



“People involved in the delivery of *social services* indeed *hold the power to change the lives of people* in need and it is up to us to mold the kind of social worker we need in our country.”

-- DR. ESPERANZA I. CABRAL

Reaching out, changing lives

Smarter, Better, Faster - Together



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Gloria Macapagal - Arroyo
President
Republic of the Philippines

Our Cover

For DSWD, consistently providing the less privileged with an opportunity to start life anew, amidst all the challenges, is a way of life. Its enhanced capability to deliver better and wider-ranging services has become a most potent tool that profoundly impacts on individual lives.

The role of the community, as embodied by the ready, helping hands of the youth, further sustains the message that, in the giant task of bringing about a more caring, more compassionate Philippine society, every citizen has an important role to play. DSWD enables this vibrant partnership with its pivotal role as catalyst, enabler and deliverer.

The theme embodies a setting that is both fresh and promising, with compliments to DSWD's promise of change and transformation. Thus, it is what DSWD stands for: hope and a fresh start.

The cover also gives profound appreciation to the brave men and women behind DSWD with highlights to Sec. Cabral's message, stressing our responsibility to help uplift the quality of life of our people.



Vision

A society where the poor, vulnerable and disadvantaged individuals, families and communities are empowered for an improved quality of life.

Mission

To provide social protection and promote the rights and welfare of poor, vulnerable and disadvantaged individuals, families and communities and to contribute to poverty alleviation and empowerment through social welfare and development (SWD) policies, programs, projects and services implemented with or through local government units (LGUs), non-government organizations (NGOs), peoples' organizations (POs), other government organizations (GOs) and other members of civil society.

Goals:

- Formulation and advocacy of a just and responsive SWD legislative agenda, policies and plans, as well as ensuring their effective implementation;
- Identification, development and marketing of technologies for building up social capital;
- Setting up and enforcement of SWD standards to protect the rights of the poor and the disadvantaged to quality services;
- Provision of technical assistance and resource augmentation to intermediaries in the implementation of SWD programs and services; and
- Provision of preventive, protective, rehabilitative and developmental programs and services.

Credo:

- Promote the rights of every individual
- Work for a society of equals
- Build and maximize people's potentials
 - protect them
 - enable them
 - empower them
 - learn from them
- Involve stakeholders and other partners
- Provide a better future for this and generations to come

Values:

- We care for the poor and the disadvantaged
- We recognize their inherent worth, dignity and uniqueness
- We believe in their potential and capacities
- We value social responsibility
- We respect cultural diversity and the environment
- We practice teamwork, cooperation and collaboration
- We adhere to the highest ethical standards of work and quest for excellence in all our undertakings

Message of the Secretary

To say that 2008 was a busy year is certainly an understatement.

In 2008, we suddenly came face to face with a massive global economic crisis which has also affected the Philippines. Under the leadership and staunch support of President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo, the DSWD was able to maintain its efforts to help those hardest hit. This Annual Report will show the sheer amount of work and efforts we've expended as we enhanced and launched many special projects in order to effectively aid our underprivileged countrymen.

The increasing food insecurity prompted by a sharp increase in rice and fuel prices was answered by the distribution of Family Access Cards (FACs) to families whose income is less than P5,000.00 per month. More than 270,000 poor families from 911 barangays in Metro Manila were identified and provided with FACs to enable them to buy government subsidized rice from Tindahan Natin Outlets, NFA Rolling Stores, and Bigasan sa Parokya. As part of the President's Accelerated Hunger Mitigation Program, the Food for School Program provided one kilo of rice per day to children in day care centers in 496 cities/municipalities in the 48 poorest provinces, reaching a total amount of 819,979 day care children. The energy crisis ushered in the *Katas ng VAT: Pantawid Kuryente Program*. Lifeline consumers whose monthly electricity consumption is 100-kilowatt hours or less were able to avail of a one-time subsidy of P 500.00. We were also able to launch *Katas ng VAT: Tulong Para Kay Lolo at Lola*, another one-time subsidy of P500.00 for qualified senior citizens. But we also looked forward to our future and knew that investing in our people's development was the best way to overcome poverty. *Pantawid Pamilyang Pilipino Program* or 4Ps, a conditional cash transfer program aimed at helping the poorest families in the poorest municipalities in the poorest provinces in the country develop their human capital is now in full swing. Our target beneficiaries of 321,000 households have all started to receive their conditional cash grants. I am very pleased to say that the DSWD proved itself to be dependable and strong and gave a good accounting of itself in the performance of these directives of the President.

Parallel to the implementation of our new special programs, existing programs such as the *KALAHI-CIDSS* continued, successfully enhancing the capabilities and lives of 782,468 households and nearly 4 million Filipinos as it neared the end of its run. A tie-up project between DSWD and UN-World Food Programme, the *Emergency Operation Philippines-Assistance to Conflict Affected Mindanao Project* started in June 2006 and ended last March 31, 2008 focused on supporting the peace process, through which the food security needs of the vulnerable population living in conflict-affected areas, as well as their education, health and social development were addressed.



We have continued to provide social protection to clients through our centers and facilities. For CY 2008, 24,476 clients were served and 2,883,531 person days of service were rendered in 61 residential centers and institutions. We have also taken huge steps outside the country as Social Welfare Attachés were installed, initially in Malaysia to provide assistance to hundreds of overseas Filipino workers. At the end of the year, we saw much success as organizers of the ASEAN Senior Officials' Meeting on Social Welfare and Development and the 3rd Forum of ASEAN Government Organization-Non-Government Organization. We can be pleased that in the midst of much danger and anxiety, we continue to serve better – consistently topping the Integrity Development Action Plan (IDAP) ratings for integrity and Pulse Asia *Ulat ng Bayan* Survey ratings for performance.

2008 was a year of hard fought battles in our continuing war to heal the social ills of Philippine society. It has been a busy and challenging year and we all worked hard and invested a great deal of time, money and effort into helping our disadvantaged countrymen cope with trials brought about by the global economic crisis. We have achieved much this year and as the Secretary of the DSWD, it is indeed an honor to be working alongside dedicated employees who have propelled our agency to the top. Let us all continue to work hard. It will not be easy to surpass 2008 but I have learned that the DSWD has the ability to surprise itself as well as others and exceed expectations. I have utmost faith that as we close the book on 2008, 2009 will be just as productive.

DSWD is faster, stronger, better -- let's all keep on exceeding expectations.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'E. Cabral', written in a cursive style.

Dr. Esperanza I. Cabral
Secretary, DSWD



President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo, together with Social Welfare Secretary Esperanza I. Cabral, distributes cash cards to family beneficiaries of the Pantawid Pamilyang Pilipino Program (4Ps), a flagship program under the NSS-SWDRP.

Highlights of Accomplishments

BETTER... FASTER... SMARTER -- TOGETHER

For the year 2008, the Department proceeds further in undertaking its Reform Agenda under the National Sector Support for Social Welfare and Development Reform Project (NSS-SWDRP). It is a project with the end goal of enabling the DSWD to take on the leadership role in social protection and development. The project also enhances the capacity of the Department in the delivery of basic social services.

The objectives of the Reform Agenda NSS-SWDRP are: poverty reduction by improving the outcomes of basic social welfare and development services; improved governance and capacity building; and empowering the poor and increasing their opportunities.

Under the project, the Department's battlecry is **Lead to Reform and Reform to Lead** through the provision of Better, Faster, Smarter -- Together delivery of services for its clientele.

To increase the awareness of the employees on the ongoing and planned change efforts where they need to be active and cooperative, the Department spearheaded their orientation at the sixteen regional Field Offices and the Central Office. The participants who were informed of the rationale and the direction of the Reform Agenda for the next five years welcomed the Department's efforts in pursuing it.

Setting a Tradition of Excellence

Top Performance Approval Rating

In 2008, the Department of Social Welfare and Development remained the country's top performing government agency, ranking first in all the three surveys conducted by the Pulse Asia for the year.

The DSWD obtained a 67 percent approval rating in March 2008, 65 percent in July 2008, and 69 percent in October. The survey results only proved that the DSWD has always been focused on the delivery of services to the people, and is a clear manifestation that these programs are being felt by the masses.

Likewise, the DSWD enjoyed 100 percent awareness rating nationwide.

The DSWD has consistently ranked first in both performance and awareness ratings since the last quarter of 2006.

Top Accounting Division

In recognition of the quality, timeliness and accuracy of financial reports of the Department for the year 2007, the agency's Accounting Division was chosen by the Commission on Audit (COA) as "2008 Outstanding Accounting Office," Central Office Level.

The DSWD Accounting Division bested the accounting offices of 13 other government agencies.

Its high rating was based on timeliness, completeness and reliability of report, compliance to accounting rules and regulations, and accuracy of financial statements.

The Accounting Division provides DSWD management with regular financial reports and appropriate recommendations for efficient and sound utilization of funds, settlement of suspensions and disallowances, and prompt actions on COA findings and recommendations.



Assistant Secretary Florita Villar and Director Marites Maristela receive the Certificate of Recognition from Commissioner Jaime Jacob of the Presidential Anti-Graft Commission and Reverend Father Edwin Seblante of the University of the Philippines.



Financial Management Service Director Deseree Fajardo receives Outstanding Accounting Office award from Metro Manila Development authority Chairman Bayani Fernando as Regional Offices staff look on.

Top in Anti-Corruption Policy Implementation

The Department added another feather to its cap when it topped the list of 100 government agencies, government-owned and controlled corporations (GOCCs) and government financial institutions in terms of compliance to the requirements of the Integrity Development Action Plan (IDAP) for the year 2008.

The Department scored 4.23 in the four strategic areas -- prevention, deterrence or investigation and enforcement, education, and strategic partnership -- which underscores the efforts of the DSWD officials and employees in adhering to the anti-corruption measures set by President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo.

The IDAP serves as the government's national anti-corruption framework and consists of 22 anti-corruption measures contained within the four strategic areas of implementation.

The award is a clear indication that the DSWD sustained the gains it achieved in the implementation of the Integrity Development Action Plan in 2007.



Administrative Director Nicomedes Castillo receives the Department's award from DBM.

Top in Adherence to Procurement Service System

The DSWD was cited by the Department of Budget and Management (DBM) as among the top agencies adhering to the government's policy on procurement of supplies, materials and equipment in the most economical and efficient manner through the Procurement Service System, pursuant to Republic Act No. 9184 or the Government Procurement Reform Act.

Director Sampang Receives First Gawad CES for 2008

Field Office I Director Margarita V. Sampang was named as one of the first recipients of the GAWAD Career Executive Service (CES) in recognition of her outstanding accomplishments as a government executive.

The GAWAD CES is a presidential award that recognizes members of the CES for their exemplary performance and significant contributions, particularly in the areas of innovation, information and communication technology, social services, administrative reforms and public policy.

Director Sampang became Director of Region I in 2007. Barely a year in her new post in the region, Director Sampang was already recognized for ensuring successful, effective and efficient implementation of DSWD programs through her perseverance to engage stakeholders, local government officials, people's organizations, social workers' associations and program beneficiaries.

Director Sampang headed the Human Resources at the DSWD Central Office before taking the helm of operations first in Region III, and then in Region I.



Director Margarita V. Sampang

Two in a Row

Secretary Cabral Bags PRC Award...

Social Welfare and Development Secretary Esperanza I. Cabral, a professor, scientist, and cardiologist received the “Outstanding Professional of the Year Award for 2008 in the field of Medicine,” given by the Professional Regulation Commission (PRC).

The “Outstanding Professional of the Year Award” is the highest award bestowed by PRC upon a professional as recommended by her peers for having amply demonstrated professional competence of the highest degree and conducted himself or herself with integrity in the exercise of his or her profession.

... named Paragon of Career Executive Service

Secretary Cabral was among 12 Career Executive Service Officers (CESO) who were recognized as Paragons of the Career Executive Service (CES) by the Career Executive Service Board.

Secretary Cabral was recognized for exhibiting the highest ideals of a CESO: as leader, change agent, and expert.

The Paragon Award is given to Career Executive Service Officers who have served or are serving with distinction in the Cabinet. ■



Secretary Cabral receives the award from PRC Chairperson Leonor Tripon-Rosero.

Serving the Poor the Best Way We Can

Pantawid Pamilyang Pilipino Program (4Ps)

The 4Ps is an innovative social development and poverty reduction strategy that provides grants to extremely poor households to improve their health, nutrition and education, particularly their children aged 0-14, provided they comply with the program's conditionalities.

The conditionalities include sending their children to school and bringing them to health centers on a regular basis and providing pre and post natal care and delivery by a skilled birth attendant to pregnant women.

The maximum subsidy that a family with three (3) children in school can get is P1,400 per month of which P900 is meant to cover their school expenses and P500 for their health and nutrition.

In 2008, 4Ps reached 337,416 household-beneficiaries from 27 provinces including Zamboanga del Norte, Apayao, Northern Samar, Misamis Occidental, Agusan del Sur, Tawi-Tawi, Surigao del Norte, Masbate, Abra, Oriental Mindoro, and 12 highly urbanized cities including Pasay and Caloocan.

The families are enrolled in the program for five years provided they comply with the conditionalities. Otherwise, their monthly cash assistance will be suspended or they will be dropped from the program.

The program is patterned after the successful Conditional Cash Transfer Programs in Latin American and African countries which was proven successful as a poverty reduction measure.



DSWD staff validates qualified 4Ps beneficiaries.

Family Access Cards

The Department in 2008 also helped address the rice crisis through the issuance of Family Access Cards (FACs) for the beneficiaries of the Government Rice Assistance Program.

The FAC is a government-issued card that contains basic family information as attested by the barangay chairman and certified by the City/Municipal Social Welfare Development Officers. It allows a family to purchase NFA rice at P18.25 kilo sold only at Tindahan Natin outlets.

The Department has issued 274,825 FACs to qualified family-beneficiaries in Metro Manila. These beneficiaries were identified by the local government units in Metro Manila and were validated by DSWD social workers.



President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo, Secretary Esperanza I. Cabral and Landbank President Gilda Pico look on as Pantawid Pamilyang Pilipino Program (4Ps) beneficiary in Ozamis City withdraws her cash subsidy.

National Household Targeting System for Poverty Reduction (NHTSPR)

The DSWD is spearheading the preparations for the National Household Targeting System for Poverty Reduction (NHTSPR) to identify the poorest of the poor in the country. This effort is in coordination with the National Statistics Office, National Statistical Coordination Board, and experts as advisory group. Its main objective is to identify who and where the poor are in the Philippines. Specifically, it aims to:

1. Establish a functional and transparent system for identifying the poor;
2. Create a database of households as reference in identifying beneficiaries of social services; and
3. Reduce leakage to non-poor and exclusion of poor in social services.

The project consists of two (2) phases of implementation. Phase I intends to cover 15 cities and 252 municipalities from the top 20 poorest provinces, 1 city and 98 municipalities which fall above the 60 percent poverty incidence, 16 National Capital Region (NCR) cities, 16 highly urbanized cities outside Metro Manila, with approximately 5,100,000 households. The other municipalities and cities with poverty incidence below 60 percent will be included in Phase 2.

The methodology to be used by the project is the Proxy Means Test Method which consists of predicting household income based on socio-economic, demographic and other household characteristics gathered through a household survey.

The end result of the project is a data-base of households classified according to poverty level.

We Forge Ties

DSWD HOSTS ASEAN EVENTS

The ASEAN Senior Officials' Meeting on Social Welfare and Development (SOMSVD) served as a preparatory venue for the ASEAN Ministerial Meeting for Social Welfare and Development (AMMSWD), a higher level body that calls together heads of ASEAN ministries on social welfare and development. The Philippines hosted the 5th ASEAN-SOMSVD meeting, back to back with the meeting of the ASEAN + 3 SOMSWD last December 3, 2008 in Manila. Senior officials with the rank of undersecretary or deputy minister from ministries or departments of social welfare of countries in Southeast Asia attended these events. The country also hosted the 3rd Forum of the ASEAN GO-NGO last December 2, 2008. The DSWD played a vital role in organizing these activities and took the lead in carrying out initial preparations by the ASEAN Technical Working Group on Social Welfare and Development with other national agencies and organizations.

1. Consortium of Social Welfare Practitioners, Educators and Schools of Social Work

The activity was held on August 12-14, 2008 at the Heritage Hotel, Pasay City, participated in by 20 social work practitioners and educators from Indonesia, Lao PDR, Myanmar, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam. It aimed to formulate the basis and mechanics of operationalizing the proposed ASEAN Consortium of Social Welfare Practitioners, Educators and Schools of Social Work among ASEAN member states toward capacitating social welfare practitioners and development workers to



Undersecretary Alicia R. Bala (center), current chair of the ASEAN SOMSWD, with participants of the 5th SOMSWD held at the Manila Hotel on December 3-4.

effectively provide social work interventions. Each member state presented a paper on their social welfare situation and issues and challenges in their respective countries. The output of the two-day activity was a Resolution on the Establishment of an ASEAN Consortium of Social Welfare Practitioners, Educators and Schools of Social Work.

2. Second Level ASEAN Training Workshop on Community-Based Strategies for the Rehabilitation of Perpetrators of Domestic Violence

The four-day Second Level ASEAN Training Workshop was conducted on November 17-20, 2008. It was attended by representatives from seven (7) countries namely: Cambodia, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Myanmar, Philippines and Thailand. The objective of the workshop was to increase ASEAN member-countries' competency in addressing the gaps on interventions on Violence Against Women (VAW) focusing on the treatment/rehabilitation of the social functioning of perpetrators of domestic violence.

3. Third ASEAN GO-NGO Forum

The Third ASEAN Government-Non-Government Organization Forum was conducted on December 2, 2008 at the Manila Hotel. Thirty-seven (37) delegates representing government and non-government organizations from Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Myanmar, Philippines and Thailand attended the activity. The agenda of the discussion were along social protection, trafficking and labor exploitation as well as climate change and its impact on socially-vulnerable groups.

4. Fifth ASEAN Senior Officials Meeting on Social Welfare and Development (5th SOMSWD)

The Fifth SOMSWD was held on December 3-4, 2008 at the Manila Hotel. Delegates from Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Malaysia, Myanmar, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam attended the meeting. Representatives of the ASEAN Secretariat and International Council on Social Welfare (ICSW) also participated in the meeting.

5. Fourth ASEAN+3 SOMSWD

The Fourth ASEAN plus Three Senior Officials Meeting on Social Welfare and Development was held on December 5, 2008 at the Manila Hotel. The ASEAN Country Coordinators presented eight project proposals under the SOMSWD's ASEAN Strategic Framework and Plan of Action (2007-2010) for funding consideration of the Plus Three Countries. These eight project proposals were considered in line with the areas of cooperation under the "Promoting the Development of Vulnerable Groups" section of the ASEAN+3 Cooperation Workplan (2007-2010) which was adopted at the 11th ASEAN+3 Summit on November 20, 2007 in Singapore.

From the eight proposals presented, six were from the Philippines, four of which originated from the DSWD.



Secretary Esperanza I. Cabral delivers her keynote speech during the ASEAN Consortium of Social Welfare Practitioners, Educators and Schools of Social Work.

We Implement

Katas ng VAT

With funds generated from the collection of Value-Added Tax (VAT), President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo directed the DSWD to distribute a one-time P500 cash subsidy to qualified senior citizens and to lifeline users of electricity.

The Katas ng VAT: Tulong Para kay Lolo at LoLa provides a one-time P500 subsidy to 1,000,000 qualified senior citizens. It is being implemented by the DSWD through its field offices and in coordination with the Local Government Units (LGUs) and the Office of the Senior Citizens Affairs (OSCA).

The Pantawid Kuryente: Katas ng VAT, on the other hand, was intended for lifeline users of electricity nationwide. Lifeline users are households with an electricity consumption of one to 100 kilowatt hours per month.

The P500 one-time subsidy for lifeline users was distributed through the Land Bank of the Philippines branches in the MERALCO franchise area in Metro Manila, Bulacan, Pampanga, Cavite, Laguna, Batangas, Rizal, Quezon and Nueva Ecija and through the National Electric Administration (NEA) and 120 electric cooperatives and through the 15 members of the Private Electric Power Operators Association (PEPOA) investor-owned utilities in the rest of the country.

Since the start of the implementation on June 6, 2008, some 987,679 claimants in the MERALCO franchise areas have been served through the Land Bank of the Philippines. Under NEA 4,845,277 lifeline users have been provided their subsidies while 505,521 claimants were covered by PEPOA.



Lifeline users of Meralco queue outside Landbank to avail of their Katas ng VAT subsidy.

Accomplishments along MFOs

The Department accelerated its pace to accomplish its Thrusts and Directions for 2008, and to attain its commitment to the updated Medium Term Philippine Development Plan (2008-2010) and the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). This is operationalized through the agency's Major Final Outputs (MFOs), which are measures to determine the quality of social welfare and development programs, projects and services that the DSWD delivers to its external clients.

A. Services Relating to the Formulation and Advocacy of Policies, Plans and Programs

1. Policy Development

1.1 **Position Papers.** The Department prepared seven (7) position papers on legislations and congressional resolutions:

1. House Bills 102, 308, 641, 739, 936, 4593, 1673, 1863, 3129, 2795 and 1135 on Acts Allowing Legitimization of Children Born Out-of-Wedlock to Parents who were Disqualified to Marry by Reason of Minority
2. Senate Bill 543 on Older Filipinos' Protection from Violence
3. House Bill 683 on Modifying the Crime of Rape Involving Minors
4. House Bills 164,797 and 211 and Senate Bills 1701, 1712, 1797, 1865, 1891, 1959, 2048 and 2114 on Magna Carta for Women
5. House Bills 17, 812, 2753 and Senate Bills 40, 43, and 187 on Reproductive Health

6. House Bill 1740 on the Benefits and Special Privileges for Former Overseas Filipino Workers
7. House Bill 405 on the Amendment of RA 9257 Increasing the Present 20% Discount of Senior Citizens to 32%

Moreover, one concept paper on DSWD Policy Notes was also formulated aiming to inform policy makers, decision makers and the public about certain policy approaches affecting the marginalized and vulnerable in society, with the intention of seeking support for necessary policy reforms.

The Department also prepared and endorsed the DSWD Proposed Agenda for CY 2008 to the Social Development Committee (SDC). Five (5) proposed agenda items on social welfare and development were identified in accordance with the priority concerns in the MTPDP 2004-2010 and subsequently approved by SDC-NEDA. These included: the Bill for the Establishment of a Comprehensive System for Registration,



The Magna Carta for Women, aims to be the first concrete legislation that clearly targets discrimination against women especially the poor and marginalized.



House Bill 405 seeks to amend RA 9257 and increase the present 20% discount of senior citizens to 32%.

ASEAN Training Workshop in Community-Based Strategies for Rehabilitation of Perpetrators of Domestic Violence*

Recognizing that every person is imbued with dignity, several countries in the world have adopted measures to secure that such intrinsic attribute is guaranteed. Among the problems that indicate the infringement of such right are incidences of domestic violence that continue to occur in many countries, especially against women and children.

In the Philippines, the right against domestic violence has been given due attention as evidenced by the passage of laws that penalize it. Several national and local government agencies, led by the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD), the Department of Interior and Local Government (DILG), and the Philippine National Police (PNP), have crafted preventive and rehabilitation programs for potential and actual victims of domestic violence.

The DSWD has also worked with various national and local government agencies in implementing a community-based rehabilitation program for perpetrators of domestic violence.

This program aims to assist them to realize that violence has no place in their families. The DSWD has trained a number of social workers to conduct the counselling sessions.

The same attention on rehabilitating perpetrators of domestic violence has been given by social welfare and law enforcement agencies in other Southeast Asian countries. In 2003, representatives from the member states of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) came together to compare programs and practices in this regard in the 1st ASEAN Training Workshop.

With the Department of Social Welfare and Development taking the lead, the Second-Level Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) Training Workshop in Community-based Strategies for the Rehabilitation of Perpetrators of Domestic Violence is now being held. Some 20 representatives from the 10 ASEAN countries – Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Myanmar, Malaysia, Singapore, Thailand, Vietnam, and the Philippines – are participating in the training workshop that aims to address gaps identified from the first training in 2003.



The workshop will highlight the global and regional mechanisms to eliminate all forms of violence against women. It will be guided by a conceptual framework that will guide community-based rehabilitation, a framework drawn from the programs and experiences of the participating countries. The participants will visit programs implemented by the DSWD and the Philippine National Police in select communities in the country.

We welcome the participants in the Second Level ASEAN Training Workshop in Community-based Strategies for the Rehabilitation of Perpetrators of Domestic Violence and wish them success in all their endeavors. ■

* Editorial published in the Manila Bulletin, November 19, 2008.

Licensing and Accreditation of Social Welfare and Development Agencies and other purposes; Bill Amending Presidential Decree 1564 on Public Solicitation; Bill for Long-Term Care for Senior Citizens; National Sector Support for Social Welfare and Development Reform Agenda (NSS-SWDRP) and Pantawid Pamilyang Pilipino Program.

- 1.2 **Policy Guidelines.** In line with its objective of streamlining coordination with its partners, intermediaries, and stakeholders and providing effective services to its clientele, the Department has issued thirty three (33) social welfare and development (SWD) guidelines for this period.
- 1.3 **Policy Fora.** To advocate for the adoption of national laws and policies, policy fora and dialogues on various issues were conducted and documented in the different regions. Among the many policy fora/orientation conducted at the regional level are on RA 9344 Juvenile Justice Welfare Act, RA 9442 (Magna Carta for Persons with Disabilities), RA 9262 (Anti-Violence Against Women and Their Children) and RA 8972 (Solo Parents Act). These policy fora were participated in by Municipal Social Welfare and Development Officers (MSWDOs), local officials, NGOs, NGAs, Academe, Judges and Prosecutors.
- 1.4 **Plans Development and Monitoring.** About 354 LGUs formulated their SWD plans in consultation with the Field Offices while 14 regions have updated their SWD situationers. The SWD situationers are tools in planning and identifying targets using the existing conditions of a particular region for appropriate programs and services.

The Department started to use the enhanced official reporting form this year. The reporting form contains the performance vis-à-vis budget utilization of the different offices of the Department.

An added feature of the enhanced reporting form captured the contributions of the different intermediaries of the Department. The contributions captured in the forms become part of the entire social welfare and development sector.

The Department is continuously monitoring the status of implementation of sectoral plans of the five sectors: namely, children, youth, women, older persons, persons with disabilities.

- 1.5 **The Social Welfare and Development Journal.** The DSWD has published the January to June issues of "JOURNAL", the official journal of the Department that features various social welfare development articles and researches with

policy and program implications. The JOURNAL serves as a repository of the knowledge acquired by the DSWD. It contains brief reviews, updates on program implementation backed up by data and experiences, and SWD guidelines and issuances.

The "JOURNAL" is released to the public through DSWD national and local offices, SWD organizations/institutions, national government agencies, donor agencies, SWD committees in the Senate and House of Representatives, and the academe.

2. Program Development

2.1. Pilot Testing of Social Welfare Technology

The DSWD continued to implement eight (8) pilot projects namely:

- **Recovery and Reintegration for Survivors of Trafficking**

This program protects victims from re-trafficking, promotes eventual re-integration of the deportees and return of undocumented Overseas Filipino Workers (OFWs) to their families and communities. Existing programs and services of DSWD are likewise tapped and maximized including programs of other government agencies, non-government organizations and private sectors.

- **Reintegration Program for Deportees and Returning Undocumented OFWs**

The program provides comprehensive integration services to deportees and returning undocumented OFWs to alleviate their situations. It is a package of services that will buffer the adverse effects of repatriation, deportation, and unemployment upon return to the Philippines. This is being implemented in DSWD Region IX.

The program is on its social preparatory stage. Project orientation was conducted to the regional implementers and to the members of the inter-agency committee (DOLE, DTI, TESDA, DA etc.) that are involved in the project. The program inter-agency MOA is already signed by concerned agencies. A total of 38 beneficiaries were identified and oriented about the program.

- **Job Network Services**

Job Network Services is a safety net assistance and social protection provided to individuals in economic distress. It aims

to empower and enhance the financial capability/skills of unemployed individuals to become self-reliant, productive and contributing members of the society. The beneficiaries of the project shall be provided with the following services: job matching, occupational guidance and counseling, skills training and granting of cash assistance for transportation, food and processing of employment requirements during job seeking period as well as food subsidy while waiting for job placement.

The project is being implemented in DSWD Region VIII and the target beneficiaries of the project are clients of Crisis Intervention Unit (CIU). From July to November this year, project orientation was conducted for the regional implementers and the members of the inter-agency committee (DOLE, DTI, TESDA, etc.) that are involved in the project. To date, nine (9) individuals have benefited from the project through provision of cash assistance and skills training prior to their final job placement.

- **Community-based Rehabilitation Program for Perpetrators of Domestic Violence (CBRPPDV)**

The CBRPPDV is the DSWD's contribution to the implementation of RA 9262 otherwise known as "Anti-Violence Against Women and their Children Act of 2004". The program provides assistance to perpetrators of domestic violence utilizing various therapy models. The project was implemented in nine regions namely: Regions III, IV-A and B, V, VIII, X, XI, NCR and CAR, benefiting 29 barangays. Ninety-nine perpetrators were served.

The Department has completed the pilot implementation of the project in the first



Men's support groups (MSG) are organized to serve as peer support to perpetrators of domestic violence undergoing rehabilitation.

quarter of the year. It is now working for its institutionalization in the local government units nationwide.

- **Case Management Tool for Children Recovering from Substance Use and Abuse (Modified Social Stress Model)**

The Department enhances the capability of social workers at the Haven for Street Children in handling rescued street children recovering from substance abuse using the Modified Social Stress Model (MSSM). This tool enables social workers to minimize the risk factors that may lead the child to go back to substance abuse.

The tool was piloted at Haven for Street Children in Alabang, Muntinlupa. The MSSM tool was used in the case management of 136 clients.

- **Youth Productivity Service**

The project was launched in October 2008. It is an integrated skills and job placement project for out-of-school youth and youth at-risk led by LGUs in partnership with private business and other government agencies. It builds on the traditional youth training programs to include: a) life and employability skills and development; b) training programs that meet industry needs; and c) mentoring the youth during job hunting and even during their initial employment. This will be implemented in nine municipalities of Misamis Oriental.

2.2. Manuals Developed

The Department developed and enhanced the following manuals to address emerging social welfare and development issues and support the implementation of newly enacted laws:

- Manual on the Use of the Modified Stress Model
- Early Childhood Care and Development (ECCD) on the Air Manual
- Manual on Care and Support Services for Persons with HIV / AIDS (PHAs) their Families and Children
- Manual on Character-Building Program for Children and Youth in Residential Care Facilities
- Character-Building for Employees and Clients

Keeping Up with our Standards

B. Standards Setting, Licensing and Accreditation Services

1. Registration, Licensing and Accreditation and Issuance of Authority to Conduct Fund Drives

The following were accomplished along registration, licensing, and accreditation:

- Registered 519 social welfare and development agencies and social welfare agencies
- Licensed 189 social welfare agencies
- Accredited 79 social welfare agencies, 688 ECCD centers, 70 senior citizens centers, 9 DSWD centers and institutions, two (2) LGU centers; 937 ECCD service providers; 54 social workers handling court related cases, and 37 marriage counselors
- Authorized 16 fund drives
- Issued 110 solicitation permits
- Endorsed 32 NGOs for duty free entry of their donated goods



Secretary Cabral awards Certificates of Registration to Philippine Band of Mercy, with Undersecretary Alicia R. Bala (extreme right).

2. Area-based Standards Network (ABSNET)

The mobilization of ABSNET in the Field Offices has demonstrated the collaborative efforts and consultative mechanisms in the areas of standards development, promotion and compliance. A total of fifty (50) ABSNET clusters have been organized nationwide and are assisted by the DSWD to enable them to perform their assistive roles in carrying out the regulatory functions of DSWD.

Table 1: Regional Distribution of ABSNET Clusters

FO	Location	No. of Clusters	No. of Members	
			LGU	NGO
I	Pangasinan, La Union, Ilocos Sur and Ilocos Norte	2	8	62
II	Batanes, Cagayan, 1st and 2nd Districts of Isabela 3rd and 4th Districts of Isabela, Nueva Vizcaya and Quirino	2	2	15
III	Bulacan, Olongapo, Zambales, Pampanga and Nueva Ecija	4	20	40
IV-A	Cavite, Rizal, Laguna and Batangas	5	5	25
IV-B	Mindoro and Puerto Princesa	2	37	36
V	Albay, Catanduanes, Camarines Norte, Camarines Sur and Masbate	6	8	60
VI	Iloilo, Antique, Capiz, Aklan, Bacolod, Negros Occidental	2	14	135
VII	Cebu, Bohol, Dumaguete	3	8	41
VIII	Ormoc and other municipalities, Tacloban and Samar	2	6	40
IX	Zamboanga City and Isabela, Zamboanga del Norte (Dapitan and Dipolog), Zamboanga del Sur and Pagadian City and Zamboanga Sibugay	4	40	124
X	Misamis Occidental and Iligan, Misamis Oriental, Cagayan de Oro and Bukidnon	2	10	30
XI	Davao City, Davao del Norte and Davao del Sur	3	4	75
XII	Socsargen, Cotabato, North Cotabato and Kidapawan	4	48	75
CAR	Baguio City and Tabuk City in Kalinga	2	7	60
CARAGA	Butuan, Agusan del Sur and Agusan del Norte	2	7	15
NCR	Central, Metro West, Metro East, Metro South and North	5	18	51
	TOTAL	50	242	884

Advocacy on Standards Compliance: An NCR Best Practice

By: Maridol R. Licerio

In the National Capital Region, there are 888 registered, licensed and accredited NGOs, consisting of 576 Social Welfare Development Agencies (SWDAs) and 312 Social Welfare Agencies (SWAs). With the limited budget at the Field Office, implementing new guidelines in standards compliance is a concern.

The advocacy on standards compliance initiated by the National Capital Region intensified partnership, networking and collaboration between and among DSWD intermediaries in enforcing the guidelines, as well as in enabling SWDAs and SWAs to comply with the standards set by the Department.

Networking with partners and stakeholders was initiated to meet the needs and requirements for advocacy, capability-building and setting up of institutional arrangements.

Active players in the best practice included the following: Local Government Units, five Area-Based Standards Network (ABSNET) clusters/members, GOCCs/NGAs, business establishments, transport group (LRT lines 1, 2, and 3) and other NGOs and associations.

The processes and activities involved in the mobilization are:

- Initiating consultation dialogues with officials of big business establishments/corporations in compliance with Public Solicitation Regulations.
- Writing letters to officers of business establishments advising them on the Omnibus Rules and Regulations on Public Solicitations or Administrative Order 14.
- Conducting consultation dialogue with the 17 LGUs' marriage counsellors and social workers managing court related cases to address its difficulties in compliance with its accreditation.
- Initiating forum on legal operation of citizens and community organizations by ABSNET.

- Sharing of updates on Standard Compliance with the City/Municipal Social Welfare Development Officers (C/MSWDOs) during the bi-monthly meetings.
- Conducting bi-monthly meetings with the Day Care Centers (DCCs) and Day Care Workers (DCW) evaluators to thresh out issues and concerns in the conduct of accreditation assessment.
- Writing letters to business establishments informing them of the public solicitation law.

As a result of the activities undertaken by the DSWD-NCR, both public and private institutions have complied with the standards in public solicitation. These institutions include the SSS, LRTA, DENR, SM, Seven-Eleven, Jollibee and Sta. Lucia East Grand Mall.

Some coin banks were confiscated by Jollibee Corporation. The legitimacy of solicitation activities conducted by organizations and individuals was also validated. As such, roles were clarified and delineated between the DSWD and the LGUs, while applicants were given advice as to the proper agency where they can secure solicitation permits from. ■



A consultation dialogue conducted by DSWD-NCR in advocating standards compliance

Extending a Helping Hand

C. Provision of Support Services and Technical Assistance to Intermediaries

1. Technical Assistance

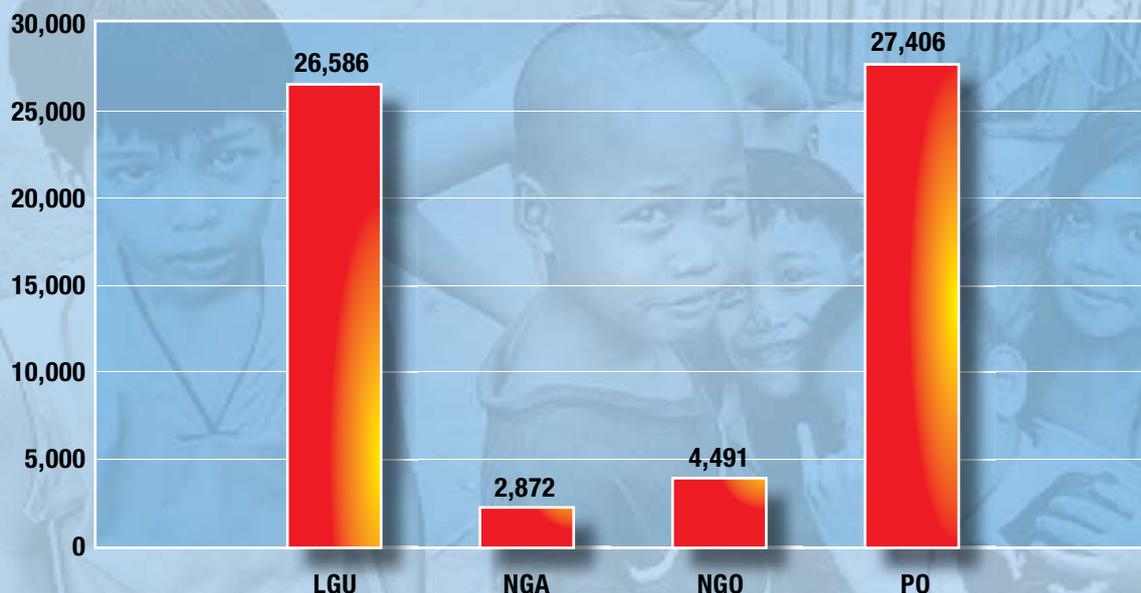
1.1. Capability Building to Intermediaries

A total of 61,355 social welfare and development workers (duplicated count) composed of 26,586 from local government units (LGUs); 2,872 from national government agencies (NGAs); 4,491 non-government organizations (NGOs), and 27,406 from people's organizations (POs) were provided with capacity building activities (see figure 1). They participated in the 969 capacity building activities conducted by the DSWD Central and Field Offices. Of the total number of participants,

17,300 or 28 percent were trained implementers who have been capacitated to re-echo and deliver more capacity building trainings to their constituents.

Social Welfare and Development Officers (SWDOs) were trained on the recently passed RA 9344 concerning Children in Conflict with the Law (CICL). About 633 SWDOs were trained on handling CICL cases; of whom 560 were LGU-based, 55 were DSWD field office representatives, and, 18 were from various government agencies engaged in social protection.

Figure 1: Distribution of Social Welfare Development Workers Provided with Capability Building



CSAP provides security to disaster victims

By: Evelyn T. Manalo

“Mas ligtas na ang aming pamamahay ngayon,” says Andres Huertas, 41, of Barangay Diagyam, Dilasag, Aurora, one of the beneficiaries of the Core Shelter Assistance Program (CSAP) of the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) and one of the victims, rendered homeless by the series of typhoons that occurred in the said barangay in 2006.

Two years ago, typhoons Paeng and Quennie affected hundreds of families in the municipalities of Dilasag, Dingalan, Dinalungan, Baler, San Luis and Dipaculao in Aurora Province.

Dilasag, which faces the the Pacific Ocean, was one of the towns hardest hit by typhoons Paeng and Queenie that visited the country in October and November 2006. More than 2,000 families were severely affected by the said typhoons leaving 256 families homeless and 589 families with partially damaged houses. The typhoon also claimed five lives and injured 18 persons.

Andres Huertas and his family were among the families who benefited from CSAP. His wife Anacita, the president of the Neighborhood Association for Shelter Assistance (NASA) in the barangay, claimed that with the CSAP they don't have to be afraid when typhoons come as they are now secure in their new and durable homes.



According to Director Minda B. Brigoli of DSWD Field Office III, CSAP funded the construction of 341 houses in the six (6) municipalities of the Province of Aurora. The beneficiaries are from the towns of Dingalan with 60 recipients; Dilasag, 108; Dinalungan, 53; Casiguran, 60; Dipaculao, 30; and San Luis, 30, Brigoli added.

Brigoli said that the construction of the houses is part of the Department's rehabilitation efforts for calamity victims.

CSAP, a disaster response and mitigating strategy involves the organization of work teams of five families each which will undertake the construction of core shelter units that can stand 180-kilometer per hour wind velocity or earthquakes of moderate intensity.

The Program aims at reducing the number of families rendered homeless every year by providing structurally strong indigenous shelters. It also maximizes the participation of community members and draws the commitment of the beneficiaries towards empowerment and sustainable development.

Governor Bella Angara-Castillo of Aurora, who is very supportive of the program, thanked the DSWD for the housing assistance for the beneficiaries who used to live along the coastal areas with houses made of light materials. Likewise, concerned local government units also showed their support by providing relocation sites, declared safe for habitation by the Department of Environment and Natural resources (DENR).

At present, Andres and the rest of the beneficiaries feel more secure in their new houses. ■

Rebirth of a Community

By: Vina P. Aquino

“Genuine communities of a sort frequently develop in response to crisis.” This is according to M. Scott Peck, in his book, *The Different Drum*, as he discussed the “Genesis of Community.”

Parallel with this view is the experience of the residents of Barangay Guinsaugon in St. Bernard, Southern Leyte after a killer landslide happened in February 2006.

The Department of Social Welfare and Development Field Office 8 and the Habitat for Humanity Philippines (HFHP) Foundation worked closely in building new homes where they could start their lives anew.

The initial fruit of the partnership was the one hundred shelter units for mudslide survivors of Ginsaugon, located at Barangay Magbagacay at St. Bernard. Each unit is a 20 square - meter duplex type housing unit with a loft made with steel frames built complete with electrical connections.

Beyond the construction of the housing units was the social preparation aspect. Social workers worked on getting the people emotionally ready in their newly built homes.

In the construction phase, the Municipal Social Welfare and Development Office under Arcelyn E. Bajador assisted by identifying the beneficiaries who will work, in coordination with the HFHP. The Food-for-Work scheme was adopted, whereby those involved in the construction were provided food for their families since they could not attend to their farms anymore, and have no means to earn and feed their children.

“The participation of the beneficiaries was essential,” DSWD Field Office 8 Director Leticia Corillo said, naming it as “sweat equity”. The scheme was also a way of restoring their dignity, self-worth, and instilled in them the value of volunteerism. “All of these were lost after the tragic incident,” Corillo concluded.

The HFHP Project Engineer, Woodley Grapa had forty persons from one barangay who worked for 20 days on a rotation basis. Meanwhile, the DSWD provided Php 500,000.00 for their food. The provincial

government of Southern Leyte took the responsibility of site development, while St. Bernard municipality had its counterpart in the form of a six – hectare lot for the shelter communities.

“We salute the local partnership of the province,” said Minister Jiro Okuyama, a representative of the Government of Japan which donated Php 26.7 M (including the 100 housing units for Ginsaugon victims) for the project. The Japanese official made the statement during the unveiling ceremony of the 105 units in Nueva Esperanza held last September 20, 2008. On the same day, the ceremonial turn-over of 226 units for the residents of Barangay Ayahag, and 86 units for Sug-angon was also held.

The DSWD poured in Php 3.95 M and the Habitat for Humanity Philippines, “builder” of the housing units provided Php 6.8 M for the 517 beneficiaries. The first batch of 100 units was turned over to the survivors of Ginsaugon last December 1, 2006.

Guinsaugon went through a process...a rebirth of a community. ■



In terms of development and enhancement of training modules, eighteen (18) modules were developed by the Central Office and Field Offices and twenty-two (22) modules enhanced (Table 2)."

Table 2: Modules Developed and Enhanced by DSWD in 2008

Developed	Enhanced
1. Social Workers Handling Children in Conflict with the Law (CO)	1. Pre-Marriage Counseling (I)
2. Supervisory Skills Enhancement for Unit and Center Heads (IV-A)	2. Manual on Marriage Counseling Service (I)
3. Training of Intermediaries as Evaluators of DCWS/DCCs (IV-A)	3. RA 9344 for BCPC Members (II)
4. Training of Service Providers on Sign Language (IV-A)	4. FDCP Training (IV-A)
5. Facilitation (VIII)	5. Training on CICL (IV-A)
6. Balancing Work and Family Life (VIII)	6. TOT on Revised Manual for DCW (IV-B)
7. Self-Awareness: Understanding Myself as a Person (VIII)	7. PES Integrating ERPAT (IV-A, IV-B and VIII)
8. Trauma Management (VIII)	8. Search and Rescue Training for Volunteers (V)
9. Training on Recovery and Reintegration of Trafficked Victims and Survivors (VIII)	9. Disaster Management Training (VI)
10. Supervised Neighborhood Play (VIII)	10. Teenbayan Volunteers Training (VI)
11. Training for the MAT (VIII)	11. Orientation on the IRR of Government Procurement Reform Act (IX)
12. The MCT Orientation on the CDD LPP Harmonization (VIII)	12. Therapeutic Community Orientation for Centers and Institutions (IX)
13. Leadership Skills Enhancement and Value Formation Training for Parent Leaders of 4Ps (CARAGA)	13. Basic Training Course on Microsoft Wares (IX)
14. Summer Youth Camp and Parent Child Encounter Seminar (CARAGA)	14. Frontline Services (IX)
15. Lecture Workshop on Building Understanding on CIAC to Strengthen Linkage Among Partner Municipalities (CARAGA)	15. Skills Upgrading on Interviewing and Counseling (IX)
16. Organizational Development and Leadership Skills Training for Women Leaders (CARAGA)	16. Barangay Leaders on RA 9344 (IX)
17. Reflection Session on Strengthening Institutional Relationship Towards Positive Organizational Change	17. First Aid Training and Reorientation of DSWD Programs and Services (X)
18. Team Building Workshop for Community Facilitators (CARAGA)	18. Livelihood Program and Skills Enhancement for PEOs (CARAGA)
	19. Capability Building for New Absnet Members (CARAGA)
	20. Skills Enhancement for Loreto Municipal Coordinating team (CARAGA)
	21. Gender Sensitivity Training (NCR)
	22. Module on Team Building Workshop (NCR)

1.2. Self- Employment Assistance Kaunlaran (SEA-K)

SEA-K is a capability building program of the DSWD designed to improve the socio-economic skills of poor families to establish and self-manage a sustainable community-based credit organization for entrepreneurial development.

Under SEA-K Level I, 5,268 livelihood associations were organized providing 35,018 families. The Department released Php 174,337,250 as seed capital to fund livelihood projects of the beneficiaries.

On the other hand, 33 SEA-Kabayans (Level II) were organized composed of 1,873 families who were successful with their livelihood projects under SEA-K Level I. They were provided with

additional seed capital for micro-enterprise, repair of their houses and higher level of entrepreneurial skills. The DSWD released Php 34,727,750 seed capital to the families.



Housewives augment their family income through various livelihood projects under the SEA-K.

2. Resource Augmentation to Intermediaries

2.1. Calamity Assistance Rehabilitation Efforts (CARE)

The CARE Project is concentrated in regions II, III, IV-A, IV-B, V, VI and VIII where 309,518 families lost their houses and 30,755 families lost their main source of livelihood/income due to super typhoons in 2006. As of December 31, 2008, the Department provided the following services to assist the families for their early recovery, funded under CARE fund:

Table 3: Number of Beneficiaries and Amount of Assistance Provided by DSWD under the CARE Fund

Region	Programs/Services						Total
	Core Shelter		Livelihood		Cash for Work		
	No. of ben.	Amount	Families Served	Amount Provided	No. of Ben.	Amount	
II	50	3,500,000	63	350,000	50	100,000	3,950,000
III	140	7,000,000	105	525,000	100	200,000	7,725,000
IV-A	600	42,000,000	6,247	37,631,500	800	1,600,000	81,231,500
IV-B	107	7,490,000	628	2,722,000	107	214,000	10,426,000
V	2,795	195,680,000	22,857	115,018,000	4,100	8,200,000	318,898,000
VI	100	7,000,000	346	1,705,000	100	200,000	8,905,000
VIII	100	7,000,000	529	2,510,000	100	200,000	9,710,000
Total	3,892	269,570,000	30,775	160,461,500	5,357	10,714,000	440,745,500

There are 2,958 housing units completed and already occupied by the beneficiaries while 1,089 are under construction.

2.2. Kalinga Luzon 2 (KL2)

This is a follow through project with Gawad Kalinga (GK) for the construction of core shelter units for the victims of typhoons Unding, Violeta, Winnie and Yoyong in 2004.

KL2 has an initial budget of P250 M with a target of 3,570 shelter units distributed in Regions II, III, IV-B and V.

From the P149,985,000.00 released with Notice of Cash Allocation (NCA), an amount of P53,590.00.00 were utilized for the construction of 792 shelter units. As of December 31, 2008, 708 units were completed and 84 shelter units are under construction. The rest of the funds were utilized for unfunded shelter units under CARE Project.



New homes... new hope for victims of disasters with the construction of core shelter units in regions hardest hit by typhoons and other calamities.



Each core shelter unit costs P70 thousand and measures four (4) meters by five (5) meters.

3. Augmentation Support for Disaster Management

For CY 2008, the Department has recorded 318 disaster occurrences affecting 1,730,211 families from 12,573 barangays nationwide.

The Department extended a total of P246,848,977.00 worth of augmentation assistance to the affected local government units for the relief and rehabilitation of families and communities affected by various types of incidences for the year. Mindanao got the biggest share of assistance with P125,592,690 or 51%, followed by Luzon with P 65,780,447.00 or 27% and Visayas with P55,475,840 6.3 or 22 %.

Over all, a big portion of the assistance went to relief and financial assistance worth P149,067,453.00 or 60% inclusive of the financial assistance released to Field Offices intended for individuals in crisis such as medicines, transportation, hospitalization and other interventions; followed by Shelter Assistance for totally or partially damaged houses worth P73,157,000.00 or 30%. Mitigation activities thru Capacity Building got the smallest share with P211,680.00.

D. Services for Center-Based and Community-Based Clients

One of the major thrusts of the DSWD is the provision of social protection services to its center- and community-based clients. The Department has served a total of 123,421 individual clients in residential and non-residential facilities and communities.

1. Center-Based Services. There are 68 DSWD-managed residential and non-residential centers nationwide which served a total of 24,394 clients for the period.

1.1 Residential Care Centers/Institutions

The DSWD served 23,476 clients in 61 residential centers nationwide (Table 4). These clients include abandoned and neglected children, street children, children in conflict with the law, girls and women in especially difficult circumstances, older persons, persons with disability and other persons with special needs.

Homelife, medical/dental, psychological/psychiatric, educational, economic productivity/skills training, and socio-cultural, recreational and spiritual services were provided to these clients.



**Table 4. Clients Served in DSWD Residential Care Facilities
CY 2008**

Sector	Residential Care Facility	Total No. of Facilities	Bed Capacity	No. of Clients Served	Average Length of Stay *	Total Person Days of Service***
Children	Reception and Study Center for Children	11	538	904	218	197,072
	Haven for Children / Lingap Center / Nayon ng Kabataan	5	400	583	251	146,333
	Home for Girls / Marillac Hills	14	723	1,080	245	264,600
Sub-total		30	1,661	2,567		608,005
Youth	Youth Hostel	1	35	145	183	26,535
	Home for Boys	1	30	26	422	10,972
	Regional Rehabilitation Center for Youth (RRCY) / National Training School for Boys (NTSB)	10	555	950	214	203,300
Sub-total		12	620	1,121		240,807
Women	Regional Haven for Women	12	461	1,311	128	167,808
	Sanctuary Center	1	74	191	536	102,376
Sub-total		13	535	1,502		270,184
Older Persons	Golden Acres / Home for the Elderly / Aged	3	335	502	1,980	993,960
Sub-total		3	335	502		993,960
Persons with Disability	Elsie Gaches Village	1	470	659	2,231	1,470,229
Sub-total		1	470	659		1,538,823
Persons with Special Needs	Jose Fabella Center	1	150	5,626	10	56,260
	Processing Center for Displaced Persons	1	136	11,499	4	45,996
Sub-total		2	286	17,125		102,256
GRAND TOTAL		61	3,907	23,476		3,754,035

* ALOS is computed by total bed capacity multiplied by 366 days divided by total clients served.

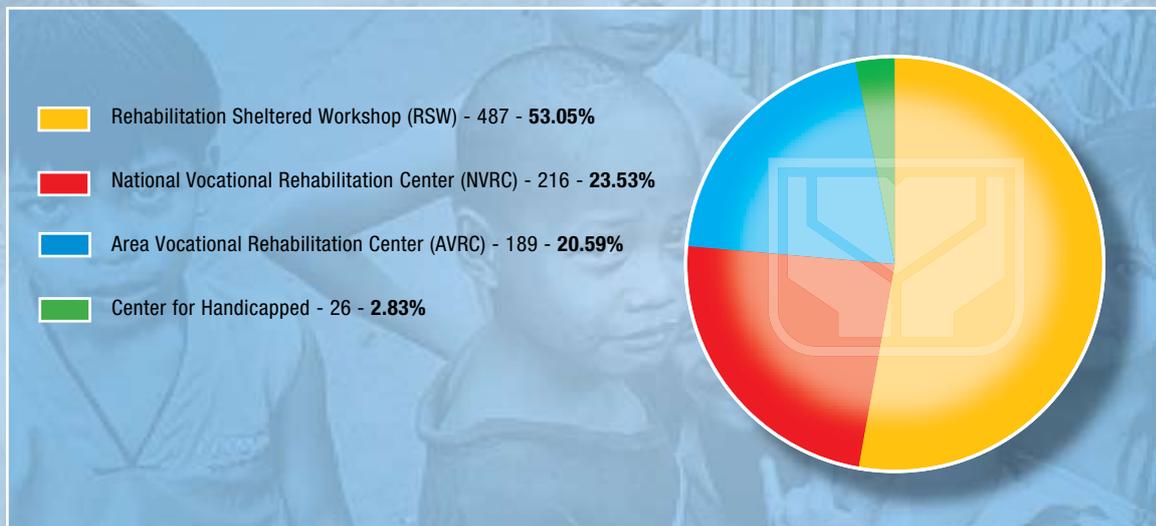
**ALOS of EGV, SC, GA and RYH was computed by adding ALOS from 1st to 4th quarters divided by 4, as the above formula does not apply for client's stay in the said centers.

*** Person days of service is computed by total client served multiplied by ALOS.

1.2 Non- Residential Care Centers

In the seven (7) non-residential centers and institutions, 918 clients were enrolled and availed of the services rendered therein (Figure 2).

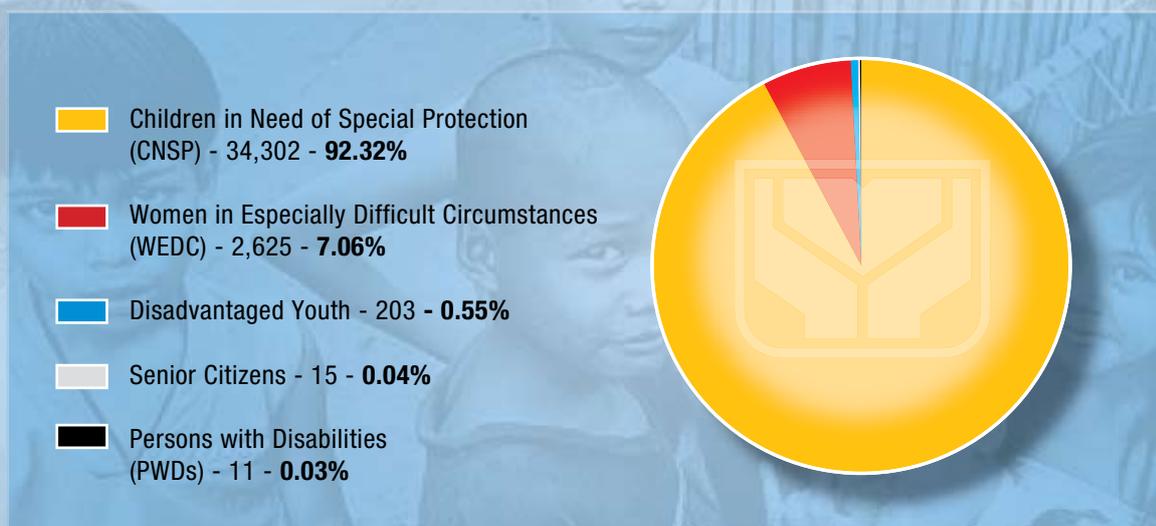
Figure 2: Clients Served in DSWD Non-Residential Facilities



2. Community-Based Services

37,156 individuals covering children, youth, women in especially difficult circumstances, persons with disabilities, and senior citizens were provided community based services nationwide (Figure 3).

Figure 3: Individuals Provided with Community-Based Services Served by DSWD



Struggles turned to triumphs

By: Asuncion M. Flores

January 30, 2004 was a memorable day for an innocent 13 year-old girl, a product of a broken family, when she was arrested in a buy-bust operation conducted by the Pasig City Police Drug Enforcement Unit due to an alleged involvement in illegal drug activities, a violation of Republic Act 9165, otherwise known as the Comprehensive Dangerous Drugs Act.

Despite her young age, Kristina (not her real name) was detained at Pasig City Jail with other female adults for 22 days after that entrapment operation by the local authorities in Brgy. Kalawaan, Pasig City.

While in detention, life was miserable for the helpless girl as she was abruptly taken from her home and school, and lived with adult inmates whose violent behavior and use of foul language disturbed her innocence.

Fate has turned favorably for the young girl. The provisions for youth offenders under Presidential Decree 603 or the Child and Youth Welfare Code released her from detention. A commitment order, sent to Marillac Hills for her institutional care, which also gave the institution responsibility to take custody of her and to provide the needed interventions due her. Further, Kristina maintained her innocence about the allegations that prevented the issuance of a suspended sentence, thus subjected her to court litigation and prolonged stay at Marillac Hills, her home for almost two years in the company of the center's staff and wardmates.

A typical girl, she loves sports and competes in every activity that she would join in. She outperforms other girls in dancing as she leads the center's Praise & Worship Dance Group and also has represented Marillac Hills in invitational dance occasions. She was commended for being a very diligent Character Coach and Girl Scout Platoon leader. She occupies herself with the assigned tasks in the cottage – as a character coach, a dance leader, a diligent student and a part time office girl whose extra time is selflessly contributed in data encoding, records filing, and doing errands without any complaint.

Beyond these extra curricular activities, she was recognized for completing several skills and livelihood training courses like baking, dressmaking, cosmetology, food processing and toy craft. With all these skills, she was very helpful in sewing linens, baking breads and pastries for the center residents' consumption and/or in selling these products during bazaars and tiangge.

She learned to discipline herself in Marillac Hills. Never was she involved in petty quarrels nor has she been a subject of complaint or wrongdoing. Like any other child, she also wants to experience a better life and dreams to finish her studies so she can help her two younger siblings who were left under the care of her grandmother since her mother works abroad.

In 2005, barely a year after her transfer to the center, a tragedy happened to her family. Her mother, an OFW returned to the Philippines and shortly thereafter was gunned down by her jealous live-in partner, also the primary accused in Kristina's

drug case. Her mother's live-in partner was soon located and imprisoned for the murder of Kristina's mother. His incarceration gave her relief and made her stronger to face new challenges in her life. Her faith in God and trust in people helped her develop inner strength

These incidents made her even stronger to face the challenges that would come her way. With her faith in God and trust in people, these are instrumental in understanding trials and obstacles in her life.

The enactment of RA 9344 or the Juvenile Justice Welfare Act in 2006 saved her and other children in conflict with the law from the harsh reality of imprisonment at a young age.

On October 20, 2006, the court dismissed her case and granted her much anticipated liberty and reunion with her family. On October 29, 2008, she was welcomed by her new custodians – her grandparents in Tondo, Manila where she started life anew, free from ridicule and the stigma of her home in Pasig City. She is now a fourth year high school student at the Sergio Osmena High School, and will graduate in April 2009.

The skills she learned from Marillac Hills gave her an advantage as she was able to introduce techniques and strategies in group planning and project implementation in class. Her teachers and schoolmates were surprised of her skills in facilitating group discussions. A year later, she left her grandparents to accept a cooking and feeding job from a church based organization that now sustains her personal and school needs.

After her graduation, she plans to enroll in a computer course which according to her would be her asset to be gainfully employed and live a decent life ahead.

What is Kristina praying for? . . . that God would guide her to continue living a normal life with her family and to be awarded with a SCHOLARSHIP GRANT from a donor/sponsor who has the heart to finance her studies of her desired course; . . . That God will bless her with her simple heart and struggling spirit to live a life away from her past. ■



In terms of clientele category, the highest served are children which is 34,302. This is followed by women at 2,625, disadvantaged youth at 203, senior citizens at 15 and persons with disabilities at 11.

Among the interventions provided by the Department are psycho-social interventions, medical assistance, livelihood assistance, skills training, education and legal assistance.

3. Crisis Intervention Unit (CIU)

The DSWD operates 17 CIUs nationwide. It is the Department's arm in providing indigent clients in crisis situations with financial and other forms of assistance, including transportation and referrals for immediate medical intervention to other private and government agencies. About 61,871 clients

including family heads, children and youth in need of special protection, women in especially difficult circumstances, persons with disabilities, older persons, and disaster victims were assisted nationwide. A total of 91,045 clients were provided services. The total amount of P136,620,974.66 nationwide.

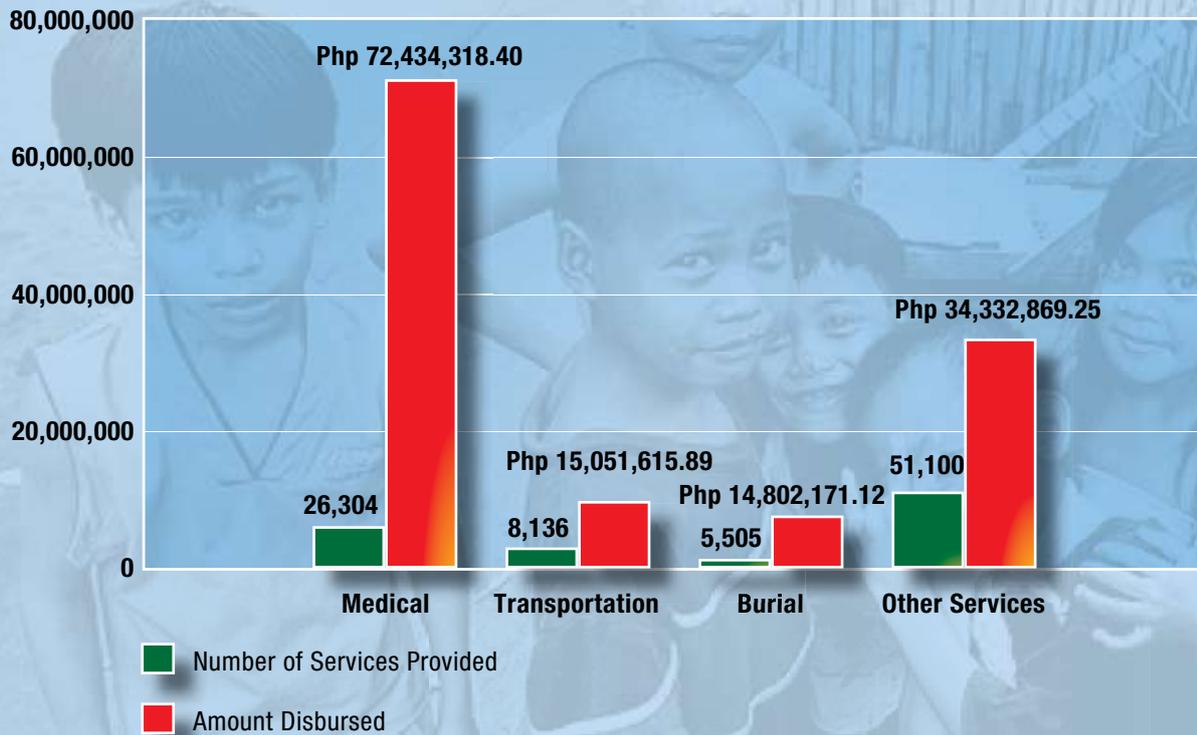
Medical assistance was the most availed of service by the CIU clients with 28.89% or 26,304 followed by transportation assistance and burial with 8.94% or 8,136 and 6.04% or 5,505 respectively. These clients were provided with cash or guarantee letters. Other services which comprised 56.13% or 51,100 clients include integrated services such as counseling, referral to other agencies, financial assistance for food subsidy, education and employment and material assistance i.e. food packs, hot meal, assistive devices and medicines.



The Crisis Intervention Unit provides indigent clients with financial and other forms of assistance.



Figure 4: Services Provided by the CIUs and Amount Disbursed by Type of Assistance



Other services include counseling, referral to other agencies, financial assistance for food subsidy, education and employment and the monetized value of material assistance provided such as food packs, hot meals, assistive devices, used clothing and medicines.

CIU-Central Office served the highest number of clients for this year with 20,794 followed by NCR and XII with 13,414 and 7,070, served respectively. As concluded in the previous CIU national report, the proximity of CO and NCR to hospitals can be attributed to the influx of clients here. Further, people usually migrate to the metropolis to look for greener pastures but were later on victimized by illegal recruiters, thus, needing government interventions such as transportation assistance.

Integrated services were provided to 4,411 clients in FO XI, while 3,460 clients were served in FO VII. FO IVA served 2,417 clients, 1,474 in FO X, and 1,264 in FOV. FO CARAGA, and IVB afforded assistance to 1,082 and 1,073 clients, respectively while FO VIII assisted 1,063 and 1,042 clients in FO CAR. FOs with the least number of clients catered are in FOs II (948), III (679), VI (629), IX (526) and I (525).

Shaping **Hopeful** Communities

E. FOREIGN ASSISTED AND LOCALLY FUNDED SPECIAL PROJECTS

1. Foreign Assisted Projects

- **Kapit-Bisig Laban sa Kahirapan Comprehensive and Integrated Delivery of Social Services: Kapangyarihan at Kaunlaran sa Barangay (KALAHI-CIDSS: KKB)**

KALAHI-CIDSS: KKB is a community-driven development (CDD) Project implemented by the DSWD with a loan of the national government from the World Bank and counterpart funds from the local governments.

It aims to empower communities and enhance their participation in local governance and community projects that reduce poverty.

Figure 5: KALAHI-CIDSS Sub-Project Types



Since it started in 2003, the Project has a total of 4,303 subprojects that have benefited 865,827 households in 4,432 barangays. Subproject types consist of 2,212 basic social services (i.e. water systems, school buildings, etc.), 1,219 basic access infrastructure subprojects (i.e. road/access trails and foot bridges), 476 community production, economic support and common service facilities (i.e. pre and post harvest facilities, small scale irrigation, etc.), 370 environment protection and conservation subprojects (i.e. flood controls, sea walls, etc.) and 23 skills training and capability building subprojects. An estimated cost of P1,064,085,078.93 was utilized for the completion of these sub-projects.



Grade six pupils in Barangay Bagasbas enjoy an afternoon of fun in front of the recently completed three-room school building constructed during cycle 2 implementation of the KALAHI-CIDSS project in the community.

Never too old to learn

By: Alma L. Jornadal

Fifty-six-year-old Abelardo Casiple promptly finished tending his farm one Tuesday morning to return home before mid-day. "I don't want to be late," he muttered. Enthusiasm was written in his face as he picked up his notebook and ballpen and went out of his house to meet his wife, Vilma. Together, they joined a cluster of people gathered nearby. With only the shade that a sturdy tree, the group, composed mostly of elders, eagerly awaited the arrival of their teacher to teach them simple mathematics and the basics of writing and reading.

Abelardo and his wife, 47-year-old Vilma, were just two of the 28 Indigenous Peoples (IP) in Sitio Marinas -- the farthest sitio in Brgy. Toyungan, Calinog, Iloilo -- who enlisted in the adult literacy program under the Japan Social Development Fund-Social Inclusion Project (JSDF-SIP). The sitio's location was one of the reasons why most people in Toyungan did not finish elementary grade. "Most of the elder tumandoks (natives) went as far as grade two only."

Toyungan is one of the 13 IP barangays in Calinog with a total population of 1,744 (based on 2006 survey). It is home to both IPs and non-IPs. The tumandoks belonging to the Panay Bukidnon-Suludnon tribe reside at the outer portion of the village while low-lying sitios (Paradahan and Brgy. Proper) are dominated by non-IPs. Toyungan is divided into seven sitios that are widely dispersed along undulating hills connected only by foot trails. During rainy season, most of these sitios are inaccessible.

Abelardo recalled that when he was young, walking barefoot some six kilometers to Toyungan Elementary School every day eventually wore him out. "There was no other way but to walk... and you needed to cross the river before you finally reached the school. There was a raft that took us to the other end but it was for a fee. It was also very dangerous for us when the water rises during rainy season," Abelardo said in Hiligaynon. "Eventually, I got discouraged. We were poor. Besides, I thought then that it was also useless since I wasn't attending classes regularly. So in the middle of the second grade, I stopped," he added.

But what made him enlist in the literacy program? "This is one way of showing my 10 children that no one is too old to learn... that age does not matter if you want to learn," said Abelardo who was among the 61 villagers in Toyungan who completed the six-month basic literacy sessions. During their completion day, Abelardo was even awarded Best in Math.

"It's a personal triumph for me. All my life, I have labored hard to send my children to school so they will be properly educated... so they will not end up like me. What I learned during our classes may be simple for others, but for me, it helped me more than just to know how to read and write my name... it helped me overcome my insecurities. I realized that I could still improve myself," Abelardo said. ■



The participants of the adult literacy program during their Completion Day in Brgy. Toyungan, Calinog, Iloilo.



Abelardo Casiple (back row) with fellow participants and Toyungan Barangay Kagawad Esteban Lira (left) and Rogina Mequirme (right) of Calinog LGU.

Aside from visible subprojects, community-based evaluation results showed that KALAHI-CIDSS has enhanced capabilities of community members, improved communities' volunteerism and self-esteem, increased civic participation and involvement and strengthened community-based organizations.

Sustainability of the KALAHI CIDSS' process is ensured by the barangay sustainability plans. Many municipal LGUs have also committed their support by providing technical assistance in subproject preparation, implementation and monitoring.

KALAHI-CIDSS covers 4,229 barangays in 184 poorest municipalities in 42 provinces across 12 regions. The project is scheduled to end in June 2009. However, the DSWD requested for an extension of the project from the World Bank last December 11, 2008.

- **Japan Social Development Fund-Social Inclusion Project (JSDF-SIP)**

This is a three year complementary grant to the KALAHI-CIDSS: KKB project.

The project that started in 2005 and ended December 2008, supports locally designed strategies and approaches to enhance participation of poor and vulnerable groups that are difficult to reach and less-likely to participate in anti-poverty programs.

JSDF-SIP operates in 106 barangays, located in 35 municipalities, reaching 24 provinces in 11 regions. Within the said locations, 65 are communities of Indigenous Peoples (IP), 20 are Conflict Affected Communities (CACs) and 21 are combination IP-CAC areas.

To date, out of the 67 approved subprojects in 106 barangays amounting to P36,620,076 for the regular SIP implementation, 66 subprojects in 105 barangays are already completed, the remaining one subproject in one barangay is still ongoing. JSDF-SIP continues to support projects amounting to P11,051,782 covering 13 municipalities.

- **Poder y Prosperidad dela Comunidad (PODER)**

A special poverty alleviation project realized through a partnership between the Department and the Agencia Española de Cooperacion Internacional para el Deserrollo (AECI), this project's framework is patterned after the KALAHI-CIDSS but operates on a smaller scale. It is implemented only in areas not covered by the KALAHI-CIDSS, namely Aurora in Region III, Albay in Region V and, Agusan del Sur and Surigao del Sur in CARAGA. In the four (4) provinces, it covers 154 barangays and eight municipalities.

The project which started in 2005 is on its 4th phase of implementation. In the 3rd phase which ended last June, about 69 community sub projects worth P63 M were completed. Majority of the community projects are school buildings (22%), day care centers (22%), water systems (14%) and drainage canals (14%).

The project has completed 213 community sub projects at a total cost of P202.68 M in 162 barangays with 54,600 direct household beneficiaries.

The 4th Phase of PODER that started in June 2008 covers eight barangays in the municipalities of



A school building in Albay build through PODER makes education more accessible to the poor.

Hinatuan, San Agustin and Sibagat in CARAGA and two barangays in the municipality of Malinao in Region V.

Another component of the 4th phase is the Bicol Rehabilitation Project which covers the municipalities of Bacacay, Sto. Domingo, Malilipot and Tiwi and the cities of Legaspi and Tabaco, all in the province of Albay. The said project areas were heavily damaged by typhoons Milenyo, Paeng, Reming and Seniang in 2006.

Under the current phase, 55 sub-projects were identified and funded at a total cost of P72.3 M. As of December 31, four sub-projects have been completed and six are on-going while 45 are due to start in January 2009.

- **Emergency Operations Philippines-Assistance to Conflict Affected Mindanao (EMOP-ACAM) Project**

This joint project of the DSWD and United Nations-World Food Programme supports the peace process in Mindanao by addressing the food security needs of the vulnerable population living in conflict-affected areas, as well as promoting education, health and social development.

- The project reached 165,712 families in 121 LGUs in ARMM, Regions X and XII. It also served 1,440 children in day care centers and private pre-schools, as well as 166,712 children in primary schools.
- The project benefited individuals and families in five (5) provinces in Mindanao, namely: Lanao del Norte in Region X, North Cotabato and Sultan Kudarat in Region XII, and Lanao del Sur and Maguindanao in the ARMM.



The EMOP-ACAM project assures food on the table for poor Mindanao folks.

- Notable outcomes of each project component are as follows:
 - Food for Education: Increase in enrolment rate and sustained 94 percent attendance rate in schools
 - Mother and Child Health: Increase of 35 percent in the attendance of pregnant and lactating mothers in the barangay health service/rural health unit and improved nutrition of children.
 - Food for Work: Reconstructed and built community projects such as day care centers, barangay roads, foot bridges, etc. and promoted peace in North and South Cotabato, Zamboanga del Norte, Zamboanga del Sur and Zamboanga Sibugay. A total of 23,714 individuals benefited from the program.
 - Food for Training: Provided skills training, such as bag making, food preservation, stuffed toys making, etc. to 39,506 beneficiaries also from the above-mentioned areas.
 - Emergency Relief Distribution to Internally Displaced Persons: Provided immediate food intervention to 237,934 families in Maguindanao, Shariff Kabunsuan, North and South Cotabato, Lanao Del Norte, Lanao Del Sur, Sarangani, Sultan Kudarat and Basilan.

The pilot phase of the project ended on March 31, 2008.

- **Improving Governance to Reduce Poverty: Access to Justice for the Poor Project (AJPP)**

AJPP is an inter-agency project that builds and strengthens the capabilities of the key players of



Pursuing justice for the poor becomes easier through the Access to Justice Network.

our justice system to ultimately enable the poor, particularly women and children, to pursue justice in selected project areas. From the project inception in November 2006, the Project has trained 4,513 Women's and Children's Rights Advocates, 1,493 Lupon Tagapamayapa members, 142 judges and court personnel, 141 Public Attorney's Office (PAO) lawyers and prosecutors, and 252 police officers. The Access to Justice Network (AJN) is composed of agencies and stakeholders which provide information on access to justice issues, laws and procedures to the public. The implementation phase of the project ended on August 10, 2008.

- **Strengthening Government Mechanism for Mainstreaming Gender in Reproductive Health, Population and Anti-VAW Programs**

This joint project of the DSWD and the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) creates an enabling environment that promotes and protects the rights of women and girls. The project also advances gender equity and equality in 10 provinces, 30 municipalities and one city.

Forty-four (44) social workers from the pilot regions and provinces attended the three-day coaching sessions on Enhancing Case Managers Knowledge Skills and Attitude in Social Case Study Writing. In addition, continuous advocacy activities for RA 9262 and 9208 in pilot regions are conducted in coordination with the Inter-Agency Committees Against Trafficking.

- **Expansion of Project Hope for Bajao Families**

The Project Hope For Bajao families located at Sitio Tongbato, Barangay Sangali, Zamboanga City aims to respond to the expressed need of Bajao families for a culturally sensitive community. Funded by the New Zealand International Aid and Development (NZAID) Agency, it was conceived to address homelessness and mendicancy among Bajaos.

Eighty core shelter units, one training center, footbridges/catwalks and 14 units of communal toilets were constructed. Eighty Bajao families attended the training on Liberating Indigenous People from Indignity (LIPI) and have undergone Proxy Mean's Testing to determine if they are qualified for livelihood assistance of the project. The beneficiaries were issued identification cards as legitimate constituents of Barangay Sangali.

- **Care and Support Services for Persons with HIV/AIDS (PHAs), their Families and Children**

This project funded by the United Nations Development Program (UNDP) is geared towards the education and capability building of the individual, families and communities in mitigating the impact of HIV and AIDS. It is implemented in NCR and Region III as pilot areas.

A Home-based Care Approach Training Workshop for PLWHAs and their Families was attended by the pilot regions, LGUs, NGOs and the Local Aids Council of Angeles City.

Of the total target of 36 PHAs and their families, 29 were provided services such as livelihood assistance, burial and educational assistance.

- **Developing Systems, Tools and Capabilities for Economic and Social Empowerment of Returned Victims of Trafficking in the Philippines**

This joint project of the DSWD and International Labour Office (ILO) aims to improve delivery of recovery and reintegration services to returned victims of trafficking in order to contribute to the reduction of re-trafficking of women and children for labor and sexual exploitation.

Fifty-four participants from DSWD and ILO partner-agencies attended trainings and workshops. Guidelines on the Referral System for the Recovery and Reintegration of trafficked persons were developed for the implementation of the project.



Secretary Esperanza Cabral and Ms. Imelda Benitez of the New Zealand International Aid and Development Agency hand over the symbolic key to the core shelters of the Project Hope for Bajao families to Zamboanga City Mayor Celso Lobregat.

Some 25 partner-agencies from ILO, Overseas Workers Welfare Administration (OWWA), Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (TESDA), Batis, Kanlungan, DOJ-IACAT attended the workshop on the Guidelines, Indicators and Data-Based System for the Recovery and Reintegration of Trafficked Victims and Validation Workshop.

- **Comprehensive Pilot Intervention Plan Against Gender Violence in CARAGA**

DSWD entered a partnership with the Agencia Española de Cooperación Internacional para el Desarrollo (AECID) for the Comprehensive Pilot Intervention Plan against Gender Violence which is the Philippine and Spanish Government's attempt towards addressing issues concerning gender violence. Sec. Esperanza I. Cabral and Mr. Jesus Molina, the Coordinator-General of AECID signed the memorandum of agreement between DSWD and the funding agency last 30 July 2008 to implement the project in CARAGA.

This first phase of the project is focused on the prevention component of the project. A training needs analysis and research on the extent of VAWC in the region was conducted. The result provided a baseline for trainings and other interventions for the welfare of women and children-survivors of violence.

- **United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) Funded Projects**

UNICEF continues to provide funding and technical support to the Department in the implementation of its programs and services for children and youth. For the year, UNICEF provided much of its assistance to the Department's programs and services for CICLs, thru the provision of supplies and equipments to six (6) Regional Rehabilitation Center for Youth (I, III, VIII, IX, X, XI), repair/ construction of facilities inside two RRCYs (VI and VII), and development of resource materials and capacity-building of service providers. Funds were also provided in the development of standards for street children programs as well as the data-banking system for Children in Need of Special Protection (CNSP), ECCD web-based data management and monitoring system.

2. Locally-Funded Projects

- **Tindahan Natin**

The Tindahan Natin Project is a national government initiative for food security, job generation and livelihood. From January 2006 to November 2008, 15,400 Tindahan Natin Outlets were established nationwide benefiting 4,407,683 families with access to subsidized good quality rice.



A Tindahan Natin Outlet

- **Food for School Program (Day Care Center)**

This project involves the provision of food subsidy to poor families with children in day care centers. It is one of the components of the government's Accelerated Hunger Mitigation Program that addresses hunger among the poor and malnutrition among children.

With funding of P765,750.000, a total of 469,636 children in 13,058 day care centers in 446 cities and municipalities were provided one (1) kilo of rice for 37 days. This represents 100 percent accomplishment over the 467,707 target children beneficiaries.

- **International Social Welfare Services for Filipino Nationals (ISWSFN)**

This project institutionalized a system of providing social welfare services to OFWs through the deployment of social workers to areas with a high density of overseas Filipinos. It also established a network of welfare agencies and service providers for OFWs giving technical assistance along social welfare to government organizations (GOs) and NGOs concerned with the welfare of the OFWs.

About 6,576 deportees were assisted by the Social Welfare attaché in Malaysia. Most cases were undocumented Filipino nationals who were either trafficked victims, victims of illegal recruitment, distressed OFWs, victims of forced labor and others accused of crime/violation of Malaysian immigration laws. Among the interventions provided were counseling, critical incident stress debriefing (CISD), assistance in securing travel documents for immediate deportation or repatriation, networking/referrals, assistance at court hearings of rescued trafficked victims and other appropriate interventions for the safe return of distressed Filipino nationals to the country.

On the other hand, the Department through its social workers posted in International Social Services Japan (ISSJ) was able to serve sixty-eight (68) cases of Filipino nationals mostly children. Cases include adoption, repatriation, report of birth, marital problems, financial support and child custody.

3. Other Social Protection Initiatives

- **Katas ng VAT: Tulong Para Kay Lolo at Lola**

The project provides a one-time P500 cash subsidy to 1,000,000 qualified senior citizens funded by the National Government from its oil VAT collection, and implemented nationwide by the Department thru its Field Offices and in coordination with the LGU and the Office of the Senior Citizens Affairs (OSCA). A total of 328,264 senior citizens have been served with cash subsidy of P500. Distribution to the rest of the qualified senior citizens is ongoing.

- **Katas ng VAT: Pantawid Kuryente**

This is a one-time subsidy of P500 for lifeline users whose monthly electricity consumption is 100-kilowatt hours or less. It is distributed at Land Bank of the Philippines (LBP) branches within the MERALCO franchise area of Metro Manila, Bulacan, Pampanga, Cavite, Laguna, Batangas, Rizal, Quezon and Nueva Ecija. The rest of the lifeline users in the country were served through credit memo of the respective electrical cooperatives and private utility operators.

Since the start of the program's implementation on June 6, 2008, some 994,764 claimants in the Meralco franchise area in the NCR, Regions III and IV-A have been served by the LBP. The National Electrification Administration (NEA) and Private Electric Power Operators Association (PEPOA) served 4,805,177 and 505,521 claimants, respectively.



Secretary Esperanza I. Cabral led the distribution of assistance to the beneficiaries of Katas ng VAT: Tulong Para kay Lolo at Lola.

Governance really matters

STRATEGIC SUPPORT SERVICES

Information and Communication Technology

The DSWD has developed additional web-based applications for the following programs and projects: Pantawid Pamilyang Pilipino Program (4Ps), Beneficiaries Identified for Government Assistance (BIGAS) Program and the Family Access Card (FAC).

Information systems were also developed to support social protection programs, projects and services, including the following: Children in Need of Special Protection (CNSP), Crisis Intervention, Early Child Care and Development and Database for the National Recovery and Reintegration for Trafficked Persons.

Human Resource Management and Development

The Department has a total manpower complement of 4,912 nationwide as of December 31, 2008. Of this, 799 or 16% are based at the Central Office and the rest are distributed in 16 Field Offices.

1. Capability building

To sustain employees' professional and personal growth, 302 employees availed of specialized trainings. These include local scholarship, international conferences/seminars, and short-term trainings. Areas of specializations were public policy, governance, information technology/management, social welfare, disaster and risk management, crisis communication, impact assessment of anti-poverty programs, financial management, training management and development and resource planning.

2. Employee Welfare and Benefits

In support of its commitment to promote employee welfare, the Department has carried out the following:

- Issued health insurance cards to 4,170 officials and employees nationwide.
- Provided medical services to 1,798 and dental services to 2,620 employees, dependents and walk-in clients.
- Granted the collective negotiation agreement benefits to 4,912 officials and employees worth P73,680,000.00.
- Honored eight (8) employees with individual awards under the Program on Awards and Incentives for Service Excellence (PRAISE).



Social Welfare and Development Secretary Esperanza I. Cabral (middle) is flanked by DSWD's Program on Awards and Incentives for Service Excellence (PRAISE) awardees who were recognized as Best Performers in their respective categories.

3. Performance Management System

- Conducted 2008 performance appraisal of directors
- Conducted the DSWD-wide orientation-workshop preparatory to the trial run of the Office Performance Evaluation System (OPES) mandated by the Civil Service Commission (CSC) for adoption in the civil service system

Administrative Management

The Department ensured that appropriate management systems and procedures are in place for economical and effective administrative services.

Due to the efficient energy management program, the Department received a 5-Star National Energy Efficiency and Conservation Program in Government Building Rating with a grade of 93% from the Office of the President and the Department of Energy. At the same time, the Department generated savings from energy conservation and austerity measures as shown in Figure 6.

Through the generosity of the Manila Economic & Cultural Office (MECO) led by Ambassador Antonio I. Basilio and Director Ma. Isabel O. Golanco, the Department has acquired an additional two warehouses at the National Resource Operations Center (NROC) in Pasay City.

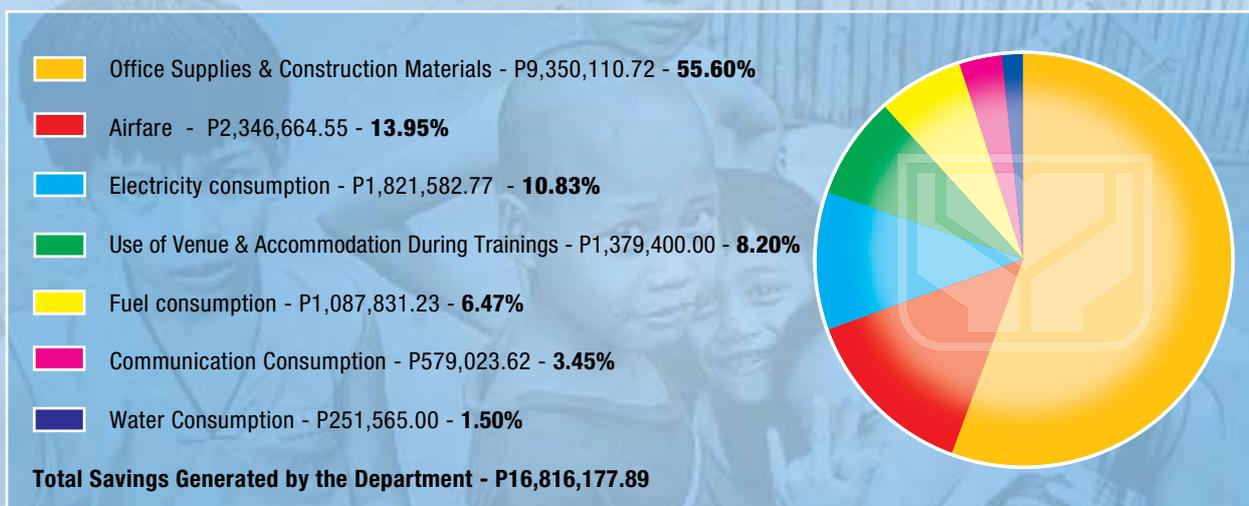
The construction of buildings and dormitories for the "Haven for the Elderly" at the National Training School



The additional warehouse donated by the government of Taiwan will improve storage and handling of donated goods for disaster victims.

for Boys (NTSB) in Barangay Sampaloc, Tanay, Rizal was awarded to E. M. Cuerpo, Inc. Construction will start in January 2009. Likewise, two buildings (administration and infirmary) have been completed, under the auspices of the Congressional Spouses Foundation, Inc. (CSFI) under the leadership of Ms. Georgina de Venecia.

Figure 6: Savings Generated by the Department



Savings Generated from January 1 to December 31, 2008

Internal Audit

To ensure integrity of the Department's operations, transactions and processes, a review of operation procedures, and effectiveness of systems and controls, three national audits were conducted namely:

- Systems Review on Inventory Management
- Systems Review of Procurement
- KALAHI-CIDSS Audit

Other salient accomplishments: A 98.07 percent compliance to national audit agenda/findings within the prescribed time; Internal Audit Conference Workshop conducted and; agency Integrity Development Plan/ Accomplishment submitted to Presidential Anti Graft Commission (PAGC).

Legal Support

The Department provided the following legal services:

- Provided legal opinions on 163 internal matters and 29 various laws and 144 contracts or memoranda of agreement
- Resolved 13 administrative cases
- Provided legal assistance to 131 walk-ins and referred clients

Social Marketing and Advocacy

The Department carried out its task of providing information dissemination and advocacy, as follows:

- Generation of press releases, media interviews, radio/tv guestings. For the year, the SMS issued 122 press releases of which 41 were published in national media; 54 TV and 19 radio guestings were arranged at the national level.
- Conduct of activities to commemorate DSWD Anniversary, Adoption Consciousness Week, Women's Month, International Day of Families, Independence Day, Family Week, Elderly Filipino Week
- Production of information, education and communication materials such as posters on legal adoption, flyers on 4Ps and advertorials on Pantawid Kuryente: Katas ng VAT, and Katas ng VAT: Tulong Para kay Lolo at Lola
- Production of video documentaries on: Special Drug Education Center; Intergenerational Program for Older Persons and Children, Family Drug Abuse and Prevention Program, Sharing Computer Access Locally and Abroad, Solo Parents and Community-Based Rehabilitation Program for Perpetrators of Violence
- Production of quarterly Info-link, the DSWD's official newsletter distributed among regional offices
- Development of communication plan on Transfer of Golden Acres and Foster Care Bill

- Conducted an opinion survey on the Infolink
- The SMS, in partnership with Orient Philippines Production, Inc., produced 70 episodes of "InfoMedico Atbp.," aired daily over NBN 4 on the news segment "Batingaw". InfoMedico is hosted by Sec. Esperanza I. Cabral, who discusses DSWD programs, services and projects and how the people may gain access to the same.

Financial Management

The Financial Management Service (FMS) continuously implements a strategic plan to help the department improve its delivery of public service. This includes timely reporting and consolidation, enabling strategic control and direction. In CY 2008, the Department received and managed total allotment amounting to P12,789,841,265.66 coming from all the sources (Figure 6). This represents an increase of 140.03% over total allotment received in 2007. The increase (decrease) of individual funds received for 2008 is indicated in table 9 below.

This year, during the annual convention of the Association of the Government Accountant of the Philippines (AGAP), the Commission on Audit (COA) awarded the Department the Most Outstanding Accounting Office Award for the National Government Agency Adopting Decentralized Accounting System.

Also it has been rated as "low risk" for its sound financial management and internal control system in the previously conducted spot check by the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF).

The FMS formulated the Medium-Term Expenditure Plan (MTEP) which is a five year budget perspective of DSWD in support to the Social Welfare and Development Reform Agenda in achieving the organization's vision, mission and goals.



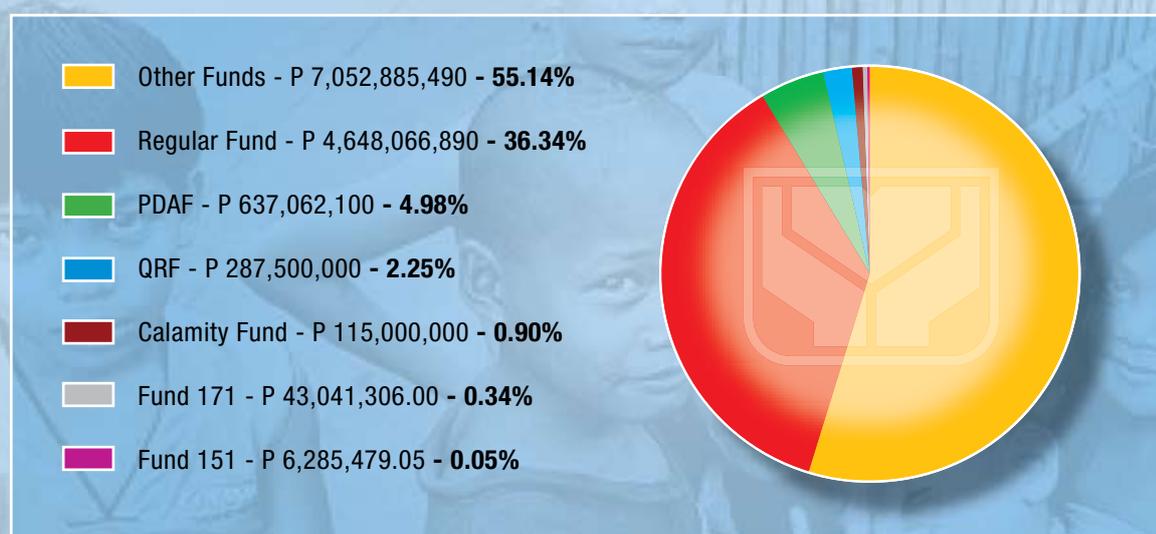
DSWD Infolink issues from 1st to 4th Quarter of 2008

Table 5 - Total Allotment Received and Managed for CY 2008 (with comparative figures of CY 2007)

PARTICULARS	CY 2007	CY 2008	INCREASE/ (DECREASE)	%
Total Fund Managed	5,328,488,060.09	12,789,841,265.66	7,461,353,205.60	140.03%
Breakdown:				
Regular Allotment	2,664,631,000.00	4,648,066,890.00	1,983,435,890.00	74.44%
Priority Development Assistance Fund (PDAF)	683,106,515.00	637,062,100.00	(46,044,415)	
Local and Foreign Donations	57,241,920.09	49,326,785.66	(7,915,134.43)	
Calamity Fund	507,000,000.00	115,000,000.00	(392,000,000.00)	
Quick Response Fund (QRF)	143,750,000.00	287,500,000.00	143,750,000.00	100%
Other Releases	1,272,758,625.00	7,052,885,490.00	5,780,126,865.00	454.14%

On the Modified Disbursing Scheme (MDS) General Fund 101, the Department utilized 96% of the total cash received through Notice of Cash Allocation (NCA) in the amount of P8,465,822,528.00. The disbursements were made in accordance with the work program in the Work and Financial Plan and the existing accounting and budgeting rules and regulations.

Figure 7: DSWD CY 2008 Total Funds Managed P12,789,841,265.66



Legend:

- Other Funds - Other funds cover allotments received by DSWD which are not provided in the DSWD budget under 2008 General Appropriation Act (R.A 9498) such as funds for 10% Salary Increase, Terminal Leave and Retirement Gratuity (TLRG), Retirement and Life Insurance Premium (RLIP), Performance Bonus, Custom Duties and Taxes, Pantawid Pamilyang Pilipino Program, Katas ng VAT - Pantawid Kuryente and Tulong kay Lolo at Lola and fund requirements for the conduct of 4th ASEAN Ministerial meeting, Healthy Start Feeding Program, Emergency and Recovery/Rehabilitation Assistance and Fund sponsored by Senator Revilla
- Regular Fund - Funds received for DSWD Regular Programs and Foreign Assisted Projects
- Priority Development Assistance Fund (PDAF) - Funds received by DSWD from PDAF of Legislators for implementation of social welfare and development programs and services under the Comprehensive Integrated Delivery of Social Services (CIDSS) Program
- Quick Response Fund (QRF) - Allotment received for relief and rehabilitation services to communities/areas affected by natural and man-made calamities/disasters
- Calamity Fund - Allotment received for Assistance to victims of Typhoon Frank and Iloilo Flood Control
- Fund 171 - Foreign donations received subject to special budget
- Fund 151 - Local donations received subject to special budget

Figure 8: DSWD CY 2008 Regular Allotment Received By Allotment Class P4,648,066,890

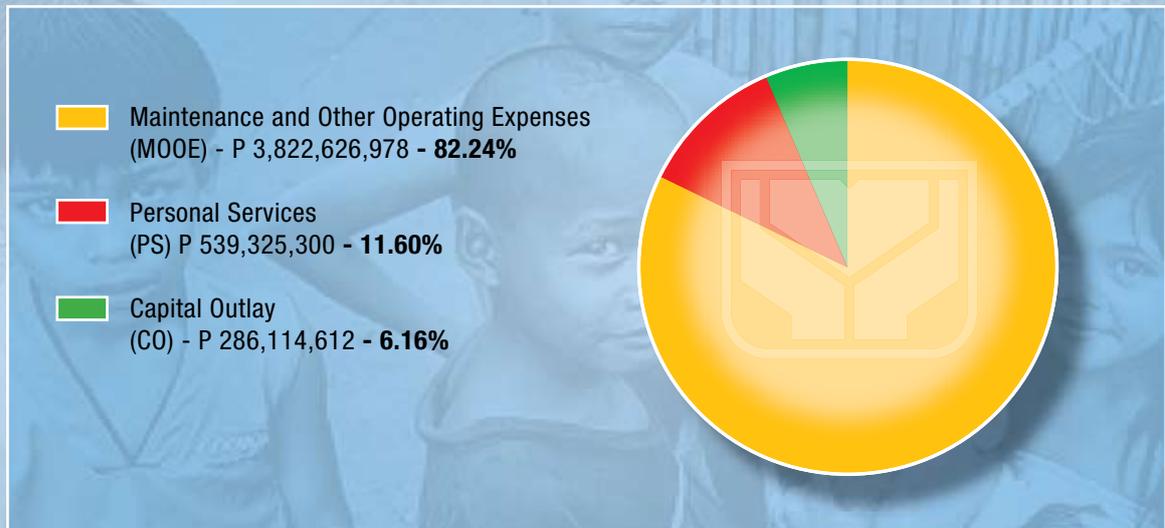


Figure 8 shows the distribution of the total regular allotment received in 2008 by allotment class

Figure 9: DSWD CY 2008 Total Fund Managed By Allotment Class P12,789,841,265.66

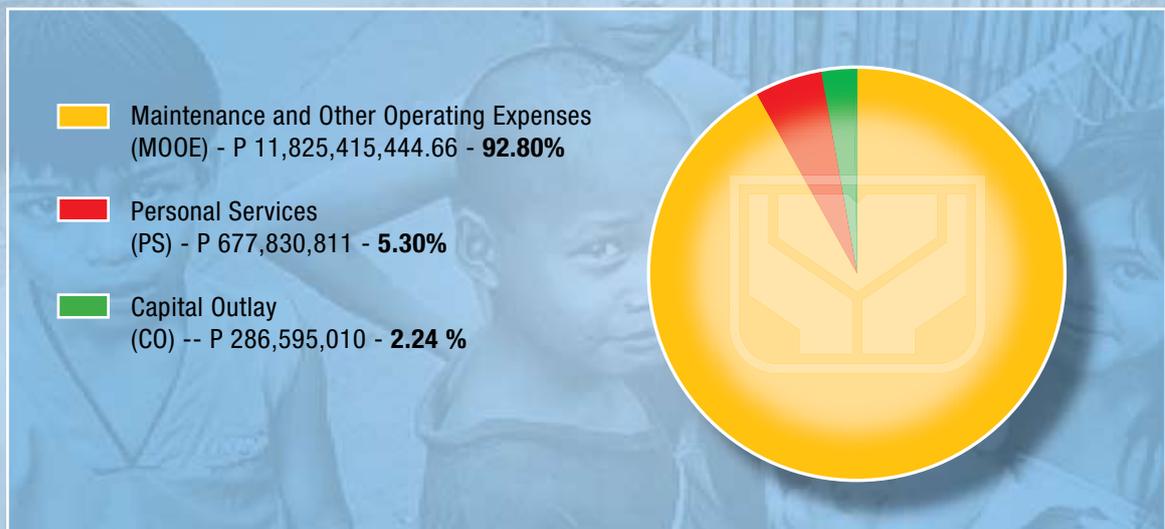


Figure 9 shows the distribution of total allotment received in 2008 by allotment class

Together... We rediscover the reasons for being hopeful

**Memorandum Circular
No.08
Series of 2008**

SUBJECT : DSWD THRUSTS AND PRIORITIES FOR CY 2009

I. RATIONALE

The underpinnings of the CY 2009 Thrusts and Priorities of the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) are the **Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), the Medium Term Philippine Development Plan (MTPDP) 2004 – 2010**, and the Ten-Point Agenda of President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo. Moreover, the same thrusts and priorities are reinforced by the **Social Welfare and Development (SWD) Reform Agenda**, which is a result of the two-year National Sector Support for Social Welfare and Development Reform Project (NSS-SWDRP). Corollary to this, four reform areas have emerged, as follows:

Reform Area 1: Engaging the Sector in Establishing Strategic and Results-Oriented Policies in Social Protection.

Reform Area 2: Providing Faster, Better and Smarter Social Protection Programs Through Improved Governance, Models and Regulations.

Reform Area 3: Introducing Financial/Resource Reforms to Sustain the Reform Process

Reform Area 4: Improving Delivery Systems and Capacities

The SWD Reform Agenda articulates the policy and program reforms aimed at improving outcomes of the Department in the delivery of SWD services and improving governance in the implementation of policies and programs on social protection. Similarly, the desired outcomes are aspirations set in the MDGs, the MTPDP and the Ten-Point Agenda of the President, and are expected major final outputs of the Department as the lead agency in the SWD sector.

II. THRUSTS AND PRIORITIES

Along these lines and in pursuit of the objectives of the Public Expenditure Management System, which gives priority to expenditures that directly and indirectly contribute to the achievement of SWD outcomes, all DSWD Offices, Bureaus, Services and Field Offices are enjoined to adopt the following Thrusts and Priorities in the planning, budgeting and implementation of the programs, projects, services and activities of the Department for CY 2009:

Major Final Output 1:	Activities
Services Related to the Formulation and Advocacy of Policies, Plans and Programs	1. Support the ratification of the Hague Convention for the International Recovery of Child Support.
	2. Formulate a national policy framework for social protection, which would highlight the DSWD's leadership role.
	3. Institutionalize an objective and transparent targeting mechanism by establishing a database of poor households that can be used to identify beneficiaries of social protection programs at both household and community levels.
	4. Strengthen the Policy and Research Division under the Policy Development and Planning Bureau of the Department to spearhead the conduct of research and development studies on social protection which would be relevant for evidence-based policy formulation.
	5. Institute preventive measures to avert human trafficking, including organ trafficking; conduct massive advocacy and information campaign to protect vulnerable individuals and families from becoming victims of trafficking; and implement a recovery and reintegration program for victim survivors.
	6. Institutionalize a package of services aimed at protecting and facilitating the reintegration of undocumented overseas Filipino workers and their families towards addressing the adverse effects of unemployment that they face.
	7. Enhance the Medium Term Expenditure Plan (MTEP) to secure funding (in the General Appropriations Act) for unfunded social welfare and safety net programs emanating from social legislations.
	8. Review and evaluate the Department's commitment to the Medium Term Philippine Development Plan (MTPDP) as inputs to the MTPDP for the next six years (2011-2016).
Major Final Output 2:	Activities
Enhancement of Standards and Compliance Monitoring	1. Enhance the Guidelines on the Certification of Critical Incident Stress Debriefing (CISD) Practitioners.
	2. Rationalize a system of grievance and discipline, and incentives intended for non-government organizations (NGOs) engaged in social welfare and development (SWD) and ensure its implementation.

<p>Major Final Output 3:</p> <p>Institutional Development and Strengthening Through Capability Building</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Activities</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Form a core group of reform advocates who will be provided regular trainings and workshops to champion the Department's reform agenda. 2. Develop training modules based on the results of competency assessment for DSWD personnel, partners and intermediaries. 3. Implement identified capacity building and capability building activities in support of the implementation of the Department's reform agenda.
<p>Major Final Output 4:</p> <p>Provision of Services for Community and Center-Based Clients</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Activities</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Consolidate lessons gained from the implementation of the Kapit-Bisig Laban sa Kahirapan-Comprehensive and Integrated Delivery of Social Services (KALAHI-CIDSS) Project and develop a proposal and design for KALAHI-CIDSS II. 2. Continue the implementation of Pantawid Pamilyang Pilipino Project (4Ps). 3. Implement systematic assistance to Local Government Units (LGUs) by the Central and Field Offices through an established classification of LGUs as to capacity and willingness to invest in SWD programs/ services that will serve as basis for the formulation of technical assistance and resource augmentation plan. 4. Improve collection for the SEA-K program by increasing the rollback rate to at least 92%, which shall be effected specifically through the transfer/remittance of generated savings (Equity-Capital Build Up) to the sea-rsf Account Savings of sea-k members with unpaid balances and intensive monitoring and provision of technical assistance to the sea-k associations. 5. Increase capacity building/technical assistance to sea-k beneficiaries especially for design/marketing under the sea-k marketing plan and use of appropriate technology for livelihood projects and financial literacy e.g. Harnessing Appropriate Technology to Assist Women (HATAW) and Project for Women Entrepreneur (POWER) programs. 6. Strengthen the Adoption Resource and Referral Office of the Department in line with the fast tracking of the adoption process. 7. Expand the implementation of the International Social Welfare Services for Filipino Nationals by establishing six (6) other diplomatic posts in the Middle East.
<p>Strategic Support Services</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Activities</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Formulate and develop social marketing plans in support of the sectoral plans and completed social technologies. 2. Enhance and strengthen the social marketing plan for the Pantawid Pamilyang Pilipino Project (4Ps) and other new and existing programs/projects. 3. Strengthen the Department's communication network and upgrade the media library as the repository of DSWD-produced information and education campaign (IEC) materials. 4. Install data and information systems and enhance the Information and Communication Technology (ICT) strategic support services to effectively respond to incidents, problems and needs of key SWD players as well as DSWD Staff based on the 2008-2010 Information Systems Strategic Plan (ISSP). 5. Integrate a deliberate and sustained change management plan to ensure an efficient and effective implementation of the Department's reform agenda.

Over and above these priorities, the following will still guide the Department in its operations for 2009:

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| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Continue advocating for the passage of proposed priority legislations filed in Congress. b. Conduct dialogues, policy fora and consultation sessions involving SWD sectors and partners. c. Coordinate the updating/enhancement/implementation/evaluation of national, operational and sectoral plans. d. Exercise oversight functions on the attached agencies, namely the Inter-Country Adoption Board, the Council for the Welfare of Children, the National Commission on the Role of Filipino Women and the National Youth Commission. e. Promote institutionalization of successful pilot projects/programs for localization/integration in the regular programs of LGUs and NGOs. f. Accelerate registration, licensing and accreditation of Social Work (SW)/Social Welfare Agencies (SWA) and service providers. g. Manage and operate DSWD centers and residential care facilities as "Centers of Excellence." h. Strengthen networking for the continuing education and learning of social workers and social development workers. | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> i. Implement local and foreign-assisted projects. j. Continue improving the Work and Financial Planning, Records Management, Asset Management and Procurement System through reconciliation of inventory accounts for Property, Plant and Equipment (PPE) and Supplies and Materials vis-à-vis Annual Physical Inventory Report as well as implementation of electronic Procurement Transaction Monitoring System. k. Monitor and update the Department's implementation of the Integrity Development Action Plans (IDAPs). l. Access internal and external assistance to complement the available but limited resources as well as monitoring the utilization of these resources in the implementation of SWD programs and services. |
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Issued in Quezon City this 27th day of June, 2008.


ESPERANZA I. CABRAL, M.D.
Secretary

Attached Agencies

INTER-COUNTRY ADOPTION BOARD

Highlights of Accomplishments for CY 2008

The Inter-Country Adoption Board (ICAB) is the Philippine Central Authority in matters relating to inter-country adoption of Filipino children and policy formulation for purposes of carrying out the provisions of the Inter-country Adoption Law.

POLICY FORMULATION

- In the period under review, the Guidelines on Liaison Service was amended which better articulated the roles and responsibilities of a Child Caring or Placing Agency (CCA/CPA) representing a Foreign Adoption Agency (FAA) in the Philippines in facilitating, delivering and executing services necessary for pre-adoption placements and rendering post-adoption services.
- Approved the following Board Resolutions which facilitated the placements of Filipino children:
 - o A resolution clarifying the income requirements of Prospective Adoptive Parents (PAPs) – in looking for the most suitable family for a Filipino child, income may be considered in the determination of suitability to adopt with due consideration to the actual benefits or entitlements of an adopted child being provided by each country.
 - o A resolution of non-specification of sex preference of the child to be adopted. ICAB no longer encourages PAPs to specify the sex of the child they wish to adopt since in normal pregnancy, parents cannot simply choose the sex of the child to be born.
 - o A resolution amending the marriage requirement. The Board resolved that the length of the common-law relationship culminating in marriage shall be included in the determination of the length of marriage and stability of relationship.

- o A resolution amending the maximum age of adoptive parents from 47 to 45 years.
- Approved the working relationship to engage in cooperative efforts on inter-country adoption between the ICAB and the following adoption agencies:
 - o General Directorate of Welfare and Social Services, Families and Children of the Ministry of Labor and Social Solidarity of Portugal;
 - o Sunrise Family Services Society of British Columbia, Canada;
 - o Department of Social Welfare Standards of Malta.
 - o Ministry of Justice and Ecclesiastical Affairs, Iceland
 - o International Legal Protection of Children, Czech Republic

ADVOCACY AND NETWORKING

- The ICAB participated in the 10th National Adoption Consciousness Day . This year's observance focused on the theme "Isulong! Legal na Pag-ampon, Hindi Simulation" which aims to encourage families to adopt a child through the legal process. An adoption fun-run participated in by DSWD, Council for the Welfare of Children, ICAB, Adoptive Families Foundation and Manila Social Welfare Office was held from the CCP Complex to the Rajah Sulaiman Park, Roxas Boulevard on February 2, 2008. Adoption Forums were held in all DSWD Regional Offices and on February 11, 2007, Adoption Help Desks were set up in strategic places in SM North EDSA and Alabang Town Center where queries on the procedures and requirements for Domestic Adoption and Inter-country Adoption were responded to.
- The agency also participated in the International Conference on Inter-country Adoption in Tokyo, Japan where issues and concerns about Filipino children abandoned in Child Centers in Japan were discussed. Strategies, best practices and interventions implemented in the participating countries in safeguarding children and averting child trafficking were talked about.



Social Welfare and Development Secretary Esperanza I. Cabral leads the symbolic burning of simulated birth certificates which demonstrates the collective effort of DSWD and various sectors in condemning the simulation of birth certificates. Also shown in photo are: (from left) Josefina Dimalaluan, Board Secretary, Association of Child-Caring Agencies of the Philippines (ACCAP); Atty. Bernadette Abejo, Executive Director, Inter-Country Adoption Board; OIC-Executive Director Ma. Elena Caraballo, Council for the Welfare of Children; Peter Laigo, adoptee; and Manila Deputy Mayor Joey Silva.

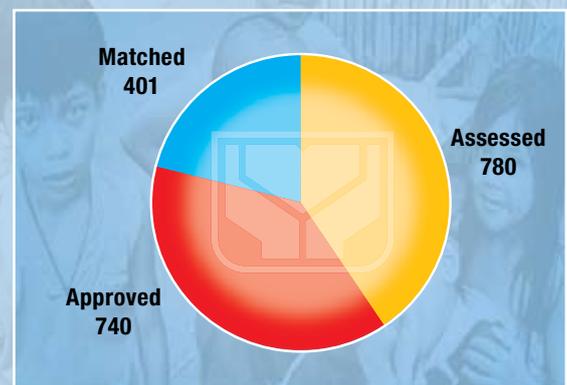
- Consultative sessions with different Central Authorities (CAs) and Foreign Adoption Agencies (FAAs) Coordinators and Executive Directors from the Australia, Canada, Finland, Japan, Norway, Spain, and USA which clarified issues on the Summer Program, Medical Mission, placement proposals, ICA process and procedures.
- Bilateral orientation provided to and by embassy/immigration staff or officials of foreign adoption agencies on inter-country adoption law and other issues and concerns on adoption.
- Assessment visit undertaken by ICAB Secretariat Social Workers to the different RSCCs (Cagayan Valley, CAR, Pampanga, Cebu, Zamboanga, Cagayan de Oro and Davao City) as well as NGO CCAs in CAR (Hope House) Region VII (Friendship Home, Asilo dela Milagrosa & Rainbow Village); Region VIII (SOS Calbayog); Region X (Bethany Children's Home) and Region XI (Livingstone Orphanage). The visit also included provision of technical assistance to facilitate the case movement of children, preparation of a Child Study Report (CSR), how to do a Deed of Voluntary Commitment (DVC) involving a minor or a mentally challenged birthmother, completion of supporting documents, how to network and connect with specialists/experts e.g. psychologist, developmental pediatrician, EENT specialist due to RSCCs concern for the lack of these specialists/experts in their regions and on how to maximize the use of Child Care Support Fund which is a donation of the adoptive family upon fetching of their prospective adoptive child.
- An ICA Board Member and the Executive Director observed the operationalization of the Winter Program in the USA. It was an opportunity to personally meet the winter program participants and their host families as well as the adoptees and adoptive parents who testified on the gratifying outcome of the placement of these minors in their homes. It confirmed that the Filipino adopted children were indeed doing fine as reported by their agency in the post placement reports. Winter program participants experienced what it is like to live in a family environment since most of them have grown in institutions or child caring centers.
- ICA Board Members and two members of the Inter-country Placement Committee participated in the International Conference on Inter-country Adoption in Australia which delved on updates and trends on inter-country adoption program.
- Attendance and participation in the technical working group on Congress and Senate Bills on making the abandonment procedure into an administrative process. The bill was passed during the bicameral conference on December 15, 2008 and the draft Implementing Rules and Regulations is being crafted.
- The Global National Organizing Committee held several meetings to plan out activities for the forthcoming 10th Global Consultation on Child Welfare Services and Post Legal Adoption which is tentatively scheduled on August 18-21, 2008. The NOC also embarked on the preparation of the Coffee Table Book, featuring several Child Caring Agencies nationwide and a baby book that will serve as a remembrance and a gift that adoptive parents will use to explain to the adoptive child something about his/her

roots in the Philippines. The Coffee Table Book "Not Yet Home: Where Filipino Children Wait for Adoption" was commissioned by the Global NOC in recognition of the hard work and commitment of men and women involved in child welfare services in the Philippines. Both books were launched in July 2008.

- ICAB Secretariat was invited as resource persons to orientation trainings of San Beda College of Law, DSWD NCR and the National Council for Social Development which clarified the rules and regulations of the ICA Law and its process and procedures.

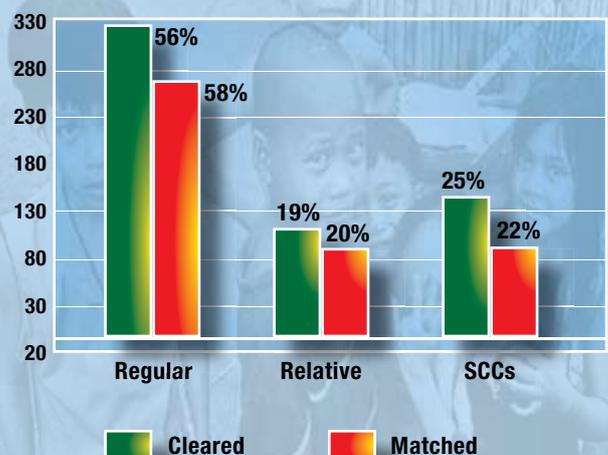
PROGRAM DEVELOPMENT AND IMPLEMENTATION

Figure 10: Adoption Application Assessed and Approved



The figure above indicates that there were 780 applications received by ICAB during the year under review endorsed by 103 foreign adoption agencies from four geographical locations (Asia-Pacific, Canada, Europe and the USA) of which 740 or 95% of applications assessed were approved for placement.

Figure 11: Children Cleared (N=582) and Matched (N=475) for Inter-country Adoption



SCCs – Special Circumstances Cases

- The figure above shows that 56% of the total children cleared for inter-country adoption (N=582) belonged

to the regular adoption, 25% are under the Special Circumstances (Special Needs Children, Special Home Finding, Independent Placement and Medical Mission-Foster Adopt) while 19% are children for relative adoption placement.

- The same figure revealed that 58% of the children matched belonged to the regular adoption placement, 20% were matched to their relatives while 22% of the children matched were under the Special Circumstances category.
- Fifty-six percent (56%) of the children cleared for ICA and 57% of those matched during the period under review were cared for by the different non-governmental organizations nationwide while 44% of those cleared and 43% of the children matched were under the care and custody of government child caring agencies.
- The figure below shows that 475 children were matched and approved for placement during the year 2008. These children were matched to families in the USA - 214 (45.05%), Europe – 148 (31.16%), Canada – 68 (14.32%) and Asia Pacific – 45 (9.47%).

Figure 12: Children Cleared for ICA According to Child Caring Agency

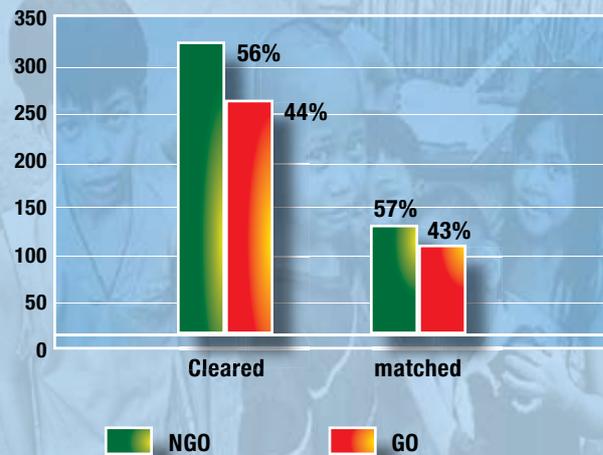


Figure 13: Children Matched According to Destination (N=475)

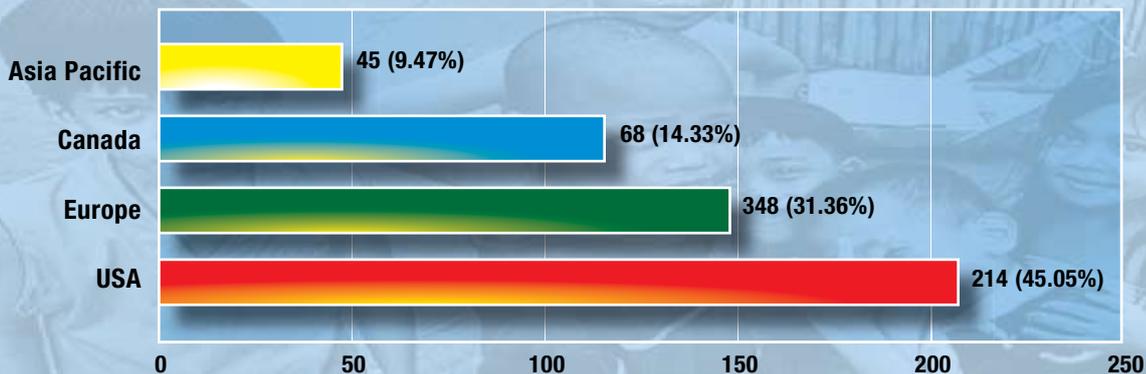


Table 6. Children Participants to the Hosting Program CY 2008

Regions	California Winter Program	Idaho Summer Program	Indiana Summer Program	Montana Summer Program	Wisconsin Adoption Ambassadors	TOTAL
III	4	1	-	2	2	9
IV-A	3	1	-	3	2	9
IV-B	1		-	-		1
V	-	1		-		1
VII	1	-	-	-		1
VIII			1	-		1
NCR	5	7	4	3	7	26
TOTAL	14	10	5	8	11	48

- The Summer Hosting Program in the USA is an effective strategy for finding adoptive parents for older children or sibling groups. This program is in cooperation with 2 ICAB accredited foreign adoption agencies and an NGO partner.
- Another FAA (Lutheran Social Services of Upper Wisconsin) continued with the “Adoption Ambassadors” where prospective adoptive parents or advocate couples came to Manila, met and hosted 11 children from two NCR based 1 Region IV-A based and Region III NGO Child Caring Agencies.

REGULATORY FUNCTION

- The ICA Board members, an ICPC Consultant and a Secretariat social worker met and conferred with the officials of Central Authority on Inter-country Adoption as well as Adoption Coordinators of Foreign Adoption Agencies in Europe, Canada, Asia-Pacific and the USA. They conferred with the officials on the different adoption policies and procedures, met with the Prospective Adoptive Parents (PAPs) and discovered in which environment Filipino children might grow once adopted by European families.
 - o They conducted and completed accreditation/ authorization visits to nine Central Authorities (four in Canada and five in Asia-Pacific) and eight private Foreign Adoption Agencies (FAAs) in Canada (2) and in the USA (6).
 - o These visits ensured conformity to ICAB guidelines, rules and regulations, policies and procedures.
- 101 international foreign partners were monitored by ICAB through the assessment of these agencies’ quality of endorsed dossiers (e.g. Home Study Report and Supporting Documents which were found to comply/abide with the Board’s guidelines), adherence to established time frame for their client’s accepting and fetching of the child proposed to them and their finalization of the minor’s adoption.

ORGANIZATIONAL STRENGTHENING

- The Board, ICPC and the Secretariat participated in and attended 43 diverse activities aimed at developing and improving their knowledge, skills and attitudes relative to their workload.
- The UP Electrical and Electronics Engineering Foundation developed a secure and scalable web-based information system designed to provide automation tools necessary to consistently complete the successful matching of foreign adoptive parents and children needing adoption. The Philippine Information System for the Inter-country Adoption (PISICA) was launched and pilot tested in November 2008.

Council for the Welfare of Children

Policy Formulation

Guided by its vision as the pro-active and dynamic inter-agency body that provides cutting-edge leadership towards a child friendly, child-sensitive society and governance, the Council for the Welfare of Children (CWC) has continuously provided directions for appropriate programs and services for children.

In 2008, the following Board Resolutions were passed:

- CWC Resolution No 1, Series of 2008, “A Resolution Approving the Revisions to the Presidential Award for Child Friendly Municipalities and Cities”
- National Early Childhood Care and Development Coordinating Council (NECCDCC) Resolution No 1, Series of 2008, “A Resolution Approving the Early Childhood Care and Development (ECCD) Directional Plan 2007-2010”
- CWC Resolution No. 2, Series of 2008, “A Resolution Approving the Mechanics and Guidelines for the Special Citation as Child Friendly Learning Community”
- NECCDCC Resolution No. 2, Series of 2008, “A Resolution Approving the Criteria for Funding Requests for Repair and Upgrading Day Care Centers (DCCs) in Non-ECCD Priority Barangays”
- CWC Resolution No. 3, “A Resolution Approving the First Philippine Report on the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the Sale of Children, Child Prostitution and Child Pornography”
- NECCDCC Resolution No. 3, Series of 2008, “A Resolution Approving the Early Learning and Development Standards (ELDS)”
- CWC Resolution No,4, Series of 2008, “A Resolution Approving the Film “*Boses*” as an Advocacy Tool for Child Rights”
- NECCDCC Resolution No. 4, Series of 2008, “A Resolution Approving the ECCD Policy Review In the Philippine Report”

Several reports were prepared such as the 2008 State of the Filipino Children Report (SOFRCR), Initial Report to the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the Sale of Children, Child Prostitution and Child Pornography. These reports contained situation of children, the country’s responses and needed action.

Advocacy and Resource Mobilization

Building on the achievement of the Bright Child foundational campaign, a Phase 2 of the project was conceptualized which is the roll out in six disparity areas (NCR, Camarines Norte, Zamboanga Norte, Lanao Norte, Mountain Province and Sarangani). To serve as basis for the creatives, advocacy materials and activities that will be developed by these areas, a research study on the psychosocial, behavioral and environmental factors affecting child-related concerns was started. Also in support for these advocacy efforts, Regional Bright Child Ambassadors were selected in 11 regions. These Regional Bright Child Ambassadors serve as model and advocate for the Bright Child campaign.

Moreover, the Council has strengthened its advocacy efforts as shown during the celebration of the National Children's Month, with the theme: "Bright Child: Sa Tamang Pag-aruga, Kinabukasan ay Maginhawa!". With sustained partnership with SM all over the country, this year's celebration kicked-off in SM Manila with the activity entitled "Bright Child: Sa Tamang Pag-aruga Salamat po. Highlight of the activity was a theatre show wherein around 1,200 day care children and their parents were entertained. Manila Mayor Alfredo S. Lim graced the activity. Other major activities of the celebration include: Liturgical masses, Magandang Balita – a gathering of child advocates where they shared their insights, ideas,



and lessons learned, conduct of Caring for Children Seminar in 17 SM branches and media guestings in various radio and TV programs. The culminating activity was "Rockin' the World with our Voices" at SM Megamall, where children's voices were heard through art performances and this was capped by their appeal for action. It can be noted that for this year's celebration partnership was not only sustained but likewise broadened.

Participation to International Dialogues with the UN

Universal Periodic Review (UPR) in Geneva, Switzerland

CWC, through the Deputy Executive Director (DED) for CWC Concerns, provided technical support and inputs to the Presidential Human Rights Committee's preparation for the Universal Periodic Review (UPR) by the UN Human Rights Committee (UNHRC) of seven (7) international instruments ratified by the Philippines. The seven International Instruments covered in the UPR were the Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ECOSOC); International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR); the Convention on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW); Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC); Convention Against Torture (CAT); Convention on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination (CERD) and the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of Migrant Workers and Members of their Families. Specifically, update on the CRC was prepared building up on the third and fourth (2001-2007) CRC reports and State of the Filipino Children (2006 & 2007) Reports as well as latest developments on children.

The interactive four-hour dialogue at the UN Headquarters in Geneva of the 25-person Philippine Delegation headed by Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita including its intensive and highly consultative preparatory work enabled government agencies/responsibility centers to confront and address outstanding issues by sector. The UPR involved some forty-seven UN member state missions who were elected for a 3-year term to form the UN Human Rights Committee (UNHRC). This cooperative mechanism afforded member states to review compliance to treaty obligations and be able to identify states-in-review capacity-building needs for international cooperation.

Among the child focused and related issues raised during the dialogue were:

- a. the need to develop gender-responsive approach in protecting children and women;
- b. to further develop domestic legislation to better protect child rights;
- c. continue to address the issue of extrajudicial killings; and,
- d. meet the basic needs of the poor and vulnerable sectors.

Next step to the UPR is the formulation of the human rights plan and program for each of the sectors.

Initial Report on the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the Involvement of Children in Armed Conflict

The Philippines has submitted its initial report on the implementation of the Optional Protocol to the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child on the Involvement of Children in Armed Conflict (CIAC) in 2007. After a year, a dialogue has been set for the Philippine Delegation with the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child on 30 May 2008, in Geneva, Switzerland. The Philippine Delegation was composed of representatives from the following agencies: Department of Social Welfare and Development (Head of the Delegation), Department of Justice, Department of the Interior and Local Government, Department of National Defense, Philippine National Police and Council for the Welfare of Children. In the actual dialogue, the Philippine Delegation was joined by Ambassador Erlinda F. Basilio, Permanent Representative of the Philippines to the United Nations in Geneva as Co-Head of the Delegation and the Officials from the Permanent Mission of the Philippines to the United Nations.

Major issues raised during the dialogue were:

- a. make children part of the peace process;
- b. expand and strengthen its data collection, monitoring and reporting mechanisms on children involved in armed conflict;
- c. systematically train all relevant professional groups, in particular military personnel, on the provisions of the Protocol;
- d. enforce the provisions of the Indigenous Peoples Rights Act to ensure that indigenous children are not recruited by armed forces or armed groups, including vigilante groups;
- e. take all feasible measures to eliminate the root causes of and prevent recruitment and use of children by armed groups that are distinct from the armed forces of the State;
- f. ensure that special and adequate attention is paid to children who have been recruited or used in hostilities when entering into negotiation and talks with armed groups;
- g. amend the Citizen Army Training (CAT) program and consider abolishing its military content;
- h. develop and implement training program and campaign to promote the values of peace and respect for human rights, in collaboration with civil society organizations;
- i. include the subject of peace education and human rights as a fundamental subject in the education system; and,
- j. amend Republic Act 7610 to ensure that children are not criminalized for the fact of having been recruited or used in hostilities.

Putting Children First – Sustaining Good Practices That Work

For 2008, the Council for the Welfare of Children pursued vigorous efforts to put children first not only at the national and local agenda but at the regional level as well.

At the national and local scenario, CWC facilitated the provision of technical assistance to local government units for them to formulate their **Local Development and Investment Plan for Children** (LDPC/LIPC). The LDPC/LIPC ensures budget allocation for children, thus serving as **tools for institutionalization and sustainability**. For 2008, twenty two (22) LGUs were provided technical assistance enabling these LGUs to craft and/or update their LDPC/LIPC. These LDPCs cover the wide range of concerns on children from early childhood care and development to basic education and social protection and defined specific goals and targets consistent with the MDGs, CHILD 21, Comprehensive Program on Child Protection and other frameworks/plans for children.

The conferment of the **Presidential Award for Child Friendly Municipalities and Cities** is used as an advocacy tool to encourage LGUs towards ensuring child-friendly governance and placing children as a top priority of governance. The 2008 Presidential Award yielded a 132% increase from last year's number of LGUs living up to the standards of being "child-friendly" and aiming to be conferred the prestigious Award. A total of 38 regional winners were endorsed by the Regional Award Committee to CWC. The national awarding is scheduled in 2009.

Coverage of the implementation of the Early Childhood Care and Development Law (RA 8980) has reached the 90% mark as a total of 101 provinces and cities were able to comply with the requirements for partnership/fund release and in establishing the ECCD system. An initial assessment of the midterm implementation reveals that LGUs were able to expand the reach and coverage of ECCD services through the support derived from the financing facility of the program. Research and development were intensified during the year to support program implementation. A policy review was completed and the Early Learning Development Standards were adopted to serve as basis for the development or updating ECCD curriculum and standards for accreditation of service providers and ECCD programs/centers.

Also in 2008, a milestone on child rights promotion was achieved through the establishment of the ASEAN Children's Forum institutionalizing child participation at the ASEAN structures. As an offshoot of the First (2006) Southeast Asian Children's Conference hosted by the Philippine Government through CWC, the children's proposal on establishing the Children's Forum, was packaged and presented by CWC during the 5th 2008 Senior Officials Meeting on Social Welfare and Development. This gained the support of all the ASEAN countries represented during the meeting which signaled a stronger partnership and advocacy on child participation.

The Executive Committee



Executive Committee Members

Standing from left: Asst. Secretary Vilma B. Cabrera, Asst. Secretary Florita R. Villar, Secretary Esperanza I. Cabral, Asst. Secretary Parisya Hashim-Taradji, Asst. Secretary Ma. Theresa M. Alano, Asst. Secretary Ruel G. Lucentales,
Sitting from left: Asst. Secretary Mateo G. Montaño, Undersecretary Luwalhati F. Pablo, Undersecretary Celia C. Yangco, Undersecretary Alicia R. Bala

Dr. Esperanza I. Cabral

Secretary, Department of Social Welfare and Development

Luwalhati F. Pablo

Undersecretary, General
Administration and Support Services

Ruel G. Lucentales

Assistant Secretary,
Visayas and Mindanao

Mateo G. Montaño

Assistant Secretary, General
Administration and Support Services
and Legislative Liaison Officer

Celia C. Yangco

Undersecretary, Operations
and Capacity Building

Parisya H. Taradji

Assistant Secretary, Luzon

Ma. Theresa M. Alano

Assistant Secretary,
Liaison to DSWD-ARMM

Alicia R. Bala

Undersecretary
Policy and Programs

Florita R. Villar

Assistant Secretary
Policy and Programs

Vilma B. Cabrera

Assistant Secretary and Head
Program Management Bureau



Operations and Capacity Building Group

Standing from left: Asst. Secretary Ruel G. Lucentales, Director Wayne C. Belizar, Asst. Bureau Director Pacita D. Sarino, Director Ma. Suzette M. Agcaoili, Director Gerardo V. Eusebio, Asst. Bureau Director Ponciana P. Condoy, Asst. Secretary Ma. Theresa M. Alano, Livelihood Office OIC Restituto B. Macuto, Asst. Secretary Vilma B. Cabrera
Sitting from left: Asst. Secretary Parisya Hashim-Taradji, Secretary Esperanza I. Cabral, Undersecretary Celia C. Yangco

General Administration and Support Services Group

Sitting from left: Secretary Esperanza I. Cabral, Undersecretary Luwalhati F. Pablo, Asst. Secretary Mateo G. Montaña
Standing from left: Director Marie Angela S. Gopalan, Director Deseree D. Fajardo, Director Sally S. Escutin, Director Susan B. Argel, Director Marcelo Nicomedes J. Castillo



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