



**Administrative Order**  
 No: 06  
 Series of 2024

## CREATION OF THE WALANG GUTOM - NATIONAL AND REGIONAL PROGRAM MANAGEMENT OFFICES

### I. RATIONALE

#### Global Face of Hunger

Hunger as defined by the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (UNFAO) is an uncomfortable or painful physical sensation caused by insufficient consumption of dietary energy.<sup>1</sup> The World Food Programme (WFP) 2022 Global Report on Food Crises (GRFC 2022) highlights the alarming deterioration of acute food insecurity in 2021 in numerous food-crisis countries/territories.

The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), also known as the Global Goals, aims to end hunger, achieve food security, improved nutrition, and promote sustainable agriculture by 2030. The International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR), also recognizes the people's "*fundamental right to be free from hunger*" along with the "*right to an adequate standard of living,*" including the "*right to adequate food.*" This right to food promotes a basic right of all human beings to be free from hunger, lack of food, and malnutrition.

#### Addressing Food Insecurity in the Philippines

As a strong advocate of ending involuntary hunger in the country, President Ferdinand Marcos, Jr. issued Executive Order (EO) No. 44 series of 2023, establishing the "Walang Gutom 2027: Food Stamp Program" as a Flagship Program of the government.

The EO recognized the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) as the primary government entity responsible for the implementation and management of social welfare development programs in the country. Hence, it was designated as the lead implementing agency of the Food Stamp Program. To effectively implement the Walang Gutom 2027: Food Stamp Program, the DSWD shall create the Walang Gutom Program (WGP).

<sup>1</sup> <https://www.fao.org/hunger/en/>

## II. LEGAL BASES

### 1. EO No. 44, Series of 2023

Section 1. Flagship Program. The “Walang Gutom 2027: Food Stamp Program” of the DSWD is hereby declared as a Flagship Program of the National Government. The DSWD, as the primary government entity responsible for the implementation and management of social welfare and development programs in the country, shall be the lead implementing agency of the Food Stamp Program.

### 2. EO No. 292, Series of 1987 (Administrative Code of 1987)

This Order mandates the DSWD to develop and implement plans, programs, and projects for social welfare and development. The Food Stamp Program is a major initiative under this directive.

### 3. RA No. 11291 (Magna Carta of the Poor)

Section 4 - “Scope of the Fundamental Rights of the Poor” provides that the government shall establish a system of progressive realization or implementation to provide the requirements, conditions, and opportunities for the full enjoyment or realization of the rights of the poor, which are essential requirements towards poverty alleviation.

### 4. RA No. 11037 (Masustansyang Pagkain para sa Batang Pilipino Act)

An Act Institutionalizing a National Feeding Program for Undernourished Children in Public Day Care, Kindergarten, and Elementary Schools to Combat Hunger and Undernutrition Among Filipino Children and Appropriating Funds Therefore.

### 5. Republic Act No. 11148 (Kalusugan at Nutrisyon ng Mag-nanay Act)

An Act Scaling Up The National And Local Health And Nutrition Programs Through A Strengthened Integrated Strategy For Maternal, Neonatal, Child Health And Nutrition In The First One Thousand (1,000) Days Of Life, Appropriating Funds Therefore And For Other Purposes.

### 6. International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights

Paragraph 2, Article II provides that States Parties recognize the fundamental right of everyone to be free from hunger, and shall take, individually and through international cooperation, measures to improve methods of production, conservation, and distribution of food.

## III. OBJECTIVES

The Walang Gutom Program shall provide monetary-based assistance in the form of an Electronic Benefit Transfer (EBT). The EBT cards shall be utilized as

digital means for the provision of food to beneficiaries through a monetary-based assistance. The EBT cards can be used to purchase various food items in partner merchants such as Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs), supermarkets, and Katuwang sa Diwa at Gawa para sa Masaganang Ani at Mataas na Kita (KADIWA), among others. Only food items recommended by the Food and Nutrition Research Institute (FNRI) may be purchased. The creation of the Walang Gutom National Program Management Office (NPMO) shall streamline and harmonize the operation, implementation, initiatives, and activities under the Walang Gutom Program to ensure the achievement of its target goals and objectives.

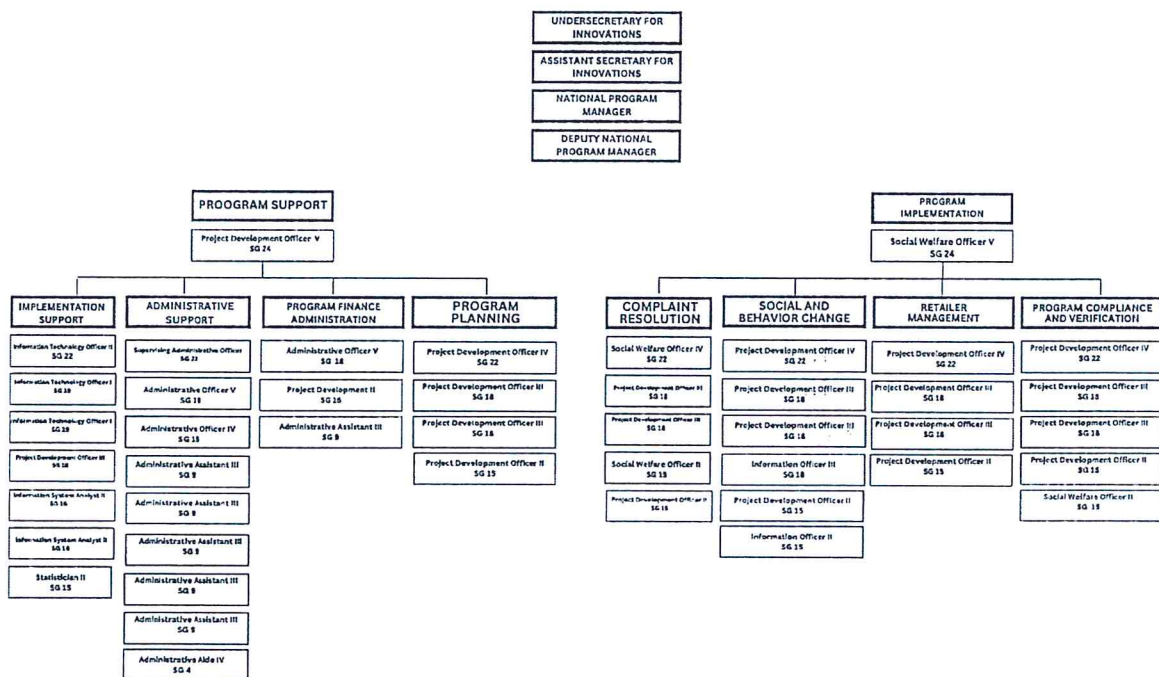
#### IV. COMPOSITION AND STRUCTURE

##### A. SCOPE AND COVERAGE

This Administrative Order shall cover the following:

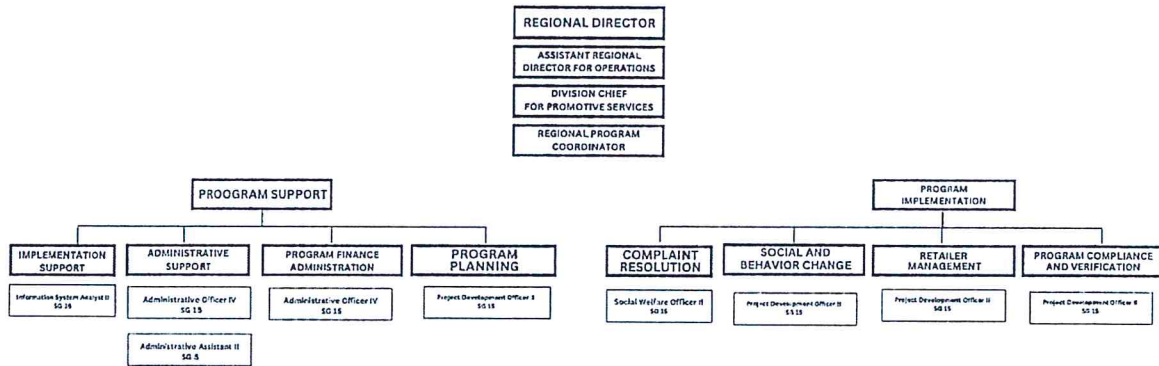
1. For the National Program Management Office, the DSWD Central Office; and
2. For the Regional Program Management Office (RPMOs), the Field Offices (Cagayan Valley, Bicol Region, Western Visayas, Central Visayas, Eastern Visayas, Zamboanga Peninsula, Northern Mindanao, SOCCSKSARGEN, NCR and CARAGA).

### WALANG GUTOM NATIONAL PROGRAM MANAGEMENT OFFICE



Please see Annex A for your reference.

## WALANG GUTOM REGIONAL PROGRAM MANAGEMENT OFFICE



Please see Annex B for your reference.

## V. FUNCTIONS

### A. GENERAL FUNCTION

The role of the Walang Gutom National and Regional Program Management Office is to operationalize the WGP. The mission is to efficiently decrease the incidence of involuntary hunger experienced by low-income households and make them productive citizens of the country.

Specifically, it aims to:

1. Provide households access to food through food credit assistance using EBT cards;
2. Establish systems and mechanisms to make the assistance readily available and accessible;
3. Capacitate implementers of the WGP and stakeholders to converge with existing relevant programs and services of the government and of the department;
4. Provide opportunities through job training and other employment promotion activities; and
5. Encourage a whole-of-nation approach through the participation of Small and Medium Enterprises, supermarkets, Kadiwa, and other government

institutions as partners in the implementation of the Program.

## B. PROGRAM SUPPORT

- 1. Implementation Support.** Spearhead the development of WGP - Information System that covers end-to-end transactions. Consequently, the NPMO will provide technical support to and oversee the RPMO for the implementation of the WGP-IS. The NPMO will provide a complete list of potential beneficiaries for validation and registration that will be cascaded to the RPMO for verification. After which, the RPMO shall provide NPMO with updated beneficiary data after verification.
- 2. Administrative Support.** Craft and monitor the Work and Financial Plans (WFP), Project Procurement Management Plans (PPMP), Annual Procurement Plans (APPs), Disbursement Plan and Budget Utilization Reports, and Consolidated Monitoring reports. Moreover, this section will support the administrative requirements and necessities of the office.
- 3. Program Finance Administration.** Provide efficient and effective management of grants to ensure optimal utilization and that the eligible and compliant Walang Gutom beneficiaries are given grants at the most timely, efficient, and cost-effective means.
- 4. Program Planning.** Oversee strategic planning, develop evaluation tools, and conduct monitoring and evaluation to guide and assess the Program. This involves crafting a strategic plan in collaboration with stakeholders and the strategic framework that guides the operational focus of the divisions. Additionally, integrate with other sections to ensure a cohesive approach to the Program design and its delivery, create tools to evaluate Program impact, and implement an assessment framework.

## C. PROGRAM IMPLEMENTATION

- 1. Complaint Resolution.** Develop a feedback protocol for gathering complaints, suggestions, recommendations, and inputs to improve the Program. Additionally, the protocol shall include a grievance mechanism that promotes transparency, fairness, and accountability. This will likewise provide individuals with a structured and supportive framework to voice their concerns and seek resolution.
- 2. Social and Behavior Change.** Spearhead the capacity building and Social Behavior Change Communication (SBCC) efforts within the WGP. This section is versatile, requiring the development and implementation of comprehensive nutrition education and productivity enhancement modules, in addition to other SBCC interventions.

3. **Retailer Management.** Identify, assess, select, register, onboard, and contract private retailers and KADIWA stores, as partners in the implementation of the WGP and regularly monitor and update retailers and retailers' dashboards throughout the whole Program duration. Additionally, coordinate with the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) and Department of Agriculture (DA) for the imposed ceiling prices of commodities.
4. **Program Compliance and Verification.** Ensure that the technical assistance needs of the RPMOs, particularly during critical compliance verification activities, are fulfilled, ensures the completeness and accuracy of the generated Compliance Verification Forms. Additionally, gather and analyze compiled information from RPMOs to incorporate and update the Compliance Verification Dashboard.

**VI. MONITORING**

1. The NPMO shall develop a monitoring tool to be implemented by the RPMO;
2. The RPMO shall provide NPMO monthly and quarterly monitoring reports; and
3. The NPMO shall consolidate reports from the RPMO.

**VII. EFFECTIVITY**

This issuance shall take effect immediately after fifteen (15) days from the date of publication in the Official Gazette or a newspaper of general circulation. This Memorandum of Circular shall also be published on the DSWD official website and copies of this circular be issued to the Central Office and concerned Field Offices for their information and guidance.

Issued in Quezon City, Metro Manila.

  
REX GATCHALIAN  
Secretary  
Date: 08 APR 2024

**Certified True Copy**

  
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