

ADB



**ASIA-PACIFIC**  
**SOCIAL PROTECTION WEEK 2023**  
**Social Protection in a Changing World**

26–28 September • ADB Headquarters, Manila, Philippines



# Leveraging Novel Data Strategies for Social Protection Targeting Amidst COVID-19: The Bangladesh Experience



**Mohammad Khaled Hasan**  
Joint Secretary  
Cabinet Division  
Government of Bangladesh

# Outline

## Social Protection System in Bangladesh

- Program Overview

## Delivery Mechanism

- Single Registry MIS
- SPBMU

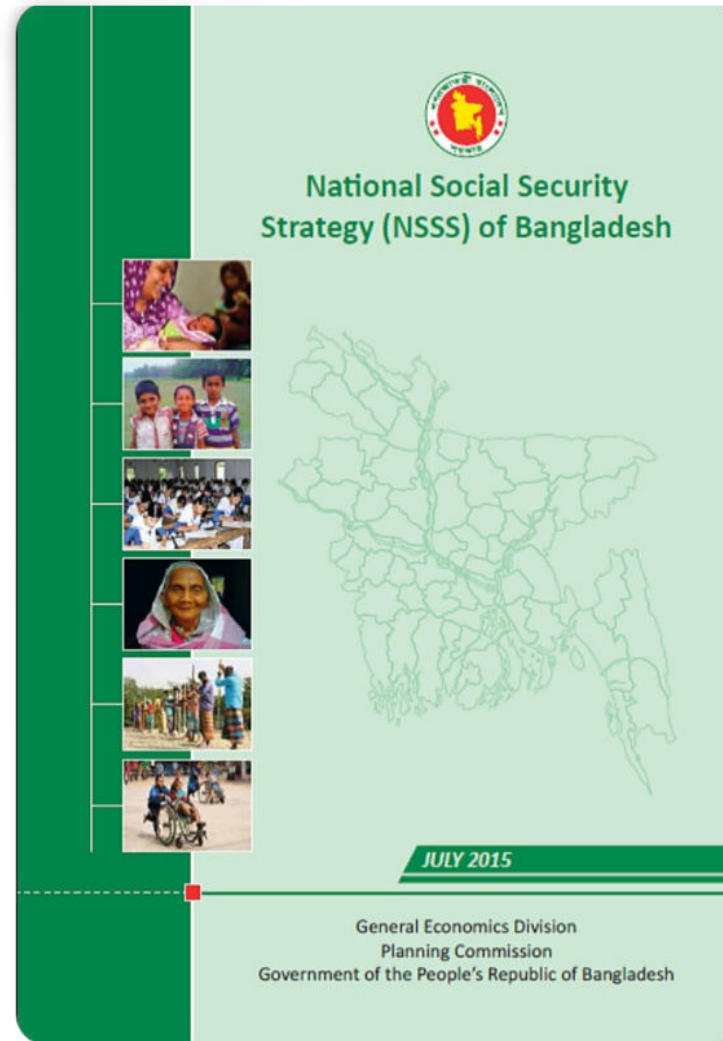
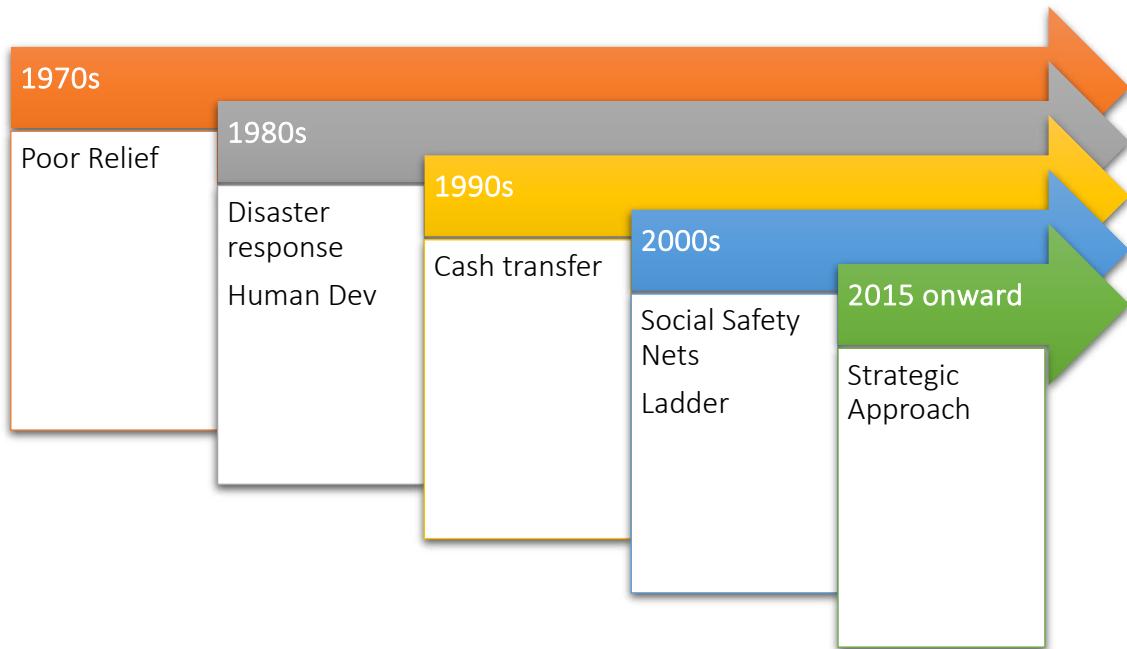
## Covid Response

- Use of Novel Data in Targeting

## Challenges

## Policy Lessons

# Social Protection System of Bangladesh

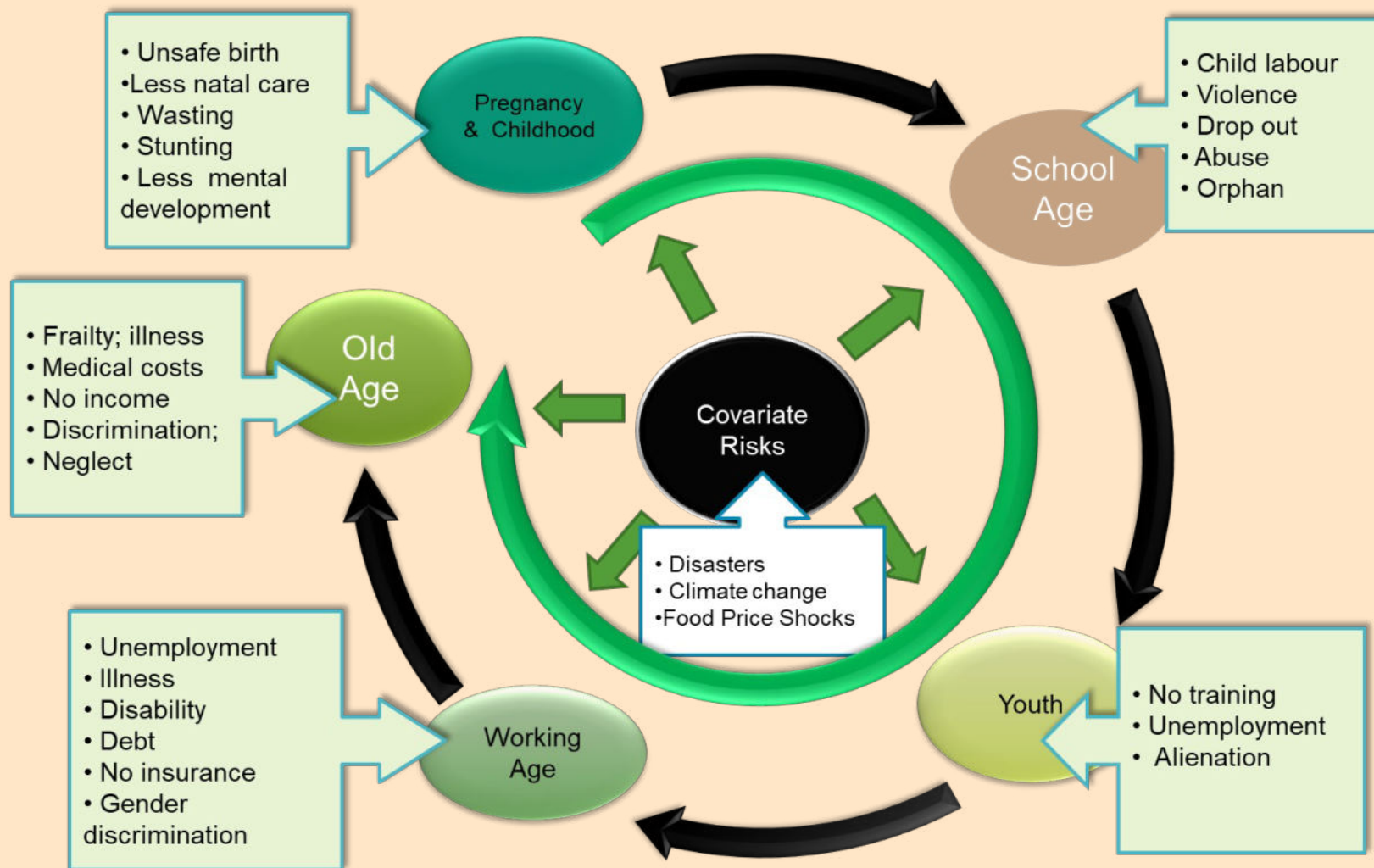


This block contains several icons and text boxes that highlight key features of the social protection system:

- Lifecycle Based and comprehensive:** Represented by a glowing lightbulb icon.
- Demand driven:** Represented by an icon of a woman pointing at a screen.
- Long term planning:** Represented by an icon of red puzzle pieces with the word 'FINANCIAL PLANNING' on them.
- Development oriented:** Represented by an icon of a woman standing on a platform.
- E-governance:** Represented by an icon of people sitting at computers.

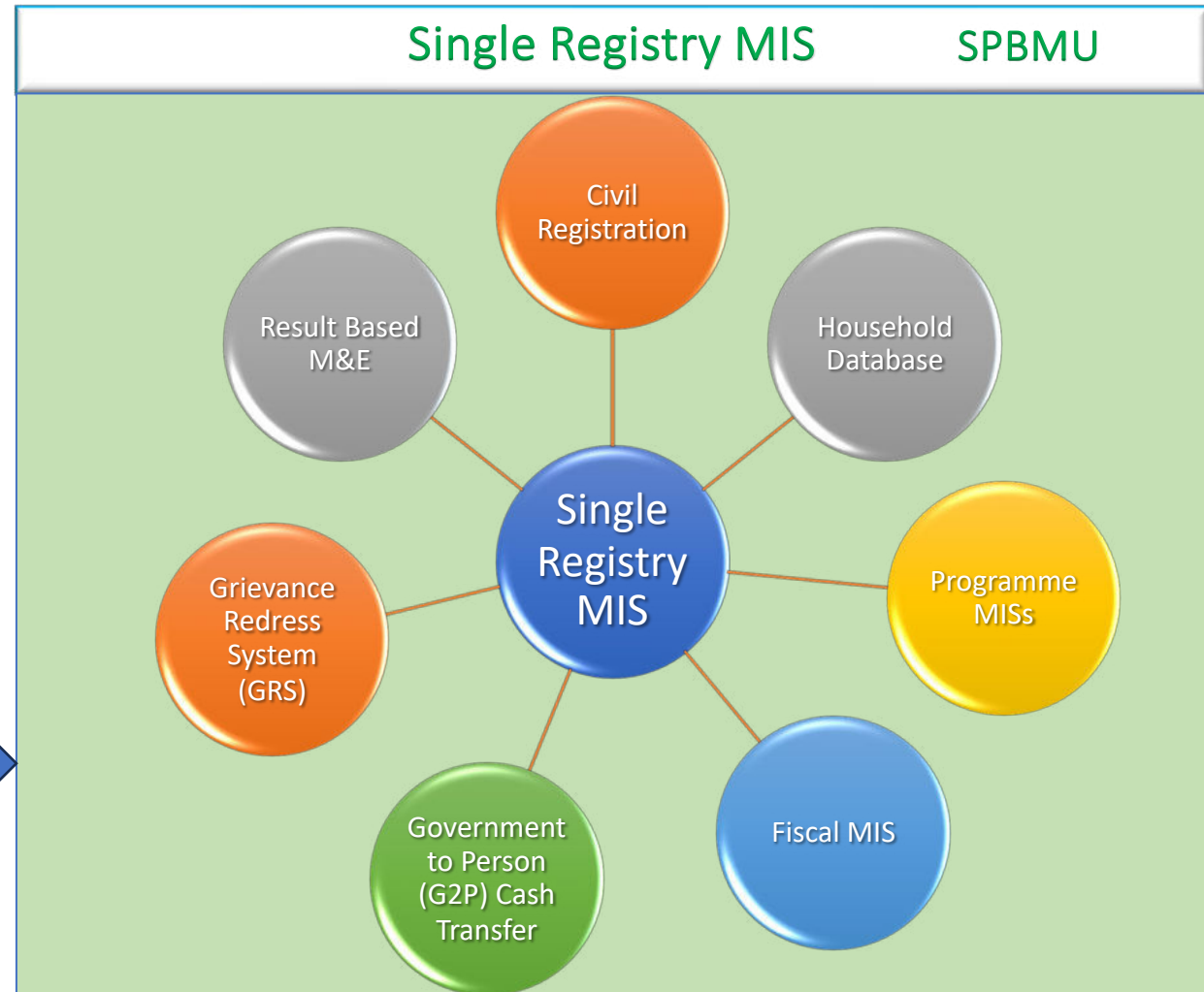
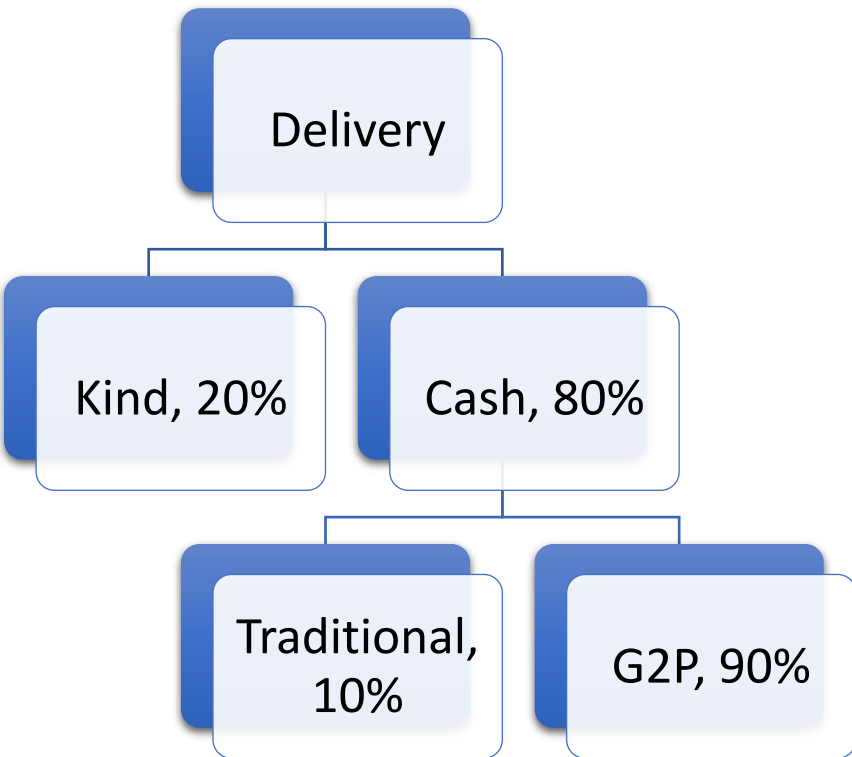
# Overview of SP Programs

## Lifecycle Framework



- 5 thematic clusters of programs
- 115 schemes implemented by 39 ministries
- Shock Responsive
- 65 million beneficiaries
- 13 billion UDS for social protection, 2.52% of GDP, 17% of National Budget
- Poverty rate 18%

# Delivery Mechanism





# SPBMU



Social Protection Budget Management Unit (SPBMU) is the central management information system of social security programs.



It is an information repository of Social Security beneficiaries.

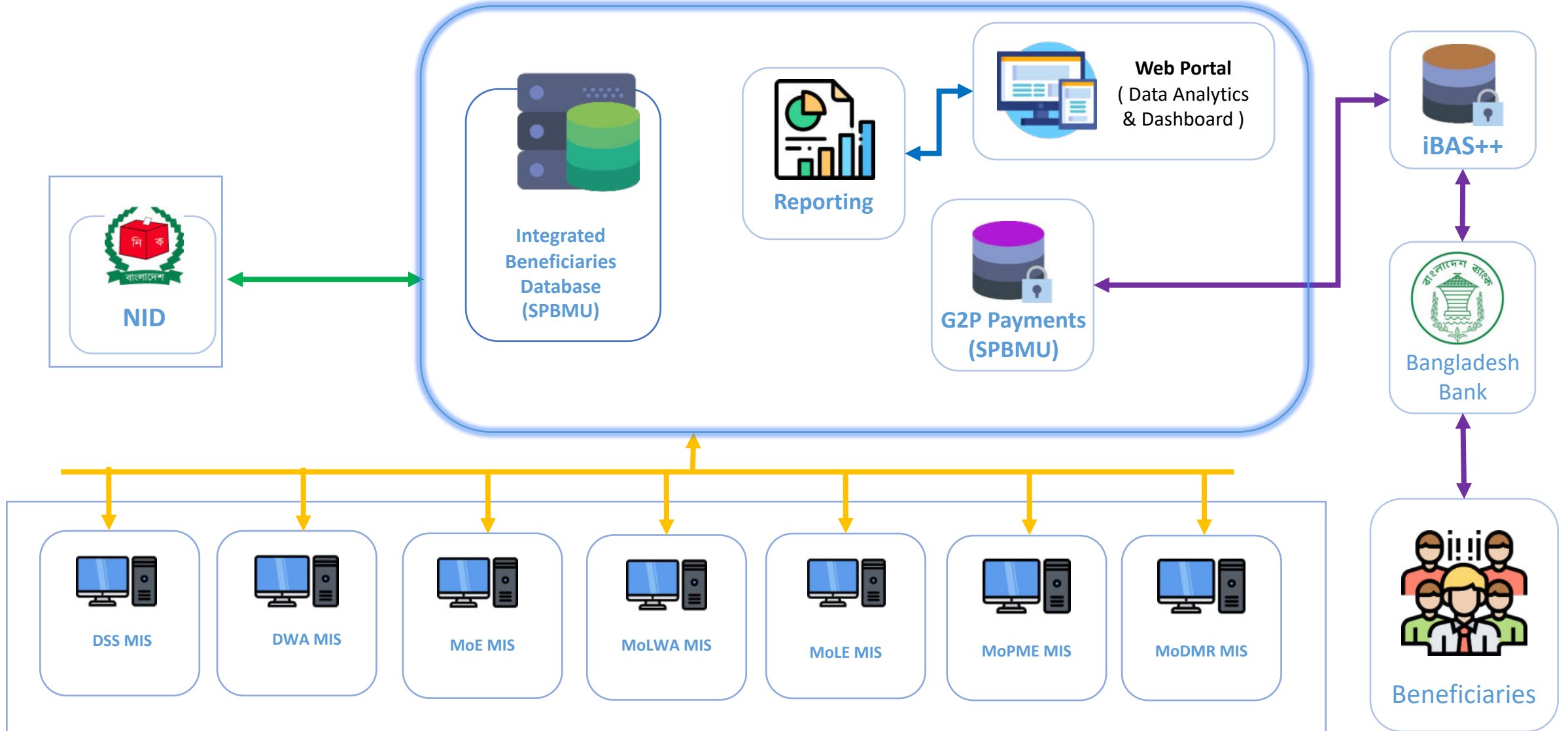


SPBMU validates the data with the NID server, monitors & controls duplicity, and ensures the transparency of G2P payment of social protection programs.



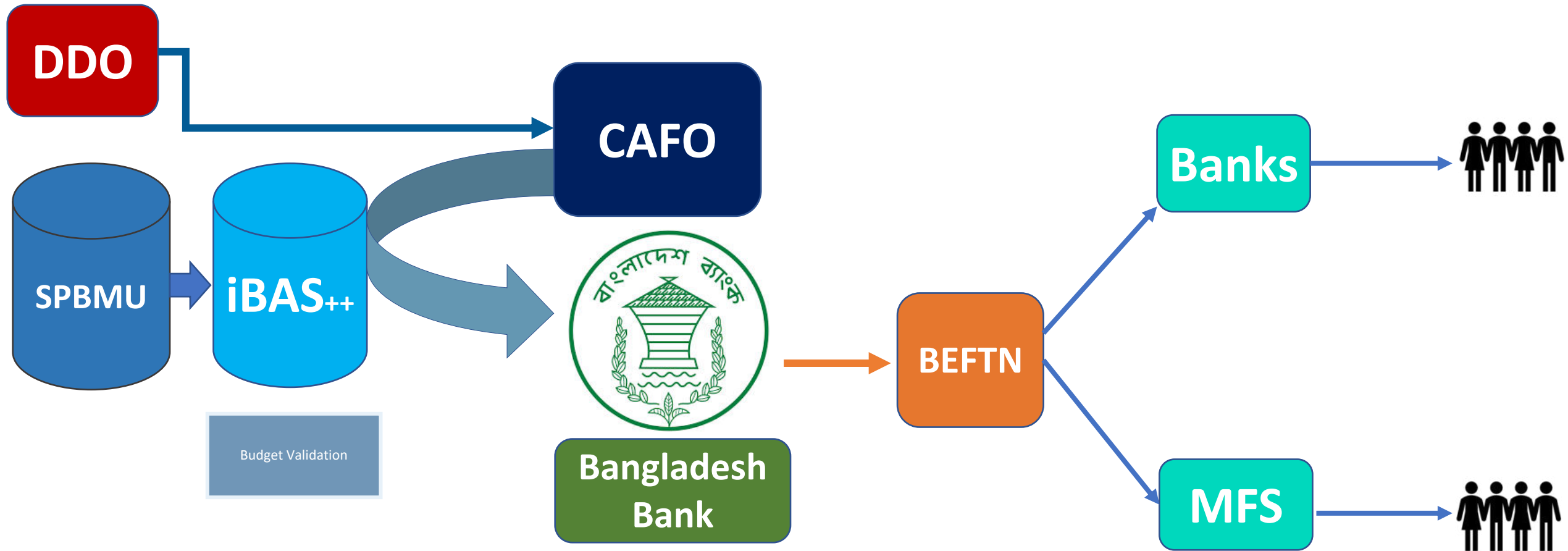
SPBMU will be upgraded to an integrated single registry system of the social safety net Programs.

# SPBMU MIS





# Mechanics of G2P Payment System

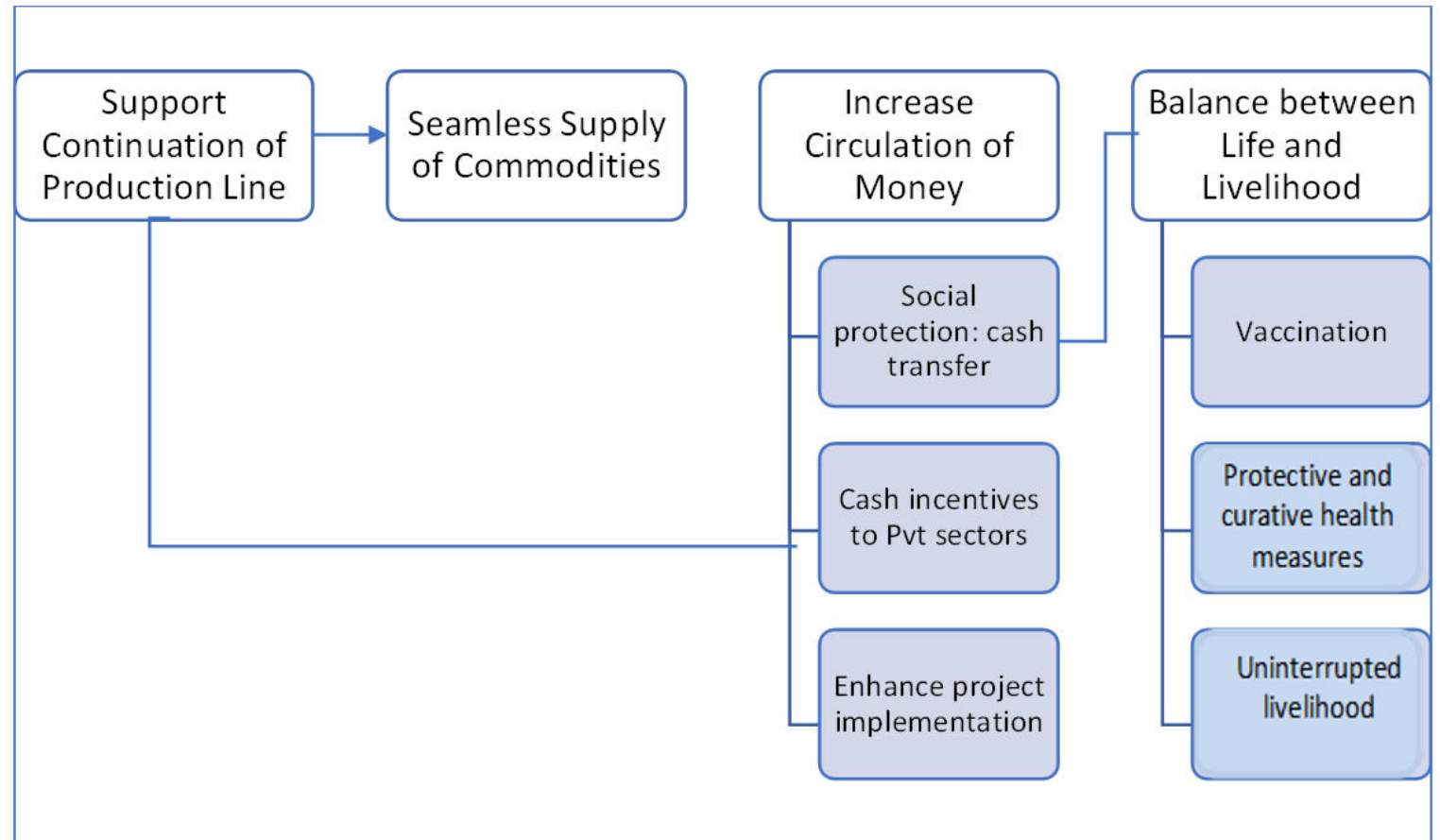


Bill Submission through  
iBAS++

CAO Generates EFTs  
BB Executes EFTs

Cash Delivered  
(Beneficiaries)

# Social Protection in Combatting Covid Fallout



# Cash Support Program in Response to the COVID-19 Pandemic in Bangladesh



Collect Data of Mobile Usage (15 million)



Analysis of the Data to Select Potential Beneficiaries



Data Checking and Filtering



Finalize list (3.4 million)



send it to Fiscal Database (IBAS++)



Transfer Cash (2500 Tk) to each Beneficiaries by mobile banking

# Cash Support Program in Response to the COVID- 19 Pandemic in Bangladesh

## Overview:

- Government initiative to provide financial assistance to low-income groups affected by the pandemic-induced lockdown.
- Aimed to deliver a one-time payment of 2500 taka (around 30 USD) to 50 lakh beneficiaries.
- Beneficiaries included day laborers, farmers, house workers, motor laborers, and other vulnerable groups.

## Program Progress and Implementation:

- As of October 2020, 34,97,353 beneficiaries received the one-time payment, totaling 879 crores 85 lacs 42 thousand taka (nearly 100 million USD).
- Cash support delivered through mobile financial services (MFS) accounts (34,06,373 beneficiaries) and bank accounts (90,980 beneficiaries).
- Successful implementation attributed to timely intervention, effective coordination, and innovative technology utilization.

# Novel Data in Selection Procedure and Coordination

## Selection Procedure:

- Collaboration between Bangladesh Telecommunication Regulatory Commission (BTRC) and mobile phone operators to gather usage data.
- Analysis of usage patterns to identify households facing economic hardship.
- Creation of a national database of eligible households using mobile phone data.
- Verification process involving linkage to National ID (NID) database, exclusion of government service holders, and cross-referencing with other social security programs.
- Screening and filtering process narrowing down 15 million mobile numbers to 3.4 million eligible beneficiaries.

## Coordination and Management:

- Coordinated by the Prime Minister's office with advice from the Finance Division and Bangladesh Bank.
- Implementation conducted by the Ministry of Disaster Management and the Local Government Division.
- Central Management Committee (CMC) on Social Security, led by the Cabinet Secretary, played a coordinating role.

# Challenges for Mainstreaming the Practice

Updating National Household Database and integrating it with MIS

A light orange downward-pointing arrow indicating a flow from the first step to the second.

Upscaling G2P in all the programmes

A light grey downward-pointing arrow indicating a flow from the second step to the third.

Integrating GRS with the Single Registry



# Policy Lessons



## Lesson 1: Effective Use of Technology

The successful implementation of the program through mobile financial services showcased the effectiveness of leveraging technology for efficient and widespread delivery of financial assistance.

Policymakers should explore and utilize innovative technology solutions, such as mobile financial services, to reach beneficiaries effectively, ensuring transparency and minimizing administrative challenges.



## Lesson 2: Timely Response to Economic Crises

The cash support program demonstrated the importance of a prompt and timely response to mitigate the economic impact of crises such as the COVID-19 pandemic.

Policymakers should be prepared to swiftly implement targeted cash support programs to provide immediate relief to vulnerable populations during times of crisis.



## Lesson 3: Data-Driven Targeting

The selection procedure, based on analyzing mobile phone usage data and linking it to national databases, demonstrated the importance of data-driven targeting.

Policymakers should invest in data collection and analysis capabilities to identify and reach the most deserving beneficiaries accurately, minimizing exclusion errors and maximizing program impact.



## Lesson 4: Coordination and Collaboration

The successful implementation of the program was attributed to effective coordination among various government entities, including the Prime Minister's office, Finance Division, and relevant ministries.

Policymakers should prioritize coordination and collaboration among different stakeholders to ensure smooth implementation, minimize duplication, and maximize the overall effectiveness of social protection programs.

Thank You

