

PDF WORKING GROUP ON MDGS AND SOCIAL PROGRESS

Report to the Interim PDF

(18 August 2006)

I. 2006 Outcomes of the PDF WG on MDGs and Social Progress

In the larger Philippine Development Forum (PDF) Meeting organized by the Department of Finance, in partnership with the World Bank, last 30 – 31 March 2006 in Tagaytay City, the Philippine Development Forum Working Group on the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and Social Progress, co-chaired by the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) and the United Nations, presented a synthesis of its accomplishments, challenges and highlighted the ways it would move forward to implement the key recommendations for CY 2006.

The WG developed a more operational workplan in order to deliver on its commitments to accelerate implementation of action for the MDGs. Building on its 2005 accomplishments, the WG agreed to focus on MDGs less likely to be achieved (maternal and reproductive health, nutrition, elementary participation rate and cohort survival); move beyond policy to concrete actions and measurable results; accelerate reform with commensurate budgets in social sectors; work on “quick wins”; advocate to strike a balance between economic growth and equity in social benefits, esp. among the most vulnerable; observe mutual accountability of both government and development partners for commitments; and pursue other sector-specific actions recommended in the March PDF WG consolidated report.

The WG agreed to work on specific outcomes under the following areas: advocacy, financing gap for social services, good governance, and quick wins.

To deliver on the above, the WG met on 21 April and requested the two sub-groups: education, convened by the Department of Education and AusAID and health, convened by the Department of Health and the European Union and GTZ to develop a more detailed workplan that will contribute towards achieving the outcomes. It was further agreed to create a sub-group on Social Protection co-chaired by the Department of Social Welfare and Development and the World Bank. This sub-group aims inter alia, to mainstream and scale up the best practices of existing poverty and hunger alleviation programs of the Department of Social Welfare and Development and focus on the needs of vulnerable groups. A Poverty Monitoring Task Force co-chaired by the National Anti-Poverty Commission (NAPC) and the UN Development Programme (UNDP), created last year by the WG had completed its tasks to review the various poverty monitoring systems and recommend the most appropriate system to sustainably monitor the MDGs at the local level. The Terms of Reference of the PDF WG was developed

to reflect the principles of mutual accountability and joint responsibility to deliver on measurable development results.

Finally, the WG agreed to hold quarterly meetings to ensure appropriate follow-up and updates on progress made. With funding support from AusAID, a Programme Manager for the PDF WG secretariat is expected to be on board to assist the PDF WG in the operationalization of its workplan, by September.

II. Updates on 2006 Workplan

Key accomplishments of the Working group can be categorized into three areas of 1) advocacy to address financing gaps for social services; 2) good governance, and 3) action taken on quick wins.

1) Advocacy to address financing gaps for social services

To **advocate for increased budgetary support**, the PDF WG Convenors wrote to the Department of Budget and Management (DBM) requesting for guidance and support for increased funding. The DBM welcomed the adoption of a multi-year budget framework for the social sector and stated that they will be needing information on alternative 2007 – 2015 outcome/output targets and corresponding required funding ranging from conservative to optimistic estimates.

DBCC has also expressed support to the proposed adoption by DepED of a multi-year budget framework for basic education. DepED has yet to finalize and forward this framework to DBCC. Further, DBM has submitted to Congress a proposal to add the amount of P8.5 Billion in DepED's 2006 (re-enacted) budget.

The DOH has also formulated the Health Sector Expenditure Framework (HSEF) and has developed its budget proposal for 2007 to reflect support to health sector reforms under the FOURmula One for Health Framework. DBM has also approved the above ceiling proposal amounting to Php1 billion.

The first quarter also saw the forging of agreements with **development partners** for **increased financing support to the social sector**. The World Bank provided a US\$ 200 million loan for the National Program Support for Basic Education (NPSBE) for key elements of the Basic Education Sector Reform Agenda (BESRA). The NPSBE will focus on four areas: School-Based Management (SBM), Teacher Effectiveness, Quality Assurance and Resource Mobilization. Technical Working Groups (TWG) have been set up and are now in various stages of policy documents preparation. Significant progress has been achieved in the development of policy frameworks on: SBM, National Competency-Based Teacher Standards, National Learning Strategies in Science, Math, English and Filipino and Quality Assurance, Multi-Year Budgeting, Financial Management Reform Plan for Basic Education.

Australia has also demonstrated its commitment to support DepEd's efforts to achieve BESRA's thrusts with its increased funding assistance to basic education initiatives over the next five years. DepED is likewise encouraged to operationalize a harmonised approach in addressing the gaps in basic education inputs and outcomes with AusAID's planned partnership with World Bank's NPSBE.

The DOH also developed new **public-public partnership schemes** in the delivery of services towards attaining the MDGs.

With increased public resources through IMF-initiated tax reform measures, the WG also agreed to work towards **advocating for the utilization of these additional resources to the social sector**. A meeting with the economic and financial departments is being arranged to present the case to increase funding for social services to achieve the MDGs. It will be supported with the NEDA-UN study on costing the MDGs and the debt studies conducted to identify financing options for the MDGs. These **debt studies** include results of the mission undertaken by Ambassador Eduardo Aninat, upon the invitation of the Government and facilitated by the UN system, to look at financing options for the MDGs. The mission was complemented by a study conducted by the Philippine Institute for Development Studies. Results of these studies will be ready by the third week of August.

The UN system has also conducted other studies to support **advocacy for accelerated implementation of action for the MDGs**. These are inter alia, the report on the implementation of Hunger Free Philippines programme (FAO); baseline studies on MDGs 3 and 5 in 30 municipalities (UNFPA); report on End Child Hunger and Undernutrition Initiative and the Underweight Children Programme (UNICEF and WFP); nutrition survey (UNICEF and WFP); multiple cluster surveys and sub-regional MICS survey (UNICEF); Roadmap for Universal Access to Prevention, Care and Support for People Living with and Affected by HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS); and report on poverty reduction initiatives, including revenue raising to achieve the MDGs (IMF).

2) Good Governance

Subsequently, a sector-wide approach framework to **donor coordination** for education and health has seen a keen interest among development partners to look at financing gaps in support of the flagship programs of the DepEd and DOH, namely BESRA and FOURmula One.

DepED is currently fine-tuning the BESRA Program Implementation Plan (PIP) for approval by DepED Executive and Management Committees (scheduled to be discussed this month). The approved PIP will be presented to and discussed with donors. It will provide a framework for donors to assess potential areas of

BESRA that they could support. This process will commence the operationalization of the sector-wide approach to donor coordination being espoused in the BESRA.

The Secretary of Health issued the Sector Development Approach to Health (SDAH), which aims to strengthen coordination of development partners and harmonization of all initiatives. On-going and new programs in support to SDAH is sourced from World Bank, KfW, EC, ADB, GTZ, UN, JICA and USAID.

DepED has internally validated the draft **Sector Monitoring and Evaluation Framework**. This framework will be presented to other non-DepED stakeholders for further inputs. The final framework will be used to monitor and evaluate the attainment of EFA goal and targets.

DOH has developed and is implementing the **Health Human Resource Master Plan (2006 – 2010) and the DOH Rationalization Plan**. It has strengthened the technical content, delivery and financing mechanisms of the Women/Child/Infectious Disease Health Service Delivery packages. It has also expanded social health insurance coverage and health packages covering 64% of the 2004 population with 24.3% in the sponsored program.. There are also new benefit packages in 108 Tb-DOTS centers, 103 maternity clinics and 119 free-standing dialysis clinics.

On MDG monitoring at the community level, coverage of implementation of the **Community-based Monitoring System (CBMS)** expanded to include 14 provinces, 157 municipalities, 12 cities and 4279 barangays.

NEDA, in partnership with the UN system, has finalized 17 regional MDG reports. A comparative study on the MDG progress across provinces entitled: "Provincial MDG Scorecard," was also undertaken.

To strengthen partnership with civil society and other stakeholders, the EFA Technical Working Group (TWG) has agreed to organize the National EFA Committee (NEFAC), co chaired by the Secretary of DepEd and the President of the Education Network (an NGO) . The NEFAC will, among others, be responsible for coordination, policy-making, social and resource mobilization and overseeing the creation and operation of sub-national alliances. This effort is part of EFA's target of building grand alliance.

3) Quick Wins

The PDF WG supported the signing of the revised **Implementing Rules and Regulations of the Milk Code** which promotes infant and young child feeding/breastfeeding.

Advocacy for breastfeeding, including setting the record for the most number of breastfeeding mothers (UNICEF) was conducted.

III. Major issues faced in the implementation of the Workplan

The PDF WG was able to accomplish a lot, four months since the 2006 larger PDF meeting. However, implementation of the workplan could have been facilitated if the following issues were addressed:

1) Coordination among the other PDF Working Groups - we recognize that several efforts could have been done jointly across groups in order to achieve the greatest impact with the limited resources, such as for CBMS upscaling, with the WG on Local Government and Decentralization or anti-corruption efforts, with the WG on Governance and Anti-corruption.

We hope to address this with a coordination meeting among the convenors of the WGs.

2) Clarity of Roles and Responsibilities of the PDF WG - Each member-agency has defined roles and responsibilities in the implementation of the national development plan, with development partners providing assistance to government and other stakeholders towards this end. Under the over-all framework of the national development plan, the value-addition of the PDF group for the plan's implementation should be clear. Responsibilities should be defined and mutual accountability for outcomes achieved through consensus will have to be observed if we are to meet our national development priority objectives.

The WG tried to address this concern with the development of a workplan with defined activities and performance indicators. The drafting of the TOR of the WG is expected to also provide clarity on the role of the PDF WG. A meeting among convenors of the sub-groups has also been conducted to discuss how to manage the work of the sub-groups.

3) Ensure continuous follow-up of implementation of the PDF WG workplan - To ensure that workplan activities are implemented, various stakeholder actions are coordinated and progress towards agreed upon objectives is monitored, it is important to have staff support dedicated to the PDF WG and its sub-groups.

We hope to be able to address this concern with the hiring of a Programme Manager for the PDF WG and sub-group on education, through funding support from AusAID.

IV. Next Steps

Proposed priority action of the PDF Working Group will be to work on the following areas:

- 1) Accelerated implementation of its workplan to achieve the following outcomes: advocacy for a stronger national population management policy and programme; realize increase budgetary and ODA support for the social sectors; upscale good governance practices; and, strengthen partnerships with the private sector and civil society organizations.
- 2) Operationalize workplan through the various sub-groups (education, health, and social protection), with strategic guidance and coordination of efforts through the PDF WG
- 3) Achieve greater coordination of action among PDF Working Groups.

Next steps will be finalized in the upcoming meeting of the PDF Working Group.

V. Details of Updates and Action Taken

<p><u>Advocacy</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A stronger national population management policy/legislation and programme • Increased budgetary and ODA support to MDGs and social sectors 	<p>UPDATES/ ACTION TAKEN</p> <p><u>Public financing of basic sectors</u></p> <p>Education Sub-Group</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DBCC has expressed support to the proposed adoption by DepED of a multi-year budget framework for basic education. • 2006 Supplemental Budget for DepED: DBM has submitted to Congress a proposal to add the amount of P8.5 Billion in DepED’s 2006 (re-enacted) budget. <p>Health Sub-Group</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DOH formulated the Health Sector Expenditure Framework (HSEF) • DOH Budget has been restructured towards
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supporting health sector reforms (to include new line items). The Executive Committee has approved the CY 2007 budget proposal reflecting the DOH restructured budget and above ceiling proposals on public health, hospitals, and access to low cost medicines. The proposed budget underwent the Technical Budget hearing and has been submitted to the Department of Budget and Management. The DBM has approved the above ceiling proposal amounting to Php 1 billion

- Adopted a multi-year budget for the social sectors
- Increased PHIC budget for the national counterpart
- Expanded social health security insurance coverage and benefit package by covering 64% of the 2004 population

Social Protection

- Discussions are on-going between DSWD and World Bank to develop a multi-year framework

Increased ODA support to social sectors

Education Sub-Group

- The US \$200 million World Bank loan to provide National Program Support for Basic Education (NPSBE) for key elements of the Basic Education Sector Reform Agenda (BESRA) was approved on 20 June 2006. The loan agreement is expected to be signed on the week of 28 August 2006. The NPSBE will focus on four areas: School-Based Management (SBM), Teacher Effectiveness, Quality Assurance and Resource Mobilization. Technical Working Groups (TWG) have been set up and are now in various stages of policy documents preparation. Significant progress has been achieved in the development of policy frameworks on: SBM, National Competency-Based Teacher Standards, National Learning Strategies in Science, Math, English and Filipino and Quality Assurance, Multi-Year Budgeting, Financial Management Reform Plan for Basic Education.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Australia has demonstrated its commitment to support DepEd's efforts to achieve BESRA's thrusts with its increased funding assistance to basic education initiatives over the next five years. DepED is likewise encouraged to operationalize a harmonized approach in addressing the gaps in basic education inputs and outcomes with AusAID's planned partnership with World Bank's NPSBE. <p><u>Challenges on population control</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DSWD will have discussions with PCPD on how to utilize population management materials PCPD is distributing; Coordination with LMP to report to NEDA their population management programs at the municipal level • DOH adapted and enforced local laws supportive of reproductive health <p><u>Advocacy for Accelerated Implementation of Action for MDGs</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The UN system has also conducted other studies to support advocacy for accelerated implementation of action for the MDGs. These are inter alia, the report on the implementation of Hunger Free Philippines programme (FAO); baseline studies on MDGs 3 and 5 in 30 municipalities (UNFPA); report on End Child Hunger and Undernutrition Initiative and the Underweight Children Programme (UNICEF and WFP); nutrition survey (UNICEF and WFP); multiple cluster surveys and sub-regional MICS survey (UNICEF); Roadmap for Universal Access to Prevention, Care and Support for People Living with and Affected by HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS); and report on poverty reduction initiatives, including revenue raising to achieve the MDGs (IMF).
<u>Financing Gap for Social Services</u>	Coordination with Department of Budget and

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Secure a commitment from the Development Budget Coordination Committee to increase the budget for social services using a multi-year framework starting 2007 • Additional revenues from fiscal reforms (in addition to sin taxes and RVAT for PhilHealth indigent premiums) and savings from debt servicing to benefit the social sectors • Support debt-for-MDGs projects • Active involvement of private sector in social sectors 	<p>Management (DBM)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A letter has been sent to the DBM requesting advice on how to secure a commitment from the Development Budget Coordination Committee to increase the budget for social services using a multi-year framework starting. • DBM has responded and stated that they will be needing information on alternative 2007 – 2015 outcome/output targets and corresponding required funding ranging from conservative to optimistic estimates. <p><u>Support to debt-for-MDGs project</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A mission was undertaken by Ambassador Eduardo Aninat, upon the invitation of the Government and facilitated by the UN system, to look at financing options for the MDGs. The mission was complemented by a study conducted by the Philippine Institute for Development Studies. Results of these studies will be ready by the third week of August <p><u>Active involvement of private sector in social sectors</u></p> <p>Health</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Developed private-public partnership schemes in the delivery of services towards attaining the MDGs.
<p><u>Good Governance</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Adopt multi-year framework for social sectors 	<p><u>Operationalization of the Sector-Wide Approach to Donor Coordination.</u></p> <p>Education Sub-Group</p>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pursue anti-corruption efforts • Common monitoring systems for impact of macro-economic policies, performance, and scaling up of Community-Based monitoring system (CBMS) • Strengthen coordination and harmonization of the sector-wide approaches and adoption of the harmonized GAD guidelines • Address human resource development and management across the social sectors in a concerted manner • Strengthen partnerships with civil society and other stakeholders 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DepED is currently fine-tuning the BESRA Program Implementation Plan (PIP) for approval by DepED Executive and Management Committees (scheduled to be discussed this month). The approved PIP will be presented to and discussed with donors. It will provide a framework for donors to assess potential areas of BESRA that they could support. This process will commence the operationalization of the sector-wide approach to donor coordination being espoused in the BESRA. <p>Health Sub-Group</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strengthened coordination of development partners and harmonization of all initiatives through the Sector Development Approach to Health (SDAH). On-going and new programs in support to SDAH are sourced from World Bank, KfW, EC, ADB. <p><u>Adoption of a common monitoring and evaluation framework</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DepED has internally validated the draft Sector Monitoring and Evaluation Framework. This framework will be presented to other non-DepED stakeholders for further inputs. The final framework will be used to monitor and evaluate the attainment of EFA goal and targets. <p><u>Human Resource Development and Management</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DOH has developed and is implementing the Health Human Resource Master Plan (2006 – 2010) and the DOH Rationalization Plan • Strengthened the technical content, delivery and financing mechanisms of the Women/Child/Infectious Disease Health Service Delivery packages <p>Social Protection Sub-Group</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DSWD and ILO will look into how they can link up and work in a more coordinated manner
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	<p><u>MDG monitoring and Upscaling of Community-based Monitoring System (CBMS)</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CBMS has expanded to include 14 provinces, 157 municipalities, 12 cities and 4279 barangays. • NEDA, in partnership with the UN system, is also preparing 17 regional MDG reports. A comparative study on the MDG progress across provinces was also undertaken. <p><u>Strengthening partnership with civil society and other stakeholders</u></p> <p>Education Sub-group</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The EFA Technical Working Group (TWG) has agreed to organize the National EFA Committee (NEFAC) which will, among others, be responsible for coordination. policy making, social and resource mobilization and overseeing the creation and operation of sub-national alliances. The chair of NEFAC is the Sec of DepED co-chaired by the President of Education Network (an NGO). This effort is part of EFA's target of building grand alliance.
<p><u>Quick Wins</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Advocacy for Breastfeeding • Implement the Milk Code 	<p><u>Advocacy for Breastfeeding</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • UN system supported advocacy campaign for breastfeeding, including setting the record for the most number of breastfeeding mothers <p><u>Milk Code implementation</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Health Secretary signed revised IRR for the Milk Code <p><u>Strengthening the regulation of health care products and services</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Enforce the Milk Code IRR at the national and local levels

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Enforce the ASIN Law at national and local levels
<p><u>Organizational Structure and Role of the Working Group</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review and clarify the role and responsibilities of the Working group and its members • PDF Working group to also address the issues of job creation, social protection, water and sanitation and urban housing • Ensure accountability for recommendations by identifying lead agencies • Strengthen linkages and identify areas for interfacing between and among the various PDF Working Groups 	<p>Social Protection</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PDF Working Group on MDGs and Social Progress developed the Sub-Group on Social Protection co-chaired by DSWD and the World Bank. • First meeting was convened where the rationale has been shared to the other members of the sub-group • Terms of Reference and Action Planning Guide are currently being reviewed by the members, Comments and recommendations on how the sub-group can move forward have been given by PCPD, PBSP, DOLE, and NEDA <p>Education</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • AusAID committed to provide funding support to the PDF WG, including the operations of the education sub-group.