Workshop
on
Annual Work Plan & Procurement Plan of SSGP
For the Fiscal Year 2026-27

Date: 12 July 2026, **Venue:** NEC-II Conference Room

Outcome Document

A workshop on the Annual Work Plan & Procurement Plan of the Support to Sustainable Graduation Project (SSGP) was organized on 12 July 2026 at the NEC 2 Conference Room of ERD. Respected Secretary of the Economic Relations Division Mr. Md. Shahriar Kader Siddiky graced the event as chief guest. Additional Secretary and Wing Chief of the Development Effectiveness Wing of ERD and the Project Director of SSGP, Mr. A. H. M. Jahangir chaired the workshop. Major deliberations and recommendations of the event are summarized below.

Welcome Remarks by the Chair: Mr. A. H. M. Jahangir, Additional Secretary, Wing Chief, DE Wing & Project Director, SSGP:

The chair, in his welcome remarks, noted that Bangladesh's graduation process is unfolding amid an exceptionally challenging global environment. He recalled that recognizing these extraordinary circumstances, the government had requested the United Nations to extend the LDC graduation preparatory period by three years. He noted that, although there is a possibility of extending the project implementation period, the current fiscal year marks the final year of the SSGP as per its approved implementation timeline. Against this backdrop, he observed that FY 2026–27 represents a critical phase, both for the successful implementation of the project activities and for advancing Bangladesh's preparations for LDC graduation.He mentioned that the government had initiated several key measures to make the best use of the expected additional preparatory period. Mr. Jahangir recalled that a high-level National Graduation Monitoring and Coordination Committee headed by the Hon'ble Finance and Planning Minister had been formed while a high-level public-private sector task force would also be formed for ensuring a swift and proper implementation of the deregulation measures. The government is planning to recalibrate the Smooth Transition Strategy (STS) in line with the additional preparatory period. Mr. Jahangir affirmed that the SSGP would play a key role in supporting these efforts by facilitating policy coordination, monitoring implementation progress, strengthening stakeholder consultations, supporting the review of the STS, and promoting awareness of sustainable LDC graduation at both national and sub-national levels. The workshop had been organized to review and finalize the draft Annual Work Plan (AWP) and Annual Procurement

Plan (APP) of the project for FY 2026–27. He hoped that the workshop would provide a platform to assess proposed activities, align implementation priorities with the evolving graduation agenda, and strengthen coordination for timely and effective delivery of project outputs.

Presentation on Annual Work Plan & Procurement Plan for the FY 2023-24 of SSGP by Mr. Sharif Md. Forhad Hossain, Joint Secretary, ERD & Deputy Project Director, SSGP:

In the beginning of his presentation, Mr. Hossain provided a snapshot of the project components, objectives as well as the year-wise budgetary allocations and expenditures. Afterwards, he presented, in detail, the Annual Work Plan as well as the Annual Procurement Plan of the project for the FY 2026-27. He highlighted the month-wise and component-wise activities that are expected to be carried out during the ongoing fiscal year. He also presented the package-wise procurement plan of the project for the ongoing fiscal year. At the same time, he reflected on the approved ADP of the project—highlighting the amount that has been allocated for various codes for the ongoing fiscal year.

Open Floor Discussion

At this stage, the floor was opened for feedback and recommendations from participants. During this session, the following major feedback and queries came from them.

- Additional Secretary and Wing Chief of the America and Japan Wing of ERD Mr. Mohd. Ahsan Kibria Siddiqui observed that a side event on LDC graduation issues can be organized with support from the project during the upcoming United Nations General Assembly to be held in New York in September with a view to sensitize and gain support from the international community regarding the extension of Bangladesh's preparatory period.
- Wing Chief of the Coordination and Nordic Wing of ERD Ms. Moslema Naznin enquired about the measures that had been taken by SSGP as part of awareness building measures. In response, it was informed that the project had organized numerous local level consultations at various divisional and district headquarters over the years. It was also recalled that a series of thematic stakeholder consultations had been organized on LDC graduation issues at the national level involving the private sector bodies and other relevant stakeholders. It was also informed that a Branding Strategy had been developed for the country with technical and financial support from the project following a request from Bangladesh Investment Development Authority (BIDA).
- Ms. Tasnova Rahman from the Finance Division informed that the FD would soon share their written feedback on the draft report of the study titled 'Exploring Export Support Alternative to Cash Subsidies' carried out by SSGP. Accordingly, it was decided that a validation

workshop on the updated draft report would be held very soon to present the findings of the report among the concerned stakeholders.

- Participants curious about the measures that had been taken by SSGP to prepare the local pharmaceutical industry for the post-LDC dynamics. In response, it was informed that a series of consultations had been held with the pharmaceutical industry representatives with support from the project. During those meetings, the pharma industry representatives pointed out that the Active Pharmaceutical Ingredient (API) production would require timely access to solvents, reagents, acids, alkalis, and other critical inputs-- which are currently subject to lengthy approval processes involving multiple agencies. Consequently, a committee had been formed under the Director General of the Department of Narcotics Control (DNC) to streamline the process of importing essential chemicals for local pharmaceutical products. Consequently, a report was prepared under the guidance of the committee and with technical support from the project. The report reviewed the process of importing various chemical ingredients for pharmaceutical products in the country and suggested ways and means for streamlining and expediting the entire process. Subsequently, the report has been shared with the Ministry of Home Affairs with a view to initiate necessary measures in line with the recommendation of the report. It was also recalled that in line with the concerns raised by the pharmaceutical industry, the government had reconstituted the Drug Control Committee (DCC) to speed up the registration process of new molecules. Subsequently, DCC had already held several meetings and had given go ahead regarding the registration of hundreds of molecules. It was also informed that in line with the demands of the pharma industry, the government had updated the registration guideline of biosimilar products in line with the World Health Organization regulations.
- Participants observed that in the near future, the project activities, should be aligned with the priority tasks that would need to be carried out during the additional preparatory period the country had applied for. They also opined that the project activities should also be aligned with the election manifesto of the present government. In response, it was affirmed that the workplan would be updated further in line with the government priorities and the election manifesto once the country is formally granted an additional preparatory period by the UN.
- It was observed that the budget allocated for the procurement of furniture may be revisited.

Speech by the Chief Guest: Mr. Md. Shahriar Kader Siddiky, Secretary, Economic Relations Division

The chief guest, in his speech, hailed the initiatives taken by the SSGP to organize the workshop. Afterwards, he provided the following recommendations regarding the project's proposed workplan and procurement plan for the ongoing fiscal year.

- Bangladesh would need to recalibrate its STS if the country gets additional preparatory period for LDC graduation. As such, the AWP should outline some specific timebound tasks regarding the recalibration of STS. There should also be corresponding budgetary allocation for such activities in the ADP and the APP of the project.
- A dedicated online tracker would have to be established to intensely monitor the implementation of the STS action plan. As such, corresponding activities and budgetary allocation should be reflected in the AWP and APP of the project.
- With support from SSGP, the government had already prepared an implementation roadmap covering 25 priority reform areas. A specific timebound workplan needs to be prepared for the effective roll out of that roadmap.
- The Hon'ble Prime Minister is expected to provide special emphasis on the issue of extending the preparatory period of LDC graduation during the upcoming UNGA to be held in New York in September. Accordingly, SSGP would need to provide necessary technical support in this regard.
- Since both Bangladesh and Nepal had applied for the extension of the preparatory period, it would be crucial to have continuous and intensive engagement and experience sharing with Nepal in coming months. As such, the relevant activities should be reflected in the workplan.
- Initiatives had been taken to form a high-level public-private sector task force for ensuring a swift and proper implementation of the deregulation measures. It is expected that SSGP would provide secretarial support to the aforementioned taskforce. As such, the relevant activities should be reflected in the workplan.
- Bangladesh would have to upgrade its compliance mechanism in line with the international standard and guidelines to enhance the compliance level of its industries in light of the impending LDC graduation. Activities associated with this task needs to be reflected in the AWP of the project.
- Regular consultations need to be held with the STS focal points to identify implementation gaps. Quarterly reports should also be generated on the progress of STS implementation. The corresponding timebound activities should be incorporated into the workplan.

Closing Remarks by the Chair: Mr. A. H. M. Jahangir, Additional Secretary, Wing Chief, DE Wing & Project Director, SSGP

Mr. A. H. M. Jahangir, in his closing remarks, thanked the chief guest and all other participants for their feedback and recommendations. He said that the proposed Annual Work Plan and Annual Procurement Plan would be updated and finalized based on the feedback coming from the workshop. Lastly, he concluded the workshop by thanking all the participants.

Recommendations

The workshop came up with the following major recommendations:

a) Bangladesh would need to recalibrate its STS if the country gets additional preparatory period for LDC graduation. As such, the AWP should outline some specific timebound tasks regarding the recalibration of STS. There should also be corresponding budgetary allocation for such activities in the ADP and the APP of the project.
b) A dedicated online tracker would have to be established to intensely monitor the implementation of the STS action plan. As such, corresponding activities and budgetary allocation should be reflected in the AWP and APP of the project.
c) With support from SSGP, the government had already prepared an implementation roadmap covering 25 priority reform areas. A specific timebound workplan needs to be prepared for the effective roll out of that roadmap.
d) The Hon'ble Prime Minister is expected to provide special emphasis on the issue of extending the preparatory period of LDC graduation during the upcoming UNGA to be held in New York in September. Accordingly, SSGP would need to provide necessary technical support in this regard.
e) Since both Bangladesh and Nepal had applied for the extension of the preparatory period, it would be crucial to have continuous and intensive engagement and experience sharing with Nepal in coming months. As such, the relevant activities should be reflected in the workplan.
f) Initiatives had been taken to form a high-level public-private sector task force for ensuring a swift and proper implementation of the deregulation measures. It is expected that SSGP would provide secretarial support to the aforementioned taskforce. As such, the relevant activities should be reflected in the workplan.
g) Bangladesh would have to upgrade its compliance mechanism in line with the international standard and guidelines to enhance the compliance level of its industries in light of the impending LDC graduation. Activities associated with this task needs to be reflected in the AWP of the project.
h) Regular consultations need to be held with the STS focal points to identify implementation gaps. Quarterly reports should also be generated on the progress of STS implementation. The corresponding timebound activities should be incorporated into the workplan.