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Accomplishments of the
**DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL
WELFARE AND DEVELOPMENT**
For the first 100 days
of **PRESIDENT ARROYO'S
ADMINISTRATION**

January 20 – May 1, 2001

Introduction

Poverty continues to be the most serious problem of the country. There are approximately 4.5 million poor families, 3.3 million are in rural areas while 1.2 million are in urban areas.

The 1997 Poverty Statistics reveal that poverty incidence declined from 35.5 percent in 1994 to 31.8 percent in 1997 (3.7 percentage points reduction). Subsistence incidence likewise declined from 18.1 percent in 1994 to 16.2 percent in 1997. Despite these declines, poverty incidence in the Philippines remains one of the highest in Asia.

Several studies highlight the distinct conditions of poverty among the basic sectors in the Philippines. The productivity of farmers continues to be constrained by uncertainty of land tenure, limited infrastructure, capital, technologies and market. Fisherfolk live in subsistence conditions owing to the destruction of coastal resources. The indigenous people still struggle to gain ownership of the ancestral domain. The urban poor live in slum and squalor with no security of land tenure and limited access to credit and employment while workers in the informal sector, though recognized as the backbone of Philippine economy, lack access to credit and social protection.

The Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) is mandated to attend to the special needs of children, youth and women, and older persons, persons with disability, victims of calamities and disasters in difficult circumstances. The more vulnerable sectors are the Department's most immediate concern because they are doubly burdened in society by being poor and battered, being poor and elderly, being poor and at the same time victims of disaster.

The Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD), under Executive Order No. 15, signed on 20 August 1998, has been mandated *“to provide assistance to local government units, non-government organizations, other national government agencies, people’s organizations, and other members of civil society in effectively implementing programs, projects, and services that will alleviate poverty and empower disadvantaged individuals, families and communities for an improved quality of life.”*

Within the framework of the Department’s new development vision of improved social protection and promotion of rights and welfare of the poor, it has identified two goals for its constituency.

1. The poor and disadvantaged realize their collective and individual aspirations and become productive and contributing members of society, through mobilizations of partners and stakeholders in the convergent delivery of social services; and
2. The rights of the poor and disadvantaged to quality services protected by setting and enforcing standards for social welfare and development services.

Based on a National Statistics Office survey, there were approximately 3.7 million working Filipino children in 1997. Of this number, 60 percent were exposed to hazardous conditions. Among the working children were victims of commercial sexual exploitation with an estimated number ranging from 60,000 to 100,000 in 1997.

Children victims of armed conflict suffer dislocation and the threats of physical danger and diseases, aggravated by lack of access to basic services.

In 1999, a total of 13,073 youth offenders were served by DSWD for both center-based and community-based services. Most of them belong to low-income families.

The women sector continues to be neglected sector and relegated to lowly positions in the social structure, making them more vulnerable and prone to exploitation and abuse.

Persons with disabilities (PWDs) are still deprived of basic services as shown by findings that only two percent have access to basic education.

Meanwhile, the number of older persons in Asia and the Pacific are expected to rise dramatically. This situation calls for increasing opportunities for participation of this sector in social and cultural activities to prevent isolation and alienation.





Venues for participation and building partnership created

Thousands of families are still vulnerable to natural and man-made calamities easily depleting and straining the resources that otherwise should have been invested in development projects.

Against this backdrop, the Social Welfare and Development Sector is confronted with the dual role of addressing the residual effects of poverty that need quick responses by putting in place measures that guarantee relief for the more vulnerable sectors of society. Poverty alleviation is beyond increasing income. It involves enhancing the social functioning of disadvantaged families and communities so that they can re-assume their role as productive Filipinos.

The administration of President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo has thus chosen to place priority on social reform and poverty alleviation. Human development has become central to the development agenda with the end in view of achieving empowerment. Consistently, the government is taking the lead role in creating venues for participation, primarily through the devolution and decentralization of powers and building partnerships for reforms.

Restoring Political Stability and Transition to Good Governance and Work Ethic

The Department of Social Welfare and Development is currently implementing a repositioning and streamlining plan that seeks to re-focus the Department from a direct service delivery entity to an integrator and promoter of social services, working with and through different intermediaries such as Local Government Units (LGUs), Non-Government Organizations (NGOs), People's Organizations (POs) and coalitions, civic groups and others.

President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo, in her priority for the next 100 days, declared that participation and networking among LGUs, civil society and volunteers must be sustained. In broadening the participation of civil society in several aspects of governance the following were undertaken by the Department:

Strengthening the provision of human development services

Energizing the Bureaucracy

The DSWD continues to upgrade the capacities of its personnel and partners to deliver on its commitments to the vulnerable sector:

- ❑ Capability assessment of social workers in local government units (LGUs) and courts is being completed for their possible retooling.
- ❑ Designing of capacity-building programs for frontline workers with different institutions is also being undertaken.
- ❑ Standards of service delivery for private welfare institutions and local government units where welfare services can already be devolved such as childcare, residential facilities for the elderly, etc. are also being introduced.

Partnership Building

The DSWD has embarked on development of accountability systems within and among its offices that translates programs and services of DSWD into key result areas which will be used in performance contracts between and among stakeholders in the social welfare and development sector.



Some 100 representatives of civil society, NGOs and POs attended the DSWD Open House on April 4

The DSWD held an open house for NGOs, POs and civic organizations to strengthen and broaden partnerships through the expansion of the Ahon Bayan Program. The open house held April 4 was attended by representatives of civil society, NGOs and POs.

The activity re-opened the DSWD doors to the NGO-PO community and civil society as a whole. This event will be held on a regular basis at the Central Office and will be replicated in all DSWD Field Offices nationwide.

Improving Frontline Services

The DSWD is currently examining its frontline services to ensure that public is provided with timely and effective service. Examples are issuance of DSWD Travel Clearance for minors traveling alone or with only one parent, management of centers and institutions, and protective services for abused women and children, among others.

The DSWD is flushing out areas of possible corruption by introducing transparency in both financial and management transactions. These include receipt of donations from foreign organizations, travel of minors, adoption and accreditation of organizations that are authorized to import.

Improving access to information and interaction by and with the general public

The DSWD is reviewing existing procedures in the adoption of minors, travel of minors, duty-free importation of donated goods, personnel discipline, request for hospitalization and travel assistance, etc. It aims to simplify these procedures and ensure that the DSWD becomes more accessible to the public it serves.

The DSWD has also launched its E-governance program through sagipbata.com. **Sagipbata.com** is a community service project aimed to facilitate the resolution of cases involving missing children. It is an



Finding missing children is now a click away with sagipbata.com

information center for missing children where pictures and other details will be posted for viewing in the Internet daily on a 24-hour basis. This project is initiated by Intergate Browsers Systems Inc. in partnership with the DSWD, Philippine National Police (PNP) and National Bureau of Investigation (NBI).



*Consultation meeting
between management
and
DSWD Employees'
Association*

High moral standards in government

To uphold the high moral standards in government, the Department is adopting the following measures:

- Identification of the chokepoints and flashpoints for corruption in the bureaucracy;
- Institutionalization of internal audit mechanisms;
- Extensive consultation with both management and the DSWD Employees Association;
- Design of a paper trail monitoring system;
- Practice of judicious and fair process involving administrative and other related cases;
- 24 hours availability through e-mail;
- Encouragement of participation, consensus-building;
- Adoption of multi-stakeholder approach in the management of the DSWD.

Addressing the Immediate Challenges

Providing social protection and targeted assistance for vulnerable and displaced sectors and communities

For the first 100 days under the Macapagal-Arroyo administration, a total of 28,748 individuals were served. Of this number, 14,591 are women, 8,382 are children, 2,400 are youths, 2,842 are persons with disabilities and 533 belong to the older persons sector.

The Department also continues to serve some 50,000 families in the evacuation centers in Central Mindanao by providing them food assistance and medical services.

Some 276,376 families in depressed communities were also served for the period. These families received DSWD assistance through the Comprehensive and Integrated Delivery of Social Services and the Self-Employment Assistance-Kaunlaran programs.

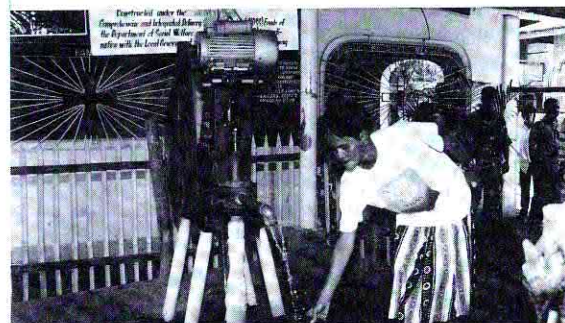
Programs for the Community

CIDSS as a poverty reduction strategy

The Comprehensive and Integrated Delivery of Social Services (CIDSS), a Presidential Flagship and the Department's major pro-poor program, addresses the Minimum Basic Needs (MBN) of the disadvantaged families and communities in all the 5th and 6th class municipalities nationwide, urban poor communities, and other special groups (Indigenous Peoples e.g. Badjaos, Mangyans, Aetas and MNLF Combatant Integrees, communities directly affected by mining and mega development projects) to enable them to access social services.

CIDSS helped considerably in the reduction of unmet MBNs, improve the quality of life of the poor and contribute in the reduction of poverty. For the first 100 days under the Macapagal-Arroyo administration:

- A total of 270,907 families benefited by the different CIDSS projects in 100 urban poor communities and 3,792 depressed barangays in 1,084 municipalities.



CIDSS made potable water possible for residents of Brgy. Ibabang Butnong, Magdalena, Laguna

- A total of 17,283 families were actually involved in the project implementation using the CIDSS approach.
- A total of 3,364 children, 2,188 adults and 390 youths and students from 510 barangays were able to access to some 3,106 projects.
- Projects implemented include:
 - 1,362 sanitary toilet facilities for 48 barangays benefiting 1,510 families.
 - 850 emergency shelter assistance for 39 barangays benefiting 987 families
 - 130 income and livelihood projects benefiting 6,057 families

From January to April 2001, some P38 Million was released to finance projects proposed by the communities.

SEA-K: *generating productive and gainful employment*

The Self-Employment Assistance Kaunlaran (SEA-K) is a capability-building program of DSWD for micro-enterprise and micro- finance development for the marginalized sector. It involves the organization of 25-30 members into a self-managed community-based credit organizations called SEA Kaunlaran Associations (SKA), as conduits of various services.

The DSWD facilitated the organization/funding of 215 SEA-K groups/ associations with an aggregate capital seed fund of P23.7 Million for productive/ livelihood activities of 5,224 families.

Programs for the Family

Social protection of disadvantaged families and individuals is carried out through community-based programs and services, special projects and the operation of residential and non-residential centers and institutions. Accomplishments are:

- *Organization of Additional Barangay Family Councils Against Violence in pilot areas*

Five (5) additional barangay family councils were organized as of March 9, 2001.



One of the strategies of the National Family Violence Prevention Program is the Family Group Conference.

- ❑ *Expansion of SAGIP-KALINGA Project (for street dwellers and street children)*

The project, launched in 1999, aims to remove the vagrants, mendicants, children and adults in the streets of Metro Manila and provide them with appropriate psychosocial services and interventions.

Sagip-Kalinga is being expanded to Cebu City and Davao City.

Services for Children

- ❑ *Expansion of Early Childhood Development (ECD) Project*

This project funded by the World Bank and Asian Development Bank is designed to enhance the quality and coverage of essential health, nutrition, psychosocial development and early education services for children aged 0-6 years old. It supplements the LGUs resources to meet the needs of disadvantaged children.

The ECD has now expanded from 10 to 39 municipalities and cities. Of these 39 LGUs, 29 are additional new municipalities and cities.

- ❑ *Assistance to Children Victims of Sexual Abuse and Exploitation*

A total of 1,654 cases of child abuse and exploitation were assessed and victims were placed under the protective custody of the DSWD.

- ❑ *Child Placement Services*

It involves the provision of alternative parental care to abandoned, neglected and abused children through adoption, legal guardianship or foster care. A total of 2,020 abandoned and neglected children were served under child placement services.

- ❑ *Protection of Travelling Minors*

DSWD issues travel clearances for children and minors to protect them from abuse, exploitation and trafficking when they travel abroad. A total of 3,656 minors travelling abroad were assessed and issued travel clearances.

- ❑ *Residential Care Services*

The DSWD provides 24-hour group living care and services on a temporary basis to abandoned or neglected children. A total of 1,914 abandoned street children were provided residential care.



DSWD provides temporary shelter and livelihood opportunity for disadvantaged children and youth.

Programs for Youth

A total of 2,400 youth offenders, out-of-school youth and drug dependents were provided center or community-based rehabilitation services which include residential care, educational assistance, practical skills training, livelihood assistance, job placement, counseling and other services.

- ❑ *Expanding legal assistance networks for youth, children and women*

The DSWD provided legal assistance to some 150 youth offenders in the New Bilibid Prison. The “Lingap Legal Para sa Bata” project was participated in by some 86 lawyers from top law firms and organizations. Further expansion of the network to other regional centers is also being conducted. Similar projects will be extended to distressed women and abused children.



About 150 youth offenders in the New Bilibid Prison benefited from the “Lingap Legal Para sa Bata” held on February 28.

Programs for Women

- ❑ *Project for Women in Especially Difficult Circumstances (WEDC)*

A strategy to help women-victims of abuse and exploitation to enable them to resolve their problems as well as to prepare them for their eventual return to their families. Services include residential care, medical, maternal and child care skills development, livelihood skills, legal and counseling and other psycho-social interventions. A total of 1,091 women were served under substitute homes, women’s help desks and community-based services.

- ❑ *Productivity Skills Capability Building for Disadvantaged Women*

A community-based project which provides productivity skills training in productivity centers and community-based settings for disadvantaged women, 18 to 59 years old. A total of 7,687 women finished center-based skills and livelihood assistance training.



Disadvantaged women are given skills training at DSWD productivity centers.

Program for Persons with Disabilities (PWDs)

Center and community-based services are provided to persons with disabilities (PWDs) to enable them to become self-reliant and productive. PWDs in communities are served through the Tuloy Aral Walang Sagabal (TAWAG), while those served in centers are provided vocational skills training for job placement in Area Vocational Rehabilitation Centers and National Vocational Rehabilitation Centers. Special groups are served in Elsie Gaches Village, Jose Fabella Center, Sanctuary, and Reception Action Center. A total of 1,062 PWDs benefited under this program.

Program for Older Persons

These are services provided to persons 60 years old and above to uplift their lives and maximize their contribution to national development. To date, a total of 533 older persons were provided residential care, training activities and mobilization for volunteer work in communities.

Programs for Victims of Disaster

Faster response to flashpoint situations

The DSWD's capacity to respond to both man-made and natural disasters is continuously being upgraded by setting of early warning systems and quick reaction units in coordination with local government units.

The DSWD has put in place relief teams and augmentation assistance in areas where disasters are expected to occur like in Bicol and in conflict-prone areas in Mindanao. Likewise, the DSWD has responded quickly to situations, such as victims of: flood in Butuan and Davao; fire in San Andres Bukid, Manila and Malabon; Bryg. Pinyahan in Quezon City and Golden Acres, among others by providing augmentation support to local government units.

Pursuing peace: Peace talks, rehabilitation and development of Mindanao

As the lead agency for relief and rehabilitation, the DSWD has reconstituted the relief and rehabilitation task force for Mindanao, in coordination with Interact-Mindanao. Interagency, area-based sub-committees in at least three regions (Region XII to cover the entire region and the provinces of Maguindanao and Lanao Sur, and Region IX to include the province of Sulu) have also been operationalized.

As a result of the work of the DSWD, some 2,000 families have returned to their places of origin and reunited with their families. The DSWD is also conducting dialogues with players in the peace process and the other victims of conflict to ensure their quick but humane integration to the mainstream of society.

Safety Nets for the Vulnerable.

Health Card for the Vulnerable sectors

The DSWD is taking the lead role in developing a system of delivering health benefits to the underprivileged. A Health Card system whereby the underprivileged can have quick access to health services will be launched for implementation in all 5th and 6th class municipalities by the end of the month.

Guidelines for the operationalization of the system has been prepared for approval of the other agencies, in coordination with DECS, DILG and PhilHealth.

ID of coconut farmers for targeted rice subsidy

The program for the rice subsidy of coconut farmers in the 5th and 6th class municipalities has been launched, in partnership with the Department of Agriculture and the Department of Interior and Local Government. The identification of the beneficiaries is currently ongoing.

Addressing the proliferation street dwellers in Manila Bay

Consultations and planning for the resettlement of the street dwellers in Manila Bay is ongoing with Metro Manila Development Authority and Department of Tourism. A permanent Badjao village by the coast is being developed in coordination with the Housing and Urban Development Coordinating Council, Metro Manila Development Authority and the Department of Tourism to provide shelter to the street dwellers.

Urban Area CIDSS

The DSWD will be expanding the application of the CIDSS approach to the urban areas. A minimum basic needs survey has been undertaken for the first batch of dwellers in Smokey Mountain. Project to address the unmet needs of this community is set to be launched by May this year.

Laying the Foundation for Poverty Reduction and Sustained Growth

Creating environment for better social protection and rights recognition

The DSWD is reviewing legislation and policy instruments affecting social protection and rights recognition in order to define a better policy environment for the Department's work. Likewise, consultation-dialogues with civil society were conducted. These are manifested in the updating of Social Welfare and Community Development Plan (SWCD) 2001-2004; formulation of implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR) of Solo Parents Act; Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR) on early Childhood Care and Development Act (ECCD); and preparation of a Legislative Agenda for DSWD.

Introducing standards of social services delivery for partner institutions

The DSWD is in the process of reviewing the standards of accreditation and operations of its intermediaries. Standards setting networks are now in place in at least two regional centers to assist the DSWD in the discharge of its regulatory function of standards setting and enforcement.

Soliciting support from donors

A donor's forum was hosted by DSWD on April 16 to gather potential donors focusing on the Mindanao region, the priority projects per region, per sector and the continued government-civil society partnership. A total of 15 participants composed of the Ambassadors of Italy, Australia, China and other countries, and deputy representatives of UNFPA, UNDP, JICA and others attended the activity.

The DSWD also recently launched AHON Bayan in Mindanao to address the needs of reconstituting the peace process and link the communities assisted by the DSWD to possible donors. The project was attended by 15 donor organizations and 120 NGO proponents coming from the six regions of Mindanao. As a result, a commitment to support two projects for children/women in Regions IX and ARMM was obtained.



President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo and DSWD Secretary Corazon Juliano-Soliman during the launch of Ahon Bayan in Mindanao.

Basic Sector Participation in Governance thru National Anti-Poverty Commission (NAPC)

Multi-sectoral assemblies during Presidential trips with NAPC was organized by DSWD. This is where the basic sectors meet with the President and Cabinet members to present their issues and concerns. The DSWD network is made available to NAPC for better coordination.

DSWD also started the process of re-constitution of the Basic Sector Commissioners of NAPC which is for approval of the President.

The government panel of the National Anti-poverty Commission is currently drawing up an anti-poverty strategy for the purpose of ensuring consistency among the anti-poverty programs of the different agencies.



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