

## SWAPNO's Participation at Bangladesh Social Security Conference 2018

### Background



*Second from left, SWAPNO National Project Director, Mohammad Emdad Ullah Mian, Project Manager, Kajal Chatterjee, Livelihood Specialist, Selina Chowdhury attending Social Security Conference.*

A three-day National Social Security Strategy conference was held from 4-5<sup>th</sup> November 2018 at BICC, Dhaka, Bangladesh. The main objective of the conference was to launch the National Social Security Strategy action plan. As one of the major milestones towards establishing a comprehensive social protection system in Bangladesh the

government formulated the National Social Security Strategy (NSSS) in June 2015. Recently the NSSS action plan has been finalized after extensive consultation with the stakeholders. In addition to this, the conference also served to enhance visibility of the government initiatives in social protection reforms and to synchronize the efforts of policy makers, NGOs, development partners and social protection implementing agencies to translate the vision of the NSSS action plan into reality. A fair was also organized in the adjacent hall to showcase the achievement of different ministries and NGOs working in social security.

The first day of the conference began with presentations by various Government ministries and the second day by NGOs, who showcased their innovations related to social security and opened up the platform to enable more cross-cutting partnerships. The third day involved open discussion about possible collaborations and challenges followed by pot song performance by a theater group that marked the closing ceremony.

The discussions and presentations revolved around a key set of issues. These issues were: life-cycle approach with less exclusion/inclusion errors; strategies to map out and integrate MIS bases of different

ministries and NGOs; feasibility study on Single Registry MISs at Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics; creation of a Go-NGO platform as well as bondage in social security programmes with private sectors; creation of a base on practice of integrity in social protection, policy consent on feasibility study; pilot on Social insurance in Bangladesh; and strategies to enhance visibility of Government's initiatives in social security reform.

### **SWAPNO's Participation**

SWAPNO took an active part in the conference as a social security project representing Ministry of Local Government (LGD) and UNDP. SWAPNO participated by displaying its products in the stall reserved under Ministry of Local Government. The products included amongst many communication materials, SWAPNO innovations in the field, SWAPNO approach, case studies on various beneficiaries.



*SWAPNO's M&E specialist, Belayet Hossain explains the presentation to be delivered at the conference.*

The Ministry of Local Government also showcased SWAPNO project as one of the success stories in a presentation delivered by attended by over 30 Ministries and 17 NGO representatives. The presentation illustrated SWAPNO's innovative graduation model for ultra poor women, its success stories, its contribution to national development and SDGs. These were the demonstrable SWAPNO results as related to SDGs that were highlighted:

### **Capacity building for adaptive livelihoods (SDG 1-No Poverty, SDG 2-Zero Hunger, SDG 5- Gender Equality)**

Capacity building of ultra poor women on livelihood skills related to small business management, livestock and poultry management, fisheries, etc.

### **Women Empowerment (SDG 5- Gender Equality)**

Improving knowledge on awareness on life skill including rights and entitlement, gender issue, leadership development, health and nutrition, disaster management, numeracy.

Empowering women as decision maker and main income earner of households, they have full control over assets and income

Incorporating women managed Rotating Credit and Savings Associations (ROSCA) into project cycle

#### Engagement of Private Sector (**SDG 17- Partnership for the goals**)

SWAPNO partnership with private sector for enterprise development, job placement and decent work with RGM and Leather Sector,

SWAPNO Partnership with BSRM and MARICO for development finance.

#### Rural and climate resilient infrastructure development (**SDG 9- Industry Innovation and Infrastructure, SDG 13-Climate Action**).

The SWAPNO women are employed in the public works maintenance schemes for a 18 months employment cycle, in which the public work project is selected through a need based participatory community approach.

These are some of the pictures of the presentation.



*SWAPNO National Project Director, Mohammad Emdad Ullah Mian, Project Manager presenting at the Social security conference, (2<sup>nd</sup> photo) sitting amongst presenters from other ministries.*