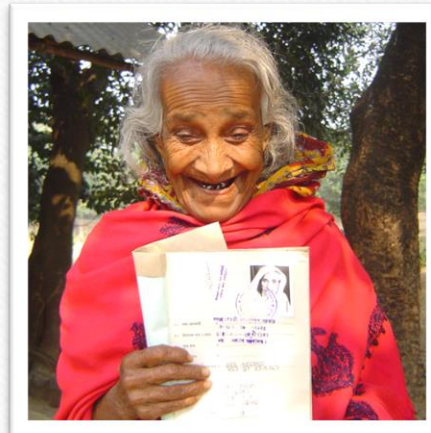


Social Allowance Cluster



Presented by
Ministry of Social Welfare



Vision & Mission



Vision

To establish a consolidated and non-duplicative social allowance system within the lifecycle framework.



Mission

To regularly coordinate with member-ministries to implement social allowance programmes more efficiently and effectively, identify overlapping and duplication, and oversee how lifecycle programmes can work as an integrated system.

The cluster will facilitate dialogue with other clusters, such as Human Development for skills training referrals and Labour/Livelihoods for employment opportunities.

What is Social Allowance?

Social allowance or social assistance is **non-contributory, tax-financed, regular and predictable cash or in-kind resource transfers** to poor and vulnerable individuals or households.

These programmes emerged because many poor people, especially informal sector workers, couldn't access contributory social insurance due to:

- Financial constraints to pay premiums
- Social backwardness
- Lack of awareness

SOCIAL ALLOWANCE

Understanding social allowance in Bangladesh

ASSISTANCE

This system contrasts with social insurance, which often excludes informal sector workers.



SUPPORT

Social allowance is direct, non-contributory support from the state, funded by taxpayers, and aimed at the poor.

PROTECTION

It serves as a critical solution to economic challenges in Bangladesh.



A NECESSARY SAFETY NET

Essential support for the vulnerable population today

Support the vulnerable through social allowance initiatives!

Distinctive Characteristics of Social Allowance

Non-contributory transfers primarily aimed at poverty reduction

Regular and predictable cash or in-kind support

Targeted at vulnerable populations across the lifecycle

Excludes food transfer programmes (classified under food security)

The dividing line between social allowance and food security programmes often gets blurred as both protect vulnerable people from socio-economic shocks. However, food security focuses specifically on ensuring food production, stock, and supply.

Key Social Allowance Programmes (2025-2026)

In Lakh (L)

61L

Old Age Allowance

Tk 4,791.31 Crore

29L

Widow Allowance

Tk 2277.83 Crore

35.31L

Disability Allowance

Tk 3845.04 Crore

2.69L

Underprivileged
Communities Allowance

Tk 223.05 Crore

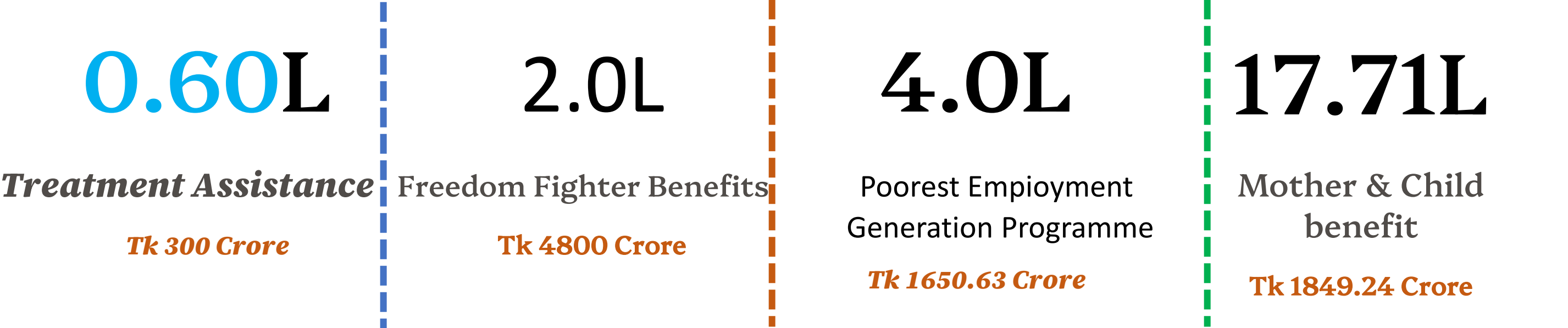
Achievement: Established Integrated Special Protection Management Information System -ISPMIS (*NID & BDRIS Verification, Live verification, PMT Score Introduced & minimum Income Threshold rescheduled from Tk. 10000 to 45000 for Targeting and GRS Introduced*)

Consolidated: 4 programmes for Underprivileged Communities and 2 Programmes for Persons With Disabilities by MSW

New Initiative: Establishment of Dynamic Social Registry(DSR) System for proper targeting and beneficiary verification under SSPIRIT project

Key Social Allowance Programmes (2025-2026)

In Lakh



Other sgnificant programmes include orphan support, and medical assistance for cancer, kidney and liver cirrhosis patients. Total beneficiaries 60 thousand and total budget 300 crore.

Ministries in Social Allowance Cluster

Cluster Lead

Ministry of Social Welfare

Co-lead Member Ministries/Divisions

- ***Ministry of Women and Children Affairs***
- ***Ministry of Cultural Affairs***
- ***Ministry of Liberation War Affairs***
- ***Health Services Division***

Additional Members

- ***Medical Education and Family Welfare Division***
- ***Local Government Division***
- ***Ministry of Labour and Employment***
- ***Ministry of Chittagong Hill Tracts Affairs***



Child Benefit Programme

NSSS Provision

Ministry of Social Welfare

Introduction of Child Benefit Programme for children aged 0-18 years by consolidating existing Institutional Care (8 baby home, 85 sarkari shashu paribar, 29 Training and Rehabilitation centre for the Destitute Children, 6 Vocational Training center for orphan and Disable Children, etc.) *for Beneficiaries 1.4 L and budget 388.73 Crore.*

Current Status

Coverage increased

Monthly benefit gradually increased TK. 5000/Month



Child Benefit Programme

NSSS Provision

MoWCA

aged 0-4 years by consolidating existing maternity allowance and lactating mother allowance programmes

Current Status

The Ministry of Women and Children Affairs has consolidated, piloted, and launched the Mother and Child Benefit Programme in 2019, currently implementing in 66 Upazilas with over 1.2 million beneficiaries.



The coverage needs to be increased and scaled up to reach the target of 50% of households with children.

Vulnerable Women & Old Age Benefits

Widow Allowance and Vulnerable Women Benefit (VWB)

NSSS Goal:

Consolidate programmes for vulnerable women implemented separately by MOWCA and MOSW

Status: 29 lakh beneficiaries covered in 262 Upazilas and monthly benefit is increased by MoSW.

Gap: Need to add 6 lakh more beneficiaries and 233 Upazilas and all City Corporations through WA.

MOWCA has started ICVGD (improved VGD) and plans to transform VGD and ICVGD into VWB

Gap: MOWCA-Consolidation required despite reaching target of 32 lakh women

Old Age Allowance

NSSS Goal: Increase coverage and lower threshold age to 60+

Status: 61 lakh beneficiaries (62+ for Woman and 65+ for Man) covered; universalized in 262 Upazilas

Gap: Need to add 7 lakh more beneficiaries and 233 Upazilas



Disability Support & Urban Poor

Social Security for Persons with Disabilities

NSSS Goal: Scale up existing programmes

Status: Ministry of Social Welfare has universalized Disability allowances

Gap: Need to add **1.30** lakh new beneficiaries.

Social Security for Urban Poor

NSSS Goal: Expand programmes with strategic planning

Status: All progragrmes under MSW are implementing for Urban Poor

Gap: Strategic planning necessary; Local Government Division to lead with all ministries covering urban poor

Programme Consolidation & Transition



Old Age Allowance
Upon reaching 60+ years

Widow Allowance

Women under 62+ shifted to Old age Allowance



Disability Allowance
Universalized

**** DSS has already consolidated 06 programs into 02 programs in FY 2025-26.**

Resent Initiatives in MoSW

DSS MANAGE DSR MIS to:

- identify and collects socio-economic data on individuals or households based on PMT Score.
- use to determine eligibility (income, location, family size, etc.) for various social assistance programs like Old age Allowance, Widow Allowance.
- NID based **on-demand registration** (people can apply or update their data at any time).
- integrate with **digital platforms** for faster data sharing and eligibility decisions.
- serve as a centralized database for coordinating welfare services.

Established Integrated Special Protection Management Information System -ISPMIS (NID & BDRIS Verification, Live verification, PMT Score Introduced & minimum Income Threshold rescheduled from Tk. 10000 to 45000 for Targeting and GRS Introduced)

Consolidated: 4 programmes for Underprivileged Communities and 2 Programmes for Persons With Disabilities by MoSW

****Automatically determines who qualifies for which programs of DSS.**

Cluster Coordination Mechanisms

Regular Meetings

The social allowance cluster is almost regular in organizing quarterly cluster meetings as per Cabinet Division's Circular and CMC decision.

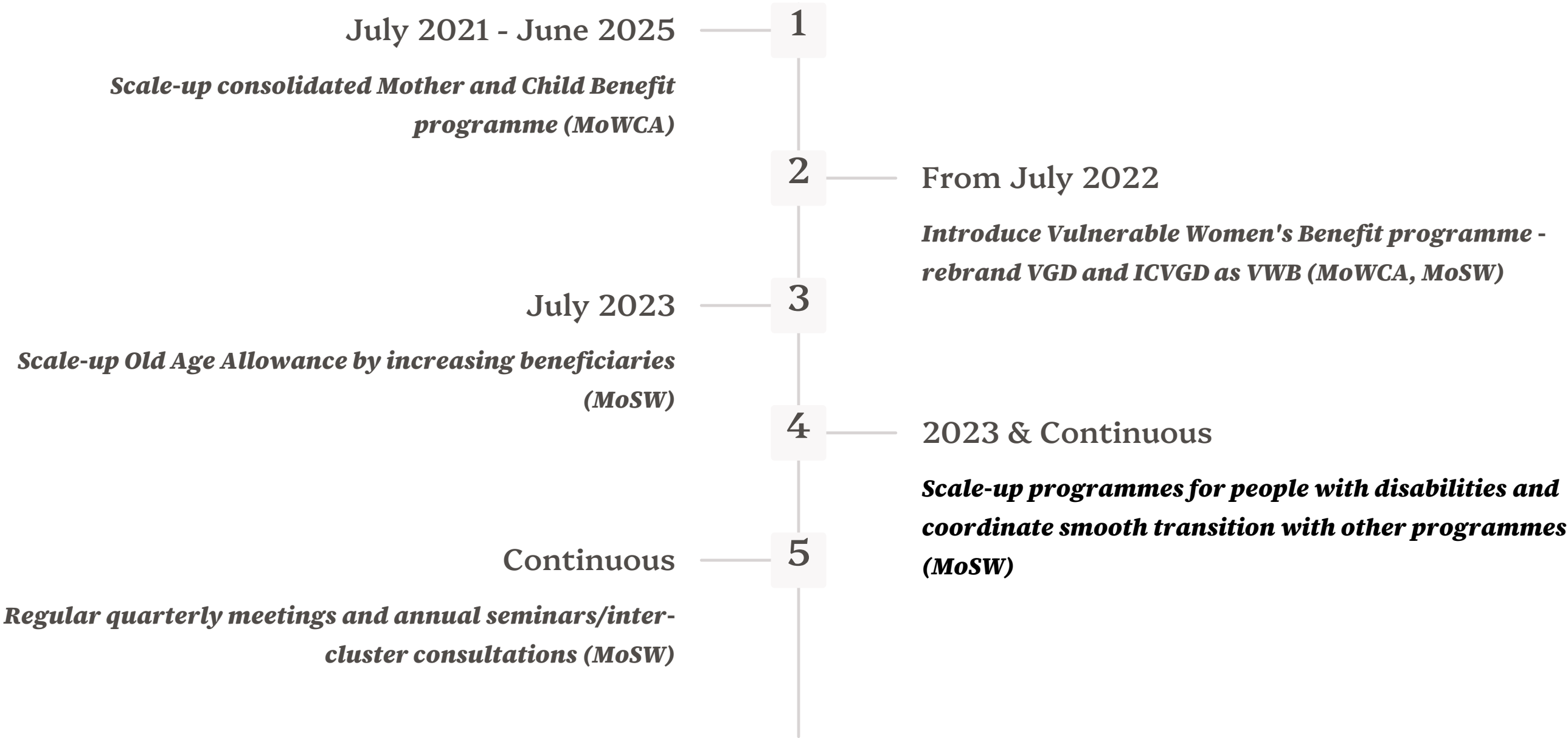
Gap: Need to continue regular meetings and share minutes with relevant ministries/divisions.

Seminars & Inter-Cluster Coordination

NSSS stipulates that clusters organize consultations with other clusters having overlapping programmes.

Gap: No evidence of such seminars or consultations with other ministries. The coordinating ministry needs to organize these events.

Action Plan Timeline



Challenges Facing the Social Allowance Cluster

Despite significant progress, the social allowance cluster encounters several critical challenges that hinder its full effectiveness and reach.



Program Overlaps

Many programs fall into multiple clusters, leading to potential redundancies and inefficiencies.



Consolidation Difficulties

Challenges persist in the effective consolidation of similar programs across various ministries.



Inter-Ministerial Coordination

Lack of seamless and consistent coordination among different ministries.



Implementation Gaps

Gaps in program execution and insufficient coverage, failing to reach all intended beneficiaries.



Inter-Cluster Coordination

Limited coordination and consultation between the social allowance cluster and other relevant social protection clusters.



Beneficiary Transition

Difficulties in ensuring a smooth transition of beneficiaries between different social allowance programs as their needs change.

Way Forward: Recommendations

To address the identified challenges and enhance the effectiveness of social allowance programs, we propose the following strategic recommendations:



Inter-Cluster Coordination

Formalize clear mechanisms for regular dialogue and consultation between different social protection clusters.



Standardized Consolidation

Develop uniform guidelines and frameworks for merging and streamlining similar programs across ministries.



Monitoring & Evaluation

Implement robust, continuous monitoring and evaluation systems to track program effectiveness and identify gaps.



Beneficiary Transition

Establish clear protocols and support systems for smooth transition of beneficiaries between programs.



Ministerial Coordination

Strengthen cross-ministerial structures to ensure seamless collaboration and information sharing.



Integrated Information Systems

Develop a unified data system to improve beneficiary tracking, reduce overlaps, and enhance program management.

Questions & Discussion

We welcome your questions and feedback



