



Republic of the Philippines
Department of Social Welfare and Development
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SUBJECT: **GUIDELINES DEFINING DSWD's COMMITMENTS TO CHILD 21**

I. Introduction

The Philippine National Strategic Framework for Plan Development for Children or Child 21 is a strategic framework for planning programs and interventions that promote and safeguard the rights of Filipino Children.

It is the product of a broad based multi-sectoral consultation organized by the Council for the Welfare of Children (CWC) and its conceptualization was based on the gains of the Philippine Plan of Action for Children (PPAC) in the 1990s and Beyond of December 1991 where the life stage approach and the Convention on the Rights of the Child were used as its framework. It also dovetails its vision, mission, goals, targets and strategies with those set forth in the Medium Term Development Plan (1999-2004) and continues beyond 2004 to pursue a long term vision for Filipino Children through 2025.

Child 21 addresses the concerns of children including those who were not previously given sufficient attention children of indigenous peoples, in various circumstances of disability, in situations of armed conflict, pregnant adolescent and children in conflict with the law.

It is meant to be a guide to make plans and program for children more focused. It is a roadmap for the national government as well as for local government units, non-government organizations and private organizations in setting priorities for action and in allocating and utilizing resources to promote and realize the rights of children by year 2025.

II. Rationale

The Department has been undertaking programs and services that address the needs of children and promote their rights. Policies are likewise issued to provide guidance and direction in their implementation. However, results of consultations with various stakeholders revealed some gaps in attaining the mandate in protecting and upholding the rights of children and providing for their needs.

The formulation of the Child 21 calls for a more conscious and focused planning and implementation of program that will promote the rights and needs of children.

Executive Order 310, series of 2000 authorized the adoption and implementation of the Philippine National Strategic Framework for Plan Development for Children, 2000-2025 or Child 21. It also mandates the Council for the Welfare of Children (CWC) to

undertake activities for its dissemination and implementation through its different structures/committees on children at the different level.

Executive Order 310 further directs the concerned agencies including the Department of Social Welfare and Development to integrate Child 21 related programs and activities in their respective yearly budget performance and to have specific performance indicators against their approved budget. Moreover, it mandated all member agencies of the CWC to issue department order adopting and implementing programs and projects to achieve the Child 21 goals and targets as indicated in their Sectoral/Agency Plans.

III. Objective

This guideline is being issued to provide a comprehensive guidelines in the implementation and monitoring of the commitment of DSWD to Child 21 particularly in the areas of child survival, protection, development and participation.

IV. Areas of Commitment

The DSWD as a member of the Social Reform Development Sector has identified its Major Final Outputs (MFOs) contributing to the goal of improved social protection and promotion of rights and welfare of the poor and the disadvantaged. The Programs/Projects/Activities under the DSWD major final outputs which serve as a basis to attain the department's commitment to Child 21 includes the following:

A. Social welfare and development policies and plan formulation, advocacy, monitoring and evaluation

The DSWD shall continue to provide leadership in the development of policies and plans as well as standards of service for implementation of programs and services supportive of Child 21. It shall continue to undertake consultation with legislators/policy makers and other stakeholders in framing policies that would support implementation of the DSWD Plan of Action for Children. Policy researches and review of existing laws and legislations shall be undertaken to determine effectiveness of existing policies as basis for amending and development of new ones that would further strengthen the focus on children. The DSWD shall continue to inform, educate, communicate with and motivate its stakeholders and other sectors in the promotion of child friendly policies and programs. It shall also advocate strongly for the passage of child friendly policies at the local government levels.

To effectively and efficiently focus on the right-based life cycle needs of the children, the Department shall ensure that data and information on children shall be reliable, timely and be made accessible to all sectors needing such data.

B. Social welfare program development

The DSWD shall prioritize the development and pilot testing of new programs, services and interventions appropriate to the emerging needs of the child. It shall also continue to enhance existing family and child welfare and development programs such as the Early Childhood Care Development (ECCD), both center and home-based, Children in Need of Special Protection (CNSP), Family Violence Prevention Program (FVPP), Adoption, Foster Care and other forms of alternative parental arrangements.

C. Registration, licensing and accreditation

To ensure that the programs and services for children and their families implemented by the LGUs, NGOs, other NGAs, and other stakeholders are in accordance with social welfare standards, the Department shall continue the registration and licensing of SWD agencies and accreditation of their program, services and service providers. In like manner, compliance to standard and operational requirements shall be monitored to ensure sustainability of quality service delivery.

D. Capability Building and Technical Assistance

To ensure integration of children concerns in the Local Development Plan, the Department shall continue to provide technical assistance and capability building activities to its partners and stakeholders. This will be through the development and conduct of training modules supportive of new programs developed, as well as programs needing enhancement. Likewise, regular and unscheduled consultations with program managers at the local level shall be a continuing commitment.

To enable and strengthen NGOs, PO's, and other stakeholders to carry out their roles or partners in the development process, the Department shall initiate, promote and maintain linkages for technical and financial assistance with the local agencies, national and international bodies i.e., UNICEF, ILO-IPEC, USAID, WHO, etc.

E. Support Services for Vulnerable and Disadvantaged Children and their Families

The Department shall continue to implement statutory programs such as Child Care and Placement Program, Services for Youth in Conflict with the Law, Child Protective Services for Victims of Abuse and Exploitation including maintenance and operation of Centers and Institutions for Children and provide technical assistance relative thereto. This shall be evaluated using the Child 21 as framework to determine effectiveness in ensuring child welfare and development. Likewise, resource augmentation shall be provided to support the implementation of Child 21 - related programs.

F. Alliance Building and Networking

DSWD shall be actively involved in inter-agency collaborative activities concerning the welfare and development of children and their families. It shall also establish linkages with NGOs, POs, international and local funding agencies and members of civil society for mutual technical and financial cooperation.

V. Institutional Arrangements

Institutional arrangement shall refer to measures that would ensure that the Department's commitment to Child 21 are operationalized at all levels and avoid overlapping of functions and gaps in the implementation of the commitments of the Department.

The Department shall ensure the operationalization of Child 21 through different units and offices at Central Office and its regional offices.

A. Role Delineation

1. Central Office

- a. Undertake information, education and communication (IEC) initiatives and activities on Child 21 across all levels within the Department and the key players of the sectors.
- b. Initiate and enhance policy, program and standards development supportive of Child 21.
- c. Continue registration, licensing of POs and social welfare and development agencies implementing programs and services for children.
- d. Continue accreditation of NGOs/LGUs and other NGAs and service providers providing programs and services for children.
- e. Monitor compliance of NGOs/LGUs and other NGAs with social welfare standards and provide technical assistance relative thereto.
- f. Provide technical and resource augmentation to Child – focused partner agencies / councils at the national level in the implementation of its plan.
- g. Network with national and international bodies and agencies for the implementation of its commitments as well as establish a consultative mechanism which shall provide continuing dialogue between GO and NGO sector in the planning and evaluation of policies and program affecting children.
- h. Integrate the Child 21 performance indicators to the Department's monitoring system as basis for monitoring its commitments to Child 21.
- i. Monitor projects implemented along child's right and the strategies utilized for its replication in other strategic and feasible areas
- j. Establish a sex and age specific planning and monitoring system for children as basis for policy formulation program development and technical assistance and integrating in effect the Child 21 performance indicators to the Department's monitoring system as basis for monitoring its commitments to Child 21.

2. Field Offices

- a. Conduct orientation activities on Child 21 for the LGUs, NGOs, PO's and other stakeholders in the Region.
- b. Develop area-based Child 21 related programs and services.
- c. Advocate to the local government units, NGOs, PO's and other stakeholders at the regional level for the passage of local child friendly policies, adoption, implementation and evaluation of Child 21 related programs and services particularly in the area of child protection, welfare and development.
- d. Provide leadership in the establishment and strengthening of networks supportive of Child 21 at the local and regional level.

- e. Continue accrediting Day Care Centers/DC workers and licensing of SWD agencies/LGUs and other service providers in the region to ensure the implementation of quality program and projects for children and their families.
- f. Monitor LGUs, NGOs and POs and other stakeholders at the local and regional level to ensure compliance to SWD standards of program for children.
- g. Provide technical assistance and resource augmentation to intermediaries and stakeholders in the operationalization of Child 21.
- h. Monitor implementation of DSWD commitments at the regional and local level and submit report to Central Office.
- i. Provide inputs to Central Office DSWD in the enhancement of Child 21 related policy and programs particularly in the area of child protection welfare and development.

B. Data Management

Quarterly report on statistics concerning right-based lifecycle approach shall utilize the official DSWD reporting forms.

C. Creation of an Oversight Committee

There shall be created an oversight-committee to ensure proper and effective implementation of the roles/functions stated in the guideline. The overall-committee shall be chaired by Undersecretary In-charge for Programs and Policy Groups, and shall have the Policy, Plans and Information Bureau (PPISB) as the Secretariat. The committee shall be composed of the following offices/bureaus:

1. Programs and Projects Bureau
2. Policy, Plans and Information Bureau
3. Standards Bureau
4. Social Welfare Institutional Development Bureau
5. National Operations Office
6. Public Affairs and Liaison Service

The oversight-committee shall have the following functions:

1. Collect and consolidate data.
2. Review and approve data and information.
3. Ensure dissemination of data to stakeholders /intermediaries/partners thru various media.
4. Ensure the operationalization of the commitment in the Department Order.
5. Identify gaps in the implementation and recommend solution to resolve the the gaps.
6. Monitor and evaluate the implementation of the commitments.
7. Ensure timely submission of reports.

VI. Funding Requirements

Funding requirements in the implementation of Child 21 programs, projects and activities shall be chargeable against the regular budget of concerned units/offices. Field Offices shall ensure that related activities shall be integrated in their Annual Work and Financial Plan.

This Department Order shall take effect immediately.


CORAZON JULIANO-SOLIMAN
Secretary *et*

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