

**Local Consultative Group (LCG)**  
**Working Group on Governance and Social Protection:**  
**Formation and Terms of Reference**  
**February 2022**

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**Background**

It has been more than a decade since the Government of Bangladesh has set up a strong organizational mechanism - Local Consultative Groups (LCG) to coordinate its developmental and sectoral goals, policies, and strategies with Development Partners (DPs) for enhancing the effectiveness of development cooperation. The main goal of the LCG Working Group on Governance and Social Protection is to intensify cooperation in various governance and social protection related interventions of bilateral and multilateral development partners of Bangladesh including UN organizations.

Advancement of good governance was identified as one of the main areas of interventions where development partners have a substantial share of contributions. Meanwhile, the formulation of the National Social Security Strategy (NSSS) added a new dimension to governance by way of reform agenda of social protection. Consequently, the concepts of good governance and social protection have been combined giving rise to the 'LCG Working Group on Governance and Social Protection'.

Moreover, the fact that the Cabinet Division coordinates the issues of both governance and social protection is another justification for the creation of this working group combining the two spheres that converge at the level of the Cabinet Division. This working group has been built upon the erstwhile LCG Working Group on Governance chaired by Cabinet Division, integrating some relevant components of recently abolished LCG Working Group on Poverty chaired by the General Economics Division (GED) of the Planning Commission.

It is worth mentioning that the scopes of the governance working group meant dealing with so many generalized and crosscutting issues that basic restructuring with focus on specific areas was needed. On the other hand, the abolition of the LCG Working Group on Poverty in 2021 triggered the need for selecting another working group to absorb the social protection issues. Against this backdrop, the Working Group on Governance and Social Protection was formulated by a notification on 26 December 2021 of ERD. Despite the institutional convergence of responsibilities and thematic overlap of the topics at times, each of the two spheres need to be treated with the same attention, thereby respecting their specific areas and topics.

**Objectives of the Working Group**

The main objective of this working group is to contribute towards effective and coordinated implementation of policies, strategies, plans and programmes relating to governance and social protection through joint result targets and a shared monitoring framework. The primary purposes of the LCG Governance and Social Protection Working Group are as follows:

- a) Act as a platform for policy dialogue;
- b) Monitor progress on the reform process in the field of governance;
- c) Monitor progress on social protection reforms as stipulated in NSSS, Five Year Plans and Sustainable Development Goals;
- d) Facilitate coordination in line with the principles set out in the Paris Declaration, the Accra



**Formation of the LCG Working Group on Governance and Social Protection:**

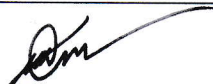
The group consists of representatives from the Government and Development Partners involved with sectors related to the issues of governance and social protection. A partnership with civil society organizations (CSOs) may be established and the representatives of CSOs may take part in the group as and when deemed necessary by the working group. In addition, national or international resource persons may be invited based on the needs of the group. The formation of the working group from the side of GOB and DPs are as follows while members may be co-opted upon the agreement of the working group:

**GOB Side:**

Sl	Name/Designation	Position
1.	Mr. Md. Shamsul Arefin Secretary, Coordination and Reforms, Cabinet Division	Chair
2.	Additional Secretary, Coordination, Cabinet Division	Member
3.	Additional Secretary, Reforms, Cabinet Division	Member
4.	Joint Secretary, Civil Registration and Social Security, Cabinet Division	Member
5.	Representative of Ministry of Public Administration	Member
6.	Representative of the Prime Minister's Office	Member
7.	Representative of Ministry of Social Welfare	Member
8.	Representative of Local Government Division	Member
9.	Representative of GED	Member
10.	Representative of Finance Division	Member
11.	Representative of Ministry of Women and Children Affairs	Member
12.	Representative of Ministry of Food	Member
13.	Representative of Ministry of Disaster Management and Relief	Member
14.	Representative of Ministry of Primary and Mass Education	Member
15.	Representative of Law and Justice Division	Member
16.	Representative of Anti-Corruption Commission	Member

**DP Side**

Sl	Name/Designation	Position
1.	Representative of European Union	Co-Chair
2.	Representative UNDP	Member
3.	Representative of ADB	Member
4.	Representative of UNICEF	Member
5.	Representative of DFAT	Member





6.	Representative of FCDO	Member
7.	Representative of ILO	Member
8.	Representative of World Bank	Member
9.	Representative of USAID	Member
10.	Representative of JICA	Member
11.	Representative of KOICA	Member
12.	Representative of GIZ	Member
13.	DANIDA	Member
14.	Netherlands Embassy	Member
15.	Embassy of the Federal Republic of Germany	Member
16.	Embassy of Sweden	Member
17.	Embassy of Switzerland	Member
18.	Representative of KfW	Member
19.	Representative of WFP	Member

### Scope of work

- Coordinate work to provide strategic support to the Government in national priority policy formulation particularly on social protection and governance issues;
- Promote harmonization and alignment of activities with other task force teams to avoid duplication and provide necessary guidance and feedback and monitor achievements in respective fields;
- Provide feedback to the Government and LCG Plenary on progress in the achievements of targets outlined in the results framework and also identify restraints in achieving those targets;
- Review national policy issues relating to governance and social protection and extend cooperation in effective implementation;
- Promote and facilitate common intentions and integration of policies, approaches and efforts of Government and Development Partners;
- Provide a forum for information exchange and coordination for the Government and Development Partners including targets, achievements, challenges, activities and new initiatives;
- Ensure mutual monitoring of government and Development Partners' activities and achievements in the relevant field, and provide necessary feedback to ensure high-level national policy implementation to promote good governance and strengthen social protection systems;
- Conduct joint fact-finding, field review or evaluation missions to assess the challenges to promoting good governance and social protection and recommend government accordingly.
- Finally, Enable and engage representation from the civil society to contribute to policy dialogue with government and Development partners on governance and social protection issues.



## **Development of Results Framework**

The LCG Governance and Social Protection Working Group develops and updates, when necessary, a results framework including high level expected outcomes, indicators, milestones and planned actions or activities.

## **Organizational Set-up**

The group will be chaired by the Secretary, Coordination and Reforms of the Cabinet Division while it will be co-chair by a high-rank representative of a selected DP by the consensus of the members of the working group for a recommended period of one year and can be extended as needed. The European Union has been nominated as the co-chair for the first time. The terms of reference will be revised as appropriate and at least every second year.

The Working Group may consider establishing several Task Force Teams upon agreement of the members. Each Task Force Team shall share information and report to the working group. The Task Force Teams should work based on agreed ToR, prepare a development results framework with annual targets, indicators, outputs and outcomes and monitor progress. The Task Force Team should provide annual results report that will be reviewed by the LCG Working Group and presented annually at the LCG Plenary.

The LCG Working Group will meet at least three times every year or more frequently if required.

The meetings may be held in the Cabinet Division in person or through any convenient virtual platform. Draft, action-oriented minutes will be circulated promptly following all meetings. The Social Security Branch of the Cabinet Division will provide secretarial support to the Working Group.

The Task Force Teams should aim at ensuring follow up to the conclusions of their meetings. Focal points at the appropriate level are appointed to act on the operational conclusions of each working group meeting and to report on implementation at the next meeting. Appointments and actions taken will be recorded in the minutes of the meetings.

To improve transparency and accountability, and for dissemination and stakeholders' coordination purposes, the meeting agendas and minutes will be made available on the Local Consultative Group (LCG) web platform.

The LCG Working Group will ensure equal treatment and the same allotment of time and dedication to governance and social protection issues.

## **Functioning of Governance & Social Protection –LCG Working group**

**Work Plan:** The Chair and Co-Chair with support and suggestions by all WG members will prepare an annual or bi-annual work plan in which the intended goals, targets and topics of the meetings will be outlined. The work plan is considered as a living document and can be adjusted any time in accordance with needs and requirements that might raise.

**Reporting Lines:** The Development Cooperation Effectiveness WG chaired by ERD with the assistance of virtual secretariat will oversee the functionalities and effectiveness of the Governance & Social Protection –LCG WG and ensure coordination for whole system.

**Monitoring and Implementation:** The Working Group can prepare a framework for monitoring the implementation and functioning of the working group in consultation of the members of the group as with the advice from ERD.

