

## Social Safety Net Program for Widows and Divorcees in Bangladesh

### Background:

In Bangladesh, widows and divorcees face significant social and economic challenges, often living in poverty without sufficient support systems. Despite the country's progress in many social sectors, these marginalized women continue to face discrimination, limited access to healthcare, education, and employment opportunities.

The absence of an effective safety net for widows and divorcees leaves them vulnerable to exploitation and social isolation. In response to this pressing issue, a targeted Social Safety Net Program is proposed to provide financial assistance and social empowerment to widows and divorcees across the nation.

### Program Importance:

This Social Safety Net Program is crucial for improving the livelihoods of widows and divorcees in Bangladesh. By providing financial support and access to essential services, the program aims to:

- **Reduce Poverty:** Provide consistent financial assistance to improve the standard of living.
- **Promote Social Inclusion:** Foster a sense of community and reduce social isolation by connecting widows and divorcees with support networks.
- **Enable Independence:** Help women become self-reliant through skill development and employment programs.
- **Ensure Health and Education Access:** Facilitate access to healthcare, education, and vocational training, empowering women to contribute to the economy and society.

### Major Components Objectives of the Program:

#### 1. Monthly Financial Support

**Total Budget: US\$ 1,000,000 (5 years)**

- Direct cash transfers to widows and divorcees to alleviate economic stress.
- Support for dependent children, ensuring they have access to education and healthcare.

#### 2. Healthcare and Social Services

**Total Budget: US\$ 600,000 (5 years)**

- Provide free or subsidized healthcare, including maternal health and mental health support.
- Access to social workers for counseling and legal advice, especially for divorcees in need of legal assistance.

#### 3. Vocational Training and Education

**Total Budget: US\$ 500,000 (5 years)**

- Offer training programs in skills such as tailoring, IT, and entrepreneurship to help women gain employment.
- Scholarships for children of widows and divorcees, promoting access to quality education.

#### 4. Awareness Campaigns and Advocacy

**Total Budget: US\$ 300,000**

- Raise awareness on the legal rights and social benefits available for widows and divorcees.
- Community outreach to combat stigma and promote social acceptance.

- Provide legal support for vulnerable women.
- 5. Community Empowerment Projects**
- Build community centers where women can connect, share experiences, and support each other.
  - Initiatives to encourage small group enterprises, providing both financial and psychological support.

### **Budget Overview: Budget Breakdown (Yearly)**

	Component	Annual Budget (US\$)	Total Budget (5 Years) US\$
1	Monthly Financial Support	200,000	1,000,000
2	Healthcare and Social Services	120,000	600,000
3	Vocational Training and Education	US\$ 100,000	US\$ 500,000
4	Awareness Campaigns and Advocacy	US\$ 60,000	US\$ 300,000
5	Community Empowerment Projects	US\$ 60,000	US\$ 300,000
		<b>US\$ 540,000</b>	<b>US\$ 2,700,000</b>

### **Appeal for International Funding:**

The success of this program relies heavily on both local and international support. With an estimated budget of **US\$ 2,400,000** over the next 5 years, we aim to improve the lives of thousands of widows and divorcees across Bangladesh.

We appeal for international funding to implement this transformative program. Your contribution will directly impact the lives of these women, enabling them to lead dignified, independent lives free from the grip of poverty. With your support, we can:

- Provide immediate financial relief to vulnerable women.
- Create sustainable livelihoods through education and skill development.
- Foster a more inclusive society, where widows and divorcees are empowered to thrive.

Together, we can change the lives of countless women in Bangladesh, creating a more just and equitable society for all.

### **Program Duration and Target Population:**

- **Duration:** 5 years
- **Target Population:** 100,000 widows and divorcees across Bangladesh

This document provides a comprehensive breakdown of the Social Safety Net Program, its components, and the financial requirements needed to achieve its objectives. With international support, this program will help transform the lives of some of the most vulnerable groups in Bangladesh.

#### **Bank Details**

**Title of Account: Education and Development Research Council (EDRC)**

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