

79th Session of Economic and Social Commission for
Asia and Pacific (ESCAP)

Draft Speech

Agenda 4(b)

Committee on
Social Development

15-19 May 2023

Bangkok (Online Platform)

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Social Development

BismillahirRahmanir Rahim

Chair of the Session

Hon'ble Head of State and Government

Executive Secretary

Excellencies

Ladies and Gentlemen

Assalamualaikum and Good Morning

I express my sincere gratitude and thanks to the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and Pacific for hosting this prestigious event.

Excellencies

The Constitution of the People's Republic of Bangladesh has expressed its commitment in ensuring equal rights of all citizens, upholding their dignity as human beings, protecting basic human rights and establishing the social equality. We have adopted various programs for social protection, human resource development, poverty alleviation, welfare, development and empowerment of women & the bypassed and disadvantaged segments of the people of Bangladesh. All the Programs are related towards achieving the targets of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), Delta Plan 2100, Vision 2041 and Eighth Five Year Plan of Bangladesh to build a peaceful society with the approach of comprehensive development keeping with the commitment.

Distinguished Participants,

Ministry of Social Welfare is dealing with Human Resource Development, Poverty Eradication, Welfare, Development and Empowerment of the bypassed and disadvantaged segments of the people of Bangladesh. To introduce Bangladesh as a Welfare state this Ministry is implementing programs like Old Age Allowances, Widows Allowances and Allowances for Persons with Disabilities, Grants and aids to Acid burnt victims. The Ministry has also multidimensional and intensive programs for the welfare of the by-passed, disadvantaged segment, unemployed, landless, orphans, distressed, vagrants, homeless, socially, intellectually and physically challenged, neuro-developmental challenged, poor, helpless patients, Children at Risk of both rural and urban areas of the country.

Under the Social Protection System the old age allowance program has been introduced for the elderly in 1997-98 and the allowance for the widow and husband abused women in 1998-99 fiscal year. Subsequently, the country has introduced Bir Muktijoddha (Freedom Fighter) Honorary Allowance, Persons With Disability Allowance, Shelter Home, Education Stipend for the Disabled, Hijra Allowance, Special Allowance for Bede and Backward Classes, Financial Assistance to Poor Patients with Chronic Diseases, Financial Assistance for Tea Workers, Marginal professional group. In the current 2022-23 fiscal year, Budget of safetyynet programs are being implemented by Department of social welfare Under the Ministry of Social Welfare are given below:

According to the budget of the fiscal year 2022-23, the budget Social Safetynet programs under the Department of Social Services is tk 8427.55 crores and the beneficiaries are 112.41 (One hundred and 12 lakhs and 41 thousand) lakh persons.

Distinguished Participants,

The honorable Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, the worthy daughter of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, has given a planned institutional form to the social security system in order to make the poor people smile by investing heavily in the social security sector of Bangladesh. The 'National Social Security Strategy (NSSS)' was formulated in 2015 to reflect her far-reaching views. The strategy covers five life cycles from birth to death for the extremely poor and disabled. There are specific plans and procedures for sustainable social security for each life cycle.

Improving the livelihood of the Backward Population through Poverty Alleviation we are implementing some sort of interest free microcredit Program such as Rural Social Services (RSS), Rural Mother Center (RMC), Urban Social Services Programme (UCD) and Rehabilitation Activities of Burnt and Disabled Persons Programme. Department of Social Services has been working as one of the key responsible Department for implementing 1 goal (goal-5) as a lead ministry, 8 Goals (1,2,3,4,8,10,11 ,16) as associate and 25 Targets.

The government has established institution based child protection center like Sarkari Shishu Paribar (Child Family), Baby Home, Day Care Centers, Government Shelter Home, Safe Home, Child Development Centers, Training and Rehabilitation Centers for the Destitute Children,

Pre-vocational Training. The government also provides the Capitation Grant for orphan living in Non-Government Orphanages.

Excellencies,

The Government of Bangladesh is committed that No child will be deprived of educational opportunities and will be subjected to disparities in access to primary education arising from gender, age, earnings, cast, cultural or ethnic distinction and geographic isolation. Government is providing free education at the primary level. Free text book, monthly stipend, school feeding program in poverty stricken areas, construction of WASH Blocks are few of the important programs. We have distributed 99.86 million free text books to all students at the pre-primary and primary level on the first day of the year. Stipend is being sent to mothers of these students through mobile money transfer. We have provided online lessons using radio, TV and online platform of Primary Education Directorate during deadly pandemic, COVID-19 where schools had been closed for almost 2 years.

The government is committed to ensuring a well-organized social security system to reduce gender inequality in various areas including poverty, employment, human development, security and trauma tolerance. We are promoting the rights of women, children, disabled girls, raising awareness, building child-friendly infrastructure for girls with disabilities in educational institutions and providing protection to orphaned and socially abused girls.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

We are working as guardian of Persons with Disabilities (PDW). At present, under the Disability Detection Programmes, On 02 May 2023 total number of entered disabled persons is 30 lakh 10 thousand 896 Persons PDWs are registered and receiving Identity Card (Subarna Nagoric Card). All types PDW are getting benefit such as cash assistance, technical training, education etc.

We have adopted short-term, medium-term and long-term action plans and supervised, evaluated work plans so that the poorest and the most vulnerable section of the country can be integrated into its national development efforts keeping the vision 'leaving no one behind'.

Thank you all.