Social Safety Net Programs (SSNPs) are predominant social protection strategy to address different vulnerabilities, poverty reduction and socio-economic risks. The twin health crisis and economic shocks due to COVID-19 Pandemic have enhanced the necessity of SSNPs more in Bangladesh.

**Budget Allocation for Social Safety Net Sector:**
FY21: 955.74 Billion
Increased by 2.8%

16.63% of Total Proposed Budget
3.01% of GDP.

79 Lakh Beneficiaries at present.
16.25 Lakh more to be added next year.

**Socio-Economic Impact during Pandemic: Why Social Safety Net is Essential?**

- Increase in Child Marriage & Violence against Women
- Social Instability: Urban to Rural shifting
- Increase in Child labour & drop-out rate in Education sector.
- Increase of discrimination towards social class minority.
- Loss of Employment
- Decrease in Household expenditure
- Decrease in Quality of Livelihood
- Rise of “New Poor”: many people under Poverty Line

**Recommendation**

- Proper access to Health-care facilities for all.
- Rethinking the scope of vulnerable targeting.
- Inclusive & Productive Employment Opportunities
- Recovery & Rehabilitation plans for the “New Poor”.
- Stimulus incentives with Blanket Coverage policy.
- Educational relief aid to vulnerable student population.