



PHILIPPINES 2000



21 February, 2002

DEPT. OF SOCIAL WELFARE & DEVT.
ISP ROAD, CONSTITUTION HILLS, Q.C.

MAR 01 2002 0281

LEGAL SERVICE
RECEIVED BY: *Julie*

Administrative Order No. 49
Series of 2002

SUBJECT: Guidelines in the Psychosocial Care of Victims of Disasters and Families in Crisis Situations

I. Rationale

Geographically, the Philippines is vulnerable to natural disasters such as typhoons, flashfloods, earthquakes and volcanic eruptions. Man-made disasters such as armed-conflict, fire, technological hazards as well as maritime and air disasters further aggravate the situation. Other situations that put families into crisis include squatter demolition resulting to displacement of population. These are seen as continuing threats to the psychosocial well being of the affected families.

The impact/effect of disasters are causing setbacks on the development and growth of the country's economy in general and the well being of the affected families/individuals in particular. Between 1995-2000, different types of disasters affected an average of 1.5 million families annually in almost 41,939 barangays of the country. Such situations result to massive displacements of families. The manifestations of disasters are easily projected to the whole country with its physical impact and effects to the population and the economy.

Equally important, however, are the internal forces within the victim/affected individuals/families. This includes the psychosocial consequences as a result of any sudden significant disruption to their normal functioning. If no action is undertaken to minimize, prevent, or eliminate these abnormal manifestations, these could lead to disability far worse than we can imagine. Very often, because of the stressful condition, the individual's and families' social functioning are hampered and their capabilities deteriorate. In situations like these, there is a need for psychosocial care to help them cope with and address the actual as well as potential physical and psychosocial consequences of extraordinarily challenging events or circumstances in their environment.

REPUBLIKA NG PILIPINAS
KAGAWARAN NG KAGALINGANG PANLIPUNAN AT PAGPAPAUNLAD
(DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL WELFARE AND DEVELOPMENT)
BATASAN PAMBANSA COMPLEX, CONSTITUTION HILLS
QUEZON CITY

II. Objectives

General Objectives:

To enhance/strengthen the families/victims/survivors' coping capacities during disaster and crisis situations through the provision of psychosocial care.

Specific Objectives:

1. To advocate for the protection of individuals and families vulnerable to disasters and other crisis situations.
2. To continuously equip/develop the knowledge, skills and expertise of DSWD and local disaster service providers in the provision of psychosocial care to victims of disasters.
3. To provide augmentation support to LGUs, NGOs to enable individuals, families and communities affected by disaster and other crisis situations to better serve and rapidly restore their normal functioning.

III. Project Description

Psychosocial care refers to helping people cope with, and address the actual as well as potential physical, and psychological consequence of extraordinarily challenging events or circumstance in their environment. These may include natural and man-made disasters, violence and other serious threats to life and/or well being. Natural disasters are classified as destruction/damages brought about by typhoons, landslides, volcanic eruptions and the like. Likewise, man-made disasters are the result of technological hazards such as oil spill in mining areas, air and sea tragedies, armed conflict and other disasters which are the product of human failures.

The aim of psychosocial care is to rapidly restore a sense of normalcy and enhance individual, familial and community stability. Such action which should be primarily social in nature and empowerment oriented is envisaged to protect and strengthen coping capacities, reduce stress and familial/community tensions, and prevent threats to social and psychological well-being.

Psychosocial care encompasses promotion, prevention, relief and rehabilitation and therapeutic interventions related to disaster management and other crisis situations. It involves varied approaches such as training and advocacy, technical assistance and augmentation support through community organizing, case management and group work methods.

The service shall provide a holistic approach to disaster management and emergency assistance both for the DSWD, the Local Government Units and the NGOs in terms of the provision of technical

assistance on psychosocial care services. Current retained programs and those devolved to the LGUs will form part of the psychosocial interventions and not limited to the CISD strategy. This will also include services to victims of other crisis situations like squatter demolition, death, separation from work, sickness among others. The service will be institutionalized in partnership with the LGUs, NGOs and other members of the civil society.

IV. Project Components

1. Promotion

Advocacy for legislation/policies to protect the welfare of individuals and families vulnerable to disasters and other emergencies/crisis through strong network with the legislators in the passage of bills and/or local ordinances that will promote and protect the welfare of the disadvantaged groups.

2. Prevention

The continuous conduct of trainings and provision of technical assistance that aims to enhance the coping capabilities of service providers, families and communities to crisis situations.

a) Service Providers

- Stress Management Training for DSWD and LGU disaster service providers – this aims to equip/enhance their coping capacities to eliminate/manage stress through various exercises, activities and techniques. It will also enhance implementors' skills in their conduct of training to families to help them better manage stress brought about by crisis and other difficult situations in their daily lives
- Training on the Conduct of Critical Incident Stress Debriefing (CISD) - this will equip service providers with the appropriate, knowledge, attitudes and skills on the conduct of CISD to affected families/individuals

b) Families

- Family and Community Disaster Preparedness (FCDP) – this aims to enhance the coping capacities of families and communities in disaster prone areas to respond to disasters and other crisis situation efficiently and effectively. FCDP also involves training, organization and mobilization of volunteers for response and preparedness. The LGUS trained on FCDP shall implement the intervention in their areas with the regular

monitoring and technical assistance from the Field offices concerned.

3. Relief and Rehabilitation

The provision of basic needs to the beneficiaries which will be directly undertaken by the local government units. Augmentation support from DSWD for technical and financial concerns shall be undertaken once determined by the LGUs. These may be any of but not limited to, the following:

- a) Relief Assistance - pertains to immediate provision of essential services to meet basic needs which have become unavailable to the people because of calamities and other distressful situations.
 - Food assistance - the provision of timely and appropriate food commodities to families in crisis situations or victims of disaster to help prevent starvation and nutritional decline
 - Assistance to Families/Individual in Crisis Situations - the provision of needed interventions to enable distressed individuals/families to cope with crisis. Assistance may be in the form of transportation assistance, counseling, medical or hospitalization support or burial assistance to bereaved families, subsistence and other financial support.
- b) Shelter Assistance
 - Core Shelter Assistance Project (CSAP) - aims to provide environment friendly disaster shelter units that can withstand forces due to typhoons, earthquakes and floods, using locally purchased materials.
 - Emergency Shelter Assistance - designed to help the individuals/ families/communities in the repair and restoration of their partially destroyed/washed-out dismantled/burned houses through a limited financial assistance in areas where the service is not provided by other agencies.
- c) Food/Cash for Work Assistance - the provision of food or cash to disaster victims/displaced or distressed persons in exchange for their services or involvement in undertaking restoration and rehabilitation activities.
- d) Community Assimilation - aims to assist permanently displaced families to reintegrate in a community of their choice with the

support of package of social services necessary in their mainstreaming to the host community.

- e) Supplemental Feeding – the conduct of centralized feeding using locally available food to improve the nutritional status of moderately and severely underweight preschool children.
- f) Livelihood Services – the provision of capital assistance to families with low-income or are below the monthly food threshold to augment/support their family income/well-being through livelihood projects.
- g) Balik Probinsya – refers to the provision of transportation assistance and food subsistence allowance to families in transit who are returning to their places of origin or places of choice for resettlement or permanent residence.

4. Therapeutic Interventions

- a) Critical Incident Stress Debriefing (CISD) – is a micro-level intervention with therapeutic benefits. Debriefing is a process designed to lessen the impact of a critical incident and prevent further psychosocial problems to the victims. It aims to help people affected to better manage stress associated with sudden and/or violent threats to one's personal safety, sense of security and predictability in life. The target beneficiaries of CISD are the following:

- a.1) direct victims – survivors of disaster and other similar crisis situation.

- a.2) indirect/hidden victims – service providers and community volunteers who are involved in the disaster operation.

CISD strategy is provided not only to the victim but also the service providers to help them better manage stress and burnout brought about by difficult situations in relation to their work.

- b) Referrals for Counseling for Grieving Families and Psychotropic Medications – access to the services of psychiatrist, psychologist, therapist and other professionals available for the management of such cases.

V. Target Beneficiaries

- Victims/survivors of natural and man-made disasters

- Families/individuals who have experienced crisis situations such as squatter demolition, death and other similar conditions that resulted to displacement of population, and damages to lives and properties

VI. Institutional Arrangement

1. DSWD

1.1 The DSWD through its Field Offices shall impart technical and organizational skills and know how to local government units to enhance human and institutional capabilities for performing their given task and/or for achieving a specific set of goals through the provision of external inputs such as experts, studies, research and development logistics, training and equipment. Likewise, the DSWD shall provide resource augmentation through the provision of manpower, money and other resources to local government to enable them to deliver basic social services devolved or transferred to them by virtue of devolution or localization. To effectively provide the technical assistance and resource augmentation (TARA), a TARA plan should be followed which should include the following elements, namely: problem area/need, objectives, technical persons to be involved, beneficiaries as well as the content of technical assistance.

1.2 The DSWD Field Offices shall ensure a functional Regional Relief and Rehabilitation Service Committee and provide guidance to the LGUs in ensuring the functionality of the RRRSCs down to the barangay level.

1.3 In the implementation of the strategies and interventions, the DSWD shall/undertake the following activities:

a) Promotion

- Strengthen linkage with the legislators and lobby for the approval of bills promoting the welfare of the especially vulnerable groups such as victims of disaster, older persons, persons with disabilities, women and children. .
- The DSWD shall likewise advocate for the implementation of the psychosocial care program and ensure the functionality of the Relief and Rehabilitation Service Committee of the National Disaster Coordinating Council which has its counterpart down to the barangay level.

- Advocacy materials promoting psychosocial care to victims of disaster and other crisis situations will be developed by the Programs and Projects Bureau in coordination with the Public Affairs Office. The DSWD Field Offices shall advocate for the dissemination of information particularly to the vulnerable communities to disasters and other emergencies.

b) Prevention

- In the conduct of capability building, the Social Welfare and Development Institute (SWADI) and the Field Offices shall strengthen its conduct of trainings to DSWD, LGU and NGO service providers on *Family and Community Disaster Preparedness, Stress Management and CISD*. The Programs and Projects Bureau shall provide technical support to SWADI in the enrichment of modules and other training materials. Likewise, the Field Offices shall be responsible in providing technical assistance through acting as resource to training activities in the region and in the implementation of the training plan of the trained implementors.
- The organization of Community Volunteers for Emergency Response and Preparedness as part of the FCDP strategy should be institutionalized by the Field Offices to the LGUs which can be a strong support to the barangay leaders in the identification of the at-risk population, conduct of neighborhood disaster preparedness sessions as well as quick response volunteers which can be mobilized during disasters and other crisis situations.

c) Rehabilitation

- Provide augmentation support in the provision of direct services to families affected by disasters/other crisis situation.
- Augment manpower support (e.g. pool of Critical Incident Stress Debriefers) in the conduct of Critical Incident Stress Debriefing (CISD) sessions to the affected families
- Conduct Stress Debriefing sessions to LGU service providers and volunteers involved in the disaster operation.

1.4 The DSWD Field Office shall monitor the implementation of the service as basis for the provision of further technical assistance and augmentation support.

2) Local Government Units (LGU)

2.1 As part of the DSWD's provision of augmentation support of basic services along relief and rehabilitation to the LGUs, the following mechanisms will be employed by the LGUs concerned once management of evacuation center is activated with technical assistance from DSWD.

- a) Undertake basic organization of families for services by administering modified MBN to determine and fast track priority needs.
- b) Establishment of a temporary day care center or classes for school children in coordination with DECS with basic programs such as supplemental feeding, day care sessions and other activities.
- c) Conduct sessions of Parent Effectiveness, protective behavior, stress management, and modular sessions on women and child care development.
- d) Initiate close linkage with government and non-government organizations for the provision of adequate opportunities for the affected victims/survivors preparatory to their integration to a normal community life using DSWD strategies namely: core shelter assistance, emergency shelter assistance, livelihood services and barangay assimilation.

2.2 In the implementation of the program strategies and interventions, the LGU shall undertake the following activities:

a) Promotion

- Conduct advocacy to community groups and barangay officials in the passage of barangay ordinances that will promote and protect the welfare of families and communities vulnerable to disasters and other crisis situations.
- Conduct advocacy fora to community groups/barangays on various issues that will help promote psychosocial care of the vulnerable families.

b) Prevention

- Conduct training to families and community volunteers/groups on family and community disaster preparedness and stress management to enable them to better manage their situations
- Implement the Family and Community Disaster Preparedness program particularly training, organization and mobilization of community volunteers for emergency response.
- Provide direct services to families victims of disaster and other crisis situations.

c) Rehabilitation

- Provide CISD to victims of disaster and crisis situations or access to DSWD and other organization if there are no trained debriefers in the area.
- The DSWD Field Offices shall likewise advocate for the dissemination of information and conduct of trainings to hone the skills and expertise of the LGUs/ NGOs workers, officials, and volunteers to respond to the psychosocial needs of the at risk population in their respective regions.

2.3 The LGU shall ensure active and functional Disaster Coordinating Councils and Relief and Rehabilitation Service Committees in their respective areas down to the barangay level to ensure that the psychosocial needs of the victims/survivors of disaster and crisis situations are immediately addressed.

This Administrative Order shall take effect immediately and revokes all other previous Orders inconsistent with it.


CORAZON JULIANO-SOLIMAN
Secretary

