

Republic of the Philippines
Department of Social Welfare and Development
Batasan Pambansa Complex, Constitution Hills
Quezon City
Telephone No. 931-8101 to 07

DEPT. OF SOCIAL WELFARE & DEVT.
1234 ROAD, CONSTITUTION HILLS, Q.C.

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Subject: GUIDELINES ON SAGIP KALINGA PROJECT

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I. INTRODUCTION

One of our most pressing and emerging social concerns is that of street families and street children in the Metro Manila areas and other urban centers.

In the National Capital Region, an Inter-Agency Task Force was constituted based on an Executive Order issued on October 6, 1999 by President Joseph Ejercito Estrada to undertake a sustained campaign of bringing down and preventing the growing number of vagrants, mendicants, children and adults from frequenting the streets and have even taken shelter in the streets. The Task Force, headed by Metropolitan Manila Development Authority is composed of the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD), PNP's National Capital Region Office (PNP-NCRPO), the component Local Government Units of Metro Manila (MMLGU's), Department of Tourism (DOT), Department of Health (DOH), Department of Transportation and Communication (DOTC), Department of National Defense, the Philippine Information Agency and the Commission on Human Rights.

Since the project started its operation and up to date, the street dwellers rescued numbered close to 12,452, coming from the municipalities and cities of National Capital Region. These families/streets dwellers were brought to staging center/s for processing where they were checked for any illness and interviewed as to their place of origin, and the reason why they have taken the street and open spaces as their shelter. They were provided with meals and other essentials while transport was arranged for their return to their places of origin or turned over to appropriate government institutions for the administration of proper programs. The members of the task force "Sagip-Kalinga" met regularly to assess the conduct of the operation and the other needs of the clients.

Part of the project is the call for active participation of non-government organizations, the private sector and the general public to contribute resources to the needs of the clients. The public is also advised not to give alms in the street as this only encourages street children and beggars to frequent the thoroughfares, thus, posing risks not only to themselves but to

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others as well. Likewise, advocacy campaign were carried out in cities and urban centers, through assembly and barangay meetings, to educate the public on the mendicancy problem and the existing provisions of the anti-mendicancy law. Rescue operations are also conducted to pull out the mendicants, street children, and persons with disabilities for assessment of their needs and capacities for decent productive activities.

In response to the growing demand to expand the services to highly urbanized cities with visible numbers of street dwellers and in line with the poverty alleviation projects of the Arroyo administration, these guidelines are hereby formulated for the guidance of all concerned.

II. LEGAL BASIS

1. Executive Order No. 15, stipulating that the DSWD is mandated to provide assistance to Local Government Units (LGUs), non-government organizations (NGOs), other national government agencies (NGAs), people's organization (POs) and other members of civil society in effectively implementing programs, projects and services that will alleviate poverty and empower disadvantaged individuals, families and communities for an improved quality of life.
2. RA 7610 known as the Special Protection of Children Against Child Abuse, Exploitation and Discrimination and for other purposes, mandating the Department of Social Welfare and Development to formulate a comprehensive program against abuse and exploitation.
3. Executive Order No. 56 mandates the DSWD to take into its protective custody, children who are sexually abused and exploited (Section 4 and 6 of IRR).
4. Administrative Code of 1997, Title XVI, Section 2 Chapter 1 - mandates the DSWD to provide a balanced approach to welfare whereby the needs and interest of the population are addressed not only at the outbreak of crisis but more importantly at the stage that would inexorably lead to such crisis.
5. RA 7160, otherwise known as the Local Government Code of the Philippines which provides for the devolution of basic services to the local government units and further tasked the national government units to undertake consultation & augmentation to the local Government.

III. PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The project "Sagip-Kalinga" aimed to rescue informal dwellers through the provision of balik-probinsiya program, counseling, educational assistance, medical/hospital referral, effective parenting and para-legal training program among others.

After the rescue, the dwellers are placed in processing centers where they are provided with psychosocial intervention and other basic services. The social worker in said center coordinates with the Field Offices for the assessment of their respective families and relatives in their areas of origin. The Field Office social workers coordinate with the LGU social workers by referring the cases for assessment of the families. Once the assessment is received, the dwellers are sent to their provinces in coordination with the shipping lines/bus transport where they are given discount fares. They are usually received by their families/guardians in the Field Offices but in some cases where the dwellers' families are residing in far areas, the rescued dwellers are temporarily accommodated in the Crisis Intervention Units of the Field Offices. From the Regional Offices, they are provided with transportation assistance either by the Field Office or the LGUs in going back to their families/relatives.

After the reintegration with their respective families, the Local government Units through their Municipal Social Welfare Officers provide after care services to these clients. They are responsible in providing other services as livelihood assistance, skills development, referral for job placement and other basic services.

IV. OBJECTIVE

To protect the informal dwellers from the hazards of street life and provide them with appropriate social services until they are reintegrated into normal community life in their places of origin.

It also aims to prevent the increase/influx of street dwellers by providing those rescued community-based support services to hasten their reintegration into their respective communities and families.

V. TARGET CLIENTELE

Informal dwellers are individuals or families of any age who spend significant amount of time on streets, markets, parks, premises of malls and other public areas, adopting the said places as their homes, as a source of livelihood, or both. They are considered as street dwellers, street children, mendicants, bush, indigenous people, beggars and the like.

VI. INSTITUTIONAL ARRANGEMENTS

The frontliners of this undertaking are the local government units who have taken the lead in coordinating the efforts of other government agencies and non-government organizations and other stakeholders with an end goal of getting street dwellers off the streets. The following are the task of the participating agencies:

- a. Office of the Mayor
 - access and provide financial/administrative support for the operations/program
- b. Local Social Welfare and Development Office
 - scan and profile the population of informal street dwellers
 - develop a program for the street dwellers who were rescued
 - mobilize other NGOs/NGAs for support services
 - operate manage staging/processing center
 - act as the lead in the actual conduct of rescue operation in the city/barangay level
 - conduct intake interview assessment and referral of cases
 - document cases and experiences
 - provision of basic and after care services
 - follow-up progress of clients served in various facilities
 - escort clients under balik-probinsiya program
 - organize and train BCPC and other volunteers involved
 - attend trainings, team building and meetings
 - monitor and evaluate the program
- c. DSWD
 - provide technical assistance and capability building in the operationalization of the project and in the mobilization and organization of the communities towards preventive and protective measures for the families

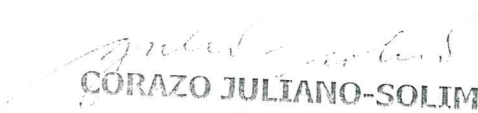
- coordinate with DSWD Field Offices for the balik-probisiya program
 - provide technical assistance to LGUs and NGOs on the process of rescue and rehabilitation of families and management of crisis intervention units at local levels
 - coordinate and network with other agencies / NGOs for support services needed by local DSWD
 - assist in the resource generation for the project
 - provide technical assistance in developing a social marketing/advocacy program
- d. Philippine National Police
- coordinate with District Precinct/Block Station for the participation of PCR Officers
 - provide security to rescue team and rescued street dwellers
 - escort rescued street children to centers
 - maintain peace and order in the processing center
 - participates in the team building session and meetings
- e. Barangays
- conduct surveillance in identified areas
 - monitor incidence of street dwellers in their areas of jurisdiction
 - report/coordinate with DSWD-LGU and PNP
 - conduct actual rescue operation
 - attend team building sessions and meetings
- f. NGO/Civic/Religious Sector
- assist in the assessment and counseling process
 - provide any material/resources needed
- g. Philippine Information Agency
- promotion of social marketing/advocacy campaign
- h. Commission on Human Rights
- assist during the actual conduct of rescue operation to ensure the protection of the rights of the informal dwellers
 - advocate for the promotion of human/children rights
- i. Other National Government Agencies Involved
- provision of technical assistance and resource augmentation relevant to the agencies mandate

VII. MONITORING AND EVALUATION

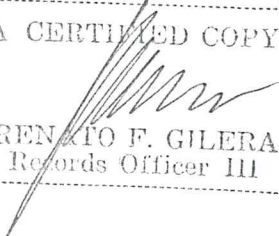
The Local Government Unit through the help of the Task Force in coordination with the DSWD Field Offices shall be responsible in the conduct of monitoring and evaluation of the Sagip Kalinga Project. A data bank need to be established from which to base/determine extension of grant. Profile of the client (as much as possible with picture) should be included to ascertain the truthfulness of their declaration.

VIII. EFFECTIVITY

Issued in Quezon City, this 22nd day of April 2003.


CORAZO JULIANO-SOLIMAN
Secretary

A CERTIFIED COPY:


RENATO F. GILERA
Records Officer III