

**Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh**  
Social Security Policy Support (SSPS) Programme  
Cabinet Division  
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**Minutes of the 6th meeting of the Project Implementation Committee (PIC) of  
Social Security Policy Support (SSPS) Programme**

**Chair** : Zaheda Parveen, Secretary, Coordination and Reforms, Cabinet Division  
**Co-Chair** : Dr. Monzur Hossain, Member (Secretary), General Economics Division (GED), Bangladesh Planning Commission  
**Date & Time** : 13 November 2025, 3.30 PM  
**Venue** : Meeting Room of Cabinet Division (Room-800, 8<sup>th</sup> Floor, Building-01, Bangladesh Secretariat, Dhaka-1000) and Zoom Platform)  
**Participants** : Annexure-A

**Agenda of the Meeting**

- 1) Progress review of the last PIC meeting decisions in June 2024
- 2) Brief on the SSPS Programme, implementation progress of the project, and its milestones
- 3) Review the SSPS Programme's Risk Log
- 4) Miscellaneous.

The Chair, Zaheda Parveen, Secretary, Coordination and Reforms, Cabinet Division, welcomed all participants attending in person and virtually. She emphasized the importance of reviewing ongoing work and setting future priorities, given that the current tenure of the National Social Security Strategy (NSSS) will conclude in 2026. She invited the Co-Chair to offer his remarks.

2. The Co-Chair, Dr. Monzur Hossain, Member (Secretary), General Economics Division (GED), Bangladesh Planning Commission, thanked the Chair and participants and highlighted the extensive scope of SSPS activities, particularly its support to studies, dissemination, and policy dialogue. He emphasized the need to initiate preparations for the next social protection strategy beyond 2026 and highlighted the importance of enhanced collaboration between the Cabinet Division and GED. He reiterated the need for more frequent PIC meetings to ensure timely monitoring and identification of new areas of engagement.

3. At the request of the Chair, Ms. Murshida Sharmin, Project Director, SSPS Programme, informed the meeting that progress had been made on decisions taken in the previous PIC. The committee had earlier granted in-principle approval for testing a social protection model aimed at accelerating poverty reduction. She noted that technical preparatory work for the pilot had advanced, including preliminary scoping and institutional discussion.

4. Dr. Monzur Hossain, Member (Secretary), GED, explained that baseline studies for SDG Localization were already completed with partner support and that Ulipur (Kurigram) and Dumuria (Khulna) had been selected as SDG Village pilot sites. Mr. Aminul Arifeen, Project Manager, SSPS Programme, proposed integrating the SSPS Programme's social protection pilot into the SDG Village model, arguing that such integration would allow more cost-effective data generation, improved use of

SVRS and HIES-based modelling, and an opportunity to jointly test inclusion and exclusion issues in social protection coverage. Mr. Arifeen added that alignment between SSPS's pilot and GED's localization initiative would enable regular monitoring, reduce duplication in data collection, and strengthen evidence for both institutions. The Chair welcomed the proposal and endorsed proceeding with the integrated approach.

5. Mr. Aminul Arifeen, Project Manager, highlighted that SVRS data would be essential for the pilot. He explained that SVRS operations had shifted to the revenue budget, leading to temporary data collection disruptions during the transition. The meeting agreed that a joint technical workshop with BBS should be organized to review data availability and refine requirements.

6. Ms. Murshida Sharmin, Project Director, SSPS Programme, reported that consolidation of social protection programmes had resulted in a reduction from 140 to 95 schemes. Mr. Abul Basher Md. Amir Uddin, Joint Secretary, Finance Division, elaborated on the methodology and administrative considerations behind consolidation, explaining how overlapping benefits were merged, certain small schemes were removed, and coordination across ministries was strengthened.

7. Dr. Monzur Hossain, Member (Secretary), GED, expressed concern that the pace of consolidation remained slower than anticipated and suggested undertaking a background study to identify options for accelerating reform. Mr. Khaled Hasan, Additional Secretary (Coordination), Cabinet Division, clarified that the Cabinet Division has already issued a circular on instructions for programme consolidation.

8. Turning to future strategy development, Ms. Sharmin noted that early thinking had considered a ten-year horizon for the next phase of social protection strategy. Dr. Monzur Hossain expressed the view that future strategy cycles should be aligned with the national five-year planning cycle for consistency and adaptability. He observed that rising vulnerability across the population indicates the need to shift toward a more universal and climate-responsive social protection system. He added that a comprehensive background study would be essential before drafting the next social protection strategy, enabling the Government to build on current evidence, climate vulnerability trends, and international practices. In response, Mr. Khaled Hasan noted ongoing work on Adaptive Social Protection and highlighted the need to integrate social protection, climate, and disaster-management frameworks accordingly.

9. Mr. Asif Kashem, Senior Program Manager, DFAT, emphasized several priorities for future work, including the need to safeguard fiscal sustainability, increase government readiness to adopt digital innovation and AI, and foster stronger alignment among development partners.

10. Mr. Tanvir Mahmud, Sr. Governance Specialist, UNDP, noted the importance of the ongoing final evaluation, including outcome harvesting, and stressed the need to integrate lessons from programmes such as SWAPNO and urban poverty pilots. He also pointed to persistent challenges in data interoperability and the importance of resolving them for improved targeting and monitoring. Development partners collectively expressed their continued commitment to supporting social protection reforms in Bangladesh.

11. The IMED representative requested that the next PIC review the detailed Gantt chart and activity completion status for 2023–2026 to ensure clarity on remaining deliverables. Mr. Amir Uddin, Joint Secretary, Finance Division, emphasized that transparent consultations with ministries would be

needed during future budget preparation, particularly in relation to consolidation and prioritization of social protection expenditures.

12. Md. Siddiqur Rahman, Joint Chief, GED, thanked the Cabinet Division for its leadership in flagship initiatives such as the SSPS Programme and highlighted GED's continuing engagement in strategic planning, SDG monitoring, macroeconomic analysis, and population dynamics. He emphasized GED's readiness to collaborate more closely with the Cabinet Division in the coming period.

13. Building on this, Dr. Monzur Hossain, Member (Secretary), GED, stressed the importance of deeper GED involvement in future study-related work under the SSPS Programme to ensure quality and coherence with national planning frameworks. He appreciated the recent collaboration between the SSPS Programme and GED and expressed confidence that this partnership would strengthen further going forward.

14. The Chair thanked participants for attending both in person and virtually, noted the need for more regular PIC meetings, and highlighted that technical preparations for future strategy development must continue alongside the national political transition. She expressed appreciation for the collective contributions of ministries, GED, and development partners, and adjourned the meeting.

15. **Key Decisions**

- a) The SSPS Programme, in collaboration with Cabinet Division and GED, will organize a Reflection Workshop with development partners and donors to review progress, consolidate lessons from the current phase, and initiate preparatory discussions for the next strategy cycle.
- b) Decisions and recommendations emerging from the National Conference on Social Protection 2025 shall be taken forward through a structured 'Call for Action', to be developed by the Cabinet Division, GED, and SSPS Programme in consultation with relevant ministries and development partners.

16. There being no other agenda, the meeting was concluded with a vote of thanks.

**Dr. Monzur Hossain**  
Member (Secretary)  
General Economics Division (GED)  
Bangladesh Planning Commission

**Zaheda Parveen**  
Secretary  
Coordination and Reforms  
Cabinet Division

**Annexure – A: Participants of the Meeting**

<b>Name</b>	<b>Designation</b>	<b>Ministry/Division</b>
Zaheda Parveen	Secretary, Cordination & Reforms	Cabinet Division
Dr. Monzur Hossain	Member (Secretary)	General Economics Division (GED)
Mohammad Khaled Hasan	Additional Secretary, Coordination	Cabinet Division
Murshida Sharmin	Joint Secretary	Cabinet Division
Abul Basher Md. Amir Uddin	Joint Secretary	Finance Division
Md. Siddiqur Rahman	Joint Chief	General Economics Division (GED)
-	-	Implementation Monitoring and Evaluation Division (IMED)
Asif Kashem	Senior Program Manager	DFAT
Tanvir Mahmud	Sr. Governance Specialist, Democratic Governance	UNDP Bangladesh
Aminul Arifeen	Project Manager	SSPS Programme