

Social Protection in South Asia: Bangladesh Experience and Barriers to Extension

Presentation

By

Muhammad G. Sarwar

General Economics Division

Planning Commission

Government of Bangladesh

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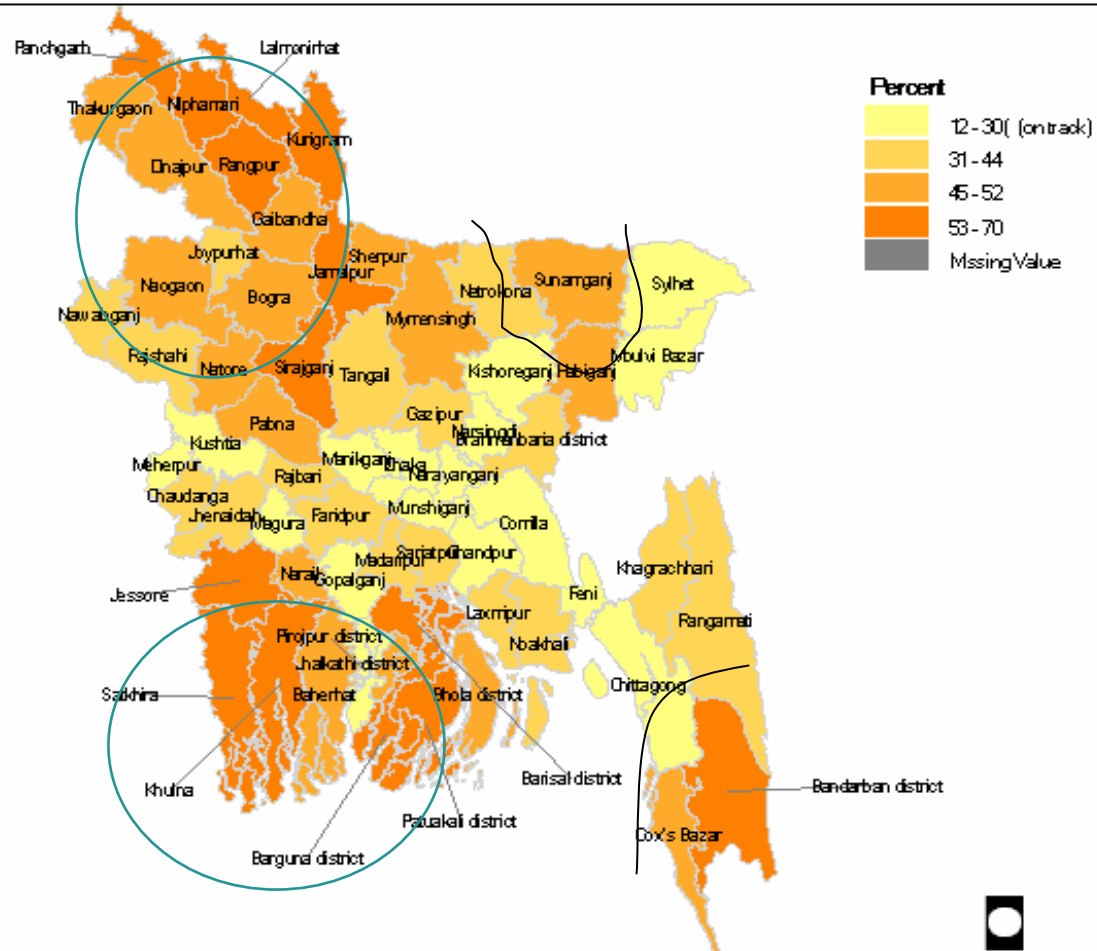
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Bangladesh at a Glance

- Location: South Asia
- Area: 147570 sq. km.
- Population: 142.2 million
- Per Capita GDP: 621 US\$
- Per capita GNI: 690 US\$
- GDP growth rate: above 6% since FY 2004 (current revised projection for 2009 is 5.9)
- Population below Poverty Line (2200 Kcal/capita/day?): 40%

Map-1.1: Population below Poverty line in districts of Bangladesh, 2005.



Note: The boundaries and the names shown and the designations used on these maps do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations.

Source: HIES, BBS 2005

Poverty pockets: coastal belt, monga areas

Challenges for Bangladesh

- Reducing Poverty
- Attaining food security
- Attaining energy security
- Attaining MDGs and Human Rights
- Tackling Environmental degradation and Climate Change
- Sustain economic growth

Social Protection is Universal Human Right

- Article 22 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights:
 - ‘Everyone as a member of society, has the right to social security and is entitled to realization, through national effort and international cooperation and in accordance with the organization and resources of each state, of the economic, social and cultural rights indispensable for his dignity and the free development of his personality’.

Social Protection is a Constitutional Obligation for Bangladesh State

1. Bangladesh Constitution, Part II, Articles 15

- It shall be a fundamental responsibility of the State to attain, through planned economic growth, a constant increase of productive forces and a steady improvement in the material and cultural standard of living of the people, with a view to securing its citizens -
 - (a) the provision of the basic necessities of life, including food, clothing, shelter, education and medical care;
 - (b) the right to work, that is the right to guaranteed employment at a reasonable wage having regard to the quantity and quality of work;

Social Protection is Constitutional Obligation of Bangladesh State (contd.)

© the right to reasonable rest, recreation and leisure;
and

(d) the right to social security, that is to say, to public assistance in cases of undeserved want arising from unemployment, illness or disablement, or widowhood, or orphan hood or in old age, or in other such cases.

Social Protection in Bangladesh: graduation process

- **1971 Liberation War:** destruction of infrastructure and subsequent governance failure sharply raised poverty level above 70 % that led to increase in NGO activities like BRAC and Grameen Bank
- **1973: Arab - Israel war led to oil price increase** that coincided with a devastating flood and famine in Bangladesh 1973/74. 'Food for Work' program in 1975 was introduced in this backdrop

Social Protection in Bangladesh: graduation process (contd.)

- **1988/89 floods:** Need for emergency delivery paved the way for formation of LGED in 1989 to expand the network of rural road infrastructure. That contributed immensely in rural development and poverty reduction during the 1990's – by facilitating service delivery in remote areas
- **1998 flood:** VGF/VGD (Vulnerable Group Feeding/ Vulnerable Group Development) were introduced
- **2007/2008** Global oil and food price shock: introduction of 100 days guaranteed employment program

Social Protection in Bangladesh

- Areas of social protection
 - Social Safety Net
 - Food Security
 - Micro-Credit
 - Rural Employment
 - Disaster Management
 - Basic health service
 - Access to public schools

Social Protection in Bangladesh

- Types of Social Protection Programs
 - Cash transfer
 - Food Assistance
 - Social Empowerment
 - Access to basic health care
 - Access to public schools

Social Protection in Bangladesh

- Government Policy -
 - Protection of chronic and transient poor
 - Encourage NGOs, CSOs and Private sector to augment their contributions in social protection
 - Coverage and budget expansion for social protection

Social Protection Programs

- Cash Transfer Program

Programs (Ministry)	Coverage FY 2009/10 ml person/month	Budget FY 2009/10 ml Taka
1. Old age allowance (MoSW)	2.25	8100.00
2. Allowance for widowed, deserted & destitute Women (MoWCA)	0.92	3312.00
3. Allowance for financially insolvent disabled (MoSW)	0.26	936.00
4. Maternity allowance for poor lactating mothers (MoWCA)	0.08	336.00
5. Honorarium for insolvent & injured freedom fighters (MoFWA)	0.14	2814.00
6. Grants for residents in Govt. orphanages & other institutions (MoSW)	0.02	233.90

Social Protection Programs (contd.)

Programs (Ministry)	Coverage FY 2009/10 ml person/month	Budget FY 2009/10 ml Taka
7. Grants for students in non-govt. orphanages (MoSW)	0.09	433.2
8. General Relief Activities (MoFDM)	0.05	332.0
9. Block allocation for disaster management		1000.0
10. Non-Bengali rehabilitation program (MoFDM)	0.01	151.0
11. Allowance for distressed cultural personalities (MoCA)	0.001	8.00
12. Allowance for CHT beneficiaries	0.054	15.00
13. Pension for retired govt. employees	0.325	35323.30

Social Protection Programs (contd.)

Programs (Ministry)	Coverage FY 2009/10 ml person/month	Budget FY 2009/10 ml Taka
14. Stipend for disabled students & Grants for school for disables (MoSW)	0.028	98.00
15. Housing Support (MoFDM)	0.01	50.00
16 Agricultural rehabilitation (MoA)	2.75	550.0

Social Protection Programs (contd.)

- Food Assistance

Programs (Ministry)	Coverage FY 2009/10 ml person/month	Budget FY 2009/10 ml Taka
17. Subsidy on OMS (MoFDM)	30.00	12000.00
18. VGD (Vulnerable Group Development)	8.83	6580.70
19. Test Relief Food (MoFDM)	3.33	9931.90
20. Gratuitous Relief –Food (MoFDM)	6.4	1640.90
21. Food Assistance for CHT	0.63	1891.60
22. Food for Work (FfW)	3.13	9388.20
23. VGF (Vulnerable Group Feeding)	36.70	14102.30

Social Protection Programs (contd.)

- Micro-Credit Programs

Programs (Ministry)	Coverage FY 2009/10 ml person/month	Budget FY 2009/10 ml Taka
24. Fund for FKSF	6.5	2000.00
25. Social Development Foundation		2950.00
26. NGO Foundation		200.00
27. Self-employment credit for Freedom Fighters	.01	100.00

Social Protection Programs (contd.)

- Social Empowerment program through ADP

Programs (Ministry)	Coverage FY 2009/10 ml person/month	Budget FY 2009/10 ml Taka
28. Stipend for primary students	5.5	4875.20
29. School feeding program	0.60	342.60
30. Stipend for drop-out students	0.50	928.90
31. Char livelihood	0.25	936.00
32. Housing	0.04	935.50
33. Stipend for secondary & higher secondary students	2.8	3390.0
34. Maternal health voucher scheme (MoHFW)	0.19	700.0

Social Protection Programs (contd.)

Programs (Ministry)	Coverage FY 2009/10 ml person/month	Budget FY 2009/10 ml Taka
35. National Nutrition Program	0.176	1730.0
36. Protection of Children at risk	0.024	293.70
37. Empowerment of the poor	2.10	578.30
38. Basic education for urban working children	0.32	828.40
39. Participatory Rural Development	0.01	196.50
40. Rural employment for creating public assets	0.024	756.00
41. Rehabilitation for climate refugees	0,05	913.50

Social Protection Programs 2009/10 (contd.)

- Number of total beneficiaries: 98.51 million persons
- Beneficiaries in terms of man-month: 286.23
- Total employment creation: 2.38 million
- Estimated budget for Social Protection: Tk. 1731.41 billion
- Estimated National Budget: Tk. 11250.00 billion
- SP budget as percentage of total budget: 15.4 %
- Total GDP: Tk. 68673.00 billion
- SP budget as percentage of GDP: 2.52 %

Limitations of Social Protection Programs in Bangladesh

- Low coverage – not all poor have access
- Inappropriate targeting – ineligible persons in Safety Net Program is common
- Leakage: more prevalent in in-kind than in cash program

Barriers to Extension of Social Protection

- Negative elite perception about Universal Minimum Social Protection
- Limited capacity of the State institutions to generate required resources and to administer Social Protection

Thanks