

**DFAT Support to UNDP Social Security Policy Support (SSPS)  
Programme**  
January -June 2022  
Half-yearly Report



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**Bangladesh**

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**January – June 2022**

## Acronyms

ADP	Annual Development Programme
AusAID	Australian Agency for International Development
AWP	Annual Work Plan
CMC	Central Monitoring Committee; Central Management Committee
DC	Deputy Commissioner
DFAT	Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (Australia)
DSS	Department of Social Services
ERD	Economic Relations Division
FD	Finance Division
FID	Financial Institutions Division
FLIP	Five-Year Plan
GDP	Gross Domestic Product
GED	General Economics Division
GoB	Government of Bangladesh
GRS	Grievance Redressal System
HIES	Household Income and Expenditure Survey
LCG	Local Consultative Group
LGD	Local Government Division
LNOB	Leave No One Behind
M&E	Monitoring & Evaluation
MIS	Management Information System
MJF	Manusher Jonno Foundation
MoDMR	Ministry of Disaster Management and Relief
MoFi	Ministry of Finance
MoF	Ministry of Food
MoLE	Ministry of Labour and Employment
MoSW	Ministry of Social Welfare
MoWCA	Ministry of Women and Children's Affairs
MoU	Memorandum of Understanding
NGO	Non-governmental Organisation
OAA	Old Age Allowance
OPDs	Organisation of Person with Disabilities
NSSS	National Social Security Strategy
NSIS	National Social Insurance System
PIC	Project Implementation Committee
PSC	Project Steering Committee
PWD	Person With Disability
SDF	Social Development Framework
SPEC	Special Project Evaluation Committee
SSPS Programme	Social Security Policy Support Programme
TPP	Technical Assistance Project Proposal
ToR	Terms of Reference
SDGs	Sustainable Development Goals
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme Bangladesh
VFM	Value for Money

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## 1. Context

This annual report on the UNDP implemented Social Security Policy Support (SPPS) Programme covers the 6-month period from January – June 2022. The SSPS Programme is a fully government-owned flagship project, assisted by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) under Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT) fund of the Australian Government. This flagship project has provided technical assistance to the Government of Bangladesh (GoB) for the first time in developing the Bangladesh Social protection reforms strategy subsequently approved by the Cabinet of the GoB in mid 2015. Since then, SSPS program has been implementing key policy reforms of social protection as guided by National Social Security Strategy (NSSS). This half yearly report covers the progress in reforms which is linked to the current UNDP-DFAT agreement.

The report briefly narrates the key results-based activities during the reporting period. From the outset, the SSPS Programme has been driving reforms inside the government system, and all interventions are embedded in the national social protection policy reform and plan. Integration of reforms (Universal Pension Scheme, National Social Insurance Scheme) (page 125- 127 of Budget Speech FY 22- 23), has been reflected in the previous National Budget FY 2021-2022 and current FY 2022-23. As for sustainability, almost 95 percent of the current national social protection programmes are now financed by the government. NSSS is a ten years long social protection strategy for Bangladesh. The successful Implementation of NSSS Action Plan Phase I (2015- 2021) led to the development of the NSSS Action Plan Phase II (2021-2026) approved by the Central Management Committee (CMC) of Bangladesh Social Security Programs with several rounds of intensive consultations engaging the 39 line ministries related to social protection programs. The Honourable Prime Minister of GoB has given file approval in 23rd February 2022 to NSSS Action Plan Phase II (2021-2026) which is under the process of national launching.

The SSPS Programme primarily focuses on rolling out the implementation of the NSSS in two major reform areas, namely 1) a system of universalism in social protection programs, and 2) improved governance of the social protection in Bangladesh.

The Cabinet Division and the General Economics Division (GED) of the Planning Commission of the Government of Bangladesh (GoB) are the two key lead and co-lead sponsoring and implementing agencies of this project. SSPS provided reform assistance to other associated ministries that are linked to the Bangladesh Social Protection reforms including key Line Ministries such as the Ministry of Finance, the Ministry of Social Welfare, and the Ministry of Labour and Employment and associate ministries, Statistics and Informatics Division, Ministry of Expatriate Welfare and overseas Employment, and Information Communication and Technology (ICT) Division.

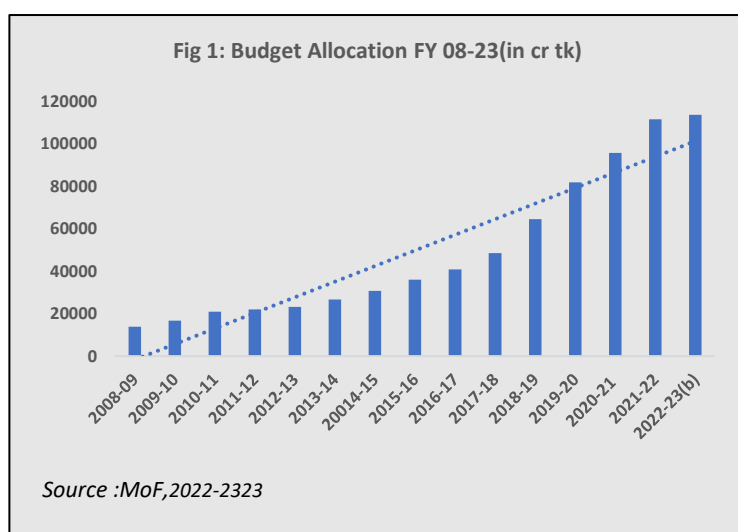
The current DFAT support to SSPS Programme is built on the progress made during 2017 to 2019 and subsequent COVID-19 pandemic devastation, the government's renewed commitment to the reform agenda outlined in 8th Five Year Plan which incorporated NSSS-guided social protection reforms. The DFAT support to the SSPS Programme is designed for a period of five years in two phases. The first phase is from June 2021 to June 2023 and the second phase from July 2023 and will continue up to December 2025.

The goal of the SSPS Programme is to '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, and strengthens the social contract, enhances stability, and builds resilience. The Programme incorporates two outcomes and four outputs and five interventions areas in its 'Theory of Change (ToC)'.

## 2.Executive Summary

The poverty rate in the country came down to 20.5 percent and the extreme poverty rate to 10.5 percent<sup>1</sup> in pre COVID-19 time following the implementation of the government’s planned policy. Although progress stalled for a while like other countries in the world due to pandemic, Bangladesh was able to return to the pace of development in a short period of time due to the bold steps of the government. Special emphasis was placed in the current budget on programs such as covid vaccination to 100 million people to strengthen health, universalism - Old age Allowance, Deserted and Widowed Women, private pension, pilot social Insurance, and Single registry MIS.

On the one hand, the government has been pursuing multi-faceted development initiatives aimed at transforming the economy’s structure; on the other hand, the scope of the social protection programs



has been focused particularly on disability programming and through gender lens to continually enlarged to reduce poverty and inequality for inclusive growth.

At present, 29 percent of households have been covered by social safety net programmes,<sup>2</sup> and Fig 1 shows social protection investment have increased almost eight-fold compared to the allocation made in the budget for FY2008-2009. The government has already implemented the National Social Security Strategy (NSSS) Action Plan 2016-21 under the NSSS 2015 and

has recently started the implementation of the NSSS Action Plan 2021-26. In calculating the GDP in the fiscal year 2022-23, FY2015-16 has been set as the new base year and the amount of GDP has increased as compared to the fiscal year 2021-22. As a result, the allocation for social security in FY2022-23 is 2.55 percent of GDP, which is slightly less than in FY2021-22 (2.88 percent of GDP). Disaster-prone areas, poorest areas and population density ratios are currently being considered to cover poor and vulnerable people, marginalised groups and vulnerable sections of society under social safety net programmes.

In current fiscal year, MoF published 115 social protection programs and accordingly allocated budget increased from Tk 1114.5 billion in FY 2021-22 to Tk 1135.76 billion in FY 2022-23. The programs are primarily centred around food distribution and cash transfers, support to vulnerable, distressed, and homeless people, cope up from covariate and endemic shocks across the life cycle of the citizens. As shown in Table (1) below, the increase in coverage of beneficiary were for 48 programs and budget was raised for 66 programs which showed that the government is emphasising on increasing the budget allocation for most programs

**Table1: Changes in Social Protection Programs by Beneficiary and Budget from FY 2021-22 to FY2022- 23**

	Beneficiary	Budget
No change	42	21
Increase	48	66
Decrease	9	28

<sup>2</sup> MoF FY 2022-23 Budget Data

No Value	16	0
Total Programs	115	115

Source: SSPS analysis using Safety Net Budget Data of MOF

The Government sets a target to increase the tax net and revenue generation than the previous year. Therefore, the attempt will continue to extend its tax catchment areas by reaching about 40 million people who belong to the middle class that will improve the tax-GDP ratio.

The country is transitioning between the pandemic and recovery from life and livelihood associated with the ongoing conflict in Europe and the subsequent effect of inflation in food items and essential commodities therefore, the budget made provision for convenient and comfortable taxing.

### 3. Progress Review: Key Activities and Results, January – June 2022

#### 1.1 Results Reporting

Outcome	Indicators	Target 2022	Progress Towards Target Q1+Q2
<b>Outcome 1</b> Established systems of universal pension, entitlements for persons with disabilities, social insurance and shock-responsive schemes, in line with GoB commitment to human rights and the right to social protection to social protection	By 2025, Government has significantly increased social security coverage of old age persons and persons with disability by adopting a universal approach	Old Age Allowance (OAA) coverage increased by 20% from baseline  Coverage of persons with disabilities increased by 20% from baseline	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>OAA coverage has been increased by 30.5% from Baseline 2019</li> <li>Coverage of persons with disabilities increased by 53.07% from baseline (Annex D)</li> </ul>
	By 2025, Government has adopted gender and disability inclusive NSIS	Draft NSIS policy is ready for review by NSSS M&E/Sub-Committee (line ministries) and CMC consideration	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>NSIS Social Insurance draft study submitted and reviewed, GED accepted the Review findings and on the process for series of national dialogue. Members and head of CMC Sub Committee reviewed the draft NSIS study.</li> </ul>
	By 2025, NSSS 2026+ adopted a gender and disability responsive universal social security approach	CMC Sub-committee approves a NSSS 2026+ formulation roadmap and overseeing its implementation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>NSSS 2026 + policy discussion started at initial phase. Subcommittee discussion will commence from July onwards and there is a plan for secretarial discussion in October.</li> </ul>

## Key Activities and Results

The government is working to protect the rights of the elderly by implementing long-term and long-lasting programs. Expansion of the social safety net is an important part of the government's economic recovery efforts to address the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic. The allowances have been extended to all eligible senior citizens and widows of 112 upazilas in FY2020-2021. In FY2021-2022, it has been extended to another 150 upazilas. SSPS program collaborated with ADB Manila office and shared the idea of Mid-term review (MTR) findings and SSPS plan for OAA Universalism. It inspired by the MOSW augmenting universalism which was scheduled in 2025. Old age allowances are being supplied on a larger scale to defend the rights of the poor elderly, with priority given to the elderly women when it comes to widows and deserted and destitute women's allowances. These has been reflected in the FY 2022 National Budget which was declared in June 2022. From the FY2021-2022, an allocation of Tk. 34.34 billion has been provided for 5.7million beneficiaries at the monthly rate of Tk. 500, which will be continued. In the FY2021-2022, allowances are being provided to 2.08million h disabled persons at the monthly rate of Tk. 750. The number of beneficiaries is planned to be increased by 0.35 million in the next FY2022-2023 to 2.3.65 million in place of 2.0.8 million. The rate of monthly allowance will be increased by Tk. 100, from Tk. 750 to Tk.850. In the budget its proposed to allocate Tk. 24.29 billion in FY2022-2023 as disability allowances.

The draft Social Insurance scheme study preliminary findings (key findings presented below) was presented by the firm to the Member GED Md Kawser Ahmed, SSPS team and UNDP Country Office Programme analyst where positive feedback was provided and the draft study was submitted in June, review process started by CMC committee and the review findings were accepted by GED. Series of national dialogues to be steered from August. The National Budget of the current year FY 2022 mentioned that government is working to launch a National Social Insurance Scheme in the country that was prepared with the help of SSPS. A study has already been conducted on this scheme, at the initiative of the Cabinet Division SSPS Programme, by laying emphasis on the gradual introduction of four types of social insurance in the country. These are Unemployment Insurance, Maternity Insurance, Sickness Insurance, and Employment Injury Insurance. The Ministry of Labor and Employment has already taken steps to launch a pilot of the Employment Injury Scheme to protect workers from injury in the workplace.

NSSS 2026 + initial policy discussion with the CMC focal points started and planned for detailed discussion in September.

### Key findings of National Social Insurance Scheme and A Feasible Model for Bangladesh

- Ensuring compliance with the international social security standards and global best practices
- Serious need for awareness building among the primary stakeholders including policymakers, employers and employees
- Knowledge about social insurance principles, e.g., the concept of solidarity and risk-pooling
- Developing a national labour market/national insurance registration and database
- Well-developed and market-driven active labour market policies (ALMPs) are critically important for ensuring the effectiveness of social insurance schemes, especially UI scheme.
- Integrating ALMP components within the country's policy framework i.e., national jobs strategy, National Skills Development Policy etc.
- Establishing job searching and matching mechanisms within the ALMPs framework.
- An efficient and decentralised public employment services (PES) system is needed to deliver labour market services like maintaining an active job market, job searching and matching, counselling and career guidance services, etc.
- A robust, dynamic, and digitised employment database should be established prior to rolling out a full-scale NSIS.
- In the short run– some ad-hoc measures like Social Insurance Booklet in Viet Nam, Mobile application-based services like Mobile JKN in Indonesia

- Self-sustainability of the social insurance schemes should be ensured to achieve the desired results.
- Funds should be invested following a sound business model.
- An NSIS champion is needed both within the government and social partner for its promotion.

Output	Indicators	Target 2022	Progress Towards Target Q1+Q2
<b>Output 1:</b> By 2024, 4 policy proposals (OAA, Persons with Disabilities, NSIS, COVID-19) and draft NSSS 2026+ tabled for Govt. approval	By 2024, Govt. has gender responsive universal old age and persons with disability policy proposals	A framework outlining suitable model and policy and financial options for the proposal undertaken by MoSW	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Concept notes on OAA and PWD developed and shared with the Cabinet Division and GED</li> <li>• Model development under process.</li> </ul>
	By 2024, existence of gender and disability responsive National Social Insurance Scheme (NSIS) proposal	Technical support to MoLE and MoF to start developing the draft policy proposal	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• All key ministries were given TA support in developing the NSSS Action Plan, Phase – II. Experts will be mobilized to MoSW, and Finance Division depends on the green signals from the new leadership of these ministries. Process started for capacity need assessment for key line ministries including MOLE. After identification of the needs, TA support will be provided</li> </ul>
	Existence of COVID-19 social protection policy responses focusing on disabled individuals and marginalized groups including urban poor, and climate change responsive social protection	Shock-responsive (COVID-19) specific social protection strategy and Urban Social Protection Delivery Model and Climate Adaptive Social Protection proposal completed	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Different shock-responsive social protection programme for urban drafted and Dhaka, Gazipur social protection</li> </ul>



Output	Indicators	Target 2022	Progress Towards Target Q1+Q2
			programme visits continued.

### Key Activities and Results

The Government, for the first time, declared to introduce the Universal Pension system in Bangladesh. This was the political commitment of the current government to bring the old aged population in a sustainable social protection system to ensure their old age security. The National Social Security Strategy also mentioned that the government to introduce a comprehensive, inclusive pension system in Bangladesh.

Cabinet gave final approval (upon the vetting of the law ministry) of the draft of "Universal Pension Management Act, 2022" on June 20th. After the vetting from the Legislative and Parliamentary Affairs Division of the Law Ministry, the act will be sent to the National Parliament. The Finance Division has placed the draft of the Universal Pension Management Act, 2022 aiming to bring the growing elderly population under a sustainable social safety net for the causes of unemployment, disease, paralysis, old age or other similar conditions, or penury amid the high life expectancy rate. According to the proposed law, there will be a five-member national pension authority headed by a chairman and also a 15-member governing body with the finance minister as its chair, said the cabinet secretary. SSPS conducted the first feasibility study<sup>3</sup> upon CMC decision, endorsed by MOLE a and later sent to MOF which initiated universal private pension.

The Ministry of Finance is now in the transition phase and changes in leadership are on the way. The Ministry of Finance's (MoF) Social Protection Budget Management Unit (SPBMU) MIS fulfils only a partial component of the NSSS objective and is lacking in some data areas. Discussion are held with MoF to provide Technical Assistance in hiring experts for Private Pension Authority and SPBMU Technical Unit which now exist as a virtual platform.

The Cabinet Division will send the invitation officially and SPPS will act accordingly.

Regarding the issue of the single registry or integrated MIS, a new term, social protection practitioners are now using 'Unified Social Protection System'.

The Cabinet Secretary delegates the responsibility to Senior Secretary, ICT Division, to coordinate this issue. The Statistics and Informatics Division (SID) Secretary and Member, GED showed keen interest in coordinating this matter earlier, particularly using the Gopalganj model (single low-cost registry) to address the vulnerability in shock responsive situations and social protection beneficiary selection and distribution.

Cabinet Division's Additional Secretary, who deals with the Cabinet (PM and her Cabinet), has different low-cost pilot ideas like Union Parishad unified single registry to address the shocks and social protection beneficiary selection, and for better coordination, all options of localization can be attended.

The Indonesian model shows that as responsibility is delegated to a lower administrative unit level, it may ensure the proper accountable implementation of programs and leadership development while using the correct information.

Climate experts at UNDP drafted and reviewed a climate adaptive concept note. Several models were identified because of the continued field visits. The urban programming study has continued with a

<sup>3</sup> <https://socialprotection.gov.bd/en/2020/03/27/study-on-framework-for-introduction-of-national-social-insurance-scheme-in-bangladesh/>

number of field visits in the major slum areas of Dhaka and its vicinity a draft report has been shared internally for SSPS team for feedbacks and by the end of the last quarter, at least one shock-response model draft should be available for stakeholder review.

Output	Indicators	Target 2022	Progress Towards Target Q1+Q2
<b>Output 2:</b> Research and pilot generated evidences available to and utilized by policymakers and other stakeholders	Incorporation of research recommendations into social protection policy (PWDs accessing social protection, targeting and selection, examination of options for expanding the fiscal space for universal allowances for old age, persons with disabilities, and social insurance, NID documentation)	4 research papers finalized (Persons with Disabilities accessing social protection, targeting and selection, examination of options for expanding the fiscal space for universal allowances for old age, persons with disabilities, and social insurance, NID documentation)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Pilot Design of OAA and PWD design and ToR under process of finalisation .( Pls see Annex 1) Institute of Social Welfare of Dhaka University working on developing the pilot proposals.</li> <li>• Blue economy strategy plan and social protection papers background underway.</li> </ul>
	Availability, incorporation into policy, and dissemination of case study for developing an evidence base for universal allowances for old age and persons with disability social protection policies in Bangladesh	CMC sub-committee approves pilot plan and plans for implementation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• After approval of pilots, the CMC subcommittee will sit for approval in last quarter of 2022 or early 2023.</li> </ul>

**Key Activities and Results**

Old age Allowance and PWD concept paper prepared and piloting design underway ,the TOR is under process .It is being jointly collaborated with experts from Institute of Social Welfare of Dhaka University who is assisting in developing the pilot proposals and will be placed before the M& E committee.

A consultative policy dialogue on Blue Economy was held in May where a sustainable and diversified blue economy could help to reduce poverty and provide transformative and shock responsive social protection. Mr. Aminul Arifeen, Project Manager, Social Security Policy Support Programme (SSPS), gave a presentation on “Blue Economy and Prospect of Social Protection in Bangladesh,” and called for investing in Blue Economy as an opportunity which can lead to sustainable food security, sustainable livelihoods, decent jobs, higher income, improved health, quality education, higher education, disaster response, climate resilience, political stability and social cohesion, safety and expanded fiscal space. He also added that social protection in broader SDGs Perspective addressed the following SDGs: SDG 1 No Poverty; SDG 2 Zero Hunger; SDG 3 Good Health and Well-being; SDG 5 Gender Equality; SDG 8 Decent Work and Economic Growth; SDG 10 Reduced Inequalities; SDG 13 Climate Action; and SDG 14 Peace, Justice & strong Institutions. Therefore, Inclusive social protection in a blue economy would lead to Investment and Business contributing to GDP and increased fiscal space and a Welfare State, providing for Universal Social Protection across life-cycle. The Blue Economy consultative policy dialogue called for an institutionalized coordination structure for the 25 ministries. The dialogue gave an opportunity for in-

depth explanations and analyzes on how the potential of Blue Economy in Bangladesh can be institutionalized for national progress.

Outcome	Indicators	Target 2022	Progress Towards Target Q1+Q2
<p><b>Outcome 2:</b> Governance systems strengthened and made inclusive to build the case for and manage universal lifecycle-based social security</p>	<p>Dedicated NSSS CMC sub-committee activated with fit for purpose composition and scope for efficient implementation of reform plans</p>	<p>Integration of social protection reforms plans in the Annual Performance Agreement (APA)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Accountability set up completed through CMC focal points and NSSS Thematic Clusters' meetings, M &amp; E committee. Ministries signed their APA in July 2022. The outcomes will be reflected in the Annual Report 2022.</li> <li>LCG Governance and Social Protection ensured better engagement of DPs in social protection for accountability</li> </ul>
	<p>Percentage of Old Age Allowance and Persons with Disability Allowance expenditure against GDP</p>	<p>OAA: 10% increase from 2019 Persons with Disabilities: 30% increase from 2019</p>	<p>0.566% increase of OAA from 2019 baseline. 0.0195% increase of PWD allowance from 2019 baseline against GDP expenditure</p> <p>It was assumed in 2019 that govt will substantially increase the allowance amount and no of beneficiaries which was hampered by the pandemic. Also process of digitisation of beneficiary inclusion resulted in low financial increase and error correction.</p>

**Key Activities and Results**

The Government of Bangladesh has recently introduced 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 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 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, the 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 in order to build accountability and advance desired outcomes of the programmes. From the overall combined scenario of APA and NSSS the clear message emanates that efficacy of social security programmes will not be taken for granted without putting them through results-based monitoring and evaluation procedure.

Overall, the GoB's position in terms of governance and systems strengthening has continued to improve. The GoB decision to include NSSS Action Plan progress and coordination management in the Annual Performance Agreements (APA) of line ministries will further strengthen the managerial functions of the ministries and will be monitored by the NSSS Action Plan Implementation and Monitoring Committee headed by the Secretary, Coordination and Reforms of the Cabinet Division. One CMC focal point meeting and 5 thematic cluster meeting were held in June 2022 by Cabinet Division. SSPS provided support in organizing the CMC focal points meeting and helped in developing ministry wise action plan 2nd phase preparation. CMC focal point activities in integrating the social protection reforms are reflected in their respective APA as mentioned in the Action Plan.

The meetings discussed several critical areas, such as city-centric social security, publicity strategies, and disability and Covid 19. It highlighted on accountability and governance issues and following decisions were taken.

- The member of the Central Management Committee shall be the ex-officio desk officer in charge of social security of each ministry as the focal point officer.
- As per the decision of the Central Management Committee, the work plan of the National Social Security Strategy will be completed by July this year and it will be officially inaugurated.
- The CODI Cabinet may undertake training programs in this regard for the successful implementation and evaluation of this action plan.
- An orientation on the Core Diagnostic Instrument (CODI) will be organized to orient thematic cluster focal point officers of the respective ministries and divisions;
- The Central Management Committee (CMC) shall hold regular meetings in accordance with the provisions of this Committee

The 1<sup>st</sup> Revised Meeting of the Local Consultative Working Group (LCG) on Governance and Social Protection took place in the second quarter of 2022 chaired by Secretary, Coordination and Reforms, Cabinet Division and cochaired by Head of Cooperation EU. SSPS program helped in developing the working paper, setting up the key agenda for discussion and presentation was delivered in initiating the revised meeting. It was initiated to discuss the ToR of the newly formulated Consultative Working Group (LCG) on Governance and Social Protection. The governance and social protection working group (LCG) is a great platform to review and monitor relevant policy issues on social protection and governance in Bangladesh. This is an open platform for discussing different perspectives of governance and social protection of the country and to review the development efforts in the light of different national and international plans and agenda and how a number of tools like APA, GRS, NIS etc is introduced for

governance and accountability mechanism. The main objective of this working group is to contribute towards effective and coordinated implementation of policies, strategies, plans and programmes relating to governance and social protection through joint result targets and a shared monitoring framework. The primary purposes of the LCG Governance and Social Protection Working Group are as follows:

- a) Act as a platform for policy dialogue;
- b) Monitor progress on the reform process in the field of governance;
- c) Monitor progress on social protection reforms as stipulated in NSSS, Five Year Plans and Sustainable Development Goals;
- d) Facilitate coordination in line with the principles set out in the Paris Declaration, the Accra Agenda for Action, and the Busan Partnership for Effective Development Cooperation.

The increase of 0.566% increase of OAA expenditure from 2019 baseline against GDP and 0.0195% increase of PWD allowance from 2019 baseline against GDP expenditure signifies a positive look because Bangladesh GDP is volatile and in calculating the GDP in the fiscal year 2022-23, FY2015-16 has been set as the new base year and the amount of GDP has increased as compared to the fiscal year 2021-22. As a result, the allocation for social security in FY2022-23 is 2.55 percent of GDP, which is slightly less than in FY2021-22, as a result the individual programs increase is also less than anticipated.

Output	Indicators	Target 2022	Progress Towards Target Q1+Q2
<b>Output 3:</b> Gender responsive policy advice and accountability tools are made available to the line ministries to demonstrate their accountability for social protection reforms	Functional and utilized web-based social protection dashboard for improved monitoring of social protection reforms incorporated in the Annual Performance Agreement (APA)	Dashboard is trialled for 2022 and populated with sex, and age disaggregated data, including M&E Framework data	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The M&amp;E dashboard draft study has been completed in May. Based on study, the ToR of the M&amp;E dashboard has been drafted, which is under the review process.</li> </ul>
	Strengthened key line ministries/ divisions (Cabinet Division, GED, MoSW, MoF, MoLE) capacity for gender responsive social protection decision making	Key line ministry decision-makers have enhanced knowledge of and capability to design and implement gender responsive social protection policy and social security programmes as a result of targeted capacity building	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>NSSS Action Plan Phase 2 incorporates gender related social Protection and already reflected in the National Budget.</li> <li>All the focal points of 29 ministries were oriented comprehensively on NSSS and gender responsive SP before preparing the NSSS action plan phase 2. Plan for orientation of key ministries focal point including sub national level government officials</li> </ul>

Output	Indicators	Target 2022	Progress Towards Target Q1+Q2
			is ahead through workshops/trainings.
	Increased knowledge about reform priorities of 5 key line ministries/ divisions (Cabinet Division, GED, MoSW, MoF, MoLE) with evidence of support from senior leadership to implement them	Line ministries are regularly updating reform progress data on dashboard	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>It is expected that a prototype dashboard will be in place on a trial basis by the end of 2022 and be fully functional in mid-2023.</li> </ul>

### Key Activities and Results

The SSPS assisted in developing the ToR for M& E framework circulated and hired a firm to commission the study on Assessment, Scope and a Framework for Introducing the NSSS, M&E Dashboard Development. A series of consultation meeting was held with the firm Maxwell Stamp and attended by GED Member Md Kawser Ahmed. It was agreed that the proposed outline for developing the dashboard can be flexible, provide different options, and include shorter- and longer-term development goals. For tracking the NSSS reforms on the dashboard, both operational and programmatic reforms need to be considered. They should be on view by Line Ministries and by Thematic Cluster. For selecting the list of SSNs to be assessed, the MoF budget list can be used. There should be major programmes across the lifecycle. SSNs for marginalized populations, ethnic minorities, gender-sensitive, climate, and urban can also be considered. The major programme for Persons with Disabilities should be included. All points were taken into consideration and the study has been submitted and under review. Cabinet Division and GED decided to sit for a dialogue on M & E dashboard. The ToR of the M&E dashboard has been drafted, which is under the review process.

It is expected that a prototype dashboard will be in place on a trial basis by the end of 2022 and be fully functional by mid-2023. Additionally, based on the previous phase feasibility study on Single Registry integrated MISs, a master plan will support ministries to initiate the necessary steps for operational readiness from the other databases and to follow up their actions. Single registry field visit completed. Localization of single registry MIS to response the COVID pandemic shocks – Gopalganj model visited by Member, GED, Secretary SID, and agreed to replicate. The Cabinet Secretary gave responsibility to Senior Secretary, ICT Division to coordinate the single registry MIS through a stakeholder consultation. SSPS program informed the meeting that M & E dashboard would be useful for policy making. A prototype would be available in end of 2022. Developing the single registry MIS is a long process and requires participation of each individual ministry and is applicable for real time M & E inputs in the dashboard. While developing the single registry MIS, the M & E dashboard would be a part of single registry MIS. The outcome of the consultation will provide guidance developing the road map plan, and responsibility of each individual ministry. SSPS program informed the meeting that M & E dashboard would be useful for policy making. A prototype would be available in end of 2022. Developing the single registry MIS is a long process and requires participation of each individual ministry and is applicable for real time M & E inputs in the dashboard. While developing the single registry MIS, the M & E dashboard would be a part of single registry MIS.

A ToR has been drafted and Review is undergoing.

The government has already implemented the National Social Security Strategy (NSSS) Action Plan 2016-21 under the NSSS 2015 and has recently started the implementation of the NSSS Action Plan 2021-26. Implementation of the 'Mother and Child Support Programme' by integrating the existing maternity allowance for poor pregnant mothers in rural areas and for low-income lactating working mothers in urban areas started. This programme will help meet the nutritional needs and ensure physical growth and mental development of the child up to four years of age including the first 1,000 important days of life starting from the mother's womb under the life-cycle based social security framework.

These activities will play an important role in creating skilled human resources suitable for the Fourth Industrial Revolution. Government is considering maternal and child support programs as the best investment under social safety net programmes. As a result, considering the priority of this programme, its proposing to increase the number of beneficiaries by 2 lakh 9 thousand and thus the total number of beneficiaries will be 12 lakh 54 thousand in FY2022-2023 from 10 lakh 45 thousand in FY2021-2022. The total allocation for this sector in FY2022-2023 is Tk. 1,243 crore. This indicates that targeted capacity building has improved understanding of and capacity for key line ministry decision-makers to formulate and implement gender responsive social protection policy and social security programs.

Output	Indicators	Target 2022	Progress Towards Target Q1+Q2
<p><b>Output 4:</b> Broadened knowledge base and influence of NGOs working for marginalized and excluded groups, including persons with disabilities in social protection decision-making</p>	<p>Influence of non-state actors working for marginalized and excluded groups, including persons with disabilities in the social protection decision-making</p>	<p>Non-state actors and Disabled Persons' Organizations produce a citizens' report on social protection and needs of marginalized and excluded groups</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Second Disability social protection programming workshop from supply and demand perspective completed in March 2022.</li> <li>• Report on disability social protection programming drafted.</li> <li>• Discussions held with SDGs Alliance for activating National Monitoring Committee and capacity building to be held in late August.</li> <li>• Discussions held with BRAC to utilize the LNOB Secretarial Platform and regional dialogues .</li> </ul>

**Key Activities and Results**

Disability Alliance on SDGs, CDD and SSPS program is in a strategic partnership, intertwining efforts in certain areas such as gathering the organisations for Person with Disabilities (OPDs) for workshops, field visits, national campaign and studies for understanding the demand and supply side of nonstate actors.

Disability Alliance on SDGs, Bangladesh is a platform of 27 prominent international and national organizations of and for people with disabilities working for the rights of people with disabilities in Bangladesh in alignment with the SDGs. The Alliance aims to contribute to the development initiatives of the Government of Bangladesh and other actors in implementing the SDGs targets and indicators.

After a successful first workshop on Mapping Workshop of Social Protection Programs of Organisation for person with disabilities on December 2021 attended by thirteen Organisation of Person Disabilities , a second consultation workshop was held in March 2022 attended by another twelve OPDs who delivered a presentation on their activities to present commitments and plans to further progress in the field of inclusive social protection, and address lessons from the pandemic social protection response for person with disabilities all over Bangladesh. Furthermore, there was a separate segment on listening to the Lives of PWDS where each person from the lifecycle group told their touching stories and their expectations from the government. The objective of the workshop was to find the major gaps and engagement of all stakeholders to further strengthen activities to Leave No One Behind.

The workshop was highly praised by GED Member Secretary - Md Kawser Ahmed and Principal Coordinator SDG Affairs Ms Zuena Aziz PMO and suggested for the recommendations to be presented soon to the table for further action and in currently under drafting.

According to the Allocation of Business of the Government of Bangladesh, the Ministry of Social Welfare is entrusted with the responsibility of dealing with development of persons with disabilities. As such, under the auspices of the Ministry of Social Welfare, a high-powered National Monitoring Committee has been constituted, comprising of representatives from other ministries and representatives of organizations of people with disabilities. As many as 46 Ministries and Departments are represented in the National Monitoring Committee through their focal points (not below the rank of a Joint Secretary). Other members of the Committee include representatives from leading human rights, women's rights, education rights & legal rights organizations. The Commissioner of the National Human Rights Commission, chief functionaries of Transparency International and the Chamber of Commerce & Industries are also included in the Monitoring Committee. SDG Alliance initiated the Social Welfare State minister to activate the National Monitoring Committee which was welcomed with a positive response and further actions are suggested to held frequent meetings after the National budget in August.

The LNOB Bangladesh platform has been active for more than 4 years and to take the collaboration into the next stage for contributing to the national SDG implementation and monitoring process through ensuring marginalised peoples' voices in the process a meeting was held with BRAC on -to understand how to ensure inclusiveness in the social protection system and how the platform can aid the process and facilitate the Government to People (G2P) payments for a timely and efficient delivery and the possible and additional allocations in the Social Safety Net schemes to address the need of the marginalised.

#### 4. Lessons Learned, Challenges, Major Risks and Mitigation Measures

**Operational:** Change in leadership and at policy level remains a valid risk for the project. It is a big concern in the ministries/divisions, particularly in terms of cooperation with many agencies, distribution of work over many wings within many divisions, and changes in ministry leadership. Because of the high attrition rate due to civil service transfer restrictions, data transmission is typically slow, necessitating follow-up, resulting in the depletion of capacity within ministries and the loss of institutional memory of focal points of the concerned ministries/divisions.

For example, the Secretary of Social Welfare, one of the ministry's key focal points, was expected to stay in her position because her retirement was only seven months away, and preparations were made accordingly. However, the Secretary was soon transferred to the Tariff Commission as a Member, causing a huge gap in coordination.



New Secretary for Women and Children's Affairs, Financial Institutions Division, and Education will be announced soon. Fatima Yasmin is also the new secretary for the Finance Division, who was previously a secretary at the Economic Relations Division. This promotion will be effective from July 17<sup>th</sup>, 2022.

The standard procedure is for new Secretaries to spend six months learning about their new portfolio, including project deliverables, expenditures, and other details, as well as changing subordinate leadership, portfolio, and other aspects.

All these leads to a backlog as it is often difficult to maintain the same approach for policy projects.

**Mitigation:** At the beginning of this year's reflection meeting, to mitigate the change in leadership challenges an induction toolkit was suggested. SSPS team accordingly took action and developed a ToR for Development of Social Protection Policy Toolkit for Government Officials Consisting of Reference and Learning Materials to Guide the Mainstreaming of NSSS Action Plan (Phase 2) and is in the bidding out process.

**Data:** Regularly obtaining and disseminating data for policymakers on social protection remains a challenging issue. For example, the Ministry of Social Welfare's national budget report is to a large degree compiled from manual entries from a multiple source. This makes it difficult for generating regular data and difficult in understanding and compiling disaggregated data across SSNS, e.g., age, sex, and other categories.

**Mitigation:** The M & E dashboard would be a timely reform that can be taken. There were suggestions during the meetings that emphasized on shortcut way of processing and disseminating data on a regular basis. Somewhere along the chain of data collection from the local level to the national level, perhaps it's possible to extract the data from that point for more timely aggregation. Any dashboard should prioritize regularity, preferably monthly, and be easily functionable on the front-end for a wide variety of GoB stakeholders to access, understand, and generate useful reports.

SSPS Team and the Cabinet Division, led by the Joint Secretary, travelled to district officials for consultation on social protection, particularly identifying implementation problems. It has been agreed that SSPS would meet with Senior Secretary, ICT for day-long consultations. The consultation could be followed by several presentations, including way out of using National Household Data (termed as Social Registry).

The dashboard could serve as a precursor to a single registry or as a stand-alone endeavour. Regardless, the NSSS's long-term goal is to create a single registry that pulls data from Line Ministries' MISs.

**Environmental:** Sudden floods has impeded the orientation and engagements of the district's officials of the Sylhet division.

**Mitigation:** Waiting for floods to recede and examine the situation to take further steps.

### *What Worked Well*

- Formulation of NSSS Action Plan II engaged Government Officials of 39 ministries which positively impacted the mindset: eagerness to understand the social protection reforms: engagement in the social protection implementation for bringing the change.
- After approval of NSSS, for the first time, the Honourable Prime Minister of GOB has given file approval to the NSSS Action Plan Phase II (2021-2026).
- The National Budget Speech of FY 2022- 2023 declared that the government is working on National Social Insurance Scheme (NSIS). SSPS program conducted the Social Insurance study contributed to

development of the Universal Private Pension Scheme in Bangladesh.

### What did not work well

- National Executive Committee is the highest policy-making body for Person with Disabilities (PwD) which does not sit for formal meetings frequently due to frequent changes in leaderships both at the ministry level and Chair of the Committee which indicates a lack of coordination and transfer/retirement.

## 5. Financial Summary

UNDP Bangladesh had received 1<sup>st</sup> payment on 16 June 2021 with the amount Aus\$: 2,210,396 equivalents to US\$ 1,712,158. \*July 2021 - June 2022 Total Budget Was 2,210,396 AUD / USD 1,712,158; Expenditure July 2021 -June 2022 is AUD 1,590,893 / USD 1,232,557 USD (72% Expenditure of Budget).

Item	Budget		Expenditure					
	2021 - 2023	2021 - 2023	July to December 2021		January - June 2022*		July 2021 - June 2022	
	AUD	USD	AUD	USD	AUD	USD	AUD	USD
1.1 : Technical Units to Support 5 LMs to Implement the Reforms Plan	411,209	301,962	79,216	61,400	167,830	130,000	247,046	191,400
1.2 : Knowledge and Policy Innovation for Advancing Social Protection Reforms	408,688	303,509	50,058	38,800	103,280	80,000	153,338	118,800
1.3: COVID-19 Policy Response	142,400	104,906	10,063	7,800	19,107	14,800	29,170	22,600
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>962,297</b>	<b>710,378</b>	<b>139,337</b>	<b>108,000</b>	<b>290,217</b>	<b>224,800</b>	<b>429,554</b>	<b>332,800</b>
2.1 : Research Fund	357,447	268,888	58,960	45,700	118,772	92,000	177,732	137,700
2.2 : Stakeholder Engagement and Dissemination on Research and Evidences	223,600	163,487	20,126	15,600	41,312	32,000	61,438	47,600
2.3: Pilot on Old Age Allowance and Persons with Disabilities					0	0		
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>581,047</b>	<b>432,374</b>	<b>79,087</b>	<b>61,300</b>	<b>160,084</b>	<b>124,000</b>	<b>239,171</b>	<b>185,300</b>
3.1 : Improving NSSS M&E	271,984	204,742	47,736	37,000	109,735	85,000	157,471	122,000
3.2 : Gender Mainstreaming Social Protection Reforms	122,560	92,236	13,547	10,500	28,273	21,900	41,820	32,400
3.3 : Support to CMC Coordination for Strengthening Accountability	160,058	118,994	18,836	14,600	42,603	33,000	61,439	47,600
3.4: Stakeholder Engagement on	148,355	107,361	3,870	3,000	7,341	5,686	11,211	8,686

Development of NSSS 2026+									
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>702,957</b>	<b>523,333</b>	<b>83,989</b>	<b>65,100</b>	<b>187,952</b>	<b>145,586</b>	<b>271,941</b>	<b>210,686</b>	
4.1: CSO / DPO Platform for Influencing Social Protection	116,960	86,280	12,902	10,000	14,847	11,500	27,748	21,500	
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>116,960</b>	<b>86,280</b>	<b>12,902</b>	<b>10,000</b>	<b>14,847</b>	<b>11,500</b>	<b>27,748</b>	<b>21,500</b>	
Human Resources	903,817	668,644	106,399	82,470	219,470	170,000	325,869	252,470	
Operations	190,247	142,163	30,319	23,500	71,005	55,000	101,324	78,500	
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>1,094,064</b>	<b>810,807</b>	<b>136,718</b>	<b>105,970</b>	<b>290,475</b>	<b>225,000</b>	<b>427,193</b>	<b>330,970</b>	
Project Monitoring	166,988	124,640	25,803	20,000	51,640	40,000	77,443	60,000	
Project Evaluation	42,720	29,853			0	0			
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>209,708</b>	<b>154,493</b>	<b>25,803</b>	<b>20,000</b>	<b>51,640</b>	<b>40,000</b>	<b>77,443</b>	<b>60,000</b>	
<b>All Subtotal</b>	<b>3,667,033</b>	<b>2,717,665</b>	<b>477,835</b>	<b>370,370</b>	<b>995,214</b>	<b>770,886</b>	<b>1,473,049</b>	<b>1,141,256</b>	
<b>GMS Subtotal</b>	<b>293,363</b>	<b>217,414</b>	<b>38,227</b>	<b>29,630</b>	<b>79,617</b>	<b>61,671</b>	<b>117,844</b>	<b>91,301</b>	
<b>Total</b>	<b>3,960,396</b>	<b>2,935,079</b>	<b>516,062</b>	<b>400,000</b>	<b>1,074,831</b>	<b>832,557</b>	<b>1,590,893</b>	<b>1,232,557</b>	

## 6. Way Forward

The SSPS Programme will be taking into account the following activities in the next six months and complete implementation of some outstanding issues to make a further impact:

SL.	3&4 Quarter Key ACTIVITIES	Description of the Activity	Expected Timeline
1.	Consultation dialogues	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Single registry MIS – a road map development</li> <li>Social insurance situation assessment, framework outline of social insurance and pension reform re-assessment initiative started by developing ToR for further review of the social insurance</li> <li>Development of Old Age Allowance and Disability Benefits Universalism pilot proposals</li> <li>World Disability Day on 4 December 2021</li> <li>Models for shock responsive social protection including urban social protection</li> </ul>	18 July Q3 July Q3 December Q4

SL.	3&4 Quarter Key ACTIVITIES	Description of the Activity	Expected Timeline
2.	Dialogues/workshops with GoB counterparts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• First high-level reflection workshop and dialogue with 39 ministries on NSSS institutional reform</li> <li>• Second high-level consultative dialogue on NSSS 2026+ with key ministries</li> </ul> <p>High-level field visits in hard-to-reach areas on shock-responsive, climate-inducive social protection programs</p>	<p>2-4 Sept. 2022 (3Q).</p> <p>14-16 October 2022 (4Q)</p> <p>November 2022 (4Q)</p>
3.	Policy coordination meetings	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• CMC, CMC Sub-committee, NSSS Thematic Clusters and CMC focal point meetings</li> <li>• NSSS Action Plan – Phase II launch, 39 ministries implementation baseline development, CODI analytics and M&amp;E Dashboard</li> </ul>	<p>3 &amp; 4 Qs.</p> <p>21-23 August Q3</p>
4	GRS, NSIS, Pension Policy, and Technical Units at MoSW and MOF	Brainstorming on GRS, NSIS, Pension Policy, and Technical Units at MoSW and MOF	14- 16 <sup>th</sup> Oct
5.	Research	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• M&amp;E web-based dashboard, and M&amp;E report 2022</li> <li>• Pilot designs: Old Age, PwDs, and Social Insurance</li> <li>• Shock-responsive social protection models</li> <li>• LNOB communication strategy and plan</li> <li>• Single registry MIS road map</li> <li>• Blue Economy background papers</li> <li>• SSPS Programme Mid-term Review and RTPP</li> <li>• Social protection capacity needs assessments of five key ministries</li> <li>• Non-state Actor Report</li> </ul>	3 & 4 Qs.



## Annexes

### Annex 1: List of Terms of References

SI	Name of TOR	Progress Status
1	Hiring a Firm for conducting a study on Assessment, scope, and a framework for introducing NSSS, M&E Dashboard Development	Completed
2	Hiring a Firm to Review Social Insurance Diagnostics and Feasible Model for Bangladesh	Completed
3	TOR - Company - Road Map Development a National Single Registry Social Protection MIS - SPPS Programme	TOR developed, waiting for procurement review.
4	TOR - Institutional - Comprehensive Social Protection Leave No One Behind (LNOB) Communications Policy Development	TOR developed, waiting for procurement review.
5	TOR - Institutional - Comprehensive Social Insurance Analysis and Assessment	TOR developed, waiting for procurement review.
6	TOR - Institutional - Prototype Development of a Web-based National Social Security Strategy (NSSS) Monitoring Evaluation Dashboard	TOR developed, waiting for procurement review.
7	Terms of Reference for Development of Induction SSPS Toolkit	TOR developed, waiting for procurement review.
8	TOR - Institutional - Background Paper for the Sustainable Development of Bangladesh's Blue Economy	TOR developed, waiting for procurement review.

### Annex 2: Key Meeting Links from Jan – June 2022

SL	Name of the Meeting/Workshops	Date of the Event	Key decisions
1.	PIC Meeting of the Central Management Committee (CMC) on Social Protection	23 January February 2022	<a href="https://socialprotection.gov.bd/wp-content/uploads/2022/07/SSSP-PIC-meeting-minutes-2022-01-23.pdf">https://socialprotection.gov.bd/wp-content/uploads/2022/07/SSSP-PIC-meeting-minutes-2022-01-23.pdf</a>
2.	Meeting of M& E Committee	24 July 2022	<a href="https://socialprotection.gov.bd/en/2022/07/20/10th-meeting-of-me-committee-held/">https://socialprotection.gov.bd/en/2022/07/20/10th-meeting-of-me-committee-held/</a>
3.	Meeting with CMC Focal Point Officers on Social Protection	26 <sup>th</sup> June 2022	<a href="https://socialprotection.gov.bd/en/2022/06/26/meeting-of-focal-point-officers-on-national-social-security-held/">https://socialprotection.gov.bd/en/2022/06/26/meeting-of-focal-point-officers-on-national-social-security-held/</a>

4.	Meeting of the Social Allowance Cluster	27 <sup>th</sup> June 2022	<a href="https://socialprotection.gov.bd/wp-content/uploads/2022/07/Social-Allowance-Cluster-27-June-2022.pdf">https://socialprotection.gov.bd/wp-content/uploads/2022/07/Social-Allowance-Cluster-27-June-2022.pdf</a>
5.	Meeting of the Food Security and Disaster Assistance Cluster	28 June 2022	<a href="https://socialprotection.gov.bd/wp-content/uploads/2022/07/Food-Security-and-Disaster-Allowance-28-June-2022.pdf">https://socialprotection.gov.bd/wp-content/uploads/2022/07/Food-Security-and-Disaster-Allowance-28-June-2022.pdf</a>
6.	Meeting of the Social Insurance Cluster	27 June 2022	<a href="https://socialprotection.gov.bd/wp-content/uploads/2022/07/Social-Insurance-Cluster-27-June-2022.pdf">https://socialprotection.gov.bd/wp-content/uploads/2022/07/Social-Insurance-Cluster-27-June-2022.pdf</a>
7.	Meeting of the Labour and Livelihood Cluster	28 June 2022	<a href="https://socialprotection.gov.bd/wp-content/uploads/2022/07/Labour-and-Livelihood-Cluster-28-June-2022.pdf">https://socialprotection.gov.bd/wp-content/uploads/2022/07/Labour-and-Livelihood-Cluster-28-June-2022.pdf</a>
8.	Meeting of the Human Development Social Empowerment Cluster	29 <sup>th</sup> June 2022	<a href="https://socialprotection.gov.bd/wp-content/uploads/2022/07/Human-Development-and-Social-Empowerment-29-June-2022.pdf">https://socialprotection.gov.bd/wp-content/uploads/2022/07/Human-Development-and-Social-Empowerment-29-June-2022.pdf</a>
9.	Meeting of LCG Group	21 <sup>st</sup> June 2021	<a href="https://socialprotection.gov.bd/en/2022/06/21/meeting-on-lcg-on-governance-and-social-protection-was-held-today">https://socialprotection.gov.bd/en/2022/06/21/meeting-on-lcg-on-governance-and-social-protection-was-held-today</a>

### Annex C: Gantt Chart

Activity	2021 (Jan – Dec)				2022 (Jan – Dec)				2023 (Jan – Jun)		Remarks	
	1Q	2Q	3Q	4Q	1Q	2Q	3Q	4Q	1Q	2Q		
<b>SSPS Programme Inception Phase (July – December 2021) for DFAT Fund</b>												
TPP approval												The Ministry of Planning of the Government of Bangladesh has approved the SSPS Programme revised Technical Project Proposal.
SSPS Programme Workshop with stakeholders												The NSSS Action Plan preparation CMC sub-committee has discussed the SSPS Programme’s initiatives and inclusion in the NSSS Action Plan. Project Implementation Committee (PIC) agreed on a Reflection Workshop with key line ministries/divisions to discuss the social protection reforms. A reflection workshop was held with DFAT, and the meeting agreed on several decisions. Recently, the Cabinet Secretary agreed to attend a three-day long reflection discussion with social protection implementation ministries outside of Dhaka in end July. The M&E dashboard feasibility and social insurance review study appraised to Member, GED. NSSS Cabinet Secretary will attend the social insurance review stakeholder

Activity	2021 (Jan – Dec)				2022 (Jan – Dec)				2023 (Jan – Jun)		Remarks
	1Q	2Q	3Q	4Q	1Q	2Q	3Q	4Q	1Q	2Q	
											consultation, but not before June 25. The stakeholder consultation depends on availability of Labour, FID/FD Secretaries, and Member, GED presence. M& E (CMC sub Committee ) thoroughly reviewed the social insurance situation and pilot models outlined in NSIS .
Administrative approval secured for establishing technical units <sup>4</sup>											Two technical units (GED and Cabinet Division) are functioning, and provision will be made to continue providing support to the key line ministries from these units. Two existing units are functioning well. Earlier it was agreed that SSPS Programme will not establish any physical unit in key ministries, rather uses the existing offices and alternate arrangement due to COVID pandemic, and office closer. All key ministries were given TA support in developing the NSSS Action Plan, Phase – II(2021-2026). Experts will be mobilized to MoSW, and Finance Division depends on the green signals from the new leadership of these ministries. Discussion held 3 times with key officials of MoF to provide support to the SPBFU and Developing the private insurance authority .Capacity need assessment in progress will pinpoint the requirements of TA support in future. SSPS program at CVRS and social protection wing of Cabint Div providing TA support .Two ICT expert ,1 social protection expert and 1 OAA and Disability expert placed .
M&E Workshop and finalized M&E Plans including DFAT reporting template											Draft M&E tool has been finalized. SSPS Programme half-yearly and annual reporting template have been developed.
Review of governance arrangements of SSPS Programme											23 January 2022.
Concept note and revision of data collection, usage, and storage, table generation for NSSS M&E framework and M&E dashboard											National social protection M&E situation analysis for establishing the NSSS M&E dashboard is in the final contract out level. The draft study has been completed recently. On the basis of study, the ToR of the M&E dashboard has been drafted, which is under the review process.
Concept notes and ToRs on Universal Old Age Allowance (OAA), Disability Allowance, National Social Insurance Scheme (NSIS), and Single Registry MISs											Concept notes for OAA and PwDs drafted. Review the current social protection study (and inclusion of occupation health, and additional models, including opinions of concerned academics, experts) is under the final stage to contract out. Discussions held with the Secretary, Statistics and Informatics Division and Member, GED, and the Cabinet Division will

<sup>4</sup> Each Technical Unit led by one specialist, assisted by one supporting staff including technical staff – members located at CD, GED, and UNDP.



Activity	2021 (Jan – Dec)				2022 (Jan – Dec)				2023 (Jan – Jun)		Remarks
	1Q	2Q	3Q	4Q	1Q	2Q	3Q	4Q	1Q	2Q	
											convene a meeting to present a plan to develop the implementation plan for Single Registry MIS. Also, the M&E dashboard assessment study will try to sort out how social protection MISs are reflected in the M&E dashboard. Discussion held with Social Welfare Institute on designing the pilot of OAA, and PwDs. A private sector company was initially identified for piloting social insurance. The concept notes were reviewed two stages, internally within UNDP, and by GoB counterparts: SDG Coordinator Office, PMO, Member, GED, and Social Protection and CRVS Section of the Cabinet Division, and a Professor of the Institute of Social Welfare of University of Dhaka. Developing ToRs for pilot proposals is underway. Pilot titled OAA and PWD Concept Notes will be placed in the Social Protection research Workshop .
Revised NSSS Action Plan 2021-26 incorporates gender, communication, advocacy, and urban action plans and MTR recommendations											NSSS Action Plan (Phase II) has been approved. NSSS Action Plan 2021-26 (Phase II) is a reform plan that has been developed under the guidance of a sub-committee, headed by the Secretary, Coordination, and Reform of the Cabinet Division. The CMC focal points of the respective ministries actively participated in preparing their respective action plans as guided by the NSSS. The plan has incorporated gender, disability, communication, and urban issues. It is expected that the Cabinet Secretary will appraise the whole plan to the Prime Minister. The Cabinet Secretary is among the few officials, who can physically meet the Prime Minister regularly.
NSSS Action Plan 2 <sup>nd</sup> phase draft revision and finalization with gender inclusivity for printing, launching and dissemination											CMC approves the NSSS Action Plan (Phase – II). The decision on launching the plan will come out soon. More likely in February. The Prime Minister read the Action Plan Phase II, and gave her file approval of the plan in March. The Cabinet Secretary personally reviewed the whole draft plan and gave consent for draft print. The Cabinet Secretary also agrees to invite the Prime Minister to launch the plan, followed by developing a baseline of the implementation of the action plan of line ministries in August. But keep in mind that the Government usually keep a low profile in launching anything in August. A proposal sent to PMO for a suitable date of launching.

Activity	2021 (Jan – Dec)				2022 (Jan – Dec)				2023 (Jan – Jun)		Remarks
	1Q	2Q	3Q	4Q	1Q	2Q	3Q	4Q	1Q	2Q	
Situation and policy assessment of shock-responsive social protection and Urban Social Protection Models <sup>5</sup>											Based on the in-house consultation workshop, a brief concept paper has been drafted. A climate adaptive concept note has been drafted and reviewed by climate experts at UNDP. Field visits continued, and several models were identified. The urban programming analysis has been continued, and it is expected that at least one shock-response model draft will be placed from stakeholder consultation by the last quarter. Recent climate change-induced flood has destroyed the habitancy of Sylhet division which is a grave concern for Policymakers. Developing a model to response climate inclusive adaptive social protection to address the displacement due to flood in Syleht region – discussion progressing with the dept of disaster mgt Dhaka University for conducting study and shock responsive model development.
Consultation dialogues <sup>6</sup>											The National SDGs Coordinator attended one consultative workshop and guided for mapping out the disability programming in Bangladesh. Based on her guidance, another consultative workshop was held with the OPDs. A one-to-one dialogue was held with the SDGs coordinator and discussed disability, the Ashroyan (Rural Housing) project, and interest-free microcredit to the poor and impact on multi-dimensional poverty, as well as model fit for urban social protection programming. Blue Economy linked to Social protection ,climate change, marginalised community ,women vulnerability and economy prosperity- dialogues held as a background to prepare Blue Economy Strategy In Bangladesh.
Policy coordination meeting(s)											CMC meetings met three times and discuss the NSSS Action Plan (Phase – II) at length.
<b>Develop four policy proposals (OAA, Person with disabilities, NSIS, COVID-19) and draft NSSS 2026+</b>											
Concept note for piloting developed (scope, coverage, area, transfer amount, partners, gender-responsive methodology)											Concept notes of OAA, Disability drafted, will be placed for dialogues, and thereafter bidding process will start for designing the pilots. The concept notes were reviewed two stages, internally within UNDP, and by GoB counterparts: SDG Coordinator Office, PMO, Member,

<sup>5</sup> In pandemic and natural disaster situations, such as COVID-19 and floods, related to disabled and marginalized groups, their inherited coping strategy for short, medium, and long-term, with focus on urban areas.

<sup>6</sup> On NSSS Action Plan 2<sup>nd</sup> phase and implementing ministries' progress; SSPS Programme first phase under DFAT Fund in particular concept notes of pilot studies on Universal Old Age Allowance (OAA); Universal Disability Allowance; and National Social Insurance Scheme (NSIS); NSSS revised M&E framework; Urban social protection models; and Single Registry MIS Action Plan. The conference will also make provision of social protection programmes implemented by other UN agencies and DPs in particular EU, NGO Programmes, Gender, DPs' social protection programmes for Person with disabilities and marginalized groups, the private sector's participation in social protection G2P mobile transfers or e-payment.

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	1Q	2Q	3Q	4Q	1Q	2Q	3Q	4Q	1Q	2Q	
											GED, and Social Protection and CRVS Section of the Cabinet Division, and a Professor of the Institute of Social Welfare of University of Dhaka. Developing ToRs for pilot proposals is underway. The project is expecting to complete it if current scenario prevails.
Three research pilots drafted (examination of options for expanding the fiscal space for universal old age, PwD, and Social Insurance including a link to NID)											The private company, international and national experts with SSPS and UNDP Technical Team. National and international experts are involved in writing the ToRs.
Three studies finalized (PwD accessing social protection, targeting, and selection; examination of options for expanding fiscal space for universal old-age allowance, PwD, and social insurance)											
A high-level task team / sub-committee / CMC / Thematic Clusters / Focal Points of CMC secured to provide a framework for NSIS based on the feasibility study											
Line ministries trained on key reform and policy proposal areas (evidence on universal old age, PwD, social insurance, creating fiscal space, budget preparation, social insurance, grievance redress, accountability)											The private company, international and national experts with SSPS and UNDP Technical Team.
The draft pilot design developed with Govt. co-financing											
Technical units supporting MoLE and MoF to start developing the draft policy proposals (OAA, PwD, NSIS and Private Pension)											Technical Units: CD, GED has been functioning. All key ministries were given TA support in developing the NSSS Action Plan, Phase – II. Experts will be mobilized to MoSW, and Finance Division depends on the green signals from the new leadership of these ministries. Technical expertise provided by social economist to MOLE and GED ,MOF. Capacity need assemnet in progress to identify in providing TA in future.
MoSW is implementing the pilots with support from the technical unit											
<b>Conduct research and pilot for policy innovation on inclusive social security systems</b>											
Research on selected identified issues											Life-cycle-based cash transfer programme concerning inflation; incorrect age in NID causing complications for Old Age Allowance; the opportunity cost of targeting errors and review of the current selection process of social protection programmes; and identifying challenges for PwDs in accessing social protection programmes and allowances - research through a private company. Apart, two research works (assessment of M&E and

Activity	2021 (Jan – Dec)				2022 (Jan – Dec)				2023 (Jan – Jun)		Remarks
	1Q	2Q	3Q	4Q	1Q	2Q	3Q	4Q	1Q	2Q	
											framework and feasibility of dashboard; and social insurance) and urban model analysis, ToRs are under preparation on identify the research needs of social protection supplement to NSSS 2026+, post COVID recovery and scope of creating fiscal space financing to social protection universalism (Old Age and Disability) and implementation using NIDs, scope of implementing localization of single registry MIS, background paper on blue economy, implementation challenges, institutionalization and prospect of socioeconomic development.
Review of consistency of national policies with NSSS and SSPs completed											The preliminary information collection was completed on public policies taken by different ministries. National social/public policies insistency with NSSS, a study outline has been shared in the coordination meeting with GED. The study is progressing. A review framework for understanding the social beneficiary selection process has been drafted and shared in the coordination meeting of GED.
Needs assessment for shock-responsive schemes related to COVID-19 and natural disasters and focused on PwDs and marginalized groups and their short-medium-long-term coping strategies, with corresponding GoB funding needs											LGD implementing an urban poverty reduction programme in 60+ city corporations, municipalities across Bangladesh, and this initiative will mainly focus on social protection evidence from the urban programme. The Cabinet Division, along with the SSPS Programme team in collaboration with LGD, will do massive field visits, and dialogues to identify the models. A private company will be hired to carry out a cost-benefit analysis of identified models. A climate adaptive concept note has been drafted and reviewed by climate experts at UNDP. Social Protection Programme response COVID -19 shocks – a policy paper reviewed by Member, GED and Research and Innovation Wing of UNDP. Field visits continued, and several models were identified. The urban programming analysis has been continued, and it is expected that at least one shock-response model draft will be placed from stakeholder consultation by the last quarter.
Urban social protection models											
Leaving No One Behind Communication Strategy											Will target disabled population, people living in hard-to-reach areas, marginalized group. Three times discussions were held with key stakeholders (BRAC for LNOB secretariat, and SDGs Alliance Platform). ToR is under preparation process. Several steps need to

Activity	2021 (Jan – Dec)				2022 (Jan – Dec)				2023 (Jan – Jun)		Remarks
	1Q	2Q	3Q	4Q	1Q	2Q	3Q	4Q	1Q	2Q	
											be followed in preparing the strategy and plan.
NSSS 2 <sup>nd</sup> MTR and SSPS Programme evaluation											SSPS Team along with the private company, international and national consultants. Discussion held with IMED for conducting project evaluation from GoB part in the end December or early January of next year. From project part, UNDP will follow the standard procedure of conduct the mid-term evaluation through a competitive bidding. Will be initiated in December 2022.
Gender-responsive adaptive social protection report published, disseminated by GED member, after approval from the Honourable Minister for Planning											Report disseminated.
Compendium of Bangladesh Social Protection Research report published, disseminated by GED, after approval from Minister for Planning											Report disseminated.
NSSS 1 <sup>st</sup> MTR report published, disseminated by GED, after approval from Minister for Planning											Report disseminated.
Social protection-related Op-eds, dissemination of research findings, and support to policymakers with write-ups, data, findings, others											For Member, GED, PMO, and website update with information, data, others. Website refurbishing has been progressing, and will be more interactive link to dashboard, and platform of the Members of Parliament constituency programme implementation mapping implemented by another project of UNDP.
<b>Ensure gender-responsive policy advice, and accountability tools for sustaining reform efforts and pace</b>											
1.1 Gender responsive policy advice and accountability tools are made available to the line ministries to demonstrate their accountability for social protection reforms											
CMC meetings											Based on decisions of the 15 <sup>th</sup> CMC meeting held in June 2021, the 16 <sup>th</sup> meeting approved the NSSS Action Plan 2021-26. The Plan has been sent to PMO for Prime Minister's vetting. M& E dashboard situation study completed ,establishing reform dashboard in progress and National M & E report will reflect gender disaggregated data .single registry MIS of social protection will link to Surokha database, NID ,NHD database ,population register and Programme MIS data including insurance microinsurance data in collaboration with ICT division and SID,others.Will set a policy level accountability tool on Social Protection.
CMC Focal Points meetings											

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	1Q	2Q	3Q	4Q	1Q	2Q	3Q	4Q	1Q	2Q	
CMC Sub-committee: Action Plan Preparation and Implementation Committee (NSSS Taskforce Committee) meetings and APA meetings											Met four times. Mentioned in the Outputs Key ctivities.
CMC Sub-committee: NSSS M&E Committee meeting											Meeting held on 20 <sup>th</sup> July 2022.
NSSS thematic clusters meetings (need-based)											Thematic cluster meetings held from 26 <sup>th</sup> to 28 <sup>th</sup> June 2022.Meeting held in
LCG Poverty meeting											Discussion between DFAT and FCDO colleagues and GED counterparts held. GED has been trying to activate this committee.
LCG Governance meeting											The first meeting called on 21 June 2022.
GO-NGO Committee meeting											Meeting held with BRAC for joint field visits and review the Ultra Poor Graduation, and micro-insurance along with GoB's livelihood programmes and scoping for urban social protection programming. Number of meetings held with BRAC advocacy and UPG wings, regarding identifying the best evidence-based programming, stakeholder consultations for a joint programming on the basis of MoU signed between UNDP and BRAC.
National Committee of Disability Persons Organization (DPO) meeting											
Project Board meeting											23 January 2022
Orientation, Conference, dialogues, workshops, and other meetings											Orientations on NSSS Action Plan preparation, consultative dialogues/meetings related to social protection policy reform held. Two to three dialogues are in plan, depends on the availability of key secretaries. One dialogue held in response to PMO-GED urgent call on the Blue economy and prospect of Bangladesh.
Concept note for revised M&E framework available for CMC sub-committee / M&E Committee review											The M&E situation analysis report will provide an outline of the revised M&E framework (showing micro-level indicators) and will place before M&E Committee. The M&E study incorporated the revised NSSS M&E framework and revised framework will play an instrumental role in the M&E dashboard in the second phase. The study findings shared with GED and seeking out date for NSSS M&E Committee meeting/CMC focal points meeting to share the study findings.
ToRs were developed for commissioning a design study for a web-based social protection dashboard											Study in the process of commissioning -based study, an M&E dashboard will be developed. M&E dashboard draft ToR is under review process.

Activity	2021 (Jan – Dec)				2022 (Jan – Dec)				2023 (Jan – Jun)		Remarks
	1Q	2Q	3Q	4Q	1Q	2Q	3Q	4Q	1Q	2Q	
Web-based NSSF dashboard											SSPS Team and Expert company will start with a trial basis initially with key ministries. The Technical Units and technical staff of the SSPS Programme will be involved and build the capacity of the GoB counterparts on Dashboard. The CMC will use this dashboard for policymaking at end of 2022 and early 2023 meetings, and findings will be incorporated in NSSF 2026+. Work in progress.
Revised M&E framework adopted, and report incorporated into a dashboard											
The dashboard is trialled in 2022 and populated with sex and age disaggregated data including M&E framework data											
Set of gender-focused indicators addressing practical and strategic needs of women for SSPs developed and endorsed NSSF M&E Committee											
Single registry MISs Action Plan / Master Plan											Action Plan identifies relevant ministries' roles and responsibilities, and MISs will be integrated with the M&E dashboard on pilot-basis. SSPS Team will develop the action plan, while a private company will make provision of MISs and M&E dashboard integration. Localization of single registry MIS to response the COVID pandemic shocks – Gopalganj model visited by Member, GED, Secretary SID, and agreed to replicate. The Cabinet Secretary gave responsibility to Senior Secretary, ICT Division to coordinate the single registry MIS through a stakeholder consultation. The outcome of the consultation will provide guidance developing the road map plan, and responsibility of each individual ministry. A ToR has been drafted. Review is undergoing. Single Registry workshop dialogue held on 18th July with ICT division.
Line ministries are regularly updating reform progress data on the dashboard											the dashboard captures the line ministries reform data would be done in the first phase of dashboard development, which will start in the third quarter.
Enable NGOs/DPOs to include the priorities of marginalized and excluded groups in SP policies											
Annual review and reflection workshop											January or February of 2022 with key implementing ministries to assess the implementation and reform progress and constraints. Reflection workshop held between DFAT, and UNDP with the participation of the Cabinet Division. Frequent one to one, and group meetings were held between the Project and DFAT and UNDP management. Cabinet Secretary recently gave kind consent to attend a

Activity	2021 (Jan – Dec)				2022 (Jan – Dec)				2023 (Jan – Jun)		Remarks
	1Q	2Q	3Q	4Q	1Q	2Q	3Q	4Q	1Q	2Q	
											three-day long reflection discussion with social protection implementation ministries outside of Dhaka in end July.
Supporting non-state actors and DPs to create a platform to participate in social protection decision making											Support will be provided to the SDG platform for DPs, and a national conference on the observance of World Disability Day by the SSPS Team and DP secretariat. Two workshops held with SDG Platform for DPS on Mapping of Social Protection with Principal Coordinator SDG Affairs on March 2022.
Customization of social protection communication strategy for leaving no one behind endorsed by DP platform											Consultative dialogues with the PwDs/DPOs.
Non-state actors and DPs produce a citizens' report on social protection and needs of marginalized and excluded groups											After approval of concept and content, a private company may be hired, and national and sub-national level consultative dialogues, evidence, and collection of findings will support the development of the draft for approval of CMC focal points/CMC for publication. Assessment of demand and supply perspective progressing with DPOs. A ToR is under preparation phase.
Orientation on NSSS Action Plan 2nd phase											For the concerned officials of implementing and coordinating ministries provide progress as baseline and implementation of the social protection programmes including reforms. Field level orientation and consultation identifying the implementation challenges begin.
Keyline ministry decision-makers have enhanced knowledge of and capability to design and implement gender-responsive social protection policy and SSPs because of targeted capacity building											Bangladesh Social Protection Conference builds the knowledge base and capacity of the key programme planners, implementors, and reformists.



Annex: D Beneficiary Coverage

Name of Programme	Beneficiary (2018-19) (Lakh)Revised	Beneficiary (2019-20) (Lakh)Revised	Beneficiary (2020-21) (Lakh)(Revised)	Beneficiary (2021-22) (Lakh)	Beneficiary (2021-22) (Lakh)(Revised)	Beneficiary (2022-23) (Lakh)
Old Age Allowance	40.00	44.00	49.00	57.01	57.01	57.01
Allowances for the Widow, Deserted and Destitute Women	14.00	17	20.50	24.75	24.75	24.75
Allowances for the Financially Insolvent Disabled	10.00	18	18	20.08	20.08	23.65

Source: Ministry of Finance