

Updates from the Sub-Groups on their Respective Agenda and Significant Gains in the 2007 PDF WG on MDGs and Social Progress Workplan

A. Health

- On the pending issue on Milk Code, the DOH considers the Supreme Court (SC) decision a resounding victory with the nullification of three relevant provisions relating to absolute advertising and administrative fines. Instead of filing for reconsideration, the Department will continue to strengthen its regulatory system and activate the Technical Working Groups (TWGs);
- Updating of the Health Sector Expenditure Framework (HSEF) as basis for justifying additional budget ceiling, including preparation of Administrative Order (AO), operational guidelines to implement the AO, and its execution plan for 2009
- Developing of a system to track budget utilization and its contribution to attainment of outcomes
- Strengthening and making more efficient claims processing by PHIC while simultaneously working on a comprehensive review of benefits
- On the implementation of Province-wide Investment Plan (PIPH) for health in 16 sites: Provided start-up funds for preparatory activities; completed facility mapping for BEMOCs and CEMOCs and LGU Public Finance and Management Plans in all sites; 16 Service Level Agreements signed; and ongoing finalization of Project Operations Manual
- Ongoing preparation of PIPH for the 21 roll-out sites;
- Technical assistance being identified to undertake the actual survey in the 16 FOURmula One sites;
- Development of Monitoring and Evaluation for Equity and Effectiveness (ME3) systems (LGU/Donor Scorecard), including refinement of indicators;
- Ongoing development and finalization of the guidelines on the expanded AO on Contraceptive Self-Reliance Strategy and utilization of allocation for Artificial Family Planning in the 2007 GAA, respectively;
- Continuing efforts to raise public awareness and intensifying prevention and control of HIV and AIDs and Avian Influenza; and
- Reducing and controlling drug prices by improving prescribing practices, use of generic drugs, improving procurement and monitoring of drug quality and regulation of drug prices.

B. Education

- Growing appreciation of and commitment to the basic education reform agenda (BESRA), with significant progress on School-Based Management (SBM) and Competency-Based Teachers Standard (CBTS)
- Established additional coordinating mechanism through a DepEd Order, with authoritative chairs, representative members, clear tasks and fully resourced
- A mechanism in place towards improving internal donor arrangements and strengthening partnership with DepEd
- Under the proposed FY 2008 budget, DepEd budget (including allocation for School Building Program) increased by P8.64 billion from 2007 level
- Continued collaboration with the development partners, inter alia:
 - WB's US\$200million loan for the National Program Support for Basic Education (NPSBE) for 2006-2011
 - AusAID's A\$41 million grant for the proposed Support to Philippine Basic Education Reform (SPHERE) for 2007-2011 and A\$10 million as an incentive to implementing key elements of the reform agenda for 2008/2009
 - UNICEF-AusAID (P6.9 million) and Netherland (\$1.215 million) for construction and repair

- AECI's €.968 million (Phase 1) and € 2.6 million (Phase II) for construction & training
- Frontloading financing for critical resources has been started for 2008-2010. However, this is purely General Appropriations Act (GAA)-sourced and the possible use of the Special Education Fund (SEF) as a security, floatation of Patriot Bond and IRA increase
- Progress made in multi-year budgeting and demand-side financing. Policy on 2007-2010 budget strategy disseminated via DepEd Order No. 24, s. 2007
- Revision of the DepEd's Organizational Performance Indicators Framework (OPIF) to reflect emerging priorities which are not captured in BESRA
- Efforts to capacitate and empower regional and divisional offices of DepEd to support deliberate expansion of School-Based Management beyond current pilot and model sites
- Introduction of Sector M&E Framework, the National Learning Assessment System and lately, work has started to revisit the Accreditation System
- The Department is seriously considering the implementation of the long-time plan to establish the Financial Monitoring Information System (FMIS), Management Resource Information System (MRIS), and Human Resource Information System (HRIS) to complement the Basic Education Information System (BEIS)

C. Social Protection

- Social Protection Sub-Group's key issues and work program for 2007 focuses on the following four (4) core issues:
 - The need for a Social Protection Strategy that appropriately addresses the needs of the poor and vulnerable;
 - The need for an accurate, legitimate, comprehensive and consolidated system to target the poor;
 - The possible piloting of a Conditional Cash Transfer Program to address joint objectives of poverty reduction and social protection and operationalize key elements of an eventual social protection system; and
 - The need to improve the system of disaster preparedness and response in the Philippines.
- SDC Resolution No. 1, series of 2007, "Adopting a Philippine Definition of a Social Protection"
- DSWD's focus on social welfare and social safety nets is indicated in the National Sector Support for the Social Welfare and Development Reform Project (NSS-SWDRP) Reform Agenda. The project has four reform areas, to wit:
 - Leading in social protection
 - Faster and better service delivery
 - Smarter financing
 - Improve systems for service delivery
- Significant gains include:
 - Preparation of the Social Welfare Medium-Term Expenditure Plan (MTEP) has started as part of DSWD's NSS-SWDRP Reform Agenda
 - Strengthening partners/intermediaries to deliver social welfare social services through capacity building, technical assistance and resource augmentation
 - Towards developing a common harmonized targeting, M&E tool for social protection, completed the following: (i) Preliminary risk and vulnerability assessment; (ii) Social risk-vulnerability-response gap analysis in the Philippines, and (iii) preliminary gap-analysis for major social risks
 - On the Conditional Cash Transfer Program (AP3): (i) MOA signing between DSWD and LGUs; (ii) Organization of an Interagency Committee to ensure convergence; (iii) Development of an Operations Manual; (iv) Health and education conditionalities

finalized; (v) household survey completed; and (vi) multiple regression model for targeting of the AP3 Project beneficiaries