

**MEMORANDUM CIRCULAR**

No. 19

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**SUBJECT : GUIDELINES FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF  
WALANG GUTOM 2027: FOOD STAMP PROGRAM**

**I. RATIONALE**

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 2022 Global Report on Food Crises (GRFC 2022) “highlights the alarming deterioration of acute food insecurity in 2021 in numerous food-crisis countries/territories. Nearly 193 million people were in crisis or worse (IPC/CH Phase 3 or above<sup>2</sup>) or equivalent in 53 countries/territories where comparable data were available in 2021 – as a result of intensified conflict, significant economic shocks and some of the most severe weather extremes in recent years, or a combination of these drivers<sup>3</sup>.”

Based on the preliminary results of the Family Income and Expenditure Survey (FIES) in 2021 as reported by the Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA), the subsistence incidence, defined as the proportion of Filipinos whose income is not enough to meet even just the basic food needs, slightly increased to 5.9 percent in 2021. PSA estimated that a family of five needs at least PhP8,379 per month to meet their basic food requirements. The subsistence incidence among families was observed at 3.9 percent, which is equivalent to 1.04 million poor families below the food poverty line.

Further, pregnancy and lactation are periods of high nutritional needs. A pregnant woman needs more food than a non-pregnant woman not only to satisfy her own nutritional requirements but also to meet the nutrient demands of the growing fetus. A lactating woman also demands for higher nutrients necessary for milk production. Hence, households with pregnant and lactating women are more likely to need more support to meet their basic requirements.

In the Universal Declaration of the United Nations Commission on Human Rights, Article 16 (3), the family is the natural and fundamental group unit of society and is entitled to protection by society and the State. This social protection includes prevention from experiencing involuntary hunger due to incidents of poverty in the country.

The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) aims to end hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition, and promote sustainable agriculture by 2030. The International Covenant

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

<sup>2</sup> The IPC Acute Malnutrition Scale is a five-phase scale of increasing severity: Phase 1: Acceptable; Phase 2: Alert; Phase 3: Serious; Phase 4: Critical; Phase 5: Extremely Critical. Each phase is characterized by a certain prevalence of acute malnutrition. Phase 3 Households either have food consumption gaps that are reflected by high or above-usual acute malnutrition, or are marginally able to meet minimum food needs but only by depleting essential livelihood assets or through crisis-coping strategies.

<sup>3</sup> <https://www.fao.org/3/cb9997en/cb9997en.pdf>

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.

The Philippine Development Plan 2023-2028, particularly Figure 3.1 Strategy Framework to Ensure Food Security and Proper Nutrition, highlighted Outcome 1: Sufficient and Stable supply of food attained, and Outcome 2: Access of consumers to affordable, safe, and nutritious food expanded.

In regard to this, President Ferdinand Marcos Jr., strongly emphasizes that no Filipino individuals should experience hunger. Having said that, the national government, through the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD), is proposing a new program that will provide food augmentation to food poor families, also known as the **WALANG GUTOM 2027: FOOD STAMP PROGRAM**, that is in-line with the Philippine Development Agenda of the President in addressing hunger among Filipino families belonging to the lowest-bracket income as identified in the recent DSWD Listahanan. The President further issued Executive Order (EO) No. 44, series of 2023, establishing the program as a flagship program of the national government.

This program realized the importance of food consumption among the daily needs of its target beneficiaries in order to appropriately and sufficiently mitigate hunger due to extreme poverty. This program shall properly address the gaps and assist the households in attaining the recommended nutrient and energy needs of each member in order to perform their daily task and routines that have a direct and indirect contribution to human capitalization that have a direct positive impact towards nation-building. The program is patterned with the food voucher program of United Nations - World Food Program (UN-WFP) used during the rehabilitation stage after Typhoon Odette in Surigao in 2022.

The International Development Partners of the DSWD are committed to provide necessary funds and technical assistance for the implementation of the program. Hence, the program design for the implementation for the food augmentation program for food-poor families also known as WALANG GUTOM 2027: FOOD STAMP PROGRAM has been developed.

## II. LEGAL BASES

1. **Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)** – These are the goals set by 193 member countries of the United Nations including the Philippine Government to be achieved within 15 years (2016 – 2030). SDG number 2 targets zero hunger (food security) which means to end hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition, and promote sustainable agriculture.
2. **Paragraph 2, Article 11 of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights** - 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.

3. **Magna Carta of the Poor - Section 4, Scope of the Fundamental Rights of the Poor** - Where 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. **Philippine Development Plan 2023-2028** - Chapter 3.1 discussed strategies that will help reduce food insecurity and end hunger by providing accessible and affordable safe and nutritious food for all Filipinos, at all times.
5. **Republic Act (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 Therefor.
6. **RA No. 11148: Kalusugan at Nutrisyon ng Magnanay 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 Therefor And For Other Purposes.
7. **Philippine Plan of Action for Nutrition (PPAN) 2023-2028** - The PPAN serves as the overarching blueprint to eradicate hunger and improve the overall nutrition of Filipinos. It provides guidance to nutrition stakeholders at the national and local levels, including government agencies, development partners, non-government organizations and civil society, academe, and other partner organizations and institutions on the conduct of high-impact activities and strategies.
8. **EO No. 44, series of 2023 “Establishing the Walang Gutom 2027: Food Stamp Program of the National Government”** - Requires a whole-of-government approach that will enjoin all national government agencies (NGAs) and local government units (LGUs) to participate and support the said program.
9. **RA No. 8425: Social Reform and Poverty Alleviation Act** - An Act Institutionalizing The Social Reform And Poverty Alleviation Program, Creating For The Purpose The National Anti-Poverty Commission, Defining Its Powers And Functions, And For Other Purposes.

### III. DEFINITION OF TERMS

1. **Authorized Government Depository Bank (AGDBs)** - refers to a bank where government agencies are allowed by law to deposit government funds and maintain depository accounts, or by way of exception, a bank allowed or designated by the Department of Finance (DOF) and the monetary board to hold government deposits subject to prescribed rules and regulations.

2. **Case Management** - refers to a process used by the DSWD to enable the qualified household beneficiaries to improve their functioning by dealing with their difficulties specifically in complying with the conditions of the Program. It refers to a mutually agreed process of assessing, planning, managing, coordinating, and advocating for services and other interventions.
3. **Community Based Organizations (CBOs)** - shall refer the DAR's Agrarian Reform Beneficiaries Organizations (ARBOs), DSWD's Sustainable Livelihood Associations (SLPAs), NIA's Irrigators Associations (IAs), DA's Farmers and Fisherfolks Associations/Organizations, Non-Government Organizations (NGOs), Child Development Center's Parents Group (CDC-PG), DENR's Community-based Forest management holders/People's organizations (POs) and other qualified CBOs.
4. **Compliance Verification** - refers to the checking and monitoring undertaken to ensure that the eligible household beneficiaries comply with the soft conditions for entitlement set forth by the Walang Gutom Program.
5. **DSWD-managed WGP Information System** - refers to the program information system with functions covering the end-to-end process of the Walang Gutom Program i.e. identification of beneficiaries, validation, registration, retailer management, food redemption and reconciliation, case management, and among others.
6. **Electronic Benefit Transfer (EBT) Account Crediting** - refers to the process of providing top-up food credits to the EBT cards of the eligible household beneficiaries on a monthly basis for a new distribution cycle.
7. **Electronic Benefit Transfer (EBT) Card** - this shall be utilized to transfer the digital provision of food credits to eligible household-beneficiaries through monetary-based assistance.
8. **Eligible Household Beneficiaries** - refers to households identified by the DSWD for entitlement to the electronic benefit transfer as provided under Rule VII of this IRR. It is understood that only households that are registered to the DSWD-managed WGP Information System will be included as eligible household beneficiaries and deemed partners of the program.
9. **Fact-Finding Investigation** - a proceeding seeking to determine whether there is sufficient ground to engender a well founded belief that an irregularity, or an improper conduct or an offense has been committed and the employee/official complained is probably guilty thereof.
10. **Food Basket** - this is the Program's list of nutritious foods which may be redeemed by the beneficiaries through authorized partner retailers. The list is based on the pre-approved food items (*50% carbohydrates, 30% Proteins and 20% Fats, Oils*

and Dietary Fiber) as recommended by the Food and Nutrition Research Institute (FNRI).

11. **Food Credit Redemption** - refers to the process of accessing food products from the program's partner retailers through the use of the EBT cards of the household beneficiaries.
12. **Grievance Redress System** - refers to the mechanisms in place to guide in addressing issues and concerns related to the implementation of the program.
13. **Household** - refers to the social unit consisting of a person living alone or a group of persons who sleep in the same housing unit including any place of dwelling or facility, and have common arrangement for the preparation and consumption of food.
14. **Job Network Services** - refers to the opportunities created under the program to ensure job facilitation and self employment for household beneficiaries.
15. **Local Retailers** - refers to the person or people's organization which provides for the selling or offering for sale of food products at a building or structure that can be partnered with the program for the operationalization of the program.
16. **Mobile Point of Sale (MPOS) Devices** - this is a device used where the registered Electronic Benefit Transfer (EBT) Cards of the eligible household beneficiaries will be tapped to purchase food in authorized retailers.
17. **Social Behavior Change Communication** - refers to a collection of communications approaches, activities, and tools used to positively influence behaviors among the beneficiaries along food security and nutrition.
18. **Walang Gutom Indicators (WaGI)** - is a case management tool specifically developed by DSWD designed to assess and measure the well-being of households being served by the program with an established set of codes and computation of responses.

#### IV. PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

The WALANG GUTOM 2027: FOOD STAMP PROGRAM (WGP) is one of the new DSWD Flagship Programs that aims to help decrease the incidence of involuntary hunger experienced by low-income households and make them productive citizens of the country through a whole-of-nation approach. The program shall provide monetary-based assistance in the form of an Electronic Benefit Transfer (EBT) card that will be loaded with food credits amounting to Php 3,000 per month for a period of thirty six (36) months, allowing our beneficiaries to purchase a select list of food commodities from partner merchant store/s. The program highlights a mechanism for the delivery of social protection interventions

through the use of digital platforms to access food. This program shall also give particular focus to households with pregnant and lactating women to support their nutritional needs.<sup>4</sup>

## A. COVERAGE AND SCOPE

This guideline shall cover the implementers of the WGP on the clear processes and strategies in efficiently and effectively operationalizing the WGP based on the approved program design, particularly:

1. Guide program implementers and stakeholders with clarity on the WGP implementation process from social preparation, registration, regular cycle and exit phase;
2. Establish interventions and mechanisms introduced in the implementation of the program;
3. Serve as a guide for scale-up and institutionalization of the program; and
4. Implement a strong monitoring and evaluation system to make sure the program adjusts to new challenges and opportunities, keeping in sync with its fundamental goals. This structured expansion strategy ensures the program is adaptable, scalable, and responsive to the nuanced needs of communities across the Philippines, laying a solid foundation for nationwide impact against hunger and poverty.

## B. GOALS/OBJECTIVES

The ultimate goal of the WGP is to decrease the incidence of involuntary hunger experienced by low-income Filipino households, fostering a sustainable population conducive for nation-building.

Specifically, it aims to:

1. Provide households better access to nutritious food through food credits assistance using EBT cards;
2. To provide opportunities through job training and other employment promotion activities; and
3. To encourage a whole-of-nation approach through the participation of Community-based Organizations, Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises, supermarkets, KADIWA, and other government institutions as partners in the implementation of the program.

## C. TARGET BENEFICIARIES/ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

The program's reach will expand systematically from enrolling 300,000 beneficiaries in 2024, 600,000 in 2025, to a total of 1,000,000 beneficiaries by 2026, focusing on regions identified through a rigorous assessment of need and program impact. The targeted number of beneficiaries for the scale-up will align with allocations specified in the General

<sup>4</sup> The nutritious foods are based on the pre-approved food items (50% carbohydrates, 30% Proteins and 20% Fats, Oils and Dietary Fiber) to be included in the program's "food basket" which was recommended by the Food and Nutrition Research Institute (FNRI).

Appropriations Act for each implementation year, ensuring a data-driven approach to identifying the “Final List of Program Areas”. Further, the initial scale-up in 2024 will include but is not limited to regions II, V, VI, VII, VIII, IX, X, XII, NCR, and CARAGA, extending its reach based on a comprehensive set of criteria which include:

1. Priority Areas as identified in the Philippine Plan of Action for Nutrition;
2. Regions with the highest poverty and subsistence incidence, as recorded by the PSA;
3. Previous pilot areas to leverage insights and successes; and
4. Consideration of safety and security for ongoing program integrity.

#### **D. PROGRAM COMPONENTS**

The following are the components of the program:

##### **1. Electronic Benefit Transfer (EBT)**

EBT cards shall be utilized as digital means for the provision of food to beneficiaries through monetary-based assistance. The EBT cards can be used to purchase various food items in partner merchants such as Community-based Organizations, Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs), supermarkets, and KADIWA, among others. Only food items included in the program’s “food basket” which was recommended by the Food and Nutrition Research Institute (FNRI) may be purchased based on the pre-approved food items (50% carbohydrates, 30% Proteins and 20% Fats, Oils and Dietary Fiber).

The EBT shall include the following sub-components, to wit:

##### **1.1 Retailer Management**

Active participation of the partner merchants in the program implementation plays a vital role in ensuring that household beneficiaries have access to food. As the program ensures that supplies are sufficient in the market to meet the demands of the community, inventory of merchants has to be updated on a regular basis which shall be monitored through a web application for utilization and management. An inventory of merchants in the target program areas shall be done for possible partnership in the program implementation.

Retail and market assessments shall be conducted to ensure the accessibility and availability of nutritious food to the beneficiaries, through the local merchants / SMEs in the target areas. The assessment will identify any barriers or gaps in the availability of WGP eligible products, particularly in underserved areas. This information can be used to address food scarcity and improve the overall food environment.

The streamlining and centralization of retailer data management shall also be ensured to improve data accuracy and integrity, enhance operational efficiency, and enable data-driven insights and decision-making.

The identified eligible retailers or merchants shall be registered and enrolled using a separate system subject to the compliance with set membership criteria. Series of activities will be conducted to ensure smooth implementation of the electronic benefit transfer to the beneficiaries from the enrolled merchants/vendors.

## 1.2 Beneficiary Data Management

A beneficiary list will be generated based on the process of beneficiary information management through the DSWD-managed WGP Information System Platform. Validation of pre-identified household beneficiaries based on the standard targeting system shall be conducted for eligibility and deduplication process. Until a formulation of a new standardized targeting system is adopted by the government, the National Household Targeting System for Poverty Reduction (NHTS-PR) or Listahanan shall be utilized by the DSWD.

Registrations powered by DSWD-managed WGP Information System shall be conducted based on the data from the standard targeting system subject to a validation process consisting of eligibility and deduplication process. Printing of EBT Cards will also be conducted following the DSWD-managed WGP Information System procedures. Beneficiary list will be exported together with the printed cards to the implementing team for the release of EBT cards to target beneficiaries.

Community organizing activities will be conducted to the enrolled beneficiaries of the program. Activities in the community along program orientation, Social Behavior Change Communication (SBCC) highlighting inputs along nutrition, community mobilization, and among others will be conducted.

## 1.3 Compliance Monitoring

Households beneficiaries need to comply with the following conditionalities of the program:

- a. Attendance to ladderized nutrition education and productivity enhancement sessions; and
- b. Participation in job facilitation/livelihood activities.

## 1.4 Benefit Transfer and Reconciliation

The DSWD-managed WGP Information System will be used to send necessary information between the DSWD and local merchants to facilitate the food credit transfers and documents for reporting. In a scenario where there are no available internet connections, the DSWD-managed WGP Information System platform can be deployed in combination with Operation Payment System (OPS)-built electronic voucher delivery mechanisms.

Beneficiaries may use the cards to purchase food in select retail locations, and top-ups to the cards can be made for new distribution cycles. When retailers sync their devices to the platform, the information can be used for the reconciliation and



payment process. Data can also be used for monitoring and reporting. Facial photos are stored on the cards and retailers can verify the beneficiary identity through the MPOS at the time of purchase to ensure the intended person is the one using the card. The steps on verification, validation and deduplication process will be reflected in the methodology.

## **2. Capability Building and Social Behavior Change Communication**

To achieve a positive behavioral change among program beneficiaries, the program will implement SBCC as an intervention that targets the program's beneficiaries. For this program, one of the key messages of the SBCC interventions will be on food and nutrition, skills development for employment and how this affects the overall wellbeing of the family through different platforms such as but not limited to nutrition education, coaching and mentoring, social media campaigns, public meetings, events and creation of social support groups.

The target beneficiaries are expected to regularly attend community sessions and assemblies as a condition for the continuous electronic benefit transfers. Case monitoring and home visits shall be conducted as necessary to ensure compliance with this conditionality.

Community sessions and assemblies are aimed towards the achievement of individual behavior and social behavior change. A ladderized approach shall be utilized focusing on the following key areas:

### **2.1 Nutrition Education**

The beneficiaries of the WGP shall be provided with sessions in line with nutrition education in order to adopt basic principles of good eating habits and other nutrition-related behaviors contributing to health and well-being. This will be done through partnership with different stakeholders. The session will include information on meal planning and budgeting, adoption of low-cost-nutritious recipes and food diversity highlighting the key message on "Pagkaing Masarap, Masustansya at Abot Kaya" in each of the sessions.

### **2.2 Productivity Enhancement**

Productivity enhancement sessions and activities shall be conducted to enable the beneficiaries to better understand the concepts and to demonstrate their skills in preparation for the employment promotion activities. This will be conducted through partnership with DOLE, TESDA and other stakeholders including the private sector. The sessions shall include, but not limited to, topics such as the general concept of productivity and its importance, maximizing and improving personal skills for productivity, and the significance of finding decent work and employment to family development. The purpose of these sessions is to develop job-seeking behavior of the beneficiaries which will enable them to escape hunger and poverty even after they exit the program.

### 2.3 Household Assessment Sessions

The community facilitators shall conduct household assessment sessions to complement the nutrition education and productivity enhancement sessions. To ensure that appropriate interventions are provided, community facilitators shall aid in the beneficiaries' self assessment of strengths. The assessment shall serve as a basis in identifying the productivity track for the households. Similarly, the household assessment session shall serve as an opportunity to monitor the status of households in terms of the following:

- Dietary diversity;
- Food consumption;
- Job-seeking initiatives; and
- EBT transaction concerns.

### 3. Job Network Services and/or Employment Promotion

To complement the Productivity Enhancement Sessions, opportunities shall be created under the program to ensure job facilitation and self employment for all household beneficiaries. Necessary support may be provided to the beneficiaries through partnerships with, but not limited to, the following concerned agencies to attend job training and other forms of similar initiatives geared towards skills enhancement, to wit:

- Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE);
- Department of Agriculture (DA);
- Department of Trade and Industry (DTI); and
- Technical Education And Skills Development Authority (TESDA).

Similarly, assistance may be provided to aid in the processing of requirements of the household beneficiaries during the job-seeking period. The program may provide certain exceptions to this condition on a case-to-case basis to be assessed by the respective field offices where the beneficiaries are located.

As part of the exit strategy, the beneficiaries may also be referred to the Sustainable Livelihood Program (SLP) and other existing relevant programs and services of various line agencies to ensure program sustainability.

### 4. Other Modalities of Distribution

To ensure that the program's monetary-based assistance for accessing nutritious foods reach all the eligible households especially those situated in the Geographically Isolated and Disadvantaged Areas (GIDA), other modalities and mechanisms for distribution shall be established such as, but not limited to, food pack distribution.

Should these modalities be applied for the WGP beneficiaries, an operational guidelines shall be established for such purposes.

## 5. Grievance Redress Management

A feedback system will be developed as a means of gathering suggestions, recommendations, and inputs in order to improve the program. The system shall include a grievance mechanism that promotes transparency, fairness, and accountability in the implementation. This will provide individuals with a structured and supportive framework to voice their concerns, seek resolution, and contribute to a positive work or service environment.

## V. GENERAL POLICIES

1. Household beneficiaries shall be monitored by soft conditionality to give them confidence that they will continue to receive food credits from the program as long as they comply to the program conditions through participation in the Nutrition Education Sessions (NES), Productivity Enhancement Sessions (PES) and other job facilitation/livelihood activities.
2. Should the beneficiary fail to comply with the conditions, interventions as indicated in the implementing procedure of this guideline shall be provided to ensure that the program is well-understood by the beneficiaries to encourage participation in the succeeding activities.
3. Considering the essentiality of data sharing for effective referral of services, the sharing of beneficiary data between and among offices and concerned line agencies and stakeholders shall be facilitated following the principles set out in collecting, storing, processing and sharing of personal data in accordance with the Data Privacy Act of 2012.
4. Regular monitoring shall be conducted to monitor the progress of deliverables in relation to the achievement of the program performance indicators utilizing the prescribed assessment and monitoring tools. A quarterly accomplishment report shall be submitted every 5th day of the first month of the succeeding quarter. The program shall also adhere to the existing policy on the Harmonized Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation System of the Department.
5. Existing websites and social media pages of the DSWD and other key stakeholders shall be used during the advocacy activities, following the existing DSWD branding guidelines.
6. To support the achievement of the program objectives, capability building activities shall also be conducted periodically. The design of capability building activities shall be based on competency assessment to ensure required functional competencies of National Program Management Office (NPMO) and Regional Program Management Office (RPMO) staff are met;
7. A DSWD-managed information system shall be developed for the scale-up implementation. This shall be developed and maintained by the WGP IT staff under the NPMO/NPMO.

8. At the end of the five-year implementation, the relevance, effectiveness, efficiency and sustainability of the program shall be assessed for continuous program improvement. This may be undertaken in-house or through engaging the services of an external consultant;
9. Grievance matters shall be addressed as delegated to the following authorities:

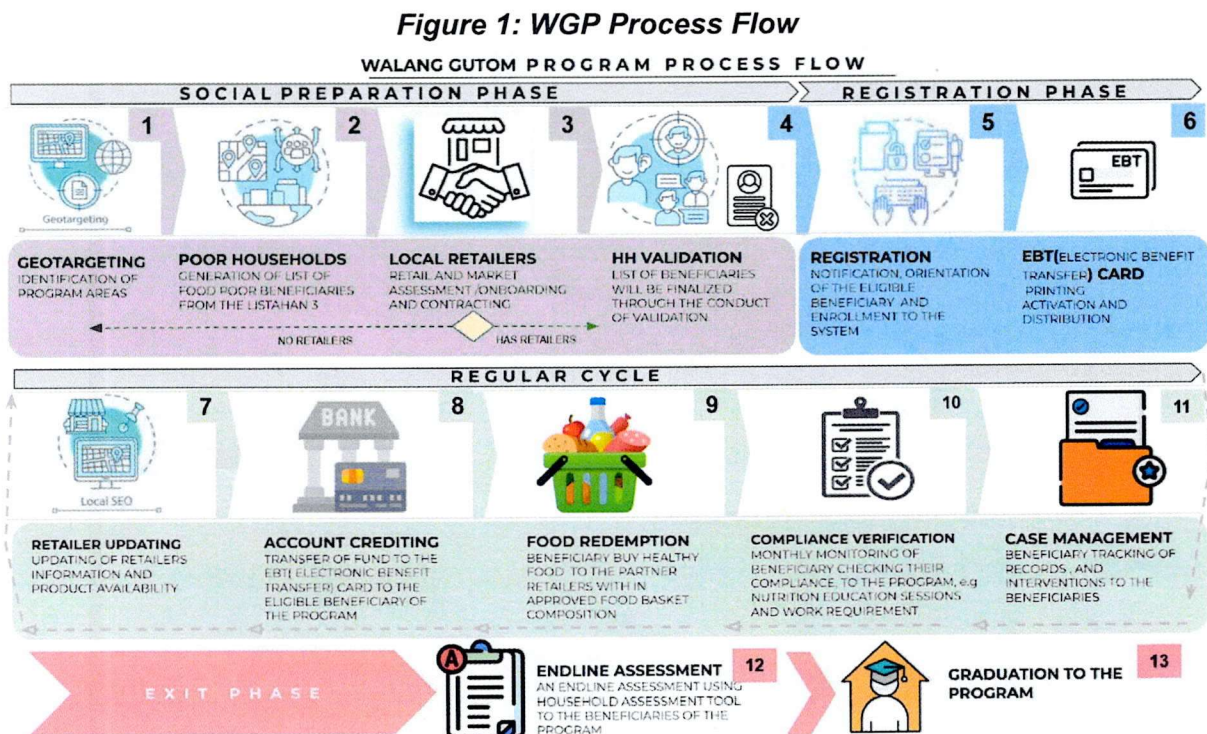
Subject Matter	Designated Authority
Beneficiary Concerns	Municipal Focal Point
Issues relating to the Municipal Focal Point	Provincial Focal Point
Issues relating to the Provincial Focal Point	Regional Program Coordinator
Issues relating to the RPMO	NPMO/NPMO

**VI. DELIVERY/ IMPLEMENTING MECHANISM**

The implementation of the program shall be composed of the following four (4) phases:

- A. Social Preparation Phase;
- B. Registration Phase;
- C. Provision of Benefits;
- D. Compliance Monitoring; and
- E. Exit Phase.

The figure below shows the implementation flow of the program which involves a series of activities with documentation and monitoring embedded throughout the entire process.



The brief descriptions, procedures and time duration of the implementation process are enumerated as follows:

## A. Social Preparation Phase

### 1. Development of the DSWD-managed WGP Information System

All program processes shall be embedded in the DSWD-managed WGP Information System. The said system shall consist of three core systems, namely:

- a. Beneficiary Management System;
- b. Retailer Management System; and
- c. Settlement Management System.

### 2. Identification of Food Poor Households

- a. Based on the *Final List of Program Areas*, the DSWD-managed Information System shall identify the bottom 1,000,000 households taken from the *Listahanan 3* or the latest data from the *Community-Based Monitoring System*, as applicable.
- b. For each year of implementation, the system shall generate potential household beneficiaries equivalent to 150% of the target number of beneficiaries for the identified year.
- c. A report shall be submitted entitled, "*List of Potential Beneficiaries.*"

### 3. Local Retailers Onboarding

- a. Local retailers shall be identified through the following:
  - DTI-registered enterprises and list of registered local traders engaged in selling of identified food basket items<sup>5</sup> from the Local Economic Enterprise and Development Office or similar office in the LGU;
  - DA registry of KADIWA<sup>6</sup> farmer cooperatives and associations; and
  - Registered CBOs under the DSWD's Enhanced Partnership Against Hunger and Poverty (EPAHP) *Digital Mapping System (DMS)*<sup>7</sup>.
- b. Assessment shall be conducted utilizing the retail and market assessment tool to check the following:
  - Trader characteristics;

<sup>5</sup> The nutritious foods are based on the pre-approved food items to be included in the program's "food basket" which was recommended by the Food and Nutrition Research Institute (FNRI).

<sup>6</sup> KADIWA is a marketing initiative of DA, implemented through the Agribusiness and Marketing Assistance (AMAS), which seeks to empower the farming community by providing a direct and effective farm-to-consumer food supply chain. The model eliminates as many marketing layers, allowing producers to earn bigger from directly selling their produce instead of using trader-intermediaries. It reduces marketing expenses, thus making the fresh and quality products more affordable for consumers.

<sup>7</sup> The EPAHP DMS is an online communications platform wherein all information about the EPAHP are shared with partners and other stakeholders with the online registration of CBOs as one of its main features. It has a Geographic Information System that can provide spatial analysis for better resource allocation by revealing geographic patterns relevant to program implementation. Through the system, CBOs are located and capacitated to become active suppliers to various government agencies especially in their feeding programs. The EPAHP DMS contributes to the goal of the government of providing food security and nutrition for all.

- Willingness to participate in the program;
  - Financial capacity;
  - Market supply and demand; and
  - Market constraints and affecting factors.
- c. A *Retail and Market Assessment Report*, consolidated per target area, shall be submitted within 15 days after the last assessment activity. The report shall include the minimum number of retailers to meet the demands of the beneficiaries in specific areas. All retailer data shall be inputted to the DSWD-managed WGP Information System.
- d. Retailers shall be notified that they are qualified to be enrolled in the program. All eligible retailers must have the following requirements:
- Legally registered in the Philippines (legal registration, trade license and VAT);
  - Company accepts program payment terms and conditions including send-bill arrangement;
  - Ability to provide staff training on retail operations and in-store services and / or store maintenance;
  - Ability to meet food quality standards and program monitoring and inspection requirements;
  - Readiness to dispatch additional personnel to outlet locations, as needed;
  - Willingness to learn and apply data analytics to improve and efficiently run the retail operations; maintain uninterrupted food supply, delivering high quality service whilst maintaining cleanliness and hygiene levels;
  - Willingness to comply with technological requirements to run the EBT as mode of redemption of WGP beneficiaries;
  - Ability to adhere to humanitarian principles and standards such as inclusivity and non-discrimination, while ensuring that the program is delivered in a culturally and gender-sensitive and responsive manner; and
  - Ability to adhere to data protection requirements as specified under the Republic Act No. 10173, or the Data Privacy Act.
- e. The DSWD shall enroll all eligible retailers as partners in the implementation of the program; and
- f. Necessary capability building activities shall be conducted for partner local merchants to enable them to effectively and efficiently perform their roles and functions in the implementation of the program. The NPMO/NPMO shall provide thorough technical and capacity support to partner merchants involved in the program implementation.

#### 4. Household Validation

- a. All households included in the *List of Potential Beneficiaries*, shall be validated through computer-assisted personal interviews (CAPI) within the DSWD-managed WGP Information System and/or pen and paper personal interviews (PAPI), whenever necessary, using the *Walang Gutom Indicators (WaGI)*. The validation shall determine the level of well-being of the

households in terms of food security at the initial engagement to the program. The tool shall be composed of the following needed information, to wit:

- Household information;
  - Food security;
  - Employment;
  - Health and nutrition;
  - Risk and vulnerabilities; and
  - Services/Interventions availed.
- b. The following steps shall be observed during the conduct of the validation of beneficiaries, to wit:
- Secure the respondent's consent prior to the data validation;
  - Validate the name, address and other relevant details of the respondent to the data generated by the Listahanan 3. For any corrections, ensure that the corrections are noted during the activity; and
  - Ensure the updated beneficiaries' contact information where relevant information on the program may be received.
- c. All accomplished PAPI forms shall be encoded in the DSWD-managed WGP Information System.
- d. An initial report on the validated beneficiaries shall submitted properly categorizing them as follows:
- 4Ps beneficiaries;
  - Households with pregnant women;
  - Households with lactating women;
  - Households with children below 5 years old;
  - Households with persons with disability;
  - Indigenous People (IP) households;
  - Households in GIDA; and
  - Indicate other information gathered during the validation which may support the recommendation of the validator.
- e. The DSWD-managed WGP Information System shall generate the result of the household validation - *List of Eligible Beneficiaries* - through a scoring system embedded in the tool based on the criteria set for identifying eligible households for the program.

## B. Registration Phase

### 1. Registration of Beneficiaries

- a. A community assembly in the barangay shall be undertaken for the registration of beneficiaries to the DSWD-managed WGP Information System. The conduct of the community assembly shall be initiated by the program focal persons in close coordination with the Local Government Units;
- b. The program's Information Technology focal point shall ensure the availability of the Information and Communication Technology (ICT) equipment and materials necessary for the registration of the primary and alternate beneficiaries in each eligible WGP household;

- c. A communication message shall be disseminated to the beneficiaries as an invitation for the conduct of the registration. The household head and one alternate in each of the eligible households shall be invited and registered to the information system. The said household members will participate in the program activities;
- d. A program orientation shall be conducted for the beneficiaries to secure their consent and ensure their participation in the program;
- e. Only those who have completed the program orientation shall proceed to the system registration where the following information shall be gathered:
  - Facial photo capturing of the primary and alternate EBT card holder; and
  - Additional information in compliance with the Customer Due Diligence (CDD) and Know Your Customer (KYC) requirements in the Philippines.
- f. All registered primary and alternate EBT card holders shall be informed that the capacity to purchase food commodities during the food redemption activities shall be limited to them, and is not transferable to other household members. However, change of primary and alternate EBT card holders may be applied for in certain circumstances. The process for application for change of EBT card holders shall be provided in the succeeding sections.

## **2. Other Modalities for Registration: On-Demand/ Onsite Registration**

- a. To ensure that the eligible households are covered for the program, on-demand registration may be set-up, subject to availability of funds, at a particular venue within the implementation areas in close coordination with the Local Government Units;
- b. A list of documentary requirements based on the programs' eligibility criteria shall be submitted to the WGP field implementers which may include, but are not limited to:
  - i. Certification of indigency coming from the Barangay LGU;
  - ii. ID/ Proof of inclusion in any vulnerable sector, i.e., Persons With Disability (PWD), IP, Pregnant and Lactating Women (PLW), etc.; and
  - iii. Recommendation from the City or Municipality LGU.
- c. The *WaGI Tool* shall be utilized in assessing the eligibility of the households; and
- d. Based on the result of the assessment, eligible households will be registered to the DSWD-managed Information System following the processes reflected in the registration phase as indicated in these guidelines.

## **3. Engagement with Authorized Government Depository Bank (AGDBs) and other Partners**

- a. The DSWD shall contract the services of an AGDB to provide qualified beneficiaries with food credits using an EBT Card that is tied to a secure transaction account. The DSWD may also engage the services of AGDB to ensure beneficiaries have adequate access to food regardless of their geographical location; and



- b. The terms and conditions for the creation, release and utilization of transaction accounts through EBT Cards shall be indicated in the agreement with the AGDB.

## C. Provision of Benefits

### 1. Electronic Benefit Transfer (EBT) Card Activation

- a. One (1) EBT Card shall be issued per household that is named after the primary card holder;
- b. A list of activated and printed EBT cards shall be forwarded to the assigned field worker and will be scheduled for releasing/distribution of EBT cards;
- c. During distribution, the registered beneficiary as the primary or alternate card holder shall present an identification card together with the registration receipt upon receiving the EBT card; and
- d. The beneficiaries who have received EBT cards shall be tagged in the DSWD-managed WGP Information System.

### 2. Issuance of Replacement EBT Cards

- a. In case the EBT card is lost, the beneficiary should immediately report such loss to the WGP Focal Person in their area. The WGP Focal Person shall coordinate the replacement of the card with the WGP NPMO;
- b. Change of primary and alternate EBT card holders may also be applied for in certain circumstances, as follows:
  - i. Death of the card holder;
  - ii. Change of permanent residence of the card holder, where the residence of the other households members is retained;
  - iii. Disabilities affecting mobility of card holder during food redemption; and
  - iv. Other analogous circumstances.
- c. The application for issuance of a new replacement card shall be accompanied by the following requirements:
  - i. Affidavit of loss (if applicable);
  - ii. Government issued ID;
  - iii. Application form for replacement card (by Financial Service Provider);
  - iv. Certification of WGP focal person; and
  - v. Card replacement fee (if applicable, to be borne by the card holder).

### 3. Retailer Updating

- a. To ensure that supplies are sufficient in the market to meet the demands of the WGP beneficiaries, inventory of merchants shall be updated on a monthly basis using the *Retailer Monitoring Tool*;
- b. All retailers who are assessed to be: i) continuous willingness to participate in the program, ii) with continuous availability of the food items as indicated in the program's food basket, iii) with continuous compliance to the eligibility requirements, iv) with continuous access to the DSWD-managed WGP

Information System, shall be tagged as continuing accredited retailer with respect to the succeeding EBT account crediting month; and

- c. The partner retailers shall also be informed/updated in advance on the schedule and venue of the food redemption activities.

#### 4. EBT Account Crediting

- a. The EBT cards of the eligible beneficiaries shall be enabled with food credits with a monetary value amounting to Three Thousand Pesos (P3,000.00) per month to be used for the purchase of food commodities to the partners merchants/retailers. The monetary value is non-convertible to cash and such monetary value cannot be withdrawn through automated teller machines (ATM) or through any other financial transaction;
- b. The DSWD-managed information system shall be utilized to send necessary information between the DSWD and local merchants to facilitate the food credit transfers and documents for reporting;
- c. Top-up food credits to the EBT cards shall be made on a monthly basis for eligible household beneficiaries for new distribution cycles; and
- d. All surplus amounts of credits from the previous distribution cycle shall be carried over to the subsequent month; provided, that the surplus amount shall not be equal to the amount of one month food credit or P3,000.00. Otherwise, the crediting for the subsequent month shall be suspended.

#### 5. Food Redemption

- a. For Geographically Isolated and Disadvantaged Areas (GIDA)
  - i. For hard to reach areas with limited market availability, distribution of food items shall be undertaken in coordination with the local government unit. The areas shall be identified based on the updated list of certified GIDA Areas;
  - ii. The beneficiaries shall be assisted to accomplish the pre-order process of food commodities within the program's food basket options through the use of a retailer application developed for this purpose;
  - iii. The pre-order activity can be done simultaneously during the conduct of program activities i.e. Nutrition Education Sessions (NES), Productivity Enhancement Sessions (PES) and other program related activities; and
  - iv. The mode of distribution, whether pick-up or direct delivery, as well as the schedule of distribution shall be determined based on beneficiary demand and logistics rationalization.
- b. For Non-Geographically Isolated and Disadvantaged Areas (Non-GIDA)
  - i. Organized Food Redemption Days through KADIWA
    - (1) The WGP NPMO may coordinate with the DA for the organization of food redemption days utilizing farmer associations and cooperatives under the *KADIWA On-Wheels* modality;

- (2) In partnership with the DA, the concerned WGP RPMO shall set up a mobile market, similar to a rolling store, in an area within the target municipalities or barangays that is easily accessible to household beneficiaries;
- (3) The number of food redemption days in a given area shall be based on the availability of stocks of the KADIWA farmer associations and cooperatives and the maximum number of customers (household beneficiaries) that can be serviced by the mobile market;
- (4) A notification message or phone call as necessary shall be conducted to the eligible beneficiaries as an invitation for the food redemption activity. The message shall have the title, date and venue of the activity as well as reminders to bring the EBT cards and necessary documents during the activity; and
- (5) The beneficiaries may also be opted to pre-order food commodities through the use of retailer application and will be assisted by the WGP focal persons. The above-mentioned pre-order and pick-up process shall be applied in such cases.

ii. Organized Food Redemption Days through DSWD-EPAHP Registered Community-based Organizations

- (1) For areas with limited presence of local retailers and GIDAs, the WGP NPMO may tap the DSWD EPAHP NPMO for the organization of food redemption days through the community-based organizations registered in the Digital Mapping System (DMS);
- (2) The EPAHP DMS shall be utilized to identify and locate the CBOs in the target areas;
- (3) The concerned DSWD EPAHP RPMO shall mobilize the CBOs for the conduct of food redemption days. It shall be ensured that the CBOs shall have enough supplies to meet the demands of the household beneficiaries in the area;
- (4) The number of food redemption days in a given area shall be based on the availability of stocks of the CBOs and the maximum number of customers that can be serviced by the suppliers;
- (5) The concerned WGP RPMO shall lead the organization of the food redemption activity. It shall ensure that the beneficiaries are informed on the schedule of redemption;
- (6) A notification message or phone call as necessary shall be conducted to the eligible beneficiaries as an invitation for the food redemption activity. The message shall have the title, date and venue of the activity as well as reminders to bring the EBT cards and necessary documents during the activity.

iii. Food Redemption with Regular Local Retailers

- (1) The WGP food redemption can also be designed to be incorporated into the existing regular market operation. In this strategy, the eligible beneficiaries can have food redemption to retailers who are enrolled

- by the DSWD as partner retailers, based on the retail and market management of this guideline;
- (2) When beneficiaries tap their card to the MPOS devices, the amount of the purchased food commodities shall be debited to their EBT card. Partner retailers may verify the beneficiary identity through the QR code system and facial verification stored on the cards at the time of purchase to ensure that only an authorized person is using the card. Each transaction will be stored in the DSWD-managed WGP Information System which can be used for the reconciliation and payment processes. Data can also be used for monitoring and reporting;
  - (3) In the event of system interruption or hardware unavailability, transactions may be authorized by verifying beneficiary identities through alternative modes such as, but not limited to:
    - (a) QR Code Scanning;
    - (b) One Time Passwords; or
    - (c) Verification of identity through photo and personal information printed on the EBT Card.

#### iv. Food Redemption through Retailer Application

- (1) The WGP beneficiaries may also be opted to accomplish the pre-order process of food commodities within the program's food basket options through the use of a retailer application developed for this purpose;
- (2) The beneficiaries shall be assisted to accomplish the pre-order process of food commodities within the program's food basket options through the use of a retailer application developed for this purpose;
- (3) The pre-order activity can be done simultaneously during the conduct of program activities i.e. Nutrition Education Sessions (NES), Productivity Enhancement Sessions (PES) and other program related activities; and
- (4) The mode of distribution, whether pick-up or direct delivery, as well as the schedule of distribution shall be determined based on beneficiary demand and logistics rationalization.

The following shall be observed in the conduct of the organized food redemption activities, to wit:

- The activity shall be coordinated with the Local Government Unit;
- The venue shall have the capacity to accommodate intended beneficiaries, pop-up retailers and WGP focal persons;
- Ensure the availability of sufficient comfort rooms as well as breastfeeding stations for lactating women;
- Proximity of the venue to the address of the intended beneficiaries shall be considered;
- Safety and security measures for the beneficiaries, retailers and WGP personnel shall be established prior to the conduct of the activity; and
- Beneficiaries with special needs i.e. pregnant, senior citizens, PWD among others shall be prioritized.

## D. Compliance Monitoring

### 1. Compliance Verification

- a. Households beneficiaries need to comply with the following two conditionalities of the program:
  - Attendance to ladderized nutrition education and productivity enhancement sessions; and
  - Participation in job facilitation/livelihood activities.
  
- b. Towards the achievement of individual behavior and social behavior change communication, the beneficiaries of the program shall be provided with the following:
  - Nutrition Education Sessions (NES) in order to adopt basic principles of good eating habits and other nutrition-related behaviors contributing to health and well-being. This will be done through partnerships with different stakeholders. The sessions will include information on meal planning and budgeting, adoption of low-cost-nutritious recipes and food diversity;
  - Productivity Enhancement Sessions (PES) to enable the beneficiaries to better understand the concepts and to demonstrate their skills in preparation for the employment promotion activities; and
  - Community assemblies and household assessment sessions are aimed towards the achievement of individual behavior and social behavior change. Case monitoring and home visits shall be conducted as necessary to ensure compliance with this conditionality.
  
- c. After completing the PES, beneficiaries are expected to participate in any of the following work facilitation activities:
  - DOLE's Tulong Panghanap-buhay para sa ating Disadvantaged/ Displaced Workers (TUPAD) Program;
  - DOLE initiated job fairs;
  - Job fairs facilitated by private companies, organizations, etc.;
  - TESDA skills training leading to work facilitation;
  - Sustainable Livelihood Program; and
  - Any relevant programs offered by the partner agencies/organizations, as necessary.

The engagement of the beneficiaries shall be subject to the implementing guidelines of the aforementioned programs issued by the concerned agencies.

- d. The household beneficiaries who complied with the above-mentioned conditionalities shall be entitled for the succeeding cycle of Food Stamp following the processes indicated in the previous sections;

- e. The EBT accounts of the persistently non-compliant household beneficiaries who failed to participate in the above-mentioned conditionalities for two (2) times shall not be credited with Php 3,000.00 for the next month. Non-compliant household beneficiaries who failed to meet the conditionalities for three (3) cycles are subject to delisting from the program;
- f. An exemption shall be applied for household beneficiaries with peculiar circumstances based on the assessment and recommendation of the program focal staff. Such circumstances may include, but are not limited to, the following:
  - Death in the household;
  - Change of permanent residence for household members, where the residence of the other households members is retained;
  - Disability affecting mobility of household members; and
  - Other analogous circumstances.

## 2. Case Management

- a. To ensure that the eligible beneficiaries of the program receive appropriate and effective care or services, the program shall track beneficiary records on the compliance.
- b. Based on tracking, the beneficiaries who are non-compliant with the conditionalities of the program shall be monitored accordingly. The following strategies may be utilized:
  - i. House-to-house visits;
  - ii. Community assemblies; or
  - iii. Specified validation points where the beneficiary shall be called from his/her home to a location within the locality.
- c. During the conduct of the aforementioned strategies for non-compliant beneficiaries, the focal point must emphasize the following key messages:
  - importance of the participation to the NES and PES in relation to economic productivity;
  - results of continuous non-compliance to conditionalities; and
  - requirements for reinstatement of benefits.
- d. The results of the above-mentioned activities shall be indicated in the DSWD-managed WGP information system.
- e. The field coordinators shall conduct periodic or monthly review of the beneficiaries records, assess the needs of the beneficiary and provide appropriate interventions.

## 3. Beneficiary Monitoring and Assessment

- a. For every year of regular crediting of benefits, an assessment shall be conducted through CAPI and/or PAPI, whenever necessary, using the *WaG/ Tool*. The assessment shall measure the change in the level of food security of the households who have received program interventions through the scoring system embedded in the tool;

- b. All accomplished PAPI forms shall be encoded in the DSWD-managed WGP Information System;
- c. The DSWD-managed WGP Information System shall generate the result of the household validation through a scoring system embedded in the tool; and
- d. The result of the assessment shall serve as basis for further interventions for household beneficiaries.

#### 4. Grievance Redress Management

To ensure comprehensive and just resolution of all grievances, they shall be addressed in accordance with DSWD Administrative Order No. 10, Series of 2023.

### E. Exit Phase

#### 1. Endline Assessment

- a. After the third year of regular crediting of benefits, an endline assessment shall be conducted through CAPI and/or PAPI, whenever necessary, still using the *WaGI Tool*. The assessment shall measure the change in the level of well-being in terms of food security of the households who have received program interventions.
- b. All accomplished PAPI forms shall be encoded in the DSWD-managed WGP Information System.
- c. The DSWD-managed WGP Information System shall generate the result of the household validation through a scoring system embedded in the tool.
- d. All households who have improved scores and have reached the target level based on the logical framework of WGP shall be included in the "*List of Graduating Beneficiaries*."

#### 2. Graduation from the Program

- a. A household-beneficiary shall be deemed to exit from the Program, whichever comes first, when:
  - i. The household reached the 3-year duration in the Program;
  - ii. The household has improved scores and has reached the target level as set by the DSWD based on the result of the assessment using the *WaGI Tool*;
  - iii. The household voluntarily waives its membership from the Program; or
  - iv. The household commits offenses wherein the sanction is delisting, including continuous non-compliance to soft conditionalities, subject to the standards to be developed by the DSWD.
- b. The *List of Graduating Beneficiaries* shall be posted in a conspicuous place at the locality where they are situated for two (2) consecutive weeks.
- c. The DSWD may formally endorse the graduated WGP beneficiaries to their respective local governments through the Local Social Welfare and Development Office for continued support, especially along productivity.

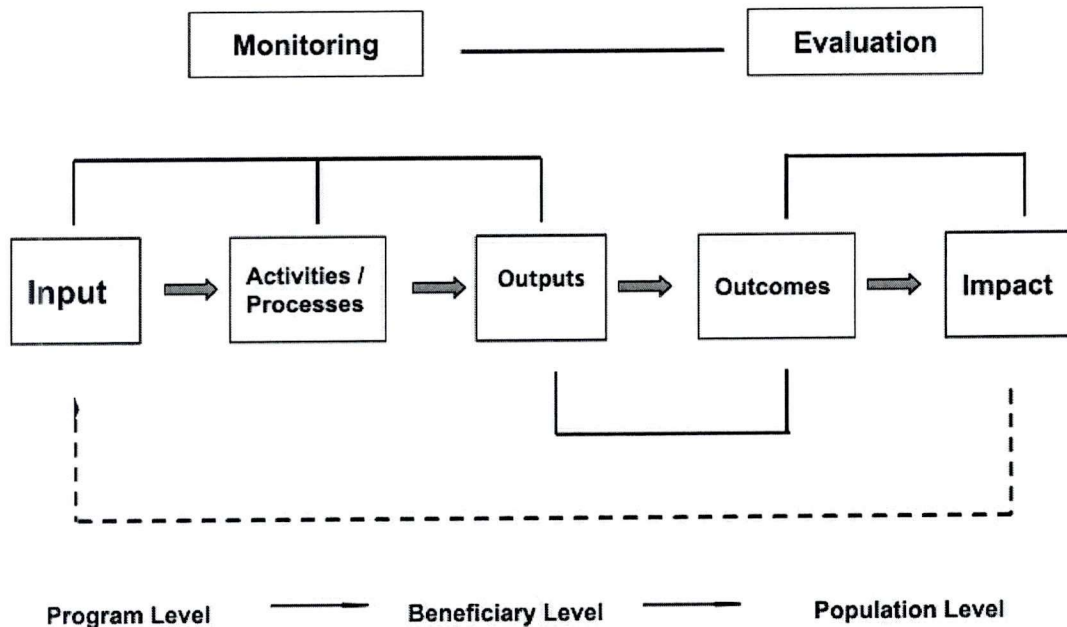
- d. Depending on the final assessment of the WGP focal persons utilizing the WaGI tool, beneficiaries may also be referred to other implementing offices or agencies for livelihood and employment activities, e.g., the SLP subject to its existing applicable guidelines.

**VII. MONITORING AND EVALUATION**

**A. Monitoring and Technical Assistance**

Internal monitoring through the WGP database shall also be put in place to monitor the household beneficiaries' compliance with the soft conditionalities. Further, external monitoring shall be conducted by the NPMO to assess performance of the Field Offices in the procedural requirements and guidelines of the program. This shall be done through regular spot checks to validate accuracy, effectiveness and efficiency of program implementation. Specifically, the following activities shall be undertaken, to wit:

- The WGP NPMO in cooperation with the Field Offices shall develop and use applicable monitoring tools according to the needs of the program. The result of the WGP assessment shall serve as reference and guide in tracking the progress of the WGP implementation; and
- The WGP NPMO shall provide technical assistance to the Field Offices towards efficient and effective implementation of the program based on the approved program design.





## **B. Narrative Accomplishment Report**

The WGP NPMO and the concerned DSWD Field Offices shall prepare quarterly and semestral reports on the implementation of the Food Stamp Program with the following areas, to wit:

- Quantitative and qualitative accomplishments. The report shall include how the activities were implemented based on the target vs. accomplishments.
- Analysis reflecting the strengths, issues, gaps, challenges, and actions taken/recommendations; and
- The next steps to be undertaken with clear deliverables, accountable persons/offices and timelines.

## **C. Program Review and Evaluation Workshop (PREW)**

The PREW shall be done annually to measure the success of the WGP implementation based on the monitoring and evaluation framework, goals and targets.

## **VIII. INSTITUTIONAL ARRANGEMENTS**

### **A. Program Management Office**

A separate policy shall be issued for the establishment of the WGP Program Management Office at the National and Regional level.

### **B. Walang Gutom Program Technical Working Group (TWG)**

The WGP TWG shall provide overall guidance to the program implementers along program development and management, i.e., program designing, targeting, social behavior change and communication, capability building, monitoring and evaluation. Utilizing the expert inputs of the TWG members, activities such as technical assistance, coaching and mentoring, and other forms of support towards the institutionalization of the WGP nationwide shall be undertaken.

A Terms of Reference shall be crafted indicating, but not limited to, the following roles and functions:

1. Provide technical assistance to the WGP NPMO;
2. Identify and inform, where appropriate, innovative community food security policies and programs that align with the vision and goals of the WGP;
3. Identify issues that may affect the implementation and recommend actions;
4. Facilitate documentation to further disseminate lessons and learnings gained during the pilot implementation for improvement in the scale-up; and
5. Support research, monitoring, and evaluation efforts, and identify gaps and opportunities that may inform community food security policies and program modifications

### C. Partner Agencies

- a. **Department of Agriculture (DA).** The DA shall ensure that its programs particularly along the implementation of the DA's KADIWA program be complemented with the WGP with the aim of directly connecting food producers to WGP household beneficiaries to ensure fresh produced food items and making products less costly. The existing implementing guidelines of the DA in implementing these programs and services shall govern along its implementation. Further, it shall actively participate in the monitoring and evaluation of program implementation at all levels.
- b. **Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE).** The DOLE shall ensure to complement its existing programs and services along with provision of opportunities through job training and other employment promotion activities for the household-beneficiaries for them to be engaged in the field of labor and employment. This shall be done through the conduct of productivity enhancement activities and other relevant interventions. It shall align similar systems for WGP and help monitor and evaluate the program operations particularly on the productivity enhancement interventions as one soft conditionality of the program. Further, it shall actively participate in the monitoring and evaluation of program implementation at all levels.
- c. **Department of Trade and Industry (DTI).** The DTI shall, in coordination with DSWD, provide business advisory services on entrepreneurship and various livelihood skills/training which are tailor-fit according to the needs of the WGP beneficiaries. It shall provide regular updates on the DTI's initiatives among the registered WGP household beneficiaries. Further, it shall actively participate in the monitoring and evaluation of program implementation at all levels.
- d. **Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (TESDA).** The TESDA shall provide training and assessment, scholarships and student assistance programs subject to qualification requirements. The TESDA shall provide a plan of available skills training and technical education through its present and future programs and services.
- e. **National Nutrition Council (NNC).** The NNC shall ensure that the WGP policies and guidelines on nutrition are aligned with existing national nutrition standards and the government thrust and directions for nutrition, and as indicated in the Philippine Plan of Action for Nutrition.
- f. **Partnership with Other Agencies.** Partnership with other Government Agencies (GA), Non-Government Organizations (NGOs), developmental partners, and Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) shall be established along program complementation, service delivery, capacity building, knowledge management, and advocacy and sponsorships.

## IX. EFFECTIVITY

This issuance shall take effect immediately upon 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 this \_\_\_ day \_\_\_\_\_ 2024 at Quezon City.



**REX GATCHALIAN**

Secretary

Date: **07 MAY 2024**

**Certified True Copy**



**WILLIAM V. GARCIA, JR.**  
OIC-Division Chief

Records and Archives Mgt. Division

**22 MAY 2024**