

**MEMORANDUM CIRCULAR
NUMBER 15
SERIES OF 2020**

**GUIDELINES ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE BALIK PROBINSYA,
BAGONG PAG-ASA PROGRAM BY THE DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL WELFARE
AND DEVELOPMENT**

I. RATIONALE

Based on the 2015 Census of Population, Metro Manila is the most densely populated region in the country with a population density of 20,875 persons per square kilometer. This figure was an increase from the 2010 data of 16,032 persons per square kilometer. NCR's population density is 60 times higher than the average of 337 persons per square kilometer population at the national level¹.

An early conducted study by Banzon-Bautista (1998) on urbanization mentions several factors behind migrants from to the cities, including a perception of better employment, better access to services and facilities, and existence of social networks in the migrants' place of destination². These factors support the observation that Metro Manila and other highly urbanized cities are congested with families coming from the provinces. Most of these families lack the economic viability or opportunity in the rural areas, do not own permanent places of residence nor own lands to be a source of livelihood, and lack access to basic services in the province.

The availability of essential services, income opportunities, and settlement that will be sufficient to provide for the needs of the growing population in cities with high population densities becomes an issue. Local Government Units (LGUs) of major cities are challenged with the increasing demand for housing, infrastructure, and essential services to respond to the high volume of migration to cities. An increase in the number of residents in Metro Manila resulted in the proliferation of informal settlers without adequate access to decent living conditions without regular sources of livelihood. The number of informal settlers in the Philippines has increased from 4.1%

¹ Philippine Population Density, Philippine Statistics Authority retrieved from <https://psa.gov.ph/content/philippine-population-density-based-2015-census-population> on May 26, 2020.

² Bautista-Baunzon, Cynthia (1998). Culture and Urbanization: The Philippine Case. *Philippine Sociological Review* Vol. 46, No. 3/4 (July-December 1998), pp. 21-45, retrieved from https://www.jstor.org/stable/23898231?read-now=1&refreqid=excelsior:efd964418bd9d2d7935cb66ad540c33b&seq=5#page_scan_tab_contents, May 26, 2020



in 2003 to 5.4% in 2012³. The recent rise in the number of cases of Covid-19 disease poses an even greater risk to the congested Metro Manila, an additional responsibility to the LGUs to allocate resources to health emergency response. These resources could have been used to other developmental programs and social investments, focusing on fostering human capital and boosting economic opportunities in their localities.

One of the proposed strategies to address rising trends in urban migration and decongest key metropolitan cities is to promote rural development by opening up opportunities in the rural areas that can support living arrangements and sustain life in the provinces. The Balik Probinsya, Balik Pag-asa Program aims to provide opportunities for families from urban areas who will commit to begin anew in rural areas by providing material support, capacity building, and psycho-social intervention to support families from the cities resettle in their new communities. In the long term, the program hopes to contribute to decongesting urban cities and in facilitating development in rural areas.

II. LEGAL BASES

Executive Order No. 114 s. 2020, "Institutionalizing the Balik Probinsya, Bagong Pag-asa Program as a Pillar of Balanced Regional Development, Creating a Council Therefore, and for Other Purposes", provides one of its key areas on Social Welfare, Health and Employment and to develop comprehensive assistance packages to encourage the voluntary and immediate movement to their respective home provinces, especially those stranded in the NCR due to the Enhanced Community Quarantine.

Executive Order No. 292 s. 1987, "Instituting The "Administrative Code Of 1987", provides the renaming from Ministry to Department reiterating the basic mandate and structural and functional authority of the Department of Social Welfare and Development under E.O. 123;

Executive Order No. 443 s. 1997, "Providing for the Adoption of Comprehensive and Integrated Delivery of Social Services as National Delivery Mechanism for the Minimum Basic Needs (MBN) Approach".

Administrative Order 194 s. 1995, "Providing for the Adoption of the Social Reform Agenda Convergence Policy and its Operationalization, and Other Purposes", whereas, the Social Reform Agenda (SRA) intends to improve access to quality basic services; accelerate asset reform and sustainable development of productive resources, and allow greater access to economic opportunities; and strengthen institution-building and participation in the governance of Basic Sectors in the 19 priority provinces and other priority geographic areas, as embodied in Memorandum Order No. 213 dated June 17, 1994.

³ (2017). Philippines Urbanization Review: Fostering Competitive, Sustainable and Inclusive Cities Full Report, The World Bank, retrieved from <http://documents.worldbank.org/curated/en/963061495807736752/pdf/114088-REVISED-PUBLIC-Philippines-Urbanization-Review-Full-Report.pdf> on May 12, 2020.



Proclamation No. 922 s. 2020, "Declaring a State of Public Health Emergency Throughout the Philippines".

Proclamation No. 929 s. 2020, "Declaring a State of Calamity throughout the Philippines due to Corona Virus Disease 2019" (COVID-19).

Republic Act No. 11469 s. 2020, "Bayanihan to Heal as One Act", declared the existence of a national emergency arising from the Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) situation and national policy in connection therewith, and authorizing the President of the Republic of the Philippines for a limited period and subject to restrictions, to exercise powers necessary and proper to carry out the declared national policy and for other purposes.

DSWD Memorandum Circular No. 02 s. 2014, "Guidelines to Strengthen and Enhance the implementation of the Assistance to Individuals in Crisis Situation (AICS)", covering the transportation assistance of the Department.

DSWD Memorandum Circular No. 22 s. of 2019, "Comprehensive Guidelines on the Implementation of Sustainable Livelihood Program", stipulating the provision of assistance to referred individuals.

Republic Act 7160 also known as the "Local Government Code" transferring control and responsibility of delivering basic services to the hands of local government units.

Republic Act 11032 also known as the "Act of the Ease of Doing Business and Efficient Government Service Delivery".

III. OBJECTIVES

The Balik Probinsya, Bagong Pag-asa (BP2) program shall provide comprehensive services to families who will return to their provinces and funding support to assist the Local Government Units to improve access to basic services. Particularly, it shall ensure the following:

- a. Families who will avail of the program will be provided holistic interventions to achieve full integration into the communities;
- b. Provide support for the family's economic stability and development;
- c. Provide community grants for projects that ensure access to basic services;
- d. Conduct local participatory process to promote participation, transparency and accountability in all phases of implementation; and
- e. Enhance family and community resilience to natural and man-made disasters and health emergencies.



IV. DESCRIPTION OF THE PROJECT

The BP2 program is one of the support measures that could lead to the decongestion of urban poor communities where a high incidence of COVID-19 is recorded and contributes to the achievement of balanced regional development. It will enable the families who decided and/or are qualified to return to their hometown or resettlement areas and have the opportunities to start a new life after the COVID-19 enhanced community quarantine period and other disasters.

The program will start with the initially-assessed 1,000 families in Metro Manila from the generated list of applicants who utilized the registration system established by the National Housing Authority (NHA) at www.balikprobinsya.ph, mobile phone registration and walk-in registration platforms available at the LGU level. The succeeding implementation would cover a total of 10,000 families in a span of three years. Each year, about 3,000 families will be targeted and catered by the program. For beneficiaries who do not have a hometown or province that they can return to, they will be relocated to pre-identified municipalities that will support the program. It is estimated that around 50 municipalities will be engaged per year with this program. Evaluation reports from the first batch of beneficiaries will be the basis for developing better strategies in targeting more families.

V. TARGET BENEFICIARIES

The BP2 program will benefit low-income families who will opt to move out of Metro Manila or other highly urbanized cities and return to or relocate to other provinces due to but not limited to the following circumstances: (i) the family decided to resettle to the identified rural provinces, (ii) loss of a job or other source of income, (iii) unsafe dwelling places; or (iv) exposure to health and safety risks and other environmental hazards in their current area of residence.

VI. TYPES OF ASSISTANCE

The BP2 program may provide in the form of or combination of any of the following assistance. Please see attached Annex A for estimate computation of the packages.

A. For individual:

A.1 *Transportation Assistance*. Provision of PhP 3,000.00 to PhP 5,000.00 or actual transportation cost and limited food assistance while in transit through the Assistance in Individuals in Crisis Situations (AICS).

A.2 *Livelihood Assistance*. A maximum of PhP15,000.00 shall be provided, following the implementation process for individual referrals and walk-in clients as stipulated in the MC 22 s. 2019 of the Sustainable Livelihood Program (SLP) of the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD), if BP2 program participants are not eligible to receive livelihood



support from other agencies such as Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE), Department of Trade and Industry (DTI), Department of Agriculture (DA), etc.

B. For family:

B.1 *Transportation/Relocation Assistance*. This is a financial support that will be provided to the family beneficiaries ranging from PhP 3,000.00 - 35,000.00 to move their properties from their current residence to the identified place where they will relocate. The amount of the package will depend on the mode of transportation arrangements with the Department of Transportation (DOTr).

B.2 *Transitory Family Support Package*. This is a provision ranging from PhP 10,000 - 70,000.00 that will cover the food and non-food items needed while the family is in the transition phase. Non-food items include but not limited to personal hygiene kits, clothing, sleeping kits, cooking/eating utensils, first aid kits, school supplies, etc. that will be given to the family beneficiaries upon return to their hometown or relocation area.

B.3 *Livelihood Settlement Grants*. This is a start-up financial assistance using SLP mechanism to directly provide each eligible recipient family in the establishment or continuity of their livelihoods or economic activities in the communities where they will return/be resettled; returning families that cannot be covered by other agency's livelihood support. The LSG shall only be provided once per eligible family should other agency does not have available funds for the purpose and assistance shall not exceed the maximum amount of PhP 50,000.00.

The SLP support to the BP2 program is the provision of livelihood assistance or employment facilitation to returning individuals and families. A separate guidance note detailing the processes for the implementation of the SLP-BP2 scheme will be issued by the Cluster Head within thirty (30) days upon approval of this Circular.

B.4 *Transitory shelter assistance*. Provision for rental subsidy for a minimum of one (1) year to a maximum of two (2) years subject to review of the case manager. Rental subsidy with an estimate range of PhP 120,000 - 250,000.00 for a year, will be provided while waiting for the NHA housing to be constructed and/or awarded.

B.5 *Psychosocial support*. In preparation for the reintegration process, series of dialogue, specialized sessions for the family including family conference/meeting shall be provided before the actual transfer of family beneficiaries. Likewise, continued family case management and



monitoring must be undertaken by the receiving LGUs for a more sustainable and effective intervention to achieve the program goals.

C. For community

C.1 *Community grants*. This is a support mechanism provided to the LGUs to assist them with the projects needed for the development or rehabilitation of an area to be an adequate resettlement/relocation township (i.e., public utilities like water system, community centers, etc.). This will be implemented through the KALAHI-CIDSS Community-Driven Development Program. This package includes:

- Municipal Grant Allocation for basic services – Php 7.5 million⁴
- Social Preparation Activities – Php 500,000⁴ per municipality
- Capacity Building Intervention – Php 300,000⁴ per municipality

The types of services and total amount of assistance to be provided per family will vary in accordance with the results of the social worker's assessment hired by the DSWD in coordination and collaboration with the local social welfare officers and other staff in the field office. Likewise, the community projects will depend on the participatory processes/analysis of the community where the family, as new members, will take part in the process.

VII. IMPLEMENTATION PROCEDURES

A. Pre-implementation:

1. By virtue of Executive Order 114 s. 2020, Creation of the Balik Probinsya, Bagong Pag-Asa Council to perform specific tasks stipulated in the same order. *Please see Annex B - Executive Order 114, for reference.*
2. Corresponding coordination and submission of the pre-requisite documents related to implementation must be adhered to by all participating agencies for the formulation of synchronized and harmonized guidelines.

B. Implementation:

1. The hired Social Worker of the BP2 program shall facilitate the program orientation with the regional office team and to all stakeholders in the sending local government units.

With the assistance of the BP2-hired social worker, the sending local government unit through its local social welfare development office will

⁴ Conservative assumption



help in the registration to the BP2 program, data collection, assessment, conduct of collateral interviews and formulation of family case study reports of the Modified Conditional Cash Transfer (MCCT) beneficiaries and all other identified and eligible families to be resettled in the rural community.

2. Social preparations for the family beneficiaries that includes but not limited to family conference, provision of psycho-social interventions, planning and securing of all family's legal documents shall be conducted by the LGU social workers in collaboration with the BP2-hired social workers.
3. Upon completion of the requirements and interventions, the list of verified family beneficiaries will be endorsed to the BP2 Secretariat for appropriate scheduling of dispatch and actual date of travel to the rural relocation site. Further, endorsement and coordination with the receiving field office of the validated list shall be done for the information dissemination and preparation of the respective receiving local government units.
4. Memorandum of Agreement/Understanding must be signed between the family beneficiaries, local government unit and the DSWD as part of the intervention planning and safeguards.
5. Transportation and Relocation Package is cash assistance that will be given to the individual or family beneficiaries during the dispatch and actual date of return to the identified rural communities, upon securing clearance from the Department of Health (DOH). The amount will be determined depending on the DOTr's commitment and arrangements with the service provider.
6. Upon relocation, the family case management folder of the family beneficiaries shall be endorsed and turned over to the receiving local government units through its local social welfare development office.
7. For the individual returnee, the Regional Team shall provide two (2) family food packs to the beneficiaries and livelihood support consist of employment facilitation support and capital fund, as applicable. Likewise, coordination with DOLE, Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (TESDA) and other agencies providing livelihood support must be done for a complementation support needed by the individual as they start anew in their respective locality.
8. Provision of Transitory Family Support Package will be downloaded/transferred to the account of the family upon transfer to the province.



9. Implementation of different intervention plans by the DSWD and all other participating agencies, following their project implementation mechanisms, shall commence immediately upon transfer of the family beneficiaries to their new locality.
10. Regular monitoring and meetings with the family beneficiaries, family conference and counselling should also be observed, by the receiving LGUs to ensure that the participants have adjusted to their new environment and are on track on their commitment to the program.
11. The receiving LGUs shall submit progress report to the oversight agencies about after care plan/program, mechanism provided by the LGU to the family beneficiaries and other related interventions.
12. The existing program grievance redress mechanism must be strengthened to provide a means of dealing promptly with any concerns that includes but not limited to program implementation and other irregularities observed.
13. Sanctions that will be set and stipulated in the harmonized implementing rules and regulation of the BP2 program must be strictly adhered.

A detailed process flow that will describe the step-by-step implementation procedures is found in Annex C.

VIII. Management of Funds

1. Family beneficiaries shall receive the assistance through a cash/atm card opened with an authorized government depository bank (i.e. Landbank, Development Bank of the Philippines, etc.) after their applications are evaluated, endorsed and approved by DSWD. This may also be issued in the form of cash through payout per tranche depending on the agreement with the family from a cash advance of a DSWD employee or through issuance of a check in cases where the cash/atm card facility is not yet available. This shall be subject to existing government budgeting, accounting and auditing laws, rules and regulations and other relevant related laws.
2. For the provision of livelihood assistance and LSG, any disbursements resulting from the implementation of such shall be charged to the SLP appropriation/allotment, within the period in which the corresponding obligations were incurred, in accordance with existing accounting, budgeting and auditing rules and regulations. The SLP shall include funds for the implementation of livelihood assistance and LSG in support to BP2 Program in its respective annual budget proposals.
3. Management of the community grants to be provided to the receiving community/LGU shall follow existing government budgeting, accounting and auditing laws rules and regulations including any other issuance that will be issued



by DSWD in the implementation of its Community-Driven Development (CDD) approach for the beneficiaries.

4. Grant Releasing Process for the Receiving Community

- 4.1. After a resolution has been passed and approved for the selected and prioritized Sub-Projects (SPs) of the barangay, the Barangay Sub-Project Management Committee (BSPMC) and the Barangay Treasurer shall coordinate with the Area Coordinating Team (ACT) of the KALAHI CIDSS for the encoding of SPs prioritized in the Electronic Request for Fund Release System (eRFRs). Simultaneously, the barangay shall also submit corresponding Request for Fund Release (RFR) documents to the ACT for review.
- 4.2. The ACT shall forward the corresponding resolution to the Regional Program Management Office (RPMO) and shall inform of the encoded SPs in the eRFRs. This shall then be reviewed by the RPMO for accuracy, validity and consistency. Accordingly, the ACT shall review the RFR documents.
- 4.3. After the RPMO has reviewed the encoded and approved SPs in the eRFRs the RPMO shall notify the KALAHI CIDSS National Program Management Office (NPMO) for the request of downloading of Sub-Allotment Release Order (Sub-ARO) and Notice of Transfer Allocation (NTA). It is also expected that RFR documents are already reviewed by ACT and are forwarded to RPMO within five (5) days after the barangay has submitted to the documents to the ACT.
- 4.4. The NPMO, through the Central Office Financial Management Service, shall then download the corresponding Sub-ARO and NTA to the Field Office. The RFRs are expected to be ready for downloading to Barangay Local Government Unit (BLGU) Trust Accounts, opened specifically for the implementation of the program, after being reviewed and processed by RPMO and Field Office Financial Management Unit within 5 days from receipt from the ACT.
- 4.5. The Field Office shall then transfer funds to the BLGU Trust Account of the Barangay on the basis of the approved and reviewed Request for Fund Release Documents specifically for use in their SP implementation.

5. Transfer of Funds to Barangay Local Government Unit

- 5.1. The BLGU shall open a Barangay Trust Fund Account for deposits of community grants and Local Counterpart Contribution, if any. The Trust Account shall be used solely for the purpose of the SP implementation. Signatories of the BLGU account shall follow the existing signatories as

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provided by law. It must be ensured that during the council meetings, funds are set aside for the required amount in opening a bank account.

5.2. Community grants shall be downloaded in two tranches (80%-20%). Tranching shall be based on work requirements reflected on the Program of Works and the procurement plan of the community.

5.3. The transfer of funds shall be properly taken up in the books of the DSWD Field Office and BLGU as the Source Agency and Implementing Agency, respectively.

6. Utilization

The provisions of the BLGU Financial Management System shall govern the utilization of the funds released. Further, the BLGU shall be guided by the documentary requirements prescribed under COA Circular 2012-001 dated June 14, 2012, and other applicable laws, rules and regulations during the processing of the community disbursements.

7. Reporting and Liquidation

7.1. The BLGUs shall submit pertinent financial transaction documents to the Office of the Municipal Accountant and the resident COA of the municipality as mentioned in COA Circular 2019-001 dated January 30, 2019.

7.2. The following reports shall be submitted by the BLGU to the DSWD Field Office in conformance to the existing government rules:

7.2.1. Reports of Checks Issued and Report of Disbursement/Utilization prepared by the Barangay Treasurer, approved by the Punong Barangay, certified by the Municipal Accountant, noted by the Municipal Local Government Unit (MLGU) Local Chief Executive and duly received by the auditor of the LGU. This shall be submitted within ten (10) days after the end of each month and finally, at the end of the agreed period for the SP Implementation.

7.2.2. Upon completion of the sub-project, a report of 100% physical accomplishment prepared by the BSPMC Chairperson duly approved by the Punong Barangay, and noted by the Municipal Local Chief Executive.

7.2.3. If any, copy of the Official Receipt issued by the DSWD for the refund of the unexpended balance.

7.3. Financial reports shall follow KALAHI-CIDSS community financial reports, templates and procedures as prescribed in the program finance manuals. The signatories of the reports, however, shall adopt the BLGU financial management system requirements.



7.4 - The DSWD Field Office shall regularly submit financial reports to the NPMO in line with the existing setup and reportorial requirements of the program.

8. Closing of Account

The BLGUs shall close the Barangay Trust Fund Account opened for the sub-project implementation after it has served its purpose.

9. DSWD Field Offices shall ensure that this guideline is well-understood and properly implemented by the communities and B/MLGUs. Adequate controls and safeguards shall be put in place to ensure that all relevant laws, rules and regulations are strictly observed and complied with.

IX. EFFECTIVITY

This Circular takes effect immediately and supersedes previous issuances inconsistent herewith.

Issued in Quezon City, this 8th day of June, 2020.



ROLANDO JOSELITO D. BAUTISTA
Secretary

Certified True Copy:


HORACIO S. SAMSON, JR

08 JUN 2020

Annex A: Estimate Computation of Packages

PACKAGES	PARTICULARS	AMOUNT
Transportation assistance/Relocation assistance	PhP 3,500 x 5 family members PhP 500 x 5 food allowance in transit PhP 15,000.00 for hauling of family belongings and essential appliances	PhP 35,000.00
Transitory Family Support Package	Basic Fixtures - Beddings, Table and Chairs, Kitchen (cooking and dining Utensils) First Aid Kits Food support School requirements - uniform, bags, shoes and school supplies.	PhP 70,000.00
Transitory shelter assistance	House Rental for 1 year to 2 years while the family is settling down or Department of Housing is constructing the houses. 1HH x PhP 5,000 x 2 rooms per family regardless x 24 months (2 rooms per family with a family of 5 and maximum of 8)	PhP 120,000.00 to PhP 250,000.00
Livelihood Settlement Grants	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Seed capital fund to purchase small tools, raw materials and other inputs, and common service facilities such as machinery, equipment, and plant needed in starting or expanding a micro-enterprise. ● Acquisition of knowledge and skills needed in the management of the micro-enterprise to be established. ● Support for pre-employment requirements for a <i>guaranteed employment</i>, such as: 1) processing of employment documentary requirements; 2) payment of medical exams; 3) purchase of basic employment tools and materials; and 4) transportation allowance, meal allowance, and board and lodging until the first 15 days of employment. 	PhP 50,000.00



MALACAÑAN PALACE
MANILA

BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES

EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 114

**INSTITUTIONALIZING THE BALIK PROBINSYA, BAGONG
PAG-ASA PROGRAM AS A PILLAR OF BALANCED REGIONAL
DEVELOPMENT, CREATING A COUNCIL THEREFOR, AND FOR
OTHER PURPOSES**

WHEREAS, the National Capital Region (NCR) accounted for the largest share of the country's Gross Domestic Product at 36 percent based on the 2018 data of the Philippine Statistics Authority, while its population of 12,877,253 accounted for about 12.8 percent of the Philippine population per the 2015 census;

WHEREAS, the epicenters of the COVID-19 pandemic in the Philippines are congested areas located in the NCR;

WHEREAS, the uncontrolled upsurge of population in the NCR brings to the fore longstanding issues on the lack of viable and sustainable employment opportunities in the countryside, unbalanced regional development, and unequal distribution of wealth;

WHEREAS, Sections 9 and 21, Article II of the Constitution declare the State policies of: (i) promoting a just and dynamic social order that will ensure the prosperity and independence of the nation and free the people from poverty through policies that provide adequate social services, promote full employment, a rising standard of living, and an improved quality of life for all; and (ii) promoting comprehensive rural development;

WHEREAS, Section 1, Article XII of the Constitution states that the goals of the national economy are a more equitable distribution of opportunities, income and wealth, and an expanding productivity as the key to raising the quality of life for all, especially the underprivileged; thus, the State shall promote full employment based on sound agricultural development and the empowerment and creation of local industries that make full and efficient use of human and natural resources, and ensure that all sectors of the economy and all regions of the country have optimum opportunities to develop;

WHEREAS, the promotion of value chain development to increase agricultural and rural enterprise productivity and tourism, as well as the use of science and technology to enhance innovation and creative capacity towards self-sustaining,

THE PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES

inclusive development are key strategies in attaining the Ten-Point Socioeconomic Agenda of this Administration;

WHEREAS, the Philippine Development Plan 2017-2022 espouses the strategies of spatial development which aims to decongest the NCR and direct growth to key centers throughout the country, improve linkages by connecting rural areas to growth centers or strengthening urban-rural linkages, and make growth more inclusive by creating more opportunities for production and employment in the lagging regions, thereby reducing poverty;

WHEREAS, countryside development is one of the priority sectors in building a prosperous, predominantly middle-class society in the *Ambisyon Natin 2040*;

WHEREAS, to reverse migration to the NCR and other congested metropolises, as well as to attain rural prosperity through equitable distribution of wealth, resources and opportunities, a balanced regional development program to foster socially cohesive, resilient and sustainable rural communities needs to be institutionalized;

WHEREAS, under Section 4 of Republic Act No. 11469 or the "Bayanihan to Heal as One Act," the President is granted the temporary emergency authority to, among others, undertake such measures as may be reasonable and necessary to carry out the declared national policy under the same law, and reprogram, reallocate and realign from savings on other items of appropriations in the Fiscal Year 2020 General Appropriations Act in the Executive Department, as may be necessary and beneficial to fund measures that address and respond to the COVID-19 emergency, including social amelioration for affected communities; and

WHEREAS, under Section 17, Article VII of the Constitution, the President shall have the power of control over all executive departments, bureaus and offices, and ensure the faithful execution of laws;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, RODRIGO ROA DUTERTE, President of the Philippines, by virtue of the powers vested in me by the Constitution and existing laws, do hereby order:

Section 1. Policy of Balanced Regional Development. The State shall ensure balanced regional development and equitable distribution of wealth, resources and opportunities through policies and programs that boost countryside development and inclusive growth, provide adequate social services, and promote full employment, industrialization and an improved quality of life in rural areas. Towards this end, the "*Balik Probinsya, Bagong Pag-asa* (BP²) Program" shall be institutionalized.

Section 2. Creation of the Balik Probinsya, Bagong Pag-asa Council. To ensure whole-of-government action on the implementation of the BP² Program, the Balik Probinsya, Bagong Pag-asa Council ("Council") is hereby created, to be composed of the following:

Chairperson:	Executive Secretary;
Vice Chairperson:	Secretary for Socio-Economic Planning and Director-General, National Economic and Development Authority

Members:

- Secretary, Department of the Interior and Local Government;
- Secretary, Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD);
- Secretary, Department of Agriculture (DA);
- Secretary, Department of Agrarian Reform;
- Secretary, Department of Trade and Industry;
- Secretary, Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE);
- Secretary, Department of Health;
- Secretary, Department of Information and Communications Technology;
- Secretary, Department of Finance;
- Secretary, Department of Budget and Management (DBM);
- Secretary, Department of Public Works and Highways
- Secretary, Department of Transportation;
- Secretary, Department of Tourism;
- Secretary, Department of Human Settlements and Urban Development;
- Secretary, Department of Education (DepEd);
- Chairperson, Commission on Higher Education (CHED);
- Secretary, Department of Environment and Natural Resources;
- Director-General, Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (TESDA);
- Chairperson, Mindanao Development Authority; and
- Chairperson, Cooperative Development Authority.

A member of the Council shall designate a permanent and alternate representative, who is fully authorized to decide for and on behalf of his or her respective department, agency, or office and perform the functions as hereafter provided.

The Council shall be assisted by a Secretariat, to be headed by the General Manager of the National Housing Authority (NHA) as Executive Director, which shall provide technical and administrative support to the Council. The Secretariat shall be composed of personnel from the NHA and, as may be necessary, from member agencies of the Council.

Section 3. Powers and Functions of the Council. The Council shall have the following powers and functions:

- a. Formulate within thirty (30) days from the issuance hereof, the guidelines necessary to implement this Order, including the BP² Program Framework as defined herein;
- b. Provide overall direction in the implementation of the BP² Program, including guidance and technical assistance to government agencies and local government units (LGUs) in its implementation;

- c. Approve or modify key areas and components of the BP² Program, as well as ensure the compliance of government agencies involved in its implementation;
- d. In coordination with the Presidential Communications Operations Office, develop a strategic communications plan to educate the people and advocate for supportive policies in the local level;
- e. Identify legislative, regulatory, and policy changes to promote balanced regional development and recommend to the Congress the enactment of such reforms into law;
- f. Engage, consult and coordinate with LGUs in the formulation of policies, and implementation of the components of the BP² Program that will allow for resource-sharing arrangements through, among others, co-financing mechanisms with development partners;
- g. Enlist the support and assistance of other government agencies, instrumentalities, government-owned or -controlled corporations and state universities and colleges, as well as consult and provide avenues for the private sector, relevant stakeholders, advocacy groups and non-government organizations to participate in the attainment of the objectives of this Order;
- h. Create sub-groups, technical working groups or committees as may be deemed necessary to implement the objectives of this Order;
- i. Adopt mechanisms, such as but not limited to an online platform, and establishment of BP² desks in all offices of member agencies, to facilitate accessibility to the public, enhance monitoring of implementation, and ascertain the compliance of beneficiaries; and
- j. Perform other tasks as the President may direct.

Section 4. The Balik Probinsya, Bagong Pag-asa Program and its Key Areas. The BP² Program is hereby established as a national program of the government, and adopted as a continuing strategy to drive inclusive and balanced urban and rural development, ensure rural prosperity and complement initiatives towards attaining resilient and sustainable communities.

The BP² Program Framework shall be divided into key areas, each having measured policy objectives:

a. Empowerment of Local Industries - Introduce a sustainable program for public sector investment and private sector participation that promotes regional development. Support shall be particularly provided to micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs) to foster the continued growth of the sector, and the rationalization of a purposeful system of fiscal incentives shall be prioritized to develop forward and backward linkages and export- and domestic-oriented enterprises, access to markets and a fully integrated value chain and encourage the transfer of medium and large businesses to provincial economic hubs.

b. Food Security and Agricultural Productivity – Encourage and facilitate innovations and technologies for agricultural production, such as modern rice farming techniques, seed production and farm mechanization, conducive to long-term and sustainable rural development. Local agricultural industries shall be supported and strengthened through infrastructure and financial support, such as but not limited to loans sourced from the Agricultural Competitiveness Enhancement Fund, as well as existing incentives given to agriculture cooperatives.

Measures to take advantage of economies of scale in agricultural production, promote value chain development, increase farm incomes, and improve the quality of life of farmers, shall be pursued.

c. Social Welfare, Health and Employment – Comprehensive assistance packages shall be designed to encourage the voluntary and immediate movement to their respective home provinces of workers and overseas Filipino workers, especially those stranded in the NCR due to the Enhanced Community Quarantine (ECQ).

Local health facilities shall be upgraded and local health capacity shall be improved to address the health needs of the community, such as building more hospitals and clinics, providing more ambulances and enhancing medical scholarship programs, among others.

Educational institutions and technical and vocational schools shall be built in strategic rural areas, state universities and colleges shall be linked to industries, through, among others, conversion of their idle lands into science or technology parks. Access to Open Distance Learning shall also be enhanced in rural communities.

Employment shall be created and restored through various support programs and assistance packages, including resettlement to provincial township sites and community interventions or projects based on area/resettlement site.

d. Development of Infrastructure- Infrastructure such as means of transport and communications, power resources, and irrigation facilities which support the operation and development of other sectors of the economy shall be developed in all the different regions of the country. The completion of existing and future railway projects to facilitate the movement of people, as well as the creation and improvement of transport terminals and construction of public markets in communities, shall be prioritized.

Section 5. Categorization of the BP² Program Framework Components.

The components of the BP² Program Framework to be formulated by the Council shall be aligned with the key areas mapped in the preceding Section, and shall be categorized under specific progress points, as follows:

a. Short-term – Pipeline or existing programs, activities or projects (PAPs) with available funds or appropriations, which can be adapted to support the required interventions under the BP² Program and which can be readily implemented during the Enhanced and General Community Quarantine. Due priority shall be given to individuals and enterprises qualified under the implementing guidelines mentioned in Section 3(a) hereof.

For the efficient voluntary movement of individuals and enterprises from the NCR to identified rural areas, initial assessment may be provided for assistance, such as but not limited to the following:

- (i) Transportation and relocation coursed through the DOTr and DILG which are tasked to coordinate with the LGUs concerned. For this purpose, the Department of National Defense, the Armed Forces of the Philippines, and all its main service branches, as well as the Philippine Coast Guard, may be called to render the necessary logistical support;
- (ii) Transitory support from existing DSWD and NHA programs;
- (iii) Livelihood and employment packages that are implemented or may be developed by the DOLE and DTI;
- (iv) Agri-based support services offered by the DA;
- (v) Educational programs, including internet-based learning, through the DepEd, CHED and TESDA;
- (vi) Fiscal incentives and transition assistance for MSMEs, including but not limited to tax incentives and fast-tracked processing of licenses and permits, as may be applicable; and
- (vii) Other forms of aid as may be necessary or formulated by relevant government agencies.

b. Medium-term - Existing PAPs with available funds or appropriations to support required interventions or new PAPs for funding, which can be implemented when the ECQ or travel restriction is lifted. It may consist of, but is not limited to the following:

- (i) Identification of existing special economic zones, as well as development of MSME-oriented industries;
- (ii) Livelihood and employment opportunities suitable to rural development;
- (iii) Strengthening and prioritizing the National Spatial Strategy integrated in the Philippine Development Plan and spearheaded by the NEDA;
- (iv) Integration of institutional assistance, such as progression of formal education, improved healthcare services and medical facilities, maintenance and promotion of peace, order, and security; and
- (v) Establishment of new special economic zones in Visayas and Mindanao including the Bangsamoro Autonomous Region;

c. Long-term – PAPs that require longer time horizons to implement but whose initial steps must already be taken by national government agencies, such as but not limited to the proposed decentralization of powers and seat of governance, priority legislation on rationalized and results-based tax incentives for agricultural or tourism industries and the National Land Use Act, and the creation of new urban centers outside of the NCR and existing major urban centers.

Section 6. Funding. The amount necessary for the implementation of this Order shall be charged against existing appropriations of the member agencies of the Council, and from sources to be identified by the DBM, subject to existing budgeting, accounting and auditing laws, rules and regulations. To the extent permitted by law, agency heads are hereby authorized to realign items in their respective appropriations

to fund PAPs approved as part of the BP² Program. Funding requirements for the succeeding years shall be included in the respective budgets of government agencies implementing the BP² Program.

Section 7. Reporting. The Council shall submit to the President, a bi-annual report on the implementation of this Order, including its accomplishments in terms of short-, medium- and long-term goals and budget utilization.

Section 8. Separability. If any provision of this Order is declared invalid or unconstitutional, the other provisions not affected thereby shall remain valid and subsisting.

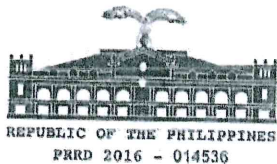
Section 9. Repeal. All issuances, rules and regulations contrary to or inconsistent with this Order are hereby repealed, modified, or amended accordingly.



Section 10. Effectivity. This Order shall take effect immediately.

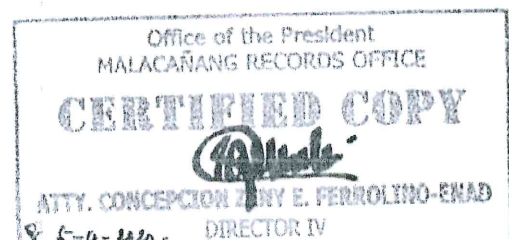
DONE, in the City of Manila, this 6th day of May, in the year of our Lord, Two Thousand and Twenty.

By the President:


SALVADOR C. MEDIALDEA
Executive Secretary

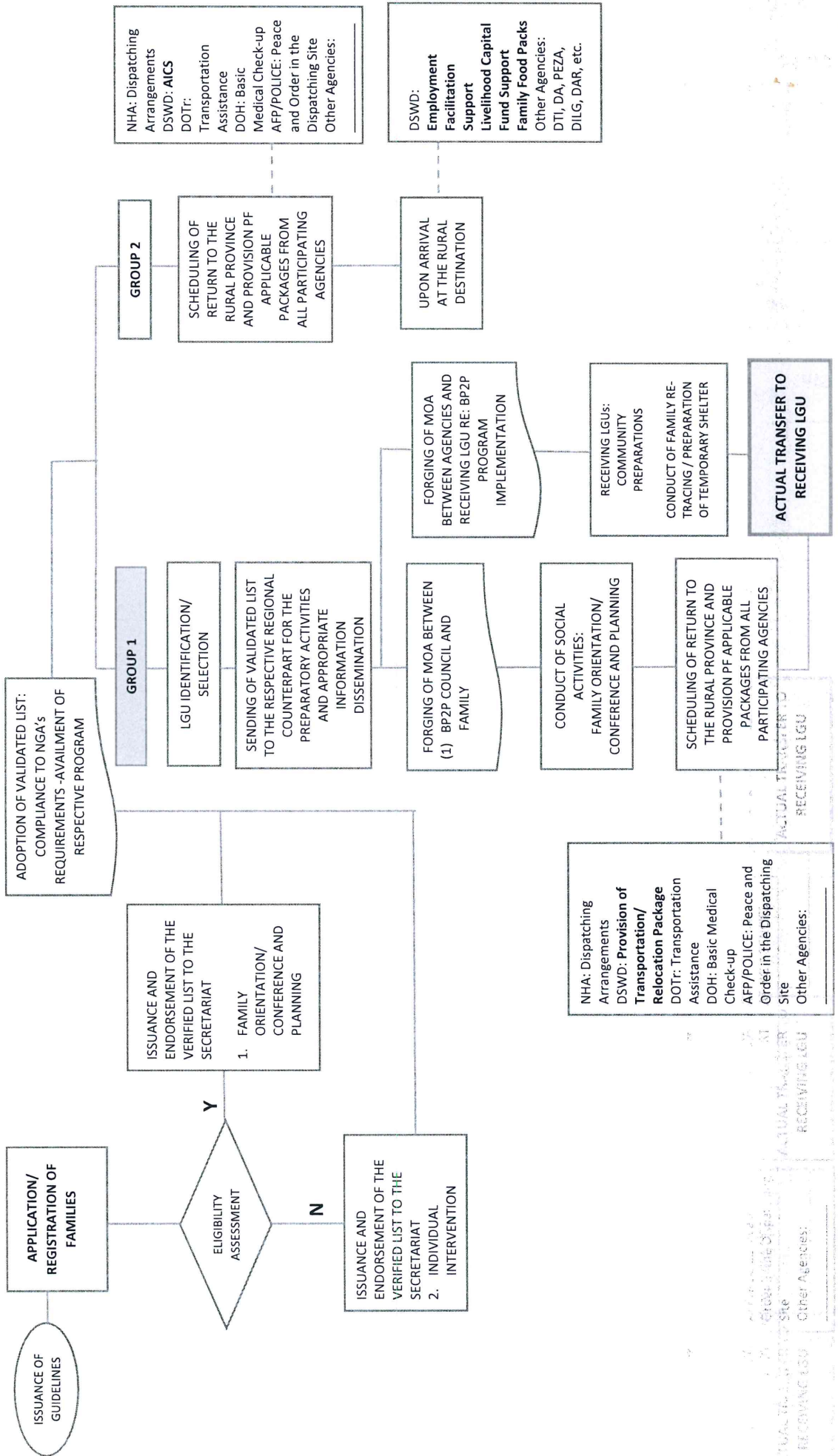




YAWA BAGO Annex C – BALIK PROBINSYA, BAGONG PAG-ASA PROCESS FLOW

**AT LOCAL GOVERNMENT UNIT
PRE – IMPLEMENTATION PHASE**



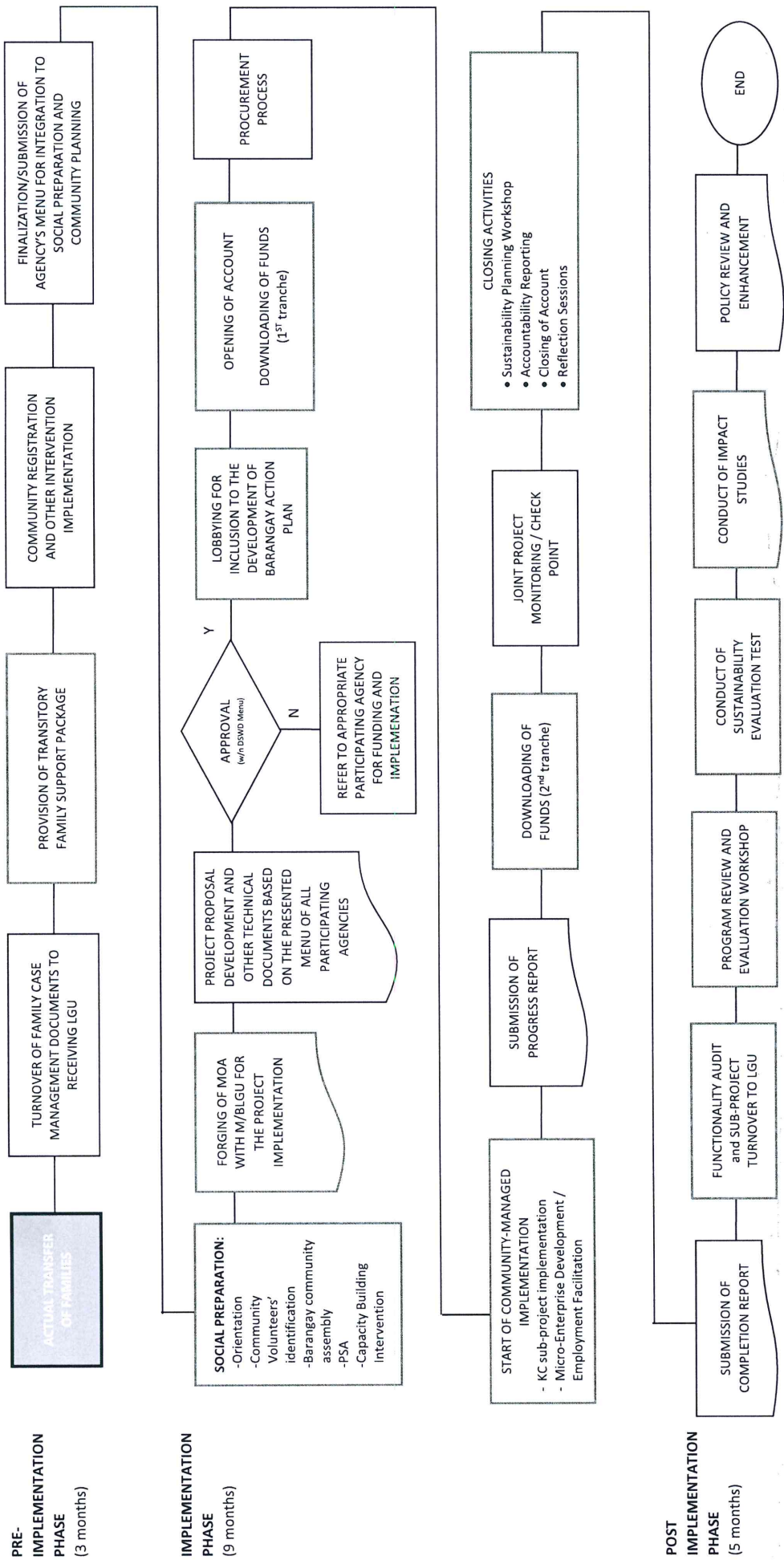
3. Identification of FIC/ A: Identification and Preparation of Program Beneficiaries

Step	BP2 Process Flow (Steps)	Objectives	What Happens During This Process	Expected Output	Who Leads/Facilitate This Process
1	Application / Registration of Families	Families are enrolled and/or registered with the program.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Potential families sign-up at balikprobinsya.ph. o If families/individuals are referrals to DSWD, instruct them to sign-up at balikprobinsya.ph o Case Manager reviews application and interview applicants. o Case Manager assess if: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Yes – eligible for the BP Program, then provide orientation and intervention planning, and update database of Active BP Program Participants b. No – not eligible for BP Program, then recommend to CIU for AICS and do the necessary preparation for cash assistance o Case Manager facilitates intervention planning with confirmed BP Program beneficiaries. 	List of enrolled potential beneficiaries, to be generated from balikprobinsya.ph	National Housing Authority
2	Eligibility Assessment	Determine if enrolled families are eligible for Balik Probinsya Program	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> o MOA/MOU signing between BP Program beneficiaries and KC. o Facilitate and provide the agreed family/group interventions, i.e. family counseling and other preparation activities 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. List of BP Program Beneficiaries; Updated database of Active BP Program Participants 2. List of families/individuals for recommendation to CIU; profile of referrals for CIU's reference 	KC Case Manager KC Case Manager
3	Adoption of Validated List and Plan Implementation	Sign contract/agreements with BP Program Beneficiaries Implement family action plans/ resettlement plan. Prepare BP Program Beneficiaries for their eventual resettlement in the provinces Orient receiving FOs on the BP Program Beneficiaries. Agree on ways forward on the arriving BP Program Beneficiaries	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Coordinate / Meet with counterparts in the receiving FOs, specifically on: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Provision of validated or clustered list of BP Beneficiaries to FOs for coordination with concerned LGUs. o Discussion of general profiles of BP Beneficiaries; orientation of FO case managers on each case. o Coordinate with receiving LGUs and forge formal partnership (MOA) o Brief MSWDOs and other units/divisions delegated with case profiles o Plan and agree on the plans/ways forward for the BP Program Families o Conduct of family retracing and prepare them with the re-settlement of BP Program Beneficiaries o Preparation of temporary shelter o Scheduling of return to the province and provision of applicable packages from participating agencies. 	Family Case Study Report for Eligible Families Case Management Plan Agreement Document / MOA with BP Program Beneficiaries Process documentation report / Case files for endorsement to FOs	KC Case Manager KC BP Program Coordinator KC Case Manager
4	Preparation of Receiving FOs and LGUs	Prepare receiving LGUs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Coordinate with receiving LGUs and forge formal partnership (MOA) o Brief MSWDOs and other units/divisions delegated with case profiles o Plan and agree on the plans/ways forward for the BP Program Families o Conduct of family retracing and prepare them with the re-settlement of BP Program Beneficiaries o Preparation of temporary shelter o Scheduling of return to the province and provision of applicable packages from participating agencies. 	FOs' URPMT	KC BP Program Coordinator and Case Manager
5	Send-off of BP Program Beneficiaries	Facilitate actual travel to the provinces of BP Program Beneficiaries	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Scheduling of return to the province and provision of applicable packages from participating agencies. 		KC Program Coordinator Other participating agencies concerned

EXCLUSIVE FOR DSWD COMMUNITY-MANAGED PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION

LEGEND:

AT THE RECEIVING LOCAL GOVERNMENT UNIT



CONTINUOUS PROGRAM MONITORING AND FAMILY CASE MANAGEMENT*

Project Implementation B: Community-Managed Project Implementation

Step	BP2 Process Flow (Steps)	Objectives	What Happens During This Process	Expected Outputs	Who Leads/Facilitate This Process
1.1	Actual Transfer of Families	Facilitate re-entry of BP Program Beneficiaries in the province.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Turn-over of family case management documents to receiving LGU o Provision of transitional family support package o Community registration and other interventions implementation o Re-entry planning of families with assigned case manager from FO's URMPT 		URPMT Assigned Case Manager (The SWO to be hired by the FOs as ACT)
1.2	Case Management of Returning Families	Monitor BP program beneficiaries	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Provide continuous psycho-social support to BP Program Beneficiaries and other identified interventions. o Facilitate continued provision of assistance, i.e. provision of rental assistance to selected cases. 	Case Documentations	Assigned Case Manager (The SWO to be hired by the FOs as ACT)
2	Social Preparation, Community-Managed Implementation ***this will follow KC process	Assist and provide technical assistance to LGUs in the development and implementation of community projects.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Forging of MOA with the LGUs for the project implementation o Project proposal development and other technical documents based on the presented menu of all participating agencies <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. If proposal is approved – proceed with KC implementation process b. If proposal is not approved – refer to other participating agencies o Submission of RFR and other technical documents o Capacity building for O&M Group/ community volunteers o Procurement o Community-managed implementation 	Community Proposal RFR and other required technical documents O&M Plans Other reports Resolutions from LGUs adapting KC-initiated programs and plans	ACT
3	Community Monitoring and Program Reporting	Monitor and assess project implementation. Document lessons learned from the program to aid in policy enhancements.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Submission of completion report o Functionality Audit and Sub-Project Turn-over Report o Program Review and Evaluation Workshop o Conduct of Sustainability Evaluation o Conduct of Impact Studies o Policy Review and Enhancement 	SPCR FA Reports Accomplished SETs Program Documentations Impact study reports	ACT