



## **National Conference on Social Protection 2025**

### **Concept Note**

#### **Conference Theme**

*A Journey Towards an Equitable Society*

**Date: 1-3 September 2025**

**Venue: Bangladesh-China Friendship Conference Centre (BCFCC)  
Sher-e-Bangla Nagar, Dhaka**



## National Conference on Social Protection 2025

### Background

Bangladesh's commitment to social protection is firmly rooted in its Constitution, specifically Article 15(d), which mandates the state to provide for citizens' basic necessities and ensure social security during times of undeserved want. This domestic obligation is reinforced by international commitments, including the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, which recognizes social security as a fundamental right essential for human dignity and social inclusion.

Since 2015, the National Social Security Strategy (NSSS) has guided Bangladesh's efforts to build a comprehensive social protection framework. As this strategy nears its conclusion in mid-2026, the nation faces a critical opportunity to modernize its approach to meet the demands of an evolving sociopolitical landscape.

In alignment with its vision of "A Journey Towards an Equitable Society," the government has allocated BDT 1,16,731 crore to Social Protection Programmes for the 2025-2026 fiscal year, underscoring its commitment to governance reforms and social equity. This substantial investment marks a pivotal moment in the evolution of Bangladesh's social protection system.

The National Conference on Social Protection 2025 will serve as the culmination of a series of workshops, and dialogues focused on the nation's socioeconomic development, and will provide a high-level forum to deliberate on the future of social protection in Bangladesh.

### Conference Objectives

The National Conference on Social Protection 2025 will serve as a key platform to shape the future of Bangladesh's social protection framework. By fostering multi-stakeholder dialogue, the conference aims to formulate a robust, inclusive, and forward-looking social protection system that addresses emerging challenges and builds a more equitable future for all citizens. The primary objectives of the conference are:

- To critically assess the progress, achievements, and challenges of the social protection system under the National Social Security Strategy 2015-2026.
- To formulate strategic directions and priorities for the next generation of social protection policies, aligning them with Bangladesh's evolving socioeconomic landscape and its long-term development aspirations.

- To foster multistakeholder dialogues on innovative approaches, including digital solutions, to enhance the effectiveness and inclusivity of social protection programmes.
- To consolidate recommendations that will inform the design of the post-2026 national social protection framework.

## Organizers

The National Conference on Social Protection 2025 will be organized by the Cabinet Division. The Social Security Policy Support (SSPS) Programme of United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) Bangladesh, with significant funding support from the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT) of the Australian Government will provide technical support.

## Expected Outcomes

The primary expected outcome is a set of consolidated recommendations that will directly guide the formulation of Bangladesh next-generation social protection strategy for the post-2026 era. These actionable recommendations will be built on a critical assessment of the current system's successes and challenges, enriched by multi-stakeholder dialogues on innovative and digital solutions. By producing a clear and robust strategic roadmap, the conference aims not only to shape a more inclusive and effective social protection system for the nation but also to enhance international confidence, thereby attracting greater support and collaboration from development partners.

## National Conference on Social Protection 2025

**Date: 1-3 September 2025**

Venue: Bangladesh-China Friendship Conference Centre (BCFCC)

### Detailed Programme Leaf

<b>Day 1: Inaugural Session</b> Monday, 1 September 2025 Hall of Fame		
<b>Date and time</b>	<b>Inauguration of the Conference</b>	<b>Topics and Panel</b>
09:30 - 10:30		<b>Registration and Tea</b>
10:30 - 11:00		<b>Guests Taking Seats</b>
11:00 - 11:10		<b>Welcome Address</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Ms. Zaheda Parveen, Secretary, Coordination and Reforms, Cabinet Division</li></ul>
11:10 - 11:30		<b>Keynote Presentation</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Mr. Mohammad Khaled Hasan, Additional Secretary, Coordination Wing, and Member-Secretary, CMC for National Social Security Programmes, Cabinet Division</li></ul>
11:30 - 12:00		<b>Speech by Guests of Honour</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Mr. Stefan Liller, Resident Representative, UNDP</li><li>H.E. Clinton Pobke, Deputy High Commissioner, Australian Government</li><li>H.E. Michael Miller, Ambassador and Head of Delegation of the European Union to Bangladesh</li><li>Dr. Monzur Hossain, Member (Secretary), General Economics Division, Bangladesh Planning Commission</li><li>Dr. Md. Mokhles ur Rahman, Senior Secretary, Ministry of Public Administration</li></ul>
12:00 - 12:10		<b>Speech by Special Guest</b> , Mr. Faruk E Azam, Bir Protik, Hon'ble Adviser, Ministry of Disaster Management and Relief, and Ministry of Liberation War Affairs
12:10 - 12:30		<b>Inaugural Speech by Chief Guest</b> , Professor Wahiduddin Mahmud, Hon'ble Adviser, Ministry of Planning
12:30 - 12:45		<b>Speech from the Chair</b> , Dr. Sheikh Abdur Rashid, Cabinet Secretary, Cabinet Division
12:45 - 13:00		<b>Vote of Thanks</b> , Ms. Murshida Sharmin, Joint Secretary, Coordination Wing, Cabinet Division
13:00 - 14:00		<b>Lunch and Prayer Break</b>

Day 1: Working Sessions Hall of Fame		
Session – 1: Institutional Perspectives: Social Protection Progress and Future Priorities		
<b>Chair:</b> Ms. Zaheda Parveen, Secretary, Coordination and Reforms, Cabinet Division <b>Moderator:</b> Mr. Mohammad Khaled Hasan, Additional Secretary, Coordination Wing, Cabinet Division		
14:00 – 15:30	<b>Thematic Clusters</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ Social Allowance</li><li>▪ Labour and Livelihood Intervention</li><li>▪ Food Security and Disaster Assistance</li><li>▪ Social Insurance</li><li>▪ Social Empowerment and Human Development</li></ul>	<b>Discussants</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Cabinet Division</li><li>- Ministry of Social Welfare</li><li>- Ministry of Disaster Management and Relief</li><li>- Ministry of Food</li><li>- Ministry of Finance</li><li>- Ministry of Labour and Employment</li><li>- Ministry of Primary and Mass Education</li></ul>
15:00 – 15:20		Open Discussion
15:20 – 15:30		Remarks from the Chair
Session – 2: Strengthening Governance of Social Protection		
<b>Chair:</b> Dr. Md. Khairuzzaman Mozumder, Secretary, Finance Division <b>Discussant 1:</b> Professor Sayema Haque Bidisha, Pro-Vice Chancellor, University of Dhaka <b>Discussant 2:</b> Ms. Hasina Begum, Social Policy Specialist, UNICEF <b>Discussant 3:</b> Ms. Sheela Tasneem Haq, Senior Governance Specialist, UNDP <b>Discussant 4:</b> Ms. Shrayana Bhattacharya, Senior Social Protection Specialist, World Bank <b>Discussant 5:</b> Mr. Aminul Mohaimen, MIS Expert of the EU funded Technical Assistance to Support Social Protection Budget Support <b>Moderator:</b> Mr. Anowarul Haq, Assistant Resident Representative, UNDP		
15:30 – 15:45	Diagnostics, Research	<b>Paper 1:</b> Journey Towards Equitable Society: Social Security Budget Report 2025-26 Presenter: Md Rajibul Ahsan, Deputy Secretary, Finance Division, Ministry of Finance
15:45 – 16:00		<b>Paper 2:</b> National Social Protection Progress: NSSS M&E Framework and Core Diagnostic Instrument (CODI) Presenter: Mr. Mohammad Khaled Hasan, Additional Secretary
16:00 – 16:15		<b>Paper 3:</b> Single Registry MIS and Dynamic Social Registries Presenter: Abul Basher Md. Amir Uddin, Joint Secretary, Finance Division
16:15 – 16:30		<b>Paper 4:</b> Poverty Map of Bangladesh Presenter: Mr. Masud Rana, Additional Secretary, Statistics and Informatics Division (SID)
16:30 – 16:45		Open Discussion
16:45 – 17:00		Discussant’s Remarks
17:00 – 17:10		Remarks from the Chair
Refreshment and Closing of Day 1		

Day 2, Tuesday, 2 September 2025 Carnival Hall		
Session – 3: Expanding Horizon of Social Protection		
<b>Chair:</b> Dr. Monzur Hossain, Member (Secretary), General Economics Division, Bangladesh Planning Commission		
<b>Discussant 1:</b> Mr. Owais Parray, Country Economic Advisor, UNDP		
<b>Discussant 2:</b> Professor Dr. Kazi Maruful Islam, Department of Development Studies, University of Dhaka		
<b>Discussant 3:</b> Mr. Asif Kashem, Senior Program Manager, Development Cooperation, Australian High Commission		
<b>Discussant 4:</b> Dr. Mohammad Yunus, Research Director, Bangladesh Institute of Development Studies		
<b>Discussant 5:</b> Sarwar Kamal, Deputy Secretary, Social Security Branch, Coordination Wing, Cabinet Division		
<b>Discussant 6:</b> Dr. Imran Matin, Executive Director, BRAC Institute of Governance and Development		
<b>Moderator:</b> Mr. Tanvir Mahmud, Senior Governance Specialist, UNDP		
09:00 – 09:30		Registration and Tea
09:30 – 09:50	Diagnostic and Policy Paper	<b>Paper 5:</b> Barriers to Accessing Social Protection Presenter: Dr. Mohammad Abdur Razzaque, Economist and Chairman of Research and Policy Integration for Development (RAPID)
09:50 – 10:10		<b>Paper 6:</b> Re-strategizing Bangladesh’s Social Protection Presenter: Dr. Mohammad Abdur Razzaque, Economist and Chairman of RAPID
10:10 - 10:30		Open Discussion
10:30 – 10:50		Discussant’s Remarks
10:50 – 11:00		Remarks from the Chair
Day 2, Afternoon Session Carnival Hall		
Session 4: Adaptive Social Protection and Mitigation: Bangladesh Perspective		
<b>Chair:</b> Ms. Zaheda Parveen, Secretary, Coordination and Reforms, Cabinet Division		
<b>Discussant 1:</b> Mr. Mohd. Monirul Islam, Additional Secretary, Ministry of Chattogram Hill Tracts Affairs		
<b>Discussant 2:</b> Ms. Murshida Sharmin, Joint Secretary, Coordination Wing, Cabinet Division		
<b>Discussant 3:</b> Professor Dr. M. Rezaul Islam, Department of Social Work, University of Dhaka		
<b>Discussant 4:</b> Mr. Siddiquil Islam Khan, Lead of Resilience and Innovation at WFP Bangladesh		
<b>Moderator:</b> Ms. Maliha Muzammil, Programme Specialist, Climate Change, UNDP		
11:15 – 11:35	Research, Policy, Guideline	<b>Paper 7:</b> Towards A Shock-responsive Social Protection System in Bangladesh Presenter: Dr. Mahfuz Kabir, Director (Research), BIISS.
11:35 – 11:55		<b>Paper 8:</b> Strategic Guidelines and Action Plans for Adaptive Social Protection in Bangladesh Presenter: Mr. Mohammad Khaled Hasan, Additional Secretary, Coordination Wing, Cabinet Division
11:55 – 12:25		Open Discussion
12:25 – 12:50		Discussants’ Remarks
12:50 – 13:00		Closing Remarks from Session Chair
13:00 – 14:00		Lunch and Prayer Break

### Session 5: Urban Poverty and Inclusive Social Protection Strategies

**Chair:** Mr. Md Rezaul Maksud Jahedi, Secretary, Local Government Division

**Discussant 1:** Mr. ABM Feroz Ahmed, Livelihoods Adviser, FCDO, British High Commission, Dhaka

**Discussant 2:** Mr. Anowarul Haq, Assistant Resident Representative, UNDP

**Discussant 3:** Professor Sharmind Neelormi, Department of Economics, Jahangirnagar University

**Discussant 4:** Mr. Aminul Arifeen, Programme Manager, SSPS Programme, UNDP

**Moderator:** Mr. Sarder M Asaduzzaman, Assistant Resident Representative, UNDP

14:00 - 14:15	Diagnostics, Research, Policy	<b>Paper 9:</b> Understanding Urban Poverty and Strengthening Social Protection for Urban Poor and Vulnerable Population Presenter: Dr. Mohammad Abdur Razzaque, Economist and Chairman of RAPID
14:15 - 14:30		<b>Paper 10:</b> Urban Poverty and the Social Security Needs of the Urban Poor and Urban Social Protection Strategy for Bangladesh Presenter: Mr. Mohammad Khaled Hasan, Additional Secretary, Coordination Wing, Cabinet Division
14:30 - 14:45		<b>Paper 11:</b> Effect of a parenting and nutrition education programme on development and growth of children using a social safety-net platform in urban Bangladesh: A Cluster randomized controlled trial <b>Presenter:</b> Mr. Sheikh Jamal Hossain, Scientist Maternal, New-born and Child Health, Maternal and Child Health Division
14:45 - 15:00		Open Discussion
15:00 - 15:20		Discussant's Remarks
15:20 - 15:30		Closing Remarks from Session Chair

### Session 6: Towards Sustainable Social Protection

**Chair:** Secretary, Ministry of Labour and Employment

**Discussant 1:** Mr. Md. Abdus Samad Al Azad, Joint Secretary, Head of Social Security Unit, MoLE

**Discussant 2:** Mr. Saad Gilani, Technical Adviser, ILO, Dhaka, Bangladesh

**Discussant 3:** Dr. Silvia Popp, Project Manager, Employment Injury Protection Scheme, GIZ

**Discussant 4:** Mr. Badal Khan, Chairperson, National Coordination Committee for Workers Education

**Discussant 5:** Mr. Fazle Shamim Ehsan, President, Bangladesh Employers Foundation

**Moderator:** Mr. Aminul Arifeen, Programme Manager, SSPS Programme, UNDP

15:30 - 15:45	Diagnostics, Research	<b>Paper 12:</b> Reviewing the National Social Insurance Scheme (NSIS) Framework: Towards Feasible Models for Bangladesh Presenter: Dr. Mohammad Abdur Razzaque, Economist and Chairman of RAPID
15:45 - 16:00		<b>Paper 13:</b> Employment Injury Scheme: Evidence from Pilot Presenter: Dr. Khondaker Golam Moazzem, Research Director, CPD
16:00 - 16:15		<b>Paper 14:</b> Maternity Protection and Childcare System in Bangladesh Presenter: Ms. Taslima Yeasmin, Associate Professor, Department of Law, University of Dhaka
16:15 - 16:30		<b>Paper 15:</b> Extending Social Protection for Bangladeshi Migrant Workers in Home and Abroad Presenter: Ms. Rahnuma Salam Khan, National Programme Manager, ILO
16:30 - 16:40		<b>Paper 16:</b> Towards an Unemployment Insurance Scheme in Bangladesh: A Roadmap Presenter: Ms. Farjana Reza, National Programme Officer, Social Protection, ILO
16:40 - 17:00		Open Discussion
17:00 - 17:15		Discussants' Remarks
17:15 - 17:30		Closing Remarks from Session Chair

### Refreshment and Closing of the Day 2

Day 3 Wednesday, 3 September 2025		
09:00 - 09:30	Registration and Tea	
<b>Parallel Session 1: Gender in Social Protection</b> <b>Venue: Carnival Hall</b>  <b>Chair:</b> Ms. Mamtaz Ahmed, NDC, Senior Secretary, Ministry of Women and Children Affairs <b>Discussant 1:</b> Dr. Md. Monirul Islam, Joint Secretary, National Project Director, SWAPNO, Local Government Division <b>Discussant 2:</b> Ms. Paola Castro Neiderstam, First Secretary- Human Rights and Governance, Embassy of Sweden <b>Discussant 3:</b> Mr. Asif Kashem, Senior Program Manager, Development Cooperation, Australian High Commission <b>Discussant 4:</b> Ms. Maheen Sultan, Senior Fellow, BRAC Institute of Governance and Development (BIGD), BRAC University <b>Moderator:</b> Ms. Sharmin Islam, Gender Analyst, UNDP		
09:30 - 09:40	Diagnostics, Research	<b>Paper 17:</b> Gender-Responsive Social Protection: Diagnostics, Strategy, and Plan Presenter: Ms. Ferdousi Sultana Begum, Gender Specialist
09:40 - 10:00		<b>Paper 18:</b> SWAPNO Women: Gender Equality Framework Analysis Presenter: Ms. Arju Afrin Kathy, Research Officer, Social Security Policy Support (SSPS) Programme, UNDP
10:00 - 10:20		<b>Paper 19:</b> ICVGD – Building Women Empowerment and Resilience Presenter: Mr. Md. Firoz Uddin Khalifa, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Women and Children Affairs
10:20 - 10:35		Open Discussion
10:35 - 10:50		Discussant’s Remarks
10:50 - 11:00		Closing Remarks from Session Chair

**Day 3**

**Wednesday, 3 September 2025**

**Parallel Session 2: Voices from the Ground: NGO Perspectives on Social Protection Reform**

**Venue: Media Bazar**

**Chair:** Dr. Mohammad Abu Yusuf, Secretary, Ministry of Social Welfare

**Discussant 1:** Mr. Md. Daud Miah, ndc, Director General, NGO Affairs Bureau

**Discussant 2:** Ms. Amrita Rejina Rozario, Country Director, Sightsavers

**Discussant 3:** Mr. Bijoy Krishna Debnath, Managing Director (Additional Secretary), National Foundation for Development of the Disabled Persons

**Discussant 4:** Professor Dr. M. Abu Eusuf, Department of Development Studies, University of Dhaka and Executive Director, RAPID

**Moderator:** Mr. Khandaker Jahurul Alam, Executive Director, Centre for Services and Information on Disability

09:30 - 09:40	<b>Keynotes</b> Diagnostics, Research	<b>Paper 20:</b> Social Protection Framework for Persons with Disability Presenter: Mr. Aminul Arifeen, Programme Manager, Social Security Policy Support (SSPS) Programme, UNDP
09:40 - 10:00		<b>Paper 21:</b> Non-State Actor Report on Social Protection: A Mapping of Social Protection Needs for the Marginalized Communities in Bangladesh Presenter: Mr. Aminul Arifeen, Programme Manager, SSPS Programme, UNDP
10:00 - 10:20		<b>Paper 22:</b> Persons with Disability: Two Decades of Experience Presenter: Mr. Ayon Debnath, Campaign Adviser, Sightsavers
10:20 - 11:00		Open Discussion
10:35 - 10:50		Discussant's Remarks
10:50 - 11:00		Closing Remarks from Session Chair
11:00 - 11:20		<b>Tea Break</b>

Day 3 Wednesday, 3 September 2025 Concluding Session Carnival Hall		
Building an Inclusive Future: Reflections and Conference Declaration		
11:20 – 11:30		Guest Taking Seats
11:30 – 11:40		Opening Remarks from Ms. Zaheda Parveen, Secretary, Coordination and Reforms, Cabinet Division
11:40 - 12:00		Presentation on Salient Features of National Conference on Social Protection 2025 and Conference Declaration <b>Presenter:</b> Mr. Mohammad Khaled Hasan, Additional Secretary, Coordination Wing, Cabinet Division
12:00 – 12:30	Wrap-Up	<b>Speech by Guests of Honour</b>
		Ms. Sonali Dayaratne, Deputy Resident Representative, UNDP
		Mr. Syed Haider, First Secretary and Head of Development, Australian High Commission, Dhaka, Bangladesh
		Dr. Mohammad Abu Yusuf, Secretary, Ministry of Social Welfare
		Dr. Monzur Hossain, Member (Secretary), General Economics Division, Bangladesh Planning Commission
		Ms. Mamtaz Ahmed, NDC, Senior Secretary, Ministry of Women and Children Affairs
12:30 - 12:45		<b>Speech by Chief Guest:</b> Ms. Sharmeen S. Murshid, Hon’ble Adviser, Ministry of Social Welfare and Ministry of Women and Children Affairs
12:45 - 13:00		<b>Closing Remarks from the Chair,</b> Dr. Sheikh Abdur Rashid, Cabinet Secretary, Cabinet Division
13:00 – 13:05		<b>Vote of Thanks</b> by Ms. Murshida Sharmin, Joint Secretary, Coordination Wing, Cabinet Division
Closing of the National Conference on Social Protection 2025 with Lunch		