists, and thereby also promising the young cultural enthusiasts to devote themselves in pursuit of cultural supremacy without feeling risks of possible future hardship.

Baseline of the Action Plan of Ministry of Cultural Affairs

- Increase programmes and activities promoting social empowerment and inclusiveness.
- Maintain rigorous criteria for eliminating cultural programmes with potential risks of socially excluding any groups, such as tea garden workers, backward people, water gypsies, HIV affected people, street artists, jamdani artists, jatra artists, small groups of inherited craftsmanship and drug addicts, etc.
- Highlight national glory and achievement in social security, Sensitize the cultural activists for incorporating social security themes in their works.
- Scale up cash transfer programmes for insolvent cultural personalities.

34. Ministry of Industries

The Ministry of Industries is primarily responsible for developing new policies and strategies for the promotion, expansion and sustainable development of the Industrial sector of Bangladesh. After the independence of Bangladesh Ministry of industry and commerce was formed in 1972. Later on, the Ministry of Industry and Commerce has divided into two different ministries. It has 4 Corporations, 6 Departments, 1 Board, 1 Foundation and 36 state-owned industries. State-owned industries are now producing fertilizer, sugar, paper, assembling vehicles and promoting small, medium and cottage industries. Ministry of industries has a great contribution to establishing environment-friendly industrialization, employment generation, food security and improvement in people's living standards.

Vision

To construct an upper-middle-income country through environment-friendly industrialization.

Mission

Environmentally friendly Industrialization in making upper-middle-income country through expansion of export-oriented and import substitute products, fertilizer production and distribution for ensuring food security and employment generation for a skilled workforce.

NSSS objectives

The NSSS objectives of the ministry are to enhance the economic development of the country by creating employment.

Challenges

The challenge of the ministry is to sustain the economic development of the country to enable the government to continue its social security programmes.

Baseline of the Action Plan of Ministry of Industries

- Skill development training programme for young men and women
- Extension of BITAC for self-employment and poverty Alleviation through hands on technical training highlighting women project (Phase-2).
- Provide skill development training for entrepreneurs of medium, small, micro, cottage industries and socially marginalized people.

35. Ministry of Commerce

The Ministry of Commerce is a ministry of Bangladesh that is responsible for the regulation and implementation of policies applicable to domestic and foreign trade. Though the ministry has no direct programme of social security, still it plays important supportive roles in enhancing food security through maintaining the fair price of essential food items by policy intervention and direct participation in the market.

Vision

Creating a significant competitive position in the trade.

Mission

Contribute to national development by creating a business-friendly environment, facilitating trade, facilitating export growth, diversifying export products and markets, increasing capacity in foreign trade, ensuring the supply of daily necessities and stabilizing commodity prices.

NSSS objectives

The NSSS objective for the ministry is to support and collaborate with stakeholders in ensuring food supply in the market at a fair price.

Challenges

The NSSS challenge for the ministry is to manoeuvre a pragmatic mechanism for coordinating between food stock policy and the fair price policy of the government.

Baseline of the Action Plan of Ministry of Commerce

- Support in sustaining food supply in the market for ensuring food security.
- Coordinate fair price policy with food stock policy
- Facilitate food supply in the market during crisis

36. Ministry of Religious Affairs

Ministry of Religious Affairs has been trying for extending the overall cooperation and provide grants, as well as finance the activities to implement the development activities of the Islamic Foundation, Waqf Administration, Hindu, Buddhist & Christian Religious Welfare Trusts as major roles. It also deals with all matters relating to Hajj and Umrah, including the announcement of Hajj policy and Hajj Package, signing of bi-lateral Hajj agreement and management of residential accommodation for hajj pilgrims and religious delegations to and from foreign countries. The ministry also provides assistance to maintain and operate Waqf and Debouttar estates/properties and assisting research and publications in the field of religion and providing co-operation in the management of charitable institutions.

Vision

Ensure a liberal, harmonized, and collective society.

Mission

Establish a liberal, harmonized, and collective society by fostering religious values and ethics.

NSSS Objectives

The NSSS objective of the ministry is to support in ensuring inclusive social protection by fostering an environment of religious and communal harmony.

Challenges

The challenges of the ministry include preserving and maintaining the existing situation of religious harmony and device a management system for better utilization of religious charity.

Baseline of the Action Plan of Ministry of Religious Affairs

- Enhance management of government machineries for the poor
- Enhance financial support for Imam and Muazzin in poverty alleviation.

37. Ministry of Public Administration

Ministry of Public Administration is the unit of government responsible for the overall management of human resources in the government services including appointment, posting, training and organizational structuring. The welfare of the public servants is also an important part of the activities of this ministry.

Vision

Expert and effective Public Administration.

Mission

To build up an efficient, service-oriented and accountable Public Administration through appointment, training, increasing institutional efficiency and ensuring effective use of human resources.

NSSS objectives

The NSSS objective of the Ministry is to provide social security benefits to the vulnerable government employees and their families, build the capacity of the civil servants and keep them oriented with the latest social security policies of the government.

Challenges

The challenges for the ministry are to scale up social security programmes for the vulnerable members of public service and to enhance social security lessons in different training courses in the training institutes for civil servants.

Baseline of the Action Plan of Ministry of Public Administration

- Broaden social security contents in some training courses at BPATC, BCS Admin Academy and BIAM.
- Social security for the vulnerable government employees and their families

Continuation of grant/allowance in case of permanent injury or death of in-service government employees, medical treatment, funeral of deceased employees, stipend for their children's education, etc

38. Ministry of Textiles and Jute

The Ministry of Textiles and Jute is responsible for the formulation of policies, implementation of plans and evaluation and Management of State-owned textiles and jute industries. It coordinates the internal and external marketing of Jute yarn, diversified jute products and Textiles including synthetic, specialized, handloom, power-loom products. The Ministry enhances promotion, establishment, balancing & modernization and replacement of Textile mills/factories and handlooms in the public sector and also facilitate the promotion of Textile and Jute industries and related matters in the private sector. The Ministry puts huge social security impact by providing working capital to develop Socio-economic conditions & modernization of handloom to the weavers. And putting more contribution through creating human resources through educating and training of Textiles, Jute and Sericulture technology to the related people. It also supports overall coordination related to the marketing of textiles and jute products in both local and foreign markets and provides assistance to the private sector in the development and expansion of textiles and jute industries.

Vision

Developing a strong and competitive Textiles and Jute sector.

Mission

Increase productivity, employment, and export by fully utilizing the potential of textile and jute sectors.

NSSS objectives

The NSSS objective of the ministry is to ensure the social protection of the weavers and employees of the textiles and jute industries.

Challenges

The social protection challenges facing the Ministry of Jute are to sustain and increase the employment of the workers and to ensure their social protection. At present, our Jute products are facing huge competition in the diversified market. And textiles sector faces the threat of artificial fibre/fabrics.

Baseline of the Action Plan of Ministry of Textiles and Jute

- Scale up programmes for marginalized weaver & handloom workers
- Increase number beneficiaries in this handloom sectors

39. Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change

The Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change is a ministry of the People's Republic of Bangladesh whose role is to ensure a sustainable environment and optimum forest coverage. Previously, the ministry name was Ministry of Environment and Forest. On May 14, 2018, the cabinet changed the name to Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change.

Vision

Ensure habitable, Climate-resilient and sustainable environment for all

Mission

Ensure a habitable, sustainable and resilient environment for the present and the future generations of the country.

NSSS objectives

The NSSS objective of the Ministry is to take adequate measures for sustainable management of the environment and capacity to tackle climate change and prevention of disaster.

Challenges

The challenges for the Ministry include ensuring social protection for the victims of climate change and natural disasters and checking environmental degradation.

Baseline of the Action Plan of Environment, Forest and Climate Change

- Strengthen the management of climate change and disaster prevention
- Take measures according to the Delta Plan of Action and Coordinate with local development projects

Policy Recommendations

The presentations on different critical issues of social protection followed by elaborate discussion and guidance by chairpersons of working sessions came up with a number of recommendations. Some of the main recommendations of the conference are given below:

16. The universal vs targeted universal approach of the NSSS may be revisited and clarified in consistence with the already introduced universal schemes like school stipend, school feeding, disability benefits, and pensions (public and private);
17. Inclusion and exclusion errors must be avoided for attaining value for the money in beneficiary targeting;
18. Social Insurance needs to provision beyond the theme of social assistance (unemployment insurance; accident, sickness, maternity insurance etc;
19. Contributory pension schemes need to be introduced to complement the social pension schemes;
20. Governance structures of NSSS such as the Central Management Committee (CMC), CMC focal Points, Thematic Clusters, and NSSS M&E Committees should be further strengthened and reformed;
21. Partnerships and cooperation should be expanded beyond public sector for adaptive social protection;
22. Severity of disability should be considered in the disability schemes and implementation of social insurance should be emphasized;
23. Adult disability benefit may be introduced or expanded for all with a severe disability within the age group of 19 to 60.
24. Need to adopt a benefit package for health care of disabled workers according to ILO convention C 121;
25. It is urgently needed to design and adopt an inclusive urban sector policy in line with the NSSS provisions;
26. The grievance redress system for social protection needs to be further strengthened and the poor and marginal groups of population should be informed about the grievance mechanisms of SSPs;
27. Participation of marginal and poor population, NGOs, local communities in the ward meeting and selection of beneficiaries should be ensured;
28. Selection criteria for Social protection beneficiary need to be standardized and disseminated among the common people;
29. List of SSP beneficiaries should be done through an open meeting at community level with mass gathering;
30. Following NSSS (2015), Bangladesh must start consolidating the social protection schemes into five core clusters. This would allow the authorities to design and determine an adequate administrative cost system for the SP system.
31. All cash transfers will be gradually brought under this G2P payment procedure and mandatory capacity development and training on G2P payment system;