Report on National Conference on Social Protection 2025

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A Journey towards an Equitable Society

Conference Objectives

1

Assess the progress: Evaluate the implementation of the NSSS across its various programs and initiatives

2

Identify successes and challenges: Highlight key achievements and good practices, as well as bottlenecks
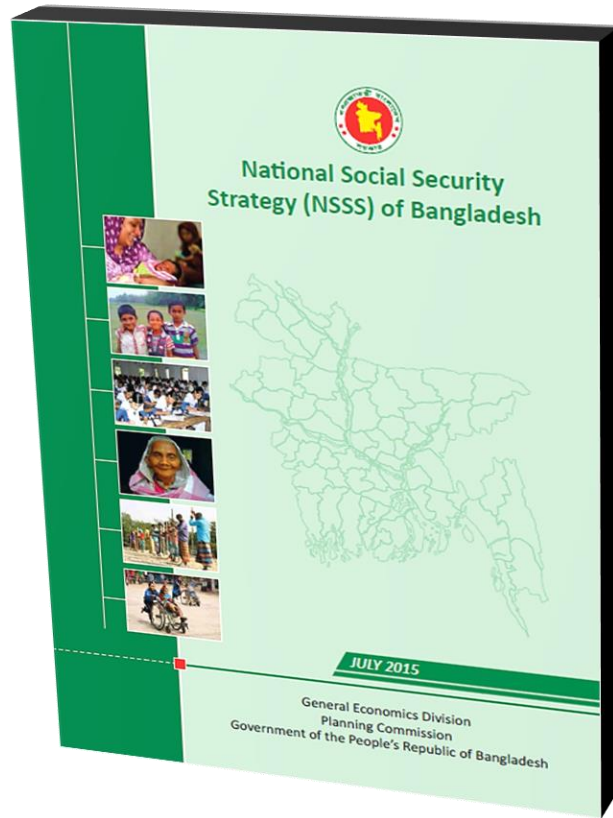
3

Review the relevance: Analyze the NSSS in the context of current socioeconomic conditions

Expected Outcomes

Strengthen collaboration and generate actionable recommendations for a more effective and impactful social protection system in Bangladesh.

National Social Security Strategy (NSSS)

National Social Security Strategy (NSSS) of Bangladesh

JULY 2015

General Economics Division
Planning Commission
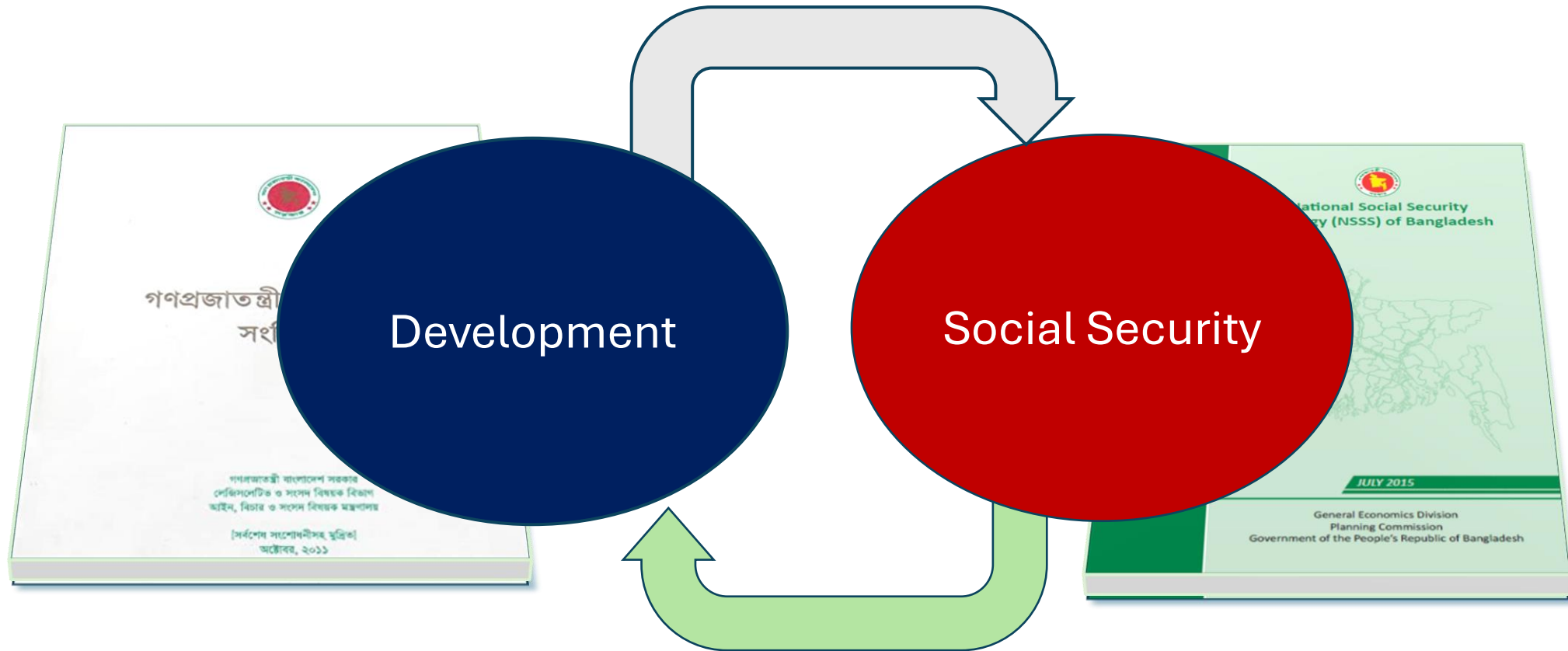Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh

NSSS was approved by the Cabinet in 2015.

It aims at tackling triple problems of poverty, vulnerability and marginalization

It is a roadmap for lifecycle based social protection system in Bangladesh

Development Oriented

Beveridge Model of Lifecycle Based Social Protection

Social security must be achieved by cooperation between the State and the individual... to provide a national minimum.

Promotes Equity and reduces disparities across class, gender, and region.

Lifecycle based social protection to tackle social crises

Bonsai Metaphor

Poor people are like bonsai: there is nothing wrong with their seeds, but society has denied them the soil to grow.

(Honourable Chief Adviser) Muhammad Yunus,
Creating a World Without Poverty: Social Business and the Future of Capitalism, 2007

Social Equity

True social equity requires creating opportunities that allow people to realize their full potential, thereby liberating them from the limitations of a 'bonsai condition.

Social protection can be a powerful instrument for advancing social equity

Trend of Poverty in Bangladesh

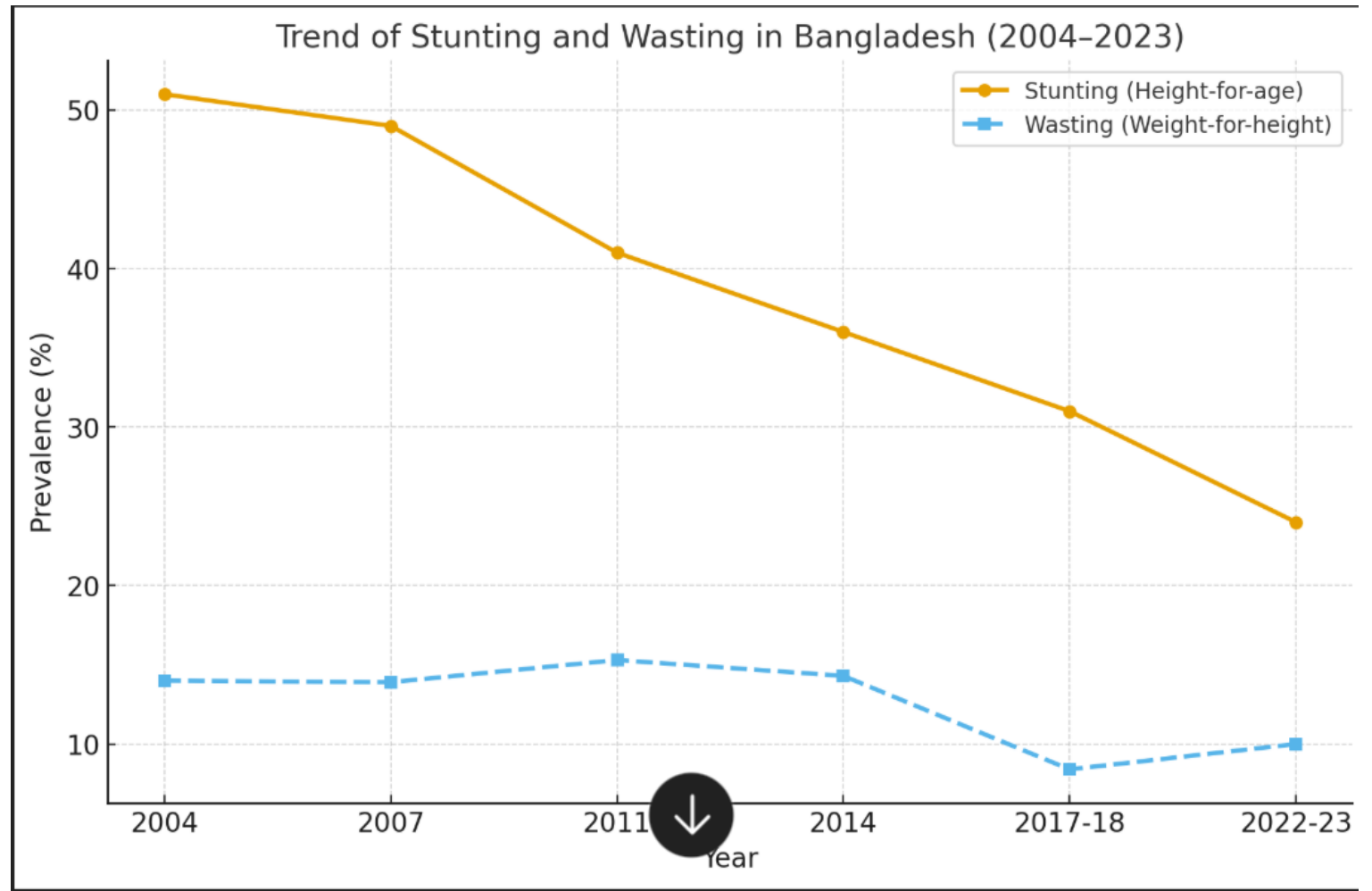| Year/Period	Poverty Rate (%)	Extreme Poverty Rate (%)
1971	~80	—
1991	44.2	—
2000	—	—
2010	31.5 (national)	~12.9 (2016 data)
2016	24.3	12.9
2022	18.7	5.6

Inequality in Bangladesh

Period	National Gini	Urban Gini	Rural Gini
2010	0.458	0.452	0.431
2016	0.482	0.498	0.454
2022	0.499	0.539	0.446

Nutrition Status in Bangladesh

Trend of Stunting and Wasting in Bangladesh (2004–2023)

CODI Scoring of Bangladesh

Performance Criteria (indicator number)	Indicator Scores							Average
1. Inclusiveness (1-5)	3.4	3.7	2.9	3.0	3.0			3.2
2. Adequacy (6-11)	2.9	3.1	3.2	3.1	3.3	3.6		3.2
3. Appropriateness (12-16)	3.9	3.9	3.2	3.5	3.2			3.5
4. Respect for Rights & Dignity (17-20)	3.4	3.2	3.6	3.0				3.3
5. Governance & Institutional Capacity (21-26)	3.7	4.0	3.1	3.4	2.9	3.5		3.4
6. Financial & Fiscal Sustainability (27-32)	3.7	3.4	4.0	3.7	3.9	3.8		3.8
7. Coherence & Integration (33-37)	3.1	3.8	3.1	3.7	4.0			3.5
8. Responsiveness (38-42)	3.9	3.0	3.1	3.6	3.9			3.5
9. Cost-effectiveness (43)	3.9							3.9
10. Incentive Compatibility (44-47)	3.0	3.9	2.9	2.2				3.0

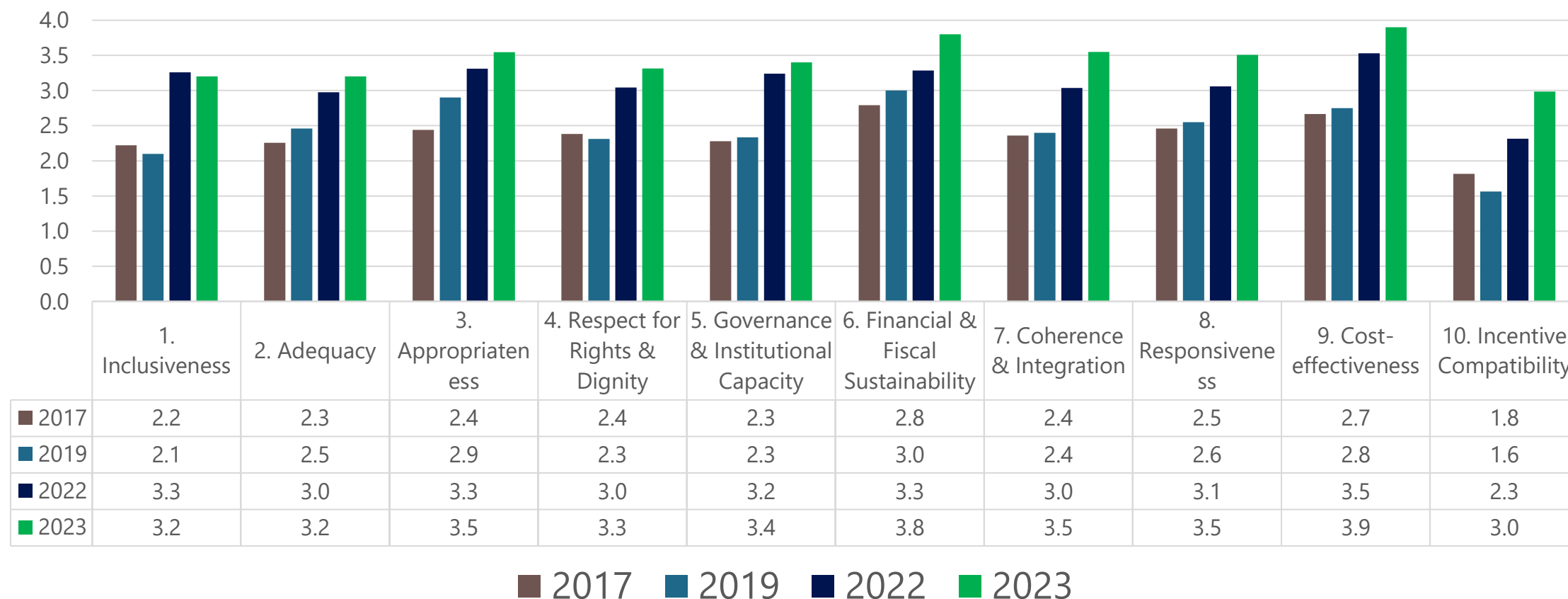1 (low)   4 (high)

The average score is 3.4.

CODI Performance Over Time

Multi-Year CODI Scores, by Performance Category, 2017 – 2023

	1. Inclusiveness	2. Adequacy	3. Appropriateness	4. Respect for Rights & Dignity	5. Governance & Institutional Capacity	6. Financial & Fiscal Sustainability	7. Coherence & Integration	8. Responsiveness	9. Cost-effectiveness	10. Incentive Compatibility
2017	2.2	2.3	2.4	2.4	2.3	2.8	2.4	2.5	2.7	1.8
2019	2.1	2.5	2.9	2.3	2.3	3.0	2.4	2.6	2.8	1.6
2022	3.3	3.0	3.3	3.0	3.2	3.3	3.0	3.1	3.5	2.3
2023	3.2	3.2	3.5	3.3	3.4	3.8	3.5	3.5	3.9	3.0

■ 2017   ■ 2019   ■ 2022   ■ 2023

Social Security Budget of 2025-26

1.16 Lakh Taka allocation for SP

95 Programs

1.87% of GDP

14% of National Budget

Social Empowerment: The Foundation for Equitable Societies

- Gender development by graduation programs, education and social allowances

- Programs for socially excluded and marginalized groups

- Transformative social protection

Programs for Old Age People

Private and government pension

Universal social allowance coverage (6 million)

Child Sensitive Programs

- Mother and Child Benefits Program (MCBP)

- Child immunization, Nutrition and WASH Program

- School Stipend

- Orphan's Programs

Social Protection Programs for Persons with Disability

Development for PWD

Development by PWD

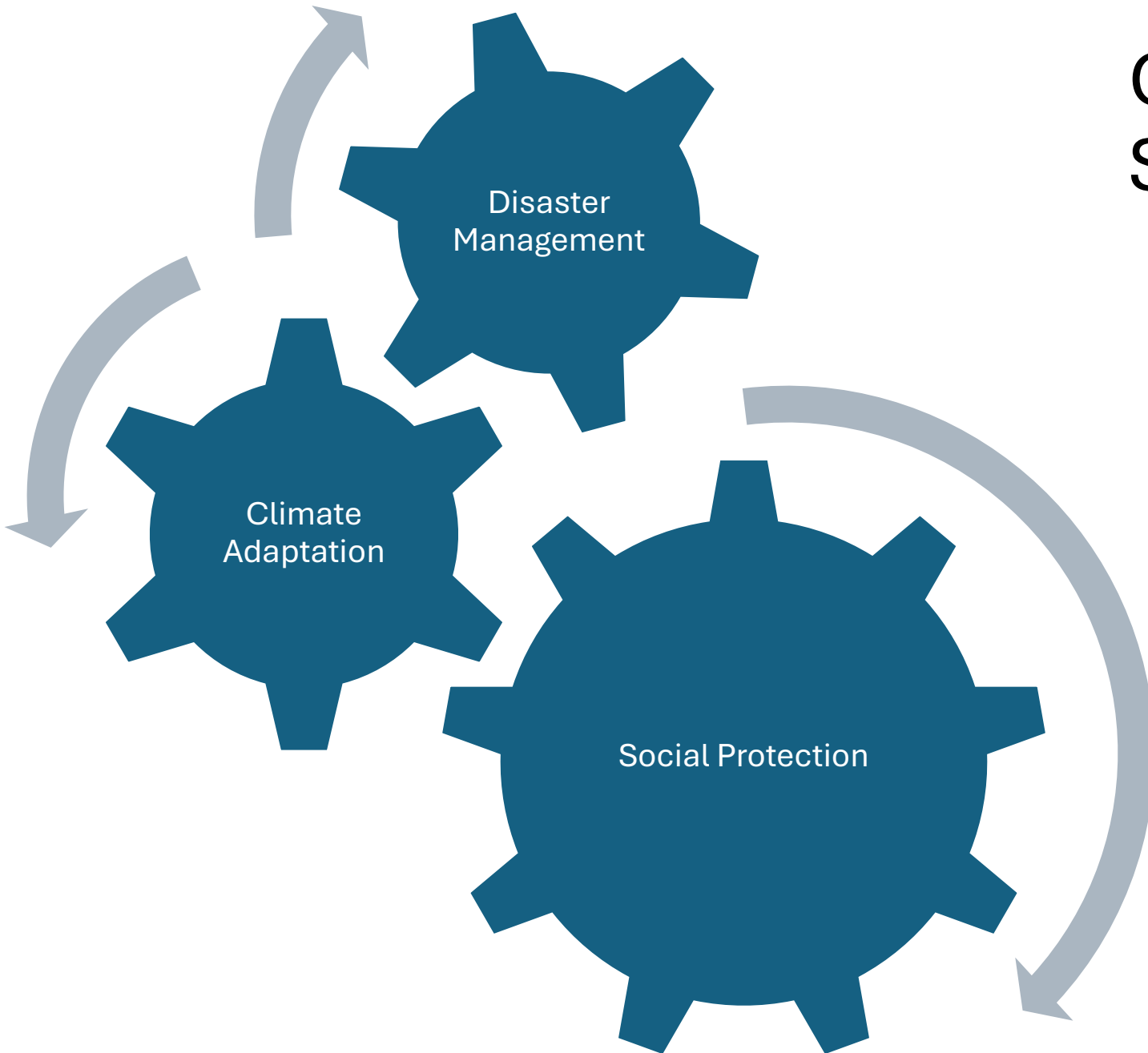# Adaptive Social Protection

- Enhance Multi-Sectoral Coordination
- Capacity Building
- Readiness and Anticipatory Measures
- Enhancing Climate Preservation and Forestation
- Community Engagement

Concept of Adaptive Social Protection (ASP)

Disaster Management

Climate Adaptation

Social Protection

Adaptive Social Protection (ASP) is a comprehensive approach that integrates social protection, disaster risk reduction, and climate change adaptation to build resilience among the most vulnerable populations.
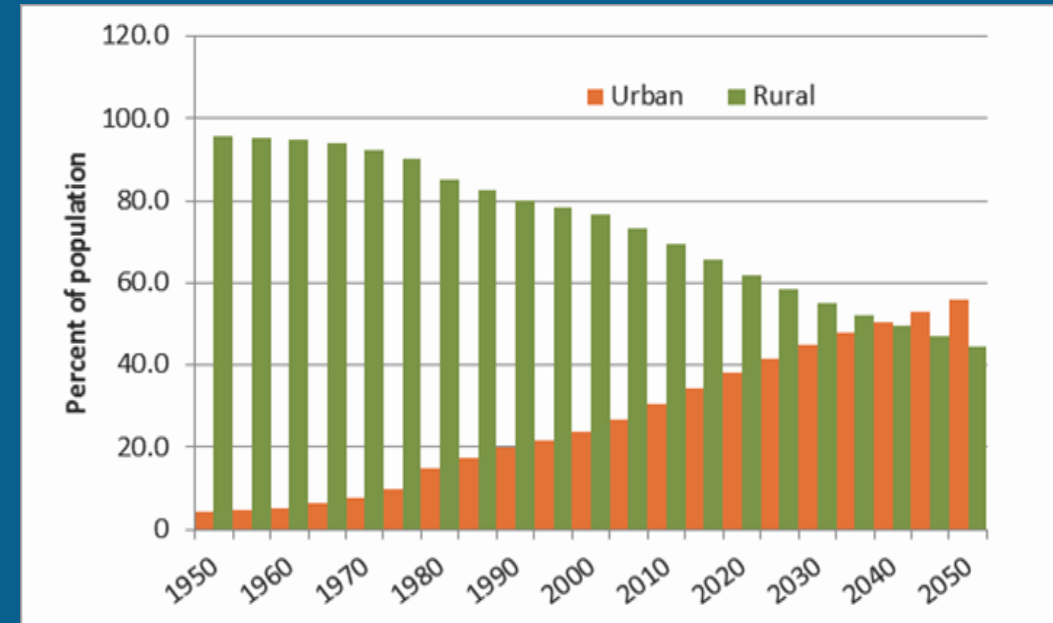
Adapt to Shocks

Before

During

After

Urban Social Protection in Bangladesh

Population Transition Timeline

Urban population in Bangladesh will exceed the rural population by about 2040.

Implications

This gradual urbanisation pattern provides a critical window to develop develop effective social protection systems for urban areas.

The Constitutional Vision: A Rural Focus

The Constitution of Bangladesh establishes a development model with an explicit rural orientation:

Article 16 directs the state to enact a radical transformation in the rural areas to remove the disparity in the standards of living between the urban and the rural areas.

Contributory Schemes are Essential

Financial Sustainability

Contributory schemes create sustainable funding, reducing reliance on public expenditure.

Enhanced Ownership and Dignity

Contribution fosters ownership and dignity, transforming social protection into a shared investment.

Improved Coverage and Benefits

Pooling resources enables comprehensive coverage and higher benefits, offering more meaningful support.

Economic Resilience

Contributory schemes build economic and environmental resilience, especially for the vulnerable.

Social Protection for the Missing Middle

Who are the 'Missing Middle'?

Neither poor enough for poverty-targeted safety nets

Excluded from existing schemes

Income insecurity & vulnerability to shocks

Policy Recommendations:

Contributory but subsidized schemes (pension, insurance)

Expand universal coverage for essentials (health, maternity, disability)

Efficient Implementation Mechanism

Dynamic Social Registry

Proxy Means Test for targeting along with community validation

Utilize the Novel Data Strategy for targeting black spot

Digital G2P modality of transfer

Strong and effective M&E framework

Grievance Redress System

Novel Data Strategy

- **Goal**: Enhance targeting accuracy and efficiency for vulnerable populations.

- **Key Actions**:
  - Leverage **big data**, **mobile phone usage patterns**, **satellite imagery**, and **financial transaction data** for real-time vulnerability assessment.
  - Move beyond static surveys to dynamic, data-driven beneficiary selection.
  - Example: COVID-19 cash transfers used mobile data and National ID for rapid, precise aid delivery to 3.5M beneficiaries.

- **Benefits**:
  - Faster, scalable responses to shocks.
  - Reduced exclusion errors, ensuring aid reaches those in need.

Recommendations

Build sustainable, contributory social security models.

Expand coverage for the urban poor and "missing middle."

Scale up adaptive and anticipatory protection to build resilience.

Prioritize social empowerment for economic inclusion.

Strengthen lifecycle programs for children, the elderly, and persons with disabilities.

Enhance institutional frameworks and governance.

Start developing the next-generation National Social Protection Strategy.

Thank You