

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh
Ministry of Women and Children Affairs
Bangladesh Secretariat, Dhaka.

Subject : Minutes of the 1st Meeting of the Inter-Ministerial Committee for Coordination of Child Development Issues.

Place : MOWCA Conference room, Bangladesh Secretariat (Building # 6, Room # 323).

Time and Date : 10:00 am 29 August 2018

Participants : Annexure-1

Chair : Ms.Mahmuda Sharmeen Benu ndc, Adl. Secretary (P&D), MOWCA.

National Social Security Strategy (NSSS) of Bangladesh has the provision of a Child Benefit Programme (CBP) for 0-4 year children to be implemented by the Ministry of Women and Children Affairs (MoWCA). As part of its pursuits for implementation of this programme MOWCA has recently formed an inter-ministerial committee. Agenda-wise discussions and decisions of the 1st meeting of the committee have been furnished below:

Agenda-1: Co-option of representatives from Cabinet Division, Ministry of Local Government and Rural Development, Department of Family Planning and WFP Bangladesh.

Discussion: The meeting was informed that MoWCA is responsible for development and implementation of the Child Benefit Scheme and Cabinet Division is mandated for overall coordination of social security programmes of all the ministries and divisions through Central Management Committee (CMC). As part of the operationalization of child component of NSSS, the Cabinet Division has established a Policy Guidance Unit for Child-focused Social Protection (PGU-CSP). Ministry of Local Government and Rural Development and Department of Family Planning have also been implementing child development related projects and programmes. As a separate initiative, WFP has been supporting MOWCA in pursuing Maternity Allowances and Lactating Mother Allowances, which are crucial elements of the national social protection schemes. Under this backdrop, co-option of representatives from the Cabinet Division, Ministry of Local Government and Rural Development, Department of Family Planning and WFP to the Committee would be appropriate, the meeting opined.

Decision: The meeting decided to co-opt suitable representatives from Cabinet Division, Ministry of Local Government and Rural Development, Department of Family Planning and WFP Bangladesh into the committee.

Agenda-2: Towards a Child Benefit Programme for Bangladesh: Policy and Design options:

Discussion: Mr. Carlos Acosta, Chief of SPEAR Section UNICEF made a short introduction before Mr. Kavin made a presentation outlining the policy options and design of CBP for Bangladesh, under the label of 'Agamir Shishu' proposed by the Cabinet Division being designed by PGU-CSP. He underscored the importance of implementing CBP in a convergent manner to get maximum benefit with minimum cost. In replying to a question raised by some members of the meeting, it has been clearly spelled out that Cabinet Division's initiative is to provide policy support to MoWCA and other relevant ministries/agencies in implementation and monitoring of the CBP.

Decision: The meeting welcomed the initiative of Cabinet Division in outlining the policy options and design of proposed CBP – ‘Agamir Shishu’. The meeting also termed the Cabinet Division’s initiative as a step forward into the design of a national CBP--‘Agamir Shishu’.

Agenda-3: Information regarding on-going cash transfer programme:

Discussion: The meeting underscored the need of having stock of all on-going cash transfer programmes for children under 5 in Bangladesh being implemented by different ministries/divisions, as part of the process of designing CBP ‘Agamir Shishu’.

Decision: The meeting decided that MoWCA would write to all social sector ministries/divisions to furnish stocks of their on-going Cash Transfer Programmes for the children through a specifically designed template within a stipulated time-frame.

Agenda-4: Software for establishment of voucher system: The meeting underscored the need of having new software to allow beneficiaries to purchase a limited set of items from designated shops in order to avoid resources being used for other purposes.

Discussion: The meeting discussed the concept and found it as commendable. The meeting also realized that important effort would require in registering vendors to limit potential misuse of a voucher system.

Decision: The meeting decided to collect relevant information regarding voucher scheme.

Agenda-5: Miscellaneous: The meeting underscored the need of linking the CBP output indicators with Annual Performance Agreement being signed with Cabinet Division

Decision: The meeting decided to take up the matter with Cabinet Division so the output indicators of CBP of relevant ministries/divisions can be linked up with Annual Performance Agreement.

The meeting ended with vote of thanks from the Chair

Sd./-

20/9/2018

(Ms.Mahmuda Sharmeen Benu ndc)
Additional Secretary(P&D)

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Date: 23/09/2018

Copy forwarded for information and necessary action (not according to seniority):

1. Cabinet Secretary, Cabinet Division, Bangladesh Secretariat, Dhaka.
2. Secretary, Local Government & Rural Development Division, Bangladesh Secretariat, Dhaka
3. Secretary, Finance Division, Ministry of Finance, Bangladesh Secretariat, Dhaka.
4. Secretary, Ministry of Social Welfare, Bangladesh Secretariat, Dhaka.
5. Secretary, Health Services Division, MoHFW, Bangladesh Secretariat, Dhaka.
6. Secretary, Ministry of Information, Bangladesh Secretariat, Dhaka.

7. Additional Secretary, (Shishu & Coordination), Ministry of Women & Children Affairs.
8. Director General, Department of Women Affairs Dhaka.
9. Director General, Department of Social Services, Dhaka.
10. Director General, Department of Family Planning, Dhaka.
11. Country Representative, World Food Programme, Bangladesh, Dhaka.
12. Deputy Chief (Planning Wing), Ministry of Women & Children Affairs, Dhaka.
13. Mr. Carlos Acosta, Chief, Social Policy Evaluation Analytics and Research, UNICEF.
- ✓ 14. Programmer, Ministry of Women and Children Affairs, Dhaka (with request to upload in the website).
15. Personal Officer to the Additional Secretary (Planning & Dev.), Ministry of Women & Children Affairs, Dhaka.

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23.9.18

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