



ACTION PLAN

For Implementation of National Social Security Strategy (NSSS) of Bangladesh



Phase - II (2021-26)

**Cabinet Division
Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh**

A Note on this Edition:

The Action Plan, Phase-2 of National Social Security Strategy (NSSS) has been prepared under the overall guidance and supervision of the NSSS Action Plan Sub-Committee. The Sub-Committee was headed by Mr. Md. Kamal Hossain, as the Secretary, Coordination and Reforms who completed the stakeholder consultation and drafting of the Action Plan. However, after his subsequent transfer to another ministry, Mr. Md. Shamsul Arefin took over as the Secretary and led the finalization process of the action plan and its publication.

Mr. Md. Rahat Anwar, Additional Secretary (Coordination) anchored the overall formulation process as the Member Secretary of the sub-committee. Mr. Mohammad Khaled Hasan, Joint Secretary, Civil Registration and Social Security of Cabinet Division supported the committee in designing and drafting of the action plan.

The Action Plan was approved and endorsed by an inter-ministerial committee constituted by order of the Hon'ble Prime Minister, titled as Central Management Committee (CMC) on Social Security with Cabinet Secretary as its convenor.

The NSSS Action Plan incorporates social security action plans of five thematic clusters and 39 ministries. The focal points, alternative focal points and other relevant officials of the ministries prepared their respective action plans, guided, and assisted by the Cabinet Division through series of workshops. The ministries finalized their parts of action plans in consultation with their stakeholders and with approval of the appropriate authority.

The overall technical supports including background research and compilation of the document were provided by the SSPS Programme. Other projects of the Cabinet Division supplied inputs relating to relevant parts of the Action Plan.

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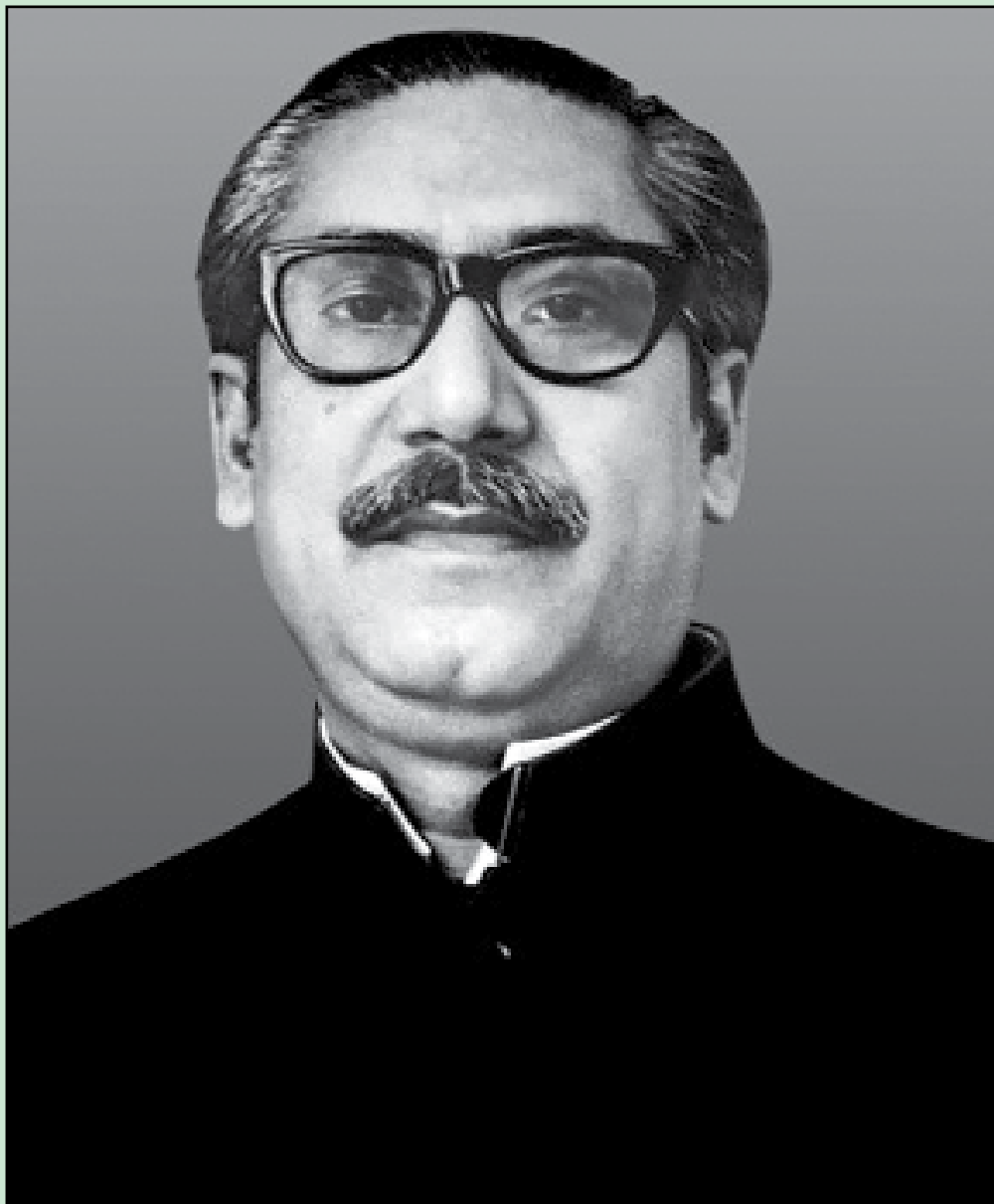
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Action Plan
For Implementation of
National Social Security Strategy (NSSS)
of Bangladesh



Phase II
July 2021-June 2026



The Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman

“Everyone everywhere should enjoy the economic, social and cultural rights indispensable for his dignity and the free development of his personality, ... a standard of living adequate for the health and well-being of himself and his family”

— **Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman**

UN General Assembly

25 September 1974



“I hope people will cooperate in the implementation of the National Social Security Strategy, for the interest and betterment of Bangladesh and transforming our country into ‘Sonar Bangla’, the highly cherished dream of our Father of the Nation, Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, and take Bangladesh to even higher global parity.”

— Honourable Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina



Khandker Anwarul Islam

Cabinet Secretary
Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh

MESSAGE

The people centric development model of the present democratic government of Bangladesh has promoted the economic advancement of the country while prioritizing the welfare of the citizens. Consequently, the government has embarked upon introducing a lifecycle based comprehensive social security system by adopting the National Social Security Strategy (NSSS) of Bangladesh.

The NSSS was approved by the Cabinet in 2015 under the prudent leadership of Hon'ble Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina. This document has been aligned with Bangabandhu's dream of establishing a Golden Bengal – free from poverty, hunger and exploitation as also envisaged in Article 15 of our Constitution.

The Action Plan (2021-2026) has been kindly endorsed by Hon'ble Prime Minister. Specific Action Plans of 39 ministries have been compiled together in this document for social protection programme reforms and strengthening institutional capacity.

I express my profound gratitude to the Hon'ble Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina for kindly approving the Action Plan. I thank the members of the CMC for their valuable efforts in order to refine the Action Plan.

Finally, I would like to request the relevant officials of ministries/divisions/departments and field level offices, public representatives and others concerned to make their best efforts in implementing the NSSS Action Plan, and thereby contribute to the creation of a Golden Bengal.

(Khandker Anwarul Islam)



Md. Shamsul Arefin

Secretary, Coordination & Reforms

Cabinet Division

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh

FOREWORD

Bangladesh has made remarkable progress in poverty reduction supported by sustained economic growth along with huge investment in social protection programmes. As part of the initiatives to further strengthen the social protection system, the government formulated the National Social Security Strategy (NSSS) of Bangladesh.

The NSSS is a long-term planning for social protection reforms with a view to better tackling the triple problems of poverty, vulnerability, and marginalization. In order to implement the NSSS, an action plan was formulated for the period from 2016 to 2021. After termination of that, the present phase (2021-2026) of the action plan has been prepared.

The Action Plan provides a framework for programme reforms through consolidation of programmes according to a lifecycle framework and modernization of the delivery system by use of a Single Registry MIS, G2P, GRS and results-based M&E.

We are especially grateful to Hon'ble Prime Minister for kindly approving the document. As the chair of the Action Plan Sub-Committee, I am indebted to the Cabinet Secretary and other members of the Central Management Committee (CMC) for their valuable guidance and approval of the Action Plan.

While appreciating the contribution of the social security focal point officers of different ministries, I would strongly urge them to keep up their spirit in the successful implementation of the Action Plan.

(Md. Shamsul Arefin)

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LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

4IR	Fourth Industrial Revolution
a2i	Aspire to Innovate (Previously known as Access to Information)
AI	Artificial Intelligence
AIDS	Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome
APA	Annual Performance Agreement
APN-GCR	Asia Pacific Network for Global Change Research
BAB	Bangladesh Accreditation Board
BADC	Bangladesh Agricultural Development Corporation
BARC	Bangladesh Agricultural Research Council
BARI	Bangladesh Agricultural Research Institute
BIRTAN	Bangladesh Institute of Research and Training on Applied Nutrition's
BB	Bangladesh Bank
BBS	Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics
BCC	Bangladesh Computer Council
BCCSAP	Bangladesh Climate Change Strategy and Action Plan
BCCT	Bangladesh Climate Change Trust
BCIC	Bangladesh Chemical Industries Corporation
BDCCCL	Bangladesh Data Centre Company Limited
BDT	Bangladeshi Taka
BEC	Bangladesh Election Commission
BFD	Bangladesh Forest Department
BFIDC	Bangladesh Forest Industries Development Corporation
BFIS	Bangladesh Forest Information System
BGMEA	Bangladesh Garment Manufacturers and Exporters Association
BHB	Bangladesh Handloom Board
BHTPA	Bangladesh Hi-Tech Park Authority
BHWDB	Bangladesh Haor and Wetland Development Board
BIA	Bangladesh Insurance Academy
BIAM	Bangladesh Institute of Administration and Management
BIDS	Bangladesh Institute of Development Studies
BIM	Bangladesh Institute of Management
BINA	Bangladesh Institute of Nuclear Agriculture
BITAC	Bangladesh Industrial and Technical Assistance Centre

BJC	Bangladesh Jute Corporation
BJMC	Bangladesh Jute Mills Corporation
BJRI	Bangladesh Jute Research Institute
BKIICT	Bangladesh Korea Institute of Information and Communication Technology
BKKB	Bangladesh Employees Welfare Board
BKMEA	Bangladesh Knitwear Manufacturers and Exporters Association
BNDA	Bangladesh National Digital Architecture
BNFE	Bureau of Non-Formal Education
BPATC	Bangladesh Public Administration Training Centre
BRRI	Bangladesh Rice Research Institute
BSA	Bangladesh Shishu Academy
BSCIC	Bangladesh Small and Cottage Industries Corporation
BSDB	Bangladesh Sericulture Development Board
BSRI	Bangladesh Sugar Crop Research Institute
BSTI	Bangladesh Standards and Testing Institution
BTB	Bangladesh Tea Board
BTEB	Bangladesh Technical Education Board
BTRC	Bangladesh Telecommunication Regulatory Commission
BWDB	Bangladesh Water Development Board
CAMS	Central Aid Management System
CBHC	Community-Based Health Care Operational Plan
CCA	Controller of Certifying Authorities
CCTF	Climate Change Trust Fund
CD	Cabinet Division
CDKN	Climate and Development Knowledge Network
CDP	UN Committee for Development Policy
CERDI	Central Extension Resource and Development Institute
CHT	Chittagong Hill Tracts
CII	Critical Information Infrastructures
CIRT	Computer Incident Response Team
CMC	Central Management Committee
CMSME	Cottage, Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises
CODI	Core Diagnostic Instrument
CPP	Cyclone Preparedness Programme

Cr	Crore
CRPD	Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities
CRVS	Civil Registration and Vital Statistic
CTM	Cash Transfer Modernization
CVRP	Guchchhogram-2 phase (CVRP) Project
DAM	Department of Agricultural Marketing
DANIDA	Danish International Development Agency
DDM	Department of Disaster Management
DFID	Department for International Development
DGFP	Directorate General of Family Planning
DGHS	Directorate General of Health Services
DIS	Disability Information System
DNA	Deoxyribonucleic Acid
DNFE	Directorate of Non-Formal Education
DoICT	Department of Information and Communication Technology
DPDT	Department of Patents, Designs and Trademarks
DPEC	Divisional Project Evaluation Committee
DPP	Development Project Proposal
DRR	Disaster Risk Reduction
DSA	Digital Security Agency
DSHE	Directorate of Secondary and Higher Education
DSS	Directorate of Social Service
DTE	Directorate of Technical Education
DWA	Department of Women Affairs
ECCD	Early Childhood Care and Development
ECD	Early Childhood Development
ECNEC	Executive Committee of the National Economic Council
EFT	Electronic Fund Transfer
EGPP	Employment Generation Programme for the Poorest
e-KYC	Electronic Know Your Customer
EMTS	Electronic Money Transfer Service
EPI	Extended Programme for Immunization
ERCPH	Employment and Rehabilitation Centre for the Physically Handicapped
FCO	Foreign and Commonwealth Office

FCD	Flood Control and Drainage
FCDI	Flood Control, Drainage and Irrigation
FD	Finance Division
FFC	Food Friendly Card
FFP	Food Friendly Programme
FFW	Food For Work
FID	Financial Institutions Division
FWA	Family Welfare Assistant
FWV	Family Welfare Visitor
FY	Fiscal Year
FYP	Five-Year Plan
G2P	Government to Person
GBV	Gender Based Violence
GCF	Green Climate Fund
GDP	Gross Domestic Product
GED	General Economics Division
GHDI	Gender Adjusted Human Development Index
GIS	Geographic Information System
GR	Gratuitous Relief
GRS	Grievance Redress System
GSM	Global System for Mobiles
HBRI	House Building Research Institute
HDI	Human Development Index
HIES	Household Income and Expenditure Survey
HIV	Human Immunodeficiency Virus
HSD	Health Services Division
ICCCAD	International Centre for Climate Change and Development
ICT	Information and Communication Technology
ICTD	Information and Communication Technology Division
ICVGD	Investment Component for Vulnerable Group Development
IDRA	Insurance Development & Regulatory Authority
IDTP	Interoperable Digital Transaction Platform
IEC	Information Education and Communication
IGA	Income Generating Activity
IGVGD	Income Generation for Vulnerable Group Development

ILDTS	International Long Distance Telecommunication Services
ILO	International Labour Organization
IMED	Implementation Monitoring and Evaluation Division
ISPA	Inter-Agency Social Security Assessments
ISSP	Income Support Programme for the Poorest
IT	Information Technology
ITES	Information Technology Enabled Services
IWY	International Women's Year
JICA	Japan International Cooperation Agency
JMS	Jatiyo Mohila Sangstha
L&JD	Law and Justice Division
LATC	Land Administration Training Centre
LDC	Least Developed Countries
LEI	Large Employee Industry
LGD	Local Government Division
LGI	Local Government Institution
LGRD	Local Government, Rural Development
LICHSP	Low Income Community Housing Support Project
LICT	Leveraging ICT for Growth Employment and Governance
LMA	Lactating Mother Allowance
M&E	Monitoring and Evaluation
MBO	Management by Objective
MCBP	Mother and Child Benefit Programme
MCII	Munich Climate Insurance Initiative
MCRAH OP	Maternal, Child, Reproductive, and Adolescent Health Operational Plan
MEFWD	Medical Education and Family Welfare Division
MHVS	Maternal Health Voucher Scheme
MIS	Management Information System
MNCAH	Maternal Neonatal Child & Adolescent Health Operational Plan
MoA	Ministry of Agriculture
MoCA	Ministry of Cultural Affairs
MoCHTA	Ministry of Chittagong Hill Tracts
MoDMR	Ministry of Disaster Management & Relief
MoE	Ministry of Education

MoEFCC	Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change
MoEWOE	Ministry of Expatriates' Welfare and Overseas Employment
MoF	Ministry of Food
MoF&L	Ministry of Fisheries & Livestock
MoHFW	Ministry of Health and Family Welfare
Mol	Ministry of Industries
MoL	Ministry of Land
MoLE	Ministry of Labour and Employment
MoLGRDC	Ministry of Local Government, Rural Development & Cooperatives
MoLWA	Ministry of Liberation War Affairs
MoPA	Ministry of Public Administration
MoPME	Ministry of Primary and Mass Education
MoRA	Ministry of Religious Affairs
MoST	Management of Social Transformation
MoSW	Ministry of Social Welfare
MoTJ	Ministry of Textile and Jute
MoWCA	Ministry of Women and Children Affairs
MoWR	Ministry of Water Resources
MoYS	Ministry of Youth and Sports
MPO	Monthly Pay Order
MRA	Microcredit Regulatory Authority
MRP	Machine Readable Passport
MSPVAW	Multi-Sectoral Programme on Violence against Women
NAAND	National Academy for Autism and Neuro-developmental Disabilities
NAPE	National Academy for Primary Education
NATA	National Agriculture Training Academy
NB	Nota Bene
NDC	National Data Centre
NEC	National Economic Council
NFOWD	National Forum of Organizations Working with the Disabled
NGO	Non-Government Organization
NHA	National Housing Authority
NHD	National Household Database
NID	National Identity Card
NJLIP	Nuton Jibon Livelihood Improvement Programme

NNSOP	National Nutrition Services Operational Plan
NPAN2	2nd National Plan of Action for Nutrition
NPO	National Productivity Organization
NSAPR	National Strategy for Accelerated Poverty Reduction
NSIS	National Social Insurance Scheme
NSSS	National Social Security Strategy
OMS	Open Market Sales
PCR	Project Completion Report
PEC	Project Evaluation Committee
PEDP4	Fourth Primary Education Development Programme
PIB	Project Implementation Bureau
PKSF	Palli Karma Shahayak Foundation
PM	Prime Minister
PMEAT	Prime Minister's Education Assistance Trust
PMO	Prime Minister's Office
PMT	Proxy Means Test
PNSSSP	Promoting Nutrition-Sensitive Social Security Programmes
PRISM	Poverty Reduction Through Inclusive and Sustainable Markets
PwD	Persons with Disabilities
PWD	Public Works Department
QA	Quality Assurance
RAD	Rapid Assessment of Disability
RADP	Revised Annual Development Programme
RD&CD	Rural Development and Cooperatives Division
RERMP	Rural Employment and Road Maintenance Programme
RJSC	Registrar of Joint Stock Companies and Firms
RMC	Rural Mother Center
RMG	Readymade Garments
ROSC	Reaching Out of School Children
RSS	Rural Social Services
SBCC	Social Behavioral Change Communication
SCA	Seed Certification Agency
SDF	Social Development Framework
SDG	Sustainable Development Goal

SEDP	Secondary Education Development Program
SESIP	Secondary Education Sector Investment Program
SFYP	Sixth Five Year Plan
SHED	Secondary and Higher Education Division
SHIFT	Sheikh Hasina Institute of Frontier Technology
SID	Statistics and Informatics Division
SIM	Subscriber Identification Module
SMEF	Small and Medium Enterprise Foundation
SOP	Standard Operating Procedure
SPBMU	Social Protection Budget Management Unit
SRDI	Soil Research Development Institute
SRHR	Sexual & Reproductive Health & Rights
SS	Social Security
SSC	Secondary School Certificate
SSNP	Safety Net Systems for the Poorest
SSP	Social Security Programme
SSPS	Social Security Policy Support Programme
SSS	Social Security System
SUFAL	Sustainable Forest and Livelihoods
SWAPNO	Strengthening Women's Ability for Productive New Opportunities
TCB	Trading Corporation of Bangladesh
TK	Taka
TMED	Technical and Madrasha Education Division
ToR	Terms of Reference
TR	Test Relief
UCD	Urban Community Development Offices
UDC	Union Digital Centre
UDD	Urban Development Directorate
UGC	University Grant Commission
UK	United Kingdom
UNCRC	United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNGA	United Nations General Assembly
UNICEF	United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund

UNO	Upazila Nirbahi Officer
UNU-EHS	United Nations University-Institute for Environment and Human Security
UPL	Upper Poverty Line
USD	United States Dollar
VGD	Vulnerable Group Development
VGF	Vulnerable Group Feeding
VWB	Vulnerable Women's Benefit
WfM	Work for Money
WFP	World Food Programme
WHO	World Health Organization
WIFI	Women ICT Frontier Initiative
WTC	Women Training Centres

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Background

Bangladesh has made remarkable progress in the reduction of poverty and vulnerability through sustained economic growth accompanied by a diverse portfolio of social protection programmes. Over the past decade, it has been among the fastest-growing economies in the world – contributed by a demographic dividend, strong ready-made garments (RMG) sector, and stable macroeconomic conditions. Nevertheless, the real momentum was gained by the firm commitment and determination of the Honourable Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, who spearheaded the country towards materializing the long-cherished national goal of transforming Bangladesh into Bangabandhu's Sonar Bangla or Golden Bengal.

As a result, Bangladesh reached a lower-middle-income status in 2015 and is on the right track for graduating from the UN's Least Developed Countries (LDC) list by 2026. Poverty declined from 44 per cent in 1991 to 15 per cent in 2016, in terms of the international poverty line of \$1.90 a day. The country has achieved remarkable progress in human and social development as evidenced by commendable advances in key socio-economic indicators, like child nutrition, life expectancy, and gender equality. Bangladesh's ranking on the Human Capital Index is higher than that of the South Asian average.

Rapid economic progress, coupled with strong political commitment, enabled Bangladesh to embark upon adopting a lifecycle-based inclusive social security system through the formulation of the National Social Security Strategy (NSSS) in 2015. This is a long-term roadmap for reforming the country's social security structure building upon the existing network of diverse social security programmes.

The Government has allocated adequate resources for maintaining socio-economic development, with a greater focus on underpinning inclusive and broad-based social protection interventions, anchored in the principle of leaving no one behind. Honourable Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has emphatically expressed her optimism that the NSSS can establish a welfare-based society with the inclusion of the poor and marginalized, which is the main objective of the strategy. Following the launching of NSSS, a five-year-long Action Plan was formulated for 2016 to 2021. The NSSS Action Plan of the first phase has been implemented by relevant ministries and divisions, while the next phase of the action plan (2021-26) has been finalized.

Assigned by the Central Management Committee (CMC) on Social Security, the NSSS Action Plan Sub-committee, led by the Secretary, Coordination and Reforms of the Cabinet Division formulated this Action Plan. The Sub-committee, after gathering relevant information, and conducting a series of consultations, meetings, and workshops with relevant stakeholders, finalized the Action Plan and placed it on the 15th meeting of the CMC on 27 June 2021. As per the decision of the 15th CMC meeting, the draft was sent to the ministries for further review and feedback. Following the feedback of the ministries, the Action Plan has been further revised by the Sub-Committee and then it was approved by the 16th CMC meeting held on 23 December 2021.

Constitutional Provision

Bangladesh embedded unambiguous and dynamic provisions for social protection in Article 15 of its constitution. The most judicious and economically viable modalities of constitutional directives are

amazingly pragmatic in contemporary economic practices. It indicates that the government should constantly make efforts for economic development in a planned manner so that the government can ensure the social security of the deserving population of the country. Thus, the economic development of the country is the topmost priority which would build up the capacity of the government for supporting people in need. The government, through its different development plans including five-year plans and perspective plans, has achieved a surprisingly accelerated pace in economic development.

Government Commitment

Social security has been one of the most prioritized agendas of the Honourable Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina. In her message in the NSSS, she mentioned that ‘With a strong political commitment of Bangladesh to become a welfare state, I firmly believe that this National Social Security Strategy can do what it has set out to achieve.’ She also expressed that the NSSS would help people move out of poverty. She also added that coverage of the safety net programmes has improved and this has been a major contributing factor to poverty reduction. Our programmes aim to provide support to more than half of the country’s population who require aid and thus facilitate their transformation towards middle-income status. The commitment of the government to strengthen social security programmes has further been reiterated in the recent election manifesto of the ruling party.

Vision and Mission of NSSS

The government’s constitutional obligation is to ensure people’s rights to social security. The long-term objective is to move towards building a social security system that is available to all the people of Bangladesh requiring support, providing them with a guaranteed minimum income but also a comprehensive safety net for those who suffer shocks and crises that may push them into poverty. Thus, the NSSS has a long-term vision as follows:

Vision

‘Build an inclusive Social Security System for all deserving Bangladeshis that effectively tackles and prevents poverty and inequality and contributes to broader human development, employment and economic growth.’

The NSSS provides that the government would take appropriate steps towards achieving this vision while being cognizant of the reality that substantial change will take time. The government will focus on building the foundation of a progressive and inclusive system. The NSSS states the mission over the next five years as follows:

Mission

‘Reform the national Social Security System by ensuring more efficient and effective use of resources, strengthened delivery systems and progress towards a more inclusive form of Social Security that effectively tackles lifecycle risks, prioritizing the poorest and most vulnerable members of society.’

Development Centric Social Protection

The social protection of Bangladesh, alongside a welfare orientation, is also driven by the need for promoting the country’s economic development. On the other hand, the vision of the NSSS as is mentioned above stipulates that there will be a comprehensive social security system in the country that would contribute to economic development. Thus, social protection is contingent upon economic progress and in turn, the social protection itself has been a tool for economic development.

Strategic Approach

The social protection system crosscuts across various economic and socio-political sectors, involves multiple agencies, focuses on different global and international policy priorities – not always in full harmony with each other. However, all the factors and entities should be aligned and synchronized with each other. Towards that end, the NSSS Action Plan strives to significantly contribute to achieving the goal of establishing Sonar Bangla of Bangabandhu by formulating and implementing different national policies, anchored in the Constitution, Perspective Plans, and Five-Year Plans. The Action Plan utilizes the APA for aligning social security with other strategic objectives of the government and establishing accountability mechanisms for the implementation of the NSSS Agenda.

Structure of the Action Plan

The action plan distributes the contents of the document in three parts: (1) the national plan, mainly drawn from reviewing the NSSS itself (2) the action plans of 39 ministries/divisions formulated as an outcome of the workshops participated by the focal points and relevant officials of the ministries and departments, and (3) The thematic cluster action plans include a detailed justification of the basis of the classification of the programmes, situation analysis and the relevant action plans. Five separate workshops were organized by the chair of the action Plan Sub-committee with the participation of the members of the thematic clusters. The action plan is structured as follows:

- The goals of the ministries along with the challenges and strategic objectives.
- It incorporates a brief description of the social protection programmes, projects and other interventions of line ministries.
- It provides lists of legal documents, such as the Parliamentary Acts, Rules, Regulations, and even official circulars and manuals.
- Situation analysis of different ministries followed by specific action plans with performance indicators.

The Main Challenges

The main challenges that will need to be addressed during the plan period are as follows:

- A shift from current discretionary to a targeted universal approach to avoid leakages and under-coverage.
- Expanding coverage of core schemes for the extreme/hard-core poor and most vulnerable people.
- Progressive but substantive scaling up of the graduation programmes.
- Ensuring that the most vulnerable women are provided with Income security and greater opportunities to engage in the labour market.
- Initiating a social insurance system that enables people to invest in their social security, protecting against the risks of old age, disability, unemployment, and maternity.
- Expanding coverage to the residents in urban areas and the socially excluded people and making the system disaster responsive.
- Strengthening the delivery systems by establishing advanced Management Information Systems (MIS) and developing the capacity of professional staff; and expanding awareness.

Programme Reforms

The action plan provides actions for programme reforms in terms of expansion of coverage and introduction of new schemes, or discontinuation of programmes where appropriate. Another important aspect of the programme reform is the consolidation of programmes in terms of merging thematically similar programmes or phasing out some programmes which are inconsistent with the lifecycle framework or other provisions of the NSSS. The Action Plan includes three types of programme reforms, such as

a) introducing new programmes, b) scaling up the existing programmes and c) continuing the ongoing programmes with the improvement of delivery systems. These programmes are as follows:

New Programmes	Up-Scalable Programme	Unchanged Programme
Child Benefit Scheme (0-4 yrs)	Old age allowance and Disability Allowance	Orphan's programme
National Social Insurance Scheme (NSIS)	Primary and Secondary Stipend	School meals programme
Private voluntary pension	Strengthen workfare programmes and Training	Maternal health care
Policy for maintenance of abandoned children	Vulnerable Women Benefit programme	Training programme (for women)
	Immunization, child healthcare, nutrition, water and sanitation	Government service pension

Institutional Reforms

Governance reforms (or institutional reforms) in the implementation and delivery of social protection programmes have also been incorporated like the first phase action plan, though the targets are significantly different than before. Such organizational reforms include a) accelerating the initiative for establishing a single registry-based Management Information System (MIS), b) utilization of the Grievance Redress System for better governance of social protection, c) further expansion of the government to person (G2P) modality of online-based cash transfer, and d) results-based Monitoring and Evaluation Framework (M&E).

Major Reforms Activities of the Ministries/Divisions

Sl.	Ministry/Division	Major Reforms Activities
1.	Ministry of Social Welfare	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strengthen old age allowance and disability programme • Strengthen Support to vulnerable women and marginalized people • Improve programmes for vagrant & homeless people, socially disabled women, training & Rehabilitation programme for children • Skill development programmes for women & persons with disability
2.	Ministry of Women and Children Affairs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Scale-up child benefit programme for children of 0-4 years • Design and implement Vulnerable Women's Benefit (VWB) Programme • Promote Workplace Childcare Services, Child Maintenance Payments and Strengthen Training programme
3.	Finance Division	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintain government service pension and initiate the universal pension as part of NSIS • Creation of financial management database for social security programmes • Scale-up Government to Person (G2P) Payments System
4.	Ministry of Disaster Management and Relief	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue disaster relief programmes and Improve disaster management system • Convert most of the workfare programmes from food to cash
5.	Ministry of Primary and Mass Education	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sustain primary stipend and school meal programme
6.	Secondary and Higher Education Division	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Expand secondary education stipend programme
7.	Technical and Madrasa Education Division	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Expand secondary education stipend programme. • Vocational training programme for the youth

Sl.	Ministry/Division	Major Reforms Activities
8.	Ministry of Food	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strengthening Open Market Sales (OMS) and Food Friendly Programme (FFP) • Strengthening Nutrition Specific Social Protection • Ensure congenial food stock policy and fair price policy
9.	Ministry of Agriculture	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Enhance availability of agricultural food and nutrition • Expand opportunities for agricultural labour and livelihoods
10.	Ministry of Fisheries and Livestock	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strengthen food security for the fishermen • Expand opportunities for employment in poultry and dairy
11.	Ministry of Liberation War Affairs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue freedom fighters' benefit programme
12.	Financial Institutions Division (FID)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support introduction of NSIS
13.	Economic Relations Division (ERD)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Coordination with development partners for social protection upscaling • Highlight government achievement in social security in international forums
14.	Ministry of Labour and Employment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establish an unemployment insurance scheme • Childcare services in the workplaces
15.	Medical Education and Family Welfare Division	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promote Adolescent Health and Postpartum Family Planning (PPFP) • Improve Satellite Clinics (SCs), Urban family Planning and FP services in Garment Factories
16.	Health Services Division	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improve maternal health care and initiate maternity insurance
17.	Prime Minister's Office	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Programmes for the homeless people • Social empowerment of the ethnic minorities of plain land
18.	Cabinet Division	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strengthening coordination of social security programme in ministries and field administration • Strengthen GRS for social security • Engagement with development partners and the NGOs • Support implementation of NSSS
19.	Ministry of Expatriates' Welfare and Overseas Employment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strengthen social allowance for the migrant workers and their family members • Insurance coverage for all aspirant migrant workers • Enhance skills development programmes
20.	Local Government Division	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support measures to tackle the challenge of urban social security • Expand SWAPNO Project • Support GRS and selection of beneficiaries
21.	Ministry of Chittagong Hill Tracts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strengthen food security programmes in CHT
22.	Rural Development & Cooperatives Division	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Scale-up 'My House - My Farm' programme
23.	Ministry of Youth and Sports	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Skill development programme for young men and women
24.	Ministry of Housing and Public Works	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide supports to other ministries in housing programmes for the poor
25.	Ministry of Land	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Scale-up housing programmes for landless people
26.	General Economics Division (GED)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Results-based M&E framework for social security • Design a Structure of Integrated Single Registry MIS

Sl.	Ministry/Division	Major Reforms Activities
27.	Implementation Monitoring and Evaluation Division (IMED)	• Support the attainment of socio-economic development of the country through effective monitoring and evaluation of the development projects.
28.	Statistics and Informatics Division (SID)	• Create the Bangladesh Household Database
29.	Planning Division	• Support in strengthening social security policy and strategies
30.	ICT Division	• Promote ICT/Information Technology Enabled Services (ITES) Skill Development Programme for Youth
31.	Posts & Telecommunications Division	• Support in Developing Single Registry MIS and Digitization of Cash Transfer
32.	Ministry of Water Resources	• Improve livelihood development for the people of haor area
33.	Ministry of Cultural Affairs	• Social Inclusion and Empowerment of marginalized cultural activists through cultural activities • Highlight national glory and achievement in social security
34.	Ministry of Industries	• Promote skill development training programme for young men and women
35.	Ministry of Commerce	• Support in sustaining food supply in the market for ensuring food security
36.	Ministry of Religious Affairs	• Enhance management of government machinery for the poor • Enhance financial support for Imam and Muazzin in poverty alleviation.
37.	Ministry of Public Administration	• Scale up training for the civil servants on NSSS • Social security for the vulnerable government employees
38.	Ministry of Textiles and Jute	• Scale-up programmes for marginalized weaver & handloom workers
39.	Ministry of Environment, Forest, and Climate Change	• Strengthen the management of climate change and disaster prevention

Thematic Clusters

In NSSS, the thematic cluster simply implies a system of grouping or classifying social security programmes under a theme or subject matter of the programmes. The NSSS proposes the formulation of five thematic clusters according to the nature of the programmes. The main objective of the thematic cluster is to consolidate the existing social security programmes under a handful of thematic areas. There are five thematic clusters, such as Social Allowance Cluster, Food Security and Disaster Assistance Cluster, Social Insurance Cluster, Labour & Livelihood Intervention Cluster, and Human Development & Social Empowerment Cluster. For each thematic cluster, a lead ministry has been selected for coordinating similar social protection programmes of relevant ministries. It is decided that the programmes falling under a particular thematic cluster would eventually be merged into a unified programme. If the merger is not possible, then the similar type of programmes would be brought under a unique window for delivery with arrangements for coordination of data and beneficiary selection criteria.

Social Security Spending

The number of social security programmes in Bangladesh has continued to increase over the last decades. Lately, with the spirit of programme consolidation as suggested in the NSSS, the number of social security programmes has been reduced. At the beginning of the NSSS-reform, the total number of social security programmes was 145 in 2015, which came down to 142 in 2015-16, and further reduced to 136 in 2016-17 and 119 in the fiscal year 2020-21. Even though the number of social security programmes has been falling

lately, the budget allocation for social security has shown a higher trend during this period. The allocation has been around 2.4 per cent of GDP and around 14 per cent of the national budget on average in the past ten years. In the current fiscal year, it is 3.10 per cent of GDP which is 16.83 per cent of the budget.

In the present fiscal year, the spending on social security stood at 18% of the national budget and 3.11% of GDP. The social security budget for FY 2021-22 is 107,614 crore taka which is forecasted to be taka 116,782 crores, 120,661 crores, 132,317 crores and 139,093 crores respectively over the following four years. Thus, the estimated cost of the social security during the five-year duration will be Taka 616,469 Crore in total which is equivalent to USD 72.52 billion. It may be noted that the action plan encourages participatory social insurance and a voluntary pension system, which will ensure the social security of the people with their own contributions. As a result, it will be possible to set up a world-class social security system without increasing the government's expenditure on this sector.

Disability Inclusive Social Protection

People with disabilities tend to be poor, and reversely prevalence of disability is high among poor people. In the world, half of all disabled people cannot afford health care, compared to a third of abled people. Consequently, persons with disabilities are the important target group for social protection programmes in any country. Similarly, in Bangladesh, social protection programmes for people with a disability occupy priority in the NSSS and its Action Plans. Presently more than 20 lakh persons with disabilities receive monthly disability allowance at a rate of Tk 700 from the Ministry of Social Welfare.

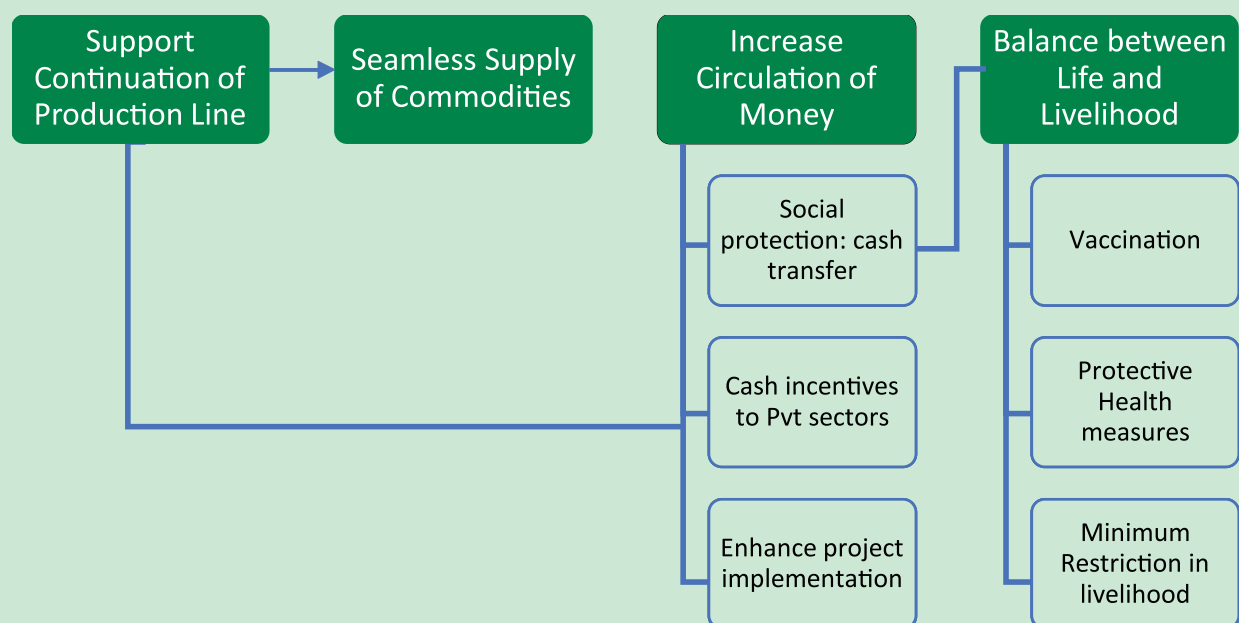
Social protection programmes may cover a certain percentage of people with disabilities to ensure their social inclusiveness; however, social protection programmes cannot be the only means for such inclusiveness. Social inclusion for some disabled people will merely demand only changed and positive attitudes and empathy towards them. Therefore, the Action Plan puts much emphasis on social inclusion measures for people with disability, in addition to the conventional social protection programmes for them.

Nutrition Focus in NSSS Action Plan

The greater ratio of the younger population is a valuable resource for the country to achieve its ambition of becoming a high-income country. Therefore, it is a priority agenda of the government to invest in human development for capitalizing on the existing demographic dividend. Therefore, human development has occupied a pivotal position in the vision of the NSSS, which is to be achieved primarily by ensuring the nutritional status of the population, especially of the children. Therefore, the NSSS Action Plan underscored the importance of different nutrition programmes in addition to child benefit schemes.

Covid-19 Interventions

Even though Bangladesh could somehow maintain its positive economic growth in the face of Covid-19, there was a certain degree of a setback in terms of social protection, as the lockdown situation increased acute poverty. The different spells of lockdown imposed by the government to prevent the spread of Covid-19, inflicted great suffering for some people. It was the poor and near-poor who bore the heaviest toll. Many of them lost their livelihoods while their families became displaced. However, the timely and comprehensive approach of the government, as kindly directed by the Honourable Prime Minister, in tackling the Covid-19 proved very effective and achieved appreciation worldwide. The comprehensive model may be described in the following diagram.



Taking into cognizance all the probable impacts of Covid-19 on the economic situation of people, the government increased social protection spending to more than 3 per cent of GDP, which is far above the NSSS stipulated 2.3 per cent threshold. For continuing production in different sectors, the government provided cash incentives. The vaccination programme was very efficient and inclusive. The lifecycle model of NSSS accommodates provision for tackling covariate shocks like disasters and pandemics. Therefore, the NSSS and its action plan appear to be compatible with the Covid-19 situation.

Programmes for the Homeless:

The emphatic articulation of the Hon'ble Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina to leave nobody homeless in Bangladesh is indicative of the profound commitment of the government for social welfare and empowerment of the people living in extreme poverty. The government has a number of programmes for the socio-economic upliftment of these people - the most significant intervention being the Ashrayan Project which is directly implemented by the Prime Minister's Office. So far, a total of 319,140 families have been rehabilitated by the Ashrayan Project. The project provides land ownership jointly to the husbands and wives, thereby ensuring social empowerment of women and gender equality. Another phase of Ashrayan project (2017-2022) provided housing for more than one lakh forcefully displaced citizens of Myanmar which is being implemented by Bangladesh Navy. In addition to these programmes, there are other major activities implemented by the Ministry of Land, Ministry of Disaster Management and Relief, and Ministry of Housing and Public Works for both rural and urban distressed people.

Gender Inclusiveness

The country's achievements in gender equality are extraordinary in comparison to the other countries with comparable per capita income. Bangladesh performed especially well in gender parity concerning educational attainment, health and survival, though still inadequate in economic participation and opportunity. The 8th Five Year Plan of Bangladesh also recognizes Bangladesh's declining performance in economic participation and opportunity for women. According to the World Gender Gap Report, 2021 of

the World Economic Forum, Bangladesh exceeds the South Asia regional average while occupying the 65th position in the world in gender parity calculations.

The NSSS assumes that the social effects of the social security programme for the women would increase self-esteem, confidence and voice among beneficiaries and enhance their social empowerment. They will have a greater voice in decision making in the family, as well as in society. Such programmes are likely to bring about transformation in traditional social gender norms and attitudes while reducing gender gaps.

Men and women are often equally susceptible to certain risks exposing them to poverty—such as sickness, unemployment and asset-lessness. But women also face several genders-specific risks, such as maternity/pregnancy and unpaid family responsibilities which can hamper their efforts to have an income of their own. Due to women's lower level of participation in formal employment, they tend to have less access than men to contributory social protection systems. Therefore, all these hard realities and predicaments of women were kept in consideration while designing the NSSS Action Plan.

Monitoring and Evaluation

The long-term vision and five-year strategic objectives will be the major yardstick to evaluate the social security programmes. Despite the overt impressiveness of any programme, it will not be considered effective without its considerable contribution towards achieving the social security goals. Thus, the NSSS Action Plan recommends a specific M&E framework for different social security programmes.

Evaluation of progress in social security programmes require an assessment matrix. The NSSS Action Plan identified the matrix called Core Diagnostic Instrument (CODI) as a very useful tool for this purpose. The CODI is an assessment tool developed by the Inter-Agency Social Security Assessments (ISPA) initiative, that helps countries improve their social security system by analysing its strengths and weaknesses and offering options for further action (Annexure-A).



Chapter 1: **Introduction**



Chapter 1:

Introduction

The constitutional provision of Bangladesh, as stipulated in Article 15, mandates the Government to accelerate economic growth and thereby - meet basic needs, create decent jobs, enhance cultural and recreational facilities, and above all, ensure the social security of the most deprived citizens. In compliance with the constitutional directives, the government dedicated all its available productive resources to the country's social and economic development, with greater emphasis on inclusive, targeted, universal and resilient social protection programmes for the poor and vulnerable people.

Simultaneously, Bangladesh has made significant strides in poverty and vulnerability reduction, improvement of other socio-economic indicators like child nutrition, life expectancy and gender equality. Bangladesh met all three eligibility criteria for graduation from Least Developed Country (LDC) status to lower-middle-income country status in 2018. Finally, Bangladesh was favourably reviewed in February 2021 by UN Committee for Development Policy (CDP), which found the country well-positioned to achieve a developing country status by 2026.

As per the constitutional obligations and higher national aspirations, in parallel with the country's socio-economic advancement, Bangladesh embarked upon establishing a lifecycle-based inclusive social security system. It was built upon existing social security programmes, which had been gradually introduced since the country's independence. As one of the major milestones towards the goal of establishing lifecycle coverage of social security interventions, the government formulated the National Social Security Strategy (NSSS) of Bangladesh, which was approved by the Cabinet on 1st June 2015. This is a long-term roadmap for reforming the social security system of the country in the spirit of the 'Beveridge Model' as introduced in the UK in the wake of World War II and later introduced in many other countries like South Africa and Kenya.

Since the launching of the NSSS, a five-year-long Action Plan of the strategy was formulated for the period from July 2016 to June 2021. Most of the planned actions of different ministries have already been achieved, though a few of these actions will need some more time for complete execution. Now is the time for formulating the second phase of the NSSS Action Plan for the next five years till June 2026. The present phase of the Action Plan is the outcome of consultative and participatory exercises with relevant officials of 39 ministries/divisions to set their respective course of action for the next five years.

The core of the NSSS is programme coordination among the implementing ministries and consolidation of selected programmes following a lifecycle framework, with a special focus on different age groups of people, especially children, vulnerable women, the elderly and persons with disabilities. The NSSS recommends a shift for several programmes from an existing discretionary approach to a targeted universal approach to avoid leakages and deal with low coverage, among others.

The formulation of the NSSS Action Plan during the first phase (2016-21) is regarded as a great milestone in realizing the NSSS spirit measured by concrete and time-bound indicators. This Action Plan detailed out major activities to be executed by the line ministries between 2016 and 2021. The Central Management Committee (CMC) on Social Security, headed by the Cabinet Secretary assigned a sub-committee chaired by the Secretary, Coordination, and Reforms to complete the action plan formulation process. The sub-

committee, after conducting a series of consultations with stakeholders, had finalized the Action Plan which was approved by the CMC in its 11th meeting by the end of 2017.

It is the same sub-committee that has been entrusted by the CMC to formulate the second phase of the action plan. The sub-committee headed by the Secretary, Coordination and Reforms of Cabinet Division steered a long process of training and orientation for the relevant officials of the ministries that contributed towards preparing the first set of drafts of action plans of their respective ministries. These individual action plans were reviewed by the ministries with the representatives of their subordinate departments. Later, the drafts were further reviewed by the action plan sub-committee, thematic clusters, and plenary group of the social security focal points before finally submitting them to the CMC for approval.

The Social Security Policy Support (SSPS) Programme of the Cabinet Division and the General Economics Division (GED) of Planning Commission, provided technical support in the formulation of the Action Plan. The project had also provided supports during the preparation of the first phase of the Action Plan.

Overview of National Social Security Strategy

With the strongest commitment to ensuring inclusive social protection for all deserving people, the government of Bangladesh formulated the NSSS. It addresses Bangladesh's triple problems of poverty, vulnerability and marginalization to pave the way for implementing other development agendas of the government such as the Perspective Plans, Five-Year Plans, etc. The strategy provides a roadmap for establishing a lifecycle-based social security system for covering people's needs over their lifetime. Social inclusion of marginalized people is also a central principle of NSSS, with an expansion of programmes for the extremely poor and most vulnerable groups.

The issue of preparing an NSSS was conceptualized during a macro-economic review meeting in 2010 and later in an international workshop on social protection in 2011, in Dhaka. The Hon'ble Prime Minister of Bangladesh, while participating in the workshop, provided directives that the country urgently needs a comprehensive strategic document to better utilize the resources allocated for social protection programmes. Triggered by the emphatic position of the Hon'ble Prime Minister, the process of drafting the NSSS commenced jointly by the Cabinet Division and GED in collaboration with relevant stakeholders. The draft NSSS was finalized in 2015 and it was approved by the Cabinet of Ministers after detailed scrutiny.

The process of drafting the NSSS was initiated with a work plan adopted by the Government. A sub-committee under the Central Monitoring (now Management) Committee (CMC) on social security was formed with the Cabinet Secretary as its Convener, and GED providing secretarial support. The plenary session of the Central Management Committee (CMC) headed by the Cabinet Secretary also reviewed the drafts of the NSSS, a number of times. A framework paper outlining critical knowledge gaps and key issues to be addressed in the Strategy was prepared in 2013, and it served as the foundation of its formulation.

International experience sharing, seminars and training courses brought enhanced social protection knowledge to the ministries and divisions. Ten background research papers were produced to help inform the strategy. A series of consultations took place to ensure the engagement of all stakeholders. The draft was shared with relevant ministries and their feedbacks were incorporated in the final draft. The NSSS is a long-term vision for social protection reforms in the country from 2015 to 2026. It recommends necessary protective measures to cover the lifecycle risks, with programmes for children, working-age people including a specific focus on youth and vulnerable women, the elderly, and persons with disabilities. The lifecycle approach also addresses current gaps in coverage of early childhood needs. The core of the NSSS

is to reform the national social security system by ensuring more efficient and effective use of resources, strengthening delivery systems, and making progress towards a more inclusive and holistic social security system.

The NSSS implies a shift from the current discretionary approach to a targeted universal approach for selected interventions to avoid leakages and deal with low coverage. One of the ground-breaking features of the NSSS is a social insurance system that provides security against the risks of old age, disability, unemployment and pregnancy. The strategy includes the expansion of coverage to the urban poor and socially excluded people. Another important agenda of the NSSS is to ensure an effective disaster response system to mitigate covariate risks, such as natural disasters, diseases and epidemics, and the associated price shocks. Since the NSSS accommodates covariate shocks, the ongoing Covid-19 related social risks can also be handled within the framework of this strategy.

Constitutional Provision

Bangladesh is proud to have embedded explicit and dynamic provisions for social protection in its constitution. The world witnessed low-profile global scenario of social protection during the cold war, partly due to the onset of dominance by neo-liberal economic thoughts in capitalist blocks, following apparent inefficiency of Keynesian economics.

Many countries which formulated their constitutions during the 70s were not as emphatically committed to establishing social security provision in the face of international trends. However, it was due to the philanthropic and visionary leadership of the Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, that social security provision could make its way in the supreme law of the country. The constitutional provision for social security does not only mandate the government of Bangladesh for implementing social protection, but rather it also creates a certain degree of moral obligation for the rulers in this regard.

The incorporation of social security in the constitution of Bangladesh was not a mere coincidence as Bangabandhu unequivocally advocated for the eradication of poverty and hunger and the establishment of social justice. His fervent adherence to social protection and social justice was by no means confined to the Bangladesh context only. Rather he, in a very strong voice, proposed social justice for the deprived population of the whole world. Such admirable roles of Bangabandhu have been globally evident when he proposed in the United National General Assembly that “Let us together create a world that can eradicate poverty, hunger, war and human sufferings and achieve global peace and security for the well-being of humanity” (UNGA, September 1974).

The mere fact of the existence of the social protection-related provision in the constitution in the context of the global situation would have been heartening enough for Bangladesh as a land of social justice. However, on top of that, the most judicious and economically viable modalities of constitutional directives are amazingly pragmatic, even in contemporary economic practices. The provision of social protection is articulated in the Article 15 of the Constitution of Bangladesh as follows:

Table 1: Article 15, Constitution of Bangladesh

ARTICLE-15: IT SHALL BE A FUNDAMENTAL RESPONSIBILITY OF THE STATE TO ATTAIN, THROUGH PLANNED ECONOMIC GROWTH, A CONSTANT INCREASE OF PRODUCTIVE FORCES AND A STEADY IMPROVEMENT IN THE MATERIAL AND CULTURAL STANDARD OF LIVING OF THE PEOPLE, WITH A VIEW TO SECURING TO ITS CITIZENS –			
(a) the provision of the necessities of life; clothing, shelter, education, and medical care;	b) the right to work, that is the right to guaranteed employment at a reasonable wage having regard to the quantity and quality of work	(c) the right to reasonable rest, recreation, and leisure; and	(d) the right to social security to public assistance in cases of undeserved want arising from unemployment, illness, or disablement, or suffered by widows or orphans or in old age, or in other such cases.

The most remarkable significance of the provision is that it does not simply suggest introducing social security in the country. Rather, it indicates that the government should constantly make efforts for economic development in a planned manner enabling the government to ensure the social security of the deserving population of the country. Thus, the economic development of the country is the priority that would increase the capacity of the government for supporting people in need. Consequently, the government, through its different development plans including Five-Year Plans and Perspective Plans, has achieved a surprisingly accelerated pace in economic development. The country has fulfilled all the criteria to be graduated to a developing country and aspires to be promoted to a high-income country by 2041. The social security of the country, as is stipulated in the constitution has not been a burden to the economic progress of the country. In contrast, social protection has been supportive of the development of the agenda of the government.

A Commitment of the Government in NSSS

Social Security has been one of the most prioritized agendas of the Hon’ble Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina. In her message in the NSSS, she mentioned that ‘With a strong political commitment of Bangladesh to become a welfare state, I firmly believe that this National Social Security Strategy can do what it has set out to achieve.’ She also expressed that the NSSS would help people move out of poverty.

She also stated that “coverage of the safety net programmes has improved and this has been a major contributing factor to poverty reduction. Our programmes aim to provide support to more than half of the country’s population, who require aid, and thus facilitate their transformation towards middle-income status.” The firm commitment of the Hon’ble Prime Minister as expressed in the NSSS has also been reflected in the election manifesto of the present ruling party.

The government’s commitment is truly evident by the continuous increase of the social protection budget which increased from 2.25 per cent of the GDP in 2008-09 to 3.10 per cent in 2020-21. In most of the countries with a similar economic status to Bangladesh, the social protection allocation hardly exceeds 1 per cent of their GDPs. Therefore, the NSSS is an instrument of converting the country into a true welfare state by implementing the lifecycle-based social security system where addressing covariate risks including disaster and pandemic-driven socio-economic crises are built in.

Vision and Mission of NSSS

The government has a constitutional obligation to ensure people's rights to social security. In the long-term, the objective is to move towards building a social security system that is available to all the people of Bangladesh who require support, providing them with a guaranteed minimum income but also a comprehensive safety net for those who suffer shocks and crises that may push them into poverty. Thus, the NSSS has the long-term vision as follows:

Vision

'Build an inclusive Social Security System for all deserving Bangladeshis that effectively tackles and prevents poverty and inequality and contributes to broader human development, employment and economic growth.'

The NSSS provides that the government would take appropriate steps towards achieving this vision while being cognizant of the reality that substantial change will take time. The government will focus on building the foundation of a progressive and inclusive system. The NSSS states the mission over the next five years as follows:

Mission

The goal of the NSSS for the first five years was to 'Reform the national Social Security System by ensuring more efficient and effective use of resources, strengthened delivery systems and progress towards a more inclusive form of Social Security that effectively tackles lifecycle risks, prioritizing the poorest and most vulnerable members of society.'

This was taken as the mission of the NSSS Action Plan during the first phase. The same mission is still relevant and will be retained for the achievement of the NSSS's vision for the next five years. Therefore, the mission of the NSSS for the first five years will continue to be the mission of the present phase of NSSS Action Plan. All the activities of different ministries are being guided by this mission statement.

Lifecycle Model of Social Protection

Bangladesh has adopted the lifecycle approach to social protection in the NSSS. In contrast with the conventional model of social protection in the form of poor relief delivery, this is a more inclusive approach to social protection called a lifecycle-based comprehensive social security system. This system was first proposed by the British economist William Beveridge for reforms of social protection in the United Kingdom. He was an MP heading a commission for identifying the best model of social protection for the war-torn UK in 1941. He was born in the late nineteenth century at Rangpur in Bangladesh. His father was a renowned District Magistrate in different districts of Bengal including Dhaka, Barisal, and Sylhet.

Assigned by the parliament, Mr Beveridge reviewed the existing social protection system, especially social insurance in the UK, and proposed lifecycle-based social security, the cost of which was to be shared by the government and the beneficiary communities. The model was so effective that it was introduced across developed and developing countries. The main characteristic of the lifecycle approach is that it involves long-term planning of programmes directed at different stages of the lives. The main agenda of the Beveridge model was to tackle the five giants as mentioned in the following diagram:

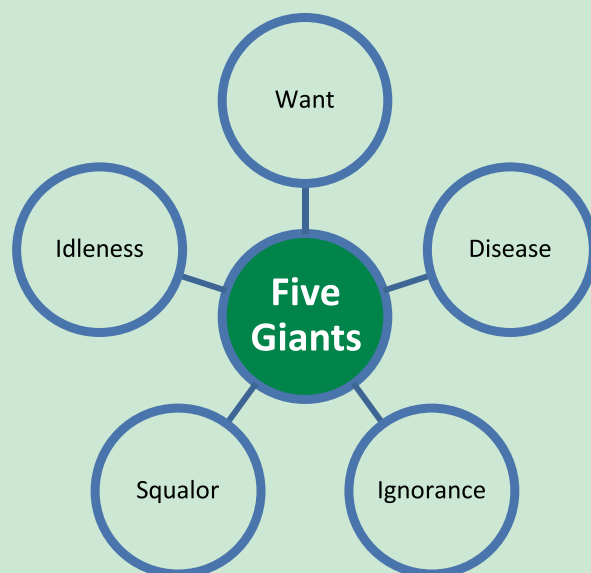


Figure 1: Five Giants as Social Risks

The social problems identified by Beveridge were mainly poverty, disease, illiteracy, social marginalization and unemployment. He recommended very detailed and comprehensive measures for tackling these problems. The NSSS identifies mainly four gigantic problems for tackling through employing social protection measures. These are as follows:

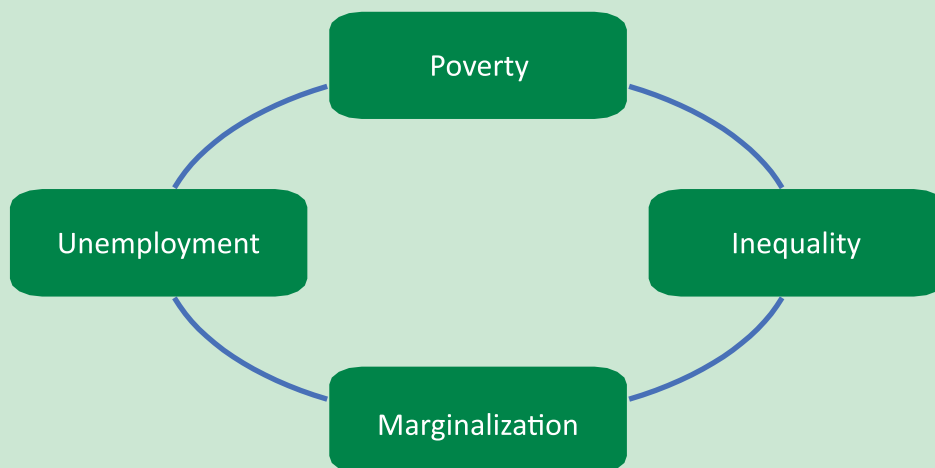


Figure 2: Social Risks Addressed by NSSS

Though the Beveridge model focused on health issues, the NSSS keeps the mainstream health services and health insurance outside the purview of social security. However, a part of health services like community clinics, immunization and nutrition services are within the social protection system. Beveridge model of social protection had proposed drastic and revolutionary changes in the social protection system. The NSSS proposes a more structured approach to scale up the existing social safety net programmes to cover all the lifecycle risks as shown in the following graph:

LIFE CYCLE FRAMEWORK

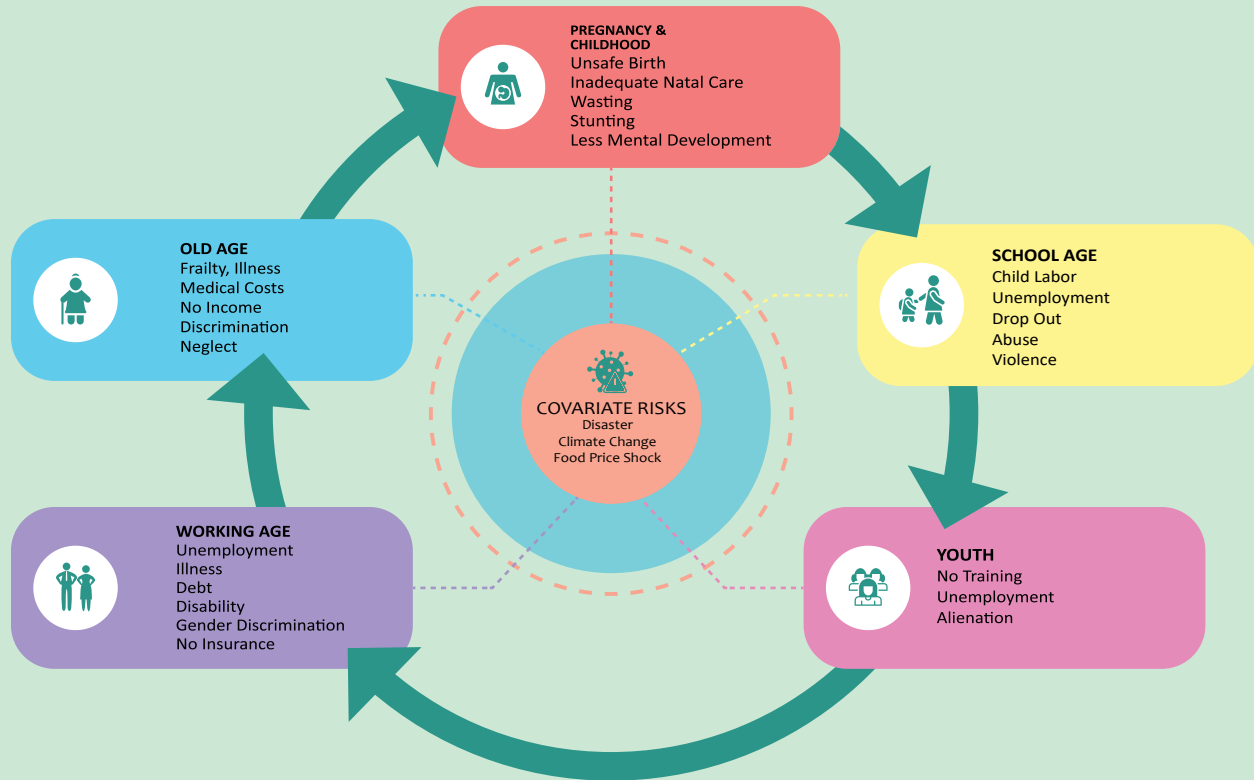


Figure 3: Lifecycle Framework

The NSSS identifies that the existing social safety nets already cover more than three-quarters of the social risks of different age groups. Only a few risks need to be covered with fresh intervention. The most important gaps in lifecycle coverage are for the early childhood and the working-age population. Therefore, the NSSS proposes the introduction of a child benefit scheme and social insurance. These were the most important agenda of the previous action plans, though with little achievement. Therefore, the present action plan prioritizes social insurance and child benefit schemes along with some other programmes.

Development Centric Social Protection

The social protection of Bangladesh, alongside a welfare orientation, is also driven by the need for promoting the country's economic development. The economic development would put the government in a position to take measures for assisting people in attaining their basic needs, ensure employment, social empowerment, and finally social security for the weakest and most vulnerable groups of people. All these initiatives are directly or indirectly parts of social protection that can be furthered by the economic development of the country. The development which has been the topmost priority of the government is consequently strengthening social security interventions.

On the other hand, the vision of the NSSS as is mentioned above stipulates that there will be a comprehensive social security system in the country that would contribute to economic development. Thus, social protection is contingent upon economic progress and in turn, the social protection itself has been a tool

for economic development. The interconnection between social protection and the development of Bangladesh can, therefore, be expressed by the following diagram:

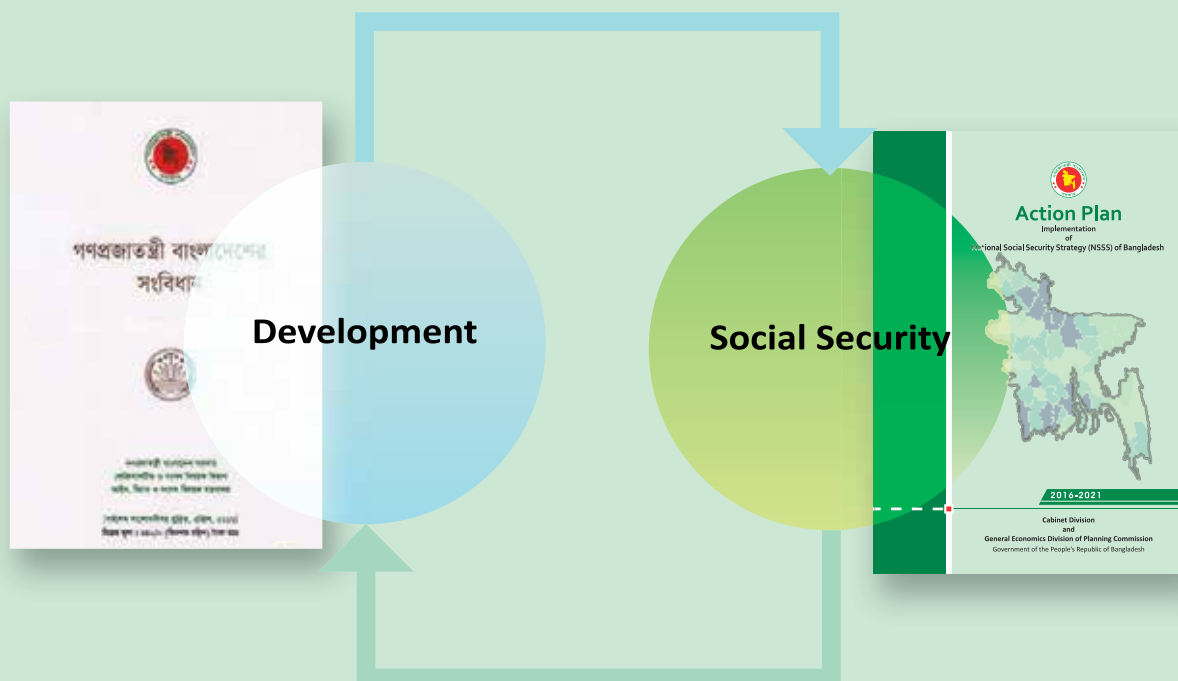


Figure 4: Bangladesh Model of Development Centric Social Security

The above diagram indicates that the constitution urges the government to trigger economic progress through planned economic development. In turn, the NSSS envisages that the social security programmes will foster economic development. In most of the developed countries, social protection is a liability for the economy as their investment in social protection generates lesser outputs than it would have been invested otherwise. However, for low-income countries, social security has been proved to contribute to economic growth and poverty reduction. For middle-income countries, investment in social protection could be counterproductive for the economy if it is inefficiently designed and is susceptible to leakage. Therefore, the NSSS model of social protection emphasizes human capital development like child social protection and primary stipends which increasingly contributes to economic development. Thus, the Bangladesh social protection model is driven by development and focused on boosting development.

Strategic Approach

The social protection system crosscuts across various economic and socio-political sectors, involves multiple agencies, focuses on different global and international policy priorities – not always in full harmony with each other. Usually, most of the factors associated with social protection are associated with mutually contradictory interests, goals, and objectives. The social security programmes can yield the highest outputs only when the diverse factors of it can be directed towards a clearly defined goal like a sailing ship rushing towards its destination by employing the winds even from opposite directions.

When a nation has some ambition and dream of getting a competitive advantage in the world, its sectoral planning must not be in discordance with and isolated from each other. All the sectors must have synergic forces to reach the goal. All the factors and entities should be aligned and synchronized with each other. Therefore, the present action plan resorts to some strategic approach for attaining its targets by carefully utilizing both its favourable and contrasting factors towards its goals. The strategic approach of the NSSS and its Action plans may be exposed by the following diagram:

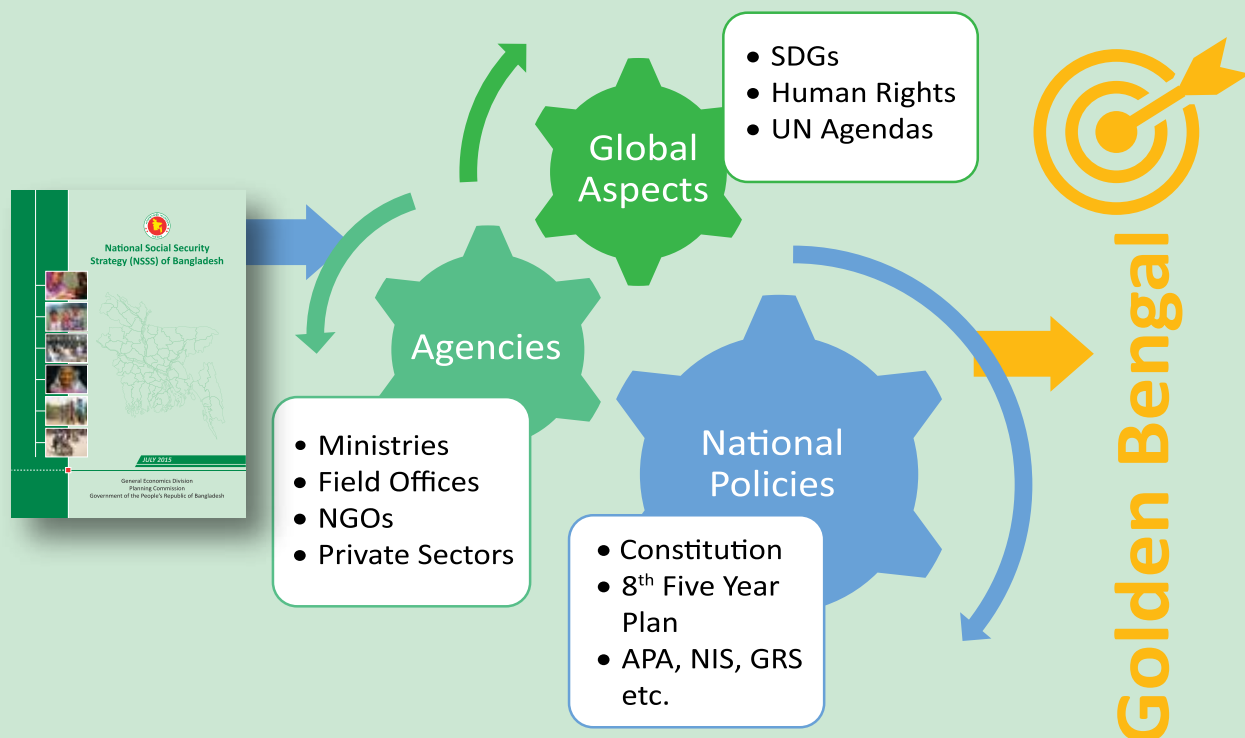


Figure 5: Strategic Approach of NSSS Action Plan

The NSSS strives to significantly contribute to achieving the goal of achieving Golden Bengal of Bangabandhu by formulating and implementing different national policies, anchored in the Constitution, Perspective Plans, and Five-Year Plans. Alongside the government, NGOs, the private sector and the development partners diligently work towards the achievement of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), Human Rights and other UN Agenda. Some of these issues and factors are not naturally favourable for social protection objectives. For example, effective social protection needs to raise huge funds by taxing the private sectors which are inclined to resist. While the APA seeks to maximize the output from any investment by enhancing the performance, whereas investment in social protection may not always exceed the outputs of the best attainable outcome.

Therefore, the NSSS Action Plans have been designed in such a way that they will gain a positive boost even from these components by avoiding opposing influences. The Action Plan utilizes the APA for establishing accountability mechanisms for the implementation of the NSSS Agenda. The private sectors are encouraged and incentivized to participate in social insurance programmes to ease the burden of tax-financed social protection. The NGOs are proposed to be more strongly engaged as collaborative partners of the government for implementing social protection. The strong legal backings of the constitution together with a firm commitment to SDGs are positive influencing factors for strengthening social insurance to cover

the working population. The social protection initiatives of the government, therefore, complement not only the national development agenda but also comply with international practices and modus operandi.

Programmes are proposed to be designed to contribute to the country's socio-economic progress. Therefore, the NSSS Action Plan emphasizes human capital development and social empowerment which will contribute to higher economic growth. The NSSS targets to enhance economic progress by ensuring human development starting from early childhood up to old age. The children will be brought up ensuring their health nutritional requirements turning them into potential assets for the country. They will be healthy, nourished and educated. They will have prominent roles in uplifting Bangladesh as a developed country.

The action plans focus on the improvement of the delivery system and the overall governance of the social security mechanism. Reduction in inclusion and exclusion errors is one of the priorities for making the system more effective and efficient. The tools like GRS, G2P, Single Registry MIS, etc. will significantly eliminate leakages and errors in the system. In the meantime, our socio-economic context has changed with rising economic growth and rapid urbanization. In consistence with that, the development orientation of the NSSS Action Plan would speed up our journey towards the achievement of Golden Bengal in the form of a high-income country by 2041 as set out in the perspective plans.

NSSS Action Plan, Phase - I (2016 up to 2021)

Policy reforms usually involve dealing with many complex and cross-cutting issues, encompassing diverse stakeholders, different organizational setups, various sets of legal frameworks which have implications for attaining required fiscal space. The NSSS itself took more than two years to finalize and get approval. It is also recognized that the policy recommendations progressed slowly because of organizational complexities. Any hasty reform initiative might result in adverse outcomes and instigate conflicts. The NSSS Action Plan formulation was no exception. While preparing specific action plans of the ministries, a lot of complicated administrative and legal issues came up for resolution. However, it could finally be formulated in 2017 and officially launched in 2018.

The objective of the NSSS implementation action plan (2016 up to 2021) was to formulate a detailed inventory of activities to be undertaken by the ministries over the five years. The action plan was built upon the outlines of NSSS expanding and spelling out the time-bound activities of different ministries/divisions and thematic clusters to achieve the mission of the NSSS. The action plan also provides milestones, which were used to track the implementation progress of the plan. An extensive process was followed in the formulation of the action plan (2016 up to 2021). The main inputs were obtained from a series of workshops held at the Cabinet Division. The template was semi-structured, covering the social security situation in Bangladesh to achieve the NSSS provisions.

To speed up action plan finalization, the CMC on Social Security Programmes decided to form a high-level sub-committee chaired by the Secretary, Coordination and Reforms of the Cabinet Division with members of five thematic clusters (Social Allowance, Food Security and Disaster Assistance, Social Insurance, Labour & Livelihood Interventions, and Human Development and Social Empowerment) and cross-cutting ministries/divisions.

The ministries had worked together to produce the NSSS Action Plan (2016-21). The focus of the NSSS was to consolidate social security programmes within a lifecycle framework and improve the overall delivery system. The action plan accumulated a detailed inventory of activities to be carried out by the ministries/divisions during the plan period. The NSSS incorporated a broader outline of main actions to be accomplished by different ministries. Based on those, the time-bound action plans of different ministries/divisions were formulated. The action plan had some measurable indicators that were used to track the implementation progress of the plan. The NSSS Action Plan suggested the introduction of several new programmes in addition to scaling up some existing ones while singling out some other programmes for continuation as usual. In addition, there were some smaller programmes with little significance in terms of lifecycle framework. The Action Plan for governance reforms incorporates agenda for strengthening targeting systems based on poverty scores, formulation of a single registry integrated MIS, digital payment in the form of G2P and results-based M&E.

Implementation Progress of Action Plan, Phase-I

It is over five years since the NSSS was formulated and the implementation progress of specific actions was reviewed by the CMC. An evaluation of the progress of the five-year action plan was conducted by the Cabinet Division supported by the SSPS Programme. The report was reviewed in a social security focal point coordination meeting on 20 September 2020, chaired by the Secretary, Coordination and Reforms of the Cabinet Division. As per the decision of the meeting, the draft report was shared with the line ministries for their inputs. The feedback and inputs from several ministries/divisions were reflected in the progress report after verification. The progress report was submitted before the CMC for review and approval.

A glimpse of the progress report suggests that most of the reform agenda have been achieved by the ministries, though slightly missing the timeframe. Some programmes achieved even more than the stipulated targets, such as primary stipend, disability benefits, etc. However, some of the activities showed very slow progress requiring extra efforts, such as National Social Insurance Scheme (NSIS), Child Benefit Scheme (CBS), etc. The institutional reforms progressed well, though the full target is yet to be achieved. Consolidation of smaller programmes remained a challenge. The overall progress of the NSSS Action Plan was moderately satisfactory in the context of the delayed start of implementation and the fallout of the Covid-19 pandemic.

However, the implementing ministries were not complacent with whatever progress they had achieved. The need to introduce NSIS has been prominently felt during the sudden economic shock created by the Covid-19 Pandemic. The need for a single registry MIS and widening the G2P payment modality was further felt when a lot of social benefits had to be disbursed quickly by maintaining social distance. Despite having great achievements in the implementation of most of the NSSS Action Plan, a few crucial ones are still left half done which would entail persistent and coordinated attention and efforts from relevant ministries. Given that, the present NSSS Action Plan - Phase-2 reintroduced all the incomplete or partially finished actions of the first action plan.

NSSS Action Plan, Phase - 2 (2021 up to 2026)

The NSSS Action Plan of the first phase was formulated by the Cabinet Division through a sub-committee of CMC. The term of this Action Plan ends in June 2021, when a new Action Plan for the next five years will have to be prepared for achieving the overall NSSS vision. Therefore, the CMC assigned upon the Action Plan Sub-Committee to finalize the formulation of the Action Plan within May 2021. In the meantime, the relevant branch of the Cabinet Division had already built the capacity of the relevant officials of the line ministries in December 2020.

The sub-committee convened a meeting on the formulation of the Action Plan. Later, a series of daylong workshops were held with the line ministry/division officials. The resource persons from the Cabinet Division conducted hands-on training on preparing the action plans. The team of each ministry was headed by the social security focal point of the rank of a Joint Secretary of the government or above. The teams included 4- 8 officials from the respective ministries and the subordinate departments. During the workshops, the drafts of the action plans of each of the participating ministries were prepared. The representatives of the ministries brought back the draft action plans and shared them with their stakeholders and made necessary changes. Then, the ministries sent their finalized action plans, after approval of their relevant authorities, to the Cabinet Division.

Cabinet Division compiled the action plans of all the ministries and reviewed them in the meetings of the Action Plan Sub-committee and the Social Protection Focal Points. After revising the compiled action plans as per recommendations of those meetings, the draft action plan was finalized for submission to CMC for its approval. The action plans were also reviewed in the meetings of the thematic clusters.

Programme Reforms

The action plan, as before, provides actions for programme reforms in terms of expansion of coverage and introduction of new schemes, or discontinuation of programmes where appropriate. Another important aspect of the programme reform is the consolidation of programmes in terms of merging thematically similar programmes or phasing out some programmes which are inconsistent with the lifecycle framework or other provisions of the NSSS. However, the consolidation plans are not directly mentioned in the plan. Rather, the ministries have been given some time to review the possibility of their programme consolidation and send separate proposals to the Cabinet Division.

Institutional Reforms

Governance reforms (or institutional reforms) in the implementation and delivery of social protection programmes have also been incorporated like the first phase action plan, though the targets are significantly different than before. Such organizational reforms include a) accelerating the initiative for establishing a single registry-based Management Information System (MIS), b) utilization of the Grievance Redress System for better governance of social protection, c) further expansion of the government to person (G2P) modality of online-based cash transfer, and d) results-based Monitoring and Evaluation Framework (M&E).

Inputs for the Action Plan

The Action Plan of the second phase was predominantly based upon the lessons learned from the experience of the first phase action plan. It was informed by several pieces of research conducted by the SSPS Programme. The outcome of the National Social Security Conference and Fair, held at the end of 2019 also provided a lot of information for the action plan. However, the largest volume of information and data came from the line ministries.

Apart from the inputs from respective ministries/divisions, some relevant documents of these ministries/divisions, such as allocation of business, Annual Performance Agreement (APA), budget framework papers, etc. were consulted. While checking responsibilities in the service delivery system and per person benefit, the broader outline of the action plan, as set out in the NSSS, was given preference.

Structure of the Action Plan

The action plan follows the overall structure of the first phase action plan distributing the contents of the plan in three parts, the first part being the national plan, mainly drawn from reviewing the NSSS itself. It then provides the Action Plans of 39 ministries/divisions formulated as an outcome of the workshops participated by the focal points and relevant officials of the ministries and departments. The ministries shared and reviewed their respective draft action plans with their stakeholders and sent an updated version of the plan to the Cabinet Division. The thematic cluster action plans include a detailed justification of the basis of the classification of the programmes, situation analysis and the relevant action plans. Five separate workshops were organized by the chair of the action Plan Sub-committee with the participation of the members of the thematic clusters. Though the present action plan follows the structure of the previous one, it has some changes as follows:

Programme Description

Unlike the first action plan, the next action plan incorporates a short description of the social protection programmes, projects and other interventions. After elaborate discussion with the focal points of each ministry, a programme description has been incorporated in the plan so that the readers can relate the planned actions with the ongoing programmes. This will also provide a complete picture of the social protection portfolio of the country facilitating a more informed process for action plan preparation.

Legal Framework

Though the constitution provides the legal underpinning of the country's social protection intervention, yet there are other separate laws and rules for different ministries mandating as well as guiding their activities. However, in the previous action plan, there was no list of such legal instruments of the ministries, leaving the readers in the dark about the actual legal provisions. Therefore, the present action plan provides lists of legal documents, such as the Parliamentary Acts, Rules, Regulations, and even official circulars and manuals. From this list, one can figure out the shortcomings of some documents which will need revisions.

Organizational Structure

Unlike the previous action plan, the new action plan provides a short description of the ministries and their subordinate organizations. People can now understand the human resource perspectives of each ministry and their assigned responsibilities. Such information would provide important clues about the probable restructuring of any organization for the implementation of the Government's social protection agenda.

National Action Plan for NSSS Implementation

The NSSS provides a brief structure of the action plan at the national level for Bangladesh. It mentions plans for programme consolidation and other governance reforms. The main challenges that will need to be addressed during the plan period are as follows:

- A shift from current discretionary to a targeted universal approach to avoid leakages and under-coverage.
- Expanding coverage of core schemes for the extreme/hard-core poor and most vulnerable

people of the society, focusing on mother and child, adolescent, youth, working-age, the elderly, and people with disabilities. A basic objective for the next five years would be to support the elimination of hard-core/extreme poverty as much as possible.

- For this purpose, given the dire circumstances of the extreme poor, consideration will be given to progressive but substantive scaling up of the 'graduation' programmes that offer real and direct income-earning opportunities and formal and informal work to the poorest. Simultaneously, complementary activities that provide poor people with a means to lift themselves out of extreme poverty will be a priority.
- Ensuring that the most vulnerable women are provided with income security and greater opportunities to engage in the labour market.
- Initiating a social insurance system that enables people to invest in their social security, protecting against the risks of old age, disability, unemployment and maternity.
- Expanding coverage to the residents in urban areas and the socially excluded people.
- Ensuring that the social security system supports an effective disaster response mechanism.
- Strengthening the delivery systems for priority transfers by establishing advanced Management Information Systems (MIS) and developing the capacity of professional staff; and
- Expanding awareness of the social security programmes for the beneficiaries and motivating potential contributors.

Social Security Spending

The number of social security programmes in Bangladesh has continued to increase over the last decades. Lately, with the spirit of programme consolidation as suggested in the NSSS, the number of social security programmes has been reduced. At the beginning of the NSSS-reform, the total number of social security programmes was 145 in 2015, which came down to 142 in 2015-16, and further reduced to 136 in 2016-17 and 119 in the fiscal year 2020-21. Even though the number of social security programmes has been falling lately, the budget allocation for social security has shown a higher trend during this period. The allocation has been around 2.4 per cent of GDP and around 14 per cent of the national budget on average in the past ten years. In the current fiscal year, it is 3.01 per cent of GDP which is 16.83 per cent of the budget.

The yearly social security allocation from 2008-09 to 2020-21 fiscal years is shown in the following table and graphs:

Table 2: Social Security Budget as Percentage of National Budget and GDP

Fiscal Year	Total (Crore Taka)	Per cent of Budget	Per cent of GDP
2008-09	13,845.27	14.71	2.25
2009-10	16,705.81	15.12	2.42
2010-11	20,893.52	16.07	2.64
2011-12	21,975.23	13.63	2.40
2012-13	23,751.54	12.55	2.29
2013-14	26,654.01	12.33	2.26
2014-15	30,630.52	12.78	2.02
2015-16	35,975.05	13.60	2.08
2016-17	40,856.38	12.88	2.09
2017-18	48,527.83	13.06	2.17
2018-19	64,403.83	14.55	2.54

Fiscal Year	Total (Crore Taka)	Per cent of Budget	Per cent of GDP
2019-20	81,864.66	16.32	2.92
2020-21	95,574.00	16.83	3.01

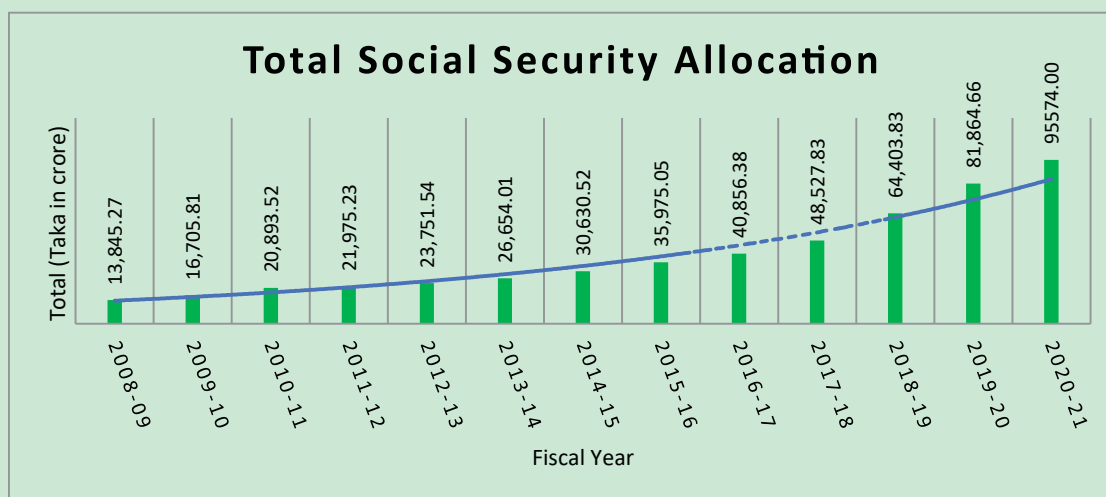


Figure 6: Total Social Security Allocation (FY 2008-09 up to 2020-21)

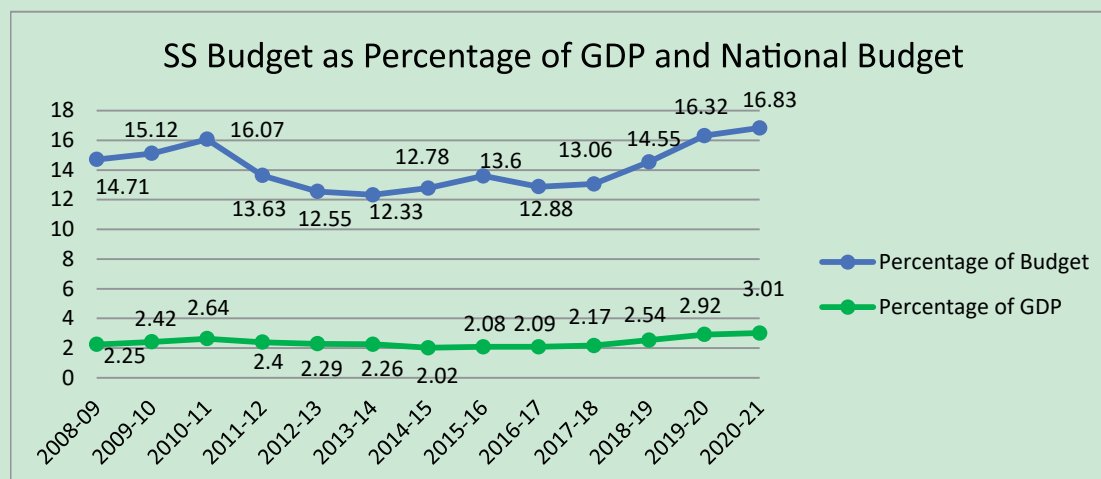


Figure 7: Social Security Budget as Percentage of GDP and National Budget (FY 2008-09 up to 2020-21)

Ministry-wise Allocation

As shown in the following table, the highest share of social security allocation goes to the Finance Division, followed by the Ministry of Disaster Management and Relief. In 2020-21, the allocation for Finance Division is Tk. 41,098 Crore. The allocation for the Ministry of Disaster Management and Relief is Tk. 13,152 Crore. The Ministry of Social Welfare is given the third-highest share, amounting to Tk. 6,979 Crore which has been raised around four times since the fiscal year 2008-09, contrasting with an increase of only 77 per cent for Ministry of Disaster Management and Relief over the same period. It is notable that in 2017-18, the top five ministries spend more than 75 per cent of the total allocation, while the top 10 ministries spend more than 94 per cent of the budget. The spending of the other 14 ministries remains well below 6 per cent.

Table 3: Ministry-wise Budget Allocation on Social Security Programmes (FY 2020-21)

Ministry / Division	Budget (Crore Taka)
Finance Division	41,098.19
Ministry of Disaster Management and Relief	13,151.71
Ministry of Social Welfare	6,979.34
Ministry of Food	6,176.12
Ministry of Agriculture	4,400.00
Secondary and Higher Education Division	3,982.76
Ministry of Liberation War Affairs	3,980.45
Ministry of Women and Children Affairs	3,694.26
Prime Minister's Office	2,879.74
Health Services Division	2,789.23
Local Government Division	2,295.42
Ministry of Primary and Mass Education	1,305.88
Rural Development Cooperatives Division	1,149.24
Medical Education and Family Welfare Division	1,043.00
Planning Division	1,273.37
Financial Institutions Division	649.17
Ministry of Youth and Sports	576.85
Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change	424.13
Ministry of Chittagong Hill Tracts Affairs	322.49
Ministry of Public Administration	322.44
Ministry of Fisheries and Livestock	235.51
Ministry of Water Resources	39.93
Technical and Madrasha Education Division	80.00
Ministry of Textiles and Jute	25.00
Ministry of Housing and Public Works	19.05
Cabinet Division	1.36

Life Cycle Based Allocation

The total allocation for social security has been disaggregated in terms of life cycle stages. It is found that the highest share is allocated for old age people, amounting to 29.87 thousand crores which is equivalent to 31 per cent of the total allocation. In contrast, the lowest allocation amounting to pregnancy and childhood stages constituting 4 per cent in FY 2020-21. Until the present year, the allocation for pregnancy and early childhood is very low, though the NSSS suggests that the allocation for early childhood should be raised considerably. The child benefit scheme as proposed in NSSS will significantly increase the spending on early childhood.

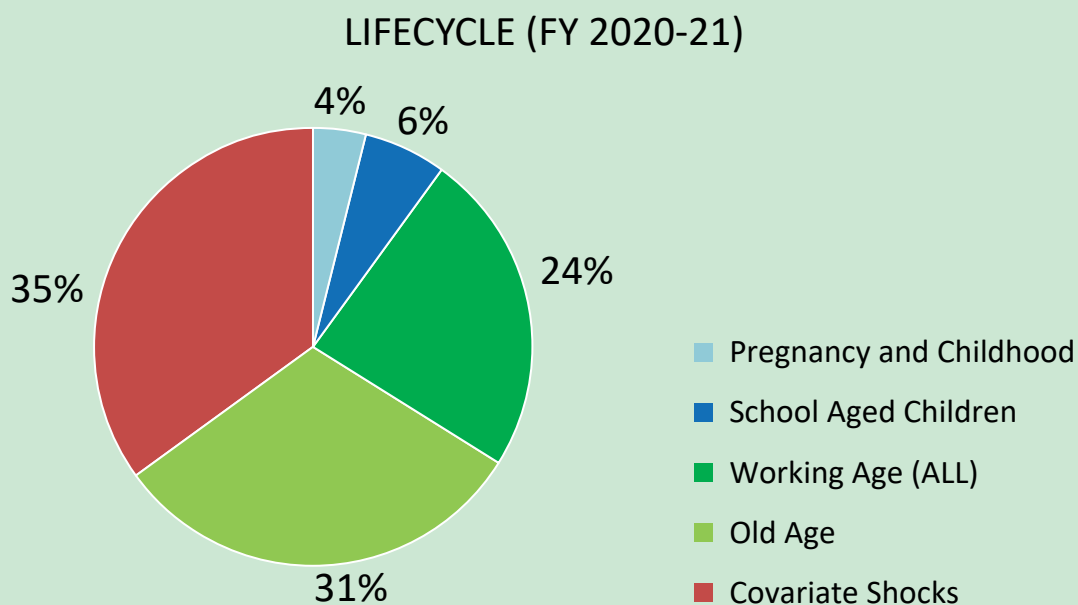


Figure 8: Lifecycle based Social Security Allocation (FY 2020-21)

Thematic Cluster-Based Allocation

Total social security spending disaggregated in terms of thematic clusters is shown in the graph below. The highest allocation goes to the social insurance cluster, amounting to Tk. 29,625 crore which is 31 per cent of the total allocation FY 2019-20. The NSSS suggests contributory social insurance, which will reduce the proportion of spending for this cluster. The savings from introducing social insurance can be allocated to the other thematic clusters.

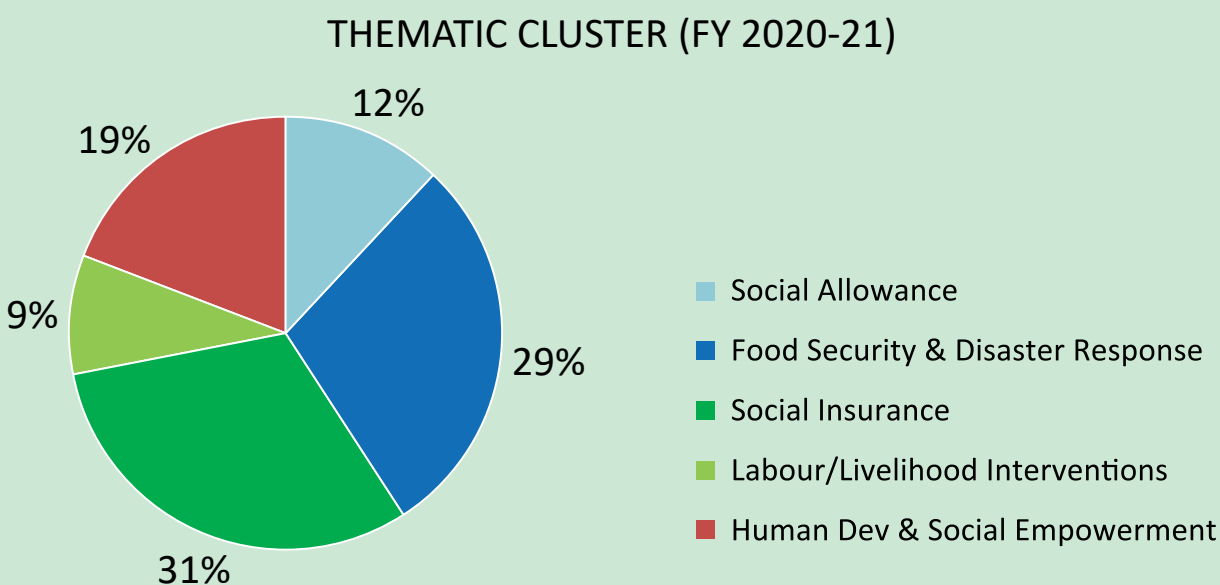


Figure 9: Thematic Cluster-wise Distribution of Allocation (FY 2020-21)

The distribution of social security allocations over the lifecycle stages, as well as the thematic clusters, suggests that they should be adjusted to make them consistent with the spirit of the NSSS. Therefore, one of the main objectives of the NSSS Action Plan is to rationalize the distribution of the allocation to all the lifecycle stages, as well as the thematic clusters.

Number of Social Protection Beneficiaries

The portfolio of social protection in Bangladesh is so diverse in function, purpose, modality of transfer and conditionality that it is very difficult to calculate the accurate number of beneficiaries. The permissible duplication of benefits also makes the issue more complex. For example, a man is entitled to get an old age allowance due to passing the age threshold. He is also entitled to have free health services in community clinics or leprosy treatment centres. If a man receives social protection allowances/services from more than one programme, he will be counted twice or more, though he is practically one person. In some services, beneficiaries are counted in terms of man/months or man-days. For example, a man buying OMS commodities is counted as many times as he receives the commodities (rice) from this service. The number of reported beneficiaries far exceeds the actual number of beneficiaries as a person is counted multiple times. Therefore, the counting system needs to be classified to get reliable figures of beneficiaries.

One way of classifying the beneficiaries is to classify them into three categories –

- A. Regular social protection (old age allowance, widow allowance, stipend, etc.)
- B. Food security (workfare programmes, OMS, etc.)
- C. Social security services (community clinics, leprosy/tuberculosis, immunization, etc.).

According to this classification, the number of social protection beneficiaries and budget from the fiscal year 2008-09 to 2020-21 is given in the following table:

Table 4: Social Security Beneficiaries and Budget from FY 2008-09 to 2020-21

Fiscal Year	Number of Beneficiaries in Crore			Budget Allocation in Crore Taka			Total Budget (Tk in Crore)
	Regular Social Protection	Food Security	Social Security Services	Regular Social Protection	Food Security	Social Security Services	
2008-09	1.496	6.958	1.123	6,650.34	5,282.31	1,912.62	13,845.27
2009-10	1.890	5.227	1.410	8,115.51	6,008.59	2,581.71	16,705.81
2010-11	1.984	6.928	1.890	9,055.22	8,232.12	3,606.18	20,893.52
2011-12	1.910	5.635	2.255	10,009.84	7,758.09	4,207.30	21,975.23
2012-13	1.120	5.725	2.234	9,698.10	8,272.55	5,780.89	23,751.54
2013-14	1.183	4.387	61.804	11,525.30	8,049.55	7,079.16	26,654.01
2014-15	1.368	4.189	68.797	14,598.58	7,510.89	8,521.05	30,630.52
2015-16	1.170	4.141	59.706	17,754.71	8,034.87	10,185.47	35,975.05
2016-17	1.326	3.897	48.661	21,065.12	10,299.89	9,491.37	40,856.38
2017-18	1.306	4.112	69.719	20,752.50	9,470.10	18,305.23	48,527.83
2018-19	1.957	3.996	53.365	35,020.56	11,754.11	17,629.16	64,403.83
2019-20	3.953	8.530	44.068	38,379.19	15,769.11	27,716.36	81,864.66
2020-21	5.848	8.851	51.407	46,599.29	18,186.26	30,787.53	95,574.00
Total	26.511	72.577	466.439	249,224.3	124,628.4	147,804	521,656.7

The number of beneficiaries in the regular social security programme is 5.84 crore in the 2020-21 fiscal year, while the beneficiaries of food security were 8.85 crores in the same year. The cumulative of social protection beneficiaries during this period was 26.51 crore in regular social protection and 72.57 crores. The number of beneficiaries has seen a considerable increase over the last 13 years as is shown in the following chart:

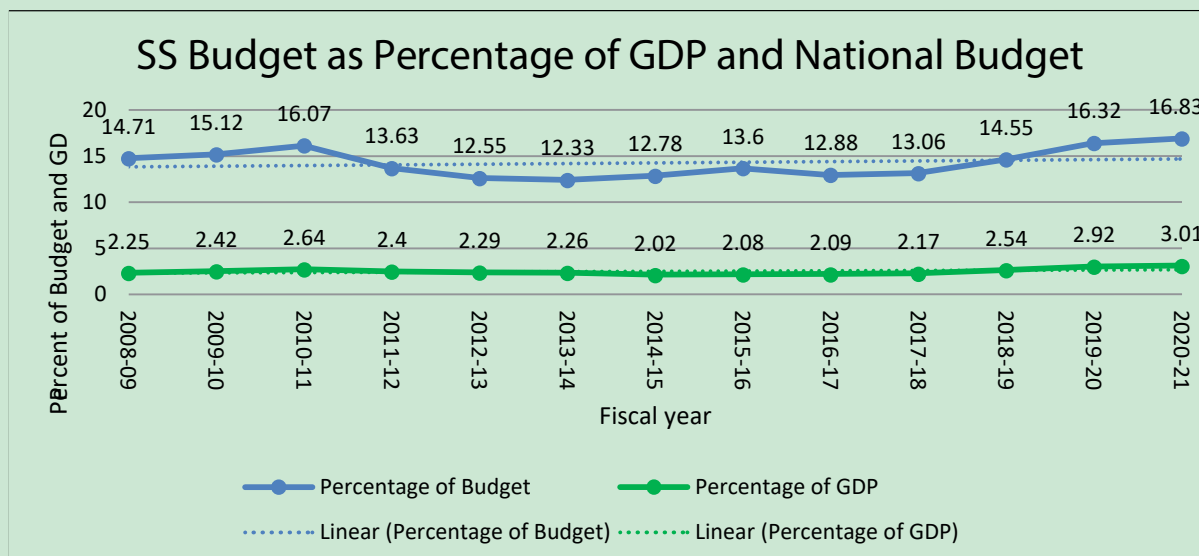


Figure 10: Trendline of Number of Beneficiaries

The line chart above shows the trends in the number of beneficiaries of both regular social security (SS) and food security categories over the last 13 years. The number of regular SS beneficiaries rose steadily soaring high since FY 2018-19. On the other hand, the number of beneficiaries in food security categories maintained an almost flat line till FY 2019-20 when it suddenly spiked to 8.83 crores. The sudden rise in the number of beneficiaries in both categories – far above the linear trendline – is obviously linked with the ongoing Covid-19 fallout. The increase in food security programmes is comparatively higher than regular SS. It is to be noted that the third category of social security beneficiaries does not represent any actual number of persons; it only indicates how many times services are provided. Therefore, the trend line of this category is not statistically significant and has not been compared with the other two categories. The Covid – 19 related lockdowns and associated slower economic growth may not allow the government to reduce the number of beneficiaries.

There is another method of ascertaining the number of SS beneficiaries employing a survey of the household. According to the statistical report, the number of houses receiving at least one SS benefit was a little above 30 per cent, though the ratio was found to be around 53 per cent in a recent survey by BBS. The universalization of the primary school stipend and increase in some other social protection interventions might have contributed to an increase in the number of beneficiaries. However, whatever may be the method of counting beneficiaries, it will be around half of the population planned in the NSSS. Even if the most conservative calculation is done based on only the regular SS, the number of beneficiaries will exceed 36 per cent of the population.

Projected Costing of NSSS Action Plan (2021-26)

The cost estimation of the NSSS Action Plan involves multiple factors including the socio-economic situations of the country, fiscal and monetary policy of the government, and regional as well as global changing scenarios. Some unforeseen situations like disaster, pandemic or unexpected military conflicts

may force readjustment of the spending in social protection. Above all, the fiscal space of the country would ultimately determine the volume of investment in social protection.

However, the present phase of the NSSS Action Plan strives to provide an estimated costing of the reformed programmes as it did in the previous phase. The NSSS itself provides some indicative costing of implementing reformed social security programmes. It is assumed that the detailed and more specific costing of different programmes will be worked out during the formulation of specific social security interventions in consultation with the concerned ministries/divisions. In the presence of relevant ministries/divisions, the action plan preparation sub-committee has carried out costing exercises drawing upon the experiences of the first phase action plan formulation process.

As before, the sub-committee recognizes that this costing is indicative in the sense that constraints and priorities of the budgetary process would dictate the exact amount of allocation for social security programmes. Therefore, the action plan for 2021-26 has incorporated the costing of the different reform activities in the action plan of different ministries.

Bangladesh has taken social security as one of the most prioritized agendas and this is manifested in a rising share of social security spending both as a share of GDP and as a share of the total budget. The allocation for social security programmes increased from 1.3 per cent of GDP in 1998 to 2.02 in FY 2014-15, which stood at around Tk. 30 thousand crore equivalent to around USD 4 billion. The NSSS had estimated that the social protection sector should have an allocation of at least 2.3 per cent of its GDP each year for effective implementation of the strategy. The government maintained the allocation according to the estimation only to be forced to raise the allocation above 3.01 per cent last year. The allocation is proposed to be still higher than 3.11 per cent the next fiscal year.

Table 5: Actual and Projected Cost of Social Security over Next Five Years

Fiscal Year	Total (Crore Taka)	Per cent of Budget	Per cent of GDP
2008-09	13,845.27	14.71	2.25
2009-10	16,705.81	15.12	2.42
2010-11	20,893.52	16.07	2.64
2011-12	21,975.23	13.63	2.40
2012-13	23,751.54	12.55	2.29
2013-14	26,654.01	12.33	2.26
2014-15	30,630.52	12.78	2.02
2015-16	35,975.05	13.60	2.08
2016-17	40,856.38	12.88	2.09
2017-18	48,527.83	13.06	2.17
2018-19	64,403.83	14.55	2.54
2019-20	81,864.66	16.32	2.92
2020-21	95,574.00	16.83	3.01
2021-22	107,614.00	17.83	3.11
2022-23	117,511.95	15.70	2.76
2023-24	137,254.93	15.88	2.81
2024-25	160,314.90	16.06	2.85
2025-26	187,249.14	16.25	2.90

The NSSS Action Plan estimates the cost of the social protection programmes over the next five years from FY 2021 to 2025-26 as above by using exponential regression modelling. The estimate for 2021-22 is already proposed in the national budget for that year.

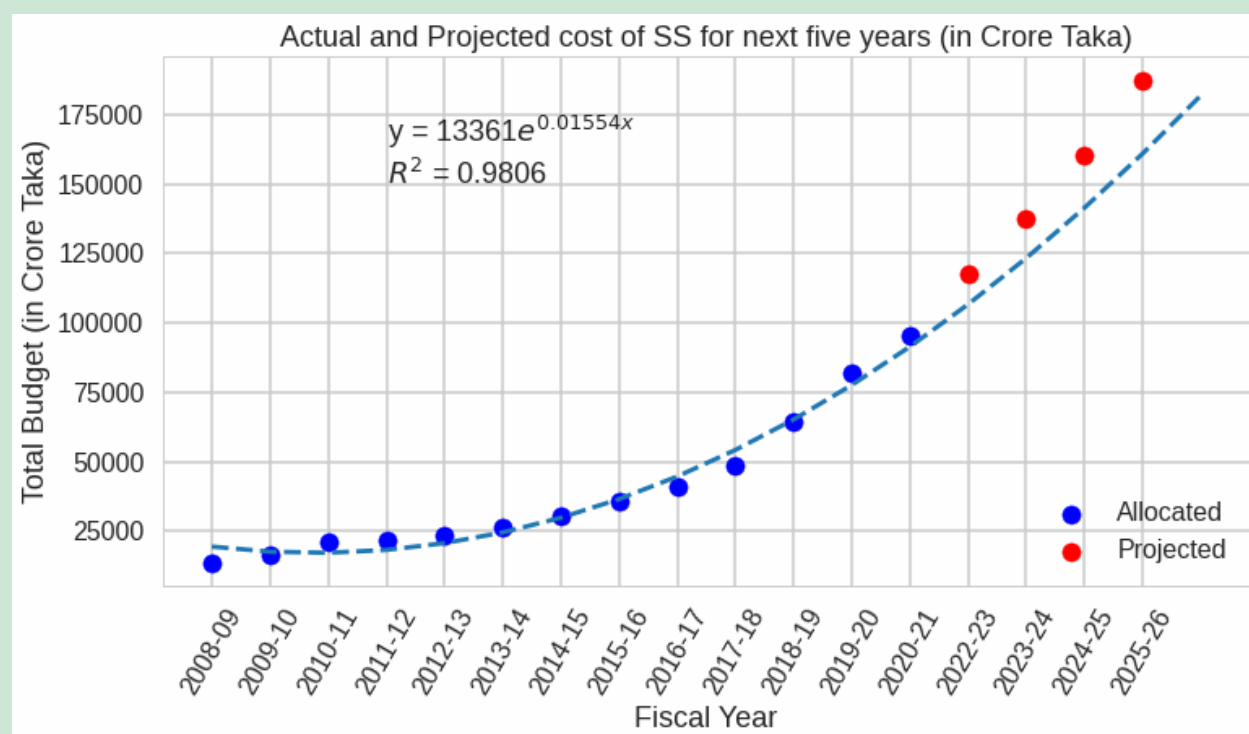


Figure 11: Trendline of Cost of Social Security for Next Five Years

The regression model for projecting expenditure in social protection is shown in the following. The value of R2 is 98 per cent, which makes the projection reliable.

The model also provides data projection of social protection in terms of national budget and GDP which is shown in the following charts. The allocation is projected to be around 16 per cent of the national budget and 2.8 per cent of GDP.

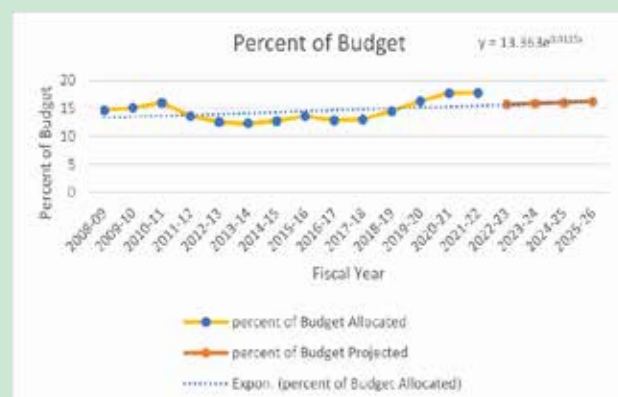


Figure 12: SS Allocation and Next 5 Year's Projection as Percentage of Budget

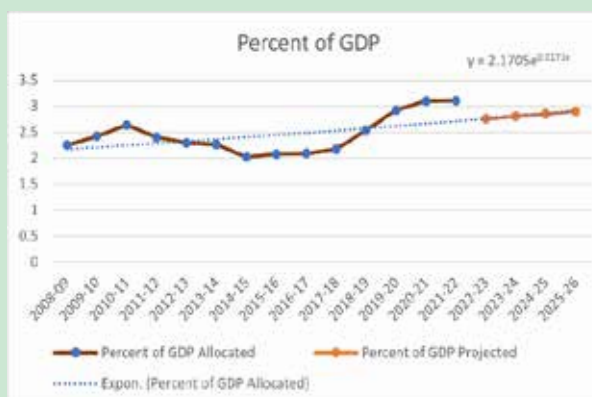


Figure 13: SS Allocation and Next 5 Year's Projection as Percentage of GDP

This higher level of spending target may be regarded as a reflection of the Government's commitment to social security. Although this level of funding is modest by international standards, when measured against the government's tight budget situation, this represents a substantial commitment, accounting for 16.83 per cent of total government spending in FY 2020-21. The present social security budgetary position provides a very comfortable space for the implementing ministries as the allocation of funds is already above the estimated range in terms of GDP.

However, the forecast by use of exponential smoothing appears to be more realistic. According to this method of forecasting by setting for seasonality of data the forecasted total budget for the next five years will be Taka 616,469 Crore, equivalent to USD 72.52 billion.

Table 6: Allocation and Next 5 Year's Projection of Social Security Budget

Fiscal Year	SS Budget	SS Budget Forecast
2008-09	13,845.27	
2009-10	16,705.81	
2010-11	20,893.52	
2011-12	21,975.23	
2012-13	23,751.54	
2013-14	26,654.01	
2014-15	30,630.52	
2015-16	35,975.05	
2016-17	40,856.38	
2017-18	48,527.83	
2018-19	64,403.83	
2019-20	81,864.66	
2020-21	95,683.00	
2021-22	107,614.00	
2022-23		116,782.18
2023-24		120,661.37
2024-25		132,317.98
2025-26		139,093.53

The forecast is shown in the following column chart:

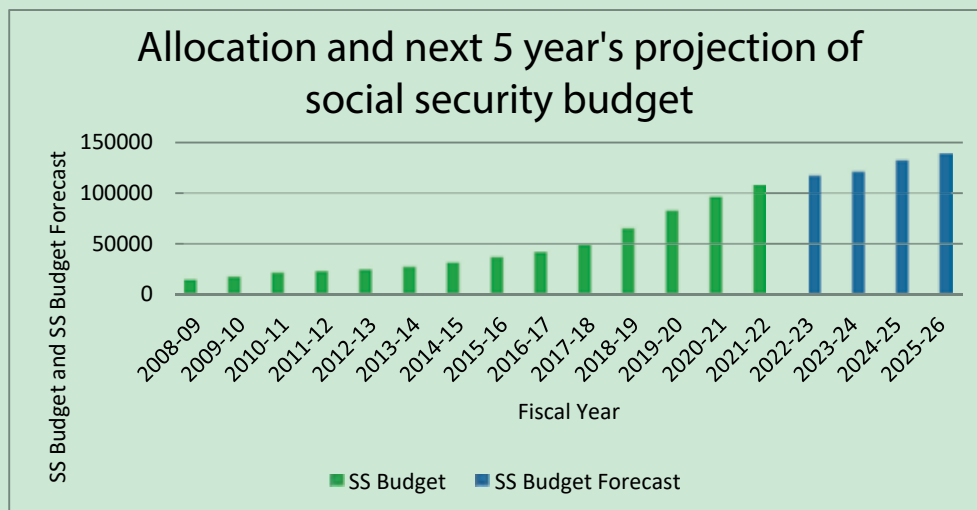


Figure 14: SS Allocation and Next 5 Year's Projection of Social Security Budget

Whatever may be the forecasting method, Bangladesh will need around USD 70 to 85 billion depending on the pandemic and the overall economic conditions.

Funding Arrangement

The full financing of the NSSS is based on cost-sharing arrangements between the government and the private sectors. The public expenditure-financed component is only one part of the NSSS financing; the other part is the private sector based on social insurance and employment-based regulations. This important point is illustrated in the following graph:

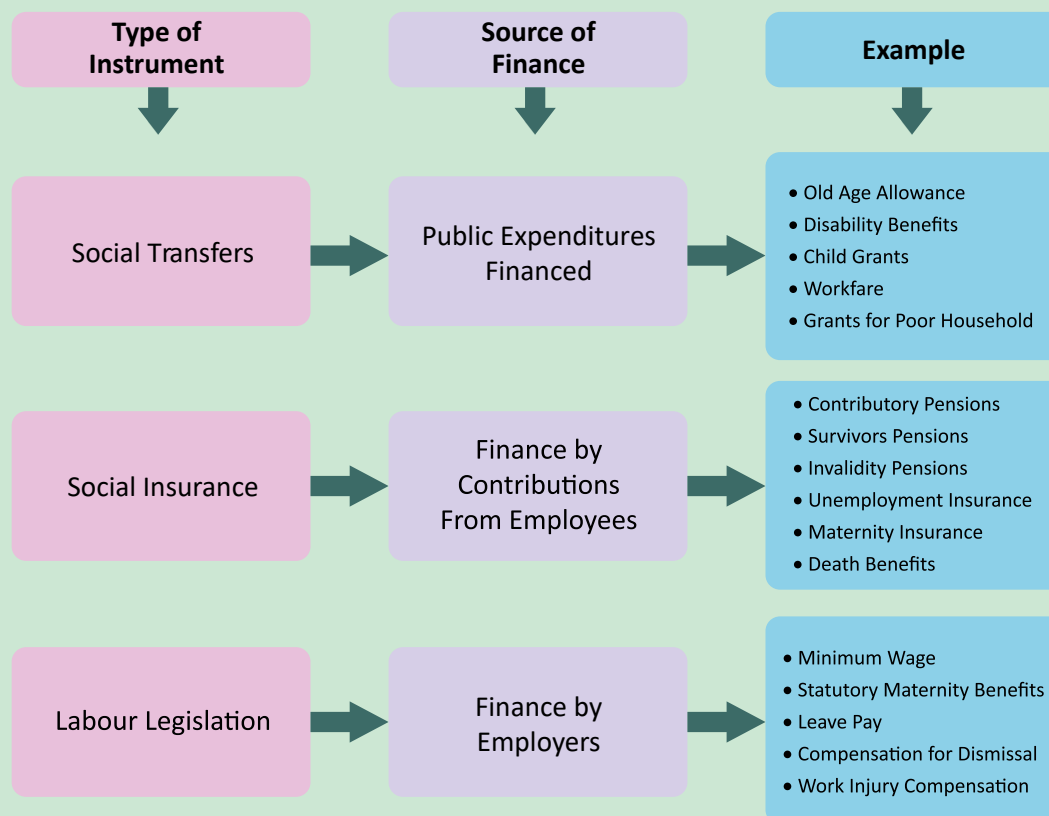


Figure 15: Source of Social Security Financing, NSSS, 2015

The present action plan considers only the public expenditure finance programmes. The social insurance and labour legislation etc. will be financed by the contributions of beneficiaries and the relevant policies will be formulated later in consultation with stakeholders. To implement full-fledged lifecycle-based social security, some new programmes need to be introduced while some existing programmes will need to be scaled up. Some programmes will be continued as before as these are already compatible with the lifecycle social security system.

Covid-19 Interventions and Vaccination

Even though Bangladesh could somehow maintain its positive economic growth, there was a certain degree of a setback in terms of social protection due to lockdown causing acute poverty. The different spells of lockdown imposed by the government to prevent the spread of Covid-19, inflicted great suffering for these people. It was the poor and near-poor who bore the heaviest toll. Many of them lost their livelihoods while their families became displaced. However, the timely and comprehensive approach of the government, as kindly directed by the Honourable Prime Minister, in tackling the Covid-19 proved very effective and achieved appreciation worldwide. The comprehensive model may be described in the following diagram:

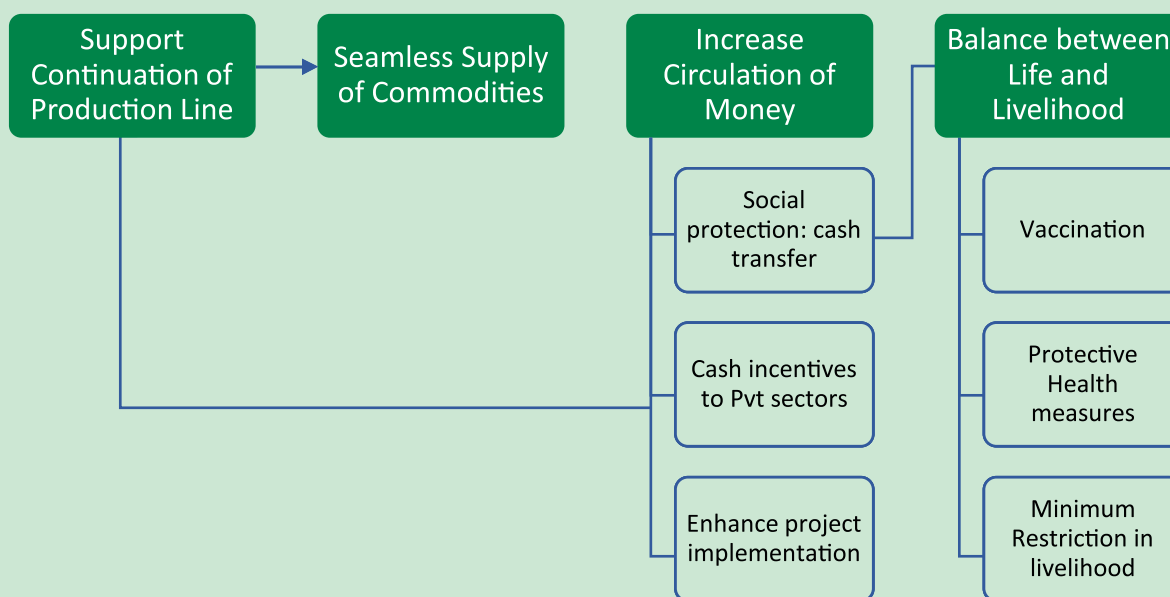


Figure 16: Comprehensive Approach of the Government in Tackling the Covid-19

Taking into cognizance all the probable impacts of Covid-19 on the economic situation of people, the government increased social protection spending to more than 3 per cent of GDP, which is far above the NSSS stipulated 2.3 per cent threshold. For continuing production in different sectors, the government provided cash incentives. The vaccination programme was very efficient and inclusive. The lifecycle model of NSSS accommodates provision for tackling covariate shocks like disasters and pandemics. Therefore, the NSSS and its action plan appear to be compatible with the Covid-19 situation.

The Planning Commission estimated that Bangladesh's poverty rate rose to near 30 per cent amidst the pandemic compared to the pre-pandemic headcount ratio of 18.8 per cent. The urban poor has been most severely affected with the poverty level rising to 34.8 per cent as of June 2020 against 15.9 per cent in the previous fiscal year. According to estimations by different research organizations, poverty rose to more than the government assessment. Whatever may be the true poverty line, there should be no denying the fact that the poverty rate has suddenly spiked raising the number of poor people. This has been evidenced by the emergency allocation of funds for different social security programmes by the government.

The most widely discussed issue is linked to the poverty impact of the Covid 19 pandemic. However, the depth of poverty or poverty gap must also be calculated. Many poor people have become poorer, especially, the ultra-poor who are supposed to have been struggling for daily subsistence meals. The multi-dimensional poverty scenario shows a more realistic and possibly, gloomier picture.

Taking into cognizance all the probable impacts of Covid-19 on the economic situation of people, the government increased social protection spending to more than 3 per cent of GDP, which is far above the NSSS stipulated 2.3 per cent threshold. Although the people's strong resilience will pull up above the poverty line gradually, this may take several years for attaining a pre-Covid-19 normal situation. Therefore, the NSSS Action Plan does not predict the quick reduction in SS budget allocation which was increased due to Covid-19.

One of the most significant features of the NSSS is that it accommodates measures for tackling vulnerability relating to covariate shocks like disasters, pandemics and other socio-economic issues encompassing the

population of all age groups. Therefore, the lifecycle framework of NSSS remains an effective and efficient tool of the government for tackling poverty and other socio-economic shocks caused by the Covid-19 pandemic. The most notable interventions of the government for easing out constraints of different segments of people include the following:

- To encourage the banks to extend loans to Cottage, Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (CMSME), a credit guarantee scheme of Tk. 2,000 crore was introduced.
- Introduced a new and permanent social protection scheme worth Tk. 1,500 crore for the destitute workers of the export-oriented readymade garment, leather and footwear industries with financial assistance from the European Union.
- A new package of Tk. 1,500 crore has been launched to revitalize the rural economy and job creation which will be implemented by eight publicly owned specialized organizations. A decision has been taken to widen the coverage of the Old Age Allowances and the Allowances for Destitute Women by including all eligible persons in another 150 Upazilas which will be implemented in FY 2021-2022.
- To protect the livelihood of the poor during the second wave of the virus surge, the government has provided Tk. 2,500 to each family who was previously identified during the first wave. Similarly, the government has provided Tk. 2,500 each to 97,500 farmers of 6 districts that are worst affected by the recent storm, heat wave, and hailstorm. Besides, we have 25 provided financial assistance of Tk. 568 crore to the 4,07,402 dairy and poultry owners and 78,074 fishermen.

Additionally, cash assistance of Tk. 75 crore to 1,00,600 teachers and employees of non-MPO general schools and 61,000 teachers and employees of independent Ebtedai madrasas are being provided.

Covid-19 Vaccination

Bangladesh began the administration of COVID-19 vaccines on 27 January 2021, inaugurated by Hon'ble Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina at Kurmitola General Hospital, focusing initially on a pilot programme for frontline workers, while mass vaccination started on 7 February 2021, the number of vaccination doses administered is updated on a daily basis on the COVID-19 dashboard. It was planned that 6 million doses would be administered in the first month, and a further 5 million the following month. An online registration portal was launched where citizens registered using their NID number. The registration age would be lowered to 35 years and then 30 years on 19 July 2021.

University vaccination or Univac was launched to vaccinate university students. Since the vaccination minimum age was reduced to 18, but many did not have NID to register at the main government vaccine website (www.surokkha.gov.bd) another website (www.univac.ugc.gov.bd) was launched to allow university students with birth certificates to register for the vaccine. On November 2nd, the campaign to vaccinate 12-to 17-year-olds in school started. They had to register through their schools to be vaccinated. Buster dose of COVID-19 vaccines was launched on 28 December 2021. Up to 30 December 2021, total number of COVID-19 vaccines used is 12,28,17,195.

Compatibility of NSSS in Facing COVID-19

Covid-19 is an unexpected blow on both the national and international social-economic systems. As elsewhere in the world, Bangladesh witnessed a lot of people getting their sources of livelihood severely affected by pandemic-related lockdown. The overall increase in poverty gave rise to the question of

whether the existing provisions of the National Social Security Strategy would be still relevant in the changing situation. However, a careful analysis of the strategic framework would be reassuring about its efficacy in this hardest time as well. Some of the specialities that make the NSSS and its Action Plan as effective tools for combating any socio- economic situations are as follows:

- **Covariate shock Response:**

The life-cycle framework of the NSSS is concerned not only with the lifecycle risks of different age groups; rather it puts the covariate shock response as its central focus. Covariate shocks include the vulnerabilities from disasters, climate change, epidemics and sudden price hikes, etc. Thus, the NSSS has the built-in mechanism for combating any vulnerabilities triggered by a pandemic that had posed threat to the means of livelihood for the poor and near-poor.

- **Coverage of Near Poor**

Another strength of the NSSS is that it recommends not to confine social security coverage to the people living below the poverty line. Rather it suggests an expansion of coverage to the near-poor or vulnerable whose per capita income is not more than 25 per cent above the poverty line. The NSSS recommends making social protection inclusive for the near poor, even during the normal situation. The total headcount ratio for both poor and near-poor together would be 36 per cent. The NSSS recommends covering almost half of the population even in the pre-Covid-19 situation. According to some quick survey, poverty exceeds 40 per cent which will be automatically covered within the normal plans of NSSS.

- **Labour and livelihood**

The NSSS Action Plan emphasizes consolidating and scaling up workfare programmes for the seasonally unemployed people. During the Covid-19 lockdown, some people might be underemployed. The workfare programmes as planned in this Action Plan would generate ample livelihood for those who were out of service during the lockdown.

- **Food security and disaster response**

The COVID-19 related lockdown may threaten some people to have uncertain access to food due to social distancing as well as probable insufficient supply. However, food security has been the most prioritized agenda of the social security programmes. The thematic cluster on food security and disaster response is one of the most active and watchful forums for ensuring food security during normal situation as well as in the time of disaster. Therefore, within the normal activity of this cluster, food security was never felt to be under threat. In the event of the lockdown being further prolonged, food security may continue to be stable.

- **Adaptive Management**

The NSSS Action Plan makes social protection adaptive to climate change and potential natural disasters. The management of social security is adaptive both at the central as well as grassroots levels. The local administrative bodies and committees have been amply empowered to decide on social protection and disaster response based on local situations. They have been working harder and longer than they are obliged to do. They have a local fund and information dissemination system making the management of Covid -19 response adaptive to the need.

- **G2P System**

The G2P system was introduced in girls' stipend programmes with priority to cover a large number of recipients. This was expedited by the emergency social benefit distribution requirements under the lockdown situation created by the Covid-19 pandemic. The much-emphasized provision of NSSS for delivery of cash through digital channels in the modality of

G2P emerged as an effective solution. Obligation for social distancing facilitated the provision of emergency supports to the affected people through the G2P system. Moreover, the distribution by this channel is quick and easily monitorable.

- **Social insurance**

The importance of social insurance was critically realized when the employment situation deteriorated due to pandemic ensued lockdown. The NSSS provisions of social insurance could be a great rescue for the people losing their jobs. However, the planned National Social Insurance Scheme (NSIS) having been still under implementation, affected people from lockdown could still not avail themselves of the facilities of NSIS. However, as the NSIS is on the priority list of the NSSS Action Plan-2, it can be a great tool for protecting working-age people, initially in the formal sector, while the informal sectors will also be covered subsequently.

Finally, the NSSS is a living document and therefore it can be modified and reviewed as and when required. The existing provisions of the NSSS are already adequate to combat lockdown related socio-economic crises. Additionally, the flexibility for readjusting the provisions make the NSSS Action Plan very much compatible with the Covid-19 situation.

Gender Inclusiveness

The country's achievements in gender equality are extraordinary in comparison to the other countries with comparable per capita income. Bangladesh performed especially well in gender parity concerning educational attainment, health and survival, though still inadequate in economic participation and opportunity. The 8th Five Year Plan of Bangladesh also recognizes Bangladesh's declining performance in economic participation and opportunity for women. According to the World Gender Gap Report 2021 of the World Economic Forum, Bangladesh exceeds the South Asia regional average while occupying the 65th position in the world in gender parity calculations.

Bangladesh's performance is also impressive in the Gender Adjusted Human Development Index (GHDI) except for their participation in the job market. Therefore, the women's participation in the job market and income-generating activities are far less than their male counterparts. Gender inequality, especially owing to job market disparity, has deep implications for social protection, not only in Bangladesh but also in the global perspective.

However, gender inequality is not confined to the job market alone. It encompasses many other dimensions of human development and women's empowerment. A diagnostic study carried out by the SSPS Programme revealed that women and men are not only affected by the same social and economic risks differently, but women also face different types of risks and vulnerabilities. Women face additional disadvantages due to gender-based discrimination and deprivation. Gender alone does not lead to social marginalization; rather it is the subordination of women and girls based on gender norms, women's low educational and economic accomplishment, weak bargaining capacity, economic and other group-based inequalities that together work to deepen the nature of disadvantages faced by women and girls.

The norms and practices which impede women and girls are as follows: gender roles and division of labour, seclusion and lack of mobility, early marriage of girls and child pregnancy, gender-based violence including for dowry, the emergence of female-headed households, the drudgery of unpaid household work,

preference for sons, and harmful social practices, etc. Working women face additional disadvantages due to gender discrimination. Female labour force participation is low – at 36 per cent– compared to 83 per cent for men. This may reflect traditional attitudes to women and their weak bargaining power within the households. Wages for female workers are also low, and they can earn up to 60 per cent less than men for the same work, especially in the informal sector.

Other notable difficulties suffered by women are due to widowhood and separation. According to available data from the Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics, widowed, divorced, and abandoned women constitute about 11.3 per cent of all married women in the country. In the eyes of society, a widow is often treated as a burden and is therefore neglected; a widow is seen to have lost her honour in the family and society, particularly in the poor communities.

As a part of the Social Development Framework (SDF), the NSSS puts much emphasis on the issue of women and gender empowerment to achieve better equity and social justice. Therefore, it recommends comprehensive measures to be taken for tackling all gender-related socio-economic discrimination.

The NSSS assumes that the social effects of the social security programme for the women would increase self-esteem, confidence and voice among beneficiaries and enhance the empowerment of women. They will have a greater voice in decision making in the family, as well as in society. Such programmes are likely to bring about transformation in traditional social gender norms and attitudes while reducing gender.

Gender Equality and Social Protection

A large proportion of the population is generally excluded from any type of social protection coverage. Therefore, the beneficiaries of social protection may appear to be comparatively more privileged than deprived ones, though they get benefits only very marginally. Very few people are covered by comprehensive and adequate social protection programmes. It is women who are the most underprivileged receiving lower coverage rates and substantially lower benefit levels. Women who are already victims of social, economic, and political discrimination and inequality should be the most deserving candidates for social protection benefits. As a result, the social protection system should be designed to keep women as a priority group.

The coverage for women is particularly low in the case of old-age pensions, unemployment benefits or maternity protection. Internationally, only 26.4 per cent of working-age women are covered by contributory old-age protection, compared to 31.5 per cent of the total working-age population. Even within the European Union, women's pensions are on average 40.2 per cent lower than those of men. In North Africa, only 8 per cent of elderly women get social protection though 63.6 per cent of elderly men are covered under this benefit. Globally, a large majority of women do not enjoy maternity protection. This makes women substantially more vulnerable to poverty and their problems get prolonged as women on average live longer than men do. Therefore, social protection is widely considered an important tool to eradicate gender gaps and inequalities.

Men and women are often equally susceptible to certain risks exposing them to poverty—such as sickness, unemployment and asset lessness. But women also face several genders-specific risks, such as maternity/ pregnancy and unpaid family responsibilities which can hamper their efforts to have an income of their own. Due to women's lower level of participation in formal employment, they tend to have less access than men to contributory social protection systems. Therefore, all these hard realities and predicaments of women were kept in consideration while designing NSSS Action Plan.

Gender-based Social Security Programmes

Around two dozen of social security programmes in the budget of 2020-21 have a primary focus on women, directly or indirectly. VGD is the lone programme specifically targeting women; the others are relatively small. Programmes target women with a generalized notion of women forming the poorest segment of the population and admitting that they have fewer opportunities. Existing programmes cover many women, providing consumption and income generation support; they buttress the promotion of gender equality in education, employment, income and health. Most programmes do not have a specific goal of women's empowerment, but many have had intended and unintended positive effects on women.

Gender-Responsive Social Security

The specific needs of women and girls at various ages have been considered in the NSSS and women have been identified as a group with specific needs. The NSSS encourages transformative social security by promoting the social empowerment of disadvantaged groups including women. However, the NSSS does not elaborate further on this but leaves it to a separate strategy for gender-focused social security to formulate specific measures. Hence the gender diagnostic study was conducted, which recommends additional gender empowering components in social security programmes and their delivery system.

The study also suggests that there is a need to explicitly address the origins of gender discrimination and facilitate women's empowerment as an outcome of social security programmes. Some of the other important activities suggested in the study are more proactive initiatives in protecting women from abuse and violence, preventing harmful practices. In short, social security aiming at gender equality needs multi-dimensional initiatives and cannot be achieved by only pursuing economic gains for women. The findings of the aforementioned gender diagnostic study are yet to be reviewed and validated by stakeholders. It is expected that the diagnostic studies will be a precursor to formulating a gender-focused social security strategy.

Gender Focused Actions

Based on the policy guidelines of the NSSS and according to a series of action plan workshops, the NSSS Action Plan incorporates the following activities to address gender issues in social security. These actions are exclusively related to the social security of women and girls, but there are other programmes that deal with both gender with embedded principles of ensuring gender equality in the delivery system.

Table 7: Actions Exclusively Related to the Social Security of Women and Girls

Sl.	Objectives	Responsible Ministry/ Division	Shared Responsibility
1.	Strengthen Support for Vulnerable Women	- Ministry of Women and Children Affairs - Ministry of Social Welfare	Finance Division
2.	Introduce Child Benefit Programme (allowances to be disbursed to female parents preferentially)	Ministry of Women and Children Affairs	Finance Division
3.	Introduce Vulnerable Women's Benefit programme	Ministry of Women and Children Affairs	Ministry of Food
4.	Workplace Childcare Services	Ministry of Women and Children Affairs	Ministry of Labour and Employment
5.	Child Maintenance Payments	Ministry of Women and Children Affairs	Ministry of Social Welfare

Sl.	Objectives	Responsible Ministry/ Division	Shared Responsibility
6.	Maternity Insurance	Ministry of Health and Family Welfare	Financial Institutions Division
7.	Maternal Health Care	Ministry of Health and Family Welfare	Ministry of Women and Children Affairs
8.	Scale-up SWAPNO (Strengthening Women's Ability for Productive New Opportunities) Project	Local Government Division	Finance Division
9.	Scale-up 'My House – My Farm' programme	Rural Development and Cooperatives Division	Finance Division
10.	Strengthen social allowance (financial support/assistance/benefits) for the migrant workers and their family members (particularly women)	Ministry of Expatriates' Welfare and Overseas Employment	
11.	Skills development programme for young men and women	Ministry of Labour and Employment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Ministry of Youth and Sports - Ministry of Education - Ministry of Expatriates' Welfare and Overseas Employment

Disability Inclusive Social Protection

People with disabilities tend to be poor, and reversely prevalence of disability is high among poor people. Half of all disabled people cannot afford health care, compared to a third of abled people. Consequently, persons with disabilities are the important target group for social protection programmes in any country. Similarly, in Bangladesh, social protection programmes for people with a disability occupy priority in the NSSS and its Action Plans.

The estimated number of persons with a disability varies from at least one million to 20 million. Although there will always be a debate about the number of people with disabilities, that live in Bangladesh as elsewhere in the world. Therefore, disabled people need social protection coverage, not only for their welfare but also to involve them in economic activities as most of them have some potential capacities to be utilized for the country's socio-economic development disability is an impairment that may be physical, intellectual, mental, sensory or some combination of these. It may be congenital or may occur during a person's lifetime due to accident, disease, or any other causes. The WHO views disabilities as an umbrella term, covering impairments, activity limitations, and participation restrictions. According to the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) disability is a concept that results from the interaction between persons with impairments and attitudinal and environmental barriers that hinder their full and effective participation in society on an equal basis with others.

As per the Rights and Protection of Persons with Disabilities Act, 2013, disability means the results from the interaction between persons with long-term and/or permanent physical, mental, intellectual, or sensory impairments and the attitudinal and environmental barriers that hinder their full and effective participation in the society on an equal basis with others. Some of the common types of disability are autism or autism spectrum disorders, visual disability, speech disability, intellectual disability, hearing disability, physical

impairment, and multiple disabilities. Disability prevalence varies over the lifecycle, with a significant increase from around age 50. By far the highest rates of disability are among older people. Prevalence is higher among women than among men. A significant proportion of households have a disabled member, while 6.3 per cent have someone with a severe disability. The estimates of the number of persons with a disability vary because different organizations have different standards of defining disabled people.

Disability in Bangladesh

The poverty rate of households with severely disabled members is higher than that of households without disabled members. It suggests that disability can place a greater burden on households. If a working-age adult is disabled, it has a significant impact on the household. Disability at working age has a significant effect on families, as they lose their job and are left with hardly any source of income. Furthermore, their caregivers, mainly their wives – had to spend more time caring for their husbands. The income loss can be considerable, and they also face significant additional health costs.

A disability prevalence survey (2005) conducted jointly by Handicap International (HI), and the National Forum of Organizations Working with the Disabled (NFOWD) found that 5.6 per cent of the people in Bangladesh live with a disability. According to a Rapid Assessment of Disability (RAD), a prevalence rate of 8.9 per cent of disability was identified in Bangladesh. The Household Income and Expenditure Survey (HIES) of Bangladesh (2010) puts the prevalence rate of disability at 9.1 per cent. According to the NSSS, around 8.9 per cent of the population – 8 per cent of males and 9.3 per cent of females – has some form of disability, although those who could be regarded as severely disabled comprise 1.5 per cent. According to this estimation, the number of disabled people deserving social protection would stand at around 24 lakhs. Still, in a practical survey, 20 lakhs have been identified and included in the social security programme. The programme for such people has been declared to be universal.

Rights of Disabled Persons

Traditional disability-welfare approaches have promoted spreading charity and medical perspectives in social protection responses. As a result, many national social protection systems resulted in furthering dependence, segregation, and institutionalization of persons with disabilities, limiting their opportunities to live independently in their communities.

The United Nations (UN) Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, on the other hand, promotes social protection systems that are disability-inclusive, and which facilitate active citizenship, social inclusion, and community participation. The Convention calls on States to ensure that persons with disabilities receive equal access to social protection programmes and services. The convention also urged that disabled people should also have access to specific programmes and services for disability-related needs and expenses such as support services.

Thus, social protection for disability has shifted from charity or mercy-based focus to that of human rights. Social empowerment of disabled people is one of the main objectives of the social protection system of many countries, and Bangladesh is among them. Bangladesh has enacted the Rights and Protection of Persons with Disabilities Act, 2013 to ensure the social rights of persons with disabilities. Ministry of Social Welfare is to create a system of monitoring the development of children with disabilities and to consolidate complementary programmes for vocational education, enterprise support, and anti-discrimination in the job market.

Programmes for People with Disabilities

Presently more than 20 lakh persons with disabilities receive a monthly disability allowance at a rate of Tk 700 from the Ministry of Social Welfare. Some special disability schemes include the Institute for Autistic and Blind Children, Socially Disabled Adolescent Girls, promotional services of opportunities to girls with disabilities. The NSSS stipulates that the disability allowance should be reformed along with the spirit of lifecycle-based social security frameworks. The NSSS suggests a reformed pattern of social protection for people with disabilities like the following table:

Table 8: Social Security Programmes for Persons with Disabilities

Programmes	Beneficiaries in lakh	Budget in Crore Taka
Allowances for the Financially insolvent disabled	18.00	1,620.00
Stipend for disabled students	1.00	95.64
Grants for the schools for the disabled	0.37	29.68
Fund for the welfare of acid burnt women and disabled	0.33	1.82
Trust for the protection of the persons with neurodevelopmental disabilities	-	29.15
Welfare trust for physical disabilities	-	15.00
Service and assistance centre for disabled	3.99	68.90

Disability Inclusion

Facilitating people with disabilities in regular activities and to have similar roles like others is called disability inclusion. It requires making sure that adequate policies and practices are in effect in a community or organization for disability inclusiveness. Disability inclusion would increase the participation of the persons with disabilities in normal social activities like being a student, service holder, friend, community member, patient, spouse, partner, or parent. This also includes engaging in social activities, using public resources such as transportation and libraries, hospitals. etc.

Disability inclusion involves understanding the difficulties of the people with disabilities and making sure everybody has the same opportunities to participate in every aspect of life according to their desire and level of capacities. Disability Inclusion is important not only from the point of view of human rights but also from the perspective of its socio-economic significance. One billion people or 15 per cent of the world's population in the world has at least some degree of disability. Failure to include them in the socio-economic activities will severely impact economic growth and will create different social crises. Equal opportunities and inclusiveness are also constitutional rights of people with disabilities in most countries.

Social protection programmes may cover a certain of people with disabilities to ensure their social inclusiveness. However, social protection programmes cannot be only for such inclusiveness. Social inclusion for some disabled people will merely demand only changed and positive attitudes and empathy towards them.

Awareness building and motivational activities can change people's attitudes towards disabled members of society. On the other hand, some people will need special facilities and attention in different public places to be inclusive. For example, having a ramp in public buildings, reading materials for vision-impaired people, sign language for the speech impaired may be instrumental for their inclusiveness. The government of Bangladesh has already incorporated this issue into different laws and policies. The inclusiveness of the persons with disabilities falls within the thematic cluster called Human Development

and Social Empowerment which will monitor and oversee the social inclusiveness of the disabled persons in the mainstream of social and economic activities. This cluster will also regularly assess whether the disabled people are getting an appropriate level of social allowances.

Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) Framework

Monitoring is concerned with systematic collection and analysis of information which is continuously used to make a minor adjustment in the programme to keep it on track towards achieving the goal. The evaluation looks at what objectives were planned, what was accomplished, and how it was accomplished; information is used to inform policy formulation, strategies, and future interventions.

The government of Bangladesh has recently introduced the Annual Performance Agreement (APA) across the public sectors to establish a culture of enhanced productivity and accountability. The APA is based on the broader framework of Management by Objective (MBO) model of the results-based performance management system. The APA has a mechanism of identifying the low-performing sectors and programmes which are incompatible with national goals. Such poorly performing programmes will either be reformed for optimal output and impacts or will be replaced by better ones or will be simply discontinued. Social security programmes constitute an important part of the objectives and activities of around 25-line ministries. As such, these programmes are, by default, within the massive M&E of APA. Moreover, the NSSS action plans have also been aligned with the Annual Agreements of line ministries. Therefore, social security programmes are routinely monitored and evaluated under the APA framework.

In consistence with the APA, the NSSS incorporates a plan for designing a robust system of monitoring the progress and results of social security programmes to build accountability and advance desired outcomes of the programmes. From the overall combined scenario of APA and NSSS, the clear message emanates that the efficacy of social security programmes will not be taken for granted without putting them through results-based monitoring and evaluation procedure.

Existing M&E of SS Programmes

The NSSS finds that there is hardly any formal M&E system for social security programmes at present. The existing monitoring system is simply concerned with the progress of each programme in terms of the percentage of expenditure of allocated funds. There is no mechanism to systematically evaluate how well the resources allocated to the SSPs are achieving results in terms of reducing poverty at the national level. This is also absent at the individual programme level. Independent impact assessment of a few programmes done at the behest of development partners shows mixed results of these programmes. Moreover, there is almost no digitized MIS to feed the M&E requirement.

Currently, the IMED is assigned to make impact evaluations for the different programmes, but their scope is limited to the development projects only. However, the Second Five-Year Plan (SFYP) recognizes that “while the IMED plays a useful function in tracking financial and physical implementation of projects, there is a major gap in terms of results-based M&E”.

The APA is expected to provide some mechanisms for effective M&E of social programmes, but that may not pay minute attention to individual programmes. As a result, in addition to the performance assessment

system of APA, it is a necessity to establish a mechanism for specifically monitoring and evaluating the social security programmes against the yardstick of NSSS vision and mission.

Results-based M&E

The institution of a results-based M&E is an important recommendation of the NSSS and must be implemented to ensure the achievement of the desired results from a reformed perspective of the present social security system. This will also serve as the basis for performance-based budgeting to ministries for their various programmes. The government has emphasized that an effective result-based M&E system is essential to monitor the implementation of the SFYP and associated sectorial strategies, which would include the NSSS.

Systems for the M&E of social security systems should serve three major types of objectives:

- Strategic objectives – is the NSSS achieving its goals to reduce poverty and inequality together with improving human development and inclusive economic growth?
- Operational objectives – how can managers improve the efficiency and effectiveness of the SSPs?
- Learning objectives – what lessons can be learned from the implementation of the NSSS?

The NSSS recommends preparing a results framework using a matrix of specific indicators and evaluating the entire NSSS in a holistic approach. Annual reports will be prepared for the CMC on the M&E framework-based performance of the NSSS. The reports will be submitted to the CMC and the concerned Parliamentary Standing Committee on the types of actions taken to respond to the findings of the evaluation reports.

The NSSS also suggests that a task force will be formed comprising representatives of GED, IMED, SID, and Finance Division of the Ministry of Finance. The task force will prepare processes and procedures for performance-based monitoring of SSPs and recommend indicators that can be used for designing any new programmes and performance-based budgeting.

Way Forward

As per the policy guidelines of the NSSS, there will be a continuous process of M&E established to improve delivery processes, document results, inform policymakers, and mobilize political support. Towards that end, the following measures will be taken:

Monitoring:

- Number of clients served
- Number of benefits paid
- The average benefit per recipient
- Actual benefit value as a per cent of household or per capita income
- Cost to transfer a unit of value

Evaluation:

- A holistic approach with equal weight to quantitative and qualitative
- To determine from a results-based perspective, if long-term objectives are being met and what impacts occurring in terms of economic, social, educational, and nutritional impacts
- Disseminate findings for systematic, informed, and continued improvement of SSPs

Proposed M&E Framework

The long-term vision and five-year strategic objectives will be the major yardstick to evaluate the social security programmes. Despite the overt impressiveness of any programme, it will not be considered effective without its considerable contribution towards achieving the social security goals. Thus, the NSSS Action Plan would like to recommend the following M&E framework for different social security programmes. The M&E task force may consider using the following framework:

M&E Framework Proposed in the Action Plan

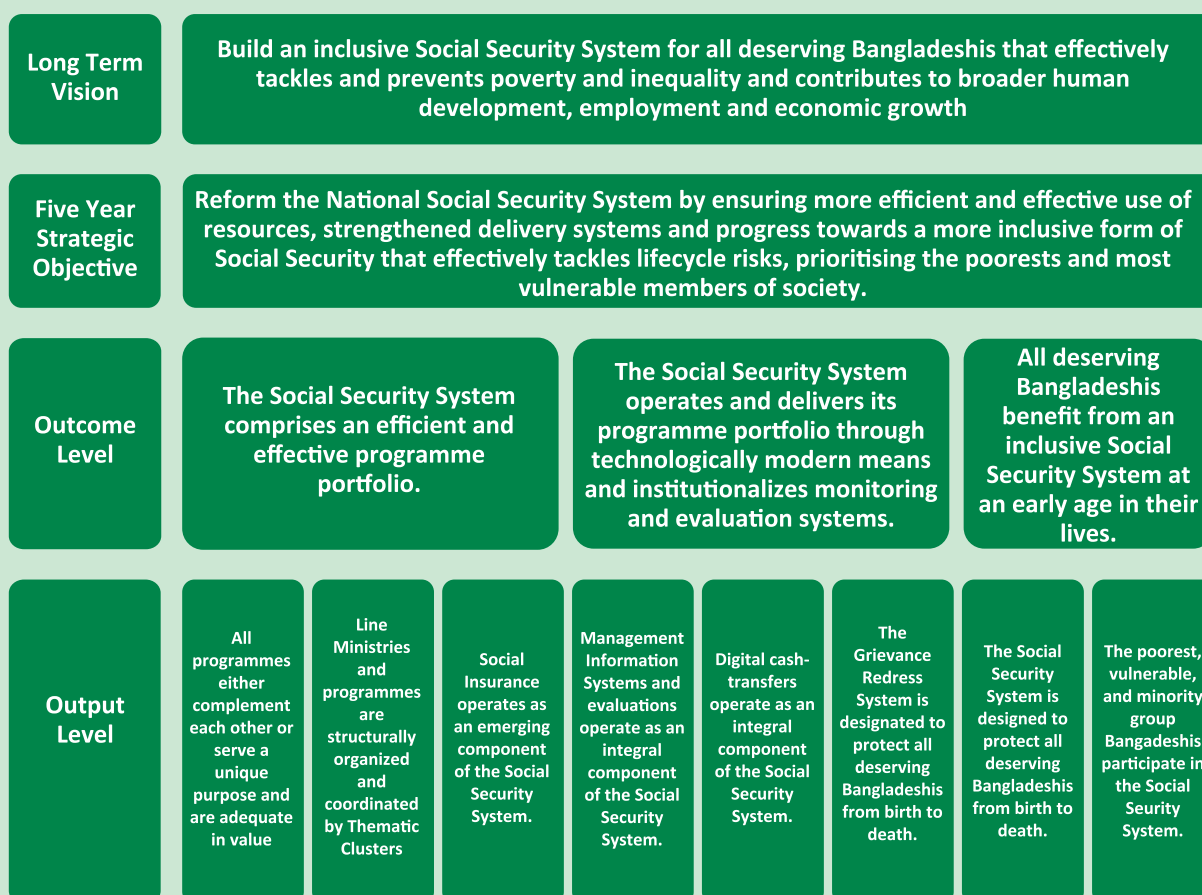


Figure 17: M&E Framework Proposed in the Action Plan

Core Diagnostic Instrument (CODI) Assessment Matrix

For evaluation of progress in social security programmes, an assessment matrix is required. For this purpose, the matrix called Core Diagnostic Instrument (CODI) seems to be very useful. CODI is an assessment tool developed by the Inter-Agency Social Security Assessments (ISPA) initiative, that helps countries improve their social security system by analyzing its strengths and weaknesses and offering options for further action. The CODI tool was developed after detailed discussion and experiment by international experts in this field from World Bank, UNDP, ILO, etc. This matrix has been used in many countries as a tool for social security diagnosis. Countries can apply ISPA tools periodically to track performance over time.

CODI is unique in providing a unified framework to carry out a comprehensive assessment of social security system performance, allowing governments to identify duplications, fragmentation, and inefficiencies across schemes and programmes. CODI increases coordination among national stakeholders as well as development partners across different sectors.

The CODI has a total of 37 fields under the 10 broader areas for assessment. The ten fields are inclusiveness, adequacy, appropriateness, rights, governance, financial sustainability, coherence, responsiveness, cost-effective and incentive compatibility. Each field is assessed by a scale from one (latent) to four (advanced). The CODI provides detailed and specific guidelines regarding the scoring. The CODI allows for adjusting or modifying the field-specific questions according to the national contexts. The detailed CODI assessment matrix is attached as Annexure-A.

A workshop chaired by the Secretary (Coordination and Reforms) of Cabinet Division on 11 April 2017 reviewed the possibility of utilizing the CODI framework as a tool for assessing social security programmes in Bangladesh. The participants endorsed that this might be an effective tool in this regard. Also, a primary survey of the existing social security programmes was carried out during the workshop. The results of the assessment may be referred to as the baseline of social security status in the country.

M&E of NSSS Action Plan

The above M&E framework is purported to monitor and evaluate the efficacy and effectiveness of different social security programmes. However, it is also important to monitor the progress of the implementation of the NSSS action plan itself. With that in view the action plan sub-committee, headed by Secretary, Coordination and Reform of Cabinet Division, formulates the following framework providing specific indicators against each action with a certain timeframe. The framework used in the action plan is as follows.

Table 9: Framework used in the Action Plan

Sl.	Objectives	Activities	Performance Indicators	Timeframe	Responsible Ministry	Shared Responsibility

The framework mentions the responsibility of specific ministries for certain activities while also indicating names of other ministries which have supportive roles in implementing them. Thus, the framework ensures the share of accountability of each ministry in the implementation of the NSSS objectives. The CMC will have to monitor the progress of the NSSS implementation periodically, following this framework.

Nutrition Focus in NSSS Action Plan

The greater ratio of the younger population is a valuable resource for the country to achieve its ambition of becoming a high-income country. Therefore, it is a priority agenda of the government to invest in human capital development for capitalizing on the existing demographic dividend. Therefore, human development has occupied a pivotal position in the vision of the NSSS, which is to be achieved primarily by ensuring the nutritional status of the population, especially of the children.

Chronic malnutrition or undernutrition, especially among children under 5 has alarmingly reduced the potential of the young generation in Bangladesh, though this problem could be overcome by very little resource if this was planned in the early ages. To tackle the problem of malnutrition, the government has different types of programmes including medical intervention. But most cases of malnutrition are induced by a lack of sufficient nutrients due to poverty. Social protection programmes play a very instrumental role in reducing the malnutrition of people especially children and turn them into valuable assets for the nation.

A child's brain development in terms of vision, hearing, numeracy, language, emotional control, and other cognitive factors are more sensitive at the early age of 0-3 years. It is, therefore, of great importance to ensure a proper level of nutrition for this age group. The lifecycle-based social protection system of NSSS, therefore, focuses on ensuring the nutritional needs of people from very early childhood. Accordingly, the NSSS emphasizes refocusing social protection programmes towards reducing malnutrition among young people, starting from their very pregnancy and childhood. This is also in line consistency with the constitutional provision, 'the State shall regard the raising of the level of nutrition and the improvement of public health as among its primary duties' Article 18 (1).

Concepts of Nutrition

Nutrition refers to the consumption of food, considered necessary concerning the physical dietary requirements. Good nutrition or an adequate and well-balanced diet is the foundation of good health. The dietary components that provide nutrition in the human body are called nutrients which are of two kinds, micro, and macronutrients. Any deviation from the normal state of nutrition is called malnutrition. Deficiency in proper nutritional elements due to any cause leads to under-nutrition (NSSS). There are three main forms of undernutrition – wasting, stunting, and underweight, though overweight has recently emerged as a form of malnutrition.

Wasting is an acute form of undernutrition where the weight of the child is low in proportion to height, caused by recent diseases or acute starvation and low intake of nutrients. This is a case of very low body mass index for children. A child who is standard deviations below the reference median of the WHO reference population in terms of weight-for-height was defined as wasted (– 2 SD) or severely wasted (– 3 SD). Wasting is readily reversible once conditions improve.

Stunting is a chronic case of malnutrition where the height of a child is low compared to the age reflecting a prolonged period of undernutrition. It occurs over a slow cumulative process because of inadequate nutrition and/or repeated infections. A child who is standard deviations below the reference median of the WHO reference population in terms of height-for-age was defined as wasted (– 2 SD) or severely wasted (– 3 SD) according to WHO growth standards for children.

Underweight is a form of malnutrition where a child is of low weight for its age reflecting a condition resulting from inadequate food intake, past episodes of undernutrition or poor health conditions. To describe a child who is standard deviations below the reference median of the WHO reference population in terms of weight-for-age was defined as wasted (– 2 SD) or severely wasted (– 3 SD) according to WHO growth standards for children.

Bangladesh Status in Nutrition

Bangladesh has a lot of achievement in nutrition status, still, this remains a major concern as the stunting rate is presently 31 per cent which was 43 per cent in 2007. The picture of wasting has also improved over time and stood at 8 per cent which was 17 per cent in 2017. The rate of wasting above 15 per cent is regarded as dangerous as wasting is life-threatening for children. Underweight has also improved from 41 per cent to 22 per cent over the same time. The following chart provides more detailed data in this regard. Social protection programmes have significant impacts in tackling malnutrition. Therefore, the NSSS Action Plan puts much emphasis on nutritional development with a special focus on children.

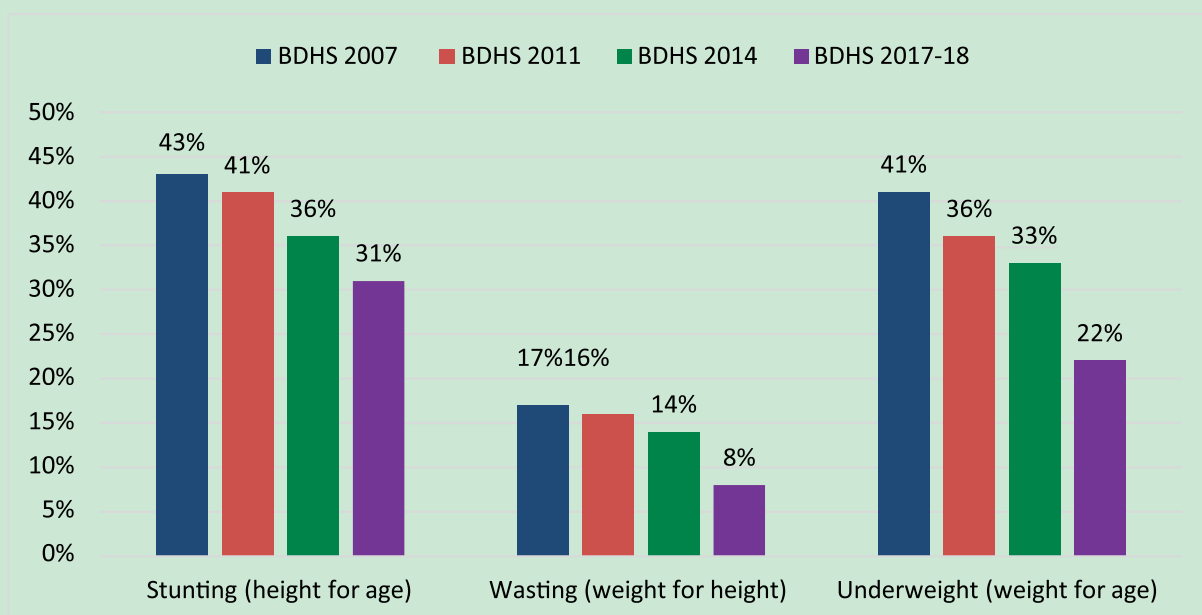


Figure 18: Nutrition Status of Bangladesh (Stunting, Wasting, Underweight)


NSSS Provision

Malnutrition may be caused by some underlying health conditions, micro-nutrients, or macro-nutrients. Usually, the five main causes of malnutrition are poverty/lack of income, sub-optimal Intake, awareness gap, biological defectiveness, and miscellaneous reasons. To tackle this problem, the NSSS puts much emphasis on child nutrition programmes. The child benefit scheme as proposed in NSSS for 0-4 years of age is in the process of implementation and it will hopefully reduce malnutrition. The NSSS also stipulates the other micro- nutrition programmes including EPE, etc. will be further strengthened.

Table 10: Social Security Programmes Related to Nutrition

Sl.	Programme	Target Groups
1.	Allowance of Widow, Deserted, and Destitute Women	Widow, deserted, destitute women
2.	Secondary and Higher Secondary Stipend Programme	Girl students
3.	National Nutrition Services Operational Plan (NNSOP)	Pregnant, lactating women, infants, children, adolescents, elderly
4.	Community-Based Health Care Operational Plan (CBHC OP)	Rural health care seekers
5.	Maternal Neonatal Child & Adolescent Health Operational Plan (MNCAH OP)	Mothers, infants, children, adolescents
6.	Maternal, Child, Reproductive, and Adolescent Health Operational Plan (MCRAH OP)	Mothers, infants, children, adolescents
7.	Vulnerable Group Development Programme (VGD)	Vulnerable women
8.	Investment Component for Vulnerable Group Development (ICVGD)	Vulnerable women
9.	Maternity Allowance for the Poor Pregnant and Lactating Mother and 'Assistance for Working Lactating Mothers'	Pregnant and lactating women
10.	School Feeding Programmes in Poverty Stricken Areas	Primary school children
11.	Food Friendly Programme (FFP)	Extreme poor and vulnerable, especially women

Sl.	Programme	Target Groups
12.	Open Market Sales (OMS)	Urban poor
13.	Agricultural Subsidy	Small and Marginal farmers
14.	Agricultural Rehabilitation	Small and marginal card holding farmers affected by a natural disaster
15.	My House My Farm	Underprivileged and smallholder farmers
16.	Shouhardo III	Poor and Extreme Poor households
17.	Nuton Jibon Livelihood Improvement Programme (NJLIP)	Poor and Extreme Poor Women
18.	Income Support Programme for the Poorest (ISSP), JAWTNA	Pregnant women and women with children < 5



Chapter 2

NSSS Action Plans of Ministries/ Divisions

The social protection programmes are implemented by 39 ministries/divisions of the government. Most of the ministries/divisions have programmes or schemes with direct delivery mechanism to the beneficiaries, while some of them have only activities with regards to governance of social protection. A few ministries have both direct interventions and crosscutting roles. This chapter provides action plans of all the 39 ministries irrespective of their nature of roles in social protection.



Ministry of Social Welfare

Action Plan (2021-26)
National Social Security Strategy (NSSS) of Bangladesh



*Action Plan of Ministry of Social
Welfare*

Action Plan (2021-26) for Implementation of National Social Security Strategy (NSSS) of Bangladesh

Ministry of Social Welfare

The Ministry of Social Welfare is an important organizational unit of the government of Bangladesh for social security implementation. Its prominence rests not only on the huge number of direct beneficiaries it serves and the large amount of annual budgetary allocations it receives but also on its singularity of purpose and dedicated engagement in this sector. The ministry's significance along with its workloads is on the continuous rise following a recommendation of the NSSS to entrust the management and coordination of the Lifecycle-based social security programme upon this ministry.

This ministry is implementing programmes like Old Age Allowances, Widow Allowances, Allowances for Persons with Disabilities, grants, and aid to acid burnt victims. The ministry has also a multidimensional and intensive programme for the welfare of the by-passed, disadvantaged segment, unemployed, landless, orphans, distressed, vagrants, homeless, socially, intellectually, and physically challenged, neuro-developmentally underdeveloped/challenged, poor, helpless patients, children at risk of the country's rural and urban areas.

In line with the NSSS, all the programmes under this ministry are anchored in the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), the Management of Social Transformation (MoST), the Vision 2021, and the Eighth Five-Year Plan. To become more dynamic, transparent, and accountable, the ministry has taken a development approach instead of a charity-based approach. Family-centric programmes and pro-people work plans have made the Ministry popular to the country's people.

The vision, mission, and strategic objectives of the ministry are as follows:

Vision

The ministry has the overall vision of a “better life and caring society”, which is consistent with the vision of the National Social Security Strategy (NSSS) which provides for establishing inclusive social security for all.

Mission

The mission of the Ministry is “Creating a better life by providing social security, empowerment, and development for the poor, vulnerable group of people and persons with disabilities”. The Ministry adopts social security as the most important tool for achieving its goals.

NSSS Objectives

The strategic objective of the Ministry is to consolidate the major lifecycle programme, making them more inclusive and efficient.

Challenges

The National Social Security Strategy (NSSS) envisages that the Ministry of Social Welfare will assume the responsibility of leading lifecycle-based social security programmes. Thus, the Ministry has a huge responsibility towards the transition of the social security system for achieving the above goal. In the short run, the Ministry has been assigned the responsibility of coordinating the thematic cluster on social allowance, simultaneously, participating in most of the other clusters as an important member. During the last five years, since the inception of the NSSS, the Ministry of Social Welfare has slightly under-achieved some targets, which will have to be accomplished during the next term of the Action Plan.

Organizational Overview

The Ministry of Social Welfare has emerged as a separate Ministry on 21st December 1989 after being split from the erstwhile Ministry of Social Welfare and Women Affairs. The Ministry has around 50 senior officials in addition to the support staff. The ministry has several attached departments including:

➞ Department of Social Services

The Department of Social Services (DSS) is one of the important government Departments of the People's Republic of Bangladesh under the Ministry of Social Welfare. It was established in 1961 as the Directorate of Social Services, and in 1984 it was promoted to the 'Department of Social Services (DSS)'. This department has field-level offices in 492 Upazilas covering predominantly rural areas. In addition, 80 Urban Community Development Offices (UCD) are being operated under DSS. The mandate of DSS is to provide services to the society's vulnerable groups, the poorest of the poor, the marginalized, and various disadvantaged population groups. Its services go beyond delivering services to these groups. Its mandate also encompasses empowering excluded and lagging communities to participate actively in the improvement of their quality of life and make them self-reliant, which is a prerequisite to sustainable development.

DSS is working to ensure social protection and social safety nets for the country's poor vulnerable people as well as socio-economic development, rehabilitation and reintegration, poverty reduction, human resource development, community empowerment, and other targeted development activities for the vulnerable aged persons, the persons with disabilities (PWDs), orphans, children at risk, destitute, poor, and helpless persons. In addition, DSS is running a good number of programmes for poverty reduction and human resource development. The programmes and, development services it provides include, juvenile delinquents, training and rehabilitation of the socially disadvantaged women, counselling, training and rehabilitation of orphan and vulnerable children, development and rehabilitation of vagrants, safe custodian women, adolescent, destitute and helpless. The programmes of the DSS are aligned with the Roadmap for the National Strategy for Accelerated Poverty Reduction (NSAPR), the Vision-21/41, the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the 8th Five Year Plan as well as the other strategies of the Government. The main objective of the department is to reduce the poverty of hardcore poor through human resource development and to organize the poorest segment of people to be aware of their rights, problems, and requirements, and build up capacity for their self-sustainability.

➞ National Foundation for Disability Development

This foundation was established in 1999 for the development and welfare of persons with disabilities. Through this organization, the Ministry of Social Welfare is conducting various activities for the development of disabled people. The foundation provides services to disabled persons and children with autism through a lot of schools and service centres throughout the country. The foundation also takes up activities to integrate the persons with disabilities in the mainstream by organizing disability promotion fairs, sports, etc.

➤ Bangladesh National Social Welfare Council

The Council, which was established in 1956, has been recently strengthened by the enactment of a law in 2019. The Council has committees at the district and Upazila level, though in absence of its own building, it operates from the social welfare offices. The council's responsibilities include policy advice to the government on social needs, financial supports to the poor and marginalized people, and coordinating and recognizing persons and institutions involved in social security.

➤ Other organizations

In addition, the Ministry of Social Welfare has several organizations including Sheikh Zayed Bin Sultan al Nahiyen Trust BD, Physically Disabled Protection Trust, and Neuro-Developmental Disability Protection Trust.

Legal Frameworks

The major instruments empowering the Ministry for taking up social protection programmes and providing the procedural guidance for implementation and delivery of benefits are as follows:

- The Orphanages and Widows' Homes Act, 1944
- The Probation of Offenders Ordinance, 1960
- The Voluntary Social Welfare Agencies (Registration and Control) Ordinance, 1961
- The Vagrants and Homeless Person's (Rehabilitation) Act, 2011
- The Parental Care Act, 2013
- The Children (Amendment) Act, 2018
- The Rights and Protection of Person's with Disability Act, 2013
- The Rights and Protection of Person's with Disability Rules, 2015
- The Protection of Trust for the Person's with Neuro-Developmental Disabilities Act, 2013
- The Neurodevelopmental Disability Trust Rules, 2015
- The Bangladesh Rehabilitation Council Act, 2017
- The Grievance Redress System Guideline, 2015
- The Integrated Special Education Policy, 2019 on Disability
- The National Policy for the Elderly People, 2013
- The Social Welfare Policy, 1995
- Manuals for implementation of Old Age Allowance, Widow Allowances, Disabled allowances, as well as other programmes.

Social Security Programmes

➤ Old Age Allowance

The elder population of the poor families experience severe socio-economic insecurity. The absence of health care facilities for the elders is another major contributor to their suffering since ageing invites new health problems. Elderly poor women face more problems due to ageing. For the wellbeing and social security of elderly people, the government introduced the 'Old Age Allowances' Programme through the Department of Social Services under the Ministry of Social Welfare in the FY1997-98. At the starting of this programme, the number of beneficiaries was 40.03 thousand. At the inception of NSSS (2016-17), the number of beneficiaries was 3.15 million. Under this programme, the number of beneficiaries is increasing gradually. Beneficiaries are getting Tk. 500 monthly per head which is payable every 3 months. In the FY2020-21 budget, Tk 2940 crore was allocated for this programme with 4.9 million targeted beneficiaries. This programme belongs to the Social Allowance Cluster targeting the old age people all over the country. The government has recently decided to involve the public representatives in the selection and distribution process of the allowance through using digital platforms.

➤ **Allowances for the Widow, Deserted and Destitute Women**

Women, especially widows, deserted, and destitute women are the most vulnerable segment of society. Considering the vulnerability of that segment, the government introduced Allowances for the Widow, Deserted and Destitute Women in FY 1998-99 through the Ministry of Social Welfare. Starting of the programme, with 40.3 thousand beneficiaries and the monthly benefit was Tk 100 at a time in a year. This programme, initiated by the present Government, has been successfully supported by the Department of Social Services. In the FY 2003-2004 this programme was shifted to the Ministry of Women and Children affairs. To bring greater adaptability in the implementation process, the present government again reassigned this programme to the Ministry of Social Welfare in FY 2010-11. At the inception of NSSS (2016-17), the number of beneficiaries was 3.15 million. Under this programme, the number of beneficiaries is increasing gradually. Beneficiaries are getting Tk. 500 monthly per head which is payable every 3 months. There are 2.5 million beneficiaries with BDT 1230 crore budget allocated in FY 2020-21 for this programme. After relocating this programme to the Ministry of Social Welfare, one hundred per cent disbursement was achieved in distributing the allowance to the targeted beneficiaries. In the last two years, measures were taken to ensure greater transparency and accountability in the programme to make it acceptable for all walks of life, such as revision of the implementation manual, the inclusion of local MPs and other public representatives in the beneficiaries' selection process and database formulation. Besides, money was disbursed through a bank account with only Tk 10, which among others, facilitated financial inclusion of the poor and disadvantaged. Recent year selection process and payment system have been digitized and beneficiaries can receive their money at their doorstep. This programme belongs to the Social Allowance Cluster, tackles the covariate risks on rural areas.

➤ **Allowances for the Financially Insolvent Disabled**

The government of Bangladesh is firmly committed to granting equal rights especially to people with disabilities. In 2013, the Rights and Protection of Persons with Disabilities Act, 2013 was enacted, which is a unique contribution to preserve the rights of persons with disabilities. In the Constitution, articles 15, 17, 20 and 29 uphold the same rights and dimensions for persons with disabilities with other citizens. The government introduced this allowance in FY 2005-06 based on Article 15 of the Constitution. In the very beginning, 104,166 PwDs were offered a monthly allowance of Tk 200. At the inception of NSSS (2016-17), the number of beneficiaries was 750 thousand. Under this programme, the number of beneficiaries is increasing gradually. Beneficiaries are getting Tk 750 monthly per head which is payable every 3 months. There are 1.8 million beneficiaries allocated with Tk 1620 crore budget in FY 2020-21 for this programme. A nearly 100 per cent success rate has been attained through the supervision, monitoring, and improved governance of all the officers and employees. This nationwide programme belongs to the Social Allowance Cluster, tackles the Covariate Risks all over the country.

➤ **Stipend for Disabled Students**

This programme belongs to the Human Development and Social Empowerment Cluster targeting School Age children both in rural and urban areas. To encourage children with disabilities to enrol themselves in educational institutions, the government has introduced the Stipend Programme for the Student with Disabilities. The main objectives of this programme are to ensure the commitment of the Constitution, national disability-related policy, the Rights and Protection of PwDs Act 2013, and the UN Convention on the Rights of the PwDs. Through this programme, an attempt has been taken to mainstream students with disabilities. Importantly, the dropout rate is much higher among students with disabilities than normal students. They cannot afford education costs because most of them come from poor families. So, through this programme, a new avenue is created for higher education for PwDs. In the year of inception, the

number of beneficiaries was 12,209 and the budget was Tk 5 crore. At the inception of the NSSS (2016-17), the number of beneficiaries was 70 thousand. Under this programme, the number of beneficiaries is increasing gradually. Beneficiaries are getting Tk 750-1300 monthly per head which is payable every 3 months. There are 100 thousand beneficiaries with Tk 95.64 crore budgets in FY 2020-21 for this programme.

➤ Improving the Living Standard of Underprivileged Communities

Underprivileged people cover a very small part of the population in Bangladesh. According to the survey of the Social Services Department, there are about 1.49 million people in the underprivileged communities of the country. Baashfor, Domar, Rawuth, Telegu, Hena, Hari, Laal-beghi, Balliki, Doam, etc. are races from the Harijan community. Similarly, Dalit communities consist of races such as Rishi, Shonnashi, Behara, Dhopa, Haajam, Nikari, Pattni, Teli, Jeley. The programme was launched in seven districts of the country as a pilot programme in the FY 2012-13 through DSS under the Ministry of Social Welfare. There are 3 components such as (i) Allowances for 50+ years aged people (ii) Stipends for Students and (iii) Providing training for workable people. In the year of inception, the number of beneficiaries was 2975 and the budgets were 6.6 million. In FY2015-16, this programme was scaled up in 64 Districts and budget allocation was 18 crores. This programme was implemented combinedly named Improving the Living Standard of Bede and Underprivileged Communities from 2012-13 to 2018-19. From FY 2019-20, this programme is implemented separately for 'Bede' and 'Underprivileged Communities'. There are 71,000 beneficiaries with Tk 57.87 crore budget in the 2020-21 fiscal year for this programme. This nationwide programme belongs to the Labour & Livelihood Intervention Cluster targeting the Working Age people, Social Allowance Cluster targeting the Covariate Risks, the Human Development and the Social Empowerment Cluster targeting the School Age children.

➤ Programme for Improving the Living Standard of Bede (Gypsy) Communities

Gypsy people cover a very small part of the population in Bangladesh. According to the survey of DSS, there are about 75,776 Gypsies reside in Bangladesh. In Gypsies, 99 per cent of the population is Muslim, and 90 per cent is illiterate. They are divided into eight groups as Malbede, Sapuria, Bazikar, Sander, Tola, Mirshikari, Barial Sanda, and Gain. Small business, sale of amulets, snakebite treatment, snake catching, snake hunting, snake sale, spiritual health care, horn planting, medicinal herbal medicine, kabiraji, monkey game, magic show, etc. are their main occupations. The programme was launched in seven districts of the country as a pilot programme from the year 2012-13 through DSS under the Ministry of Social Welfare. There are 3 components such as (i) Allowances for 50+ years aged people (ii) Stipends for Students and (iii) Providing training for workable people included in this programme. In the FY 2020-21b total allocation of budget is Tk 9.23 crore for 10,000 beneficiaries. This programme belongs to the Labour & Livelihood Intervention Cluster, mainly targeting the working age people all over the country.

➤ Programme for Improving the Livelihood of Trans Gender (Hijra)

The programme was launched in seven districts of the country as a pilot programme from the year 2012-13 through DSS. There are 3 components such as (i) Allowances for 50+ years aged people (ii) Stipends for Students and (iii) Providing training for workable people included in this programme. In FY 2012-13, the allocation was Tk 72.17 million. The programme was implemented in 21 districts in FY 2013-14 and FY 2015-16, this programme was scaled up in 64 districts. At the inception of the NSSS (2016-17), the number of beneficiaries was 5320. Beneficiaries are getting Tk 600 as allowances for the age of 50+ and Tk 750-1300 as stipends monthly per head which is payable every 3 months. The people under this programme who are the age of workable are getting training and Tk 10,000 after training for rehabilitation. There are 4,000 beneficiaries with Tk 5.56 crore budget in FY 2020-21 for this programme. This programme belongs to the Labour & Livelihood Intervention Cluster targeting the working age people all over the country.

➤ **Programme for Livelihood Improvement of Teagarden labourers**

The tea industry is one of the largest industries in Bangladesh. It is playing a very important role in the national economy. The production of tea in Bangladesh is about 96.07 million kg in a year. It is exported to 25 countries. The workers who are involved in the production of the tea gardens are called tea-workers. Although they are equally entitled to enjoy all the rights, they are found discriminated against family, socially and economically. To establish their justified rights in family and society, the government has implemented the programme 'life-long development activities for tea workers under social security programmes. The programme has been implemented by DSS. At the inception of this programme, each beneficiary got a package including 8 items of a family's needs valued at Tk 5000. From FY 2018-19, the food package shifted to cash in Tk 5000 for each and the number of beneficiaries was 40 thousand. There are 50 thousand beneficiaries with Tk 25 crore budgets in FY2020-21 for this programme. This programme belongs to the Labour & Livelihood Intervention Cluster targeting the Working Age people in tea gardens.

➤ **Financial support programmes for patients with cancer, kidney, liver cirrhosis, paralysis by stroke, congenital heart disease, and thalassemia**

This one-time grant is for the vulnerable and poor people who are being affected by cancer, kidney, liver cirrhosis, paralysis by stroke, congenital heart disease, and thalassemia. The programme aims to provide financial support of Tk 50,000 for one time, to help and support the family of the affected patient, and to bring the patient back to a healthy and normal life. This programme was introduced in the FY 2012-13 through DSS. There are 30 thousand beneficiaries with Tk 150 crore budget in FY 2020-21 for this programme. This programme belongs to the Social Allowance Cluster focusing on the Covariate Risks all over the country.

➤ **Poverty reduction programme through Interest-free Micro-Credit Programme**

The Rural Social Services (RSS) programme implemented by the Department of Social Services under the Ministry of Social Welfare is being conducted to alleviate the poverty of the destitute, helpless, neglected, backward, and lagging population living in the country's rural areas.

The interest-free micro-credit of RSS programme started a new and colourful history in the field of micro-credit/poverty alleviation in Bangladesh and the economic emancipation of the marginalized people.

Objectives: Through this programme, social awareness is being created among the landless and people living below the poverty line in the rural areas and their participation in the overall development of the country is being ensured by involving them in income-generating programmes.

During the tenure of the Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman's Government, the Department of Social Services started the journey of 'Rural Social Service Activities' in 19 police stations on an experimental basis in 1974. In the light of its success, this programme was expanded to 21 more police stations in 1986. Subsequently, through successive phases, it was expanded to Upazila 119 Upazilas during the 6th phase (2004-06). Regular allocations are being made in 460 Upazilas and the continuation of this from FY 2011-12 financial year offering interest-free micro-credit to small and informal activities. At present, this programme is being implemented in every union of each Upazila for the entire country. The total amount of allocation as micro-credit is Tk 499.22 crore, and the number of beneficiaries is 0.068 million.

➤ **Rural Mother Centre (RMC) activities**

About half of the country's total population is women, mostly live in rural areas, and in many cases are deprived of modern facilities. To empower these women through economic emancipation and socio-economic development, the Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman founded the 'Rural Mother Centre (RMC) in 19 police stations of 19 districts in the 1st Five Year Plan of Bangladesh in

1975 under the Department of Social Services Centre. One of the goals of this programme is to alleviate family-based poverty by organizing backward, disadvantaged, poor, and troubled women, together with women's development and empowerment. Besides, the women organized by the rural maternity centre form their capital. The project has been implemented in 318 units including 314 Upazilas in 6 phases (from 1985 to 2004) in different periods. This programme has been expanded to the remaining 18 Upazilas in FY 2018-19 and at present, the rural maternity centre activities are in operation in all the Upazilas of 64 districts. The total amount of allocation as micro-credit is Tk 71.05 crore, the number of beneficiaries is 193,000.

➞ **Fund for the Welfare of Acid Burnt Women and Disabled**

The programme, known as the "Rehabilitation Programme for the Acid Burnt Women and the Persons with Physical Disabilities" was launched in FY2002-03. Later, the name of the programme was changed in April 2010, and it continued the activities by the name of "Rehabilitation Programme for the Acid Burnt and the Persons with Disabilities". Again, the name and manual of the programme was changed in March 2016 and continued the activities by the name of "Rehabilitation Programme for the Burnt and the Persons with Disabilities". The programme is playing an important role in the socio-economic development of the acid burnt women and people with disabilities. Through this programme, rapid treatment is ensured for the burned persons. Besides, another purpose of the programme is to provide micro-credit assistance to create employment opportunities for persons with disabilities based on their skills or experience, and proficiency. There are 33,000 beneficiaries with Tk 1.82 crore budget in the 2020-21 fiscal year for this programme. This programme belongs to the Human Development and Social Empowerment Cluster targeting the Covariate Risks in rural areas.

➞ **Rehabilitation and Creation of Alternative Employment for Beggars Profession**

The Ministry of Social Welfare has taken up the programme on "Rehabilitation and Alternative Employment for the People Engaged in Begging" to implement the Government's commitment to poverty alleviation and prevent people from abusive occupations like beggary and for the rehabilitation and alternative employment of beggars by using the government's revenue sector. Programme activities started in August 2010. Government is firmly committed to the elimination of social evils like begging. Considering this matter, for the first time in FY 2017-2018, money was sent in 58 districts of the country for beggar rehabilitation and alternative employment. The programme has been implemented by the Ministry of Social Welfare. In the fiscal year 2020-21, the budget is Tk 5 crore, and the targeted beneficiaries are 2,850 people. This countrywide programme belongs to the Labour & Livelihood Intervention Cluster targeting the Working Age people.

➞ **Rehabilitation and development of socioeconomic conditions through training for disadvantaged, poor elderly, and PwDs**

Under the Child Welfare and Development Programme of the DSS, three institutions have been established for training and rehabilitation of the destitute children, which are located at Konabari, Gazipur, Tungipara, Gopalganj, and Rangunia, Chittagong. The first programme started functioning in 1983. In these centres, 750 inmates are getting different types of training. Destitute and street children between 5 to 14 years of age are admitted into the Destitute Children Rehabilitation Centre. They are provided with formal education in addition to various vocational training, like cycle repairing, tailoring, carpentry, electrical works, automobiles, etc. with the ultimate objective of rehabilitating them in society. Moreover, counselling services are also provided for their mental development and self-employment. The destitute children themselves were the breadwinners for them earlier. After coming into the centre, they are trained and are getting jobs in different trades. The DSS employees always try to help them in finding jobs relevant to their skills and interests. The programme has been implemented by the Ministry of Social Welfare. There are

2,000 beneficiaries with Tk 4.96 crore budget in FY 2020-21 for this programme. This programme belongs to the Labour & Livelihood Intervention Cluster targeting the Working Age people in rural areas.

➤ **Cash Transfer Modernization (CTM)**

The Cash Transfer Modernization (CTM) Project will strengthen the DSS's overall SP service delivery system and support the Department of Social Services (DSS) under the Ministry of Social Welfare (MoSW) in modernizing its major cash transfer programmes (Old Age Allowance, Allowance for Widow, Deserted and Destitute Women, Allowance for the Financially Insolvent Disabled, and Stipend for Disabled Students). The project mainly aims to provide technical assistance to DSS to support the enhancement of technology assets, utilize integrated information systems for targeting and payment, improve citizen engagement, and strengthen the capacity of human resources. Monitoring and reporting on these processes are planned as an integrated element of the project. In addition, spot checks of cash transfer programme performance would be conducted by DSS to assess the achievement of the Project's intended outputs and outcomes. Data would also be analyzed from a gender-based perspective to evaluate differential experiences among men and women. The programme has been implemented by the Ministry of Social Welfare. The project duration is July 2018 to June 2023 and the project cost is Tk 214.67 crore. This belongs to the Human Development and Social Empowerment Cluster targeting the Covariate Risks.

➤ **Training and rehabilitation of the Disabled, Widows, Orphans destitute, Helpless, Backward, and the Ultra Poor**

After rescuing the teenage girls who are denied fundamental human rights and detached from mainstream society, the government has established a programme named 'The training and Rehabilitation Centre for the Socially Handicapped Girls in FY 2002-2003. The programme aims to provide services to target groups in their mainstreaming into society by providing proper protection, education, vocational training, mental development, and finally rehabilitation and reintegration into the community. The programme has been implemented by the Ministry of Social Welfare. The programme received Tk 45.92 crore budget in FY 2020-21 and belongs to the Human Development and Social Empowerment Cluster targeting the Working Age people in rural areas.

➤ **Capitation Grants for Orphan Students in Non-gov. Orphanages**

Private orphanages are established at the local level for the upbringing and development of parentless children of poor families which are being run through the collection of local resources and various types of donations. The Department of Social Services, under the Ministry of Social Welfare, assists these private orphanages, which are registered according to Voluntary Organizations (Registration and Control) Ordinance 1961. Nurturing, treatment and education for the children of the private orphanages were known as capitation grants. There is an implementation manual for ensuring accountability, transparency, and coordination in the allocation and use of capitation grants at present, a capitation grant is being provided to 120,000 orphan children residing in 4000 private orphanages. The main purpose of this capitation grant is to help poor orphan children to become human resources. The programme has been implemented by DSS under the Ministry of Social Welfare and belongs to the Social Allowance Cluster targeting the School Age children in rural areas.

➤ **Grants for Residents in Government Orphanages and other Institutions**

There are innumerable numbers of children living in deplorable conditions in the country. They are orphans, destitute, disabled, and the very poor, who are living below the poverty line. From the nineteen fifties, some orphans were reared up, educated, and rehabilitated by the government through establishing state orphanages and run by the Primary Education Directorate. Later the orphanages have been transferred to DSS. Other than this programme, DSS has established many organizations for education, training, and rehabilitation for destitute children, street children, abandoned baby, and destitute women. The

programme has been implemented by the Ministry of Social Welfare. There are 0.21 lakh beneficiaries with BDT 73.31 crore budget in the 2020-21 fiscal year for this programme. This programme belongs to the Social Allowance Cluster targeting the School Age children in rural areas.

The institutions operated by the Department of Social Services under the Social Security Programmes are as follows:

Table 11: Institutions Operated by the Department of Social Services

Sl.	Name of the institutions operated by the Department of Social Services	Number of Institutes			Activities (Programme / Project)
		Boys	Girl	Combined	
1.	Sarkari Shishu Paribar: The main goal of this institute is to create an environment for orphans to grow as normal citizens of the country. The specific aim of this institute is to take care, protect, maintain, and provide food, education, training, Medicare, recreational facilities and to rehabilitate and reintegrate the orphans into society.	43	41	1	Food and lodging, general education, religious and moral teaching, sports, and recreation, Medicare, vocational training, reintegration and rehabilitation.
2.	Baby home: The Department of Social Services has established 6 Baby homes in 6 administrative divisions for unclaimed and abandoned babies up to 6 years of age. The main goal of the baby's home is to rehabilitate and reintegrate them into society.	-	-	6	Under the programme food, care, protection, education, and nursing facilities are provided to the babies very carefully. After 6 years the babies are shifted to the Sarkari Shishu Paribar for further care, protection, education, and training up to the age of 18 years.
3.	Daycare Centre: The Department of Social Services has established a daycare centre at Azimpur for daytime childcaring of low-income mothers' group.	-	-	1	Provides care, protection, food, security, recreation, playgroup, standard education for these children.
4.	Sarkari Ashroy Kendro: Under the Bengal Vagrancy Act, 1943 the vagrant home is running. The main objective of vagrancy is to rehabilitate and reintegrate the vagrant into society.	2	3	1	To provide shelter, food, clothing, training, and informal education. To rehabilitate and reintegrate them into society. To motivate them against any immoral profession.
5.	Safe home: The Department of Social Services has established 6 (Six) Safe Custody homes for providing safe custody for women, children, and adolescents with upholding their human rights in the state. Safe homes save the victims from suffering and humiliation by segregating them from their confinement in jails with adult and serious criminals.	-	6	-	The residents are provided food, clothing, formal education, Medicare, trade training, and recreation facilities including psychological counselling and legal aid.

Sl.	Name of the institutions operated by the Department of Social Services	Number of Institutes			Activities (Programme / Project)
		Boys	Girl	Combined	
6.	Juvenile Development Centres: Under the provisions of the Children's Act 1974, the National Children Policy, and following the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC), the juvenile centre provides a congenial atmosphere in the family and the society by giving due attention to all dimensions of protection, survival, and development of the children who are in contact with law.	2	1	-	Providing food, caring, protecting, housing, clothing, Medicare, education, vocational training, correction, and counselling to the delinquents.
7.	Socio-economic training Centre: To train destitute women as productive citizens, the Department of Social Services has established 2 (two) socio-economic centres.	-	2	-	Training on cutting and sewing, boutique, doll making, embroidery, wool knitting confectionery, and Chinese cooking.
8.	Training and Rehabilitation Centres for the Destitute Children: DSS has established 3 (three) institutions for training and rehabilitation of destitute children. Destitute and street children between 5 to 14 years of age are admitted into the Destitute Children Rehabilitation Centre.	2	1	-	Formal education together with various vocational training like cycle repairing tailoring, carpentry, electrical works, automobiles, counselling, etc.
9.	Pre-Vocational Training Programme: To develop the residents of Sarkari Shishu Paribar as self-reliant citizens, this programme provides effective training facilities at 5 vocational training centres.	2	3	-	Training on mechanical and electrical works, cutting and sewing, boutique, etc.
10.	Vocational Training and Production Centre for the Destitute Women: The destitute women who live in slum areas, face a lot of problems, the Department of Social Services established a vocational training centre for these destitute women.	-	1	-	Training on cutting and sewing, boutique, doll making, embroidery, wool knitting confectionery, weaving training and Chinese cooking.
11.	Integrated Education programme for the Visually Impaired (Blind children): The Department of Social Services is running the 64 (Sixty-four) integrated education programme for the visually impaired (blind) children to impart education with normal students.	64	-	-	School education. Social education. Mobility training. Through education and training, making the visually impaired children into productive citizens.
12.	Schools for the Visually Impaired: The Vocational education opportunities provided by the Department of Social Services to the Visually impaired by these schools.	-	-	1	General education in a special way. Training and mobility; bamboo and cane work and so on.

Sl.	Name of the institutions operated by the Department of Social Services	Number of Institutes			Activities (Programme / Project)
		Boys	Girl	Combined	
13.	Employment and Rehabilitation Centre for the Physically Handicapped (ERCPH): The Department of Social Services has given much emphasis on the welfare and development of persons with disabilities. DSS is running several programmes for persons with disabilities. Employment and Rehabilitation Centre for the Physically Handicapped (ERCPH) is one of the important institutions of DSS.	2	-	-	Training, rehabilitation, and placement of Persons with Disabilities.
14.	School for the Hearing Impaired: For providing education, training, and rehabilitation the DSS is running 7 schools for the hearing impaired.	-	-	4	Free food, lodging, education, and training including training in sign language to express themselves.
15.	Institution for the Mentally Retarded Children: By special education, Medicare, training facilities the DSS helps mentally retarded children to contribute to and participate in the family and society.	-	-	1	Free food, lodging, recreation facilities, and training.
16.	Non-Government Orphanages: For running the non-government orphanage. The Social Welfare Ministry provides financial assistance to the non-government orphanages to build up the distressed orphans as productive citizens.	-	-	4007	To provide the capitation grant.
17.	The training and Rehabilitation Centre for the Socially Disadvantaged Women (sex worker): After rescuing the teenage girls (sex workers), who are deceived from their fundamental human rights and also detached from the mainstream of the society, the government established a programme under DSS named 'the training and Rehabilitation Centre for the socially Disadvantaged Women (sex worker)' in FY2002-2003 for enabling them to the mainstream in society through providing proper protection, education, vocational training, mental development and, finally rehabilitation and reintegration with the community.	-	6	-	Providing proper protection, education, vocational training, mental development, and finally rehabilitation and reintegration with the community.

➤ Service and Assistance Centre for Disabled

The Service and Support Centre for Disabled Persons were initiated as part of an experiment in 5 districts 2009-2010 to provide physiotherapy and other treatments, free of cost to the disabled community. In FY 2010-2011, 10 more Disability Service and Support Centres have been established by rebuilding the previous 5 Disability Service and Support Centres. The Disability Service and Support Centre has been

extended by renewing the previous 35 Disability Service and Support Centres. Now 103 Disability Service and Support Centre are running in 64 districts and 39 Upazilas. Till now, 376,642 registered clients have received services, while the number of service transaction is 2,534,213. Further, an autism corner has been launched in every centre. In every Upazila, Disability Support and Service Centres will also be gradually established. The programme has been implemented by the Ministry of Social Welfare. There are 0.399 million beneficiaries with a Tk 68.9 crore budget in FY2020-21 for this programme. This programme belongs to the Human Development and Social Empowerment Cluster targeting the Covariate Risks in the life cycle approach in rural areas.

➞ **Shamaj Kallyan Parishad**

Bangladesh National Social Welfare Council is the national council for carrying out social welfare activities and programmes in Bangladesh. It is in Dhaka, Bangladesh. This organization arranges seminar, workshops, and capacity development or training programme on social welfare activities. The programme has been implemented by the Ministry of Social Welfare. There are 88,000 beneficiaries Tk 74.43 crore budget in FY 2020-21 for this programme. This programme belongs to the Human Development and Social Empowerment Cluster focusing on the Covariates in the life cycle approach in rural areas.

➞ **Trust for the Protection of the Persons with Neuro-developmental Disabilities**

Bangladesh is one of the most populous countries in the world. Along with other disabilities, many children/individuals suffer from autism and neuro-developmental problems. These people are not able to properly participate in social interaction, movement, communication, and daily functioning, because of being incapacitated by neurological underdevelopment. As a result, life-long care is needed. To this end, the present government has taken effective steps to provide services to the type and extent of disabilities through various activities. The government of Bangladesh constituted a Board in 2014, which is called the Neuro-Developmental Disability Protection Trustee Board through implementation of the 'Neuro-Developmental Disability Protection Trust Act, 2013'. The Act aims to improve the overall quality of life of people with neurodevelopmental disorders. The Trust is taking various initiatives to improve the living standards of children and persons with neuro-developmental disabilities. The programme has been implemented by the Ministry of Social Welfare. In FY2020-21 Tk 29.15 crore budget has been allocated for this programme. This programme belongs to the Human Development and Social Empowerment Cluster targeting the Covariates in life cycle approach in rural areas.

➞ **Welfare Trust for Physical disabilities**

Main objective of this programme is to improve the living standards of poor, destitute, deprived, and disabled people through giving social protection, ensuring empowerment and development. It formulates and implements policies, which promote social welfare, improve the standard of living of disadvantaged segments of the population, facilitate registration of voluntary social service organizations, provide education, training, and rehabilitation of the underprivileged children and persons with disabilities, and provide rehabilitation and developmental support to vagrants, children, prone to social crimes, implementation of probation and other aftercare services. The programme has been implemented by the Ministry of Social Welfare. In FY2021, Tk 15 crore budget has been allocated for this programme. This programme belongs to the Human Development and Social Empowerment Cluster concentrating on the Covariate Risks the in-life cycle approach in rural areas.

Programme Summary (2020-21)

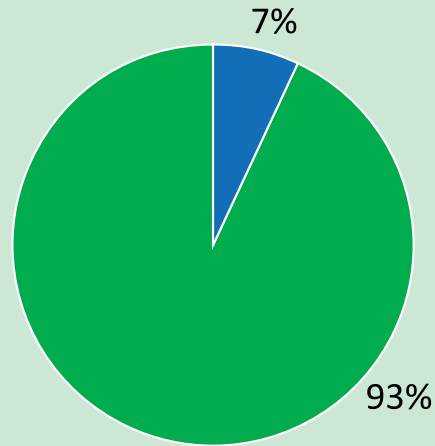
Table 12: Programmes Summary (2020-21) of Ministry of Social Welfare

Sl.	Social Protection Programme	Thematic Cluster	Life Cycle	Beneficiary (Lakh)	Budget (Crore Taka)
1.	Allowances for the Financially Insolvent Disabled	Social Allowance	Covariate Risks	18.00	1620.00
2.	Allowances for the Widow, Husband Deserted, and Destitute Women	Social Allowance	Covariate Risks	20.50	1230.00
3.	Capitation Grants for Orphan Students in Non-gov. Orphanages	Social Allowance	School Age	1.20	240.00
4.	Cash Transfer Modernization (CTM)	Human Development and Social Empowerment	Covariate Risks	-	47.87
5.	Cost of food for Residents in Government Orphanages and Other Institutions	Social Allowance	School Age	0.21	73.31
6.	Development of the Living Standard of the Marginal Communities of Bangladesh	Human Development and Social Empowerment	Covariate Risks	-	12.00
7.	Establishment/Re-establishment of Sarkari Shishu Paribar and Baby Home	Human Development and Social Empowerment	Pregnancy and Childhood	-	40.00
8.	Financial Support for Cancer, Kidney and Liver Cirrhosis and Other Patients	Social Allowance	Covariate Risks	0.30	150.00
9.	Fund for the Welfare of Burnt and Disabled	Human Development and Social Empowerment	Covariate Risks	0.33	1.82
10.	Grants for the School for Disabled	Human Development and Social Empowerment	School Age	0.37	29.68
11.	Improving the Living Standards of Tea workers	Labour / Livelihood Intervention	Working Age	0.50	25.00
12.	Interest-free Micro-Credit Programme for RSS, RMC & Urban Centre	Human Development and Social Empowerment	Working Age	1.00	158.00
13.	National Samaj Kalyan Parishad	Human Development and Social Empowerment	Covariate Risks	0.88	74.43
14.	Old Age Allowance	Social Insurance	Old Age	49.00	2940.00
15.	Programme for Improving the Livelihood of Transgender (Hijra), Bede & Disadvantaged Community	Labour / Livelihood Intervention	Working Age	0.86	46.31
16.	Rehabilitation and Alternative Employment Generation for Beggars	Labour / Livelihood Intervention	Working Age	0.10	5.00

Sl.	Social Protection Programme	Thematic Cluster	Life Cycle	Beneficiary (Lakh)	Budget (Crore Taka)
17.	Rehabilitation and Development of Socio-economic Conditions through Training for Disadvantaged, Poor, Elderly, Orphans and Persons with Disabilities	Labour / Livelihood Intervention	Working Age	0.02	4.96
18.	Service and Assistance Centre for Disabled	Human Development and Social Empowerment	Covariate Risks	3.99	68.90
19.	Stipend for Disabled Students	Human Development and Social Empowerment	School Age	1.00	95.64
20.	Stipend for Improving the Livelihood of Transgender (Hijra), Bede & Disadvantaged Community	Human Development and Social Empowerment	Covariate Risks	0.27	26.35
21.	Training and Rehabilitation of the Disabled, Widows, Orphans (destitute, helpless, backward) and the Ultra Poor	Labour / Livelihood Intervention	Working Age	-	45.92
22.	Trust for the Protection of the Persons with Neurodevelopmental Disabilities	Human Development and Social Empowerment	Covariate Risks	-	29.15
23.	Welfare Trust for Physically Disabled	Human Development and Social Empowerment	Covariate Risks	-	15.00

The social protection budget of the Ministry of Social Welfare is Tk 6,979.34 crore, which is more than 7 per cent of the total social security budget of the country. In terms of the number of the projects, this Ministry is placed in the top order implementing 23 programmes out of 119.

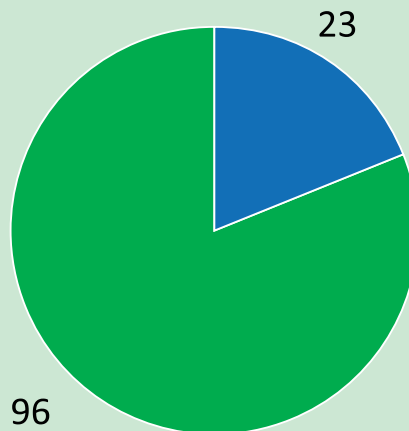
Ministry of Social Welfare - Share of Social Protection Budget



■ Share of Social Protection Budget
■ Other Programs Combined Budget

Figure 19: Share of Social Security Budget of Ministry of Social Welfare

Ministry of Social Welfare - Number of Programs



■ Social Protection ■ Other Programs

Figure 20: Share of Number of Social Security Programmes of Ministry of Social Welfare

Most of the allocation of the Ministry is dedicated to the covariate risk coverage followed by the old age population, as is shown in the following graph:

Ministry of Social Welfare Lifecycle wise Budget Allocation

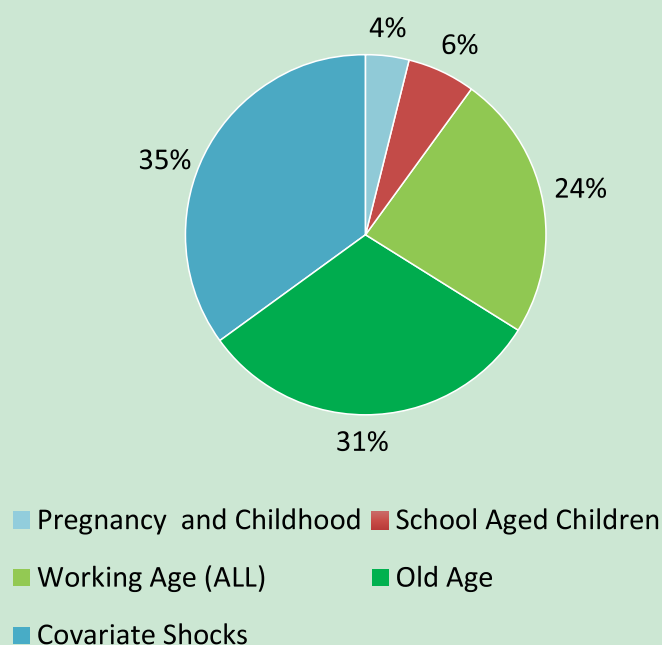


Figure 21: Life Cycle wise Budget Allocation of Ministry of Social Welfare

As is evident from the following graph, the programmes of the Ministry are predominantly in the thematic cluster of the social allowance.

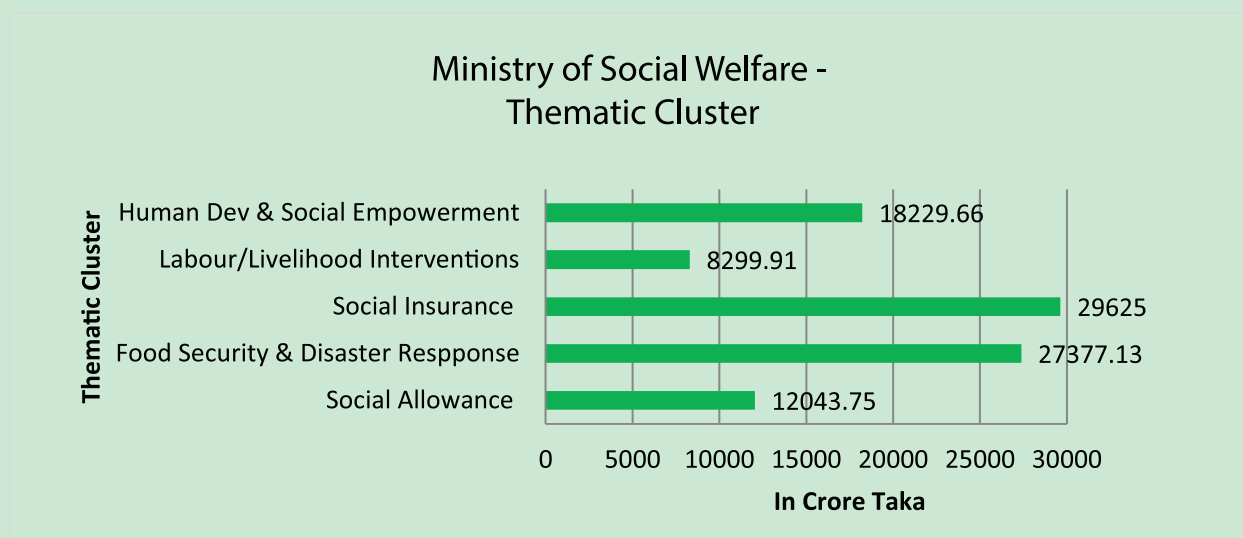


Figure 22: Thematic Cluster wise Budget Allocation of Ministry of Social Welfare

Situation Analysis

Table 13: Situation Analysis of Ministry of Social Welfare

Programme Name	NSSS Provision	Present Situation	Gaps
Old Age Allowance	<p>It will be accessible to all elderly citizens aged above 60 who have income below 1.25 times the upper poverty line. The estimated number of eligible candidates will be around 6.5 million.</p> <p>Old Age Allowance will be significantly increased. The NSSS suggests an increase of per person benefit from Tk. 300 to Tk500 per month.</p> <p>At age of 90 years, the value of the allowance will be further increased. [Summary, Box 5.1, Para 2.2.6, 4.3.3 of NSSS]</p>	<p>The eligibility age limit is 65 years for males and 62 years for females. Total coverage is 4.9 million recipients (FY2021). In line with the NSSS provision, the old age allowance has been increased from Tk. 300 to Tk 500 per month.</p> <p>Currently, there is no special allocation for people above 90 years.</p>	<p>The age threshold is to be lowered to 60 for both males and females. The number of beneficiaries needs to be increased by another 1.6 million.</p> <p>Special benefit to be introduced for 90+ people.</p>
Disability Benefits for a. Children b. Working-age	<p>The NSSS proposes disability benefits separately for children and working-age people. The disabled people above 60 years will be transitioned to old age allowance. The allowance should be equivalent to Old Age Allowance with additional money for medicines. Child Disability Grant will be in addition to the proposed Child Benefit.</p> <p>Around 0.35 million children are estimated to be eligible for child disability benefits. The victims of autism, cognitive and visual disorders, so on, will be included in this category.</p> <p>The NSSS also suggests that there should be a disability allowance for severe disabilities among working-age people. Around 1.15 million people are estimated to have severe disabilities. In addition, some 6 per cent of the whole population have different degrees of disabilities.</p>	<p>Currently, coverage for disability benefits administered by the Ministry of Social Welfare is around 1.8 million beneficiaries. While about 100,000 disabled students are getting stipends (FY2021). In addition, there are some associated programmes for skills development for persons with physical and neurological disabilities.</p> <p>The coverage has increased significantly over the last few years. Preferably, the female caregiver of disabled children should be preferred as the recipients for delivery of the Child Benefit Allowance. The income of the household is considered (yearly Tk. 36,000). According to the Disability Information System (DIS), which is conducted by DSS, the detected PwDs are about 2.3 million, and every year a good number of is PwDs is brought into the coverage.</p>	<p>Around 400,000 to 500,000 additional people need to be brought under disability benefits.</p> <p>Identification of persons with disabilities is important. Detailed guidelines need to be formulated with a budget for additional coverage. In addition, it is necessary to define the disability certification process for children and adults. The income criteria should be set to individual income instead of family income.</p>

Programme Name	NSSS Provision	Present Situation	Gaps
Benefits for Persons with Disabilities	<p>Criteria should be set for identifying eligible persons for this benefit.</p> <p>The NSSS suggested the benefit amount to be set at Tk. 1,500 per month.</p> <p>For targeting, only the income of the person with a disability will be assessed, not the income of the whole household.</p> <p>The NSSS encourages complementary programmes for vocational education, enterprise support and anti-discrimination in the job market. [Para 2.2.5, 4.3.4, Figure 2.4, Summary, Box 5.1 of NSSS]</p>	Identifying PwDs is a continuous process.	MoSW is to define and create a system of monitoring for the development of children with disabilities, and to consolidate complementary programmes for vocational education, enterprise support and removing anti-discrimination in the job market.
Support for Vulnerable Women	<p>The NSSS stipulates ensuring that the most vulnerable women are provided with income security and greater opportunities to engage in the labour market. Such women include widows, divorced, single mothers, etc.</p> <p>Around 10 per cent of the total working-age women fall within this category with more than 3.3 million women as eligible for this benefit.</p> <p>The NSSS envisages a consolidated income transfer under a reformed Vulnerable Women's Benefit (VWB) programme.</p>	The Ministry of Social Welfare has allowance programmes for widows and deserted women. About 2.5 million beneficiaries are covered under the programme in FY2021 while the per-person allowance is Tk. 500 per month.	Still, about 1.3 million vulnerable women are outside this programme. Measures are to be taken to formulate a comprehensive programme to be named Vulnerable Women's Benefit (VWB). This needs to be coordinated with the Ministry of Women and Children Affairs.
Orphan's Programme	Orphans require special care and additional funding. The Ministry of Social Welfare will continue to provide support to orphans through ongoing programmes to ensure that they receive adequate benefits and support. [Para 2.2.5, 5.2.4 of NSSS]	Currently, the Ministry of Social Welfare has several programmes for supporting orphans. The programmes need to be further scaled up.	Programmes for the orphans need to be continued with increased allocation.

Programme Name	NSSS Provision	Present Situation	Gaps
Programmes for Socially Excluded People	The NSSS suggests that there should be programmes for socially excluded people like ethnic minorities, transgender, tea garden workers, HIV affected people, etc. There should be programmes for socially excluded people such as tea garden workers, bede, transgender, ethnic minorities, acid burnt survivors, beggars, homeless people, etc. [Para 2.3.2, 4.4 of NSSS]	The ministry has some programmes for such marginalized people. But these are not sufficient in terms of the number of beneficiaries and number of benefits.	The programmes need to be scaled up.
Smaller Programmes	The NSSS also suggests that there should be complementary schemes in addition to the core lifecycle programmes, for example, skills development programmes, empowerment, etc. [Para 2.3.2 of NSSS]	The Ministry of Social Welfare has more than 25 of such smaller programmes	The small programmes may need to be consolidated.
Improve Targeting of Beneficiaries	According to the NSSS provision, the selection of the beneficiaries should follow the poverty scoring by proxy means test with additional support from local government and NGOs where applicable.	The household survey based on the Proxy Means Test (PMT) is yet to be finalized by the BBS. The manuals or circulars relating to the beneficiary selections of most of the programmes are old. Even some of the manuals date back to pre-2010. Even some of the programmes have hardly any institutional and legal arrangements for targeting.	The selection procedures of the programmes need to be updated.
Grievance Redress System (GRS)	Establishing an effective grievance redress so that all citizens have recourse to appeal decisions on selection and can notify the competent authorities about instances of misconduct and failures in the delivery of the promised benefits [Para 6.3 of NSSS].	The current grievance redress system (GRS) is recorded online. Once the grievance is recorded, it is redressed centrally by the ministries. In addition, at the district level, irrespective of online or written, the DSS established a web-based MIS for managing allowances programme. There is a provision to manage GRS online.	Effective GRS should be established in line with the NSSS.

Programme Name	NSSS Provision	Present Situation	Gaps
Single Registry MIS (Management Information System)	The government will establish a national Single Registry, which is based on scheme-specific MISs that communicate with each other. The Single Registry would be based on a national identity system of all Bangladeshi citizens. [Para 6.4 of NSSS]	<p>In presence of beneficiaries, public representatives, and local administration, a union campaign about GRS is ongoing. In addition, integrated MIS for social protection has been developed at the Finance Division collecting MIS Data of four ministries.</p> <p>DSS Established web-based MIS for managing allowances programmes, which is already linked with the financial management database of FD (SPBMU MIS).</p> <p>G2P payment through EFT is going on by using SPBMU MIS. It may require more time to set up MIS linked programmes</p>	MIS in DSS should be updated in line with a national payment system.
Digitization of Cash Transfer	To transform the payment system from government to person (G2P) so that they promote financial inclusivity and prevent leakages. [Para 6.5 of NSSS]	<p>G2P modality has been finalized. E-payment modalities are used. The plan is to cover all cash-based programmes.</p> <p>MoSW is working to ensure Old Age Allowance, Allowances for Widow and Husband's Deserted Destitute Women and Allowances for Disabled by G2P modality within FY 2022 through the Mobile Financial Service providers. At least half of the task will be completed in FY2022.</p>	
Enhance Results-Based M&E	There is an important need to formalize a system of results-based M&E at the national level and individual programme levels for assessing the results of the programmes. [Para 7.2 of NSSS]	M&E Framework has been developed, but the dashboard is not yet in place. The NSSS Mid-term evaluation started	Systematic monitoring and evaluation need to be introduced.

Programme Name	NSSS Provision	Present Situation	Gaps
Institutional Strength of DSS	According to the NSSS provision, DSS will lead the life cycle based social security programmes in Bangladesh. DSS is run by the organogram with manpower, which was designed in 1984. Currently, the number of programmes and the volume of works have increased manifold. But the manpower and other institutional capacities have not in parity with increased needs.	Recently, Social Safety Net Unit under DSS HQ and the divisional offices has been established. But field level manpower has not increased yet. Required ICT Unit is also not established.	Field level manpower will be increased, and an ICT unit will be established.

Action Plan (2021-26)

To implement the reform proposals of the NSSS, the following time-bound activities may be taken up.

Table 14: Action Plan of Ministry of Social Welfare

Sl.	Objectives	Activities	Performance Indicators	Timeframe	Responsible Ministry	Shared Responsibility
1.	Strengthen Old Age Allowance Programme	Examine and review the age threshold.	Consultations held and decisions taken.	June 2022	Ministry of Social Welfare	Finance Division
			Update manual (if change in age threshold recommended).	December 2022		
		Make the programme universal for eligible people.	At least 250 Upazilas.	July 2022	Ministry of Social Welfare	Finance Division
			All Upazilas.	July 2024		
		Review benefit value in course of changing circumstances like inflation, etc.	Allowance increased periodically.	Each year	Ministry of Social Welfare	Finance Division
		Introduce a special old-age allowance for people above the age of 90.	List of people age 90+ prepared.	June 2022	Ministry of Social Welfare	Finance Division
			Programme for people age 90+ designed.	June 2024		
			Scaled up nationwide	June 2025		

Sl.	Objectives	Activities	Performance Indicators	Timeframe	Responsible Ministry	Shared Responsibility
2.	Scale-up disability benefit for children and working-age (PwDs)	Prepare guidelines for disability identification.	Circular issued.	July 2022	Ministry of Social Welfare	Cabinet Division (CD)
		Set income criteria on an individual basis.	Circular revised.	December 2022	Ministry of Social Welfare	Finance Division
		Increase coverage by actual identification.	All identified PwDs are covered.	Continuous	Ministry of Social Welfare	
		Strengthen monitoring of schemes for disabled people.	Monitoring framework developed.	Continuous	Ministry of Social Welfare	
3.	Strengthen Support to Vulnerable Women	Make the programme universal for eligible women.	At least 250 Upazilas.	July 2022	Ministry of Social Welfare	Finance Division
			All Upazilas	July 2024		
4.	Improve programmes for orphans	Maintain quality of services.	Programme continued.	Every year	Ministry of Social Welfare	Finance Division
		Increase coverage.	The number of children served increased.	Annually	Ministry of Social Welfare	Finance Division
5.	Programmes for marginalized people	Increase coverage and per person benefit.	The number of beneficiaries and benefits increased.	Continuous	Ministry of Social Welfare	Finance Division
6.	Improve programmes for children in conflict with law & contact with law	1. Update manual for effective operation. 2. Maintain quality of services. 3. Increase coverage.	1. Manual prepared. 2. Programme continued. 3. Coverage increased.	Every year	Ministry of Social Welfare	
7.	Improve programmes for adolescent girls & women in contact with the law (victim)	1. Update manual for effective operation. 2. Maintain quality of services. 3. Increase coverage.	1. Manual prepared. 2. Programme continued. 3. Coverage increased annually.	Every year	Ministry of Social Welfare	

Sl.	Objectives	Activities	Performance Indicators	Timeframe	Responsible Ministry	Shared Responsibility
8.	Improve programmes for abandoned children	1. Update manual for effective operation. 2. Maintain quality of services. 3. Increase coverage.	1. Manual prepared. 2. Programme continued. 3. Coverage increased annually.	Every year	Ministry of Social Welfare	
9.	Improve programmes for disabled children & people	1. Update manual for effective operation. 2. Maintain quality of services. 3. Increase coverage.	1. Manual prepared. 2. Programme continued. 3. Coverage increased annually.	Every year	Ministry of Social Welfare	
10.	Improve programmes for vagrant & homeless people	1. Update manual for effective operation. 2. Maintain quality of services. 3. Increase coverage.	1. Manual prepared. 2. Programme continued. 3. Coverage increased annually.	Every year	Ministry of Social Welfare	
11.	Improve programme for Socially Disabled Women	1. Update manual for effective operation. 2. Maintain quality of services. 3. Increase coverage.	1. Manual prepared. 2. Programme continued. 3. Coverage increased annually.	Every year Annually	Ministry of Social Welfare	
12.	Improve Training & Rehabilitation programme for Children, Women & Disabled Persons	1. Update Training Course Module for effective operation. 2. Maintain quality of services. 3. Increase coverage.	1. Training Course Module prepared, 2. Programme continued. 3. Coverage increased annually.	Every year Annually	Ministry of Social Welfare	
13.	Improve Education programmes for Disabled Children	1. Update manual for effective operation. 2. Maintain quality of services. 3. Increase coverage.	1. Manual prepared. 2. Programme continued. 3. Coverage increased annually.	Every year Annually	Ministry of Social Welfare	

Sl.	Objectives	Activities	Performance Indicators	Timeframe	Responsible Ministry	Shared Responsibility
14.	Consolidate Smaller Programmes	Prepare a list of programmes to be continued.	List to be sent to CD.	July 2022	Ministry of Social Welfare	CD
		Make a list of programmes to be scaled up.	List to be sent to CD.	July 2022	Ministry of Social Welfare	CD
		Make a list of programmes to be phased out.	List to be sent to CD.	July 2023	Ministry of Social Welfare	CD
		Review the consolidation of proposals	Review prepared.	December 2023	GED	
15.	Improve targeting of beneficiaries	Update manual for selection procedures and disseminate it to people.	Circular issued.	December 2022	Ministry of Social Welfare	
		Publish a list of beneficiaries online to make it transparent.	Instructions given to field offices.	Continuous	Ministry of Social Welfare	
		Follow the BBS database when prepared.	Instruction given.	January 2023	Ministry of Social Welfare	
16.	Grievance Redress System	Arrange for recording complaints at the field level.	Instruction issued.	Continuous	Ministry of Social Welfare	
		Create public awareness about the facility of central GRS of the Cabinet Division.	Public meetings held in all Upazilas.	July 2023	Ministry of Social Welfare	
17.	Develop Single Registry MIS	Create online-based MIS for major programmes.	MIS digitized for major programmes.	July 2023	Ministry of Social Welfare	
		Make the MIS accessible to relevant departments.	Inter-departmental arrangement established.	July 2023	Ministry of Social Welfare	
		Link MIS with cash disbursement.	MIS linked with financial management database of the Finance Division (SPBMU MIS).	July 2023	Ministry of Social Welfare	Finance Division

Sl.	Objectives	Activities	Performance Indicators	Timeframe	Responsible Ministry	Shared Responsibility
18.	Digitization of cash transfer	Roll out an appropriate format of G2P.	G2P rolled out for major programmes.	July 2023	Ministry of Social Welfare	Finance Division
19.	Enhance results-based M&E	Digitize monitoring of programmes.	Review dashboard regularly.	Continuous	Ministry of Social Welfare	
		Conduct mid-term and end-term evaluations of the programme.	The programme evaluated regularly.	Continuous	Ministry of Social Welfare	

Key Actions of Ministry of Social Welfare

- Strengthen old age allowance programme mainly by expansion of coverage and introduce special allowance for people above age of 90.
- Scale up disability benefit for children and working age through preparing guidelines for disability identification.
- Consolidate interventions for vulnerable women and introduce and integrated vulnerable women benefit (BWB) programme.
- Improve programmes for orphans and maintain quality of services and increase coverage.
- Strengthen programmes for marginalized and socially excluded people like tea garden workers, transgender and disadvantaged communities.



NSSS Action Plan, Phase - II (2021-26)



Ministry of Women and Children Affairs

**Action Plan (2021-26) Implementation of
National Social Security Strategy (NSSS) of Bangladesh**



*Action Plan of Ministry of Women
and Children Affairs*

Action Plan (2021-26) for Implementation of National Social Security Strategy (NSSS) of Bangladesh

Ministry of Women and Children Affairs

Following the successful implementation of Vision 2021 and commitment under the Perspective Plan 2041, the government of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has taken various initiatives for the protection and development of women and children. The prerequisite for the development of the nation depends on the development of women and children, who belong to a greater part of the population. Overall rights of women and children, empowerment, and development are key milestones in the implementation of the Government's social security programmes.

Considering the Government's election manifesto, the Ministry of Women and Children Affairs (MoWCA) has taken various social protection measures to alleviate women's poverty, reduce vulnerability, and gender discrimination. A number of policies and legal frameworks have been introduced to prevent violence against women and protection of child rights. The Ministry through its various programmes and projects has empowered women, reducing violence against women, and women trafficking. The Ministry has taken several legal and programmatic actions for the protection of women in the workplace and bring women into the mainstream of socio-economic activities to ensure the full and equal participation of women in the country's overall socio-economic development. Besides, MoWCA has taken several initiatives to promote nutrition, early childhood care, and development through various social safety net programmes. The Ministry has established several training institutes and facilities for women to increase efficiency by providing comprehensive training, employment opportunities, together with expanding labour market participation. Through small and medium entrepreneurs, MoWCA patronizes the extensive activities being conducted to ensure economic empowerment. Under the NSSS 2nd phase Action Plan, MoWCA aims to contribute to national endeavours to promote prosperity with inclusiveness through implementing social protection programmes for women and children.

Vision

A society with gender equality and child protection.

Mission

Establishing the rights of women and children and women empowerment through mainstreaming in development.

NSSS objectives

The NSSS's strategic objectives are to ensure the rights to social security for women and children and to ensure a level of a minimum income for children and vulnerable women.

Challenges

MoWCA identified that more investment in human, technical and financial resources are required for effective and efficient implementation of quality social protection programmes assigned under the NSSS.

Organizational Overview

The Ministry of Women and Children Affairs (MoWCA) has the following attached departments and agencies to implement activities at the field level:

➔ Department of Women Affairs (DWA)

The Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman established Bangladesh Women Rehabilitation Board on 18th February 1972 to rehabilitate the women, who were rescued from the abuse and molestation of Pakistani occupation forces. As the scope and responsibilities of the Women Rehabilitation Board expanded steadily, the Board was reorganized in 1974 into the Women's Rehabilitation and Welfare Foundation. Meanwhile, a Women Development Cell and a National Women Training and Development Academy were created later. Amalgamating Women Rehabilitation and Welfare Foundation, Women Development Cell, and the National Women Training and Development Academy, the Directorate of Women Affairs was formed in 1984 headed by a director and was upgraded to Department of Women Affairs in 1990 headed by a Director-General. The Department of Women Affairs is attached to the Ministry. Major social protection activities of the Ministry are being implemented by this department. In order to alleviate poverty and vulnerability of distressed, helpless, destitute, and pregnant women, social safety net programmes such as the Vulnerable Group Development (VGD) Programme, Maternity Allowance, Lactating Mothers Allowance, and micro-credit are the major programmes of MoWCA, which are being implemented by the Department of Women Affairs (DWA). All activities of the DWA are implemented through its head office, 64 districts offices, and 492 Upazila offices.

➔ Jatiyo Mohila Sangstha (JMS)

To rehabilitate the war-affected women of the liberation war, the 'Women Rehabilitation Board' was established in 1972 by the Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman. It was the first institutional step towards women's development. The United Nations declared the year 1975 as the International Women's Year (IWY) and Bangladesh actively participated in the first World Women Conference held in Mexico in 1975 where the United Nations declared 1976-1985 as the Decade for Women. In keeping with the Action Plan of the UN declaration, the issues of women's rights have come into the focus of national and international forums. Against this backdrop, the Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman directed the DG of the Social Welfare Department to set up an institutional infrastructure for upholding the rights of the women and the overall development of women from all walks of life. In this context, a layout of Jatiyo Mohila Sangstha (National Women Organization) has been formulated and established on 17 February 1976. The Sangstha has been created as a statutory body under the Ministry of Women and Children Affairs by Act no.9 of the parliament on 4th May 1991. It is headed by an Executive Director and run by a Governing Body of 84 members for strengthening and accelerating its activities for equal rights and empowerment of women. The Sangstha has its field offices in 64 districts and 50 Upazilas. The main aims and objectives of Jatiyo Mohila Sangstha are as follows: the creation of awareness for rights among women in all spheres of life, training of women in technical and vocational trades, supporting women to achieve self-reliance, helping women to uphold their legal rights, motivating women in adopting family welfare activities. It also seeks to frequently contact agencies, engage in women development activities, integrate women with nation-building activities, formation of co-operative societies and encourage them in the establishment of cottage industries, arranging seminars, symposiums, and workshops for protecting the interest of women.

➞ Bangladesh Shishu Academy (BSA)

The Bangladesh Shishu Academy was established in 1976 to develop the inherent talent and physical, mental, and cultural faculties of the children. It is the only national child development organization under the Ministry of Women and Children Affairs. Bangladesh Shishu Academy is now a statutory body created under Bangladesh Shishu Academy Act 2018 headed by a Director-General. According to Bangladesh Shishu Academy Act 2018, a 20-member Board of Management runs the academy. The major programmes of the academy include national children's competition, monsoon competition, observance of the National Children Day (the birthday of the Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman), the World Children Day and Child Rights Week, preprimary education for the poor children, publication of books, children's magazine and encyclopedia, children's film, education tour, international painting competition, etc. All activities of the academy are implemented through the central office, 64 districts offices, and 6 Upazila offices. A committee headed by Deputy Commissioner is responsible for the management of the Academy at the district level and there is a local committee under the leadership of the Upazila Nirbahi Officer at the Upazila level. The Bangladesh Shishu Academy is implementing a development project titled Early Learning for Child Development (3rd Phase) with technical and financial support from UNICEF. The objective of the project is to strengthen the capacity of the involved agencies for comprehensive Early Childhood Care and Development (ECCD) policy 2013 implementation and establish a coordination mechanism for efficient and effective implementation of the policy.

➞ Joyeeta Foundation

Joyeeta Foundation (Joyeeta means victorious women) was established on 16 November 2011 to provide marketing facilities for the products of women entrepreneurs. Joyeeta Foundation is a specialised organization under the Ministry of Women and Children Affairs for empowering women economically. The foundation is registered under Societies Registration Act, 1960, and registered with joint-stock companies and firms as a non-profit organization. It does not do business, rather it facilitates women to run their business effectively so that they can maintain a dignified livelihood. A Shopping Mall and Exhibition Centre under Joyeeta Foundation has been set up at Dhanmondi, Dhaka. With this initiative, arrangements have been made for marketing the products of 180 women's associations from remote areas of the country. A twelve-storied Joyeeta Tower is being built at the cost of Tk 168.39 crore to facilitate women entrepreneurs in marketing their products at home and abroad. The government has allotted a commercial plot sized 0.33 acres at each divisional city of the country for the construction of the Joyeeta Tower. A project, titled 'capacity building of Joyeeta Foundation' is being implemented by the foundation for the expanding capabilities of women entrepreneurs at the cost of Tk 262.99 crore. The foundation is headed by a Managing Director and run by the Board of Governors presided by the Minister/ State Minister of MoWCA.

Legal Framework

- The National Women Development Policy, 2011
- The National Children Policy, 2011
- The Early Child Development Comprehensive Policy, 2013
- The Implementation Directive of Vulnerable Group Development (VGD) Programme, 2011
- The Lactating Allowance Implementation Policy, 2011
- The Microcredit Programme Policy for Self-reliance of Vulnerable Women, 2003-04
- The Implementation Manual for Maternity Allowance Distribution Programme for Poor Mother, 2011
- The Implementation Directive of Improved Maternity and Lactating Mother Allowance Programme (Under revision as the Mother and Child Benefit Programme Guideline)
- The Implementation Guideline for Investment Component for Vulnerable Group Development (ICVGD) 2nd Phase Project
- The 2nd National Plan of Action on Nutrition (2016-25)

Social Security Programmes

➤ **Maternity Allowance Programme for the Poor mother**

This programme was started in the financial year 2007-08 to improve the health, nutrition, and quality of life of poor and helpless women at the grassroots level. This programme is ongoing. The programme aims to reduce maternal and child mortality, increase breastfeeding, increase nutritional intake during pregnancy, increase EPI and family planning, and encourage birth registration and marriage registration. The programme provides Tk 800 as a monthly allowance to beneficiaries and is implemented by the Department of Women Affairs. There are 7.70 lakhs beneficiaries with Tk 763.27 crore budget in the 2020-21 fiscal year for this programme. This programme belongs to the Social Allowance Cluster focusing on the Pregnancy and Early Childhood stage of the life cycle in rural areas only.

➤ **Allowances for Working Lactating Mothers:**

This programme was started in 2010-11, and it was designed to support poor working lactating mothers initially in garments factories so that they can be healthy enough to feed their babies. The objectives of the programmes are achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs); reducing maternal and child mortality; ensuring mother and baby food and nutrition; formation of healthy and energetic generation; poverty alleviation; and quality of life development. Currently, the programme is implemented in all municipalities, city corporations, and selected garments factories under Bangladesh Garment Manufacturers and Exporters Association (BGMEA) and Bangladesh Knitwear Manufacturers and Exporters Association (BKMEA). The programme also provides Tk 800 as a monthly allowance to beneficiaries and is implemented by the Department of Women Affairs. There are 2.75 lakhs beneficiaries with Tk 274.28 crore budget in the 2020-21 fiscal year for this programme. This programme belongs to the Social Allowance Cluster targeting the Pregnancy Childhood in the life cycle approach in urban areas.

➤ **Mother and Child Benefit Programme (MCBP):**

MCBP is the combination and improved version of the existing maternity allowance programme and lactating mother allowance programme. This programme is designed to improve the nutritional status and cognitive development of children from 0 to 4 years of age by introducing a number of reforms instructed under the NSSS. Under this programme, the beneficiary enrolment system is kept open for the first time in any social protection programme implemented in Bangladesh. Any eligible pregnant woman can apply free to the Union Digital Centre (UDC) for collecting the required information. The application system relates to the central database for social protection programmes management information system (MIS) following which, beneficiaries can withdraw the allowance from their preferred mobile or bank account. An eligible poor woman is entitled to receive monthly Tk 800 for 36 months for a maximum of two children in her lifetime and participate in nutrition and early childhood care session organized in the community. The programme also encourages pregnant women to visit pre-and post-natal care and services from health. Considering the high poverty rate, nutrition deficits, and hard to reach areas, the Ministry has started this programme in 8 Upazilas and gradually scaled up in 66 Upazilas, 41 Municipalities, 6 garments factories, and 1 city corporation in the fiscal year 2020-21. MoWCA will scale up this consolidated programme gradually to the entire country by 2026. The United Nations World Food Programme is providing technical assistance in planning, piloting, the establishment of the MIS unit, and bringing nutrition elements into this programme.

➤ **Vulnerable Group Development (VGD) Programme:**

The VGD programme under the Ministry of Women and Children Affairs is one of the largest social security initiatives implemented to improve the socio-economic status of rural poor women in Bangladesh. It is working to improve the living standards of completely disadvantaged families, especially vulnerable poor women. The objective of the programme is to continuously improve the socio-economic status of the

destitute rural women in Bangladesh so that they can successfully overcome the existing food insecurity, malnutrition, economic insecurity, and low social status, and become capable of ridding themselves out of extreme poverty level. Poor and vulnerable women get a monthly food aid of 30 Kg rice/fortified rice for a cycle of 24 months packed in a bag. They also get a package of development services which includes training, savings management, and micro-credit support under the programme. Non-Government Organizations (NGOs) are appointed by the government to provide development package services to the beneficiaries. The programme is being implemented by the Department of Women Affairs under the Ministry. There are 10.40 lakhs beneficiaries with Tk 1840.05 crore budget in the 2020-21 fiscal year for this programme. This programme belongs to the Food Security and Disaster Assistance Cluster targeting the Working Age people in rural areas.

➤ **Investment Component of vulnerable Group Development Programme (ICVGD)**

According to the NSSS, the VGD programme is to transform into a Vulnerable Women Benefit (VWB) programme that provides a minimum income guarantee to poor and vulnerable women by enhancing their ability to engage in formal labour market. The NSSS also provides a set of institutional reforms to make all social security programmes, including VWB, more effective in terms of poverty reduction. To roll out these reformed features in the VGD programme and to facilitate its transformation into the VWB programme, the Ministry of Women and Children Affairs (MoWCA) and the World Food Programme (WFP) jointly designed the Investment Component for Vulnerable Group Development (ICVGD) project. The 1st phase of the project has been implemented in 8 Upazilas from 2015 to 2018. Based on its success, the project has been scaled up in 64 Upazilas in its 2nd phase (2019-2022). The project will support 100 thousand ultra-poor women and their households who have been selected from the 2021-2022 VGD cycle. ICVGD 2nd Phase will support the beneficiaries to move to a sustainable livelihood and acquire a better nutrition status. In addition to the regular food support and training from VGD, the ICVGD beneficiaries are entitled to a cash grant to invest in their income-earning ventures, extensive capacity-building support to enhance their skills for managing those ventures (i.e., value chain management, financial literacy, etc.) and initial nursing to their businesses for a strong foundation. Apart from developing and rolling out improved benefits packages and effective systems, a core objective of ICVGD is to facilitate VGD's transformation into the VWB programme. The outcomes and lessons from the exercise will play a crucial role in formulating the detailed implementation plan for the VWB programme. In the next course of action, the ICVGD model will be implemented in the urban area considering urban context and will be scaled all over the country gradually by integrating its reformed components in the VGD programme. Thus, both VGD and ICVGD will be merged and rebranded as the Vulnerable Women Benefit (VWB) programme in rural and urban areas. There are 100,000 beneficiaries with Tk 10.61 crore budget in FY2020-21 for this programme. This programme belongs to the Labour & Livelihood Intervention Cluster focusing on the Covariate Risks in the life cycle approach in rural areas.

➤ **Micro-credit for Women Self-employment:**

This programme is being implemented in 489 Upazilas under 64 districts. From 2003-04 to 2020-21 financial year, GoB allocated Tk 50.25 crore, (and the total distribution was Tk 146.2639 crore including revolving fund). The number of beneficiaries is 143,361 and the loan recovery rate is 79.23 per cent. The programme has been implemented by the Department of Women Affairs. There are 5900 beneficiaries with Tk 3 crore budget in the 2020-21 fiscal year for this programme. This programme belongs to the Human Development and Social Empowerment Cluster targeting the Working Age people in rural areas.

➤ **Women's Skill-Based Training for Livelihood**

This programme helps women to improve their skill development for a particular trade so that they can be self-dependent and economically solvent through improved livelihood. The programme has been implemented by the Ministry of Women and Children Affairs. There are 25,600 beneficiaries with Tk 7.99 crore budget in the 2020-21 fiscal year for this programme. This programme belongs to the Labour & Livelihood Intervention Cluster targeting the Working Age people in rural areas.

➤ **Child Development Centre (Shishu Bikash Kendro)**

Child Development Centres (Shishu Bikash Kendro) are established by the Bangladesh Shishu Academy under MoWCA for the protection and development of distressed children. The programme mainly aims to rehabilitate distressed children from age 4-16 years. Children are provided free accommodation, food, clothes, and education in the centres. There are six centres in Dhaka, Gazipur, Chittagong, Rajshahi, and Khulna. There is provision for the accommodation of 1500 children in these centres, but at present 716 distressed children are staying in the centres. Tk 6.8 crore is allotted in the budget of the 2020-21 fiscal year for this programme. This programme belongs to the Human Development and Social Empowerment Cluster focusing on the Pregnancy and Childhood in the life cycle approach.

➤ **Street Children Rehabilitation Programme**

The Street Children Rehabilitation Programme is an initiative directed by Honorable Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina from 2016 to build a street-child free Bangladesh. This programme is providing different rehabilitation facilities along with the opportunity of education to include them in mainstream education. Under this programme, two rehabilitation centres have been established in Dhaka South and North City Corporation along with 9 outreach schools in Dhaka. Several services are provided under this programme including counselling, amusement, reintegration with families, cultural education, primary health care, vocational training, etc. Besides, special programmes are also undertaken such as blanket distribution, gathering, organizing sports competitions, national day celebrations, etc. The programme has been implemented by the Ministry of Women and Children Affairs. There are 9768 beneficiaries with Tk 4 crore budget in the 2020-21 fiscal year for this programme. This programme belongs to the Human Development and Social Empowerment Cluster targeting the School Age children in urban areas.

➤ **Urban Based Marginal Women Development (Project Phase-2)**

The Urban Based Marginal Women Development Project (2nd Phase) has been undertaken for implementation by the Ministry of Women and Children Affairs with the sponsorship of Jatiyo Mohila Sangstha (National Women Organization). There are 49,500 beneficiaries with Tk 20.64 crore budget in the 2020-21 fiscal year for this programme. This programme belongs to the Human Development and Social Empowerment Cluster targeting the Working Age people in urban areas.

➤ **Income Generating Activities for Women at Upazila Level**

Ministry of Women and Children Affairs (MoWCA) has been implementing various programmes for creating employment and welfare of the rural destitute and insolvent women under its revenue and development budget. Currently, the Department of Women Affairs (DWA) provides training to rural disadvantaged poor women through its Women Training Centres (WTC) located in 64 district headquarters. Every year, 200 women receive training on 5 trades in these WTCs. Since 2017, the government has been implementing Income Generating Activity (IGA) project for rural women to make them self-reliant through income-generating training at the Upazila (sub-district) level across the country. The project is being implemented in all 426 Upazilas of the country. Rural women are receiving a three-month training on various trades including tailoring, block batik, fashion design, beautification, handicraft, and shantorangi, vermicompost

and mushroom and apiculture, crystal showpiece and decorated candle making, salesmanship and front desk management, mobile servicing and repairing and computer servicing and repairing, motor driving, etc. So far 2,17,440 women received training. The programme has been implemented by the Department of Women Affairs. There are 85,200 beneficiaries with Tk 95.39 crore budget in the 2020-21 fiscal year for this programme. This programme belongs to the Labour & Livelihood Intervention Cluster targeting the Working Age people in rural areas.

➤ **Multi-sectoral Programme to Prevent Violence Against Women (4th Phase)**

Multi-Sectoral Programme on Violence against Women (MSPVAW) is being implemented jointly by the government of Bangladesh and the government of Denmark and it is considered as the flagship programme of the Ministry of Women and Children Affairs. This programme focuses on the women and children's victims of violence and organizes them to render all the supports and services towards them. Since May 2000, many components have been created and interlinked with each other to strengthen these comprehensive supports. The programme is now in its 4th phase from July 2016 and will continue until June 2022. There are 11 collaborative Ministries are being involved in establishing a common understanding of the commitments for addressing violence against women and children. These are Ministry of Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs, Ministry of Information, Ministry of Social Welfare, Ministry of Home Affairs, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Ministry of Education, Ministry of Religious Affairs, Ministry of Youth and Sports, Ministry of Labour and Employment, Ministry of Posts, Telecommunications and Information Technology and Ministry of Local Government, Rural Development. Best practices of the programme are 13 One-Stop Crisis Centres at Public Medical College Hospitals, One-Stop Crisis Cells at 47 district general hospitals and 20 Upazila health complexes, National Trauma Counseling Centre, National Forensic DNA Profiling Laboratory, National Helpline Centre for Violence Against Women, and Children (Toll-Free Helpline 109), Mobile Apps Joy, etc. There are 120,000 beneficiaries with Tk 21 crore budget in the 2020-21 fiscal year for this programme.

➤ **'Tottho Apa'-Empowering Women Through ICT towards Digital Bangladesh Project**

The 'Tottho Apa' Project is a timely initiative for the poor, less advantaged, and deprived women living in rural Bangladesh. This project is making a remarkable contribution to solving the day-to-day problems of grassroots women through taking IT service at their doorsteps. Simultaneously, it is enhancing their awareness of the effectiveness and potential of information technology. This maiden initiative will also be able to contribute substantially to the efforts carried on by the government of Bangladesh towards attaining the objectives of gender equality and woman empowerment ordained in the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The programme has been implemented by Jatiyo Mohila Sangstha. There are 59.30 lakhs beneficiaries with Tk 120 crore budget in the 2020-21 fiscal year for this programme. This programme belongs to the Human Development and Social Empowerment Cluster targeting the Working Age people in rural areas.

➤ **Women and Child Protection and Child Welfare**

This fund is used for the need-based and development sector with special approval from the Ministry of Women and Children's Affairs. The programme has been implemented by the Ministry of Women and Children Affairs. There are 145,000 beneficiaries with Tk 129.95 crore budget in the 2020-21 fiscal year for this programme. This programme belongs to the Human Development and Social Empowerment Cluster focusing on the Pregnancy and Childhood in the life cycle approach in rural areas.

➤ **Providing Primary Health, Reproductive Health, and Nutrition Services to Underprivileged Women and Children in 21 districts.**

This project is designed for providing primary health, reproductive health and nutrition services to underprivileged and vulnerable women and children in 21 districts. The programme has been implemented

by the Family Planning Association of Bangladesh under the sponsorship of the Ministry of Women and Children Affairs. There are 500,000 beneficiaries of the project and Tk 12.55 crore budget has been allocated in the 2020-21 fiscal year for this programme. This programme belongs to the Childhood Cluster targeting the Working Age people in rural areas.

➤ **Project on Enhancing Adaptive Capacity of Coastal Communities Especially Women to Cope with Climate Change Induced Salinity**

The government of Bangladesh (GoB) with support from the Green Climate Fund (GCF) and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) has launched a project titled “Enhancing Adaptive Capacities of Coastal Communities, especially women, to cope with climate change-induced salinity. The overall budget of the project is USD 32.98 million (Tk 27,686.71 Lakhs), out of which, GoB contribution is USD 8 million (Tk 6,716 Lakhs) and the GCF grant is USD 24.98 million (Tk 20,970.71 lakhs). The key objective of the project is to support the government of Bangladesh (GoB) in strengthening the adaptive capacities of coastal communities, especially women, to cope with the impacts of climate change-induced salinity on their livelihoods and water security. GCF resources will be combined with GoB co-financing to address information, technical, financial, and institutional barriers to implementing and managing resilient livelihoods and drinking water solutions for the vulnerable communities in the Southwestern coastal districts of Khulna and Satkhira. There are 43,000 beneficiaries with Tk 110.6 crore budget in the 2020-21 fiscal year for this programme. This programme belongs to the Food Security and Disaster Assistance Cluster focusing on the Covariate Risks in the life cycle approach.

Programme Summary (2020-21)

Table 15: Programme Summary (2021-22) of Ministry of Women and Children Affairs

Sl.	Social Protection Programme	Thematic Cluster	Life Cycle	Beneficiary (Lakh)	Budget (Crore Taka)
1.	Assistance for Working Lactating Mothers	Social Allowance	Pregnancy and Childhood	2.75	274.30
2.	Capacity Building of Joyeeta Foundation & Construction of Joyeeta Tower	Human Development and Social Empowerment	Working Age	0.28	262.99
3.	Child Development Center	Human Development and Social Empowerment	Pregnancy and Childhood	0.015	6.80
4.	Child protection and child welfare	Human Development and Social Empowerment	Pregnancy and Childhood	1.45	130.00
5.	Training Programme on Livelihood Development of Enclaves (Extinct) Women	Food Security and Disaster Assistance	Covariate Risks	0.05	4.13
6.	Income Generating Activities (IGA) for Women at Upazila Level	Labour / Livelihood Intervention	Working Age	0.852	95.39
7.	Investment Component for Vulnerable Group Development Programme (ICVGD) (2nd Phase)	Labour / Livelihood Intervention	Working Age	1.00	10.61
8.	Joyeeta Foundation	Human Development and Social Empowerment	Working Age	0.10	6.91
9.	Maternity Allowance Programme for the Poor Mothers	Social Allowance	Pregnancy and Childhood	7.70	763.3

Sl.	Social Protection Programme	Thematic Cluster	Life Cycle	Beneficiary (Lakh)	Budget (Crore Taka)
10.	Micro-credit for Women Self-employment	Human Development and Social Empowerment	Working Age	0.059	3.00
11.	Multi-Sectoral Programme to Prevent Violence Against Women (4th Phase)	Human Development and Social Empowerment	Covariate Risks	12.00	21.00
12.	Project on Enhancing Adaptive Capacity of Coastal Communities Especially Women to Cope with Climate Change Induced Salinity	Food Security and Disaster Assistance	Covariate Risks	0.43	110.6
13.	Providing Primary Health, Reproductive Health and Nutrition Services to Underprivileged Women and Children in 21 Districts	Social Allowance	Pregnancy and Childhood	50.00	12.55
14.	Street Children Rehabilitation Program	Human Development and Social Empowerment	School Age	0.09768	4.00
15.	Tottho Apa: Empowering Women Through ICT towards Digital Bangladesh	Human Development and Social Empowerment	Working Age	59.30	120.00
16.	Urban based marginal Women Development Project (Phase-2)	Human Development and Social Empowerment	Working Age	0.049	20.64
17.	Vulnerable Group Development (VGD)	Food Security and Disaster Assistance	Working Age	10.40	1840.05
18.	Women's Skill-Based Training for Livelihood	Labour / Livelihood Intervention	Working Age	0.256	7.99

The social protection budget of the Ministry of Women and Children Affairs is Tk 3,401.16 Crore Taka which is more than 4 per cent of the total social security budget of the country. In terms of the number of the projects, this ministry is very important after the Ministry of Social Welfare, with a number of several 18 programmes out of 119. This is shown in the following two charts:

Ministry of Women and Children Affairs-
Share of Social Protection Budget

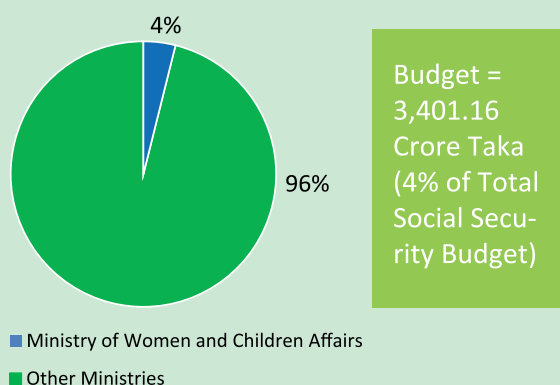


Figure 23: Share of Social Protection Budget of MoWCA

Ministry of Women and Children Affairs-
Number of Programmes

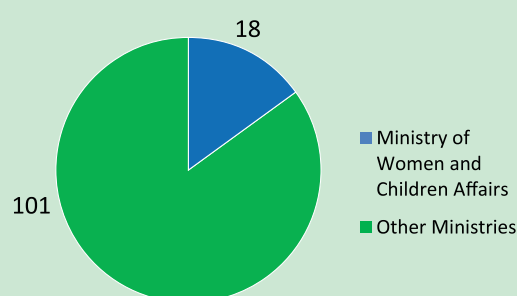


Figure 24: Share of Number of Social Security Programmes of MoWCA

The life-cycle coverage is predominantly for the working-age female population, while pregnancy and childhood come second. However, according to the present Action Plan, pregnancy and childhood will experience a major leap once the proposed child benefit scheme is implemented.

Ministry of Women and Children Affairs Lifecycle

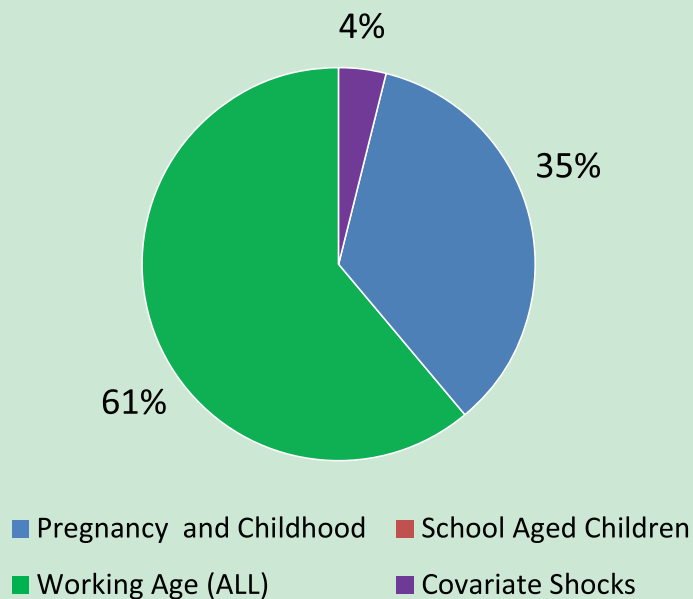


Figure 25: Life Cycle wise Budget Allocation of Ministry of Women and Children Affairs

Disaggregating the programmes according to the thematic clusters it is found that the Food Security and Disaster Assistance cluster occupies the most budget. Social allowance is seen to be the next important cluster for this Ministry. The envisaged child benefit programme will fall within the social allowance cluster uplifting its focus.

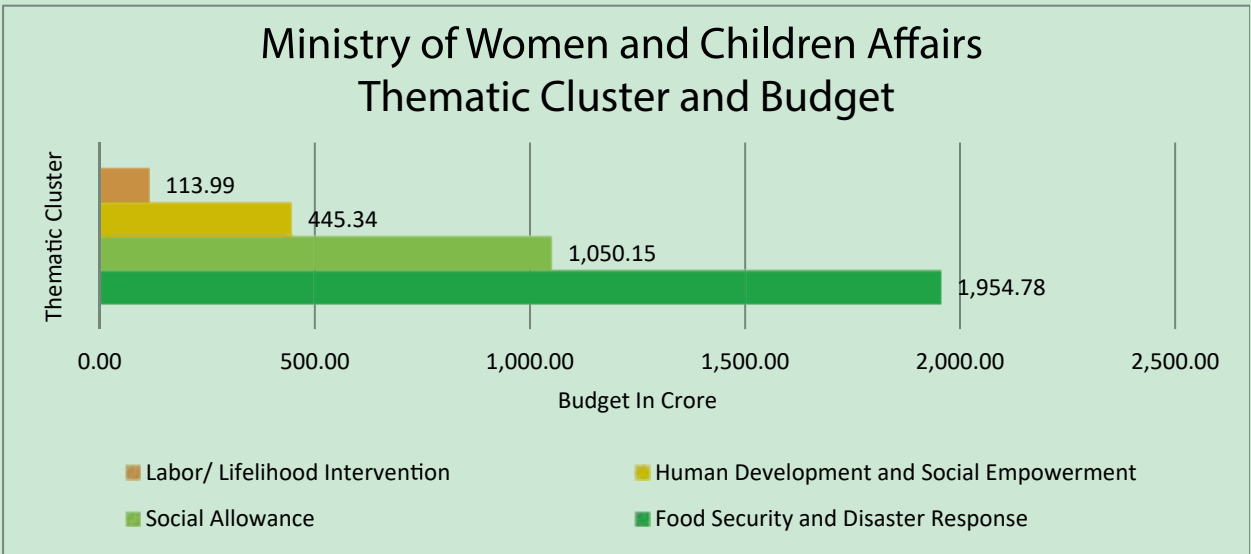


Figure 26: Thematic Clusters wise Budget Allocation of MoWCA

Situation Analysis

Table 16: Situation Analysis of Ministry of Women and Children Affairs

Programme Name	NSSS Provision	Present Situation	Gaps
Child Benefit Programme	<p>The NSSS stipulates that the government will provide support to young children up to the age of four years, through a large extension of current support by establishing a Child Benefit programme for children from 0 to 4 years of age. It is estimated that 50 per cent of these children will be brought under the programme. Thus, the number of beneficiary children is estimated to be 7.5 million. The programme will be taken building on the success of the current Maternal Allowance Programme for lactating mothers and the benefit amount is recommended to be Tk. 500 per month. The NSSS also provides that the programme for child benefit needs to be implemented with special emphasis on early childhood (the critical first 1000 days from conception). Ministry of Women and Children Affairs is to submit a detailed implementation plan for Cabinet approval. [Summary, Para 2.2.2, 4.3.1 of NSSS]</p>	<p>Following the programme reform direction under NSSS, MoWCA has consolidated existing maternity benefits and lactating mothers' benefits into a new programme named 'Mother and Child Benefit' programme for children from 0 to 4 years of age with technical assistance from UN-WFP. The consolidated programme was initially piloted in 8 Upazilas and then expanded in 66 Upazilas successfully. According to the direction of institutional reform under the NSSS, the following features has been introduced:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Monthly online self-registration and selection of beneficiaries using verifiable indicators. - Programme MIS was developed to capture 100 per cent beneficiary data which were integrated with G2P for monthly payment. - Age-specific learning packages combination of nutrition, stimulation, and early childhood care and development through resource pool. <p>Presently the overall coverage under maternity, lactating and MCBP programmes is 1.045 million.</p>	<p>A detailed implementation plan with targeted coverage and costed plan of the programme is yet to be submitted to the Cabinet Division to reach 50 per cent of children from 0 to 4 years of age.</p> <p>Currently, MoWCA transfers 36 months instalment starting from pregnancy which needs to increase up to 4 years of children's age.</p> <p>A well-defined result-based monitoring and grievance redress mechanism is yet to be introduced under this programme.</p> <p>Service and system integration mechanism with health, family planning, nutrition, birth registration yet to be operationalized.</p>

Programme Name	NSSS Provision	Present Situation	Gaps
Vulnerable Women's Benefit (VWB)	<p>The government will consolidate the allowance for widowed, deserted and destitute women and the VGD scheme into a new Vulnerable Women's Benefit (VWB) programme. The Ministry of Women and Children Affairs is to prepare a detailed implementation plan for the proposed VWB programme and submit to the Cabinet Division for approval.</p> <p>[Summary, Para 4.3.2 of NSSS]</p>	<p>Coverage of VGD increased by 33 per cent from 2015 to 2021.</p> <p>An improved model of the VGD programme named, Investment Component of Vulnerable Group Development Programme (ICVGD) has been piloted in 2015-2018 to enhance 8,000 poor and vulnerable women's economic empowerment through skill development training and a one off cash grant of Tk15,000. Based on the success and learnings of 1st phase implementation, MoWCA has scaled up ICVGD to include 100,000 ultra-poor and vulnerable women in 64 Upazilas.</p> <p>This project will contribute to women's empowerment through improved enterprise skills and a graduation approach. WFP has been providing technical assistance in the transformation of this programme into the Vulnerable Women Benefit Programme as directed under the NSSS.</p> <p>Fortified rice has been incorporated in the VGD programme and is being distributed in 170 Upazilas.</p> <p>VGD MIS has been developed and operationalized. One million beneficiary selection for the 2021-2022 VGD cycle has been conducted online across the country and the beneficiary database is readily available online.</p>	<p>A detailed implementation plan including targeted coverage and budgetary requirements of the programme is yet to be developed for submission to the Cabinet Division.</p> <p>A collaboration mechanism with the Widow Allowance programme of MoSW is yet to be established. To date, the national social security activities have mostly been aligned to the needs of the rural poor population. As data suggests only 9% of urban residents have access to social protection programmes. Some 85 per cent of social security benefits go to rural people while urban poor receive only 15 per cent (Sources: NSSS 2015). Currently, there are no dedicated social security programmes, targeted towards the poor and vulnerable women of urban areas. Thus, there is a lack of experience in implementing social security programmes in urban areas. Beneficiary coverage needs to be increased significantly to reach the benchmark of the NSSS Action Plan (1.5 million beneficiaries). The cashbased transfer needs to be integrated into vulnerable women's benefits programmes, particularly in urban areas. Institutional reforms proposed by the NSSS are yet to be fully achieved:</p> <p>A structured GRS with linkage to the central database of the Cabinet Division.</p> <p>Result based monitoring & evaluation system.</p> <p>Lack of evidence on the impact of VGD women graduation</p> <p>Establish G2P based cash transfer protocol within the programme.</p>

Programme Name	NSSS Provision	Present Situation	Gaps
Workplace Childcare Services	The Ministry of Women and Children Affairs is to coordinate with other ministries to ensure workplace childcare services comply with the Labour Act, 2006, which stipulates that all employers (private and public) with more than 40 employees will provide childcare services for both females and males employees. [Para 2.5.4, 3.5 of NSSS]	The Ministry has been working to implement the law. A proposed Day Care Act is underway. There are 120 Daycare centres under the Ministry.	The Act, once enacted, will have to be transformed into a rule to make compliance with it mandatory for all parties. MoWCA will need authoritative power to ensure proper implementation of the rule. The regulatory framework for the private sector needs to be developed. Action to be taken by the Ministry to ensure workplace childcare services in both public and private organizations.
Child Maintenance Payments	The Ministry of Women and Children Affairs is to conduct a study on the pattern of current parental support to the children abandoned by parents and propose a mechanism for ensuring the legal rights of such children to get support from the parents abandoning them. The Ministry is to prepare legislation in 2017 and start implementing it by mid-2018. [Para 4.3.1 of NSSS]	The study is yet to be conducted. A policy is to be formulated and enacted, promulgated and implemented soon.	Absence of rigorous review of laws and policies on the current pattern of paternal support for children. Department of Children Affairs has not been established yet.
Consolidate Smaller Programmes		Maternity and Lactating Mother allowance programme consolidated and branded as Mother and Child Benefit Programme in 2019.	Several small-scale projects and programmes, with similar objectives, are yet to be consolidated. Lack of coordination among field level resources and services within the programmes of MoWCA.

Programme Name	NSSS Provision	Present Situation	Gaps
Training programme	Continue training	<p>MoWCA has developed an age-specific training module on Nutrition and Cognitive Development under the Mother and Child Benefit Programme in alignment with the 2nd National Plan of Action for Nutrition (NPAN2), Bangladesh guideline. MoWCA has introduced a new training delivery modality at filed through Upazila and Union resources pool, by engaging other relevant government officials such as Family Welfare Visitor (FWV), Family Welfare Assistant (FWA), etc. to provide training to beneficiaries in Mother and Child Benefit Programme.</p> <p>New training modules on SBCC (social behavioural change communication to influence behaviour change for better life skills) and multidimensional human development (to make poor women more confident in general to carry out economic activities) have been introduced in the ICVGD project. The project has further developed 2 new modules on how to effectively operate micro or small enterprises by poor women (i.e., value chain management, and financial literacy)</p>	<p>Outdated training modules need to be reviewed and improved.</p> <p>The early Childhood Development (ECD) component and related training module in MCBP is yet to be implemented.</p> <p>Effective training delivery modalities need to be reviewed based on learnings from MCBP training delivery through other line departments' staff at the field level.</p> <p>Lack of awareness among beneficiaries on the full utilization of digital financial benefit and risk management.</p>

Programme Name	NSSS Provision	Present Situation	Gaps
Improve Targeting of Beneficiaries		<p>Targeting mechanism improved with socio-economic verifiable indicators for VGD and Mother and Child Benefit programme.</p> <p>Online self-enrollment procedures were introduced in Mother and Child Benefit programme and VGD programme to reduce inclusion and exclusion errors.</p> <p>100 per cent beneficiaries list of Mother and Child Benefit programme and VGD programme is available in online MIS</p> <p>Followed up with BBS in 2018 and 2020 but the NHD database is yet to be available to use.</p>	<p>Lack of awareness among elected representatives and government officials on improved targeting mechanism.</p> <p>Lack of human resources at field level to verify and monitor the information provided in MIS.</p> <p>BBS data is yet to be ready for use in selection and verification.</p> <p>The engagement of the 'Tothyo Apa' project staff needs to be strengthened in the beneficiary enrolment process.</p>
Grievance Redress System		<p>It is recorded online, but people cannot lodge their grievances through the call centre/service centre yet. Once the grievance is recorded, it is addressed centrally by ministries and departments. Also, it is addressed at the district level irrespective of online or written. Public meetings were held in all Upazilas.</p>	<p>Lack of awareness and confidence among people on complaint procedure and redress mechanism.</p> <p>Lack of proper arrangements and clearly defined roles of officials to handle GRS.</p> <p>Public hearings at all levels are not regularized yet.</p>

Programme Name	NSSS Provision	Present Situation	Gaps
Develop Single Registry MIS		<p>MIS for VGD and Mother and Child Benefit Programme is developed and being implemented for the data entry and selection process. Payments are being generated using MCBP MIS through the G2P system.</p> <p>With the technical assistance from WFP, an MIS unit has been established at DWA in 2020 to support the operationalization of the MISs at national and subnational levels.</p> <p>These MISs are linked with the Finance division's database for NID verification, duplication checking, and payment purposes.</p>	Lack of capacity and resources (human, technical and financial) of line agencies to continue the review, adjustment, and improvement of MIS.
Digitization of Cash Transfer		<p>Transfer of allowance was successfully piloted in 2017 in 7 Upazilas for Maternity Allowance programme with support from the Ministry of Finance.</p> <p>The G2P modality has been finalized. E-payment has been chosen for the G2P rollout.</p> <p>G2P scaled up to 492 Upazilas in 2019.</p>	<p>Lack of coordination with financial service providers to crosscheck account information systematically.</p> <p>Lack of awareness among beneficiaries on opening and maintaining account information with necessary safeguard.</p> <p>Hard copy bill approval provision remains, which delayed the payment procedure.</p> <p>The MoWCA plans to introduce cash-based transfer instead of food transfer for the urban beneficiaries. This will require the VGD MIS to be linked with the Finance Division for enabling G2P based transfers.</p>

Programme Name	NSSS Provision	Present Situation	Gaps
Enhance Results-based M&E		<p>A distance monitoring guideline with checklist developed and approved under Mother and Child Benefit to collect field-level information</p> <p>Programme M&E Framework has been developed, but the dashboard is not yet in place.</p> <p>The VGD implementation guideline already includes a detailed monitoring and reporting mechanism. The guideline is being updated along with the monitoring and reporting tools.</p>	<p>Absence of resources (Human, technical and financial) and capacity to collect field-level information systematically.</p> <p>The VGD programme needs to develop a monitoring guideline with a focus on distant monitoring. The VGD MIS needs to incorporate the monitoring and reporting tools for online submission.</p>

Action Plan (2021-26)

To implement the reform proposals of the NSSS the following time-bound activities may be taken up.

Table 17: Action Plan of Ministry of Women and Children Affairs

Sl.	Objectives	Activities	Performance Indicators	Timeframe	Responsible Ministry	Shared Responsibility
1.	Introduce and scale up the Mother and Child Benefit Programme (MCBP) for children of 0-4 years.	Prepare, consult, and submit detailed implementation plan of Mother and Child Benefit Programme to the Cabinet Division.	Detailed implementation plan prepared and submitted.	December 2021	Ministry of Women and Children Affairs (MoWCA)	Cabinet Division (CD)
		Existing MA and Lactating Mother Allowance (LMA) programme renamed as Mother and Child Benefit Programme	Mother and Child Benefit Programme applicable for the whole country			Finance Division
		Review both the benefits and age of eligibility from pregnancy period to 4th birthday of a child as per NSSS direction. Gradual scale-up of Mother and Child Benefit Programme in poverty-stricken and nutrition deficient Upazilas.	<p>The evidence available on benefits packages and age of eligibility.</p> <p>The number of beneficiaries raised to 1.6 million covering poverty and nutrition deficient Upazilas.</p>	<p>December 2022</p> <p>June 2022</p>		<p>Ministry of Health and Family Welfare</p> <p>Ministry of Local Government and Rural Development and Cooperative</p> <p>Aspire to Innovate (a2i)</p> <p>Development Partners</p>

Sl.	Objectives	Activities	Performance Indicators	Timeframe	Responsible Ministry	Shared Responsibility
		Establish efficient and effective convergence and coordination between relevant line ministries and departments at central as well as field Levels – MoWCA, MoHFW, MoLG, A2i, etc. to ensure integrated health, nutrition and other services are available at the field level.	MCBP programme MIS Interoperable with health, family welfare and birth registration data.	June 2023		
		Age-specific learning on nutrition, stimulation, early childhood care, and cognitive development rolled out.	The number of beneficiaries raised to 2.6 million covering poverty and nutrition deficient Upazilas Relevant training modules are available	June 2024		
		Introduce and operationalize telehealth and nutrition counselling services for pregnant and lactating mothers.	The number of beneficiaries raised to 4 million covering poverty and nutrition deficient Upazilas.	June 2026		
		Design and test climate and shock responsive elements into the programme.	The number of beneficiaries raised to 6 million (50% of children from 0 to 4 years) covering poverty and undernutrition Upazilas. A telehealth and nutrition counselling platform established and operationalized Climate and shock responsive elements tested and operationalized.			

Sl.	Objectives	Activities	Performance Indicators	Timeframe	Responsible Ministry	Shared Responsibility
2.	Design and implement Vulnerable Women's Benefit (VWB) programme in rural and urban areas	Develop a detailed implementation plan, in consultation with MoSW, for VWB along with budgetary requirements and submitted to the Cabinet Division.	Detailed implementation plan prepared and submitted	December 2021	Ministry of Women and Children Affairs (MoWCA)	MoSW, CD
		Design and roll out VWB for poor women of urban areas with provision for monthly cash support, development of marketable skills for better employability, and support towards financial inclusion.	Allocation of required resources for piloting in budget	2021-2022 FY		Finance Division
			Review and analyze existing programmes and processes to design the VWB programme for the urban context.	December 2021		
			A cash transfer-based improved model of the VGD programme, branded as VWB, rolled out in urban areas.	January 2022		
			Linkage established with G2P system for online cash transfer.	June 2023		
		Proper implementation of the ICVGD project.	Empirical evidence from the ICVGD Initiatives was documented.	June 2023		Development Partner
		Expansion of fortified rice distribution in all Upazilas by either direct distribution or engagement of private companies.	All VWB beneficiaries of 330 Upazilas receive fortified rice.	December 2024		Ministry of Food
			100 per cent of VWB beneficiaries of rural areas receive fortified rice.	June 2026		

Sl.	Objectives	Activities	Performance Indicators	Timeframe	Responsible Ministry	Shared Responsibility
		Consolidate all programmes (VGD, ICVGD, and urban VWB) and rebrand as VWB programme with suitable components (i.e., investment grant, food/cash transfer, skill development, financial inclusion etc.) to facilitate economic and social empowerment of women and increase their contribution to national development.	VWB programme rolled out in areas with 6000 beneficiaries (in 1 city corporation and 1 municipality)	January 2022		MoSW, Ministry of Food, Finance Division, & Development Partners
			VWB programme rolled out in urban areas.	July 2023		
		Scale up the VWB programme in rural and urban areas.	The number of beneficiaries increased to 1.25 million covering both rural and urban areas.	2023-2024 cycle		MoSW, Finance Division
			The number of beneficiaries increased to 1.5 million covering both rural and urban areas	2025-2026 cycle		
		Review the beneficiary selection process, criteria, benefits package and other elements of the programme for necessary revision.	Programme design revised as per requirement.	December 2024		Bangladesh Institute of Development Studies (BIDS), Developing Partners
		Eligible VWB beneficiaries of poverty prone rural and urban areas (identified by Poverty Map-2016/ NHD/ HIES) receive investment grants.	Beneficiaries of the most poverty prone Upazilas receive a one-time investment grant of Tk 15,000 or more (inflation-adjusted).	December 2026		BBS, MoSW, & Finance Division

Sl.	Objectives	Activities	Performance Indicators	Timeframe	Responsible Ministry	Shared Responsibility
3.	Workplace Childcare Services	Enactment of daycare Act.	Daycare Act approved.	December 2022	MoWCA	Ministry of Labour and Employment
		Develop rules and operational manual on childcare services.	Rules and manual available.	June 2023	MoWCA	Ministry of Labour and Employment
		Develop coordination mechanisms and monitoring guidelines.	Monitoring guidelines available.	January 2024	MoWCA	Ministry of Labour and Employment
4.	Child Maintenance Payments	A study was conducted on the pattern of parental support for abandoned children.	Study report submitted to the Cabinet Division.	June 2023	MoWCA	Ministry of Social Welfare
		Formulate a policy on child maintenance payments.	The policy is approved by the Cabinet.	July 2023	MoWCA	Ministry of Social Welfare
		Coordinate and Implement the Policy.	Policy implemented.	June 2025	MoWCA	
5.	Strengthen Training programme	Develop and implement SBCC strategy and ECD component and related training module in MCBP. Develop and approve rest of age-specific training module for MCBP by IEC committee of MoHFW. Review of training delivery modalities in a social security programme to identify a sustainable approach for effective training delivery. Develop communication materials on financial inclusion and economic empowerment.	SBCC strategy and ECD module developed and operationalized Approved age-specific training modules for MCBP are available and rolled out in the field. Existing training delivery mechanism reviewed, and recommendation incorporated in programme design. Financial inclusion and economic empowerment materials available	Dec 2022	MoWCA	Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, MoSW, Development partners

Sl.	Objectives	Activities	Performance Indicators	Timeframe	Responsible Ministry	Shared Responsibility
6.	Consolidate Smaller Programme	Prepare a list of smaller programmes to be continued.	List sent to Cabinet Division (CD)	July 2022	MoWCA	CD
		Make a list of programmes to be scaled up	List sent to CD.	July 2022	MoWCA	CD
		Make a list of programmes to be phased out.	List sent to CD.	July 2023	MoWCA	CD
		Review the consolidation proposals.	Review prepared.	December 2023	MoWCA	
7.	Improve targeting of beneficiaries	Review, update and disseminate VWB and Mother and Child Benefit programme implementation guidelines. Develop and disseminate campaign strategy to inform people on eligibility criteria.	MCBP Implementation guidelines are available. VWB implementation guidelines are available. Campaign strategy and materials of MCBP and VWB programmes are in design.	December 2022	MoWCA	BBS ICT Division (A2i)
		MCBP and VWB MIS Integration with BBS database (NHD) when prepared	BBS database integrated and used for beneficiary selection.	Continuous	MoWCA	BBS
		A well-defined verifiable indicator following PMT (Proxy Means Test) method will reduce the inclusion and exclusion errors of the programme.	A set of clearly defined indicators (Different for rural and urban context).	January 2022	MoWCA	BBS

Sl.	Objectives	Activities	Performance Indicators	Timeframe	Responsible Ministry	Shared Responsibility
8.	Grievance Redress System	Mother and Child Benefit Programme MIS operationalize and integrate with the Cabinet led complaint redress mechanism and scaled up. Develop and pilot GRS for the VWB programme through the ICVGD 2nd Phase project. Integrate 333 with MCBP and VWB programme MIS to receive and address grievances.	A well-defined GRS mechanism available in MCBP and VWB programmes. Learning documents available on GRS under MCBP and VWB. MCBP and VWB programmes are integrated with 333.	Continuous	MoWCA	CD, ICT Division (A2i)
		Create public awareness about the facility of central GRS of the Cabinet Division.	Public meetings held and awareness-raising materials are available for distribution in all Upazilas.	By July 2024	MoWCA	Mol, CD and Development partners
9.	Develop Single Registry MIS	Continue improvement and simplification of programme MIS to capture beneficiary information from hard-to-reach locations.	100 per cent beneficiary under MCBP and VWB identified from MIS and reported online.	January 2024	MoWCA	ICT division (A2i) and Development partners
		Continue improving MIS-based online self-enrollment and selection procedures by integrating the database with NID verification, SPBMU, MoH&FW for pregnancy information, local government and Civil Registration and Vital Statistic (CRVS) for birth registration	Inter-Departmental arrangement established	July 2024	MoWCA	MoF and Development partners
		Link MIS with cash disbursement.	MIS linked with the financial management database of the Finance Division (SPBMU MIS).	Continue	MoWCA	MoF

Sl.	Objectives	Activities	Performance Indicators	Timeframe	Responsible Ministry	Shared Responsibility
		Operationalize and strengthen the MIS unit in DWA for effective management of beneficiary information system. Develop and operationalize data protection guidelines to protect social protection programme beneficiary data.	Human and technical resources are available for the MIS unit. Data protection guidelines available.	December 2023	MoWCA	MoF, MoPA, A2i and Development partners
10.	Digitization of cash transfer	Coordination at the national and sub-national level with financial service providers and the Bangladesh Bank to reduce the rate of bounce back. Sensitize beneficiary on financial inclusion procedures.	The rate of bounce back reduced. Several awareness materials were developed and disseminated.	December 2022	MoWCA	MoF, BB and Development partner
		Develop and introduce Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) to regularize timely disbursement of beneficiary payment.	A clearly defined standard Operating Procedure (SOP) available to ensure monthly disbursement.	December 2022	MoWCA	MoF and Development partners
		A cash transfer-based component was piloted and introduced for the VWB programme, particularly for urban beneficiaries.	Urban vulnerable women receive cash through G2P based digital transfer.	July 2023	MoWCA	MoF and Development Partners

Sl.	Objectives	Activities	Performance Indicators	Timeframe	Responsible Ministry	Shared Responsibility
11.	Enhance results-based M&E	An integrated MIS based monitoring system will be introduced and operationalized gradually across the country to promote informed management decisions.	Dashboard for monitoring and reporting developed in MCBP and VWB MISs	July 2025	MoWCA	MoSW and CD
		Review the role of NGOs in programme implementation and allocate required human resources at the union level and technical resources to fully operationalize the MIS unit.	The role of NGO reviewed and defined in programmes implementation. Submitted human, technical, and financial resources proposals to FD and MoPA.	December 2023	MOWCA	Finance Division, MoPA, BIDS and Development partner
		Conduct a couple of research/ studies under MCBP and VWB to assess programme and process outcomes.	Assessment and research report available and recommendation incorporated in programme design	December 2023	MOWCA	Development partners and BIDS
		Conduct mid-term and end-term evaluations of MCBP and VWB programmes.	The programme's evaluation reports are available for further review of the programmes.	Continuous	MoWCA	CD, GED, BIDS, and Development Partners

Key Actions of Ministry of Women and Children Affairs

- Consolidate mother and child benefit programme and increase the coverage from 1.2 million to around half of the children aged 0-4 years.
- Coordinate with Ministry of Social Welfare to strengthen and consolidate vulnerable women benefit (VWB).
- Workplace Childcare Services, Enactment of daycare Act, develop rules and operational manual on childcare services, Develop coordination mechanisms and monitoring guidelines.
- Formulate child maintenance policy for abandoned children, especially of broken families.



NSSS Action Plan, Phase - II (2021-26)



Finance Division

Action Plan (2021-26)
National Social Security Strategy (NSSS) of Bangladesh



Action Plan of Finance Division

Action Plan (2021-26) for Implementation of National Social Security Strategy (NSSS) of Bangladesh

Finance Division, Ministry of Finance

The major functions of Finance Division include preparation and review of the fiscal policy of the government and macroeconomic management; preparation of budget, appropriation, re-appropriation, and examination and approval of budget proposals of autonomous bodies/corporations through monitoring of their activities; framing of financial rules and regulations and issuing necessary orders/instructions related to pay scale, pay fixation, leave, pension/gratuity, retirement benefits, travel allowance, general provident fund and other relevant financial matters; communication with the World Bank, the Asian Development Bank, and other bilateral and multilateral development partners and dealing with matters related to the IMF and dealing with treasury and public debt management along with loans and grants. In addition to that, Finance Division plays a key role in social security programs design and implementation. It is responsible for allocation of budget, fund release, transfer and disbursement of the fund. Finance Division also, prepare a report on 'Social Security Programs' that published in the website.

Vision

Achieve higher growth through prudent and sustainable management of public finance.

Mission

Ensure macro-economic stability and fiscal discipline through prudent and efficient fiscal management to achieve higher economic growth and poverty reduction.

NSSS objectives

The NSSS objective for the Finance Division is to provide enhanced budgetary allocation to social security programmes. The most important objective is to transform the current payment systems towards Government to Person (G2P) payment system to ensure greater financial inclusions of the recipients.

Challenges

The main challenges are macro-economic stability, sustainable debt management; improvement of efficiency and rationalization of public expenditure; enhancing the capacity of employees in public financial management.

Main Social Security Programmes

➤ Skills for Employment Investment Programme

Asian Development Bank (ADB) signed a Multi-tranche Financing Facility (MFF) Agreement with Bangladesh Government in 2014 to support long-term and comprehensive skills development efforts in Bangladesh assessing its potential contribution to higher GDP growth by skilling and up-skilling many working-age people in priority sectors. Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC) is also co-financing the programme. Finance Division is the executing agency of the SEIP project while three Ministries (Ministry of Expatriate Welfare, Education, and Industries), Bangladesh Bank, PKSF, and 13 Industry Associations are

partnering with this Division. Apart from this, BRTC under the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways is working with this project to develop 1,00,000 trained and licensed drivers to drastically reduce road accidents. Support to Skills Development Coordination and Monitoring Unit (SDCMU) is working as the implementing agency. This programme has been ensuring demand-driven skill-development training among the poor people under the SEIP project to create productive self and wage employment. The goal of the project is to develop a skilled workforce through skills development training and therefore place them in productive self and wage employment which will improve their sustainable livelihoods. There are 0.4 million beneficiaries with Tk 668.75 crore budget allocation in the fiscal year 2021-22. This is a programme of labour livelihood cluster targeting the Working Age people in both urban and rural areas.

➤ **Funds to combat the outbreak of the corona pandemic**

The fund was created primarily to protect the targeted population from the Corona outbreaks, provide cash assistance, and address health risks. The government has announced many forms of liquidity support for producers, exporters as well as small, medium, and large factories and business enterprises to boost the domestic economy and cope with the evolving COVID-19 scenario. Several relief packages for the extremely poor and poor households have also been initiated. The liquidity support packages which the Hon'ble Prime Minister unveiled are certainly welcome. Such liquidity support provides timely and much-needed assistance in building resilience to the repercussions of the COVID-19 pandemic. A total of 3.5 million households received Tk 2500 in FY 2020-21. In FY 2021-22 there is a Tk 7300 crore budget that has been allocated to combat the outbreak of the Corona pandemic. The beneficiary coverage for this activity is in process and will be determined according to the necessity in the fiscal year 2021-22.

➤ **PM's rehabilitation assistance to the people of river erosion affected areas**

The rehabilitation assistance to the people of river erosion affected areas programme aims to enhance resilience to flood and riverbank erosion risks along the lower Jamuna and the Padma through non-structural and structural risk management measures at priority erosion sites, providing a fundamental cornerstone for the Government's desired river stabilization. The programme has been implemented by the Finance Division of the Ministry of Finance. There is a Tk 100 crore budget in the 2021-22 fiscal year for this programme.

➤ **Savings Certificate Interest Assistance (Social Security Part)**

The National Savings Certificate in Bangladesh encompasses different types of savings schemes. The objective of the programme is to motivate people to save money; collect scattered small savings through National Saving Schemes; mitigate national budget deficit by collecting money through saving schemes; bringing under the socio-economic safety net of the country's particular sectors of people like women, senior citizens, Bangladeshis, who are working abroad and the physically handicapped by national saving schemes; playing an important role by reducing foreign aid dependence and taming inflation, etc. The programme has been implemented by the Finance Division of the Ministry of Finance. The additional portion of the bank rate paid by the government in case of interest on savings certificates is provided by the Finance Division. There are 6.16 million beneficiaries expected to get benefits from this activity. In FY 2021-22, Tk 6909 crore budget was allocated for this programme.

Moreover, Tk 930 crore has been allocated for grants to 8 CMSME organizations to accelerate economic recovery in response to Corona Pandemic, and Tk 5000 crore is also allocated to deal with economic and natural shocks in FY2021-22.

Programme Summary (2020-21)

Table 18: Programme Summary (2020-21) of Finance Division

Sl.	Social Protection Programme	Thematic Cluster	Life Cycle	Beneficiary (lakh)	Budget (Crore Taka)
1.	Assistance for partial interest waiver of deferred loans of Commercial Banks due to Corona Virus	Labour / Livelihood Intervention	Working Age	-	2,000.00
2.	Assistance Fund for the Small Farmer and Poultry Farmers	Human Development and Social Empowerment	Working Age	1.00	100.00
3.	Disbursement of cash among target population to address corona risk (a total of 50 lac households to get Tk. 2500 each)	Social Allowance	Covariate Risks	-	500.00
4.	Employment generation programmes (through Palli Sonchoy Bank, Karmasangsthan Bank, Expatriate Welfare Bank and PKSF)	Human Development and Social Empowerment	Working Age	-	2,000.00
5.	Interest subsidy for Small (including cottage industries) Industries and Service Sector Enterprises affected by Corona Virus	Labour / Livelihood Intervention	Working Age	-	3,000.00
6.	Pension for Retired Government Employees and their Families	Social Insurance	Old Age	6.30	23,000.00
7.	PM's rehabilitation assistance to the people of river erosion affected are-as	Food Security and Disaster Assistance	Covariate Risks	-	100.00
8.	Refinancing scheme for low-income farmers / small traders	Human Development and Social Empowerment	Working Age	-	3,000.00
9.	Savings Certificate Interest Assistance (Social Security Part)	Social Insurance	Covariate Risks	-	6,625.00
10.	Skills for Employment Investment Programme	Labour / Livelihood Intervention	Working Age	3.16	585.19
11.	Special Assistance for the development of Char, Haor and Underdeveloped Area	Food Security and Disaster Assistance	Covariate Risks	0.23	50.00
12.	Special Assistance Fund for Women Development & Women Entrepreneurs	Labour / Livelihood Intervention	Working Age	-	125.00
13.	Strengthening Public Financial Management for Social Protection	Human Development and Social Empowerment	Covariate Risks	-	13.00

Finance Division -
Share of Social Protection Budget

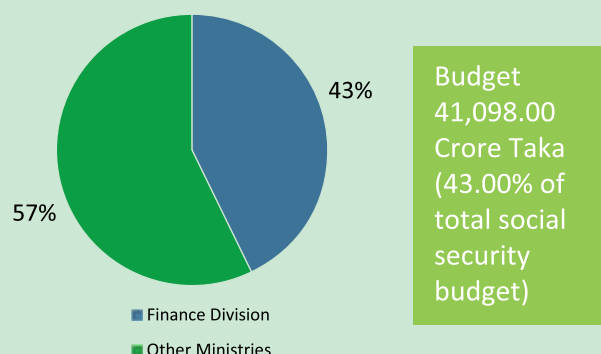


Figure 27: Share of Social Security Budget of Finance Division

Finance Division -
Number of Programmes

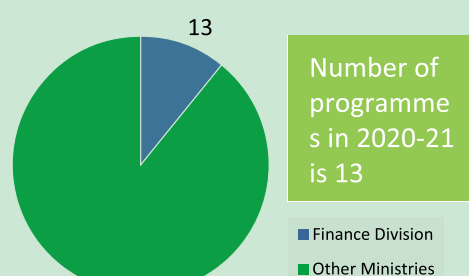


Figure 28: Share of number of Social Security programmes of Finance Division

Situation Analysis

Table 19: Situation Analysis of Finance Division

Programme Name	NSSS Provision	Present Situation	Gaps
Government Service Pension	<p>The Finance Division will manage and continue the Government Service Pension in its present form.</p> <p>[Summary, 5.2.1 of NSSS]</p>	<p>-Database has been created. The payment system has been digitalized.</p> <p>-Pensioners are getting their monthly pension by EFT.</p> <p>-Online application system is under the process that will be in place soon.</p>	<p>Introducing an electronic system for quick disposal of pension cases.</p> <p>Gratuity and lump grants will be paid by EFT.</p> <p>Introducing a life verification system online.</p>
Universal pension	<p>NSSS stipulates that the universal pensions like the Government Pension System should be introduced. For this, agreement with the private sector is important.</p> <p>[Summary, Para 4.3.3 of NSSS]</p>	<p>Strategy paper submitted to the Finance Division.</p>	

Programme Name	NSSS Provision	Present Situation	Gaps
Financial Management System and database	<p>Finance Division will have access to the Central Management Committee MIS database and maintain a financial management system (MIS) linked with the database of all programmes under the NSSS linked with NID.</p> <p>Working with the relevant task force, the Finance Division will recommend the process and procedure for performance-based monitoring of social security programmes and recommend indicators. [Para 7.5.1 of NSSS]</p>	Partially completed. SPBMU MIS is linked with NID and connected with the database of 11 Social Security Programmes (SSP). After the end of the SPFMSP project, the work will be continued through BACS/iBASS++.	The financial management system (SPBMU-MIS) must be linked with all the SSPs programmes.
NSSS financing and related policies	The Finance Division is responsible for ensuring necessary funds for the implementation of social security programmes in consistence with the NSSS. Also, the Division is mandated to ensure that other fiscal policies of the government uphold the social security of people. [Para 6.3.1 of NSSS]	The Finance Division is allocating over 3 per cent of GDP and around 18 per cent of the national budget on social security programmes. While adjusting for programme reforms, the ratio must be maintained;	
Strengthening Government to Person (G2P) Payment Systems	A key reform to be introduced is an initiative to transform the Government to Person (G2P) payment systems so that they promote financial inclusivity and prevent leakages. [Section 6.5 of NSSS]	Now 11 programmes of the SSP are brought under the EFT payment system and around 20 million beneficiaries are covered by the G2P disbursement arrangement.	All the cash transfer programmes will be brought under the digitized payment system by June 2022.
Digitization of cash transfer	To transform the Government to Person (G2P) payment systems so that they promote financial inclusivity and prevent leakages. [Para 6.5 of NSSS]	11 programmes of SSP are covered by digitized cash transfers. All the cash transfer programmes will be brought under the digitized payment system by June 2022.	All SSN programmes will be covered by e-payment.
Develop Single Registry MIS	The government will establish a national Single Registry that is based on building scheme-specific MISs that communicate with each other. The Single Registry would be based on a national identity system of all Bangladeshi citizens. [Para 6.4 of NSSS]	SPBMU-MIS was created by FD. As a part of developing national single registry;	

Programme Name	NSSS Provision	Present Situation	Gaps
Consolidate Smaller Programmes	The NSSS requires the merging or elimination of many small programmes. Any ministry considering some of their minor programmes to be continued and scaled up will have to send proposals with justification. [Para 4.8 of NSSS]	Under the process of preparation.	Consolidation of smaller programmes primarily depends on other line ministries.
Grievance Redress System	Establishing an effective grievance redress so that all citizens have recourse to appeal decisions on selection and can notify the competent authorities about instances of misconduct and failures in the delivery of the promised benefit. [Para 6.3 of NSSS]	Recently GRM module is developed in SPBMU MIS.	Roll out the GRS module and make it available to all citizens. -Service Centre / Call centre not yet set up.

Action Plan (2021-26)

To implement the reform proposals of the NSSS the following time-bound activities may be taken up.

Table 20: Action Plan of Finance Division

Sl.	Objectives	Activities	Performance Indicators	Timeframe	Responsible Ministry	Shared Responsibility
1.	Maintain Government Service Pension	To continue govt. pension with improvement in approval /disposal of pension cases and financial sustainability.	Pension continued with improved management supervision, monitoring, and keeping sustainable.	Continuous	Finance Division	Ministry of Public Administration (MoPA)
		Maintain the digitized database linked to NID/UID.	Database created.	Continuous	Finance Division	
		Electronic Fund Transfer in the pension payment system.	Payment system digitized.	Already implemented in case of monthly pension payment.	Finance Division	
2.	Universal pension as part of NSIS	Conduct a study on the format of universal pension.	Strategy paper submitted to FD.	Depends on the finalization of the strategy paper.	Finance Division	Financial Institutions Division (FID)
		Consultation with stakeholders.	Workshops held.			
		Cabinet Approval	Will be presented in the Cabinet.			

Sl.	Objectives	Activities	Performance Indicators	Timeframe	Responsible Ministry	Shared Responsibility
3.	Creation of financial management database for social security programmes	Develop software for Financial MIS and run a pilot test.	Financial MIS developed and pilot tested	Done	Finance Division	Cabinet Division, GED, SID
		Roll out financial MIS nationwide for all the social security programmes, integrating it with single registry MIS.	MIS rolled out	Done	Finance Division	
		Maintain the MIS	MIS maintained	continuous	Finance Division	
4.	Government to Person (G2P) Payments System or Digital Payment	Initiate a comprehensive review of current payment systems.	Review completed.	Done	Finance Division	FID, BB, all Line Ministries, BPO
		Designing a digital payment architecture.	Digital payment architecture designed.	Done	Finance Division	A2I, PMO, FID, BB, Line Ministries, BPO
		Piloting of G2P for two core cash transfer programmes.	Two cash transfer programmes were piloted.	Done	Finance Division	MSW, MoWCA, A2I, BB,
		Rolling out G2P for all cash transfer programmes.	G2P for all cash transfer programmes.	June 2022	Finance Division	A2I, PMO, FID, BB, Line Ministries, BPO
		Maintain the system	The system maintained	Continuous		

Key Actions of Finance Division

- Continue pension with improvement in approval and disposal of pension cases and financial sustainability.
- Conduct a study on the format of universal pension within NSIS.
- Creation of financial management database for social security programmes,
- Maintain digital payment architecture G2P



NSSS Action Plan, Phase - II (2021-26)



Ministry of Disaster Management and Relief

Action Plan (2021-26) National Social Security Strategy (NSSS) of Bangladesh



*Action Plan of Ministry of Disaster
Management and Relief*

Action Plan (2021-26) for Implementation of National Social Security Strategy (NSSS) of Bangladesh

Ministry of Disaster Management and Relief

The Ministry of Disaster Management and Relief is allocated the second largest portion of the social security budget of the government. This indicates the importance of the Ministry in terms of social protection which is mainly responsible for disaster risk management and relief. The Ministry is also involved in managing workfare programmes for the poor to ensure social safety including food security. The Ministry is closely related to the Ministry of Food, which supplies required food to many of its programmes. It also works in close collaboration with the Local Government Division. The Ministry has been assigned by the NSSS the responsibility of leading the Labour & Livelihood Intervention cluster.

Vision

To reduce the risk of people, especially the poor and the disadvantaged, from the effects of natural, environment and human-induced hazards.

Mission

To achieve a paradigm shift in disaster management from conventional response and relief to a more comprehensive risk reduction culture, and to promote food security as an important factor in ensuring the resilience of communities to hazards.

NSSS objectives

The strategic objective of the Ministry's social safety net is to strengthen disaster relief and workfare programmes.

Challenges

The nature and incidence of disasters are not the same in different geographical locations of the country, depending on hazard zones. Therefore, it is very important to identify the nature of disaster-prone areas and take necessary measures beforehand. If food markets collapse because of disasters, with the market failing to ensure the availability of food items, food-based disaster response is required. Therefore, the main challenge for the Ministry of Disaster Management and Relief is to prepare vulnerability maps and to update multi-hazard disaster maps to make the cash and food support more effective.

Organizational Overview

➤ Department of Disaster Management (DDM)

This department, under the Ministry of Disaster Management and Relief, was set up in November 2012 following the enactment of the Disaster Management Act 2012. The Department has the mandate to implement the objectives of the Disaster Management Act by reducing the overall vulnerability from different impacts of disaster by undertaking risk reduction activities; conducting humanitarian assistance programmes efficiently to enhance the capacity of poor and disadvantaged as well as strengthening and coordinating programmes undertaken by various government and non-government organizations related to disaster risk reduction, Safety net and emergency response. DDM is responsible to execute

the directions, recommendations by the government in connection with disaster management as well as the national disaster management principles and planning. The Department of Disaster Management (DDM) would be a vibrant department of excellence for Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) mainstreaming into Disaster Management Programme; vulnerability reduction of peoples, implement safety net programmes especially the poor and disadvantaged from different impacts of disasters; knowledge, research, and capacity building on the whole cycle of disaster management in the light of DM Act 2012.

➞ Cyclone Preparedness Programme (CPP)

Cyclone Preparedness Programme is a flagship programme of disaster management in Bangladesh which is globally recognized as a best practice for saving lives and protecting assets. The initial step was taken by the Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman with the International Red Crescent Society to establish the Cyclone Preparedness Programme (CPP) in 1972. Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman adopted CPP in 1973. The globally renowned CPP includes the community volunteer-driven institutional arrangement of early warning, accessible multi-purpose cyclone shelters and anticipatory action system to drive a clear incident command system to enhance disaster resilience. The programme is under the management of the Ministry of Disaster Management and Relief. It has been credited with saving thousands of lives. The Indian Prime Minister called it “Global Best Practice” in the Asian Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction (AMCDRR) in 2016. It has 74000 dedicated volunteers.

➞ Office of the Refugee Relief and Repatriation Commission

The Office of the Refugee Relief and Repatriation Commission is a Bangladesh government agency under the Ministry of Disaster Management and Relief which is responsible for providing relief and shelters to forcibly displaced Myanmar nationals in Bangladesh and planning their eventual repatriation to Myanmar. Office of the Refugee Relief and Repatriation Commissioner was established in 1992 when the first wave of Rohingya refugees, about 250 thousand, arrived from Myanmar. The office is located in Cox’s Bazar District. In January 2021, the Foreign Ministry of Bangladesh wrote to the Office of the Refugee Relief and Repatriation Commissioner to establish a repatriation wing in Cox’s Bazar to coordinate with the Ministry in Dhaka. A shelter facility for the Rohingya refugees has been established at Bhashan Char considering the higher density of population and environmental consequences at Cox’s Bazar. This is also an interim initiative to facilitate the repatriation of the Rohingya population. The facilities created in the island include 1,400 cluster houses, 120 cyclone shelters, administrative buildings, offices for the U.N. and non-governmental organizations, schools, two hospitals with 20 beds each, relief centres, warehouses, fire and police stations, lighthouse, mosques, a helipad, 2-megawatt power plants, and road and drainage networks. A 12.1 kilometres long and two-meters high embankment with integrated drainage has been constructed to protect the inhabitants and onshore infrastructure from a flood. Facilities for agriculture, fish and poultry farming, cattle rearing, and dairy production have been provided on the island. However, about 18,500 FDMNs are being relocated from the camps in Cox’s Bazar to Bhashan Char Island from time to time by the 6th phase so far.

Legal Framework

- The Disaster Management Act, 2012
- The Implementation Guideline for Humanitarian Assistance, 2012-13
- The Disaster Management Policy, 2015
- The Standing Orders on Disaster, 2019
- The Guidelines for Implementation of Special Humanitarian Assistance in Disasters caused by Corona Virus Situation, 2020
- The National Plan for Disaster Management (2021-2025)

- The Dead Body Management Guideline, 2016
- The EGPP Implementation Guideline, 2020
- The Urban Volunteer Management Guideline, 2019
- The Implementation Guideline for TR, 2014
- The Guideline for the Construction of Disaster Resilient Houses, 2019
- The Implementation Guideline for Rural Infrastructure Reform, 2014
- The Rules for Disaster Management (Fund Management), 2021

Social Security Programmes

➤ House Grant (Cash Support)

Cash is provided as assistance with corrugated iron sheets to poor or destitute individual/family, freedom fighter, persons with disability whose house, shop, the small business centre has been partly or fully-destroyed due to disasters or indigent educational and religious institutions such as school, college, madrasa, orphanage, mosque, temple, church, pagoda, kyaung (Buddhist monastery), library and other registered social institutions that have been partly or fully-destroyed by disasters and need cash assistance for rebuilding or repairs. Three thousand BDT is allocated with each bundle of corrugated Iron Sheets. In the 2020-2021 fiscal year 27.50 crore BDT was allocated for 1.23 Lakh beneficiaries. This belongs to the Food Security and Disaster Assistance cluster focusing on the Covariate Risks in the life cycle approach.

➤ Vulnerable Group Feeding (VGF)

The Vulnerable Group Feeding programme started in 1974. When introduced, VGF provided a monthly transfer of 31.25 kg of wheat per household per month for a period of two consecutive years. To date, VGF continues to be a humanitarian programme that provides 10 kg rice to the poor during disasters and major religious festivals. The programme has been implemented by the Ministry of Disaster Management and Relief. For this programme, there are 400.39 lakh beneficiaries with a budget of BDT 940.10 crore in the 2020-21 fiscal year. The programme belongs to Food Security and Disaster Assistance Cluster targeting the Working Age people both in rural and urban areas.

➤ Gratuitous Relief (GR)

The Gratuitous Relief (GR) programmes address poverty and vulnerability from a broad perspective. Vulnerable groups, particularly the elderly, women, children, and persons with disabilities are given priority in the delivery of safety net support. Programmes provide benefits in the form of food, cash transfers or a combination of both, and are administered through government agencies and elected local governments. The programme has been implemented by the Ministry of Disaster Management and Relief. It has 355.06 lakh beneficiaries with a budget of BDT 568.82 crore in the 2020-21 fiscal year. This programme belongs to Food Security and Disaster Assistance Cluster focusing on the Covariate Risks in lifecycle framework both in rural and urban areas.

➤ Food for Work (FFW)

These projects and programmes use labour-intensive methods to construct or rehabilitate infrastructure. It has two major objectives: 1. to provide a safety net for poor, food-insecure households. Members of these households can work with FFW in labour-based construction activities and benefit directly from the foods given; 2. to improve living conditions of the poor communities by creating or improving infrastructure that is of direct benefit to them (community roads, drains, drinking water points, etc.). The programme has been implemented by the Ministry of Disaster Management and Relief. This programme belongs to Labour and Livelihood Intervention Cluster targeting the Working age people in rural areas.

➤ **Cash for Work**

The government of Bangladesh has been operating two public works schemes, Food for Work (FFW) and Test Relief (TR), to address a shortage of both food and work opportunities. As food security of the country improves and transaction costs associated with food payment lower the programme efficiency, the food to cash transitions are taking place for wages with the introduction of a complementary programme Cash for work. The programme has been implemented by the Ministry of Disaster Management and Relief. It has 16.23 lakh beneficiaries with a budget of BDT 2,123.122 crore allocated in the 2020-21 fiscal year. This programme belongs to Labour and Livelihood Intervention Cluster targeting Working Age people in rural areas.

➤ **Test Relief (TR) Cash**

Test Relief (TR) Cash programmes address poverty and vulnerability from a broad perspective: through education, healthcare, nutrition, employment, disaster response programmes, etc. Vulnerable groups, particularly the elderly, women, children and persons with disabilities are given priority in the delivery of safety net support. Programmes provide benefits in the form of food, cash transfers, or a combination of both, and are administered through government agencies and elected local governments. The programme has been implemented by the Ministry of Disaster Management and Relief. It has 15.55 lakh beneficiaries with BDT 1,522.30 crore budget in the 2020-21 fiscal year. This programme belongs to Food Security and Disaster Assistance Cluster focusing on the Covariate Risks in life cycle approach both in urban and rural areas.

➤ **Employment Generation Programme for the Poorest (EGPP)**

The objective of the Employment Generation Programme for the Poorest Project (EGPP) for Bangladesh is to provide short-term employment on community sub-projects to enable households to better cope with vulnerability while strengthening programme implementation. There are two components to the project. The project follows a results-based financing mechanism and disbursement-linked indicators (DLIs) representing targets to trigger disbursement are specified for each year of implementation of the government programme of the same name. One DLI focus area pertains to the use of a specific geographic targeting formula for allocating financial resources to ensure pro-poor coverage. The programme has been implemented by the Ministry of Disaster Management and Relief. It has 38.68 lakh beneficiaries with a budget of BDT 1650 crore in the 2020-21 fiscal year. This programme belongs to Labour and Livelihood Intervention Cluster targeting the Working Age people in rural areas.

➤ **Various Relief Goods (Blankets and Winter Clothing, Corrugated Iron Sheets, Tents, Baby Food, Dry Food, Cattle Feed, etc.)**

The government of Bangladesh is providing various relief goods like blankets, winter clothing, corrugated iron sheets, tents, baby food, dry food, cattle food, etc. to the vulnerable and disaster-affected people at different locations, mostly in the climate and disaster-prone areas. The poor, vulnerable and marginalized communities are considered under this programme. The programme has been implemented by the Ministry of Disaster Management and Relief. It has 31.20 lakh beneficiaries with BDT 185 crore budget allocated in the 2020-21 fiscal year. This programme belongs to Food Security and Disaster Assistance Cluster focusing on the Covariate Risks in lifecycle framework in rural areas and urban areas.

➤ **Construction of Flood-Shelter in Flood-Prone and River-Erosion prone Areas**

Bangladesh Government has been doing outstanding work in disaster management and is considered a role model in this area. Disaster management plans and other national plans are the main tools that help Bangladesh has made great achievements in tackling disasters. Construction of flood shelters in flood-prone and river-erosion areas is another tool that helps prevent possible hazards or risks and reduce loss of life and assets. The programme has been implemented by the Ministry of Disaster Management and

Relief. It has 5.17 lakh beneficiaries with a budget of BDT 310.00 crore allocated in the 2020-21 fiscal year. This programme belongs to Food Security and Disaster Assistance Cluster focusing on the Covariate Risks in lifecycle framework in rural areas.

➞ **Special allocation**

The Disaster grants support individuals to tackle disaster shocks and sudden changes in economic life balance. The programme implemented by the Ministry of Disaster Management and Relief has a budget of BDT 60 crore allocated in the 2020-21 fiscal year. This programme belongs to Food Security and Disaster Assistance Cluster focusing on the Covariate Risks both in urban and rural areas.

➞ **Mujib Killa**

One of the best examples of disaster governance is the construction of Mujib Killa which started in 1973. Earthen Mounds (popularly known as ‘Mujib Killa’) in cyclone-prone areas were built to protect people and their livestock from cyclonic storm surges. At least 500 people and 500 cattle can take shelter in each of these killas. Under the project, ‘Construction, Renovation, and Development of Mujib Killa’, initiatives have been taken to build, renovate and develop 50 Mujib Killas during 2021-2022. In 2020-2021 the budget was BDT 79.85 crore. The number of beneficiaries of the project was 3000 people in 2020-2021. Generally, in these buildings, people and cattle can take shelter during disasters as each building has 8 toilets, 2 kitchens, bathing facilities, drinking water and a solar power system. However, this project generates huge employment in the rural areas and saving cattle have a positive impact on people’s safety net.

➞ **Urban Resilience Project**

The Project development objective is to strengthen the capacity of Government of Bangladesh agencies to respond to emergency events and to strengthen systems to reduce the vulnerability of future building construction to disasters in DNCC, DSCC and Sylhet City Corporation. The Project Development Objective (PDO) is to strengthen the capacity of GoB agencies to respond to emergency events and to strengthen systems to reduce the vulnerability of future building construction to disasters in Dhaka and Sylhet. The programme has been implemented by the Ministry of Disaster Management and Relief. There are 150 beneficiaries with BDT 29 crore budget in the 2020-21 fiscal year for this program. This programme belongs to Labour and Livelihood Intervention Cluster focusing on the Covariate Risks in the life cycle approach.

➞ **Impact of Social Safety Net Programmes**

All Social safety nets programmes of MoDMR can ensure that the most vulnerable and poorest households reach a minimum level of food consumption, food security and cover basic needs, that they can help build household resilience to economic shocks, and that they promote longer-term opportunities for productive inclusion. MoDMR’s social safety net programmes affect not only beneficiary households but, through local economy effects and spillovers, also non-beneficiary households and business activities. Resilience outcomes include the ownership of productive assets for livelihood strengthening. Construction of Shelters and Mujib Killa created rural employment generation. Thus, these social safety nets programmes can contribute a lot to the rural economy.

Programme Summary (2020-21)

Table 21: Programme Summary (2020-21) of Ministry of Disaster Management and Relief

Sl.	Social Protection Programme	Thematic Cluster	Life Cycle	Beneficiary (lakh)	Budget (Crore Taka)
1.	Construction of Flood-Shelter in the Flood and River Erosion Prone Area	Food Security and Disaster Assistance	Covariate Risks	5.17	310.00
2.	Special allocation	Food Security and Disaster Assistance	Covariate Risks	-	60.00
3.	Employment Generation Programme for the poorest	Labour & Livelihood Intervention	Working Age	38.68	1,650.00
4.	Urban Resilience Project	Food Security and Disaster Assistance	Covariate Risks	0.0015	29.00
5.	Gratuitous Relief (Food)	Food Security and Disaster Assistance	Covariate Risks	355.06	568.82
6.	House Grant (Cash Support)	Food Security and Disaster Assistance	Covariate Risks	1.23	27.50
7.	Miscellaneous Relief Works (Flood, Drought, Cyclone, Others)	Food Security and Disaster Assistance	Working Age	28.00	71.00
8.	Test Relief (TR) Cash	Food Security and Disaster Assistance	Covariate Risks	15.55	1,522.30
9.	Various Relief Goods (Blankets and Winter Clothing, Corrugated Iron Sheets, Tents, Baby Food, Dry Food, Cattle Feed, etc)	Food Security and Disaster Assistance	Covariate Risks	31.20	185.00
10.	Vulnerable Group Feeding (VGF)	Food Security and Disaster Assistance	Working Age	400.39	940.10
11.	Cash for Work/ Work for money	Labour & Livelihood Intervention	Working Age	16.23	2,123.122
12.	Mujib Killa	Food Security and Disaster Assistance	Covariate Risks	0.03	79.85
13.	Skills Development and Earthquake Risk Management Fund	Food Security and Disaster Assistance	Covariate Risks	0.017	0.42

The social security budget of the Ministry of Disaster Management and Relief constitutes more than 13.76% of the total social security. This is second highest after the social security budget of the Finance Division. This Ministry has 13 regular programmes out of 119 programmes as per the list of the Finance Division. This is represented graphically in the following two pie charts:

Ministry of Disaster Management and Relief - Share of Social Protection Budget

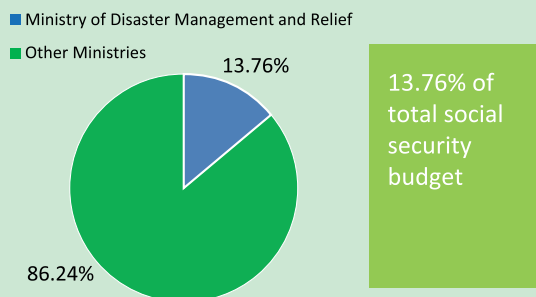


Figure 29: Share of Social Security Budget of Ministry of Disaster Management and Relief

Ministry of Disaster Management and Relief - Number of Programmes

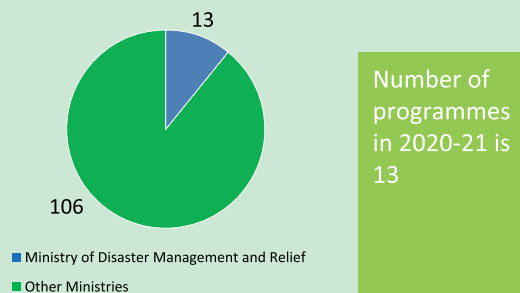


Figure 30: Share of Number of Programmes of Ministry of Disaster Management and Relief

The regular programmes of the Ministry of Disaster Management and Relief fall within two thematic clusters, namely Labour & Livelihood Cluster and Food Security, Disaster Assistance Cluster. Out of 13 programmes, 4 are dedicated to the working-age groups while the remaining 9 programmes cover covariate risks affecting people of any age category.

Other Programmes

➤ Multipurpose Rescue Boats

The Ministry of Disaster Management and Relief is to arrange to provide sixty multipurpose rescue boats with the provision of a ramp and washroom facility for the people with special needs in the flood-prone areas. The boatsheds are foldable to carry cows and other domestic animals to a safe place along with men and women. Unlike other boats, these boats are structured to move in shallow waters. Bangladesh Navy is making these boats in Bondor dockyard in Narayanganj. Staff for the boats has already been approved by the Ministry of Finance. Every year 20 boats will be supplied starting from August 2021.

Situation Analysis

Table 22: Situation Analysis of Ministry of Disaster Management and Relief

Objectives	NSSS Provision	Present Situation	Gaps
Continue disaster relief programmes	The NSSS provides that the transfer of food and cash during and after a disaster will continue as a disaster management response as necessary under the management of the Ministry of Disaster Management and Relief. [Para 4.6, 4.7 of NSSS]	Most of the relief programmes of the ministry are based on the transfer of food. Parallel to cash transfer, other supports like blanket nutritious foods and temporary housing or house making materials like corrugated tins are provided.	Needs to increase the supply of non-food items like blankets, nutritious foods, dignity kits, safe drinking water, medicine, temporary house or house making materials, cloths, pure water, cash support to the disaster affected people.

Objectives	NSSS Provision	Present Situation	Gaps
Providing Shelters to the Homeless People	The Ministry may enhance the supply of items like disaster resilience houses, dignity kits, safe drinking water, clothing, temporary housing, etc. [Para 4.6, 4.7 of NSSS] Special programmes tailored to the special needs of the socially excluded groups will be implemented, including homeless and landless disaster-prone people [Para 4.4 of NSSS]	The Ministry provides Disaster Resilience Houses to the vulnerable and disaster victims at different locations. There are 255.44 lakh beneficiaries with BDT 2157 crore budget in the 2020-21 fiscal year for this programme. This programme covers rural and urban people.	Needs to continue the ongoing initiatives of supports for building houses. Needs to strengthen coordination with Prime Minister's Office and other ministries having housing programmes.
Consolidate Workfare Programmes	It is expected that the consolidation of various fragmented employment schemes would yield considerable efficiency gains by reducing administrative costs and reducing leakages. As the lead agency dealing with workfare programmes, the reform will be done by the Ministry of Disaster Management and Relief in consultation with the Local Government Division and Rural Development and Cooperatives Division. [Para 4.3.2 of NSSS]	The ministry has numerous workfare programmes including the Employment Generation Programme (EGPP) for the Poorest, Food for Work and Cash for Work. The EGPP has 38.68 lakh beneficiaries in the 2021-22 fiscal year with a budget of Taka 1650 Crore. The food for work has more than 10 lakh beneficiaries with a budget of more than one thousand crores Taka. The Work for Money programme has 16.23 lakh beneficiaries with a budget of 2,123.122 crore taka. Thus, the ministry covers more than 50 lakh people under work-fare programmes with a budget of four thousand crore taka. In addition, there are other small programmes with work-fare components.	The programmes are fragmented and need to be consolidated under one umbrella.
Hazard zone mapping	The nature and incidence of disaster are not the same in different geographical locations of the country. Therefore, the NSSS recommends that the Ministry of Disaster Management and Relief prepare a mapping of disaster-prone areas in collaboration with related ministries. [Para 4.7 of NSSS]	The ministry responds to disaster as and when required. The poverty map prepared by the BBS is often used. However, there is no updated multihazard comprehensive map for disaster-prone areas.	Vulnerability maps should be prepared. Multi-Hazard maps need to be updated
Convert Food-based Workfare Programmes to cash-based	The government will in a longer perspective consider converting all workfare-based food programmes into cash transfers. Such transition has to be implemented in an orderly manner and be based on the recommendations of an in-depth assessment to be undertaken by the Government. [Para 4.6 of NSSS]	The Ministry of Disaster Management and Relief has an increasing proportion of cash-based workfare programmes.	The transition to a cash-based workfare programme is necessary, whilst taking cognizance of the need to rotate the public stock-holding for food security.

Objectives	NSSS Provision	Present Situation	Gaps
Consolidate Smaller Programmes	The NSSS requires the merging or elimination of many small programmes. Any ministry considering some of their minor programmes to be continued and scaled up will have to send proposals with justification. [Para 4.8 of NSSS]	Under the process of preparation.	To be reviewed.
Improve targeting of beneficiaries	Implementing ministries will be responsible for ensuring correct targeting and zero tolerance to pilferage. [Para 6.3.1 of NSSS]	Existing manuals are online and partially follow the BBS database and online data.	Selection policies and manuals need to be updated and more authentic.
Grievance Redress System	Establishing an effective grievance redress so that all citizens have re-course to appeal decisions on selection and can notify the competent authorities about instances of misconduct and failures in the delivery of the promised benefit [Para 6.3 of NSSS]	Recorded online. Service Centre/Call centre yet to be set up. Grievances are redressed centrally by ministries and field levels both online and offline.	The GRS needs to be improved.
Develop Single Registry MIS	The government will establish a national Single Registry that is based on building scheme-specific MISs that communicate with each other. The Single Registry would be based on a national identity system of all Bangladeshi citizens. [Para 6.4 of NSSS]	Under preparation in BBS, apart from that social protection integrated MIS developed at the Finance Division taking MIS Data of 4 ministries. The ministry is building up an MIS for using the household poverty database. The EGPP has a very robust MIS. The other programmes use a certain format of MIS.	MIS needs to be developed/updated having linkage with central MIS of Finance Division.
Digitization of cash transfer	To transform the Government to Person (G2P) payment systems so that they promote financial inclusivity and prevent leakages. [Para 6.5 of NSSS]	G2P modality has been finalized. E-payment modalities are used. The plan is to cover all cash-based programmes.	Data platform and data analysis need to be operational
Enhance results-based M&E	There is a need to formalize a system of M&E at both the national level and at the individual programme level for assessing the results of the programmes. [Para 7.2 of NSSS]	M&E Framework has been developed. Some programmes with MIS have a digital system for monitoring the progress of programmes. For evaluation, the Office depends on the IMED partially when the applier depends on the IMED.	Systematic monitoring and evaluation need to be introduced.

Action Plan (2021-26)

In order to implement the reform proposals of the NSSS the following time-bound activities may be taken up.

Table 23: Action Plan of Ministry of Disaster Management and Relief

Sl.	Objectives	Activities	Performance Indicators	Timeframe	Responsible Ministry	Shared Responsibility
1.	Continue Disaster Relief Programmes	Supply food grain for food-based disaster relief programmes and provide a budget for cash-based programmes	Programmes continued	Continuous	Ministry of Disaster Management and Relief (MoDMR)	Ministry of Food
		Consider horizontal and vertical expansion of existing programmes in the face of disasters	Mechanism to scale up coverage and/ or benefit package of existing programmes in place	July 2023	MoDMR	Other relevant stakeholder ministries
2.	Improve disaster management system	Prepare a disaster map based on hazard and vulnerability	Disaster map prepared	January 2024	MoDMR	BBS
3.	Convert most of the workfare programmes from food to cash transfer	Organize discussions with stakeholders for a smooth transition	Workshops organized	December 2021	MoDMR	Local Government Division
		Gradually change food for work programmes to cash	Food for workfare programmes phased out	December 2024		
4.	Consolidate Smaller Programmes	Prepare a list of small programmes	List sent to Cabinet Division (CD)	July 2022	MoDMR	CD
		Identify the small programmes to be scaled up or phased out	List sent to CD	June 2023	MoDMR	CD
5.	Improve targeting of beneficiaries	Update manual for selection procedures and disseminate it to people	Circular updated	July 2022	MoDMR	
		Publish a list of beneficiaries online (where applicable)	The updated list of beneficiaries is available online	June 2024	MoDMR	
		Follow poverty database of BBS database (when available)	Instruction given	June 2022	MoDMR	

Sl.	Objectives	Activities	Performance Indicators	Timeframe	Responsible Ministry	Shared Responsibility
6.	Grievance Redress System	Encourage NGOs in supporting GRS	General instructions issued	June 2022	MoDMR	NGO Affairs Bureau
		Arrange for recording complaints at field level	Instruction issued	Continuous	MoDMR	NGO Affairs Bureau
		Sensitize beneficiaries to use Central GRS of Cabinet Division	Central GRS mentioned in Communication materials	June 2022 onward	MoDMR	NGO Affairs Bureau
7.	Develop Single Registry MIS	Create standard Programme MIS using NIDs as a primary key	NID incorporated in Programme MIS	December 2023	MoDMR	CD ICT Division
		Make the MIS interoperable by relevant departments	Inter-operability established in MIS	June 2025	MoDMR	
8.	Digitization of cash transfer	Digitize payment of cash benefits of the programmes	Cash disbursement digitized	June 2025	MoDMR	
		Link MIS with cash disbursement	MIS linked with financial management database of Finance Division (SPBMU MIS)	December 2025	MoDMR	Finance Division
9.	Enhance results-based M&E	Digitize monitoring of programme implementation	Progress monitoring digitized	December 2024	MoDMR	ICT Division CD
		Conduct evaluation of programmes by internal teams/ IMED/ third party	Impact evaluation of Programmes conducted	June 2024	MoDMR	IMED CD
		Use CODI for assessing programmes	CODI framework used for assessing programmes	June 2023 June 2025 (Twice for each major programme)	MoDMR	CD

Key Actions of Disaster Management and Relief

- Supply food grain for food-based disaster relief programmes and provide budget for cash-based programmes.
- Consider horizontal and vertical expansion of existing programmes in the face of disasters.
- Prepare a disaster map based on hazard and vulnerability.
- Organize discussion with stakeholders for smooth transition.
- Gradually change food for work programmes to cash.



Ministry of Primary and Mass Education

Action Plan (2021-26)
National Social Security Strategy (NSSS) of Bangladesh



*Action Plan of Ministry of Primary
and Mass Education*

Action Plan (2021-26) for Implementation of National Social Security Strategy (NSSS) of Bangladesh

Ministry of Primary and Mass Education

The Ministry of Primary and Mass Education (MoPME) is responsible for ensuring inclusive and quality primary education for all as well as improving overall literacy. It has a great role in the development of human resources of the country. In consideration of its activities, the ministry has been assigned the responsibility of leading the coordination process of the thematic cluster on 'Human Development and Social Empowerment of NSSS. For delivering according to its mandate and responsibility, MoPME is implementing some projects and programmes for improving social security of the children of primary school age-group. Some notable interventions include Fourth Primary Education Development Programme (PEDP4), primary school stipend programmes, and school meal programmes. Recently policy directives of the government in line with the social protection policy objectives have emphasized gradually increasing the coverage of stipends and school meals to make it universal. The social protection programmes of this Ministry foster the nutrition status of children with immense impacts on developing the future generation.

Vision

To establish a knowledge-based and technologically oriented competent society to ensure that every school-age child has access to primary level institutions that provide all necessary facilities, continue in school to receive, and achieve quality education and provide opportunities to pre-school children, young persons, and adults to meet their learning needs in a competitive world.

Mission

Ensure primary, inclusive, and lifelong education for all through the extension of access and improvement of quality of primary education.

NSSS objectives

The NSSS strategic objective of the Ministry of Primary and Mass Education is to continue stipend to primary school students and to increase the stipend amount.

Challenges

Around 14 million children receive primary stipends under universal coverage. The stipend amount for primary students has increased over time. The G2P method of transferring stipends directly to the parents through mobile financial service is more efficient. However, the knowledge regarding the safety protocol of using the technology of parents, especially in rural areas is still an issue of concern. The school meal programmes have received political approval through National School Meal Policy in 2019, but the effective implementation of the policy is still a challenge as it requires huge resources and institutional arrangements. Moreover, the Executive Committee of the National Economic Council (ECNEC) in its meeting held on 1 June 2021 did not approve the Primary School Meal Project, a scale-up proposal of the existing modality and directed to explore an effective and practical alternative mechanism.

Organizational Overview

➤ Directorate of Primary Education

The Directorate of Primary Education is an autonomous government department responsible for the administration of primary schools in Bangladesh. It is also responsible for the training of primary schoolteachers in various training institutions operated by the directorate. It is in the Mirpur area of Dhaka, Bangladesh. The government of Bangladesh under Sheikh Mujibur Rahman nationalized 37 thousand primary schools in Bangladesh in 1973 through the Primary Education (taking over) Act, 1974. The Directorate of Primary Education (DPE) was established in 1981 to manage nationalized primary schools. In 2013, Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina nationalized 26 thousand more primary schools. Bangladesh has 126,615 primary schools, 540 thousand teachers and 18.6 million students.

➤ Bureau of Non-Formal Education

The Bureau of Non-Formal Education (BNFE) is a government bureau responsible for providing learning opportunities to individuals who have not received formal education. The BNFE traces its origin to the Directorate of Non-Formal Education (DNFE). The DNFE was under the Primary and Mass Education Division which was established in August 1992. The Directorate was placed in charge of Non-Formal Education programmes providing services to 34.4 million illiterate people in Bangladesh. The DNFE was dissolved in 2005 and replaced with the BNFE.

➤ National Academy for Primary Education

The National Academy for Primary Education (NAPE) is responsible for providing training to government primary school teachers, and it is in Mymensingh, Bangladesh. It is one of 25 key government administration training institutions. NAPE was established in 1978 as the Academy for Fundamental Education. It was renamed in 1985 as the National Academy for Primary Education. It is under the Ministry of Primary and Mass Education.

Legal Framework

- The Child Welfare Trust Scholarship Policy, 2019
- The National School Meal Policy, 2019
- The Non-Formal Education Act, 2014
- The National Education Policy, 2010

Social Security Programmes

➤ Primary School Stipend

The Primary Education Stipend Programme (PESP) aims to increase the educational participation-enrollment, attendance, persistence, and performance of primary school-aged children from poor families throughout Bangladesh by providing cash transfers to targeted households. Initiated by the government of Bangladesh (GOB) in July 2002, with the target of supporting more than 5 million students, it has been scaled up to cover all students at Government primary schools. There are 14.1 million beneficiaries with Tk 3,712 crore budget in the 2020-21 fiscal year for this programme. This programme belongs to the Human Development and Social Empowerment Cluster targeting the Primary school age children. This nationwide programme has been redesigned in terms of operational modality. The programme has come under revenue management of MoPME after the project closed on 30 June 2021. Thus, the stipend programme will be continued from revenue budget from July 2021 onwards.

➤ School Feeding Programme

The programme was successfully piloted by the World Food Programme (WFP). The pilot, which started in 2010, gives school children fresh, hot school meals in Bamna and Islampur sub-districts. Locally sourced

fresh vegetables are included along with lentils and micronutrient-fortified rice and oil. According to IMED reports the pilot has shown that these fresh meals are an effective approach to combating micronutrient deficiency. The programme belongs to the Human Development and Social Empowerment Cluster targeting the Primary school age children in the poverty-stricken areas of 104 Upazilas of Bangladesh.

➡ Reaching Out of School

There are 65,566 government primary schools providing free primary education, there are several learning centres for providing mass literacy programmes. ROSC Phase-2 (Reaching Out of School Children) is an endeavour of the government undertaken in 2013 to provide a second chance to education for the disadvantaged children aged 8-14 years who never had the chance to enrol in primary schools or who had to drop out for reasons of other necessities. The idea is to reduce the number of dropouts by creating scopes for (i) equitable access to primary education (ii) retention and (iii) completion of quality primary education. The programme has been implemented by the Ministry of Primary and Mass Education. There are 0.442 million beneficiaries with Tk 185.59 crore the budget in the 2020-21 fiscal year for this programme. This programme belongs to the Human Development and Social Empowerment Cluster targeting the children in Primary school in selected areas of Bangladesh.

Programme Summary (2020-21)

Table 24: Programme Summary (2020-21) of Ministry of Primary and Mass Education

Sl.	Programme	Thematic Cluster	Life cycle	Beneficiary (Lakh)	Budget (Crore Taka)
1.	Primary School Stipend	Human Development and Social Empowerment	School Age	141.00	3,712.00
2.	School Feeding Programme	Human Development and Social Empowerment	School Age	30.00	609.15
3.	Reaching Out of School	Human Development and Social Empowerment	School Age	4.42	185.59

The share of the social security budget for this Ministry is just above one per cent through three programmes as is shown in the following charts. However, the Ministry implements one of the most important social security programmes related to human development. Thus, the social protection programmes of this Ministry are very crucial for the implementation of the vision of the NSSS.

Share of Social Security Budget-
Ministry of Primary and
Mass Education

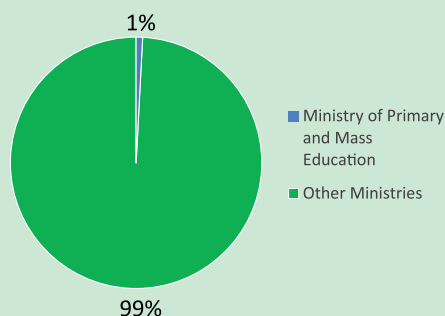


Figure 31: Share of Social Security Budget of Ministry of Primary and Mass Education

Ministry of Primary and
Mass Education - Share of Number of
Social Security Programmes

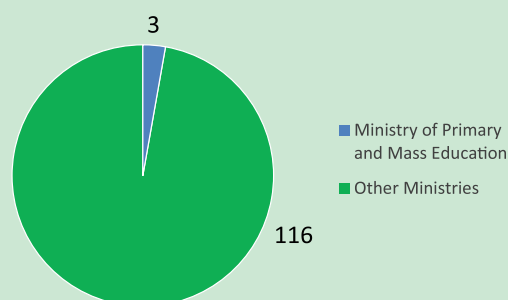


Figure 32: Share of Number of Social Security Programmes of Ministry of Primary and Mass Education

Situation Analysis

Table 25: Situation Analysis of Ministry of Primary and Mass Education

Programme name	NSSS Provision	Present Situation	Gaps
Primary School Stipend Programme	The NSSS provides that the primary stipend will cover 50 per cent of the primary school students. The stipend amount will be raised. For two siblings, the stipend rate will not be reduced. However, a family will receive a stipend for 2 children at most. A school stipend may be of TK. 300 per month for all primary and secondary school-going children belonging to poor and vulnerable households. (Summary, para 2.2.2, 4.3, 5.2.3 of NSSS)	There is a stipend programme, starting from July 2015, for 100 per cent of students under the Ministry of Primary and Mass Education, including pre-primary, primary, and newly upgraded students of class VI to VII of the government schools and including city corporation and municipality areas. A family will receive a stipend for up to 4 children. According to guidelines of a new phase of the project, a family receives a stipend of TK 75 for pre-primary class, TK 150, TK 300, TK 400 and TK 500 for children of one, two, three, and four respectively for primary level. Each family will receive TK 200, TK 400, TK 500 and TK600 for one, two, three, and four children respectively for students of class VI to VIII. Presently the Ministry has a stipend programme for 100 per cent of students in the government primary schools.	The stipend amount needs to be increased.
School Meal/ Feeding Programme	NSSS suggests that the school meal programme as piloted by the Ministry of Primary and Mass Education may be rolled out nationwide. [Table 4.6 of NSSS]	The Ministry has formulated 'the National School Meal Policy, 2019 creating scopes for scaling up school feeding programmes. Presently, 3 million children in 15,470 primary schools, in 104 Upazilas are brought under the programme.	Gradual expansion of the school meal/feeding programme is required.
Consolidate Smaller Programmes	The NSSS requires the merging or elimination of many small programmes. Any ministry considering some of their minor programmes to be continued and scaled up will have to send proposals with justification. [Para 4.8 of NSSS]	Under the process of preparation.	To be reviewed.

Programme name	NSSS Provision	Present Situation	Gaps
Improve targeting of beneficiaries	Implementing ministries will be responsible for ensuring correct targeting and zero tolerance to pilferage. [Para 6.3.1 of NSSS]	The programmes being universal, selection of beneficiaries will not be an issue.	Selection policies and manuals need to be updated and disseminated.
Grievance Redress System	Establishing an effective grievance redress system so that all citizens have recourse to appeal decisions on selection and can notify the competent authorities about instances of misconduct and failures in the delivery of the promised benefit [Para 6.3 of NSSS]	Recorded online. Service Centre / Call centre not yet set up. The grievance is redressed centrally by ministries also at the district level irrespective of online or written.	The GRS needs to be improved.
Develop Single Registry MIS	The government will establish a national Single Registry that is based on building scheme-specific MISs that communicate with each other. The Single Registry would be based on a national identity system of all Bangladeshi citizens. [Para 6.4 of NSSS]	Under preparation in BBS, apart from that social protection integrated MIS developed at the Finance Division taking MIS Data of 4 ministries. MIS linked for some programmes and other activities will require some time.	MIS needs to be developed linking with the central MIS of the Finance Division.
Digitization of cash transfer	To transform the Government to Person (G2P) payment systems so that they promote financial inclusivity and prevent leakages. [Para 6.5 of NSSS]	G2P modality has been finalized. E payment modalities are being used. The plan is to cover all cash-based programmes.	
Enhance results-based M&E		M&E Framework has been developed, but the dashboard is not yet in place.	Systematic monitoring and evaluation need to be introduced.

Action Plan (2021-26)

To implement the reform proposals of the NSSS the following time-bound activities may be taken up.

Table 26: Action Plan of Ministry of Primary and Mass Education

Sl.	Objectives	Activities	Performance Indicators	Timeframe	Responsible Ministry	Shared Responsibility
1.	Sustain Primary Stipend Programme	Rationalize the stipend amount by adjusting inflation.	Transfer amount increased.	July 2023	Ministry of Primary and Mass Education (MoPME)	Finance Division

Sl.	Objectives	Activities	Performance Indicators	Timeframe	Responsible Ministry	Shared Responsibility
2.	Primary School Meal	Explore effective and implementable modality	Suitable modality identified	December 2021	MoPME	
		Expand programme area	No of school and beneficiary	July 2025		
3.	Develop Single Registry MIS	Create online-based MIS for all programmes.	MIS digitized for all programmes.	January 2023	MoPME	
		Make the MIS accessible to relevant departments.	Inter-Departmental arrangement established.	July 2025	MoPME	
		Link MIS with cash disbursement.	MIS linked with the financial management database of the Finance Division (SPBMU MIS).	December 2023	MoPME	
4.	Digitization of cash transfer	Maintain delivery of stipend money by G2P modality.	G2P modality continued.	Continuous	MoPME	
5.	Enhance Results-Based M&E	Digitize monitoring of programmes.	Dashboard established.	July 2022	MoPME	
		Conduct midterm and end-term evaluation of programmes.	Programmes evaluated regularly.	Continuous	MoPME	

Key Actions of Ministry of Primary and Mass Education

- Sustain primary stipend programme through rationalizing the stipend amount by adjusting inflation.
- Explore effective and implementable modality of Primary School Meal and expand program area.



Secondary and Higher Education Division

Action Plan (2021-26)
National Social Security Strategy (NSSS) of Bangladesh



*Action Plan of Secondary and
Higher Education Division*

Action Plan (2021-26) for Implementation of National Social Security Strategy (NSSS) of Bangladesh

Secondary and Higher Education Division

The Secondary and Higher Education Division is a division under the Ministry of Education, which is responsible for secondary and higher education in Bangladesh. It is the highest policy-making body concerning secondary and tertiary education in Bangladesh. It is responsible for overseeing high schools and universities.

The Secondary and Higher Education Division of the Ministry of Education is the apex policy-making institution of the government regarding the administration and development of the post-primary education sector except for technical and madrasa education. The Secondary and Higher Education Division formulates policies and programmes for the development of post-primary to higher education. It also formulates laws, rules, and regulations for the management and administration of the post-primary education sector, and its institutions. There are several affiliated bodies for supervision and management of formal education in post-primary and secondary schools, colleges, and universities. There are about 25,227 post-primary secondary schools/colleges/madrashas and 37 public and 92 private universities.

Vision

Quality education for all.

Mission

Human resources creation with well-educated, skilled, and advanced morals by combining general, science, and technology-based education and training.

NSSS objectives

The NSSS strategic objective of the Secondary and Higher Secondary Education Division is to raise the coverage of stipends to 50 per cent of the secondary school students and to increase the stipend amount.

Challenges

Around 13 million children receive stipends, with the majority at primary school. Coverage is 17 per cent of secondary school-age children. Therefore, both the coverage and the transfer amount are low.

Organizational Overview

➤ University Grants Commission of Bangladesh

University Grants Commission of Bangladesh is an apex and statutory body in the field of higher education and research that works as a buffer institution between the government and the universities by advising the government in policy matters, allocating budget, ensuring quality education, encouraging cutting-edge innovative research and governance issues at Higher Educational Institutions (HEIs). The University Grants Commission (UGC) of Bangladesh is working relentlessly for the overall development of higher education in line with the education system of the developed world. UGC facilitates and guides the

universities to achieve excellence in higher education and innovative research for sustainable socio-economic development and building a knowledge-based economy through promoting good governance and management at the higher education institutions (HEIs) in Bangladesh.

Besides, the Private University Act 2010 has provided the UGC with the authority to supervise, monitor, and regulate the activities of the Private Universities in Bangladesh. As a result, the UGC has been empowered with the legal authority to advise, supervise and regulate higher education at Private Universities in Bangladesh. In 1973, Bangladesh had only 6 public universities working at the tertiary level. The scope of education has, at present, been significantly extended. The number of public and private universities stood at 159 as of 30 April 2021 (49 public universities, 107 private universities, and 03 International Universities).

➞ Directorate of Secondary and Higher Education (DSHE)

The Directorate of Secondary and Higher Education (DSHE) is a directorate under the Ministry of Education, which is responsible for improving education standards and access to higher education. The Directorate of Secondary and Higher Education traces its origins to the Directorate of Public Instruction, which was formed following the Wood's dispatch in 1855. The government of Bangladesh converted the Directorate of Public Instruction to the Directorate of Secondary and Higher Education in 1981. The Directorate is responsible for 22,034 educational institutes (School 18,207, College 28,77 School & College 950) in Bangladesh. Through the stipend projects functioning under DSHE, a cumulative total of Tk 7,022 crore and Tk 4.9 million, has been distributed as stipend among 33.854 million students during 2009-2010 to 2019-2020 FY. To ensure hassle-free and timely delivery of stipends to the recipients, DSHE has introduced an online stipend disbursement system through a mobile account. It may be mentioned here that from the financial year 2020-2021, all stipend activities will be conducted through the Prime Minister's Education Assistance Trust Fund. A policy leading to Harmonized Stipend Programme (HSP) has been developed through a study under SESIP and was approved by the Secondary and Higher Education Division to harmonize the stipend distribution rates, beneficiary selection criteria, and distribution modalities.

➞ Prime Minister's Education Assistance Trust (PMEAT)

The Prime Minister's Education Assistance Trust is a trust fund under the Ministry of Education. It is primarily responsible for providing a stipend to underprivileged students based on their merit. An advisory council is working on running the Trust, which is headed by the Honorable Prime Minister of the Bangladesh Government. Along with this, a Board of Trustees, which is constituted of 26 (Twenty-six) members and is chaired by the Honorable Minister, Ministry of Education. Among various social safety net programmes, the most important task of the Trust is to provide stipends for poor and meritorious students from 6th grade to graduation / equivalent level to improve the quality of education and prevent dropout. There are around 4 million students at different levels are getting benefit from various activities of PMEAT each year. PMEAT covers both rural and urban areas.

➞ Secondary Education Development Programme (SEDP)

The Secondary Education Development Programme (SEDP) will be implemented over five years from the financial year (FY 2018/19 to FY 2022/23, and it will cover grades 6-12, annually supporting more than 12 million students and 357,000 teachers from more than 20,300 general schools, 9,400 madrasahs and 1,190 general schools with SSC vocational stream programmes. SEDP spans the entire activities of the Ministry of Education (MoE) excluding those for higher education (post grade 12), technical and vocational education, and training under the Directorate of Technical Education (DTE) and Bangladesh Technical Education Board (BTEB). The purpose of the SEDP is to achieve a more efficient, equitable, inclusive, and quality secondary education system towards developing 21st-century global citizens.

There are 29 Schemes under the SEDP. Out of 29 Schemes, only 5 (five) Schemes have been approved by the Finance Division, the Ministry of Finance. Other schemes are under consideration of approval from concerned ministries.

Legal Frameworks

- The Constitution of the People's Republic of Bangladesh
- The National Education Policy, 2010
- The 8th Five Year Plan
- The ICT in Education Master Plan Review Report, 2019
- The Non-Formal Education Act, 2014

Social Security Programme

➤ PM's Education Support Trust

Honourable Prime Minister of the Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh is the Chairman of the Advisory Council. 'A Board of Trustees' constituted of 23 (twenty-three) members following section 8 (1) of this Act. The honourable Minister of the Education Ministry is the President of the trustee Board. According to sub-section 3 (1) of the Trust Act, a trust is established named the Prime Minister's Education Assistance Trust and according to the provisions of sub-section (7) of this act, an 'Advisory Council' of 5 (five) members was formed. Strategic objectives were providing a stipend to poor and meritorious students from 6th class to graduation/equivalent, providing the rich and financial institutions as well as the government in the collection of trust funds and improving quality of education and preventing dropout. The programme has been implemented by the Secondary and Higher Education Division. There are 0.209 million beneficiaries with Tk4.31 crore budget in the 2020-21 fiscal year for this programme. This programme belongs to the Human Development and Social Empowerment Cluster focusing on the School Age in the life cycle approach in rural areas.

➤ Establishment of an Autistic Academy in Bangladesh

The specialised academy is built under the National Academy for Autism and Neuro-Developmental Disabilities, to bring autistic children under the mainstream education system of Bangladesh.

➤ Generation Breakthrough

Generation Breakthrough equips young people with life skills and knowledge. It uses innovative approaches to positively shift attitudes and behaviours around gender roles, gender-based violence, and sexual and reproductive health. As a result, empowered young people can reach their full potential and contribute more to social and economic development.

Programme Summary (2020-21)

Table 27: Programme Summary (2020-21) of Secondary and Higher Education Division

Sl.	Programme	Thematic Cluster	Life Cycle	Beneficiary (Lakh)	Budget (Crore Taka)
1.	Secondary & Higher Secondary Stipend	Human Development and Social Empowerment	School-Age and Youth	70.87	3,964.08
2.	PM's Education Support Trust	Human Development and Social Empowerment	School-Age and Youth	2.09	4.31
3.	Establishment of Autistic Academy in Bangladesh	Human Development and Social Empowerment	School Age	-	12.00

Sl.	Programme	Thematic Cluster	Life Cycle	Beneficiary (Lakh)	Budget (Crore Taka)
4.	Generation Break Through	Human Development and Social Empowerment	Youth	0.08	2.37

Other Programmes

1. Department of Secondary and Higher Education manually provided scholarships/stipends to 4,59,953 students in different categories in each financial year, including scholarships declared in the revenue sector to students of different classes, institutions, and communities. The scholarship distribution system has been converted from traditional to digital. Now the students get scholarships directly to their bank accounts through the G2P method from the fiscal year 2019-2020.
2. Mid-day meals have been introduced in schools to ensure the health and nutrition of students aligning the goal of quality education in SDG-4. Mid-day meals, which were funded by the students, were in operation in about 7,000 schools till the breakout of the Covid-19 pandemic.
3. DSHE has been implementing a comprehensive programme to increase the number of adolescents with gender-equitable behaviour, their knowledge regarding gender-based violence (GBV) and Sexual and Reproductive Health Rights (SRHR) related services and to increase the capacity of relevant ministries for programme management promoting gender equity and A-SRHR through the Generation Breakthrough Project since July 2014. Currently, the second phase of the project is being implemented and it will end in December 2022.
4. A helpline number (09 612 600 600) has been introduced by the Generation Breakthrough Project through which adolescents get any type of assistance regarding GBV and SRHR throughout the country.
5. Implementing nutrition services activities to ensure the nutrition of adolescent students at the secondary level. To this end, the 'Nutrition Guideline 2020 for Implementation of Adolescent Nutrition Programme' has been prepared and the 'Adolescent Nutrition Online Training' has been introduced. About 100,000 teachers have already been provided online training.
6. So Vocational programmes have been started from January 2020 in 640 general education institutions under the Secondary Education Sector Investment Programme (SESIP). In this continuity, initiatives will be taken to introduce pre-vocational and vocational courses in all general stream educational institutions from the 2022 academic year.
7. Since 2013, textbooks in ethnic languages have been introduced to ensure the cultural rights of ethnic children.
8. Every year, free textbooks are being distributed among the students of Secondary level.
9. As a result of the closure of educational institutions for a long time due to the Covid-19 pandemic, an initiative has been taken to provide training to the heads of the educational institutions and focal point teachers in dealing with the mental health problems of secondary level students. To this end, a counselling manual has been prepared with the help of the country's top psychologists. Accordingly, online training has been started from 15 December 2020. Every month 3000 students will be given counselling on mental health problems (helpline Number 09612600600).
10. National Academy for Autism and Neuro-developmental Disabilities (NAAND) project is working to establish a national autism academy to make children with autism and NDDs self-dependent

and engage them in the mainstream education system

11. There are 29 schemes under the SEDP. Out of 29 schemes, only 5 (Five) schemes have been approved by the Finance Division, Ministry of Finance. Other schemes are under consideration of approval from the concerned Ministry.

Table 28: Other Programmes of Secondary and Higher Education Division

Sl.	Programme	Thematic Cluster	Life Cycle	Beneficiary (Lakh)	Budget (Crore Taka)
1.	Improving Access and Retention through Harmonized Stipend Programme	Human Development and Social Empowerment	School-Age and Youth	40 (The students of grades 6 to 12 from all Upazilas of Bangladesh).	8744.00

Situation Analysis

Table 29: Situation Analysis of Secondary and Higher Education Division

Programme name	NSSS Provision	Present Situation	Gaps
Secondary Education Stipend Programmes	The NSSS provides that the secondary education stipend should cover 50 per cent of the secondary school students. The stipend amount will be raised. For two siblings, the stipend rate will not be reduced. However, a family will receive stipends for two children at most. A school stipend may be of Tk 300 per month for all primary and secondary school-going children belonging to poor and vulnerable households. [Summary, Para 2.2.2, 5.2.3 of NSSS]	Presently two divisions of the Ministry of Education e had a stipend programme for around 17 students.	The coverage of secondary education stipend needs to be almost tripled. The stipend amount needs to be increased.
Consolidate Smaller Programmes	The NSSS requires the merging or elimination of many small programmes. Any ministry considering some of their minor programmes to be continued and scaled up will have to send proposals with justification. [Para 4.8 of NSSS]	Depends on study findings.	
Improve targeting of beneficiaries	Implementing ministries will be responsible for ensuring correct targeting and zero tolerance to pilferage. [Para 6.3.1 of NSSS]	Existing manuals are online and partially use the BBS database.	

Programme name	NSSS Provision	Present Situation	Gaps
Grievance Redress System	Establishing an effective grievance redress so that all citizens have recourse to appeal decisions on selection and can notify the competent authorities about instances of misconduct and failures in the delivery of the promised benefits. [Para 6.3 of NSSS]	A Toll-free helpline 16357 has been established to lodge complaints of labourers. Public meetings are held in all Upazilas.	
Develop Single Registry MIS	The government will establish a national Single Registry, which is based on building scheme-specific MISs that communicate with each other. The Single Registry would be based on a national identity system of all Bangladeshi citizens. [Para 6.4 of NSSS]	Under preparation in the BBS, apart from that, social protection integrated MIS developed at the Finance Division taking MIS Data of 4 ministries. The programmes are not covered under the system. For some programmes, the MIS is linked with the financial management database of the Finance Division.	
Digitization of cash transfer	To transform the Government to Person (G2P) payment system to promote financial inclusion. and prevent leakages. [Para 6.5 of NSSS]	The G2P modality has been finalized. E-payment has been chosen for the G2P rollout.	
Enhance results-based M&E		M&E Framework has been developed, but the dashboard is not yet in place.	

Action Plan (2021-26)

To implement the reform proposals of the NSSS the following time-bound activities may be taken up.

Table 30: Action Plan of Secondary and Higher Education Division

Sl.	Objectives	Activities	Performance Indicators	Timeframe	Responsible Ministry	Shared Responsibility
1.	Expand Secondary Education Stipend Programme	Increase the coverage by 20 per cent every year.	The number of stipend recipients increased.	July 2023 (Continue throughout next five years)	Secondary and Higher Education Division (SHED)	Technical and Madrasha Education Division (TMED)
		Increase the rate of stipend.	Transfer amount increased.	July 2023		

Sl.	Objectives	Activities	Performance Indicators	Timeframe	Responsible Ministry	Shared Responsibility
2.	Consolidate Smaller Programmes	Prepare a list of programmes to be continued.	List sent to Cabinet Division (CD).	July 2022	SHED	CD
		Make a list of programmes to be scaled up.	List sent to CD.	July 2022	SHED	CD
		Make a list of programmes to be phased out.	List sent to CD.	July 2022	SHED	CD
		Review the consolidation proposals.	Review prepared.	December 2017	SHED	CD
3.	Improve Targeting of Beneficiaries	Update manual for selection procedures and disseminate it to people.	Circular issued.	December 2023	SHED	
		Publish the list of beneficiaries online to make it transparent.	Instruction is given to field offices.	Continuous	SHED	
		Follow the BBS database when prepared.	Instruction given.	January 2023	SHED	
4.	Grievance Redress System	Arrange for recording complaints at the field level.	Instruction issued.	Continuous	SHED	
		Create public awareness about the facility of central GRS of the Cabinet Division.	Public meetings held in all Upazilas.	By July 2021	SHED	
5.	Develop Single Registry MIS	Create online-based MIS for all programmes.	MIS digitized for all programmes.	January 2024	SHED	
		Make the MIS accessible to relevant departments.	Inter-Departmental arrangement established.	July 2024	SHED	
		Link MIS with cash disbursement.	MIS linked with financial management database of Finance Division (SPBMU MIS).	December 2024	SHED	

Sl.	Objectives	Activities	Performance Indicators	Timeframe	Responsible Ministry	Shared Responsibility
6.	Consolidate Smaller Programme	Prepare a list of programmes to be continued.	List sent to Cabinet Division (CD).	July 2021	SHED	CD
		Make a list of programmes to be scaled up.	List sent to CD.	July 2021	SHED	CD
7.	Enhance results-based M&E	Make a list of programmes to be phased out.	List sent to CD.	July 2021	SHED	CD
		Review the consolidation proposals.	Review prepared.	December 2017	SHED	CD

Key Actions of Secondary and Higher Education Division

- Expand coverage of Secondary Education Stipend Programme at least by 20% each year and also increase the rate.



Technical and Madrasa Education Division

Action Plan (2021-26)
National Social Security Strategy (NSSS) of Bangladesh



*Action Plan of Technical and
Madrasha Education Division*

Action Plan (2021-26) for Implementation of National Social Security Strategy (NSSS) of Bangladesh

Technical and Madrasa Education Division

The Technical and Madrasa Education Division is under the Ministry of Education, which is responsible for technical and madrasa education in Bangladesh. It is responsible for 113 public technical education institutes and 3 public madrassas and 4,727 private technical education institutes and 7,620 private madrassas.

The primary education level is carried out through this department, all the activities of technical and madrasa education without secondary and higher education. In addition, technical and madrasa make laws, rules, and regulations for education administration and management. The agencies under this department monitor the management activities of the next recognized technical and madrasas at the primary level.

Vision

Quality work-oriented, technical, vocational, and madrasa education for all.

Mission

Creation of educated, trained, skilled, and ethical human resources with a combination of technical, vocational, science, and technology-based education and training.

NSSS objectives

The NSSS strategic objective of the Technical and Madrasa Education Division is to raise the coverage of stipends to around 50 per cent of the madrasa students and to strengthen technical education.

Challenges

Around 13 million children receive stipends, with the majority at primary schools. Coverage is 17 per cent of secondary school-age children. Therefore, both the coverage and the transfer amount are low.

Organizational Overview

➤ Bangladesh Technical Education Board

The Bangladesh Technical Education Board is a state regulatory board responsible for monitoring and developing technical and vocational education in the secondary level (SSC), 2-year higher secondary level (HSC/Vocational), and 4-year Diploma in Engineering degree throughout the country. The board sets the curriculum, develops learning materials, grants affiliation to technical and vocational institutions, governs admissions, conducts the examination, and awards diploma certifications.

➤ Bangladesh Madrasa Education Board

The Bangladesh Madrasa Education Board or the Alia Madrasa Education Board started its activity independently in 1979. Over time, several amendments have come to effect. In 1978, humanities and

science faculties were included at the Alim level. In 1980, Fazil degrees were granted the same standard of education as Higher Secondary School Certificate (HSC) degrees, but this was changed in later years with Dakhil level having the equivalency of Secondary School Certificate (SSC) since 1985, and Alim being considered as the HSC equivalent since 1987. Humanities, science, business, and technical education have been included with madrasa education. Meanwhile, a law has been passed for Fazil and Kamil levels to be considered equivalent with bachelor's and master's degrees in general education.

Directorate of Technical Education

The Directorate of Technical Education is a Bangladesh Government Directorate under the Ministry of Education, which is responsible for the development, expansion, and research in the field of technical education in Bangladesh. The Directorate of Technical Education was established in 1960 under the Ministry of Education. The Directorate is responsible for 64 technical schools and colleges, 49 polytechnic institutes, one degree level technical teacher's training college and four engineering colleges.

Legal Framework

- The Child Welfare Trust Scholarship Policy, 2019
- The Non-Formal Education Act, 2014
- The National Education Policy, 2010
- The ICT in Education Master Plan Review Report-2019

Social Security Programmes

Secondary Education Stipend/higher Secondary

The Female Secondary School Stipend Project in Bangladesh was established to increase the enrollment of girls in secondary schools, thereby preventing early marriage and childbearing. This analysis examined the existing data using the social exclusion framework to clarify the primary exclusionary factors that have kept girls from education: harassment, poverty, and the primacy of marriage and childbirth and explored the extent to which the project has diminished such barriers. While causality is difficult to establish, data suggest that the stipend programme has contributed to the rise in enrollment of girls in secondary schools. Questions remain as to the impact of the stipend programme on delaying marriage, empowerment of girls and women, and enhancing employment opportunities. A thorough assessment of the impact is required. The case study suggests that, if the programme design had focused on the quality and content of education and the broader economic and social context, more opportunities would have been created for the social and economic participation of girls. The programme has been implemented by the Ministry of Education. There are 7.087 million beneficiaries with Tk 3,964.08 crore budget in the 2020-21 fiscal year for this programme. This programme belongs to the Human Development and Social Empowerment Cluster focusing on the School Age in the life cycle approach both in urban and rural areas.

Establishment of Autistic Academy in Bangladesh

The academy will bring autistic children into the country's mainstream education system. The government has taken an initiative to build an academy for autism at a cost of Tk 422.34 crore, to include autistic children in the country's mainstream education system. The specialized academy will be built under the National Academy for Autism and Neuro-developmental Disabilities, to bring autistic children under the mainstream education system. The secondary and higher secondary education department will implement the project, which is expected to be completed by December 31, 2023. The academy will have an administrative academic building, an academic auditorium, gymnasium, and swimming pool, staff quarters, and two hostels for boys and girls having accommodation facilities for 100 children each. Initially, the academy will start its activities in a hired building in the capital within the next two months, which has already been authorized by the Public Works Ministry. The programme has been implemented by the

Ministry of Education. Tk 12 crore budget in 2020-21 fiscal year has been allocated for this programme. This programme belongs to the Human Development and Social Empowerment Cluster focusing on the Covariate Risks in the life cycle approach both in urban and rural areas.

➡ Skills and Employment Programme in Bangladesh

The Bangladesh Skills for Employment and Productivity (B-SEP) Project is an initiative of the Government of Bangladesh (GoB). The project aims to accelerate the current efforts being undertaken by other organizations, donors, and the government to develop and create skills, which are nationally accredited, accessible to all, higher quality and directly linked to jobs. The programme has been implemented by the Ministry of Education. Tk 80 crore budget in 2020-21 fiscal year for this programme has been earmarked. This programme belongs to the Labour & Livelihood Intervention Cluster targeting the Working Age people in rural areas.

Programme Summary (2020-21)

Table 31: Programme Summary (2020-21) of Technical and Madrasha Education Division

Sl.	Programme	Thematic Cluster	Life Cycle	Beneficiaries (Lakh)	Budget (Crore Taka)
1.	Skill and Employment Programme in Bangladesh	Labour & Livelihood Intervention	Working Age	-	80.00

Situation Analysis

Table 32: Situation Analysis of Technical and Madrasha Education Division

Programme name	NSSS Provision	Present Situation	Gaps
Secondary Education Stipend Programme	The NSSS provides that the secondary education stipend should cover 50 per cent of the secondary school students. The stipend amount will be raised. For two siblings, the stipend rate will not be reduced. However, a family will receive stipends for two children at most. A school stipend may be of Tk 300 per month for all primary and secondary school-going children belonging to poor and vulnerable households. [Summary, Para 2.2.2, 5.2.3 of NSSS]	Presently the two Divisions of the Ministry of Education have a stipend programme for around 17 per cent of students. Most of the Madrasha students are not covered.	The coverage of secondary education stipend needs to be extended to the madrasha students. Around 50 per cent of the total madrasha students are estimated to be covered under the programme.
Technical/ vocational training	In addition to secondary and higher education, the vocational training facilities need to be expanded for the youth. Youth should continue to be provided with vocational training and support to develop their enterprises. [Para 2.2.3 and 4.3.2 of NSSS]	Some students do not gain sufficient secondary education and there is not enough vocational training available to compensate.	Technical and Vocational training needs to be expanded

Programme name	NSSS Provision	Present Situation	Gaps
Consolidate Smaller Programmes		The preparation process is in progress.	
Improve targeting of beneficiaries		Existing manuals are online and partially follow the BBS database.	
Grievance Redress System		It is recorded online, but people cannot lodge their grievances through call centres/service centres. Once the grievance is recorded, it is addressed centrally by ministries. Also, it is addressed at the district level irrespective of online or written.	
Develop Single Registry MIS		Under preparation in the BBS. Apart from that, social protection integrated MIS developed at the Finance Division taking MIS Data of 4 ministries. The programmes are not covered under the system. For some programmes, the MIS is linked with the financial management database of the Finance division.	
Digitization of cash transfer		The G2P modality has been finalized. E-payment has been chosen for the G2P rollout.	
Enhance results-based M&E		M&E Framework has been developed, but the dashboard is not yet in place.	

Action Plan (2021-26)

To implement the reform proposals of the NSSS the following time-bound activities may be taken up.

Table 33: Action Plan of Technical and Madrasa Education Division

Sl.	Objectives	Activities	Performance Indicators	Timeframe	Responsible Ministry	Shared Responsibility
1.	Expand Secondary Education Stipend Programme.	Expand the programme to technical & madrasa students.	The number of stipend recipients increased (for the FY 2020-21 no. of Stipend recipients 5,56,336).	March 2021 (Continue next five years)	Technical & Madrasa Education Division (TMED)	SHED
		ii. Increase the rate of stipend.	Transfer amount increased (for the FY 2020-21 amount of Stipend Tk 312.02 crore)	July 2022		

Sl.	Objectives	Activities	Performance Indicators	Timeframe	Responsible Ministry	Shared Responsibility
2.	Vocational Training Programme for the youth	Expand the scholarship programme to technical students.	The number of scholarship recipients increased.	Continuous	TMED	
3.	Consolidate Smaller Programme	Prepare a list of programmes to be continued.	List sent to Cabinet Division (CD).	July 2023	TMED	CD
		Make a list of programmes to be scaled up.	List sent to CD.	July 2023	TMED	CD
		Make a list of programmes to be phased out.	List sent to CD.	July 2023	TMED	CD
		Review the consolidation proposals.	Review prepared.	December 2024	TMED	CD
4.	Improve targeting of beneficiaries	Update manual for selection procedures and disseminate it to people.	Circular issued.	December 2024	TMED	
		Publish the list of beneficiaries online to make it transparent.	Instruction is given to field offices.	Continuous	TMED	
		Follow the BBS database when prepared.	Instruction given.	January 2023	TMED	
5.	Grievance Redress System	Make arrangements for recording complaints at the field level.	Instruction issued.	Continuous	TMED	
		Create public awareness about the facility of central GRS of the Cabinet Division.	Public meetings held in all Upazilas.	By July 2023	TMED	

Sl.	Objectives	Activities	Performance Indicators	Timeframe	Responsible Ministry	Shared Responsibility
6.	Develop Single Registry MIS	Create online-based MIS for all programmes.	MIS digitized for all programmes.	January 2023	TMED	
		Make the MIS accessible by relevant departments.	Inter-Departmental arrangement established.	July 2023	TMED	
		Link MIS with cash disbursement.	MIS is linked with the financial management database of the Finance Division (SPBMU MIS).	December 2023	TMED	
7.	Digitization of Cash Transfer	Pilot different modalities of G2P.	Pilot completed.	December 2023	TMED	
		Roll out appropriate format of G2P.	G2P rolled out for all programmes.	December 2024	TMED	
8.	Enhance results-based M&E	Digitize monitoring of programmes.	Dashboard established.	July 2024	TMED	
		Conduct mid-term and end-term evaluation of programme.	Programmes evaluated regularly.	Continuous	TMED	

Key Actions of Technical and Madrasha Education Division

- Expand Secondary Education Stipend Programme including extension of the programme to technical & madrasha students and increase the rate of stipend.
- Vocational Training Programme for the youth through expanding the scholarship programme to technical students.



Ministry of Food

Action Plan (2021-26)
National Social Security Strategy (NSSS) of Bangladesh



Action Plan of Ministry of Food

Action Plan (2021-26) for Implementation of National Social Security Strategy (NSSS) of Bangladesh

Ministry of Food

Ministry of Food is the key organization of the government to take decisions on the overall issues related to food availability and storage. As per allocation of business, the Ministry is responsible for the formulation, review, and execution of legislation, policies, plans, procedures, etc. related to the overall food system and food policy. This Ministry is assigned with the task of establishment of a dependable national food security system. The procurement, storage, and movement of food grains are included in the broader activities of the government. Along with the Ministry of Food, and other ministries such as the Ministry of Disaster Management and Relief, Women and Children Affairs, etc. are also closely associated with the implementation of food security programmes.

Vision

To ensure dependable and sustainable food security.

Mission

Adoption of integrated food grain procurement policy strategies and sustainable food grain preservation management and ensuring food security of the people through the provision of adequate, safe, and nutritious food.

NSSS objectives

The strategic objective of the Ministry is to streamline the food security type of programme.

Challenges

The NSSS recognizes that the government has put a strong emphasis on ensuring food security for its citizens so that nobody dies from hunger. The Government, however, is aware that because of the changing nature of the economy and demography, the importance of this component of the social security programme is declining. There has been a substantial reduction in food poverty. Also, it is evident from international experience that cash transfers have significant advantages over food supply in supporting food security through conventional social security schemes. Therefore, it is very important to make a gradual transition towards cash transfer types of programmes. The Ministry of Food will take measures to ensure that food is available in the market. The cash transfer programmes will ensure access of people to food when available in the market.

Organizational Overview

Directorate General of Food

Directorate General of Food is a government department responsible for food management (procurement, storage, and distribution) in Bangladesh and is in Dhaka, Bangladesh. It is responsible for the import of

foods under the Bangladesh Government's contracts. Directorate General of Food traces its origins to the Food Department created in 1943 after the 1943 Bengal Famine.

➞ **Bangladesh Food Safety Authority (BFSA)**

"Bangladesh Safe Food Authority (BFSA)" has been established on 2 February 2015 under the 'Food Safety Act 2013'. BFSA has been considered as the Central Executive Authority to coordinate and monitor the process of food production, import, processing, warehousing, distribution, and marketing to ensure safe food. To ensure the right to safe food through the proper practice of the scientific method, it is the responsibility of the Bangladesh Safe Food Authority to coordinate activities related to food production, import, processing, storage, supply, marketing, and sales and to coordinate the functions of all organizations involved in safe food management in Bangladesh.

➞ **Food Planning and Monitoring Unit (FPMU)**

The Food Planning and Monitoring Unit (FPMU) of the Ministry of Food is the government unit responsible for monitoring the food and nutrition security situation in Bangladesh and the implementation of related policies. Activities include collecting, storing, and disseminating information for food and nutrition security analysis and policy formulation and delivering evidence-based policy advice to the government on issues relevant to food security. The Unit provides secretarial support to the Food Planning and Monitoring Committee (FPMC) and contributes to other government committees relevant to food security.

Legal Framework

- The Food Safety Act, 2013
- The National Food Policy 2006
- National Food & Nutrition Security Policy 2020
- The Internal Food Grain Procurement Guidelines- 2017
- The Food Friendly Programme Guidelines - 2017
- The Open Market Sales (OMS) Guidelines-2015
- The Food Grain Movement Policy-2008
- The Fortified Rice Production, Supply and Management Guidelines, 2021

Social Security Programmes

The present government has taken the following initiatives to provide food support to the poor people and keep the food grain market under control. Five million ultra-poor people of union-level are given 30 kgs of rice per month at a rate of TK 10/kg under the Food Friendly Programme. Besides labour, working in the tea garden (LEI) is provided food grains at subsidized prices through the Fair Price Card. Rice and flour are sold through Open Market Sale (OMS) for low-income people. These channels are called monetized channels. Moreover, there are various programmes based on food security under the social safety net. Among them, Food for work (FFW), Vulnerable Group Development (VGD), Vulnerable Group Feeding (VGF), Gratuitous Relief (GR), School feeding, and several activities of the Ministry of Chattogram Hill Tracts Affairs are mentionable. These are called non-monetized channels.

➞ **Open Market Sales (OMS)**

Open Market Sale (OMS) is a public food distribution programme, which sells rice, wheat, oil, onion, sugar, and other essential foods at subsidized prices. OMS is a policy instrument of the government to curb the seasonal price increase of food grains. OMS is launched to reduce food grain prices to the customers when prices rise abnormally. The programme has been implemented by the Ministry of Food. There are 8.67 million beneficiaries with Tk 972.0 crore budget, allocated in the 2020-21 fiscal year for this programme.

This programme belongs to the Food Security and Disaster Assistance Cluster focusing on the Covariate Risks in the life cycle approach in urban areas.

Rice and flour are being regularly sold under this programme (open to everyone) to make food available to low-income people and to stabilize market prices. As a result, people of low and limited income can purchase flour and rice. In this current FY 2020-2021 (up to 31st March 2021), 88,000 MT (metric tons) of rice and 175,000 MT of Atta have been distributed.

➤ Food-Friendly Programme (FFP)

A programme titled, Khaddo-Bandhob Karmasuchi (Food Friendly Programme) which is Honourable Prime Minister's Branding programme, has been introduced under which 5 million rural poor and ultra-poor families (widows, elderly, women-led family, women-led downstream poor families) are entitled to purchase 30kgs rice each month for five months in a year during the lean season (September to November and March to April) at Tk 10 a per kg. Nearly 25 million poor population are beneficiaries of this programme. In 2016, the branding programme of the Honorable Prime Minister, the "Food Friendly Programme" was launched and on September 07, 2016. The programme slogan is "Sheikh Hasinar Bangladesh, Khudha hobe niruddesh'.

In the last FY 2019-2020, 0.887 million MT of rice has been distributed under this programme (September, October, and November 2019, and March and April 2020). Due to the Covid-19 situation, an extra one month (May 2020) has been extended. In the current FY 2020-2021, 0.588 million MT of rice has been distributed under this programme (up to 31st March 2021).

➤ Large Employee Industry (LEI)

About 1,15,000 tea garden workers get wheat under LEI programme. Each worker gets 15 kgs of wheat per month. In this current FY 2020-2021 (up to 31st March 2021), 13,000 MT of wheat has been distributed through this programme.

➤ Food Subsidy

This is one of the largest foods securities programmes of the Government, which is providing subsidies for foods. This programme helps poor and vulnerable and low-income people from unexpected price shocks. The programme has been implemented by the Ministry of Food. For this programme, there is an outlay of Tk 1358.96 crore in the budget of the 2020-21 fiscal year. This programme belongs to the Food Security and Disaster Assistance Cluster focusing on the Covariate Risks in the life cycle framework in rural areas.

In a non-monetized channel, the government provides direct food assistance in a safety net programme that includes VGD, VGF, and GR. Apart from this, the government also runs and delivers food grain through Food for Work (FFW) and Test Relief (TR) to mitigate joblessness in the lean season and to improve rural infrastructure.

Programme Summary (2020-21)

Table 34: Programme Summary (2020-21) of Ministry of Food

Programmes	Thematic Cluster	Life Cycle	Beneficiary (Lakh)	Budget (Crore Taka)
Food Friendly Programme	Food Security and Disaster Assistance	Covariate Risks	62.50	3844.26
Food Subsidy (Others)	Food Security and Disaster Assistance	Covariate Risks	-	1,358.96
Open Market Sales (OMS)	Food Security and Disaster Assistance	Covariate Risks	21.68	972.90

Although the Ministry of Food has only 3(three) social security programmes, it receives a share of more than 6.46 per cent of the total social security budget, just below that of the Ministry of Social Welfare with 7 per cent. Its social security budget for the current fiscal year is Tk 6,176.00 crore as is shown in the following two charts:

Ministry of Food - Share of Social Security Budget

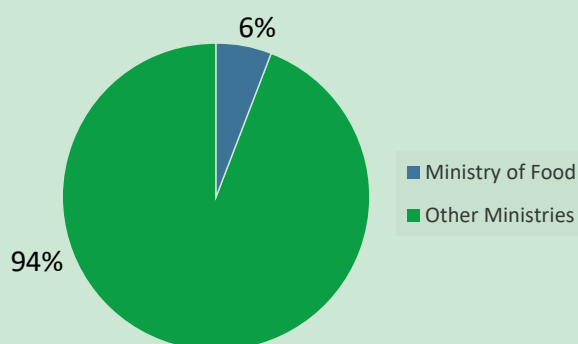


Figure 33: Share of Social Security Budget of Ministry of Food

Ministry of Food - Share of Number of Social Security Programmes

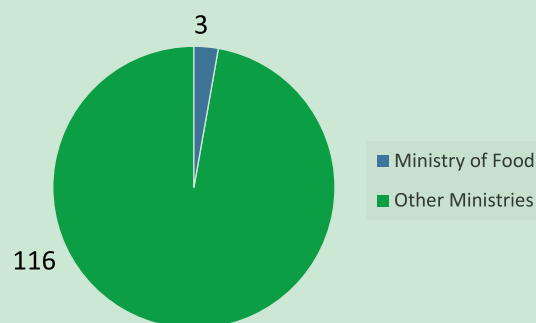


Figure 34: Share of Number of Social Security Programmes of Ministry of Food

The social security allocation of this Ministry is dedicated solely to the food security and Disaster Assistance cluster and in the covariate risk coverage as is evident from the following diagrams.

Other Programmes

➤ Distribution of Fortified Rice (Pushti Chal) under Food Friendly Programme (FFP)

To improve the nutritional status of the people, especially for the vulnerable population, the Ministry of Food has started the distribution of Pushti Chal or fortified rice through the Food Friendly Programme. Fortified rice kernels are mixed with powdered vitamin-A, vitamin-B1, vitamin B12, Folic acid, Iron and Zinc following the guidelines to meet the micronutrient requirement of vulnerable people. In the FY 2016-2017, the distribution of fortified rice was started as a pilot project in Kurigram Sadar and Fulbari Upazilas. Later, the distributions of fortified rice activities were expanded in 10 Upazilas of the country. On the birth centenary of the Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, fortified rice is being distributed in 100 Upazilas under the Food Friendly Programme (FFP).

In 2021, on the golden jubilee of independence, fortified rice will be distributed in 150 Upazilas including 50 new Upazilas in Food Friendly Programme (FFP).

➤ Distribution of Fortified Rice under Vulnerable Group Development (VGD) programme

The Ministry of Food started the distribution of Pushti Chal or fortified rice from the first half of 2014 in Five (05) Upazilas of three districts (Kaliganj, Tungipara, Dakop, Sharankhela and Shyamnagar), especially for the distinguished community development as well as for the vulnerable people through Vulnerable Group Development (VGD) programme in collaboration with the Ministry of Women and Children Affairs and supported by the World Food Programme (WFP). The distribution of fortified rice among the beneficiaries is gradually increasing. In the last FY 2019-2020, fortified rice has been distributed in a total of 100 Upazilas. On the country's golden jubilee of independence, fortified rice will be distributed in 170 Upazilas including 70 new Upazilas under the VGD programme in 2021.

Situation Analysis

Table 35: Situation Analysis of Ministry of Food

Programme name	NSSS Provision	Present Situation	Gaps
Open Market Sales (OMS) and Food Friendly Programme (Khaddya Bandhob Karmasuchi) and Large Employee Industry (LEI)	The transfer of food during and after the disaster will continue as a disaster management response as necessary under the management of the Ministry of Disaster Management and Relief. The scope of the Open Market Sales (OMS) and Food Friendly Programme (FFP) managed by the Ministry of Food will be expanded as necessary to tackle hunger and food affordability. The OMS will remain self-targeted as at present. [Para 4.6 of NSSS]	Available in all City corporations, District Sadar & Poursava (only for urban). FY 2020-21 budget allocated 760,000 MT rice. Usually, provided during the lean period, September, October, November and in March and April during the lean season 30 kgs of rice at Tk10 per kg. The number of beneficiaries is about 4.95 million. About 115,000 tea garden workers get wheat under LEI programme. Each worker gets 15 kgs of wheat per month.	In the context of the Covid 19 situation, and the sudden price shocks, the Ministry may need a comprehensive plan for tackling the situation.
Disaster relief Programmes	Food distribution through disaster relief will be coordinated with the Government's Food Stock Policy and Fair Price Policy as appropriate. [Para 4.6 of NSSS]	Presently the Ministry of Food coordinates with the Ministry of Disaster Management and Relief and other relevant ministries for effective coordination in this regard.	Need to sustain effective coordination.
Nutrition programmes like school meals	Nutrition programmes like school feeding and therapeutic feeding for children suffering from extreme undernutrition will continue. [Para 4.6 of NSSS]	The Ministry of Primary and Mass Education has a plan to scale up school feeding programmes. The Ministry of Food is providing necessary supports.	The Ministry of Food is providing necessary supports as per requisition from the Ministry of Primary and Mass Education.
Workfare Based Programmes	The government will consider gradually converting all workfare-based food programmes into cash transfers. Such transition must be implemented in an orderly manner and be based on the recommendations of an in-depth assessment to be undertaken by the Government. [Para 4.6 of NSSS]	A discussion was organized by the Ministry of Food. It was decided that some of the programmes will be kept as food based as these are linked with food stock management and procurement of crops from farmers. Most of the Food for Work programmes have been converted into Food for Cash programmes. Monitored regularly by Secretary, the Ministry of Food and reported to PMO on a daily and weekly basis.	

Programme name	NSSS Provision	Present Situation	Gaps
Consolidate Smaller Programmes	The NSSS requires the merging or elimination of many small programmes. Any ministry considering some of their minor programmes to be continued and scaled up will have to send proposals with justification. [Para 4.8 of NSSS]	To reduce the outbreak of COVID-19, the government declared a general holiday from March 26, 2020, following which day labourers, rickshaw pullers, van drivers, hawkers, and other low-income people became unemployed. For the subsistence of these unemployed people, a special Open Market Sale (OMS) was implemented in Dhaka and other Metropolitan cities, district headquarters, and other A, B, C categories municipalities throughout the country from 5 April 2020 to 30 June 2020.	
Improve targeting of beneficiaries	Implementing ministries will be responsible for ensuring correct targeting and zero tolerance to pilferage. [Para 6.3.1 of NSSS]	Update the manual and guidelines for the selection of beneficiaries	
Grievance Redress System	Establishing an effective grievance redress so that all citizens have recourse to appeal decisions on selection and can notify the competent authorities about instances of misconduct and failures in the delivery of the promised benefit [Para 6.3 of NSSS]	Recorded online. Service Centre/Call Centre not yet set up. The grievance is redressed centrally by ministries also at the district level irrespective of online or written.	
Develop Single Registry MIS	The government will establish a national Single Registry that is based on building scheme-specific MISs that communicates with each other. The Single Registry would be based on a national identity system of all Bangladeshi citizens. [Para 6.4 of NSSS]	The total beneficiaries of the programmes under this Ministry exceed eight crores, as a person is counted every time, he/she receives benefits. If the delivery could be linked to a unique ID then the actual number of beneficiaries could be ascertained.	The Ministry needs to review link delivery of benefits to the unique ID (NID). The process should be accelerated.
Digitization of cash transfer	To transform the Government to Person (G2P) payment systems so that they promote financial inclusivity and prevent leakages. [Para 6.5 of NSSS]	Hardly any such programme under this ministry.	

Programme name	NSSS Provision	Present Situation	Gaps
Enhance results-based M&E	There is an important need to formalize a system of M&E at both the national level and at the individual programme level for assessing the results of the programmes. [Para 7.2 of NSSS]	There is a certain framework for monitoring the progress in the delivery of allocated food grains. But this system is not digitized. Also, rarely conducted any impact evaluation of the programmes under this ministry.	The monitoring system needs to be strengthened and digitized. Impact evaluation needs to be conducted periodically.

Action Plan (2021-26)

To implement the reform proposals of the NSSS the following time-bound activities may be taken up.

Table 36: Action Plan of Ministry of Food

Sl.	Objectives	Activities	Performance Indicators	Timeframe	Responsible Ministry	Shared Responsibility
1.	Strengthening Open Market Sales (OMS)	Continue OMS programme for the poor; extend the programme to rural areas.	The programme continued.	Continuous	Ministry of Food	Local Government Division, Finance Division
2.	Food Friendly Programme (FFP)	Expand the programmes duration and or the number of beneficiaries.	Programme duration or the number of beneficiaries extended.	Continuous	Ministry of Food	
3.	Large Employee Industry (LEI)	Continue this programme for tea garden labourers.	The programme continued.	Continuous	Ministry of Food	Ministry of Commerce
4.	Strengthening Nutrition Specific Social Protection for Vulnerable People	Develop and implement appropriate Nutrition sensitive social protection programmes including food fortification for a targeted vulnerable group, especially mothers and children.	Number of Upazilas covered by fortified rice distribution.	Continuous	Ministry of Food	Ministry of Woman and Children Affairs.
5.	Continue Disaster Relief Programmes	Supply of food grain for disaster relief programmes.	Programme continued.	Continuous	Ministry of Disaster Management and Relief	Ministry of Food

Sl.	Objectives	Activities	Performance Indicators	Timeframe	Responsible Ministry	Shared Responsibility
6.	Convert workfare-based programmes to cash	Periodically review the feasibility of converting food-based programme to cash.	Review every year.	Annual	Ministry of Food	CD, GED, Ministry of Disaster Management and Relief
		Implement the decision of the review meetings	Implement the decision of the review meetings.	Annual		
7.	Ensure Congenial Food Stock Policy and Fair Price Policy	Review food stock policy and fair price policy regularly.	Review meetings held.	Quarterly	Ministry of Food	Ministry of Commerce
8.	Consolidate Smaller Programmes	Prepare a list of programmes to be continued.	List sent to Cabinet Division (CD).	July 2022	Ministry of Food	CD
		Make a list of programmes to be scaled up.	List sent to CD.	July 2022	Ministry of Food	CD
		Make a list of programmes to be phased out.	List sent to CD.	July 2022	Ministry of Food	CD
		Review the consolidation proposals.	Review prepared.	December 2022	GED	CD
9.	Improve Targeting of Beneficiaries	Update manual for selection procedures and disseminate it to people.	Circular issued	December 2022	Ministry of Food	
		Publish the list of beneficiaries online to make it transparent.	Instruction given to field offices.	Continuous	Ministry of Food	
		Follow the BBS database when prepared.	Instruction given.	January 2023	Ministry of Food	
10.	Grievance Redress System	Make arrangements for recording complaints at the field level.	Instruction issued.	Continuous	Ministry of Food	
		Create public awareness about the facility of central GRS of the Cabinet Division.	Public meetings held in all Upazilas.	By July 2023	Ministry of Food	

Sl.	Objectives	Activities	Performance Indicators	Timeframe	Responsible Ministry	Shared Responsibility
11.	Develop Single Registry MIS	Create online-based MIS for all programmes.	MIS digitized for all programmes.	January 2022	Ministry of Food	
		Make the MIS accessible by relevant departments.	Inter-Departmental arrangement established.	July 2024	Ministry of Food	Bangladesh Computer Council
		Link MIS with cash disbursement.	MIS linked with the financial management database of the Finance Division (SPBMU MIS).	December 2025	Ministry of Food	Bangladesh Computer Council
12.	Enhance Results-Based M&E	Digitize monitoring of programmes.	Dashboard established,	July 2025	Ministry of Food	
		Conduct mid-term and end-term evaluation of programmes.	Programmes evaluated regularly.	Continuous	Ministry of Food	
		The top largest programme is evaluated by the CODI framework.	The programme evaluated by the CODI framework.	Continuous	Ministry of Food	

Key Actions of Ministry of Food

- Strengthening Open Market Sales (OMS) programme for the poor and extend it to rural areas.
- Extend Food Friendly Programme (FFP) in terms of duration and number of beneficiaries.
- Strengthening Nutrition sensitive Social Protection for Vulnerable People including food fortification
- Periodically review feasibility of converting food-based programme to cash.
- Ensure Congenial Food Stock Policy and Fair Price Policy through continuous monitoring and review.



NSSS Action Plan, Phase - II (2021-26)



Ministry of Agriculture

Action Plan (2021-26)
National Social Security Strategy (NSSS) of Bangladesh



*Action Plan of Ministry of
Agriculture*

Action Plan (2021-26) for Implementation of National Social Security Strategy (NSSS) of Bangladesh

Ministry of Agriculture

The role of agriculture is important in improving the wellbeing of a vast population through enhancing productivity, profitability, and employment generation in rural areas. Agriculture is directly related to food and nutritional security, income-generating opportunities, and poverty reduction. Hence, the improvement of the agriculture sector and acceleration of its growth is crucial for strengthening the social security of the country.

Vision

The vision of the Ministry is sustainable, safe, and profitable crop production.

Mission

The Ministry has a mission to ensure food security by increasing productivity and production in the crop sector, improving the marketing system as well as diversification of crops and production of more nutritious crops.

NSSS objectives

The NSSS objective for the Ministry is to support enhanced food security especially ensuring food availability and part of utilization by sustained growth in production and promoting agricultural employment for people.

Challenges

- A rapid decrease in agricultural land
- Population growth
- Climate change and variability
- Rapid urbanization
- Agricultural research and education
- Technology generation to the changing needs
- Technology dissemination to the farmers
- Alternate livelihoods/rehabilitation (off-farm and non-farm)
- Inadequate value addition/food processing
- Covid-19 impacts

Organizational Overview

➔ Department of Agricultural Extension (DAE)

Department of Agricultural Extension is a Government department under Ministry of Agriculture and is the largest extension service provider in Bangladesh. DAE is providing efficient and effective needs-based extension services to all categories of farmer, to enable them to optimize their use of resources, in order to promote eco-friendly, safe, climate resilient, sustainable productive good agricultural practices

and sustaining natural resources to ensure food security as well as commercial agriculture with a view to accelerating socio-economic development of the country. The Department is also providing efficient, effective, decentralized, location specific, demand responsive and integrated extension services to all categories farmers in accessing and utilizing better knowhow to increase sustainable and profitable production; thereby feeding the growing population of Bangladesh. The government of Bangladesh adopted the National Agriculture Extension Policy (NAEP) in 2020 to plan and accelerate the activities of the department.

➤ **Bangladesh Agricultural Development Corporation (BADC)**

The mandatory or primary functions of BADC are the production of high yielding seeds of different crops, preservation and increasing supply, irrigation technology development, the best use of surface water, irrigation efficiency by reducing logging and increasing irrigated areas and farmers to supply quality fertilizer.

➤ **Bangladesh Institute of Nuclear Agriculture (BINA)**

BINA is primarily mandated to make peaceful use of nuclear and advanced techniques to boost the agricultural production of the country. It undertakes research adopting nuclear techniques to ensure stable and productive agriculture through the evolution of new crop varieties, management of land and water, development of plant disease and insect control methods. It has 13 sub-stations all over Bangladesh.

➤ **Department of Agricultural Marketing (DAM)**

To make the DAM more effective under the leadership of the present Government, Agricultural Marketing Act-2018 was enacted. DAM has already prepared a draft National Agricultural Marketing policy-2021 to strengthen nationwide agriculture marketing. It is committed to implementing agro-based industrialization, price policy, value chain development, online-based marketing, boosting agricultural produce export, etc.

➤ **Bangladesh Agricultural Research Council (BARC)**

BARC is at the apex of the National Agricultural Research System (NARS). It has the responsibility to strengthen the national agricultural research capability through planning and integration of resources. It is the umbrella under which the entire Bangladesh agricultural research effort is coordinated. This involved cooperative activities of several ministries of the Government like Agriculture, Forest and Environment, Fisheries and Livestock, Rural Development, Education, Industries, Commerce, Science and Technology, etc.

➤ **Bangladesh Agricultural Research Institute (BARI)**

BARI is to undertake research to ensure stable and productive agriculture through scientific management of land, water, evaluation of new varieties of various agricultural products and development of appropriate technologies and pest management methods; Provide farmers with information necessary for carrying out their farming business efficiently and profitably; Set up research centres, sub-stations, project areas and farms in different regions on various problems of agriculture; Carry out demonstrations, tests or trials of new varieties of crops and their management practices.

➤ **Bangladesh Rice Research Institute (BRRI)**

BRRI is a major component of the National Agricultural Research System (NARS) of Bangladesh, dealing with research and development to increase rice production. The Institute has an outstanding contribution to the food security of Bangladesh. So far it has developed 67 high-yielding rice varieties including four hybrid ones. Moreover, these varieties are cultivated in about 80 per cent of the total rice areas and contribute to almost 91 per cent of the total rice production of the country.

➤ **Soil Research Development Institute (SRDI)**

SRDI aims to achieve self-sufficiency in food and ensure food security for all through appropriate land & soil (the ultimate resource of Bangladesh) management for sustainable as well as environmentally friendly agri-culture. The mission/ Vision of SRDI is to prepare an inventory of soils of Bangladesh and generate information for sustainable crop production through improved soil management and preservation of the environment and Soil conservation by managing hilly and saline soils.

➤ **Bangladesh Sugar crop Research Institute (BSRI)**

BSRI is assigned to the development of crops/plants for the production of Sugar, Gur and Syrup to prepare production programmes of sugar, gur and syrup producing carbohydrate enriched crops/plants, to conduct research on sugarcane-based farming systems and to identify its economic advantages.

➤ **Bangladesh Jute Research Institute (BJRI)**

BJRI was established to promote agriculture, technological and economic research on jute and allied fibres and their manufactures and dissemination of results thereof, to organize production, testing and supply of improved pedigree of jute seeds and multiplication, procurement & their distribution to the recognized organization, selected growers and such other agencies as may be approved by the Board, to set up research centres, sub-stations, pilot projects and farms in different regions of the country for researching different problems of jute and allied fibre crops, jute products and allied materials, to establish project areas for demonstration of new varieties of jute developed by the institute and to train the farmers for cultivation of these varieties of jute.

➤ **Seed Certification Agency (SCA)**

SCA is ensuring the availability of quality seed by providing seed certification services to seed stakeholders for production and distribution of seeds with high quality and of varieties tolerant to adverse conditions and strengthening market monitoring activities with a view to ensure availabilities of quality seeds.

➤ **National Agriculture Training Academy (NATA)**

NATA has become a centre of excellence for developing competent human resources in the agriculture sector by imparting quality training, research & development and publications and enhancing linkage between education, research and extension to endow agriculture service delivery system.

➤ **Agriculture Information Service (AIS)**

AIS is a government organization to create awareness by making the availability of agricultural information and technologies using print, electronic and ICT based mass media. Agriculture Information Service basically collects the agricultural information from research, academia, extension and other knowledge centres and converts it in farmers friendly manner, then disseminates through different mass media.

➤ **Hortex Foundation (HF)**

HF is an organization to create opportunities for direct exporter-importer linkages to facilitate the export of fresh/frozen fruits and vegetables, value-added processed agro-commodities, foliage (betel leaf) and spices, honey, aromatic rice, ornamental plants, flowers, mushroom, ayurvedic, herbal and medicinal products, freshwater fish (fresh, frozen and processed), Halal meat and different dairy products. It renders services in quality production, quarantine pest management, proper sorting, grading, packaging, cool chain management, sanitary and phytosanitary measures, market intelligence support, trial shipment, human resource development with its limited resources.

➤ **Bangladesh Institute of Research and Training on Applied Nutrition (BIRTAN)**

This organization provides research and joint research on food-based nutrients (Applied nutrients) oriented, implementation and improving activities for developing nutrition level of people, increasing awareness, motivation training on functional foods to a different level of officers.

➤ **Cotton Development Board (CDB)**

CDB is a government organization responsible for the Cotton Industry of Bangladesh and is located in Dhaka, Bangladesh. The Board was established in 1972. It was charged with the promotion and protection of cotton cultivation. It boosted cotton production in the 1970s through the import of cotton seeds from the United States. In 2015 the board tested GM cotton in Bangladesh.

➤ **Barind Multipurpose Development Authority (BMDA)**

BMDA is a Bangladesh Government development authority under the Ministry of Agriculture responsible for the development of Barind Tract. Barind Integrated Area Development Project was established in 1985 to develop the Barind Tract under the authority of the Bangladesh Agricultural Development Corporation. The project was completed in 1990 and had only used 26 per cent of its original budget. On 15 January 1992, the project was reconstituted as the Barind Multipurpose Development Authority under the Ministry of Agriculture.

Legal Framework

- The Election Manifesto of Government
- The National Agricultural Policy, 2018
- The National Agricultural Extension Policy, 2020
- The National Agricultural Mechanization Policy, 2020
- The Bangladesh Good Agricultural Practices Policy, 2020
- The Small-scale Irrigation Policy, 2016
- The Barind Multipurpose Development Authority Bill, 2018
- The Bangladesh Agricultural Development Corporation Act, 2018
- The Bangladesh Institute of Research and Training on Applied Nutrition Act, 2012
- The Bangabandhu National Agricultural Award Trust Act, 2016
- The Seed Rules, 2020

Social Security Programmes

➤ **Agriculture Rehabilitation**

The Agriculture Rehabilitation programme has been supporting farmers with different types of packages like fertilizer allotment as part of incentives, such as incentive on Aus cultivation of Kharif, compensate for losses due to natural disasters, providing agricultural loans at low-interest-rate, etc. The programme has been implemented by the Ministry of Agriculture. Tk2500 crore budget in 2020-21 fiscal year was allocated for this programme. This programme belongs to the Food Security and Disaster Assistance Cluster focusing on the Covariate Risks in life cycle approach in rural areas.

➤ **Agriculture Subsidy**

This is a huge programme of the Government, which is providing subsidies in agricultural services, inputs, and associated costs. This programme helps poor and landless farmers from unexpected losses and to manage the shocks. There are 8.7 million beneficiaries with Tk 900 crore budget in the 2020-21 fiscal year for this programme. This programme belongs to the Food Security and Disaster Assistance Cluster targeting the Working Age people in rural areas.

Programme Summary (2020-21)

Table 37: Programme Summary (2020-21) of Ministry of Agriculture

Programme	Thematic Cluster	Life Cycle	Beneficiary (Lakh)	Budget (Crore Taka)
Agriculture rehabilitation	Food Security and Disaster Assistance	Covariate Risks	-	2,500.00
Agriculture subsidy	Food Security and Disaster Assistance	Working Age	87.00	1,900.00

The Ministry of Agriculture governs two social security programmes with an allocation of Taka 4,400 crore which is around 4.6 per cent of the total social security allocation of the government. This is expressed in the following two charts:

Ministry of Agriculture - Share of Social Security Budget

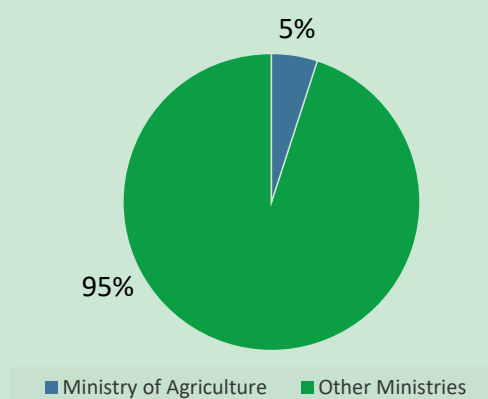


Figure 35: Share of Social Security Budget of Ministry of Agriculture

Ministry of Agriculture - Share of Number of Social Security Programmes

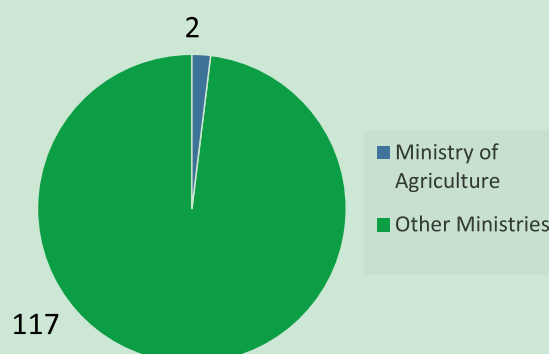


Figure 36: Share of Number of Social Security Programmes of Ministry of Agriculture

The social protection allocation of the Ministry is dedicated only to the Food Security and Disaster Assistance cluster, while the target groups are the working-age population.

Other Programmes

Table 38: Other Programmes of Ministry of Agriculture

Programme	Thematic Cluster	Life Cycle	Beneficiary (Lakh)	Budget (Crore Taka)
Agricultural mechanization project by integrated management	Food Security and Disaster Assistance	Covariate Risks	120.00	3,020.00
Training of farmers for skill development	Food Security and Disaster Assistance	Covariate Risks	0.35	8.20

Situation Analysis

Table 39: Situation Analysis of Ministry of Agriculture

Programme Name	NSSS Provision	Present Situation	Gaps
Food availability and nutrition (crop agriculture)	The NSSS suggests that food security (food availability, access, and utilization) is one of the most vital thematic clusters for social Security programmes. [Para 6.3.1 and Figure 6.1 of NSSS]	The Ministry of Agriculture implements different projects and programmes for sustained growth of agricultural production.	Agricultural growth needs to be maintained for sustainable availability of food and nutrition.
Labour and livelihoods	A large part of the workforce of Bangladesh is engaged in the agriculture sector. Still, there is scope for expansion of agricultural livelihoods, especially in non-Crop agriculture. [Para 6.3.1 and Figure 6.1 of NSSS]	The Ministry of Agriculture has projects and programmes creating informal jobs for people in the agricultural sector. Agricultural services (such as mechanization, seed production, marketing, port distribution, etc.) also help expand job /employment in the rural non –farm sector.	Further expansion of farm and non-farm livelihoods is needed, whilst recognizing that increased labour productivity in the agricultural sector is a principal requirement
Consolidate smaller programmes	The NSSS requires the merging or elimination of many small programmes. Any ministry considering some of their minor programmes to be continued and scaled up will have to send proposals with justification. [Para 4.8 of NSSS]	The Ministry will have to make a list of such programmes or schemes if considered to be scaled up.	To be reviewed.
Improve targeting of beneficiaries	Implementing ministries will be responsible for ensuring correct targeting and zero tolerance to pilferage. [Para 6.3.1 of NSSS]	The ministry has in place policies and manuals for effective implementation of the programmes.	Selection policies and manuals need to be updated and disseminated.
Grievance Redress System	Establishing an effective grievance redress so that all citizens have recourse to appeal decisions on selection and can notify the competent authorities about instances of misconduct and failures in the delivery of the promised benefit [Para 6.3 of NSSS]	Recorded online. Service centre /Call centre not yet set up. The grievance is redressed centrally by ministries also at the district level irrespective of online or written.	The GRS needs to be improved.

Programme Name	NSSS Provision	Present Situation	Gaps
Develop Single Registry MIS	The government will establish a national Single Registry that is based on building scheme-specific MISs that communicate with each other. The Single Registry would be based on a national identity system of all Bangladeshi citizens. [Para 6.4 of NSSS]	The Ministry maintains a beneficiary database. However, the database is not operated by any well-designed Management Information System (MIS).	MIS needs to be developed linking with the central MIS of the Finance Division.
Digitization of cash transfer	To transform the Government to Person (G2P) payment systems so that they promote financial inclusivity and prevent leakages. [Para 6.5 of NSSS]	G2P modality finalized. E-payment modalities are used.	
Enhance results-based M&E	There is a need to formalize a system of M&E at both the national level and programme level for assessing the results of the programmes. [Para 7.2 of NSSS]	A system of monitoring is in place for agriculture subsidies. But there is hardly any systematic evaluation of the programmes.	Systematic monitoring and evaluation need to be introduced.

Action Plan (2021-26)

To implement the reform proposals of the NSSS the following time-bound activities may be taken up.

Table 40: Action Plan of Ministry of Agriculture

Sl.	Objectives	Activities	Performance Indicators	Timeframe	Responsible Ministry	Shared Responsibility
1.	Enhance availability of agricultural food and nu-trition	Maintain existing agricultural rehabilitation programme.	Agricultural rehabilitation programmes continued.	Continuous		
		Keep up research programmes for increasing food production.	Research works expanded.	Continuous		
2.	Expand opportunities for agricultural labour and livelihoods	Sustain capacity building and sensitization programmes.	Training and motivational programmes are organized regularly.	Continuous		

Sl.	Objectives	Activities	Performance Indicators	Timeframe	Responsible Ministry	Shared Responsibility
3.	Consolidate smaller programmes	Prepare a list of programmes to be continued.	List sent to Cabinet Division (CD).	July 2022	Ministry of Agriculture (MoA)	CD
		Make a list of programmes to be scaled up.	List sent to CD.	July 2022	MoA	CD
		Make a list of programmes to be phased out.	List sent to CD.	July 2022	MoA	CD
		Review the consolidation proposals.	Review prepared.	December 2023	MoA	GED, CD
4.	Improve targeting of beneficiaries	Update manual for selection procedures and disseminate it to people.	Circular issued.	January 2023	MoA	
		Publish the list of beneficiaries online to make it transparent.	Instruction is given to field offices.	Continuous	MoA	
		Follow the BBS database when prepared.	Instruction given.	February 2023	MoA	BBS
5.	Grievance Redress System	Make arrangements for recording complaints at the field level.	Instruction issued.	Continuous	MoA, Line agencies	
		Create public awareness about the facility of central GRS of the Cabinet Division.	Public Meetings are held in all Upazilas.	September 2024	MoA, Line agencies	
6.	Develop Single Registry MIS	Create online Based MIS for all programmes.	MIS digitized for all programmes.	March 2025	MoA	
		Make the MIS accessible to relevant departments.	Interdepartmental arrangement established.	July 2023	MoA	
		Link MIS with cash disbursement.	MIS is linked with the financial management database of the Finance Division (SPBMU MIS).	December 2023	MoA	
7.	Digitization of cash transfer	Pilot different modalities of G2P.	Pilot completed	December 2024	MoA	
		Roll out the appropriate format of G2P.	G2P rolled out for all programmes.	December 2025	MoA	

Sl.	Objectives	Activities	Performance Indicators	Timeframe	Responsible Ministry	Shared Responsibility
8.	Enhance results-based M&E	Digitize monitoring of programmes.	Dashboard established.	July 2025	MoA	IMED, Finance Division
		Conduct mid-term evaluation of programmes.	Programmes evaluated regularly.	Continuous	MoA	IMED, Finance Division
		Top 5 programmes evaluated by CODI format				

Key Actions of Ministry of Agriculture

- Enhance availability of agricultural products and improve nutrition; Strengthen existing agricultural rehabilitation programme. And enhance research programmes for increasing productivity/production.
- Expand welfare of farmers and laborers and opportunities of their livelihoods; Enhance capacity building of farmers/farm laborers and sensitization programmes.



NSSS Action Plan, Phase - II (2021-26)



Ministry of Fisheries and Livestock

Action Plan (2021-26)
National Social Security Strategy (NSSS) of Bangladesh



*Action Plan of Ministry of Fisheries
and Livestock*

Action Plan (2021-26) for Implementation of National Social Security Strategy (NSSS) of Bangladesh

Ministry of Fisheries and Livestock

Ministry of Fisheries and Livestock is one of the very important ministries from the food and nutrition security aspect of social security. This Ministry has different programmes for human development and livelihood interventions.

Vision

The Vision of the Ministry is to ensure safe and secure animal protein for all.

Mission

The Ministry has a mission to meet the demand for animal protein by enhancing production, productivity, and value addition of fish and livestock products.

NSSS objectives

The NSSS objective for the Ministry is to provide social security to the fishermen during their seasonal unemployment and to improve livelihood development create self-employment of poor farmers related to the livestock sector in the different areas of Bangladesh. The food security programmes taken by this Ministry need to be converted to cash transfer where possible.

Challenges

- The NSSS challenge for this Ministry is to reach out to the fishermen community, suffering from food insecurity arising out of unemployment during lean seasons.
- Less attention on food security to the small farmer and marginal farmer and livestock during the natural hazard period.
- The inadequate opportunity of value addition process in dairy and poultry product.
- COVID impact.

Organizational Overview

➤ Department of Fisheries (DOF)

Department of Fisheries is a Bangladesh Government department under the Ministry of Fisheries and Livestock, which is responsible for regulating the fisheries and aquaculture sector and implementing the mandate of maximizing fish production; enhancing productivity; ensuring fish food and nutrition; and alleviating poverty through employment generation. Following the independence of Bangladesh in 1971, the current Department of Fisheries was established. In April 1975, the Central Fisheries Department was merged with the Department of Fisheries. The Central Marine Fisheries Department was merged with the Department of Fisheries in 1984 and became its Marine Fisheries wing. Besides these, DoF operates three accredited international standard fish inspection and quality control laboratories.

➡ Department of Livestock Services:

Department of Livestock is a Bangladesh Government department under the Ministry of Fisheries and Livestock responsible for the livestock industry in Bangladesh. Department of Livestock traces its origin to a veterinary unit formed for the British Cavalry during the colonial era in 1795. In 1883, it became the Civil Veterinary Department formed by the British Raj. It was headquartered in Kolkata but was moved to Comilla in 1947. In 1960, it was restructured for livestock development and re-named as the Directorate of Livestock Services. At that time, some specific working areas and functions were identified for ensuring overall livestock development and disease control of animals. After several reforms and name changes, it was renamed the Department of Livestock Services (DLS). At present, DLS focuses on dairy and poultry development, cattle fattening, sheep and goat development, breed up-gradation, veterinary services, and animal health management, marketing of livestock products and supply chain management, availability of animal protein, poverty reduction, employment generation, women empowerment, and research and extension services operating throughout the country.

Legal Framework

- The National Fisheries Policy, 1998 (Upgrade is in the process)
- The Animal Disease Act, 2005
- The Bangladesh Animal and Animal-derived Products Quarantine Act, 2005
- The National Fisheries Strategy, 2006
- The National Livestock Development Policy, 2007
- The National Poultry Development Policy, 2008
- The Bangladesh Avian Influenza Compensation Strategy and Guidelines, 2008
- The Animal Disease Rule, 2008
- The Fish and The Animal Feed Act, 2010
- The Animal Slaughter and Meat Quality Control Act, 2011
- The Fisheries Development Corporation Act, 2012
- The Animal Feed Rules, 2013
- The Fisheries Quarantine Act, 2018
- The Fisherman Registration and Issuance of Identity Card Guidelines, 2019
- The Policy for providing financial assistance to the families of slain fishermen or permanently disabled fishermen, 2019
- The Animal Welfare Act, 2019
- The Fish and Fish Products (Inspection and Quality Control) Act, 2020
- The Marine Fisheries Act, 2020
- The Fish feed and animal feed production and marketing management guidelines, 2020

Social Security programmes (2021-22)

➡ Supports to poor fishermen for their livelihood concern and subsistence:

The fisherman community is one of the poorest/vulnerable members of society. They have no alternative source of livelihood except fishing. Seasonal unemployment is faced by hilsha fishermen communities as well as coastal fishermen communities, due to seasonal variation in the availability of fish, bad weather, and a 4-month ban on the catch of young hilsha fish (jatka), a 22-day ban for conservation of brood hilsha fish and a 65-day ban for conservation of brood coastal and marine fish. During this period, they are provided special food security programmes for promoting sustainable growth of the fisheries sector. Under these three categories, there is a total of 1.252 million beneficiaries with Tk 447.66crore budget in the 2020-21 fiscal year for this programme. This programme belongs to subsistence support and sustainable fisheries especially hilsha resource management targeting the Working Age people in rural areas.

➤ **Providing financial assistance to the families of slain fishermen or permanently disabled fishermen:**

Sea fishing has long been considered a risky profession due to natural hazards in Bangladesh, risks and subsequent shocks are perceived to be ubiquitous in the livelihoods of the coastal poor. Fishermen must go fishing, ignoring natural calamities. As a result, sometimes they die or go missing in storms or accidents. Fishermen are sometimes attacked by pirates on fishing boats off the coast and looted the fish. In addition, many fishermen have died from snake bites, crocodile bites and ferocious aquatic predation, and tiger bites while fishing. The fishermen families are not financially well off. There is a provision of providing grants to the families of the slain fishermen or permanently disabled fishermen. There is a total of 50 beneficiaries with Tk 0.25 crore budget in the 2020-21 fiscal year for this programme.

➤ **Fisherman registration and issuance of identity cards:**

The government has taken a praiseworthy initiative for registering all the fishermen in the country. Total 1.620 million fishermen are registered, and 1.420 million fishermen are provided ID cards under a DoF's development project. This activity is going on under the revenue budget to provide financial assistance and grants to the fisher's families. There is total 20, 000 beneficiaries with Tk 0.25 crore budget in the 2020-21 fiscal year for this programme updating fisherman registration and issuance of identity cards.

➤ **Integrated livestock development to improve the socio-economic and quality of life of the backward minorities living in the plain land:**

The integrated livestock development to improve the socio-economic and quality of life of the backward minorities living in the plain land programme supports vulnerable and marginalized minority communities to develop their life in terms of social and economic empowerment. The programme has been implemented by the Ministry of Fisheries and Livestock. There are about 0.0138 crore beneficiaries with BDT 46.25 crore budget in the 2020-21 fiscal year for this programme. This programme belongs to the Human Development and Social Empowerment Cluster targeting the Working Age people in rural areas.

Programme Summary (2020-21)

Table 41: Programme Summary (2020-21) of Ministry of Fisheries and Livestock

Programme	Thematic Cluster	Life Cycle	Beneficiary (Lakh)	Budget (Crore Taka)
Supports to poor fishermen for their livelihood concern and subsistence for 4-months during the seasonal ban period for promoting sustainable growth of jatka.	Food Security and Disaster Assistance	Working Age	16.45 (Each year 3.29 lakh)	1,177.55 (Each year 235.51 crore)

The number of the social security programme of this Ministry is one with a budget of only Tk 240.55 Crore each year which is insignificant as a share of the overall social security budget. However, the low level of the budget of this Ministry does not necessarily mean that it has very little contribution to social security. It plays a vital role in fulfilling the nutritional needs of the people.

Also, the involvement of this Ministry is in the Human Development and Social Empowerment Cluster from the youth and working-age segments of the population.

Other Programmes

➤ Integrated livestock development in coastal areas:

This project has been implemented to improve nutrition and livelihood development of the poor people living in coastal areas of Bangladesh: The programme has been implemented by the Department of Livestock Services under the Ministry of Fishery and Livestock since July 2018. There are about 34 thousand poor beneficiaries with Tk 28.40 crore budgets in 2020-21 fiscal years for this programme. This programme belongs to the Human Development and Social Empowerment Cluster targeting the Working Age people in coastal areas of Chittagong and Barisal Divisions in assistance with a development project.

➤ Integrated livestock development in Haor areas:

This project has been implemented to create self-employment, increase intake of animal protein, and livelihood development of the poor people living in Haor areas. The programme has been implemented by the Department of Livestock Services under the Ministry of Fishery and Livestock since March 2020 and will continue till June 2023. There are 5,276 directly beneficiary families and about 410,000 poor indirectly beneficiary families with a total budget of Tk 118.13 crore s for 4 years of the project period. This programme belongs to Human Development and Social Empowerment cluster through technology transfer for raising livestock and poultry targeting the Working Age people in Haor areas of Sylhet, Mymensingh, Dhaka and Chittagong Divisions in assistance with a development project and field stuff of DLS.

➤ Integrated livestock development in unprivileged 86 areas and river washed char areas:

This project has been implemented for increasing production and availability of animal protein and livelihood development of the poor people living in 86 enclaves near border areas and river washed char region of the northern side of the country. The programme has been implemented by the Department of Livestock Services under the Ministry of Fishery and Livestock since March 2020 and will continue till June 2023. A total of 47,643 families were directly benefited through the reduction in poverty level and created self-employment opportunities by raising livestock and poultry with a total allocation of Tk 128.96 crores for 4 years of the project period. This programme belongs to Human Development and Social Empowerment cluster enhancing family nutrition, income generation and socio-economic development of the poor people through technology transfer on livestock and poultry targeting the Working Age people in underprivileged 86 enclaves and river washed northern border areas of the Rangpur, Mymensingh, and Rajshahi Divisions with assistance under a development project and field stuff of DLS.

➤ Introduction of cattle insurance to reduce the risk of poor farmers:

The milk production efficiency and productivity of dairy cattle are increasing day by day due to the improvement of genetic resources of High Yield Variety (HYV) cows and heifers. However, these HYV animals are very susceptible to several disease risks and are affected by natural disasters. These risks cause serious harm to the livestock farmers and lead them to serious financial crises. In this regard, dairy cattle insurance may be a good step that can save the farmer from the serious financial crises caused by natural disasters and other accidental risk factors. In addition, the National Livestock Development policy, 2007 advocated for strengthening the dairy cattle sector and boost up milk production in the country through genetic development of cattle and implementing the insurance policy for the dairy farmers. Therefore, the government has decided to implement the dairy cattle insurance policy for sustainable dairy development of Bangladesh targeting the Working Age people. As it is a new intervention in the dairy sector, a pre-condition fulfilment for cattle insurance including small scale piloting will be implemented in the milk pocket areas of Bangladesh with the help of the Livestock and Dairy Development Project of DLS under the Ministry of Fisheries and Livestock funded by World Bank to reduce farmer's vulnerability to asset losses and build resilience to shocks, including extreme climate events.

Other Programmes (2020-21)

Table 42: Other Programmes of Ministry of Fisheries and Livestock

Programme Name	Thematic Cluster	Life Cycle	Beneficiary (Lakh)	Budget (Crore Taka)
Supports poor hilsha fishermen for their livelihood concern and subsistence during the 22-day seasonal ban period of brood hilsha for enhancing the favourable conditions for the hilsha breeding environment.	Subsistence supports to sustainable resource management.	Working Age	25.45 (Each year 5.29 lakh)	236.50 (Each year 47.30 Crore)
Supports to poor coastal fishermen for their livelihood concern and subsistence during the 65-day seasonal ban period of brood coastal and marine fishes for enhancing the favourable conditions for the breeding environment.	Subsistence supports to sustainable resource management.	Working Age	19.85 (Each year 3.97lakh)	824.20 (Each year 164.84 Crore)
Financial assistance to the families of slain fishermen or permanently disabled fishermen	Grant support	-	As Required (50 persons in 2020-21 FY)	
Financial/food assistance to the fisherman families adjacent to the Kaptai lake during May, June, and July of each year for brooding and proper growth of fishes in the lake.	Subsistence supports Sustainable resource management	Working Age	25,031 families / year (20 kg Food support /person / month)	8500 MT (1502 MT/ Year)

Situation Analysis

Table 43: Situation Analysis of Ministry of Fisheries and Livestock

Programme	NSSS Provision	Present Situation	Gaps
Food security for fishermen	Seasonal unemployment is faced by fishermen communities, due to seasonal variation in the availability of fish, bad weather, and a 2-month ban on the catch of young hilsha fish. During this period, they need special food security programmes. [Para 2.4.1 of NSSS]	Seasonal unemployment is faced by hilsha fishermen communities, due to seasonal variation in the availability of fish, bad weather, and a 4-month ban on the catch of young hilsha fish (jatka). During this period, they need special food security programmes.	Include all hilsha fishers' families under this programme, amounts may be increased to 80 kgs of rice per family. It is better to provide a cash incentive equivalent to the price of 40 kg rice support.
		Seasonal unemployment is faced by hilsha fishermen communities, due to seasonal variation in the availability of brood hilsha fish, bad weather, and a 22-day ban on the catch of brood hilsha fish. During this period, they need special food security programmes.	Include all hilsha fishers' families under this programme. The amount may be increased to 40 kgs of rice per family. It is better to provide a cash incentive equivalent to the price of 20 kgs rice.
		Seasonal unemployment is faced by coastal fishermen communities, due to seasonal variation in the availability of coastal and marine fish, bad weather, and a 65-day ban on the catch of coastal and marine brood fish. During this period, they need special food security programmes.	Include all hilsha fishers' families under this programme. The amount may be increased to 60 kgs of rice per family. It is better to provide a cash incentive equivalent to the price of 30 kgs of rice.
Consolidate Smaller Programmes	The NSSS requires the merging or elimination of many small programmes. Any ministry considering some of their minor programmes to be continued and scaled up will have to send proposals with justification. [Para 4.8 of NSSS]	Under the process of preparation.	Needs to strengthen the coordination.
Improve targeting of beneficiaries	Implementing ministries will be responsible for ensuring correct targeting and zero tolerance to pilferage. [Para 6.3.1 of NSSS]	The existing guideline is in place and the partial update of the fishermen's registration is in the process as per budget provision.	Needs to update all the fishermen registration increasing budget provision.

Programme	NSSS Provision	Present Situation	Gaps
Grievance Redress System	Establishing an effective grievance redress so that all citizens have recourse to appeal decisions on selection and can notify the competent authorities about instances of misconduct and failures in the delivery of the promised benefit [Para 6.3 of NSSS]	Recorded online. The call centre is in place. The grievance is redressed centrally by ministries also at the district level irrespective of online or written.	Needs to strengthen the Grievance Redress System.
Develop Single Registry MIS	The government will establish a national Single Registry that is based on building scheme-specific MISs that communicate with each other. The Single Registry would be based on a national identity system of all Bangladeshi citizens. [Para 6.4 of NSSS]	No MIS.	Needs to develop integrated MIS of all stakeholders.
Digitization of cash transfer	To transform the Government to Person (G2P) payment systems so that they promote financial inclusivity and prevent leakages. [Para 6.5 of NSSS]	E-payment modalities must be finalized.	Needs to cover all cash-based programmes.
Enhance results-based M&E		M&E Framework has modalities that must be developed.	Needs to develop M&E Framework and dashboard is to be in place.

Action Plan (2021-26)

To implement the reform proposals of the NSSS the following time-bound activities may be taken up.

Table 44: Action Plan of Ministry of Fisheries and Livestock

Sl.	Objectives	Activities	Performance Indicators	Timeframe	Responsible Ministry	Shared Responsibility
1.	Strengthen food security for the fishermen	Ensure registration of all fishermen for their identification.	ID card distribution completed.	June 2023	Ministry of Fisheries and Livestock : (MoFL)	Ministry of Disaster Management and Relief
		Coordinate with MoDMR to operate VGF for fishermen (based on demand).	VGF is distributed to only ID cardholders.	Continuous		

Sl.	Objectives	Activities	Performance Indicators	Timeframe	Responsible Ministry	Shared Responsibility
2.	Expand opportunities for (self) employment in poultry and dairy production	Support to Small and Marginal farmers	713.00 crore BDT distributed to the 6.2 Lac Dairy and Poultry farmers to mitigate the risk of Covid-19 outbreak	June 2021	MoFL	Ministry of Disaster Management and Relief
		Resource Transfer to poor farmers	The number of Livestock and Poultry will be distributed through different development projects	June 2026	MoFL	Ministry of Agriculture
		Input distribution to poor and vulnerable farmers	Animal Feed and medicine will be distributed through a development project	June 2026	MoFL	Ministry of Agriculture
		Provide training to small and marginal farmers	Training and skill development programmes organized regularly	June 2026	MoFL	Ministry of Agriculture
3.	Consolidate smaller programmes	Prepare a list of programmes. to be continued.	List sent to Cabinet Division (CD).	July 2021	MoFL	CD
		Make a list of programmes. to be scaled up.	List sent to CD.	July 2021	MoFL	CD
		Make a list of programmes. to be phased out.	List sent to CD.	July 2021	MoFL	CD
		Review the consolidation proposals.	Review prepared.	December 2021	MoFL	CD
4.	Improve targeting of beneficiaries	Update manual for selection procedures and disseminate it to people.	Circular issued.	December 2022	MoFL	
		Publish the list of beneficiaries online to make it transparent.	Instruction is given to field offices.	Continuous	MoFL	
		Follow BBS database when prepared.	Instruction given.	January 2022	MoFL	

Sl.	Objectives	Activities	Performance Indicators	Timeframe	Responsible Ministry	Shared Responsibility
5.	Grievance Redress System	Make arrangements for recording complaints at the field level.	Instruction issued.	Continuous	MoFL	
		Create public awareness about the facility of central GRS of the Cabinet Division.	Public meetings held in all Upazilas.	By July 2023	MoFL	
6.	Develop Single Registry MIS	Create online-based MIS for all programmes.	MIS digitized for all programmes.	January 2023	MoFL	
		Make the MIS accessible by relevant departments.	Interdepartmental arrangement established.	July 2024	MoFL	
		Link MIS with cash disbursement.	MIS is linked with the financial management database of the Finance Division (SPBMU MIS).	December 2024	MoFL	
7.	Digitization of cash transfer	Pilot different modalities of G2P.	Pilot completed.	December 2025	MoFL	
		Roll out an appropriate format of G2P.	G2P rolled out for all programmes.	December 2025	MoFL	
8.	Enhance results-based M&E	Digitize monitoring of programmes.	Dashboard established.	July 2025	MoFL	
		Conduct mid-term and end-term evaluation of programmes.	Programmes. evaluated regularly.	Continuous	MoFL	
		Evaluate top programmes. by CODI.	Programmes evaluated (baseline).	June 2022		
			Programmes. evaluated (mid/end-term).	June 2024. June 2025;		

Key Actions of Ministry of Fisheries and Livestock

- Ensure registration of all fishermen for their identification.
- Coordinate with MoDMR to operate VGF for fishermen (based on demand).
- Expand opportunities for (self) employment in poultry and dairy production
- Support to Small and Marginal farmers, Resource Transfer to poor farmers.



Ministry of Liberation War Affairs

Action Plan (2021-26)
National Social Security Strategy (NSSS) of Bangladesh



*Action Plan of Ministry of
Liberation War Affairs*

Action Plan (2021-26) for Implementation of National Social Security Strategy (NSSS) of Bangladesh

Ministry of Liberation War Affairs

Ministry of Liberation War Affairs has been established in 2001 with the responsibility of preparing and preservation of freedom fighters' lists, providing honorarium and various benefits to the freedom fighters and their dependents, preserving history and memories of the great liberation war, and building monuments and war memorials. Under the social security programme of the Government, the total allocation of about Tk 170 billion has been made during the last five years for the welfare of more than 200,000 freedom fighters who risked their lives for the liberation of our motherland in 1971, resulting in the upliftment of the living standard of the great sons of the soil and empowerment of women members of those families.

Vision

The vision of the Ministry is to materialize “Bangabandhu’s cherished dream of building a happy and prosperous Bangladesh by upholding the spirit and ideals of the great liberation war”.

Mission

Preservation of the real history and memory of the liberation war to implement the spirit and ideals of the great liberation war.

Planning and implementation of liberation war-based programmes in the light of the Vision-2021, the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) 2030, the Vision-2041, and the Delta Plan 2100 to build a society free from hunger and poverty.

To build a social safety net for the brave freedom fighters and their successors.

NSSS objectives

The NSSS objective of the Ministry is to consolidate social security programmes for all the freedom fighters and their descendants, upliftment of the living standard of the beneficiaries, empowerment of womenfolk, and engage women in the decision-making process in socio-economic life.

Challenges

The main challenge for the Ministry is to find out the freedom fighters remaining unnoticed, enlist them and bring them into the safety net and carry on the social security programmes for those already under the coverage and the new beneficiaries in a transparent and fastest way.

To chalk out new development projects and programmes for the welfare of the freedom fighters and preserve historic sites related to the memorial of the liberation war.

Organizational Overview

➤ Bangladesh Freedom Fighter Welfare Trust

Bangladesh Freedom Fighters' Welfare Trust or Muktiyoddha Kalyan Trust is a government-owned trust operated under the "Bangladesh Muktiyoddha Kalyan Trust Act, 2018" to look after the interest of those freedom fighters, who were Shaheed (martyrs), injured during the liberation war and those with gallantry awards and their family members.

➤ National Freedom Fighter Council:

National Freedom Fighters' Council or Jatiya Muktiyoddha Council is an autonomous Bangladesh Government Council operating under the "Bangladesh Jatiya Muktiyoddha Council Act 2002", which aims to ensure the welfare of "Freedom Fighters" (Mukti Bahini) and prepare a list of the Freedom Fighters. Social Security programmes

➤ Honorarium for Freedom Fighters

A good number of female participants are there. It ensures the socio-economic upliftment of women by creating jobs and generating income. The monthly honorarium for a freedom fighter is going to be raised to Tk20,000 from Tk12,000 in the FY 2021-22. A proposal in this regard has recently been sent to the Finance Ministry. The programme has been implemented by the Ministry of Liberation War Affairs. There are 200 thousand beneficiaries with Tk 3385.05 crore budget in the 2020-21 fiscal year for this programme. This programme belongs to the Social Allowance Cluster targeting the Elderlies.

➤ Honorarium & Medical Allowances for Injured Freedom Fighters

Different state honorariums, medical allowance, ration, etc. are provided to freedom fighters, wounded freedom fighters, families of the martyrs of the liberation war. About 50 per cent of freedom fighters' family members are female. So, it has an impact on women's development. To rehabilitate freedom fighters and their family members, training, micro-credits are provided. The programme has been implemented by the Ministry of Liberation War Affairs. There are 12 thousand beneficiaries with Tk 480.4 crore budget in the 2020-21 fiscal year for this programme. This programme belongs to the Social Allowance Cluster targeting the Elderlies.

➤ Ration for Shaheed Families and Injured Freedom Fighters

A ration is provided to the Shaheed families and injured freedom fighters. These programmes help those families to ensure their wellbeing and socio-economic upliftment. The programme has been implemented by the Ministry of Liberation War Affairs. There are 30 thousand beneficiaries with Tk 65 crore budget in the 2020-21 fiscal year for this programme. This programme belongs to the Social Allowance Cluster targeting the Elderlies.

➤ Construction of Multi-storied Building for underprivileged Muktiyoddha at Zilla/Upazilas

For the overall socio-economic welfare of freedom fighters, district, and Upazila level freedom fighters' complex building has been constructed. There will be an office, freedom fighters' library, and commercial installations in each complex. Moreover, a new project worth Tk4123 crore has been undertaken in the fiscal year 2020-2021 to provide 30,000 "Beer Nibash" (House for freedom fighters) to the insolvent freedom fighters and their families for ensuring housing facilities and enhancing the socio-economic condition of freedom fighters with particular emphasis on women development. The programme has been implemented by the Ministry of Liberation War Affairs. This programme belongs to the Human Development and Social Empowerment Cluster focusing on the Covariate Risks in the life cycle approach.

Legal Framework

- The Bangladesh Freedom Fighters Welfare Trust Act, 2018 (Gazette published on 8 October 2018)
- The National Freedom Fighters Council Act, 2002

Programme Summary (2020-21)

Table 45: Programme Summary (2020-21) of Ministry of Liberation War Affairs

Programme	Thematic Cluster	Life Cycle	Beneficiary (Lakh)	Budget (Crore Taka)
Construction of buildings for insolvent freedom fighters at Zilla/Upazila.	Human Development and Social Empowerment	Covariate Risks	-	50.00
Honorarium & Medical Allowances for martyred (Shaheed), injured freedom fighters and gallantry award holder freedom fighters.	Social Allowance	Old Age	0.15	480.40
Honorarium for freedom fighters	Social Allowance	Old Age	2.00	3,385.05
Ration for Shaheed Families (Martyred) and injured freedom fighters	Social Allowance	Old Age	0.30	65.00

The number of the social security programmes of this Ministry is four with a budget of only Tk 3,980.00 Crore each year which is insignificant as a share of the overall social security budget.

Ministry of Liberation War Affairs - Share of Social Protection Budget

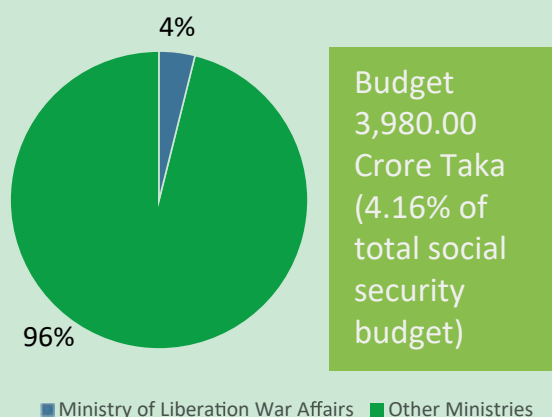


Figure 37: Share of Social Security Budget of Ministry of Liberation War Affairs

Ministry of Liberation War Affairs - Number of Programmes

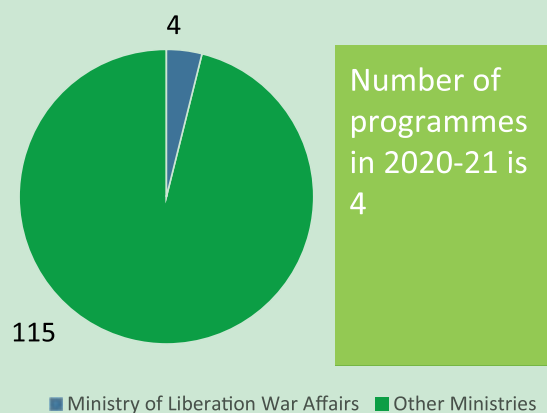


Figure 38: Share of Number of Programmes of Ministry of Liberation War Affairs

Also, the involvement of this Ministry is in the Social Allowance Cluster from the Old Age segments of the population.

Situation Analysis

Table 46: Situation Analysis of Ministry of Liberation War Affairs

Programme	NSSS Provision	Present Situation	Gaps
Freedom Fighters' Benefit Programme	The special programmes related to the Government's commitment to supporting the freedom fighters and their families. This programme for freedom fighters will be maintained and consolidated under one scheme called the Freedom Fighters' Benefits Programme. NSSS also suggests that the benefit will be adjusted in real terms. [Para 4.8 of NSSS]	The Ministry is presently implementing 4 (four) programmes as mentioned above. The number of beneficiaries is around 200,000. The freedom fighters are now receiving a monthly allowance of Tk12,000, which is expected to be raised to Tk20,000 from the next fiscal year.	Consolidate delivery of these programmes into a single-window or delivery mechanism.
Consolidate Smaller Programmes	The NSSS requires the merging or elimination of many small programmes. Any ministry considering some of their minor programmes to be continued and scaled up will have to send proposals with justification. [Para 4.8 of NSSS]	Depends on the Study Findings.	
Improve targeting of beneficiaries	Implementing ministries will be responsible for ensuring correct targeting and zero tolerance to pilferage. [Para 6.3.1 of NSSS]	Existing beneficiary databases are online.	
Grievance Redress System	Establishing an effective grievance redress so that all citizens have recourse to appeal decisions on selection and can notify the competent authorities about instances of misconduct and failures in the delivery of the promised benefit. [Para 6.3 of NSSS]	Recorded online. Service Centre /Call centre not yet set up. The grievance is redressed centrally by ministries. There is also a system for redressal at the district level and Upazila level irrespective of online or written.	
Develop Single Registry MIS	The government will establish a national Single Registry that is based on building scheme-specific MISs that communicate with each other. The Single Registry would be based on a national identity system of all Bangladeshi citizens. [Para 6.4 of NSSS]	Social protection integrated MIS developed at the Finance Division is almost complete with the input of 0.182 million freedom fighters' information in the system.	

Programme	NSSS Provision	Present Situation	Gaps
Digitization of cash transfer	To transform the Government to Person (G2P) payment systems so that they promote financial inclusivity and prevent leakages. [Para 6.5 of NSSS]	G2P modality has been finalized. E-payment modalities are used. The plan is to cover all cash-based programmes.	
Enhance results-based M&E	There is an important need to formalize a system of M&E at both the national level and at the individual programme level for assessing the results of the programmes. [Para 7.2 of NSSS]	M&E framework has been developed, but the dashboard is not yet in place.	

Action Plan (2021-26)

To implement the reform proposals of the NSSS the following time-bound activities may be taken up.

Table 47: Action Plan of Ministry of Liberation War Affairs

Sl.	Objectives	Activities	Performance Indicators	Timeframe	Responsible Ministry	Shared Responsibility
1.	Continue Freedom Fighters' Benefit Programme	To update the database of beneficiaries.	Database updated.	Continuous	Ministry of Liberation War Affairs (MoLWA)	Cabinet Division (CD), MoPA, MoSW& Finance Division
		To maintain benefit value in terms of growth in GDP ratio.	The transfer value increased with GDP growth.	Continuous		
2.	Consolidate smaller programmes	Prepare a list of programmes to be continued.	List sent to the Cabinet Division (CD).	August 2021	MoLWA	CD, LGED & Public Works Department (PWD)
		Make a list of programmes to be scaled up	List sent to the CD.	August 2021	MoLWA	CD, LGED & PWD
		Make a list of programmes to be phased out.	List sent to the CD.	August 2021	MoLWA	CD, LGED, PWD & IMED
		Review the consolidation proposals.	Review prepared.	December 2021	MoLWA	CD

Sl.	Objectives	Activities	Performance Indicators	Timeframe	Responsible Ministry	Shared Responsibility
3.	Improve targeting of beneficiaries	Update manual for selection procedures and disseminate it to people.	Policy for selection procedure titled “Order for Distribution of Freedom Fighters’ Honorarium, 2020 was already published.	Already done	MoLWA	CD, Finance Division
		Publish the list of beneficiaries online to make it transparent.	Instruction is given to field offices.	Continuous	MoLWA	PMO (a2i) & Bangladesh Computer Council (BCC)
		Follow the BBS database when prepared.	Instruction given.	June 2023	MoLWA	Statistics and Information Division (SID)
4.	Grievance Redress System	Arrange for recording complaints at the field level.	Instruction issued.	Continuous	MoLWA	CD, MoPA, MoSW
		Create public awareness about the facility of central GRS of the Cabinet Division.	Public meetings held in all Upazilas.	By July 2021	MoLWA	CD, MoPA, MoSW
5.	Develop Single Registry MIS	Create online-based MIS for all programmes.	MIS digitized for all programmes.	January 2024	MoLWA	CD
		Make the MIS accessible to relevant departments.	Interdepartmental arrangement established.	July 2024	MoLWA	CD
		Link MIS with cash disbursement.	MIS linked with the financial management database of the Finance Division. (SPBMU MIS)	December 2025	MoLWA	CD
6.	Digitization of cash transfer	Pilot different modalities of G2P.	Pilot completed.		MoLWA	Financial Institutions Division (FID),
		Roll appropriate format of G2P.	G2P rolled out for all programmes.		MoLWA	Finance Division, PMO (a2i)

Sl.	Objectives	Activities	Performance Indicators	Timeframe	Responsible Ministry	Shared Responsibility
7.	Enhance Results-Based M&E	Digitize monitoring of programmes.	Dashboard established.	July 2025	MoLWA	PMO (a2i)
		Conduct mid-term and end-term evaluation of programmes.	Programmes. evaluated regularly.	Continuous	MoLWA	IMED
		Largest programmes. is evaluated by the CODI framework.				

Key Actions of Ministry of Liberation War Affairs

- Continue Freedom Fighters' Benefit Programme
- Update the database of beneficiaries.
- Maintain benefit value in terms of growth in GDP ratio.



NSSS Action Plan, Phase - II (2021-26)



Financial Institutions Division (FID)

Action Plan (2021-26)
National Social Security Strategy (NSSS) of Bangladesh



*Action Plan of Financial Institutions
Division*

Action Plan (2021-26) for Implementation of National Social Security Strategy (NSSS) of Bangladesh

Financial Institutions Division (FID), Ministry of Finance

Financial Institutions Division started its function in January 2010. Earlier the related activities had been conducted through a separate wing of the Finance Division. FID deals with the law and policy issues related to the Banks, Non-Bank Financial Institutions, Capital Market, Insurance sector, and Microcredit sector. FID also coordinates the activities for formulating policies on capital adequacies as well as a review of related policies and programmes. However, monitoring the utilization of foreign loans and other types of assistance channelled to different agencies like Bangladesh Bank, Bangladesh Securities and Exchange Commission (BSEC), Palli Karma-Sahayak Foundation (PKSF), Social Development Foundation (SDF), Bangladesh Municipal Development Foundation (BMDF) and Bangladesh NGO Foundation, etc. are also important activities of FID. Bangladesh Insurance Academy (BIA) and Bangladesh Institute of Capital Market (BICM) are conducting training programmes for capacity building under this division.

The Division also performs the co-ordination activities with different regulatory bodies like Bangladesh Bank, Bangladesh Securities and Exchange Commission (BSEC), Insurance Development and Regulatory Authority (IDRA), Microcredit Regulatory Authority (MRA), Bangladesh Institute of Capital Market (BICM), and Bangladesh Insurance Academy (BIA), etc.

The Division deals with the law and policy issues related to the Banks, Non-Bank Financial Institutions, Capital Market, Insurance sector, and Microcredit sector. Bangladesh Insurance Academy (BIA) and Insurance Development and Regulatory Authority (IDRA), Microcredit Regulatory Authority (MRA), etc. also fall under the Division's jurisdiction.

Vision

The vision of the Division is to develop an efficient, inclusive, and robust financial market and services system.

Mission

To achieve the vision, the Division has the mission of strengthening the regulatory and institutional framework for the development of the financial market and services system.

NSSS objectives

The NSSS strategic objective of the Division is to institutionalize a social insurance system for Bangladesh.

Challenges

The NSSS entrusts upon the Finance Division, Ministry of Labor and Employment, Financial Institutions Division the responsibility of introducing a suitable framework of social insurance. Although the concept

of social insurance is very common in the social security of developed countries, it is almost new in Bangladesh. People will invest in their social security during their needs. But for this, a strong legal and institutional framework is required.

Organizational Overview

➤ Palli Karma-Sahayak Foundation (PKSF)

Palli Karma-Sahayak Foundation (PKSF), an apex development organization, was established by the Government of Bangladesh (GoB) in May 1990, for sustainable poverty reduction through employment generation. PKSF implements both financial and non-financial programmes aligned with government policies including SDGs. It has been implementing different programmes such as Buniad for ultra-poor, Jagoron for moderate poor, Agrosor for micro-entrepreneurs, Sufolon for marginal and small farmers, and Enhancing Resources and Increasing Capacities of Poor Households (ENRICH) as the core programme. In addition, PKSF has been implementing different donor-funded projects for poverty alleviation namely, the Skills for Employment Investment Programme (SEIP), Promoting Agricultural Commercialization and Enterprises (PACE) project, Sustainable Enterprise Project (SEP), Pathways to Prosperity for Extremely Poor People (PPEPP), Microenterprise Development Project (MDP), Rural Microenterprise Transformation Project (RMTP), Inclusive Risk Mitigation Project (IRMP), etc. PKSF works at the field level through about 200 Partner Organizations (POs).

➤ Social Development Foundation (SDF)

Social Development Foundation (SDF) was established in 2000 as an autonomous 'not for profit organization under the Ministry of Finance. The organization has been supporting more than one million poor and extremely poor populations through community financing for livelihood improvement, building community infrastructures, and employment generation through providing skill development training. It also builds awareness, improves attitudes and practices to enhance nutritional outcomes, and mainstreams nutrition-sensitive actions. SDF has been tremendously successful in reaching out to the poor and extremely poor and demonstrated strong impacts on livelihood improvements and empowerment of the target group. The organization has successfully grounded more effective and efficient financing and institutional arrangements that improve the access of the rural poor to livelihood improvement opportunities by incorporating the Community Driven Development (CDD) approach in programme implementation. SDF is fervently supplementing the 'Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)' aligning its ongoing programmes to nine out of seventeen goals in response to the universal call to action to ending poverty.

➤ Bangladesh NGO Foundation

Bangladesh NGO Foundation (BNF) is established vide the resolution of the Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh to achieve poverty alleviation. BNF is providing grants to the Partner Organization (POs) for the implementation of poverty alleviation activities. BNF is working in the fields of education, health care, safe drinking water, sanitation, people with disabilities, agricultural and non-agricultural development, etc. for the poor and ultra-poor people.

BNF's main objective is the development and poverty alleviation of the poor, indigent, unaddressed, and disadvantaged people by financing the partner NGOs which are working for the capacity building of the disadvantaged and backward segment of the population. Moreover, BNF also envisages rewarding as an incentive for an individual/institution for their notable contribution to socio-economic development.

➤ Sadharan Bima Corporation (SBC)

Sadharan Bima Corporation (SBC) is only the state-owned non-life insurance and reinsurance corporation in Bangladesh under the Financial Institutions Division, the Ministry of Finance. In the post-independence of the country, Sadharan Bima Corporation was established vide Act-VI dated 14 May 1973 with the

sincere efforts of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman by consolidating 49 non-life insurance companies of Pakistan period.

Since its inception, Sadharan Bima Corporation (SBC) has been carrying all kinds of non-life risks on its shoulders for half of the centuries, helping individuals, families, society, and the state to keep the economic development and social security. Besides its regular non-life insurance policies like fire, marine, motor, engineering, aviation, health insurance, overseas medical claim, and personal accidents. SBC is also playing a special role by taking all kinds of insurance risks of all mega projects taken by the present government such as Padma Bridge, Metro Rail, Bangabandhu Satellite, Rooppur Nuclear Power Station, Matarbari Power Station, Bangabandhu Tunnel, etc. to make the smooth implementation.

➤ Insurance Development and Regulatory Authority

The Insurance Development and Regulatory Authority of Bangladesh (IDRA) is the only government body for regulating and developing the insurance sector of Bangladesh since 2010.

➤ Microcredit Regulatory Authority

The Microcredit Regulatory Authority (MRA) is the central body to monitor and supervise microfinance operations of non-governmental organizations of the Republic of Bangladesh. It was created by the Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh under the Microcredit Regulatory Authority Act (Act no. 32 of 2006). License from the Authority is mandatory to operate microfinance operation in Bangladesh as an NGO.

➤ Jiban Bima Corporation

Jiban Bima Corporation (JBC) is the state-run life insurance provider in Bangladesh under the provisions of the Insurance Act 1938, Insurance Rules 1958, and related other laws enforceable in Bangladesh in Insurance Corporation Act 1973. The JBC started on 14 May 1973 with assets and liabilities worth Taka 157 million of defunct 37 life Insurance companies. The vision of JBC is to ensure financial security by risk-proofing the lives of people of all professions under the Insurance Act. Its mission is to participate in the socio-economic development of the country by saving the people by improving their quality of life and building capital. JBC has the largest network all over the country with 8 regional offices, 12 corporate offices, 81 sales offices and 456 branch offices.

Legal Frameworks

- The Payment and Settlement Systems Act, 2021
- The Bail Protection (Movable Property) Act, 2021
- The Banking Companies Act, 2021
- The Bankruptcy Act, 2021
- The Insurance Act, 2010 (Re-enact and consolidate the Insurance Act, 1938)
- The National Insurance Policy, 2014
- The Insurance Corporations Act, 2019 (Refined Insurance Corporations Act VI of 1973)

Social Security Programmes

➤ Fund for Micro-Credit through PKSF

PKSF provides funds for credit disbursement to ultra-poor, moderate-poor, micro-entrepreneurs, and small and marginal farmers. It devised flexible financial services for the ultra-poor. The distinctive features of this service are low service charges and flexibility in repayment mode. PKSF provides financial services to the ultra-poor through its Buniad programme. PKSF started its activities in the rural off-farm sector of Bangladesh by launching financial services under the Jagoron programme for the rural moderate poor

to create employment opportunities. It aims to initiate household-based enterprise development for the moderate poor in rural and urban areas of Bangladesh. PKSF's Enterprise Development Programme (Agrosor), launched in 2001, aims to extend financial services to the progressive members of other programmes for undertaking economic activities that require bigger amounts of capital. Considering the diverse financial needs of farmers, PKSF is implementing the Sufolon programme, specially designed for agricultural lending. As of June 2020, there were 14.4 million beneficiaries with Tk 4462.22 crore budgeted in the 2020-21 fiscal year for loan disbursement. In the NSSS, this programme belongs to the Human Development and Social Empowerment Cluster targeting the Working Age people.

➡ **Social Development Foundation:**

Social Development Foundation has been making every effort with need-based approaches and professionalism to expand the capabilities of the extremely poor and poor to enhance their economic ability, to live healthy lives, facilitate them to nurture their talents and interests, and above all to allow them to live in dignity and with self-respect exercising their rights properly in the society. The basic approaches of SDF strengthen the rural communities by building perpetual community-based institutions, helping to raise awareness of the poor, and creating a platform for the disadvantaged to encounter the challenges they face. This programme belongs to the Human Development and Social Empowerment Cluster targeting the Working Age people. This programme is being implemented only in rural areas and providing services to 1,146,000 poor and extremely poor households of 5,642 villages under 21 districts where 95 per cent of beneficiaries are women. 97 per cent of women are holding key positions of village institutions and taking decisions regarding planning, implementation, and monitoring the institutions' day-to-day activities. These poorest women can express their opinion firmly in banks, hospitals, union parishads, village societies, and various social programmes.

A total of 47,550 vulnerable received one-off grants and 95 per cent (44,667) of them started Income Generating Activities (IGAs). A total of 0.761 million extreme poor and poor beneficiaries received the revolving loan for operating IGAs. Besides, 8,098 Producers Groups (PGs) have been formed to operate different IGAs, and 161,955 members are directly benefitting. The PGs are enabled to easily supply their products in markets, ensure fair price of the produces, getting raw materials smoothly. 113,473 mini enterprises have been established by skilled beneficiaries who have moved forward from self-employment to entrepreneurship and can create employment opportunities for the rural community.

SDF provided skill development training to 79,848 unemployed youths for their employability and amongst them, 75,717 youths (95 per cent) got employment and earned on average Tk 13,000-15,000 per month. Besides, 1,735 youths received business management and entrepreneurial training to start SME businesses and now managing their businesses effectively. To make sustainability of village institution, 4,420 Gram Samity (Village Society) office buildings have been constructed where meetings, as well as activities of different institutions/committees, are taking place. Other infrastructural works include 3,105.11 km and 275.84 km earthen and HBB roads, 6,268 culverts, re-excavating 18.561 km canals, 44 and 24 bamboo and footbridges constructed. The infrastructural development works enabled the locals to easily access educational institutions, health service providing centres, village markets, and other places. The improved communication between rural and urban areas explicitly and implicitly contributed to socio-economic development, increasing income, and alleviating poverty.

SDF has installed 417 water distillation/desalination plants, 14,197 tube-wells, and provided 9,129 rainwater tanks to ensure the supply of safe drinking water. Total 333,377 poor, extremely poor, and vulnerable beneficiaries have received Antenatal Care (ANC) and Postnatal Care (PNC) support, and 423,861 Tippy Tap hand washing stations installed to ensure washing hands before feeding babies and cleanliness after

toilet. SDF has provided Bangabandhu Study Support Grants to 50 meritorious students belonging to poor and extremely poor families for their higher education. The 'grant recipients' are now studying at different public universities and colleges including, BUET, Medical Colleges, Science and technology Universities, and Nursing Institutions.

Programme Summary (2020-21)

Table 48: Programme Summary (2020-21) of Financial Institutions Division

Programme	Thematic Cluster	Life Cycle	Beneficiary (Lakh)	Budget (Crore Taka)
Palli Karma-Sahayak Foundation (PKSF)	Human Development and Social Empowerment	Working Age	201.19	589.17
Social Development Foundation (SDF)	Human Development and Social Empowerment	Working Age	-	60.00

Other Programmes

➤ Risk Mitigation through Credit Insurance

There is an in-built insurance system under the credit delivery mechanism. Under this insurance mechanism, if the borrower died during the loan period, the outstanding amount of the loan is waived and the savings amount is refunded. Moreover, the cost of the funeral is provided to the household of the deceased member.

➤ Strengthening Resilience of Livestock Farmers through Risk Reducing Services

To reduce morbidity and mortality risks of livestock, and encourage farmers to invest more in livestock rearing the livestock farmers are provided knowledge on good farming practices through training, vaccination camp, etc. It will also work to improve the capacity of different stakeholders on risk mitigation services for the livestock sector in the country.

➤ Extreme Poverty Reduction through Pathways to Prosperity for Extremely Poor People (PPEPP) Project

Objectives of the project are to achieve the following:

- up to one million extremely poor people (i.e., 250, 000 households) exit extreme poverty and make significant progress along a pathway towards prosperity.
- 357,000 women and children have better nutrition and women of childbearing age and adolescent girls received a package of nutrition-related interventions.
- 125,000 women experience a significant change in their social status and level of empowerment within the household and community.
- increased resilience to climate change and other shocks for one million extremely poor people.

It aims to deliver the results and higher-level changes through interrelated and multidimensional components: Livelihoods (resilience building and value-chain development), Nutrition and Health, Community Mobilization.

➤ Bangabandhu Education Insurance

Honourable Prime Minister inaugurated the Bangabandhu Education Insurance programme on 1 March 2021. Under this initiative, all the guardians including the legal guardian of the students of primary and secondary school will be brought under insurance coverage with a minimum premium. Students will receive insurance coverage up to Tk 500 per month to support their education in case of death or accident

of guardians. IDRA has made an agreement with Jiban Bima Corporation covering 50,000 students of 70 schools across the country. The process to include madrasa is under process. Once the piloting is completed, IDRA will set out a plan to bring all students of primary and secondary level under insurance coverage.

➞ **Probashi Kormi Bima**

The expatriate workers are making a significant contribution to the country's economic growth. The Hon'ble Prime Minister directed to bring the expatriate workers under compulsory insurance coverage. The compulsory insurance coverage titled, "Probashi Kormi Bima" was executed under an agreement between the Wage Earners Welfare Board of the Ministry of Expatriate Welfare and Overseas Employment and the Jiban Bima Corporation. Under this scheme, expatriate labour will get a maximum sum of Tk 4,00,000 as insurance compensation in case of death. For this insurance benefit, an insured person will have to pay an insurance premium of Tk 490 for two years term.

➞ **Weather index-based crop insurance as climate risk mitigations tools**

Bangladesh is one of the most climate-vulnerable and disaster-prone countries in the world because of its geographic location, a flat and low-lying deltaic floodplain, and its exposure to various hydro-meteorological hazards. Climate-induced disasters and extreme weather events such as floods, drought, cyclones, storm surges, flash floods, and salinity intrusion that affect agricultural production have become more intense and frequent. Agricultural gross domestic product during 2005-2050 is projected to be 3.1 per cent lower each year because of climate change. Small and marginal farmers are often excluded from risk-sharing mechanisms as they have little to offer in mutual aid arrangements, which is one of the greatest threats to the food security and social security of Bangladesh.

Sadharan Bima Corporation (SBC) introduced and piloted some social insurance products. 'Weather Index-Based Crop Insurance (WIBCI)' and 'Haor Flood Index-based Crop Insurance' are innovative climatic risk-adaptation tools considered suitable to all types of farmers, including small farm households. Converting the losses caused by climate change and natural disasters into insurable losses to ensure social security, improvement of living standards of marginalized people through financial compensation. Index-based crop insurance is the primary risk management tool, farmers use to financially recover from natural disasters and volatile market fluctuations; pay their bankers, input suppliers particularly the seeds and fertilizer suppliers, equipment providers, and landlords; purchase their production inputs for the next season and give them the confidence to make long term investments that will increase their production efficiency. There is about 48 per cent of the people of Bangladesh involved with agriculture. So, it is expected that after scale-up of these types of insurances to all over the country, most farmers will come under this insurance umbrella contributing to sustainable social security and food security.

➞ **Livestock insurance**

Livestock is an important sub-sector of Bangladesh agriculture. Share of livestock sub-sector contributes to 13.5 per cent alone to overall agricultural GDP. Its contribution to the country's GDP is about 1.47 per cent. Livestock and dairy farming have also certain specific advantages over crops, fisheries, and forestry, as they require less land and are least influenced by seasonality. This sector also has a high potential for the country's economic development.

Considering the growing demand for protein, dairy, and meat of the growing population of Bangladesh, Sadharan Bima Corporation introduced Livestock insurance in 1981 to save farmers and livestock farm owners from financial disaster and to encourage farmers to invest more in livestock production. This insurance product was modified in 2019. Any livestock farmer can avail of this insurance by paying a premium at the rate of 2.5 per cent to 4.5 per cent based on age and class of livestock.

➤ Accidental health insurance for mass people

Road accidents, industrial accidents, employment injury, inland waterways causality, etc. have become a normal phenomenon in Bangladesh. Every single day, people die from several types of accidents in the country's different corners. Access to some form of financial compensation or support for dependent family members, who lose their breadwinner can also make the difference between life in dire poverty, where children and older people are forced to work to survive, and life at or just above subsistence level. At present, the only form of financial protection available to workers and their dependents is set out in the labour code, which requires employers, when liable, to provide specified payments to injured workers or survivors. So, steps are urgently needed to bring mass people, especially lower-income manpower under the insurance coverage. In this context, as a state-owned organization, SBC provides several accidental health insurance policies to lower-income mass people from its social commitment, such as – (i) under the Bangabandhu Suraksha Bima, anyone can get financial compensation up to Tk 200,000 with a premium of Tk 100 in case of an accident, (ii) under the People Personal Accident Insurance (PPA policy) a large number of low-income people can get financial compensation up to Tk 100,000 with a premium of Tk 60 in case of an accident, (iii) different professions such as doctors, engineers, bankers, lawyers, accountants, mechanics, and nurses can be benefited under the Personal Accident Insurance (PA Policy), (iv) under the Dread Disease Insurance Policy anybody can bear the treatment cost of 6 serious diseases including heart attack, stroke, cancer, etc.

Situation Analysis

Table 49: Situation Analysis of Financial Institutions Division

Programme Name	NSSS Provision	Present Situation	Gaps
National Social Insurance Scheme (NSIS)	The NSSS proposes that there should be a system of NSIS for Bangladesh. The system should also incorporate unemployment, accident, sickness, and maternity insurance. [Summary, Para 4.3.3 of NSSS]	Presently there is hardly any social insurance system in place in the country. There are some fragmented initiatives by some ministries in this regard, but these are limited. In collaboration with the Cabinet Division, FID and IDRA a study of the framework of social insurance can be conducted. Currently, SBC issues an insurance policy for covering the death and accidental death of insured in PPA, PA, and DD policy.	In collaboration with the Cabinet Division, FD, FID, and IDRA, a framework for social insurance can be designed by the Ministry of Labor and Employment.
Consolidate Smaller Programmes	The NSSS requires the merging or elimination of many small programmes. Any ministry considering some of their minor programmes. to be continued and scaled up, will have to send proposals with justification. [Para 4.8 of NSSS]	PKSF, SDF, BNF have been implementing projects with extremely poor & poor target beneficiaries. At present, there is no scope for consolidation of these smaller programmes s due to different donors, programme objectives, implementing agencies, and reporting systems.	Must formulate strategies to merge consolidate these smaller programmes. s

Programme Name	NSSS Provision	Present Situation	Gaps
Improve targeting of beneficiaries	Implementing ministries will be responsible for ensuring correct targeting and zero tolerance to pilferage. [Para 6.3.1 of NSSS]	Target beneficiaries are identified by five indicators such as household income, food security, earning ability, productive asset, and landholdings. They are selected through consultation with the experts and previous experiences. SDF follows the BBS database, poverty map and conducts Participatory Identification of Poor (PIP) methods like transect walk, social mapping, group meeting, etc.	About 7 per cent of the total targeted households were miss-targeted.
Grievance Redress System	Establishing an effective grievance redress so that all citizens have recourse to appeal decisions on selection and can notify the competent authorities about instances of misconduct and failures in the delivery of the promised benefit. [Para 6.3 of NSSS]	There is a complaint box at the PKSF building. Moreover, it has been uploaded on the website of PKSF. SDF formed Grievance Redress Committee at National, Regional, and District levels. Grievances are recorded in writing. Major complaints are resolved through the grievance redress committee. Governance and Accountability Action Plan (GAAP) & Community Action Plan (CAP) tools are used for tracking grievances at the village level.	A web-based grievance redress system needs to be developed so that citizens have recourse to appeal decisions and can notify the competent authorities about instances of misconduct
Develop Single Registry MIS	The government will establish a national Single Registry, which is based on building scheme-specific MISs that communicate with each other. The Single Registry would be based on a national identity system of all Bangladeshi citizens. [Para 6.4 of NSSS]	MIS is maintained at the individual programme / project level. SDF developed a code number for each beneficiary that contains National ID, mobile number, and household information such as name, family members, age, sex, education, occupation, etc.	Single registry MIS for programme or project participants is not developed.
Digitization of cash transfer	To transform the Government to Person (G2P) payment systems so that they promote financial inclusivity and prevent leakages. [Para 6.5 of NSSS]	An attempt has been taken to do all financial transactions through BEFTN.	Digitalization of financial transactions from POs to members is not yet established.

Programme Name	NSSS Provision	Present Situation	Gaps
Enhance results-based M&E	Monitoring and evaluation (M&E) the process will be needed to improve delivery processes, document results, inform policymakers about the effectiveness of alternative approaches and mobilize political support for sustainability and expansion of the programmes that comprise the strategy. [Para 7.3 of NSSS]	The initial process of introducing the RBM system has been started in some projects of PKSF, but implementation is not yet started. SDF developed a results-based M&E system that captured quantitative and qualitative information to measure the effectiveness of the programme. Web-based Management Information System (MIS) and Loan Management System (LMS) developed through which project performance is monitored.	Results-Based Monitoring (RBM) needs to be designed and implemented with various projects of PKSF.

Action Plan (2021-26)

To implement the reform proposals of the NSSS the following time-bound activities may be taken up.

Table 50: Action Plan of Financial Institutions Division

Sl.	Objectives	Activities	Performance Indicators	Timeframe	Responsible Ministry	Shared Responsibility
1.	Support in Introduction of NSIS	Conduct a study on NSIS.	Study report disseminated.	June 2022	Financial Institutions Division	Finance Division And other line ministries
		Support other ministries as required.	Actuarial assessment done.	Continuous		
		Support in drafting legislative documents.	Legislation drafted.	Continuous		
2.	Consolidate Smaller Programmes	Consolidating smaller programmes may not be applicable due to different donors, programme objectives, implementing agencies, and reporting systems.	Not applicable.	Not Applicable	Not applicable	

Sl.	Objectives	Activities	Performance Indicators	Timeframe	Responsible Ministry	Shared Responsibility
3.	Improve targeting of beneficiaries	Identify relevant indicators and corresponding cut of points for targeting beneficiaries in consultation with experts and previous experience.	Relevant indicators and corresponding cut-off points were identified.	December 2022	FID	
		Conduct FGDs for preliminary selection and questionnaire survey for final selection of beneficiaries.	Target beneficiaries selected.	December 2023		
		Prepare a list of identified target beneficiaries and a hanging list in the open place of the village for validation of targeting beneficiaries.	Beneficiaries' list & progress report.	December 2024		
		Finalize the beneficiaries' list based on approval by the villagers.	Beneficiaries' list & progress report.	December 2025		
4.	Grievance Redress System	Establish a complaint box in the office building and upload the online complaint box on the website of PKSf.	Complaint box made available in the office and online complain box made available on the website.	December 2022	FID	PKSF, SDF, BNF
		Formation of Grievance Redress Committee and provide training. Arrange for recording complaints.	G&A Progress Report.	June 2022		
		Conduct training on Governance and Accountability Action Plan (GAAP).	Training report.	June 2023		
		Identification of risk & prepare action plan through GAAP and CAP exercise at the community level.	GAAP and CAP Exercise report.	Continue up to June 2026		

Sl.	Objectives	Activities	Performance Indicators	Timeframe	Responsible Ministry	Shared Responsibility
5.	Develop Single Registry MIS	Prepare a list of individual project beneficiaries based on the identification and NID numbers.	MIS Progress Report.	June 2023	FID	PKSF, SDF, BNF
		Develop an Integrated Information System for various projects.	Single registry MIS designed.	June 2024		
		Develop a mechanism of common entry system for different programmes. and projects.	Mechanism of integrating different programmes s and projects of PKSF for common entry developed.	June 2025		
6.	Digitization of cash transfer	Digitalize all financial transactions between PKSF with Partner Organizations (POs).	All financial transactions of PKSF to POs brought under BEFTN.	December 2022	FID	PKSF, SDF, BNF
		Digitalize financial transactions between POs with members.	Financial transactions between POs with members made through mobile financial service.	June 2025		
7.	Enhance results-based M&E	Develop Results Framework for new projects	Achievement's status report.	June 2022	FID	PKSF, SDF, BNF
		Development of web-based Management Information System (MIS) and Loan Management System (LMS) as per requirement.	Progress status report.	June 2024		
		Conduct Results-Based Monitoring (RBM) for different projects.	RBM for different projects introduced.	Continue up to 2026		
		Conduct impact evaluation for different projects of PKSF.	Impact evaluation reports of different projects of PKSF were made available.	Continue up to 2026		

Key Actions of Financial Institutions Division

- Conduct a study on NSIS.
- Support other ministries as required.
- Support in drafting legislative documents.



Economic Relations Division (ERD)

Action Plan (2021-26)
National Social Security Strategy (NSSS) of Bangladesh



*Action Plan of Economic Relations
Division (ERD)*

Action Plan (2021-26) for Implementation of National Social Security Strategy (NSSS) of Bangladesh

Economic Relations Division (ERD)

The Economic Relations Division (ERD) is one of the four Divisions of the Ministry of Finance (MoF) of the Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh. ERD, on behalf of the Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh, mobilizes development assistance from external sources for the socio-economic development of the country.

ERD leads as the focal point of the government for interfacing with the development partners as well as for coordination of all external assistance inflows into the country. Bangladesh has been maintaining macroeconomic stability and economic development with low external debt and greater resilience to external shocks over the last decades. The pace of development in Bangladesh got momentum through the first half of the fiscal year 2019-20 until the outbreak of Coronavirus (COVID19) emerged as a global pandemic. Lockdown around the world seriously affected the global economic growth, trade, and investment; initiating a recession never experienced in hundred years. Bangladesh was no exception from the negative fallout of this pandemic. To help the economy coping up with the adverse impact of COVID 19, ERD mobilized an additional number of resources as budget support and project supports to finance COVID-19 responses and recovery-related projects and programmes. In FY 2019-20, development assistance amounting to US\$ 9.79 billion has been mobilized including USD 1.2 billion for the pandemic response.

Vision

Sustainable socio-economic development.

Mission

Management of foreign assistance and support the implementation of the national development strategy through strengthening relationships with development partners.

NSSS objectives

Provide coordination and technical support to strengthen the social security programme in Bangladesh.

Challenges

Create an effective organizational arrangement for coordination and collaboration with the development partners for continued and sustained inflow of foreign aid towards the implementation of the NSSS.

Bangladesh has achieved remarkable progress in alleviating poverty due to the implementation of an inclusive growth strategy. This economic progress has been consistently gaining momentum. In a span of barely two decades, less than one-fifth of the population remains poor compared to almost two-thirds in the year 2000. Remarkable improvements have been made in social outcomes including, among others, maternal mortality; infant and under-five mortality; life expectancy at birth; immunization, and sanitation.

Having met all the eligibility criteria for graduation from Least Developed Country (LDC) in 2018 and 2021, it received the final recommendation for graduation in the year 2026. Bangladesh. Undoubtedly a large part of this success has been made possible by the Government's vast network of social safety net programmes, that serve a range of population groups that are poor and vulnerable. Amounting 3.01 per cent of the GDP, Bangladesh's social safety net programmes have been instrumental in reducing the incidence of poverty by nearly 1 (one) per cent annually over the last few years.

ERD has been playing an instrumental role in achieving sustainable socio-economic development through efficient mobilization and management of development assistance through effective development cooperation. The government has given more emphasis on social security measures that will help to improve the livelihood of the poorest of the poor and the marginalized and disadvantaged groups of the society that are identified as vulnerable and worst affected. A huge investment would be needed to achieve these targets. The contribution of external financing is of great importance to overcome this challenge. ERD is working on strengthening the partnership with DPs to overcome the challenge through effective development cooperation.

ERD Mandate

The main responsibilities of ERD are to negotiate and mobilize external resources from multilateral and bilateral development partners to finance development projects/programmes under the Annual Development Programme, the Perspective Plan, the Five-Year Plan, and other national strategies. ERD also prepares and executes external economic policy, maintains relations with bilateral and multilateral development partners. ERD is also entrusted with the tasks of foreign debt management including debt profiling and budgeting, debt servicing, and maintenance of accounts thereof.

Organizational Overview

ERD has been performing its activities through 10 (ten) wings. These are as follows:

- Wing-1: America and Japan
- Wing-2: World Bank
- Wing-3: Administration and the Middle East
- Wing-4: United Nations
- Wing-5: Asian Development Bank (ADB)
- Wing-6: Coordination and Nordic
- Wing-7: Europe
- Wing-8: Asia and JEC, Fellowship and Foundation
- Wing-9: Foreign Aid Budget and Accounts (FABA) & ICT
- Wing-10: Development Effectiveness

ERD has 9 (nine) Economic Wings in Bangladesh Missions Abroad. These are:

- Economic Wing: Permanent Mission of Bangladesh to the UN, New York, USA
- Economic Wings: Embassy of the People's Republic of Bangladesh, Washington DC, USA; Tokyo, Japan; Riyadh, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia (KSA); Rome, Italy; Brussels, Belgium; Bangkok, Thailand; Beijing, China; and High Commission of the People's Republic Bangladesh, New Delhi, India.

Social Security Programmes

After independence, social security schemes were introduced by using foreign assistance to help the poor families who were badly hit by the food shortage in 1974 and floods in the 1980s (NSSS, 2015). The schemes were mainly public works and other food aid programmes. Since then, ERD has been mobilizing

foreign assistance for the social security programme. By the mid-2000s, foreign food aid was mostly withdrawn and replaced by food transfers funded from taxation. However, ERD continued to mobilize resources from external sources for different schemes run by the line Ministries/Divisions under social safety net programmes. Importantly, ERD has no social security programme with direct beneficiaries and budget allocation from the government. ERD only supports the implementation of the government social security policies by mobilizing funds from the Development Partners and coordinating with them.

➤ **The National Social Security Strategy (NSSS)**

Formulating the National Social Security Strategy (NSSS) of Bangladesh was a great leap forward to develop inclusive social protection for all deserving people. It addresses Bangladesh's triple problems of poverty, vulnerability, and marginalization to pave the way for implementing the national plans. The core of the strategy is a lifecycle framework covering people's needs over their entire life. Social inclusion of marginalized groups is a central principle of NSSS, with an expansion of programmes for the extremely poor and most vulnerable people.

Currently, there are 119 social safety net programmes; implemented by 27-line Ministries/Divisions, with a budget of Tk 956 billion (FY 2020-21), accounting for 16.83 per cent of the government budget, and 3.01 per cent of GDP. The National Social Security Strategy (NSSS) is helping the government to coordinate and consolidate the existing safety net programmes to achieve better efficiency and results. The long-term vision of the National Social Security Strategy (NSSS) is: "build an inclusive social security system for all deserving Bangladeshis that effectively tackles and prevents poverty and inequality and contributes to broader human development, employment, and economic growth."

➤ **Bangladesh's Success in Rapid Poverty Reduction**

The present government, under the leadership of Hon'ble Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, during its three consecutive tenures has shown tremendous success in poverty reduction. The development that has been achieved under the leadership of Hon'ble Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has improved the quality of life of the people living in poverty and other risks. In realizing this aim, the government emphasizes social security and safety programmes, decent work, and financial inclusion. As a result, Bangladesh has achieved one of the fastest poverty reduction rates in the world with poverty incidence dropping from 41.5 per cent in 2006 to 20.5 per cent in 2019 driven by an inclusive growth strategy. Simultaneously, the extreme poverty rate has fallen to 10.5 per cent in 2019. Increased investment in social, health, infrastructure and financial sectors was the precursor for this success in poverty alleviation. The cooperation of development partners aligning with government priorities has greatly contributed to this phenomenal achievement.

Programme Summary

The ERD has no social security programme with direct beneficiaries and budget allocation from the government.

Other Programmes

➤ **Local Consultative Groups:**

Local Consultative Group (LCG) is the key coordination mechanism between government and development partners. It supports development coordination under the national development plan, focuses on results, and promotes principles of effective partnership. Fourteen Working Groups at various sectors inform the discussion of LCG to strengthen coordination and to avoid duplication and overlapping. Each Working Group comprised of a government chair and DP co-chair focused on a specific national development priority. The newly constructed Working Group on Governance and Social Protection is led by the Cabinet Division. The LCG Working Groups can play vital roles in strengthening social security programmes in Bangladesh.

➞ **Bangladesh Development Forum (BDF)**

Bangladesh Development Forum (BDF) is the flagship event of the Economic Relations Division. It is the highest forum for the government, development partners, and other stakeholders to discuss a host of issues like development achievements and challenges in different socioeconomic sectors. Bangladesh's astounding socio-economic success and strong political commitment enabled it to introduce such high-level multi-stakeholder participatory forum, BDF, where all DPs, national and international NGOs, think-tanks, development practitioners, leaders from business and industry participate creating an opportunity for building partnerships among the stakeholders for identified implementation challenges and policy or resource gaps.

➞ **Social Security Policy Support (SSPS) Programme:**

The Development Partners have recently been getting involved in providing policy supports in social security reforms. One such programme is Social Security Policy Support (SSPS) Programme with assistance from the UNDP. The DFAT and DFID (now renamed as Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office or FCDO) also came in for providing funds in SSPS for conducting research, capacity building, and formulation of the policy documents. One of the outcomes of the SSPS Programme is the formulation of the National Social Security Strategy (NSSS) of Bangladesh and its implementation action plans. The Social Security Policy Support (SSPS) Programme is being implemented by the Cabinet Division and the General Economics Division with technical assistance from DFAT, DFID, and UNDP to roll out the NSSS. ERD is coordinating with the development partners to implement this programme.

➞ **European Budget Support for Implementation of the NSSS:**

The European Union (EU) is providing budget supports of 150 million Euros to Bangladesh for reforms of social security as stipulated in the NSSS. (Project list is attached which are implemented under this budget support programme). EU and Germany provided 113 million euros in FY 2012 to support destitute workers' welfare programme.

➞ **Other Development Partners:**

In addition to the above, the ERD is involved in facilitating negotiations with lines ministries and development partners for grants and loans for the implementation of social security programmes in Bangladesh. Such partners include the ADB, World Bank, UN, IFAD, WFP, Sweden, Denmark, etc.

➞ **Initiative towards aid effectiveness**

ERD is trying to ensure effective utilization of development assistance by implementing internationally agreed four development effectiveness principles across the Ministries and Divisions. The principles are country ownership; inclusive parentship; focus on results; and mutual accountability and transparency. A real-time data sharing platform between ERD and Development Partners, Aid Information Management System (AIMS) is in operation since 2013 for ensuring accountability and transparency of aid flow into the country. The AIMS captures data of commitments and disbursements, both of public and non-public or NGO sectors, from development partners. It provides a robust picture of aid flows by capturing aid data flowing to the NGOs along with the public sector. AIMS helps to capture the off-budget aid mostly channelled through NGOs for implementing the social protection programmes and thus facilitates the government to allocate its resources to different regions of the country in a prudent way.

➞ **Developing Foreign Assistance Management System (FAMS)**

ERD has taken initiative to develop a computerized system for managing foreign aid. The system, named FAMS, was launched in June 2017 and operationalized in June 2018. The system covers activities from borrowing programmes to foreign aid allocation to projects included in the Annual Development Programme (ADP). The projects and related ministries/ divisions are connected by web-based software. The software

has been designed in a way that can facilitate tracking the progress of project implementation, including social safety net projects/programmes, both in terms of aid disbursement and utilization. Besides that, the system provides the facility to get aid inflow data routing through Bangladesh Bank.

Situation Analysis

Table 51: Situation Analysis of Economic Relations Division

Programme Name	NSSS Provision	Present Situation	Gaps
Coordination with development partners	The government will explore possible technical assistance to help the implementation of the NSSS. [Para 6.7 of NSSS]	The ERD is engaged in continuous discussion and negotiation with Development Partners for fundraising and policy supports.	Need to further enhance supports from the Development Partners.
Consolidate Smaller Programmes	It is also critical that the governance arrangements be put in place to anticipate coordination of the development partners' support to allow the vision of consolidated social security programming to function fully. [Para 4.8 of NSSS]	The fragmentation of the efforts in smaller programmes makes it difficult to coordinate and as a result duplication, overlapping, and wastage of resources occur. The ERD keeps the Development Partners updated about the government policy for the consolidation of programmes along with the lifecycle framework. Taking a departure from the earlier trends of increasing the number of tiny and short-term programmes. The ERD focuses on convincing Development Partners for diverting their supports in major lifecycle programmes.	The issue needs to be further clarified to the Development Partners. Bangladesh continued its dialogue with its development partners through Bangladesh Development Forum (BDF) and Local Consultative Group (LCG).
Dissemination of the social security initiatives of the Government		ERD is further strengthening its collaboration and partnership with the Development Partners and requesting DPs for designing their new Country Strategic Plan, in line with the government priorities, taking into consideration the needs following the 8th Five Year Plan and other national documents.	ERD on behalf of the government mobilizes external resources for the socio-economic development of the country as per the mandate. In this respect, ERD has informed to DPs to channelize foreign assistance through ERD in line with the government priorities.

Action Plan (2021-26)

To implement the reform proposals of the NSSS the following time-bound activities may be taken up.

Table 52: Action Plan of Economic Relations Division

Sl.	Objectives	Activities	Performance Indicators	Timeframe	Responsible Ministry	Shared Responsibility
1.	Coordination with Development Partners	Engage with Development Partners for mobilization of funds including social security programmes.	Mobilize external assistance those including a fund for social security programmes.	Continuous	ERD	Line ministries
2.	Consolidate Smaller Programmes	Convince the Development Partners for funding the major lifecycle programmes.	Major lifecycle programmes are preferred instead of small programmes for funding.	Continuous	ERD	Line ministries
3.	Expand public workfare programme	Engage with the Development Partners to provide augmented support for public workfare programmes in the context of migration to rural areas due to loss of livelihoods from Covid-19.	To accommodate the new additions to the rural labour force, bankable Employment Generation Programme for the Poorest (EGPP) programmes with components for training, savings, etc., to graduate participants out of poverty by enabling them to gain access to longer-term formal sector employment or self-employment has been designed and adopted for implementation by the respective ministries. DPs are funding to implement the programmes.	Continuous	ERD	Ministry of Disaster Management and Relief and other Line Ministries
4.	Stronger emphasis on early human capital development	Mobilizing support from external sources for early human capital development.	The safety net programmes on maternal and early childhood have been expanded up to five years for the proper development of a child's brain. School feeding programme has been introduced at the secondary level particularly in the country's lagging areas.	Continuous	ERD	Line Ministries

Sl.	Objectives	Activities	Performance Indicators	Timeframe	Responsible Ministry	Shared Responsibility
5.	Building an innovative STEM workforce that will be able to take on the challenges posed by the 4IR	Mobilizing funds from the DPs to promote STEM education.	An appropriate change in the curriculum, in line with STEM education. Capacity-building of stakeholders in education such as educational policymakers, administrators of educational institutions, and teachers through professional training in STEM concepts and the role of STEM education in sustainable development. Setting up of laboratories in primary and secondary schools which will be appropriately equipped for hands-on learning by students that will develop important life skills such as creativity, critical thinking, problem-solving, teamwork, and attention to detail.	Continuous	ERD	Ministry of Education, Ministry of Primary and Mass Education and other Line Ministries
6.	Dissemination of the social security initiatives of the government	Make publications highlighting success stories of government in social security.	Annual Report and Flow of External Resources in Bangladesh published including funding for NSSS projects.	Continuous	ERD	Line ministries

Key Actions of Economic Relations Division

- Engage with Development Partners for mobilization of funds including for social security programmes.
- Convince the Development Partners for funding the major lifecycle programmes.
- Engage with the Development Partners to provide augmented support for public workfare programmes in the context of migration to rural areas due to loss of livelihoods from Covid-19.
- Make publications highlighting success stories of government in social security.



NSSS Action Plan, Phase - II (2021-26)



Ministry of Labour and Employment

Action Plan (2021-26)
National Social Security Strategy (NSSS) of Bangladesh



*Action Plan of Ministry of Labour
and Employment*

Action Plan (2021-26) for Implementation of National Social Security Strategy (NSSS) of Bangladesh

Ministry of Labour and Employment

The Ministry of Labour and Employment is responsible for enforcing labour-related rules, policies, laws and overall welfare and social security of the working people. The Ministry has been assigned by the NSSS a major task of introducing an insurance scheme for the workers. Thus, the Ministry has a very important profile in terms of social security.

Vision

The vision of the Ministry is to ensure a decent workplace and healthier life of the worker and promote the welfare of the working people including all.

Mission

To achieve the vision, the Ministry has the mission of enhancing productivity through the creation of safe working conditions, maintaining harmonious employer and worker relations, eliminating child labour by any form and developing a skilled labour force.

NSSS objectives

The NSSS objective for the Ministry of Labour and Employment are:

1. To develop a social insurance system for workers.
2. To tackle socio-economic risks and vulnerability of the workers.
3. To ensure the social safeness of workers.

Challenges

The main challenge facing the Ministry are:

1. Implementation of the Labour Act and Labour Rules properly.
2. Disagreement between the employers and workers groups.
3. Lack of awareness and eagerness in all sectors to comply with the insurance-related policies.
4. Unemployment (Accidental, Occupational Safety and Health-related diseases, 4th industrial revolution, lack of skill and education)

Organizational Overview

➔ Minimum Wage Board

The Minimum Wage Board is a Bangladesh government regulatory agency under the Ministry of Labour and Employment responsible to recommend minimum wages for the workers in various economic sectors to the government in line with the provisions of BLA.

➤ **Department of Labour**

The Department of Labour is a Bangladesh government regulatory agency under the Ministry of Labour and Employment responsible for regulating the labour market in Bangladesh. It also works for the overall welfare and security of workers.

➤ **Department of Inspection for Factories and Establishments (DIFE)**

The DIFE monitors labour rights through regular monitoring, including payment of wages, workplace safety, maternity benefits and compensation to the workers.

➤ **Labour Appellate Tribunal and Labour Courts**

The Labour Appellate Tribunal and Labour Courts deal with the settlement of labour disputes including payment of wages, maternity benefits and compensation to the workers.

➤ **Central Fund**

Central Fund is a fund under the Ministry of Labour and Employment generated from the receipts of export by the private sector and managed by a tripartite body represented by government, employer, and worker. From this fund, financial support is provided to the workers of the hundred per cent export-oriented garments sector of the country. The fund is chaired by the Minister of Labour and Employment.

➤ **National Child Labour Welfare Council**

National Child Labour Welfare Council is a Bangladesh government council responsible for monitoring the implementation of policies and programmes to end child labour in Bangladesh.

➤ **Bangladesh Labour Welfare Foundation and Its Fund (BLWF)**

The Bangladesh Labour Welfare Foundation has been formed in accordance with Article 234 of the Labour Act, 2006 (Amended 2018). The BLWF operates the Bangladesh Labour Welfare Foundation Fund. The workers of both formal and informal sectors are eligible to get financial support from this fund in the cases of disability to work, sickness or injury due to an accident at the workplace, maternity, education of children of workers.

Legal Framework

- The Bangladesh Labour Act, 2006 (Amendment in 2013 and 2018)
- The Bangladesh Labour Rules, 2015
- The National Child Labour Elimination Policy, 2010
- The Domestic Workers Protection and Welfare Policy, 2015
- The National Occupational Health and Safety Policy, 2013
- The National Labour Policy, 2012
- The Essential Services Act, 2020
- The Bangladesh Labour Welfare Foundation Acts, 2006 (Amendment in 2013)
- The Bangladesh Labour Welfare Foundation (Amendment) Rules, 2015

Social Security Programmes

➤ **Social Allowance for the Workers of Garments and Leather Industries**

Ministry of Labour and Employment is implementing the Social Protection Programme for Unemployed & Destitute Workers in the Export-oriented Garments, Leather Goods and Footwear Industries-2020. Under this policy, each valid beneficiary is getting financial assistance which may be provided for 3 months maximum.

For the implementation of the said Social Protection Program, the Ministry of Finance has allocated a budget of Tk 50 crore in favour of the Department of Labour, Ministry of Labour and Employment in the fiscal year 2020-2021. With the PICs approval financial assistance has been paid to beneficiaries through G2P basis through electronic MIS system.

➤ **Child Labour Elimination Program/ Project and National Initiatives**

- A. To achieve the SDG target of 8.7 by eliminating child labour by 2025, the Ministry of Labour and Employment (MoLE) has taken several steps. As per 'Child Labour Elimination Policy (NCLEP) 2010', the National Child Labour Welfare Council, Chaired by State Minister, MoLE, the Divisional Child Labour Welfare Council (DCLWC), the District Child Rights Monitoring Committee (Chaired by DC) and the Upazila Child Rights Monitoring Committee (chaired by UNO) has been formed for monitoring and evaluating the implementation of the policy.
- B. The Ministry of Labour and Employment has been implementing a project named 'The Elimination of Hazardous Child Labour in Bangladesh (4th phase)' with an estimated cost of 284,49,000 BDT from January 2018. This project's objective is to remove one Lakh Children from the worst form of works. These children will have been given non-formal education for 6 months and skill development training for 4 months. Microcredit has been given to the parents to create employments.

Other Programmes

➤ **Central Fund**

Central Fund was established under the Ministry of Labour and Employment with the objectives to provide financial assistance to the workers and their families of hundred per cent export oriented RMG industries. According to the provision of section 232 (3) of the Bangladesh Labor Act, 2012, Central Fund was established in 2016 for the welfare of the worker of the RMG sector. Central funds provide financial assistance for accident, death, maternity and scholarship for the meritorious children of the workers and their families on regular basis. Areas of financial grants for workers:

- Grants for accidental and regular death
- Grants for the treatment for workers and their families
- Scholarship for the education of meritorious children of workers.

➤ **Bangladesh Labour Welfare Foundation**

According to the provision of section 232 (3) of the Bangladesh Labour Act, 2006, the Bangladesh Labour Welfare Foundation was established in 2012 to provide financial grants for the welfare of workers and their families engaged in both formal and informal sectors. Areas of Financial Grants for Workers:

- Transportation and burial of workers' dead bodies
- Scholarships for the education of meritorious children of workers
- Grants for accident or occupational diseases
- Grants for the treatment of the sickness.

Situation Analysis

Table 53: Situation Analysis of Ministry of Labour and Employment

Programme	NSSS Provision	Present Situation	Gaps
Social insurance for the employees	The NSSS provides that the proposed National Social Insurance Scheme (NSIS) would incorporate unemployment insurance. A study on the NSIS is to be commissioned. The Ministry of Labour and Employment would coordinate with the Financial Institutions Division to complete the study on this part. The plan is to be submitted to the Cabinet Division for approval. [Para 4.3 of NSSS]	Several workshops organized, a ToR for pilot drafted, a situation analysis presented in national social security conference engaging MoLE, FID, IDRA and private sectors	
Child daycare services in the workplaces	The Labour Act (2006) stipulates that all employers with more than 40 female employees will provide childcare services for both female and male employees. The NSSS suggests that the Ministry of Women and Children Affairs would ensure that. The Ministry of Labour and Employment, being the owner of the Labour Act, 2006 must play a vital role in this regard. [Para 2.5.4, 3.5 of NSSS]	Up to June 2020, Daycare facilities has been established in 5656 Factories across the whole country	
Consolidate Smaller Programmes	The NSSS requires the merging or elimination of many small programmes. Any ministry considering some of their minor programmes to be continued and scaled up will have to send proposals with justification. [Para 4.8 of NSSS]	Depends on study findings.	
Improve targeting of beneficiaries	Implementing ministries will be responsible for ensuring correct targeting and zero tolerance to pilferage. [Para 6.3.1 of NSSS]	Existing manuals are online and partially use the BBS database	
Grievance Redress System	Establishing an effective grievance redress so that all citizens have recourse to appeal decisions on selection and can notify the competent authorities about instances of misconduct and failures in the delivery of the promised benefit [Para 6.3 of NSSS]	A Toll-free helpline 16357 has been established to lodge complaints of workers. Public meetings are held in all district level offices of the Department of Labour and DIFE.	
Develop Single Registry MIS	The government will establish a national Single Registry that is based on building scheme-specific MISs that communicate with each other. The Single Registry would be based on a national identity system of all Bangladeshi citizens. [Para 6.4 of NSSS]	Under preparation in BBS, apart from that, social protection integrated MIS developed at the Finance Division taking MIS Data of 4 ministries. The programmes are not covered under the system. For some programmes, the MIS is linked with the financial management database of the Finance division.	
Digitization of cash transfer	To transform the Government to Person (G2P) payment systems so that they promote financial inclusivity and prevent leakages. [Para 6.5 of NSSS]	The G2P modality has been finalized. E-payment has been chosen for the G2P rollout.	
Enhance results-based M&E		M&E Framework has been developed, but the dashboard is not yet in place.	

Action Plan (2021-26)

To implement the reform proposals of the NSSS the following time-bound activities may be taken up.

Table 54: Action Plan of Ministry of Labour and Employment

Sl.	Objectives	Activities	Performance Indicators	Timeframe	Responsible Ministry	Shared Responsibility
1.	An unemployment insurance scheme is to be initiated	Conduct study on possible options of unemployment insurances	Study report submitted to the FID and Cabinet Division	December 2023	Ministry of Labour and Employment (MoLE)	FID
		Introduce unemployment insurance on a pilot basis	Unemployment insurance introduced in selected organizations	July 2024		
		Expand unemployment insurance nationwide	Rolled out nationally	July 2025		
2.	Childcare services in the workplaces	Provide general instructions to the organized sectors	Circulars issued	July 2022	MoLE	MoWCA
		Public awareness created	Publicized in media	July 2023		
3.	Consolidate Smaller Programmes	Prepare a list of programmes to be continued	List sent to Cabinet Division (CD)	July 2021	MoLE	CD
		Make a list of programmes to be scaled up	List sent to CD	July 2022	MoLE	CD
		Make a list of programmes to be phased out	List sent to CD	July 2022	MoLE	CD
		Review the consolidation proposals	Review prepared	December 2022	MoLE	CD
4.	Improve targeting of beneficiaries	Update manual for selection procedures and disseminate it to people	Circular issued	December 2023	MoLE	
		Publish a list of beneficiaries online to make it transparent	Instruction given to field offices	Continuous	MoLE	
		Follow the BBS database when prepared	Instruction given	January 2023	MoLE	

Sl.	Objectives	Activities	Performance Indicators	Timeframe	Responsible Ministry	Shared Responsibility
5.	Grievance Redress System	Make arrangements for recording complaints at field level	Instruction issued	Continuous	MoLE	
		Create public awareness about the facility of central GRS of Cabinet Division	Public meetings held in all district level offices of the Department of Labour and DIFE	By July 2022	MoLE	
6.	Develop Single Registry MIS	Create online-based MIS for all programmes	MIS digitized for all programmes	January 2024	MoLE	
		Make the MIS accessible by relevant departments	Inter-Departmental arrangement established	July 2024	MoLE	
		Link MIS with cash disbursement	MIS linked with financial management database of Finance Division (SPBMU MIS)	December 2024	MoLE	
7.	Digitization of cash transfer	Pilot different modalities of G2P	Pilot completed	December 2025	MoLE	
		Roll out an appropriate format of G2P	G2P rolled out for all programmes	December 2025	MoLE	
8.	Enhance results-based M&E	Digitize monitoring of programmes	Dashboard established	July 2025	MoLE	
		Conduct mid-term and end-term evaluation of programmes	Programmes evaluated regularly	Continuous	MoLE	
		Evaluate top 5 largest social security programmes by CODI and 3 programmes by third party/firm.				

Key Actions of Ministry of Labour and Employment

- Conduct study on possible options of unemployment insurances.
- Introduce unemployment insurance on pilot basis.
- Expand unemployment insurance nationwide.
- Public awareness created on Childcare services in the workplaces and provide general instructions to relevant organizations.



NSSS Action Plan, Phase - II (2021-26)



Medical Education and Family Welfare Division

Action Plan (2021-26)
National Social Security Strategy (NSSS) of Bangladesh



*Action Plan of Medical Education
and Family Welfare Division*

Action Plan (2021-26) for Implementation of National Social Security Strategy (NSSS) of Bangladesh

Medical Education and Family Welfare Division

Bangladesh reorganized the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MOHFW) on March 16, 2017, into two Divisions, viz., Health Services Division (HSD) and Medical Education and Family Welfare Division (MEFWD) for ensuring intensive supervision and for accelerating performance. The new MEFWD has been established to give more emphasis on medical education and family welfare through expansion of medical education institutions, improvement of education standards, and development of human resources for effective service provision. The new Division also aims to expand quality services of Family Planning (FP) and reproductive health and strengthen maternal and child health services.

Vision

The vision of the Division is “to ensure affordable and quality Family Planning services and medical education to all”.

Mission

To achieve the vision, the Division has the mission “to ensure affordable and quality health and family planning services for all through developing the health, population and nutrition sector”.

NSSS objectives

The main NSSS objectives of the Division are to expand and ensure quality maternity and reproductive health, family planning services and child health for all who need it.

Challenges

The challenges to the family planning services are characterized by the high child marriage that contributes to a high adolescent fertility rate; low adoption of modern contraceptive practices: the incidence of high maternal mortality. Readiness of FP service facilities is inadequate especially in lagging Divisions: Chattogram and Sylhet.

Shortage of human resources: The majority of the total Directorate General of Family Planning (DGFP) sanctioned positions’ vacancies are at the level of medical officers and FWVs, which are vital for services like clinical contraception. The vacancy situation is high in facilities located in hard-to-reach areas, including coastal belts, chars, hill tracts, etc.

Use of contraception methods: Although CPR is high in the country, the reliance is more on short-term methods like condoms and pills. The utilization of long acting and permanent methods continues to remain low. Limited awareness of the users is one of the possible reasons. Male participation in contraception usage is also relatively low.

The reduction in the total fertility rate (TFR) from 6.3 births per woman in 1975 to 3.4 in 1994 and 2.04 (SVRS, 2019) in 2019 is very encouraging. However, regional variation also exists: The TFR in rural areas is higher (2.37) than in urban areas (1.67). Chattogram, Mymensingh, and Sylhet Divisions are lagging with the highest TFRs of 2.25, 2.24 and 2.00 respectively. Fragmented MIS: Bifurcated MIS for DGFP and Directorate General of Health Services (DGHS) coupled with lack of control on the information of private facilities is a major impediment to organizing FP services nationwide.

Organizational Overview

The agencies under the MEFWD are the Directorate General of Family Planning (DGFP); National Institute of Population Research & Training (NIPORT); Directorate General of Medical Education; and Nursing and Midwifery Education Wing of the Directorate General of Nursing & Midwifery (DGNM) including Medical Universities, Medical Colleges, Nursing Colleges, Nursing Institutions, Medical, and Dental Councils, Nursing and Midwifery Council, BMRC, and State Medical Faculty.

➤ Directorate General of Family Planning (DGFP)

The Government of Bangladesh initiated family planning services in 1965, through civil society efforts had started in the early 1950s. Since then, the FP programme underwent several reforms and revaluations before it reached the current stage. At present, the DGFP, a separate department under MEFWD of MOHFW, implement monitor and supervise the FP programmes and activities undertaken by this department. And monitor and supervise those undertaken by other government agencies and the private sector.

➤ National Population Research and Training Centre

National Institute of Population Research and Training (NIPORT) is a national research institute that conducts and surveys on family planning, maternal and child health in Bangladesh and provides training to the concerned government officials.

➤ Directorate General of Nursing & Midwifery (DGNM)

The government reorganized, strengthened, and upgraded the Directorate of Nursing Service into the Directorate General of Nursing & Midwifery (DGNM) on 6 November 2016 to strengthen, modernize and speed up the development programmes related to nursing education and services, and make the nurses more skilled in discharging their responsibilities. A new cadre of Midwifery Services has been introduced with the creation of 3,000 posts of midwives. The midwives, after completion of required training, have already been posted at the Upazilas.

➤ Directorate General of Medical Education (DGME)

The GoB also created a new organization in November 2019 titled, Directorate General of Medical Education (DGME) with 178 positions to improve and expand quality medical education in Bangladesh. Headed by a Director-General the DGME has also been entrusted with supervision and coordination of private medical institutions

Legal Framework

- The Medical and Dental Council Act, 1980
- The Medical Council (Amendment) Act, 1963
- The Bangladesh Nursing Council Ordinance, 1983

Social Security programmes

The Health, Nutrition and Population Sector Programme has introduced the Maternal Child Reproductive and Adolescent Health Services Programme (MCRAH), Clinical Contraception Services Delivery Programme (CCSDP), Family Planning Field Services Delivery Programme (FSDP), Management Information System (MIS-FP) programme, and Information Education and Communication (IEC) programme to ensure better services, addressing the needs of clients, strengthening service delivery and improving management system.

Programme Summary (2020-21)

Table 55: Programme Summary (2020-21) of Medical Education and Family Welfare Division

Programme	Thematic Cluster	Life Cycle	Beneficiary (Lakh)	Budget (Crore Taka)
Clinical contraception services delivery	Human Development and Social Empowerment	Pregnancy and Childhood	1,086.41	296.00
Family Planning Field Services Delivery	Human Development and Social Empowerment	Pregnancy and Childhood	546.62	512.00
Maternal, Child, Reproductive and Adolescent Health	Human Development and Social Empowerment	Pregnancy and Childhood Youth	746.00	235.00

Other Programmes (2020-21)

Table 56: Other Programmes of Medical Education and Family Welfare Division

Programme	Thematic Cluster	Life Cycle	Beneficiary (Lakh)	Budget (Crore Taka)
Management Information System (MIS)	Human Development and Social Empowerment	Covariate Risks	240.00	24.25
Information Education and Communication	Human Development and Social Empowerment	Covariate Risks	100.00	53.36

The National FP goals and commitments as per the OPs of the fourth sector programme is to reduce TFR to 2.0; reduce unmet need for FP methods to 10 per cent; reduce discontinuation rates of modern FP methods to 20 per cent; increase CPR to 75 per cent and increase long-acting permanent method (LAPM) as a percentage of method mix to 20 per cent. The available data shows that the current scenarios of these indicators are 2.3 per cent, 12 per cent, 37 per cent, 62 per cent, and 9 per cent, respectively (BDHS, 2017). The table below represents a comparison of the current state of FP indicators and the desired national FP goals. This is helpful to understand the magnitude of a gap the GoB seeks to address.

Table 57: Current State of FP Indicators and Desired National FP Goals of Medical Education and Family Welfare Division

Sl.	Indicators	Achievement up to 2017 (In per cent)	The target of the 4th HPNSP (In per cent)
1.	Total Fertility Rate (TFR)	2.3	2
2.	Contraceptive Prevalence Rate (CPR)	62	75
3.	Long-Acting Permanent Method (LAPM)	9	20
4.	Unmet need for modern FP methods	12	10
5.	Discontinuation Rate	37	20

Situation Analysis

Table 58: Situation Analysis of Medical Education and Family Welfare Division

Programme Name	NSSS Provision	Present Situation	Gaps / Challenges
CCSDP	The priority activities of this programme related to NSSS are: (a) Strengthening LARC & PM Services	(a) To increase the access and availability of the LARC & PM services for the target population. The priority focuses for the next three years include i) strengthening the capacity of the LARC & PM service delivery centres; ii) strengthening Post-partum Family Planning (PPFP) services; iii) strengthening Roving Team (RT)/mobile team Initiative for Permanent Method, Implant and IUD services; iv) community mobilization and v) establish Model Clinic for FP services in all Govt. Medical College Hospitals & FP corners in each district hospital.	Inadequate share LARC & PM in the method.

Programme Name	NSSS Provision	Present Situation	Gaps / Challenges
	<p>(b) Strengthening LARC&PM services in hard-to-reach (HTR), and low performing and urban areas.</p> <p>(c) Coordination and Collaboration with Development Partners, NGOs, and Private sector</p>	<p>(b) To address the low coverage of the FP services including LARC&PM in the HTR and low performing areas, particularly in Sylhet, Chattogram, Barisal and Dhaka Divisions a comprehensive Regional Service Package has been developed and being implemented involving different stakeholders. The key focuses of the RSP included</p> <p>i) involvement of local community volunteers of different NGO partners, recruitment of community paid peer volunteers including filling the vacant positions of FWAs;</p> <p>ii) capacity building of the service providers;</p> <p>iii) involvement of Roving Teams;</p> <p>iv) strengthening BCC activities by organizing workshops, discussions, rally and campaigns;</p> <p>v) arranging special LARC & PM service day/LARC & PM Client' Fair through strong collaboration with GO-NGO/UN agencies. The effective partnership has been developed with different national and international NGOs and UN agencies.</p> <p>(c). Based on the lessons learned and MTR 2020 recommendations, the partnerships with the existing partners will be strengthened and new partnership opportunities will be explored. To enhance public-private partnership, an MoU among DGFP, DGHS and Private Medical College Owners Association is in development and finalization for strengthening PPFP services in private medical college hospitals. Similarly, an MoU among DGFP, DGHS and Association of Private Hospitals and Clinics is also under development.</p>	

Programme Name	NSSS Provision	Present Situation	Gaps / Challenges
FSDP	<p>The priority activities of this programme related to NSSS are:</p> <p>(a) Ensuring availability of contraceptives and other supplies</p> <p>(b) Strengthening field services delivery</p> <p>(c) Family planning services in hard-to-reach areas and urban slum</p>	<p>(a) Supply of contraceptives to the millions of clients across the country is one of the major activities of this operational plan free of cost. It will take necessary steps to ensure nationwide availability of short-acting methods: oral pill (COP & POP), condom, and injectables. To increase contraceptive choice in the basket, initiatives have been explored to introduce new contraceptives like third-generation oral contraceptive pills and subcutaneous injectables, etc.</p> <p>(b) Intensify domiciliary services, expand satellite clinics (SCs, address unmet needs and dropouts, enhance services to Newlywed Couple, strengthen GO-NGO including private sector coordination and functional co-ordination with DGHs</p> <p>(c) FP-FSD operational plan has designed regional service package for the hard-to-reach and low performing areas focusing on</p> <p>i) greater involvement of local community volunteers of different NGO partners;</p> <p>ii) streamlining domiciliary services and satellite clinics by hiring volunteers against vacant field workers positions (FWA);</p> <p>iii) capacity building of the service providers and volunteers.</p> <p>The FP-FSD OP implemented an urban family planning pilot project in Sylhet City Corporation areas during 2014-2017. Based on the lessons learned including end-line evaluation the pilot will scale up in other city corporation slum areas like Mymensingh, Dhaka North & South, and Chattogram City Corporations, respectively.</p>	<p>The challenges like</p> <p>i) high adolescent marriage;</p> <p>ii) low focus on client segmentation and audience-specific IEC/ SBCC interventions;</p> <p>iii) regional variation in contraception use;</p> <p>iv) lack of skilled human resources and quality care;</p> <p>v) inadequate FP services delivery in the HTR and low performing districts and urban slums;</p> <p>vi) lack of effective counselling for reducing drop-outs and PPFP and</p> <p>vii) inadequate functional coordination between DGFP & DGHS and collaboration with NGOs/ private sector.</p>

Programme Name	NSSS Provision	Present Situation	Gaps / Challenges
IEC	<p>The priority activities of IEC OP related to NSS are:</p> <p>(a) Community Mobilization and Sensitization (b) Media Campaigns, ICT & social media</p>	<p>The focus of IEC OP is to create demand for FP-MNCH information and services through massive SBCC activities using different innovative channels with a special focus on low-performing regions and pockets. To design and implement short and long-term SBCC campaigns to address child marriage, teenage pregnancy, unmet need, and FP dropout rate as well as massive promotion of PPFP and LARC/PM.</p> <p>Engage and mobilize stakeholders (Community Leaders, religious leaders, youth representatives, and media (print, electronic and social media) from local level planning to implement SBCC initiatives to reach the goal of FP-MCH.</p>	<p>The motivational programme, campaign, workshop with teachers, people's representatives, religious leaders are being hampered due to covid-19.</p>
MIS-FP	<p>The main activity is to collect DGFP OP level information and harmonization MIS between DGFP and DGHS</p>	<p>For harmonization between MISs of DGHS and DGFP, priority activities to be undertaken by MIS OP of DGFP will include</p> <p>i) coordination at the strategic level: organize policy level discussions involving all stakeholders including development partners;</p> <p>ii) organize experience sharing meetings/ seminars; iii) undertake an assessment with support from development partners to assess the compatibility of the two systems used by DGHS and DGFP as well as identify a common platform for data sharing and</p> <p>iv) develop a Plan of Action to enhance harmonization process involving all stakeholders.</p>	<p>Effective coordination among agencies</p>
Improve targeting of beneficiaries	<p>Implementing ministries will be responsible for ensuring correct targeting and zero tolerance to pilferage. [Para 6.3.1 of NSSS]</p>	<p>Existing manuals are available online and partially follow the BBS database.</p>	<p>Selection policies and manuals need to be updated and disseminated.</p>

Programme Name	NSSS Provision	Present Situation	Gaps / Challenges
Grievance Redress System	Establishing an effective grievance redress so that all citizens have recourse to appeal decisions on selection and can notify the competent authorities about instances of misconduct and failures in the delivery of the promised benefit. [Para 6.3 of NSSS]	Service Centre /Call centre is already set up. The grievance is redressed centrally by ministries also at the district level irrespective of online or written.	The GRS needs to be improved.
Develop Single Registry MIS	The government will establish a national Single Registry that is based on building scheme-specific MISs that communicates with each other. The Single Registry would be based on a national identity system of all Bangladeshi citizens. [Para 6.4 of NSSS]	Under preparation in BBS, apart from that social protection integrated MIS developed at the Finance Division taking MIS Data of four ministries. MIS linked for some programmes and others will require some time.	MIS needs to be developed linking the central MIS of the Finance Division.
Digitization of cash transfer	To transform the Government to Person (G2P) payment systems so that they promote financial inclusivity and prevent leakages. [Para 6.5 of NSSS]	Planning to prepare a guideline to use the G2P modality in providing cash benefits to the clients.	The required guideline has not yet been prepared.
Enhance results-based M&E	DGFP has been implementing result-based M&E	The DGFP has been implementing 7 (seven) Operational Plans (OP), each OP has indicators. Besides, under PIP there are goal level indicators. Apart from this, there are Disbursement linked Indicators (DLIs).	Inadequate field visit by the key official at the Ministries.

Action Plan (2020-21 up to 2025-26)

To implement the reform proposals of the NSSS the following time-bound activities may be taken up.

Table 59: Action Plan of Medical Education and Family Welfare Division

Sl.	Objectives	Activities	Performance Indicators	Timeframe	Responsible Ministry	Shared Responsibility
1.	Maternal Health Care	Continue increase of coverage by 10 per cent.	The number of beneficiaries increased.	Every Year	Medical Education and Family Welfare (MEFWD)	HSD, MoWCA
		Coordinate similar programmes by other ministries.	Consultations are held regularly.	Ongoing		
2.	Maternal Health	Facility readiness of the facilities.	The number of facilities increased to provide 24/7 normal delivery services.	Every year	MEFWD	HSD, MoHFW
3.	Adolescent Health	Phase-wise scale-up the Adolescent Friendly Health Services (AFHS).	Number of AFHS	Every Year	MEFWD	HSD, MoHFW
4.	LARC and PM	Strengthen LARC and PM at HRT and low performing areas.	Updated regional service packages available and implemented.	December 2022	MEFWD	HSD, MoHFW
5.	Postpartum Family Planning (PPFP)	Strengthen and scale up PPFP at DGHs facilities and private medical college hospitals, private hospitals, and clinics.	MOU among DGFP, DGHS, and association of private hospitals and, clinics are signed.	December 2023	MEFWD	HSD, MoHFW
6.	Satellite Clinics (SCs)	A total of approximately 30,000 satellite clinics are held every month.	Number of SCs	June 2023	MEFWD	HSD, MoHFW and, MoLGRD
7.	Urban family Planning	Urban family planning pilot at Sylhet City Corporation will be scaled up at Mymensingh, Chattogram, Dhaka North and South City Corporation.	Set in motion and, FP services are available in the selected City Corporation.	June 2024	MEFWD	HSD, MoHFW and, MoLGRD

Sl.	Objectives	Activities	Performance Indicators	Timeframe	Responsible Ministry	Shared Responsibility
8.	FP services in Garment Factories	In collaboration with BGMEA, BKMEA, BEPZA, other professional bodies, and NGOs FP services will be strengthened and scaled up in garment factories.	MOU with BGMEA, BKMEA and, BEPZA signed.	December 2022	MEFWD	HSD, MoHFW and, MoLGRD
9.	Harmonization of MIS among DGHS, DGME and, DGNM	Develop a Plan of Action to enhance the harmonization process involving all stakeholders.	The harmonization process is completed.	June 2022	MEFWD	HSD, MoHFW, DGHS, DGME, DGNM
10.	Improve targeting of beneficiaries	Update manual for selection procedures and disseminate it to people.	Circular issued.	December 2023	MEFWD	HSD
		Follow the BBS database when prepared.	Instruction given.	December 2023	MEFWD	HSD NIPORT
11.	Grievance Redress System	Arrange for recording complaints at the field level.	Instruction issued.	by 2023	MEFWD	HSD
		Create public awareness about the facility of central GRS of Cabinet Division.	Public meetings are held in all districts.	By July 2024	MEFWD	HSD
12.	Develop Single Registry MIS	Create online-based MIS for all programmes.	MIS digitized for all programmes.	January 2024	MEFWD	DGHS
		Make the MIS accessible by relevant departments.	Inter-Departmental arrangement established.	July 2024	MEFWD	DGHS
		Link MIS with cash disbursement.	MIS is linked with the financial management database of the Finance Division (SPBMU MIS).	December 2024	MEFWD	DGHS
13.	Digitization of cash transfer	Pilot different modalities of G2P.	Pilot completed.	July 2024	MEFWD	DGHS
		Roll out an appropriate format of G2P.	G2P rolled out for all programmes.	December 2024	MEFWD	DGHS

Sl.	Objectives	Activities	Performance Indicators	Timeframe	Responsible Ministry	Shared Responsibility
14.	Enhance results-based M&E	Digitize monitoring of programmes.	Dashboard established.	July 2025	MEFWD	DGHS
		Conduct midterm and end-term evaluation of programmes.	Programmes. evaluated.	Continuous	MEFWD	DGHS

Key Actions of Medical Education and Family Welfare Division

- Increase Maternal Health Care coverage by 10 per cent and coordinate similar programmes of other ministries.
- Phase-wise scale-up the Adolescent Friendly Health Services (AFHS).



NSSS Action Plan, Phase - II (2021-26)



Health Services Division

**Action Plan (2021-26) Implementation of
National Social Security Strategy (NSSS) of Bangladesh**



*Action Plan of Health Services
Division*

Action Plan (2021-26) for Implementation of National Social Security Strategy (NSSS) of Bangladesh

Health Services Division

The Health Service Division is a Bangladesh government division under the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare responsible for healthcare in Bangladesh. In the 1970s the Ministry had two divisions, but they were combined in 1985. Health Service Division was established on 16 March 2017 through the bifurcation of the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare.

Vision

The vision of the Division is to promote affordable and quality health services to all.

Mission

To achieve the vision, the Division has the mission “to ensure quality health service for all at an affordable cost by developing the service sectors in health, population, and nutrition.

NSSS objectives

The NSSS objective of the Division is to raise the coverage of maternal health care services to all the poor and vulnerable women who need them and to continue the nutrition programmes.

Challenges

The main challenges facing the Division are to ensure maternity health care and nutrition for all who need it. Building up a maternity health insurance, system is also a vital issue to be implemented by the Division.

Organizational Overview

➤ Directorate General of Health Services

Directorate General of Health Services is a Bangladesh government Directorates under the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare responsible for health services in Bangladesh. DGHS was established as a directorate in 1978. It was upgraded to Directorate General in 1980.

➤ Institute of Epidemiology, Disease Control, and Research

Institute of Epidemiology Disease Control and Research (IEDCR) is a Bangladesh government research institute, under the Ministry of Health, responsible for researching the epidemiological and communicable diseases in Bangladesh as well as disease control.

➤ National Institute of Population Research and Training

National Institute of Population Research and Training (NIPORT) is an autonomous national research institute that research family planning in Bangladesh and trains government officers involved with family planning projects in Bangladesh and is in Dhaka, Bangladesh.

➞ Directorate General of Family Planning

Directorate General of Family Planning is a government agency responsible for family planning in Bangladesh and is in Dhaka, Bangladesh.

Legal Framework

- The Public Health (Emergency Provisions) Ordinance, 1944
- The Prevention of Malaria (Special Provisions) Ordinance, 1978
- The Epidemic Diseases Act, 1897
- The Vaccination Act, 1880
- The Essential Services (Second) Ordinance, 1958
- The Pharmacy Ordinance, 1976
- The Drugs Act, 1940
- The Drugs (Amendment) Act, 1963
- The Drugs (Control) Ordinance, 1982
- The Drugs (Supplementary Provisions) Ordinance, 1986
- The Drugs (Control) (Amendment) Act, Ordinance, 2006
- The International Centre for Diarrheal Disease Research Ordinance, 1978
- International Centre for Diarrheal Disease Research, Bangladesh (Amendment) Act, 1978
- The Mental Health Act, 2018

Social Security Programmes

➞ Maternal, Neo-natal, Child and Adolescent Health

Maternal, Neo-natal, Child and Adolescent Health is a health service-related programme which aims at a healthy start for every newborn; an end to preventable deaths for women and children; that all births are wanted, and children, adolescents, and women of reproductive age have access to quality care when needed, are supported to make evidence-informed decisions and are protected from misleading information, coercion, violence, and injury. The programme has been implemented by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare. There are 63.88 million beneficiaries with Tk 715.77 crore budget in the 2020-21 fiscal year for this programme. This programme belongs to the Human Development and Social Empowerment Cluster targeting children pregnant women in rural areas.

➞ Community-Based Health Care

Bangladesh has established more than 13,000 Community Clinics (CCs) to provide primary healthcare with a plan of each covering a population of around 6,000. The inception of CCs in the country has revolutionized healthcare delivery to reach the doorstep of people. The provision of healthcare through CCs is truly participatory since the community people donate land for building infrastructure and involve in the management process. The programme has been implemented by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare. There are 130.0 million beneficiaries with Tk 1236.38 crore budget in the 2020-21 fiscal year for this programme. This programme belongs to the Human Development and Social Empowerment Cluster focusing on the Covariate Risks in the life cycle approach in rural areas.

➞ National Nutrition Services

The Institute of Public Health Nutrition in the Directorate General of Health Services is responsible for the National Nutrition Services Operational Plan. The General Objective of the programme is to reduce the prevalence of malnutrition among the people of Bangladesh with special emphasis on the children, women, adolescents, and the underprivileged section of society. The programme has been implemented by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare. There are 0.21 million beneficiaries with Tk 142.5 crore

budget in the 2020-21 fiscal year for this programme. This programme belongs to the Human Development and Social Empowerment Cluster focusing on the Covariate Risks in the life cycle approach in rural areas.

➤ **Maternal, Child, Reproductive and Adolescent Health**

Bangladesh has an adolescent population of approximately 36 million which is more than one-fifth of the total population of Bangladesh is those between the ages of 10 and 19 years (BBS, 2015). This large cohort presents significant potential for the social and economic development of the country if we make the necessary investments to make them healthy and productive. The government has taken the Maternal, Child, Reproductive, and Adolescent Health Programme to improve the overall quality of life of this huge population especially, for the person with disabilities. The programme has been implemented by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare. There are 74.6 million beneficiaries with Tk 235 crore budget in the 2020-21 fiscal year for this programme. This programme belongs to the Human Development and Social Empowerment Cluster focusing on children and pregnant women in rural areas.

➤ **Clinical Contraception Services Delivery**

The objective of the programme is to promote a more effective method-mix CPR with increased share (20 per cent) / proportion of long-acting and permanent family planning methods and (iii) attaining replacement level fertility by 2016 at the earliest and its continuation; (ii) shifting contraceptive use patterns towards more effective longer-acting and permanent methods; (iii) to increase male participation in family planning especially for No-scalpel Vasectomy (NSV); (iv) to provides skill development training of service providers and quality of care of family planning methods and services through the Family Planning Clinical Supervision Team. (v) to reduce unmet needs from 17.6 to 09 per cent. (vi). to reduce the discontinuation rate of the FP method from 56 per cent to 20 per cent. (vii). to prevent early marriage, spacing of birth with establishing at the doorstep level (UH&FWC and community clinic) by the year 2016. (viii). to contribute to decreasing maternal mortality by preventing and spacing birth through LAPM services. (ix) to ensure contraceptive security of LAPM. The programme has been implemented by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare. There are 108.64 million beneficiaries with Tk 296 crore budget in the 2020-21 fiscal year for this programme. This programme belongs to the Human Development and Social Empowerment Cluster focusing on children and pregnant women in rural areas.

➤ **Family Planning Field Services Delivery**

The general objectives of the programme are to provide Family Planning and MCH-RH services for ensuring healthy life and family welfare and to facilitate the decline in fertility, maternal, infant, and child mortality and morbidity of the people of Bangladesh, especially the women, children, and the person with disabilities. Specific objectives: (1.) to reduce Total Fertility Rate (TFR). (2) to increase Contraceptive Prevalence Rate (CPR). (3) To reduce discontinuation/drop-out rate of temporary contraceptive methods (oral pill, injectables and condoms). (4)t to reduce the unmet need for contraceptives to the eligible couples. (5) to strengthen domiciliary services. (6) to provide adolescent reproductive health care services. (7) to reduce early marriage, adolescent pregnancy, and unsafe abortion. (8) to provide health and family planning services through satellite and community clinics. (9) to improve the status of the service in the hard to reach and low performing areas. (10) to facilitate better MCH-FP services in the urban areas for safe delivery. The programme has been implemented by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare. There are 54.662 million beneficiaries with Tk 512 crore budget in the 2020-21 fiscal year for this programme. This programme belongs to the Human Development and Social Empowerment Cluster and focusing on children and pregnant women in rural areas.

➤ **T.B., Leprosy, Communicable Non-communicable Disease**

The general objective both for TB and Leprosy Control programme is to reduce the TB morbidity, mortality and decrease transmission of infection until it is no longer a public health problem, and in Leprosy further

reduction of leprosy burden. Specific objectives of the Leprosy programme are i. to achieve the further reduction of Leprosy prevalence; ii. to achieve sub-national (District Level) Leprosy Elimination; iii. to reduce the grade 2 deformity rate to less than 5 per cent among the newly detected cases per year. The programme has been implemented by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare. There are 43.317 million beneficiaries with Tk 694.58 crore budget in the 2020-21 fiscal year for this programme. This programme belongs to the Human Development and Social Empowerment Cluster focusing on children and pregnant women in rural areas.

Programme Summary (2020-21)

Table 60: Programme Summary (2020-21) of Health Services Division

Sl.	Social Protection Programme	Thematic Cluster	Life Cycle	Beneficiary (Lakh)	Budget (Crore Taka)
1.	Essential Services Delivery & Community Based Health Care	Human Development and Social Empowerment	Covariate Risks	1300	1236.38
2.	Maternal, Neonatal, Child and Adolescent Health	Human Development and Social Empowerment	Pregnancy and Childhood	638.9	715.77
3.	National Nutrition Services	Human Development and Social Empowerment	Covariate Risks	2.1	142.5
4.	T.B., Leprosy, Communicable and Non-communicable Disease Control	Human Development and Social Empowerment	Covariate Risks	433.2	694.58

Also, the involvement of this Ministry is in the Human Development and Social Empowerment Cluster and from the Pregnancy and Childhood, and Covariate Risks life cycles, as shown in the following graphs:

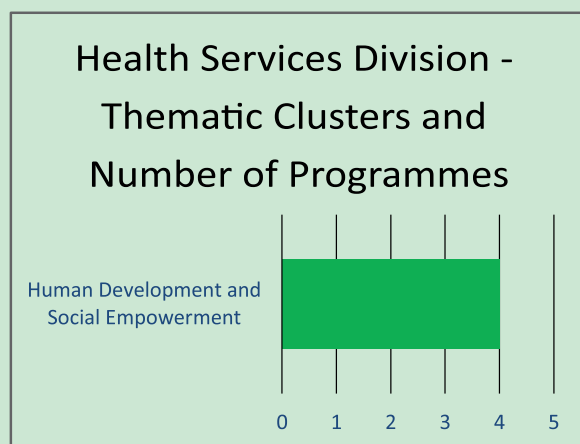


Figure 39: Thematic Cluster wise number of Programmes of Health Services Division

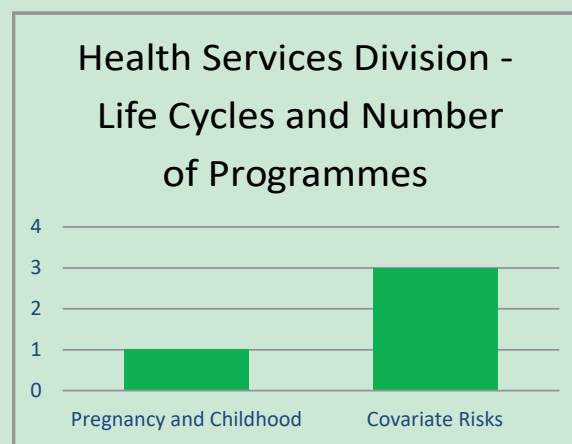


Figure 40: Life Cycle wise number of programmes of Health Services Division

Other Programmes

Child Development Centre (CDC) or as it is commonly known as Shishu Bikash Kendra (SBK) are multidisciplinary specialized service centres located in different medical college hospitals in Bangladesh catering to the need for providing diagnostic and therapeutic services for children with Autism and other NDDs. There are 15 CDCs in the country at present in medical college hospitals. 25 more CDCs are planned to be established in the next 4 years in medical colleges and district hospitals. The clinics emphasize development and psychological assessments of the children with Autism and NDDs and the follow-up visits

for ensuring functional improvement in motor, vision, hearing speech communication skills, cognitive and behavioural domains.

COVID-19 Interventions and Vaccination

Bangladesh began the administration of COVID-19 vaccines on 27 January 2021, inaugurated by Hon'ble Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina at Kurmitola General Hospital, focusing initially on a pilot programme for frontline workers, while mass vaccination started on 7 February 2021, the number of vaccination doses administered is updated daily on the COVID-19 dashboard. It was planned that 6 million doses would be administered in the first month, and a further 5 million the following month. An online registration portal was launched where citizens registered using their NID number. The registration age would be lowered to 35 years and then 30 years on 19 July 2021.

University vaccination or Univac was launched to vaccinate university students. Since the vaccination minimum age was reduced to 18, but many did not have NID to register at the main government vaccine website (www.surokkha.gov.bd) another website (www.univac.ugc.gov.bd) was launched to allow university students with birth certificates to register for the vaccine. On November 2nd, the campaign to vaccinate 12-to 17-year-olds in school started. They had to register through their schools to be vaccinated. Buster dose of COVID-19 vaccines was launched on 28 December 2021. Up to 30 December 2021, total number of COVID-19 vaccines used is 12,28,17,195.

Situation Analysis

Table 61: Situation Analysis of Health Services Division

Programme	NSSS Provision	Present Situation	Gaps
Maternity Insurance	The maternity insurance is to be integrated into the NSIS to be implemented by Financial Institutions Division. [Summary, 4.3.2, 4.3.3 of NSSS]		
Maternal Health Care	A child's health is intimately linked with the mother at the pregnancy stage. The government will build on the positive experiences of the Ma-ternal Health Voucher Scheme (MHVS) and expand coverage to all women who need this service, undertaking it in a phased manner. The Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MoHFW) will prepare a detailed implementation plan along with a specific timeline and detailed programme cost, for approval of the CMC. The MoHFW will coordinate supply-side interventions to ensure that the demand for the service financed through MHVS does not go unmet. [Para 4.3.2 of NSSS]		
Consolidate Smaller Programmes	The NSSS requires the merging or elimination of many small programmes. Any Ministry considering some of their minor programmes to be continued and scaled up will have to send proposals with justification. [Para 4.8 of NSSS]	Under the process of preparation.	To be reviewed.

Programme	NSSS Provision	Present Situation	Gaps
Improve targeting of beneficiaries	Implementing Ministries will be responsible for ensuring correct targeting and zero tolerance to pilferage. [Para 6.3.1 of NSSS]	Existing manuals are online and partially follow the BBS database.	Selection policies and manuals need to be updated and disseminated.
Grievance Redress System	Establishing an effective grievance redress so that all citizens have recourse to appeal decisions on selection and can notify the competent authorities about instances of misconduct and failures in the delivery of the promised benefit. [Para 6.3 of NSSS]	Recorded online. Service Centre /Call centre not yet set up. The grievance is redressed centrally by ministries; also, at the district level irrespective of online or written.	The GRS needs to be improved.
Develop Single Registry MIS	The government will establish a national Single Registry that is based on building scheme-specific MISs that communicate with each other. The Single Registry would be based on a national identity system of all Bangladeshi citizens. [Para 6.4 of NSSS]	Under preparation in BBS, apart from that social protection integrated MIS developed at the Finance Division taking MIS Data of 4 ministries. MIS linked for some programmes and others will require some time.	MIS needs to be developed with linkage with the central MIS of the Finance Division.
Digitization of cash transfer	To transform the Government to Person (G2P) payment systems so that they promote financial inclusivity and prevent leakages. [Para 6.5 of NSSS]	G2P modality has been finalized. E payment modalities are used. The plan is to cover all cash-based programmes.	
Enhance results-based M&E		M&E Framework has been developed, but the dashboard is not yet in place.	Systematic monitoring and evaluation need to be introduced.

Action Plan (2021-26)

To implement the reform proposals of the NSSS the following time-bound activities may be taken up.

Table 62: Action Plan of Health Services Division

Sl.	Objectives	Activities	Performance Indicators	Timeframe	Responsible Ministry	Shared Responsibility
1.	Maternal Health Care	Make a need assessment for additional coverage.	Study report submitted to the Cabinet Division.	June 2022	Health Services Division (HSD)	Medical Education and Family Welfare Division (MEFWD). MoWCA
		Continue increase of coverage by 10 per cent.	The number of beneficiaries increased.	July 2022 (continue next five years)		
		Coordinate similar programmes by other ministries.	Consultations are held regularly.	December 2023		
2.	Maternity Insurance	Coordinate with FID to incorporate maternity insurance in the NSIS.	Information supplied.	September 2024	HSD	MEFWD, FID
3.	Consolidate Smaller Programme memes	Prepare a list of programmes to be continued.	List sent to Cabinet Division (CD).	July 2021	HSD	MEFWD, CD
		Make a list of programmes to be scaled up.	List sent to CD.	July 2021	HSD	MEFWD, CD
		Make a list of programmes to be phased out.	List sent to CD.	July 2021	HSD	MEFWD, CD
		Review the consolidation proposals.	Review prepared.	December 2022	HSD	CD
4.	Improve targeting of beneficiaries	Update manual for selection procedures and disseminate it to people.	Circular issued.	December 2023	HSD	
		Publish the list of beneficiaries online to make it transparent.	Instruction is given to field offices.	Continuous	HSD	
		Follow the BBS database when prepared.	Instruction given.	January 2023	HSD	
5.	Grievance Redress System	Make arrangements for recording complaints at the field level.	Instruction issued.	Continuous	HSD	
		Create public awareness about the facility of central GRS of the Cabinet Division.	Public meetings held in all Upazilas.	By July 2023	HSD	

Sl.	Objectives	Activities	Performance Indicators	Timeframe	Responsible Ministry	Shared Responsibility
6.	Develop Single Registry MIS	Create online-based MIS for all programmes.	MIS digitized for all programmes.	January 2024	HSD	
		Make the MIS accessible to relevant departments.	Inter-Departmental arrangement established.	July 2024	HSD	
		Link MIS with cash dis-bursement.	MIS is linked with the financial management database of the Finance Division (SPBMU MIS).	December 2024	HSD	
7.	Digitization of cash transfer	Pilot different modalities of G2P.	Pilot completed.	December 2025	HSD	
		Roll out the appropriate format of G2P.	G2P rolled out for all programmes.	December 2025	HSD	
8.	Enhance results-based M&E	Digitize monitoring of programmes.	Dashboard established.	July 2025	HSD	
		Conduct mid-term and end-term evaluation of programmes.	Programmes evaluated regularly.	Continuous	HSD	
		CODI and Third-Party Evaluation of top/largest social security programmes.	Programmes evaluated regularly.	Continuous	Ministry of Expatriates' Welfare and Overseas Employment (MoEWOE)	

Key Actions of Health Services Division

- Maternal Health Care: Make a need assessment for additional coverage and increase the coverage by 10 percent.
- Coordinate similar programmes by other ministries.
- Coordinate with FID to incorporate maternity insurance in the NSIS.



Prime Minister's Office

**Action Plan (2021-26) Implementation of
National Social Security Strategy (NSSS) of Bangladesh**



*Action Plan of the Prime Minister's
Office*

Action Plan (2021-26) for Implementation of National Social Security Strategy (NSSS) of Bangladesh

Prime Minister's Office (PMO)

The Prime Minister's Office (PMO) is playing the coordinating role for the establishment of Digital Bangladesh. Since, the Government is committed to ensuring efficiency, transparency, accountability and enhancing the capacity of ICT in all spheres of government including public administration in order to strengthen democratic processes and governance, The Prime Minister's Office is playing a significant role in establishing the Sonar Bangla envisioned by the Father of the nation.

Vision

To establish digital Bangladesh through social economic and human resource development.

Mission

Coordination of national programmes to establish Digital Bangladesh, creation of an investment-friendly environment and implementation of programmes for socio-economic and human resource development to improve the living standards of the marginalized segment of the population.

Organizational Overview

The Prime Minister's Office strives to ensure the implementation of the 10 initiatives of the Honorable Prime Minister. The initiatives include Amar Bari Amar Khamar, Ashrayan, Digital Bangladesh, Education Assistance Programme, Women Empowerment, Electricity for all, Community Clinic Development, Social Security Programme, Investment Development and Environmental Protection. These initiatives play a pivotal role in realizing the NSSS. Among these initiatives, Ashrayan is directly implemented by PMO. Moreover, the development programme for the small ethnic groups of the plain land is also carried out by PMO. Among the subordinate offices of PMO, NGO Affairs Bureau (NGOAB) and National Skills Development Authority (NSDA) have the major stakes related to NSSS implementation.

➡ The NGO Affairs Bureau (NGOAB):

The NGOAB is one of the most vital organizations under the Prime Minister's Office, having critical roles of regulating the NGOs. As NSSS has given a number of responsibilities to the NGOs, the Bureau is pivotal to coordinate with major NGOs for complying with the provisions of the NSSS. NGOAB was established in 1990 through an administrative order of the Government. Its prime objective is to provide one-stop service to the NGOs operating with foreign assistance and registered under the Foreign Donations (Voluntary Activities) Regulation Ordinance, 1978. In addition, it facilitates the activities of the NGOs in the country and ensures their accountability to the state and thereby to the people of the country. Initially, it was located in the Public Division of the President's Secretariat and later on, in the Cabinet Division. In 1991, with the re-introduction of the parliamentary form of government, the NGOAB was placed under the Prime Minister's Office as a regulatory body of the NGOs. The Bureau has no field office, therefore heavily rely on Deputy Commissioners and Upazila Nirbahi Officers (UNO) for monitoring the NGO project/ program activities at the field level. Therefore, the functional dependence of the NGOAB on the field administration

entails close coordination between PMO and the Cabinet Division, especially for the implementation of the relevant provisions of the NSSS.

➡ **National Skills Development Authority (NSDA):**

NSDA was established under the Prime Minister's Office in 2019. The Authority is working to create a skilled labour force through planning and coordination of all skills development activities on the basis of national and international labour market demand. In order to cope with the increasing demand for the skilled labour force to achieve the Vision 2041 and to sustain the competition in the era of the fourth industrial revolution (4IR), NSDA has been mandated to create a congenial environment to provide skill training besides conventional teachings to the juvenile population. To do so the Authority is trying to unify the skill-training curricula as well as working to establish competency standard, evaluation and certification criteria.

Social Security Programmes

➡ **Lump-Sum Provision for Development of Special Areas (Except Hill Tracts):**

It is mandated by Article 23A that the Government would take measures for protecting the unique local culture and tradition of the tribes, minor races, ethnic sects and communities. For the small ethnic groups of the Hill Tracts, a separate ministry has been established. However, the programme for the development and welfare of the small minorities of the plainland is being implemented by the Prime Minister's Office. In FY 2020-21 the budget allocation for this programme was 80 crores. This fund was distributed to 207 Upazilas of 46 districts for house construction, education stipend, bicycle purchase and training programmes. Moreover, 2500 students from ethnic groups have received digitally taka 25000 each. This programme belongs to the food security & disaster assistance Cluster, responds to covariate risks in lifecycle framework and programme is implemented in rural areas.

➡ **Ashrayan Project:**

On 19 May 1997, the Cox's Bazar and the nearby area was severely hit by cyclones and many inhabitants become homeless. The then Hon'ble Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina visited that area on 20 May and witnessing the distressing situation, she immediately instructed to rehabilitate the distraught population. Against this backdrop, the Ashrayan Project came into being in 1997. Since then, this project has been implemented in three phases---the Ashrayan Project (1997-2002), Ashrayan Project (Phase-2) (2002-2010) and Ashrayan-2 Project (2010-2023). Till date, a total of 319140 families have been rehabilitated by the Ashrayan Project out of which 213227 families have been provided by Ashrayan-2 Project. A significant characteristic of this project is that the husband and wife are given combined ownership of land and house which translates into women empowerment and gender equity. Moreover, PMO has Ashrayan-3 Project (2017-2022) which is being implemented by Bangladesh Navy. This project is for constructing housing facilities for 103200 number of Forcefully Displaced Myanmar Nationals (FDMN) in Bhasanchar of Hatia Upazila in Noakhali district. Further to that, there is Khurushkul Special Ashrayan Project to rehabilitate the climate refugees and the displaced families due to the construction of Cox's Bazar Airport. As of now, 600 families have been rehabilitated in 20 five-storied buildings. This project has a target to construct a total of 139 five-storied buildings to accommodate 4448 families. All the Ashrayan projects are completely funded by the Government of Bangladesh. This programme belongs to the Food security & disaster assistance cluster, tackles covariate risks in life cycle framework, and is being implemented in rural areas.

Programme Summary

Social Protection Programme	Thematic Cluster	Life Cycle	Beneficiary (Lakh)	Budget (Crore Taka)
Ashrayan- 2 & 3 and Khurushkul Special Asrayan Project	Food Security and Disaster Assistance	Covariate Risks	10.65	2799.74 (Includes 1246.07 from MoDMR and 53.67 from M/O Land for Ashrayan-2 Project)
Lump Provision for Development of Special Areas (Except Chittagong Hill Tracts)	Food Security and Disaster Assistance	Covariate Risks	0.34	80

The social security budget of the Prime Minister's Office is 2879.74 crore taka which is equivalent of the around 3.00% of the total social security budget, and this office has 2 regular programmes out of 119 programmes as per the list of the Finance Division. This is represented graphically in the following two pie charts.

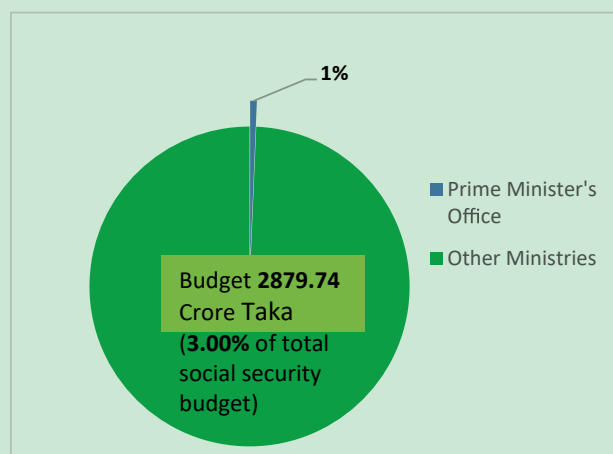


Figure 41: Share of Social Security Budget of PMO

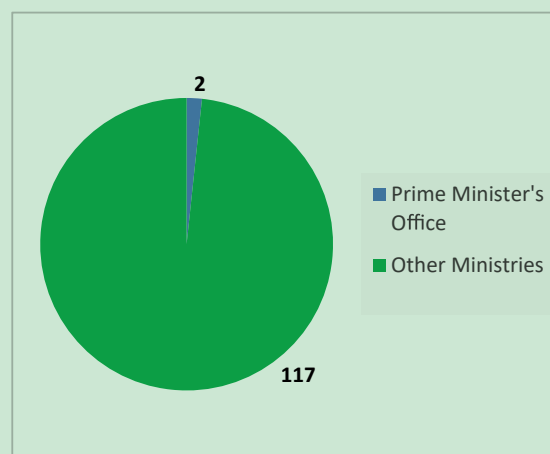


Figure 42: Share of Number of Social Security Programmes of PMO

The regular programmes of the Prime Minister's Office fall within the Food Security and Disaster Assistance Cluster. Neither of the programmes represents any particular lifecycle stage, rather are focused on covariate risks encompassing people of all age groups. This is shown in the following graphs:

Legal Framework

- Article 23A of the Constitution of Bangladesh
- The Foreign Donations (Voluntary Activities) Regulation Act, 2016

Situation Analysis:

Table 63: Situation Analysis of PMO

Programme Name	NSSS Provision	Present Situation	Gaps
Streamline Social Security Initiatives of NGOs	The partnership between Government and NGOs has yielded positive results in poverty reduction and human development. The Government will continue and, where necessary, deepen this partnership in the area of delivering Social Security services and helping redress grievances [Para 6.8 of NSSS] Collaborate with donors and NGOs to pilot focused training programmes to equip the youth with skills that would help them to access the labour market [Para 4.3.2 of NSSS] Special efforts will be needed to reach many of the members of excluded group. It will require relying on local government and NGOs for identifying potential beneficiaries [Para 4.4 of NSSS]	The NGOs are involved in various social security programmes funded by the development partners and even by the government. Their social security activities are being coordinated and monitored by the NGO Affairs Bureau at the central level and by District and Upazila administration at the field level. However, the interventions of NGOs in social security usually remains un-distinguished and diluted with their other development initiatives. Therefore, the total actual contribution of the NGOs in social security remains unidentified. There are also instances of overlapping programmes with the government. Therefore, the social security initiatives of the NGO need to be separately taken care of.	The collaboration between the government and the NGOs must be maintained. Funds, both from the local and overseas sources, of NGOs, spent in social security programmes need to be accounted for separately from their other programmes. The role of the NGOs in identifying social security beneficiaries and supporting the GRS needs to be strengthened.
Welfare of the Ethnic Minorities	There are approximately forty-five ethnic minority communities living both in the hill regions and in the plain lands. One-third of them live in CHT while the rest of them live in other districts. Households living below lower and upper poverty lines are 78 per cent and 89 per cent respectively among people of ethnic communities. [Para 2.3.2 of NSSS]	According to a census of 2011, there are around 10 million people of ethnic minorities living in plain lands and the majority of them live below the poverty line. Prime Minister's Office has programmes for the development and welfare of the small minorities of the plainland. The programme has 0.34 lakh beneficiaries with BDT 80 crore budget in the 2020-21 fiscal year. Compared to the number of potential beneficiaries, the coverage is inadequate.	Coverage of the programmes needs to be scaled up.

Programme Name	NSSS Provision	Present Situation	Gaps
Providing Shelters to the Homeless People	Special programmes tailored to the special needs of the socially excluded groups will be implemented, including homeless people [Para 4.4 of NSSS]	The Ashrayan-2 Project at Prime Minister's Office has been providing homes and 2 decimals of land to the homeless and landless people, particularly in the rural areas. The Khurushkul Special Ashrayan Project has a target to complete 139 five-storied buildings in Cox's Bazar for 250-thousand homeless families. Moreover, the Ashrayan-3 Project is being implemented to give shelter to the FDMNs in Bhashanchar which indirectly helps to ensure social security in the receiving community of the Cox's Bazar. There are 10.65 lakh beneficiaries with BDT 2879.74 crore budget in 2020-21 fiscal year for these Ashrayan Projects which includes financing to Ashrayan-2 Project from the budgets of the Ministry of Disaster Management and Relief (Tk 1246.07 crores) and from CVRP Project of Ministry of Land (Tk 53.67 crores). In addition to implementing housing programmes for the poor, the Prime Minister's Office also coordinates with the Ministry of Disaster and Relief and the Ministry of Land in implementing their programmes for people having no land and shelters.	Needs to sustain the ongoing initiatives of building the handing over the homes to the people. Needs to strengthen coordination with other ministries having similar programmes.

Action Plan (2020-21 up to 2025-2026)

In order to implement the reform proposals of the NSSS the following time bound activities may be taken up.

Table 64: Action Plan of PMO

No.	Objectives	Activities	Performance Indicators	Timeframe	Responsible Ministry	Shared Responsibility
1.	Streamline Social Security Initiatives of NGOs	Make formal arrangements for keeping account of social security accounting of NGOs	NGO spending on Social Security prepared	Annually from December 2023 Onward	PMO; NGO Affairs Bureau	Cabinet Division
		Coordinate social security programmes between NGOs and the Government	GO-NGO Coordination enhanced at the central level	Continuous	PMO	Cabinet Division
			NGOs instructed and monitored for coordination with field administration	Continuous		
2.	Scale-up housing programmes for the landless people	Increase coverage of the programmes	2 Lakh beneficiaries covered	Annually	PMO	Ministry of Land; MODMR
3.	Social Empowerment of Ethnic Minorities of Plain Land	Extend the existing programme	Coverage increased by 10% every year	Continuous	PMO	Ministry of Social Welfare

Key Actions of the Prime Minister's Office (PMO)

- Streamline Social Security Initiatives of NGOs
- Scale up housing programmes for the landless people
- Social Empowerment of Ethnic Minorities of Plain Land



Cabinet Division

Government of the People's
Republic of Bangladesh



Cabinet Division

**Action Plan (2021-26) Implementation of
National Social Security Strategy (NSSS) of Bangladesh**



Action Plan of the Cabinet Division

Action Plan (2021-26) for Implementation of National Social Security Strategy (NSSS) of Bangladesh

Cabinet Division

The Cabinet Division (previously Ministry of Cabinet Affairs) was established in 1972 to provide secretarial assistance to the government. In pursuance of a Presidential decision, the Cabinet Division was placed under the President's Office in 1975, and, later, it was brought back to the Ministry of Cabinet Affairs. The Cabinet Division is the apex body of the Government, primarily responsible for the management of the cabinet affairs of the government along with coordination across ministries/divisions.

The supervision and management of different administrative issues of the field administration are also within the purview of the job description of this division. This division has been also playing vital roles in administrative reforms and reinforcing good governance by implementing different strategies and tools like Annual Performance Agreement (APA), Grievance Redress System (GRS), National Integrity Strategy (NIS), and National Social Security Strategy (NSSS), etc. The Cabinet Division coordinates and monitors the implementation of the social security system of the country.

Vision

The Vision of the Cabinet Division is to enhance overall good governance in the country.

Mission

The NSSS mission of the Cabinet Division is to coordinate and oversee the implementation of a lifecycle-based comprehensive social security system.

NSSS objectives

The major objective of the Cabinet Division is to mobilize the Central Management Committee (CMC) on Social Security to streamline the country's social security system. Facilitating the establishment of a modern and efficient delivery mechanism of social benefits is another important objective of this Division.

Challenges

The main challenge for the Cabinet Division is to establish coordination among line ministries to establish an inclusive social security system by consolidating the fragmented and discordant social security schemes along with a lifecycle framework.

Organizational Overview

The Cabinet Division has four wings along with an administrative unit called Coordination and Reforms Unit comprising two additional wings. The overall coordination and monitoring of social security programmes, especially the implementation of the NSSS is within the purview of the Coordination Wing under the Coordination and Reforms Unit. The Field Administration Wing of the Cabinet Division directly controls offices of the field administration as follows:

➞ **Offices of Divisional Commissioner**

There are eight administrative divisions in the country each headed by a divisional commissioner who is a senior-level civil servant. The divisional commissioners coordinate and control the administrative affairs of the divisional as well as district-level offices of various departments. The offices of the divisional commissioners are regarded as important supportive organs of the Cabinet Division for implementing government policies and programmes at the field levels. The Divisional Commissioners are the heads of the Divisional Management Committee (DivMC) on Social Security for supervision and coordination of social protection programmes in the respective divisions.

➞ **Offices of Deputy Commissioners**

The Deputy Commissioners represent the government at the administrative levels of the districts. Under direct control and supervision of divisional commissioners, the deputy commissioners coordinate and supervise activities of different departments in the districts. Deputy commissioners are heads of the District Management Committee (DMC) on Social Security at the district levels. There are 64 districts distributed under 8 divisional administrations.

➞ **Upazila Parishads**

An Upazila Parishad or council is a tier of the local government system of the country headed by elected representatives. However, the Upazila Parishads have an executive officer (Upazila Nirbahi Officer – UNO) from the Bangladesh Civil Service (Administration) Cadre, who serves as the representative of the central government reporting to the deputy commissioners. The UNOs are very important officials for social protection implementation at the field level as they lead the Upazila Management Committees (UMC) on Social Security. In Bangladesh, there are 492 Upazilas controlling 4554 Union Parishads, the lowest tier of local government.

Social Security programmes

➞ **Social Security Policy Support (SSPS) Programme**

This project, with a budget of Tk 61 crore and with a duration of 2014 to 2023 has been supporting the Cabinet Division and the GED for the implementation of the National Social Security Strategy (NSSS) of Bangladesh by undertaking various research, consultations, and training. This project is financed by UNDP, DFID, and DFAT. Mentionable that, the project supported the formulation of the NSSS and its Action Plans.

The overall objective of the SSPS Programme is to support the Cabinet Division, GED and different line ministries in the implementation of the NSSS. The scope of the NSSS being too wide, the SSPS has concentrated its focus on the following indicators:

Table 65: Action Plan of Social Security Policy Support (SSPS) Programme

Outcome/Output	Indicators	Present Situation
Outcome 1: Bangladesh established the systems of universal pension, persons with disability, and social insurance schemes, and shocks, in line with GoB's commitment	1.1 By 2025, the government has significantly increased coverage of old age persons and persons with disability by adopting a universal approach (sex and age disaggregated data)	Old age and Persons with Disabilities are not universal OA coverage: 4.4m (2019) Persons with Disabilities coverage: 1.8m (2019)
	1.2 By 2025, the government has adopted gender and disability inclusive NSIS	NSIS feasibility assessment draft exists
	1.3 By 2025, NSSS 2026+ adopted a gender and disability responsive universal social security approach	NSSS Mid-Term Review (MTR) is available
Outcome 2: Governance systems strengthened and made inclusive to build the case for and manage an inclusive, lifecycle social security	2.1 Dedicated NSSS CMC sub-committee (headed by Cabinet Secretary) activated with a fit for purpose composition and scope for efficient implementation of reforms plans	Government is in agreement to activate the committee with support from the project
	2.2 Percentage of Old Age Allowance and Persons with Disability Allowance expenditure against GDP	2018-19 OAA (0.095%) Persons with Disabilities (0.033%)
Output 1: By 2024, 3 policy proposals (OAA, Persons with Disabilities, NSIS) and draft NSSS 2026+ tabled for Govt. approval	1.1 By 2024, Govt. has gender-responsive universal old age and persons with disability policy proposals	Old Age Policy 2013; Disability Policy 2015 exist with a targeted approach
	1.2 By 2024, the existence of gender and disability responsive National Social Insurance Scheme (NSIS) proposal	Draft NSIS Feasibility Study exists
	1.3 Existence of COVID-19 social protection policy responses focusing on disabled individuals and marginalized groups including urban poor and climate-responsive SP	COVID-19 new cases trending upward in Bangladesh and government in discussion stages on various policy options
Output 2: Research and pilot generated evidence available to and utilized by policymakers and other stakeholders	2.1 Incorporation of research recommendations into social protection policy (Persons with Disabilities accessing SP, targeting and selection, examination of options for expanding the fiscal space for universal old age, persons with disability, and social insurance, NID documentation)	Not initiated
	2.2 Availability, incorporation into policy, and dissemination of case study for developing an evidence base for universal old age and persons with disability SP policies in Bangladesh	Absence of Bangladesh specific evidence based on universal old age and persons with disability social protection

Outcome/Output	Indicators	Present Situation
Output 3: Gender-responsive policy advice and accountability tools are made available to the line ministries to demonstrate their accountability to social protection reforms	3.1 Functional and utilized web-based social protection dashboard for improved monitoring of social protection reforms incorporated in the Annual Performance Agreement (APA)	Government monitoring of social protection reforms is manual and does not cover all areas of reform performance
	3.2 Strengthened key line ministries (Cabinet Division, GED, MoSW, MoF, MoLE) capacity for gender-responsive SP decision making	Gender Strategy and Action Plan exists; however, line ministries have limited understanding of how to implement gender-responsive SP reforms
	3.3 Increase knowledge about reform priorities of 5 key line ministries (Cabinet Division, GED, MoSW, MoF, MoLE) with evidence of support from senior leadership to implement them	Limited knowledge among key line ministries about key reform issues, specifically exclusion, social insurance, gender main responsiveness, and Persons with Disabilities
Output 4: Broadened knowledge base and influence of NGOs working for marginalized groups and PWD	4.1 Influence of non-state actors working for marginalized and excluded groups, including persons with disabilities in the SP decision-making	DPOs are not included in the committees

➤ Promoting Nutrition-Sensitive Social Security Programmes (PNSSSP)

The Cabinet Division has launched the project in January 2019 with technical assistance from WFP to enhance nutrition outcomes of the relevant social security programmes through strengthening coordination amongst line ministries providing policy guidance, creating evidence and promoting common learning.

➤ Support to the Central Management Committee's (CMC) policy Guidance on Child Component of the NSSS

The project has been taken by the Cabinet Division to provide technical support to the Central Management Committee (CMC) to enhance policy environment and sub-national and national systems for the realization of child rights, with a focus on equity and resilience, guided by knowledge and evidence. The project duration is from January 2018 to December 2021. This project is supported by UNICEF with a total budget of Tk 08 crore.

Programme Summary (2020-21)

Table 66: Programme Summary (2020-21) of the Cabinet Division

Programme	Thematic Cluster	Life Cycle	Beneficiary (Lakh)	Budget (Crore Taka)
Promoting Nutrition-Sensitive Social Security & Policy Support Programme	Human Development and Social Empowerment	Covariate Risks	-	1.36

Other Programmes

➤ EU Budget Support for Implementation of NSSS

The European Union has agreed to provide 150 million euros as budget support to the government of Bangladesh with some tranche conditions for reforming social protection programmes of the country

in line with the NSSS and its Action Plans. A team of ECORYS has been hired by the EU to support the Cabinet Division and the Finance Division in implementing some of the social security reform agenda of the government like consolidation of VWB, supports to the garment's workers, support in creating single registry MIS, etc.

Legal Framework

- The Constitution of Bangladesh
- The National Social Security Strategy (NSSS) of Bangladesh
- Guidelines for Annual Performance Agreement
- Guidelines for GRS
- The National Integrity Strategy (NIS)
- Circulars on the formulation of CMC, Thematic Cluster Committees, DivMC, DMC, and UMC
- The Rules of Business, 1996

Situation Analysis

Table 67: Situation Analysis of the Cabinet Division

Programme Name	NSSS Provision	Present Situation	Gaps
Strengthening the Central Management Committee (CMC) on Social Security Programmes	The CMC would ensure coordination and supervision of programmes beyond 2026. The Ministry of Social Welfare will take over the major responsibilities of the lifecycle programme. The CMC will continue the coordination of different issues between ministries. [Figure 6.1, 6.3.1 of NSSS]	The CMC has already been reconstituted, incorporating the additional responsibilities as stipulated in the NSSS.	Regular meetings of the CMC will be necessary.
Establishing and operationalizing the thematic clusters	The NSSS recommends that a thematic approach to social security will be introduced. There will be five thematic clusters of ministries to coordinate five categories of social security programmes. The five clusters are a) Social Allowance, b) Food Security and Disaster Assistance, c) Social Insurance, d) Labour/ Livelihood Intervention, and e) Human Development and Social Empowerment. [Figure 6.1, 6.3.1 of NSSS]	As per the provision of the NSSS, the thematic clusters have been formed by the Cabinet Division by a gazette notification. The clusters are convening meetings to coordinate different issues. However, it was found that the cluster coordinating ministries still have scopes to further mobilize these committees and ensure better understanding.	An institutional framework for regular follow-up of the activities of clusters needs to be put in place. Further clarification of the guidelines of the thematic clusters may need to be provided in the present NSSS Action Plans. The formation of the cluster committees may need to be revised.

Programme Name	NSSS Provision	Present Situation	Gaps
Coordination of the Field Committees on social security	In line with current practice, the Divisional Commissioner, Deputy Commissioner, and Upazila Nirbahi Officer (UNO) will play a vital role in coordinating social security programmes at the field level. The Cabinet Division, being the controlling authority of these offices, is to provide guidance and monitor activities of these offices. [Figure 6.1, 6.3.1 of NSSS]	Three committees have been formulated for the management of the field-level social security programmes. These are Divisional Management Committees (DivMC), District Management Committees (DMC), and Upazila Management Committees (UMC) on Social Security. These committees have been given vital responsibilities in implementing the NSSS at the grassroots level and providing feedback to the CMC for policy reforms. However, it was found that officers at the field-level change very frequently creating an interruption in the smooth functioning of the committees. Also, misunderstanding about the terms of reference and significance of the committees is not rare.	The field-level committees need to be operationalized in full swing. Orientation and training programmes for the relevant officials will have to be taken up.
Engagement with Development Partners and NGOs on social protection	The NSSS recalls the contribution of the Development Partners and the NGOs in reforming and strengthening social security programmes in Bangladesh. The role of DPs was critical in organizing an international seminar on social security leading to the formulation of the NSSS. The NGOs have been partners with the government in implementing the social security programmes, especially the graduation approach. Therefore, the importance of engagement with the DPs and NGOs is underscored in the NSSS. [Para 6.7, 6.8 of NSSS]	The Development Partners (DPs) and the NGOs have been working in close collaboration with the government for strengthening the country's social security programmes. The DPs have been providing technical assistance as well as budget supports for the implementation of the NSSS. The NGOs are implementing social security programmes both independently and in collaboration with the Government. The DPs and NGOs participated in different dialogues and conferences on social security organized by the Cabinet Division.	The modality of the collaboration with development partners and NGOs may need to be further strengthened and brought under some regular arrangement.

Programme Name	NSSS Provision	Present Situation	Gaps
Single Registry MIS	The GED will review the MISs of different ministries and formulate an appropriate structure of Single Registry MIS. The Cabinet Division will examine the proposal and take measures to operationalize it. Before the integrated system can be developed the line ministries will continue digitizing their MISs according to their needs. [Figure 6.1, 6.3.1 of NSSS]	The GED is working on it. The Cabinet Division will coordinate and facilitate the process of formulating the framework of Single Registry MIS.	A framework of Single Registry MIS needs to be prepared.
Consolidation of smaller programmes	The line ministries will send their business cases for continuing their small-scale programmes or send proposals for consolidation or phasing them out. The GED will examine these proposals and send them to the Cabinet Division for decision. The Cabinet Division will examine the consolidation proposals and give a decision.	The Cabinet Division will act upon receiving proposals from GED.	The Cabinet Division needs to assist the GED in obtaining proposals from line ministries.
Strengthen Grievance Redress System (GRS)	The Ministries will have their grievance mechanisms for addressing grievances in targeting and delivery of benefits. The Cabinet Division will strengthen the central and integrated system of grievance redress. [Figure 6.1, 6.3.1 of NSSS]	The Cabinet Division has a centralized online system of grievance redress mechanisms. To strengthen the GRS, a situation analysis was conducted by the Cabinet Division with support from the SSPS programmes. This led to the formulation of an upgraded GRS system. The NSSS suggests that the GRS may be utilized for reducing exclusion errors in social security. In this regard, pilot testing has been conducted at Kurigram to sensitize people so that the GRS is more frequently utilized for strengthening the governance of social security programmes.	The piloting of GRS sensitization programmes for the social security expectant needs to be rolled in different districts.

Programme Name	NSSS Provision	Present Situation	Gaps
NSSS Action Plan formulation	The Cabinet Division will be the approving authority of social security policy and reforms related with the social security system. The Cabinet Division will be responsible for the development of the comprehensive Action/ Implementation Plan of NSSS based on the plans submitted by the individual ministries. [Figure 6.1, 6.3.1 of NSSS]	The Cabinet Division formulated the first phase of the NSSS Action Plan which comes to an end in June 2021. Building upon the experience of this, the Cabinet Division is set to prepare the second phase of the NSSS Action Plan with the participation of different ministries/divisions. The NSSS Action Plan Sub-Committee headed by the Secretary, Coordination, and Reforms of the Cabinet Division has been working on finalizing the next phase of the NSSS Action Plan.	The Action Plan of the second phase needs to be finalized and approved by the CMC. The implementation of the Action Plan will need to be closely monitored and supervised.

Action Plan (2021-26)

To implement the reform proposals of the NSSS the following time-bound activities may be taken up.

Table 68: Action Plan of the Cabinet Division

Sl.	Objectives	Activities	Performance Indicators	Timeframe	Responsible Ministry	Shared Responsibility
1.	Strengthening the coordination of social security programme implementation	Organize regular meetings of the CMC.	At least two meetings are organized per year.	Continuous	Cabinet Division	Line ministries and divisions
		Follow up on the implementation progress of the CMC decisions.	Progress reviewed regularly by the CMC and the Focal Point coordination meetings.	Continuous	Cabinet Division	Line ministries and divisions
2.	Activating dedicated NSSS CMC subcommittee (headed by Cabinet Secretary) activated	Committee activated with agreed ToR, the right composition, and scope of work. Decisions on 1st MTR findings and recommendation.	Committee activated and Decisions are taken on MTR findings and recommendations	December 2020	Cabinet Division	GED, MoSW, MoF, MoLE, CMC, CMC subcommittee
		Committee agrees on a set of prioritized action plans based on the reforms action plan by 38-line ministries	Action Plan approved and published	December 2021	Cabinet Division	

Sl.	Objectives	Activities	Performance Indicators	Timeframe	Responsible Ministry	Shared Responsibility
		Integration of SP reforms plan in the Annual Performance Agreement (APA)	SP reforms plan integration to APA	December 2022	Cabinet Division	
		Oversee the implementation of the reforms action plans as in the APA by commissioning the 2nd MTR	Commissioning of the 2nd MTR	December 2023	Cabinet Division	
		Oversee the implementation of the reforms action plans as in the APA Decisions on 2nd MTR findings and recommendation	Satisfactory performance according to APA	December 2024	Cabinet Division	
		The final NSSS Evaluation shows significant reforms progress	Satisfactory performance according to APA	December 2025	Cabinet Division	
2.	Activating thematic cluster committees	Capacity building of the thematic clusters.	Workshops or training programmes organized on thematic clusters.	At least 2 training Programmes each year.	Cabinet Division	Line ministries.
3.	Vitalizing Divisional, District, and Upazila Social Security Management Committees	Strengthen and operationalize the field-level management committees.	Training programmes are organized for strengthening the DivMC, DMC, and the UMC.	At least 10 districts every year.	Cabinet Division	
4.	Engagement with development partners and the NGOs	Organize dialogues and conferences with DPs and NGOs.	Dialogues and conferences are organized at least 1 every year.	Continuous	Cabinet Division	GED

Sl.	Objectives	Activities	Performance Indicators	Timeframe	Responsible Ministry	Shared Responsibility
5.	Single Registry MIS	Support the ministries in updating the programme MISs and link those with the central MIS of SPBMU and iBAS++ of the Finance Division.	At least 40 per cent of Programmes linked with central MIS	June 2022	Cabinet Division	Finance Division/ GED
			At least 70 per cent of programmes are linked with central MIS.	June 2024		
			At least 90 per cent of programmes are linked with central MIS.	June 2026		
6.	Consolidation of small-scale programmes	Collect proposals from line ministries.	Proposals received.	June 2022	Cabinet Division	GED and all line ministries
		Implement the consolidation as approved by CMC.	Programmes consolidated.	As per the timeline to be set by CMC	Cabinet Division	All line ministries
7.	Roll out GRS for social security governance	Capacity building of both demand and supply sides.	Sensitization workshops organized.	4-5 districts every year	Cabinet Division	Field Administration
8.	Monitoring and Evaluation	To review M&E reports of line ministries.	M&E report reviewed.	Continuous	Cabinet Division	IMED, GED, Line Ministries
		CODI and Third-Party Evaluation of top/largest social security programmes.	Programmes evaluated regularly.	Continuous	Cabinet Division	GED
9.	NSSS Action Plan of the Second Phase	Complete the NSSS Action Plan.	Drafting of the NSSS Action Plan completed and submitted in the CMC.	June 2021	Cabinet Division	Line Ministries/ Divisions
			The NSSS Action Plan of the Second Phase is printed and launched.	December 2021		
		Monitoring the implementation progress of the NSSS Action Plan.	Mid-term progress report prepared.	December 2023		
			Final Progress report prepared.	December 2025		

Key Actions of the Cabinet Division

- Strengthen the coordination of social security programme implementation.
- Integration of SP reforms plan in the Annual Performance Agreement (APA).
- Capacity building of the thematic clusters.
- Roll out GRS for social security governance.
- Complete the formulation of the NSSS Action Plan of the second phase and monitor its implementation progress.
- Strengthen and operationalize the field-level social security management committees.
- Organize dialogues and conferences with DPs and NGOs.



NSSS Action Plan, Phase - II (2021-26)



Ministry of Expatriates' Welfare and Overseas Employment

**Action Plan (2021-26) Implementation of
National Social Security Strategy (NSSS) of Bangladesh**



*Action Plan of Ministry of
Expatriates' Welfare and Overseas
Employment*

Action Plan (2021-26) for Implementation of National Social Security Strategy (NSSS) of Bangladesh

Ministry of Expatriates' Welfare and Overseas Employment

The Ministry of Expatriates' Welfare and Overseas Employment (MoEWOE) is responsible for the welfare of migrant workers and their families. It is also responsible for skills development and facilitating overseas employment which is a very important aspect of the socio-economic life of Bangladesh. It not only reduces unemployment but also enriches the country's economy, with increased remittance inflow. Employment empowers migrant workers, especially female migrant workers, and upgrades migrant workers' families economically and socially. Thus, the Ministry plays a very crucial supportive role in enhancing social security for the citizens of the country as envisaged in the NSSS. In the days to come, the role of the MoEWOE in implementing the NSSS is likely to be further enhanced.

Vision

The Vision of the Ministry is "socio-economic development of the country through expanding overseas employment opportunities, ensuring safe migration, protecting the rights of migrant workers and enhancing welfare for migrant workers and their families".

Mission

To achieve the vision, the Ministry has the mission of "Development of migration management to create a skilled workforce through training commensurate with the demands of the global labour markets, enhancement of opportunities for overseas employment, protection of the rights and interests of migrant workers, enhancement of the welfare of migrant workers and their families and ensuring of safe and orderly migration".

NSSS objectives

The NSSS objectives of the Ministry are to explore overseas employment opportunities for the aspirant migrants, develop skills, protection of the rights and interests of migrant workers, and ensure of welfare and social security of migrant workers and their families.

Challenges

Every year a huge number of working people including males and females join our job market. Bangladesh's economy cannot accommodate all of them. Besides, a good number of aspirant migrants do not have the appropriate skills required for global labour markets. Therefore, mobilizing the young eligible people towards the skills development centres to receive the right skills, aligning the skills development programme with the demand of the overseas market, opening new markets for the aspirant migrants as well as new market segments of the traditional markets, invisible activities of the intermediaries in migration management, inadequate organizational capacity for implementing the reintegration and other

welfare programmes for the returnee migrants and their family members are the main challenges to the Ministry of Expatriates' Welfare and Overseas Employment.

Organizational Overview

➔ Bureau of Manpower Employment and Training

Bureau of Manpower Employment and Training is a government department, which is responsible for the training and employment of Bangladeshi workers, who seek overseas employment. It is in Dhaka. The Bureau of Manpower Employment and Training was established in 1976 under the Ministry of Manpower Development and Social Welfare as a department. They provide Bangladeshi workers with smart cards, biometric registration, and immigration clearance. The Bureau explores the opportunities for the Bangladeshi labour force outside the country. It operates the Institute of Marine Technology and runs it under its supervision among other technical educational centres.

➔ Wage Earners' Welfare Board (WEWB)

Wage Earners' Welfare Board is a government welfare board that is responsible for the welfare of expatriate Bangladesh workers and is in Dhaka, Bangladesh. The Wage Earners' Welfare Board was established in 1990 to manage the Wages Earners' Welfare Fund which was started together. It is managed by an intergovernmental official run board. The board was made into a statutory organization through the Wage Earners' Welfare Board law-2016. It works as a subsidiary of the Bureau of Manpower Employment and Training.

➔ Wages Earners' Welfare Fund (WEWF)

Wages Earners' Welfare Fund is a Bangladesh Government fund that was created for the welfare of migrant workers and financed by mandatory contributions from migrant workers under the Ministry of Expatriates' Welfare and Overseas Employment. It is managed by the Wage Earners' Welfare Board.

➔ Probashi Kallyan Bank (PKB)

Honourable Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has established Probashi Kallyan Bank through the Probashi Kallyan Bank Act-2010, to promote the overall welfare of the expatriates. With the vision to provide collateral-free migration loans to the outbound workers, rehabilitation loans to the expatriates returned to Bangladesh, encouraging migrant workers to invest in the productive sectors, and facilitating easy and hassle-free remittance flow by using modern information technology. Bangladesh Bank has listed Probashi Kallyan Bank as a scheduled specialized bank on July 30, 2018. The branches are being expanded to provide the benefits of scheduled banks to the doorsteps of the people and initiatives have been taken to bring easy remittance in a quick and cost-efficient manner using modern information technology to implement one of the key objectives of establishing this bank. Bank has taken "Covid-19 Migrant Workers Rehabilitation Loan Policy, 2020" which is being used in providing low-interest loans which will be considered as "Special Rehabilitation Loan" to migrant workers who have returned to the country after being affected by the outbreak of COVID-19.

➔ Bangladesh Overseas Employment and Services Limited (BOESL)

Bangladesh Overseas Employment and Services Limited (BOESL) was founded in 1984, with the initiative of the Government of Bangladesh. It is a government-owned international recruitment company. The government established this company to extend support to the partner countries to enhance their development process as well as investments through sending human resources of Bangladesh, ensuring ethical, safe, low-cost migration, and ensuring the equal participation of all people in overseas employment. A Seven member's board of directors is the principal authority for formulating any guideline for the successful operation of BOESL.

Social Security programmes

➤ Employment Generation Programmes (through Palli Sonchoy Bank, Karmasangsthan Bank, Expatriate Welfare Bank, and PKSf)

The objective of the Employment Generation Programme for the Poorest Project for Bangladesh is to provide short-term employment on community sub-projects to enable households to better cope with vulnerability while strengthening programme implementation. The project has two components. It follows a results-based financing mechanism and disbursement-linked indicators (DLIs) representing targets to trigger disbursement are specified for each year of implementation of the government programme of the same name. One DLI focus area pertains to the use of a specific geographic targeting formula to allocate fiscal resources to ensure pro-poor coverage. The programme has been implemented by the Finance Division of the Ministry of Finance. The Programme received a budget, amounting to Tk 2000 crore in the 2020-21 fiscal year. This programme belongs to the Human Development and Social Empowerment Cluster targeting the Working Age people in rural areas.

Legal Framework

- The Overseas Employment & Migrants Act, 2013
- The Probashi Kallayan Bank Act, 2010
- The Wage Earners Welfare Board Act, 2018
- The Bangladesh Labour (Amendment) Act, 2018
- The Overseas Employment and Migrations (Recruiting Agents' License and Rules), 2019
- The Overseas Employment and Migrations (Recruiting Agents' Classification Rules), 2019
- Programme Summary
- Ministry of Expatriates' Welfare and Overseas Employment provides all sorts of supports to migrant workers by labour counsellors and missions abroad.
- Probashi Kallyan Bank provides Migration loans, Rehabilitation loans, Bangabandhu Ovibashi Brihot Poribar loans and Special Rehabilitation loans to aspirant migrant workers.
- Wage Earners Welfare Board provides financial grants and death compensation for deceased migrant workers and their families.
- Wage Earners Welfare Board takes responsibility for carrying and burial of the dead body of aspirant migrant workers by its own cost and management.
- BOESL has set up a Foreign Language Training and Motivation Centre for job seekers. Arabic, Korean, English, and Japanese language training programmes will be continued in this centre.
- Wage Earners Welfare Board provides financial assistance to injured and sick workers.
- BOESL is introducing briefing sessions for overseas jobholders.
- Other Programmes
- BOESL has built up five teams for searching new job markets and promotional activities.
- BOESL developed a mobile app with the assistance of the Bangladesh Computer Council. Any worker can apply his complaint in the mobile app. Besides candidates can post complain through an online system.
- Probashi Kallyan Bank provides four different kinds of saving services to migrant workers and their families.
- Wage Earners Welfare Board arranges pre-departure briefing for aspirant migrant workers.

Situation Analysis

Table 69: Situation Analysis of Ministry of Expatriates' Welfare and Overseas Employment

Programme Name	NSSS Provision	Present Situation	Gaps
Overseas employment	<p>The NSSS indicates that one source of idiosyncratic shocks of people is loss of employment. This also happens in the case of overseas employees. They often become jobless and are forced to return to Bangladesh. They need special social security support. Their family members need support in their absence. The migrant workers are financially solvent to pay for their future social security. Systems should be there to facilitate their participation in social insurance programmes for them and their family members. [4.3.3 of NSSS]</p>	<p>Sometimes Migrants face brain waste when they do not get their expected level of the wage when their skills certificate or experience is not duly valued by the overseas market. As a consequence, some of them sometimes become undocumented. The way to prevent brain waste of the migrants is skills recognition and recognition of qualification. Bangladesh is yet to sign any Mutual Recognition Agreement (MRA) with any destination country so that skills certificates of migrant workers can be valued. Countries like the Philippines launched an electronic Portfolio Assessment known as e-Portfolio Assessment to provide certification for their migrant workers working in the overseas market. Bangladesh does not have this facility. Similarly, many countries launched electronic skills recognition tools like Sri Lanka's National Skills Passport (NSP) or EU countries' Euro pass. Bangladesh is lagging in this regard. Sometimes Bangladeshi workers go abroad for overseas employment without learning the language of the destination country. It becomes very much difficult to learn the language of the destination country for them. But Bangladesh doesn't have any Online Language Learning Platform that can ease learning the foreign language for them. Sometimes Bangladeshi workers do not get any compensation for their disability or death due to workplace accidents or job loss due to different reasons while working in the overseas market. Bangladesh meanwhile made life insurance compulsory for the aspirant migrants. The migrant workers have not been covered under this scheme. The aspirant migrants will receive compensation who will die or become disabled or partially disabled, but they will not get any compensation for job loss, or any other unexpected problems related to overseas employment since there is no general insurance policy for them. Reintegration for the returnee migrants is very much needed for the national and returnee migrants' interests. Under wage employment policy the returnees are taken under the Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL) programme who want to be employed in the domestic market and remigrate. On the other hand, a financing programme by different financial institutions was launched for those returnee migrants who want to initiate entrepreneurship in Bangladesh. But further opportunities are there to strengthen the reintegration programme for the returnee migrants.</p>	<p>General insurance policy for all aspirant migrant and migrant workers will be ensured. The migrant workers staying in the overseas market shall be brought under the life insurance policy. Online skills recognition tools like NSP or Europas will be developed. Electronic RPL infrastructure like the e-Portfolio Assessment of the Philippines will be developed and launched. An online language learning platform will be developed and launched. An initiative to sign a mutual recognition agreement with the overseas market will be taken. The reintegration programme for the returnee migrants will be strengthened.</p>

Programme Name	NSSS Provision	Present Situation	Gaps
Skills development		<p>The Ministry of Expatriates' Welfare and Overseas Employment has an invaluable contribution to skills development. It provides its skills development education and training through Technical Training Centres (TTC), Apprenticeship Training Offices, and Institutes of Marine Technology (IMT) under BMET. The apprenticeship training offices provide both off-the-job training & on-the-job training while TTCs only off-the-job training to the trainees.</p> <p>A. Apprenticeship The apprentices can get shorter term employment at the time of entering the training programme and after successful completion of training, they receive permanent jobs subject to the availability of vacancy in the training provider's undertaking. The rest of the apprentices may find jobs in the overseas or domestic market. But those who would like to take jobs, later, maybe better valued by the overseas employers since they can show their work experience in the domestic market. Although apprenticeship is proved to be an effective way of skills development and suitable for the dropouts as well as the poor section of the society it is not so vibrant in Bangladesh due to regulatory weaknesses, financing provision, and peoples' awareness. Regulatory provision for apprenticeship responsibilities yet to be incorporated in the concerned Act. Financial provision should be supportive to run apprenticeship programmes by apprenticeship offices under BMET. Incentives for the investors need to be attached for receiving apprentices.</p>	<p>A. Apprenticeship Apprenticeship opportunities must be increased. Regulatory provision for apprenticeship will be reformed or amended in the concerned Act. Financial provision will be made supportive to run apprenticeship programme by the undertakings.</p>

Programme Name	NSSS Provision	Present Situation	Gaps
		<p>B. Technical Training Trainees of the TTCs receive technical training in different occupations to work mainly in the overseas market but sometimes they may opt to work in the domestic market. The trainees who want to get high waged jobs need to undergo competency-based training and assessment or certification. However, skills recognition, as well as recognition of qualification, is very much required to prevent brain waste of the workers either in the overseas market or domestic market. Since the TTCs cannot provide on-the-job training so Industrial attachment for the trainees of TTCs yet to ensure for improving the skills development. CBTA has made it compulsory for the TTCs in their training provision but it's rolling out to be ensured. For rolling out of CBTA provision in skills development, the financing provision for technical training must be aligned with the CBTA. Skills development is not so popular to the members of lagging behind communities like Santal, Garo, etc. as well as the poor section of the rural and urban society. An especial campaign programme may be required to mobilize them towards skill training centres. Public-Private Partnership is suitable for skills development for targeting the overseas market, say Hong Kong but it is not prominent in the provision of skills. Coordination and information sharing between public and private organizations for selecting demand-driven courses for the overseas market are seen to be weak. Combating the challenges of the 4th Industrial Revolution, especial programme yet to be taken to foresee which occupation will be destructed and emerged out due to 4IR as well as align the skills provision accordingly. GO-NGO coordination may be a good way to reach the lagging behind communities and the poor section of the rural and urban society to popularize and mobilize them towards skills development centres, but it is yet to be formalized and vibrant. Especial programme for enhancing awareness of the investors of the domestic market on certificates issued under CBTA yet to initiate to increase its acceptability. Linguistic proficiency is an important requirement for overseas employment, the TTCs are also providing linguistic training. But to match the requirement of the overseas market it should be well regulated. But formulation and pronunciation of the "Foreign Language Training Guideline" are yet to be ensured.</p>	<p>B. Technical Training Rolling out of CBTA will be ensured. Formulation and pronunciation of foreign language training guidelines will be ensured. Financing provision and course curriculum for technical training shall be aligned with the CBTA. Industrial attachment for the trainees of TTCs will be ensured. Special programmes for reaching the lagging behind communities like Santal, Garo, etc. as well as the poor section of the rural and urban society will be taken to receive skill training. Public-Private partnerships will be strengthened for skills development and searching demand-driven courses for the overseas market. GO-NGO coordination will be enhanced and formalized. Special programmes will be taken to combat the challenges of the 4IR. Especially, the programme for building awareness of the investors will be taken to value certification under CBT&A.</p>

Programme Name	NSSS Provision	Present Situation	Gaps
		C. Marine Technology Skills training for Marine Engineers needs to be launched in the IMTs to ease the way of receiving Certificate of Competency (COC) and Continuous Discharge Certificate (CDC). Students of Diploma Engineering in Ship Building shall be taken under CBTA. IMTs should be certified by ISO and other international organizations. An international organization must be engaged in the quality assurance of IMTs.	C. Marine Technology Skills training for Marine Engineers will be launched in the IMTs to ease the way of receiving Certificate of Competency (COC) and Continuous Discharge Certificate (CDC). Students of Diploma Engineering in Ship Building shall be taken under CBTA. IMTs shall be certified by ISO and other international organizations. The international organizations shall be engaged for quality assurance of IMTs.
Consolidate Smaller Programmes	The NSSS requires the merging or elimination of many small programmes. Any ministry considering some of their minor programmes to be continued and scaled up will have to send proposals with justification. [Para 4.8 of NSSS]	Under the process of preparation.	To be reviewed.
Improve targeting of beneficiaries	Implementing ministries will be responsible for ensuring correct targeting and zero tolerance to pilferage. [Para 6.3.1 of NSSS]	Existing manuals are online and partially follow the BBS database.	Selection policies and manuals need to be updated and disseminated.

Programme Name	NSSS Provision	Present Situation	Gaps
Grievance Redress System	Establishing an effective grievance redress so that all citizens have recourse to appeal decisions on selection and can notify the competent authorities about instances of misconduct and failures in the delivery of the promised benefit. [Para 6.3 of NSSS]	Recorded online. Service Centre /Call centre not yet set up. The grievance is redressed centrally by ministries also at the district level irrespective of online or written.	The GRS needs to be improved.
Develop Single Registry MIS	The government will establish a national Single Registry that is based on building scheme-specific MISs that communicates with each other. The Single Registry would be based on a national identity system of all Bangladeshi citizens. [Para 6.4 of NSSS]	Under preparation in BBS, apart from that social protection integrated MIS developed at the Finance Division taking MIS Data of 4 ministries. MIS linked for some programmes and others will require some time.	MIS needs to be developed with linkage with the central MIS of the Finance Division.
Digitization of cash transfer	To transform the Government to Person (G2P) payment systems so that they promote financial inclusivity and prevent leakages. [Para 6.5 of NSSS]	G2P modality has been finalized. E payment modalities are used. The plan is to cover all cash-based programmes. Technical training allowances for the trainees and stipends to the students are distributed through mobile banking.	

Programme Name	NSSS Provision	Present Situation	Gaps
Enhance results-based M&E		M&E Framework has been developed, but the dashboard is not yet in place.	Systematic monitoring and evaluation need to be introduced.

Action Plan (2021-26)

To implement the reform proposals of the NSSS the following time-bound activities may be taken up.

Table 70: Action Plan of Ministry of Expatriates' Welfare and Overseas Employment

Sl.	Objectives	Activities	Performance Indicators	Timeframe	Responsible Ministry	Shared Responsibility
1.	Strengthen social allowance (financial support/ assistance/ benefits) for the migrant workers and their family members	Increase the number of social allowances programmes for the migrant workers and their family members.	Increased number of programmes raising the number of beneficiaries.	Continuous	Ministry of Expatriates' Welfare and Overseas Employment (MoEWOE)	
2.	Mandatory insurance coverage for all aspirant migrant workers.	Issue a circular for providing mandatory insurance coverage for all aspirant migrant workers.	Issued circular.	December 2023	MoEWOE	
3.	Enhance skills development and obtain the international standard of skills and accreditation	Institutional capacity building by establishing new TTCs (Technical Training Centre) and IMTs (Institution of Marine Technology).	Established TTCs and IMTs.	Continuous	MoEWOE	
		Enhance capability through providing training of the trainers.	Provided training for trainers.	Continuous	MoEWOE	

Sl.	Objectives	Activities	Performance Indicators	Timeframe	Responsible Ministry	Shared Responsibility
		Liaise and collaborate with reputed international training centres by signing MoUs for obtaining the international standard of skills and accreditation,	Signed MOUs with reputed international training centres.	Continuous	MoEWOE	
		Identify new areas of overseas employment and training.	Identified new areas of overseas employment and training.	Continuous	MoEWOE	
4.	Consolidate Smaller Programmes	Prepare a list of programmes to be continued.	List sent to Cabinet Division (CD).	July 2021	MoEWOE	CD
		Make a list of programmes to be scaled up.	List sent to CD.	July 2021	MoEWOE	CD
		Make a list of programmes to be phased out.	List sent to CD.	July 2021	MoEWOE	CD
		Review the consolidation proposals.	Review prepared.	December 2021	MoEWOE	CD
5.	Improve targeting of beneficiaries	Introduce manual for selection procedures and disseminate it to people.	Manual disseminated.	December 2022	MoEWOE	
		Publish the list of beneficiaries online to make it transparent.	List of beneficiaries published.	Continuous	MoEWOE	
		Follow the BBS database when prepared.	Instruction given.	January 2022	MoEWOE	
6.	Grievance Redress System	Make arrangements for recording complaints centrally and at the field level.	Instruction issued.	Continuous	MoEWOE	
		Create public awareness about the facility of central GRS of Cabinet Division	Public meetings held in all Upazilas	By July 2022	MoEWOE	

Sl.	Objectives	Activities	Performance Indicators	Timeframe	Responsible Ministry	Shared Responsibility
7.	Develop Single Registry MIS	Create online-based MIS for all programmes.	MIS digitized for all programmes.	December 2023	MoEWOE	
		Make the MIS accessible to relevant departments.	Interdepartmental arrangement established.	July 2023	MoEWOE	
		Link MIS with cash disbursement.	MIS linked with the financial management database of the Finance Division (SPBMU MIS).	December 2023	MoEWOE	
8.	Digitization of cash transfer	Pilot different modalities of G2P.	Pilot completed.	December 2024	MoEWOE	
		Roll out an appropriate format of G2P.	G2P rolled out for all programmes.	December 2024	MoEWOE	
9.	Enhance results-based M&E	Digitize monitoring of programmes.	Dashboard established.	December 2025	MoEWOE	
		Conduct mid-term and end-term evaluation of programmes.	Programmes evaluated regularly.	Continuous	MoEWOE	
		CODI and Third-Party Evaluation of top/largest social security programmes.	Programmes evaluated regularly.	Continuous	MoEWOE	
10.	Increase apprenticeship opportunities	Enhance apprenticeship training by linking with industries through BMET & apprenticeship offices.	Provided training on apprenticeship.	Continuous	MoEWOE	Ministry of Industries Ministry of Labour & Employment BMET
11	Ensure rolling out of CBTA	Align course-curriculum for technical training with the CBTA.	Provided training Under NTVQF at TTCs & IMTs.	Continuous	MoEWOE	BTEB NSDA
		Ensure Industrial attachment for the trainees.	Provided Industrial attachment.	Continuous	MoEWOE	Ministry of Industries
12	Formulation of foreign language training guidelines	Develop foreign language training guidelines.	Issued Circular.	June 2021	MoEWOE	

Sl.	Objectives	Activities	Performance Indicators	Timeframe	Responsible Ministry	Shared Responsibility
13	Programme for reaching the lagging behind communities like Santal, Garo, etc. as well as the poor section of the rural and urban society	Campaign to the lagging behind communities like Santal, Garo, etc. and the poor section of society for skills training and attract them to TTCs /IMTs.	Received skills training.	Continuous	MoEWOE	Local Administration & local Govt. organizations LGD NGOs
14	Develop Public-Private Partnership for skills development and searching demand-driven courses for the overseas market like Hongkong	Ensure Public-Private Partnership.	Strengthened skills development and introduction of demand-driven courses at TTCs & IMTs.	Continuous	MoEWOE	Ministry of Education MOFA NSDA Recruiting Agencies
15	Combat the challenges of the 4th Industrial Revolution	Taken especial programme to foresee which occupation will be destructed and emerged out due to the 4IR.	Provided the emerged occupation-related skills training at TTCs & IMTs.	Continuous	MoEWOE	Ministry of Education ICT Division NSDA
16	Certification of IMTs by ISO and other international organizations	Establish coordination & linkage with ISO and other international organizations.	Provided Certificate by ISO and other international organizations.	Continuous	MoEWOE	Ministry of Education Ministry of Shipping
17	Launched Skills training for Marine Engineers in the IMTs of receiving Certificate of Competency (COC) and Continuous Discharge Certificate (CDC)	Introducing new skills training & updating curriculum for Marine Engineers in the IMTs.	Provided Certificate of Competency (COC) and Continuous Discharge Certificate (CDC).	Continuous	MoEWOE	Ministry of Shipping Ministry of Education SEIP MoF
18	Develop Online skills recognition tools like NSP or Europas	Programme taken for Online skills recognition tools align with NSP, Europas, etc.	Provided online skills recognition.	Continuous	MoEWOE	ICT Division BTEB MoFA MoF MoP

Sl.	Objectives	Activities	Performance Indicators	Timeframe	Responsible Ministry	Shared Responsibility
19	Develop and launch electronic RPL infrastructure like the e-Portfolio Assessment of the Philippines	The programme was taken for the development and launch of electronic RPL infrastructure.	Provided electronic RPL.	Continuous	MoEWOE	ICT Division BTEB
20	Develop and launch an online language learning platform	Established an online language learning platform	Provided online language learning training.	Continuous	MoEWOE	ICT Division BTEB Ministry of Education
21	Initiative to sign Mutual Recognition Agreement (MRA) with the overseas market	Continuous Liaison with the overseas market to sign MRA.	Signed MRA.	Continuous	MoEWOE	Ministry of Foreign Affairs Bangladesh Embassy & Missions to different countries Ministry of Education
22	Strengthen reintegration programme for the returnee migrants	Economic and Social reintegration programmes for returnee migrants.	Provided training, certification, and financing for the reintegration of the returnee migrants.	Continuous	MoEWOE	Local Administration Ministry of Education Ministry of Youth and Sports MoF MoDMR

Key Actions of Ministry of Expatriates' Welfare & Overseas Employment

- Increase the number of social allowances programmes for the migrant workers and their family members.
- Issue a circular for providing mandatory insurance coverage for all aspirant migrant workers.
- Institutional capacity building by establishing new TTCs (Technical Training Centre) and IMTs (Institution of Marine Technology).
- Enhance capability through providing training of the trainers.
- Liaise and collaborate with reputed international training centres by signing MoUs for obtaining the international standard of skills and accreditation,
- Identify new areas of overseas employment and training.
- Organize dialogues and conferences with DPs and NGOs.



Local Government Division

**Action Plan (2021-26) Implementation of
National Social Security Strategy (NSSS) of Bangladesh**



*Action Plan of Local Government
Division*

Action Plan (2021-26) for Implementation of National Social Security Strategy (NSSS) of Bangladesh

Local Government Division

Local Government Division is an important unit of the government, charged to enhance local governance and socio-economic development of people, both in urban and rural areas. The division is working for the improvement of socio-economic conditions and poverty alleviation and is implementing different projects for the development of infrastructure such as constructions/reconstructions/ rehabilitation of roads including bridges and culverts, development of small scale water resources, development of growth centre/rural markets, construction of Union Parishad Building, construction of cyclone/flood shelter, construction of bus terminal, construction of the municipal market, slum improvement, etc. and side by side successfully implementing tree plantation programme along both sides of the roads to contribute towards the ecological balance of environment by the departments/organizations related with this division.

Vision

The vision of the Division is to establish participatory and effective local governance.

Mission

To improve living standard of people by strengthening local government system, rural and urban infrastructural development and implementation of socio-economic programmes.

NSSS objectives

The National Social Security Strategy envisages that the Local Government Division will assume responsibilities related to supporting targeting the beneficiaries of social security programmes, following a community participation approach, providing support in resolving grievances and disputes related to the implementation of social security programmes and assisting monitoring and evaluation of programmes. To consolidate workfare programmes is another important task.

Challenges

One of the challenges of the Division is to consolidate its workfare programmes in collaboration with other ministries, especially the Ministry of Disaster Management and Relief. Other important issues include improvement of the targeting process and establishment of a grievance redress mechanism at the grassroots level.

Organizational Overview

➔ Local Government Engineering Department

Local Government Engineering Department (LGED) is an organ of the Bangladesh Government created for the provision of transport infrastructures in rural areas and to provide technical support to the rural and the urban Local Government Institutions (LGIs), planning and implementation of infrastructure development

projects in the rural and urban areas to improve communication and transport network, job creation, and poverty reduction.

➔ **Department of Public Health Engineering (DPHE)**

Department of Public Health Engineering is a government agency responsible for providing and maintaining water and sewage lines in Bangladesh and is located in Dhaka. The Department of Public Health Engineering was established in 1936 in East Bengal, British Raj. It is responsible for water and sewage lines in Bangladesh excluding the cities of Dhaka, Chattagram, Khulna and Rajshahi which are managed by the Water Supply and Sewerage Authority. Since 1993 the department has been responsible for monitoring arsenic in drinking water. The department is responsible for drilling drinking wells in rural areas of Bangladesh.

➔ **National Institute of Local Government (NILG)**

National Institute of Local Government is a government training and research institute that is responsible for training officials, both elected and appointed, of local government in Bangladesh and is located in Agargaon, Dhaka, Bangladesh. It is under the Local Government Division of the Ministry of Local Government, Rural Development and Co-operatives.

➔ **Office of the Registrar General, Birth & Death Registration**

Office of the Registrar General, Birth & Death Registration is a Bangladesh government regulatory agency under the Ministry of Local Government, Rural Development and Co-operatives responsible for the registration of births and deaths in Bangladesh.

➔ Dhaka Water Supply and Sewerage Authority (DWASA), Chattogram Water Supply and Sewerage Authority (CWASA), Rajshahi Water Supply and Sewerage Authority (RWASA), Khulna Water Supply and Sewerage Authority (KWASA), all City Corporations, all Zilla Parishads, all Upazilla Parishads, all Union Parishads and all Pourosovas of the country belongs to this division and are working with their particular mandate.

Social Security programmes

➔ **Haor Infrastructure and Livelihood Development**

The Haor Infrastructure and Livelihood Improvement Project (HILIP) is situated in north-eastern Bangladesh and is subject to very peculiar conditions and suffers from extensive annual and flush flooding. This makes livelihood extremely vulnerable and limits the potential for agricultural and rural enterprise growth. Strong wave action adds to the vulnerability as it can potentially wash away the land and poses a major threat to many villages in the Haor. The rural poor households have to depend upon fisheries and off-farm labour. The poor communication network also limits the increasing production, access to markets, off-farm employment opportunities and access to existing social services, particularly health and education. The programme is being implemented by LGED under the Local Government Division. There are 0.54 lakh beneficiaries with BDT 209.13 crore budget in the 2020-21 fiscal year for this programme. This programme belongs to Food Security and Disaster Assistance Cluster focusing on the Covariate Risks in rural areas.

➔ **Bangladesh Rural Water Supply and Sanitation (National Sanitation Project)**

The objective of the Rural Water Supply and Sanitation Project for Bangladesh is to: (a) increase provision of safe water supply and hygienic sanitation in the rural areas of Bangladesh, where shallow aquifers are highly contaminated by arsenic and other pollutants such as salinity, iron, and bacterial pathogens; and (b) facilitate early emergency response. The programme is being implemented by DPHE under the Local Government Division. BDT 100 Crore has been allocated as budget in 2020-2021 for this programme. This

programme belongs to Human Development and Social Empowerment Cluster focusing on the Covariate Risks in rural areas.

➤ **Income Support Programme for the Poorest (ISPP)**

Income Support Programme for the Poorest (ISPP) - JAWTNO project is being implemented and jointly financed by the Government of Bangladesh and the World Bank. The beneficiaries of the project are pregnant women and mothers with children below the age of 5 years from the selected poorest households. The household data will be collected from the National Household Database (NHD) under the Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics (BBS). The local Government Division is the executing agency. The programme is being implemented by the Local Government Division. This programme belongs to Labour & Livelihood Intervention Cluster targeting the children and pregnant women in life cycle approach in rural areas.

➤ **Multipurpose Disaster Shelter Construction (MDSP)**

The Multipurpose Disaster Shelter Project (MDSP) benefits nearly 14 million people in nine coastal districts by providing improved access to safe havens in the event of a natural disaster. The programme is being implemented by the Local Government Division. There are 0.91 lakh beneficiaries with BDT 560 crore budget in the 2020-21 fiscal year for this programme. This programme belongs to Food Security and Disaster Assistance Cluster focusing on the Covariate Risks in the lifecycle framework in rural areas.

➤ **Preferential Village Water Supply**

The Preferential Village Water Supply project provides services to the targeted villages to provide a safe and secured water supply. The programme is being implemented by the Local Government Division. BDT 74 Crore has been allocated as budget in 2020-2021 for this programme. This programme belongs to Human Development and Social Empowerment Cluster focusing on the Covariate Risks in the lifecycle framework in rural areas.

➤ **Urban Public Environmental Health Care (Development Programme)**

The Bangladesh Urban Public and Environmental Health Sector Development Programme (UPEHSDP) aims to establish a sustainable approach to public and environmental health at the national level to guide and support city corporations and municipalities in improving the quality of life and economic status of urban residents, especially the poor. This will be achieved by a range of measures, including: (i) creating an Urban Public and Environmental Health Unit (UPEHU) under LGD with a mandate to improve public health; (ii) improving staff and financial resources to enable city corporations and municipalities fulfil their responsibilities in public and environmental health; (iii) improving the management of solid waste and hospital waste through municipality-managed public-private partnerships and other mechanisms; and (iv) improving food safety by providing food testing laboratories and food inspection services. The programme is being implemented by the Local Government Division. The budget is BDT 90.5 crore in 2020-2021 FY for this programme. This programme belongs to Human Development and Social Empowerment Cluster focusing on the Covariate Risks in the life cycle approach in urban areas.

➤ **Multi-sector Project to address the Rohingya crisis on an emergency basis**

The proposed additional financing will support the Government of Bangladesh in responding to an emergency in Cox's Bazar District caused by an influx of displaced Rohingya population from Myanmar. The project will benefit about 780,800 people, including 140,800 local people with better public infrastructure. This includes access to improved water sources for 365,800 people and better sanitation for 171,800 people. The programme is being implemented by the Local Government Division. BDT 205 Crore has been allocated as budget in 2020-2021 for this programme. This programme belongs to Human Development and Social Empowerment Cluster focusing on the Covariate Risks in the life cycle approach in Cox's Bazar and Bhashanchar.

Legal Framework

- The Birth and Death Registration Act, 2004
- The National Institute of Local Government Act, 1992
- The Local Government (Union Parishad) Act, 2009
- The Local Government (Paurasavas) Act, 2009
- The Local Government (City Corporation) Act, 2009
- The Local Government (Upazila Parishad) Act, 1998
- The Local Government (Zila Parishad) Act, 2000
- The Water Supply and Sewerage Authority Act, 1996

Programme Summary (2020-21)

Table 71: Programme Summary (2020-21) of Local Government Division

Sl.	Social Protection Programme	Thematic Cluster	Life Cycle	Beneficiary (Lakh)	Budget (Crore Taka)
1.	Bangladesh Rural Water Supply and Sanitation	Human Development and Social Empowerment	Covariate Risks	-	100.00
2.	Construction of Colony for the Cleaners of Dhaka City Corporation	Human Development and Social Empowerment	Covariate Risks	0.08	10.00
3.	Construction of the Multiple Disaster Shelters	Food Security and Disaster Assistance	Covariate Risks	0.91	560.00
4.	Income Support Programme for the Poorest (Care+Dream)	Labour / Livelihood Intervention	Pregnancy and Childhood	6.13	441.00
5.	Multi-sector project to address the Rohingya crisis on an emergency basis	Human Development and Social Empowerment	Covariate Risks	-	205.00
6.	Preferential Village Water Supply	Human Development and Social Empowerment	Covariate Risks	-	74.00
7.	Rural/Grameen Infrastructure Development	Human Development and Social Empowerment	Working Age	-	418.70
8.	Urban Public Environmental Health Center Development Program	Human Development and Social Empowerment	Covariate Risks	-	90.50
9.	Urban Resilience Project (DNCC & DDM)	Human Development and Social Empowerment	Covariate Risks	-	396.21

Local Government Division - Share of Social Protection Budget

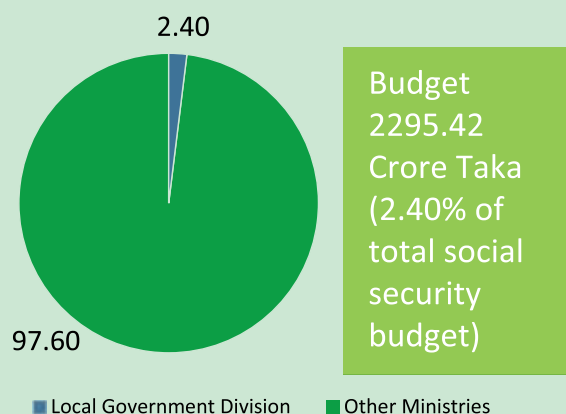


Figure 43: Share of Social Security Budget of Local Government Division

Local Government Division - Number of Programmes

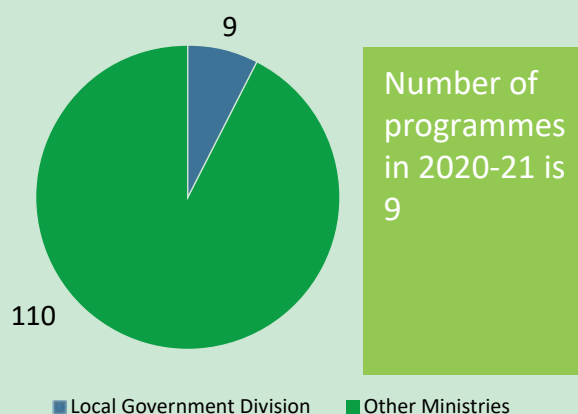


Figure 44: Share of Number of Programmes of Local Government Division

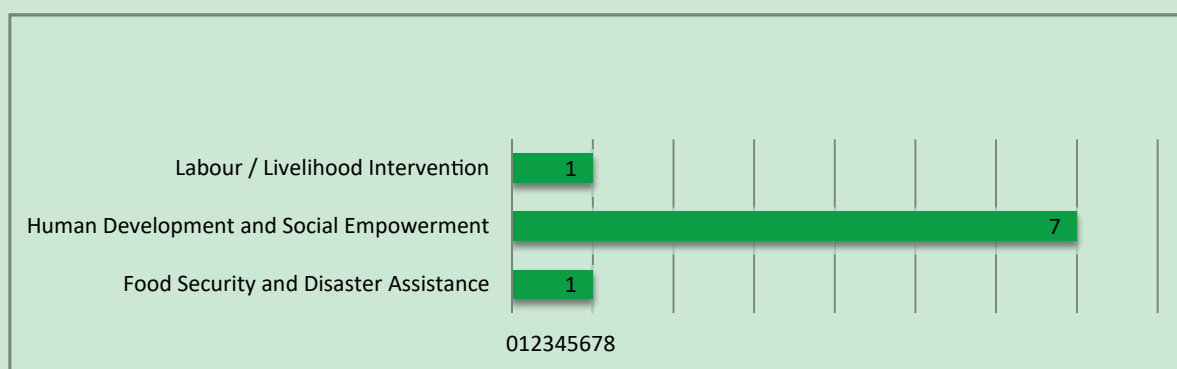


Figure 45: Thematic Clusters of the Programmes of Local Government Division

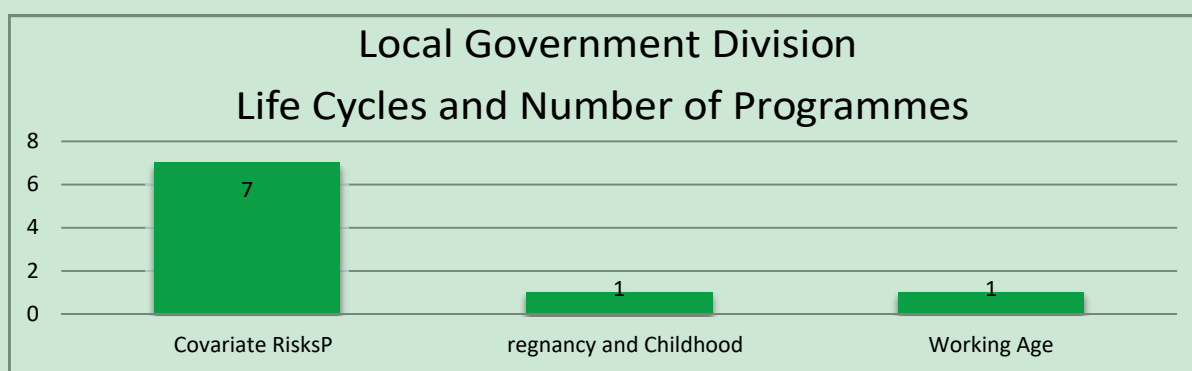


Figure 46: Life Cycles of the Programmes of Local Government Division

Situation Analysis

Table 72: Situation Analysis of Local Government Division

Programme Name	NSSS Provision	Present Situation	Gaps
Strengthen Workfare Programmes	The NSSS provides that all the workfare programmes will be consolidated to minimize operational costs. Most of the food-based (if any) workfare programmes are to be converted into cash-based programmes. [Para 4.3.2, 4.6 of NSSS]	The Local Government Division has a number of workfare programmes including the Rural Employment and Road Maintenance Programme (RERMP). Under the programme, cash incentives are given. The Division has a project called SWAPNO, focused on the workfare of destitute women. This project has been recognized in the NSSS as a good example of workfare programmes. The Local Government Division has major programmes for workfare. There is hardly any mechanism to coordinate workfare programmes with other ministries.	Consolidation of workfare programmes and interministerial co-operation needs to be enhanced.
Strengthen urban social security	The NSSS identifies that the rapid socio-economic development has been accompanied by equally rapid urbanization. The urban poverty rate is lower than that of rural areas. However, there is still a big segment of people in urban areas who live in abject poverty. The problem has been aggravated due to the difficulty in operating social security programmes in urban areas. The issue of urban social security has not been adequately recognized. Special measures should be taken to ensure that urban poor households have similar access to social security as the rural poor. [Summary, Para 4.5 of NSSS]	Different ministries have urban-focused programmes. Some programmes have urban components. But overall, social security required for urban poor people needs to be ensured.	There is a gap in terms of coverage matching the requirement for urban social security.

Programme Name	NSSS Provision	Present Situation	Gaps
Improve targeting, Grievance Redress System (GRS) and M&E	According to the NSSS, the Local Government Division is to support all the ministries in improving targeting and GRS. [Figure 6.1, 6.3.1 of NSSS]	The Local Government Division, through the involvement of Union Parishads, is supporting different ministries in rolling out their programmes in the field. During the NSSS reform process, the LGD has to sensitize public representatives so that they follow the updated system of targeting and GRS.	There are a lot of loopholes in targeting. The grievance redress mechanism at the local level is not strong. These should be strengthened.
Consolidate Smaller Programmes	The NSSS requires the merging or elimination of many small programmes. Any ministry considering some of their minor programmes to be continued and scaled up will have to send proposals with justification. [Para 4.8 of NSSS]	Under the process of preparation.	To be reviewed.
Improve targeting of beneficiaries	Implementing ministries will be responsible for ensuring correct targeting and zero tolerance to pilferage. [Para 6.3.1 of NSSS]	Existing manuals are online and partially follows the BBS database.	Selection policies and manuals need to be updated and disseminated.
Grievance Redress System	Establishing an effective grievance redress system so that all citizens have recourse to appeal decisions on selection and can notify the competent authorities about instances of misconduct and failures in the delivery of the promised benefit [Para 6.3 of NSSS]	Recorded online. Service Centre /Call centre not yet set up. Grievance redressed centrally by ministries also at the district level irrespective of online or written.	The GRS needs to be improved.
Develop Single Registry MIS	The government will establish a national Single Registry that is based on building scheme specific MISs that communicate with each other. The Single Registry would be based on a national identity system of all Bangladeshi citizens. [Para 6.4 of NSSS]	Under preparation in BBS, apart from that social protection integrated MIS developed at the Finance Division taking MIS Data of 4 ministries. MIS linked for some programmes and others will require some time.	MIS needs to be developed with linkage with the central MIS of the Finance Division.
Digitization of cash transfer	To transform the Government to Person (G2P) payment systems so that they promote financial inclusivity and prevent leakages. [Para 6.5 of NSSS]	G2P modality has been finalized. E payment modalities are used. The plan is to cover all cash-based programmes.	
Enhance results-based M&E		M&E Framework has been developed, but the dashboard is not yet in place.	Systematic monitoring and evaluation need to be introduced.

Action Plan (2021-26)

To implement the reform proposals of the NSSS the following time-bound activities may be taken up.

Table 73: Action Plan of Local Government Division

Sl.	Objectives	Activities	Performance Indicators	Timeframe	Responsible Ministry	Shared Responsibility
1.	Consolidation of workfare programmes	Coordinate with MoDMR to explore the possibility of merging programmes	Review report sent to Cabinet Division	July 2022	Local Government Division (LGD)	MoDMR
2.	Support measures to tackle the challenge of Urban Social Security	Conduct a study on the need for social security in urban areas	Study report sent to Cabinet Division	December 2022	LGD	CD GED
3.	Scale-up SWAPNO Project	Introduce the project in 200 Upazilas	Number of Upazilas of SWAPNO project extended		LGD	Finance Division, UNDP
4.	Provide assistance in targeting	Support publishing beneficiary lists for all programmes	Lists displayed in UP	Continuous	LGD	Line ministries
5.	Provide operational support for GRS	Instruct the UDCs to receive grievances and forward them to the UNO office	The UDCs sensitized	March 2023	LGD	Cabinet Division
		Maintain a register for grievances received and forwarded	Registers maintained	March 2021 onward	LGD	
6.	Support establishment of M&E framework	Provide relevant data on social security programmes regularly	Data received regularly	Continuous	LGD	GED
7.	Consolidate Smaller Programmes	Prepare a list of programmes to be continued	List sent to Cabinet Division (CD)	July 2021	LGD	CD
		Make a list of programmes to be scaled up	List sent to CD	July 2021	LGD	CD
		Make a list of programmes to be phased out	List sent to CD	July 2021	LGD	CD
		Review the consolidation proposals	Review prepared	December 2023	LGD	CD

Sl.	Objectives	Activities	Performance Indicators	Timeframe	Responsible Ministry	Shared Responsibility
8.	Improve targeting of beneficiaries	Update manual for selection procedures and disseminate it to people	Circular issued	December 2023	LGD	
		Publish a list of beneficiaries online to make it transparent	Instruction given to field offices	Continuous	LGD	
		Follow the BBS database when prepared	Instruction given	January 2018	LGD	
9.	Grievance Redress System	Make arrangements for recording complaints at field level	Instruction issued	Continuous	LGD	
		Create public awareness about the facility of central GRS of Cabinet Division	Public meetings held in all Upazilas	By July 2022	LGD	
10.	Develop Single Registry MIS	Create online-based MIS for all programmes	MIS digitized for all programmes	January 2024	LGD	
		Make the MIS accessible by relevant departments	Inter-Departmental arrangement established	July 2024	LGD	
		Link MIS with cash disbursement	MIS linked with financial management database of Finance Division (SPBMU MIS)	December 2024	LGD	
11.	Digitization of cash transfer	Pilot different modalities of G2P	Pilot completed	December 2017	LGD	
		Roll out an appropriate format of G2P	G2P rolled out for all programmes	December 2025	LGD	
12.	Enhance results-based M&E	Digitize monitoring of programmes	Dashboard established	July 2025	LGD	
		Conduct mid-term and end-term evaluation of programmes	Programmes evaluated regularly	Continuous	LGD	
		CODI and Third-Party Evaluation of top/largest social security programmes	Programmes evaluated regularly	Continuous	LGD	

Key Actions of Local Government Division

- Coordinate with MoDMR to explore possibility of merging programmes
- Support measures to tackle the challenge of Urban Social Security
- SWAPNO Introduce the project in 200 Upazilas
- Support publishing beneficiary lists for all programmes
- Instruct the UDCs to receive grievances and forward to UNO office
- Maintain a register for grievances received and forwarded
- Provide relevant data on social security programmes regularly



Ministry of Chittagong Hill Tracts Affairs

**Action Plan (2021-26) Implementation of
National Social Security Strategy (NSSS) of Bangladesh**



*Action Plan of Ministry of
Chittagong Hill Tracts Affairs*

Action Plan (2021-26) for Implementation of National Social Security Strategy (NSSS) of Bangladesh

Ministry of Chittagong Hill Tracts

The Chittagong Hill Tracts (CHT) is a distinct region in terms of its ethnic, cultural and environmental diversity to the rest of Bangladesh. The Chittagong Hill Tracts, combining three hilly districts of Bangladesh Rangamati, Khagrachhari and Bandarban hill districts. The Chittagong Hill Tracts (CHT) is a unique geographical and cultural section of Bangladesh comprised of a mix of rivers, hills, forests, lakes and natural fountains. Ministry of Chittagong Hill Tracts Affairs emerged on 15th July 1998.

The Ministry of Chittagong Hill Tracts has been established in 1998 to expedite the socio-economic development of the people of the Chittagong Hill Tracts (CHT) Region. There are a few organizations working under this ministry. These are Chittagong Hill Tracts Development Board, Chittagong Hill Tracts Regional Council, three Hill Districts Councils and Refugee Rehabilitation Taskforce.

Vision:

The vision of the Ministry is peaceful and prosperous the Chittagong Hill Tracts.

Mission:

The Ministry has a mission to ensure the socio-economic, political, and educational rights of the CHT people by implementing social welfare programme memes.

NSSS objectives

The NSSS objective for the ministry is to ensure food security for the people of the CHT.

Challenges

The NSSS challenge for the ministry is to overcome the existing food poverty of the people of the Chittagong Hill Tracts region.

Organizational Overview

➤ Chittagong Hill Tracts Regional Council:

According to the Chittagong Hill Tracts Regional Council Act-1998 (Act XII of 1998), CHT Regional Council was formed. According to the Chittagong Hill Tracts, Agreement signed between the People's Republic of Bangladesh and the National Committee on the Chittagong Hill Tracts (CHT) on January 2, 1997, the Chittagong Hill Tracts Regional Council officially started functioning on 27 May 1999.

➤ Chittagong Hill Tracts Development Board

The Chittagong Hill Tracts Development Board was a government agency established in 1978. The mission of the board is the development and promotion of communication, education, agriculture & irrigation,

sports & culture, social welfare & integrated community improvement and empowerment through the implementation of projects and schemes.

➔ Refugee Rehabilitation Task Force

Task Force on Rehabilitation of India-returnee Refugees and Internally Displaced Persons is a Bangladesh Government task force established to rehabilitate refugees from the Chittagong Hill Tracts conflict following the signing of the Chittagong Hill Tracts Peace Accord.

➔ Rangamati, Khagrachari and Bandarban Hill District Councils

These three Hill Districts Councils are working for various socio-economic development works. Almost thirty government's departments had transferred to the councils to work.

Social Security programmes

➔ Food Assistance in CTG-Hill Tracts Area:

Bangladesh government providing Food Assistance in CTG-Hill Tracts areas to eradicate food poverty and ensure food security for all in the hill tracts areas. The programme has been implemented by the Ministry of Chattogram Hill tracts Affairs. There are 13.87 lakh beneficiaries with BDT 314.34 crore budget in the 2020-21 fiscal year for this programme. This programme belongs to Food Security and Disaster Assistance Cluster focusing on the Covariate Risks in the life cycle approach in CTG-Hill Tracts areas.

Legal Framework

- CHT Regional Council Regulation, 2013
- Emergency Cash use and Distribution in Emergency Need, 2002
- CHT Bazar Fund Regulation, 1937
- CHT Regulation, 1900
- CHT Land Acquisition Regulation, 1958

Programme Summary (2020-21)

Table 74: Programme Summary (2020-21) of Ministry of Chittagong Hill Tracts

Programme	Thematic Cluster	Life Cycle	Beneficiary (Lakh)	Budget (Crore Taka)
Food Assistance in Ctg-HTA	Social Allowance	Covariate Risks	2.81	322.49

Other Programmes

Table 75: Other Programmes of Ministry of Chittagong Hill Tracts

Social Protection Programme	Thematic Cluster	Life Cycle	Beneficiary (Lakh)	Budget (Crore Taka)
Cluster village programme for 25,997 nos. non-ethnic family	Livelihood Intervention	Working Age	25,997 family	107.61
Settlement programme for refugee return from India	Livelihood Intervention	Working Age	12,223 family	69.45
Food rehabilitation programme for a listed member of Parbatya Chattagram Jana-Samhati Samiti	Livelihood Intervention	Working Age	1,966 nos.	10.56

Social Protection Programme	Thematic Cluster	Life Cycle	Beneficiary (Lakh)	Budget (Crore Taka)
Harmony and development programme	Livelihood Intervention	Working Age	946,442 nos.	28.09
Special project programme	Livelihood Intervention	Working Age	356,837 nos.	81.68
Special project programme	Livelihood Intervention	Working Age	2,000 nos (500 families)	8.93
Taskforce for identification of Settlement and rehabilitation of Ethnic refugee return from India and Internal landless people.	Livelihood Intervention	Working Age	262 Family	0.40
Digester situation	Livelihood Intervention	Working Age	80,000 nos. 500 family	7.60
Total			1,387,245 nos. 39,482 family	314.34

Situation Analysis

Table 76: Situation Analysis of Ministry of Chittagong Hill Tracts

Programme Name	NSSS Provision	Present Situation	Gaps
Food Security for CHT people	Most people of ethnic communities in CHT face food insecurity during most of the year. There are some other non-ethnic people who are in food insecurity too. The prevalence of absolute poor and hard-core poor among people of ethnic communities are 65 per cent and 44 per cent respectively. Households of ethnic communities living below the lower and the upper poverty line are 78 per cent and 89 per cent respectively. Therefore, the NSSS proposes to take up programmes to ensure food security for the ethnic communities of CHT. [Para 2.3.2 of NSSS]	The Ministry of CHT Affairs has several food transfers programmes for the people of CHT. There are some places where food transfer is the best solution to tackle food poverty. However, the NSSS emphasizes that cash transfer is to be preferred where possible. In consideration of development in ITC, there is a possibility of introducing cash transfer programmes.	Food transfer programmes need to be converted to cash transfer programmes where applicable. Beneficiary coverage is to be increased.
Consolidate Smaller Programmes	The NSSS requires the merging or elimination of many small programmes. Any ministry considering some of their minor programmes to be continued and scaled up will have to send proposals with justification. [Para 4.8 of NSSS]	Under the process of preparation.	To be reviewed.
Improve targeting of beneficiaries	Implementing ministries will be responsible for ensuring correct targeting and zero tolerance to pilferage. [Para 6.3.1 of NSSS]	Existing manuals are online and partially follows the BBS database.	Selection policies and manuals need to be updated and disseminated.

Programme Name	NSSS Provision	Present Situation	Gaps
Grievance Redress System	Establishing an effective grievance redress so that all citizens have recourse to appeal decisions on selection and can notify the competent authorities about instances of misconduct and failures in the delivery of the promised benefit [Para 6.3 of NSSS]	Recorded online. Service Centre /Call centre not yet set up. Grievance redressed centrally by ministries also at the district level irrespective of online or written.	The GRS needs to be improved.
Develop Single Registry MIS	The government will establish a national Single Registry that is based on building scheme-specific MISs that communicate with each other. The Single Registry would be based on a national identity system of all Bangladeshi citizens. [Para 6.4 of NSSS]	Under preparation in BBS, apart from that social protection integrated MIS developed at the Finance Division taking MIS Data of 4 ministries. MIS linked for some programmes and other activities will require some time.	MIS needs to be developed with linkage with the central MIS of the Finance Division. Permanent address and NID of beneficiaries should be ensured.
Digitization of cash transfer	To transform the Government to Person (G2P) payment systems so that they promote financial inclusivity and prevent leakages. [Para 6.5 of NSSS]	G2P modality has been finalized. E payment modalities are used. The plan is to cover all cash-based programmes.	
Enhance results-based M&E		M&E Framework has been developed, but the dashboard is not yet in place.	Systematic monitoring and evaluation need to be introduced.

Action Plan (2021-26)

To implement the reform proposals of the NSSS the following time-bound activities may be taken up.

Table 77: Action Plan of Ministry of Chittagong Hill Tracts

Sl.	Objectives	Activities	Performance Indicators	Timeframe	Responsible Ministry	Shared Responsibility
1.	Strengthen food security programmes in CHT	Increase coverage	Increase of programmes by 5 per cent annually	Continuous	Ministry of Chittagong Hill Tracts Affairs (MoCHTA)	Ministry of Finance Ministry of Food
		Gradually shift to cash transfer programmes	A plan for shifting prepared	January 2022		
			The plan implemented	July 2023		

Sl.	Objectives	Activities	Performance Indicators	Timeframe	Responsible Ministry	Shared Responsibility
2.	Consolidate Smaller Programmes	Prepare a list of programmes to be continued	List sent to Cabinet Division (CD)	July 2021	MoCHTA	CD
		Make a list of programmes to be scaled up	List sent to CD	December 2021	MoCHTA	CD
		Make a list of programmes to be phased out	List sent to CD	July 2021	MoCHTA	CD
		Review the consolidation proposals	Review prepared	December 2022	MoCHTA	CD
3.	Improve targeting of beneficiaries	Update manual for selection procedures and disseminate it to people	Circular issued	December 2021	MoCHTA	Deputy Commissioners / HDCs
		Publish a list of beneficiaries online to make it transparent	Instruction given to field offices	Continuous	MoCHTA	Deputy Commissioners/ HDCs
		Follow the BBS database when prepared	Instruction given	January 2023	MoCHTA	Deputy Commissioners/ HDCs
4.	Grievance Redress System	Arrange for recording complaints at field level	Instruction issued	Continuous	MoCHTA	
		Create public awareness about the facility of central GRS of Cabinet Division	Public meetings held in all Upazilas	By July 2023	MoCHTA	
5.	Develop Single Registry MIS	Create online-based MIS for all programmes	MIS digitized for all programmes	December 2022	MoCHTA	
		Make the MIS accessible by relevant departments	Inter-Departmental arrangement established	July 2024	MoCHTA	
		Link MIS with cash disbursement	MIS linked with financial management database of Finance Division (SPBMU MIS)	December 2024	MoCHTA	

Sl.	Objectives	Activities	Performance Indicators	Timeframe	Responsible Ministry	Shared Responsibility
6.	Digitization of cash transfer	Pilot different modalities of G2P	Pilot completed	December 2025	MoCHTA	
		Roll out an appropriate format of G2P	G2P rolled out for all programmes	December 2025	MoCHTA	
7.	Enhance results-based M&E	Digitize monitoring of programmes	Dashboard established	July 2025	MoCHTA	
		Conduct mid-term and end-term monitoring/evaluation of programmes	Programmes evaluated regularly	Continuous	MoCHTA	
		CODI and Third-Party Evaluation of top/largest social security programmes	Programmes evaluated regularly	Continuous	MoCHTA	

Key Actions of Ministry of Chittagong Hill Tracts

- Strengthen food security programmes in CHT, Increase coverage
- Gradually shift to cash transfer programmes



Rural Development & Cooperatives Division

Action Plan (2021-26) Implementation of National Social Security Strategy (NSSS) of Bangladesh



*Action Plan of Rural Development
& Cooperatives Division*

Action Plan (2021-26) for Implementation of National Social Security Strategy (NSSS) of Bangladesh

Rural Development & Cooperatives Division

Rural Development and Cooperatives Division undertake different programmes for rural development by a range of activities including rural employment generation, skill development, research and formulation of relevant rules and policies. Formulation of rural development policy and laws, rules and policy relating to cooperatives. Initiate human resource development programmes for members of the cooperatives, provide education, training, and conduct research programmes on rural development and cooperatives. Innovate new model/strategy on rural development through action research, Assist in the socio-economic development and empowerment of rural women through formation of formal and informal groups under cooperative programmes.

Vision

The Division has the vision of a socio-economically developed Bangladesh.

Mission

To achieve the vision, the Division has the mission to eradicate poverty through cooperatives and integrated rural development activities, as well as research.

NSSS objectives

The NSSS objective for the Rural Development and Cooperatives Division is to assist rural poor people to move out of poverty by facilitating income-generating activities.

Challenges

Eradication of rural poverty is still a great challenge for the country. One of the main causes of rural poverty is unemployment or rather under-employment. Rural poverty must be reduced through labour and livelihood interventions and the poor have to be 'graduated' from poverty.

Organizational Overview

➤ Department of Cooperatives (DoC)

Department of Cooperatives (DoC) is one of the main entities of the Rural Development and Cooperative Division of the Government of Bangladesh. With the vision of Sustainable Cooperatives, Sustainable Development", DoC's main functions include registration, audit, inspection and management regulation of cooperative societies. To ensure socio-cultural and economic development of the members of cooperatives. DoC also works in the areas of providing need-based training, creation of employment opportunities and women empowerment through the implementation of development projects. The activities of cooperative societies are regulated by the Cooperative Societies Act-2001 (Amended 2002 & 2013) and Cooperative Societies Rules- 2004 (Amended 2020).

➞ **Bangladesh Rural Development Board (BRDB)**

Bangladesh Rural Development Board or BRDB is a government board responsible for the development in rural areas and is the largest government programme involved in rural development in Bangladesh and is located in Dhaka, Bangladesh. In 1972, the government of Bangladesh implemented Rural Development Programme, which was changed in 1982 to Bangladesh Rural Development Board.

➞ **Rural Poverty Alleviation Foundation (PDBF)**

Palli Daridro Bimochon Foundation is a Bangladesh Government foundation that is responsible for reducing rural poverty in Bangladesh. Palli Daridro Bimochon Foundation was established in 1999 by the Parliament of Bangladesh. It was founded as a statutory, non-profit organization, and with independent management. It has received financial support from the Canadian International Development Agency. It has received financial support from the Canadian International Development Agency. At present, PDBF can directly organize about 11.50 lakh rural population through 403 offices in 356 Upazilas of 55 districts of 6 divisions of the country and provide effective micro, small and medium entrepreneurship loans Programmes, demand-based training and significant contribution to women's empowerment.

➞ **Small Farmer Development Foundation (SFDF)**

Small Farmer Development Foundation is a government foundation that is responsible for the welfare of small-scale farms and farmers. It is located in Dhaka, Bangladesh. It provides collateral-free microloans to small farmers in Bangladesh. Small Farmer Development Foundation traces its origins to the Small Farmers and Landless Work Development Project, an experimental project of the Bangladesh Academy for Rural Development. The project ran from 1975-1976 in Bogra District, Comilla District, and Mymensingh District. Later, the project was transformed into a separate legal foundation under Article 28 of the Companies Act of 1994 to continue its work.

➞ **Bangladesh Academy for Rural Development (BARD)**

Bangladesh Academy for Rural Development (BARD) is an autonomous institution that follows a unified approach of research, training, and project and experimentation to solve rural development problems. In addition to training and research, BARD implements experimental projects to evolve models of improved institutions, administrative structures, coordination and methods of production. The project activities usually involve the villagers, development institutions, local councils and government officials. So far, the Academy has conducted about 50 experimental projects on various aspects of rural development. The Academy is known for implementing the Cumilla Model in the 1960s that has been internationally recognised as a model project for rural development in developing countries. At present, BARD is experimenting with a few action research projects in the areas such as women empowerment, public services through digital platforms, mechanisation of agriculture and collective farming, floodplain aquaculture through community enterprise, improving livelihoods of the people of the Char lands, Vocational and Skill Development 4 raining for Qawmi Madrasa Students, etc.

➞ **Rural Development Academy (RDA), Bogra**

The Rural Development Academy (RDA) is a specialized rural development institution in Sherpur Upazila of Bogra District for training, research and action research. It was established on 19 June 1974. The Rural Development Academy is an autonomous body. This institution is officiated with the Rural Development and Co-operatives Division of the Ministry of Local Government, Rural Development & Co-operatives (LGRDC).

➞ **Bangabandhu Academy for Poverty Alleviation and Rural Development (BAPARD)**

Bangabandhu Academy for Poverty Alleviation and Rural Development (BAPARD) is a government academy and research institute that is responsible for decreasing poverty in rural areas of Bangladesh and

is located in Dhaka, Bangladesh. Bangabandhu Academy for Poverty Alleviation and Rural Development was established on 16 November 2011 by Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina. It is an autonomous body under the Rural Development and Cooperative Division of the Ministry of Local Government, Rural Development and Co-operatives. It was created after the passage of the Bangabandhu Poverty Alleviation and Rural Development Academy Act 2011. The BRDB Training Academy was incorporated into the Bangabandhu Academy for Poverty Alleviation and Rural Development by the government of Bangladesh.

Social Security Programmes

➞ My House My Farm

One House One Farm (OHOF) is a poverty alleviation project through family farming. The goal of the project is alleviating poverty through e-financial inclusion (i.e., fund mobilization) followed by family farming livelihood and income generation of the underprivileged and smallholders. Bangladesh is opting for poverty eradication & elimination of inequalities leading to the achievement of SDG. The key consideration is the eradication of all types of poverty from society to achieve sustainable and equitable development. Out of 25.35 million rural households, 84 per cent of households are small farming families (having 0.05-2.49 acres). The programme has been implemented by the Rural Development and Cooperative Division. There are 8.07 lakh beneficiaries with BDT 1025.5 crore budget in the 2020-21 fiscal year for this programme. This programme belongs to Labour & Livelihood Intervention Cluster targeting the Working Age people in rural areas. The project will be completed in June 2021 and after completion of the project will be transferred to “Palli Snachay Bank.”

➞ Rural Livelihood Project (3rd Phase)

This is a poverty reduction project of BRDB. The main objective of this project is to improve the socio-economic condition of the rural poor and asset fewer people. After the completion of two successive phases of this project, BRDB continues its operation as a programme and the third phase will be in operation soon. The Estimated cost of the Project is 92888.29 lakh (GoB) Taka. The main activities of the project are survey, society formation, capital formation through thrift savings, IGA training, post-training support, small and medium entrepreneurship credit, market linkage of rural products etc. The project includes 331,760 lakh beneficiaries (of which 80 per cent are women) through 23331 groups. 2.64 lakh beneficiaries will be highly trained and among them, 42,240 small and medium entrepreneurs will contribute to rural sustainable development and employment generation.

➞ Empowerment Guaranty Scheme for the Poor of Northern Region (2nd Phase) (Udkanik)

This is a specialized project of BRDB to attain the extreme poverty condition of the northern region. The main objective of the project is to create productive self-employment through income-generating programmes by organizing the seasonally destitute extremely poor people in the project area. The cost of the project is Tk 130.20 crore (GoB). The main activities of this project are awareness building, savings, Income Generating Activities (IGA) based training, post-training supports, the establishment of display cum-sales centre, marketing linkage, etc. The project includes and IGA trained 40,320 beneficiaries.

➞ Livelihood Improvement of the Poor People in the Char Islands of Sariakandi and Sonatola Upazilla under Bogura District

The objective of this project is to improve the quality of life and ensure food security by increasing the household income of the vulnerable char- dwellers living on the 8 (eight) unions of 2 (two) Upazilas namely Sariakandi and Sonatola in Bogura district. Extremely poor people living in Char areas of Sariakandi and Sonatola Upazilas of Bogura district of Rajshahi division are the beneficiaries of this project. The total duration of the project is from July 2018 to June 2021. The total budget of the project is 3055.60 lakhs taka and last year's (2019-2020) budget was 765.00 lakhs taka. The allocated budget of the project for the

current financial year (2020-2021) is Tk. 338.00 lakhs. The total amount of beneficiaries of the project is 18,000 (direct and indirect) poor people. A total of 14,026 people has already been benefited from the project. Services will be provided to additional 1,984 people in this (2020-2021) financial year.

➤ **Poverty Reduction of Marginalized People of Kurigram and Jamalpur Districts**

The main objective of the project is to integrate the poorest and marginalized people into the mainstream of society by alleviating poverty. The selected implementing areas of this project are 8 Upazilas (Nageshwari, Rajarhat, Ulipur, Chilimari Upazilas) of Kurigram and (Dewanganj, Islampur, Melandah, Madarganj Upazilas) Jinalpur districts. The beneficiaries are marginalized and poor people of the project area. The duration of the project is from 1 July 2015 — 30 June 2022. The total budget of the project is 20,324.31 lakhs taka. Last year's (2019-2020) budget of the project was 1,671.97 lakhs taka. The allocated budget of the project for the current financial year (2020-2021) is Tk. 3,330 lakh and the budget for next year is 7,071.70 lakh taka. Total 25,000 poor people are targeted for asset transfer and 14,540 people for providing training under this project. Already (June 2018- June 2020) cattle were distributed among 5,030 ultra-poor beneficiaries and training was also given to 273 marginalized beneficiaries. Cattle will be provided among 6,500 ultra-poor beneficiaries and training will be given to 500 marginalized beneficiaries from June 2020 to June 2021. Cattle will be provided among 19,970 beneficiaries and training will be given to 14,267 beneficiaries from June 2021 to June 2022

Legal Framework

- The Cooperative Societies Rules, 2004
- The National Rural Development Policy, 2001
- The Bangladesh Academy for Rural Development Act, 2017
- The Cooperative Societies Act, 2001
- The (BRDB) Bangladesh Rural Development Board Act, 2018
- The Bangladesh Rural Development Academy Act, 2017

Programme Summary (2020-21)

Table 78: Programme Summary (2020-21) of Rural Development & Cooperatives Division

Sl.	Social Protection Programme	Thematic Cluster	Life Cycle	Beneficiary (Lakh)	Budget (Crore Taka)
1.	My House My Farm	Livelihood Intervention	Working Age	8.07	1,025.50
2.	Employment Guaranty scheme for' the poor of Northern Region (2" phase)	Livelihood Intervention	Working Age	0.06	40.82
3.	Rural Livelihood project (3'd phase)	Livelihood Intervention	Working Age	331,760	71.12
4.	Gaibandha Integrated Rural Development Project	Livelihood Intervention	Working Age	388	6.80
5.	Poverty Reduction through high valued nutritious food production and market- ing programme"	Livelihood Intervention	Working Age	105,000	5.00

Other Programmes

➤ **Gaibandha Integrated Rural Development Project**

This project is being implemented by BRDB as the commitment of the Honourable Prime Minister. The main objective of the project is to increase the capacity of the poor people of the Gaibandha district along with human resource development, job creation and increase in income and capacity. The cost of the project is Tk 41.77 crore (GoB). The main activities of this project are the motivation of the target group of poor

marginalized people, awareness building, skill-based income-generating training, post-training support, the establishment of a display cum-sales centre and rural product market linkage, etc. The project includes 15800 rural beneficiaries through 455 groups. This project piloted and promoted 'Livelihood Village' which has been very much successful to address rural poverty.

➤ **Poverty reduction through high valued nutritious minor crops production & marketing programme**

This project is being implemented by Bangladesh Rural Development Board (BRDB). The main objective of the project is the expansion of production of pulses, oils and spices in the project area, improvement of living standards of the rural poor and reduction of import dependence on pulses. The estimated cost of the project is Tk 206.35 crore (GoB). The main activities of this project are motivation, awareness building, minor crops cultivation-based training, post-training credit support, seeds supply, display plot management etc. The project includes 2.70 lakh beneficiaries through 7680 groups.

➤ **Integrated Rural Employment Support Project for The Poor Women (IRESPPW) - 2'd phase)**

The main objective of this project of BRDB is to alleviate poverty and socio-economic development of the helpless, poor women in the project area. The first phase of the project was completed successfully, and the operation of the project activities are running under the management of BRDB. The estimated cost of the proposed 2nd phase project is 346.55 crore (GoB) Taka. The main activities of this project are adolescent association formation, capital formation through savings, IGA training, post-training support, micro-credit support, entrepreneurship credit support, market linkage of rural products, etc. 1.64 lakh beneficiaries (100 per cent women) through 5,346 women groups and 240 adolescent association are the direct beneficiaries of the project. 104,750 beneficiaries will be trained and engaged in various income-generating activities that will ultimately add to their family income through the leadership of the women workforce.

➤ **Improved Breed Dairy Farming for Livelihood Improvement of the Disadvantaged Women**

This programme is being implemented (July 2016 —June 2021) in 50 Upazilas in 25 poverty-stricken districts of the country to improve the living standards of disadvantaged women, reduce poverty, create local resources and empower women. The number of beneficiaries is 10,000 women. The total amount of revolving funds created under this project is Tk. 12,000 lakh.

➤ **Expansion of Dairy Cooperatives in Gangachara Upazila for Employment Generation through Milk and Meat Production**

This programme is being implemented (May 2016 —June 2021) at Gangachara Upazila, high poverty prone Upazila. The total amount of revolving funds created under this project is Tk. 2,128 lakh. The revolving fund created under the project is fit to the NSSS programme.

Situation Analysis

Table 79: Situation Analysis of Rural Development & Cooperatives Division

Programme Name	NSSS Provision	Present Situation	Gaps
Graduation programmes	Given the dire circumstances of the extreme poor, consideration will need to be given to progressive but substantive scaling up of 'graduation' programmes that offer real and direct income-earning opportunities and formal and informal work to the poorest, alongside complementary activities that provide poor people with a means to lift themselves out of extreme poverty. However, care should be taken so that graduation is not premature, as this would put people in real trouble.	The Rural Development and Cooperatives Division have a great intervention for poverty reduction. The programme is called 'One House - One Farm'. This is one of the prioritized initiatives of the Honourable Prime Minister. Measures are underway to increase the number of beneficiaries.	The programmes need to be further scaled up.
Consolidate Smaller Programmes	The NSSS requires the merging or elimination of many small programmes. Any ministry considering some of their minor programmes to be continued and scaled up will have to send proposals with justification. [Para 4.8 of NSSS]	Under the process of preparation.	To be reviewed.
Improve targeting of beneficiaries	Implementing ministries will be responsible for ensuring correct targeting and zero tolerance to pilferage. [Para 6.3.1 of NSSS]	Existing manuals are online and partially follows the BBS database.	Selection policies and manuals need to be updated and disseminated.
Grievance Redress System	Establishing an effective grievance redress so that all citizens have recourse to appeal decisions on selection and can notify the competent authorities about instances of misconduct and failures in the delivery of the promised benefit [Para 6.3 of NSSS]	Recorded online. Service Centre /Call centre not yet set up. Grievance redressed centrally by ministries also at the district level irrespective of online or written.	The GRS needs to be improved.
Develop Single Registry MIS	The government will establish a national Single Registry that is based on building scheme-specific MISs that communicate with each other. The Single Registry would be based on a national identity system of all Bangladeshi citizens. [Para 6.4 of NSSS]	Under preparation in BBS, apart from that social protection integrated MIS developed at the Finance Division taking MIS Data of 4 ministries. MIS linked for some programmes and others will require some time.	MIS needs to be developed with linkage with the central MIS of the Finance Division.
Digitization of cash transfer	To transform the Government to Person (G2P) payment systems so that they promote financial inclusivity and prevent leakages. Para 6.5 of NSSS]	G2P modality has been finalized. E payment modalities are used. The plan is to cover all cash-based programmes.	
Enhance results-based M&E		M&E Framework has been developed, but the dashboard is not yet in place.	Systematic monitoring and evaluation need to be introduced.

Action Plan (2021-26)

In order to implement the reform proposals of the NSSS the following time-bound activities may be taken up.

Table 80: Action Plan of Rural Development & Cooperatives Division

Sl.	Objectives	Activities	Performance Indicators	Timeframe	Responsible Ministry	Shared Responsibility
1.	Scale-up 'My House - My Farm' programme	Increase coverage of the programme by 15 per cent every year	Coverage increased	Continuous	Rural Development and Cooperatives Division (RD&CD)	Finance Division
2.	Consolidate Smaller Programmes	Prepare a list of programmes to be continued	List sent to Cabinet Division (CD)	July 2021	RD&CD	CD
		Make a list of programmes to be scaled up	List sent to CD	July 2021	RD&CD	CD
		Make a list of programmes to be phased out	List sent to CD	July 2021	RD&CD	CD
		Review the consolidation proposals	Review prepared	December 2021	RD&CD	CD
3.	Improve targeting of beneficiaries	Update manual for selection procedures and disseminate it to people	Circular issued	December 2021	RD&CD	
		Publish a list of beneficiaries online to make it transparent	Instruction given to field offices	Continuous	RD&CD	
		Follow the BBS database when prepared	Instruction given	January 2024	RD&CD	
4.	Grievance Redress System	Make arrangements for recording complaints at field level	Instruction issued	Continuous	RD&CD	
5.		Create public awareness about the facility of central GRS of Cabinet Division	Public meetings held in all Upazilas	By July 2024	RD&CD	

Sl.	Objectives	Activities	Performance Indicators	Timeframe	Responsible Ministry	Shared Responsibility
6.	Develop Single Registry MIS	Create online-based MIS for all programmes	MIS digitized for all programmes	January 2023	RD&CD	
		Make the MIS accessible by relevant departments	Inter-Departmental arrangement established	July 2023	RD&CD	
		Link MIS with cash disbursement	MIS linked with financial management database of Finance Division (SPBMU MIS)	December 2023	RD&CD	
7.	Digitization of cash transfer	Pilot different modalities of G2P	Pilot completed	December 2024	RD&CD	
		Roll out an appropriate format of G2P	G2P rolled out for all programmes	December 2024	RD&CD	
8.	Enhance Results-Based M&E	Digitize monitoring of programmes	Dashboard established	July 2025	RD&CD	
		Conduct mid-term and end-term evaluation of programmes	Programmes evaluated regularly	Continue	RD&CD	
		CODI and Third-Party Evaluation of top/largest social security programmes	Programmes evaluated regularly	Continue	RD&CD	

Key Actions of Rural Government & Cooperatives Division

- Scale up 'My House - My Farm' programme by increasing coverage of the programme by 15 per cent every year.



Ministry of Youth and Sports

**Action Plan (2021-26) Implementation of
National Social Security Strategy (NSSS) of Bangladesh**



*Action Plan of Ministry of Youth
and Sports*

Action Plan (2021-26) for Implementation of National Social Security Strategy (NSSS) of Bangladesh

Ministry of Youth and Sports

The Ministry of Youth and Sports is assigned the responsibility of dealing with youth and sports issues. Skill development of the youth to accelerate youth empowerment is a prime focus of the Ministry. All the citizens aged from 18 to 35 years are considered youth in the country. Engaging them in nation-building activities by harnessing their talent through skill and motivational training is of paramount importance. The Ministry strives to tap the young potential and thus contributes to the achievement of national strategic goals.

Vision

The vision of the Ministry is a skilled youth force for national development with sports for recreation and health.

Mission

The Ministry's mission is to create skilled and productive youth by training and by developing training infrastructure and to achieve excellence in sports at national and international levels.

NSSS Objectives

One of the objectives of the Ministry is to implement skill development programmes for young men and women to make sure that they become a human resource for the country. The NSSS emphasizes the need for strengthening programmes for the youth. There is a growing concern about the welfare of this segment of the Bangladesh population. Many young people are school dropouts, while a significant number of them complete secondary or higher secondary education but are unemployed or under-employed.

Challenges

The NSSS challenge for the Ministry is to ensure the welfare and empowerment of the vulnerable segments of the youth.

Organizational Overview

➤ Youth Development Department

The Department of Youth Development is a government department of Bangladesh responsible for the development of the youth population. It is located in Motijheel, Dhaka, Bangladesh. NSSS related activities provided by DYD is National Service Programme (NSP).

➔ Sheikh Hasina National Institute of Youth Development

Sheikh Hasina National Institute of Youth Development is a Bangladesh Government institute that provides training to athletes and carries out research. Sheikh Hasina National Institute of Youth Development was established in 2018 through the passage of an act in Parliament. It was named after Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina.

➔ National Sports Council

National Sports Council is an autonomous organization under the Ministry of Youth and Sports. It is an apex organization to develop and control sports which were established by 'Bangladesh Sports Council Act 1974. Council through its countrywide greater extension of sports administration has been coordinating, donating and support to sports for organizing and training programmes among national sports federations and organizations along with the establishment of sports structure throughout the country.

➔ Directorate of Sports

The Directorate of Sports is an attached department under the Ministry of Youth and Sports. It has 64 district offices and 6 Physical Education colleges across the Country.

➔ Bangladesh Krira Shikkha Pratishthan (BKSP)

Bangladesh Krira Shikkha Protishtan was established in 1986 with the objective of developing sports in Bangladesh. BKSP is run by a Board of Governors, which is headed by the Minister of Youth and Sports. Social Security Programmes

➔ National Service

This programme has been undertaken for the creation of 2 years temporary employment for unemployed young men and women between 24-35 years old having educational qualification of HSC and above. After 3 months of basic training in 10 different training modules, they will be employed temporarily for a 2-year term in nation-building activities. Under this programme, computer training, information technology and technical training are given to women from the disadvantaged areas of the country. This will integrate them into the mainstream economy. They will be trained and transformed into human resources. This will help to bring equality among men and women. The programme has been implemented by the Ministry of Youth and Sports. There are 1.07 lakh beneficiaries with BDT 576.85 crore budget in the 2020-21 fiscal year for this programme. This programme belongs to Labour & Livelihood Intervention Cluster targeting the Working Age people in rural areas. Moreover, the 5th year plan of the National Service Programme (NSP) is given as below.

Table 81: Five-year plan of the National Service Programme (NSP)

Fiscal Year	Allocation	Beneficiary Training	Job attachment for 02 (two) years	Remarks
2020-21	29,515.31 lakh	5000 persons (8th Phase 10 districts 10 upazillas)	35,623 persons Duty allowance of beneficiaries per person daily 200/- (two hundred) taka & Monthly allowance per person 6000/- taka.	National Service Programme (NSP) 2 (two) years attachment of 5th, 6th & 7th Phase. Training of National Service Programme (NSP) 8th phase has been started from February 2021. 5000 beneficiaries have been selected in this phase. 3 (three) month training will be completed by June 2021.
2021-22	9,625.00 Lakh (Proposed)	-	13,000 persons	

Fiscal Year	Allocation	Beneficiary Training	Job attachment for 02 (two) years	Remarks
2022-23	3,850.00 Lakh	-	5,000 persons	
2023-24	685.00 Lakh (Proposed)	-	5,000 persons	
2024-25	-	-	-	

Legal Framework

- The Draft English Version of National Youth Policy, 2017
- The Youth Welfare Fund Ordinance, 2016
- The Welfare Grant Policy

Programme Summary (2020-21)

Table 82: Programme Summary (2020-21) of Ministry of Youth and Sports

Programme	Thematic Cluster	Life Cycle	Beneficiary (Lakh)	Budget (Crore Taka)
National Service	Labour / Livelihood Interventions	Working Age	1.07	576.85

Other Programmes

➡ Department of Youth Development

1. Capacity building (2nd Amendment) project of the Department of Youth Development to provide IT training in 64 districts from July 2016 to June 2021.
2. Establishment of Leather Production, Marketing and Training Centre for Self-Employment of Disadvantaged Marginal Youth from November 2018 to June 2021
3. Support to Develop National Plan of Action for Implementation of National Youth Policy and Youth Development Index Since October 2017 to December 2021.

➡ National Sports Council

1. Cox's Bazar Birshreshtha Ruhul Amin Stadium development and an indoor stadium construction project from July 2019 to June 2021
2. Further development project including construction of modern media centre and indoor stadium at Rangpur District Stadium from January 2020 to June 2023
3. Project for further development of Bangabandhu National Stadium in Dhaka from July 2019 to June 2022.
4. Study project aimed at constructing Sheikh Kamal International Cricket and Football Stadium Complex in Cox's Bazar district from January 2020 to June 2021.
5. Development of Pabna Shaheed Advocate Amin Stadium and existing swimming pool, construction of indoor cricket net practice shed and further development of Shariatpur District Stadium from January 2020 to June 2023.

➡ Bangladesh Sports Education Institution

1. A project titled Establishment of Sports Schools in Chittagong and Rajshahi (2nd Amendment) under BKSP from January 2015 to December 2021
2. BKSP's Pramila Trainee Sports Development Project from July 2017 to June 2021.

3. Development of BKSP's Regional Training Centre Sylhet and installation of Synthetic Hockey Turf at Regional Training Centre Dinajpur from July 2019 to June 2022

➤ **Ministry of Youth and Sports:**

1. The project, titled Mainstreaming Sports in National Development Redesigning Bangladesh Sports Policy Framework from October 2019 to June 2021.

Situation Analysis

Table 83: Situation Analysis of Ministry of Youth and Sports

Programme Name	NSSS Provision	Present Situation	Gaps
Skill development programme for young men and women	The NSSS emphasizes the need for strengthening programmes for the youth, i.e., the people belonging to the age- group 18 to 35 years. There is a growing concern about the welfare of this segment of the Bangladesh population. Many young people are school dropouts, while a significant number of them complete secondary or higher secondary education but are unemployed or under-employed. The most important policy challenge for such young women and men is to put in place adequate institutional and other arrangements both for training them in	The Ministry of Youth and Sports has a number of programmes for the youth. Programmes for skills development are conducted also by other ministries, including the Ministry of Education, Ministry of Women and Children Affairs, etc. To equip the youth with skills and help their empowerment is an important responsibility of the Ministry. As part of the Government's commitment to empowering citizens through skills development and employment, the National Service Programme was introduced in 2009 -2010. The unemployed youth who have passed HSC or equivalent and are in the age range of 24 to 35 years qualify for the National Service Program.	To enhance skill development programmes for young men and women is necessary. Take motivational programmes for the youths to stop dropouts.
Consolidate Smaller Programmes	The NSSS requires the merging or elimination of many small programmes. Any ministry considering some of their minor programmes to be continued and scaled up will have to send proposals with justification. [Para 4.8 of NSSS]	Under the process of preparation.	To be reviewed.
Improve targeting of beneficiaries	Implementing ministries will be responsible for ensuring correct targeting and zero tolerance to pilferage. [Para 6.3.1 of NSSS]	Existing manuals are online and partially follows the BBS database.	Selection policies and manuals need to be updated and disseminated.

Programme Name	NSSS Provision	Present Situation	Gaps
Grievance Redress System	Establishing an effective grievance redress so that all citizens have recourse to appeal decisions on selection and can notify the competent authorities about instances of misconduct and failures in the delivery of the promised benefit [Para 6.3 of NSSS]	Recorded online. Service Centre / Call centre not yet set up. Grievance redressed centrally by ministries also at the district level irrespective of online or written.	The GRS needs to be improved.
Develop Single Registry MIS	The government will establish a national Single Registry that is based on building scheme-specific MISs that communicate with each other. The Single Registry would be based on a national identity system of all Bangladeshi citizens. [Para 6.4 of NSSS]	Under preparation in BBS, apart from that social protection integrated MIS developed at the Finance Division taking MIS Data of 4 ministries. MIS linked for some programmes and other activities will require some time.	MIS needs to be developed with linkage with the central MIS of the Finance Division.
Digitization of cash transfer	To transform the Government to Person (G2P) payment systems so that they promote financial inclusivity and prevent leakages. [Para 6.5 of NSSS]	G2P modality has been finalized. E payment modalities are used. The plan is to cover all cash-based programmes.	
Enhance results-based M&E		M&E Framework has been developed, but the dashboard is not yet in place.	Systematic monitoring and evaluation need to be introduced.

Action Plan (2021-26)

In order to implement the reform proposals of the NSSS the following time-bound activities may be taken up.

Table 84: Action Plan of Ministry of Youth and Sports

Sl.	Objectives	Activities	Performance Indicators	Timeframe	Responsible Ministry	Shared Responsibility
1.	Skill development programme for young men and women	Increase training programmes for youth	Training of young men increased	Continuous	Ministry of Youth and Sports (MoYS)	Ministry of Education
			Training of young women increased	Continuous		
2.	Consolidate Smaller Programmes	Prepare a list of programmes to be continued	List sent to Cabinet Division (CD)	July 2021	MoYS	CD
		Make a list of programmes to be scaled up	List sent to CD	July 2021	MoYS	CD
		Make a list of programmes to be phased out	List sent to CD	July 2021	MoYS	CD
		Review the consolidation proposals	Review prepared	December 2022	MoYS	CD
3.	Improve targeting of beneficiaries	Update manual for selection procedures and disseminate it to people	Circular issued	December 2021	MoYS	
		Publish a list of beneficiaries online to make it transparent	Instruction given to field offices	Continuous	MoYS	
		Follow the BBS database when prepared	Instruction given	January 2023	MoYS	
4.	Grievance Redress System	Make arrangements for recording complaints at field level	Instruction issued	Continuous	MoYS	
		Create public awareness about the facility of central GRS of Cabinet Division	Public meetings held in all Upazilas	By July 2022	MoYS	

Sl.	Objectives	Activities	Performance Indicators	Timeframe	Responsible Ministry	Shared Responsibility
5.	Develop Single Registry MIS	Create online-based MIS for all programmes	MIS digitized for all programmes	January 2023	MoYS	
		Make the MIS accessible by relevant departments	Inter-Departmental arrangement established	July 2023	MoYS	
		Link MIS with cash disbursement	MIS linked with financial management database of Finance Division (SPBMU MIS)	December 2024	MoYS	
6.	Digitization of cash transfer	Pilot different modalities of G2P	Pilot completed	December 2024	MoYS	
		Roll out an appropriate format of G2P	G2P rolled out for all programmes	December 2025	MoYS	
7.	Enhance results-based M&E	Digitize monitoring of programmes	Dashboard established	July 2025	MoYS	
		Conduct mid-term and end-term	Programmes Evaluated	Continuous	MoYS	
8.	Grievance Redress System	Make arrangements for recording complaints at field level	Instruction issued	Continuous	MoYS	
		Create public awareness about the facility of central GRS of Cabinet Division	Public meetings held in all Upazilas	By July 2022	MoYS	
9.	Develop Single Registry MIS	Create online-based MIS for all programmes	MIS digitized for all programmes	January 2023	MoYS	
		Make the MIS accessible by relevant departments	Inter-Departmental arrangement established	July 2023	MoYS	
		Link MIS with cash disbursement	MIS linked with financial management database of Finance Division (SPBMU MIS)	December 2024	MoYS	

Sl.	Objectives	Activities	Performance Indicators	Timeframe	Responsible Ministry	Shared Responsibility
10.	Digitization of cash transfer	Pilot different modalities of G2P	Pilot completed	December 2024	MoYS	
		Roll out an appropriate format of G2P	G2P rolled out for all programmes	December 2025	MoYS	
11.	Enhance Results-Based M&E	Digitize monitoring of programmes	Dashboard established	July 2025	MoYS	
		Conduct mid- term and end-term evaluation of programmes	Programmes evaluated regularly	Continuous	MoYS	
		CODI and Third-Party Evaluation of top/ largest social security programmes	Programmes evaluated regularly	Continuous	MoYS	

Key Actions of Ministry of Youth and Sports

- Skill development programme for young men and women
- Increase training programmes for youth



Ministry of Housing and Public Works

**Action Plan (2021-26) Implementation of
National Social Security Strategy (NSSS) of Bangladesh**



*Action Plan of Ministry of Housing
and Public Works*

Action Plan (2021-26) for Implementation of National Social Security Strategy (NSSS) of Bangladesh

Ministry of Housing and Public Works

The constitution of the People's Republic of Bangladesh encompasses access to shelter for all citizens. On the behalf of GoB, the MoHPW has adopted housing policies in view of providing shelters to all citizens. The Ministry of Housing and Public Works is a ministry of the government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh which provides housing and regulates the state construction activities in the country. This ministry also looks after all types of Nationally Important Buildings, Offices of Deputy Commissioners, Judges Courts, Offices of Civil Surgeons, Police Lines, Jails, Circuit Houses, Police Station Complexes, Hospitals and Homes of Officers and Employees of the Government of Bangladesh.

Vision

Construction of sustainable and safe infrastructure through optimum use of land for cost-effective housing and planned urbanization.

Mission

Construction of sustainable and safe infrastructure through ensuring proper planning and adequate research and optimum use of land for cost-effective housing and planned urbanization.

NSSS objectives

The NSSS objectives of the Ministry is to provide supports to the relevant authorities in building houses for the poor and the homeless.

Challenges

The challenge for the ministry is to provide technical support in designing and planning housing facilities to the poor and homeless.

Organizational Overview

➤ Public Works Department

Public Works Department or PWD is a government department responsible for the construction of buildings and structures of government organizations and agencies in Bangladesh and is located in Dhaka, Bangladesh. It is under the Ministry of Housing and Public Works. Most of the work done by the department are designed by the government Department of Architecture.

➤ Directorate of Government Accommodation

Directorate of Government Accommodation is a government directorate responsible for looking after government accommodations and state guest houses in Bangladesh and is located in Dhaka, Bangladesh. It is under the Ministry of Housing and Public Works. In 1971 after the Independence of Bangladesh following the Bangladesh Liberation war, the Directorate of Government Housing was created. The Central Estate Office in Dhaka, Estate Office in Dhaka, Regional Estate Office in Chittagong and the Rest Houses

were merged into the directorate. On 9 November 1983, the four offices were separated and placed in the newly created Directorate of Government Accommodation. Bangladesh.

➤ **National Housing Authority (NHA)**

National Housing Authority is a Bangladesh Government regulatory agency under the Ministry of Housing and Public Works. National Housing Authority traces its origins to two different organizations, Housing and Settlement Directorate and Deputy Commissioner Settlement. The government responded by creating a Housing Wing in the Works, Power, and Irrigation Ministry to provide housing to the refugees and low-income families. In 1971, the Housing Wing was updated to the Housing and Settlement Directorate. In 2000, the Parliament of Bangladesh passed the National Housing Authority Act. The Housing and Settlement Directorate and Deputy Commissioner Settlement were combined to form the National Housing Authority on 15 July 2001.

➤ **Urban Development Directorate (UDD)**

Urban Development Directorate is a Bangladesh government regulatory agency under the Ministry of Housing and Public Works responsible for urban planning. Urban Development Directorate was established on 17 July 1965 to develop urban areas.

➤ **House Building Research Institute (HBRI)**

House Building Research Institute has been established for providing technical support in designing and planning housing facilities for the poor and homeless.

Legal Framework

- The National Housing Policy, 2016
- The Urban Area Act, 2014
- The Imarat Nirman Bidhimala, 2008
- The Bangladesh National Building Code, 2020

Social Security programmes

➤ **Improved life Standard for low-income people**

On the behalf of the ministry, National Housing Authority has already piloted housing projects including rental basis housing projects and community-led infrastructure development projects for urban poor/ low-income people. The Improved life standard for low-income people programme helps to improve living standards for low-income people.

Programme Summary (2020-21)

Table 85: Programme Summary (2020-21) of Ministry of Housing and Public Works

Sl.	Social Protection Programme	Thematic Cluster	Life Cycle	Beneficiary	Budget (Crore Taka)
1.	Low Income Community Housing Support Project (LICHSP)	Human Development and Social Empowerment	Covariate Risks	5700 Households	304.25
2.	Construction of 533 Nos. Flats for Squatters on rental basis in Mirpur Section-9, Dhaka	Human Development and Social Empowerment	Covariate Risks	533 Households	148.00

*Development partner: The World Bank

Situation Analysis

Table 86: Situation Analysis of Ministry of Housing and Public Works

Objectives	NSSS Provision	Present Situation	Gaps
Providing Shelters to the Homeless People	Special programmes tailored to the special needs of the socially excluded groups will be implemented, including homeless people [Para 4.4 of NSSS]	NHA on behalf of MoHPW is implementing one project in providing flats on a rental basis for urban homeless people in Dhaka.	Such initiatives are not adequate considering present demand. New projects of rental housing for the homeless are being actively considered by the Ministry.
		Confirmation of land tenure to 2600 nos homeless people through handing over deeds in Baunia, Mirpur Dhaka.	The project was inceptioned in 1991. Inadequacy of proof of present possessions has resulted in difficulties in handover the deeds.
Ensure provision for the location of low-income housing in land use master plan		UDD is formulating two projects namely “Preparation of Comprehensive Development Plan for Nine Upazilas” and “Preparation of Payra-Kuakata Comprehensive Development Plan focusing on ECO-Tourism”	
Consolidate Smaller Programmes	The NSSS requires the merging or elimination of many small programmes. Any ministry considering some of their minor programmes to be continued and scaled up will have to send proposals with justification. [Para 4.8 of NSSS]	Under the process of preparation.	To be reviewed.
Improve targeting of beneficiaries	Implementing ministries will be responsible for ensuring correct targeting and zero tolerance to pilferage. [Para 6.3.1 of NSSS]	Existing manuals are online and partially follows the BBS database.	Selection policies and manuals need to be updated and disseminated.
Grievance Redress System	Establishing an effective grievance redress so that all citizens have recourse to appeal decisions on selection and can notify the competent authorities about instances of misconduct and failures in the delivery of the promised benefit [Para 6.3 of NSSS]	Recorded online. Service Centre /Call centre not yet set up. Grievance redressed centrally by ministries also at the district level irrespective of online or written.	The GRS needs to be improved.

Objectives	NSSS Provision	Present Situation	Gaps
Develop Single Registry MIS	The government will establish a national Single Registry that is based on building scheme-specific MISs that communicate with each other. The Single Registry would be based on a national identity system of all Bangladeshi citizens. [Para 6.4 of NSSS]	Under preparation in BBS, apart from that social protection integrated MIS developed at the Finance Division taking MIS Data of 4 ministries. MIS linked for some programmes and others will require some time.	MIS needs to be developed with linkage with the central MIS of the Finance Division.
Digitization of cash transfer	To transform the Government to Person (G2P) payment systems so that they promote financial inclusivity and prevent leakages. [Para 6.5 of NSSS]	The ministry has a plan is to digitize payment of cash in all programmes.	Needs to digitize disbursement of all benefits.
Enhance results-based M&E	There is an important need to formalize a system of M&E at both the national level and at the individual programme level for assessing the results of the programmes. [Para 7.2 of NSSS]	M&E Framework has been developed. Some programmes with MIS have a digital system for monitoring the progress of programmes. For evaluation, the ministry needs a third party or IMED.	Systematic monitoring and evaluation need to be introduced.

Action Plan (2021-26)

In order to implement the reform proposals of the NSSS the following time-bound activities may be taken up.

Table 87: Action Plan of Ministry of Housing and Public Works

Sl.	Objectives	Activities	Performance Indicators	Timeframe	Responsible Ministry	Shared Responsibility
1.	Provide supports to other ministries in housing programmes for the poor	Provide cooperation and technical supports in housing	Cooperation given	Continuous	The Ministry of Housing and Public Works (MoHPW)	DoA (for Architectural Drawing) PWD (for Structural Design and Drawing)
		Land tenure security through the transfer of public land to the urban poor	Ensure land tenure security of 316 households	July 17 – December 22	- MoHPW - NHA	-

Sl.	Objectives	Activities	Performance Indicators	Timeframe	Responsible Ministry	Shared Responsibility
		Development of Tertiary Infrastructure (Land Development, Drainage system, Sewerage System, Water Supply System, Road, Street lights, etc.) in urban poor communities	Improved urban infrastructure in 17 Communities Directly benefited 5700 households	August 17 – December 22	- MoHPW - NHA	Paurashava City Corporation
		Improve primary and secondary (New Urban Road, Improvement of drain, Water Supply Network) connections for low-income settlements	Indirect beneficiary 85,000 people	August 17 – December 22	- MoHPW - NHA	Paurashava City Corporation
		Provide housing to squatters/ urban poor: Construction of Flats for squatters/ urban poor on rental basis	1000-unit Flats for squatters/ urban poor on rental basis	January 23 – December 26	- MoHPW - NHA	Paurashava City Corporation
		Low-income settlements improvement through basic infrastructure development: Improve urban infrastructure in poor Communities in different towns/ cities	Infrastructure development of 50 communities in different towns/ cities	January 23 – December 26	- MoHPW - NHA	Paurashava City Corporation
		Section of communities in towns/ cities for future development: Land Bank for housing of poor community in towns/ cities	500-acre land banking in 5 cities	January 23 – December 26	- MoHPW - NHA	Land Ministry Paurashava City Corporation

Sl.	Objectives	Activities	Performance Indicators	Timeframe	Responsible Ministry	Shared Responsibility
		Locational space for Low-income housing for urban as well as rural people would be finalized under Preparation of Payra-Kuakata Comprehensive Development Plan focusing on ECO-Tourism”	-	2022-2023	- MoHPW - UDD	
		Locational space for Low-income housing for urban as well as rural people would be finalized under Preparation of Comprehensive Development Plan for Nine Upazilas”	-	2023-2024	- MoHPW - UDD	
		To provide technical support in designing and planning housing facilities for the poor and homeless	-	2021-2026	- MoHPW - HBRI	
2.	Grievance Redress System	Make arrangements for recording complaints at field level	Instruction issued	Continuous	MoHPW	
		Sensitize beneficiaries to use Central GRS of Cabinet Division	Central GRS mentioned in Communication materials	June 2022 onward	MpHPW	
3.	Develop Single Registry MIS	Create standard Programme MIS using NIDs as a primary key	NID incorporated in Programme MISs	June 2022	MoHPW	Cabinet Division ICT Division
		Make the MIS interoperable by relevant departments	Inter-operability established in MISs	June 2023	MoHPW	
4.	Digitization of cash transfer	Digitize payment of cash benefits of the programmes	Cash disbursement digitized	June 2022	MoHPW	Finance Division

Sl.	Objectives	Activities	Performance Indicators	Timeframe	Responsible Ministry	Shared Responsibility
		Link MIS with cash disbursement	MIS linked with financial management database of Finance Division (SPBMU MIS)	December 2023	MoHPW	Finance Division
5.	Enhance results-based M&E	Digitize monitoring of programme implementation	Progress monitoring digitized	December 2023	MoHPW	ICT Division Cabinet Division
		Conduct evaluation of programmes by internal teams/ IMED/ third party	Impact evaluation of Programmes conducted	June 2024	MoHPW	IMED Cabinet Division

Key Actions of Ministry of Housing and Public Works

- Scale up Land tenure security through transfer of public land to the urban poor.
- Development of Tertiary Infrastructure (Land Development, Drainage system, Sewerage system, Water Supply system, Road, Street lights, etc.) in urban poor communities.
- Improve primary and secondary (New Urban Road, Improvement of drain, Water Supply Network) connections for low-income settlements.
- Provide housing to squatters/ urban poor: Construction of Flats for squatters/ urban poor on rental basis.
- Low-income settlements improvement through basic infrastructure development.



NSSS Action Plan, Phase - II (2021-26)



Ministry of Land

**Action Plan (2021-26) Implementation of
National Social Security Strategy (NSSS) of Bangladesh**



Action Plan of Ministry of Land

Action Plan (2021-26) for Implementation of National Social Security Strategy (NSSS) of Bangladesh

Ministry of Land

The Ministry of Land is mainly responsible for the administration of land-related matters. It has a limited range of social security programmes, with involvement especially related to the provision of land.

Vision

The vision of the Ministry is an efficient, transparent and people-friendly land management system.

Mission

The Ministry has a mission to ensure the best possible use of land and provide pro-people land services through efficient, modern, and sustainable land management.

NSSS objectives

The NSSS objective for the ministry is to tackle the marginalization of landless people.

Challenges

There are many people in the country who are socially excluded due to landlessness. Their marginalization may be overcome by providing them with the land.

Organizational Overview

➞ Land Appeal Board

Land Appeal Board is a quasi-judicial government body that is responsible for hearing appeals filed over land management in Bangladesh. It advises the government on issues concerning land management and land administration. It is responsible for evaluating decisions made by land courts, Upazila chairmen, and Upazila members. Its judgments concerning land and law are final and cannot be appealed.

➞ Land Reform Board

Land Reform Board is a government board responsible for land reform and monitoring the implementation of government policies on land. It is located in Dhaka, Bangladesh. It is under the Ministry of Land. It carries out its duties through the local Upazila Land Offices and Union Tehsil offices.

➞ Land Administration Training Centre (LATC)

Land Administration Training Centre is a government training academy under the Ministry of Land responsible for training land administration officers of the Bangladesh Civil Service. It is located in Katabon, Dhaka, Bangladesh.

Social Security programmes

➤ Gucchagram (Climate Victims Rehabilitation)

Bangladesh is currently facing frequent floods, cyclones, prolonged dry season and erosion of riverbanks which make its traditional geographic places inhospitable to human habitation and secure livelihoods. Hundreds of thousands of people in the country have become victims of climate change in recent years and have become “climate refugees” in their own country. In order to reduce poverty by providing housing and income-generating activities for climate victims, the government has been implementing the mega rehabilitation project as part of her government’s pledge to free Bangladesh from poverty, hunger and homelessness. The programme has been implemented by the Ministry of Land. There are 0.89 lakh beneficiaries with BDT 115 crore budget in the 2020-21 fiscal year for this programme. This programme belongs to Food Security and Disaster Assistance Cluster focusing on the Covariate Risks in life cycle approach in rural areas.

Legal Framework

- The East Bengal Tenancy Rules, 1954
- The Land Reform Rule, 2014
- The Acquisition and Requisition of Immovable Property Ordinance, 2017
- The Chittagong Hill Tracks (Land Acquisition) Regulation (Amendment) Act, 2019

Situation Analysis

Table 88: Situation Analysis of Ministry of Land

Programme Name	NSSS Provision	Present Situation	Gaps
Allotment of land to landless people	The NSSS identifies landlessness as one of the causes of marginalization. Such a type of marginalization should be addressed properly by providing land to the landless. [2.3.2 of NSSS]	The Ministry of Land has some programmes for landless people, such as the Guccha Gram (CVRP) Project, Char Development and Settlement Project, etc.	The programmes need to be further scaled up
Providing Shelters to the Homeless People	Special programmes tailored to the special needs of the socially excluded groups will be implemented, including homeless people [Para 4.4 of NSSS]	The Ministry of Land has a programme called Gucchagram for the rehabilitation of climate victims. The programme has 0.89 lakh beneficiaries with BDT 115 crore budget in 2020-21.	Needs to continue the ongoing initiatives of providing shelter to landless people. Coordination with the other ministries needs to be strengthened.
Consolidate Smaller Programmes	The NSSS requires the merging or elimination of many small programmes. Any ministry considering some of their minor programmes to be continued and scaled up will have to send proposals with justification. [Para 4.8 of NSSS]	Under the process of preparation.	To be reviewed.

Programme Name	NSSS Provision	Present Situation	Gaps
Improve targeting of beneficiaries	Implementing ministries will be responsible for ensuring correct targeting and zero tolerance to pilferage. [Para 6.3.1 of NSSS]	Existing manuals are online and partially follows the BBS database.	Selection policies and manuals need to be updated and disseminated.
Grievance Redress System	Establishing an effective grievance redress so that all citizens have recourse to appeal decisions on selection and can notify the competent authorities about instances of misconduct and failures in the delivery of the promised benefit [Para 6.3 of NSSS]	Recorded online. Service Centre /Call centre not yet set up. Grievance redressed centrally by ministries also at the district level irrespective of online or written.	The GRS needs to be improved.
Develop Single Registry MIS	The government will establish a national Single Registry that is based on building scheme-specific MISs that communicate with each other. The Single Registry would be based on a national identity system of all Bangladeshi citizens. [Para 6.4 of NSSS]	Under preparation in BBS, apart from that social protection integrated MIS developed at the Finance Division taking MIS Data of 4 ministries. MIS linked for some programmes and others will require some time.	MIS needs to be developed with linkage with the central MIS of the Finance Division.
Digitization of cash transfer	To transform the Government to Person (G2P) payment systems so that they promote financial inclusivity and prevent leakages. [Para 6.5 of NSSS]	The ministry has a plan is to digitize payment of cash in all programmes.	
Enhance results-based M&E	There is an important need to formalize a system of M&E at both the national level and at the individual programme level for assessing the results of the programmes. [Para 7.2 of NSSS]	M&E Framework has been developed. Some programmes with MIS have a digital system for monitoring the progress of programmes. For evaluation, the ministry needs a third party or IMED.	Systematic monitoring and evaluation need to be introduced.

Action Plan (2021-26)

In order to implement the reform proposals of the NSSS the following time-bound activities may be taken up.

Table 89: Action Plan of Ministry of Land

Sl.	Objectives	Activities	Performance Indicators	Timeframe	Responsible Ministry	Shared Responsibility
1.	Scale-up housing programmes for landless people	Increase coverage of the programmes	Coverage increased	Continuous	Ministry of Land	PMO MoDMR
2.	Consolidate Smaller Programmes	Prepare a list of small programmes	List sent to Cabinet Division (CD)	December 2022	Ministry of Land	CD
		Identify the small programmes to be scaled up or phased out	List sent to CD	June 2023	Ministry of Land	CD
3.	Improve targeting of beneficiaries	Update manual for selection procedures and disseminate it to people	Circular updated	December 2017	Ministry of Land	
		Publish a list of beneficiaries online (where applicable)	Instruction given to responsible officials	June 2022	Ministry of Land	
		Follow poverty database of BBS database when available	Instruction given	June 2022	Ministry of Land	
4.	Grievance Redress System	Arrange for recording complaints at field level	Instruction issued	Continuous	Ministry of Land	
		Sensitize beneficiaries to use Central GRS of Cabinet Division	Central GRS mentioned in Communication materials	June 2022 onward	Ministry of Land	
5.	Develop Single Registry MIS	Create standard Programme MIS using NIDs as a primary key	NID incorporated in Programme MISs	June 2022	Ministry of Land	CD ICT Division
		Make the MIS interoperable by relevant departments	Interoperability established in MISs	June 2023	Ministry of Land	
6.	Digitization of cash transfer	Digitize payment of cash benefits of the programmes	Cash disbursement digitized	June 2022	Ministry of Land	Finance Division
		Link MIS with cash disbursement	MIS linked with financial management database of Finance Division (SPBMU MIS)	December 2023	Ministry of Land	Finance Division

Sl.	Objectives	Activities	Performance Indicators	Timeframe	Responsible Ministry	Shared Responsibility
7.	Enhance results-based M&E	Digitize monitoring of programme implementation	Progress monitoring digitized	December 2023	Ministry of Land	ICT Division CD
		Conduct evaluation of programmes by internal teams/IMED/ third party	Impact evaluation of Programmes conducted	June 2024	Ministry of Land	IMED CD
		Use CODI for assessing programmes	CODI framework used for assessing programmes	June 2022 June 2025 (Twice for each major programme)	Ministry of Land	CD

Key Actions of Ministry of Land

- Scale up housing programmes for landless people Increase coverage of the programmes



NSSS Action Plan, Phase - II (2021-26)



General Economics Division (GED) Bangladesh Planning Commission Ministry of Planning

**Action Plan (2021-26) Implementation of
National Social Security Strategy (NSSS) of Bangladesh**



*Action Plan of General Economics
Division (GED)*

Action Plan (2021-26) for Implementation of National Social Security Strategy (NSSS) of Bangladesh

General Economics Division (GED)

General Economics Division (GED) of the Bangladesh Planning Commission of the Ministry of Planning is the prime policy and planning organ of the Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh. The division is responsible for preparing the country's long-term and medium-term development policies, strategies, and plans. Being one of the six divisions of the Bangladesh Planning Commission, it provides secretarial assistance to the Bangladesh Planning Commission as well as to the NEC (National Economic Council) and the ECNEC (Executive Committee of the National Economic Council) in various matters concerning plan preparation and economic policy/strategy formulation. GED is the national poverty and SDG focal point of the Government. GED has prepared the National Social Security Strategy, 2015 and set the road map of establishing a solid social security system in Bangladesh.

Vision

Sustainable and Inclusive Development Planning for Achieving Prosperous Bangladesh.

Mission

Formulation, Monitoring and Evaluation of Effective, Sustainable and Inclusive Mid and Long-term Development Plan for Accelerating National Development.

NSSS objectives

The NSSS has assigned the GED with the following major tasks: devising a results-based M&E framework for social security programmes, facilitating to establish a single registry MIS, harmonization/consolidation of small schemes, developing a business case of selecting the beneficiaries of social security schemes, and carrying out a review of current socioeconomic policy, strategies and plans and check the consistency with NSSS.

GED aims at accomplishing the assigned tasks by maintaining policy coherence with the Government's existing plans and strategies, including the Perspective Plan and Five-Year Plans and Delta Plan-2100. In addition, GED will ensure cohesion among the policies, plans, strategies, so that the whole process would be visual under the broader inclusive Social Development Framework.

Challenges

The main challenge for GED is to ensure that the major policies of the government are consistent with the NSSS. It is also imperative to ensure that a single registry MIS is in place in time so that the M&E framework can operate appropriately to facilitate NSSS implementation with transparency and accountability.

Organizational Overview

The General Economics Division (GED) does not have any subordinate or attached office per se. Therefore, in order to understand the functions and responsibilities of the GED relating to social protection, the following information may be useful:

➤ Working areas of the General Economics Division (relating to poverty, SDG and social security)

- Develop government's long-term plans and strategies like Bangladesh Delta Plan 2100; Perspective Plans and National Social Security Strategy (NSSS) and medium-term plans and strategies like Five Year Plan;
- Monitoring and implementation review of plans and policies;
- Analysis of the poverty situation of Bangladesh as a focal point of national poverty;
- Support implementation and evaluate achievements of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs);
- Conduct evaluation of progress achieving the targets set in the national policy and plans to set course corrections in the mid-way;
- Provide comments on projects presented in PEC/DPEC/SPEC/ ECNEC/NEC meetings in the light of Five-Year Plan;
- Provide comments on activities related to Women in Development.
- Conduct research on savings, investment, and income distribution, and international economics.

➤ 8th Five-year Plan

Following the successful track records of the previous Five-Year Plans, the 8th Five-Year Plan is one of the latest additions to the list of glaring achievements of the GED. The 8FYP was approved by the National Economic Council on 29 December 2020. The Plan centres around core themes, including rapid recovery from COVID-19; GDP growth acceleration, employment generation and rapid poverty reduction. The first part of the plan delineates the macroeconomic framework for the plan period (July 2020 – June 2025). The second part sets out the sectoral strategies for thirteen sectors (except defence) with some specific targets to attain by FY2025.

➤ Bangladesh Perspective Plan 2041

To translate the vision 2041 into reality, the GED has prepared “Making Vision 2041 A Reality: Perspective Plan of Bangladesh 2021-2041” which is a genuine articulation of the government vision to transform the country from a lower middle-income country to an Upper Middle-Income Country by 2031 and a high-income country by 2041. The other juxtaposed goals are eradicating extreme poverty by 2031 and zero poverty by 2041. The vision document consists of twelve chapters, including topics ranging from governance, human development, a transformation of industry and trade, agriculture, generation of power, and energy to ICT development and climate change and environment. It also includes the macroeconomic framework, which targets each financial year with important macro indicators in more detail.

➤ Bangladesh Delta Plan 2100

Bangladesh Delta Plan 2100 has been conceived as a long-term techno-economic, integrated plan. As such, formulation of strategies in the short (budgeting), medium and long term is the most significant part of the planning process. The long-term strategies will help to fulfil the Delta Vision, whereas the short- and medium-term strategies will help achieve benefits within the country's Five-Year Planning horizon as well as contribute to achieving SDGs and other national policy goals. The Vision of BDP 2100 is “Achieving Safe, Climate Resilient and Prosperous Delta” and the Mission of the Bangladesh Delta Plan has been articulated

as “Ensure long term water and food security, economic growth and environmental sustainability while effectively reducing vulnerability to natural disasters and building resilience to climate change and other delta challenges through robust, adaptive and integrated strategies, and equitable water governance.”

➡ **National Social Security Strategy (NSSS) of Bangladesh**

The proven capacity of the GED in formulating different effective plans for poverty reduction and economic development of the country put it in a position to be entrusted by the Cabinet, led by Hon’ble Prime Minister, to formulate a strategy for the reforms of the social protection of the country. It was a challenging matter involving the stakes of more than 35 ministries and divisions. However, the capable leadership of the GED, in cooperation with Cabinet Division, prepared the NSSS which is a long-term road map for reforming the social security system of the country in alignment with a lifecycle framework. It also provided a detailed guideline for reforming the governance structure of the social security delivery system.

Social Security Programmes

➡ **Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) of National Social Security Strategy (NSSS) and Single Registry MIS**

The GED leads the M&E Committee for creating a framework of results-based monitoring and evaluation of NSSS and also to provide guidance for developing a single registry MIS architecture. The NSSS vision for M&E is to have regular and continuous mechanisms in place in order to make decisions. The NSSS has the objective of establishing multiple MISs for individual programmes and having a central database connected to the household database and the national identification system. An effective M&E strategy for the NSSS will need to use monitoring data accurately using reporting chains and monitoring of the implementation of the NSSS itself.

➡ **Local Consultative Group (LCG) on Poverty**

This is an effective forum (government stakeholders and the development partners) to collaborate with different ministries and divisions of the government and the development partners in their activities relating to social protection. Chaired by the Member of GED, the LCG effectively discussed the ongoing scenarios of the country about social protection and poverty reduction issues to create a synergic force by coordinating the efforts of the development partners.

➡ **Research on Social Security Implementation**

○ **Midterm Implementation Review of the National Social Security Strategy**

As it marks halfway through its first phase (2016-2021) of NSSS implementation, it was important to assess the progress against its predetermined measurable indicators. Hence, the CMC entrusted upon the GED to conduct a midterm review (MTR) study for assessing the implementation progress of NSSS. The specific objectives of the study were to assess NSSS reforms, performance, and achievements to date in different ministries and divisions; to review the NSSS from gender perspectives; to assess NSSS reforms through the lens of those with disabilities. The findings of MTR report provided inputs for designing the second phase of the NSSS Action Plan.

○ **Barriers to accessing social protection programmes for the poor and marginalized**

This research was carried out by the GED to analyse the barriers to accessing social protection programmes for the poor and marginalized. It assessed the exclusion rate in accessing

social security programmes, identified factors that affect the participation of the poor and marginalized groups and provides the way forward to address the access barriers.

○ Other Research on Social Protection

In addition to the above, the GED conducted researches on Cost-benefit study on effects of social protection cash transfer; Implication of changing demographics and effects on social protection in Bangladesh; Long-term effect of livelihood promotion types of social security programmes; workfare programmes and skill development in Bangladesh: evidence and policy implications; harmonization of small social security programmes: issues and policy options; diagnostics for urban poverty and the social security needs of the urban poor in Bangladesh; situation analysis: a perception study on persons with disabilities in Bangladesh; and study on a framework for the introduction of the national social insurance scheme in Bangladesh, etc.

Situation Analysis

Table 90: Situation Analysis of General Economics Division (GED)

Programme name	NSSS Provision	Present Situation	Gaps
Devising and instituting a results-based M&E system	Prepare a results framework using a matrix of specific indicators and evaluate the entire NSSS in a holistic approach. The GED will be responsible for the overall coordination of the M&E framework; preparation of annual reports on the performance of the NSSS for the CMC; and dissemination of the evaluation results. A task force comprising GED, IMED, SID and Finance Division of the Ministry of Finance will prepare the process and procedure of performance-based monitoring of Social Security Programmes. [Para 7.5.1 of NSSS]	Results-based Monitoring and Evaluation for the NSSS – a discussion paper presented in a national dialogue presided over by the Member (Senior Secretary), GED in September 2017. The discussion paper was well accepted as the M&E framework. A task force, which is called the NSSS M&E Committee headed by the Member (Senior Secretary), GED was formed in late 2018, endorsed by the Central Management Committee (CMC) on Social Security Programmes headed by the Cabinet Secretary, provides necessary guidance in conducting the review, and necessary research works.	The recommended results-based M&E framework needs to be converted into a practicable tool for monitoring and Evaluation of the Social Security Programmes. Pilot testing may be useful.

Programme name	NSSS Provision	Present Situation	Gaps
Single Registry Management Information System (MIS)	Commission a review of MISs across all of Bangladesh's social security schemes. The review will consider how best to establish a Single Registry MIS, along with the costs of implementation. [Para 6.4 of NSSS]	Assessment and Road Map Report – Situation Assessment for Establishing a National Social Protection Management Information System in Bangladesh has been completed under the guidance of the NSSS M&E Committee, and approval.	Based on the assessment, a road map for each individual and responsible ministry is necessary. Dialogues and consultations may be organized in this regard.
Consolidation of small-scale programmes	GED will review the business cases prepared by the line ministries on the programmes to continue and recommend to the Cabinet Division as to what programmes are to be retained. [Para 4.8 of NSSS]	Consolidation of small social security programmes is an integral part of the NSSS Action Plan implemented by each ministry. A Business Case, including the beneficiary selection process, has been developed. After sensitization, the Business Case was distributed among the ministries in CMC focal points meeting. All ministries/divisions presented their respective ministries 'Business Case' at Bangladesh Social Security Conference 2018. The conference report was submitted and presented before CMC. However, the fact remains that hardly any small schemes were phased out on the recommendation of the GED report due to practical reasons. The consolidation often implicates administrative issues, manpower, etc. Therefore, the proposal of consolidation should be handled more carefully.	GED specifically conducted a separate study on 'Harmonization of small-scale social security programmes: issues and policy options. The ministries should prepare pragmatic proposals for the consolidation of programmes. The proposals should at least contain modalities of channelizing the delivery system through unique windows, even though the programmes are operated and managed separately.

Programme name	NSSS Provision	Present Situation	Gaps
Reviewing the current selection process of recipients of social security schemes	GED will lead a study to review the current selection processes, aligned to the eligibility criteria to be used for each scheme and make recommendations for introducing high-quality selection processes. [Para 6.6 of NSSS]	<p>Apart from conducting the NSSS Mid Term Review, GED has also undertaken several analytical studies in the related areas. These were:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i) Barriers of accessing social protection programmes for the poor and marginalized; ii) Cost-benefit ratio study on effects of social protection cash transfer; iii) Implication of changing demographics and effects on social protection in Bangladesh; iv) Long-term effects of livelihood promoting types of social security programmes; v) Workfare programmes and skill development in Bangladesh: evidence and policy implications; vi) Harmonization of small social security programmes: issues and policy options; vii) Diagnostics for urban poverty and the social security needs of the urban poor in Bangladesh; and viii) Situation analysis: A perception study on persons with disabilities in Bangladesh. 	A strategy paper on small programmes consolidation and beneficiary selection following through investigative and participatory approaches will provide better social security programme harmonization guidance.
Policy reviews	GED will monitor and evaluate NSSS implementation and oversee coordination and consistency of social security policies/ strategies with the NSSS and medium and long-term national plans and strategies. [Para 6.3.1 of NSSS]	Already GED has ensured reflections of the NSSS in the 7th and 8th Five-year Plans, Bangladesh Perspective Plans of 2021 and 2041. GED is also conscious of making the upcoming policies, programmes, etc., coherent with the NSSS. GED is also working actively to make the SDGs implementation plan compliant with the NSSS spirit. NSSS Gender Policy was one of the major outcomes of the national gender and women policy review. The draft NSSS gender policy was shared in a national dialogue, where Cabinet Secretary attended as Chief Guest, and Secretary, Women and Children Affairs attended as Special Guest, while Member (Senior Secretary), GED chaired the dialogue attended by national-level government, NGOs, CSO, legal agencies, representatives of educational institutions, and development partners.	The efficacy of the NSSS implementation may be periodically reviewed

Action Plan (2021-26)

In order to implement the reform proposals of the NSSS the following time-bound activities may be taken up.

Table 91: Action Plan of General Economics Division (GED)

Sl.	Objectives	Activities	Performance indicators	Timeframe	Responsible Ministry	Shared Responsibility
1.	Results-based M&E framework for social security	Review the existing M&E System of social security	Report prepared on prevailing M&E system	June 2022	GED	IMED, Cabinet Division
		Formulate and propose a suitable framework	An improved M&E framework submitted	June 2023		
		Suggest technical details regarding the modalities of linking the M&E with single registry MIS	Technical Guidelines for linking M&E and MIS proposed	June 2024	GED	IMED, Cabinet Division, ICT Division
2.	Design a Structure of Integrated Single Registry MIS	Conduct a national dialogue on single registry MIS under NSSS M&E Committee	Dialogue/consultation held	July 2022	GED	Cabinet Division, Finance Division
		Based on conducted study, prepare a master plan of Single Registry MIS in coordination with the Cabinet Division	A master plan prepared	December 2022		Cabinet Division Statistics and Informatics Division
3.	Consolidation of Small and Special Programmes	Collate consolidation proposals of ministries	Proposals compiled	December 2022	Cabinet Division (CD)	Cabinet Division and all line ministries
		Review the proposals and make recommendations of consolidation to CMC	Review report prepared	June 2023		
4.	Rationalize the selection procedures	Review the selection manuals/guidelines of line ministries	Selection manuals and overall system reviewed.	June 2022	GED	Cabinet Division, Line Ministries
		Prepare a report with a recommendation for improving the targeting of beneficiaries	Commendation report submitted to Cabinet Division	June 2023	GED	Cabinet Division, Line Ministries

Sl.	Objectives	Activities	Performance indicators	Timeframe	Responsible Ministry	Shared Responsibility
5.	Review the consistency of national policies with NSSS	Monitor the consistency of social security policies with the NSSS	Relevant programme documents reviewed.	June 2022	GED	Cabinet Division and Line ministries
		Sensitize all ministries to make their major policies coherent with the NSSS with the support of the Cabinet Division	Office memorandum issued	June 2023		
		Policy review report(s) available to CMC	A study report is published	December 2023		

Key Actions of General Economics Division (GED)

- Review the existing M&E System of social security
- Suggest technical details regarding the modalities of linking the M&E with single registry MIS
- Review the proposals and make recommendations of consolidation to CMC
- Prepare a report with recommendation for improving targeting of beneficiaries
- Monitor the consistency of social security policies with the NSSS
- Sensitize all ministries to make their major policies coherent with the NSSS with the support of Cabinet Division



Implementation Monitoring and Evaluation Division (IMED)

**Action Plan (2021-26) Implementation of
National Social Security Strategy (NSSS) of Bangladesh**



Action Plan of Implementation
Monitoring and Evaluation Division
(IMED)

Action Plan (2021-26) for Implementation of National Social Security Strategy (NSSS) of Bangladesh

Implementation Monitoring and Evaluation Division (IMED)

For carrying out monitoring activities of the ongoing development projects and impact evaluation of the completed projects, the Project Implementation Bureau (PIB) was established in January 1975. Later, PIB was transformed into the Implementation Monitoring and Evaluation Division (IMED) in 1984 and was placed under the supervision of the Ministry of Planning. A special unit called Central Procurement Technical Unit (CPTU) was added to IMED in May 2002 for the sake of maintaining transparency in the public procurement sector. IMED has got 9 (nine) sectors and each sector is being supervised by one Director General. The officials working in each sector carry out monitoring activities by visiting the project site and analyzing the work plan and procurement plans of the project. After such a visit and analysis, the IMED officials submit their recommendations within the purview of the DPP.

Vision

Proper monitoring and evaluation of the development projects for sustainable development.

Mission

To provide effective support in the socio-economic development of the country by doing proper monitoring of the implementation procedures including procurement activities and also by doing impact evaluation of the completed projects

Challenges

Carrying out monitoring and evaluation activities of the development projects with the existing manpower and logistic support is being treated as a huge challenge of IMED.

Objectives

To support the attainment of socio-economic development of the country through effective monitoring and evaluation of the development projects.

Situation Analysis

Table 92: Situation Analysis of Implementation Monitoring and Evaluation Division (IMED)

Programme Name	NSSS Provision	Present Situation	Gaps
Monitoring and Evaluation of the development projects/ programmes under NSSS (National Social Security Strategy)	The NSSS stipulates that the IMED will be responsible for programmes performance monitoring (both physical and financial) independently and will report to the CMC of the Cabinet Division. [Figure 6.1, Para 6.3.1 of NSSS]	IMED usually monitors and evaluates the development projects/ programmes under Annual Development Programmes and report to the concerned ministry, sector of the planning commission and implementation agency. However, most of the social security programmes are financed from the revenue budget. Therefore, IMED does not conduct monitoring and evaluation of revenue budgeted social security projects/ programmes.	IMED does not conduct monitoring and evaluation of revenue budgeted projects/ programmes.

Action Plan (2021-26)

In order to implement the Monitoring and Evaluation of the development projects under NSSS, the following time-bound action plan may be taken up.

Table 93: Action Plan of Implementation Monitoring and Evaluation Division (IMED)

Sl.	Objectives	Activities	Performance Indicators	Timeframe		Responsible Ministry	Shared Responsibility
				Year	Number of projects		
1	To support the attainment of socio-economic development of the country through effective monitoring and evaluation of the development projects.	To monitor implementation activities of the ongoing projects and report to CMC (Central Management committee) of Cabinet Division	1) Component wise physical and financial progress of the projects 2) Annual procurement plan 3) Annual work plan 4) Overall progress of the projects 5) Physical Observation (if applicable)	2021-22	10	IMED	CMC of Cabinet Division, Concerned Ministry / Division, and Implementing agency.
				2022-23	10		
				2023-24	10		
				2024-25	10		
				2025-26	10		

		To evaluate impacts of the development projects/ programmes and report to CMC of Cabinet Division	1) Achieved component wise physical and financial progress 2) Completed annual procurement plan by fiscal year 3) Completed annual work plan 4) Audit report reviewed 5) Achieved the objectives of the projects	As per Project Completion Report (PCR)	IMED	CMC of Cabinet Division, Concerned Ministry / Division, and implementing agency.
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Key Actions of Implementation Monitoring and Evaluation Division (IMED)

- Monitor implementation activities of the ongoing projects and report to CMC (Central Management committee) of Cabinet Division
- Evaluate impacts of the development projects/ programmes and report to CMC of Cabinet Division



NSSS Action Plan, Phase - II (2021-26)



Statistics and Informatics Division (SID)

Action Plan (2021-26)
National Social Security Strategy (NSSS) of Bangladesh



*Action Plan of Statistics and
Informatics Division (SID)*

Action Plan (2021-26) for Implementation of National Social Security Strategy (NSSS) of Bangladesh

Statistics and Informatics Division (SID)

Statistics and Informatics Division is responsible for producing official statistics to help decision making and development progress. The Division conducts population censuses and surveys on agriculture, economic affairs and other matters including socio-economic affairs, demography, and environment.

Vision

The vision of the Division is dependable statistics for the development of the country.

Mission

To achieve the vision, the Division has the mission to collect, process, analyze and publish statistical information for the development of the country and the welfare of the people.

NSSS objectives

The NSSS objective for the Division is to develop, maintain and update the social security beneficiary database through creating a single registry MIS. SID is also creating a Bangladesh Household Database (NHD) which will be a source for eligible social security beneficiaries.

Challenges

For social security programmes, there is no single registry database that can be accessed by all the social security implementing authorities. Such a database is necessary to avoid undue duplication in beneficiary coverage. Further, the shift from current discretionary to a targeted universal approach to avoid leakages and under-coverage envisaged in the NSSS requires a social registry from where eligible beneficiaries can be sourced.

Organizational Overview

➤ Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics (BBS)

The BBS is a vital organization under the SID for collecting statistics on demographics, the economy, and other facts about the country and disseminating the information. Bangladesh established the BBS in 1974 by merging four of the larger statistical agencies such as the Bureau of Statistics, the Bureau of Agriculture Statistics, the Agriculture Census Commission and the Population Census Commission. Thus, the Bureau is assigned to carry out the responsibilities of its earlier component organizations. In social security, BBS plays a vital role by producing household poverty data and various census reports. The use of modern and digitized tools and techniques elevated the status of the BBS as the most reliable organization for generating data and statistics informing the policy decision of the government in social protection.

Legal Framework

- The Statistics Act, 2013
- The Statistics and Informatics Policy, 2016
- The Statistics Rules, 2014
- The Policy on Producing and Publication of Statistics, 2015

Social Security Programmes

The National Household Database (NHD) project is expected to fulfil one of the main elements of the poverty reduction strategy of the government which aims to “strengthen the coordination, targeting and coverage of social protection programmes. The National Household Database (NHD) that is being developed under Safety Net Systems for the Poorest (SSNP) of World Bank will not only facilitate better targeting of the poor household for safety-net service delivery but also provide for a way to improve the coordination among various safety nets implementation by different ministries/divisions.

A. Objectives: The objectives of the project are as follows:

- To develop a national database for all the households in Bangladesh, including demographic and other information.
- To develop a comprehensive list of all households including poor households in the country which will simplify the targeting methods of different social protection/ empowerment programmes of the Ministry of Disaster Management and Relief as well as other ministries and divisions and eliminate beneficiary overlapping of the various social safety net programmes.

B. Implementation Period: July 2013 to 30 June 2021 (Projection for December 2022)

C. Estimated cost: Taka 727.35 crore (GoB 40.55 crore and world Bank. 686.80 crores)

Programme Summary

National Household Database has been completed under NHD Project but is not usable due to some issues of MIS pending with DDM. DDM is working with the concerned firm to solve those MIS issues by June 2021. NHD-MIS Database is usable by using proxy means test. This database will be instrumental in sourcing people eligible for various kinds of social security benefits.

Situation Analysis

Table 94: Situation Analysis of Statistics and Informatics Division

Programme Name	NSSS Provision	Present Situation	Gaps
Single Registry MIS and Bangladesh Household Database	The NSSS indicates that the SID, through BBS, will develop, maintain and update a beneficiary database. It will commission a review of MISs across all social security schemes and based on the finding establish a Single Registry on a pilot basis within SID. Based on the results of the pilot it will be rolled out nationwide. [Figure 6.1, Para 6.3.1 of NSSS]	National Household Database has been completed under NHD Project but is not usable due to some issues of MIS pending with DDM. DDM is working with the concerned firm to solve those MIS issues by June 2021. NHD-MIS Database is usable by using proxy means test. This database will be instrumental in sourcing people eligible for various kinds of social security benefits.	It can be mentioned that the Database has been completed under the NHD project but is not usable due to some issues of MIS pending with DDM. The Single Registry MIS is yet to be designed.

Action Plan (2021-26)

In order to implement the reform proposals of the NSSS, the following time-bound activities may be taken up.

Table 95: Action Plan of Statistics and Informatics Division

Sl.	Objectives	Activities	Performance Indicators	Timeframe	Responsible Ministry	Shared Responsibility
1.	Create the Bangladesh Household Database	Create the database with Geographic Information System (GIS) and socio-economic condition of people	Database created	December 2022	SID	
2.	Single Registry MIS	Coordinate with GED to conduct a study on an ideal framework of single registry MIS	Study completed	July 2022	SID	CMC of Cabinet Division, GED
		Run a pilot of Single Registry MIS at SID	Pilot MIS run	December 2022	SID	CMC of Cabinet Division, GED
		Publish a list of beneficiaries online to make it transparent	Instruction given to field offices	Continuous	SID	
		Follow the NHD database when prepared	Instruction given	February 2023	SID	
		Make the MIS accessible by relevant departments	Inter-Departmental arrangement established	July 2023	SID	
		Link MIS with cash disbursement	MIS linked with financial management database of Finance Division (SPBMU MIS)	December 2023	SID	
		Conduct mid-term evaluation of programmes	Programmes evaluated regularly	Continuous	SID	

Key Actions of Statistics and Informatics Division

- Create the database with GIS and socio-economic condition of people.
- Coordinate with GED to conduct a study on ideal framework of single registry MIS.
- Follow the NHD database for beneficiary selection and link the MIS with cash disbursement.



Planning Division

**Action Plan (2021-26) Implementation of
National Social Security Strategy (NSSS) of Bangladesh**



Action Plan of Planning Division

Action Plan (2021-26) for Implementation of National Social Security Strategy (NSSS) of Bangladesh

Planning Division

Planning Division has been playing a key role in formulating long, medium- and short-term national development plans, policies, and strategies for the attainment of socio-economic development of the country. The division has been simplifying the process of development project proposal preparation, evaluation, approval and amendment and preparing Annual Development Programme (ADP) and Revised Annual Development Programme (RADP) as per national plans, policies and strategies. It is also undertaking research for socio-economic development, providing incentives to the researchers; conducting need-based training, surveys and investigations for effective planning and economic development; and publishing reports/journals in this regard and performing administrative functions of the subordinate organizations/departments of the Planning Division including Planning Commission.

Vision

Sustainable, time-bound and effective development through the participatory national development plan, policy, strategy and effective resource management.

Mission

Facilitating supportive role for overall sustainable development of the country through the formulation of participatory national development plans, policies, strategies and effective distribution of wealth.

NSSS Objectives

The NSSS objectives of the Planning Division is to support in formulating plans, policies and strategies for strengthening the social protection of the country.

Challenges

The challenge for the ministry is to facilitate in creating effective coordination mechanism for formulating congenial strategies and policies for social protection system in the country

Organizational Overview

➔ Bangladesh Institute of Development Studies

The Bangladesh Institute of Development Studies is an autonomous multi-disciplinary public research organization that conducts policy research on development issues for Bangladesh. Supported by the Government of Bangladesh, BIDS functions as a think tank, helping formulate socio-economic policies. The institute conducts research and promotes study and education in development economics, rural development, demographics, and social sciences

Legal Framework

- Perspective Plan (2010-2021)
- Perspective Plan (2021-2041)
- 8th Five Year Plan
- National Social Security Strategy (NSSS)
- National Social Security Strategy (NSSS) Action Plan

Social Security Programmes

- Planning Division is not directly involved with Social Security Programmes.
- Development Support for Special Needs

Programme Summary (2020-21)

Table 96: Programme Summary (2020-21) of Planning Division

Social Protection Programme	Thematic Cluster	Life Cycle	Budget (Crore Taka)
Development Support for Special Needs for all Ministries and Divisions	Human Development and Social Empowerment	Covariate Risks	1273.37 (As per RADP)

The share of the social security budget of the Planning Commission is more than 1 per cent of the overall social budget of the government as is shown in the following chart. The division has only one programme out of 119 programmes as is shown below:

Planning Division -
Share of Social Protection Budget

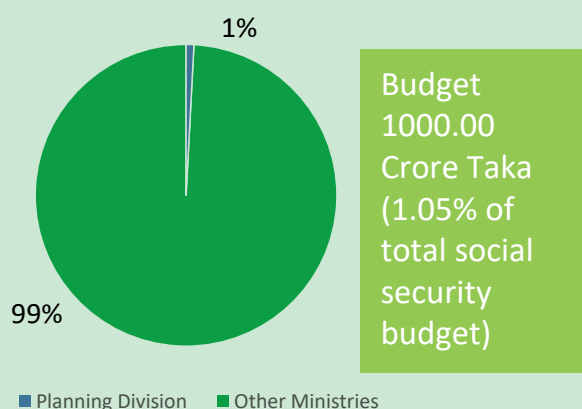


Figure 47: Share of Social Security Budget of Planning Division

Planning Division -
Number of Programmes

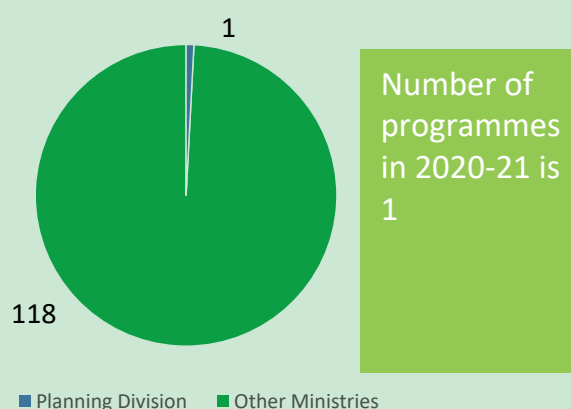


Figure 48: Share of Number of Programmes of Planning Division

Situation Analysis

Table 97: Situation Analysis of Planning Division

Programme Name	NSSS Provision	Present Situation	Gaps
Support in formulating social protection policies and strategies	GED of planning Commission will monitor and evaluate NSSS implementation and oversee coordination and consistency of social security policies/strategies with the NSSS and medium and long-term national plans and strategies. [Para 6.3.1 of NSSS]	To ensure consistency of social security policies with other national plans, the GED of Planning Commission has been taking various measures including holding meetings and dialogues. As the administrative body of the Planning Commission, the Planning Division has been providing supports to relevant agencies in ensuring coherence and cohesion between social security policies and the policies of other national development.	Needs to continue cooperation with GED and other ministries in this regard.
Consolidate Smaller Programmes	The NSSS requires the merging or elimination of many small programmes. Any ministry considering some of their minor programmes to be continued and scaled up will have to send proposals with justification. [Para 4.8 of NSSS]	Under the process of preparation.	To be reviewed.
Improve targeting of beneficiaries	Implementing ministries will be responsible for ensuring correct targeting and zero tolerance to pilferage. [Para 6.3.1 of NSSS]	Existing manuals are online and partially follows the BBS database.	Selection policies and manuals need to be updated and disseminated.
Grievance Redress System	Establishing an effective grievance redress so that all citizens have recourse to appeal decisions on selection and can notify the competent authorities about instances of misconduct and failures in the delivery of the promised benefit [Para 6.3 of NSSS]	Recorded online. Service Centre / Call centre not yet set up. Grievance redressed centrally by ministries also at the district level irrespective of online or written.	The GRS needs to be improved.
Develop Single Registry MIS	The government will establish a national Single Registry that is based on building scheme-specific MISs that communicate with each other. The Single Registry would be based on a national identity system of all Bangladeshi citizens. [Para 6.4 of NSSS]	Under preparation in BBS, apart from that social protection integrated MIS developed at the Finance Division taking MIS Data of 4 ministries. MIS linked for some programmes and others will require some time.	MIS needs to be developed with linkage with the central MIS of the Finance Division.

Programme Name	NSSS Provision	Present Situation	Gaps
Digitization of cash transfer	To transform the Government to Person (G2P) payment systems so that they promote financial inclusivity and prevent leakages. [Para 6.5 of NSSS]	G2P modality has been finalized. E payment modalities are used. The plan is to cover all cash-based programmes.	
Enhance results-based M&E	There is an important need to formalize a system of M&E at both the national level and at the individual programme level for assessing the results of the programmes. [Para 7.2 of NSSS]	M&E Framework has been developed, but the dashboard is not yet in place.	Systematic monitoring and evaluation need to be introduced.

Action Plan (2021-26)

In order to implement the reform proposals of the NSSS the following time-bound activities may be taken up.

Table 98: Action Plan of Planning Division

Sl.	Objectives	Activities	Performance Indicators	Timeframe	Responsible Ministry	Shared Responsibility
1.	Support in strengthening social security policy and strategies	Participate in dialogues with GED and Cabinet Division in reviewing social security policies.	Participation in dialogues on social security ensured	Continuous	Planning Division	GED CD
2.	Consolidate Smaller Programmes	Prepare a list of small programmes	List sent to Cabinet Division (CD)	December 2022	Planning Division	CD
		Identify the small programmes to be scaled up or phased out	List sent to CD	June 2023	Planning Division	CD
3.	Improve targeting of beneficiaries	Update manual for selection procedures and disseminate it to people	Circular updated	December 2021	Planning Division	
		Publish a list of beneficiaries online (where applicable)	Instruction given to responsible officials	June 2022	Planning Division	
		Follow poverty database of BBS database when available	Instruction given	June 2022	Planning Division	
4.	Grievance Redress System	Arrange for recording complaints at field level	Instruction issued	Continuous	Planning Division	
		Sensitize beneficiaries to use Central GRS of Cabinet Division	Central GRS mentioned in Communication materials	June 2022 onward	Planning Division	

5.	Develop Single Registry MIS	Create standard Programme MIS using NIDs as a primary key	NID incorporated in Programme MISs	June 2022	Planning Division	CD, ICT Division
		Make the MIS interoperable by relevant departments	Interoperability established in MISs	June 2023	Planning Division	
6.	Digitization of cash transfer	Digitize payment of cash benefits of the programmes	Cash disbursement digitized	June 2022	Planning Division	Finance Division
		Link MIS with cash disbursement	MIS linked with financial management data-base of Finance Division (SPBMU MIS)	December 2023	Planning Division	Finance Division
7.	Enhance results-based M&E	Digitize monitoring of programme implementation	Progress monitoring digitized	December 2023	Planning Division	ICT Division, CD
		Conduct evaluation of programmes by internal teams/IMED/ third party	Impact evaluation of Programmes conducted	June 2024	Planning Division	IMED, CD

Key Actions of Planning Division

- Participate in dialogues with GED and Cabinet Division in reviewing social security policies.
- Support in strengthening social security policy and strategies.



NSSS Action Plan, Phase - II (2021-26)



আমরা বাংলাদেশে
কম্পিউটার বানাবো
এবং সেই কম্পিউটার
বিদেশে রপ্তানী করবো।

প্রধানমন্ত্রী শেখ হাসিনা



Information and Communication Technology Division

**Action Plan (2021-26) Implementation of
National Social Security Strategy (NSSS) of Bangladesh**



*Action Plan of Information and
Communication Technology (ICT)
Division*

Action Plan (2021-26) for Implementation of National Social Security Strategy (NSSS) of Bangladesh

Information and Communication Technology (ICT) Division

The Information and Communication Technology Division is a part of the Ministry of Posts, Telecommunications and Information Technology of the Government of Bangladesh. The main objective of this Division is to establish e-governance by realizing Digital Bangladesh. Formulating policies, strategies, Acts, Rules to realize the potential of the ICT eco-system to support the implementation of programmes and projects relating to information communication are within the purview of the ICT Division.

Vision

People-friendly information and communication technology in building Sonar Bangla.

Mission

Establishment of a happy prosperous Sonar Bangla through reliable cyber access at the grassroots level, development of IT-based human resources, export-oriented development of IT industry and the use of citizen-friendly IT technology.

NSSS objectives

The NSSS objectives of the Division is to support the digitalization of the Social Security Systems and provide IT skill development Training at all levels.

The main objectives of the ICTD to strengthen the activities of NSSS are as follows:

- Digitalization and Data Integration of Social Security Benefits,
- Capacity development through training for inclusive sustainable development
- The best use of ICT in service delivery and awareness building among service receivers of NSSS
- Service Process simplification for value for money.

Challenges

The challenges for this division are to inter-link various databases of line ministries/divisions for the Whole-Of-Government Approach on the social security programme. In this connection, the main challenges are to integrate the accurate data of social security programmes among Ministries/Divisions, maintain data sharing for avoiding duplicity and data accuracy

Organizational Overview

Bangladesh Computer Council (BCC)

Bangladesh Computer Council (BCC) is a statutory body under ICT Division. It was established in 1990 by an Act of Parliament. BCC provides the first line of support to the government to realize the Vision 2021:

Digital Bangladesh. BCC provides infrastructural services through the national data centre, government ICT network connecting the government offices at the grassroots level, development of Bangladesh National Digital Architecture and deployment of National Digital Architecture Service bus, establishment of Software and Hardware Quality Testing Centre to provide Quality Assurance (QA) for hardware and software for use in the government businesses. Bangladesh Computer Council has created an eco-system for the Whole-Of-Government approach to allow sharing of databases of various line ministries to deliver reliable e-services. Porichoy ID verification application uses the National ID database of Bangladesh Election Commission, Central Biometrics Verification Database of Bangladesh Telecommunication Regulatory Commission (BTRC), Birth & Death Registration Database of LGRD to provide Electronic Know Your Customer (e-KYC) through Bangladesh National Digital Architecture (BNDA) service bus. ID Verification using BNDA is widely used by Surokkha apps for COVID vaccination hosted by BCC on its government cloud, Central Aid Management System for ID verification. BCC has added the BGD eGov CIRT wing to provide security to all government services and infrastructures.

BCC advises and assists the government in formulating national ICT strategy and policy, creating standards and specifications of ICT tools for government organizations according to their necessity. It also actively contributes to human resource development in the ICT sector. BCC has trained differently abled persons with ICT skills and organized job fairs to provide a livelihood to these persons.

➞ **Department of Information and Communication Technology (DoICT)**

The government has given special importance to this sector for the creation of Digital Bangladesh for implementation of the vision 2021 of the Government of People's Republic of Bangladesh on 31 July 2013. The 'Department of Information and Communication Technology' ensures the ICT support to the grassroots level, secured usage of infrastructure including maintenance support. The DoICT ensures delivery of e-services quality in remote areas of the country through the improvement of proficiency of computer professionals.

DoICT has established Sheikh Russel Digital Lab (SRDL) at different educational institutions all over the country to develop the IT skill of the students. These Labs will also be used for skill development of the youth men/women of adjacent areas after school time.

DoICT has delivered Central Aid Management System (CAMS) to provide aid to the financial and other aids to the poor affected by the loss of jobs due to pandemic and Surokkha Apps for COVID vaccination developed by its own IT professionals. DoICT is also working with Danish International Development Agency (DANIDA) to connect the unconnected in the islands and marshy low-lying areas of the country. This will ensure bringing the needy segment of the population of these areas under social safety nets.

➞ **Bangladesh Hi-Tech Park Authority (BHTPA)**

Bangladesh Hi-Tech Park Authority has been established under the 'Bangladesh Hi-Tech Park Authority Act-2010' to build an investment-friendly environment and create employment through the development and advancement of information technology-based industrial Infrastructures in the country. It has provided training for more than 30,000 Workforce on Specialized ICT based Skills including 1650 Globally recognized professional certification courses. So far more than 20,000 Employment has already been created in different BHTPA Facilities established throughout the country alongside providing almost free of cost Working Spaces for 140+ Startups for One Year each. Training or Skill Development Opportunities provided so far by the BHTPA are – E-governance, Women Empowerment, Capacity Development for Especially Abled People, 4IR Based Technology and Self-sufficiency, Entrepreneurship Development, Self-employment and Freelancing and Capacity Development on Digital Security.

A specialized Platform named Unibator was launched earlier this year. Sheikh Kamal IT Training and Business Incubation Centres are being established all over the country to connect industry and the government with Academia. A dedicated and specialized Educational Institution is being planned to build as Sheikh Hasina Institute of Frontier Technology (SHIFT) for building the future leaders of the Intangible Economy.

➤ Digital Security Agency (DSA)

Digital Security Agency was created under the Digital Security Act 2018 to ensure national cyber security. The agency coordinates with all Critical Information Infrastructures (CII) to assure cyber security to all digital assets. It regularly issues Cyber Security Advisories for the safety of digital assets and transactions. The digital safety net infrastructures are monitored 24/7 for secured transactions. DSA conducts periodic IT Audits, vulnerability assessments of CIIs and also provides digital forensics to support Law Enforcement Agencies to detect cybercrimes.

➤ Office of the Controller of Certifying Authority

The Office of the Controller of Certifying Authorities (CCA) is established under the Information and Communication Technology (Amended) Act, 2006 in May 2011 to establish Public Key Infrastructure (PKI). Digital and Electronic Signature has been introduced in Bangladesh. Electronic Signatures, Records have been given legal recognition. Under Section-8 of the ICT Act, 2006, the usage of Digital/ Electronic Signatures and Records is recognized in all Government offices and is helpful in the digitalization of the transactions and records.

➤ Bangladesh Data Centre Company Limited (BDCCL)

ICT Division has transferred the recently completed Tier IV Data Centre to BDCCL at Bangabandhu HiTech Park, Kaliakoir to provide seamless services for data centre users in the government and private sector. The company provides hosting, cloud, co-location and other services. The Social Safety Net programmes have the option to use the services of the BDCCL.

➤ Startup Bangladesh Limited

Startup Bangladesh Limited is the flagship venture capital fund of the ICT Division. Under the visionary guidance of Honorable Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, Startup Bangladesh - the first and only venture capital fund sponsored by the government of the people's republic of Bangladesh started its journey on March 2020 with an allocated capital of BDT 500 crores. This effort will enable the nation to innovate faster, create new jobs, develop technical skills, and realize the vision of Digital Bangladesh.

The Fund will provide investment in the form of equity, convertible debt and/or grants in pre-seed, seed and growth-stage startups. It would invest thru co-investments, as a fund-of-funds and asset manager and provide other in-kind supports to startups and stakeholders. The Fund will support technology-based innovations to create new employment opportunities, promote under-represented tech groups, foster entrepreneurship culture and bring transformational changes to the lives of millions.

➤ Other Organization

In addition to the above organizations, the ICT Division has the organizations such as the A2i programme. It is now being converted to Aspire to Innovate Agency to support various government initiatives towards digitalization of the work processes.

Legal Framework Acts

- The Information and Communication Technology Act (Amendment), 2009
- The Information and Communication Technology Act (Amendment), 2013
- The Bangladesh Hi-Tech Park Authority Act, 2010

- The Bangladesh Hi-Tech Park Authority Act (Amendment), 2014
- The One-Stop Service Act, 2018
- The Digital Security Act, 2018
- The A2I Bangladesh Innovation Agency Act, 2020 (Draft)
- The Innovation and Entrepreneur Development Academy Act, 2020 (Draft)
- The Data Protection Act, 2020 (Draft)

Rules

- The Information Technology (Certifying Authority) Rules, 2010
- Bangladesh Hi-Tech Park Warehousing Station Rules, 2015
- Rules of Bangladesh Hi-Tech Park Authority, 2015
- One-Stop Service (Bangladesh Hi-Tech Park Authority) Rules, 2019
- The Digital Security Rules, 2020

Policies

- The National Information and Communication Technology Policy, 2015
- The National Information and Communication Technology Policy, 2018
- Policy relating to the provision of Fellowships and Scholarships for Research in Information and Communication Technology and Grants for Innovative Works (Revised), 2016
- Government E-mail Policy, 2018
- Digital Bangladesh Awards Policy, 2020 (Draft)
- Software and Hardware Quality Testing and Certification Policy, 2020 (Draft)

Strategies

- Cyber Security Strategy, 2014
- National Internet of Things Strategy Bangladesh, 2020
- National Strategy for Artificial intelligence Bangladesh, 2020
- National Blockchain Strategy, 2020
- Strategy to Promote Microprocessor Design Capacity in Bangladesh, 2020
- National Strategy for Robotics, 2020
- Made in Bangladesh Strategy, 2020 (Draft)

Guidelines

- The Bangladesh National Digital Architecture (BNDA) Guidelines
- The Data Centre Establishment and Management Guidelines, 2020
- Information Security Policy Guidelines (Bengali and English Versions)
- The Bangladesh National Digital Architecture (BNDA) Guidelines
- The Data Centre Establishment and Management Guidelines, 2020
- Covid-19 Prevention and Remedy Guidelines, 2020

Situation Analysis

One of the key tools for achieving Vision-2021 in Bangladesh was the earmarking of the 'Digital Bangladesh' approach, the brainchild of Honorable Prime Minister H.E. Sheikh Hasina and her ICT Affairs Hon'ble Adviser Mr Sajeeb Wazed, to utilize the usage of ICT as a tool for development and sustainability. The aim was to transform Bangladesh into a technologically advanced nation by 2021. Driven by widespread digitalization in the public & private sectors, the country has seen exponential growth in its internet connectivity, mobile phone usage, and use of ICT in social services, education and accessibility of public services.

The main objective of the NSSS is to protect and promote the welfare of individual beneficiaries as well as society as a whole and need to build a resilient society against poverty. Bangladesh made impressive progress in the areas of economic growth and poverty reduction. Now, Bangladesh has been spending about 3.01 per cent of GDP on social protection. In the present situation, the NSSS system is confronting some challenges in the field of digitalization, mismanagement in data integration among different ministries/divisions & sharing to avoid duplicity. The monitoring & Evaluation system in social protection schemes is not efficient and cost-effective. As a result, the Government of Bangladesh has to take concerted efforts for speedy implementation of Service process simplification, effective service delivery/cash transfer to citizens through Hi-tech/Artificial Intelligence (AI) based integrated management. In this connection, ICTD has a great extent of capacity and capability to perform in this situation.

Table 99: Situation Analysis of Information and Communication Technology (ICT) Division

Programme Name	NSSS Provision	Present Situation	Gaps
Grievance Redress System	Establishing an effective grievance redress system so that all citizens have recourse to appeal decisions on selection and can notify the competent authorities about instances of misconduct and failures in the delivery of the promised benefit [Para 6.3 of NSSS]	The central GRS of Cabinet Division was developed by the A2i Programme of ICT Division and is hosted by the National Data Centre (NDC) of BCC. In addition to the Central GRS, ICT Division has steered the formation of a nationwide hot number for collecting any complaints relating to services. This platform can be used by any beneficiaries aggrieved in obtaining social security benefits.	Need to support and update GRS and hotlines.
Develop Single Registry MIS	The government will establish a national Single Registry that is based on building scheme-specific MISs that communicate with each other. The Single Registry would be based on a national identity system of all Bangladeshi citizens. [Para 6.4 of NSSS]	The ICT Division has created a repository linking the database of the Bangladesh Election Commission (BEC) and BTRC through the BNDA service bus. The service is being used by different ministries to create their single registry MIS for social protection. Also, the ICT Division provides computing and storage facilities of NDC of BCC and BDCCL for hosting MISs of different ministries.	Needs to sustain supports to the ministries in linking their MIS with ID databases. Also needs to sustain the NDC services to the ministries for hosting their MISs.
Maintain Centrally managed Repository and Data Sharing in a bid for avoiding duplicity	Central Aid Management System has been developed by DoICT for providing humanitarian aid to poor people during Covid Situation. This system is enriched with 50 Lakh beneficiary data which is stored in the BCC server.	DoICT under the ICTD has made this system with its resources. It should be increased its scalability to provide the social protection and social welfare services that are provided by all concerned Ministries/ Divisions of Government.	At present, the CAMS has a limited capacity to perform the national needs. DoICT is working relentlessly to turn it into a project to meet the needs of the greater importance of National urgency to provide services to the citizen's door steps.

Programme Name	NSSS Provision	Present Situation	Gaps
Digitization of cash transfer	To transform the Government to Person (G2P) payment systems so that they promote financial inclusivity and prevent leakages. [Para 6.5 of NSSS]	The ICT Division played a catalytic role in creating an environment for a digital payment system. Mobile banking, postal cash cards and agent banking have been possible through different programmes and interventions of the ICT Division. ICT Division through the iDEA project of BCC is implementing Interoperable Digital Transaction Platform (IDTP) with Bangladesh Bank to accelerate FinTec and Digital Financial Inclusion. Ministries have been digitizing their payment system by using the digital facilities created by ICT Division.	Needs to sustain and enhance the infrastructure for digital payments.
Enhance results-based M&E	There is an important need to formalize a system of M&E at both the national level and at the individual programme level for assessing the results of the programmes. [Para 7.2 of NSSS]	The high-tech digital infrastructure created by BCC in the form of NDC, country-wide network through Infosarkar 1, 2 & 3 has expedited the installation of most modern M&E systems by ministries.	Needs to maintain digital infrastructure for supporting social safety net programme.

Action Plan (2021-26)

In order to implement the reform proposals of the NSSS the following time-bound activities may be taken up.

Table 100: Action Plan of Information and Communication Technology (ICT) Division

Sl.	Objectives	Activities	Performance Indicator	Timeframe	Responsible Ministry / Division	Shared Responsibility
1.	ICT/ Information Technology Enabled Services (ITES) Skill Development Programme for Youth (young men /women)	Increasing Training Programmes for Youth (young men/ women)	Training Programmes for Youth (young men) increased. Training Programmes for Youth (young women) increased.	Continuous	ICTD [(Learning and Earning Development project, Skill development of Mobile Games and Applications) BCC (Leveraging ICT for Growth Employment and Governance (LICT), Women ICT Frontier Initiative (WIFI), Bangladesh Korea Institute of Information and Communication Technology (BKIICT), The Project for Skills Development of IT Engineers Targeting Japanese Market) DoICT (SRDL, She Power) BHTPA (IT Incubation Centre)]	MoYS

Sl.	Objectives	Activities	Performance Indicator	Timeframe	Responsible Ministry / Division	Shared Responsibility
2.	Consolidation of small Programmes	Prepare a list of programmes to be continued.	List sent to Cabinet Division/ GED	2023	ICTD [(Learning and Earning Development project, Skill development of Mobile Games and Applications) BCC (LICT, WIFI, BKIICT, The Project for Skills Development of IT Engineers Targeting Japanese Market) DoICT (SRDL, She Power)]	
		Make a List of Programmes to be scaled up				
		Make a list of programmes to be phased out				
3.	Improve Targeting beneficiaries	Update manual for selection procedures and disseminate it to people.	Circular issued	2023	ICTD [BCC, DoICT]	
		Publish a list of beneficiaries online to make it transparent	Instruction given to the field level/ offices	Continuous		
		Follow the BBS database when prepared	Instruction given	Continuous		
4.	ICT/ITES Skill Development Programmes for Marginalized People (e.g., Enclave)	Increasing Training Programmes for Marginalized People (e.g., Enclave)	Training Programmes for Marginalized People (e.g., Enclave) Increased.	2023	ICTD [DoICT]	MoSW
5.	ICT/ITES Skill Development Programmes and Employment for people with disabilities	Increasing Training Programmes for people with disabilities	Training Programmes for people with disabilities increased	Continuous	ICTD [BCC (Empowerment of persons with disabilities including NDD through ICT Project)]	MoSW
		Arranging annual 'Job Fair' for people with disabilities.	Employment of people with disabilities increased			

Sl.	Objectives	Activities	Performance Indicator	Timeframe	Responsible Ministry / Division	Shared Responsibility
6.	IT/ITES Skill Development Training in Incubation Centres	Increasing IT/ITES training programmes in Incubation Centres	Increased IT/ITES training programmes in Incubation Centres	Continuous	ICTD [BHTPA]	MoYS
7.	Human Development through awareness training on Digital Security	Increasing awareness training programmes on Digital Security	Increased awareness training programmes on Digital Security	Continuous	ICTD [DSA, CCA, a2i]	
8.	Strengthen Support (Funding) for StartUps for the Youth	Increasing the number of StartUps	Number of StartUps. Increased	Continuous	ICTD [BCC (IDEA Project)] [Startup Bangladesh Limited]	
9.	Strengthen Support (Funding) (Fellowship, PhD program, Master's program) for Higher Education, Innovation and Special Grant for Youth	An increasing number of the beneficiaries	The number of beneficiaries increased	Continuous	ICTD	
10.	Maintain Centrally Managed Repository and Data Sharing in a bid for avoiding duplicity	DoICT under the ICTD has made the CAMS system with its resources. The scalability of this system is going to expand for providing social protection and social welfare services.	Repository pre-pared through CAMS and Data Sharing performed	Continuous and intermittent	ICTD [DoICT]	Line Ministries/ Divisions

Sl.	Objectives	Activities	Performance Indicator	Timeframe	Responsible Ministry / Division	Shared Responsibility
11.	Grievance Redress System	Provide supports in maintaining the Central GRS system of Cabinet Division	The system sustained	Continuous	ICT Division	CD
		Support in maintaining the hot line for registering public complaints	The hotline maintained	Continuous	ICT Division	CD
12.	Develop Single Registry MIS	Sustain and update connectivity of BNDA service bus to include databases of BEC, BTRC, MRP, ePassport, Driving License, Person with Disability etc.	The database is updated regularly by the owner of the database. Update and regular upgrade of BNDA service bus to meet increased demand.	Continuous	ICT Division	Line ministries
		Make the NID database accessible by relevant Ministries	The data accessible by ministries with authorization from BEC	Continuous	ICT Division	Line ministries
13.	Digitization of cash transfer	Maintain and improve infrastructural facilities for facilitating digital cash transfer	The facility sustained	Continuous	ICT Division	Line ministries
14.	Enhance results-based M&E	Continue providing infrastructural facilities in using an online-based M&E system	Infrastructural facilities supporting NSSS maintained by operating agencies	Continuous	ICT Division	Line ministries

Key Actions of Information and Communication Technology (ICT) Division

- Scale up ICT/ITES Skill Development Programme for Youth (young men /women).



Posts and Telecommunications Division

**Action Plan (2021-26) Implementation of
National Social Security Strategy (NSSS) of Bangladesh**



*Action Plan of Posts and
Telecommunications Division*

Action Plan (2021-26) for Implementation of National Social Security Strategy (NSSS) of Bangladesh

Posts and Telecommunications Division

Posts and Telecommunications Division is responsible for posts and telecommunications under the Ministry of Posts, Telecommunications and Information Technology in Bangladesh and is located in Dhaka, Bangladesh. The Division deals with the law and policy issues related to the posts and telecommunications services. This Division has undertaken different initiatives for the digitization of its various departments and agencies to provide and ensure quality telecommunications and postal services at affordable cost.

Vision

Establish affordable, quality, and international standard telecommunications and postal services

Mission

Ensure affordable, quality, and international standard telecommunications and postal services through adaptation of institutional development and modern technology

NSSS objectives

The NSSS objective of the division is to ensure digital connectivity to the grassroots people and to facilitate digitization of cash payment

Challenges

The challenge for this ministry is to ensure last-mile connectivity to the hard-to-reach areas for delivery of social protection benefits digitally.

Organizational Overview

➤ Bangladesh Post Office

The Bangladesh Post Office is also known as “Bangladesh Post” is responsible for providing postal service in Bangladesh. It is an attached department of the Posts and Telecommunications Division. This ministry is concerned with the policymaking for the postal department and department of telecommunication.

➤ Teletalk

Teletalk Bangladesh Limited is the only state-owned GSM, 3G, LTE based mobile phone operator in Bangladesh that started operating in 2004. As of February 2020, Teletalk has a subscriber base of 5.532 million.

Legal Framework

- The Bangladesh Telecommunications Regulatory Act, 2001
- The National Telecommunication Policy, 2018
- The National Broadband Policy, 2009

- The ILDTS Policy, 2010
- The Digital Security Policy, 2020
- The Digital Security Act, 2018
- The One-Stop Service Law, 2018
- The ICT Act, 2013 (amended)
- The Post Office Act, 1898

Social Security Programmes

Other Programmes

- Postal department Income Support Programme for the Poorest (ISPP). The number of beneficiaries is 17,37,649 (from 01/02/2017 to 31/03/2021). Under this programme, beneficiaries get money support through a postal cash card.
- Electronic Money Transfer Service (EMTS) of the postal department started on 05/05/2010. Postal department earns 88,82,77,428/- taka Up to 03/04/2021 through EMTS.
- The postal department provides saving services through the post office. It also provides life insurance services, education and marriage insurance schemes for 5 to 17 years. Postal Insurance Policy has been taken from the age of 19 to 55.
- Bangladesh Satellite Company Ltd. Has implemented the project “Providing telecommunication connectivity in various infrastructure located in remote, inaccessible and coastal areas of Bangladesh using Bangabandhu Satellite-1”. This project will help the building of the national telecommunication backbone through Satellite and eventually contribute to diminishing the digital divide as well as eradicating poverty.
- Teletalk Bangladesh Ltd. Has provided “Mayer Hasi” sim to 1.2 million mothers free of cost to ensure digital transfer of Stipend Money against their children who are the students at primary schools. To facilitate digital cash transfer under different government initiatives Teletalk has also provided free SIM operation to more than 2.0 million women.

Situation Analysis

Table 101: Situation Analysis of Posts and Telecommunications Division

Programme Name	NSSS Provision	Present Situation	Gaps
Develop Single Registry MIS	The government will establish a national Single Registry that is based on building scheme-specific MISs that communicate with each other. The Single Registry would be based on a national identity system of all Bangladeshi citizens. [Para 6.4 of NSSS]	The ministry ensures digital connectivity and thereby facilities operation of social security MISs even in the rural areas	Needs to extend connectivity in the hard-to-reach areas
Digitization of cash transfer	To transfer the Government to Person (G2P) payment systems so that they promote financial inclusivity and prevent leakages. [Para 6.5 of NSSS]	The Ministry ensures digital connectivity and thereby facilities the operation of digital transfer of cash to the beneficiaries duly.	Needs to extend connectivity in the hard-to-reach areas

Action Plan (2021-26)

Table 102: Action Plan of Posts and Telecommunications Division

Sl.	Objectives	Activities	Performance Indicators	Timeframe	Responsible Ministry	Shared Responsibility
1.	Support in Developing Single Registry MIS	Maintain and expand digital connectivity for the smooth operation of MIS	Connectivity maintained	Continuous	Posts and Telecom Division	FID, FD, ICT Division
2.	Digitization of Cash Transfer	Enhance the postal cash card service	Postal cash card service expanded	Continuous	Posts and Telecom Division	FID, FD

Key Actions of Posts and Telecommunications Division

- Support in Developing Single Registry MIS, Maintain and expand digital connectivity for smooth operation of MIS.
- Digitization of Cash Transfer through enhancing the postal cash card service.



NSSS Action Plan, Phase - II (2021-26)



Ministry of Water Resources

**Action Plan (2021-26) Implementation of
National Social Security Strategy (NSSS) of Bangladesh**



*Action Plan of Ministry of Water
Resources*

Action Plan (2021-26) for Implementation of National Social Security Strategy (NSSS) of Bangladesh

Ministry of Water Resources

The Ministry of Water Resources is the apex body of the Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh for the development and management of the whole water resources of the country. It formulates policies, plans, strategies, guidelines, instructions and acts, rules, regulations, etc. relating to the development and management of water resources, and regulation and control of the institutions reporting to it. It prepares and implements development projects relating to Flood Control and Drainage (FCD); Flood Control, Drainage and Irrigation (FCDI); riverbank erosion control; delta development and land reclamation; etc. and provides irrigation, drainage, flood protection, bank erosion protection, land reclamation facilities by constructing barrages, regulators, sluices, canals, cross-dams, embankments and dikes along the banks of the rivers and the coast, etc.

Vision

Sustainable development through balanced and integrated management of water resources.

Mission

Ensure sustainable development through balanced and integrated management of water resources for the sake of the lives and livelihood of the people.

NSSS objectives

The NSSS objectives of the ministry are to enhance livelihood for the people of the poverty pockets in the haor areas and plain land.

Challenges

The challenge for this ministry is to implement programmes for the people of the haors and low-lying areas.

Organizational Overview

➤ Bangladesh Water Development Board (BWDB)

Bangladesh Water Development Board is a government agency that is responsible for surface water and groundwater management in Bangladesh.

➤ Bangladesh Haor and Wetland Development Board (BHWDB)

Bangladesh Haor and Wetland Development Board is a government board that is responsible for the management and regulation of Wetlands and haors in Bangladesh and is located in Dhaka, Bangladesh. The Government of Bangladesh passed an ordinance that formed the Haor Development Board on 22 February 1977. On 11 September 2000, it was reconstituted to form the Bangladesh Haor and Wetland Development Board by presidential order.

Legal Framework

- The Water Resources Planning Act, 1992
- The National Water Policy, 1999
- Guidelines for Participatory Water Management, 2001
- The Coastal Zone Policy, 2005
- The Water Act, 2013
- The Participatory Water Management Regulation, 2014
- The Water Rules, 2018

Social Security programmes

🔄 Flood Management and Livelihood Improvement Project in Haor Area

In 2014, Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) & BWDB made Preparatory Survey (Feasibility Study) on the “Upper Meghna River Basin Watershed Management Improvement Project”. There were three outcomes of this study- Flood Management, Rural Infrastructure Development and Agriculture & Fisheries promotion. The realization of the study emphasized proper measures for flood mitigation and livelihood enhancement for haor areas. For this purpose, the minutes of discussion was signed on 3rd March 2014 between JICA and BWDB & LGED. As per the Preparatory Survey Report (Feasibility Study) & Minutes of discussion, a project “Haor Flood Management and Livelihood Improvement Project” was taken up.

Programme Summary (2020-21)

Table 103: Programme Summary (2020-21) of Ministry of Water Resources

Social Protection Programme	Thematic Cluster	Life Cycle	Beneficiary (Lakh)	Budget (Crore Taka)
Flood Management and Livelihood Improvement Project in Haor Area	Food Security and Disaster Assistance	Covariate Risks	1.148	39.93

Situation Analysis

Table 104: Situation Analysis of Ministry of Water Resources

Programme Name	NSSS Provision	Present Situation	Gaps
Livelihood development for the people of haor areas.	With the economic development, agricultural employment has been tightened increasing wages in this sector. However, all the rural people cannot take advantage of this situation due to their hard-to-reach geographic locations, which became poverty pockets. The haors are the most extreme examples of such areas with minimum livelihoods. The NSSS suggests carefully reviewing the adequacy of social protection programmes for these people and taking appropriate measures. [Para 1.6 of NSSS]	The ministry has a project called Haor Flood Management and Livelihood Improvement Project in Haor Area. The beneficiaries of the project are 1.148 lakh with a budget of 39.39 crores Taka.	Needs to assess the actual requirement of social protection for the people of haor areas.
Consolidate Smaller Programmes	The NSSS requires the merging or elimination of many small programmes. Any ministry considering some of their minor programmes to be continued and scaled up will have to send proposals with justification. [Para 4.8 of NSSS]	The ministry will have to make a list of such programmes or schemes if considered to be scaled up.	To be reviewed.

Programme Name	NSSS Provision	Present Situation	Gaps
Improve targeting of beneficiaries	Implementing ministries will be responsible for ensuring correct targeting and zero tolerance to pilferage. [Para 6.3.1 of NSSS]	The ministry has in place policies and manuals for effective implementation of the programmes.	Selection policies and manuals need to be updated and disseminated.
Grievance Redress System	Establishing an effective grievance redress so that all citizens have recourse to appeal decisions on selection and can notify the competent authorities about instances of misconduct and failures in the delivery of the promised benefit [Para 6.3 of NSSS]	Recorded online. Service Centre / Call centre not yet set up. Grievance redressed centrally by ministries also at the district level irrespective of online or written.	The GRS needs to be improved.
Develop Single Registry MIS	The government will establish a national Single Registry that is based on building scheme-specific MISs that communicate with each other. The Single Registry would be based on a national identity system of all Bangladeshi citizens. [Para 6.4 of NSSS]	The ministry maintains a beneficiary database. However, the database is not operated by any well-designed Management Information System (MIS)	MIS needs to be developed with linkage with the central MIS of the Finance Division.
Digitization of cash transfer	To transform the Government to Person (G2P) payment systems so that they promote financial inclusivity and prevent leakages. [Para 6.5 of NSSS]	G2P modality finalized. E-payment modalities are used.	
Enhance results-based M&E	There is an important need to formalise a system of M&E at both the national level and at the individual programme level for assessing the results of the programmes. [Para 7.2 of NSSS]	A system of monitoring is in place for agriculture subsidies. But there is hardly any systematic evaluation of the programmes.	Systematic monitoring and evaluation need to be introduced.

Action Plan (2021-26)

In order to implement the reform proposals of the NSSS the following time-bound activities may be taken up.

Table 105: Action Plan of Ministry of Water Resources

Sl.	Objectives	Activities	Performance Indicators	Timeframe	Responsible Ministry	Shared Responsibility
1.	Livelihood development for the people of haor areas	Conduct needs assessment study of social protection for the people of haor land	Study conducted	June 2023	Ministry of Water Resources	
		Scale the programme according to the finding of the study	Programme scaled up	2024		
2.	Consolidate Smaller Programmes	Prepare a list of programmes to be continued	List to Cabinet Division (CD)	July 2022		CD
		Make a list of programmes to be scaled up	List to CD	July 2022		CD
		Make a list of programmes to be phased out	List sent to CD	July 2022		CD
		Review the consolidation proposals	Review prepared	December 2023		CD
3.	Improve targeting of beneficiaries	Update manual for selection procedures and disseminate it to people	Circular issued	January 2023		
		Publish a list of beneficiaries online to make it transparent	Instruction given to field offices	Continuous		
		Follow the BBS database when prepared	Instruction given	February 2023		
4.	Grievance Redress System	Arrange for recording complaints at field level	Instruction issued	Continuous		
		Create public awareness about the facility of central GRS of Cabinet Division	Public Meetings held in all Upazilas	September 2024		

Sl.	Objectives	Activities	Performance Indicators	Timeframe	Responsible Ministry	Shared Responsibility
5.	Develop Single Registry MIS	Create online Based MIS for all programmes	MIS digitized for all programmes	March 2023		
		Make the MIS accessible by relevant departments	Inter-Departmental arrangement established	July 2023		
		Link MIS with cash disbursement	MIS linked with financial management database of Finance Division (SPBMU MIS)	December 2023		
6.	Digitization of cash transfer	Pilot different modalities of G2P	Pilot completed	December 2023		
		Roll out an appropriate format of G2P	G2P rolled out for all programmes	December 2025		
7.	Enhance results-based M&E	Digitize monitoring of programmes	Dashboard established	July 2022		
		Conduct mid-term evaluation of programmes	Programmes evaluated regularly	Continuous		

Key Actions of Ministry of Water Resources

- Livelihood development for the people of haor areas.
- Conduct needs assessment study of social protection for the people of haor land.
- Scale the programme according to the finding of the study.



NSSS Action Plan, Phase - II (2021-26)



Ministry of Cultural Affairs

**Action Plan (2021-26) Implementation of
National Social Security Strategy (NSSS) of Bangladesh**



Action Plan of Ministry of Cultural Affairs

Action Plan (2021-26) for Implementation of National Social Security Strategy (NSSS) of Bangladesh

Ministry of Cultural Affairs

The Ministry of Cultural Affairs has been working for a well-balanced social structure since its birth. It is more than three decades since the Ministry of Cultural Affairs has come into being as a separate ministry of the Government. Soon after the independence of Bangladesh, this ministry had started its journey as a division under the Ministry of Education, and afterwards also became a part of different ministries before becoming a full-fledged ministry in 1988. As is evident from the name, the ministry is assigned the responsibility of upholding the cultural and historical heritage of the country. Specifically, the ministry is responsible for the preservation, research and development of national cultural heritage, arts and fine arts. Though this ministry offers direct programmes to facilitate and preserve the country's own cultural identity, history and values, arts and heritage, the spirit of the liberation war, inculcating contemporary art and literature, it also creates employment opportunities for numerous insolvent artists directly or indirectly through its different development programmes. The functions of the ministry also include the social protection of the cultural activists fallen in poverty.

Vision

The vision of the ministry is to build a culture-oriented knowledge-based creative and meritorious nation.

Mission

Enhance and enrich the nation's intellect through preservation, research, development and promotion of native culture, history, and heritage, the spirit of liberation war and contemporary arts and literature.

NSSS objectives

The NSSS objective of the ministry is to enhance social inclusiveness and to ensure the welfare of the insolvent cultural activists, and thereby also promising the young cultural enthusiasts to devote themselves in pursuit of cultural supremacy without feeling risks of possible future hardship.

Challenges

The challenge of the ministry is to develop and promote cultural programmes and activities that enhance social inclusiveness and to identify and support the insolvent cultural personalities and cultural institutions requiring assistance.

Organizational Overview

➔ Bangla Academy

Bangla Academy is an autonomous institution funded by Bangladesh Government to promote and foster the Bengali language, literature and culture, to develop and implement national language policy and to do original research in the Bengali language. Established in 1955, it is located in Burdwan House in Ramna,

Dhaka, within the grounds of the University of Dhaka and Suhrawardy Udyan. Bangla Academy hosts the annual Ekushey Book Fair.

➞ **Bangladesh Folk Arts and Crafts Foundation**

Bangladesh Folk Arts and Crafts Foundation is a government foundation that is responsible for the preservation of historical folk art and crafts materials, to arrange training programmes on arts and crafts, to set up folk art museum in different parts of the country, to establish an arts and crafts village at Sonargaon in Narayanganj district, to arrange for research on folk art and crafts and to publish research findings and other information, to encourage the study and practice of folk art and crafts of traditional values, to design a plan and carry out its execution for the promotion of folk art and crafts, to help any person or institution engaged in pursuing research on folk art and crafts, to help the government in drawing up a policy for developing folk art and crafts, to advise the government or the local authority or an organisation in any matter concerning folk art and crafts, and to take joint programme with' foreign and international institutions working on arts and crafts with prior permission of the government, and do such other works that are supplementary and relevant to its activities. Folk Art and Craft Museum, Sonargaon, the foundation was established in July 1975. It was amended through the Bangladesh Folk Art and Crafts Foundation Act in parliament. It holds a yearly monthlong fair celebrating folk art. It also holds fair every Bengali New Year.

➞ **Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy**

This is the main state institution for nurturing the fine arts and cultural performances in Bangladesh. The responsibilities of the academy include the promotion and development of the arts and national culture. The Academy is also involved in the capacity building of the aspirant artists and their organizations by organizing workshops, seminars, dialogues and meetings and providing scholarships and financial grants for talented artists.

In addition to the above, the ministry has some other attached departments which include the Department of Archives and Libraries; Department of Public Libraries; Bangladesh National Museum; Nazrul Institute and Department of Archeology, etc.

Legal Framework

- The Antiquities Act, 1968
- The National Archives Ordinance, 1983
- The National Museum Ordinance, 1983
- The Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy Act, 1989
- The Bangladesh Folk and Crafts Foundation Act, 1998
- The Bangla Academy Act, 2013
- The Kabi Nazrul Institute Act, 2018
- The Copyright Act, 2018
- The Cultural institutions grant policy and the policy of granting allowances to financially insolvent cultural activists, 2009
- The National Cultural Policy, 2006

Social Security programmes

➞ **Grants for cultural institutions and allowances for financially insolvent cultural activists**

The main objective of this programme is to develop and inculcate cultural activities all over the country. At the same time, it encourages nongovernment initiatives along with government initiatives. The programme also emphasizes the maintenance of a healthy environment for the practice of culture in the greatest

interest of the nation as well to enrich and speed up the flow of healthy and honest culture. A number of cultural institutions and insolvent cultural personalities are being provided with financial assistance.

➞ **Grant and financial assistance to the artists or cultural personalities**

Under 'Bangladesh Shilpi Kalyan Rules 2020', an 'Artist Welfare Trust' has been established under this provision to work with the strategy to provide financial support to the insolvent and destitute artists, performers. This fund entails a number of cultural personalities who are disabled due to old age, illness and who do not have proper earning sources for their livelihoods.

➞ **Grant for practising culture in secondary schools**

The ministry has taken initiative to conduct cultural activities in the secondary schools to make our future generation culture-minded with the aim of building a golden Bengal of communalism and militancy-free in the ideology of liberation war. Under this programme, 'culture practice' activities are being conducted in all the 64 districts. Harmonium and tabla are being provided to the schools for conducting these activities and trainers are being honoured for imparting training in culture to the students. The students who are not well off are being trained under this capacity building programme and they will be able to use their skills to graduate their livelihood in the future.

➞ **Grant and financial assistance to the private libraries**

Ministry of Cultural Affairs provides funds and books to the private libraries with the aim of enhancing facilities to the readers, improving the quality of service; and creating new readers by improving the quality of the private libraries of the country. The programme assists to enrich the knowledge of the underprivileged readers which enable them to provide themselves in the job market.

Situation Analysis

Table 106: Situation Analysis of Ministry of Cultural Affairs

Programme Name	NSSS Provision	Present Situation	Gaps
Ensure Social Inclusion and Empowerment of marginalized people	The NSSS vision is to ensure inclusive social protection for all deserving Bangladeshis. However, the NSSS identifies a number of reasons for the social exclusion of people with spatial manifestation. The causes include a) exclusion from the political decision, b) exclusion from employment and resources, and c) exclusion from cultural integration. [Para 2.3.2 of NSSS] Therefore, in order to materialize the vision of the NSSS, it is not enough only to scale up the economy. Therefore, the measures for promoting cultural integration and mainstreaming are very important for protecting people from social exclusion.	The Ministry of Cultural Affairs has a lot of programmes and activities for promoting the cultural heritage of different groups including the small ethnic minorities. The ministry fosters the celebration of national culture to promote national cultural solidarity of people. Even the poorest segments of the population feel an integral part of the broader Bangali society. However, despite all the inclusive cultural programmes and activities, there remain a number of marginalized groups like tea garden workers, backward people, water gypsies, HIV affected people, street artists, jamdani artists, Jatra artists, small groups of inherited craftsmanship and drug addicts, etc. Some planned and targeted activities are required to take up cultural programmes for reducing cultural marginalization. Also, it is mentionable that the valuable efforts of this ministry go unaccounted for in reducing social exclusion.	Needs to enlist programmes of the ministry which contributes to enhancing cultural solidarity. It is also necessary to hold awareness-building programmes for directing cultural activities for strengthening social integration. Caution should be taken so that any cultural programmes, intentionally or not, push any segment to feel that they are different from the main stream of the population.
Communication of the national glory and achievement in social security	People would feel empowered and secure when they would learn about the great efforts and achievement of the nation in social security. It would inspire and encourage them to get involved in venturous economic activities without which the desired economic growth of the country is not possible. Information about the rights of social security will also protect them from being deprived of their social benefits. It is also mentionable that Bangladesh is proud to inherit the oldest system of social security as evidenced in the Brahmi stone inscription found at Mahastangarh.	Many of the cultural programmes, publications and demonstration materials of the ministry cover the glorious achievement of the nation in social security. Still, there are scopes for more pronounced measures to communicate the success story and heritage to the citizens and the next generation to come and also to the world community.	Communicate the glorious achievement of the nation in social security and historical heritage in this regard through publications, cultural programmes and demonstration of objects in the museum.

Programme Name	NSSS Provision	Present Situation	Gaps
Consolidate Smaller Programmes	The NSSS requires the merging or elimination of many small programmes. Any ministry considering some of their minor programmes to be continued and scaled up will have to send proposals with justification. [Para 4.8 of NSSS]	At present, the ministry has only four social security programmes. The ministry does not have any opportunity to consider the issue.	
Improve targeting of beneficiaries	Implementing ministries will be responsible for ensuring correct targeting and zero tolerance to pilferage. [Para 6.3.1 of NSSS]	The ministry has in place policies and manuals for effective implementation of the programmes.	Selection policies and manuals need to be updated and disseminated.
Grievance Redress System	Establishing an effective grievance redress so that all citizens have recourse to appeal decisions on selection and can notify the competent authorities about instances of misconduct and failures in the delivery of the promised benefit [Para 6.3 of NSSS]	Recorded online. Service Centre / Call centre not yet set up. Grievance redressed centrally by ministries also at the district level irrespective of online or written.	The GRS needs to be improved.
Develop Single Registry MIS	The government will establish a national Single Registry that is based on building scheme-specific MISs that communicates with each other. The Single Registry would be based on a national identity system of all Bangladeshi citizens. [Para 6.4 of NSSS]	The ministry maintains a beneficiary database. However, the database is not operated by any well-designed Management Information System (MIS)	MIS needs to be developed with linkage with the central MIS of the Finance Division.
Digitization of cash transfer	To transform the Government to Person (G2P) payment systems so that they promote financial inclusivity and prevent leakages. [Para 6.5 of NSSS]	G2P modality finalized. E payment modalities are used.	
Enhance results-based M&E	There is an important need to formalise a system of M&E at both the national level and at the individual programme level for assessing the results of the programmes. [Para 7.2 of NSSS]	A system of monitoring is in place for the programmes. But there is hardly any systematic evaluation of the programmes.	Systematic monitoring and evaluation need to be introduced.

Action Plan (2021-26)

In order to implement the reform proposals of the NSSS the following time-bound activities may be taken up.

Table 107: Action Plan of Ministry of Cultural Affairs

Sl.	Objectives	Activities	Performance Indicators	Timeframe	Responsible Ministry	Shared Responsibility
1.	Social Inclusion and Empowerment of marginalized cultural activists through cultural activities	Increase programmes and activities promoting social empowerment and inclusiveness	Programmes for marginalized cultural activists increased	Continuous	Ministry of Cultural Affairs	
		Maintain rigorous criteria for eliminating cultural programmes with potential risks of socially excluding any groups, such as tea garden workers, backward people, water gipsies, HIV affected people, street artists, jamdani artists, Jatra artists, small groups of inherited craftsmanship and drug addicts, etc.	Sensitization workshops and meetings organized	Continuous	Ministry of Cultural Affairs	
		Capacity building of non-well-off students for practising cultural activities	Increased budget coverage and number of cultural institutions	Continuous	Ministry of Cultural Affairs	
		Capacity building of private libraries to enrich the knowledge of the underprivileged readers	Increased budget coverage and number of libraries	Continuous	Ministry of Cultural Affairs	
2.	Highlight national glory and achievement in social security	Sensitize the cultural activists for incorporating social security themes in their works	Sensitization workshops and meetings organized	Continuous	Ministry of Cultural Affairs	
3.	Social allowance for insolvent cultural activists	Scale-up cash transfer programmes for insolvent cultural personalities	Programme scaled up	July 2023		

Sl.	Objectives	Activities	Performance Indicators	Timeframe	Responsible Ministry	Shared Responsibility
4.	Consolidate Smaller Programmes	Prepare a list of programmes to be continued	At present, the ministry has only four social security programmes. The ministry does not have any opportunity to consider the issue.			
		Make a list of programmes to be scaled up				
		Make a list of programmes to be phased out				
		Review the consolidation proposals				
5.	Improve targeting of beneficiaries	Update manual for selection procedures and disseminate it to people	Circular issued	January 2023		
		Publish a list of beneficiaries online to make it transparent	Instruction given to field offices	Continuous		
		Follow the BBS database when prepared	Instruction given	February 2023		
6.	Grievance Redress System	Arrange for recording complaints at field level	Instruction issued	Continuous		
		Create public awareness about the facility of central GRS of Cabinet Division	Public Meetings held in all Upazilas	September 2024		
7.	Develop Single Registry MIS	Create online Based MIS for all programmes	MIS digitized for all programmes	March 2025		
		Make the MIS accessible by relevant departments	Inter departmental arrangement established	July 2023		
		Link MIS with cash disbursement	MIS linked with financial management database of Finance Division (SPBMU MIS)	December 2023		
8.	Digitization of cash transfer	Pilot different modalities of G2P	Pilot completed	December 2024		
		Roll out an appropriate format of G2P	G2P rolled out for all programmes	December 2025		

Sl.	Objectives	Activities	Performance Indicators	Timeframe	Responsible Ministry	Shared Responsibility
9.	Enhance results-based M&E	Digitize monitoring of programmes	Dashboard established	July 2025		
		Conduct mid-term evaluation of programmes	Programmes evaluated regularly	Continuous		
		Top 5 programmes evaluated by CODI format	Programmes evaluated regularly	Continuous		

Key Actions of Ministry of Cultural Affairs

- Increase programmes and activities promoting social empowerment and inclusiveness.
- Maintain rigorous criteria for eliminating cultural programmes with potential risks of socially excluding any groups, such as tea garden workers, backward people, water gypsies, HIV affected people, street artists, jamdani artists, jatra artists, small groups of inherited craftsmanship and drug addicts, etc.
- Highlight national glory and achievement in social security, Sensitize the cultural activists for incorporating social security themes in their works.
- Scale up cash transfer programmes for insolvent cultural personalities.



Ministry of Industries

**Action Plan (2021-26) Implementation of
National Social Security Strategy (NSSS) of Bangladesh**



*Action Plan of Ministry of
Industries*

Action Plan (2021-26) for Implementation of National Social Security Strategy (NSSS) of Bangladesh

Ministry of Industries

The Ministry of Industries is primarily responsible for developing new policies and strategies for the promotion, expansion and sustainable development of the Industrial sector of Bangladesh. After the independence of Bangladesh Ministry of industry and commerce was formed in 1972. Later on, the Ministry of Industry and Commerce has divided into two different ministries. It has 4 Corporations, 6 Departments, 1 Board, 1 Foundation and 36 state-owned industries. State-owned industries are now producing fertilizer, sugar, paper, assembling vehicles and promoting small, medium and cottage industries. Ministry of industries has a great contribution to establishing environment-friendly industrialization, employment generation, food security and improvement in people's living standards.

Vision

To construct an upper-middle-income country through environment-friendly industrialization.

Mission

Environmentally friendly Industrialization in making upper-middle-income country through expansion of export-oriented and import substitute products, fertilizer production and distribution for ensuring food security and employment generation for a skilled workforce.

NSSS objectives

The NSSS objectives of the ministry are to enhance the economic development of the country by creating employment.

Challenges

The challenge of the ministry is to sustain the economic development of the country to enable the government to continue its social security programmes.

Organizational Overview

➤ Bangladesh Chemical Industries Corporation (BCIC)

BCIC is a government-owned corporation in Bangladesh. BCIC is presently managing 13 large and medium-sized industrial enterprises engaged in producing a wide range of products like Urea, TSP, DAP, Paper, Cement, Glass sheet, Hardboard, Sanitary ware, Insulator, etc. Bangladesh Chemical Industries Corporation is entrusted with the task of supervision, coordination & control of the enterprises under its management & for developing new industries in the Chemical & allied Sector.

➞ Bangladesh Small and Cottage Industries Corporation (BSCIC)

Bangladesh Small and Cottage Industries Corporation provides support services to the small and cottage industries sector in Bangladesh. It was created through an Act of Parliament in 1957 which was later amended in 1992. BSCIC has a country wide institution network to provide door-step services for entrepreneurs. BSCIC has developed a total of 79 industrial estates throughout the country to foster the growth of small and cottage industries in a balanced manner. BSCIC conducts advisory and industrial promotion services including training of entrepreneurs. It also works on skill development for artisans, craftsmen and creates employment in the small and cottage industries sector.

➞ Bangladesh Industrial and Technical Assistance Centre (BITAC)

Bangladesh Industrial and Technical Assistance Centre (BITAC) is a self-government statutory body under the Ministry of industries. The strategic objectives of BITAC are to develop skilled manpower through training; produce and repair import substitute machine parts; research and innovation to increase productivity. Presently, it has five regional offices located in Dhaka, Chattagram, Chandpur, Khulna and Bogura.

➞ Department of Patents, Designs and Trademarks (DPDT)

Department of Patents, Designs and Trademarks is the main government department responsible for patents and trademarks in Bangladesh. It is the apex organization of the government of Bangladesh for the administration of intellectual property. The main functions of DPDT are to administer the Patents & Designs Act 1911 and Rules 1933 for the protection of Patents and industrial designs; to administer the Trademarks Law 2009 and Rules 1963 for protection and registration of trademarks.

➞ Bangladesh Standards and Testing Institution (BSTI)

Bangladesh Standards and Testing Institution (BSTI) is a government agency under the Ministry of Industries constituted to control the standard of service and quality of the goods. The primary activities of the Bangladesh Standards and Testing Institution (BSTI) are standardization of services and products (S); introduction of the international unit system of weights and measures and promotion of metrology services (M); promotion of quality assurance activities; rendering testing facilities for services and products; preparation, promotion and adoption of national standards. The Institution is also empowered with some regulatory measures in these fields. The importance of BSTI is being increasingly felt due to the government's cardinal policy to make industries export-oriented and to supply the consumers at home and abroad with quality products.

➞ Other Organizations

In addition to the above, the Ministry of Industries has under it a number of other corporations such as BSFIC, BSEC. Also, the ministry has several departments like Bangladesh Standards and Testing Institution (BSTI), Bangladesh Institute of Management (BIM), National Productivity Organization (NPO), BOILER, Bangladesh Accreditation Board (BAB) and Small and Medium Enterprise Foundation (SMEF).

Legal Framework

- The Bangladesh Industrial Enterprises (Nationalization) Order, 1972 (P.O.No. 27 of 1972)
- The Trademarks Act, 2009
- The National Industry policy, 2016
- The National Salt policy, 2016
- The Purchase Policy, 2018
- The BSTI Act, 2018
- The Bangladesh Industrial and Technical Assistance Centre (BITAC) Act, 2019
- The Bangladesh ship recycling act, 2018
- The Small and Medium Enterprise (SME) policy, 2019

Other Programmes

➤ Extension of BITAC for Self-Employment and Poverty Alleviation through hands-on technical training highlighting women project (Phase-2)

BITAC has implemented self-employment and poverty alleviation project ISEPAI very successfully from 2009 to 2019. In connection with SEPA project, BITAC has undertaken an Extension of BITAC for Self-Employment and Poverty Alleviation through hands-on technical training highlighting the women project (Phase-2). The overall objective of the project is to provide hands-on technical training for 15,000 youths (men and women) to increase skill development for employment and entrepreneurship development. The total budget of this project is 123 core 17 lakh 56 thousand Taka. The duration of the project is from 1-10-2020 to 30-10-2025.

➤ Poverty Reduction Through Inclusive and Sustainable Markets (PRISM)

The overall objective of the Poverty reduction through Inclusive and Sustainable Markets (PRISM) programme is to build the capacity of government services to foster private sector development in general, and SME/SMCI development in particular with a focus on poorer segments of society. The specific objective of the technical assistance component is to strengthen and support the Ministry of Industries and its agencies involved in SME/SMCI development, in particular the Bangladesh Small and Cottage Industries Corporation (BSCIC) This programme belongs to Labour & Livelihood Intervention Cluster targeting the Working Age people in rural areas. The project ended last year from the development partner part.

Situation Analysis

Table 108: Situation Analysis of Ministry of Industries

Objectives	NSSS Provision	Present Situation	Gaps
Consolidate Smaller Programmes	The NSSS requires the merging or elimination of many small programmes. Any ministry considering some of their minor programmes to be continued and scaled up will have to send proposals with justification. [Para 4.8 of NSSS]	Under the process of preparation.	To be reviewed.
Improve targeting of beneficiaries	Implementing ministries will be responsible for ensuring correct targeting and zero tolerance to pilferage. [Para 6.3.1 of NSSS]	Existing manuals are online and partially follows the BBS database.	Selection policies and manuals need to be updated and disseminated.
Grievance Redress System	Establishing an effective grievance redress so that all citizens have recourse to appeal decisions on selection and can notify the competent authorities about instances of misconduct and failures in the delivery of the promised benefit [Para 6.3 of NSSS]	Recorded online. Service Centre /Call centre not yet set up. Grievance redressed centrally by ministries also at the district level irrespective of online or written.	The GRS needs to be improved.
Develop Single Registry MIS	The government will establish a national Single Registry that is based on building scheme-specific MISs that communicate with each other. The Single Registry would be based on a national identity system of all Bangladeshi citizens. [Para 6.4 of NSSS]	Under preparation in BBS, apart from that social protection integrated MIS developed at the Finance Division taking MIS Data of 4 ministries. MIS linked for some programmes and others will require some time.	MIS needs to be developed with linkage with the central MIS of the Finance Division.

Objectives	NSSS Provision	Present Situation	Gaps
Digitization of cash transfer	To transform the Government to Person (G2P) payment systems so that they promote financial inclusivity and prevent leakages. [Para 6.5 of NSSS]	G2P modality has been finalized. E payment modalities are used. The plan is to cover all cash-based programmes.	
Enhance results-based M&E	There is an important need to formalise a system of M&E at both the national level and at the individual programme level for assessing the results of the programmes. [Para 7.2 of NSSS]	The high-tech digital infrastructure has expedited the installation of most modern M&E systems by ministries.	Needs to maintain digital infrastructure.
Skill development training programme for young men and women	The NSSS suggests that human resources development through training is one of the most vital thematic clusters of the social security programme.	The ministry of industries implements one project and provides short term training for the entrepreneurs of medium, small, micro and cottage industries.	Training programmes need to be reviewed and improved.

Action Plan (2021-26)

In order to implement the reform proposals of the NSSS the following time-bound activities may be taken up.

Table 109: Action Plan of Ministry of Industries

Sl.	Objectives	Activities	Performance Indicators	Timeframe	Responsible Ministry	Shared Responsibility
1.	Skill development training programme for young men and women	Extension of BITAC for Self-Employment and Poverty Alleviation through hands-on technical training highlighting women project (Phase-2).	Training programmes for youth and women increased	1-10-2020 to 30-10-2025	Ministry of industries (MoInd)	Finance Division
		Provide skill development training for entrepreneurs of the medium, small, micro, cottage industries and socially marginalized people.	Training programmes for youth and women increased	Continuous	MoInd	
2.	Consolidate Smaller Programmes	Prepare a list of programmes to be continued	List sent to Cabinet Division (CD)	July 2022	MoInd has only one project that is being implemented for training and employment.	CD
		Make a list of programmes to be scaled up	List sent to CD	July 2022	Do	CD
		Make a list of programmes to be phased out	List sent to CD	July 2022	Do	CD
		Review the consolidation proposals	Review prepared	December 2023	Do	CD

Sl.	Objectives	Activities	Performance Indicators	Timeframe	Responsible Ministry	Shared Responsibility
3.	Improve targeting of beneficiaries	Update manual for selection procedures and disseminate it to people	Circular issued	January 2023	Do	
		Publish a list of beneficiaries online to make it transparent	Instruction given to field offices	Continuous	Do	
		Follow the BBS database when prepared	Instruction given	February 2023	Do	
4.	Grievance Redress System	Arrange for recording complaints at field level	Instruction issued	Continuous	MoInd	
		Create public awareness about the facility of central GRS of Cabinet Division	Public Meetings held in all Upazilas	September 2024	MoInd	
5.	Develop Single Registry MIS	Create online Based MIS for all programmes	MIS digitized for all programmes	March 2025	MoIND have only one project that is being implemented for training and employment	
		Make the MIS accessible by relevant departments	Inter-Departmental arrangement established	July 2023	Do	
		Link MIS with cash disbursement	MIS linked with financial management database of Finance Division (SPBMU MIS)	December 2023	Do	
6.	Digitization of cash transfer	Pilot different modalities of G2P	Pilot completed	December 2024	Do	
		Roll out an appropriate format of G2P	G2P rolled out for all programmes	December 2025	Do	
7.	Enhance results-based M&E	Digitize monitoring of programmes	Dashboard established	July 2025	Do	
		Conduct mid-term evaluation of programmes	Programmes evaluated regularly	Continuous	Do	

Key Actions of Ministry of Industries

- Skill development training programme for young men and women
- Extension of BITAC for self-employment and poverty Alleviation through hands on technical training highlighting women project (Phase-2).
- Provide skill development training for entrepreneurs of medium, small, micro, cottage industries and socially marginalized people.



Ministry of Commerce

**Action Plan (2021-26) Implementation of
National Social Security Strategy (NSSS) of Bangladesh**



*Action Plan of Ministry of
Commerce*

Action Plan (2021-26) for Implementation of National Social Security Strategy (NSSS) of Bangladesh

Ministry of Commerce

The Ministry of Commerce is a ministry of Bangladesh that is responsible for the regulation and implementation of policies applicable to domestic and foreign trade. Though the ministry has no direct programme of social security, still it plays important supportive roles in enhancing food security through maintaining the fair price of essential food items by policy intervention and direct participation in the market.

Vision

Creating a significant competitive position in the trade.

Mission

Contribute to national development by creating a business-friendly environment, facilitating trade, facilitating export growth, diversifying export products and markets, increasing capacity in foreign trade, ensuring the supply of daily necessities and stabilizing commodity prices.

NSSS objectives

The NSSS objective for the ministry is to support and collaborate with stakeholders in ensuring food supply in the market at a fair price.

Challenges

The NSSS challenge for the ministry is to manoeuvre a pragmatic mechanism for coordinating between food stock policy and the fair price policy of the government.

Organizational Overview

➔ Trading Corporation of Bangladesh (TCB)

Trading Corporation of Bangladesh (TCB) is a semi-autonomous organization under the Ministry of Commerce. Its mission is to stabilize the market price of some essential goods by maintaining buffer stocks and selling them to the consumers as and when required. TCB also carries out the business of imports and exports of goods, commodities, materials and merchandise from and to all the countries in accordance with the requirement and policy of the Government. Trading Corporation of Bangladesh was established in 1972 by the President's Order No. 68 to tackle the shortage of food and resources in Bangladesh following the Bangladesh Liberation war in 1971. TCB also plays an important role in market issues during emergencies during the crisis period in Bangladesh. Nowadays, TCB's activities have been increased manifold. TCB is currently selling essential goods to the marginalized people of the country at an affordable price throughout the year to maintain market stability, which on the other hand, reduces the living expenses of the low-income citizen. As such, it is playing an important role in achieving the country's growth and improving the quality of life including poverty alleviation.

➡ Directorate of National Consumer Rights Protection

The directorate of National Consumer Rights Protection is a quasi-judicial government department responsible for hearing and addressing consumer complaints about goods and services. It is headquartered in Dhaka with local offices in every divisional capital of Bangladesh.

➡ Bangladesh Tea Board (BTB)

Bangladesh Tea Board or BTB an autonomous body responsible for creating laws regarding tea production, controlling, and encouraging the production of tea and is located in Nasirabad, Chittagong, Bangladesh. The board was established through the Tea Ordinance in 1977. The First president of Bangladesh, Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, was a former chairman of the board.

➡ The Registrar of Joint Stock Companies and Firms (RJSC)

The Registrar of Joint Stock Companies and Firms (RJSC) is an organization of the Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh. After the partition of India, it was established for the first time in 1962 in the port city of Chittagong under the Ministry of Commerce. Then it started its activities with some documents from companies, professional organizations and partnership businesses from Calcutta, India. Its office was transferred to Dhaka. Currently, under RJSC, there are 1 lakh 90 thousand institutions (till June 2015) registered.

Legal Framework

- The Laws and regulations of the Ministry of Commerce
- The Consumer Rights Protection Act, 2009
- The Trade Organization Rules-S, R, O No-244 Act, 2018
- The Social and environmental compliance guide of Bangladesh plastics and light engineering industry
- The Policy on providing training to workers working in the readymade garment industry, 2019 amendment
- The Law of Trading Corporation of Bangladesh (TCB) is Presidents' Order No. 68 of 1972 (Amended up to 2015).

Situation Analysis

Table 110: Situation Analysis of Ministry of Commerce

Programme Name	NSSS Provision	Present Situation	Gaps
Support in sustaining food supply in the market for ensuring food security	Food security is one of the most important agendas of the government. Accordingly, food transfer programmes have received a huge amount of funding. There are four types of food security programmes, a) food as a benefit transfer (e.g., VGD); b) food for work c) food as disaster relief and d) food programmes for stabilizing the market (OMS etc.). Food distribution through OMS and as disaster relief will be coordinated with the Government's Food Stock Policy and Fair Price Policy. [Para 4.6 of NSSS] Bangladesh is a country that is susceptible to large-scale crises, such as floods or droughts; and is at the risk of being affected by the global food crisis. [Para 4.7 of NSSS] The ministry must be also careful about the sustainable profitability of agricultural farms.	<p>The Ministry of Commerce is one of the vital actors in the process of coordination for stabilizing the price of food in the market. The Ministry of Food, Ministry of Disaster Management and Relief, Ministry of Agriculture, Finance Division, and other relevant ministries work together with the Ministry of Commerce to regularly review food stock policy and fair price policy of the government to keep food prices stabilized. The TCB under the Ministry of Commerce imports and sells different food items in the open markets in times of price shocks. Such measure prevents an excessive increase in market price</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. To build up buffer stock from the stabilization of market prices of essential commodities through import and local procurement. 2. To act as a catalyst of government for stabilizing the price of essential commodities 3. To act as a catalyst of government to keep up the supply chain of essential commodities to the poor or marginal people. 4. TCB is conducting product sales through dealers by Truck-sell and Store-sell across the country during Holy Ramadan, Corona Outbreak and other emergencies and crisis periods. This has enabled marginalized people to purchase essential commodities at low cost which has facilitated the improvement of their living standers including poverty alleviation. During FY 2019-20 products were sold through 35,107 trucks and general allocations which have benefited about 59.4 million people or approx. 15,75,000 families. 	Needs to maintain coordination with relevant ministries for food price stabilization. Needs to scale up the import of essential food items in the time of emergencies like Covid-19 and supply it in the market.

Action Plan (2021-26)

In order to implement the reform proposals of the NSSS the following time-bound activities may be taken up.

Table 111: Action Plan of Ministry of Commerce

Sl.	Objectives	Activities	Performance Indicators	Timeframe	Responsible Ministry	Shared Responsibility
1.	Support in sustaining food supply in the market for ensuring food security.	Coordinate fair price policy with food stock policy	Coordination meetings held	Regularly	Ministry of Commerce	MoF, FD, MoDMR, etc.
		Facilitate food supply in the market during the crisis	Food supply increased	During crisis		

Key Actions of Ministry of Commerce

- Support in sustaining food supply in the market for ensuring food security.
- Coordinate fair price policy with food stock policy
- Facilitate food supply in the market during crisis



Ministry of Religious Affairs

**Action Plan (2021-26) Implementation of
National Social Security Strategy (NSSS) of Bangladesh**



Action Plan of Ministry of Religious Affairs

Action Plan (2021-26) for Implementation of National Social Security Strategy (NSSS) of Bangladesh

Ministry of Religious Affairs

Ministry of Religious Affairs has been trying for extending the overall cooperation and provide grants, as well as finance the activities to implement the development activities of the Islamic Foundation, Waqf Administration, Hindu, Buddhist & Christian Religious Welfare Trusts as major roles. It also deals with all matters relating to Hajj and Umrah, including the announcement of Hajj policy and Hajj Package, signing of bi-lateral Hajj agreement and management of residential accommodation for hajj pilgrims and religious delegations to and from foreign countries. The ministry also provides assistance to maintain and operate Waqf and Debouttar estates/properties and assisting research and publications in the field of religion and providing co-operation in the management of charitable institutions.

Vision

Ensure a liberal, harmonized, and collective society.

Mission

Establish a liberal, harmonized, and collective society by fostering religious values and ethics.

NSSS Objectives

The NSSS objective of the ministry is to support in ensuring inclusive social protection by fostering an environment of religious and communal harmony.

Challenges

The challenges of the ministry include preserving and maintaining the existing situation of religious harmony and device a management system for better utilization of religious charity.

Organizational overview:

➞ Office of the Waqf Administration

Office of the Waqf Administrator is a Bangladesh Government regulatory agency under the Ministry of Religious Affairs responsible for the administration of Waqf properties rules individuals can permanently donate movable or immovable property to charity, and it is the responsibility to manage the Waqf and ensure its run according to the wisdom of the donor.

➞ Islamic Foundation Bangladesh

Islamic Foundation Bangladesh is an autonomous body under the Ministry of Religious Affairs in Bangladesh working to disseminate values and ideals of Islam and carry out activities related to those values and ideals. The head office of the foundation is in Dhaka, which is supported by 6 divisional offices and 64 district offices, as well as 7 Imam Training Academy Centres and 29 Islamic Mission Centres. The Director General is the chief executive of the foundation.

➤ Hindu Religious Welfare Trust

Hindu Religious Welfare Trust is an autonomous body that looks after the welfare of the Hindu community of Bangladesh and is located in Dhaka, Bangladesh. The Hindu Religious Welfare Trust was established in 1983. It is under the Ministry of Religious Affairs. In the 2020-2021 budget session, 731,281 lacs were allocated to the trust by the Ministry of Finance.

➤ Christian Religious Welfare Trust

Christian Religious Welfare Trust is an autonomous body that works for the welfare of the Christian Community of Bangladesh and is located in Dhaka, Bangladesh. The trust was established in 2004 by the Government of Bangladesh through the passage of the Christian Religious Welfare Trust Ordinance. The trust is under the authority of the Ministry of Religious Affairs. In 2020-21, it received 1.25 lacs taka funding from the government.

➤ Buddhist Religious Welfare Trust

Buddhist Religious Welfare Trust is an autonomous body that is responsible for the welfare of the Buddhist Community in Bangladesh and is located in Dhaka, Bangladesh. Buddhist Religious Welfare Trust was established in 1984. It was placed under the Ministry of Religious Affairs. It is headquartered in Kamalapur Dharmarajika Bauddha Vihara in Kamalapur, Dhaka. The trust was established under the Buddhist Religious Welfare Trust Ordinance, 1983. The trust received 2.34 lacs, Taka, from the government for its 2020-21 budget.

Legal Framework

- The Mussalman Waqf Validating Act, 1913
- The Waqf Validating Act, 1930
- The Islamic Foundation Act, 1975
- The Waqf Ordinance, 1962
- The Zakat Fund Ordinance, 1982
- The Hindu Religious Welfare Trust Ordinance, 1983
- The Buddhist Religious Welfare Trust Ordinance, 1983
- The Christian Religious Welfare Trust Ordinance, 1993
- The Chitgagong Shahi Jame Masjid Ordinance, 1986

Programme Summary (2020-21)

Table 112: Programme Summary (2020-21) of Ministry of Religious Affairs

Sl.	Objectives	Activities	Performance Indicators	Timeframe	Responsible Ministry	Shared Responsibility
1.	Financial and material aid	Zakat (By Government Machineries)	Number of Beneficiaries more than 3 lac People. Grant Money Tk. 34.00 Crore. Zakat has been collected by the Islamic Foundation under the Ministry of Religious Affairs Tk. 5.17 crore (2019-2020). The number of Beneficiaries is 38,741.	2021-26	Ministry of Religious Affairs (MoRA)	

Sl.	Objectives	Activities	Performance Indicators	Timeframe	Responsible Ministry	Shared Responsibility
2.	Financial aid	Financial support for Imam and Muazzin in poverty alleviation	Number of Beneficiaries more than 50,000 Imams & Muazzins. Grant Money Tk. 60.00 Crore. 8050 people (Imams and Muazzins) have been given financial assistance to alleviate poverty (2019-2020). The number of Beneficiaries is 48,300, Taka is 9.11 Crore.	2021-26	MoRA	
3.	Financial aid	Financial grants to the needy People from the Ministry of Religious Affairs	Number of Beneficiaries more than 48,000 People. Grant Money Tk. 150.00 Crore From the Ministry of Religious Affairs, Financial grants amounting to Tk. 23.78 crore (2019-2020). The number of Beneficiaries is 7566.	2021-26	MoRA	
4.	Financial aid	Hindu Religious Welfare Trust	Number of Beneficiaries more than 6000 People. Grant Money Tk. 8.00 Crore Hindu Religious Welfare Trust delivered Tk. 1.20 crore as a grant to 900 people (2019-2020).	2021-26	MoRA	
5.	Financial aid	Buddhist Religious Welfare Trust	The number of beneficiaries is more than 700 people. Grant money Tk 0.90 Crore. Buddhist Religious Welfare Trust distributed Tk 15.00 lac as a grant to 114 people (2019-20)	2021-26	MoRA	

Situation Analysis

Table 113: Situation Analysis of Ministry of Religious Affairs

Programme Name	NSSS Provision	Present Situation	Gaps
Broaden Scopes of Fostering social inclusion and solidarity	<p>The NSSS vision is to ensure inclusive social protection for all deserving Bangladeshis. However, the NSSS identifies a number of reasons for the social exclusion of people with spatial manifestation. The causes include</p> <p>a) exclusion from political decisions,</p> <p>b) exclusion from employment and resources, and</p> <p>c) exclusion from cultural integration.</p> <p>The factors of religious and sectoral affiliation often push some people to social exclusion and marginalization. [Para 2.3.2 of NSSS] For example, some components of Islamic belief may lead some people out of financial inclusion. In Bangladesh, social exclusion on account of religious or ideological belief may be less prominent, still, this is a potential area to be cautious about. Therefore, it is not enough only to change the economic condition of people for an inclusive and harmonious society. Measures for promoting and sustaining religious or ideological tolerance and mutual respect is very important for protecting people from social exclusion.</p>	<p>Bangladesh is widely known for its practice of religious and communal harmony. The Ministry of Religious Affairs has various programmes for equally supporting members of different religious beliefs. The ministry provides financial and in-kind assistance for all the religious groups in performing their religious rites and festivals and developing their places of worship. The ministry strictly follows the principle of not making any group of people feel deprived or isolated on account of their religious affiliation.</p>	<p>Needs to commission study to identify potential religious practices and habits leading to social exclusion and to find out preventive measures. Needs to sensitize common people to show mutual respect to the faiths and religious practices of each other.</p>

Programme Name	NSSS Provision	Present Situation	Gaps
Strengthen Management of Zakat for social protection funding	The government has to invest more than 2.3% of GDP for social protection against a global average of around 6%. Therefore, the implementation of NSSS requires some funds from various other sources. The NSSS proposes to explore the feasibility of other sources of financing such as CSR, Zakat, and International Philanthropic Funds, etc. [Para 5.1 of NSSS] It may be mentioned in this regard that the Zakat and other forms of charity complement the need for social protection to a great extent. Therefore, it is important to further streamline the management of Zakat for social protection.	The Ministry of Religious Affairs has a Zakat Fund for collecting payment of Zakat of religious Muslims. This Zakat fund is utilized for different welfare activities. However, there is scope to spend the Zakat fund in a more planned way. A part of the fund may also be channelled towards some unfunded programmes of NSSS. A lot of people pay their Zakat informally to their relatives and community people. The actual amount of such Zakat is not properly calculated. The number of beneficiaries is also not known. There are chances of duplication or double-dipping while some needy people get nothing. Some measures may be taken to register such informal Zakats and their beneficiaries.	Needs to make plans for using Zakat Funds in some social protection programmes. Needs to explore a mechanism to keep accounts of the informal Zakat and the number of beneficiaries.

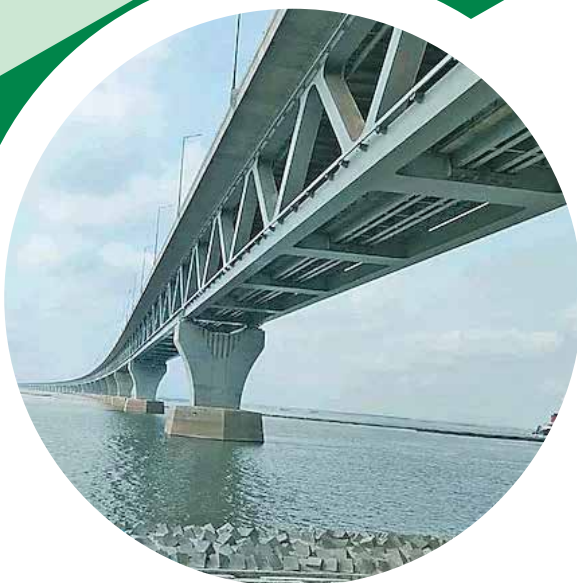
Action Plan (2021-26)

Table 114: Action Plan of Ministry of Religious Affairs

Sl.	Objectives	Activities	Performance Indicators	Timeframe	Responsible Ministry	Shared Responsibility
1.	Fostering social inclusion and solidarity	Identify potential religious practices leading to social exclusion	Study conducted	July 2022		
		Sensitize people to be mutually respectful to each other's religions	The theme emphasized in the religious sermons	July 2022		
2.	Management of Zakat for social protection funding	Explore social protection areas where Zakat Funds may be used	List prepared	December 2023		
		Conduct a study to find out a modality to register informal Zakats and their beneficiaries.	Report prepared	July 2024		

Key Actions of Ministry of Religious Affairs

- Enhance management of government machineries for the poor.
- Enhance financial support for Imam and Muazzin in poverty alleviation.



Ministry of Public Administration

**Action Plan (2021-26) Implementation of
National Social Security Strategy (NSSS) of Bangladesh**



*Action Plan of Ministry of Public
Administration*

Action Plan (2021-26) for Implementation of National Social Security Strategy (NSSS) of Bangladesh

Ministry of Public Administration

Ministry of Public Administration is the unit of government responsible for the overall management of human resources in the government services including appointment, posting, training and organizational structuring. The welfare of the public servants is also an important part of the activities of this ministry.

Vision

Expert and effective Public Administration.

Mission

To build up an efficient, service-oriented and accountable Public Administration through appointment, training, increasing institutional efficiency and ensuring effective use of human resources.

NSSS objectives

The NSSS objective of the Ministry is to provide social security benefits to the vulnerable government employees and their families, build the capacity of the civil servants and keep them oriented with the latest social security policies of the government.

Challenges

The challenges for the ministry are to scale up social security programmes for the vulnerable members of public service and to enhance social security lessons in different training courses in the training institutes for civil servants.

Organizational Overview

➤ Bangladesh Public Administration Training Centre (BPATC)

It is the apex public sector training institute in Bangladesh. It was founded in 1984 and is situated in Savar, Dhaka District.

➤ Bangladesh Civil Service Administration Academy

It is a specialized government training institute that provides training on law and administration to civil servants of Bangladesh and is located in Shahbag, Dhaka.

➤ Bangladesh Institute of Administration and Management (BIAM)

It is one of the leading training institutes of the country established in 1991 for providing professional and career development training in the field of development administration and management. It is situated on Dilu Road, Dhaka.

➤ Bangladesh Employees Welfare Board (BKKB)

It was founded in 2004 to provide social and financial security to all government employees. It is located in Segunbagicha, Dhaka.

Legal Framework

- Public Service Act, 2018
- Policy on a financial grant to government employees in case of death or permanent disability due to severe injury while in service, 2020 (amended).
- Bangladesh Employee Welfare Board (Amendment) Act, 2018

Social Security programmes

➤ Grant for incurring permanent disability or death while in service

This social security programme has been designed for government employees who have incurred permanent disability or for the families of those government employees who have died while in service. It was introduced in 2013 and went through an amendment in 2020. The Ministry of Public Administration is implementing the programme. Under the programme, a permanently disabled government employee gets BDT 4 lakh, and the family of a deceased government employee gets BDT 8 lakh as a grant. The government has allocated BDT 322.44 crore for this programme in FY 2020-21.

Programme Summary (2020-21)

Table 115: Programme Summary (2020-21) of Ministry of Public Administration

Social Protection Programme	Thematic Cluster	Life Cycle	Beneficiary (Lakh)	Budget (Crore Taka)
Grant to government employees in case of incurring permanent disability or for their families in case of death while in service	Social Allowance	Covariate Risks	-	322.44

Other Programmes

➤ Grant and Support for Vulnerable Government Employees

The Government of Bangladesh introduced several grants and support programmes for vulnerable government employees and their families. These include a medical treatment support grant of BDT 2 lakh for the employees who are suffering from an incurable disease, a one-time treatment support grant of BDT 40,000.00 for general treatment, monthly benevolent grant for the families of the employees who died or became permanently disabled while in service, support from group insurance fund for the families of employees who lost their lives while in service, support for the funeral of deceased employees, stipend for the children's education for low-paid employees, etc. These programmes are guided by the Bangladesh Employee Welfare Board (Amendment) Act, 2018 and its subordinate Rules.

Situation Analysis

Table 116: Situation Analysis of Ministry of Public Administration

Programme Name	NSSS Provision	Present Situation	Gaps
Capacity development of civil servants regarding social security	Proper implementation arrangements are critical for ensuring the effectiveness of any Social Security Strategy. Even the best designed and adequately funded social security system may fail to deliver the targeted results owing to inappropriate implementation arrangements. [Para 6.1 of NSSS] It needs mentioning that for any strategy to be effective, the capacity development of relevant officials is essential. In the absence of proper orientation about it, the officials may fail to synchronize the objectives of any strategy with broader national goals. Lack of orientation and capacity is bound to make any strategic plan dysfunctional or even counterproductive.	Ministry of Public Administration's functional responsibilities includes capacity building of public servants. The major training institutes under the ministry include BPATC, BCS Admin Academy and BIAM. These training institutes provide training to different levels of govt officials. These institutes have already incorporated NSSS as an important content of different training courses. Thus, the NSSS has been already mainstreamed in the foundation training course, ACAD and SSC course. However, the contents of social security and NSSS may require more space in the curricula of these training courses.	More sessions on NSSS and overall social security needs to be incorporated in some training courses for the civil servants.
Continuation of social security measures for the vulnerable government employees	The NSSS proposes that there should be a system of social insurance for the employees in case of death, injury and disability. [Para 4.3.3 of NSSS]	The ministry has the policy to provide a grant to government employees who have incurred permanent injury or death while in service. In FY 2020-21 a total of BDT 322.44 crore budget has been allocated for the potential victims. BKKB also provides financial grant to in-service government employees for general as well as critical and expensive medical treatment, stipend for the employees' children, funeral grants for deceased employees, etc. It also provides welfare allowance to employees who became disabled while in service and to their families in case of the death of the employees while in service. However, this needs to be sustained in the future.	Needs to be sustained in the future.

Action Plan (2021-26)

In order to implement the reform proposals of the NSSS, the following time-bound activities may be taken up.

Table 117: Action Plan of Ministry of Public Administration

Sl.	Objectives	Activities	Performance Indicators	Timeframe	Responsible Ministry	Shared Responsibility
1.	Training for the civil servants on NSSS	Broaden social security contents in some training courses at BPATC, BCS Admin Academy and BIAM.	More sessions on social security	December 2022	MoPA	Cabinet Division
2.	Social security for the vulnerable government employees and their families	Continuation of grant/allowance in case of permanent injury or death of in-service government employees, medical treatment, the funeral of deceased employees, stipend for their children's education, etc.	Disability/death grant/allowance, children's stipend, medical treatment grant, funeral grant sustained.	Continuous	MoPA	Finance Division

Key Actions of Ministry of Public Administration

- Broaden social security contents in some training courses at BPATC, BCS Admin Academy and BIAM.
- Social security for the vulnerable government employees and their families
- Continuation of grant/allowance in case of permanent injury or death of in-service government employees, medical treatment, funeral of deceased employees, stipend for their children's education, etc.



Ministry of Textiles and Jute

**Action Plan (2021-26) Implementation of
National Social Security Strategy (NSSS) of Bangladesh**



*Action Plan of Ministry of Textiles
and Jute*

Action Plan (2021-26) for Implementation of National Social Security Strategy (NSSS) of Bangladesh

Ministry of Textiles and Jute

The Ministry of Textiles and Jute is responsible for the formulation of policies, implementation of plans and evaluation and Management of State-owned textiles and jute industries. It coordinates the internal and external marketing of Jute yarn, diversified jute products and Textiles including synthetic, specialized, handloom, power-loom products. The Ministry enhances promotion, establishment, balancing & modernization and replacement of Textile mills/factories and handlooms in the public sector and also facilitate the promotion of Textile and Jute industries and related matters in the private sector. The Ministry puts huge social security impact by providing working capital to develop Socio-economic conditions & modernization of handloom to the weavers. And putting more contribution through creating human resources through educating and training of Textiles, Jute and Sericulture technology to the related people. It also supports overall coordination related to the marketing of textiles and jute products in both local and foreign markets and provides assistance to the private sector in the development and expansion of textiles and jute industries.

Vision

Developing a strong and competitive Textiles and Jute sector.

Mission

Increase productivity, employment, and export by fully utilizing the potential of textile and jute sectors.

NSSS objectives

The NSSS objective of the ministry is to ensure the social protection of the weavers and employees of the textiles and jute industries.

Challenges

The social protection challenges facing the Ministry of Jute are to sustain and increase the employment of the workers and to ensure their social protection. At present, our Jute products are facing huge competition in the diversified market. And textiles sector faces the threat of artificial fibre/fabrics.

Organizational Overview

➤ Bangladesh Handloom Board (BHB)

The handloom industry is the astringent of the tradition of Bangladesh. The handloom industry plays a vital role in the economy of Bangladesh. This is the second-largest source of rural employment after agriculture. About 9 lakh people are being directly engaged in this industry and about 15 lakh people are being engaged in this sector. According to Handloom Census 2018, there are 2,90,282 handlooms in the country (except power loom). About 47.474 crores metres of cloth are produced in the handloom sector which meets about 28 per cent of local demand for cloth per annum (except power loom). The value addition of this sector is TK. 2269.70 crore (except power loom). Contribution to GDP of handloom industry is 0.10 per cent (except

power loom). Total export earnings through handloom products have stood at \$11,15,26,742.83 (US dollar) in the last ten years. Bangladesh Handloom Board was established by a presidential ordinance, 1977 with an objective to promote and develop the handloom sector and make the welfare of the people engaged therein. After repealing the Bangladesh Handloom Board Ordinance-1977, Bangladesh Handloom Board Act-2013 was passed as per LXIV No. law of 2013. Being patronized by the Ministry of Textiles and Jute, Bangladesh Handloom Board has been implemented a number of development projects/ programmes for the overall development of the handloom sector. These projects/ programmes have been contributing much to the promotion and development of the handloom sector in general and the weavers in particular. It works for the preservation of classical Bangladesh weaving techniques of Benarashi, Jamdani, Tangail Saree, Silk, Muslin, etc.

➞ Bangladesh Sericulture Development Board (BSDB)

Bangladesh Sericulture Development Board is a regulatory board in Bangladesh that is in charge of sericulture and is based in Rajshahi, Bangladesh. Bangladesh Sericulture Development Board was formed in 1978 through the Presidential Ordinance 1977. It is responsible for the welfare of sericulture workers and the promotion of the silk industry. The board owns Mulberry plantations for silk agriculture in Bangladesh. The board is responsible for Bangladesh Sericulture Research and Training Institute and also manages state-owned silk factories in Bangladesh.

➞ Department of Textiles

Department of Textiles is a government organization of the People's Republic of Bangladesh under the Ministry of Textiles and Jute which is responsible for the Textile education and Sponsoring Authority of private textile mills including the RMG Sector. More than 40 lakh people working in the RMG Sector of them 80 per cent are female workers. Department of Textiles is leading 7 (Seven) Textile Engineering Colleges, 7 (Seven) Textile Institutes and 41 (Forty-One) Textile Vocational Institutes to supply expert manpower for Textile Sector.

➞ Department of Jute

Department of Jute is the government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh's state department under its Ministry of Textiles and jute which is responsible for the Jute sector in the country. The function of the department is to act as a Regulatory Authority/guardian for this economic sector and to address its need-based demands.

➞ Bangladesh Jute Mills Corporation (BJMC)

BJMC has owned 25 government Jute mills. The production of those mills has been stopped by the government from 01 July'2020. At present, the Ministry of Textile and Jute is trying hard to resume the production of 17 jute mills by non-government sectors through a long-term lease procedure.

Legal Framework

- The Textile Act, 2018
- The Jute Law, 2017
- The Bangladesh Sericulture Board Ordinance, 1977
- The Bangladesh Handloom Board Ordinance, 1977
- The Jute Ordinance, 1962
- The BJC's Ordinance Repealed Law, 2013
- The Mandatory use of jute product labelling (Amendment) Act, 2010
- The Mandatory use of jute product labelling laws, 2012
- The Bangladesh Industrial Enterprises (Nationalization) Order, 1972
- The Bangladesh Sericulture Development Board Act, 2013

- The Bangladesh Silk Development Board Act, 2013
- The Bangladesh Handloom Board Act, 2013

Social Security programmes

➤ Providing Working Capital and Modernization of Handloom with a View to Development of Socio-economic Conditions of Handloom Weavers

Through this programme/project Bangladesh Government is providing working capital to improve the socio-economic condition of Weavers and modernization of handlooms so that the handlooms industries grow sustainably. The programme/project is being implemented by Bangladesh Handloom Board under the Ministry of Textiles and Jute. The project investment cost is Tk 15800.00 lakh. Total Tk 14510.00 lakh will be disbursed against 34650 looms across the country (Except Bagerhat, Bhola, Chandpur, Laxmipur and the Chittagong Hill Tracts). Directly 2.00 lakh weavers will be benefited under the project and Tk 2490.00 lakh allocated in 2020-21 fiscal year in favour of this project. This project belongs to Labour & Livelihood Intervention Cluster targeting the Working Age people.

➤ Bangladesh Jute Mills Corporation (BJMC)

BJMC has already been paid the amount of 3500 crore taka to the stopped jute mill almost 50 thousand labours through golden handshake retirement benefit. Half of those amount has been paid through cash and the rest half by 'Sanchayapatra'.

Programme Summary (2020-21)

Table 118: Programme Summary (2020-21) of Ministry of Textiles and Jute

Social Protection Programme	Thematic Cluster	Life Cycle	Beneficiary (Lakh)	Budget (Crore Taka)
Providing working capital and modernization of handloom with a view to the development of socio-economic conditions of handloom weavers	Labour / Livelihood Intervention	Working Age (18-60 years)	-	25.00

Other Programmes:

➤ Micro Credit Programme for the Weavers

The project was undertaken by Bangladesh Handloom Board at an investment cost of Tk. 5015.60 lakh to provide working capital to the weavers owning 1-5 looms by organizing them in groups as per rules of Tanti Samity-1991. There is a provision in the DPP that the loan amount will be refunded to the government after 5 years of the implementation period. As per the provision of DPP, Tk. 4058.82 lakh was refunded to the government treasury and interest of the realised loan amount has been disbursed among the weavers as a revolving fund. The project was completed by June 2006. Now revolving fund of the programme is being disbursed among the weavers of Chittagong Hill tracts areas.

Situation Analysis

Table 119: Situation Analysis of Ministry of Textiles and Jute

Programme Name	NSSS Provision	Present Situation	Gaps
Providing Working Capital and Modernization of Handloom with a View to Development of Socio-economic Conditions of Handloom Weavers	<p>The NSSS identifies a number of reasons for the social exclusion of people with spatial manifestation. The causes include</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) exclusion from the political decision, b) exclusion from employment and resources, and c) exclusion from cultural integration. <p>The factor of the profession and sectoral affiliation often results in the social exclusion of certain segments of people. [Para 2.3.2 of NSSS]</p> <p>The people in the profession of handlooms are often excluded from the mainstream of society and have a lesser voice. Also, mentionable, the NSSS includes employment generation and economic growth. Thus, the social protection for weavers also contributes to economic growth.</p>	<p>The Ministry of Textile and Jute has a project for the social upliftment of the weaver community. The project is called “Providing Working Capital and Modernization of Handloom with a View to Development of Socio-economic Conditions of Handloom Weavers”. This project is providing working capital to improve the socio-economic condition of Weavers and the modernization of handlooms so that the handlooms industries grow sustainably. The project investment cost is Tk 15800.00 lakh. Total Tk 14510.00 lakh will be disbursed against 34650 looms across the country (Except in Bagerhat, Bhola, Chandpur, Laxmipur and the Chittagong Hill Tracts). Directly 2.00 lakh weavers will be beneficated under the project and have allocated allocation Tk 2490.00 lakh in 2020-21 fiscal year in favour of this Project.</p>	<p>In consideration of the number of weavers, the project size is very small. The project may need to be scaled up.</p>
Consolidate Smaller Programmes	<p>The NSSS requires the merging or elimination of many small programmes. Any ministry considering some of their minor programmes to be continued and scaled up will have to send proposals with justification. [Para 4.8 of NSSS]</p>	<p>The ministry will have to make a list of such programmes or schemes if considered to be scaled up.</p>	<p>To be reviewed.</p>
Improve targeting of beneficiaries	<p>Implementing ministries will be responsible for ensuring correct targeting and zero tolerance to pilferage. [Para 6.3.1 of NSSS]</p>	<p>The ministry has in place policies and manuals for effective implementation of the programmes.</p>	<p>Selection policies and manuals need to be updated and disseminated</p>
Grievance Redress System	<p>Establishing an effective grievance redress so that all citizens have recourse to appeal decisions on selection and can notify the competent authorities about instances of misconduct and failures in the delivery of the promised benefit [Para 6.3 of NSSS]</p>	<p>Recorded online. Service Centre / Call centre not yet set up. Grievance redressed centrally by ministries also at the district level irrespective of online or written.</p>	<p>The GRS needs to be improved.</p>

Programme Name	NSSS Provision	Present Situation	Gaps
Develop Single Registry MIS	The government will establish a national Single Registry that is based on building scheme-specific MISs that communicate with each other. The Single Registry would be based on a national identity system of all Bangladeshi citizens. [Para 6.4 of NSSS]	The ministry maintains a beneficiary database. However, the database is not operated by any well-designed Management Information System (MIS)	MIS needs to be developed with linkage with the central MIS of the Finance Division.
Digitization of cash transfer	To transform the Government to Person (G2P) payment systems so that they promote financial inclusivity and prevent leakages. [Para 6.5 of NSSS]	G2P modality finalized. E payment modalities are used.	
Enhance Results-Based M&E	There is an important need to formalise a system of M&E at both the national level and at the individual programme level for assessing the results of the programmes. [Para 7.2 of NSSS]	A system of monitoring is in place for agriculture subsidies. But there is hardly any systematic evaluation of the programmes.	Systematic monitoring and evaluation need to be introduced.

Action Plan (2021-26)

In order to implement the reform proposals of the NSSS the following time-bound activities may be taken up.

Table 120: Action Plan of Ministry of Textiles and Jute

Sl.	Objectives	Activities	Performance Indicators	Timeframe	Responsible Ministry	Shared Responsibility
1.	Scale-up programmes for marginalized weaver & handloom workers	Increase number of beneficiaries in these handloom sectors	Beneficiaries increased (2.00 Lakh handloom weavers)	June 2025	Ministry of Textile and Jute (MoTJ)	Finance Division
2.	Consolidate Smaller Programmes	Prepare a list of programmes to be continued	List sent to Cabinet Division (CD)	July 2022	MoTJ	CD
		Make a list of programmes to be scaled up	List sent to CD	July 2022	MoTJ	CD
		Make a list of programmes to be phased out	List sent to CD	July 2022	MoTJ	CD
		Review the consolidation proposals	Review prepared	December 2023	MoTJ	CD

Sl.	Objectives	Activities	Performance Indicators	Timeframe	Responsible Ministry	Shared Responsibility
3.	Improve targeting of beneficiaries	Update manual for selection procedures and disseminate it to people	Circular issued	January 2023	MoTJ	
		Publish a list of beneficiaries online to make it transparent	Instruction given to field offices	Continuous	MoTJ	
		Follow the BBS database when prepared	Instruction given	February 2023	MoTJ	
4.	Grievance Redress System	Arrange for recording complaints at field level	Instruction issued	Continuous	MoTJ	
		Create public awareness about the facility of central GRS of Cabi-net Division	Public Meetings held in all Upazilas	September 2024	MoTJ	
5.	Develop Single Registry MIS	Create online Based MIS for all programmes	MIS digitized for all programmes	March 2025	MoTJ	
		Make the MIS accessible by relevant departments	Inter-Departmental arrangement established	July 2023	MoTJ	
		Link MIS with cash dis-bursement	MIS linked with financial management database of Finance Division (SPBMU MIS)	December 2023	MoTJ	
6.	Digitization of cash transfer	Pilot different modalities of G2P	Pilot completed	December 2024	MoTJ	
		Roll out the appropriate format of G2P	G2P rolled out for all programmes	December 2025	MoTJ	
7.	Enhance results-based M&E	Digitize monitoring of programmes	Dashboard established	July 2025	MoTJ	
		Conduct mid-term evaluation of programmes	Programmes evaluated regularly	Continuous	MoTJ	
		Top 5 programmes evaluated by CODI format	Programmes evaluated regularly	Continuous	MoTJ	

Key Actions of Ministry of Textiles and Jute

- Scale up programmes for marginalized weaver & handloom workers
- Increase number beneficiaries in this handloom sectors



NSSS Action Plan, Phase - II (2021-26)



Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change

**Action Plan (2021-26) Implementation of
National Social Security Strategy (NSSS) of Bangladesh**



*Action Plan of Ministry of
Environment, Forest and Climate
Change*

Action Plan (2021-26) for Implementation of National Social Security Strategy (NSSS) of Bangladesh

Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change

The Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change is a ministry of the People's Republic of Bangladesh whose role is to ensure a sustainable environment and optimum forest coverage. Previously, the ministry name was Ministry of Environment and Forest. On May 14, 2018, the cabinet changed the name to Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change.

Vision

Ensure habitable, Climate-resilient and sustainable environment for all

Mission

Ensure a habitable, sustainable and resilient environment for the present and the future generations of the country.

NSSS objectives

The NSSS objective of the Ministry is to take adequate measures for sustainable management of the environment and capacity to tackle climate change and prevention of disaster.

Challenges

The challenges for the Ministry include ensuring social protection for the victims of climate change and natural disasters and checking environmental degradation.

Organizational Overview

➤ Bangladesh Climate Change Trust (BCCT)

The Bangladesh Climate Change Trust is a government trust in Bangladesh that utilizes funds to tackle the adverse impact of climate change. Addressing the urgency of climate change issues, Bangladesh Government formulated a ten-year Action Plan; Bangladesh Climate Change Strategy and Action Plan (BCCSAP), 2009 under the Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change. The Action Plan focused on specific six thematic areas according to the current demand of the country. The Action Plan is being revised and updated now. To implement BCCSAP, 2009, Climate Change Trust Fund (CCTF) was established from the revenue budget of the Government. The trust fund has operated since 2010 and collaborates with government ministries and NGOs, and the private sector to implement and evaluate climate change adaptation and mitigation projects.

➤ Department of Environment

Department of Environment, under the guidance of the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC), is responsible for protecting the environment in Bangladesh, and its headquarters

is located in Dhaka, Bangladesh. The Department has its regional and district offices throughout the countries. A Director General heads the Department. Following the United Nations Conference on the Human Environment in Stockholm in 1972, the Government of Bangladesh founded the Department of Public Health Engineering. It passed the Water Pollution Control Ordinance in 1973. In 1977, the Environment Pollution Control Board, with 16 members headed by a Member of the Planning Commission and Environment Pollution Control Cell headed by a director, was established. This was followed in the same year by establishing the Environment Pollution Control Project, in 1985 with the Department of Pollution Control and finally, in 1989 by the restructured and renamed the Department of Environment. The activities of which are overseen by a Director-General. The Department discharges its responsibilities through a head office and six Divisional offices located in Dhaka, Chattogram, Khulna, Bogura, Barishal and Sylhet. The government has set up 21 new offices at the district level. As a result, the D.O.E. staff has been increased to a great extent. The Department is mandated to regulate pollution and authorized to take necessary measures against polluting industries.

➞ **Bangladesh Forest Department (BFD)**

Bangladesh Forest Department (BFD) is a government agency responsible for protecting and maintaining forests and wildlife in Bangladesh and is located in Agargaon, Dhaka, Bangladesh. The BFD was initially established to manage and conserve forest resources along with biodiversity & watershed management and development, enforce laws and regulations for the protection and management of forest resources and wildlife as the custodian of the government forests, conserve natural habitats and restore degraded forests for biodiversity conservation and establishing participatory forest management. Bangladesh Forest Department is also responsible for the National Botanical Gardens of Bangladesh, Forest Development and Training Centre, Kaptai, Forest Academy, Chittagong and Forestry Science and Technology Institutes.

➞ **Bangladesh Forest Industries Development Corporation (BFIDC)**

Bangladesh Forest Industries Development Corporation (BFIDC) is an autonomous government body that manages the commercial exploitation of forests in Bangladesh, produce timber and finally wood products in the form of furniture. The H.Q. of BFIDC is located at Motijheel, Dhaka, Bangladesh. The factory is at Kalurghat, Chattogram.

➞ **Bangladesh Rubber Board**

To revive the almost lost rubber cultivation, the government established the Bangladesh Rubber Board through the Bangladesh Rubber Board Act, 2013 (Act No. 19 of 2013) on May 5, 2013. Bangladesh Rubber Board is a statutory institution. The rubber board's activities with the Bangladesh forest industry development corporation had been going on from the beginning. It was started independently by the Bangladesh Rubber Board on April 30, 2019. One of the functions of the Bangladesh Rubber Board is to monitor and evaluate the overall progress of rubber cultivation and rubber industry, provide the necessary support for the marketing and production of rubber produced, select suitable persons or institutions interested in rubber cultivation and submit recommendations to the government for a lease of land according to them, to break the terms of the lease agreement. To provide necessary guidance to the government to take necessary legal action against them, to provide training to rubber garden owners, workers, and employees, to extract rubberwood that has lost their life cycle, to support processing and marketing, to discourage the production, marketing and use of harmful artificial rubber, etc.

Legal Framework

- The Forest Policy, Laws and Regulations
- The Social Forestry (Amended) Rules, 2010
- The Forest Information Conservation and Exchange Policy, 2019
- The Wildlife Injury Compensation Rules, 2021

- The Compensation policy for casualties caused by wildlife
- The Bangladesh Climate Change Strategy and Action Plan (BCCSAP), 2009
- The Climate Change Trust Act, 2010
- The Environmental Protection Rules, 1997
- The National Environment Policy, 2018

Social Security Programmes

➤ Fund for Climate Change

The Fund for Climate Change supports individuals to tackle the disaster shocks and sudden changes in economic life balance. This fund also supports peoples of climate and disaster victims in coastal and disaster-prone areas. The Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change has implemented the programme. There are 4.50 lakh beneficiaries with BDT 100 crore budget in the 2020-21 fiscal year for this programme. This programme belongs to Food Security and Disaster Assistance Cluster focusing on the Covariate Risks in the life cycle approach in rural areas.

➤ Building Fortress

Under different projects which the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change is implementing, there is a provision of building Fortress (a raised platform in the chunk of land). These lands are prepared for the inhabitants of the coastal area during the cyclone, tidal surges etc.

➤ Security for Livelihood

Bangladesh Forest Department (BFD) has been implementing the Sustainable Forest and Livelihoods (SUFAL) project from July 2018- June 2023, with a total project cost is Tk 150,271.17 Lakh. The project's overall objective is to improve collaborative forest management and increase access to alternative income generation activities for forest-dependent communities in targeted sites. This will be achieved by improving public sector management of forest resources and increasing participation of communities in forest conservation and restoration and reducing direct dependence and exploitation of forest resources by offering alternative livelihood sources to dependent communities and improving the enabling environment for trees outside the forest.

➤ Supply of Drinking Water

Water is, in theory, a quintessentially renewable resource. Most of the world's surface is covered in water and over much of the world it falls, unbidden and with great regularity, from the skies. Yet, the carelessness and profligacy with which water resources have been used, the speed of human population growth and the increasing per capita demands for water together mean that provision of adequate, safe supplies of water is now a major source of concern, expense and even international tension. At the World Summit on Sustainable Development in Johannesburg in 2002, over 80 per cent of the participating decision-makers identified water as a key issue to be addressed by Heads of State from countries throughout the world.

➤ Insurance under loss and damage

In Bangladesh, there has been implemented two major projects related to lose and damage. The first of which being the Loss and Damage in Vulnerable Countries Initiative initiated by ICCCAD has been involved in the Climate and Development Knowledge Network (CDKN) and developed by German-watch, the Munich Climate Insurance Initiative (MCII), United Nations University-Institute for Environment and Human Security (UNU-EHS) working alongside ICCCAD. In this project, ICCCAD took a multi-faceted role to better understand loss and damage in the national context of Bangladesh helping to organize four stakeholder workshops and several technical papers undertaken by national researchers with expertise in a range of areas related to climate change and development (see Publications). The second project is the Asia Pacific Forum on Loss and Damage which was started by International Centre for Climate Change and

Development (ICCCAD) and several other organizations and made possible by the Asia Pacific Network for Global Change Research (APN-GCR). The objective of the forum is to disseminate knowledge on loss and damage in the Asia Pacific region so as to create a community of practice among researchers. By providing a platform for discussion along with an online bank for loss and damage research, the forum hopes to shed light on the challenges and potential solutions to address loss and damage. Both of the projects were supervised by the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate change.

Programme Summary (2020-21)

Table 121: Programme Summary (2020-21) of Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change

Social Protection Programme	Thematic Cluster	Life Cycle	Beneficiary (Lakh)	Budget (Crore Taka)
Fund for Climate Change	Food Security and Disaster Assistance	Covariate Risks	4.5	100.00
Guchagram (Climate Victims Rehabilitation) Project	Food Security and Disaster Assistance	Covariate Risks	0.89	115.00
Infrastructure and livelihood improvement in Haor and Coastal Area	Food Security and Disaster Assistance	Covariate Risks	0.54	209.13

Other Programmes (2020-21)

Table 122: Other Programmes of Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (2020-21)

Social Protection Programme	Thematic Cluster	Life Cycle	Beneficiary (Lakh)	Budget (Crore Taka)
Increasing Access to Alternative Income Generating Activities (AIGAs) of Forest Dependent Communities	Food Security and Disaster Assistance	Working Age	2.00	160.00

Situation Analysis

Table 123: Situation Analysis of Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change

Programme Name	NSSS Provision	Present Situation	Gaps
Strengthen the management of climate change and disaster prevention	The NSSS stipulates that the Government's programmes to address climate change and disaster prevention will be further strengthened as a part of its broader development effort. In this respect, schemes like conditional cash transfers for co-management of natural resources can be considered. Longer-term programmes such as the planned Delta Region Development can be of further Benefit in this regard. [Para 4.7 of NSSS]	The Ministry already has some programmes like embankment and reforestation programmes, disaster preparedness, etc. in lowering the vulnerability of the population to climate change and natural Disasters. In the meantime, the Delta Plan approved the action. The Ministry has to follow the Delta Plan for the management of climate change and disaster prevention.	Needs to implement the Delta Plan of Action. Needs to coordinate with field administration so that local development projects are compatible with environmental sustainability.

Programme Name	NSSS Provision	Present Situation	Gaps
Consolidate Smaller Programmes	The NSSS requires the merging or elimination of many small programmes. Any ministry considering some of their minor programmes to be continued and scaled up will have to send proposals with justification. [Para 4.8 of NSSS]	The Ministry will have to make a list of such programmes or schemes if considered scaled up.	To be reviewed.
Improve targeting of beneficiaries	Implementing ministries will be responsible for ensuring correct targeting and zero tolerance to pilferage. [Para 6.3.1 of NSSS]	The Ministry has in place policies and manuals for effective Implementation of the programmes.	Selection policies and manuals need to be updated and disseminated.
Grievance Redress System	Establishing an effective grievance redress so that all citizens have recourse to appeal decisions on selection and can notify the competent authorities about instances of misconduct and failures in the delivery of the promised benefit [Para 6.3 of NSSS]	They recorded it online. Service Centre /Call centre not yet set up. Grievance redressed centrally by ministries also at the district level irrespective of online or written.	The GRS. needs to be improved.
Develop Single Registry MIS	The government will establish a national Single Registry based on building scheme-specific MISs that communicate with each other. The Single Registry would be based on a national identity system of all Bangladeshi citizens. [Para 6.4 of NSSS]	The Ministry maintains a beneficiary database. However, the database is not operated by any well-designed Management Information System (MIS)	MIS needs to be developed with linkage with the central MIS of the Finance Division.
Digitization of cash transfer	To transform the Government to Person (G2P) payment systems to promote financial inclusivity and prevent leakages. [Para 6.5 of NSSS]	G2P modality finalized. E-payment modalities are used.	
Enhance Results-Based M&E	There is a critical need to formalize a system of M&E at both the national and individual programme levels to assess the programmes' results. [Para 7.2 of NSSS]	A system of monitoring is in place for agriculture subsidies. But there is hardly any systematic evaluation of the programmes.	Systematic monitoring and evaluation need to be introduced.

BY BFD Situation analysis

Table 124: Situation Analysis of Bangladesh Forest Department (BFD)

Programme name	NSSS provision	Present situation	Gaps
Strengthen the management of climate change and disaster prevention	The NSSS stipulates that Government's programmes to address climate change and disaster prevention will be further strengthened as a part of its broader development effort. In this respect, schemes like conditional cash transfers for co-management of natural resources can be considered. Longer-term programmes such as the planned Delta Region Development can be of further benefit in this regard. [Para 4.7 of NSSS]	Conducts afforestation and reforestation at the coastal region to establish climate-resilient livelihood and forest and address climate change impacts. Builds awareness and conducts activities for biodiversity and wildlife conservation to address the impacts of climate change.	Inter-departmental co-ordination
Improve targeting of beneficiaries	Implementing ministries will be responsible for ensuring correct targeting and zero tolerance to pilferage. [Para 6.3.1 of NSSS]	The Department has in place policies and manuals for effective Implementation of the programmes	Limited resource and inadequate staff in the field level
Grievance Redress System	They are establishing an effective grievance redress so that all citizen has recourse to appeal decisions on selection and can notify the competent authorities about instances of misconduct and failures in delivering the promised benefit. [Para 6.3 of NSSS]	Public hearing activities have started in headquarter and field level offices to conflict resolution	Limited awareness among the people
Enhance Result Based M&E	There is a critical need to formalize a system of M&E at both the national and individual programme levels to assess the programmes' results. [Para 7.2 of NSSS]	Improvement of the existing M&E system is necessary at the national and individual level	Limited I.T. skill and human resources

BY BCCT Situation Analysis

Table 125: Situation Analysis of Bangladesh Climate Change Trust (BCCT)

Programme name	NSSS provision	Present situation	Gaps
Strengthen the management of climate change and disaster prevention	The NSSS stipulates that Government's programmes to address climate change and disaster prevention will be further strengthened as a part of its broader development effort. In this respect, BCCT has taken several projects based on Food Security, Social Protection and Health, Comprehensive Disaster Management, Infrastructure, Mitigation and Low-carbon Development thematic areas. It was a short-term programme for combating Climate Change. [Para 4.7 of NSSS]	Building Climate-resilient house, supplying safe drinking water and doing Climate Change related research/action research/adaptation research for contributing to make climate-resilient country.	Interdepartmental/ Ministries and Divisions co-ordination

Programme name	NSSS provision	Present situation	Gaps
Food availability and nutrition	The NCCC suggests that food security (food availability, access and Utilization) is one of the most vital thematic clusters for social security programmes. BCCT has taken some projects to grow climate-resilient variety for producing more food in Climate victim areas. [Para 6.3.1 and Figure 6.1 of NSSS]	The Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change funds for implementing different projects innovating saline and drought-tolerant variety and disseminate to grow more agricultural production in Climate victim vulnerable areas.	Interdepartmental/ Ministries and Divisions co-ordination
Improve targeting of beneficiaries	Implementing ministries will be responsible for ensuring correct targeting and zero tolerance to pilferage. [Para 6.3.1 of NSSS]	The Department has in place policies and manuals for effective Implementation of the programmes.	Limited resource in the head office and field level
Grievance Redress System	They are establishing an effective grievance redress so that all citizen has recourse to appeal decisions on selection and can notify the competent authorities about instances of misconduct and failures in delivering the promised benefit. [Para 6.3 of NSSS]	Public hearing activities have started in head office to conflict resolution.	Limited awareness among the people
Enhance Result Based M&E	There is a critical need to formalize a system of M & M&E at both the national and individual programme levels to assess the programme results. [Para 7.2 of NSSS]	Improvement of the existing M&E system is necessary at the national and individual level	Limited I.T. skill and human resources

Action Plan (2021-26)

To implement the reform proposals of the NSSS, the following time-bound activities may be taken up.

Table 126: Action Plan of Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change

Sl.	Objectives	Activities	Performance Indicators	Timeframe	Responsible Ministry	Shared Responsibility
1.	Strengthen the management of climate change and disaster prevention	Take measures according to the Delta Plan of Action	Delta Plans implemented	A timeline of the Delta Plan	MoEFCC	
		Coordinate with local development projects	Coordination maintained	Continuous		

2.	Consolidate Smaller Programmes	Prepare a list of programmes to be continued	List sent to Cabinet Division (CD).	July 2022	MoEFCC	CD
		Make a list of programmes to be scaled up	List sent to CD.	July 2022	MoEFCC	CD
		Make a list of programmes to be phased out	List sent to CD.	July 2022	MoEFCC	CD
		Review the consolidation proposals	Review prepared	December 2023	MoEFCC	CD
3.	Improve targeting of beneficiaries	Update manual for selection procedures and disseminate it to people	Circular issued	January 2023	MoEFCC	
		Publish a list of beneficiaries online to make it transparent	Instruction is given to field offices	Continuous	MoEFCC	
		Follow the BBS. database when prepared	Instruction given	February 2023	MoEFCC	
4.	Grievance Redress System	Arrange for recording complaints at field level	Instruction issued	Continuous	MoEFCC	
		Create public awareness about the facility of central GRS of Cabinet Division	Public Meetings held in all Upazilas	September 2024	MoEFCC	
5.	Develop Single Registry MIS	Create Based online MIS. for all pro-programmes	MIS. digitized for all programmes	March 2025	MoEFCC	
		Make the MIS. accessible by relevant departments	Inter-Departmental arrangement established	July 2023	MoEFCC	
		Link MIS. with cash disbursement	MIS. linked with financial management database of Finance Division (SPBMU MIS)	December 2023	MoEFCC	
6.	Digitization of Cash Transfer	Pilot different modalities of G2P	Pilot completed	December 2024	MoEFCC	
		Roll out the appropriate format of G2P	G2P rolled out for all programmes	December 2025	MoEFCC	

7.	Enhance Results-Based M&E	Digitize monitoring of programmes	Dashboard estab-lished	July 2025	MoEFCC	
		Conduct mid-term evaluation of programmes	Programmes evaluated regularly	Continuous	MoEFCC	
		Top 5 programmes evaluated by CODI format	Programmes evaluated regularly	Continuous		

BY BFD Action Plan (2021 up to 2026)

Table 127: Action Plan (2020-2021 up to 2025-26) of Bangladesh Forest Department (BFD)

Sl.	Objectives	Activities	Performance Indicator	Timeframe	Responsible Ministry	Shared Responsibility
1.	Strengthen the management of climate change and disaster prevention	a) Engage forest-dependent community and local people as participants in social forestry activities b) Engage forest-dependent people with collaborative forest management in forest areas. c) Engage forest-dependent people with co-management in Protected Areas d) Compensate to the people injured or died or property damaged through wildlife attack.	a) Number of beneficiaries engaged in social forestry activities b) Number of engaged local people in collaborative forest management in forest areas c) Number of local people engaged in co-management committee d) Number of death/injured people/property damaged by the attack of wildlife and amount of compensation according to the Wildlife Injury Compensation Rules 2021”	June 2023	MoEFCC	
2.	Improve targeting of beneficiaries	a) Arrange a training programme on eco-tourism for the people adjacent to the eco-tourism site b) Arrange an awareness programme for local people adjacent to the eco-tourism site c) Training on plantation and nursery raising technique	a) Number of trained eco-tour guide b) Raised awareness of local people adjacent to the eco-tourism site c) Number of local people received training on plantation and nursery raising technique	December 2024	MoEFCC	

3.	Grievance Redress system	Arrange public hearing meetings regularly in headquarter and field-level offices	Meeting minutes are prepared	continue		
4.	Enhance Result Based M&E	Database of the beneficiaries	Database, Modules in the BFIS	continue	MoEFCC	

Action Plan (2021 up to 2022) of Bangladesh Climate Change Trust

Table 128: Action Plan (2021 up to 2022) of Bangladesh Climate Change Trust (BCCT)

Sl.	Objectives	Activities	Performance Indicator	Timeframe	Responsible Ministry	Shared Responsibility
1.	Strengthen the management of climate change and disaster prevention	Building Climate-resilient house for climate affected specially cyclone-affected people in a coastal region Supplying safe drinking water in Climate vulnerable areas for better health doing Climate Change related research/action research/Adaptation research.	a) Number of beneficiaries who lived in the project area. b) Amount Infrastructure Developed and Research work c) Number of beneficiaries taking drinking water facilities.	June 2022	MoEFCC	Ministry of Water Resources, Local Government Division,
2.	Food availability and nutrition	Innovation and extension of stress-tolerant varieties for ensuring food security	Several beneficiaries/ farmers cultivate/ practice these varieties/improved technologies.	June 2022	MoEFCC	Ministry of Agriculture
3.	Grievance Redress system	Arrange public hearing meetings regularly in head office.	Meeting minutes are prepared	to continue		
4.	Enhance Result Based M&E	Database of the beneficiaries	Database in BCCT	to continue	MoEFCC	

Action Plan of Department of Environment for National Social Security Strategy (NSSS) 2021 to 2026:


Department of Environment (DoE) has several projects in the pipeline which will supplement to achieve social security.

Table 129: Action Plan of Department of Environment (DoE) (2021 up to 2022)

Sl.	Objectives	Activities	Performance Indicator	Timeframe	Responsible party	Shared Responsibility
1.	Strengthen the management of climate change and disaster prevention	a) Building Climate-resilient houses for climate victim people especially in the study area b) Embankment Facility c) Supply safe drinking water d) Solar irrigation e) Alternate Income Generation (AIG) grant f) Reforestation	a) No. of household b) The total area of infrastructure c) No. of beneficiaries d) No. of beneficiaries e) No. of beneficiaries f) Amount of area	June 2026	MoEFCC	
2.	Improve targeting of beneficiaries	a) Arrange training programme for ECA management b) Arrange training programme climate adaptive measures	a) No. of trained participant b) No. of trained participant	June 2026	MoEFCC	
3.	Grievance Redress System	Arrange public hearing Meeting	Meeting Minutes		MoEFCC	
4.	Food availability and Nutrition	a) Innovation and extension of Climate tolerant varieties for ensuring food security b) Farmers trained on climate-resilient agricultural best practices c) Solar irrigation and power pump	a) No. of beneficiaries b) No. of farmers c) No. of beneficiaries	June 2026	MoEFCC	
5.	Enhance Result-Based M&E	Database of the beneficiaries	Database in DoE	June 2026	MoEFCC	

Key Actions of Environment, Forest and Climate Change

- Strengthen the management of climate change and disaster prevention
- Take measures according to the Delta Plan of Action and Coordinate with local development projects



Chapter 3

NSSS Action Plans of Thematic Clusters



NSSS Action Plan, Phase - II (2021-26)



NSSS Action Plan of Thematic Clusters

**Action Plan (2021-26) Implementation of
National Social Security Strategy (NSSS) of Bangladesh**

The first section of this chapter provides a brief overview and background of formulating the thematic clusters of social security programmes. The following five sections under this chapter provide action plans of the five thematic clusters of social security programmes.

Background

The phrase ‘thematic clusters’ - though newly coined in the NSSS – has come to be discussed so widely in the discourse of social security reforms in Bangladesh that understanding of its connotation and significance was almost taken for granted. However, it was very soon detected that the purpose of the thematic cluster or even the actual definition of it was not clear to many implementing agencies. Neither the NSSS nor the NSSS



Figure 49: Five Thematic Clusters

Action Plan (2016-21) considered providing any elaboration of the thematic cluster which generated much confusion and the very objectives of them were lost. Therefore, it would be worthwhile to elaborate here on the background and objectives of thematic clusters before formulating the action plans of these clusters. The five clusters are shown in the following diagram.

What is a thematic Cluster?

In NSSS, the thematic cluster simply implies a system of grouping or classifying social security programmes under a theme or subject matter of the programmes. The NSSS proposes the formulation of five thematic clusters according to the nature of the programmes. In line with the NSSS, the Cabinet Division issued a circular to formulate these committees with representatives of ministries/divisions which have programmes with thematic resemblances. However, the thematic cluster has been often erroneously interpreted by some as the grouping of ministries/divisions. Incidentally, the concept of clustering of ministries was another hot topic for governance reforms in Bangladesh, further adding to the confusion.

Therefore, implementing agencies should regard the thematic clusters as nothing but merely some bunches or conglomerations of social security programmes. During the time of NSSS formulation, there were 145 programmes that were divided into five thematic clusters. Thus, mathematically each of the

clusters was supposed to have around 25 to 30 programmes. Naturally, the agencies would look for the cluster in which their programmes best fit.

However, it is to be admitted that no such grouping of programmes was ultimately made for some practical reasons. Firstly, many of the programmes had components of more than one thematic cluster. Secondly, many of the programmes were so small or insignificant that it was not possible to put those in any clusters without errors. And thirdly, there was no consensus about the thematic affiliation of a programme primarily due to gaps in the definition of thematic areas. Also, a certain degree of misunderstanding about the purpose of thematic clusters pushed some ministries to adopt a go-slow policy.

The thematic clusters were to be formed based on the predominant theme of major programmes of different ministries. Some ministries having programmes in several thematic areas were to be included in all the thematic clusters. The primary responsibility of the thematic clusters of ministries was to finalize the classification of programmes according to thematic areas and ultimately work for their consolidation.

The Objectives of Thematic Clusters

As discussed above, the main objective of the thematic cluster is to consolidate the existing social security programmes under a handful of thematic areas. Ideally, it was decided that the programmes falling under a particular thematic cluster would eventually be merged into a unified programme. If the merger is not possible, then the similar type of programmes would be brought under a unique window for delivery with arrangements for coordination of data and beneficiary selection criteria. The programmes with short timeframes to address some emergencies would be either scaled up if consistent with the lifecycle framework of the NSSS or would be phased out according to with short timeframes.

In a nutshell, the objectives and responsibilities of the thematic clusters were to consolidate the social protection programmes and reduce the number of programmes. Another objective of the thematic cluster is to coordinate among the ministries in the implementation of the programmes. Such coordination would facilitate the responsibilities of the Central Management Committee (CMC) on Social Security. The thematic cluster committees were designed to be supportive organs of the CMC.

Principles of Thematic Classification

There are a number of ways or principles of classifying or grouping social security programmes. The classification could be done according to the age level of the target people within the life-cycle framework. The classification could also be made in terms of cash vs in-kind transfer of benefits. Also, there was the possibility of classifying the programmes in consideration of the financing source of the programmes. The clustering could also be done on other principles. However, the thematic classification of the programmes has been done in such a way that would yield the best effects for programme consolidation or harmonization. The thematic clusters were formed in pursuance of the basic functional classification of the programmes as shown in the following diagram:

Functional Categories of Social Protection

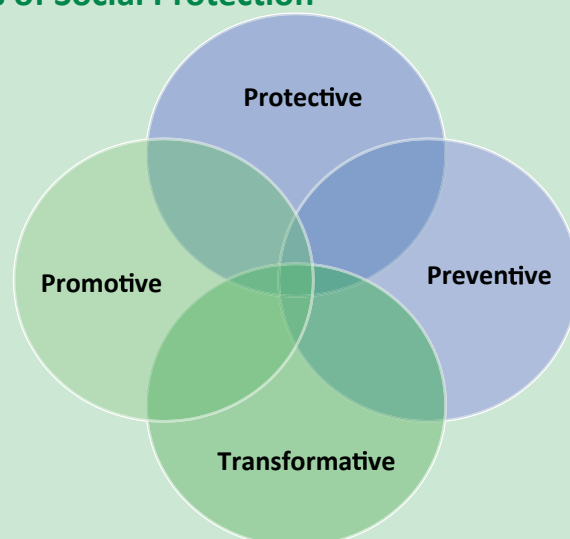


Figure 50: Four Functional Categories of Social Protection

The social security programmes serve basic functions like protection, prevention, promotion, and transformation. However, there are overlapping functions of some programmes as is shown in the above figure. A programme with the chief function of protection may also act as an enabler of social empowerment. For example, old age allowance or widow allowance programmes primarily belong to social allowance groups though these programmes have contributions to social transformation. These two programmes also provide a certain level of social insurance, and therefore, are regarded as preventive.

Protection: The social security programmes which mainly aim at protecting people from potential vulnerabilities and impending risks, including poverty and hunger, are considered as protective social security programmes. Cash and food transfers from the tax-financed funds are two basic types of social security programmes under protective social protection. The cash transfer to the poor is termed as social allowance and food transfer programmes for addressing hunger are classified under the food security cluster.

Preventive: Social insurance programmes are within the preventive category of social protection.

Promotive: The promotive type of social security aims at lifting poor people out of poverty by providing employment and livelihood opportunities.

Transformative: This category of social protection aims at enhancing people's social respect and their inclusion in the mainstream of society. The programmes for the socially excluded people include backward people, transgender, tea garden workers, and so on. The human development types of programmes like school stipends also fall within this transformative category as it is ultimately related to people's empowerment.

Thus, the four functional categories of social protection could be grouped within five thematic clusters

- two thematic clusters under the protective category, and one each under other functional categories. Following NSSS, five thematic clusters have been shown in the following diagram:



Figure 51: Four Functional Categories of Social Protection grouped within Five Thematic Clusters

Accordingly, the NSSS recommended creating five thematic clusters of ministries/divisions based on the functional similarities, which will enable smooth coordination and implementation of SSPs. As per NSSS and decisions are taken at the meetings of the Central Management Committee on Social Safety Nets, held on 18 October 2015 and 5 May 2016, circulars on thematic clusters were issued. Some ministries have been incorporated in multiple clusters as their profile of SS programmes has a cross-functional affiliation.

Thematic Clusters

Table 130: Implementing and Coordinating Ministries/Divisions of the Thematic Clusters

Sl.	Thematic Cluster	Implementing Ministry / Division	Cluster Coordinating Ministry / Division
1.	Social Allowance	1. Ministry of Social Welfare 2. Ministry of Women and Children Affairs 3. Ministry of Cultural Affairs 4. Ministry of Liberation War Affairs 5. Health Services Division 6. Medical Education and Family Welfare Division 7. Local Government Division 8. Ministry of Labour and Employment 9. Ministry of Chittagong Hill Tracts Affairs 10. Ministry of Religious Affairs	Ministry of Social Welfare

Sl.	Thematic Cluster	Implementing Ministry / Division	Cluster Coordinating Ministry / Division
2.	Food Security & Disaster Assistance	1. Ministry of Food 2. Ministry of Disaster Management and Relief 3. Ministry of Agriculture 4. Health Services Division 5. Medical Education and Family Welfare Division 6. Ministry of Women and Children Affairs 7. Ministry of Fisheries and Livestock 8. Finance Division 9. Ministry of Social Welfare 10. Ministry of Commerce 11. Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change 12. Ministry of Water Resources	Ministry of Food
3.	Social Insurance	1. Finance Division 2. Financial Institutions Division 3. Health Services Division 4. Medical Education and Family Welfare Division 5. Ministry of Labour and Employment 6. Ministry of Social Welfare 7. Ministry of Expatriates' Welfare and Overseas Employment 8. Ministry of Women and Children Affairs	Finance Division [NB- Previously it was Financial Institution Division. As per the decision of the CMC meeting on 4th February 2021]
4.	Labour and Livelihood Intervention	1. Ministry of Disaster Management and Relief 2. Local Government Division 3. Rural Development and Cooperatives Division 4. Ministry of Women and Children Affairs 5. Ministry of Social Welfare 6. Finance Division 7. Ministry of Labour and Employment 8. Ministry of Fisheries and Livestock 9. Ministry of Agriculture 10. Ministry of Textiles and Jute	Ministry of Disaster Management and Relief
5.	Human Development and Social Empowerment	1. Ministry of Primary and Mass Education 2. Prime Minister's Office 3. Ministry of Land 4. Technical and Madrasha Education Division 5. Secondary and Higher Education Division 6. Ministry of Social Welfare 7. Ministry of Expatriates' Welfare and Overseas Employment 8. Health Services Division 9. Medical Education and Family Welfare Division 10. Ministry of Labour and Employment 11. Ministry of Industries 12. Ministry of Women and Children Affairs 13. Information and Communication Technology Division 14. Ministry of Youth and Sports 15. Ministry of Housing and Public Works	Ministry of Primary and Mass Education

Terms of References of Thematic Clusters

The terms of reference of the thematic clusters are as follows:

To reform, consolidate and integrate social security programmes in the light of the NSSS and to coordinate the action plans of ministries within each thematic cluster.

To coordinate NSSS action plans of the Ministries/Divisions within the cluster and to submit the integrated action plans to Central Management Committee.

To coordinate with the Finance Division for securing necessary budgetary allocations for the implementation of action plans.

To identify rules and regulations relating to the social security programmes of the cluster to be amended for the sake of implementing the NSSS.

To monitor and evaluate the implementation progress of the ministry specific action plans within the clusters; and

To design integrative plans for different programmes to ensure correct targeting and their effective implementation.

Coordination of Thematic Clusters

The programmes falling under different thematic clusters have been described in the following sections. The cluster coordinating ministries/divisions are mainly to harmonize their respective programmes. However, any other programme having the involvement of more than one ministry may be discussed in the relevant clusters. The minutes of the thematic cluster committees should be sent to the CMC. The cross-cutting issues would be dealt with by all the clusters with a focus on the theme-specific portion. Any matter may be referred to the CMC for decision and coordination when this equally implicates more than one cluster and cannot be resolved by cluster committees. The CMC coordinates and monitors the overall social protection interventions of the thematic clusters and the ministries/divisions.

Action Plans of the Thematic Clusters

The thematic clusters are expected to work according to their terms of references as described above. They will mainly coordinate and support the implementation of action plans of the line ministries within the respective clusters. The specific activities of the five clusters are detailed out in the following sections.



NSSS Action Plan of Thematic Clusters

Social Allowance

**Action Plan (2021-26) Implementation of
National Social Security Strategy (NSSS) of Bangladesh**



Action Plan of Social Allowance Cluster

ACTION PLAN OF THEMATIC CLUSTER

Social Allowance Cluster

Social Allowance types of programmes constitute the most important social protection programmes in covering a huge number of vulnerable people. This cluster is coordinated by the Ministry of Social Welfare. This cluster is focused on the coordination of social allowance types of programmes with a view to overcoming the probable overlapping and duplication.

Vision

The vision of the social allowance cluster is to establish a consolidated and non-duplicative social allowance system within the lifecycle framework.

Mission

The mission of the cluster is to regularly coordinate with member-ministries to implement social allowance types of programmes more efficiently and effectively, and to identify probable overlapping and duplication of similar programmes with a view to consolidating them within one umbrella; additionally, overseeing how the lifecycle programmes combined can work as an integrated system.

Challenge

The main challenge for the cluster is to consolidate similar programmes and to scale up mother and child benefit programmes.

Objective

The NSSS objective for the cluster is to ensure social security of the different vulnerable sections of the population, especially children, vulnerable women, old age and people with disability by means of social allowance. In addition, this cluster will oversee how the various life cycle programmes can work as an integrated system, allowing vulnerable people access to benefits across the lifecycle. The cluster will have a dialogue with other clusters, for instance, Human Development on referring social allowance recipients to skills training and Labour/Livelihoods for subsequent employment.

What is Social Allowance?

One of the most common types of social security is a social allowance or social assistance which is noncontributory, tax-financed, regular and predictable cash or in-kind resource transfers to poor and vulnerable individuals or households. Cash and in-kind allowances like widow allowance, disability allowances are usually included in this type of programme. The social allowance programmes can ensure the social welfare of vulnerable persons who cannot be protected by contributory social insurance programmes.

In many countries of the world, social insurance dominates the main part of social protection. However, it was found that many poor and distressed people failed to enrol in the social insurance programmes because of their ignorance, social backwardness or simply financial constraints to pay for the insurance premium. Mostly, the poor workers in the informal sectors fell within this category. That was the limitation of contributory social protection programmes which led to the introduction of social allowance programmes. This is very useful for the poorest of the people.

In our country, contributory social protection programmes have very little share in the overall social security portfolio of the country. In fact, most of the people working in the informal sectors and having very limited income were dependent on the relief operations and workfare programmes. This is how the social allowance programme became the social protection in Bangladesh.

But we cannot classify all the non-contributory dominant aspects of social security programmes like that of social allowance because of the differences in objective and functions of the programmes. For example, the school stipend is usually a non-contributory cash transfer to the students or their parents. However, this programme has the predominant objective of developing human resources, rather than protecting them from poverty.

The cluster of social allowance has been formed with the ministries which have under their implementation pro-grammes/projects or activities focusing on the transfer of social allowances. Implementation of social allowance types of programmes closely matches with the job responsibility of the Ministry of Social Welfare. Therefore, this ministry has been given a lead coordination role in the cluster.

The dividing line between social allowance and food security programmes often gets blurred and cannot be differentiated. Both types have the common function of protecting the poor and vulnerable people from socio-economic shocks. But food security has come out to be a separate type of social programme. This is because food security does not merely depend only on cash transfer, rather it focuses on ensuring food production, stock, and supply of food. To be more specific, it ensures people's access to food.

The social allowance programmes usually exclude those programmes which transfer food to the people. The discussion on the distinctive features of the social allowance programmes is summarized below:

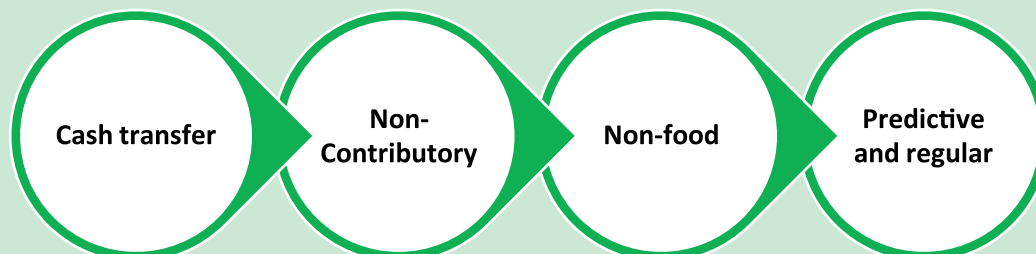


Figure 52: Distinctive Features of Social Allowance Cluster

Social Allowance Programmes

The major social allowance programmes are as follows:

Table 131: Major Social Security Programmes under Social Allowance Cluster

Sl.	Programme Name	Beneficiary (Lakh)	Budget (Crore Taka)
1.	Grants for the families of government employees who died in service	-	322.44
2.	Honorarium for Freedom Fighters	2.00	3,385.05
3.	Honorarium & Medical Allowances for Injured Freedom Fighters	0.15	480.40
4.	Ration for Shaheed Family and Injured Freedom Fighters	0.30	65.00
5.	Old Age Allowance	49.00	2,940.00
6.	Allowances for the Widow, Deserted and Destitute Women	20.50	1,230.00

Sl.	Programme Name	Beneficiary (Lakh)	Budget (Crore Taka)
7.	Allowances for the Financially Insolvent Disabled	18.00	1,620.00
8.	Capitation Grants for Orphan Students in Non-gov. Orphanages	1.20	240.00
9.	Assistance for Cancer, Kidney and Liver Cirrhosis Patients	0.30	150.00
10.	Grants for Residents in Government Orphanages and Other Institutions	0.21	73.31
11.	Maternity Allowance Programme for the Poor	7.70	763.27
12.	Allowances for Urban Low-income Lactating Mothers	2.75	274.28

Ministries/Divisions in Social Allowance Cluster

Table 132: Ministries/Divisions under Social Allowance Cluster

Sl.	Ministry / Division
1.	Ministry of Social Welfare – Coordinator
2.	Ministry of Women and Children Affairs
3.	Ministry of Cultural Affairs
4.	Ministry of Liberation War Affairs
5.	Health Services Division
6.	Medical Education and Family Welfare Division
7.	Local Government Division
8.	Ministry of Labour and Employment
9.	Ministry of Chittagong Hill Tracts Affairs
10.	Ministry of Religious Affairs

Situation Analysis

The mandate of this cluster is to coordinate the implementation of different programmes especially the following:

Table 133: Situation Analysis of Social Allowance Cluster

Programme Name	NSSS Provision	Present Situation	Gaps
Mother and Child Benefit Programme (MCBP)	The NSSS provides that the government will introduce Child Benefit Programme for children from 0 to 4 years old.	The Ministry of Women and Children Affairs is assigned the responsibility of implementing the programme by consolidating the existing maternity allowance and lactating mother allowance programmes. MoWCA has already consolidated, piloted, and launched Mother and Child Benefit Programme in 2019 and presently implementing it in 66 Upazilas. The targeted number of beneficiaries is 50 per cent of the households with children. Already, more than 1.2 million mothers and children have been covered.	The Ministry of Women and Children Affairs has already designed a format for the consolidated programme for child benefits. The coverage of the programmes needs to be increased and scaled up.

Programme Name	NSSS Provision	Present Situation	Gaps
Vulnerable Women Benefit	To consolidate programmes for vulnerable women implemented separately by MOWCA and MOSW	The two programmes are being operated by MOWCA and MOSW with different programme designs. MOWCA has started ICVGD which is an improved version of the VGD programme and planned to gradually transform the VGD and ICVGD into VWB. However, the aggregate number of beneficiaries of the two programmes nearly reached the total target of 32 lakh women.	Consolidation of these programmes is required.
Old Age Allowance	The coverage of Old Age Allowance will be increased, and the threshold age will be lowered to 60 plus.	The Ministry of Social Welfare is taking measures for necessary expansion. Already 49 lakh old age people have been covered. Around 11 lakhs more beneficiaries will have to be added. This programme has been made universal in 112 Upazilas and will be gradually universalized in other Upazilas. Beneficiaries of vulnerable women and disabilities will be merged within this programme upon exceeding the age threshold.	Gradual expansion of coverage is necessary. Criteria for selection will have to be updated. Smooth coordination is required for the transition of beneficiaries from other programmes exceeding the age threshold of 60 plus.
Social Security for People with Disabilities	This programme is to be scaled up.	The Ministry of Social Welfare has programmes for people with disabilities. Around 4-5 lakh new beneficiaries need to be added.	A detailed implementation plan for the Child Dependency Benefit and the Working Age Disability Benefit is required.
Social Security System for the Urban Poor	Programmes to be expanded with the formulation of strategic planning.	Some ministries have social allowance programmes for the rural poor. These will have to be replicated in the urban area. The Local Government Division is assigned to take special planning in this regard.	Each of the line ministries will consider covering the urban poor. Strategic planning is necessary.
The transition of beneficiaries to different programmes	The beneficiaries of some programmes will be shifted to relevant programmes upon attaining certain criteria/ age limits.	The beneficiaries of widow allowance and disability allowance will be transitioned to old age allowance when they exceed 60 years of age.	A smooth transition plan is to be devised.
Programme consolidation	Small programmes will be consolidated.	There are many similar programmes, so need consolidation.	The smaller programmes will have to be consolidated in consultation with line ministries within the cluster itself.

Programme Name	NSSS Provision	Present Situation	Gaps
Meetings of the Cluster Committee	As per the Cabinet Division's Circular and decision of the CMC the cluster will have to organize a quarterly meeting.	The social allowance cluster is almost regular in organizing cluster meetings.	Need to continue regular meetings and share minutes with relevant ministries/divisions.
Organize Seminars/ Workshops/ Joint Meetings	The NSSS stipulates that the clusters will have to organize consultations with other clusters having overlapping programmes	No report or evidence was found about organizing such types of seminars or consultations with other clusters, so these are to be introduced.	The cluster coordinating ministry may need to organize seminars/ workshops to coordinate with other clusters having overlapping issues.

Action Plan (2021-26)

To implement the reform proposals of the NSSS the following time-bound plan may be implemented.

Table 134: Action Plan of Social Allowance Cluster

Sl.	Objectives	Activities	Performance Indicators	Timeframe	Responsible Ministry / Division	Shared Responsibility
1.	Introduce and scale up of Mother-Child Benefit Programme	Scale-up consolidated Mother and Child Benefit programme	The programme implemented in phases	July 2021 - June 2025	Ministry of Women and Children Affairs (MoWCA)	Finance Division
2.	Introduce Vulnerable Women's Benefit programme	Coordinate between MoWCA and MoSW to consolidate and improve the programme for vulnerable women. MoWCA rebrand VGD and ICVGD as VWB programme	Plan of MoWCA reviewed and submitted detailed implementation plan of VWB to CMC	From July 2022	- MoSW - MoWCA	Ministry of Food
3.	Scale-up Old Age Allowance	Support in expanding coverage of Old Age Allowance	The number of beneficiaries increased	July 2023	MoSW	Finance Division

Sl.	Objectives	Activities	Performance Indicators	Timeframe	Responsible Ministry / Division	Shared Responsibility
4.	Scale-up programmes for people with disabilities	Continue the universal coverage of programmes for PWD. Coordinate with Old Age Allowance, and	Programme continued	Continuous	MoSW	Finance Division MoWCA
		VWB programme for a smooth transition	Coordinated with other relevant programmes	2023	MoSW	
5.	The transition of beneficiaries to other programmes	Plan transition with several beneficiaries and cost	Plan prepared and updated	Yearly	MoSW	Cluster member ministries
		Coordinate transition with relevant ministries	Coordination is done regularly	Continuous	MoSW	
6.	Regular consultation with members	Organize quarterly meeting	Quarterly meetings organized	Continuous	MoSW	
7.	Organize seminars/ workshops	Organize workshops / inter-cluster consultation meetings	Annual Seminars or consultations organized	Continuous	MoSW	



NSSS Action Plan of Thematic Clusters



Food Security & Disaster Assistance

**Action Plan (2021-26) Implementation of
National Social Security Strategy (NSSS) of Bangladesh**



Action Plan of Food Security & Disaster Assistance Cluster

ACTION PLAN OF THEMATIC CLUSTER

Food Security & Disaster Assistance Cluster

Since the emergence of Bangladesh in 1971, food security and disaster response categories of programmes have received the highest attention of the government in terms of budget allocation and the establishment of a strong and responsive delivery mechanism. Prioritization of such programmes may be attributed to the regular devastating onslaughts of severe natural calamities such as floods, cyclones, droughts and epidemics/pandemics threatening scarcity of food and other necessities. Bangladesh has, consequently, learned to overcome the effects of different catastrophic events of any magnitude largely utilizing its efficient and effective management and appropriate planning.

However, the globally acclaimed achievements of Bangladesh in this sector had never prompted the country to feel complacent and unprepared in facing any new situation. Bangladesh is ever ready and watchful against any untoward situations of food shortage and disasters, as evidenced by the establishment of a separate thematic cluster on food security and disaster assistance. This cluster is coordinated by the Ministry of Food.

Vision

The vision of this cluster is to ensure uninterrupted food security and emergency support for all Bangladeshis.

Mission

The mission of the cluster is to ensure food security by the supply of food grains or financial support to the poor and vulnerable including people affected by disaster and price shocks.

Challenge

The challenges faced by this cluster are to ensure food security by efficient coordination and management of food production, food stock and supply policies of the government, and to ensure people's access to food even during times of disaster, pandemic and other emergencies.

Objective

The main objective of the cluster is to set up an efficient shock responsive social security system that ensures food security and meets other basic needs of people affected by disasters.

What is Food Security and Disaster Assistance?

The Food Security and Disaster Assistance cluster belong to the functional category of 'protective' social protection system. It shares some common characteristics with Social Allowance Cluster as it is also non-contributory, tax-financed, and transfers resources in cash or in-kind to the poor and vulnerable individuals or households. Relief operations like an emergency supply of food, clothes or house-building materials are the most common types of programmes in this category. Its resemblance with the social allowance cluster, the Food Security and Disaster Assistance cluster are mainly concerned with ensuring social welfare for the vulnerable people who cannot be protected by contributory social insurance programmes.

The functional similarity of social allowance and food security programmes often creates an ambiguous dividing line between these two clusters. Both types have the common function of protecting the poor and vulnerable people from socio-economic shocks. But food security has come out to be a separate type of social programme because food security does not merely depend on cash transfer, rather it also focuses on ensuring food production, food stock, supply policies, and disaster recovery. To be more specific, it ensures people's access to food and assurance of supports in time of emergency to maintain a reasonable level of consumption and nutrition.

Food security is achieved when people, always have physical and economic access to sufficient, safe and nutritious food to meet their dietary needs and food preferences for an active and healthy life. For food security, the only production of sufficient food is not enough. Rather people should have assured access to the adequate and unconstrained food supply.

Therefore, in contrast with social allowance, food security is not confined to the protection of people against an emergency crisis. Rather it is also concerned with some preventive measures in terms of facilitating the production of food and ensuring sufficient stock in case of short supply. In addition, this cluster is ultimately concerned with ensuring people's access to food using the transfer of different mechanisms including transfer of food to households, reduction of food price through subsidy, providing cash supports to the poor and vulnerable people. Moreover, this cluster is responsible for providing other in-kind support like clothes and housing or emergency cash support for this purpose.

Notably, labour and livelihood intervention programmes often create a certain level of confusion as these types of programmes have intrinsic components of food security. Such programmes include workfare programmes based on food transfer. But these programmes can be easily excluded from the list of food security programmes in consideration of the conditionality of labour or employment for getting supports in cash or food.

Distinctive Characteristics of or Food Security and Disaster Assistance Cluster

The Food Security and Disaster Assistance cluster usually exclude workfare programmes and those cash allowance programmes which are regular and predictive. The distinctive features of the programmes under this cluster may be summarized in the following chart:



Figure 53: Distinctive Features of Food Security and Disaster Response Cluster

Food Security and Disaster Assistance Programmes

Programmes under this cluster mainly include the following social security programmes:

Table 135: Major Social Security Programmes under Food Security and Disaster Assistance Cluster

Sl.	Name of Programme	Beneficiary (Lakh)	Budget (Crore Taka)
1.	PM's rehabilitation assistance to the people of river erosion affected areas	-	100.00
2.	Multipurpose Disaster Shelter Construction	0.91	560.00
3.	Agriculture Rehabilitation	-	2,500.00
4.	Agriculture subsidy	87.00	1,900.00
5.	Food Assistance in CTG-Hill Tracts Area	11.25	322.49
6.	Housing Support	255.44	2,157.50
7.	Vulnerable Group Feeding (VGF)	180.00	940.10
8.	Gratuitous Relief (GR)	260.00	3,062.58
9.	Various Relief Goods (Cloths, Blankets, Biscuits, Corrugated Iron Sheets, Tents, Baby Food, Cattle-Food, etc.	12.43	205.00
10.	Disaster Grant	-	100.00
11.	Fund for Climate Change	4.50	100.00
12.	Food Friendly Programme	250.00	3,844.26
13.	Open Market Sales (OMS)	86.70	972.90
14.	Food Subsidy	-	1,358.96
15.	Guchagram (Climate Victims Rehabilitation)	0.89	115.00
16.	Vulnerable Group Development (VGD)	10.76	1,756.93
17.	Project on increasing the capacity of adaptation to climate change to counter salinity of Coastal communities, especially women (Green Climate Fund)	-	110.60
18.	Lump-Sum Provision for Development of Special Areas (Except Hill Tracts)	0.34	80.00
19.	Ashrayan Project - 2	10.65	560.00
20.	Special Assistance for the development of Char, Haor, and under-development area	0.23	50.00
21.	Skill Development and Earthquake Risk Management Fund	0.017	0.42
22.	Construction of Flood-Shelter in Flood-Prone and River-Erosion Areas	5.17	310.00
23.	Flood Management and Livelihood Improvement Project in Haor Area	10.18	85.58
24.	Development of living standards of extinct enclaves	-	3.56
25.	Haor Infrastructure and livelihood Development	0.54	209.13
26.	Urban Resilience Project	0.0015	29.00
27.	Test Relief (TR) Cash	15.55	1,522.30
28.	Mujib Killa	0.03	79.85

Food Security and Disaster Assistance Cluster

The ministries/divisions having the most relevant contribution to food security and disaster assistance have been included in this cluster as follows. The Ministry of Food has been given the lead coordination responsibility in this regard.

Table 136: Ministries/Divisions under Food Security and Disaster Assistance Cluster

Sl.	Ministry Division
1.	Ministry of Food - Coordinator
2.	Ministry of Disaster Management and Relief
3.	Health Services Division
4.	Medical Education and Family Welfare Division
5.	Ministry of Agriculture
6.	Ministry of Women and Children Affairs
7.	Ministry of Fisheries and Livestock
8.	Finance Division
9.	Ministry of Social Welfare
10.	Ministry of Commerce
11.	Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change
12.	Ministry of Water Resources

Situation Analysis

Table 137: Situation Analysis of Food Security and Disaster Assistance Cluster

Programme Name	NSSS Provision	Present Situation	Gaps
Food security type programmes	Consolidate these types of programmes and transition to cash transfer where possible.	The programmes are dispersed among multiple ministries.	Needs to be consolidated.
Vulnerable Women Benefit (VWB) programme	Consolidate into one VWB programme on a cash basis.	The vulnerable Women Benefit (VWB) programme is one of the most important agendas of the NSSS. It proposes that the current VGD programme for the women and the Allowance Programme for the widow and destitute women of the Social Welfare Ministry would be consolidated into a comprehensive VWB belonging to the social allowance cluster. The VGD programme is a mixed type of programme having components for social allowance and food security. But as it transfers food it should also be counted within food security. Though the NSSS proposes that the VGD programme should be converted to cash transfer, it was not implemented on different grounds. Therefore, if the programme is continued in the present form of food transfer, then it should remain in both food security and social allowance clusters.	Cross cluster consultation is required to decide on converting the programme to cash transfer. The issue of consolidation with the programme for widow and distressed women will be coordinated by MoWCA and the Social Allowance Cluster.

Programme Name	NSSS Provision	Present Situation	Gaps
Food supply in the food shortage area	Ensure food supply in disaster and drought-affected areas, or areas where money cannot ensure availability of food.	There are sufficient programmes for food scarcity areas.	The food transfer programme needs to be continued in relevant areas.
Coordination of food security programmes with food stock and fair price policy	Food distribution through OMS and disaster relief will be coordinated with Government's Food Stock Policy and Fair Price Policy as appropriate. [Para 4.6 of NSSS]	OMS and disaster relief programmes of the government have great contributions to ensuring food security. However, these programmes need to be well-coordinated with the food stock policy and fair price policy of the Government. These programmes appear to be consistent with the food stocking policy and fair price policy.	The consistency should be regularly reviewed.
Programme consolidation	Small programmes will be consolidated.	There are many similar programmes.	The smaller programmes will have to be consolidated in consultation with line ministries within the cluster itself.
Meetings of the Cluster Committee	As per the Cabinet Division's Circular and decision of the CMC the cluster will have to organize a quarterly meeting.	The social allowance cluster is almost regular in organizing cluster meetings.	Need to continue regular meetings and share minutes with relevant ministries/divisions.
Organize seminars/ workshops / Joint meetings	The NSSS stipulates that the cluster will have to organize consultations with other clusters having overlapping programmes	No report or evidence was found about organizing such types of seminars or consultations with other clusters.	The cluster coordinating ministry may need to organize seminars/ workshops to coordinate with other clusters having overlapping issues.

Action Plan (2021-26)

To implement the reform proposals of the NSSS the following time-bound activities may be taken up.

Table 138: Action Plan of Food Security and Disaster Assistance Cluster

Sl.	Objectives	Activities	Performance Indicators	Timeframe	Responsible Ministry	Shared Responsibility
1.	Consolidation of food security type programmes	Coordinate with the implementing ministries to consolidate the food security type programmes	Programmes consolidated	July 2023	- Ministry of Food - MoDMR	Finance Division
2.	Vulnerable Women Benefit (VWB) programme	Coordinate with Social Allowance Cluster to decide whether to change it into a cash-based programme.	Cross cluster consultations held with social allowance cluster and decision took about food transfer	December 2022	- MoWCA - Ministry of Food	Ministry of Social Welfare
		Consolidate the programme into a VWB programme				
3.	Food supply in food shortage areas	Ensure food supply in disaster and drought-affected areas, or areas where money supply cannot ensure availability of food	Food supply continued in relevant areas	Continuous		
4.	Food stock policy and fair price policy	Monitor the consistency of OMS and relief programmes with food stock policy and fair price policy of the Government	Food stock policy and fair price policy are consistent with food security programmes	Continuous	Ministry of Food	MoDMR
5.	Coordination of disaster response types of programmes	Share information on disaster response programmes in regular meetings	Included as an agenda item in cluster meetings	Continuous	Ministry of Food	MoDMR
6.	The transition of beneficiaries to another programme	Plan transition with several beneficiaries and costs	Plan prepared and updated	Yearly	MoSW	
		Coordinate transition with relevant ministries	Coordination is done regularly	Continuous	MoSW	
7.	Regular consultation with members	Organize quarterly meetings	Quarterly meetings organized	Continuous	MoSW	
8.	Organize seminars/ workshops	Organize workshops / inter-cluster consultation meetings	Annual seminars or consultations organized	Continuous	MoSW	



NSSS Action Plan of Thematic Clusters



Social Insurance

**Action Plan (2021-26) Implementation of
National Social Security Strategy (NSSS) of Bangladesh**



Action Plan of Social Insurance Cluster

ACTION PLAN OF THEMATIC CLUSTER

Social Insurance Cluster

Social insurance is one of the most predominant social protection interventions in many countries, though in Bangladesh this system is yet to be introduced. The National Social Security Strategy of Bangladesh emphasizes introducing an appropriate framework of social insurance. The Financial Institutions Division has been working on developing insurance programmes for people of different socio-economic backgrounds. Recently, the Finance Division has been given the responsibility of coordinating the social insurance cluster.

Vision

The vision of this cluster is to implement a suitable social insurance system in the country.

Mission

The mission of the cluster is to design and pilot social insurance and private pension system for the country and gradually roll these out nationwide starting from the formal sector workers in the urban areas, and then extending it to informal sectors and the country's entire population.

Challenge

Social insurance is in the mainstream of social security in western countries, but it is less common in the third world. Social insurance best fits with formal economy employment. Bangladesh has around three-fourths of all jobs in the informal sector, and it poses a big challenge for the cluster to design social insurance systems for people with informal employment. Concerted efforts from stakeholders will be required for the introduction of such systems.

Objective

The objective of the cluster is to develop organizational capacity and formulate necessary legal instruments for the introduction of social insurance and social pension.

What is Social Insurance?

Social insurance is usually a contributory social security mechanism with participants paying regular premiums. It is a programme where risks are transferred to and pooled by a government organization. The benefits, eligibility requirements, and other aspects of the programme are defined by law. Explicit provision is made to account for income and expenses, often through a trust fund. Participation is often compulsory for the employees. It covers costs related to life-course events, for example, maternity, unemployment, workplace accidents, old age or illness. Sometimes costs are matched or subsidized by the scheme provider.

The social insurance cluster has been formed with the ministries which have mandates in the implementation of programmes/projects or activities about social insurance. Both the Finance Division and the Financial Institutions Division are the focal points for implementing social insurance. However, the lead role has been to Finance Division in 2021, though it was previously vested in Financial Institutions Division. Social insurance was the oldest form of social protection initiative in the ancient periods. It differs from social allowance in terms of source of funding. Social insurance is funded by the contribution of the beneficiaries

or their employers on behalf of them. On the other hand, social allowance or social assistance types of programmes are funded from tax-financed revenue.

In the developed world, social insurance has been the mainstream of social security. The model of social security followed by the NSSS is a lifecycle-based social security system of the UK that is mainly based on social insurance services. In some European countries, social insurance programmes cannot cover a large part of their population due to being unable to pay insurance premiums. However, these people need to be also provided minimum levels of social protection. Thus, social allowance emerged as a subsidiary of social insurance.

The third world countries, with a significant percentage of people living below the poverty line, could hardly envision introducing contributory social insurance programmes. This was the phenomenon that led these countries to focus on social allowance or relief programmes. Bangladesh is no exception to that, ended up owning a plethora of social allowance and poor relief programmes. However, the remarkable economic progress of the country triggered aspiration for introducing a robust social insurance programme for the people. But the challenge is that the country has almost no social insurance programme in operation, the government is now designing one afresh.

There are two major models of social insurance – one is the Bismarck model which is popular in Continental Europe. Another model is called the Beveridge model of social insurance which is predominantly practised in the UK. In the Bismarck model of social insurance, people are entitled to get benefits in proportion to their amount of contribution. However, in the Beveridge model, everyone must pay premiums as stipulated by law and they are entitled to get benefits according to their age or other criteria. Both these models are focused on health services. On the contrary, the NSSS proposed health service as a separate intervention beyond the scope of social insurance. It primarily focuses on insurance against unemployment, accidental injury or death, disability, and maternity risks and sickness. However, the NSSS provides discretion to the social insurance cluster and CMC is to finalize the design and framework of social insurance and its components.

It is to be noted that some micro-social insurance programmes are being operated by some commercial organizations and NGOs. But these are not social insurance under social protection programmes. The operational modalities of these insurance schemes are chosen by the organizations. In contrast, the social insurance under the social protection programmes is managed by the government or at least coordinated or supervised by the relevant authorities.

Distinctive Features of Social Insurance Cluster

The social insurance cluster will include the programme, which will be financed from the contributions of the beneficiaries or their employers. The distinctive features of social protection programmes are:



Figure 54: Distinctive Features of Social Insurance Cluster

Social Insurance Programmes

As mentioned above, Bangladesh has hardly any social insurance programme in the true sense. The programme envisaged in NSSS is under active consideration for implementation by relevant ministries and divisions. The main types of social insurance will include the contributory private pension and National Social Insurance Scheme (NSIS). The government pension system which is in operation is a social insurance programme that is exclusively for retired government employees. The savings certificate has some characteristics of social insurance, though it is not unanimously agreed upon.

The old-age allowance is a big programme having components of social insurance though it is non-contributory. The NSSS itself regarded it as a type of social insurance for people beyond a certain age threshold. However, this programme has also been included in the social allowance cluster in this Action Plan due to its affinity with that cluster. The old-age allowance will also be included in the social insurance cluster as it will greatly influence the design of the national social insurance scheme.

Table 139: Major Social Security Programmes under Social Insurance Cluster

Sl.	Name of Programme	Beneficiary (Lakh)	Budget (Crore Taka)
1.	Savings Certificate Interest Assistance (Social Security Part)	-	6,625.00
2.	Pension for Retired Government Employees and their Families	6.30	23,000.00
3.	Old Age Allowance	49.00	2,940.00

Social Insurance Cluster

The ministries/divisions having the most relevant involvement in social insurance-related affairs have been included in this cluster as follows. The Finance Division has been given the responsibility of leading this cluster.

Table 140: Ministries under Social Insurance Cluster

Sl.	Ministry / Division
1.	Finance Division - Coordinator
2.	Financial Institutions Division
3.	Health Services Division
4.	Medical Education and Family Welfare Division
5.	Ministry of Labour and Employment
6.	Ministry of Social Welfare
7.	Ministry of Expatriates' Welfare and Overseas Employment
8.	Ministry of Women and Children Affairs

Situation Analysis

Table 141: Situation Analysis of Social Insurance Cluster

Programme Name	NSSS Provision	Present Situation	Gaps
The National Social Insurance Scheme (NSIS)	Initiate study to determine the viability of an NSIS. Introducing unemployment, accident, sickness and maternity insurance under NSIS.	Already a study on the framework of the national social insurance scheme has been conducted by the SSPS Programme of the Cabinet Division. The study report may be instrumental in preparing the structure of the social insurance scheme for Bangladesh. However, further studies may be required on technical matters of insurance including actuarial assessment.	A suitable design of NSIS needs to be prepared.
Private Voluntary Pensions	Initiate study to determine the viability of a Pension Regulatory Authority.	The Finance Division is working on it.	A system of private pensions needs to be introduced.
Government Service Pension	NSSS provides that the existing NSSS system will have to be continued.	The system is running as before. The only change is that previously it was operated based on Public Servants (Retirement) Act, 1974. The newly promulgated Public Servant Act 2018 has now been the legal instrument for a public pension, while the old law of 1974 has been repealed. The public pension benefits are mostly transferred to G2P modalities.	Needs to be continued.
Meetings of the Cluster Committee	As per the Cabinet Division's Circular and decision of the CMC the cluster will have to organize quarterly meetings.	The cluster must organize required meetings regularly	Needs to continue regular meetings and share minutes with relevant ministries/divisions.
Organize Seminars/ Workshops /joint meetings	The NSSS stipulates that the clusters will have to organize consultations with other clusters having over-lapping programmes.	Several workshops were organized with support from SSPS Programme.	The cluster coordinating ministry may need to organize seminars/workshops to coordinate with other clusters having overlapping issues.

Action Plan (2021-26)

To implement the reform proposals of the NSSS the following time-bound activities may be taken up.

Table 142: Action Plan of Social Insurance Cluster

Sl.	Objectives	Activities	Performance Indicators	Timeframe	Responsible Ministry	Shared Responsibility
1.	National Social Insurance Scheme (NSIS)	Review the study on the NSIS framework to determine its viability. Recommend suitable option of NSIS and support implementation.	A framework of NSIS is designed for pilots.	July 2022	Finance Division	Financial Institution Division
2.	Private pension	Support and coordinate the process of establishing the Pension Regulatory Authority.	Private pension authority established.	July 2023	Finance Division	
3.	Government Service Pension	Continue the programme	The programme continued.	Continuous	Finance Division	MoPA
4.	Regular consultation with members	Organize quarterly meetings	Quarterly meetings organized	Continuous	Finance Division	
5.	Organize seminars/workshops	Organize workshops / inter-cluster consultation meetings	Annual seminars or consultations organized	Continuous	Finance Division	



NSSS Action Plan, Phase - II (2021-26)



NSSS Action Plan of Thematic Clusters



Labour & Livelihood Intervention

**Action Plan (2021-26) Implementation of
National Social Security Strategy (NSSS) of Bangladesh**



*Action Plan of Labour & Livelihood
Intervention Cluster*

ACTION PLAN OF THEMATIC CLUSTER

Labour & Livelihood Intervention Cluster

In Bangladesh, Labour and Livelihood Intervention programmes were introduced alongside social allowance and food security programmes. This belongs to the promotive functional category of social protection. Workfare (work + welfare) programmes constitute the largest portion of livelihood intervention. These workfare programmes were in the form of food for work and also given as cash as compensation for people's temporary employment. Employment generation activities, graduation schemes, and capacity building etc. are also included in this cluster. Labour & Livelihood Intervention cluster is coordinated by the Ministry of Disaster Management and Relief.

Vision

The vision of this cluster is to ensure sufficient livelihood for the poor.

Mission

The mission of the cluster is to improve the livelihoods of the people, facilitate their access to decent work in the labour market and sustainably graduate the poor by their capacity building.

Challenge

The main challenge for this cluster is to tackle high levels of under-employment as around 2 million youths enter the labour market in search of jobs every year. Poor people face barriers that make it difficult for them to find productive and gainful employment. Some poor people need funds and training to involve themselves in income-generating activities and graduate from poverty sustainably.

Objective

The main objectives of the cluster are to consolidate workfare programmes, to facilitate social security recipients' engagement with the labour market and to ensure congenial working environments for all, including women, and to strengthen graduation programmes.

What is Labour & Livelihood Intervention Cluster?

As is mentioned in previous chapters, social allowance programmes were introduced to cover the people who could not get registered in the social insurance programme. However, the social allowance and food security programmes came under severe criticism for encouraging people to be idle and non-productive. Consequently, measures were taken to ensure the social protection of the poor while also making them productive simultaneously. Thus, came up workfare programme which is a non-contributory social security programme aimed at protecting a huge number of vulnerable people, especially those who suffer seasonal unemployment.

People often fall prey to poverty and hunger due to their inability to sell their productive labour. Underemployment, lack of economic opportunities and low returns to labour—resulting in insecure livelihoods and low income—are the factors that contribute to poverty. Therefore, employment is the main route to get out of poverty for most poor people. However, the poor suffer from many kinds of deprivation that are barriers to entry including gainful employment, lack of human capital, lack of productive assets, lack of support from social networks and lack of hope and aspirations.

In Bangladesh, workfare programmes were introduced in the 1980s to combine food security with development works. The workfare programmes in Bangladesh are amply endorsed by the constitutional provision of Article 15 (b) which provides for guaranteed employment. In some countries like India, people can claim from government employment for certain weeks as of right. The government either provides them with jobs for a minimum number of weeks or pay wages for that duration.

Social security can help people in finding work, especially in the lean season. Creating jobs or assisting people in finding employment is also a part of broader livelihoods interventions. Sustainable graduation of the poor people is the vital objective of this type of social protection. People are supported to utilize their inherent resources for graduation from poverty. Thus, employment generation is the main target of this thematic cluster.

Unlike social allowance programmes, this category of programmes is conditional upon temporary services called workfare programmes. These have double paybacks – on the one hand, it provides social protection to people, on the other hand, cheap labour is utilized to achieve huge development work. For some European countries, the bane of unemployment became a boon for development.

Labour and livelihood programmes are not confined to seasonal workfare programmes. Rather some graduation models of social protection programmes fall within this category. The beneficiaries are given training and micro-credits for income-generating activities leading to sustainable graduation.

Distinctive Features of Labour & Livelihood Intervention Cluster

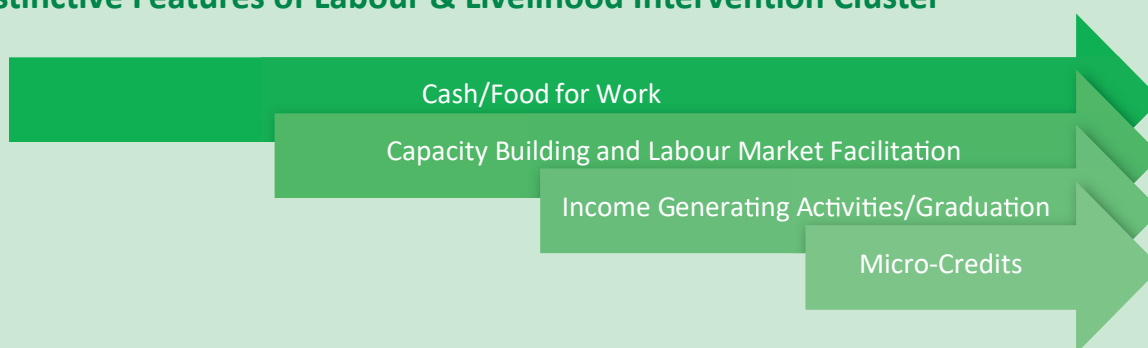


Figure 55: Distinctive Features of Labour & Livelihood Intervention Cluster

Labour & Livelihood Intervention Programmes:

The list of major labour and livelihood intervention programmes of 2020-21 is given below:

Table 143: Major Social Security Programmes under Labour & Livelihood Intervention Cluster

Sl.	Programme Name	Beneficiary (Lakh)	Budget (Crore Taka)
1.	Interest subsidy for Small (including cottage industries) Industries and Service Sector Enterprises affected by Covid-19	0.15	3,000.00
2.	Assistance for partial interest waiver of deferred loans of Commercial Banks due to Covid-19	35.00	2,000.00
3.	Income Support Program for the Poorest	6.13	441.01
4.	Providing working capital to improve the socio-economic condition of Weavers and modernization of handlooms	0.21	25.00
5.	Increase the cotton cultivation in Chittagong Hill Tracts and alleviation of poverty of farmers	-	1.72

Sl.	Programme Name	Beneficiary (Lakh)	Budget (Crore Taka)
6.	Skill and Employment Programme in Bangladesh	-	80.00
7.	Skills for Employment Investment Programme	2.00	370.00
8.	Poverty Reduction Through Inclusive and Sustainable Markets	0.06	40.82
9.	National Legal Aid Services	0.92	21.74
10.	Allowance for Improving the Livelihood of Hijra Community	0.7650	1.8720
11.	Allowance for Improving the Livelihood of Bede Community	0.10	3.04
12.	Allowance for Improving the Livelihood of Disadvantaged Community	0.7132	27.15
13.	Programme for Livelihood of tea-garden labourers	0.50	25.00
14.	Rehabilitation and Creation of Alternative Employment for Beggars	0.03	6.00
15.	Training for Improving the Livelihood of Hijra Community	0.09	2.2586
16.	Training for Improving the Livelihood of Bede Community	0.05	2.17
17.	Training for Improving the Livelihood of Disadvantaged Community	0.242	9.28
18.	Special Fund for Assistance to Women Development & Entrepreneurs	1.72	12.5
19.	Women's Skill Based Training for Livelihood (Jibikayan)	0.256	7.99
20.	Income Generating Activities for Women at Upazila Level	0.85	95.39
21.	Investment Component for Vulnerable Group Development Program (ICVGD) (2nd Phase)	-	10.61
22.	National Service	1.07	576.85
23.	Employment Generation Programme for the Poorest	38.68	1,650.00
24.	Strengthening Women's Ability for Productive New Opportunities (SWAPNO)	0.65	853.80
25.	Cast for Work	16.23	2,123.12

Other Programmes

Table 144: Other Programmes under Labour & Livelihood Intervention Cluster

Sl.	Name of Programme	Beneficiary (Lakh)	Budget (Crore Taka)
1.	Support and Financial Assistance to the fisherman for their livelihood concern and substance during various period (22 days, 65 days, 8 months) in the seasonal ban period and to the families for slain and permanently disable fisherman for 12 months and to the fisherman of the coastal area and Kaptai lake during May-August	61.75	2,238.50
2.	Integrated livestock development in coastal areas, Hoar areas, and under privileged 64 areas and River washed char areas and introducing Livestock Insurance to reduce the risk of poor farmer	7.74	4633.38
3.	Employment Guarantee Scheme for the poor of Northern Region (2nd Phase) (Udkanik)	1,680.00	1,552.00
4.	Rural Livelihood Project (3rd Phase)	3.31	71.13
5.	Gaibandha Integrated Rural Development Project	0.03	6.80
6.	Poverty Reduction through high valued nutritious minor crops production and marketing program	1.05	50.00

Labour /Livelihood Intervention Cluster

The ministries involved in this cluster are as follows:

Table 145: Ministries/Divisions under Labour & Livelihood Intervention Cluster

Sl.	Ministry / Division
1.	Ministry of Disaster Management and Relief — Coordinator
2.	Local Government Division
3.	Rural Development and Cooperatives Division
4.	Ministry of Women and Children Affairs
5.	Ministry of Social Welfare
6.	Finance Division
7.	Ministry of Labour and Employment
8.	Ministry of Fisheries and Livestock
9.	Ministry of Agriculture
10.	Ministry of Textiles and Jute

Situation Analysis

Ministry of Disaster Management and Relief has many programmes for creating temporary employment for the poor people. Therefore, this ministry has been given the leading role in this cluster.

Table 146: Situation Analysis of Labour & Livelihood Intervention Cluster

Programme Name	NSSS Provision	Present Situation	Gaps
Workfare programmes	Consolidate and reform workfare programmes.	The programmes are dispersed among multiple ministries	Needs to be identified and consolidated
Facilitation in the labour market	A key principle of well-designed Social Security is that it should facilitate rather than undermine the engagement of recipients – in particular those of working age – in the labour market. The Government will ensure that reforms to the social security system facilitate the engagement of families in the labour market since providing families with work is the best means to reduce poverty.	Some programmes like Amar Bari Amar Khamar and SWAPNO have provisions for engaging recipients in some jobs. However, there is little arrangement in other programmes for facilitating the recipients in accessing the labour market. There is evidence that social security beneficiaries become more active in finding jobs. Therefore, coordination with other programmes is important for this cluster.	Special measures are required to facilitate beneficiaries of other social security programmes in getting jobs.
The transition of beneficiaries to different programmes	The beneficiaries of some programmes will be shifted to relevant programmes upon attaining certain criteria/age limits.	The beneficiaries of Child Benefit Schemes (CBS) will be transitioned to a primary stipend and subsequently to a secondary stipend.	A smooth transition plan is to be devised.

Programme Name	NSSS Provision	Present Situation	Gaps
Labour legislation	The NSSS stipulates that there will be strong legislative instruments binding, especially, the private sectors to ensure a) minimum wage, b) statutory maternity benefits, c) leave pay, d) compensation for dismissal and e) work injury compensation.	There are some arrangements for minimum wage and benefits, but a comprehensive legislative framework is still missing for ensuring the rights of workers in the private sector.	Comprehensive legislation for the rights of labourers is required with proper implementation.
Programme consolidation	Small programmes will be consolidated.	There are many similar programmes.	The smaller programmes will have to be consolidated in consultation with line ministries within the cluster itself.
Meetings of the Cluster Committee	As per the Cabinet Division's Circular and decision of the CMC the cluster will have to organize a quarterly meeting.	The social allowance cluster is almost regular in organizing cluster meetings.	Need to continue regular meetings and share minutes with relevant ministries/divisions.
Organize Seminars/ Workshops /joint meetings	The NSSS stipulates that the clusters will have to organize consultations with other clusters having overlapping programmes	No report or evidence found about organizing such types of seminars or consultations with other clusters was not.	The cluster coordinating ministry may need to organize seminars/ workshops to coordinate with other clusters having overlapping issues.

Action Plan (2021-26)

To implement the reform proposals of the NSSS the following time-bound activities may be taken up:

Table 147: Action Plan of Labour & Livelihood Intervention Cluster

Sl.	Objectives	Activities	Performance Indicators	Timeframe	Responsible Ministry	Shared Responsibility
1.	Achieve consolidated workfare programmes	Strengthen and consolidate all workfare programmes.	Programmes consolidated.	July 22	- MoDMR	

Sl.	Objectives	Activities	Performance Indicators	Timeframe	Responsible Ministry	Shared Responsibility
2.	Provision of childcare across all formal & informal employment	Ensure childcare facilities in all government offices, private enterprises and informal labour-intensive areas	Childcare Act enacted, Rules framed and Childcare facilities available in organizations with more than 40 employees	From July 21 to June 25	- MoWCA - MoDMR - MoLE	
3.	Facilitation in the labour market	Coordinate with relevant ministries and other thematic clusters for ensuring that beneficiaries get more access to labour markets.	More beneficiaries are engaged in the labour market.	Continuous	- MOLE - MoDMR	
4.	Training programme for the young population	Coordinate with ministries for facilitating trainees in getting jobs.	More trainees have access to the labour market.	Continuous	MoLE	- MoYS - MoE - MoEWOE
5.	Update and implement effective legislation to ensure labour rights	Update legal provisions and ensure strict implementation.	Implementation of labour rights is regularly monitored.	Continuous	- MoLE - MoDMR	
6.	The transition of beneficiaries to other programmes	Plan transition with some beneficiaries and costs	Plan prepared and updated	Yearly	MoDMR	
		Coordinate transition with relevant ministries	Coordination done regularly	Continuous	MoDMR	
7.	Regular consultation with members	Organize quarterly meetings.	Quarterly meetings organized.	Continuous	MoDMR	
8.	Organize seminars/ workshops	Organize workshops / inter-cluster consultation meetings	Annual seminars or consultations organized.	Continuous	MoDMR	



NSSS Action Plan, Phase - II (2021-26)



NSSS Action Plan of Thematic Clusters

Human Development & Social Empowerment

**Action Plan (2021-26) Implementation of
National Social Security Strategy (NSSS) of Bangladesh**



*Action Plan of Human Development
& Social Empowerment Cluster*

ACTION PLAN OF THEMATIC CLUSTER

Human Development & Social Empowerment Cluster

The main objective of social protection is not only to protect against poverty but also seeks to ensure people's human rights and social respect. Therefore, the programmes for tackling poverty and inequality are not enough for ensuring people's social security. Some special types of programmes are needed for protecting people from social exclusion and different types of deprivations. This type of programme falls within the human development and social empowerment cluster, which is within the functional category of transformative social protection. Ministry of Primary and Mass Education was given the responsibility of coordinating the programmes under this cluster.

Vision

The vision of the cluster is to enhance human development and facilitate the social empowerment of disadvantaged people.

Mission

The mission of the cluster is to coordinate with the line ministries to enhance education and training for children and young people and ensure social justice by establishing the rights of the poor especially, women and children.

Challenge

The main challenge of the cluster is to consolidate efforts of different ministries to formulate a robust system of human development and to ensure social justice for marginalized groups.

Objective

The main objectives of the cluster are to coordinate school stipends and to facilitate linkages between social security programmes and training programmes/facilities for children and young people to promote human development. Another important objective of the cluster is to help create an enabling environment for social justice and equity.

What is Human Development and Social Empowerment?

Social empowerment is a process, which develops people's self-confidence and liberty leading them to act individually and collectively to change broader social attitudes and norms, which hold them back to poverty and marginalization. Social security increases access to public services and investment in human capital, particularly health and education, helping to raise productivity and supporting the participation of the poor in labour markets. For example, school assistance packages improve school attendance and eventually boost education. Social security directly improves people's health status, which in turn contributes to promoting human development and social empowerment.

There is no denying the fact that it is poverty that is the prime factor for socially marginalizing a segment of the population and depriving them of their basic human rights. However, poverty alone is not the sole

cause of alienating people from the mainstream of society. Therefore, only the transfer of cash or other resources, either conditional or unconditional, cannot ensure the social protection and social rights of these people. They need measures for social empowerment and capacity-building efforts for ensuring their social rights.

Therefore, a new type of intervention emerged which is focused on the social transformation of the less privileged people.

Lack of education is widely regarded as one of the main reasons for people not having a voice and influence in society. Even some well-off people are excluded from socio-political activities due to their lower intellectual and literary capacities. They are not invited or allowed in social gatherings like wedding celebrations, religious festivals, and other recreational occasions. Some of these categories of people prefer voluntary exclusion. Therefore, to bring them back to normal social involvement, measures for their education and human development have been given topmost priority. Educational stipends, school meals, sensitization, and capacity-building programmes are human development interventions for the social empowerment of these people.

The NSSS identifies some groups of people who are socially marginalized such as transgender, tea garden workers, water gipsy, backward people, etc. The ethnic minority of both hilly and plain land areas are also regarded as disadvantaged communities. The HIV/AIDS-positive persons and patients of cancer, kidney, etc. also belong to this category. Special social protection and inclusion measures for these types of people are also within this thematic cluster. Inclusion efforts for persons with disabilities are also regarded as an important social protection programme under this category.

Another type of social exclusion results from gender discrimination and inequality. Women fall victim to neglect and deprivation. They are almost half of the country's total population, though they have the minimum level of representation in the decision-making process. Gender development programmes, therefore, constitute a large part of social protection. Measures for the enhancement of nutrition status are also an important part of this cluster.

Distinctive Features of Human Development and Social Empowerment Cluster

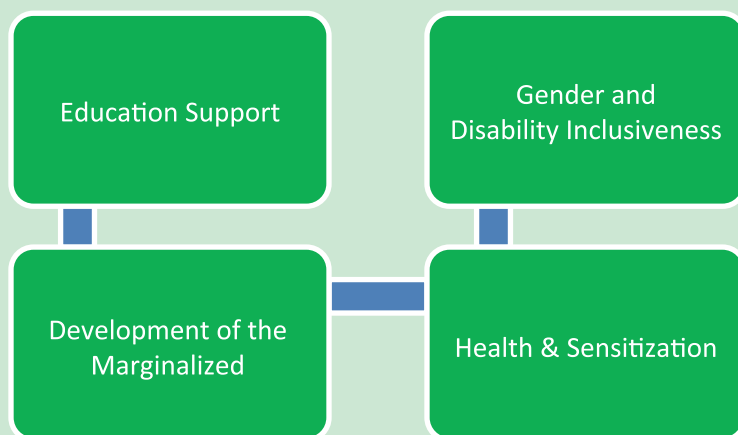


Figure 56: Distinctive Features of Human Development and Social Empowerment Cluster

Human Development and Social Empowerment Cluster Programmes

The programmes which are within the human development and social empowerment category usually are the following:

Table 148: Major SSP under Human Development and Social Empowerment Cluster

Sl.	Name of Programme	Beneficiary (Lakh)	Budget (Crore Taka)
1.	Refinancing scheme for low-income farmers / small traders	-	3,000.00
2.	Employment generation programmes (through Palli Sonchoy Bank, Karmasangsthan Bank, Expatriate Welfare Bank and PKSf)	-	2,000.00
3.	Bangladesh Rural Water Supply and Sanitation (National Sanitation Project)	-	100.00
4.	Preferential Village Water Supply	-	74.00
5.	Urban Public Environmental Health Care (Devt. Programme)	-	90.50
6.	Multi-sector Project to Address the Rohingya crisis on an emergency basis	-	205.00
7.	Improved Life Standard for low-income People	-	19.05
8.	Integrated Livestock development to improve the Socioeconomic and Quality of life of the Backward Minorities living in the Plain-Land	-	46.25
9.	Secondary Education Stipend/higher secondary	70.87	3,964.08
10.	Establishment of Autistic Academy in Bangladesh	12.00	
11.	Fund for Micro-Credit through PKSf	201.19	589.17
12.	Social Development Foundation	-	60.00
13.	Fund for Assistance to the Small Farmer and Poultry Farms	1	100.00
14.	Strengthening Public Financial Management for Social Protection	-	13.00
15.	Maternal, Neo-natal, Child and Adolescent Health	638.88	715.77
16.	Community-Based Health Care	1,300.00	1,236.38
17.	National Nutrition Services	2.1	142.50
18.	Maternal, Child, Reproductive and Adolescent Health	746	235.00
19.	Clinical Contraception Services Delivery	1,086.41	296.00
20.	Family Planning Field Services Delivery	546.62	512.00
21.	T.B., Leprosy, Communicable Non-communicable Disease	433.17	694.58
22.	Construction of Multi-storied Building for underprivileged Muktiyoddha at Zilla/Upazila	-	50.00
23.	Primary School Stipend	179.35	900.00
24.	School Feeding Programme	-	282.50
25.	Reaching Out of School	4.42	123.38
26.	Service and Assistance Center for Disabled	3.99	68.90
27.	Stipend for Disabled Students	1.00	95.64
28.	Interest-free Micro-Credit Programme	1.00	158.00
29.	Samaj Kallyan Parishad	0.88	74.43
30.	Grants for the Schools for the Disabled	0.37	29.68
31.	Fund for the Welfare of Acid Burnt Women and Disabled	0.33	1.82
32.	Construction of Cleaners Colony of Dhaka City Corporation	0.08	10.00
33.	Trust for the Protection of the Persons with Neurodevelopmental Disabilities	-	29.15

Sl.	Name of Programme	Beneficiary (Lakh)	Budget (Crore Taka)
34.	Welfare Trust for Physical Disabilities	-	15.00
35.	Development of the Living Standard of the Marginal People of Bangladesh	-	12.00
36.	Cash Transfer Modernization (CTM)	-	47.87
37.	Establishment/Reestablishment for the Sarkari Shishu Paribar /Baby Home	-	40.00
38.	Micro-credit for Women Self-employment	0.34	6.00
39.	Joyeeta Foundation	0.10	6.91
40.	Child Development Center	0.03	6.80
41.	Street Children Rehabilitation Programme	0.02	4.40
42.	Urban Based Marginal Women Development (Urban Based Women Development Project Phase-2_2017-18)	0.53	20.64
43.	Generation Breakthrough	0.08	2.37
44.	Multi-sectoral Programme to Prevent on Violence Against Women (4th Phase)	-	28.00
45.	Development Support for Special Needs	-	1,000.00
46.	Tottho Apa: Empowering Women Through ICT Towards Digital Bangladesh	-	120.00
47.	Child protection and child welfare	1.45	129.95
48.	Capacity Building of Joyeeta Foundation & Construction of Joyeeta Tower	-	27.81
49.	PM's Education Support Trust	2.09	4.31
50.	Grameen/Rural Infrastructure Development	-	418.70
51.	Promoting Nutrition-Sensitive Social Security & Policy Support Programme	-	1.36

Human Development and Social Empowerment Cluster

The human development and social empowerment cluster has been formed with the ministries which have mandates in human development activities. Ministry of Primary and Mass Education has the largest number of beneficiaries, and thus deserves to have the coordination role for this cluster. The formation of this cluster is as follows:

Table 149: Ministries/Divisions under Human Development and Social Empowerment Cluster

Sl.	Ministry / Division
1.	Ministry of Primary and Mass Education - Coordinator
2.	Prime Minister's Office
3.	Ministry of Land
4.	Technical and Madrasha Education Division
5.	Secondary and Higher Education Division
6.	Ministry of Social Welfare
7.	Ministry of Expatriates' Welfare and Overseas Employment
8.	Health Services Division
9.	Medical Education and Family Welfare Division
10.	Ministry of Labour and Employment
11.	Ministry of Industries
12.	Ministry of Women and Children Affairs
13.	Information and Communication Technology Division

Sl.	Ministry / Division
14.	Ministry of Youth and Sports
15.	Ministry of Housing and Public Works

Situation Analysis

Table 150: Situation Analysis of Human Development of Social Empowerment Cluster


Programme Name	NSSS Provision	Present Situation	Gaps
School Stipend Programme	Scale-up primary and secondary school stipend programme.	The MoPME and MoE have different programmes, but the coverage is less than required.	Coverage to be increased.
Child Development	Continuing orphan's and school meals programmes. Strengthening immunization, child healthcare, nutrition, water and sanitation programmes. Ensuring child maintenance payment for abandoned children.	Different ministries conduct these programmes. These need to be enhanced. The MoWCA is set to formulate a policy on child maintenance.	Programmes to be scaled up. Child maintenance policy to be formulated.
Training programme for the youth	Vocational training programmes for the young population should be scaled up and consolidated.	Different ministries have programmes in this regard.	Stronger coordination is required so that the trainees can utilize their skills in getting jobs.
Social empowerment	The NSSS suggests that the social security system will have a comprehensive and consistent set of policies that can help Bangladesh achieve better equity and social justice.	There are some programmes for women's empowerment and other disadvantaged groups. The overall implementation of the proposed NSSS reform will improve social empowerment.	More efficient monitoring mechanisms are required to ensure social empowerment and equity.
Programme consolidation	Small programmes will be consolidated.	There are many similar programmes.	The smaller programmes will have to be consolidated in consultation with line ministries within the cluster itself.
Meetings of the Cluster Committee	As per the Cabinet Division's Circular and decision of the CMC the cluster will have to organize quarterly meetings.	The social allowance cluster is almost regular in organizing cluster meetings.	Need to continue regular meetings and share minutes with relevant ministries/divisions.
Organize Seminars/ Workshops/joint meetings	The NSSS stipulates that the clusters will have to organize consultations with other clusters having overlapping programmes	No report or evidence was found about organizing such types of seminars or consultations with other clusters.	The cluster coordinating ministry may need to organize seminars/ workshops to coordinate with other clusters having overlapping issues.

Action Plan (2021-26)

To implement the reform proposals of the NSSS the following time-bound activities may be taken up.

Table 151: Action Plan of Human Development of Social Empowerment Cluster

Sl.	Objectives	Activities	Performance Indicators	Timeframe	Responsible Ministry	Shared Responsibility
1.	School Stipend Programme	Monitor the progress in scaling up the number of beneficiaries	The number of beneficiaries increased	July 2022	MoPME and MoE	Finance Division
2.	Child Development	Coordinate and monitor the progress of programmes related to child development like orphan's and school meals programmes, immunization, child healthcare, nutrition, water and sanitation, etc.	Child development programmes consolidated	Continuous	Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, MoWCA	LGD
3.	Social empowerment	Oversee and coordinate with other clusters and relevant ministries to ensure social justice and equity	Social justice and inclusion efforts of each programme are monitored	Continuous	MoPME	MoSW, MoWCA
4.	The transition of beneficiaries to different programmes	Plan transition with quantifying the number of beneficiaries and costs	Plan prepared and updated	Yearly	MoPME	Cluster member ministries
		Coordinate transition with relevant ministries	Coordination is done regularly	Continuous		
5.	Regular consultation with members	Organize quarterly meetings	Quarterly meetings organized	Continuous	MoPME	
6.	Organize seminars/ workshops	Organize workshops/ inter-cluster consultation meetings	Annual Seminars or consultations organized	Continuous	MoPME	



Annexure Annexure A, CODI Criteria for Performance Analysis



NSSS Action Plan, Phase - II (2021-26)

Annexure A, CODI Criteria for Performance Analysis

CODI has a total of 44 fields under the 10 broader areas as follows for assessment of social protection performance. Each field is assessed on a scale from one to four. This tool is part of the Inter-Agency Social Protection Assessments (ISPA) initiative, a set of practical tools that help countries improve their social protection system by analyzing its strengths and weaknesses and offering options for further action. Countries can apply this tool periodically to track performance over time. CODI is unique in providing a unified framework to carry out a comprehensive assessment of social protection system performance, allowing governments to identify duplications, fragmentation, and inefficiencies across schemes and programmes.

1. Inclusiveness Refers to the system's capacity to protect all members of society along the life cycle with special consideration for the most vulnerable				
Areas	Latent	Average	Decent	Advanced
	1	2	3	4
Gender equality, non-discrimination, and special needs				
Coverage: non-contributory				
Coverage: contributory				
Effective coverage				
Accessibility				

2. Adequacy Refers to the sufficiency of the system's benefit levels				
Areas	Latent	Average	Decent	Advanced
	1	2	3	4
Benefit levels compared to social security needs				
Benefit level compared to national benchmarks				
Impact of benefits on economic activity				
Benefits compared to national / programme objectives				
Redistributor or poverty reduction effects				
Benefits provision and services delivery standards				

3. Appropriateness Refers to the system's overall arrangements to respond to national context and needs				
Areas	Latent	Average	Decent	Advanced
	1	2	3	4
Formulation of objectives, targets, and timeframes				
Alignment of social security policies/ programmes/ strategy				
Combination of schemes and programmes				
Composition of expenditure				
Evidence-based policy and programme design				

4. Respect for Rights & Dignity Refers to social security entitlements and implementation arrangements being anchored in law				
Areas	Latent	Average	Decent	Advanced
	1	2	3	4
Entitlements anchored in law				
Enforcement mechanisms: public authority, complaint and appeal mechanisms, and public awareness				
Respect for the dignity and human rights				
Confidentiality of private information				

5. Governance & Institutional Capacity Assesses the system's rules, regulations, roles, responsibilities, and related implementation capacities				
Areas	Latent	Average	Decent	Advanced
	1	2	3	4
Reporting mechanisms, roles, and responsibilities anchored in law				
Programme implementation guidelines / operational manuals state reporting mechanisms, roles, and responsibilities				
Enforcement mechanisms				
Institutional supervisory capacity				

6. Financial & Fiscal Sustainability Refers to the system's financial and fiscal sustainability				
Areas	Latent	Average	Decent	Advanced
	1	2	3	4
Contributory capacity taken into account in financing arrangements				
Alignment of budget allocation with policy priorities				
Long term budget planning in line with demographic developments				
Long term financial commitments				

6. Financial & Fiscal Sustainability Refers to the system's financial and fiscal sustainability				
Areas	Latent	Average	Decent	Advanced
	1	2	3	4
considered in legal framework and social security strategy				
Reliability and progressivity of social security financing				

7. Coherence & Integration Refers to the alignment and coherence of the system across its policies, programmes, and administrative structures, as well as coherence with related policy areas				
Areas	Latent	Average	Decent	Advanced
	1	2	3	4
Complementarity of social security policies / degree of duplication and overlap				
Institutional framework to ensure coordination				
Integration of programme implementation				
Possibility of integrated analysis of social security financing				
Coherence with other policy areas				

8. Responsiveness Refers to the system's M&E framework and flexibility to adjust / adapt in response to socio-economic crises				
Areas	Latent	Average	Decent	Advanced
	1	2	3	4
Responsiveness of budget and implementation mechanisms				
Availability, quality, and timeliness of data on trends and social security programmes				
Information dissemination mechanisms				
Mechanisms for parametric adjustments				
Coverage of emergency response operations in practice				

9. Cost-effectiveness Refers to cost effectiveness both for those financing and for those benefiting from a programme (apply only if evidence exists)				
Areas	Latent	Average	Decent	Advanced
	1	2	3	4
Cost of programme delivery				

10. Incentive Compatibility

Refers to ensuring that the system's programmes don't generate distortionary effects (apply only if evidence exists)

Areas	Latent	Average	Decent	Advanced
	1	2	3	4
Consideration of incentives in programme design				
Incentives for persons covered				
Incentives for employers				
Incentives for scheme administrators				



Cabinet Division
Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh