

DFAT Support to UNDP Social Security Policy Support (SSPS) Programme

Annual Report 2021



Principal Coordinator, SDGs of the Prime Minister's Office, Ms. Zuena Aziz speaking as Chief Guest on the eve of Observance of PwDs, December 2021

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The Cabinet Division and General Economics Division of the Government of Bangladesh and United Nations Development Programme Bangladesh

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Table of Contents

1. Executive Summary	1
2. Summary of Progress	4
3. Progress: Key Activities and Results, 2021	6
3.1 Results Reporting	6
3.2 (a) What Worked Well.....	11
3.2 (b) What Did Not Work Well.....	12
4 Lessons Learned- Major Risks and Mitigation Measures	14
5 Partnerships and Sustainability	15
6. Financial Summary, Effectiveness and Value for Money	16
7. Way Forward	18
Annex - A: Some important policy decisions in 2021 with web-based links	19
Annex - B: Gantt Chart of SSPS Programme Implementation 2021-23	20
Annex - C: SSPS Programme Logframe Progress	25

Figures and Table

Figure 1.1: Trends in annual social protection budget allocation (FY 2013-2022)	1
Table 1.1: Trends in old age allocations during FY 2014 – 2022 (in billion BDT)	2
Table 1.2: Trends in PwDs allocations during FY 2014 – 2022 (in billion BDT)	2
Table 2.1 Brief progress on the expected results of the first phase	5

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

1. Executive Summary

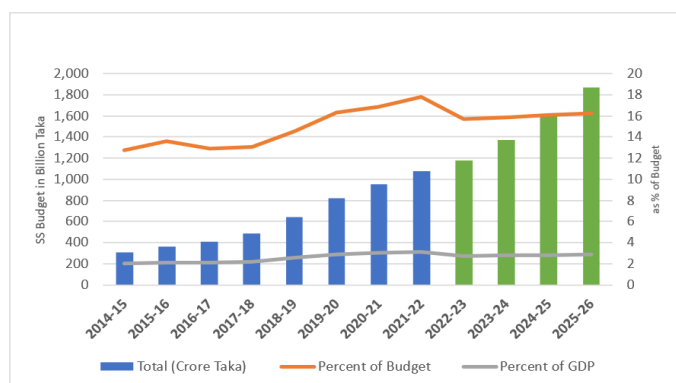
The social protection has assumed greater prominence and played important role to address the ravages caused by the COVID-19 pandemic. Bangladesh first detected its COVID-19 case in March 2020, followed by a country-wide conditional lockdown, which caused immense pressure on the economy and people's livelihood. Economic activities came at a stand-still, crippling the livelihood, especially of the poor and marginalized groups across the lifecycle both in formal and informal sectors.

Until the COVID-19 contagion, Bangladesh made impressive progress in socio-economic development and poverty reduction. Aided by prudent macroeconomic management annual economic growth continued to remain brisk above 6 percent in real terms. With stable population and rising GDP growth per capita income rose to USD 2,500 plus in 2021. The GDP size expanded to USD 416 billion in 2021-22 fiscal year compared to USD 411 billion in the previous year. Notwithstanding rising food price, overall inflation remained below 6 percent. Prudent fiscal management kept the fiscal deficit within 5 percent, despite pressured by lingering Rohingya refugee influx and the COVID-19 pandemic. Despite missing the ambitious target, uptick in government revenue collection helped to announce large stimulus package amounting USD 22.02 billion.

Exports, despite an initial dip bounced back in the second half of 2021. Remittances took a hit despite a rising trend in the first quarter. Larger trade deficit caused narrower current account surplus, which was well within the sustainable limit. Bangladesh's low debt to GDP ratio contributed to overall debt sustainability. Sustained strengthening of the foreign reserve was also a positive development.

Government's budget allocation for social protection programmes shows a sustained rise during the fiscal year 2013-14 to 2021-22 (figure 1). During the said period, budget provisions for social protection rose from 12.3 percent to 17.8 percent, while the social protection budget as a percentage of GDP was 2.3 percent to 3.1 percent. In addition, a medium-term projection up to the fiscal year (FY) 2026 reveals that budget allocation for social protection would slightly decline to 16.3 percent, while its ratio to GDP will increase to 3.0 percent. Despite, the rise in the absolute amount, the projected share of budget allocation would moderate due to higher-budget size.

Figure – 1.1: Trends in annual social protection budget allocation (FY 2013-2022)¹



The current social security programmes reflect the Government's response to support the poor and the vulnerable population to manage COVID-19 risks. The government strongly responded to the pandemic through both vertically and horizontally expanding the existing social protection programmes and simultaneously introducing new programmes that significantly impacted saving both lives and livelihood of the vulnerable people. To date, the Government has announced 28

stimulus packages (fiscal and one-time entitlement support) involving more than Taka 1876.79 billion being implemented through public and private sectors during 2020-22 time.

While Bangladesh is advancing towards an ageing society the government is increasingly ramping up social protection support to the old age population. Importantly, the government currently more emphasized on social protection as a basic human right enshrined in the country's constitution. Accordingly, the government made a commitment to bring the country's old age population under universal social protection coverage by 2025. The government has begun financing universal old age allowance in 250

¹ Source: Ministry of Finance, 2021

poverty-prone sub-districts, which is half of the total sub-districts of Bangladesh. Table 1.1 reveals an rising trend in old age allowance as a percentage of budget and GDP.

Table 1.1: Trends in old age allocations during FY 2014 – 2022 (in billion BDT)

Fiscal Year (FY)	Old Age Allowance	% Budget	% GDP
2012-13	8.9	0.47	0.09
2013-14	9.8	0.45	0.08
2014-15	13.1	0.55	0.09
2015-16	14.4	0.54	0.08
2016-17	18.9	0.60	0.10
2017-18	21.0	0.57	0.09
2018-19	24.0	0.54	0.09
2019-20	26.4	0.53	0.09
2020-21	29.4	0.55	0.10
2021-22	34.4	0.57	0.10

Source: Ministry of Finance, National Budget Document

Along with expanding universal coverage social protection for old age population, the government also announced the universal coverage of widowed, and disserted women in its allowance system, and likewise, half of the total sub-districts of Bangladesh are being brought under this social protection programme. The Finance Division of the government in February 2022 presented a strategy paper to the Prime Minister which recently announced universal contributory private pension in line with its budgetary commitment of Pension for All. In the proposed scheme, any citizen including expatriate Bangladeshis, aged between 18 and 50 is eligible to avail the programme. The government will constitute a National Pension Authority to look after the private pension issue. To build a shock responsive social protection system, the government (MoSW, Finance Division, MoLE) is also considering making provisions for unemployment and injury, maternity, retirement pension under the National Social Insurance Scheme (NSIS).

Addressing the Person with disabilities in social protection

Person with Disabilities (PwDs) is one of the key national social protection programmes. Universal coverage of PwDs has been announced in 2017. Currently, coverage for disability benefits administered by the Ministry of Social Welfare is around 1.8 million beneficiaries according to data by MoF. 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. The coverage has increased significantly over the last few years (Table 1.2).

Table 1.2: Trends in PwDs allocations during FY 2014 – 2022 (in billion BDT)

Fiscal Year (FY)	Allowances for the Financially Insolvent Disabled	% Budget	% GDP
2012-13	1.0	0.05	0.01
2013-14	1.3	0.06	0.01
2014-15	2.4	0.10	0.02
2015-16	3.6	0.14	0.02
2016-17	5.4	0.17	0.03

2017-18	6.9	0.19	0.03
2018-19	8.4	0.19	0.03
2019-20	14.3	0.28	0.05
2020-21	16.2	0.30	0.05
2021-22	18.2	0.30	0.05

Source: Ministry of Finance, Finance Division

Considering budgetary constraints, regular increases in the social protection budget has almost always prioritized with increased coverage (over increases in benefit size or amounts). Very recently, a new base year 2015-16 has been adopted by the Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics (BBS), where the economic growth rate in recent years were revised downwards, but the size of the economy expanded.

The completion and approval of the NSSS Action Plan, phase 2 (2021-2026) was a key monitoring achievement in 2021, which identified detailed key actions that the concerned 39 ministries will consider during the tenure, making progress, and address the challenges of NSSS reforms to date. The NSSS Action Plan has been presented to the various CMC coordination structure committees and findings and recommendations were reviewed and prepared for action. Critical issues going forward for the CMC coordination structure are reducing beneficiary exclusion errors, adopting, and planning to act on MTR recommendations, national social insurance scheme, child-benefit scheme consolidation, and value of cash transfers in key social protection schemes.

Progress in NSSS Action Plan, Phase 2 (2021-2026) has received traction in line with the recommendations of the first NSSS Mid-Term Implementation Review (MTR), and key supporting Action Plans, including Gender, Communication, and Urban and other policy documents including Person with disabilities' (PwDs) perception assessment, Single Registry situation assessment, and national social insurance framework that have been developed in 2021, and will feed into critical decision-making processes in the coming years.

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.

The Compendium of Social protection research, Mid-term Review (MTR) of NSSS Action Plan, First Phase (2015-2021), and Gender responsive adaptive social protection were disseminated in 2021 and the MTR captured more media coverage and policy attention was directly fed into the preparation of the 8th Five-Year Plan (2020-25), chapter on Social Protection and other policy reforms.

Dialogues were held with the members of Go-NGO platform and Organisation of the Person with disabilities (OPDs) on engagement of the non-state actors in social protection programming. Mapping of social protection interventions around disabilities, which was attended by the OPDS to participate in social protection decisions in line with the agenda of Leaving No One Behind.

2. Summary of Progress

This annual report on the UNDP implemented Social Security Policy Support (SPPS) Programme covers the 6-month period from July – December 2021. The SSPS Programme has been considered as a flagship project of the government and have been implementing some key reform activities even in the pandemic lock-down situation from January 2021. Therefore, this report also covered the progress in reforms that started before June, which is linked to the current UNDP-DFAT agreement. The report also covered some subsequent activities accomplished in January – February related to the inception period deliverable, and major policy decisions of the government.

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 has been reflected in the 8th Five-Year Plan. As for sustainability, almost 95 percent of the current national social protection programmes are now financed by the government.

The SSPS Programme primarily focuses on rolling out the implementation of the NSSS and two major reform areas, namely 1) program and 2) institutional reforms through establishing better governance, and system strengthening of the social protection in Bangladesh.

The SSPS Programme is a fully government-owned flagship project, assisted by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and funded by the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT) of the Australian Government. 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. The other associated ministries that are linked to the SSPS Programme interventions include the Ministry of Finance, the Ministry of Social Welfare, and the Ministry of Labour and Employment. The Planning Commission of the Ministry of Planning had approved the SSPS Programme Revised Technical Assistance Proposal (RTPP) based on the revised Project Document (ProDoc) signed between the UNDP and the Economic Relations Division (ERD) of the Ministry of Finance, approved in mid-2020.

The SSPS Programme has been 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 NSSS, its action plan, and 8th Five Year Plan including support to the United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (UNSDF), which was previously known as the UN Immediate Socioeconomic Response Plan (iSERF), and the Development Partners' (DPs) common narrative on Bangladesh social protection reform. The current DFAT support to the SSPS Programme is designed for a period of five years in two phases. The first phase commenced from June 2021 will continue up to July 2023.

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)'.

Table – 2.1 Brief progress on the expected results of the first phase (Annex – C, text in purple colour showed progress)

Sl. No.	Expected Deliverable	Progress on the Deliverable
1.	COVID-19 responsive specific policy developed	A brief analysis of social protection response to COVID-19 pandemic in Bangladesh (a political economy analysis) completed. Approved NSSS Action Plan, Phase – II (2021-26) incorporates the COVID-19 policy and plans. SSPS Programme developed papers on ‘rethinking social protection response to COVID-19’ and ‘common narratives of social protection of the development partners’,(Annex A) and DFAT support to SSPS Programme helped the Asian Development Bank (ADB) to finance programme through ADB HQ Manila consultation dialogues on ADB’s financing universal social protection programmes on universal old age, and widowed, deserted women allowances.
2.	Data dashboard with age, sex, and disability disaggregated data trailed in line ministries	Assessment, scope, and a framework for introducing NSSS, M&E Dashboard – a study in progress Awarded to Maxwell Stamp PLC - first draft to be submitted in May.
3.	Coverage of Old Age Pension increased by 20 per cent, percentage of expenditure against GDP increased 5 per cent.	Coverage of old age allowance increased by 11.3 percent against the target of 10 percent – more than the anticipated target, while expenditure increased modestly by 0.0006 percent. The Government has decided to introduce Private Pension as a part of budgetary commitment, ‘Pension for All’.
4.	Coverage of Person with Disabilities (PwDs) increased by 20 per cent, percentage of expenditure against GDP increased by 30 per cent.	Coverage of PwDs had remain unchanged in FY 2020-21 due to inadequate provision of the national system to capture correct detection of PwDs , and 11.4 percent increase in FY 2021-22. The Population and Household Census 2022 incorporates the Washington Group Set of Questions.
5.	Draft gender and disability inclusive NSIS developed	Gender and disability-inclusive social insurance diagnostics and feasible model development – a study on progress. Awarded to RAPID (Research And Policy Integration for Development) first draft to be available in May.
6.	Road map for a gender and disability responsive NSSS 2026+ approved	Gender and disability including shock-responsive NSSS Action Plan, Phase – II (2021-26) approved. NSSS 2026+ discussion in progress - one to one informal discussion with secretary coordination Reforms, Additional secretary of Cabinet division and Member General Economics Division(GED).An outline of developing the Single Registry MIS was drafted by SSPS Team .Expected timeframe January 2023. .
.7.	CSO/DPO citizen’s report on the needs of marginalised and excluded groups	One dialogue held on leadership and participation of PwDs in post COVID era; and followed by a mapping exercise on PwDs social protection programming completed. UNDP-BRAC signed MoU on poverty reduction and social protection.
8.	Research under output – 2 completed	Concept notes and ToRs drafted on: Old Age Allowance (OAA), Person with Disabilities (PwDs), National Social Insurance Scheme (NSIS), Shock-response COVID – 19 including Political Economy analysis, Adaptive Social Protection in Bangladesh, M&E Dashboard, Leadership and

		Participation of PwDs. Progress monitoring report on NSSS implementation 2021 prepared for the Cabinet Division and Ministry of Finance for European Union's (EU) budgetary support. (ANNEX A)
9.	CMC committee approves pilot plans	CMC approves NSSS Action Plan, Phase – II (2021-26). SSPS Programme Project Board approves 2021-23 work plan. NSSS Action Plan Preparation and Monitoring subcommittee headed by Secretary, Coordination and Reforms, Cabinet Division thoroughly reviewed the Action Plans of respective ministries including the SSPS programme implementation Log Frame.

3. Progress: Key Activities and Results, 2021

3.1 Results Reporting

Outcome	Indicators	Target 2021	Progress Towards Target
Outcome 1 Established systems of universal pension, entitlements for person with disabilities, social insurance, and shock-responsive schemes, in line with GoB's commitment to human rights and the right to social protection. {SDG 1,2,3,5,8,10,13,16)	By 2025, Government has significantly increased social security coverage of old age persons and persons with disabilities by adopting a universal approach	Old Age Allowance (OAA) coverage increased by 10% from baseline coverage of person with disabilities increased by 10% from baseline (2019)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> OAA budget has been increased by 11.40% from Baseline 2019 Coverage of person with disabilities remains unchanged from baseline
	By 2025, Government has adopted gender and disability inclusive NSIS	Multi-stakeholder (DPs, CSOs, private sector, GoB) consultations on National Social Insurance system (NSIS) feasibility assessment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> CMC discussed the NSIS at length and suggested a review of a conducted study with the inclusion of occupation health-related disabilities and the feasibility of Beveridge model, financing options, occupation health related to disabilities, and outline of the pilot design.
	By 2025, NSSS 2026+ adopted a gender and disability responsive universal social security approach	A series of national consultations on background studies on the suitable model, financial modeling, and a working formulation team	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Formulation of dialogue notes developed: old age, PWD, Social Insurance, M&E dashboard, shock-responsive (COVID-19) social protection focusing on political economy analysis, and research briefs on background studies) developed.

Key Activities and Results

The government budget allocation increased in several social security programmes from 2008-09 to 2019-22. Old age programme received the highest budget allocation, followed by working-age livelihood, gender-focused women, and early childhood-related social security programmes.

Disability is at present a much-discussed issue in Bangladesh. A notable initiative is a declaration of universal disability benefits based on the Disability Act 2013. The government budget for financially insolvent also increased by 13.5% showing the government has been inclusive in preparing the budget although coverage remains unchanged. The Person with Disability (PwD) coverage was universal, but the coverage was too low due to emphasis on several major visible criteria for determining the eligibility of the PwDs. Recently, for the first time, the Government has recognized the Washington consensus indicators in its census system. It is expected that the future coverage and fiscal space for the PwDs will be increased. The action framework of the Plan will strive to install fair processes and interventions to protect those who have fallen behind and emphasize investments in equal opportunities to produce a more equitable society for the future of leaving no one behind (LNOB).

An outline of piloting social insurance both in the formal and informal setting would guide developing a concrete proposal and scope of piloting of NSIS in Bangladesh, which will underpin reform norm set in the NSSS and its action plan has been placed and would commission from 2022

NSSS guidance indicates pilot will lead the drafting of NSIS. The draft pilot design would be placed before the Cabinet Division for approval from CMC Sub-committee in 2022.

Output	Indicators	Target 2021	Progress Towards Target
Output 1: By 2025, Government has adopted gender and disability inclusive NSIS	1.1 By 2024, Govt. has gender-responsive universal old age and person with disabilities policy proposals	Technical support to selected ministries to start developing the policy proposals	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The concept notes for dialogues were drafted in the inception period, commencing from July 2021.
	1.2 By 2024, the existence of gender and disability responsive National Social Insurance Scheme (NSIS) proposal	Task team / sub-committee secured to provide a framework for NSIS based on the feasibility study	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The CMC discussed social insurance and NSIS; a CMC Subcommittee charged with planning and monitoring the NSSS Action Plan Phase II (2021-26) discussed the social insurance issue.
	Existence of COVID-19 social protection policy responses focusing on disabled individuals and marginalized groups including urban poor, and climate change responsive social protection	Needs assessment for Person with Disabilities and marginalized groups; Short-medium-long-term coping strategy including corresponding GoB funding needs report; Urban social protection delivery model concept notes and ToR; Climate adaptive social protection concept note, and ToR drafted	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Programme mapping exercise completed with the OPDs to identify a better model for Person with Disabilities.

Key Activities and Results

A concept presentation of a social insurance pilot framework development including Terms of Reference (ToR) was shared in several consultation meetings with the secretary of the Ministry of Labour and Employment (MoLE). Financial Institutions Division (FID) took the major responsibility for wider

stakeholder consultation. GED took responsibility to conduct the study on social insurance feasibility and framework s with Technical Assistance support of SSPS Programme. Private sectors showed a willingness to participate in NSIS implementation. The draft pilot design would be placed before the Cabinet Division for approval from CMC Sub-committee in 2022.

GoB may decide to place NSIS before the National Assembly before the pilot. The NSSS guidance indicates that the pilot will lead the drafting of NSIS.

Output	Indicators	Target 2021	Progress Towards Target
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 (PWDs accessing social protection, targeting, and selection, examination of options for expanding the fiscal space for universal allowances for old age, person with disabilities, and social insurance, NID documentation)	2 research papers drafted (Person with Disabilities accessing social protection, targeting, and selection); 2 ToRs developed: an examination of options for expanding the fiscal space for universal allowances for old age, person with disabilities, and social insurance, NID documentation)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Concept notes were developed on OAA, PwDs, and social insurance. Discussions were held with the Institute of Social Welfare of Dhaka University on developing the pilot proposals.
	2.2 Availability, incorporation into policy, and dissemination of case study for developing an evidence base for universal allowances for old age and person with disabilities social protection policies in Bangladesh	Concept note for pilot developed (scope, coverage area, transfer amount, partners, gender-responsive methodology) and draft pilot design developed with Govt. co-financing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Two concept notes include the outline of pilot designs drafted. • Dissemination of Compendium of Social Protection and NSSS Mid-term review completed.

Key Activities and Results

SSPS project is contemplating to commission pilot studies by a reputed national firm to pilot a universal pension scheme for the elderly and an optimal social protection scheme for PWDs in Bangladesh. The concept note has been drafted and is ready to be placed. Anchored in a solid analytical framework, the studies are expected to prepare a report containing high-quality research outputs on the design and implementation issues of introducing a robust and inclusive social protection programme for the PWDs. In addition to using secondary data, the study will undertake a carefully designed survey to collect data and information to design/localize a universal social protection model for universal allowance for the elderly and person with disabilities in Bangladesh.

The SSPS Programme’s series of research and diagnostic studies and NSSS Mid Term Review which was compiled as Compendium of Social Protection went on publication and dissemination after the final approval from the Government in the first quarter of 2021 which were directly fed into the preparation of the GoB’s 8th Five-Year Plan chapter on Social Protection and the CMC coordination structure committees for review and decision-making in policy reforms.

Outcome	Indicators	Target 2021	Progress Towards Target
Outcome 2: Governance systems strengthened and made inclusive to	Dedicated NSSS CMC sub-committee activated with the fit for purpose composition and scope for	Committee agrees on a set of prioritized action plans based on the reforms	CMC Sub-committee for monitoring the implementation of NSSS reforms, and Action Plan

Outcome	Indicators	Target 2021	Progress Towards Target
build the case for and manage universal lifecycle-based social security	efficient implementation of reform plans	action plan by line ministries	preparation met and prepared the NSSS Action Plan Phase II. Approved by CMC.

Key Activities and Results

CMC conducted NSSS thematic clusters and sub-national level coordination meetings at regular intervals with the concerned Ministries (refer to Annex - A) CMC approved reform in -sub-national level coordination structure. The Social Welfare Officials would play the crucial role as member-secretaries for division, district, and Upazila committees. The stakeholder engagement in the project took place in three stages; the project involved ministries, sub-ordinate offices, the development partners, and NGOs in the different stages of the formulation of the NSSS Action Plan. The Cabinet Division organized a series of workshops to orient the focal point officers to prepare draft action plans and finally, these plans were shared with NGOs for their recommendations in the NSSS Action plan 2nd phase.

The NSSS Action Plan Sub-committee, led by the Secretary, Coordination, and Reforms of the Cabinet Division, has formulated the NSSS Action Plan, Phase – II (2021-2026) successfully. The sub-committee conducted a series of consultative dialogues, meetings, and workshops with the concerned stakeholders and finalized the draft NSSS Action Plan. Then the first draft of the Action Plan was placed before the Central Management Committee (CMC) in its 15th meeting on 27 June 2021. As per the decision, the draft action plan was sent to the concerned 39 ministries/divisions for their further review and feedback. Following the review comments and input of the ministries/divisions, the final draft of the NSSS Action Plan 2021-2026 was thoroughly reviewed by the Action Plan preparation and monitoring Sub-committee and then placed before the CMC. In the 16th meeting held on December 23, 2021, the CMC finally approved the NSSS Action Plan, Phase – II (2021-26). The Action Plan has also been vetted by the Honourable Prime Minister and advised to be published accordingly.

Six CMC focal point meetings were held in 2021. The meeting discussed several critical areas such as Workplace Childcare Services, Enactment of day-care 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 under the Ministry of Women and Children Affairs.

Output	Indicators	Target 2021	Progress Towards Target
Output 3: 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)	ToRs were developed for commissioning a design study for a web-based social protection dashboard Web-based prototype of dashboard concept note for Revised M&E Framework available for CMC sub-committee; Revised M&E Framework adopted, and recommendations incorporated into dashboard design	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ToR developed and study commissioned to an individual firm Maxwell Stamp Ltd on NSSS- M&E and MIS assessment, identification of indicators, and outline of M&E dashboard to be completed by May 2022

Output	Indicators	Target 2021	Progress Towards Target
	Strengthened key line ministries/ divisions (Cabinet Division, GED, MoSW, MoF, MoLE) capacity for gender-responsive social protection decision making	Set of gender-focused indicators addressing practical and strategic needs of women for social security programmes developed and endorsed by NSSS M&E Committee	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Gender-responsive NSSS Action Plan Phase – II approved by the CMC)
	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	<p>Revised NSSS Action Plan 2021-25 incorporates gender, communication, advocacy, and urban action plans</p> <p>Line ministries trained on key reform and policy proposal areas (evidence on universal allowances [old age, PWDs, social insurance], creating fiscal space, budget preparation, social insurance, grievance redress, accountability)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> NSSS Action Plan Phase II Incorporated Gender, Communication and urban, PwDs issues. All factors considered by Key Ministries. Line Ministries (MoSW, MoF, MoLE, Cabinet Division, GED) received orientations on key reforms and OAA, PWD Policy Proposals.

Key Activities and Results

Representative of the GED mentioned at the CMC focal point meeting that the NSSS has assigned the GED for devising a results-based M&E framework for social security programmes, facilitate to establish a single registry MIS, harmonize/consolidate small schemes, develop a business case of selecting the beneficiaries of social security schemes, and carry out a review of current socioeconomic policy, strategies, and plans and check the consistency with the NSSS: 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. 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. The dashboard will be populated with several modules, including incorporating a revised M&E framework, integrated MIS data, reflecting the real-time quantitative and qualitative data, reform progresses, annual reports, others. The CMC, Sub-committee and Taskforce, and the Focal Points of each ministry/division will use the dashboard to support effective oversight and accountability to the GoB's APA, monitoring of social protection implementation, and decision-making. 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.

Based on the policy guidelines of the NSSS and according to a series of action plan workshops, the NSSS Action Plan² incorporates a range of activities such as maternity insurance, strengthening social allowance (financial support/assistance/benefits) for the migrant workers and their family members (particularly women), etc. to address gender issues in social security. These actions are exclusively related to the social security of women and girls, but other programmes deal with both gender with embedded principles of ensuring gender equality in the delivery system. In short, social security aiming at gender equality needs multi-dimensional initiatives and cannot be achieved by only pursuing economic gains for women.

Newly posted CMC focal points and alternate focal points received orientation on the NSSS, lifecycle approach, and Action Plan. Secretaries of 38 ministries/divisions, received orientation on the NSSS Action

Plan, and Bangladesh social protection linked to SDGs and was informed about NSSS implementation progress based on NSSS first phase mid-term review of NSSS implementation.

Output	Indicators	Target 2021	Progress Towards Target
Output 4: Broadened knowledge base and influence of NGOs working for marginalized and excluded groups, including person with disabilities in social protection decision-making	Influence of non-state actors working for marginalized and excluded groups, including person with disabilities in the social protection decision-making	Supporting non-state actors and Disabled Persons' Organizations (DPOs) to create a platform to participate in social protection discussions, customization of social protection communication strategy for Leave No One Behind endorsed by DPO Platform	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dialogue on inclusive, accessible, and sustainable post-COVID with the OPDs Platform. • Mapping of Social Protection Programs of OPDs). • A platform for GO-NGO collaboration to support OPDS initiated.

Key Activities and Results

The Cabinet Division organized a meeting on GO-NGO Collaboration on the formulation of the NSSS Action Plan (Phase 2) to draft the Action Plan (Phase-II, 2021-26) for the road map for social security reforms in Bangladesh to have an inclusive approach of non-state stakeholders. It was attended by NGOs such as ActionAid Bangladesh, ASA, BRAC, Centre for Disability in Development (CDD), Gonoshasthaya Kendra (GK), Manusher Jonno Foundation (MJF), Management and Resources Development Initiative (MRDI), Palli Karma-Sahayak Foundation (PKSF), Sightsavers Bangladesh, TMSS, Visually Impaired People's Society (VIPS), WAVE Foundation, World Vision were some of the notable NGOs participated in the meeting. The NGOs and civil society provided recommendations from their perspective on the Action plan which was duly accepted and incorporated into Action Plan 2.

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. December 3rd, every year, marks the International Day for Person with Disabilities (IDPD). Marking the celebration of this international day, Disability Alliance on SDGs, Bangladesh, and the SSPS Programme of UNDP organised a national seminar on the theme for IDPD 2021 "Leadership and participation of person with disabilities toward an inclusive, accessible and sustainable post-COVID-19 world." It was attended by the Principal Coordinator of SDGs who showed keen interest and further talks were initiated on future collaborations.

The conference further led to a Mapping Workshop of Social Protection Programs of Organisation for person with disabilities attended by thirteen Organisation of Person Disabilities 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. 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.

3.2 (a) What worked well

Policy Approval: Prime Minister of the Government of Bangladesh vetted the CMC approved NSSS Action Plan, Phase – II (2021-26); RTAPP, provision of Private Pension, and dialogue with OPDs and NGOs

SSPS supported the National Social Security Strategy NSSS reform Technical Unit at the Cabinet Division in developing the NSSS Action Plan 2021-26. SSPS conducted a participatory planning process supporting 38-line ministries to develop their respective action plans for the next five years. With

support from UNDP, 38 Government of Bangladesh line Ministries developed individual Action Plans based on the previously adopted National Social Security Strategy. The Action Plans of the Second Phase serve as clear, actionable steps to be taken in reforming the social security system in Bangladesh and will contribute to Bangladesh's graduation out of Least Developed Country (LDC) status by 2024, to attain SDG Goals 1, 5, 8, and 10, and the national objective of becoming a developed nation by 2041.

The Planning Minister of the Ministry of Planning approved the Revised Technical Assistance Project Proposal (RTPP) of SSPS Programme.

The Principal Coordinator to the Prime Minister on SDGs Affairs 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. On the other hand, dialogues were held with the NGOs on mapping out the NGOs social protection programmes. Discussions held with BRAC on urban focused social protection programmes considering the shocks, climate, disability and gender, marginalised community inclusivity under SDG theme - No One Leave Behind.

Both the Cabinet Division and the General Economics Division of the Planning Commission jointly chair the SSPS Programme Project Board meeting and review the past achievements and approve the strategy and work plan up to 2023.

3.2 (b) What did not work well

Delay in policy approval

Majority public officials perceived working for social strategy and plan development as additional responsibilities, beyond their regular assignment. Many of them are overburdened and had trouble in time management and meet the accomplishment deadline. For example, the NSSS Action Plan, Phase – II was supposed to be approved before July, but in reality, it has been approved in end December, and secured Prime Minister's vetting in third week of February instead of first week of January.

Progress in implementing strategies to promote gender equality and women's empowerment

One of the ten priorities identified by Bangladesh's Honourable Prime Minister is Gender Equality. According to the National Women's Development Policy 2011, one of the key areas for reducing women's poverty is social security. The budget and coverage for social protection have been increased as part of the Eighth Five-Year Plan (8FYP July 2020- June 2025). Targeted food security, social empowerment, and livelihood programmes that promote gender equality and women's empowerment are examples of social security programs.

Based on the gender diagnostics of the National Social Security Strategy (NSSS), the Gender Policy was approved in 2018 by the CMC. The NSSS Gender Policy, focused on the use of gender lens, addressing issues of women empowerment and gender-responsiveness in social security in every stage of NSSS- from design to implementation and evaluation. The Gender Policy made a wide range of policy commitments to address the problems faced by women at individual, household, societal, and national levels. The policy priorities are aligned with the National Women's Development Policy, the Eighth Five Year Plan, and several SDGs. To implement the NSSS and its Gender Policy, various line ministries need to interpret, the policy provisions within the sectoral context. The Policy suggested developing necessary guidelines and gender-focused indicators for the assessment of gender equality results of the social security programmes.

To operationalize the policy in the field to minimize gender gaps and empower women through SP programmes, a Gender Strategy and an Action Plan were developed within the framework of the Gender

Policy and in line with the Action Plan of the NSSS. The Strategy and the Action Plan were shared with different stakeholders at a meeting with the representatives of the Government ministries. The Secretary, Cabinet Divisions, chaired the consultation meeting and provided guidance. Representatives of the Ministry of Women and Children Affairs, Finance Division, Implementation, Monitoring, and Evaluation Division (IMED), and the General Economics Division were present at the Consultation. According to the suggestions and guidance, the Action Plan phase 2 was finalised with necessary modifications. The Government is committed to implementing the Action Plan in promoting gender equality and empowering women. The Gender Action Plan includes specific action areas for the NSSS implementing Ministries and divisions. The action plan suggests actions to integrate gender perspectives and address strategic gender interests by utilising the transformative potentials of the programmes.

The areas for focus include the following addressing gender perspectives: strengthening support for vulnerable women; introducing Child Benefit Programme and Vulnerable Women's Benefits programmes; workplace childcare services; Maternal Health Care; Maternity Insurance; empowering workfare programmes; addressing social norms; expanding social allowance; skills enhancement and such others. In addition, the Action Plan focused on gender-responsive planning, use of sex-disaggregated data, and effective grievance redress mechanism.

M&E system with sex-disaggregated data and indicators to measure gender equality outcomes

The successful implementation of the Gender Strategy and Action Plan is largely dependent on the appropriate interpretation of the strategies into actions by each ministry/division, within their own operational areas. For this, collection of sex-disaggregated data, use of gender analysis, and gender-focused indicators for monitoring and reporting have been prioritized Action Plan 2 and to measure the impact and effectiveness of social protection interventions on women's empowerment gender, age and geographically disaggregated data will have to be ensured.

It is expected that the different ministries and divisions will implement the action plan and use gender-based result indicators into the M&E framework both for implementation and for communication. Accordingly, the use of sex-disaggregated data and gender-focused indicators will be ensured. The Cluster Coordination Committees are also to supervise the collection of disaggregated data by the cluster member ministries/divisions. The programme has allocated a sufficient budget (Financial Progress Summary 3.2) to achieve gender equality-related outputs.

4. Lessons Learned- Major Risks and Mitigation Measures

Key Challenges:

Risks and Lessons Learned

Coordination challenges - is a major issue in the ministries/divisions particularly coordination with multiple agencies, distribution of works in many wings within many divisions and changes in the leadership of the ministries are major challenges of the programme. The data dissemination process is often slow, requiring following up given the attrition rate by way of civil service transfer rules, resulting in the depletion of capacity within the ministries and the absence of the institutional memory of focal points of the concerned ministries/divisions.

Data-A significant limitation of this intervention is that data is limited in frequency for higher-level indicators, which makes assessing the overall impact of completed reforms under the NSSS difficult. Challenges in data governance especially for social protection are critical. Due to the absence of high-level data, and no variation in between collected data for 2018-19 and 2019-20, therefore, preparing an M&E report using the same format would not be useful in policy decision-making. The indicators were originally developed with NSSS mandated panel surveys in mind, which would complement HIES data, however, GoB decided not to go forward with panel surveys.

COVID situation and reforms - The COVID-19, slowed the reforms in some areas and even delayed preparing the NSSS action plan 2nd phase 2021-26. The ability to meet with individuals for policy discussions and internal administrative issues was impeded by the COVID-19 nationwide lockdown.

Mitigation

1. It was suggested that frequent meetings, consultations, dialogues can minimize coordination challenges amongst ministries. Developing a toolkit or guideline for the officers can be helpful for new and transferred officers to get oriented on the topic. Also important is building a sustainable capacity within the government agencies in knowledge management and M&E, perhaps stretching it to MEAL (Monitoring, Evaluation, and Learning) so that these learning materials and tools can be accessed by relevant people and institutions, including think tanks.
2. The M&E framework should be updated with the identification of data collection requirements as well as find ways and means to expand on nationally available data at a frequency higher than the Household Income and Expenditure Survey (HIES). There could be also the need for identifying sub-level indicators, including proxy indicators that do not require national data.
3. In mitigating efforts, wherever possible, activities have been shifted where appropriate to Zoom working groups with technical teams with limited and socially distanced workspaces, where applicable for technical discussions. However, as the nationwide vaccination took place, the pace for meetings and workshops has been slowly picking up.

A lesson that can be learned is that, in the future, a balance must be struck between the need for an inclusive and extensive consultation process and an agreed practical timeline, so that the outcomes should occur in the interest of timely and efficient delivery of key outcomes. The absence of this may lead to opportunities being lost, together with the loss of the validity of the contextual conditions for the intended interventions.

5. Partnerships and Sustainability

The SSPS Programme has from the outset been driving reforms inside the government system and all interventions outlined are embedded in the government structure and policy reform work. Integration of reforms is also provided by the NSSS being embedded in the 8th Five-Year Plan. The reform agenda is, therefore, set by the government, with all associated actions identified, agreed upon, and owned by the government. UNDP's partnership role with the Government of Bangladesh (Cabinet Division, and General Economics Division) has proven to be a generally successful endeavour. UNDP has closely worked with the Secretary, Additional Secretary, Joint Secretary (Civil Registration and Social Protection section) of the Coordination and Reform Wing of the Cabinet Division, and NSSS Action Plan Sub-committee, NSSS Action Plan Implementation Monitoring Committee, NSSS Central Management Committee (CMC) of the National Social Security Programmes, and CMC Focal Points (38 ministries/divisions) Committee. The SSPS Programme greatly enhanced the ability to coordinate and provide expert and evidence-based analytical support in NSSS Action Plan 2, social insurance, monitoring and evaluation, national social protection, and budget analysis.

Through its comparative advantage role as integrator and leader in technical expertise, the SSPS programme also supported European Union (EU), and Asian Development Bank (ADB) with expert, evidence-based policy support through research and knowledge creation, policy analysis, and technical implementation in key social protection programming. In addition, the SSPS Programme partnered with Disability Alliance for SDGs in Bangladesh and GO-NGO Platform for Dialogue where evidence-based collaborative dialogues provided insights for collaborative programming in the future. SSPS Programme also formally engaged with ILO for joint social insurance programming and NSSS reform Bangladesh social protection reform programming.

- **New opportunities for partnerships**

The Seminar on Participation of Person with Disabilities towards an Inclusive Post Covid Era on International Person with Disabilities Day in December 2021 has been a positive platform for non-state stakeholders' engagement and GoB progress and challenges in reforming social security in Bangladesh with Disability Inclusion. This led to further Mapping workshops of social protection of disability-related issues where major OPDs participated and gave presentations on their respective works and showed eagerness to collaborate for further reforms to work in the agenda of Leaving No One Behind. SSPS programme has been working closely with Disability Alliance on SDGs Bangladesh a network of 27 national and international organizations working for promoting disability rights in Bangladesh of which Sight Savers is the Secretariat to call on the government of Bangladesh for ensuring wider disability inclusion. The mapping workshop also partnered with the Centre for Disability in Development (CDD) and Sight Savers Bangladesh attended by international and national OPDS which will be prolonged in the long term for further collaboration to expand the government system that helps to take the reform process forward. With additional partners like CDD and Disability Alliance, it will scale up engagement, work to strengthen the capacity of organisations of person with disabilities and their engagement with governments, and mobilise targeted and concrete commitments on disability inclusion and inclusive development.

The SSPS project had a round of talks and regular meetings with BRAC for joint field visits and review of the Ultra Poor Graduation and micro-insurance along with GoB's livelihood programmes and scoping for urban social protection programming which culminated into a signing of MOU with BRAC in February 2022. The key purpose of this MOU is to identify areas of collaboration to enhance the effectiveness of poverty eradication jointly and make those more impactful to contribute to inclusive growth. This will be done by ensuring socioeconomic resilience and the well-being of the most vulnerable and marginalized population and through strengthening the social protection system.

The key specific objectives are to design and promote evidence-based policies and programme addressing 'Leaving no one behind and 'Inclusive growth in the context of Bangladesh; and to create a joint sharing platform and scale-up, where relevant, existing livelihood programme jointly contribute to enhancing social protection system to be more. inclusive and comprehensive, in Bangladesh.

6. Financial Summary, Effectiveness and Value for Money

Financial Progress (July – December 2021)

UNDP Bangladesh had received 1st payment on 16 June 2021 with the amount Aus\$: 2,210,396 equivalent to US\$ 1,712,158. The expenditure up to the end of December 2021 was Aus\$ 516,062, equivalent to US\$ 400,000, which was 23% of the total received. The expenditure for July to December 2021 is as follows:

Item	Budget		Exp		Budget	
	2021- 2022	2021- 2022	2021- 2022	2021- 2022	2022- 2023	2022- 2023
	AUD	USD	AUD	USD	AUD	USD
1.1 : Technical Units to Support 5 LMs to Implement the Reforms Plan	192,721	149,280	79,216	61,400	218,488	152,682
1.2 : Knowledge and Policy Innovation for Advancing Social Protection Reforms	236,384	183,101	50,058	38,800	172,304	120,408
1.3: COVID-19 Policy Response	71,200	55,151	10,063	7,800	71,200	49,755
Subtotal	500,305	387,533	139,337	108,000	461,992	322,846
2.1 : Research Fund	252,033	195,223	58,960	45,700	105,414	73,665
2.2 : Stakeholder Engagement and Dissemination on Research and Evidences	95,440	73,927	20,126	15,600	128,160	89,560
2.3: Pilot on Old Age Allowance and Persons with Disabilities						
Subtotal	347,473	269,150	79,087	61,300	233,574	163,224
3.1 : Improving NSSS M&E	193,664	150,011	47,736	37,000	78,320	54,731
3.2 : Gender Mainstreaming Social Protection Reforms	86,960	67,359	13,547	10,500	35,600	24,878
3.3 : Support to CMC Coordination for Strengthening Accountability	94,269	73,020	18,836	14,600	65,789	45,974
3.4: Stakeholder Engagement on Development of NSSS 2026+	48,675	37,703	3,870	3,000	99,680	69,658
Subtotal	423,568	328,093	83,989	65,100	279,389	195,240
4.1: CSO / DPO Platform for Influencing Social Protection	60,000	46,476	12,902	10,000	56,960	39,804
Subtotal	60,000	46,476	12,902	10,000	56,960	39,804
Human Resources	488,853	378,662	106,399	82,470	414,964	289,982
Operations	121,610	94,198	30,319	23,500	68,637	47,964
Subtotal	610,463	472,860	136,718	105,970	483,601	337,946
Project Monitoring	104,854	81,220	25,803	20,000	62,134	43,420
Project Evaluation	-	0			42,720	29,853
Subtotal	104,854	81,220	25,803	20,000	104,854	73,273
All Subtotal	2,046,663	1,585,332	477,835	370,370	1,620,370	1,132,334
GMS Subtotal	163,733	126,827	38,227	29,630	129,630	90,587
Total	2,210,396	1,712,158	516,062	400,000	1,750,000	1,222,921
Total Year 1 + 2 Only	3,960,396					

*2021-22 Total Budget Was 2,210,396 AUD (1,712,158 USD), Expenditure June-December 2021 Was AUD 516,062 (400,000 USD) Which is 23% of Budget of 2021-22

Effectiveness

The SSPS Programme was highly efficient and effective to support the achievements of results with management capacities and governance arrangements that were put in place. The SSPS Programme had

instituted a management arrangement that appears to be strong and at par with some of the good global practices concerning the management of complex and highly ambitious undertakings such as the SSPS. The management arrangements have met with a varying degree of capacity constraints impinging on the continued commitment and ownership at various levels of the government.

Value for Money

The SSPS represents a good example of Value for Money based on economy, efficiency, effectiveness and equity, and judicious use of resources. The project has been consistently maintaining close to 100 percent delivery rate every year while maintaining strong Value for Money (VfM) by utilizing UNDP's global procurement system and entering negotiations for service providers offering competitive prices. The resources, by adhering to the principle of VfM, have economically converted the resources/inputs (funds, expertise, and time) into many results that are well demonstrated and acknowledged. Dozens of social security programme reforms have been made, as laid out by the NSSS, and now enacted, Action Plans Phase 2, for each line ministry have been developed.

Indicator	Evidence
a) % Of spending	2021-22 fund received 2,210,396 AUD (1,712,158 USD); Expenditure June-December 2021 was AUD 516,062 (400,000 USD) which is 23% of the received fund in first tranche.
b) Committed to eliminating inefficiency and duplication and applying lessons learned to enhance VfM	The personnel structure of the project is reviewed regularly by the Project Manager who guides staff on their expected deliverables, ensuring each team member has specific duties related to the project. No duplicate roles exist. Internally, every UNDP project has a mid-year and end-year review, where among other information, Lessons Learned are recorded and analysed. These lessons learned are taken into consideration when planning the subsequent Annual Work Plan in January (i.e., 2020 end-year lessons learned to inform 2021 AWP).
c) Delivers defined services within budget (predicted budgets compare well to actual expenditure)	Same as above-mentioned indicator a.
d) Scrutinises costs to pursue the most cost-effective options and considers proportionality in planning/allocating resources	The project Annual Work Plan is developed at the beginning of the year and budgets are allocated based on the level of service delivery required under each output based on internal estimates of market rates based on previous contracts issued by UNDP. The Annual Work Plan is revised throughout the year when required. All expenses are planned for in line-by-line budgets to ensure every component of an output expenditure is in line or below-market rates. For the NSSS Action Plan phase 2, all expenditures for meetings and workshops were scrutinised minutely. Additionally, the UNDP Procurement Unit went back to the selected vendor on multiple sub-budget lines requesting an explanation and/or reduction, which was successfully obtained for international and national consultants. This type of rigorous mindset is held for all project expenditures.
e) Robust systems and procedures in place to monitor and manage VfM during implementation	All procured goods and services run through the UNDP Country Office Procurement Unit ensuring competitive, cost-effective procuring. UNDP Country Office conducts annual audits ensuring compliance and proper record/receipt keeping. The project considers VfM via economy (ensuring the right procurements), efficiency (monitoring economy against achieving results), and effectiveness (effect of all inputs toward achieving results).

7. Way Forward

The SSPS Programme will act in the coming months on and complete implementation of some outstanding issues to make a further impact:

- Induction Toolkit for the new or transferred government officials. The toolkit will be specifically designed to guide them through the initial days: to provide a brief overview of social protection policies, help familiarize them with our history and work, as well as link them to helpful knowledge and resources.
- Mapping of Urban Social Protection Programmes in Bangladesh: An exercise for Designing Model Urban Social Protection in Bangladesh which will focus on current urban social protections programmes based on geographical areas, life cycle approach, the thematic cluster of the National Social Security Strategy (NSSS). addressing other vulnerabilities such as new poor, covid 19 impacts, disabilities, gender, climate change, disaster, salinity, climate migration, minority, elder population, and best examples of good practices.
- National Social Security Conference: Bangladesh Social Protection Conference 2022 is in the consultation process with Govt. counterparts. The conference would be in hybrid model or - person depending about the country and on Govt. approval. The conference will give the opportunity of stakeholders on SSPS Programme's next phase reform actions.
- The Local Consultative Groups (LCG) on Governance and Social Protection is now under the leadership of the Cabinet Division. LCG was co-chaired by the European Union (EU) last year but other development partners such as UNDP, DFAT or other organizations can also lead as co-chairs in the coming years. Australia played a vital role to strengthen social protection in Indonesia and DFAT can also take a leading role in Bangladesh through the LCG platform.

Some important policy decisions in 2021 with web-based links

Sl	Name of the Meeting/Workshops	Date of the Event	Key decisions
1.	14 th Meeting of the Central Management Committee (CMC) on Social Protection	4 February 2021	https://socialprotection.gov.bd/wp-content/uploads/2021/02/14th-CMC-Minutes.pdf
2.	Meeting of the National Social Security Strategy (NSSS) Implementation Subcommittee on NSSS Action Plan	24 February 2021	https://socialprotection.gov.bd/wp-content/uploads/2021/03/Minutes-Action-Plan-Sub-Committee-2021-02-24.pdf
3.	Meeting with CMC Focal Point Officers on Social Protection	2 March 2021	https://socialprotection.gov.bd/wp-content/uploads/2021/03/Social-Protection-Focal-Point-2021-03-02.pdf
4.	Workshop on the formulation of the National Social Security Strategy (NSSS) Action Plan (2021-2026) Subcommittee	15 March to 7 April 2021	https://socialprotection.gov.bd/wp-content/uploads/2021/10/Draft-Proceedings-of-the-Workshops.pdf
5.	Meeting of the Social Assistant Cluster	25 May 2021	https://drive.google.com/file/d/1RGj7DfxAl_pko9cTufXQQonAHKzy0Khy/view?usp=sharing
6.	Meeting of the Food Security and Disaster Assistance Cluster	30 May 2021	https://drive.google.com/file/d/1RGj7DfxAl_pko9cTufXQQonAHKzy0Khy/view?usp=sharing
7.	Meeting of the Social Insurance Cluster	31 May 2021	https://drive.google.com/file/d/1RGj7DfxAl_pko9cTufXQQonAHKzy0Khy/view?usp=sharing
8.	Meeting of the Labour and Livelihood Cluster	1 June 2021	https://drive.google.com/file/d/1RGj7DfxAl_pko9cTufXQQonAHKzy0Khy/view?usp=sharing
9.	Meeting of the Human Development Social Empowerment Cluster	3 June 2021	https://drive.google.com/file/d/1RGj7DfxAl_pko9cTufXQQonAHKzy0Khy/view?usp=sharing
10.	Meeting of the CMC Focal Point Officers on Social Protection	7 June 2021	https://drive.google.com/file/d/1FYhnGYeiH0mTYZ2ExTNfCDoF03hv2d06/view?usp=sharing
11.	Meeting of the National Social Security Strategy (NSSS) Implementation Subcommittee on NSSS Action Plan	8 June 2021	https://socialprotection.gov.bd/wp-content/uploads/2022/01/Minutes-08-june-2021.pdf
12.	15 th Meeting of the Central Management Committee (CMC) on Social Protection	27 June 2021	https://socialprotection.gov.bd/wp-content/uploads/2021/11/15-CMC-minuties.pdf
13.	Meeting on the formulation of the National Social Security Strategy (NSSS) Action Plan (2021-2026) Sub Committee	19 October 2021	https://socialprotection.gov.bd/wp-content/uploads/2022/01/Minutes-sub-committee-19-10-2021.pdf
14.	Meeting with CMC Focal Point Officers on Social Protection	24 October 2021	https://socialprotection.gov.bd/wp-content/uploads/2022/01/Minutes-Focal-Point-24-10-2021.pdf
15.	Meeting with CMC Focal Point Officers on Social Protection	13 December 2021	https://socialprotection.gov.bd/wp-content/uploads/2022/01/CMC-Focal-Point-Meeting-Notes-for-Record-Day-1-2021-12-13.pdf
16.	Meeting with CMC Focal Point Officers on Social Protection	14 December 2021	https://socialprotection.gov.bd/wp-content/uploads/2022/01/CMC-Focal-Point-Meeting-Notes-for-Record-Day-2-2021-12-14.pdf
17.	Meeting with CMC Focal Point Officers on Social Protection	15 December 2021	https://socialprotection.gov.bd/wp-content/uploads/2022/01/CMC-Focal-Point-Meeting-Notes-for-Record-Day-3-2021-12-15.pdf
18.	16 th Meeting of the Central Management Committee (CMC) on Social Protection	23 December 2021	https://socialprotection.gov.bd/wp-content/uploads/2022/01/Minutes-CMC-23-December-2021.pdf
19.	Rethinking social protection response to COVID-19' and '		https://socialprotection.gov.bd/en/2022/04/05/rethinking-social-protection-responses-to-the-covid-19-crisis-issues-and-policy-priorities-for-bangladesh/
20.	Common narratives of social protection of the development partners'		https://socialprotection.gov.bd/en/2022/04/02/social-protection-in-bangladesh-a-common-narrative/

21.	Concept Note for Pilot Study on Universal Social Protection for Persons with Disabilities (PWDs)		https://socialprotection.gov.bd/en/2022/04/03/draft-concept-note-for-pilot-study-on-universal-social-protection-for-persons-with-disabilities-pwds/
22.	Concept Note on Pilot Study on Universal Old Age Allowance (OAA) in Bangladesh		https://socialprotection.gov.bd/en/2022/04/04/concept-note-on-pilot-study-on-universal-old-age-allowance-oaa-in-bangladesh/
23.	A Brief Analysis of Social Protection Program Response to Covid-19 Pandemic in Bangladesh (Draft)		https://socialprotection.gov.bd/en/2022/04/07/a-brief-analysis-of-social-protection-program-response-to-covid-19-pandemic-in-bangladesh-draft/

Annex - B

Gantt Chart for the SSPS Programme Implementation Plan

Activity	2021 (Jan – Dec)				2022 (Jan – Dec)				2023 (Jan – Jun)		Remarks
	1Q	2Q	3Q	4Q	1Q	2Q	3Q	4Q	1Q	2Q	
SSPS Programme Inception Phase (July – December 2021) for DFAT Fund											
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.
Administrative approval secured for establishing technical units ²											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.
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.
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 convene a meeting to present a plan to develop the implementation plan for Single Registry

² 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	
											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.
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 nd 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.
Situation and policy assessment of shock-responsive social protection and Urban Social Protection Models ³											Based on the in-house consultation workshop, a brief concept paper has been drafted.
Consultation dialogues ⁴											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.
Policy coordination meeting(s)											CMC meetings met three times and discuss the NSSS Action Plan (Phase – II) at length.
Develop four policy proposals (OAA, Person with disabilities, NSIS, COVID-19) and draft NSSS 2026+											
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.
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

³ 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.

⁴ On NSSS Action Plan 2nd 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.

Activity	2021 (Jan – Dec)				2022 (Jan – Dec)				2023 (Jan – Jun)		Remarks
	1Q	2Q	3Q	4Q	1Q	2Q	3Q	4Q	1Q	2Q	
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.
MoSW is implementing the pilots with support from the technical unit											
Conduct research and pilot for policy innovation on inclusive social security systems											
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.
Review of consistency of national policies with NSSS and SSPs completed											The preliminary information collection was completed on public policies taken by different ministries.
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.
Urban social protection models											
Leaving No One Behind Communication Strategy											Will target disabled population, people living in hard-to-reach areas, marginalized group
NSSS 2 nd MTR and SSPS Programme evaluation											SSPS Team along with the private company, international and national consultants
Gender-responsive adaptive social protection report published, disseminated by GED member, after											Report disseminated.

Activity	2021 (Jan – Dec)				2022 (Jan – Dec)				2023 (Jan – Jun)		Remarks
	1Q	2Q	3Q	4Q	1Q	2Q	3Q	4Q	1Q	2Q	
approval from the Honourable Minister for Planning											
Compendium of Bangladesh Social Protection Research report published, disseminated by GED, after approval from Minister for Planning											Report disseminated.
NSSS 1 st 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
Ensure gender-responsive policy advice, and accountability tools for sustaining reform efforts and pace											
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 th CMC meeting held in June 2021, the 16 th meeting approved the NSSS Action Plan 2021-26. The Plan has been sent to PMO for Prime Minister's vetting.
CMC Focal Points meetings											
CMC Sub-committee: Action Plan Preparation and Implementation Committee (NSSS Taskforce Committee) meetings and APA meetings											Met four times.
CMC Sub-committee: NSSS M&E Committee meeting											
NSSS thematic clusters meetings (need-based)											
LCG Poverty meeting											
LCG Governance meeting											
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.
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.
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.

Activity	2021 (Jan – Dec)				2022 (Jan – Dec)				2023 (Jan – Jun)		Remarks
	1Q	2Q	3Q	4Q	1Q	2Q	3Q	4Q	1Q	2Q	
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.
Web-based NSSS 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 NSSS 2026+
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 NSSS 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.
Line ministries are regularly updating reform progress data on the dashboard											
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.
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
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.
Orientation on NSSS Action Plan 2 nd phase											For the concerned officials of implementing and coordinating ministries provide progress as baseline and implementation of the social protection programmes including reforms

Activity	2021 (Jan – Dec)				2022 (Jan – Dec)				2023 (Jan – Jun)		Remarks
	1Q	2Q	3Q	4Q	1Q	2Q	3Q	4Q	1Q	2Q	
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.

Progress against the Log frame of the SSPS Programme

Project Monitoring and Evaluation Plan															
Project Title and Duration	Social Protection Policy Support Programme - SSPS 2021-23														
Project Goal	Build an inclusive SSS for all deserving Bangladeshis that effectively tackles and prevents poverty and inequality and contributes to broader human development, employment, and economic growth, that strengthens the social contract, enhances stability, and builds resilience. (SDGs 1,2,3,5,8,10, 13, and 16)														
Project Outcome / Output / Activity Indicators	Baseline	Target [Annual or Cumulative]			Progress Against Target [2021]		Progress Against Target [2022]		Progress Against Target [2023]		Data Collection Methods / Sources	Means of Capture/ Verification	Frequency	Lead Partners along with UNDP	Assumptions and Risks
		[2021]	[2022]	[2023]	Half-yearly	Annually	Half-yearly	Annually	Half-yearly	Annually					
Outcome 1: Established systems of universal pension, entitlements for Person with disabilities, social insurance and shock-responsive schemes, in line with GoB commitment to human rights and the right to social protection															
1.1 By 2025, Government has significantly increased social security coverage of old age persons and Person with disabilities by adopting a universal approach (sex and age disaggregated data)	Old age and Person with disabilities is not universal (2019)	Old Age Allowance (OAA) increased by 10% (11.4%) from baseline	OAA increased by 20% (30.4%) from baseline	OAA increased by 40% from baseline							Secondary / Desk Review	National Budget Doc /Annual report of cabinet Division / Finance Ministry	Annual	MoSW, MoF	Risks: delayed approval due to government commitment for universal old age + Person with disabilities is affected due to fragmented DP support; difficulty in building consensus with labour unions
	OA coverage: 4.4m (2019)	OA coverage: 10% (11.3%) increase (2019)	OA coverage: 20% (29%) increase	OA coverage: 40% increase									Annual	MoSW, MoF	Assumptions: stable economic growth provides for fiscal space; private sector willing to participate in NSIS implementation
	Person with disabilities coverage: 1.8m (2019)	Coverage of Person with disabilities increased by 10% (0%) from baseline	Coverage of Person with disabilities increased by 20% (11.5%) from baseline	Coverage of Person with disabilities increased by 40% from baseline									Secondary / Desk Review	Annual	MoSW, MoF, DSS

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		[2021]	[2022]	[2023]	Half-yearly	Annually	Half-yearly	Annually	Half-yearly	Annually					
1.2 By 2025, Government has adopted gender and disability inclusive NSIS	NSIS feasibility assessment draft exists	Multi-stakeholder (DPs, CSOs, private sector, GoB) consultations on NSIS feasibility assessment (CMC discussed the NSIS at length and suggested a review of conducting study with inclusion of occupation health-related disability and the feasibility of Beveridge models, financing options, and outline of the pilot design).	Draft NSIS policy is ready for review by NSSS M&E/Sub-Committee (line ministries) and CMC consideration	The final draft NSIS policy is presented before the Cabinet Committee on Social Security (5 Ministers headed by Minister of Finance)							Primary data, KII	Gazette notification; NSIS policy; Meeting Minutes of CMC	Annual	MoSW, MoLE, MoF, GED, Cabinet, Insurance Development & Regulatory Authority Bangladesh (IDRA), Institute of Social Welfare of University of Dhaka, Private Sector (insurance companies), Labour organizations, DPOs, Development Partners, CSOs, NGOs, Poverty LCG	Risk: GoB may decide NSIS to place before National Assembly prior to the pilot. Assumption: NSSS guidance indicates pilot will lead the drafting of NSIS. The draft pilot design would be placed before the Cabinet Division for approval from CMC Sub-committee in 2022.

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		[2021]	[2022]	[2023]	Half-yearly	Annually	Half-yearly	Annually	Half-yearly	Annually					
1.3 By 2025, NSSS 2026+ adopted a gender and disability responsive universal social security approach	NSSS Mid-Term Review (MTR) is available	A series of the national consultation on background studies on suitable models, financial modeling, and a working formulation team (formulation of dialogue notes developed: old age, PwD, Social Insurance, M&E dashboard, shock-responsive (COVID-19) social protection focusing on political economy analysis, and research briefs on background studies).	CMC Sub-committee (headed by Cabinet Secretary) approves an NSSS 2026+ formulation roadmap and overseeing its implementation (Workstream mentioned under GANTT Chart 1.1)								Primary / Secondary	NSSS 2026+; Meeting Minutes of CMC, Cabinet, Sub-Committee	Annual	Cabinet Division and social protection implementing ministries, NGOs, DPOs, Civil Society	Risk: Delayed commencing project due to shock-responsive strategic direction adopted in the social protection support system. Assumption: NSSS 2026+ will be homegrown evidence-based, shock-responsive climate, hard to reach, disability and ethnic minority and urban inclusive social protection.
Output 1: By 2024, 3 policy proposals (OAA, Person with disabilities, NSIS) and draft NSSS 2026+ tabled for Govt. approval															

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		[2021]	[2022]	[2023]	Half-yearly	Annually	Half-yearly	Annually	Half-yearly	Annually					
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	Technical support to selected ministries to start developing the policy proposals. (The concept notes for dialogues drafted in the inception period, commencing from July 2021)	A framework outlining suitable model and policy and financial options for the proposal undertaken by MoSW	National consultations for developing draft proposal (including DPOs)							Primary - KII, FGD	CMC Meeting Minutes, final proposals	Annual	MoSW, MoF, Cabinet Division, GED, DPOs, BBS	<p>Risks: Govt. may decide to adopt an incremental approach to full coverage of old age and Person with disabilities; administrative delay due to leadership change in the ministry; request for repeated revisions</p> <p>Assumption: fiscal space is available; political parties taking opportunities of the election year to promote different policies, and engagement of potential institution increased public buy-in.</p>

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		[2021]	[2022]	[2023]	Half-yearly	Annually	Half-yearly	Annually	Half-yearly	Annually					
1.2 By 2024, the existence of gender and disability responsive National Social Insurance Scheme (NSIS) proposal	Draft NSIS Feasibility Study exists	Task team / sub-committee secured to provide a framework for NSIS based on the feasibility study (CMC discussed social insurance and NSIS; CMC Sub-committee for NSSF Action Plan Preparation and Monitoring discussed the social insurance issue in preparing NSSF Action Plan Phase II, 2021-26).	Technical support to MoLE and MoF to start developing the draft policy proposal	National consultations, including national conferences participated by all stakeholders including political parties for developing a draft proposal							Primary_KII	CMC Meeting Minutes, final proposals	Annual	Cabinet, MoLE, MoF, IDRA, private sector	<p>Risks: Lack of consensus with the policy of line ministries on social insurance model and implementation of NSIS, and its implementation (Public or engagement of private sector).</p> <p>Assumptions: Realistic insurance model feasible based on Bangladesh context</p>

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		[2021]	[2022]	[2023]	Half-yearly	Annually	Half-yearly	Annually	Half-yearly	Annually					
1.3 Existence of COVID-19 social protection policy responses focusing on disabled individuals and marginalized groups including urban poor, and climate change responsive SP	COVID-19 new cases trending upward in Bangladesh and Government in discussion stages on various policy options	Needs assessment for Person with disabilities and marginalize groups coping strategy for short-medium-long-term strategy including corresponding GoB funding needs report Urban social protection delivery model concept note and ToR and climate adaptive SP concept and ToR drafted (A programme mapping exercise completed with the OPDs to identify a better model for PwDs, apart a zero draft PEA was shared)	Shock-responsive (COVID-19) specific social protection strategy and Urban Social Protection Delivery Model and climate adaptive SP proposal completed								Primary / Secondary	A political economy assessment and scoping of shock-responsive inclusive social protection model	Annual	Cabinet Division, MoF GED, ICT Division, CSOs / DPOs, Development Partners, Garment Trade Unions	<p>Risks: COVID-19 overwhelms Bangladesh to the point of devastation and the government lacks the capacity to respond</p> <p>Assumptions: COVID-19 expands throughout Bangladesh, but remains manageable to a degree; social cohesion remains stable in the country</p>

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		[2021]	[2022]	[2023]	Half-yearly	Annually	Half-yearly	Annually	Half-yearly	Annually					
Output 2: Research and pilot generated evidence available to and utilized by policymakers and other stakeholders															
<p>2.1 Incorporation of research recommendations into social protection policy (Person 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)</p>	Not initiated	<p>2 research drafted (Person with disabilities accessing SP, targeting and selection); 2 ToRs developed: an examination of options for expanding the fiscal space for universal old age, persons with disability, and social insurance, NID documentation) (concept notes developed on OAA, PwD, and social insurance. Discussions were held with the Institute of Social Welfare of Dhaka University on developing</p>	<p>4 Research finalized (Person 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)</p>	<p>Recommendations from 4 pieces of research are incorporated into the policy proposal and NSSS 2026+ development</p>							<p>Secondary</p>	<p>4 research, OAA + Person with disabilities + NSIS policy proposal, NSSS 2026+ draft</p>	<p>Annual</p>	<p>GED, MoSW, MoLE, MoF, Cabinet Division, DPOs, DPs, CSOs</p>	<p>Risks: natural disasters that affect the availability of high-quality experts</p> <p>Assumptions: recommendations from the research are within the capacity of the government for short-medium term implementation</p>

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		the pilot proposals)													

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		[2021]	[2022]	[2023]	Half-yearly	Annually	Half-yearly	Annually	Half-yearly	Annually					
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	Concept note for pilot developed (scope, coverage area, transfer amount, partners, gender-responsive methodology and) draft pilot design developed with Govt. co-financing (two concept notes includes the outline of pilot designs; and 10 policy briefs drafted)	CMC sub-committee approves the pilot plan and plans for implementation	Pilot operational and preliminary findings are shared in the national conference							Primary / Secondary	Pilot design concept note, draft pilot design, final pilot design, pilot MIS reports, final pilot report, policy brief	Annual	MoSW, Cabinet Division, GED, DPs, DPOs	<p>Risk: securing Govt. co-finance delayed due to administrative Govt. procedures</p> <p>Assumption: Govt. allocates the funds for the transfers for the pilot area; the Govt. continues the universal old age + Person with disabilities pilot area indefinitely after the UNDP case study is finished</p>
Outcome 2: Governance systems strengthened and made inclusive to build the case for and manage universal lifecycle-based social security															

Project Monitoring and Evaluation Plan															
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		[2021]	[2022]	[2023]	Half-yearly	Annually	Half-yearly	Annually	Half-yearly	Annually					
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	Committee agrees on a set of prioritized action plans based on the reforms action plan by line ministries (CMC Sub-committee for monitoring the implementation of NSSS reforms, and Action Plan preparation met and prepared the NSSS Action Plan Phase II).	Integration of SP reforms plans in the Annual Performance Agreement (APA)	Oversee the implementation of the reforms action plans as in the APA by commissioning the 2 nd MTR							Desk Review / Meeting minutes	Annual Performance Agreement (APA) of SP implementing line ministries	Annual	Cabinet, GED, MoSW, MoF, MoLE, CMC, CMC sub-committee	<p>Risks: delayed reforms implementation by line ministries due to capacity constraints and/or inter-ministerial complexities</p> <p>Assumptions: Sub-committee able to use APA incorporation as an appropriate tool to hold line ministries accountable to reforms implementation</p>

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		[2021]	[2022]	[2023]	Half-yearly	Annually	Half-yearly	Annually	Half-yearly	Annually					
2.2 Percentage of Old Age Allowance and Persons with Disability Allowance expenditure against GDP	2018-19 OAA (0.095%) Person with disabilities (0.033%)	OAA (5% increase from 2019) (0.0006% insignificant increase) Person with disabilities (10% increase from 2019 (0.02% insignificant increase)	OAA (10% increase from 2019) Person with disabilities (30% increase from 2019)	OAA (15% increase from 2019) Person with disabilities (40% increase from 2019)							Secondary analytical review	National budget Document at the end of June of every Year	Annual	MoF, MoSW	<p>Risks: Delays in finalizing disability assessment mechanism across stakeholders; NID identification issues (age documentation) is a solvable issue for the current older generation (ambitious target, because Bangladesh GDP is volatile, increased 22% from 2018-19 to 2020-21; where total budget increased only 4%). (SP percent of GDP was 2.54% 2018-19, and 2.61% in 2019-20; increased to 3.10% in 2020-21 due to COVID 19 stimulus packages and grant, interest waivers and loan)</p> <p>Assumptions: stable economic growth provides for fiscal space; Govt. public statements are able to be translated into action</p>
Output 3: Gender-responsive policy advice and accountability tools are made available to the line ministries to demonstrate their accountability for social protection reforms															

<p>3.1 Functional and utilized web-based social protection dashboard for improved monitoring of social protection reforms incorporated in the Annual Performance Agreement (APA)</p>	<p>Government monitoring of social protection reforms is manual and does not cover all areas of reform performance</p>	<p>ToRs developed for commissioning a design study for a web-based social protection dashboard is available Web-based prototype of the dashboard Concept note for revised M&E Framework available for CMC sub-committee, and Revised M&E Framework adopted, and report incorporated into the dashboard (Study commissioned on NSSS M&E and MIS assessment, identification of indicators, and outline of M&E dashboard)</p>	<p>The dashboard is trialled for 2022 and populated with sex, and age disaggregated data, including M&E Framework data</p>	<p>The dashboard is finally populated with sex and age disaggregated data, including M&E Framework data</p>							<p>Primary / Desk Review / meeting minutes</p>	<p>ToRs for dashboard design study, revised M&E framework, prototype dashboard, populated dashboard, CMC sub-committee Meeting Minutes</p>	<p>Annual</p>	<p>Cabinet Division, GED, MoSW, MoF, MoLE, CMC, CMC sub-committee</p>	<p>Risks: the LMs outside of the project's support may lack the capacity to fully utilize the dashboard Assumptions: current commitment to social protection reforms is resilient to changes in leadership</p>
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Project Monitoring and Evaluation Plan															
Project Title and Duration	Social Protection Policy Support Programme - SSPS 2021-23														
Project Goal	Build an inclusive SSS for all deserving Bangladeshis that effectively tackles and prevents poverty and inequality and contributes to broader human development, employment, and economic growth, that strengthens the social contract, enhances stability, and builds resilience. (SDGs 1,2,3,5,8,10, 13, and 16)														
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		[2021]	[2022]	[2023]	Half-yearly	Annually	Half-yearly	Annually	Half-yearly	Annually					
<p>3.2 Strengthened key line ministries (Cabinet Division, GED, MoSW, MoF, MoLE) capacity for gender-responsive SP decision making</p>	<p>Gender Strategy and Action Plan exists; however, line ministries have limited understanding of how to implement gender-responsive SP reforms</p>	<p>Set of gender-focused indicators addressing practical and strategic needs of women for SSPs developed and endorsed NSSS M&E Committee (Gender-responsive NSSS Action Plan Phase – II approved by the CMC)</p>	<p>Key line ministry decision-makers have enhanced knowledge and capability to design and implement gender-responsive SP policy and SSPs because of targeted capacity building</p>	<p>Key line ministries have developed guidelines to integrate gender-responsive programme design (empowering elements, participation, awareness, social capital, etc.) in all programmes</p>							<p>Primary - KII, FGD</p>	<p>Review of national policies, set of gender-focused indicators, targeted capacity building reports, integrated gender-responsive guideline, draft gender-responsive NSSS 2026+ policy, NSSS 2026+</p>	<p>Annual</p>	<p>Cabinet Division, GED, MoSW, MoF, MoLE</p>	<p>Risks: key line ministry representatives ignore the need for targeted improvements for enhancing gender-responsive SP policy and SSP design</p> <p>Assumptions: targeted capacity building efforts supported by specialized advisory gender advisory services will have an impact on increasing the capacity of decision-makers</p>

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		[2021]	[2022]	[2023]	Half-yearly	Annually	Half-yearly	Annually	Half-yearly	Annually					
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 Person with disabilities	Revised NSSS Action Plan 2021-25 incorporates gender, communication, advocacy, and urban action plans (NSSS Action Plan Phase II incorporates gender, communication and urban, PwDs issues)	Line ministries are regularly updating reform progress data on the dashboard	Senior officials of the line ministries have improved understanding of global best practices on social protection models							Primary - FGD, KII	Training reports, dashboard report, workshop proceedings, proposal inputs, NSSS Final Evaluation	Annual	Cabinet, GED, MoSW, MoF, MoLE, CMC, CMC sub-committee	<p>Risks: frequent changes in line ministry officials limits institutional capacity building</p> <p>Assumptions: development partners remain committed to combined and coordinated capacity-building efforts</p>

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		accountability)													
Output 4: Broadened knowledge base and influence of NGOs working for marginalized and excluded groups, including Person with disabilities in social protection decision-making															

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Output 4: Broadened knowledge base and influence of NGOs working for marginalized and excluded groups, including Person with disabilities in social protection decision-making															
4.1 Influence of non-state actors working for marginalized and excluded groups, including Person with disabilities in the SP decision-making	DPOs are not included in the committees	Supporting non-state actors and DPOs to create a platform to participate in SP discussions Customization of SP communication strategy for Leave No One Behind endorsed by DPOs Platform (Dialogue on inclusive accessible and sustainable post-COVID with the DPOs Platform; and mapping of disabled programmes in Bangladesh)	Non-state actors and DPOs produce a citizen's report on SP and the needs of marginalized and excluded groups	Non-state actors and DPOs produce inputs for consideration into draft NSSS 2026+							Desk Review / Primary / Secondary / Proceedings	A set of case studies commissioned by the project. Workshop Proceedings	Annual	CSOs, DPOs, MoSW	<p>Risks: frequent changes in line ministry officials limits institutional capacity building</p> <p>Assumptions: development partners remain committed to combined and coordinated capacity-building efforts</p>