



**Republic of the Philippines**  
**Department of Social Welfare and Development**  
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**MEMORANDUM CIRCULAR**

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**SUBJECT: DSWD THRUSTS AND PRIORITIES FOR CY 2008**

The **Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD)** is guided by the **Medium Term Philippine Development Plan (MTPDP) 2004 – 2010**. It works in partnership with National Government Agencies (NGAs), Local Government Units (LGUs) and civil society in the implementation of strategies, programs, projects and activities for the poor, disadvantaged and vulnerable sectors of our society.

The DSWD action plans relative to livelihood, protection of the vulnerable and empowerment are found in the MTPDP, specifically Chapter 12, Part 3 entitled, "Responding to Basic Needs of the Poor."

Consistent with the MTPDP, the Department's thrusts and priorities for 2008 are anchored on the following Major Final Outputs (MFOs):

- A. Services related to the formulation and advocacy of policies, plans and programs;
- B. Standard setting, licensing and accreditation services;
- C. Provision of support services and technical assistance to intermediaries; and
- D. Provision of services for community and center-based clients.

Along with these MFOs, the Department has taken steps to respond to the new challenges it faces. This will lead towards social policy and institutional reforms to better fit the Department in implementing its steering role.

The recent Social Development Forum and Visioning Workshop paved the way for the Department to identify strategic directions to undertake its new mandate from direct service provider to a leader in policy and program development in the social welfare and development sector.

The Department continually promotes a policy environment consistent with the MTPDP, the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and other international/regional/national/sectoral commitments of our country that serve the best interests of the most vulnerable sector of society. The Philippine government is a signatory to several international treaties and conventions that call for the fulfillment of the rights and protection of children, youth, women, persons with disabilities, older persons, families, communities and victims of disasters. These international commitments include the *Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) and its Optional Protocols*; the *Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW)*; *Convention on Organized Transnational Crime and its Protocols*; *BIWAKO Millennium Framework for Action Towards an Inclusive Barrier Free and Rights Based Society for Persons with*

*Disabilities*; and the *Madrid Plan of Action on Ageing*, among others. Likewise, the Philippine government is also a signatory to the *World Summit on Social Development Declaration*, which recognizes the importance of social development and the well-being of people. Moreover at the regional level, the Philippines thru the Department as a member of the ASEAN Sectoral Ministerial Body on Social Welfare and Development, shall comply and adhere to the commitments specified under the *2004-2010 Vientiane Action Programme*, the *2001 Declaration on the Commitments on Children* and other social welfare and development areas on ASEAN Socio-Cultural Cooperation.

In its effort to ensure that the agency is responsive to its mandate, the Department sought the assistance of the World Bank through the National Sector Support for Social Welfare and Development Reform Project, which is under the funding assistance of the Japan Policy and Human Resource Development (PHRD) Grant.

With this funding support, the Department will undertake various processes and activities to attain the following development objectives: 1) improve the delivery of basic social welfare and development services and reduce vulnerability of the poorest and marginalized groups; 2) reform the administration and delivery of basic social services including social protection services through integrated reforms at the national and local levels; and 3) build capacity of the DSWD and associated agencies in performance-oriented budgeting and management. Guided by these objectives, the following will be undertaken:

## **I. SERVICES**

### **A. Services Related to the Formulation and Advocacy of Policies, Plans, and Programs**

#### **A. 1. Policy and Plans Development**

1. Develop policies along issues on Social Welfare and Development (SWD) through position papers, policy papers, and policy recommendations relevant to the SWD sector.
2. Continuing advocacy to the following key legislations with DSWD as the main proponent:
  - 2.1 An Act Granting the Magna Carta for Day Care Workers, Providing Funds Therefor, and for Other Purposes
  - 2.2 Bill Providing Special Protection to Internally Displaced Persons
  - 2.3 An Act to Strengthen and Propagate Foster Care for Abandoned and Neglected Children and for Other Children with Special Needs, Providing Funds Therefor and for Other Purposes
  - 2.4 An Act Requiring Certification of DSWD to Declare a Child Legally Available for Adoption Proceedings Amending Republic Act (RA) No. 8552 (Domestic Adoption Act of 1998), RA 8043 (Inter-Country Adoption Act), Presidential Decree (PD) No. 603 Child and Youth Welfare Code and for Other Purposes

3. Review social legislations with unfunded programs and sectoral situation on social welfare and protection e.g. Rule 104 letter (g) of the IRR of RA 9344 which require DSWD to establish and maintain Regional Rehabilitation Centers for Youth. The DSWD shall include in its budget plan the appropriation for the establishment of RRCYs in each region of the country.
4. Assess social welfare and protection government spending and formulate Medium-Term Social Sector Expenditure Plan with priorities in areas mapped with the highest cases of vulnerable and disadvantaged sectors.
5. Develop mechanisms to enhance DSWD's role and strengthen coordination and partnership with other key players in the SWD sector (e.g. other government agencies, local government units, non-governmental organizations, people's organizations, business sector, academe, court social worker, medical social worker, other social work practitioners and disadvantaged sectoral groups) in the delivery of social welfare and protection services.
6. Adhere to international commitments including the ASEAN Senior Officials Meeting on Social Welfare and Development (SOMSWD) Strategic Framework and Plans of Action for Social Welfare, Family, and Children.
7. Coordinate the updating/enhancement/implementation of national, operational, and sectoral plans, such as:
  - 7.1 National Sectoral Plan/s for the Filipino Family (2005-2015) and for Senior Citizens (2006-2010);
  - 7.2 SWD Medium Term Development Plan and Investment Plan; and
  - 7.3 DSWD Sectoral Plans for Children, Youth, Persons with Disabilities, and Gender and Development.
8. Exercise oversight functions on the attached agencies, namely the Inter-Country Adoption Board, National Council for the Welfare of Disabled Persons, Council for the Welfare of Children, the National Commission on the Role of Filipino Women and the National Youth Commission.
9. Develop appropriate evidence-based social welfare and development programs, strategies, activities, and mechanisms as well as strengthen research, data management, monitoring and evaluation, and impact assessment for policy, plans, and programs.

#### **A. 2. Social Technology Development**

1. Implement a Conditional Cash Transfer program for poorest families in selected rural areas with high poverty incidence.

2. Promote institutionalization of successful pilot projects/programs for integration in the regular programs of DSWD, LGUs, and NGOs, among others.
3. Develop/Enhance SWD related programs in response to newly enacted laws, executive orders, international commitments and other pertinent regulations.
4. Develop/Enhance and implement programs and projects in response to current and emerging issues and needs of the target clientele such as OFWs, victims of disaster, PWDs, OPs, and deportees.
5. Provide technical assistance to DSWD Field Offices and other intermediaries in the development and implementation of new technologies.

#### **B. Enhancement of Standards and Compliance Monitoring**

1. Review operations and funding of existing social welfare and development (SWD) agencies and facilities operated by DSWD, LGUs and NGOs at the national and regional level.
2. Enhance standards and performance indicators for SWD agencies/facilities and service providers i.e. Day Care Workers, Marriage Counselors, Social Workers Handling Court-Related Cases, and Critical Incident Stress Debriefing Practitioners, among others.
3. Accelerate registration, licensing, and accreditation of SWD and Social Work (SW) agencies as well as service providers.
4. Monitor compliance of SWD and SW agencies to SWD standards for quality service delivery and sanctions to NGOs complained of.
5. Document best practices of accredited SW agencies and service providers as inputs to institutional development and promotion of learning in social welfare and development.

#### **C. Provision of Services for Community and Center Based Clients**

1. Develop/Enhance targeting mechanisms of selected programs, especially community-based programs using community-based monitoring systems.
2. Improve implementation of retained community-based programs and projects for children, youth, women, PWDs, OPs, and other individuals and families in difficult circumstances or crisis situations (e.g. Implement SWD program as provided for in the Juvenile Justice and Welfare Act of 2006 and other laws as well as executive orders).
3. Enhance the rehabilitation process of cases/wards admitted in different centers and facilities.
4. Manage and operate DSWD centers and residential care facilities as centers of excellence.

5. Increase augmentation and technical assistance to SWD intermediaries in the implementation of protective services for children, youth, women, PWDs, OPs, including individuals and families in crisis situations and those needing social protection.
6. Scale-up economic/livelihood projects such as Self-Employment Assistance-Kaunlaran (SEA-K), Tindahan Natin and NLSF-DSWD Micro-Finance Program in the 47 unserved municipalities by micro-finance institutions per Executive Order No. 558-A series of 2006.
7. Institutionalize/Localize the community driven development strategy/approach to the communities.
8. Implement foreign-assisted projects, such as :
  - Strengthening Government Mechanisms in Mainstreaming Gender in Reproductive Health and Anti-Violence Against Women and Children Programs in Regions III, V, VII, XII, CAR and ARMM under the UNFPA Project
  - Systems, Tools and Capacity Development for Economic and Social Empowerment of Returned Victims of Trafficking in the Philippines funded by ILO

#### KALAHI-CIDSS

- KALAHI-CIDSS in all regions except Regions I, II, III, ARMM and NCR partially funded by the World Bank Loan
  - Social Inclusion Project in selected indigenous peoples (IP), women and conflict-affected KALAHI-CIDSS areas with Japan Social Development Fund (JSDF) support
  - Empowerment and Community Development – Kapangyarihan at Kaunlaran sa Barangay in Tineg, Abra funded by the New Zealand Government
  - *Poder y Prosperidad dela Comunidad* projects in selected eight (8) municipalities with *Agencia Española Cooperacion Internacional (AECI)* support
9. Implement International Social Welfare Services for Filipino Nationals (ISWSFN).

## II. RESEARCH

1. Conduct research and development studies on SWD issues such as :
  - A Study on the Roles and Contributions of Social Workers in the Restorative Justice Process
  - Cybersex: Proposed Intervention through Policy and Program
  - Reviewing the State Policy on Mendicancy and Vagrancy

2. Develop Social and Environmental Safeguards Plan for marginalized sectors like Indigenous People or IPs, urban poor, women, and farming communities affected by development projects.
3. Conduct of research and development of social technologies for children, youth, women, older persons (OPs), persons with disabilities (PWDs), families, and communities.

### **III. INSTITUTIONAL DEVELOPMENT AND STRENGTHENING THROUGH CAPABILITY BUILDING**

1. Develop organic staff, stakeholders, and intermediaries' skills through the provision of the following training programs:

#### *For Organic Staff*

- Social Marketing
- Designing Monitoring and Evaluation System
- Management Information Systems
- Database Management
- Facility Management
- Financial Management
- Technical Writing
- Program/Project Designing, Packaging and Documentation

#### *For Organic and External Staff (Intermediaries and Stakeholders)*

- Social Welfare and Protection Program
  - Impact Evaluation
  - Preparation of Medium-Term Expenditure Plan
  - Effective Targeting Mechanisms
  - Standard Setting
  - Management of Facilities and Services Delivery
  - Designing Conditional Cash Transfer Programs
  - Convergence and Institutional Linkages
  - Social Safeguard
  - Training Management and Training of Trainors
  - Process Improvement
  - Community and center-based programs and services
  - Planning and policy formulation
  - Case management
  - SWD project monitoring and evaluation
  - External resource accessing
  - Social Research
  - Resource Generation and Networking
2. Monitor implementation of re-entry plans and assess the impact to trained staff and unit/office concerned to ensure application of learnings towards improved service delivery and/or organizational effectiveness.
  3. Strengthen networking for continuing education and learnings, e.g. sharing across regions, as well as institutionalize Core Group of Specialist and SWD learning networks.

4. Conduct capability building and enhance competencies of internal staff to respond to needs of all stakeholders along but not limited to planning and policy analysis, monitoring and evaluation, research, effective communication, resource generation, human/customer relations, information technology, development planning and management, problem solving, and decision making.
5. Enhance the skills of trained DSWD Field Instructors on student training and supervision.

#### IV. STRATEGIC SUPPORT SERVICES

1. Develop and improve a social marketing plan for programs, policy, and operations.
2. Install data and information systems and improve existing systems (i.e. computerization of Travel Clearance and Issuance of Solicitation Permit, Registration, Licensing and Accreditation of Agencies) for social welfare and protection programs including those of the LGUs, NGOs, private sector, and the communities.
3. Improve DSWD website services for online transactions for travel clearance, crisis intervention units, and adoption.
4. Improve/Enhance the Information Technology (IT) capability of all offices in the Department.
5. Monitor and update the Department's compliance to the Integrity Development Action Plans (IDAPs).
6. Full operationalization of the Institutional Development Framework.

All Offices, Bureaus, Services and Field Offices are enjoined to adopt the above-mentioned thrusts and priorities in the planning, budgeting and implementation of the programs and projects of the Department for CY 2008.

Issued in Quezon City, this 30<sup>th</sup> day of April 2007.

  
**DR. ESPERANZA I. CABRAL**  
Secretary

  
EIC/ARB/FRV/GEF/DSF/CBL/ecb  
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