

## Social Security Policy Support (SSPS) Programme

# Overview

A concise overview of the Social Security Policy Support (SSPS) Programme—its purpose, priorities, key activities, and achievements in strengthening Bangladesh's social protection system and supporting NSSS 2026+

[Let's Explore](#)



## Why social protection matters in Bangladesh?

Bangladesh's social protection agenda is grounded in both constitutional duty and international commitments. Article 15(d) of the Constitution obliges the State to ensure social security for citizens in times of "undeserved want." This national mandate aligns with global frameworks that position social protection as a right, including the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and initiatives such as the UN Social Protection Floors approach.

Over the last decades, Bangladesh's social protection landscape has evolved from post-independence relief efforts to more structured programming like workfare, safety nets, graduation approaches and ultimately toward a more coordinated, lifecycle-based policy architecture.

## Evolution Timeline

From relief after independence to safety nets and graduation programs, the country is now building a lifecycle-based, coordinated approach.



01

### 1970s – Relief

Emergency assistance to protect survival after shocks and extreme hardship.

02

### 1980s – Workfare

Public works for the poor—income support linked to labour and community assets.

03

### 1990s – Safety Nets

Targeted allowances and stipends to reduce vulnerability and improve basic welfare.

04

### 2000s – Graduation

Time-bound “pathway out of poverty” combining transfers, assets, and skills.

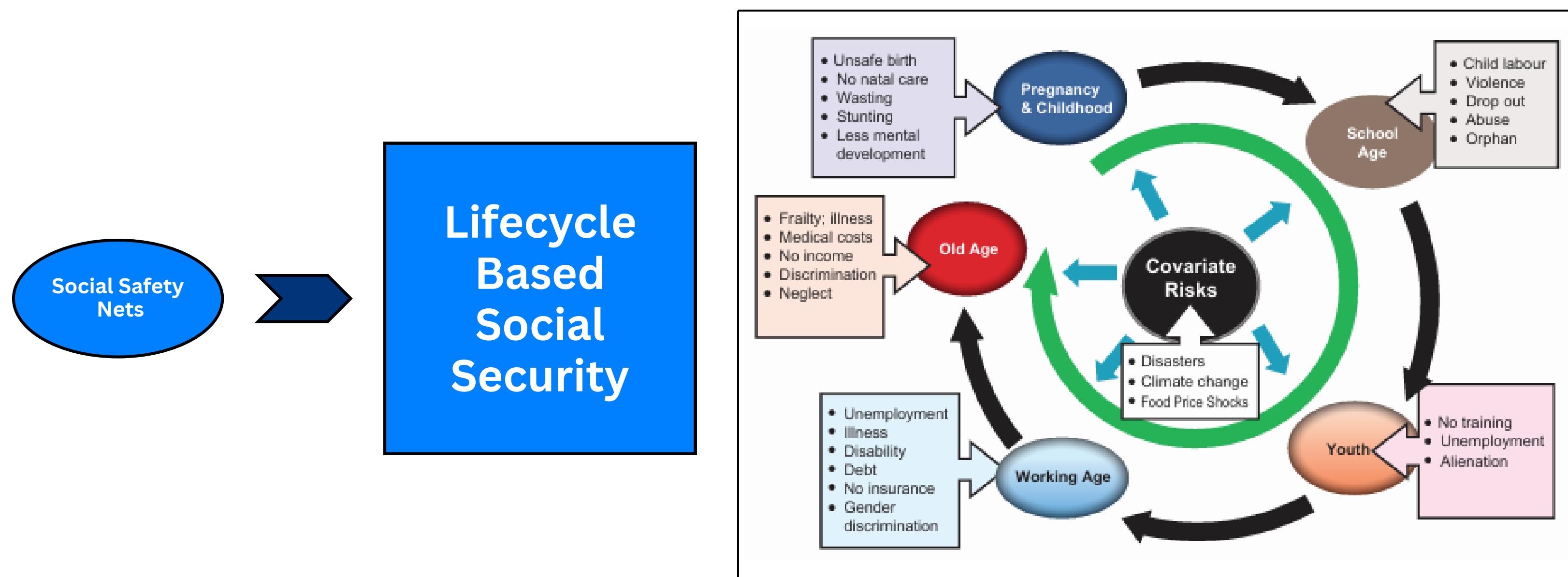
05

### 2015–present – Lifecycle NSSS

Coordinated, rights-based social protection across life stages with stronger systems and governance.

# The National Social Security Strategy (NSSS) 2015–2026: the reform backbone

The National Social Security Strategy (NSSS), approved by the Cabinet in June 2015 and launched in November 2015, is Bangladesh's first comprehensive national strategy in the social protection domain. The NSSS is described in your materials as a “living” reform strategy that guides action plans, coordination mechanisms, and evidence-based improvements across ministries. Its core logic is a lifecycle approach, recognizing distinct risks and needs across life stages:



# The Reality Check: Progress, Yet Persistent Gaps

Over the last decade, Bangladesh expanded the scale and reach of social protection and strengthened its reform architecture through NSSS and action plans. At the same time, key system-level challenges remain:

System area	Progress to date (what improved)	Persistent gap (what still blocks results)	SSPS reform lever (what SSPS strengthens)
Programme landscape	Expanded coverage and programme portfolio; NSSS + action plans provided a national framework	Fragmentation & overlap across many programmes/ministries; duplication and uneven standards	Coordination support (CMC, clusters), programme review logic, harmonized standards
Targeting & beneficiary management	Increased digitization; stronger push for unique identification; reduced leakages in some channels	Inclusion/exclusion errors, verification gaps; uneven quality of beneficiary lists	Single Registry MIS roadmap, interoperability, NID-based identity, targeting diagnostics
Urban poverty & mobility	Urban social protection thinking and diagnostics emerging; attention rising in policy dialogue	Urban poor and migrants underserved; models still rural-centric	Urban SP models/diagnostics, policy options, design support for urban delivery
Informal sector & “missing middle”	Pilots and dialogue on social insurance and pensions expanding	Limited contributory protection; low coverage for informal workers and near-poor	Feasible models for social insurance/pensions, policy design support, stakeholder dialogue
Shock & climate resilience	Adaptive SP and shock-response concepts gaining traction; integration discussed	Climate/disaster risks increasing; anticipatory systems not scaled; last-mile response constraints	Adaptive SP frameworks, guidance, integration of registries + scalable delivery mechanisms
Governance, accountability & trust	Governance structures exist; M&E systems improving; grievance systems recognized as essential	Accountability uneven; coordination capacity varies; grievance redress not fully integrated	Web-based M&E dashboard, GRS strengthening, capacity building, governance follow-through

# Why Now: The NSSS 2015: 2026 Transition Moment

As NSSS (2015–2026) approaches its conclusion, Bangladesh is at a strategic policy moment. The next phase, NSSS 2026+ must build on what worked, close delivery gaps, and modernize governance and data systems so that support reaches the right people, at the right time, in the right way, across the full life course.

Expands focus to underserved groups (urban poor, informal workers, youth transitions, persons with disabilities) while advancing contributory options for long-term sustainability.

Builds the foundations for Single Registry MIS, interoperable data, G2P payments, dashboards, and stronger grievance systems to boost efficiency and trust.

Strengthens inter-ministerial coordination (CMC, thematic clusters, focal points) to reduce fragmentation and improve implementation coherence.

Grounds decisions in diagnostics, research, and real-time stakeholder feedback so reforms match actual needs across the lifecycle.

**Evidence-based reforms**



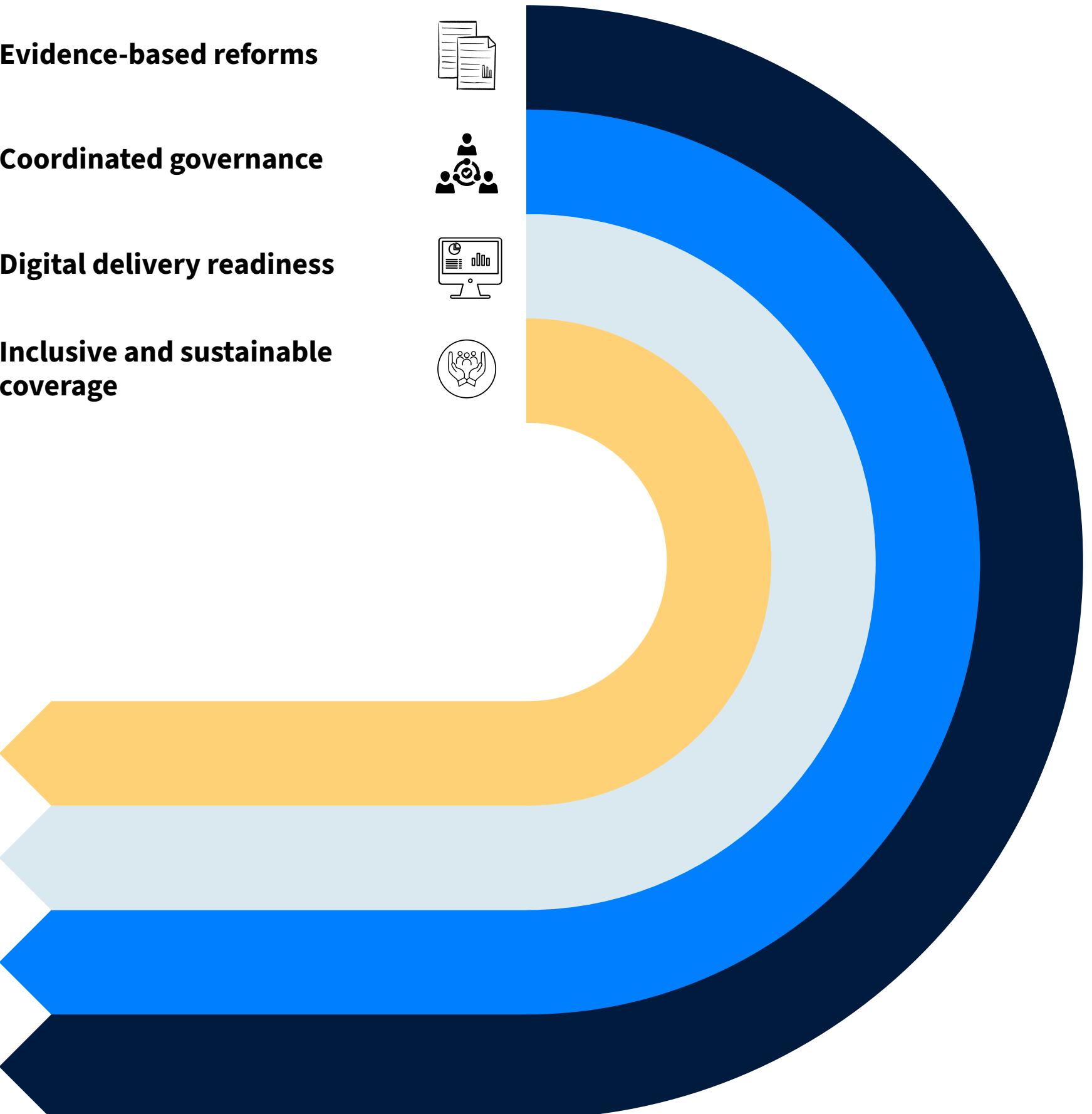
**Coordinated governance**



**Digital delivery readiness**



**Inclusive and sustainable coverage**



# Focus Areas

SSPS prioritizes



**Gender**



**Children**



**Social Readiness**



**Persons with Disabilities**



**Shock & Resilience**



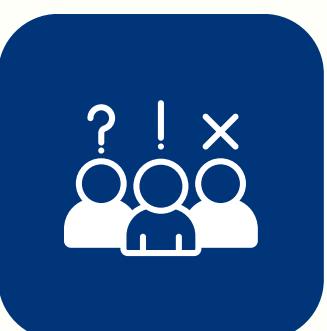
**Social Insurance**



**Labour Force**



**Grievance Redress**



**Marginalized Communities**

# Core Workstreams

## What SSPS Does

### Governance and Inter-Ministerial Coordination

- Central Management Committee (CMC) guidance and technical support
- Support to thematic clusters for programme coordination and review
- Engagement of focal points across ministries/divisions to strengthen implementation coherence
- Policy dialogue to improve committee functionality, meeting regularity, and follow-through

### Data, Digital Systems, and Delivery Reform

- Roadmap development for Single Registry MIS & Dynamic Social Registry (DSR) approaches
- Strengthening web-based M&E dashboards & interoperability efforts
- Advancing Government-to-Person (G2P) and digital payment systems
- Piloting Mobile Financial Services (MFS) in selected districts
- Supporting policy discussions around data security and harmonization and use of NID as unique identifier
- Connecting reforms to broader public finance systems



### Evidence and Policy Diagnostics

- Gender and social protection
- Urban social protection and vulnerability
- COVID-19 response lessons
- Adaptive social protection scope
- Social insurance feasibility and models
- Inclusion gaps for marginalized populations

### Inclusion and Rights-Based Reform

- Better classification and support frameworks for persons with disabilities
- Strengthened gender-responsive social protection policy design
- More responsive approaches for urban poor and excluded populations
- Institutional strengthening and partnerships with non-state actors, including NGOs and OPDs

### Capacity Development and Field-Level Enablement

- Orientation and engagement with field administration (e.g., UNOs and local actors)
- Training and dialogue with governance stakeholders
- Strengthening readiness for implementation of new systems and tools
- Enabling shared understanding of lifecycle logic and targeting improvements

# Significant Achievements

Over the years, SSPS has helped Bangladesh strengthen the “building blocks” of social protection supporting the NSSS and its action plans, improving coordination, and modernizing delivery systems.

01



## NSSS and Action Plans

- National Social Security Strategy (NSSS) supported as the anchor framework
- 1st NSSS Action Plan (2015–2021) involving 34 ministries
- 2nd NSSS Action Plan (2021–2026) involving 39 ministries, aligned with preparation for NSSS 2026+

02



## System Reforms & Innovations

- Advanced Single Registry MIS (assessments, consultations, roadmap)
- Web-based M&E dashboard running since 2023
- Expanded digital delivery (G2P and payment channels)
- Strengthened grievance redress and accountability systems
- Provided technical support to coordination/reform mechanisms

03



## Policy & Thematic Progress

- Supported pilots on old age and disability
- Helped shape NSIS groundwork and drafting
- Developed urban social protection models
- Built evidence on climate resilience and shock-responsive protection
- Brought in non-state actor inputs through mapping and engagement

# SSPS Knowledge Products (2014–2025)

**The knowledge products to translate evidence into action. These products:**

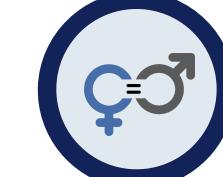
- document evidence and lessons,
- inform policy options and reform pathways,
- provide operational guidance for implementation, and
- strengthen coordination and accountability across stakeholders

**Knowledge products are published in varied formats:**

- Reports
- Policy briefs and research briefs
- Strategies, action plans and frameworks (NSSS, disability framework, urban strategy)
- Toolkits, curricula and training modules
- Technical studies



Persons with Disabilities



Gender



Old Age



Urban Poverty & Urban Special Protection



Shock-Responsive / Adaptive Social Protection



Social Insurance (NSIS)



G2P / Digital Delivery



GRS & Accountability



Capacity Building



NSSS / System Reforms & Strategy

# Flagship Convenings and Voices

High-level dialogues and community voices that translated learning into action, supporting shared commitments on inclusion, resilience, and system reform.



## National Conference on Social Protection 2025 (NCSP 2025)

1–3 Sept 2025 | BCFCC, Dhaka

National platform to reflect on NSSS progress and shape directions for NSSS 2026+.

## Youth Perspectives Workshop (Inception Workshop)

Engaged 50 university students to inform NSSS priorities for 2025–2035.

**Outcome:** Youth Social Protection Champions network formed.

## Disability Inclusion: National Observance of IDPD 2025

4 Dec 2025 | Dhaka (solution-oriented national platform)

**Outcome:** An agreed set of actionable commitments & coordination priorities.

Governance & inter-ministerial coordination; Data systems: targeting, Single Registry MIS, dynamic registries; Urban poverty & inclusive SP strategies

Adaptive Social Protection: shocks & climate risks; Sustainable financing: contributory models (insurance/pensions); Gender, disability inclusion & rights-based approaches

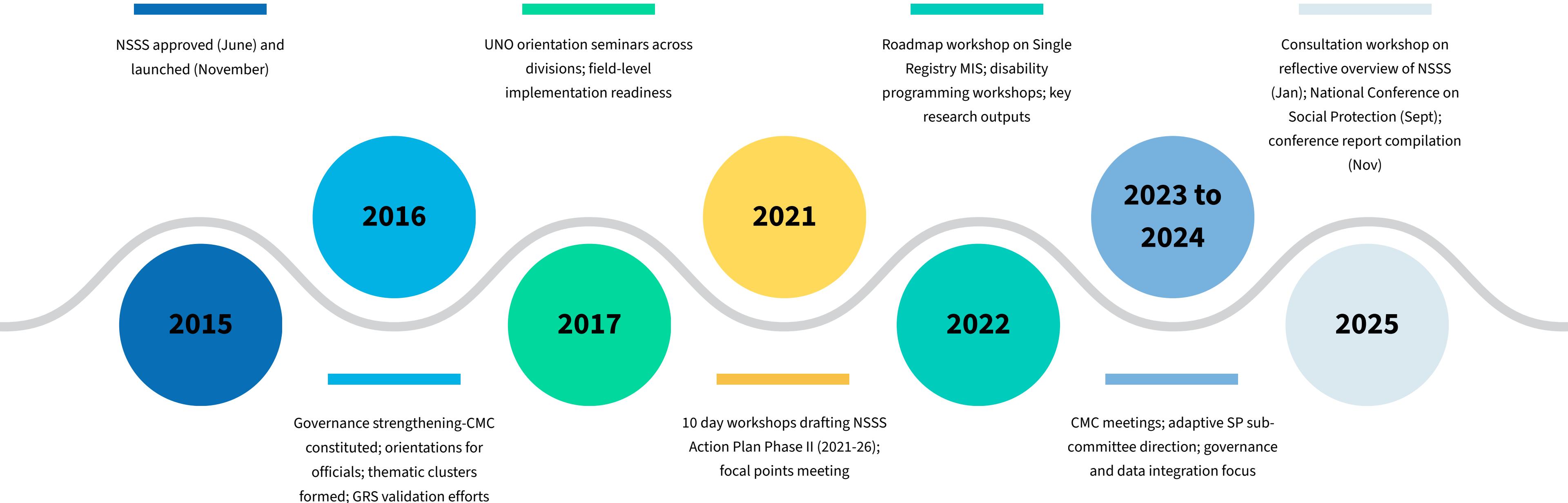
Unemployment & delayed transition to work; Skill mismatch; curriculum modernization; Internships/apprenticeships; education-industry linkages

AI & digital preparedness (including ethics); Safe participation & public security (especially women)

Identify gaps & elevate lived experience; Co-create actionable commitments with OPDs at the center

Generate concrete, time-bound commitments and coordination priorities to directly inform the National Disability Strategy (2026–2030) and its implementation roadmap.

# Milestones in Social Protection Reform (2015–2025)



# Collaboration and Implementation Ecosystem



## Government and coordination partners

- Cabinet Division
- General Economics Division (GED)
- Ministry of Finance (and relevant divisions)
- Ministry of Labour and Employment
- Ministry of Social Welfare
- SID, ICTD, PMO, and 39 ministries under the CMC structure

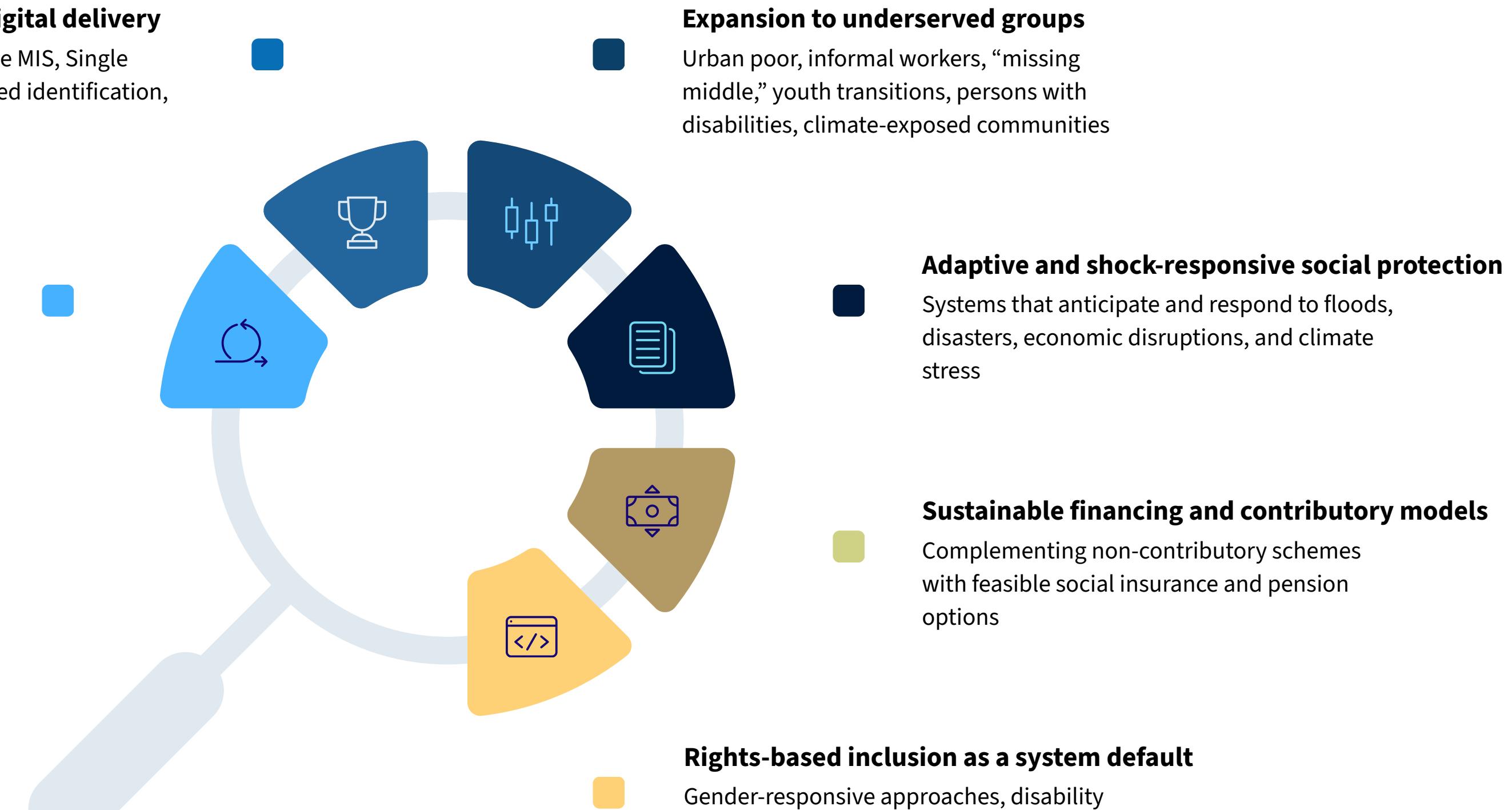


## Development and technical partners

- UNDP
- DFAT (Australia)
- EU, UNICEF, ILO, WFP
- World Bank, ADB
- NGOs, OPDs, research and academic institutions

## The Road Ahead: NSSS 2026+ Priorities

The NSSS 2026+ process must build a next-generation social protection system that is integrated, inclusive, adaptive, and sustainable. Based on the dialogue and reform directions reflected in your materials



# Thank You

SSPS supports Government leadership to strengthen governance, evidence, and delivery so that the next generation NSSS becomes more integrated, more inclusive, and more future-ready.

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[www.socialprotection.gov.bd](http://www.socialprotection.gov.bd)