

CSSP | Social Protection and Resilience

Child Sensitive Social Protection (CSSP) in Bangladesh

Background:

Despite overall economic progress inequalities persist along with widespread poverty among people who have limited income earning opportunities and inadequate resilience to withstand social and economic stress and shocks. Children make up almost half of the population of the country, and about 33 million children are estimated to live in poverty. One out of every six child is working resulting in 7.4 million children being engaged in labour across the country.

Most of the children from very poor households have limited opportunities for education and most of the children in poor households are engaged in different types of hazardous labour.

The Child Sensitive Social Protection (CSSP) project is being implemented to improve the situation of these children and their families.

Purpose of the project:

To improve the poverty status of children in Bangladesh and contribute to mitigating the multiple vulnerabilities of children and their care-takers face as a consequence of household chronic poverty, shock or stress through CSSP.

Geographical Coverage: Mymensingh and Netrokona

Implementing Partners: Society for Underprivileged Families (SUF)

Project duration: 2011-2017

Funded by: Save the Children Finland

Project Outputs:

Output 1: Transparent and accountable mechanisms for accessing social protection programmes by poor households and children are in place in the 22 targeted Union Parishads and 44 schools

Output 2: Union Parishads practice child sensitive implementation of selected social protection programmes

Output 3: Parents and other caregivers accessing social protection programmes adopt improved parenting/caregiver practices

Output 4: Children are empowered to raise their concerns on child poverty & vulnerability related issues and adults positively consider their views

Output 5: The NFE center has effectively prepared targeted children to become mainstreamed to formal school and the school provides a supportive environment for the children

Output 6: The Government of Bangladesh shows increased sensitivity and commitment towards children's needs and rights as a result of the CSSP initiative.

Target Groups

Children of age **6-14** and their parents/care takers.

Children: 35417
(both directly and indirectly)

Adult: 64264
(both directly and indirectly)

Major achievements:

- The project achieved inclusion of adolescent girls in National Social Security Strategy
- Ministry of Women and Children Affairs (MoWCA) allocated 1% of the VGD cards for adolescent girls in 2015 and in 2016, included one of the prioritization criteria for VGD as “families with adolescent school going girls” as one “family with adolescent girls”.
- Out of 1430 children of 22 NFE centers, 1418 appeared in Primary School Certificate Examination, of them, 1360 successfully passed the examination while 1342 enrolled in formal secondary schools.
- While data were collected from 721 social protection programme beneficiaries, it was found that 80% HHs sending children to school regularly, 95% HHs stopped the practice of child marriage, 78% HHs stopped children’s harmful work, 45% HHs considered the views and opinions of children, 39% HHs provided adequate time and opportunities for play and recreation always and 89% HHs avoided physical and mental punishment to the children.
- All NFE students’ family members (1214 beneficiaries) got access to different social protection schemes.

Lessons learned:

- Community Based Targeting (CBT) approach through Community Watch Group (CWG) is an effective approach to select the most vulnerable people for social protection schemes.
- Public hearings can be an effective tool for citizens to raise their voices as well as making Union Parishads accountable for enhancing access of poor people to the Government social protection programmes.
- Non-formal education act as an important component to withdraw children from all forms of hazardous child labor.
- Parenting sessions for sensitizing parents/caregivers on child rights and Child Sensitive Norms - set of principles, developed positive attitudes and behaviours of adults towards children increase children enrolment and retention in schools, reduce child labour, child marriage and physical punishment.
- Child Club is an effective intervention to empower children living in poverty so that they can mobilise and better claim their rights, including to social protection
- Strong advocacy initiatives have been pursued for influencing Government policy and programme impact on children in the long run.

