



**DSWD**

Department of Social Welfare and Development

ANNUAL REPORT

**2018**

# **DSWD: Serving the People**

Patuloy na Serbisyo para sa Mamamayang Pilipino



# About the Cover

**RELENTLESS PUBLIC SERVICE.** For the past 67 years, the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) has been continuously committed in providing public service to the poor, vulnerable and disadvantaged individuals. It will do so in the years to come.

The Department is armed with dedicated individuals – going beyond delivering the Department's programs and services, surpassing the targeted annual outcomes, and always one step ahead in developing social technologies for the public. Thus, the 'Patuloy na Serbisyo para sa Mamamayang Pilipino' is assured.

## Vision

The Department of Social Welfare and Development envisions all Filipinos free from hunger and poverty, have equal access to opportunities, enabled by a fair, just, and peaceful society.

## Mission

To lead in the formulation, implementation, and coordination of social welfare and development policies and programs for and with the poor, vulnerable, and disadvantaged.



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2019 THRUSTS & PRIORITIES  
DIRECTORY OF DSWD OFFICIALS  
THE 2018 ANNUAL REPORT COMMITTEE





## Message

**M**y warmest greetings to the **Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD)** on the publication of its 2018 Annual Report.

I am pleased with DSWD's strong commitment to the Philippine Development Plan by pursuing policies and programs that promote inclusive growth and reduce poverty incidence among our people. Its vulnerable and the marginalized sectors of our society are truly noteworthy.

As you foster greater transparency and public accountability with the publication of your accomplishments this year, I urge you to strengthen your collaboration with local government units and the private sector to ensure more effective and accessible social welfare services for our countrymen.

I trust that you will remain steadfast in your pledge as dedicated public servants. Together, we will steer our government towards a more compassionate and genuine *paglilingkod-bayan*.

I wish you more success in all your endeavors.

  
**RODRIGO ROA DUTERTE**

**MANILA**  
 January 2019

THE PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES



## Message

**I**n 2018, the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) underwent significant organizational changes with the goal of searching for ways to address the continuing socio-economic and developmental concerns of the poor, marginalized, disadvantaged, and vulnerable sectors in society.

Such institutional changes were reflected in the Department's Strategic Plan 2018-2022. Anchored on Ambisyon 2040 and the Philippine Development Plan 2017-2022, the Strategic Plan hopes to contribute to the President's vision of a "matatag, maginhawa, at panatag na buhay para sa lahat (a comfortable life for all)."

When I joined the DSWD family in the last quarter of 2018, I witnessed how everyone in the Department has contributed to the herculean task of transforming the lives of many Filipinos. The first three months that I was with the Department proved to be meaningful as I worked with dedicated and diligent public servants in delivering the much-needed assistance to our less fortunate countrymen.

This 2018 Annual Report encapsulates the results of the hard work of the DSWD staff, highlighted by the implementation of its big-ticket projects aimed at alleviating poverty. These included the Unconditional Cash Transfer (UCT) Program, Pantawid Pamilyang Pilipino Program (4Ps), Kapit-Bisig Laban sa Kahirapan-Comprehensive and Integrated Delivery of Social Services (Kalahi-CIDSS), Sustainable Livelihood Program (SLP), and the Social Pension for Indigent Senior Citizens (SPISC), among others.

Being in public service as a uniformed personnel most of my professional life, I have been trained to serve our countrymen way beyond the call of duty. But I am equally awed by how our social workers and social development workers walk the extra mile to render their invaluable service round-the-clock without holidays, especially in times of disasters.

The compassion of the people in the Department is captured through the statistics and reports in the accompanying Technical Report. Significantly, these numbers are given human faces through the heartwarming stories of change of individuals and communities reached and assisted through the various programs and services of the Department.

The stories are chronicled in this Annual Report. Notable among these are those of Johanna Heart Genon as she journeyed from being a homeless teenage girl to a senior high school student with a bright future, and the fight against poverty of the Manobos from remote area of Pinamulaan Village in Banisilan, Cotabato who were empowered through the community-driven development strategy of DSWD.

With these noble accomplishments, the urgent call for DSWD is to continue to render transformative public service towards promoting inclusive growth and achieving a comfortable life for all.

  
**ROLANDO JOSELITO DELIZO BAUTISTA**  
 Secretary



# 2018 In Review

## Unto its Core

There are stories worth telling. There are stories wanting and waiting to be told and re-told. Because the narrative has not changed --- of people, communities, and lives that define the day-to-day storytelling. No doubt, the Department has always been a treasure trove of documented experiences - of past and present narratives of the millions of beneficiaries and stakeholders it has always served and engaged with. From the marginalized to the vulnerable, from the disadvantaged to the abused --- both the young and the old, the DSWD has consistently provided interventions, created programs, and liaised with partners to empower these various sectors so that they can charter their own lives, build better families and communities, and contribute to nation-building.

Truly and genuinely "May Malasakit", the DSWD aspires to do more despite challenges and difficulties, and inspires others to do more. So that this Annual Report does not only chronicle events but serves as a reminder of its mandate and social contract to the Filipinos. Its core further strengthens the principle and value of unwavering service upheld by familial and communal solidarity, as evidenced for example by articles on the age-old tradition "Bayanihan" and mother-daughter bond that stood the tests of time.

These too are stories of us; of the men and women in the Department whose kindred spirits have defied all odds and defined the core values of selfless and unflinching service to the poor who have reshaped the narrative into more significant and liberating storytelling of hope and deliverance.

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## PAGHUBOG NG MAHUSAY NA PAMILYANG PILIPINO

### Organizational Outcome 1: Well-being of poor families improved

If there's one result evident in all of the Department's programs and interventions, it would have to be improvement of well-being of the poor. The following stories describe it in a way unique to the experiences of ---Home-for-Girls and parents estranged from each other, of coffee farmers finding opportunities for themselves and their community, and of two struggling students who walked and worked their way up to finish school. These are stories of hope and perseverance.



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on family healing

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Homeless teenage girl finishes senior high  
school



## Home-for-Girls' parent-child encounter centers on family healing

Parents and guardians of Home-for-Girls residents from different provinces in Caraga attended the one-day encounter anchored on the celebration of the National Family Week on September 18, 2018.

Themed "Healing Within the Family," the parent-child encounter of the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) Caraga's Home-for-Girls (HFG) focused on the restoration of family relationships as part of furthering the Department's aim in bringing vulnerable and disadvantaged children close to their homes.

Resource person Rev. Fr. Dandy Marababol started his talk by underscoring parents' role in molding their children's character "which may tend to be overlooked because of the struggle to provide for their children's basic needs."

"Kasagaran sa mga ginikanan makalimut na sa ilang relasyon sa ilang mga anak tungod kay mas na-focus sila sa pagpaningkamot nga mahatag ang ilang mga kinahanglanon (Most of the parents have forgotten the importance of their relationship with their children as they are very much focused on providing their needs)," Marababol said.

Marababol stressed that part of the many problems of young people today is their relationship with

their parents because a lot of them seem to feel distanced from their families as they do not feel happy inside their homes.

"Ang balay nga ang haligi gianay, lisod dyud mulampusay (a house whose pillars are weak will hardly survive)," Marababol said, adding that "kung ang gihatag sa ilaw ng tahanan kangitngit, aha man padulong ang mga anak (Where will the children go if there is darkness at home)?"

He also pointed out that parents should help their children learn to love others. "Maningkamot kita nga ang atong pamilya naa dyud kabag-ohan (We should take effort to bring change in our family)," Marababol reminded the parents.

A parent said in a testimony that "maningkamot kita makahatag og kalamboan ug kaayohan sa mga hiwi nga kinaiya ug tabangan usab nato ang DSWD nga maporma ang atong mga anak (Let us strive to develop our children and change their unpleasant traits and help DSWD in molding them)."

After Marababol's talk, parents and children were given time to write each other letters which they personally read in a private dialogue.

"Nalipay ko nga makauban akong pamilya karung adlaw ug maistoryahan ang mga gusto namo isulti sa ila (I am happy to be spending time with



Resource person Rev. Fr. Dandy Marababol talks about healing within the family and underscores the important role of parents in guiding children and strengthening family bond.

my family today and tell each other what we wanted to)," said one of the residents.

Also featured in the encounter were testimonies from successful discharged clients, tribute to parents, and participants' sharing of learnings.

The parent-child encounter is an annual activity of the HFG done every September. In 2018, the activity commenced right after the

groundbreaking ceremony of the two-storey dormitory for the center set to be completed early 2019.

HFG, built in 1997, still continues to provide protection, care, treatment, and rehabilitation to vulnerable, abused and exploited girls below 18 years old.

### Dear Mama

A Home-for-Girls resident writes a letter addressed to her mother in a session which forms part of the parent-child encounter.



## Number of Centers for Women and Girls Managed by the DSWD

9

National/Regional Haven for Women  
(operating in NCR, Regions I, III, IVA, VI, VII, VIII, IX, and X)



1

Sanctuary Center (operating in NCR)



4

Haven for Women and Girls (operating in CAR,  
Region II, V and XII)



## Road opens opportunities to coffee farmers

Coffee has been an essential part of our early morning habit. For every cup or sip, comes the story of farmers. Coffee growers from Tigbanaba, Iloilo have their own story to tell. We know little about how their high grade coffee goes to the market.

Seeing coffee farming as key to better financial security, community residents gathered themselves to fix their craggy barangay road through a fund from Kapit-Bisig Laban sa Kahirapan-Comprehensive and Integrated Delivery of Social Services (Kalahi-CIDSS).

Coffee farming is the main source of livelihood in Sitio Buyuan, Barangay Tigbanaba. It has been supplying quality coffee beans to different markets in Iloilo for more than a decade now.

### Road less travelled and then some

Tigbanaba, one of the 46 barangays in the town of Igbaras in Iloilo, is 10 kilometers away from the town proper. There are six sitios in Barangay Tigbanaba, namely: Buyuan, Tarugan, Nasan, Lihan, Guimok, and Baras.

The barangay, rocky and steep, is relatively isolated and not accessible to four-wheeled vehicles. To get there, farmers must trek a very narrow dirt-and-gravel passage, making it even more difficult for them to transport their products.

For both residents and farmers there, a better pathway in transporting robusta coffee beans means more food on the table and enough money for their children's education.

Coffee farmer Teddy Echalar described how difficult it was for farmers to transport their produce to the town market. Men had to carry on their shoulders sacks of dried coffee beans and walk for almost an hour to reach Barangay Bagacay where a public utility jeepney awaits them.

Farmers had to pay P50 for every sack of coffee beans for haulers to take them to Barangay Bagacay, a fee that significantly cut into their already narrow profit margins.

Unfortunately, farmers could not command a higher price for their high grade coffee beans. There was no option left for them but to sell the beans at a much cheaper price to coffee manufacturers.

But their problems did not mostly revolve around transportation of coffee in Tigbanaba. Residents particularly students from Barangay Tigbanaba had to contend with a kilometer walk to reach Barangay Bagacay to attend classes at Igtalongon National High School.

The rough terrain makes it more difficult for students despite its short distance from Barangay Bagacay which is a motorcycle-ride from their school.

During rainy season, it is even more challenging to traverse the rocky and steep road. At times, their school uniforms are tainted with mud. They also have to wear slippers to protect their shoes from further damage.

*The locals harvest coffee beans.*





Number of 2018  
KALAHI-CIDSS  
NCDDP Projects  
Implemented  
Nationwide:



**4,941**  
Sub-Projects



*Hauling made easy  
through the new road  
sub-project of Kalahi-  
CIDSS.*

*Collected Robusta  
coffee beans provide  
livelihood to residents of  
Sitio Buyuan, Barangay  
Tigbanaba, Igaras,  
Iloilo*

*"Pwerte gid kabudlay sa mga bata kay ang lao dangat sa tuhod, ang uniform nanda gakahigkuan pag-abot sa eskwelahan (It was very difficult for students since the mud is knee level. They usually arrive in school with dirty uniforms)," said resident Anita Emano.*

#### **Perseverance in the face of adversity**

Recognizing the disadvantage and inconvenience it cost during downpour and emergency, the barangay could only hope for a better road – a concrete and passable pathway for motorcycles. It was a sigh of relief then when the community received funding from Kalahi-CIDSS to finally have a concrete road for Barangay Tigbanaba.

But it was not just about availability of funds and willingness of the community that caused the path to be built in Sitio Buyuan neither a walk in the park. It was a rough ride to the end.

Construction materials were carried by big trucks up to Barangay Bagacay. From there, residents manually hauled the materials to the site which took them an hour. Few short breaks were needed because of the terrain.

The community's perseverance prevailed despite challenges in the implementation. The concrete path led to different opportunities. About 60 households are now benefiting from the project.

Echalar, who is also chairperson of the Barangay Sub-Project Management Committee of Kalahi-CIDSS in Tigbanaba, said the project was a big help for their community; motorcycles can now access the barangay, making it convenient for them.

*"Sang wara pa ang Kalahi-CIDSS, budlay gid kay ayawan kamano-mano sa pagtransport sang produkto. Mas magastuhan pa. Sa tulad, mas tawhay ron, hindi ron mangabudlay sa paghakwat pakadto sa banwa kay pwede ron masakay sa habal-habal (When Kalahi-CIDSS was not yet implemented in our barangay, transporting our products to the market was really difficult since we manually hauled them. It adds up to our expenses. Now that Kalahi-CIDSS has funded our*

barangay road, we don't need to tire ourselves from hauling the products to the town market for there are already motorcycles we can hire)," Echalar said.

#### **Change for the better**

Transport of coffee had also greatly changed since the completion of the Kalahi-CIDSS project. Now, residents would just hire motorcycles to carry sacks of coffee to Barangay Bagacay. *"Hindi ron kami gakarga, ginapakarga nalang namon sa motor. Mas dasig ang pagtransport sang kap (Now we don't manually transport for we could just hire motorcycles to bring it to Bagacay. It is much faster to transport coffee)," Echalar said.*

The whole community of Tigbanaba thanked Kalahi-CIDSS for funding the concrete road since it gave them the chance to experience economic progress.

*"Gapasalamat gid ako ti bahol sa Kalahi nga gintaw-an kami kang proyekto nga makabulig sa kauswagan sang amon nga barangay. Makabulig gid sa turismo, transportasyon. Nakabulig gid sa adlaw adlaw nga pangabuhi (I am really thankful to Kalahi for it gave us a project that can bring development to the barangay. It can also help us in our tourism and transportation. It can help us in our daily living)," said Emano.*

The barangay road project at Tigbanaba is proof how Kalahi-CIDSS helped spur up economic activities in the rural areas.

*"Coffee farming is the main source of livelihood in Sitio Buyuan, Barangay Tigbanaba. It has been supplying quality coffee beans to different markets in Iloilo for more than a decade."*





## Reaching his dreams, his highest honor

Only a couple of houses away from where he once lived, Ryan sees his childhood home where he grew up with his three siblings. It brings memories of happiness and melancholy. For the time being, he has to stay with a relative just so he can reach his dreams.

*“Nalulungkot po ako sa tuwing nakikita ko ‘yung bahay namin. Siyempre po gusto ko magkakasama kami nina tatay at ng mga kapatid ko (It saddens me every time I see our house. Of course, I want to be with my father and siblings),”* he quipped.

Ryan Christopher Bucad, 18, is the youngest of four siblings who are raised singlehandedly by their father. The Bucads are residents of Barangay Payapa Ilaya in Lemery, Batangas.

Their father, Sonny, is a farmer who takes home a very minimal amount to support the needs of the family. He is also a construction worker on the side.

*“Yung mga kapatid ko po, hindi na nakatuntong ng high school dahil sa kahirapan namin. Kaya kung hindi po ako makikitira sa mga pinsan namin, baka hindi na rin po ako makapag-high school. Ganito*

*rin po ang ginawa ng kapatid ko para makaabot ng kolehiyo (My siblings did not reach high school due to poverty. If I did not decide to live with a relative, I would probably have the same fate. My older sister did the same thing to be able to reach college),”* shared Ryan.

In front of his classmates and batchmates, Ryan stood proud and mighty as he delivered his speech in April last year when he graduated with highest honors from Lemery Senior High School. *“Sulit lahat ng pagod at pagsasakripisyo namin (Our sacrifices paid off),”* shared Ryan, referring to his father and his aunt as he recalled the moment he was delivering his graduation speech.

### Sacrificing home for school

Ryan admitted that life is hard for the family, considering that it is only his father who works for the five of them. They neither have communication with their mother nor financial support from her to help them with their needs. *“Kapag humihingi ako noon ng panggastos sa project, hindi na lang umiimik si Tatay. Alam ko na kapag hindi na s’ya umiimik, wala talaga kaming pera (Every time I asked money from my father for a school project, he just kept quiet. I would know then that he did not have any amount to give),”*

That’s why when he graduated from elementary, he gladly took an offer from a relative in a nearby municipality to live in another house temporarily so he could enroll in high school. After a year, he went back home. That was the time his family became a beneficiary of the Pantawid Pamilyang Pilipino Program (4Ps).

As the only ‘monitored’ child in the family, Ryan’s school needs were at least provided for. Good thing Ryan’s eldest brother, who only finished Grade 6, was giving a little for the family. Hence, he could stay home to focus on his studies.

Despite the support from the program and the continuous hard work of his father, Ryan admitted to still having a hard time. The situation became worse when his eldest brother could no longer work due to injury from an accident.

*“Tumira po ulit ako sa isa ko pang tiyahin para makapagpatuloy ng pag-aaral (Once again I had to live with another aunt to continue schooling),”* Ryan said. He added that even though his aunt’s house was only a walking distance from theirs, he still felt sad being physically away from his father and siblings.

Ryan’s school is far from their home which usually cost him around P40-P50 for a tricycle or jeepney ride daily back and forth. His daily allowance of P80 was just enough to buy him lunch and pay for contributions for class projects. He would make do with the little he had for his expenses.

*“Nahihiya na rin ako minsang humingi ng dagdag kasi minsan, may utang pa nga kaming bigas, kailangan na naman naming umutang ulit para may makain. Sa almusal, nasanay na rin akong iulam ang kape sa kanin (I was shy to ask for additional amount since we are already indebted. So I was used to having coffee and rice as a meal),”* he shared.

All of these sacrifices only fueled his desire to finish his studies. He made sure that he got good grades all the time, confident that his education would free his family from their dire situation.

### Taking full responsibility

As Ryan saw his siblings without jobs because of lack of education, he felt the weight of responsibility to help his family was on him which he gladly embraced.

For Ryan, he is lucky to have been given various opportunities --- apart from having a hardworking father, a helpful brother, a caring guardian, and support from the government through the Pantawid Pamilya. *“Mag-aaral po akong mabuti para maging isang guro. Kapag nakatapos ako, sisiguruhin kong matutulungan ko sina tatay, ang mga kapatid ko at ang guardian ko (I will diligently study to be a teacher someday. Once I finish, I will make sure to help my father, siblings, and guardian),”* he said with optimism.

Today, Ryan is applying for various scholarships so he can enroll in college, knowing full well that it will be a bigger challenge with or without a

scholarship. And since he is the sole child-beneficiary of the Pantawid Pamilya in the family, his senior high school graduation means his family’s graduation from the program. After which, he will no longer be receiving financial assistance for his education.

Despite this, Ryan is hopeful. He chooses to accept the challenge and succeed.

*“Continue to believe, continue to aspire, and continue to live with the knowledge we have acquired.”* Like this line from his graduation speech, Ryan knows that he will be a teacher one day and the key to his family’s success. To him, this is the highest honor he can ever earn.

23,489  
College Graduates



For academic year 2017-2018, there were 23,489 college graduates of Pantawid Pamilya households assisted by the Expanded Students’ Grants-in-Aid Program for Poverty Alleviation (ESGP-PA)



Number of  
Pantawid Modified  
Conditional Cash  
Transfer (MCCT)  
beneficiaries:



**228,973**  
Households



## Homeless teenage girl finishes senior high school

**B**eaming with pride, Johanna Heart Genon went up the stage to receive her diploma. Her parents, seated on the bleachers inside the Cebu Coliseum, elatedly watched her accept 'that piece of paper,' a proof that she succeeded in her quest to finish senior high school.

Wearing her school uniform, graduation toga and cap, Johanna Heart was an image of success. She was one of the senior high school students who finished the K to 12 Basic Education Program in 2018.

On April 8, 2018, she joined other University of Cebu (UC) senior high school graduates under the Science, Technology, Engineering

and Mathematics (STEM) strand in their commencement exercise. It was a momentous day in the life of these students who belonged to the first batch of senior high school graduates under the K to 12 Basic Education Program of the government.

"My graduation means a lot to me because I never thought that I could reach this far in my quest for knowledge," expressed Johanna Heart who used to live in a burial ground and is still awed by her success.

### A home finally

Raised by homeless parents, she and her siblings had to live in the Chinese cemetery in Barangay

Carreta in Cebu City, which became their home and playground along with other children bereft of shelter. "*Maulaw gyud ko sa una kung mangutana akong mga classmates kung asa mi nagpuyo* (In the past, I would be embarrassed whenever my classmates asked me where I lived)," Johanna said as she recalled the discrimination she went through.

Her father, Wilfredo Genon, Sr. is a construction worker while her mother, Nenita Genon, is a plain housewife. "*Dili man nako ikaulaw ang akong*

*family kay nagtrabaho man og tarong akong amahan ug wala man pud mi nanglimos sa dalan* (I'm not ashamed of my family because my father has a decent job and we are not begging in the streets)," Johanna said.

Despite the struggles, Johanna remained focused on achieving her dreams. In 2014, her family became one of the partner-beneficiaries of the Modified Conditional Cash Transfer (MCCT) of DSWD and started receiving the cash grants which helped sustain her education and that of her two siblings. Of the four siblings, only three were included in the MCCT program that included Johanna Heart.

The MCCT covers poor families who were not enrolled in the regular 4Ps. It provides assistance to homeless street families, families in need of special protection, and indigenous families, which is not limited to education and health grants, but also includes safe and responsive housing assistance with access to social services and economic opportunities for the improvement of their living conditions. In 2016, through the MCCT, the Department started the provision of rent subsidy for a maximum of P4,000 monthly to Johanna's family.

In March 2017, Johanna Heart's family became one of the 20 MCCT partner-beneficiaries who were able to have their own house in Mountain View Village in Barangay Kalunasan, Cebu City.

Sec. Rolando  
Bautista attends the  
media forum for the  
recognition of outstanding  
4Ps beneficiaries.



This rent-to-own scheme is a partnership of DSWD and Pagtambayayong Foundation, Inc., whose mission is to provide low-cost housing to the underprivileged.

"*Sa pag-implementar sa rent subsidy, nangita dayun sila mama ug papa og maabangan nga balay aron makabalhin mi og kapuy-an* (Upon the implementation of rent subsidy, my parents immediately looked for a house-for-rent so that we could transfer from the cemetery to a decent home)," she added. "Our life now with MCCT is much better than before. The support we have been receiving from the government gives us a decent place to live and continuous education."

### Ticket to a better future

For her, education is the only key to rise from poverty and a big step to reaching her dreams. "In the past during the opening of classes, our parents could not afford to buy our needs at the same time so they had to alternately buy our needs like school shoes. With MCCT, our parents could now afford to buy our school needs at one time when the school year opens," she added.

Johanna explained that she is really determined to finish her studies. When she was able to avail of the Cebu City Scholarship Program for K to 12, she knew she would have a shot at getting an education.

Despite graduating without any award, she said she would take all the knowledge, skills and insights as motivation to pursue college education.

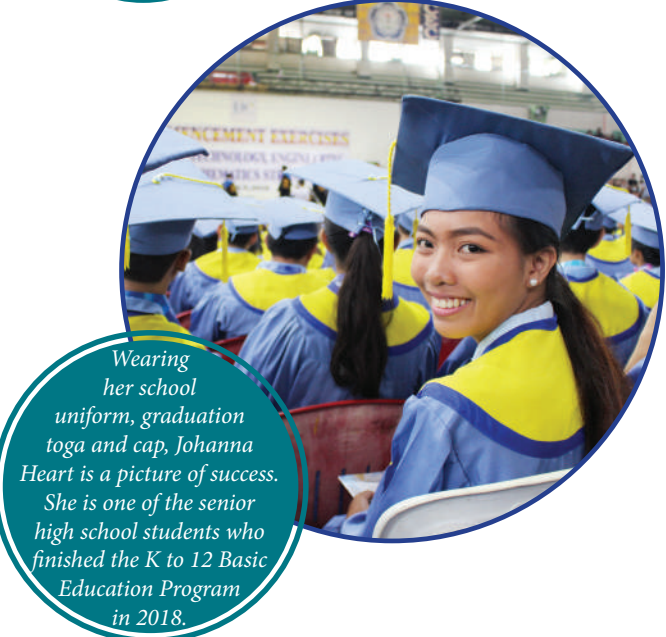




Standing from left to right: UC Guidance Counselor Mae Karen Bularon and Ms. Candice Gotianuy's Secretary Cathy Abella welcome Johanna Heart Genon (sitting 2nd from right) in the UC family as they orient her on the scholarship program. Together with Johanna Heart are DSWD VII staff Marhadzda Tuditud and Alice Suspeñe.



Miss Universe Philippines 2018 Catriona Gray interviews Johanna Heart Genon.



Wearing her school uniform, graduation toga and cap, Johanna Heart is a picture of success. She is one of the senior high school students who finished the K to 12 Basic Education Program in 2018.



Nenita Genon  
Mother

Johanna Heart Genon  
Daughter

Wilfredo Genon, Sr.  
Father

Siblings

Together with her father, Wilfredo Genon, Sr., mother Nenita Genon, and siblings, Johanna Heart happily posed for a souvenir photo during her commencement exercise.

In the final part of the commencement exercise, Johanna Heart together with her classmates sang their graduation song, "A Million Dreams".

She said the chorus of the song struck a chord to all her dreams and aspirations in life. "Cause every night I lie in bed, the brightest colors fill my head, a million dreams are keeping me awake, I think of what the world could be, a vision of the one I see, a million dreams are all its gonna take, a million dreams for the world we're gonna make." So goes the lyrics of the song which she found full

of hope that should encourage people to look at the bright side of life.

"Na-inspire ko nga mukuha og civil engineering tungod sa trabaho sa akong papa isip usa ka construction worker. Gusto sad ko nga makatabang unya sa mga tawo nga walay balay (I am inspired to pursue civil engineering because of my father's job as construction worker. Also, I would like to help the homeless)," emphasized Johanna Heart.

Together with her parents and siblings, she happily posed for a souvenir graduation photo which was to remind her of her goal to finish education.

"Ako silang estoryahan sa akong kinabuhi aron makahunahuna sila nga kung naa kay gustong makab-ot ug kini kinasinkasing, way makababag nila (I will share my life story so that they will realize that if they really aim for something and it comes from the heart, no one can stop them)," stressed Johanna Heart who is willing to share her

story to students who are losing or have lost hope in life. "Have faith in your dreams, have faith in yourself and most of all, trust God's plan for you," she said.

Armed with right attitude and a heart in the right place, she will pursue a degree in Civil Engineering. She really lives up to her name.



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## PAGBANDILA SA LAHING PINAGMULAN

Organizational Outcome 2:  
Rights of the poor and vulnerable sectors  
promoted and protected

Physical care, pride in one's ethnicity, volunteerism, preservation of culture, aging with purpose, nobility of motherhood --- these are but stories told tirelessly. But what made the narrative more engaging this time, is the ability of the chroniclers to weave the different facets of the subjects' struggles and triumphs into one moving canvass of nuanced and shared experiences.

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## From physically challenged to more able persons

**A**s part of the mission and mandate of the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) to promote human and social development, the Department has committed to effectively promote social protection programs and services to vulnerable sectors of the society. One of the many human development programs of DSWD focuses on the significant rehabilitation of physically and mentally challenged individuals in the community for effective social functioning.

Recognizing this, DSWD Field Office VII by virtue of Republic Act 1159 of 1954, established a vocational rehabilitation center on September 30, 1974 to serve persons with disabilities (PWDs), which offers a comprehensive vocational recovery program to address their multi-faceted problems.

The Department's Area Vocational Rehabilitation Center (AVRC) II's package of services is designed to respond effectively and efficiently to the social, emotional, psychological, physical, vocational, and livelihood needs of the enrolled center clients who belong to the marginalized sectors and are deprived of health services.

"These vulnerable sectors of our society are the ones prone to damaging criticisms from the

public that would erode their self-esteem and self-worth. Sadly, most of them would believe that they are incompetent in the society. Now, this has become the most challenging part of the center – to lift them from wallowing in self-pity," expressed Eutilla Tahanlangit, AVRC II Center Head.

Throughout the center's operation, the orthopedically-impaired persons such as amputees, stroke and polio survivors, and those with congenital bone deformities have consistently ranked second only to the visually-impaired clients in terms of the proportion in seeking assistance from the center, which have an average of 37.56% from 1998 to 2018.

*Maricel Talledo, 35 years old with orthopedic impairment, takes pride in being enrolled in Commercial Cooking class at AVRC II in Labangon, Cebu City.*

*Stroke survivor Tzuyen Arreglado, 38 years old, enjoys AVRC Commercial Cooking training while undergoing rehabilitation session at the same time.*





## PWDs enrolled in Non-Residential Care Facilities:



**90 Clients** Rehabilitation Sheltered Workshop

**245 Clients** National Vocational Rehabilitation Center

**485 Clients** Area Vocational Rehabilitation Center

**53 Clients** Center of the Handicapped

Total Clients

873

While the center has a comprehensive vocational rehabilitation program that provides varied services addressing various needs of PWD, it however lacks technical expertise and financial capacity to provide for the physical restoration and rehabilitation of the orthopedically-impaired persons, specifically the amputees, stroke and polio survivors, whose rehabilitation is largely dependent on their mobility and good physical function.

Thus, the AVRC II, in partnership with Cebu Doctor's University (CDU), has established free in-house physical therapy services in the center to restore and regain maximum body functioning and make mobility aids and physical rehabilitation treatments accessible and affordable to indigent orthopedically-impaired clients. This was eventually opened to indigent walk-in clients as well. With these, the AVRC II basically provides a Physical Therapy (PT) room, light, water, and maintenance of the facility while the CDU provides all the necessary equipment, supplies and materials, a full-time clinical instructor who closely supervises the PT interns of CDU who serve as the manpower for the PT sessions of the clients.

The project has positively impacted a total of 2,390 orthopedically impaired clients from 1998 to present: 94% gained movement, 99% increased their self-esteem and gained confidence in socializing with people, 90% joined organizations or community activities, and 82% employed, helping augment their family income.

*"Dakong natabang sa akoa ang physical therapy kay naka anam-anam nako og tarong og lakaw. Lahi ra jud sauna kumpara karon. Naay dakong kausaban sa akong panglawas* (The physical therapy was a great help to me because I have gradually relearned walking on my own. It's really different compared before. There is a great change in my health)," said a 64-year-old male ortho client in Calape, Bohol who previously had difficulty walking.

This improved physical mobility of the clients has boosted their self-image and self-esteem. It eventually led to change of attitude - from being easily controlled by their disabilities to

empowered individuals who finished vocational training needed for employment. It enabled the clients to improve their social and economic competencies to become dynamic members of the community.

Although it is free of charge, it does not compromise the quality of service that it provides its clients, and is at par with that of private hospitals.

*"Parehas ra ang serbisyonang among nadawat diri sa AVRC ug sa kadtong unang therapy sa pribadong ospital ug home service* (We received the same services in AVRC as that in the private hospitals or those who do home services)," said another ortho-client.

Proving that the Department's mantra, #DSWDMayMalasakit, is not selective, the free services were made accessible to indigent walk-in clients needing physical therapy services, mostly stroke survivors, senior citizens, and individuals who suffer from serious physical ailments.

"The popularity of the in-house PT services of AVRC II has already reached the physiatrists from the government and private hospitals. These professionals usually inform their indigent patients on the existing facility so that they can avail of the services for free. For example, Dr. Barcenas, volunteer physiatrist of AVRC II advises his patients to have a consultation check-up at the center during his schedule for free instead of going to Cebu Doctors' Hospital in which each client is required to pay P500 for consultation fee," Tahanlangit explained.

It has been observed by the AVRC that the mobility-impaired clients significantly need physical therapy services as first-level intervention to sustain their vocational training in AVRC II.

This further exemplifies DSWD's goal to empower its clients through maximizing residual capacities of persons with disabilities to achieve social and economic development.

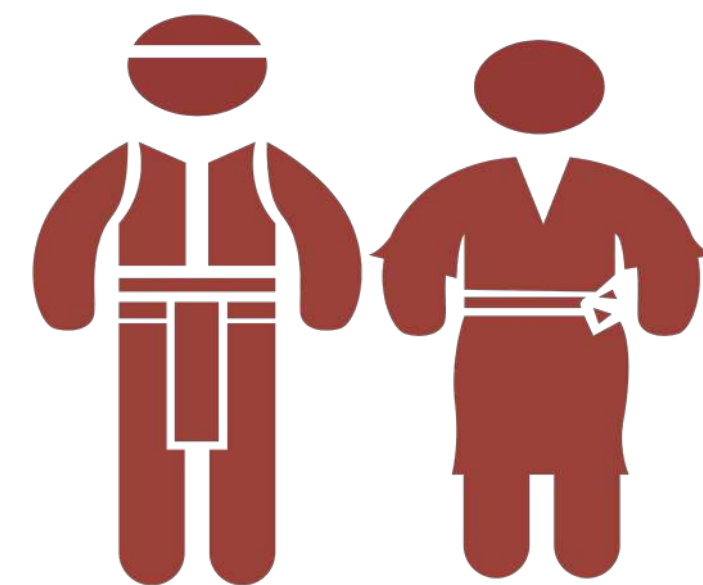


**A**t the age of 7, Jovito practically experienced what it meant to be poorest among the poor in the country, growing up in a family of 7 children without a permanent decent shelter. His family lived a nomadic life.

For him and other Manobos, every single day was a struggle for survival and life's essentials, like literally scrimping on little food in the remote mountainous villages of Mindanao. Bereft of modernity, there's no Wi-Fi or signal to boot.

Jovito endured and struggled through extreme poverty. He would painfully walk barefoot for kilometers with an empty stomach, loaded his back with sacks of corn and *palay* whose weight is beyond his age's capacity, saddened by the sight of his classmates trekking to school and holding their pencils in the classroom --- while

## Total number of KALAHI-CIDSS IP Beneficiaries



From nomad to proud Manobo: finding and fulfilling one's identity

362,615  
Individuals





"Mahirap talaga ang maging mahirap at maging isang katutubo"

he burdened himself with a plow to till the land under the scorching heat of the sun all day long.

#### Disadvantaged

But what really hurt Jovito the most was growing up experiencing the unjust treatment and discrimination against them as Indigenous Peoples (IPs). More than the verbal discrimination, Manobo people are trapped in the vicious cycle of grinding poverty for a long time, feeling isolated from government programs and services, and even from the rest of the world.

Manobo school children barely go to school because of bullying and hunger. Medical needs and facilities were hardly accessible. Roadside birth is prevalent with high mortality rate. Livelihood opportunities were limited. "*Mahirap talaga ang maging mahirap at maging isang katutubo* (It's really difficult to be poor and to be an IP)," a downtrodden Jovito said.

Hopeful, he was determined to overcome the obstacles to be able to pursue his dreams. His painful experiences served as driving force for him to succeed in life and change the situation for IPs living in the mountains. He went to various schools and pursued his education as a working student while staying from one family to another.

Jovito at 51, now a pastor and farmer, is gradually changing the landscape for IPs, seeking avenues to prove their worth as productive members of the community, active actors rather than audience of development, whereby rekindling the *bayanihan* spirit through volunteerism.

While Jovito was working in a radio station in Cotabato, there was an opportunity offered to him to study abroad. Unfortunately, he was informed that tribal members were fleeing their homes due to insurgency. There were reported cases of unfair treatment of IPs and non-IPs in terms of accessing services for internally-displaced persons (IDPs). Prior to this, there were reported abuses among his *ka-tribu*.

Jovito passed up the opportunity and decided to respond to the call of duty for his fellow villagers. He was determined to take the road less travelled to offer himself to others.

#### Like no other

Jovito is an ordinary person with an extraordinary dream for his community. A man with a big heart for others, he always thinks of his co-villagers in every decision he makes. Take for instance his advocacy for *bayanihan* as a way of life for Indigenous Peoples.

He always emphasizes giving trust and value to all sectors and members of the village who take part in the processes of community programs, projects and services, especially the poorest and most vulnerable sectors, who according to him, are enough reason for volunteerism.

As a family man and active leader in his community, he makes sure that matters, decisions, and activities are done in a manner that is transparent, consultative, and participative, inculcating accountability among all members.

That is why Jovito is well-loved by his community because he embodies the true meaning of empathy. He never fails to reach out to and touch another human being with his heart.

He is described as a leader who inspires others by showing that doing good for the welfare of community knows no age, educational achievement, status in life, or gender – thus regarding him a modern day *bayani* for his willingness to commit and sacrifice for public causes.

Despite being financially constrained as a volunteer, more often than not, he has to sacrifice his time for his livelihood and other income-generating activities for the day over volunteerism.

In other words, Jovito has become a great instrument for Indigenous Peoples to be actors themselves rather than fencesitters, in order to influence decision-making and address the pressing needs of his tribe.

Because for a long time, Manobos have been deprived of various government programs and services, whose lives were a far cry from the development in lowland communities. While there has been development, it did not directly

benefit the members of the tribe, according to Jovito.

The lack of avenues for IPs to take part in local governance and affairs, and excluding and leaving them behind in planning and decisions on locally identified options for development, have been pointed out as one of the barriers for progress and empowerment.

#### Kalahi-CIDSS to the rescue

A government program implemented by DSWD, Kapit-Bisig Laban sa Kahirapan - A Comprehensive and Integrated Delivery of Social Services, better known as Kalahi-CIDSS, entered in Pinamulaan, Cotabato and gave opportunity to villagers. The project relied on volunteerism of ordinary citizens, giving them the power to identify their problems and find solutions, decide, plan, manage, implement, monitor, and sustain their chosen projects.

Every year, the Department allots P13.9 million for projects in the municipality of Banisilan, Cotabato. However, these projects mostly benefited non-IP communities. Each village proposed its project through inter-barangay forum for approval and funding. Jovito volunteered to encourage 110 IP households to be active in the implementation process - from planning, budgeting, and managing to monitoring the project.

Pinamulaan, with the help from members of Pinamulaan Tribal Association completed three units of 15x30 meters solar dryer worth P1.55 million, making it the first community-forced account project in the area.

In 2015, Jovito was chosen as chairperson of Pinamulaan's barangay sub-project management committee composed of community volunteers tasked to plan and implement the village's chosen project. He and other tribal people vouched the idea that a certain percentage of the amount be exclusively allocated for funding a certain IP project. This was a policy change for the program introduced by the IPs to ensure that they would be directly benefiting from the processes and projects.

Thankfully, their request was granted. The 5% of the total municipal grant of Banisilan was exclusively allocated to an IP proposed project. Pinamulaan proposed dispersal and production of carabaos for the IPs of the village. The proposal was granted and approved amounting to P698,495. There were 29 households and members of Pinamulaan Tribal Association that benefitted from the livelihood project. Jovito is currently the head of operations and maintenance for the project to ensure its sustainability.

Carabao-raising is the backbone of the tribal people in Pinamulaan. A carabao serves as their partner in all their livelihood activities since most of them do not own properties like a land to till. This is the first-ever project that directly benefited the tribal people according to Jovito.

In 2016, Jovito and the rest of Pinamulaan villagers proposed a Tribal Hall. It was deemed an important facility for Manobos and other tribes as this is where meetings, cultural practices, capacity building training, and consultations are usually conducted. It would also serve as a venue for tribal weddings, rituals, and other purposes. Again the village's proposal was granted amounting to P698, 495.

In 2018, Pinamulaan villagers' proposal for two units of day care center amounting to P1.53 million was granted. This made education facilities accessible to young IPs to inculcate the importance of putting investment in knowledge to break the cycle of poverty.

#### Volunteerism as key

Jovito's volunteerism impacted on empowerment of Indigenous Peoples of Pinamulaan. He was instrumental in advancing welfare, identity, and rights of IPs in the village. He revolutionized the mindset of IPs and non-IPs to prove their worth as useful members of the community.

The rekindling of *bayanihan* was a way for tribal people to be empowered through participation in local governance and affairs wherein once unheard voices became loud enough to demand for their rights to proper services and projects.



The essence of participation of the Pinamulaan tribal people in barangay assemblies, situational analysis, implementation, and monitoring of projects goes beyond figures. It underscores sense of ownership and accountability among them. It harnesses the power of the people for development as a concrete result of *bayanihan* in its truest form.

Given the trust to plan, manage and implement their chosen projects, they dubbed the program as “University for the IPs” since it served as a learning ground for Pinamulaan Tribal Association members. They underwent various training, workshops, and seminars pertaining to financial management, procurement, gender and personality development, disaster, environment, and many others.

Jovito, together with the Pinamulaan tribal members and barangay officials were able to access various projects amounting to some P4.46 million from DSWD alone.

#### Advocacy at its finest

According to Jovito, 60% of the tribal people his age is considered illiterate. This is caused by their painful experiences in life, leaving a lot with no formal education. Only a few opted for and had the opportunity to pursue higher education.

He recalled that they had to go down from the mountain to sell their agricultural products with only one person dictating the price. It was bad enough that they did not know if they were receiving the correct amount from sales.

After finishing his degree in Bachelor of Arts in Mass Communication from Pilgrim Christian College in Cagayan De Oro City as a working student and scholar, and after a few years as reporter of DXIM-Radyo ng Bayan, Jovito decided to go back to Pinamulaan.

According to him, he had to go back to Pinamulaan because the tribal people needed him more than ever. He opened his house for young IPs to learn, teaching them basic education. It also served as temporary shelter for IP school children who lived considerably far from the schools. He closely

coordinated with the Alternative Learning System (ALS) Program of the Department of Education (DepEd) to teach tribal members lifelong learnings and skills. In so doing, Pinamulaan tribal members pushed for the construction of a day care center to encourage young learners to go to school.

Being poor, according to Jovito is more than just economic status. It means deprivation of participation in decision-making,

*ang sumisimbolo ng paggalang at pagtitiwala ng pamahalaan  
ang aming desisyon at kakayahan na paunlarin ang aming kabuhayan  
ang mga Indigenous Peoples.. Para sa iba, ito ay simpleng livelihood  
pero para sa amin ito ang aming buhay.*

*Jovito T. Liwat Jr. 50*  
BSPMC CHAIR  
Dispersal of and Production of 29 Carabaos  
for IP Livelihood Project  
Brgy. Pinamulaan, Banisilan, North Cotabato

opportunities, and access to basic services, ownership of assets, and resources to meet basic needs. He said the best way to combat poverty is to arm IPs with knowledge.

Jovito wished that no tribal young learner would be left behind in terms of education. He wanted to leave an indelible mark in the young IPs minds and hearts, so that in turn they become instruments of change and progress.

#### Fighting for identity and rights

*“Hindi natin kailangan magbago para matanggap tayo ng ibang tao. Ipagmalaki natin kung sino at ano meron tayo bilang mga katutubo (We don’t need to change for others to accept us. We should take pride in who we are and what we have as IPs),”* thus said Jovito.

Jovito, through the Pinamulaan Tribal Association, advocates for the cultural preservation of the IPs in Banisilan.

The construction of village tribal hall is one of the projects that will serve as center for various activities for members, especially in educating the young IPs. He advocates for equality, anti-discrimination, and anti-bullying against IPs in Banisilan. He has initiated a school and community advocacy campaign for equality and other pressing issues, and helped establish and strengthen the Council of Elders. The Council provides guidance for IPs in their traditions, beliefs, and values in a respectful and caring way. It also serves as decision-making body that attends to complaints, problems, and issues that arise within the tribe.

By and large, the Pinamulaan Tribal Association serves as a help desk for IPs who are victims of human rights violations and other forms of abuses. Jovito saw the burning need to harness the power of the Manobo tribe so that past experiences would not become a nightmare for the young generation.

#### Finding home and taking the course

Jovito believes that community-building must start within the basic unit which is the family to be able to have a good society that is well-founded on familial values. Pinamulaan has now become the permanent home for resettled IPs because of the equal treatment, opportunities, and trust given to them: a just and humane community where they are accepted and treated with respect for what and who they are as a people.

Jovito is admired by the community because of his passion and commitment to serve; is known to many as among the new breed of good leaders who highly value honesty, integrity, courage, and someone who leads with conscience which are a rare brand of service these days.

Indeed, Jovito has been an instrument for the empowerment of Indigenous Peoples, bringing them closer to various services and projects for the improvement of their lives. He proved that helping others is not about educational attainment, race, religion, gender and beliefs - but unconditionally offering one’s time, talent, and resources without expecting something in return.

For all his best efforts and intentions, Jovito became one of the regional awardees of DSWD’s Bayani Ka! Awards in the Best Community Volunteer Category while the Pinamulaan Tribal Association was recognized in the Best Indigenous Peoples’ Welfare Category. He also won in the 2018 “Buhay Ang Pangarap Awards” by Aljay Foundation.

As Jovito recalls his struggles in life, he is thankful for the experiences that paved the way in helping his fellow IPs. He learned to give, not because he has everything, but because he exactly knew how it felt to have nothing.



# Woman volunteer shines in DavNor town

*"Gikan ko sa yano nga pamilya ug simple lang ang among panginabuhi. Tong niabot ang Kalahi-CIDSS sa among munisipyo, nahimo kong leader bisan sa ubos nako nga kahimtang. Naghatag og oportunidad ang programa sa ako ug ako kining kinasig kasing nga gidawat kay kabalo ko nga dako kini og maikatabang sa among komunidad (I come from a poor family leading a simple life. When Kalahi-CIDSS came to our town, I became a leader despite my low social status. The program provided an opportunity which I sincerely accepted because I know it would greatly help my community)."*

Thus, said Thelma Eliseo Villagracia, 60, who was awarded Best Volunteer in the Gender and Development Category of the DSWD Kalahi-CIDSS 3rd National Bayani Ka! Awards.

The Kalahi-CIDSS Bayani Ka! Awards seeks to recognize the contribution of program supporters and convene Kalahi-CIDSS volunteer-champions and heroes from different communities.

## It takes a woman

In celebration of Women's Month and leading the observance of the theme, "We Make Change Work for Women", the Department continues to recognize and advocate for the crucial role of women in community development.

Villagracia, a mother of five, is an active volunteer in Kalahi-CIDSS who leads the operation and

maintenance of Kalahi-CIDSS Barangay Sub-Project Management Committee (BSPMC).

Despite hardships in finishing her studies, she endeavored to pursue them through the DepEd's ALS. At 47, she completed high school and passed the National Acceleration and Equivalency Test.

When Kalahi-CIDSS came to B.E. Dujali in 2015, she led the operations and maintenance of BSPMC. She considers her task in Kalahi-CIDSS as one of her most difficult by far yet finds it exceedingly rewarding.

"Before, people in our community were doubtful of a woman's ability to lead in managing projects. The tasks in Kalahi-CIDSS like canvassing, budgeting, sub-project monitoring, negotiating with suppliers, and most of all, overseeing the implementation of the sub-project are deemed as a man's job," Villagracia recounted.

Undeniably, if one is unschooled in basic business management, these tasks could be overwhelming, she added. Undaunted, she defied the system that typecasts women as mere child care givers, housekeepers, household cooks, among other stereotypes thrown at women. "I dreamed of occupying a position where I could influence and create change in the community. It was the downright segregation of women that pushed me to advocate the capacity and rights of women, in every chance that I could."

Through various trainings, workshops, and campaigns with and for local communities, Villagracia contributed to a radical shift in how communities perceive women.

## Leading the way

*"Ang pagsulong sa karapatan ug partisipasyon sa mga kababainhan kaniadto kay lisud sa among komunidad. Pero sa pagsulod sa Kalahi-CIDSS sa among munisipyo, na-awhag ang mga tao hilabi na ang mga kababainhan nga mu-partisipar. Nadungagan ang akong kadasig nga akong pakusgan ang ilahang partisipasyon (In the past, it was difficult to advance women rights and participation. It was during the implementation of Kalahi-CIDSS that people especially women were mobilized to participate. And I was more inspired to strengthen their participation)."*

She said that pushing for women's rights and participation in the community was not easy but when Kalahi-CIDSS entered into the picture, women were encouraged and felt they wanted to do something also to raise their morale. She too did her best to convince them to participate.

Villagracia and her husband are both active volunteers in Kalahi-CIDSS. In fact, they are both hands-on in the implementation of Community Access Roads in Barangay Dujali worth P5,067,809 with a Local Counterpart Contribution (LCC) amounting to P51,338.

Apart from volunteering in Kalahi-CIDSS, Villagracia heads Dagyaw (*bayanihan*) and the Sagip-Ilog, Sagip-Buhay project, an awareness-raising campaign on environment and disaster preparedness.

Per DSWD XI records, there are 6,119 women volunteers in Kalahi-CIDSS. Of this figure, 12% work as laborers in the construction of Kalahi-CIDSS community sub-projects.

*"Usa ka pribilehiyo ang magsilbi sa katawhan. Usa ka dakong karangalan ang mahimong isa sa mga instrumento sa pagbag-o sa kababainhan aron matukod ang mga proyekto ubos sa Kalahi-CIDSS (It is a privilege to serve the people. It is a great honor to be one of the instruments in empowering*

women, enabling them to establish projects under Kalahi-CIDSS)," Villagracia declared.

Indeed, she has proven that persevering and empowered women like her can break loose from labels and be the best they can be against all odds.



*"I dreamed of occupying a position where I could influence and create change in the community. It was the downright segregation of women that pushed me to advocate for the capacity and rights of women, in every chance that I could."*



Total number of  
women volunteers  
of KALAHI-CIDSS



**574,680**  
Individuals



## Subanon culture preserved through CDD

**I**n our complex society where technological advancements are rapidly taking over, buildings have unfortunately replaced trees and mountains—and with everything becoming instant like food, gadgets, clothing, and all other necessities in life, it is no wonder why people's ways are constantly changing and their choices ever-evolving.

Take the case of the Subanon Tribe of Barangay Tabayo in the Municipality of Siocon, Zamboanga del Norte. The barangay boasts of a 99% Subanon population.

The Subanon is known to be peace-loving people, the reason why they move from one place to another seeking peaceful sanctuaries for themselves. They move to areas far from noise. They cultivate crops and also raise livestock such as pigs, chickens, cattle, and carabaos. Subanon

houses are normally built along hillsides and ridges ideally overlooking family fields.

The tribe is continuously confronted with complex societal challenges like globalization, armed struggle, and threats from violent extremism, to name a few.

According to Bonifacio Patoh, 54, BSPMC chair and resident of Tabayo, the community elders of the tribe observed that the younger generation is losing sense of appreciation of the richness of their culture. This somewhat contributes, he said, to losing their sense of identity which defines the very existence and essence of their tribe.

With the proposal on the construction of the "Subanon Piglompokan Nog Baloy Nog Mokogulangan" sub-project, the tribal elders, who perceived that the new generation is no longer practicing the Subanon customs and traditions





handed over by their forefathers, hoped to cast the fear away.

### Getting it done

Barangay Tabayo was relatively faced with difficulties since it is located 8 kilometers away from the poblacion, aggravated further by problems on education, impassable roads, low income, and cultural issues.

During the 2nd Barangay Assembly, the people deemed it necessary to discuss and address the concerns of the IPs. It cannot be dismissed that due to 'strong social influence', the IP issues were not given priority. And with continuous assemblies, the agreement on the construction of the Heritage Village finally surfaced.

Through the Project Preparation Team (PPT) and the Barangay and Local Government Unit (B/LGU) of Tabayo, the creation of the IP Heritage Village was realized.

The materials used in this particular sub-project were purely indigenous coming from the mountains of Siocon, handpicked by the Subanon residents themselves who believed the materials were fit for the design.

*"Dili man ni makadaot sa kinaiya kay dili man ni gidaot namo ang mga kahoy. Selected lang man kung unsa lang ang mga gikinahanglan (This will not ruin the environment because we did not intend to destroy the trees for lumber. Only the ones we need were selected)", Boni explained the process of gathering the materials.*

Unlike the usual Western design of Kalahi-CIDSS structures, the proposed look of the village was

based on historical structure built for specific purposes. Instead of using nails to build the houses made from indigenous materials, they preferred twigs, which are traditionally utilized in constructing Subanon structures in the past. The twigs were carefully and thoroughly wrapped around the pillars to hold each structure firmly.

Each structure underwent consultation with the Subanon elders as a sign and token of respect to their tradition, that included number of working days, kinds of materials, and rituals held before construction.

The IP Heritage Village is an 8-structure sub-project designed to be the venue to showcase their arts and crafts and a place to practice their customs and traditions, to uplift their self-worth and empower them to be more productive members of the community.

Each structure has its own uses, namely; "Baloy Poglompukan" for elders to convene and discuss traditional matters, "Baloy Pintow" for families and friends to gather, "Maligay" for curing persons believed to be inhabited by elemental spirits from the mountains, "Glapow" represents the holy church of the Subanon people who usually gather on Wednesdays, "Batah Baloy" as the

sacred place where the "Boliyan" or Subanon priest prays and where the good spirit usually comes in, "Sigulang" as the place for relaxation after long hours of farming in the mountains, "Baloy Ponginaguan nog Polongkapan nog Subanon" for storing materials considered sacred by the Subanon tribe, and "Baloy Polindowan" for meditation.

### Owning it

Among the direct benefits identified by the community and the B/LGU include the revival and preservation of the cultural practices of the Subanon in Tabayo. The seeming discrimination and marginalization of the tribe for decades can be addressed now.

The DepEd's IP Education (IPEd) more than ever has been strengthened with additional teachers provided by the DepEd in Tabayo who specialized in demonstrating to Subanon children concepts about their culture via the Heritage Village as venue strategically built near the school; thus pushing them to take pride in their identity.

They are now more empowered as they are now recognized and educated as well.

In fact, several Subanon children have already graduated from high school while some have reached college.

*"Ang Kalahi dili lang siya mag-implement og project, maghatag pud og kahibalo sa community kaning pag-process sa mga materyals, pagpadagan sa mga papeles ani. Dako kaayo mig pasalamat ning ani kay kame mismo proud mi nga naa miy ingon ani bisan asa mi makaadto nga area sa IPs (The Kalahi program does not only implement project but also shares knowledge to the community on how to process materials and go about with the documents. We are grateful and proud that we have this kind in any IP area we may go)", shared BSPMC chairperson Patoh during the inauguration ceremony.*

For his part, Mayor Julius Lobrigas considered the Kalahi-CIDSS sub-project as an avenue significant to the preservation of the cultural heritage of the Subanon.

He emphasized that the structure would provide a place where the IP residents can gather together as a community and become more united.

Completed in December 2017 with a total cost of P854,468, the sub-project was formally turned over to the community and is now being used for tribal assemblies and meetings.

Although its ultimate purpose to the community is yet to materialize, its physical presence at the heart of Tabayo, with initial plans and support of the LGU to further develop the sub-project, is something every Subanon can now look forward to, in so far as services centered on them is concerned.





## Unflinching in his sunset years

While age they say can endure the tests of time, physical features however may variably or invariably change.

Ulysis Lubiano for instance is described as severely lanky with wrinkled and leathery face due to overexposure to sun, marked by hollow cheeks and puffy eyes. While his appearance defines oldness and weakness, he is definitely strong enough to carry the weight of burden in life.

Originally from a remote village in Monreal, Masbate, Ulysis and his family moved to the agricultural and fishing town of Pilar in Sorsogon after he brought Esperanza, his spouse, to Manila to get medical treatment for myoma in 2004. She had stomach lumps and experienced vomiting caused by her health condition. She also had to deal with asthma. Because of old age, she could no longer undergo major operation.

Like his indisposed wife, Ulysis also suffers from glaucoma that can lead to loss of vision if left untreated. But he dreads seeking for cure. On one hand, Ulysis grapples with making both ends meet for the family.

Three of his eight children are residing nearby but all of them have families of their own who cannot regularly support their sick parents. “*Wara man makakatabang ta puros man nagatios* (None of them can help because they are also poor),” he blurted out.

Ulysis and his wife are currently confined within the wooden walls of a rundown stilt house in the squalid part of the town for almost 14 years now.

### Unyielding and resolute

At 84, Ulysis’s physical robustness and mental acuity are quite impressive, as he still manages to carry about 25 kilos of used cardboard boxes.

Evidently, dirt had already accumulated underneath his nails with frequent contact with trash. He walks with his hardened and soiled bare feet.

Hardly any basic education, he resorted to collecting garbage and brushes off the threat of sustaining injuries whenever he manually lifts heavy loads.

He wakes at four in the morning, finishes a cup of coffee for breakfast, and leaves their small abode to recover garbage in their village. His first meal is lunch after a laborious work at dawn.

He vividly recalls the moment he collapsed because of an empty stomach. Ulysis was immediately rushed to the hospital after he lost his consciousness due to fatigue.

He would sell recycled items to his distant relative in exchange for a meager amount. He takes home an estimated monthly income of P2,400.00. He then allocates it for food and medicines but could barely afford to purchase antibiotics for his wife because of its costly price of P1,200 apiece.

Since his income varies, they would incur debt from a neighbor’s store for their daily subsistence. His youngest daughter, Rosie, a solo parent of five, gives them minimal aid from her income as laundress.

As a Pantawid Pamilyang Pilipino Program (4Ps) beneficiary of the DSWD, Rosie said that the 4Ps grant supports the education of her three children, enables her to buy rice, and occasionally allows her to help her parents if there’s extra money left.

“*Ang bunso ko iyo nadadalaganan ko ta iyo ini ang arani samuya dae kami pipabayaan kung wara kami* (We can turn to our youngest child if we don’t have money because she is reliable and lives near us),” Ulysis said.

One time, Ulysis’s employer gave him three carts (for garbage collection) to help him get by but these got damaged that led him to manual handling of trash again.

### Keen foresight

Both Ulysis and Esperanza became recipients of the monthly stipend of P500 each for indigent senior citizens under the Social Pension Program implemented by the DSWD. Ulysis was enrolled in 2016 and his wife the year after. To date, there are 195,107 Social Pension beneficiaries in Bicol with 33,571 of them in Sorsogon.

“*Sa pension namun, ang sobra sa bulong; nakakaipon man kami; nakakabakal kami, sa diit-diit, makakabakal man ako sarong orig. Dakula*

*baga ang tabang arog kaan sa origan* (We buy medicines if we have excess from our pension. We also save the money to buy a pig. The piggery is a huge help),” he said.

From 2016 to present, the couple was able to buy four pigs from the grant they received from the government. The estimated profit for each pig is from P5,000 to P7,000. But Ulysis decided to sell their livestock to prioritize his wife’s health and cover hospital bills.

At present, he plans to buy another hog to raise. “*Dae kami nahahalean ning orig para sa emergency* (We cannot miss taking care of a pig because we can rely on this in case of emergency),” Ulysis explained as he admits to being weak but needs to work for his sick wife.

He wants to acquire another female swine and repair their dilapidated house. “*Sagkod su mga aki ko pag nagugbon iyan, makatabang man ako* (I can even help my children if the pig farrows),” he added.

Yet in the midst of this plight, Ulysis remains steadfast and resolute for his wife and children. Manifesting bravery and resiliency despite their age, frail physique and failing health, he and his wife are deserving of utmost care and attention from their family and the society, as every elderly person should be receiving the same.

Old and ailing as he may be, Ulysis Lubiano is an epitome of courage with an unflinching desire to save his family from poverty.





Number of  
Social Pension  
beneficiaries as of  
2018



**3,151,910**  
Senior Citizens



*Old  
and ailing as  
he may be, Ulysis  
Lubiano is an epitome  
of courage with an  
unflinching desire to  
save his family from  
poverty.*



# A mother's love like no other

**L**oving beyond differences and not being able to return the favor because of incapacities, led to stronger bond between Estrella and her adopted child Angela.

Their story stood the tests of time and love despite many reasons to give up, which Estrella mentioned when she narrated stories of sadness and triumphs between her and Angela.

Frail, sickly, and with special needs – these were how Estrella described Angela when she first saw her. But these did not hinder her from loving her unconditionally, which was tested through the years.

Angela has been suffering from cerebral palsy since birth. Through proper medication, love, and patience, she was able to walk after she turned five years old.

*"Napakahirap niyang palakihin, marami akong dinanas, puspusan ko siyang pinatherapy para makalakad (It was tough taking care of her during her younger years especially when she had to undergo regular therapy sessions to be able to walk)," Estrella said.*

## Unfaltering

Estrella never gave up. It did not matter if almost all of her leave credits were exhausted just to attend to Angela's needs. They visited all children's hospitals in Manila for Angela's medication at least twice a month. Even if she nearly got fired due her absences, she fought for her work --- for Angela. "Marami akong hirap pero 'di ako nag-

give up (I had lots of struggles but I never gave up)," said Estrella.

At the age of five, Angela's *yaya* brought her to the Day Care Center for her early socialization skills to be developed. It was then that she began to walk.

Eagerly waiting for her daughter to grow up and almost impatient, Estrella carried on. *"Pinagsikapan ko, hindi ko siya tinantanan (I worked hard for her, I did not stop),"* Estrella recalled.

Exercise, therapy sessions, provision of special care --- their lives revolved around these. It still pains her so much to see her daughter at 27 struggling to walk these days.

For others who have seen the struggles of Estrella, so much attention, compassion, and resources have been given to Angela, exceeding their expectations. Because of these, many were envious, especially some relatives of Estrella. Unmindful, they stuck together as Estrella even proved more her love for Angela. *"Minsan matamlay, minsan makulay (Sometimes sad, at times happy),"* expressed Angela, describing their mother-daughter bond.

In 2013, Angela insisted that her mother void her adoption just so she (Angela) could continue her relationship with a lesbian. Because of misunderstanding with her mother Estrella, she chose to stay away from her refuge for 2 years.

Estrella waited for her daughter to come back. Even if Angela rebelled, she still hoped for the best for them.



Angela and her mother during her 27th birthday celebration



Angela and fellow student taking up BS Information Technology



Angela and Estrella during their visit in London

## Motherhood becomes her

During those hard times, she asked help from DSWD's social workers and even sought the assistance of Regional Director Marcelo Nicomedes Castillo and Social Welfare Officer IV Clarivel Banzuela to intervene and mend their strained relationship. In February 2015, she promised to end her relationship with her lover and live again under Estrella's custody. She profusely thanked Dir. Castillo and Ms. Banzuela for being present during desperate and depressing times.

Estrella only wished the best for Angela --- for her to become self-reliant and to live independently. "I am sad to see her depressed, I continue to send her to school to level her up for a better tomorrow," Estrella said.

Thankfully, Angela finished her course in Associate in Computer Science in 2011 from Lyceum Northern Luzon in Urdaneta City. In 2016, she enrolled in Bachelor of Science in Information Technology Program at the University of Eastern Pangasinan, hoping to finish this despite challenges she has braved since she started schooling.

On December 22, 2015, they visited Estrella's relatives in London. This was a turning point for Angela to see the brighter side of life, that there are people who accepted her incapacities and saw a brighter future for her. Amazed by the facilities and environment in the United Kingdom, she dreamed of working in an office there in the next 5 to 10 years.

She was overwhelmed with joy upon seeing the beautiful country which has concrete care system for persons with disabilities like her. Being with her adoptive parent, she also wanted Estrella to be happy by achieving her ambition for her to finish the course and eventually obtain a successful work abroad.

According to Angela, she will always be guided by the lessons taught by her mom: to give respect to people, to love people even those who do not accept you, and to not curse.

Despite all odds, Estrella shared that being a mother to her adopted child is a blessing because she was able to experience and embrace that kind of motherhood like no other, that is, accepting her daughter as she is and always thinking of the best for her.



922  
Children

were placed for domestic adoption with Certification to Declare a Child Legally Available for Adoption (CDCLAA) or Pre-Adoption Placement Authority (PAPA) and Affidavit of Consent to Adoption (ACA) in 2018





# 1,392

## Centenarians

served by  
DSWD thru the  
Centenarian Act  
2016



“All Filipinos who have reached the age of 100, whether residing in the country or abroad, shall receive a cash award of P100, 000 from the national government as “centenarian gift”.”

## Living the life and loving it

**I**magine your hair turning gray and starting to fall off, teeth disintegrating, and body aching that just wouldn't go away with any medication. Signs of aging, right?

Such are the daily struggles of elderly folks who are past their prime, are feeling utterly hopeless and mostly confined in their beds for hours.

Sure, younger people can tell their elders to never feel sad but wouldn't really be able to understand how and what they feel in their twilight years.

But it isn't always that bad as the government actively finds ways to provide programs and services targeting the older sector.

Republic Act No. 10868, also known as the Centenarians Act of 2016, is a law that provides all Filipinos who have reached the age of 100, whether residing in the country or abroad, a cash reward of P100,000.00 from the national government as a “centenarian gift”, with the DSWD being tasked to implement the gift to beneficiaries.

Since the implementation of the law in 2016, there had been more or less 240 centenarians awarded in the region. One of them is Lolo Leonardo A. Gannaban, who is the oldest person in the municipality of Rizal, Cagayan Valley.

After submitting all the necessary documents, the P100,000.00 incentive and certificate of recognition were awarded to Lolo Leonardo by the DSWD Field Office II Staff with the assistance of Ms. Fe Pathay, the Municipal Social Welfare and Development Officer (MSWDO) of Rizal last July 14, 2018.

Upon receiving the check, Lolo Leonardo thanked the staff with a sweet smile and even sang two

songs, “Jack and Jill” and “Hickory Dickory Dock”. He even stressed that he would buy nutritious foods and meats from the incentive granted.

The family could not be thankful enough, saying that the amount would be used for Lolo's medical check-up and to buy ample medicines for his hypertension. Part of the money was deposited to a bank for emergency cases.

Lolo Leonardo was born on July 1, 1913 in Barangay Gaggabutan, East, Rizal, Cagayan. He and wife Cecilia Sibal are blessed with 7 children who have families of their own.

In his early years, he worked as a farm laborer which was the sole source of livelihood that supported his family. By this socio-economic status, his children patiently pursued their studies but some were unlucky not to finish school.

In July 2018, he celebrated his 105th birthday in the comforts of his own home where all family members were present. His children, grandchildren, and great grandchildren brought a variety of dishes for them to feast on.

Everyone was in high spirits as they wish the celebrator a happy birthday, momentarily brushing off the fact that the patriarch was undergoing medical treatment.

Leonardo, bedbound, is being taken care of by his daughter Petrona and her husband Alex. He still needs monthly medical check-ups to monitor his condition. Lolo Leonardo's family is hoping that God will give the centenarian more birthdays to celebrate.

With the cash gift given to centenarians, older adults like Lolo Leonardo can look forward to better days as they now have means to enjoy the



rest of their lives, be happy and content knowing full well they have some amount to spend for personal purposes.

While the government has limited resources to cope with all the demands of its citizens, the Centenarian Act of 2016 shows that resources allotted for good purposes can essentially go a long way towards helping marginalized and vulnerable sectors.

The LGUs, through the City/Municipal Social Welfare and Development Office (C/MSWDO) will take the lead in the identification and validation of the beneficiaries, while the DSWD Field Offices will facilitate the provision of the gift and the letter.

The DSWD will continually undertake the monitoring of the identification of beneficiaries and disbursement of funds.

Shall we say, happy centenary, beloved elders!



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## PAG-USBONG NG BAGONG PAG-ASA

Organizational Outcome 3:  
Immediate relief and early recovery of disaster victims/survivors ensured

Whether human-induced or natural, disasters, and calamities have further redefined Filipinos' resiliency over time. Stories in this segment are manifestations of our inherent capacity to rise above adversities with pride and honor. Call it divine gift, but truly makes Filipinos a cut above the rest. Just imagine turning disasters into opportunities for much improved quality of lives.

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A legacy to remember





## Disaster preparedness and response are key

**A**t the onslaught of landslide on September 20, 2018 in Sitio Sindulan, Barangay Tinaan, Naga City in Cebu Province, the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) Field Office VII immediately coordinated with the city government through the City Social Welfare and Development Office (CSWDO).

With the gravity of the disaster, the DSWD intensified its provision of technical assistance to the local government unit (LGU) that included management of evacuation centers, volunteers desk, donations desk, resource augmentation, and hands-on training of LGU personnel on disaster management.

DSWD Field Office VII Assistant Regional Director for Operations (ARDO) Shalaine Marie S. Lucero said that since it was the first time that the LGU of Naga City had experienced this kind of disaster, it was important to guide the staff on how to manage the evacuation centers including the process of accepting donations and dealing with volunteers.

DSWD Field Office VII immediately deployed staff to man the evacuation centers. It also assigned camp managers to work with their counterparts from the LGU.

"We fielded our staff in the evacuation centers to help ensure that basic human right to life and

dignity of displaced families is upheld," said ARDO Lucero.

She explained that to ensure orderly camp coordination and management, internally-displaced families in the evacuation centers had to be grouped by clusters, each having its own leaders to look into their respective needs and concerns.

Moreover, the Field Office established an operations center at the city hall which doubles as a public information center.

While volunteer groups continued to arrive in the area, individuals, families, private schools, foundations, civic organizations, news outlets, and universities also came to hand over their donations.

To document and manage the volunteers and all donated goods, DSWD Field Office VII helped Naga City set up a volunteers desk and a donation desk. The DSWD took charge of orienting and assigning volunteers based on their skills and expertise.

"Social workers with experience on camp management were the first ones deployed in the evacuation centers because there were many internally-displaced persons (IDPs) and the LGU has no experience of managing them since that was the first time the LGU experienced such



disaster with that magnitude," said Grace Yana, Social Welfare Officer IV and Camp Coordination and Camp Management (CCCM) cluster coordinator.

### Child-friendly spaces

As camp coordination and camp management cluster coordinator, Yana spearheaded the establishment of the children-friendly spaces in the evacuation centers to ease the stress and possible trauma experienced during the landslide in Naga City, Cebu.

According to her, DSWD Field Office VII ensured that all evacuation centers were fully capable of holding child-friendly spaces which provided services such as play and art therapy, psychosocial counseling, supplementary feeding, games, and educational activities to relieve the stress of children due to displacement caused by disasters, conducted by DSWD social workers and other volunteer groups.

The establishment of the child-and-women friendly-spaces in evacuation centers is in accordance to Republic Act No. 10821 or the Children's Emergency Relief and Protection Act which ensures that children and pregnant and lactating mothers are assured of protection before, during, and after the occurrence of a calamity or a disaster.

### Food and non-food assistance

After the landslide, the DSWD Field Office initially distributed food and non-food items worth P1,370,515. As of November 8, 2018, there was a total of P5,237,204.28 relief support and financial assistance broken down into: Food – P1,736,640 and Non-Food Items – P3,225,564.28.

According to DSWD Field Office VII Regional Director Ma. Evelyn Macapobre, during the disaster, the regional warehouse and the Visayas Disaster Response Center manually repacked goods with the help of volunteers, mostly from schools, universities and other private institutions.



Total number of families helped after the landslide in Naga City.



1,917  
Families  
or  
8,655  
Individuals  
SERVED



"The Department's Cash-for-Work (CFW) scheme is also utilized to hasten production of family food packs," she added. DSWD Field Office VII also gave cash assistance of P275,000 to 11 bereaved families.

#### Preserving the dignity of survivors

As the volunteers segregated the donated used clothes for landslide survivors at the Naga City Hall, Regional Director Macapobre saw these items for the affected families in Naga City and appealed to the public not to give things that could not be used anymore. She emphasized that disaster victims and survivors deserved to be treated with dignity as human beings.

In addition, Macapobre said that even during disasters, cleanliness, hygiene, and sanitation must be observed to prevent diseases. "In our effort to maintain the dignity, health, and well-being of families affected by disasters, we discouraged the donation of used clothes," urged Macapobre.

However, the DSWD Field Office VII encouraged donations such as hygiene kits, milk, school supplies, blankets, mats, pillows, child diapers, new sets of clothes, adult undergarments, eco-bags, and big plastic boxes, as well as fresh foods like vegetables, fruits, fish, and meats because these were the needs of the IDPs.

DSWD Field Office VII also helped the LGU to establish community kitchens in the evacuation centers. The LGU started the community kitchen on November 16, 2018.

#### Effective data management

The DSWD Field Office VII also gathered and encoded the entries in the Disaster Assistance Family Access Card (DAFAC) of Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) in Naga City, Cebu.

The DAFAC plays an important role in monitoring the provision of assistance to the IDPs. It contains basic information on each displaced family, including where they are currently staying, whether in the evacuation center or at their or relatives' houses. It also helps keep track of the services extended to the families from the start of the disaster to the Early Recovery Phase.

"Effective data management is important in the delivery of services to the IDPs. Hence, we needed to fast track the encoding of the information gathered through the DAFAC," said Macapobre.

Macapobre added that the encoded entries would be reviewed to come up with a clean master list of all IDPs, which will be the basis in providing further interventions to the IDPs.

The staff of Pantawid Pamilyang Pilipino Program (4Ps) and Listahanan and some volunteers, worked together in encoding the DAFAC entries.

#### Committed to support

"As a response to the immediate needs of the affected families, we provided support to the City Government of Naga as part of the concerted effort of the government to provide augmentation," said Macapobre.

More than 150 DSWD Field Office staff and personnel were mobilized by shifts, and spread across the 11 evacuation centers in order to provide support to LGU personnel in the assessment and in-take of displaced families, relief and logistical needs, and provision of psychosocial support, especially among children and women in the evacuation centers.

For the first two weeks, the staff members from the DSWD Field Office VII were on 24-hour duty to lead in the camp coordination and camp management of evacuation centers in coordination with the local government and Provincial Social Welfare and Development Office (PSWDO) of Cebu.

The DSWD Field Office VII staff managed the evacuation centers, and at the same time demonstrated to the LGU staff how to do it because eventually, the city and the provincial staff had to take over as camp managers.

But before they assumed as camp managers, Social Welfare Officer IV and CCCM Cluster Coordinator, Grace Yana, oriented the workers of Cebu Provincial Government and the LGU of Naga City deployed in various evacuation centers, on the basics of camp coordination and camp management. It was a joint effort of DSWD, Cebu Provincial Government and Naga City Local Government.

Until now, DSWD Field Office VII still provides continued support in the evacuation centers. "As long as we are needed, we continue to help the affected families of the landslide in Naga City," Macapobre said.

"We fielded our staff in the evacuation centers to help ensure that basic human right to life and dignity of displaced families is upheld," -ARDO Lucero.





## Courage in times of adversity

Constancia works almost every day since the onslaught of Typhoon Ompong along with her DRMD colleagues.

On September 13, 2018 at 7:00 in the evening, murmurs turned into deafening noises as Field Office staff struggled to keep things in check for the start of the disaster duty. People in the field office have been doing this for quite some time but it was different this time around. It was typhoon Ompong beginning to wreak havoc.

Learnings from previous disaster experiences have already made the staff hyper-alert on what to do and how to get things done. No longer were they clueless in approaching things as they knew what to do.

But knowing what to do and actually doing it were two different things, just as promising things is different and much easier to do than living up to one's promises. But then again, this was disaster duty, and people in the field office had to be on their toes because people's safety was at stake.

In the midst of all these was Constancia Domingo from the Disaster Response and Management Division (DRMD). The diminutive and strongwilled lady was tasked to consolidate the reports coming from the different Social Welfare and Development (SWAD) offices regarding pre-emptive evacuations and the like.

On September 15 at 1:40 am, Ompong started battering through structures, and in the process, destroying the newly-built warehouse and multi-purpose gym of the Field Office. The main building's third floor wasn't spared either. The ceiling collapsed due to searing winds.

Soon thereafter, there was power outage, leaving Ms. Domingo with no means to communicate to people from the satellite offices to consolidate data.

*"Mahirap noong oras na iyon kasi nawalan ng kuryente. Mahirap kumuha ng data at wala ring paraan para magpadala ng impormasyon sa taas* (With no electricity, it was hard that time to get data and send information to the Central Office)," Constancia said.

She would have to be awake all night to man the Quick Response Team (QRT). She thought that maybe the winds would die down soon so she could continue consolidating reports for submission. But it didn't. The winds continued pounding the building like there's no tomorrow, she said. It became horrifying.

Constancia started thinking about the safety of her little kid and husband whom she had to leave that night so she could report to office. Her husband wasn't feeling well. He was earlier diagnosed with a heart ailment that needed operation as soon as possible.

Sec. Virginia Orogo conducts a press briefing on the status of Typhoon Ompong relief operations.

She thought about leaving the office to check on them, but the winds and the threat of debris falling on her were too dangerous to ignore. She couldn't call or text them too.

But like an obedient soldier who had to perform the duty amidst the imminent danger, Constancia just prayed and surrendered everything to God.

On September 15, 2018 noon, the howling winds seized and the people in the Field Office were allowed to go outside to check the damage of Ompong. Constancia was in disbelief upon seeing the devastation. Buildings, trees, posts and houses were heavily damaged. Some roads were blocked by debris. There were flooded areas and ruined fields of rice and corn. She suddenly thought of the people who were affected. Grief engulfed as there was a strong urge to immediately respond to their needs.

Despite the traumatic evening, service was passion for Constancia, so she continued doing her job with vigor --- coordinating with people, consolidating reports, among other tasks. She said that no amount of money can compensate the fulfillment she got from serving the marginalized.

*"Humuhugot tayo ng lakas sa mga taong tinutulungan natin. Hindi naman kalakihan ang*





*sahod sa ginagawa natin pero ang pagtupad sa ating tungkulin at ang pasasalamat na natatanggap natin sa ating mga natutulungan ay sapat na (I drew strength from people I help. The monetary remuneration may not be huge but fulfilling the duty and the gratitude received from the people we are helping are sufficient),” Constancia mused.*

Constancia is a living testimony that it is during trying times that a public servant’s character and heart are tested. Those who serve wholeheartedly come out stronger and wiser, while those who lack the passion end up quitting and not getting things done.

Constancia, who braved Typhoon Ompong and defied all odds, like the rest of her colleagues who now feel braver and more equipped, vows to continue to render service no matter the typhoons in the future.

During Typhoon Ompong, DSWD was able to serve



# 1,457,064

individuals in NCR, CAR, R I, R II, R III, R IVA and R IVB

## Drug surrenderers turn disaster volunteers in DSWD ‘Yakap Bayan’

**T**he DSWD continues to turn recovering drug dependents into active and productive members of the society.

About 80 drug surrenderers in Talisay, Batangas underwent basic training on search and rescue, first aid, and firefighting as part of their community rehabilitation program under the ‘Yakap Bayan’ framework.

Yakap Bayan is an inter-agency collaborative framework that provides rehabilitation, after-care, transformation, and reintegration support for recovering drug dependents. Being led by the Department, it aims to capacitate drug surrenderers and turn them into productive members of the society, specifically becoming community disaster volunteers who can be ready in times of calamities.

DSWD Assistant Secretary Jose Antonio Hernandez, who has been championing the Yakap Bayan framework, encouraged the drug surrenderers to help themselves and their community.

*“Gawin nating modelo ang Talisay sa buong Batangas pagdating sa community rehabilitation program para sa mga drug surrenderees. Tulungan ninyo ang inyong sarili at ang inyong bayan (Let us make Talisay a model in Batangas when it comes to the provision of community rehabilitation program for drug surrenderers. Help yourselves and your town),” he said.*

According to Police Senior Inspector Emil O. Mendoza, Talisay Police Chief, there were 500 drug surrenderers in the municipality who would undergo the training.

“This is just the first of the series of our training for drug surrenderers. We still have next batches. All those who surrendered will be undergoing this disaster response training, along with other interventions, as part of our community rehabilitation program under the Yakap Bayan,” explained Captain Mendoza.

The training was organized by the Talisay Municipal Police Station with the help of the Municipal Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council (MDRRMC), the Coast Guard Sub-Station in the town, and the Bureau of Fire Protection.

“There will also be an advanced seminar for the surrenderees who underwent the basic training to further improve their disaster response skills,” Captain Mendoza added.





“Sa pamamagitan ng Yakap Bayan, ang gusto namin ay mabago ang tingin sa inyo ng inyong mga ka-Barangay. Kung dati ang turing sa inyo ay salot ng lipunan, ngayon, kayo ay superhero na dahil kayo na ang unang tutulong sa inyong barangay bilang mga disaster volunteers. Kaya sana ay huwag ninyo sayangin ang oportunidad na ibinigay sa inyo.”

Talisay has been following the Yakap Bayan Framework in rehabilitating former drug dependents in the town. In January 2017, ‘Linis-Bayan’ which is part of the framework, was piloted in the municipality. Linis Bayan or community clean-up drive is an activity of the DSWD that aims to reintegrate drug surrenderers in the community by involving them in activities that will have positive impact in their barangays.

ASec. Hernandez also explained the trajectory of Yakap Bayan to the surrenderers.

“Sa pamamagitan ng Yakap Bayan, ang gusto namin ay mabago ang tingin sa inyo ng inyong mga ka-Barangay. Kung dati ang turing sa inyo ay salot ng lipunan, ngayon, kayo ay superhero na dahil kayo na ang unang tutulong sa inyong barangay bilang mga disaster volunteers. Kaya sana ay huwag ninyo sayangin ang oportunidad na ibinigay sa inyo (Through Yakap Bayan, we want to help change the way your fellow citizens in the barangay perceive you. By being disaster volunteers in your village, they will no longer treat you as plagues of the society, but as ‘superheroes’. I hope you will not waste this opportunity),” addressing surrenderers as he inspires them to become better individuals.

Drug surrenderers in Talisay, Batangas undergo basic training on search and rescue, first aid, and firefighting as part of their community rehabilitation under the DSWD ‘Yakap Bayan’ Framework.





## ADVOCACY ACTIVITIES AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE PROVIDED THROUGH ORIENTATIONS AND DIALOGUES ON YAKAP BAYAN

### Major Orientation (Full)



City Government – 3  
(Davao City, Iloilo City, and Talisay City)



Municipal Government – 9  
(Mauban and Lucban, Quezon; Ibaan, Taysan, Lemery and Talisay, Batangas; Tagudin, Ilocos Sur; Santol, La Union; Bauko, Mt. Province)



Provincial Government – 8  
(Batangas, Quezon, Occidental Mindoro, Compostela Valley, Ifugao, Davao del Norte, Davao Oriental, and Marinduque)



Regional Council/Government Agency – 11  
(NCR, Region IVA, CAR, Region IVB, Police Regional Office IVB, Region V, Region VI, Region VII, DSWD Field Office IX, Region X, and CARAGA)

### Minor Orientation (Brief Discussion):



Municipal Government – 11  
(Tayabas, Patnanungan, Polilio, Jomalig, Bordoos and Real, Quezon; Biñan and Sta. Cruz, Laguna; and Hungduan, Hingyon and Mayoyao, Ifugao)



Provincial Government – 2  
(Antique and Romblon)

## DSWD XII, partners help Marawi residents rebuild their lives

*Soldiers patrol in the main battle area of Marawi City in Lanao del Sur on October 19, 2018. The five-month siege left at least 1,200 dead. The battle was the biggest challenge to the government of President Rodrigo Duterte, who has since kept the south under tight military control as troops round up rebel stragglers.*



**T**

he DSWD strengthened partnership with international non-government organizations and government agencies in efforts to continue assisting residents affected by the five-month conflict in Marawi City.

In 2017, clashes flared up in the city between government forces and terrorist group Maute, leaving 974 dead and nearly half a million people displaced.

Jackiya Lao, DSWD Field Office XII Assistant Regional Director for Administration (ARDA), said the agency forged partnership with the Department of Agriculture (DA), Department of Agrarian Reform (DAR), Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), and the World Food Programme (WFP) to help rebuild the livelihood of residents.

Lao said they were going to support 13 Agrarian Reform Communities in Marawi and expand to five more villages to facilitate food availability, not only among farmers but also among displaced families who returned to their original settlement.

At the same time, Lao said they tapped the Department of Trade and Industry and Technical Education and Skills Development Authority to bring government's basic services to the people.

"Upon their return, seeds and inputs were provided by DA and DAR. These were complemented by FAO with their seeds and broiler package. The partnership with DSWD XII through the cash for work assistance have not only addressed emergency food and other needs of newly returned families, but has also leveraged other resources from other agencies after seeing the impact of the speedy changes in the communities," Lao said, citing that it also serves as psychosocial intervention for the beneficiaries that is being closely monitored by DSWD staff. She added that the intervention as part of convergence, covered 4,768 farmers.

"This will address other needs identified by the communities, including farm tools, farm animals, equipment and other resources to help build their livelihood better, especially in increasing their production and linking them to the market," Bai Zorahayda T. Taha, DSWD XII Regional Director.

"Aside from the necessary inputs including post-harvest facilities, this will need intensified training for new technologies, and other complementary skills like food production. Through the communications platform of Task Force Bangon Marawi, the convergence will also intensify its information campaign," she added.



## Number of Marawi displaced families who benefited from programs, projects, and activities for Marawi

Programs/Projects/Activities  
No. of beneficiaries served

75,752  
families



Relief Assistance

474  
families



AICS  
(Assistance to Individuals in Crisis Situation)

3,266  
persons



Livelihood assistance

71,650  
households



Cash-For-Work

3,726  
children



Supplementary Feeding (BANGUN)

21,017  
families



Ramadan cash assistance





Residents displaced by armed conflict in Marawi City plant vegetables outside their evacuation camp.

“The partnership with DSWD XII through the cash-for-work assistance have not only addressed emergency food and other needs of newly returned families, but has also leveraged other resources from other agencies after seeing the impact of the speedy changes in the communities,” Lao said.”



## Blessing in disguise

**A**n intense fear gripped a mother as the rain poured heavily and winds grew stronger battering their defenseless home. She hurriedly packed their things to move to a safer place. They left their house to seek a stronger and larger place to get away from danger.

Erlinda, 60, always dreaded any typhoon that hit their place. Their small and makeshift house can be reached in 15 to 20 minutes of walking and crossing three rivers from Barangay Poblacion. A remote barangay, Mayong Valley of Tiwi town is the provincial boundary of Albay and Camarines Sur. It shares a common border with some barangays of Buhi and Sangay in Camarines Sur.

When typhoon Nock-ten also known as Nina pounded Albay and the rest of the Bicol region on Christmas night of December 2016, Erlinda and her family experienced a storm's rage again.

*“Nakita ko na tumataas ang tubig, ang lakas na ng hangin at walang tigil ang ulan (I saw the water level rise, the winds roared and the rains became persistent),”* said Erlinda, comparing the stronger impact of Nina than Reming in 2006.

According to barangay secretary Celso Bequillo, their barangay had no evacuation center. Households only relied on kind-hearted families who would open their homes to affected families during a disaster. *“Kahit yung paaralan dito ay hindi ligtas dahil malapit ito sa dagat (Even our school is not safe because it's near the coast).”*

### Starting from scratch

When the storm finally calmed down and the water receded, she and her husband Nestor quickly checked their house and were dismayed by what they saw. *“Walang natira sa amin. Tinangay ng baha ang buong bahay namin (There was nothing left. Our house was washed away by floodwaters),”* Erlinda recounted.

Instead of grieving, the family focused on rebuilding their house, lucky and thankful that all of them emerged safe. They needed to look for materials to build a new home.

It was devastating for them but the family needed to move on and be resilient for them to survive. After constructing their house, her husband and her son went back to Camarines Norte where they worked and earned a living as fisher folk. Meanwhile, Erlinda had to take care of her two grandchildren whose parents worked in Manila.





Erlinda, worried, was uncertain when they would be able to build the house that they wanted, this time stronger to withstand any storm.

One day, Erlinda was surprised when someone from DSWD came to their house to interview them a month after the typhoon. The staff came to validate families with totally and partially damaged houses deemed to receive cash assistance from DSWD.

During the interview, she could hardly contain herself, anticipating that they would receive some assistance from the government. *"Noon, nakatanggap*

*kami ng mga relief goods pag may bagyo, pero itong pabahay, hindi namin alam na meron nito* (In the past, we received relief goods when there's typhoon, but this shelter assistance, we have no idea it exists)," she said.

#### Hope springs eternal

When Erlinda received the cash from DSWD's Shelter Assistance amounting to P30,000, her sister, who was also a recipient of the same amount, decided to give it to her so that they could buy lumber and other materials for the construction of the house.

*"Hindi na namin inaasahan na makatanggap pa kami ng tulong, malaking pasalamat namin sa DSWD dahil sa binigay na assistance, dahil dito nakapagpatayo kami ng bagong bahay. Ngayon, kahit na may bagyo, hindi na kami masyado mag aalala at matatakot dahil meron na kaming matibay na bahay na hindi na matutumba o maanod ng bagyo* (We did not expect to still receive assistance. We are very thankful to DSWD for the shelter assistance. We were able to build a new house)," said Erlinda who did not have to worry anymore when a storm strikes since they now have a sturdy house that can withstand typhoons.

The DSWD's Emergency Shelter Assistance (ESA) is part of the rehabilitation efforts of the agency to help Nina-affected families rebuild their homes. It enabled them to purchase materials for constructing or repairing their houses damaged by the disaster.

As of June 2018, a total of P2,311,505,000 was given to households with totally and partially damaged houses in the provinces of Albay, Camarines Sur, and Catanduanes.

## A legacy to remember

IT SEEMED impossible at first.

**F**or one, closing an island—booming and world renowned as Boracay—was unthinkable. Imagine how busy and bustling the island was, teeming with tourists day and night. A visit there meant seeing people of different races literally bumping into each other because of the heavy influx of local and foreign tourists.

On April 26, 2018, the closure of the island was ordered by President Rodrigo Duterte. No tourists were allowed in the island. Only workers and residents were permitted to enter the island. Even cargoes and supplies were intercepted at the wharf.

It was a whole new thing for DSWD Field Office VI to be at the scene of the action. First, it was a

man-made disaster brought about by decades of exploitation of the island, further destroying its natural beauty. Second, the regional office had managed relief operations before but mostly during natural calamities. And third, the office had to understand the way of life of the people of Boracay. It was a tough task ahead of us.

However, we never allowed ourselves to be caught flat-footed. Even before the issuance of the Executive Order and taking cue from the earlier pronouncement of the President, we have set up a Help Desk at the Island's Municipal Disaster Risk and Reduction Center (MDRRC).

Initially, we never had the funds specifically intended for Boracay closure operations. But the passion to help and serve both the residents and non-residents who were displaced from their work reverberated. People who lost their jobs had

to thrive through months without income. We had to make do with the funding from our regular programs to help the people.

As early as April 21, we were able to release aid through Assistance to Individuals in Crisis Situation (AICS) in the form of transportation, educational, and medical. My staff dealt with hundreds of people in the first eight weeks on a daily basis.

Boracay Island, per our profiling, has 9,000 households. The numbers, however, grew to nearly 13,000 because of transients. Added to this, the Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE) identified 17,000 displaced workers.

On April 26, we opened an Operation Center at Boracay Tropics where people flocked at the front portion of the hotel. Workers from Aklan Province were pulled out from their assignments and sent to the island to man the operations. Manpower numbered to 70 initially and then increased to 120 at its peak, each given only a day or two to rest and then return to the island. After a month, workers from the provinces of Antique, Capiz, Iloilo, Guimaras and Negros Occidental augmented the number. From there, we moved to Faith Village at Station 3 which had a bigger space to accommodate a bigger crowd. It was also for the safety of both employees and people.

The workers, although tired physically, expressed that the passion to serve and the need of the people kept them strong and determined.

There were times when people came up to them to say they ran out of food to eat, or that the only amount in their pockets





Residents of Boracay Island get grants under the Sustainable Livelihood Program at Brgy. Manocmanoc, Boracay Island, Malay, Aklan. Each grantee received P15,000 seed capital.



Regional Director Rebecca P. Geamala leads the Response Cluster meeting.

could only provide for the next meal. They needed to assure them that the government was there to help them. Oblivious to the passing time, they would more often than not sleep at 2 in the morning, but only to wake up at 5 because clients were already flocking the Operation Center.

During our daily conversation with people, we realized one thing: the people of Boracay enjoyed a high standard of living. Goods were sold at higher prices. A tricycle driver could earn as much as P3,000 per day from fares and tips. A decent breakfast meal in a simple *karinderia* could cost P180. Yet in times of disasters, they were not provided with rice and canned goods. The Local Government Units fed them through fast food chains instead.

We believe we have evolved along the way and in the process. With the help of the DSWD management and DSWD Field Office VII's Regional Director Ma. Evelyn Macapobre, we were able to distribute food packs in boxes with vacuum-sealed rice.

We worked with the Boracay Inter-Agency Task Force to help the residents and displaced workers. Media from Boracay, Iloilo, and even Manila helped us disseminate information.

We conducted weekly meetings with members of the Response Cluster. Weekly press briefings for the first two months were held. We mobilized Cash-for-Work (CFW) beneficiaries to distribute information materials in every household to ensure that each gets access to the services of DSWD.

With the funding requirement provided eventually, the DSWD Field Office VI released P250 million as assistance to the island that covered 33,000 individuals. Of the amount, P158 million was disbursed in the form of livelihood grants under

the Sustainable Livelihood Program (SLP) to 10,596 household grantees. Each received P15,000. Among those provided with aid were organizations of tour guides, drivers, porters, massage therapists and sailboat workers.

On AICS, the amount released was P43.9 million with 18,077 individuals getting help. The DSWD also provided employment under the CFW scheme with a total of 5,933 residents benefiting from the P57.5 million funding at P323.50 per day for 30 days. In addition, a total of 20,722 relief food packs were distributed to 12,431 residents.

Now that the Island has opened after six months of rehabilitation, we could only look back at those times with vigor, gratitude, and pride. It was truly a pleasure to serve the people of Boracay Island, guided by our deeper love for mankind and to save Mother Earth, with our fervent hope to leave a legacy for the future generation to see its wonder and beauty.

DSWD workers during the preliminary stage of the implementation of Sustainable Livelihood Program (SLP) interview and assess residents of Boracay Island for livelihood assistance.





A woman in a red shirt with a DSWD lanyard is handing a stack of Philippine pesos to a woman sitting at a table. The woman at the table is smiling and looking down at the money. Another woman is sitting next to her, writing on a form. In the background, there are many people sitting on green plastic chairs in an outdoor setting.

*Livelihood grants are released to household grantees of Boracay Island. Each receives P15,000. Most of the livelihood projects include sari-sari store, food vending, and souvenir-making.*

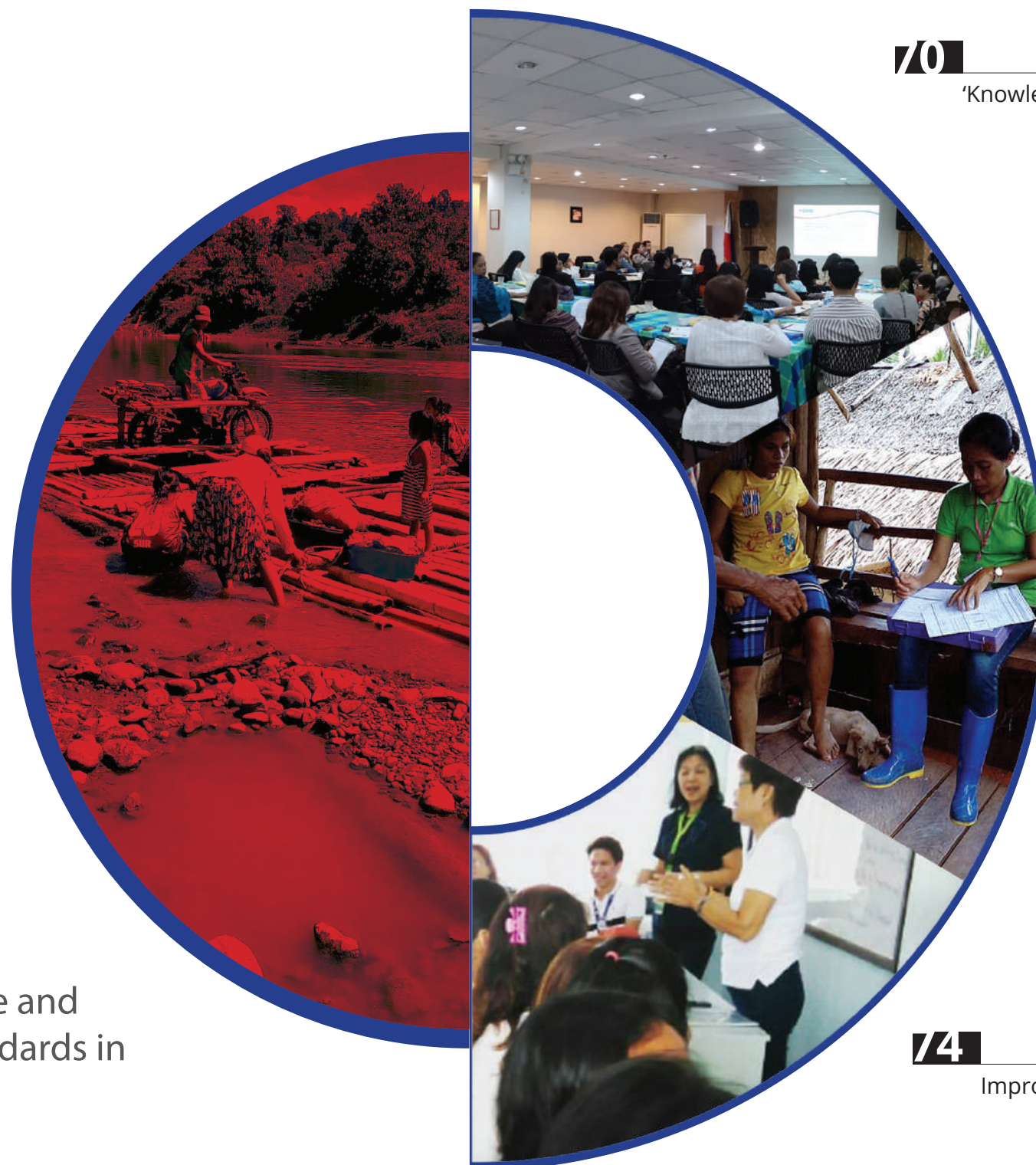


# contents

## PAGTAGUYOD NG KAPAKANAN NG SAMBAYANAN

Organizational Outcome 4:  
Continuing compliance of social welfare and  
development agencies (SWDAs) to standards in  
the delivery of social services ensured

Education is key. Knowledge is power. Cliché as they may sound, these catchphrases may well describe the two stories in this section that underscore the value of having access to information for better decision-making. Another story delves into convergence that is realistically a DSWD stamp of prestige when it comes to holistic delivery of services.



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Improving lives through convergence strategy



# 'Knowledge Management' is the new norm

**F**or so many years, different government and non-government agencies have been formulating, implementing, and evaluating internal processes, programs, and services. Various policies and standards have also been set up. But as we go further and bigger, we just cannot afford to run out of innovations.

These innovations, social technologies, and other initiatives need to be documented for different purposes. This kind of documentation is now being introduced as Knowledge Management (KM). The idea of KM is not to keep the details to ourselves but for the public to know how and what we do. But why? One, for possible replication and two, for legislation.

The Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) Field Office III organized the training on Good Practice Documentation for Local Social Welfare and Development Offices (LSWDOs) and Social Welfare Agencies (SWAs) from August 1 to 3, 2018 in the City of San Fernando, Pampanga.

The training was facilitated by Hebe Valerie B. Valerio, Knowledge Management Writer of DSWD. She shared the difference between Explicit Knowledge and Tacit Knowledge. According to her, the former can be easily articulated, such as information, data, and records while the latter is more complex, like life experiences and insights.

Tacit Knowledge is what we are aiming to communicate to others. In her lecture, she said that Tacit Knowledge may be transferred through various ways such as story-telling, demonstration, apprenticeship, mentoring, and coaching. "However, it would be better if we transform tacit to explicit (document or record) which will be followed by practice," she shared.

As per DSWD KM Framework via Administrative Order Number 17, series of 2011, Knowledge Management is the process of creating an environment in which people's experiences and wisdom on Social Protection programs are valued; and where internal processes are structured to support policy makers and service providers in creating, sharing, and using knowledge.

A good and efficient Knowledge Management provides the right knowledge to the right people at the right time. "We are doing this because we value people's knowledge in policy making, program and services formulation and implementation," Valerio added.

She reminded the participants that good practices should be innovative, responsive, and sustainable.





## Listahanan reaches out to remote IP community in AgSur

**H**aving Patas na Pagtrato sa Komunidad as one of its core values, the DSWD Caraga through the National Household Targeting Section (NHTS) ensured the inclusion of an IP community in Barangay Binicalan in the municipality of San Luis for the validation of the possible Unconditional Cash Transfer (UCT) beneficiaries.

Home to Banwaon and Talaandig tribes, the said barangay is among the Geographically Isolated and Disadvantaged Areas (GIDAs) in Caraga Region with a marginalized population to boot. These two tribes are isolated due to distance, weather conditions, transportation, and the presence mostly of vulnerable sectors.

From April 16 to 19, 2018, eight validators and one administrative aide were in full blast validating potential beneficiaries. But that did not come easy.

Before reaching the destination, the team had to hurdle numerous challenges. The pathways were immensely rocky and muddy. The validators needed to ride a bamboo shaft on a hired motorcycle in order to cross the Adgawan River. Boots and raincoats were necessary for them to go up and down the hills on a rainy weather.

*"Daw susamang usa ka adventure ang pag-adto namu sa Barangay Binicalan. Magtunob sa lapok nga yuta, magbaktas ug saka'g bukid, mag-agi sa batohon nga dalan, magtabok ug sapa (Going to Barangay Binicalan was like an adventure to us.*

We had to tread on muddy and rocky roads, hike a mountainous path, and cross a river)," said a member of the team.

*"Human sa 3 ka adlaw nga pag-validate, namaol ang among mga kalawasan, apan wala namu na bali-baliha tungod kay ang among tinguha nga makatabang usab kami sa atong kaigsuonang lumad pinaagi sa UCT validation (After 3 days of validation, we got muscle cramps. But we did not mind since our earnest desire was to help our brethren through the UCT validation)," another member added.*

Through collaborative efforts with the San Luis Team, the validators were able to validate and update the information and socio-economic status of 120 poor households in 17 sitios of Barangay Binicalan. For Agusan del Sur, a total of 27,953 households were validated out of the 34,155 target households for UCT.

The UCT is a social mitigating measure to protect the disadvantaged, poor, and vulnerable sectors that do not benefit currently from the lower income tax scheme but are adversely affected by rising prices of basic goods and commodities. The government has given a monthly cash grant of P200 in CY 2018 and will provide P300 in CY 2019-2020 for the current 4.4 million Pantawid Pamilyang Pilipino Program (4Ps) beneficiaries, 3 million Social Pension beneficiaries, and 2.6 million poor households from the Listahanan nationwide.



Bamboo shaft is being prepared to be used by the validators of San Luis to cross the river.



Before reaching the destination, the team had to hurdle numerous challenges. The pathways were immensely rocky and muddy. The validators needed to ride a bamboo shaft on a hired motorcycle in order to cross the Adgawan River.



Through collaborative efforts with the San Luis Team, the validators were able to validate and update the information and socio-economic status of 120 poor households.



## Improving lives through convergence strategy

Number of UCT Household beneficiaries who claimed their grant as of December 2018

**6,393,297**  
households



Skills Enhancement Training of Pantawid households provided by TESDA

This convergence effort of the MAT has successfully brought together all key actors in the municipality to help address the needs of the Pantawid households.

**M**aribel and Miguel Bautista have only one child, Mikaela. Quite a small family by Filipino standard, the Bautistas who lived in the remote Sitio Gulod, Barangay Bulac in Sta. Maria, Bulacan was identified poor by Listahanan in 2009. Maribel graduated from elementary but was not able to complete her education due to financial difficulty and early marriage. As an active member of the program, she belongs to Set 6 A.

Their main source of income is agriculture since her husband is a farmer. Where they live, it is bereft of the usual basic services present in a barangay such as health center, school, and public market due to its distance. The family has to spend on a P50 tricycle ride from their house just to get to the area where there are available facilities to be accessed.

With the help of the Municipal Action Team (MAT) of Sta. Maria, Bulacan the family was assessed through the Social Welfare and Development Indicators (SWDI). Their identified needs formed part of the Municipal Action Plan (MAP) which defines the interventions to be carried out by the MAT and other stakeholders.

The Bautistas became recipient of different projects, particularly from the Local Government Unit of Sta. Maria which adopted the MAP

through a Sangguniang Bayan Resolution, with an ensured fund allocation for poor households from 2017 to 2019. Moreover, the municipal government of Sta. Maria integrated the MAP in their Comprehensive Development Plan (CDP) and in the Executive & Legislative Agenda (ELA) of the current administration.

This convergence effort of the MAT has successfully brought together all key actors in the municipality to help address the needs of the Pantawid households.

At present, the Bautistas benefit from free seedlings, equipment, and other free services from the Municipal Agriculture Office. This intervention has provided them with opportunity to improve their income.



MAT of Sta. Maria, Bulacan with Mayor Russel Pleyto

“According to Mang Miguel, they are now ready to graduate from Pantawid Pamilya as they can already sustainably support the needs of their family.”



# contents

Number of  
Convergence Initiatives  
Fully Implemented:

# 1,227



## PAGKAKAISA TUNGO SA IISANG ADHIKAIN

Organizational Outcome 5:  
Delivery of social welfare and development  
programs by LGUs, through LSWDOs improved

This last segment provides a tapestry of stories on collective effort and excellence as in the cases of Maco in Compostella Valley and Northern Mindanao. The narratives about the elders and children further punctuate DSWD's pivotal role in protecting these two fragile sectors of the society.

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Six hospitals sign up for DSWD's LinGaP







## MSWDO-Maco, a cut above the rest

**T**he Municipal Social Welfare and Development Office (MSWDO) of Maco in Compostela Valley has become a model MSWDO for other Local Social Welfare and Development Offices (LSWDO), not only in the region but in other regions as well. Laudable indeed, as it continuously reap successes from its various initiatives.

Adding feather to its cap, the office has helped facilitate the passage of the municipal Gender and Development (GAD) Code and Child Code.

As the most in-demand or sought-after program, the Assistance to Individuals in Crisis Situation (AICS) provides year-round assistance and it has been the office's policy for the staff not to refuse anyone who needs it the most. They are primed to collaborate and network with other work units and partners efficiently as they should.

Regular meetings, mentoring, coaching, career pathing, and continuous professional development have made the staff more proficient and credible in the discharge of their tasks.

From the original five (5) at the time of devolution, the MSWDO human resource has gone up to 14: seven (7) regular and seven (7) job order. It has an assigned focal person for every program. To date, a total of 245 Pantawid parent-leaders are receiving a P200 monthly honorarium.

Under its belt are accolades: awarded by the Department of Social Welfare and Development as Best MSWDO in 2006 and 2010, Best in Pantawid Pamilya Implementation in 2016, and in this same year, it received the Best Pasidungog Award from the Civil Service Commission (CSC) and the Child-Friendly Award for two consecutive years.

It was the first local government unit (LGU) in the province to be licensed in Pre-Marriage Counselling (PMC) and the first to put up a PMC building. It also has completed its Drop-In Center for Abused Women and Children, the only town in the province to have such facility.

Having proven its competence in running social welfare and development (SWD) programs and services, MSWDO-Maco was identified by the DSWD to pilot the implementation of Reporting System and Prevention Program for Elder Abuse Cases (ReSPPEC) in 2016 which aims to protect the elderly and senior citizens from all forms of abuse.

Being an exemplary leader, an MSWD officer was also appointed to serve as Municipal Population Officer. LGU-Maco is the only town in Compostela Valley Province that appointed a department head to lead the Municipal Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Office (MDRRMO) that boasts of a building of its own.

Furthermore, the LSWDO-organized person with disability (PWD) and older person (OP) groups are both active in community affairs and earning as well.

"The devolution was a welcome development for us. It paved way in overcoming opportunities and challenges which made our staff more capable and confident in handling our programs and services. Our accomplishment is a proof that the LSWDO

has been sufficiently capacitated and possesses the ability to effectively undertake SWD programs and services," said MSWDO officer Elizabeth D. Uy.

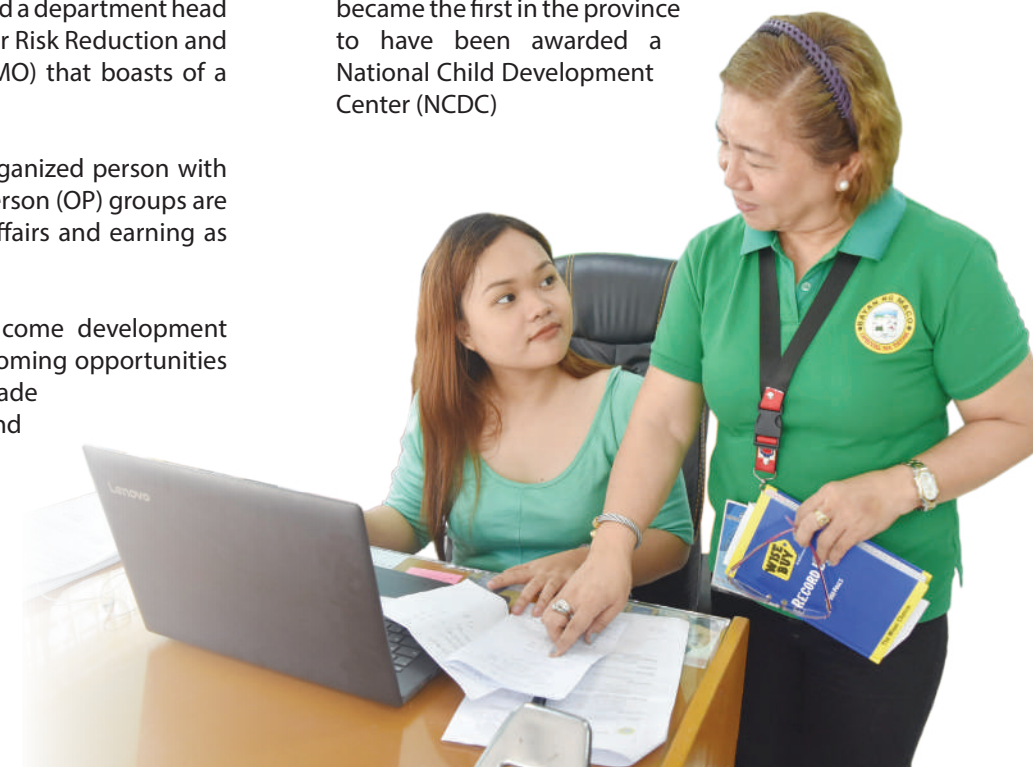
### Championing child rights

Staff-wise, Maco's Child Development Centers (CDC) under the Early Childhood Care and Development (ECCD) Program rose from 10 during the start of devolution to its present number of 58, with all centers fully operational in the town's 37 barangays. The ratio of CDC for every barangay is 1:1.567, meaning there is 1 CDC for each of the 37 barangays in the town. A remarkable feat indeed.

This development guarantees that all pre-school children in Maco are assured of getting ECCD. This move is well within the child's right to mental and physical development, right to participation, and right to education. No less than the mayor himself insisted that CDC workers must be referred to as child development teachers (CDT) to make it more endearing and engaging.

These teachers receive honorarium and are provided as well with uniforms. They also undergo regular capacity building to enhance their Knowledge and Skills (KAS) and keep them abreast with emerging technologies relative to ECCD. With the incentives given to them, the CDTs are more inspired to do their best.

Having noted its impressive record in ECCD implementation, the town became the first in the province to have been awarded a National Child Development Center (NCDC)







building complete with amenities, worth P 2.7 million. The town also has an ECCD Municipal Resource Center.

Being an exemplar in ECCD implementation, several LGUs have already conducted learning or educational trips in Maco. For instance, the LSWDO and Engineering Department of LGU-Mawab came over to see for themselves the construction, operationalization, and management of the Child Development Centers (CDC) in Maco.

#### SLP Focal in every barangay

Maco is the only town in the province of Compostela Valley that has positioned barangay Sustainable Livelihood Program (SLP) focal persons in its 37 barangays.

This is on top of the municipal SLP focal and the DSWD Project

Development Officer of the town. Hence, most of its SLPAs are sustained while some have even expanded. For its commendable track record in SLP management, it won Best in SLP Implementation in 2016.

Take the case of a Self-Employment Assistance-Kaunlaran (SEA-K) association in Barangay Binuangan which was organized in 1988, and whose success to some extent can be attributed to the supervision of the barangay SLP focal. Its SEA-K convenience store project now has two branches and has forayed into lending, grains retailing, and chair and table rental. With its creditable implementation record, the group emerged as a regional and provincial awardee in SLP management.

The presence of an SLP focal in every barangay has provided focus and direction to SLP Associations (SLPAs) in managing and sustaining community livelihood projects, thus ensuring a successful engagement.

With this set-up, SLPAs can easily approach and consult the focal without having to endure long wait or travel farther, as the focal is barangay-based and very accessible. On the other hand, the SLP focal can as well communicate easily with the SLPA and regularly provide technical inputs.

With all these 'firsts' and a host of other achievements, it is no wonder that Maco is always a winner in SLP implementation. And not surprising, it has become a consistent host to a lot of Lakbay Aral and Lakbay Tuklas from different LGUs in most regions in the country.





## DSWD X lauds 8 LGUs in Northern Mindanao

**T**he DSWD has magnanimously awarded its commendation to the City of Iligan, municipalities of Balo-i, Pantao Ragat, Pantar, Linamon, Bacolod, and the province of Lanao del Norte for the help given to the Department in delivering its social protection services.

It can be recalled that said Northern Mindanao city and municipalities welcomed and hosted internally-displaced persons (IDPs) who evacuated from Marawi City when it became a battleground between the government security forces and the terrorist groups on May 23, 2017.

The host local government units assisted DSWD in ensuring relief and early recovery of over 55,000 family evacuees temporarily seeking shelter and food in Northern Mindanao during the onslaught of the armed conflict in Marawi.

Meanwhile, DSWD also presented the Gawad Good Governance Initiative Award to the Local Government Unit (LGU) of Ozamiz City which was commended for conceptualizing and implementing the "Pantawid Kolehiyo Program" which provided scholarship grant to one student per Pantawid Pamilya family-beneficiary residing in the city.

DSWD presented these awards during its 67th Anniversary Awarding Ceremony last March 8, 2018 in Quezon City with the theme *"Walang Puwang sa Katiwalian ang Paglilingkod nang Tapat sa Bayan."*

DSWD actively coordinates with and provides technical assistance to local government units in responding to the needs and welfare of the poor, vulnerable, and disadvantaged individuals, families, and communities through delivery of social protection programs and services.



*The Department awards its commendation to the City of Iligan, municipalities of Balo-i, Pantao Ragat, Pantar, Linamon, Bacolod, and the Province of Lanao del Norte for helping deliver its social protection services. It also bestows the Gawad Good Governance Initiative Award to the Local Government Unit of Ozamiz City for conceptualizing and implementing the "Pantawid Kolehiyo Program".*



Number of LSWDOs  
provided Technical  
Assistance by DSWD:

1,390  
LGUs



## Elders' collective action defies odds

**D**erogatory labels and stereotypes have usually been thrown at elders time and again. Misunderstood as grouchy, they are perceived to be society's burden, incapable of initiating change. This is not the case of course.

In Tolosa, Leyte, the Tolosa Federation of Senior Citizens' Organizations (TOFESCO) changed all that. It is composed of active senior citizens whose passion for development work goes beyond Kalahi-CIDSS.

TOFESCO was organized in April 2014, with the help of the Coalition of Services of Elderly Inc. (CSEI) and the DSWD. It is a federation of Citizens' organizations in the municipality whose members are from the Older People Organizations (OPO) from the 15 barangays of Tolosa. The federation's services extend to getting involved with Kalahi-CIDSS, as most of their members are Kalahi-CIDSS community volunteers.

Aida Laruda, the president of the federation and members Fe Tecson, Felicidad Encina, Purisima Ocana, and Lawyer Dalila Villegas are only few of those who paved the way for senior citizens to assume leadership roles and be initiators of change.

One successful Kalahi-CIDSS sub-project they implemented, was the Rehabilitation of Day Center for Senior Citizens in Barangay Poblacion with a fund of P500,000. To this day, the center

serves as hatch for TOFESCO members to exchange insights and plan activities that can improve the well-being of senior citizens in their locality.

The Municipality of Tolosa implemented 95 sub-projects under Kalahi-CIDSS's Bottom-Up Budgeting, Livelihood and Enterprises, and National Community-Driven Development Program.

### A shared vision

TOFESCO members saw commonality of objectives between Kalahi-CIDSS program and their organization. "We believe so much in Community Empowerment. We believe that Kalahi CIDSS empowers marginalized sectors, making them active partners through development process," Laruda said, adding that Kalahi-CIDSS enhances good practices of the organization in terms of promotion of transparency and empowerment.

She underscored the need for collective decision-making in their organization and how they applied it. "Everybody is contributing to the positive outcome of planned activities. We also institutionalize regular meetings for transparency," she said.

She stressed the idea of empowerment which has defined the character of TOFESCO: assertive to empower the senior citizens in their locality by knowing their rights and benefits through

governments' programs and initiatives. For instance, they instill during their usual meetings how senior citizens can avail of the social pension from DSWD.

The members invest time and resources to educate other elders who need attention the most. Villegas asserted, "*Malipayon kami na nakakahatag kami hin knowledge sa iba* (We are happy that we can impart knowledge to others)."

### Inspiring and compassionate

Another member, Tacson, was appreciative of the rehabilitation sub-project who said that it is not a mere physical structure but an avenue to plan activities on how the federation could reach and serve more senior citizens.

Another example is the TOFESCO-initiated home care visitations for elders on a weekly basis. The members went to the houses of elders to know their living conditions and think of ways to help them. They did it to show their compassion towards them. Unfortunately, this initiative temporarily stopped due to budgetary constraints but the federation had already planned to revive and institutionalize it in the near future.

Laruda, the federation's president added that the learnings they have imbibed as Kalahi-CIDSS Community Volunteers heightened their

doings in the federation. They believed that the harmonized voices of elders are powerful for bigger change to be achieved. They encouraged other senior citizens to join the federation to find ways to advance a more compassionate and collective action in the community, as being pushed by the Community Driven Development (CDD).

TOFESCO shows compassion for the welfare of elders through initiatives such as the Social Welfare Support through the organizations' mutual aid fund. Members from OPO voluntarily contribute P5 per month so that when a contributing member dies, the contributions would serve as assistance to the bereaved family.

The OP has its own livelihood program through CMED which is annually assessed by TOFESCO through the year end PRA and Healthy Ageing Program which comes as a Physical Fitness Exercise in the form of walking in the plaza and the seashore, and zumba.

TOFESCO members Atty. Aida Laruda and Dalila Villegas are ecstatic over the federation's victory as one of the awardees of the 4th National Bayani Ka! Award on Elderly sub-category.







Purisima Ocana

Felicidad Encina

Atty. Aida Laruda

Dalila Villegas

Fe Tecson

The active women-members of TOFESCO wave in front of the rehabilitated Day Center for Senior Citizens implemented under Kalahi-CIDSS. (from left to right) Purisima Ocana, Felicidad Encina, Atty. Aida Laruda, Dalila Villegas, and Fe Tecson.

#### Redefining meritorious roles of elders

TOFESCO definitely has a heart for service and empowerment for the marginalized sectors which is what DSWD exemplifies. It only shows that elders are gems or assets for development.

For its exemplary contribution to the collective action in the community for the disadvantaged sectors, TOFESCO became the 4th National Bayani Ka! Awardee on the sub-category for elderly among 11 other awardees from different regions.

Bayani Ka! Awards is an annual and highest recognition by the DSWD Kalahi-CIDSS to communities and partner-LGUs that are engaged in Kalahi-CIDSS and whose efforts significantly contributed to advancing *Sama-samang Pagkilos Nang May Malasakit*, defining compassionate and collective action in their respective municipalities.

Lawyer-member Villegas said that Kalahi-CIDSS and the gains of CDD revived her trust in the government and its programs because of the inclusion of the marginalized sectors in the development activities.

*"Mayda mahihimo an mga kalagasan pinaagi han mga programa hit gobyerno kun hatagun la hira hin higayon (Senior citizens can really do something through the programs of government, if and when they are given opportunity)," she opined.*

On her end, Encina reminisced her experience as a procurement team member in the Barangay Sub-Project Management Committee (BSPMC). She said that to be a community volunteer, age did not have to matter, as she proved it herself. "Volunteerism is finding your strength to contribute in the development sphere.

Volunteering in Kalahi-CIDSS and in TOFESCO builds harmonious relationship with others and I am enjoying it," she mused.

In Region VIII alone, there are 12,577 Kalahi-CIDSS community volunteers whose collective efforts contribute to building a better country.



## Six hospitals sign up for DSWD's LinGaP

**T**he Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) welcomed six new partner-hospitals through the signing of the Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) for the "Lingap at Gabay Para sa May Sakit (LinGaP sa MaSa) last March 5, 2018 held at the Gat Antonio Hall of the Manila City Hall.

The signing of the agreement was participated by six hospitals that included Ospital ng Maynila, Ospital ng Sta. Ana, Ospital ng Tondo, Ospital ng Sampaloc, Jose Justice Abad General Santos, and Gat Andres Bonifacio Memorial Medical Center.

The momentous occasion was graced by former OIC Secretary Emmanuel A. Leyco, DSWD National Capital Region (NCR) Regional Director Vincent Andrew T. Leyson, and Marlene Guzman, Officer-in-Charge of Emergency Assistance Section – Crisis Intervention.

The primary goal of LinGaP sa MaSa and the agreement between the hospitals is to provide free medicines, prosthetics, assistive devices, laboratory procedures, and other medical supplies to indigent and vulnerable constituents living within Manila area.

The hospitals would be responsible for the assessment, diagnostics, and other therapeutic requirements of all patients seeking assistance. On the other hand, DSWD NCR should take charge of the assessment and facilitation of the issuance of Guarantee Letters (GLs).

The duration of the agreement is one year, and deemed to take effect and be renewed possibly upon the consensual agreement of the parties.

Then OIC Secretary Leyco, DSWD NCR Regional Director Leyson, and Mayor Joseph Estrada committed to give their full and continuous support in extending help and providing assistance to the poor and vulnerable sectors in the City of Manila.

LinGaP sa MaSa covers the entire NCR. The program continuously expands through forging MOAs with other partner-hospitals in 16 cities and one municipality in Metro Manila.

Number of  
clients served  
with LinGaP  
sa MaSa (from  
March 2017 to  
December 2018)

  
**76,001**  
CLIENTS





# CY 2019 DSWD THRUSTS AND PRIORITIES

## 1. RATIONALE AND CONTEXT

Consistent with the Philippine Development Plan (PDP) CY 2017-2022 to build the socio-economic resilience of individuals, families, and communities in dealing and coping with risks, reducing vulnerabilities by increasing the people's adaptive capacities, and lowering the poverty incidence to 14% by 2022, the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) has to carry out its mission, core values, and policies and program that focus on the poor, marginalized and the vulnerable which account roughly six million of our total population.

The DSWD envisions all Filipinos free from hunger and poverty, have equal access to opportunities, enabled by a fair, just, and peaceful society. To achieve the vision, DSWD will lead in the formulation, implementation, and coordination of social welfare and development policies and programs for and with the poor, vulnerable and disadvantaged.

The DSWD shall promulgate, advocate, support and initiate ethnic group and gender sensitive fundamental beliefs and guiding principles in line with the universal declaration of human rights/which will champion the cause of an all embracing social protection system- one that protects people from major economic and social risks and disaster, promotes education/healthcare/livelihood, addresses the chronicity of hunger/poverty, and assist and capacitates the poor, marginalized, and the vulnerable to manage the problems of sickness, old age, disability, exclusion, and unemployment among others.

The following DSWD Organizational Outcomes will still be considered in crafting the CY 2019 Thrusts and Priorities.

*Organizational Outcome 1: Well-being of poor families improved*

*Organizational Outcome 2: Rights of the poor and vulnerable sectors promoted and protected*

*Organizational Outcome 3: Immediate relief and early recovery of disaster victims/ survivors ensured*

*Organizational Outcome 4: Continuing compliance of social welfare and development (SWD) agencies to standards in the delivery of social welfare services ensured*

*Organizational Outcome 5: Delivery of social welfare and development (SWD) programs by local government units (LGUs), through local social welfare and development offices (LSWDOs), improved*

## 2. OBJECTIVES

The CY 2019 DSWD Thrusts and Priorities aim to promote unanimity of purpose within the organization, allow coordination and collaboration across organizational units, strengthen the Department's organizational capacities and deliver gender responsive services of our social welfare and development programs.

It shall guide and direct all DSWD Bureaus, Services, National Project Management Offices (NPMOQOs), and Field Offices (FOs) in their role in strategy implementation which include formulation and adoption of gender responsive policies, plans and budgets as well as performance contracts.

## 3. THRUSTS AND PRIORITIES

The following thrusts and priorities shall guide, direct, and channel the organizational efforts, resources and activities of the officials and employees essential for the attainment of strategies towards the achievement of the organizational outcomes.

*Organizational Outcome 1: Well-being of poor families improved*

- The Department shall establish an office that will serve as link with all beneficiaries for them to be informed and receive any development in the programs of the DSWD that concern them, report any anomalies and complaints. It will also protect them from any fraudulent acts of unscrupulous individuals posing as social workers or employees of the DSWD.
- Update the lists of all cash programs beneficiaries - Pantawid Pamilyang Pilipino Program (4Ps), Social

Pension (SocPen), Cash for Work, Kapit- Bisig Laban sa Kahirapan-Comprehensive and Integrated Delivery of Social Services (KALAHI-CIDSS), Sustainable Livelihood Program (SLP) and Assistance for Individual in Crisis Situation (AICS) to establish a national database

- Institutionalize and harmonize the Community Organizing (CO) and Community Driven Development (CDD) approach in the Promotive Programs and strengthening internal convergence.
- Institutionalize the CDD in partner National Government Agencies (NGAs) and LGUs and strengthen external convergence.
- Re-evaluate the SLP to make sure it remains relevant to the needs of the communities.
- Promote the Comprehensive Intervention against Gender-based Violence (CIAGV) and Counseling Service for the Rehabilitation of Perpetrators of Domestic Violence (CSRPDV) among LGUs particularly in the 4Ps areas.
- Conduct of Social Welfare and Development Indicators (SVWDI) Re- Assessment for the 4.4 million 4Ps beneficiaries.
- The Social Technology Bureau to design new models of interventions for the transitioning poor exiting the CY 2018 4Ps.

*Organizational Outcome 2: Rights of the poor and vulnerable sectors promoted and protected*

- Creation of timely, relevant and applicable models of intervention for the poor, marginalized, and vulnerable sectors.
- Routine inspection and evaluation of DSWD-maintained centers and residential care facilities to ensure safety of the occupants.
- A Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) between the AFP, PNP, and DSWD to assist and secure employees in the transfer and payout of funds for beneficiaries of our programs in far flung areas or locations where Landbank cannot be of service to them.
- A MOA between the AFP and DSWD to allow DSWD to use AFP vacant buildings or warehouses to store relief packs and supplies and to assist us in updating the list of our beneficiaries in the 4Ps, SocPen Program, and others.
- Evaluation of devolved social welfare programs to LGUs that did not involve funding from DSWD to ascertain their status, relevance, applicability, and outcome.
- Generate private sector support for the vulnerable sectors through external resource generation.
- Implementation of Bangsamoro Umpungan sa Nutrisyon (BANGUN) in target Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (ARMM) areas to address malnutrition in partnership with NGAs, LGUs, communities, parents and intended beneficiaries to alleviate hunger and malnutrition among the children of ARMM as provided for by the DSWDs Strategic Plan CY 2018-2022.
- Implementation of protective services i.e. Recovery and Reintegration Program for Trafficked Person (RRTP), A1CS, Supplementary Feeding Program (SFP), SocPen, Alternative Parental Care, and other community-based services.
- Implementation of Unconditional Cash Transfer (UCT) based on TRAIN Law to alleviate the effects caused by the increase in prices of commodities caused by the said law which directly affect poor individuals and families.
- Implementation of the Centenarians Act of 2016 honoring all Filipinos who reach a ripe old age of 100 years wherever they reside-a fitting tribute to our elders.
- Convince LGUs with a high incidence of gender based violence cases to adapt the CIAGV and CSRPDV programs of the DSWD. These programs are helpful to the communities in times of conflict, disaster or crisis and also in times of peace.
- Implementation of International Social Welfare Services for Filipino Nationals overseas under the supervision of the Social Welfare Attache Offices (SWATOs) in Riyadh and Jeddah, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia; Kuwait; Dubai, United Arab of Emirates; Qatar; Malaysia; and Hongkong. The guaranteeing of the welfare and protection of Filipinos whether here or abroad must be among the primary concerns of the DSWD. An inter- governmental agency approach often times works best for providing adequate service and an immediate response to an array of multiple concerns when present.
- Re-assess and study the DSWD's role, objectives, policies, and programs on the Drug Rehabilitation and Reintegration especially since we are included among the lead agencies of the National Drug Rehabilitation Program. The family is the basic unit of society and as such has a critical role to play in the success of the drug rehabilitation program. We must educate, empower, capacitate and transform this powerful unit of society (the family) in order to be able to deal with the problem of drugs or avoidance of drugs in order to be able to deal with the drug problem effectively.
- Sustain the Level 1, 2, or 3 accreditation of Centers and Facilities in accordance with the set standards, and adopt a more holistic developmental approach in dealing with issues of street children, the



homeless families, the Indigenous Peoples (IPs), Persons with Disabilities (PVWDs), and Senior Citizens in order to stimulate the development of these vulnerable set of people as a whole while maintaining harmony and balance in the community so as not to deprive our future generations.

- Establishment of “Silungan sa Barangay” as a facility for street children and homeless families to address their plight in partnership with NGAs, LGUs and others.

*Organizational Outcome 3: Immediate relief and early recovery of disaster victims/survivors ensured*

- Re-evaluate the DSWD's current mandate to include a pro-active and preventive role in disaster risk, for disaster preparedness which will steer us in the right direction and enable us to preposition goods and services in the event of calamity or disaster or national emergency.
- Institutionalization of a Multi-Stakeholder Volunteer Mobilization Program for Disaster Operations in anticipation of any eventuality that may necessitate the deployment of such magnitude.
- Creation of a functional Comprehensive Emergency Program for Children (CEPC) Core Group Secretariat that will monitor the implementation of the CEPC Strategic Plan CY 2019-2022.
- Creation of guidelines and standards to ensure the maintenance of standard operating procedures (SOP) and quality control measures for warehousing, logistics, production and others. The computerization of these services in order to enable easy access to data for trouble shooting, transparency, monitoring of expiry of goods, and inventory purposes. The updated national database as proposed shall enable quick access to the affected individuals, households and communities with the corresponding speedy dispatch of goods and services to them.

*Organizational Outcome 4: Continuing compliance of Social Welfare and Development Agencies (SWADAs) to standards in the delivery of social welfare services ensured*

- Addressing the competence level standards, and adherence of SWADAs to updated DSWD Standards.
  - A review of the present policies of the Central Office Review Committee (CORC) and Field Office Review Committee (FORC) which handle and recommend appropriate action for reported complaints against erring SWADAs.
  - Full operationalization of the Standards Enforcement and Advocacy Division at the Standards Bureau.

*Organizational Outcome 5: Delivery of social welfare and development (SWD) programs by LGUs, through LSWDOs, improved.*

- Development and implementation of LSWDO three-year plan on Technical Assistance and Resource Augmentation (TARA) Program for LSWDOs.
- Learning and Development Interventions (LDIs) for LSWDOs.
- Creation of a course binder-type lecture series on skills, approaches, methodologies, research, and applicable programs for learning and development of LSWDOs
- Providing continuing educational opportunities for development for our licensed social workers through on line education and seminars.
- Creating an Organizational Learning for LSWDOs through Alliance Building (Collab 2) - Development of Competency based Development Program.

To ensure that the abovementioned priorities will be effectively and efficiently carried out, the following support to operations services will be pursued:

#### A. SUPPORT TO OPERATIONS

The DSWD shall streamline its organizational structure from the FOs to National NPMOs, Bureaus and Services to enable up to date reports from the FO to the Central Office for consolidation, organization, data extraction, analysis, transformation and reporting.

*Planning, Policy Development, Research and Results-Based Monitoring and Evaluation*

- Intensifying Advocacy for the Identified Priority Legislations i.e. National Policy on Community Driven Development, Social Welfare and Development Act which equipped and empower the poor with the financial and technical support required in order for them to be able to set their community priorities and take the necessary steps in order to address them in partnership with the LGUs and other institutions.
- Implementation and monitoring of DSWD sector commitments through the Comprehensive Sector and gender and development (GAD) Plans and Budget in a responsible, transparent and accountable manner.

- Implementation of DSWD Research, Policy, and Evaluation Agenda for CY 2019-2022.
- Enhancement and upgrading of the SVWDI system to make it applicable, relevant, and valuable for all clientele groups.
- The intensification of the strategies in the conduct of the Listahanan 3 Round Assessment to make it truly reflective of the situation in the community level throughout the country.
- Evaluation and assessment of the existing Planning, Policy, Development, Research and Results-based Monitoring and Evaluation Programs which must be flexible, adoptable, updated, forward-looking, culturally sensitive, gender responsible and relevant to the poor and needs of the communities.
- The Operations Center at DSWD Central Office shall monitor the entire organizations plans, programs, daily activities, operations, delivery of services, resources, funds, strategies, quality control of goods and services, organizational issues, beneficiaries needs/demands/ challenges/opportunities, training/ performance of personnel, evaluation and research.

*Strategic Social Technology Development*

- Modification and enhancement of the present social marketing strategies.
- A heightened, sustainable and strategic Human Resource Development Program.
- Evaluation, consolidation and upgrading of the Social Technology Bureau facilities in order to remain relevant and applicable to the intended customer base.

*Improving Transparency and Efficiency through Quality Management Program*

- Completion of ISO Certification requirements for The National Household Targeting System for Poverty Reduction (NHTS-PR).
- Setting up of standards for department wide submission of reports resulting in collation, organization, processing and updating of data.
- Setting up standards and policies, operation and maintenance guidelines for information systems which are to be developed to suit our requirements together with the creation of a manual to enable users to navigate the information system with ease.
  - The establishment of an employees and citizens responsible text bureau which shall address complaints from our various program beneficiaries and serve as our direct link to them and vice versa, which at the same time can be used by DSWD employees to air their complaints and grievances without fear or reservation.

*Creating a Learning Environment through Knowledge Sharing and Collaboration*

- Support Knowledge Management (KM) Policies and Leadership which should encourage a free flowing exchange of wholesome, quality, practical, relevant, focused and meaningful ideas, theories, policies, experiences, research, methodology and technology which should boost and strengthen our collaboration, development and progress as an organization both internally and externally. Update KM policies/guidelines to enhance KM system functionality.
  - Reassess and update KM policies/guidelines to enhance KM system coordination, accessibility, functionality and assessment.
  - Institutionalize recognition and incentives as part of managing intellectual capitals (KM PRIDE awards).
- Generate New Knowledge for More Effective SWD Intervention
  - Full utilization of the collaboration mechanism (CGS, SWDL-Net, SWD-Forum) and expansion to other networks.
  - Continuous processing and harvesting of SWD practices for practice theory building in order to facilitate a pool of relevant and applicable practices.
- Knowledge Sharing and Collaboration to Improve Performance
  - Strengthen KM Teams thru LDIs to upgrade KM Team competencies and functionality.
  - Continuous provision of technical assistance on KM to OBS and FOs and resource augmentation for collaboration mechanisms.
  - Develop and implement responsive, culturally sensitive, gender responsible and aligned knowledge products (KP) and services.
  - Operationalize the DSWD Learning Center.
- Provision of network connectivity (DSWD Enterprise Network).



## B. GENERAL ADMINISTRATION AND SUPPORT SERVICES

The Operations Center at Central Office shall monitor the daily activities, updates, issues on the ground, accomplishments and progress reports.

### *Organizational Development, Performance Management and Human Resource Management.*

- Pursue DSWD reorganization to support the implementation of its programs and services in keeping with the times.
- Regularization of qualified and civil service eligible MOA/COS workers within the restrictions allowed by the GAA.
- Igniting integrity and good governance i.e. Continuous Certification of Auditors (CIA, CISA, CFE). Empower the Internal Affairs Service under Office of the Secretary to address any issues, concerning graft, corruption and abuse of power, among others.
- Creation of guidelines and policies to safeguard the health and overall well-being of our workforce in keeping with accepted standards in the Bureaucracy.
- The establishment of a database based on monthly reporting by HR of all COS/MOA/JO employees as per their records.

### *Strengthening DSWD Strategic Communication*

- Training of Community Speakers Bureau (SMS, NPMOs and FOs).
- Implementation of a communication plan to promote bottom-up support from the organic staff of the DSWD in pursuit of the implementation of DSWD Strategic Plan covering the years 2017-2022.
- Undertake critical activities to ensure that LGUs and other stakeholders will understand and support the DSWD programs and services along each organizational outcome and strategic initiative.

### *Administrative and Other Support Services*

- Full conversion from deployment of Special Disbursing Officer (SDOs) to cash cards or other similar modes for the implementation of programs and services involving disbursement of funds directly lodged with DSWD.
- Full integration of Financial Management Service with eNGAS, eBudget, and eCash forecasting.
- Implementation of a fully functional management Information System (FMIS) to improve transparency and accountability in the management of public funds such as 4Ps, AICS, UCT, Social Pension, ESA, SLP and other funds provided to DSWD beneficiaries.
- Evaluation and assessment of Internal Financial Management Reforms vis- a-vis compliance with oversight regulatory and safety measures to ensure the effectiveness to support operations.
- Conduct of strategic audits as part of our Internal Audit Plan thru updated and continuing Internal Audit Practices in conformity with the Philippine Internal Auditing Standards in order to ensure transparency, accountability, and good governance.
- Completion of retitling of all DSWD real properties nationwide.
- Implementation of efficiency inventory and disposal of DSWD records based on the prescribed retention period as approved by the National Archives of the Philippines.
- Judicious monitoring of the use of Human Resource Management Information Systems to guarantee timely release of salaries for the cost of services of personnel with infallible safeguards or checks and balances in place.
- Implementation and monitoring of an electronic Procurement Tracking and Monitoring System (ePTMS) to improve procurement transparency, efficiency, and timely delivery of goods and services.
- Conduct an audit and inventory of all DSWD Buildings in accordance with the accepted industry standards and practices, submit the audit results and make the necessary reports to all concerned employees and officials of the DSWD.
- Continuous review, assessment implementation of a structural repairs and construction plans for all DSWD-maintained Centers and Residential Care Facilities.

**GENDER MAINSTREAMING.** *The Department will continue to mainstream GAD in its organizational policies, programs, and people, thereby enabling mechanisms geared towards protecting human rights, promoting women's rights, advocating gender equality, peace and development, and eliminating all forms of discrimination.*

- Implementation of CY 2019 DSWD GAD Plan and Budget.
- Conduct of gender responsive assessment of programs and projects using the Harmonized GAD Guidelines tool.

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as of December 31, 2018

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