Administrative Order No. 01
Series of 2023

SUBJECT: THE DSWD RESEARCH AND EVALUATION AGENDA 2023-2028

I. RATIONALE / BACKGROUND

The COVID-19 pandemic in the last two and a half years, climate change, food insecurity, and the fuel crisis have exacerbated the poverty situation in the Philippines and impacted the social welfare and development sector in a distressing way.

A World Bank study conducted in collaboration with the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) in 2020 and 2021 revealed that "COVID 19 has taken a heavy toll on rural livelihoods" and that "loss of income and job opportunities were overarching challenges in poor communities in the Philippines" (World Bank, 2021, as cited by Fallesen, 2021).

Based on the study on Climate Change and Food Security Analysis in the Philippines of the World Food Programme (WFP), "climate variability and extreme hazards such as typhoons, floods and drought are projected to have a substantial impact on agricultural, livestock, and fishery supply chains that will affect all aspects from production to distribution to consumption across both urban and rural sectors". Further, the study posited that this could in turn negatively affect the availability, affordability and accessibility to nutritious food for the Philippine population, particularly for the most vulnerable, poor and remote populations" (WFP, 2021).

A World Bank Report explained that the "recent food price increases in the region, reinforced by food and fuel price rises related to the Ukraine-Russia war, could threaten expected progress in poverty reduction in 2022, as poor households tend to spend substantial shares of their incomes on food and energy" (Yonzan et al., 2022).

A related survey conducted in collaboration with DSWD and Economic Policy Research Institute (2021) with support from Australian Aid and United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund (UNICEF) Philippines looked into the effects of COVID-19 on child poverty and efficacy of social protection responses in the Philippines. The survey results categorically stated that "in addition to the direct health effects from the transmission of COVID-19, there is growing evidence that the pandemic, and the actions taken to control the virus, have caused severe economic and social effects."

Meanwhile, in its Memorandum Circular No. 15, Series of 2022, entitled Updated Guidelines for the Implementation of the Assistance to Individuals in Crisis Situation Program, the DSWD (2022) recognized the "increasing number of clients suffering from severe economic effects brought about by the Corona Virus Disease 2019 (COVID 19) and the rising inflation rate due to high fuel prices."

The emerging socio-political, health, and economic issues and concerns affecting the social welfare and development sector require the DSWD to respond decisively and in a strategic way to fulfill its mandate and goal of addressing hunger and poverty of Filipinos especially the most disadvantaged and vulnerable sectors of the society. In the process, the Department relies on data and information as the basis for its decisions

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and actions, and such has been the usual practice of DSWD. Evidence-based information allows the management to formulate well-informed policies and make programmatic decisions to strengthen the effectiveness and accountability of its operations.

The DSWD fully recognizes the importance of evidence-based data and information in supporting decisions for policy, strategy, and program development and adjustments. Throughout the Department's operations, research and evaluation (R&E) served as its primary tools in proactively generating timely and responsive evidence to address critical issues, challenges, and concerns of the social development and welfare sector. By doing so, the Department is able to provide more relevant, responsive, and efficient social protection services to the poor and marginalized sectors of the country.

In 2019, the DSWD Memorandum Circular entitled *Guidelines for the Conduct of R&E in the DSWD* which served as *The DSWD Research & Evaluation Policy* was approved and adopted. The Policy provides overall guidance to the Department and external researchers and partners on the development, implementation, monitoring and utilization of R&E in the DSWD. Apart from providing standards and criteria in the conduct of R&E in the Department, the policy also institutionalized the formulation and monitoring of the "DSWD R&E Agenda".

The first document formulated based on the Policy was the *DSWD R&E Agenda, 2019-2022*. Anchored on the DSWD Strategic Plan 2018-2022, this R&E Agenda outlined the Department's direction on priority areas and topics/themes for R&E that will be undertaken to respond to emerging concerns of the Department. It also served as a reference material for internal and external stakeholders in the selection and prioritization of topics/themes for R&E.

This successor *DSWD R&E Agenda, 2023-2028* seeks to continuously provide strategic guidance to the Department and its key stakeholders in the conduct of R&E along social welfare and development (SWD).

To further strengthen the role of R&E in generating evidence-based information for policy and program development, the National R&E Technical Working Group (NRE-TWG) was reconstituted through the issuance of Special Order 1091 series of 2022.

Anchored on the Department's existing Strategy Map, the Agenda shall serve as the organizational platform on R&E in the Department containing the various prioritized areas, themes, milestones, estimated costs, accountabilities, and implementation arrangements.

II. LEGAL BASES

The following official issuances make up the legal bases for the formulation of DSWD R&E Agenda 2023-2028

Executive Order No. 221 series of 2003 mandated the DSWD to: provide assistance to LGUs in implementing programs and services that alleviate poverty and empower disadvantaged individuals, families and communities; and, implement statutory/specialized programs which are directly lodged with the DSWD and/or not yet devolved to LGUs.

The **"DSWD Research & Evaluation Policy" or the "Guidelines for the Conduct of R&E in the DSWD" (MC 09-2019)** provides overall guidance to the Department and external researchers and partners on the development, implementation, monitoring and

utilization of R&E involving the DSWD. The said policy institutionalized the formulation and monitoring of the DSWD R&E Agenda and provided standards and criteria in the conduct of R&E in the Department.

The **DSWD Strategy 2028** grants the strategic emphasis, and serves as the foundation for the R&E Agenda 2023-2028 as the Department operationalizes it to carry out its mission as outlined in its mandate.

The R&E agenda seeks to support the **Philippine Development Plan 2023-2028** and the DSWD Strategy after its completion because the strategy review is a typical step in the development and updating of strategies and plans.

DSWD Results Framework reflects the various activities, outputs, and outcomes of the Department that are relevant in the fulfillment of its mandate, powers and functions. It is directly linked to the R&E Agenda in two ways. First, all R&E conducted by the Department, and/or with or by its partners are anchored on these objectives. Secondly, all R&E that are intended to be conducted aim to support the information needs and knowledge gaps of the Department, as stipulated in its Results Framework. The Results Framework for 2023-2028 of DSWD will not be available while the formulation of the R&E Agenda is being crafted, or until after the DSWD Strategic Plan has been formulated.

DSWD Policy Agenda, 2020-2025 technically informs the DSWD R&E Agenda as the former serves as the DSWD's guide in operationalizing its mandate and mission in line with the formulation of policies that will address the needs and emerging issues of various vulnerable marginalized sectors of the society. Specifically, it serves as a blueprint for addressing persisting as well as emerging cross sectoral social welfare and development issues in the country; guides the DSWD offices in crafting policy issuances and programs; and provides an evidence-based list of SWD issues needing appropriate interventions.

National Evaluation Policy Framework, 2015 (NEPF) issued jointly by the National Economic and Development Authority and the Department of Budget Management in 2015 requires all evaluations to apply standardized evaluation procedures as provided for in the Guiding Principles/Evaluation Standards. It also requires implementing agencies to use evaluation findings for recommendations and appropriate management response, including follow through actions, to improve program effectiveness, efficiency, and accountability.

Guidelines on Evaluation in the National Government, 2020 translates the NEPF into action, and guide (i) government staff involved in planning, commissioning, and managing evaluations; (ii) managers from implementing agencies who use evaluations to assure the relevance, coherence, efficiency, effectiveness, and sustainability of programs and projects; (iii) users of evaluation results including stakeholders and partners, the legislature, and oversight agencies; (iv) evaluators who need to understand government evaluation principles, standards, and processes; and (v) the broader national development and evaluation community.

Special Order 1091 series of 2022 reconstitutes the "National R&E Technical Working Group (NRE-TWG)". The Order seeks to further strengthen the role of R&E in generating evidence-based information for policy and program development. The R&E-TWG is composed of representatives from all clusters of the Department who shall work with the Policy Development and Planning Bureau (PDPB) in the operationalization of the DSWD Research & Evaluation Policy. Specifically, they are expected to contribute to the implementation of the Research & Evaluation Policy and Agenda by reviewing R&E

products; promoting the culture of evidence-based policy and program development; and strengthening the capacity of offices and personnel in Research, Monitoring and Evaluation.

III. OBJECTIVES

The main purpose of the "DSWD Research & Evaluation Agenda, 2023-2028" are to:

1. Guide the Department in prioritizing research themes and topics which will support the attainment of the Department's vision that all *Filipinos are free from hunger and poverty, have equal access to opportunities, enabled by a fair, just and peaceful society and its* mission *to lead in the formulation, implementation and coordination of social welfare and development policies and programs for and with the poor, vulnerable and disadvantaged.*

2. Produce R&E products to support formulation of policies which are responsive to the Social Protection and Social Welfare and Development needs of the poor, vulnerable and marginalized taking note of the need to harmonize with the DSWD Policy Agenda.

3. Provide guidance to the Department on the overall plan for the monitoring of R&E.

The R&E Agenda will serve as the Department's guide and plan in the conduct of quality and relevant R&E that will provide evidence for the management's decision-making process. These decisions are intended to cause the improvement of the effectiveness and accountability of various interventions along the Department's organizational and foundational outcomes, and indicators reflected in its Results Framework and the Department's Strategic Plan.

The R&E Agenda seeks to increase the productivity rate of DSWD in producing quality, relevant and meaningful R&E that will respond to the present social development and economic issues and that will fill in the knowledge gaps that are not addressed by the current SWD interventions.

As a "change strategy", the R&E, in the long term, are meant to contribute to the Department's mandate of creating greater and more significant impact to its target population, particularly the vulnerable and hard to reach sectors of the society.

More specifically, the R&E agenda presents the following:

1. Priority R&E themes/topics for 2023-2028.
2. Sample/Selected R&E plans for high priority topics.
3. Sample/Selected Evaluability Assessment and Evaluation Checklist of priority evaluation topics.

The primary users of the DSWD R&E Agenda are the DSWD Management, the NRE TWG, the PDPB, the various bureaus, offices, and services of the Department, and other stakeholders. The secondary users of the Agenda include the donor partners who might be interested to sponsor certain R&E themes, the academic and research community, even DSWD personnel who are interested to conduct research on DSWD programs and services, and other stakeholders.

IV. SCOPE AND COVERAGE

In terms of scope, the DSWD R&E Agenda 2023-2028 encompasses priority topics/themes relevant to the social welfare and development sector that will inform the Department's relevant programs, projects, policies, strategies, and interventions (not including other government sectors and the private sector).

The R&E Agenda shall be implemented, applied, and utilized by the Offices, Bureaus, Services, and Units of the Central and Field Offices (FOs), as well as by external stakeholders who partner with the Department in the conduct of R&E related to or involving SWD. This may include local and international research institutions, the academe, independent researchers, Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs), Civil Society Organizations (CSOs), other National Government Agencies (NGAs), Local Government Units (LGUs) and DSWD Attached Agencies (AAs). Furthermore, DSWD FOs may contextualize the R&E topics based on their local situation and based on their relevant and timely needs and requirements.

Evaluations are normally focused on programs, projects, key activities, policies, strategies, and other interventions that took place in the past. The evaluation plan, however, covers interventions that were implemented in the last 6 years. Meanwhile, real time evaluations (RTE) or rapid assessment cover interventions happening in real time, usually in response to an emergency, to provide immediate feedback during field work rather than afterwards.

It must be noted that the R&E Agenda could cover subjects of common interest with other government sectors, subjects that are cross-cutting, or subjects that are applied in coordination with other NGAs.

In addition, the extent of the agenda for R&E will also guarantee that the DSWD's strategic direction and Policy Agenda are attained.

V. THE SITUATION OF THE POOR, DISADVANTAGED AND VULNERABLE SECTORS

The preliminary results of the Family Income and Expenditure Survey (FIES) in 2021 shows that poverty incidence among the population, or the proportion of Filipinos whose per capita income cannot sufficiently meet the individual basic food and non-food needs, has reached 18.1 percent (Philippine Statistics Authority [PSA], 2021). This means that around 19.99 million Filipinos lived below the poverty threshold of about PhP 12,030 per month for a family of five. The poverty incidence of 18.1 percent, which was an increase from the 16.7 percent (or about 17.67 million poor Filipinos) recorded in 2018, fell short of the government's goal to bring down poverty incidence to 15.5-17.5 percent in 2021.

According to PSA, around 3.50 million families or 13.2 percent were considered poor in 2021. Further, the subsistence incidence among families was observed at 3.9 percent, which is equivalent to 1.04 million poor families below the food poverty line. This is higher than the 3.4 percent subsistence incidence in 2018 which is equivalent to about 840,000 food poor families.

The poverty situation could be worse this year because the PSA survey was done in 2021, and a number of changes have taken place since then such as the increase in fuel prices, the weakening peso, higher unemployment and underemployment rate, and the concerning food crisis.

A more recent study conducted by Social Weather Station (SWS) from June 26 to 29, 2022 through a face-to-face survey found that 48 percent of families felt *poor*, while 31

percent categorized themselves as *borderline poor*. The survey covered 1,500 adults aged 18 and above sampled nationwide. As reported by the SWS (2022), there was a change from a similar poll conducted in April of the same year, when 10.9 million or 43 percent of Filipino families felt *poor*, 34 percent considered themselves *borderline poor*, and 23 percent rated themselves *not poor*. It further noted that poor families in all areas increased, especially in Metro Manila and Visayas.

The DSWD noted in its Sectoral Plan of Action for Filipino Family for CY 2022 that "vulnerable families are the most affected sector given the adverse impacts along economic, health, and social impacts aggravated by the impacts of disasters, that left many displaced families with the onslaught of typhoon Odette in the latter part of 2021." The Plan also noted that Filipino families has been able to "withstand the overwhelming challenges brought by the prolonged pandemic" (DSWD, 2022).

COVID-19 pandemic, food insecurity and climate change, food and fuel price increase, and high unemployment rate exacerbated the already existing poverty in the Philippines affecting the most vulnerable, disadvantaged, and poor sectors of the country.

SECTORS AFFECTED BY POVERTY IN THE PHILIPPINES

Among the nine (9) basic sectors, the PSA reported that the farmers, fishermen, children, self-employed, unpaid family workers, and women belonging to poor families had higher poverty incidence than the general population.

1. *Impact of Poverty on the Filipino Children*

According to a report issued by UNICEF Philippines and the PSA (2015) entitled *Child Poverty in the Philippines*, children are among the most vulnerable population groups in society, and about a third of them (31.4 percent) belong to poor families. UNICEF Philippines (2015) noted that poverty has a unique impact on children and can have long-lasting effects. Malnutrition, often due to poverty, can negatively impact children's physical, social and emotional development. Poverty also increases the risks of children's exposure to child marriages, violence, exploitation, and abuse.

- *Violence against children* is widespread and remains a harsh reality for millions of children in the Philippines. The National Baseline Study on Violence Against Children conducted by the Council for the Welfare of Children (CWC) in partnership with UNICEF in 2015 revealed that 80 percent of children and youth experienced some form of violence in their lifetime, whether in the home, school, workplace or community. At the height of the COVID-19 pandemic, UNICEF Philippines (2020) noted that "movement restrictions, the closure of schools, loss of income, isolation, overcrowding, and high levels of stress and anxiety are increasing the likelihood that children experience and observe physical, psychological and sexual abuse at home – particularly those children already living in violent or dysfunctional family situations."

- *Online sexual abuse and exploitation of children* has been reported to have increased since the COVID-19 quarantine. In a press release, Save the Children Philippines (2020) raised concern that "more children are at risk from online sexual abuse and exploitation amid the COVID-19 pandemic as families resort to easy money due to deepening poverty, while children are still not allowed to leave homes due to lockdowns."

- *Children in conflict with the law* was reported by the Juvenile Justice and Welfare Council (JJWC) to have increased. From 1995 to 2000, a total of 52,576 children in

conflict with the law were in detention or under custodial setting while an average of 10,515 children were being arrested every year with few cases being resolved. Majority of jails all over the country do not have a separate detention facility for children. The conditions in jails in the Philippines and overcrowding make children particularly vulnerable to contracting diseases including COVID-19. The enactment of the Juvenile Justice and Welfare Act in 2006 has proven that children in conflict with the law can be rehabilitated without resorting to imprisonment or detention (JJWC, 2021).

- *Teenage pregnancy* was highest in the Philippines among Southeast Asian Region in 2019 according to the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA, 2020). This is substantiated by data from the Civil Registration and Vital Statistics System of the PSA which revealed that there are about 495 live births per day in 2019 among adolescents aged 10 to 19 age group. The rate of births to teenage mothers went down by 13 percent the following year due to the COVID-19 pandemic which has limited social interactions and chances for sexual encounters. Medical experts, however, worry that as lockdown restrictions loosen and more young Filipinos are vaccinated, the rate of teenage pregnancy will slowly escalate again.

- *On Child Marriage* was revealed in the UNICEF's Situation Analysis of Children in the Philippines (2017). The percentage of women aged 20-24 who were first married before the age of 15 was 2 percent, while 15 percent were married by the age of 18. Pre-arranged, forced and early marriages are critical issues affecting Filipino Muslim and indigenous girl children.

- *Children in drug abuse* figured significantly in a study conducted by the JJWC entitled, "2022 Updated Situation Analysis of Children in Conflict with the Law". The study reported that from 2017 to 2020, about 95 percent to 100 percent of child-surrenderers in relation to the government's campaign against drugs were alleged to be drug users. In 2021, there were no recorded drug users, but all four (4) recorded cases were drug sellers. Meanwhile, from 2017 to 2021, there was only one (1) case of child-surrenderer involved in drug delivery.

2. *Impact of Poverty on Women*

In its Plan of Action for the Filipino Family, the DSWD (2022) noted that "women are physically and mentally exhausted from taking on the compounded economic and emotional burdens brought by COVID-19". More than one (1) year into a pandemic that has confined people to their homes, the government is challenged to consider the disproportionate impact of COVID-19 on women and the long-lasting impacts of lost livelihoods and economic prospects. According to UNWOMEN Asia and the Pacific, "Women and girls in the Philippines are facing distinct challenges to their safety and well-being during COVID-19, such as access to healthcare services, gender-based violence and other human rights violations, and economic insecurity." This was taken from Gender Snapshot: COVID-19 in the Philippines (2020).

3. Impact of Poverty on Senior Citizens

Based on the 2020 Census of Population and Housing conducted by the PSA, Filipinos 60 years of age and older comprised 8.5 percent of the population, or 9.2 million. That year saw the doubling of the country's aging citizens' numbers from 2000, when they represented just 5.9 percent of the national population at 4.5 million.

Meanwhile, 1.2 million senior citizens were considered poor based on Listahanan 2 of the DSWD. Senior citizens who were in the residential care facilities of the DSWD

increased from 820 in 2016 to 1,678 in 2017. The Chairperson and Chief Executive Officer of the National Commission of Senior Citizens (NCSC) said that "Senior citizens often feel they are running out of time, and the COVID-19 pandemic has made this even more pronounced."

4. Impact of Poverty on Persons with Disability (PWDs)

The National Disability Prevalence Survey (NDPS, 2016) conducted by the PSA showed that, in 2016, around 12 percent of Filipinos aged 15 and older experienced severe disability. Almost one in every two (47 percent) experienced moderate disability while 23 percent with mild disability. Almost one-fifth (19 percent) experienced no disability. The COVID-19 pandemic has significantly affected the lives of PWDs who were disproportionately affected because of their already heightened vulnerability. Most of them were reported to have experienced discrimination, inequality, isolation and even violation of their dignity. At the height of the COVID-19 global pandemic, the United Nations Special Rapporteur, Catalina Devandas, stated that PWDs were not provided with the adequate support and protection they needed.

5. Impact of Poverty on Internally Displaced Persons

More Filipinos were internally displaced by conflicts, violence and disasters at the end of 2021, according to the 2022 Global Report on Internal Displacement by the Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre (IDMC). The IDMC (2022) reported that disasters have triggered 5.7 million internal displacements in the Philippines in 2021 of which storms accounted for 91%. Typhoon Odette led to the displacements of around 3.9 million in the regions of Western Visayas, Eastern Visayas and Caraga. Internally displaced persons' (IDP) livelihoods were disrupted and food prices increased, heightening the risk of food insecurity.

Despite a peace agreement between the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) and the government signed in 2014 and the establishment of the Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (BARMM) in 2019, conflict in Mindanao has remained as other smaller groups continued to fight. According to the updated displacement data of the IDMC, this has accounted for 136,000 of the 140,000 conflict displacements recorded for the country as a whole.

6. Impact of Poverty on Overseas Filipino Workers (OFWs)

A report released by the PSA (2022), showed that the number of OFWs in 2020 was estimated at 1.77 million, which was lower than the 2.18 million reported in 2019. Meanwhile, the number of Overseas Contract Workers (OCWs) decreased to 1.71 million in 2020. Before the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic in 2019, OFWs were registered at 2.18 million while 2.11 million were OCWs.

According to anecdotes, Filipinos working abroad have had to deal with possible discrimination and cultural differences, adjust to extreme climate, adapt to high cost of living especially food rent, and personal expenses, fear of getting sick, inability to witness children growing, deal with homesickness, experience maltreatment from bad employers, cope with broken relationships, and deal with anxiety over no savings.

A report by the International Organization for Migration (IOM, 2020) Philippines on the impact of COVID-19 on OFWs, noted that, in 2020, the Philippines saw a 75 percent drop in overseas deployment while facing an unprecedented number of repatriations under the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic. The report gathered that the returning

OFWs had to deal with early termination without compensation, loss wages, gender disparity throughout the process, joblessness, and loss in household income.

7. Impact of Poverty on Indigenous Peoples (IPs)

The Population Census in 2010 for the first time included an ethnicity variable but no official figure for IPs has been released yet. The population of IPs thus continues to be estimated at between 10 percent and 20 percent of the national population of 100,981,437, based on the 2015 population census (International Work Group for Indigenous Affair, 2022).

A paper from the International Labour Organization (ILO) in the Philippines affirmed that "many of the 110 ethno-linguistic indigenous groups in the Philippines experience discrimination, degradation of resource bases, and armed conflict. IP communities, generally located in distinct ancestral territories, have high rates of unemployment, underemployment, and illiteracy. While their socio-economic, cultural, and spiritual lives revolve around their ancestral domains, IPs see their ownership of land shrinking and disregarded".

The COVID-19 global pandemic affected the indigenous communities in the country and disrupted their economic, political, and social lives. Many of them lost their livelihoods while some were stranded in communities with limited access to food supplies, basic health services or testing for COVID-19. Many of them had to rely on relief goods and basic information on the virus protection measures from indigenous organizations and private groups.

Based on the study conducted by DSWD PDPB entitled DSWD Social Protection Programs: A Focus on Indigenous Peoples, the education component had the largest contribution to the overall risk level of poor IP households at 78.7 percent or 597,198 IP households belonging to the risk level 3.

8. The situation of LBTQIA+ in the Philippines

"State-actor violence against LGBT Filipinos is pervasive. Police frequently charge LGBT individuals with violating the "Public scandal" provision of the Revised Penal Code which is a broadly worded public morality law discriminatorily applied against the LGBT community.

There are glaring instances of discrimination, marginalization and exclusion of sexual orientation and gender identity issues from various legislative bills." This is based on a report entitled "Human Rights Violations on the Basis of Sexual Orientation, Gender Identity, and Homosexuality in the Philippines" submitted for consideration at the 106th Session of the Human Rights Committee for the fourth periodic review of the Philippines.

The LGBTQI+ community is vibrant in the Philippines despite not being legally recognized under the Social Reform and Poverty Alleviation Act of 1998. LGBTQIA+ is an inclusive term that includes people of all genders and sexualities, such as lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, questioning, queer, intersex, asexual, pansexual, and allies. While each letter in LGBTQIA+ stands for a specific group of people, the term encompasses the entire spectrum of gender fluidity and sexual identities.

VI. DSWD'S RESPONSE TO POVERTY BASED ON ITS MANDATE

To ease the burden and cushion the effects of the current economic crisis, the DSWD continued the distribution of the PhP 500 cash subsidy under the Targeted Cash Transfer (TCT) program. This was the response of Secretary Erwin T. Tulfo when asked about the agency's efforts to help poor Filipinos cope with the rising cost of fuel and other commodities during the Post-State of the Nation Address (SONA) Economic Briefing 2022 at the Philippine International Convention Center last July 26,2022.

Meanwhile, a DOF-NEDA-DSWD-DBM Joint Memorandum Circular (JMC) No. 1, series of 2022 or the General Guidelines for the Implementation of the TCT Program was signed allowing the government to distribute cash subsidy under the TCT Program to some 1.2 million household-beneficiaries who have existing cash cards amounting to PhP 1,000, or two-months' worth of subsidies. The program aims to cushion the impact of the elevated costs of fuel and other commodities. The intended beneficiaries of the program are the bottom 50 percent of Filipino households around the country. Under the guidelines, the DSWD provided cash grants amounting to PhP 3,000, or PhP 500 per month for six months, to an approximate 12.4 million household-beneficiaries (DSWD, 2022).

The beneficiaries are composed of four million households under the Pantawid Pamilyang Pilipino Program (4Ps); six million non-4Ps households and individuals who were previously beneficiaries of the Unconditional Cash Transfer (UCT) Program of 2018 to 2020 under the Tax Reform for Acceleration and Inclusion Law, which include beneficiaries of the Social Pension Program; and 2.4 million households in the database of Listahanan that fall within the first to fifth income decile, or other poverty data sources of the DSWD.

The DSWD issued Memorandum Circular No. 15, s. 2022 entitled Updated Guidelines for the Implementation of the Assistance to Individuals in Crisis Situation (AICS) Program to ensure the faster and more efficient delivery of services by adjusting the rates of assistance and the approving authorities of the Central and FOs and the Social Welfare and Development Offices. It also simplified the intake/eligibility forms and documentary requirements.

In response to the issues and concerns affecting the Filipino families, the National Committee of Filipino Family (NCFF) initiated strengthening partnerships and encouraging active participation of government agencies and private sector/non-governmental organizations/civil society organizations implementing programs for the family.

The other poverty alleviation programs and services of the DSWD continued on such as the KALAHI-CIDSS (Kapit-Bisig Laban sa Kahirapan – Comprehensive and Integrated Delivery of Social Services), Sustainable Livelihood Program (SLP), Supplementary Feeding Program (SFP), and the Social Pension Program for indigent senior citizens.

DSWD's role in the provision of technical support to LGUs and its regulatory function

Apart from the delivery of national government programs relevant to poverty alleviation, the DSWD is mandated to provide technical assistance and regulatory functions to LGUs and the civil society in the delivery of various social welfare and development programs and services. This is based on the Executive Order No. 15, s. 1998 and Executive Order No. 221, s. 2003 stipulating the redirected functions and operations of

DSWD from a direct service deliverer to a technical assistance provider. This was also as a direct result of the decentralization of government functions stipulated in Republic Act 7160.

In 2019, the DSWD conducted an assessment that sought to identify the capacity gaps present in the Local Social Welfare and Development Offices (LSWDOs) along delivery of social welfare and development programs and services. The results of the assessment served as the Department's baseline data for its provision of technical assistance to LGUs. The report entitled 2019-2021 LSWDO Service Delivery Assessment National Report was prepared by the DSWD Social Welfare Institutional Development Bureau (SWIDB), together with its counterpart sections and units in the FOs.

The report revealed the following findings:

a) 128 or 98% of the 131 City Social Welfare and Development Offices (CSWDOs) met the minimum requirements in service delivery capacity;
b) There were nine CSWDOs that achieved an overall Service Delivery Capacity Index of Level 3, which means they could be possible benchmarks for good practices;
c) CSWDOs were doing fairly well in Administrative and Organization. Almost all met or exceeded the minimum requirements in the different subcomponents,
d) Few or less than 10% of CSWDOs have been assessed as Low in the subcomponents, except for Planning (28%);
e) Among the three (3) components, Program Management was an area where a significant number of CSWDOs were assessed at Level 1, indicating opportunity for moving beyond minimum, and
f) Similarly, the Functionality of LCPC and LCAT-VAWC were subcomponents of Institutional Mechanisms where there was quite a number of CSWDOs assessed at Level 1.

VII. PRIORITY R&E THEMES AND TOPICS FOR 2023-2028

The DSWD priority R&E themes and topics for 2023-2028 was developed through a rigorous process of brainstorming, consultations, and validation sessions with different internal and external stakeholders. These consultation sessions were organized and coordinated by the PDPB of the DSWD.

The filters used for the prioritization of the R&E topics for the R&E Agenda of DSWD for 2023-2028 and the corresponding assigned percentage weight and description are shown below:

Prioritization Criteria	Assigned percentage weight	Description
▪ Alignment with DSWD's mandate and goal of reducing risks and vulnerabilities of families to poverty	40%	▪ The extent to which the R&E topic aligns with the mandate and functions of the DSWD. ▪ The extent to which the R&E topic will provide evidence geared towards strengthening the effectiveness and accountability of programs and services. ▪ The extent to which the topic will improve the achievement of the poverty reduction goals of the Department.

Prioritization Criteria	Assigned percentage weight	Description
▪ Responsive to critical issues and concerns affecting the SWD sector	30%	▪ The extent to which the R&E topic will fill data gaps addressing critical issues and concerns affecting the poor, marginalized, and vulnerable sectors. ▪ The extent to which the R&E topic will generate evidence directly from the SWD sector.
▪ Requiring evidence-based information and data for immediate management decisions (urgency)	20%	▪ The extent to which the R&E topic will provide data and information on a timely basis for DSWD management for issues and concerns requiring urgent and immediate policy or programmatic decisions.
▪ The capacity of DSWD to conduct/ manage R&E considering human, financial, technology, and partners	10%	▪ The extent to which the R&E topics could be implemented promptly and successfully given available human, financial, and technological support whether internally or from external partners.

The DSWD R&E Agenda 2023-2028 is organized based on the five (5) Thematic Areas. This is in line with the DSWD mandates and existing framework along the social welfare and development sector. During the implementation of this next R&E agenda it will provide more substantive and provide more details as to research questions that need to be studied by DSWD and other researchers. These questions are aimed at guiding the conduct of research and are by no means exhaustive.

THEMATIC AREA 1: Improved Delivery of National Social Protection and Social Welfare and Development Programs

In line with the DSWD mandate, evidence-based information to be generated from this thematic area will be useful for DSWD in strengthening the effectiveness and accountability in the delivery of national social protection and social welfare and development programs relevant to poverty alleviation. This thematic area also harmonizes with the DSWD's 2028 Strategic Focus 2 which seeks *to improve the well-being of beneficiaries and 4Ps households through strengthened social welfare system.*

In terms of evaluation, evidence will be made available to determine the relevance, impact, and sustainability of the national programs such as the 4Ps, SLP, and the AICS. The planned evaluations in this thematic area will provide guidance to the department in ensuring that the national programs are responsive to the needs of the poor, vulnerable, and marginalized sectors of the society.

Meanwhile, the planned research topics hope to fill the gap in the expansion of the coverage and reach of the SLP using other service delivery modalities.

Some of the R&E topics under this theme are:

Research:

- Exploring Possible Additional Modalities of the SLP to the LGUs in a Devolved Setup
- Comparative Analysis of the Livelihood Progression of SLP Participants Across Income Groups

Evaluation
- Impact Evaluation of the 4Ps
- Performance Evaluation of 4Ps After the Enactment of Republic Act 11310
- Impact Evaluation of the SLP Interventions to its Program Participants
- Evaluation of the Effectiveness of Partnership Engagement to the SLP Participants
- Evaluation of the Implementation of DSWD's AICS Program

THEMATIC AREA 2: Strengthened Capacity of LGUs to Deliver Social Protection and Social Welfare and Development Programs

This thematic area is directly aligned with DSWD's 2028 Strategic Focus 1 which seeks to *increase the capacity of LGUs to improve the delivery of social protection and social welfare services.* The R&E topics selected in this thematic area will provide evidence-based information that will support decision-making in strengthening this strategic focus and the mandate of the Department in providing technical assistance to LGUS in the delivery of various social welfare and development programs and services.

The results of assessment of the capacity gaps of LSWDOs in the delivery of social welfare and development programs and services revealed that there were still a number of gaps in terms of the LGUs' implementation of devolved programs and functions in selected LGUs. For instance, among the components of service delivery capacity, it is in Program Management, specifically along Monitoring and Reporting and Case Management, where more Municipal Social Welfare and Development Offices (MSWDOs) show lower capacity. There are also areas of concern in the Implementation and Evaluation/Case Conference, as well as the Referral System and keeping a Database of Clients. Meanwhile, there were also gaps identified in the process of providing technical support to LGUs by the DSWD Central Office. Both of these will be addressed in this Thematic area. The identified R&E topics will seek to fill these gaps.

Some of the R&E topics identified under this theme are:

Research:
Review of Indigency Parameters Used by the LGUs in the Philippines.

Evaluation:
- Process Evaluation of the Provision of DSWD's Technical Assistance to LGUs
- Evaluation of DSWD's Devolved Programs and Functions in Selected LGUs
- Assessment of the Budget Allocation and Utilization for Basic Social Services Employed by LGUs
- Evaluation of Social Protection Mainstreaming to LGUs

THEMATIC AREA 3: Enabling Laws and Policies Relevant to Social Protection and Social Welfare and Development Programs

As the responsible national government agency, it is the DSWD's mandate to formulate and coordinate policies that will provide direction to itself, its AAs, partners, and intermediaries in implementing and delivering social protection and social welfare and development services to different sectors particularly the poor, marginalized, and vulnerable. The R&E topics under this thematic area will technically fulfill this mandate.

The R&E topics aim to produce evidence that will inform the formulation of policies that will, in turn, strengthen the implementation and delivery of social protection and social welfare and development programs. The planned R&E activities will be directed towards providing guidance and support to the management in making evidence-based policy decisions.

The R&E topics under this theme aims to ensure that an enabling policy environment is being adopted not only internally by the Department but the whole of the country for the entire social welfare system. This would entail having responsive SWD policies and carrying out participatory processes that will encourage collaborative support from stakeholders and partners. An enabling policy environment will create a condition that will support and improve DSWD operations and the entire Philippines' Social Protection Strategy. Further, topics under this theme aim to continuously strengthen its programs and services and push for necessary reforms in the Department through review and assessment of existing policies.

Evidence gathered through these topics would aid in the formulation of policies that will promote people-centered sustainable development by enhancing case management, social assistance and social safety nets interventions. Likewise, conduct of relevant policy studies as included in this theme would help enhance governance by harnessing whole-of-government and partnership approaches.

Some of the R&E topics under this theme are:

Research:

- Review of the DSWD Social Welfare and Development Index using Listahanan Indicators: An Alternative Approach to the Measurement of Beneficiaries' Well-Being
- Comparative Analysis of Socio-economic Characteristics of 4Ps Households across Data Sources: Validation of Listahanan and 4Ps Administrative Data
- Cost-effectiveness Analysis of Basic Income Grant: A Simulation Approach towards Universal Social Protection
- Establishing the Philippines' Social Protection Strategy for the Near-poor Households
- Review of the Gains, Challenges, and Lessons in the Philippine Social Welfare System

Evaluation:

- Assessment of the Implementation of the 4Ps KILOS UNLAD Social Case Management Strategy
- Evaluation of the Indigenous Peoples Participation Framework (IPPF)

THEMATIC AREA 4: Immediate Disaster Response and Early Recovery Ensured

The DSWD is expected to be at the forefront of any disaster response attending to the immediate relief and early recovery needs of the disaster victims. This thematic area will directly address this important function of the DSWD. As the frequency and severity of disasters continue to rise in the Philippines, it is important to evaluate how the Department manages disaster response at different levels. The evaluation topics in this thematic area, will seek to consolidate past experiences of the department with a view to improve disaster response management and procedures at the national and regional levels.

The evaluation topics under this theme are:

Evaluation:
- *Process Evaluation of Disaster Response and Management Programs*
- *Process Evaluation of DSWD Regional Response Operation Centers*

THEMATIC AREA 5: Social Welfare Development Agencies Compliant with Social Welfare and Development Standards

This thematic area corresponds to the regulatory function of the DSWD in terms of ensuring that social welfare and development programs and services in the public and private sectors comply with the national policies and standards while adhering to the principles of human rights. Part of this function is related to registration and licensing of Social Welfare and Development Agencies (SWDAs) and accreditation of social welfare and development programs and services.

The identified research topics here will review the accreditation of residential care facilities and community-based services. Meanwhile, the evaluation topic will look at best practices and lessons learned from residential care facilities identified as centers of excellence. An evaluation will specifically look at the quality-of-care services and programs for sexually abused children

The R&E topics under this theme are:

Research:
- *Review of the Accreditation of Residential Care Facilities*
- *Review of the Accreditation of Social Welfare and Development Community-Based Services*

Evaluation:
- *Evaluation of Centers and Residential Care Facilities Identified as Centers of Excellence*
- *Evaluation of programs and services for sexually abused children*

The **DSWD priority list of R&E topics for 2023-2028** classified into five (5) thematic areas, categorized as research or evaluation, with the responsible CO-OBS, and the tentative timeline, is presented in the below table.

(Note: The R&E topics initiated by the Social Technology Bureau (STB) are not included in this priority list of R&E topic following the DSWD MC. 9 series of 2018 indicating that "Studies led by the Social Technology Bureau that are part of the social technology development process shall not be covered by the review protocols and Agenda, and these shall be undertaken based on the existing policy on social technology development", AO 14, S. 2018.)

DSWD's Priority Research and Evaluation Topics for 2023-2028			
Item	**Research and Evaluation Topic**	**Responsible CO-OBSUs**	**Timeline**
THEMATIC AREA 1: Improved Delivery of National Social Protection and Social Welfare and Development Programs			
RESEARCH			
1	Exploring Possible Additional Modalities of the Sustainable Livelihood Program to the Local Government Units in a Devolved Setup	SLP	2023
2	Comparative Analysis of the Livelihood Progression of Sustainable Livelihood Participants Across Income Group	SLP	2028
EVALUATION			
3	Impact Evaluation of the Pantawid Pamilyang Pilipino Program	4Ps	2024
4	Performance Evaluation of Pantawid Pamilyang Pilipino Program After the Enactment of Republic Act 11310	4Ps	2023-2024
5	Impact Evaluation of the Sustainable Livelihood Program Interventions to its Program Participants	SLP	2024
6	Evaluation of the Effectiveness of Partnership Engagement to the Sustainable Livelihood Program Participants	SLP	2023
7	Evaluation of the Implementation of DSWD's Assistance to Individuals in Crisis Situation Program	PMB	2025
8	Evaluation of the Supplementary Feeding Program of DSWD in Selected Communities and Day Care Centers	PMB	2024
9	Process Evaluation of Alternative Family Care Program	PMB	2027
10	Assessment of the Senior Citizens' Access to DSWD Social Protection Programs During the COVID-19 Pandemic	PDPB	2023

DSWD's Priority Research and Evaluation Topics for 2023-2028			
Item	**Research and Evaluation Topic**	**Responsible CO-OBSUs**	**Timeline**
11	Process Evaluation of the Recovery and Reintegration Program for Trafficked Persons	PMB	2028
12	Assessment of the Community Organizing and Community Development Approaches in Implementing the DSWD's Specialized Programs	KC	2027
13	Performance-Evaluation of the of KALAHI-CIDDS National Community-Driven Development Program's Additional Financing	KC	2025
14	Process-Evaluation of Bangsamoro Umpungan sa Nutrisyon (BangUn) Project	BangUn	2026
15	Impact Evaluation of the International Social Welfare Services to Filipino Nationals	ISSO	2025
THEMATIC AREA 2: Strengthened Capacity of LGUs to Deliver Social Protection and Social Welfare and Development Programs			
RESEARCH			
16	Review of Indigency Parameters Used by the Local Government Units in the Philippines	PDPB	2024
EVALUATION			
17	Process Evaluation of the Provision of DSWD's Technical Assistance to Local Government Units	SWIDB PMB	2025
18	Evaluation of DSWD's Devolved Programs and Functions in Selected Local Government Units	SWIDB PMB	2024
19	Assessment of the Budget Allocation and Utilization for Basic Social Employed by Local Government Units	SWIDB PMB	2025
20	Evaluation of Social Protection Mainstreaming to Local Government Units	PDPB	2024
THEMATIC AREA 3: Enabling Laws and Policies Relevant to Social Protection and Social Welfare and Development Programs			
Item	**Research and Evaluation Topic**	**Responsible CO-OBS**	**Timeline**
RESEARCH			
21	Systematic Review of the Labor Market Interventions of Different National Government Agencies	PDPB	2024

DSWD's Priority Research and Evaluation Topics for 2023-2028			
Item	**Research and Evaluation Topic**	**Responsible CO-OBSUs**	**Timeline**
22	Assessment on the Different Modes of Provision of Government Subsidy to Beneficiaries	FMS 4Ps KC SLP PMB STB	2025
23	Baseline Study on the Socio-Economic Characteristics of Social Protection Beneficiaries	PDPB	2026
24	Assessment of the Breadth and Depth of DSWD Social Assistance and Safety Nets Programs and Services	PDPB	2025
25	Contribution Analysis of the Impact of DSWD's Social Protection Programs in Poverty Reduction	PDPB	2026
26	Review of the DSWD Social Welfare and Development Index using Listahanan Indicators: An Alternative Approach to the Measurement of Beneficiaries' Well-Being	4Ps	2024
27	Comparative Analysis of Socio-economic Characteristics of 4Ps Households across Data	4Ps	2028
28	Cost-effectiveness Analysis of Basic Income Grant: A Simulation Approach towards Universal Social Protection	PDPB	2026
29	Establishing the Philippines' Social Protection Strategy for the Near-poor Households	PDPB	2023
30	Review of the Gains, Challenges, and Lessons in the Philippine Social Welfare System	PDPB	2025
31	Caring for Carers: Exploring the Psychosocial Wellbeing of DSWD's Frontline Personnel	HRMDS	2025
32	Evaluation of the Implementation of the Solo Parents Act of 2022	PMB STB PDPB	2027
EVALUATION			
33	Assessment of the Implementation of the 4Ps KILOS UNLAD Social Case Management Strategy	4Ps	2026
34	Evaluation of the Indigenous Peoples Participation Framework	PDPB 4Ps KC SLP PMB STB	2027
THEMATIC AREA 4: Immediate Disaster Response and Early Recovery Ensured			
EVALUATION			
35	Process Evaluation of Disaster Response and Management Programs	DRMB	2024

DSWD's Priority Research and Evaluation Topics for 2023-2028			
Item	**Research and Evaluation Topic**	**Responsible CO-OBSUs**	**Timeline**
36	Process Evaluation of DSWD Regional Response Operation Centers	NRLMB	2024
THEMATIC AREA 5: Social Welfare Development Agencies are compliant with Social Welfare and Development Standards			
RESEARCH			
37	Review of the Accreditation of Residential Care Facilities	PMB, SB	2024
38	Review of the Accreditation of Social Welfare and Development Community-Based Services	PMB, SB	2026
EVALUATION			
39	Evaluation of Centers and Residential Care Facilities Identified as Centers of Excellence	PMB, SB	2024
40	Evaluation of programs and services for sexually abused children	PMB	2026

VIII. IMPLEMENTATION PROCEDURES

Selection of topics and schedules. The topics identified in the R&E Agenda shall be prioritized by the CO-OBSUs, FOs, Supervised Agencies (SAs) and AAs in its R&E activities. Third party evaluators and researchers shall also be guided by the Agenda. To ensure that the R&E Agenda shall be followed, all OBSUs, FOs, AAs, and other researchers and evaluators shall coordinate all R&E activities to be conducted with the PDPB for appropriate review. Other study topics that are not included in the Agenda may still be conducted as long as there is sufficient time and funds. Newly proposed topics should also be rated using the same criteria and rating scales.

Funding. The PDPB shall include in its Annual Work and Financial Plan (WFP) a budget for (i) policy-related research to ensure that at least one (1) Central Office initiated research is implemented per year, and (ii) evaluation assigned to the Bureau scheduled to be conducted within the specified time period as indicated in the Department's Agenda. Likewise, an amount of Php300,000.00 for each FO who will request for fund augmentation will be allocated and included in PDPB Annual WFP. The request of FOs shall be made prior to the preparation of the WFP, as this will be the basis of the PDPB for fund allocation. In cases where the proposed research has funding requirements of more than P300,000.00, the FO shall augment additional fund. Moreover, appropriate budget allocations required to ensure the conduct of the various R&E strategies of the Department (e.g., capacity building initiatives, advocacy and dissemination activities such as but not limited to the annual conduct of conferences and publication of journals, and other incentive mechanisms) shall be included in the Bureau's WFP.

The DSWD FOs and CO-OBS shall allocate adequate funds for the conduct of R&E studies every year, as provided for by the NEPF, especially those implementing core social protection programs. Said budget shall be reflected in their respective WFP.

Further, the FOs and other OBS can also generate funds from external sources for the conduct of their own R&E priorities in accordance with the existing budgeting, accounting, and auditing rules.

Likewise, PDPB shall also allocate a certain amount in its WFP for the conduct of particular research. OBSUs/FOs who may be proponents of research or evaluation shall also allocate certain amounts in their WFP. PDPB shall work closely with the Resource Generation and Management Office (RGMO) regarding resource generation by tapping other sources of funds such as foreign-assisted projects and international and local funding organizations, to ensure that adequate funding is available for R&E-related activities. Likewise, RGMO shall also ensure well-coordinated grant programs and conduct close monitoring and evaluation of on-going activities related to such projects.

Ethical Standards and Impartiality. The implementers of this agenda shall be sensitive to the cultural, social and economic environment of all stakeholders, particularly those under study, and conduct themselves in a manner that is fair and appropriate to the environment. The DSWD Research Ethics Committee (REC) shall act as the overall ethics approving and clearing body for all R&E studies conducted by the Department. It shall at all times act in the full interest of potential research participants and affected communities and consider the welfare and needs of persons involved in the studies, while having due regard for the requirements of relevant regulatory agencies (e.g., PNHRS-PHREB, DOH-FDA, CHED, NCIP, etc.) and Philippine laws and policies, especially those concerning vulnerable groups (e.g., women, children, elderly, indigenous peoples, persons with disabilities). Furthermore, it is the responsibility of the Department to ensure that studies are conducted with the highest possible degree of impartiality in order to maximize objectivity and minimize the potential for bias. In some cases, it may be appropriate to commission an independent third-party evaluator/researcher to undertake portions of, or the entire, research or evaluation.

IX. INSTITUTIONAL ARRANGEMENT

The **Policy Development & Planning Bureau** shall take the lead role in the implementation of these Agenda and carry out the following tasks:

1. Spearhead the formulation of the DSWD R&E Agenda, and in particular, prepare the draft agenda and organize the required consultation activities with OBS and partners;
2. Ensure the approval and issuance of the DSWD R&E Agenda;
3. Organize, in partnership with the SWIDB and Social Marketing Service (SMS), the necessary public conferences or fora such as for the dissemination of the R&E Agenda, as well as the findings for completed research evaluation;
4. Lead the conduct of R&E studies on topics relevant to the measurement of the organizational outcomes and outputs, as well as for special programs and projects, and provide necessary technical assistance to FOs and OBSUs, especially those without dedicated Research and monitoring and evaluation Teams;
5. Guide the Department in the utilization and adoption of findings for decision-making and program improvement, including the development of positions on certain issues, as well as in the formulation and/or amendment of a particular legislation or policy, among others.

The **Policy & Plans Division (PPD) through the Policy Development and Planning Section (PDPS)** shall take the lead role in the implementation of these Agenda at the Field Office. The PDPS shall then carry out the following tasks:

1. Participate in the development of the DSWD R&E Agenda and spearhead the cascading of the same to its respective region;
2. Lead the conduct of R&E at the Field Office level;
3. In partnership with the Capacity Building Section and Social Marketing Section, shall organize regional R&E conferences and fora in line with the promotion of R&E in the FO;

The **OBSUs/Attached Agencies / Supervised Agencies / Other Sections and Units within the Field Office, including Centers and Institutions**, shall partake in the implementation of this Agenda, and in particular, it shall:

1. Participate in the formulation of the R&E agenda, specifically in the identification of the proposed topics and areas, among others;
2. Conduct R&E studies, and engage with partners if deemed appropriate, in close coordination with the PDPB, based on the provisions prescribed in this policy;
3. Partake in the development and implementation of other R&E initiated by OBS especially those that concern them or their stakeholders;

The **National R&E –TWG** shall oversee and provide advisory role to all priority, Department-wide, and Department-funded and initiated R&E, and shall carry out the following tasks:

1. Partake in the development and implementation of the Department's R&E Agenda;
2. Participate in the review process of R&E proposals and reports for onward submission to the Management;
3. May act as implementers or co-implementers in the conduct of R&E to be undertaken by the respective CO-OBS;
4. Ensure that the proposed R&E would incorporate security of private data in relation to Data Privacy Act and would conform with the DSWD Data Privacy Protocol;
5. Attend regular and special meetings and actively participate in the TWG initiatives.

The **Regional R&E –TWG** shall oversee and provide advisory role to all priority, region-wide and FO- funded and initiated R&E and in particular, it shall:

1. Partake in the development and implementation of the Department's R&E Agenda, as well as in the cascading of the Agenda at the regional level;
2. Participate in the review process of R&E proposals and reports for endorsement to the Regional Director;
3. Ensure that the proposed R&E would incorporate security of private data in relation to Data Privacy Act and would conform with the DSWD Data Privacy Protocol;
4. Attend regular and special meetings and actively participate in the Regional R&E-TWG initiatives.

The **Research Ethics Committee** shall act as the overall ethics approving and clearing body for all R&E conducted by the Department, and in particular, it shall:

1. Review ethical acceptability of all R&E involving human participants, which are conducted by DSWD OBSUs;
2. Ensure that the proposed R&E is responsive to the priorities as well as the emerging concerns of the Department and the sectors it serves, as stipulated in this DSWD R&E Agenda;
3. Issue ethical clearance required for the implementation of the study once the research is found scientifically and ethically sound based on criteria set by Section VIII of the DSWD Research & Evaluation Policy (MC 9, s. 2019)".

The **Social Marketing Service (SMS) and its regional counterpart** shall help in the dissemination of the R&E agenda, including R&E findings, and in particular, it shall:

1. Organize in partnership with the PDPB or FO-PPD, relevant conferences and fora for the dissemination of the R&E agenda including R&E findings. This may include but not limited to providing assistance in terms of event management, overall packaging of the event, and media assistance as necessary; and
2. Assist the PDPB or FO-PPD in the development of appropriate communication materials related to R&E, as well as in the packaging of the R&E reports (e.g., electronic and print copies) being disseminated to stakeholders.

X. EFFECTIVITY

This circular shall take effect immediately upon issuance and shall supersede previous circulars inconsistent herewith.

Issued in Quezon City, Metro Manila.

EDUARDO M. PUNAY
Officer-in-Charge, DSWD
Date: 10 JAN 2023

Certified True Copy
MYRNA H. REYES 12 JAN 2023
OIC-Division Chief
Records and Archives Mgt. Division

DSWD
Department of Social Welfare and Development

Policy Development & Planning Bureau

RESEARCH AND EVALUATION AGENDA 2023-2028

DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL WELFARE AND DEVELOPMENT

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LIST OF ACRONYMS

4Ps	Pantawid Pamilyang Pilipino Program
AA	Attached Agencies
AICSP	Assistance to Individuals in Crisis Situation Program
BangUN	Bangsamoro Umpungan sa Nutrisyon
CO	Central Office
CWC	Council for the Welfare of Children
DFAT	Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade
DRMB	Disaster Response and Management Bureau
DSWD	Department of Social Welfare and Development
DOJ	Department of Justice
FIES	Family Income and Expenditure Survey
FO	Field Office
EAP	East Asia and Pacific
ICCPR	International Convention on Civil and Political Rights
IDMC	Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre
IDP	Internally displaced persons'
IPCI	Institute of Peace and Conflict Studies
ILO	International Labour Organization
IP	Indigenous Peoples
JJWC	Juvenile Justice and Welfare Council
KALAHI-CIDSS	Kapit-Bisig Laban sa Kahirapan – Comprehensive and Integrated Delivery of Social Services
LGBTQI+	Lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer and intersex
LGU	Local Government Unit
LSWDO	Local Social Welfare and Development Offices
LFPR	Labor Force Participation Rate
NCMEC	National Centre for Missing and Exploited Children
NDPS	National Disability Prevalence Survey
NEPF	National Evaluation Policy Framework
NGA	National Government Agencies
NGO	non-governmental organizations
NRE-TWG	National Research and Evaluation Technical Working Group
OBSU	Offices, Bureaus, Services, And Units
OECD/DAC	Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development/Development Assistance Committee
OFW	Overseas Filipinos Workers
OO	Organizational Outcome
OSAEC	Online Sexual Abuse and Exploitation of Children
PDPB	Policy Development and Planning Bureau
PDRF	Philippine Disaster Resilience Foundation
PNP	Philippine National Police
PPD	Policy and Plans Division
PDPS	Policy Development and Planning Section
PSA	Philippine Statistics Authority
PWD	persons with disabilities
RGMO	Resource Generation and Management Office
R&E	Research and Evaluation
SA	Supervised Agencies
SLP	Sustainable Livelihood Program
SMS	Social Marketing Service

SWD	social welfare and development
SWIDB	Social Welfare Institutional Development Bureau
SWS	Social Weather Station
TOC	Theory of Change
UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund
UNFPA	United Nations Population Fund
VAW	Violence against women
WFP	World Food Programme
WHO	World Health Organization

DEFINITION OF TERMS

Basic Sectors	refer to the disadvantaged sectors of Philippine society, namely: farmer-peasant, artisanal fisher folk, workers in the formal sector and migrant workers, workers in the informal sector, indigenous peoples and cultural communities, women, differently-abled persons, senior citizens, victims of calamities and disasters, youth and students, children, and urban poor (As defined in Republic Act 8425 or the Social Reform and Poverty Alleviation Act)
Children	refer to person below eighteen (18) years of age or those over but are unable to fully take care of themselves or protect themselves from abuse, neglect, cruelty, exploitation or discrimination because of a physical or mental disability or condition (As defined in Republic Act 7610 otherwise known as ""Special Protection of Children Against Abuse, Exploitation and Discrimination Act."
Evaluation	is an assessment, as systematic and objective as possible, of an on-going or completed project, program or policy, its design, implementation, and results. The aim is to determine the relevance and fulfillment of objectives, developmental efficiency, effectiveness, impact and sustainability. An evaluation should provide information that is credible and useful, enabling the incorporation of lessons learned into the decision-making process of both recipients and donors (As defined by OECD/DAC)
Evaluability Assessment	is an assessment of the extent to which an intervention (program, project, policy, or a strategy) can be evaluated in a reliable, credible and meaningful manner
Indigenous cultural communities/ indigenous peoples	refer to a group of people or homogenous societies identified by self-ascription and ascription by others, who have continuously lived as organized community on communally bounded and defined territory, and who have, under claims of ownership since time immemorial, occupied, possessed and utilized such territories, sharing common bonds of language, customs, traditions and other distinctive cultural traits, or who have, through resistance to political, social and cultural inroads of colonization, non-indigenous religions and cultures, became historically differentiated from the majority of Filipinos. (As defined in Republic Act No. 8371, otherwise known as "The Indigenous Peoples Rights Act of 1997")

Minimum basic needs	refer to the needs of a Filipino family pertaining to survival (food and nutrition; health; water and sanitation; clothing), security (shelter; peace and order; public safety; income and livelihood) and enabling (basic education and literacy; participation in community development; family and psycho-social care) (As defined in Republic Act 8425 or the Social Reform and Poverty Alleviation Act)
Poor	refers to the poor as those families and individuals whose income fall below the poverty threshold and who cannot afford in a sustained manner to provide for their minimum basic needs (As defined in Republic Act 8425 or the Social Reform and Poverty Alleviation Act)
Research	is the systematic process of the collection and analysis of data and information, in order to generate new knowledge (inductive), to answer a specific question or to test a hypothesis (deductive).
Research Plan	is a blueprint that guides R&E implementers to decide what sort of information you and your stakeholders really need, what is the best possible ways to get the needed information, and what is the most reasonable and realistic timeline; and it also helps in costing the R&E.
Results Framework	is a tool used for planning, monitoring and evaluation, and reporting that provides a snapshot of the project that will help achieve major program goals. It is basically a translation of the Theory of Change into a matrix that provides programming details that includes the three levels of results: impact, outcome, and output and their corresponding indicators, targets, budget, and responsible agency.
Social Protection	constitutes policies and programs that seek to reduce poverty and vulnerability and to enhance the social status and rights of the marginalized. These goals can be achieved through promoting and protecting livelihood and employment, protecting against hazards and sudden loss of income, and improving people's capacity to manage or handle risks (Social Development Committee Resolution No. 1, s2007).
Social Welfare and Development Sector	refers to the poor, vulnerable, and marginalized groups of the society such as the orphans, abandoned children, children in street situations, persons with disabilities, women, and indigenous peoples who are in dire need of social protection and welfare services.

Social Welfare and Development Program	refers to a set of services designed to promote the welfare of a particular clientele group. A program is a coordinated group of activities maintained over a period of time aimed at providing specific types of services directed to the achievement of an objective or set of objectives (Philippine Encyclopedia of Social Work, 2000 edition)
Theory of Change	is a development method that explains how a given intervention, such as the R&E, is expected to achieve its desired change (end result) to amplify its contribution to a higher level of result which is the overall goal of the organization. The R&E Agenda does not exist for itself but for a purpose higher than itself.

A. INTRODUCTION

This document referred to as the "DSWD R&E Agenda, 2023-2028" presents the priority R&E topics that the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) intends to pursue in the next six (6) years in support of its strategic plan, policy agenda and its overall goals for the social welfare and development (SWD) sector. It is ideally formulated while the organization's strategic plan is being crafted as part of its overall evidence-generation strategy and not just an addendum or an add-on to the program document.

The formulation of the DSWD R&E Agenda is important as the process will:

1. Guide the Department in rationalizing and prioritizing R&E initiatives based on prevailing issues surrounding the SWD sector
2. Anticipate the needed preparations before the planned R&E take place (i.e., evaluation plan, R&E costing that will facilitate the annual budget planning)
3. Provide an understanding of which bureau, agency, office, or unit in the department is doing what R&E
4. Minimize duplication of R&E and therefore avoid wastage of resources
5. Facilitate coordination of similarly inclined R&E
6. Maximize the values, visibility, and utilization of R&E results to policy-making and planning, and
7. Strengthen the capacity of the Department to manage R&E.

This document is composed of eleven (11) sections:

Section A introduces the document, underscores its importance, and describes the contents of each of the sections of the document.

Section B describes the background and context of this document with reference to the role of R&E in the SWD sector; the current poverty situation and its impact on the poor, disadvantaged, and marginalized groups in the society; the DSWD response, and the role of the Department in providing technical assistance to Local Government Units (LGUs) in delivering programs and services to alleviate poverty at the ground level.

Section C explains the main purpose or reason for the formulation of the R&E Agenda and its specific objectives. This section also identifies the primary and secondary users of the R&E Agenda.

Section D establishes the scope, focus, and coverage of the R&E Agenda. It defines the parameters in terms of the topics, subjects to be covered, geographic inclusions which are generally national, and the time frame in terms of the fiscal years covered.

Section E discusses the Conceptual Framework of the Agenda, particularly referring to the relevant policies and guidelines from the DSWD, the current Situation Analysis of the most vulnerable sectors, and the Department's Strategy Map 2028; the Philippine Development Plan (PDP); and the National Evaluation Policy Framework (NEPF).

Section F summarizes the assessment of the previous R&E Agenda 2019-2022 conducted by the Policy Development and Planning Bureau - Research and Evaluation Division (PDPB-RED) of the DSWD and a separate assessment undertaken by the national

consultant which included 19 completed R&E documents produced by the Department in the last three (3) years, i.e., 2019 to 2021.

Section G outlines the methodology and process of identifying and prioritizing the R&E agenda and the criteria used for the prioritization process.

Section H introduces the concept of Theory of Change (TOC) on the DSWD R&E Agenda 2023-2028 as a road map towards the successful achievement of the goal of the Agenda itself. It includes the statement of results that must be established at the output, outcome, and impact levels.

Section I presents the highlight of this document which is the "Priority List of R&E Topics for 2023-2028" categorized into five thematic areas, with the corresponding responsible DSWD CO-OBS, and the calendar year the R&E topics are planned for implementation.

Section J presents the implementation and institutional arrangements for the implementation of the DSWD R&E Agenda 2023-2028.

Section K exhibits some important details that constitute the R&E plans, costing, and evaluability assessment of selected priority R&E topics scheduled in 2023.

B. BACKGROUND AND CONTEXT

This chapter explains the role of R&E in the SWD sector as it discusses the current poverty situation and its impact on the poor, disadvantaged, and marginalized groups in the society. It also delves into the drivers of poverty such as the COVID-19 pandemic, the rising cost of fuel and food, unemployment, and climate change. It outlines the distinct ways the sectors were disproportionately affected by these drivers of poverty. Lastly, the chapter provides a glimpse of the general response of the DSWD to the SWD sector affected by poverty and the role of the Department in providing technical assistance to LGUs in delivering programs and services to alleviate poverty at the ground level.

This chapter provides the necessary link to the "Priority List of R&E Topics for 2023-2028" as it justifies the need for evidence to strengthen the effectiveness and accountability for the delivery of programs, policies, and services of the Department under the normal or emergency situations. It also links up the R&E topics to program gaps and policies that justifies the need for data to ensure that the SWD Standards are complied with by the Social Welfare Development Agencies including the LGUs.

It is in between these discussions where the relevance of the roles of R&E are brought to surface particularly in terms of providing evidence for management and stakeholders in making well-informed decisions on possible policy or programmatic adjustments relative to the functions of the Department.

1. THE ROLE OF R&E IN THE SOCIAL WELFARE AND DEVELOPMENT SECTOR

The DSWD fully recognizes the importance of evidence-based data and information in supporting decisions for policy, strategy, and program development and adjustments. Throughout the Department's operations, R&E served as its primary tools in proactively generating evidence to address critical issues, challenges, and concerns of the social development and welfare sector. R&E in DSWD serve to support policy development, planning and decision-making and to improve the effectiveness of programs, projects, and activities of the Department.

In 2019, the DSWD Memorandum Circular entitled *Guidelines for the Conduct of R&E in the DSWD* which served as *The DSWD R&E Policy* was approved and adopted. The Policy provides overall guidance to the Department and external researchers and partners on the development, implementation, monitoring and utilization of R&E in the DSWD. Apart from providing standards and criteria in the conduct of R&E in the Department, the policy also institutionalized the formulation and monitoring of the "DSWD R&E Agenda".

The first document formulated based on the Policy was the *DSWD R&E Agenda, 2019-2022*. Anchored on the DSWD Strategic Plan 2018-2022, this R&E Agenda outlined the Department's direction on priority areas and topics/themes for R&E that will be undertaken to respond to emerging concerns of the Department. It also served as a reference material for internal and external stakeholders in the selection and prioritization of topics/themes for R&E.

The successor *DSWD R&E Agenda, 2023-2028* seeks to continuously provide strategic guidance to the Department and its key stakeholders in the conduct of R&E along SWD.

To further strengthen the role of R&E in generating evidence-based information for policy and program development, the National R&E Technical Working Group (NRE-TWG) was reconstituted through the issuance of Special Order 1091 series of 2022.

Anchored on the Department's existing Strategy Map, the Agenda shall serve as the organizational platform on R&E in the Department containing the various prioritized areas, themes, milestones, estimated costs, accountabilities, and implementation arrangements.

2. THE SITUATION OF THE POOR, DISADVANTAGED, AND VULNERABLE

The preliminary results of the Family Income and Expenditure Survey (FIES) in 2021 shows that poverty incidence among the population, or the proportion of Filipinos whose per capita income cannot sufficiently meet the individual basic food and non-food needs, has reached 18.1 percent (Philippine Statistics Authority [PSA], 2021). This means that around 19.99 million Filipinos lived below the poverty threshold of about PhP 12,030 per month for a family of five. The poverty incidence of 18.1 percent, which was an increase from the 16.7 percent (or about 17.67 million poor Filipinos) recorded in 2018, fell short of the government's goal to bring down poverty incidence to 15.5-17.5 percent in 2021.

According to PSA (2021), around 3.50 million families or 13.2 percent were considered poor in 2021. Further, the subsistence incidence among families was observed at 3.9 percent, which is equivalent to 1.04 million poor families below the food poverty line. This is higher than the 3.4 percent subsistence incidence in 2018 which is equivalent to about 840,000 food poor families.

The poverty situation could be worse this year because the PSA survey was done in 2021, and a number of changes have taken place since then such as the increase in fuel prices, the weakening peso, higher unemployment and underemployment rate, and the concerning food crisis.

A more recent study conducted by Social Weather Station (SWS) from June 26 to 29, 2022 through a face-to-face survey found that 48 percent of families felt *poor*, while 31 percent categorized themselves as *borderline poor*. The survey covered 1,500 adults aged 18 and above sampled nationwide. As reported by SWS (2022), there was a change from a similar poll conducted in April of the same year, when 10.9 million or 43 percent of Filipino families felt *poor*, 34 percent considered themselves *borderline poor*, and 23 percent rated themselves *not poor*. It further noted that poor families in all areas increased, especially in Metro Manila and Visayas.

The DSWD noted in its Sectoral Plan of Action for Filipino Family for CY 2022 that "vulnerable families are the most affected sector given the adverse impacts along economic, health, and social impacts aggravated by the impacts of disasters, that left many displaced families with the onslaught of typhoon Odette in the latter part of 2021." The Plan also noted that Filipino families has been able to "withstand the overwhelming challenges brought by the prolonged pandemic" (DSWD, 2022a).

2.1 The Impact of COVID-19 Pandemic on Poverty

According to the National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA) Secretary Arsenio M. Balisacan (2022), the rise in poverty incidence can be attributed to the strict lockdowns implemented by the government to contain the spread of the COVID-19.

The COVID-19 pandemic in the last two and a half years has exacerbated the poverty situation in the Philippines and impacted the SWD sector in a distressing way. A survey on how COVID-19 impacted vulnerable communities in the Philippines was conducted by the World Bank in collaboration with the DSWD in 2020 and 2021. The survey revealed that "COVID 19 has taken a heavy toll on rural livelihoods" and that "loss of income and job opportunities were overarching challenges in poor communities in the Philippines" (World Bank, 2021, as cited by Fallesen, 2021).

The survey by World Bank (2021) further explained that the "disaster-prone communities experienced more difficulties in coping with COVID-19 restrictions and its severe economic impact" (Fallesen, 2021). Pre-existing challenges that have worsened during the pandemic included lack of income opportunities and reduction of pay, as well as insufficiency in food supply, and health, sanitation and nutrition issues.

Following significant job and income losses, the World Bank survey (2021) put forward that the communities are at risk of further increase in poverty. About 24 percent of

household heads employed in February 2020 were no longer working. By industry, employment in construction was the most affected by job losses (31 percent), followed by accommodation and food services (26 percent) and trade (25 percent). Learning was also significantly disrupted during the pandemic—while about 80 percent of household members between the ages of 6 and 18 attended school in February 2020, only 20 percent continued learning activities during the community quarantine period.

A related survey conducted in collaboration with the DSWD and Economic Policy Research Institute (2021) with support from Australian Aid and United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund (UNICEF) Philippines looked into the effects of COVID-19 on child poverty and efficacy of social protection responses in the Philippines. The survey results categorically stated that "in addition to the direct health effects from the transmission of COVID-19, there is growing evidence that the pandemic, and the actions taken to control the virus, have caused severe economic and social effects." According to the Asian Development Bank's estimates, gross domestic product (GDP) growth rate in the country plunged to almost-10 percent in 2020. The World Bank (2021) projects this to be the "worst-ever recession in the Southeast Asia region, taking a disproportionate toll on informal sector workers and pushing millions into poverty."

2.2 The impact of food insecurity and climate change on poverty

Based on the study of the World Food Programme (WFP), launched on 21 November 2021, entitled Climate Change and Food Security Analysis in the Philippines, the two issues, climate change, and food security, "are closely intertwined and pose highly significant challenges for the Philippines". It highlights that the Philippines ranks 2nd out of 135 countries in the world most affected by climate change impacts based on the Global Climate Risk Index 2020. On the other hand, in 2020, the moderate or severe prevalence of food insecurity in the Philippines stood at 62.1%, more than double the global rate of 25.5 percent (WFP, 2021).

The study highlighted the fact that "climate variability and extreme hazards such as typhoons, floods and drought are projected to have a substantial impact on agricultural, livestock, and fishery supply chains that will affect all aspects from production to distribution to consumption across both urban and rural sectors". Further, the study posited that this could in turn negatively affect the availability, affordability and accessibility to nutritious food for the Philippine population, particularly for the most vulnerable, poor and remote populations" (WFP, 2021).

According to Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration-Department of Science and Technology (PAGASA-DOST) records, the Philippines was hit by 22 tropical typhoons during the COVID-19 pandemic. Children of poor families, who were already terrified of the COVID-19, had to deal with crowded evacuation centers and increased risk of contracting the disease and experiencing violence. The typhoons also caused disruptions of schooling and further mental health issues.

2.3 The impact of food and fuel price increase on poverty

A World Bank Report explained that the "recent food price increases in the region, reinforced by food and fuel price rises related to the Ukraine-Russia war, could threaten expected progress in poverty reduction in 2022, as poor households tend to spend substantial shares of their incomes on food and energy" (Yonzan et al., 2022).

Meanwhile, in its Memorandum Circular No. 15, Series of 2022, entitled Updated Guidelines for the Implementation of the Assistance to Individuals in Crisis Situation (AICS) Program, the DSWD (2022) recognized the "increasing number of clients suffering from severe economic effects brought about by the Corona Virus Disease 2019 (COVID 19) and the rising inflation rate due to high fuel prices."

2.4 Unemployment rate and poverty rate

According to the August 2022 Labor Force Survey of the PSA, the employment rate in August 2022 was estimated at 94.7 percent. This was higher than the recorded employment rate in the same period last year, which was estimated at 91.9 percent, but was slightly lower than the 94.8 percent estimate in July 2022. In terms of magnitude, the number of employed persons in August 2022 was estimated at 47.87 million while it was at 44.23 million for the same period last year, and 47.39 in the previous month, July 2022.

Meanwhile, the Labor Force Participation Rate (LFPR) in August 2022 was estimated at 66.1 percent, the highest reported rate since January of this year. The second and third highest were in March 2022 and July 2022 with 65.4 percent and 65.2 percent, respectively. LFPR in August 2021 was registered at 63.6 percent (PSA, 2022c).

The same survey revealed that the number of unemployed persons in August 2022 increased to 2.68 million from 2.60 million in July 2022, registering a month-on-month increase of 78.64 thousand unemployed individuals. However, the number of unemployed persons in August 2022 was lower by 1.20 million compared with the number of unemployed persons in August 2021. (PSA, 2022c).

Unemployment definitely leads to a loss of income which means less capacity for the family to purchase goods and services needed to afford a decent life and more inclination to buy inferior goods and substandard services. This is what poverty means. Republic Act 8425 or the *Social Reform and Poverty Alleviation Act* refers to the poor as those families and individuals whose income fall below the poverty threshold and who cannot afford in a sustained manner to provide for their minimum basic needs. Higher unemployment rate, hence, leads to increased poverty rates and lower standards of living due to family's lower purchasing power.

3. SECTORS AFFECTED BY POVERTY IN THE PHILIPPINES

Among the nine (9) basic sectors, the PSA reported that the farmers, fishermen, children, self-employed, unpaid family workers, and women belonging to poor families had higher poverty incidence than the general population.

3.1 Impact of Poverty on the Filipino Children

According to a report issued by UNICEF Philippines and the PSA (2015) entitled Child Poverty in the Philippines, children are among the most vulnerable population groups in society, and about a third of them (31.4 percent) belong to poor families. UNICEF Philippines (2015) noted that poverty has a unique impact on children and can have long-lasting effects. Malnutrition, often due to poverty, can negatively impact children's physical, social and emotional development. Poverty also increases the risks of children's exposure to child marriages, violence, exploitation and abuse.

Children living in rural areas, in households headed by women and by persons with low education are more likely to be living in poverty. Indigenous children, children with disabilities, poorer children, rural children are more likely to be deprived in all areas.

A survey entitled Effects of COVID-19 on Child Poverty and Efficacy of Social Protection Responses in the Philippines (2021) revealed that the COVID-19 pandemic has exacerbated the already precarious situation of Filipino children. The survey was conducted by the Economic Research Institute with support from the Australian Aid, DSWD, and UNICEF Philippines.

On Violence against children

Violence against children is widespread and remains a harsh reality for millions of children in the Philippines. The National Baseline Study on Violence Against Children conducted by the Council for the Welfare of Children (CWC) in partnership with UNICEF in 2015 revealed that 80 percent of children and youth experienced some form of violence in their lifetime, whether in the home, school, workplace or community.

At the height of the COVID-19 pandemic, UNICEF Philippines (2020) noted that "movement restrictions, the closure of schools, loss of income, isolation, overcrowding, and high levels of stress and anxiety are increasing the likelihood that children experience and observe physical, psychological and sexual abuse at home – particularly those children already living in violent or dysfunctional family situations."

On Online sexual abuse and exploitation of children

With increasing risks of poverty, Filipino children are facing a different crisis exacerbated by the COVID-19. In a press release, Save the Children Philippines (2020) raised concern that "more children are at risk from online sexual abuse and exploitation amid the COVID-19 pandemic as families resort to easy money due to deepening poverty, while children are still not allowed to leave homes due to lockdowns." While online communication supported children's learning, and play, it also increased their exposure to cyberbullying,

risky online behavior and sexual exploitation. With this, reports of online child sexual exploitation are said to have increased since the COVID-19 quarantine. According to the Department of Justice (DOJ), which cited data from the US-based National Centre for Missing and Exploited Children (NCMEC) (2020), "cases of Online Sexual Abuse and Exploitation of Children (OSAEC) in the Philippines increased by 264.6 percent or 202,605 more reports during the imposition of the enhanced community quarantine from March to May 2020, compared to the 76,561 cases during the same period in 2019."

On children in conflict with the law

From 1995 to 2000, the Juvenile Justice and Welfare Council (JJWC, 2021) reported that a total of 52,576 children in conflict with the law were in detention or under custodial setting while an average of 10,515 children were being arrested every year with few cases being resolved. Majority of jails all over the country do not have a separate detention facility for children. The conditions in jails in the Philippines and overcrowding make children particularly vulnerable to contracting diseases including COVID-19. The enactment of the Juvenile Justice and Welfare Act in 2006 has proven that children in conflict with the law can be rehabilitated without resorting to imprisonment or detention (JJWC, 2021).

On teenage pregnancy

According to the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA, 2020), the Philippines still had one of the highest rates of teenage pregnancy in the Southeast Asia region in 2019. This is substantiated by data from the Civil Registration and Vital Statistics System of the PSA which revealed that there are about 495 live births per day in 2019 among adolescents aged 10 to 19 age group. The rate of births to teenage mothers went down by 13 percent the following year due to the COVID-19 pandemic which has limited social interactions and chances for sexual encounters. Medical experts, however, worry that as lockdown restrictions loosen and more young Filipinos are vaccinated, the rate of teenage pregnancy will slowly escalate again.

According to UNFPA (2020), there is a 21.04 percent increase in the potential impact of COVID-19 pandemic to incidence of adolescent pregnancy. There is an estimated additional 18,000 adolescent pregnancy due to community quarantine-induced service reduction.

On Child Marriage

UNICEF's Situation Analysis of Children in the Philippines (2017) revealed a significant incidence of child marriage. The percentage of women aged 20-24 who were first married before the age of 15 was 2 percent, while 15 percent were married by the age of 18. Pre-arranged, forced and early marriages are critical issues affecting Filipino Muslim and indigenous girl children.

On children in drug abuse

A study conducted by the JJWC (2022) entitled Updated Situation Analysis of Children in Conflict with the Law reported that from 2017 to 2020, about 95 percent to 100 percent

of child-surrenderers in relation to the government's campaign against drugs were alleged to be drug users. In 2021, there were no recorded drug users, but all four (4) recorded cases were drug sellers. Meanwhile, from 2017 to 2021, there was only one case of child-surrenderer involved in drug delivery.

Majority or about 82 percent (823) of the total number of child-surrenders from 2017 to 2021 were children aged above 15 but below 18. From the same age range and period, about 90 percent were male while the remaining were female. There was one recorded child-surrenderer with diverse sexual orientation and gender identity in 2019, however, the age was not reported. (JJWC, 2022).

A study entitled Drug Use Among Street Children and Non-Street Children in the Philippines issued by the Asia-Pacific Journal of Public Health in 2010 characterizes the prevalence of drug use among Filipino street children compared with Filipino non-street children. The study found that "all street children were significantly more likely to have been given or sold a drug in the past 30 days and to have received drug education compared with non-street children" (Njord, 2010, pp 203-2011). Further, the study put forward that "Filipino street children are at greater risk of abusing drugs than are non-street children, with street children who do not maintain family contact being at greatest risk".

3.2 Impact of Poverty on Women

In its Plan of Action for the Filipino Family, the DSWD (2022) noted that "women are physically and mentally exhausted from taking on the compounded economic and emotional burdens brought by COVID-19". More than one (1) year into a pandemic that has confined people to their homes, the government is challenged to consider the disproportionate impact of COVID-19 on women and the long-lasting impacts of lost livelihoods and economic prospects.

According to UNWOMEN Asia and the Pacific, "Women and girls in the Philippines are facing distinct challenges to their safety and well-being during COVID-19, such as access to healthcare services, gender-based violence and other human rights violations, and economic insecurity." This was taken from Gender Snapshot: COVID-19 in the Philippines (2020).

A total of over 3,600 cases of violence against women and children have been reported to authorities since the government imposed an enhanced community quarantine on the entire Luzon mid-March in 2020. Philippine National Police (PNP) has recorded 1,945 cases of violence against women and 1,745 cases of violence against children. The proximity in the home coupled with economic stress exposed the Filipino women and children to violence by abusers.

Meanwhile, the Philippine Commission on Women (PCW) disclosed that violence against women (VAW) has been one of the country's pervasive social problems. The 2017 National Demographic and Health Survey conducted by the PSA revealed that one in four Filipino women age 15-49 has experienced physical, emotional or sexual violence by their husband or partner.

The issue of VAW is aggravated by the lack of empirical data to show the magnitude of this problem in the country as many cases of domestic abuse often go unreported due to shame associated with domestic violence and the "culture of silence."

In the East Asia and Pacific (EAP) region and even globally, the Philippines is the best performer in terms of gender equality. According to the Global Gender Gap Report 2021 *Insight Report* of the World Economic Forum, the Philippines occupies the 17th place, with 78.4 percent of its overall gender gap closed to date. However, women's labor force participation remains persistently low at just 49 percent. The Philippines' female labor force participation in 2019 was one of the lowest in the EAP region where the regional average rate was 59 percent. Women's low labor force participation is a missed opportunity for economic growth and increased prosperity in the Philippines.

As shown in the research conducted by Khullar (2021) regarding the impact of COVID-19 on women in the Philippines, about 6.6 million women are engaged in the informal economy. Because of this, women often suffer from a low earning capacity, lack of labor protections, and absence of paid sick leave. The prolonged financial slowdowns increased the vulnerability of women working in an unregulated economy. The research also cited a survey conducted by the UN Women which revealed that nearly 33 percent of Filipino women had lost their informal employment in April 2020.

Drawing data from the Institute of Peace and Conflict Studies (IPCS), the research (Khullar, 2021) concluded that "the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic has exaggerated pre-existing gender and social inequalities within Filipino society, thereby, disproportionately impacting women." Nonetheless, the research further noted that the Philippines' past efforts to reduce gender inequalities have served as a good buffer to control the negative gendered impacts of the pandemic—especially in terms of female employment and educational opportunities.

3.3 Impact of Poverty on Senior Citizens

Based on the 2020 Census of Population and Housing conducted by the PSA, Filipinos 60 years of age and older comprised 8.5 percent of the population, or 9.2 million. That year saw the doubling of the country's aging citizens' numbers from 2000, when they represented just 5.9 percent of the national population at 4.5 million. In 2015, 24.4 percent, or 5,606,500 of the 22,975,630 households nationwide had at least one (1) member who was a senior citizen.

Meanwhile, 1.2 million senior citizens were considered poor based on Listahanan 2 of the DSWD. Senior citizens who were in the residential care facilities of the DSWD increased from 820 in 2016 to 1,678 in 2017.

According to a UN Policy Brief entitled The Impact of COVID-19 on Older Persons, the COVID-19 pandemic is causing untold fear and suffering for older people across the world. Senior citizens are at highest risk of deaths due to COVID-19, where 7 out of 10 deaths in the Philippines are in patients 60 years old and above (World Health Organization [WHO], 2021).

According to the WHO Fact Sheet on Abuse of Older People (2022), the incidence of abuse of older people was reported to have increased during the COVID-19 pandemic which is predicted to increase as many countries are experiencing rapidly aging populations. The global population of people aged 60 years and older will more than double, from 900 million in 2015 to about 2 billion in 2050. Additionally, they are vulnerable to neglect as the pressures of economic survival affect Filipino families.

The Chairperson and Chief Executive Officer of the National Commission of Senior Citizens (NCSC) said that "Senior citizens often feel they are running out of time, and the COVID-19 pandemic has made this even more pronounced."

The fact sheet from WHO (2022) also mentioned that over the past year 1 in 6 people (15.7 percent) aged 60 years and older were subjected to some form of abuse based on a 2017 review of 52 studies in 28 countries from diverse regions. The incidence of abuse of older people appeared to be high in institutions such as nursing homes and long-term care facilities, with two in three staff reporting that they have committed abuse in the past year.

3.4 Impact of Poverty on Persons with Disability

The National Disability Prevalence Survey (NDPS, 2016) conducted by the PSA showed that, in 2016, around 12 percent of Filipinos aged 15 and older experienced severe disability. Almost one in every two (47 percent) experienced moderate disability while 23 percent with mild disability. Almost one-fifth (19 percent) experienced no disability. Females were more likely to experience severe and moderate disability than males. Almost a third of the population aged 60 and older experienced severe disability.

The COVID-19 pandemic has significantly affected the lives of persons with disabilities (PWDs) who were disproportionately affected because of their already heightened vulnerability. Even prior to the pandemic, the PWDs have been one of the most neglected voices in the Philippines. Most of them were reported to have experienced discrimination, inequality, isolation and even violation of their dignity. At the height of the COVID-19 global pandemic, the United Nations Special Rapporteur, Catalina Devandas, stated that PWDs were not provided with the adequate support and protection they needed.

According to the Philippine Disaster Resilience Foundation (PDRF)'s Task Force T3 and Project K3, "the COVID-19 pandemic has disproportionately impacted PWDs because they have had to contend with the burden of navigating this new public health emergency in addition to existing communication, technological, and social barriers and challenges." Inadequate information, inaccessible public health services, and the continuing negative perception and attitude towards PWD were found to have aggravated the situation.

Recent study conducted by Dr. Carraro, et.al of the Costs of Raising Children with Disabilities Survey (2022) found out that the main source of extra costs of raising children with disabilities is health expenditure, where households with a disability card spend a share of their budget that is almost three times as much as those of other households (10.7 percent vs 3.7 percent). Other common extra costs include education, whenever the child is enrolled in school, as well as transport expenditure. The study also concluded that

moderate/severe disabilities incur higher extra costs compared to mild disabilities, and that households with more than one child with disabilities have substantially higher costs. The estimated extra costs based on the median consumption is Php1,281 and Php 2,256 per month respectively for mild and moderate/severe functional difficulties.

3.5 Impact of Poverty on Internally Displaced Persons

More Filipinos were internally displaced by conflicts, violence and disasters at the end of 2021, according to the 2022 Global Report on Internal Displacement by the Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre (IDMC).

The IDMC (2022) reported that disasters have triggered 5.7 million internal displacements in the Philippines in 2021 of which storms accounted for 91 percent. Typhoon Odette led to the displacements of around 3.9 million in the regions of Western Visayas, Eastern Visayas and Caraga. It destroyed around 415,000 homes across the archipelago and damaged around 1.7 million. Internally displaced persons' (IDP) livelihoods were disrupted and food prices increased, heightening the risk of food insecurity.

Significant rainfall events take place during the two monsoon seasons: the south-west monsoon and the north-east monsoons. The same report from IDMC noted that almost 63 percent of the 478,000 flood displacements recorded for the country in 2021 took place during the south-west monsoon season. The overall figure was nine times higher than in 2020. Around 700,000 people were still living in displacement as a result of disasters across the Philippines at the end of the year.

Despite a peace agreement between the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) and the government signed in 2014 and the establishment of the Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (BARMM) in 2019, conflict in Mindanao has remained as other smaller groups continued to fight. According to the updated displacement data of the IDMC, this has accounted for 136,000 of the 140,000 conflict displacements recorded for the country as a whole.

Most displacement events were small-scale, except for one in March 2021 when government forces clashed with the Bangsamoro Islamic Freedom Fighters in Mindanao's Datu Saudi Ampatuan municipality. The fighting spread to surrounding areas, triggering at least 66,000 displacements. More than 4,400 people were still displaced six (6) months later.

The IDMC (2022) also noted the intercommunal violence that led to displacement of families in the Cordillera region and Eastern, Western and Central Visayas. Around 108,000 people were still living in displacement across the country as a result of conflict and violence at the end of the year. The decrease from 153,000 in 2020 was mainly the result of the return of about 80 per cent of those displaced by conflict in Marawi in 2017.

3.6 Impact of Poverty on Overseas Filipino Workers

A report released by the PSA (2022), showed that the number of Overseas Filipinos Workers (OFWs) in 2020 was estimated at 1.77 million, which was lower than the 2.18

million reported in 2019. Meanwhile, the number of Overseas Contract Workers (OCWs) decreased to 1.71 million in 2020. Before the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic in 2019, OFWs were registered at 2.18 million while 2.11 million were OCWs.

Based on the same report, more women were reported to be working overseas, accounting for 59.6 percent or 1.06 million in 2020. A greater number of OFWs in 2020 were in age groups 30 to 34 years (22.4 percent), 35-39 years (20.5 percent), and 45 years and over (19.1 percent). Among the 1.06 million female OFWs, the majority or 70.3 percent were engaged in elementary occupation and 12.6 percent were service and sales workers.

CALABARZON contributed the largest number of OFWs, estimated at 18.5 percent or 185 in every 1,000 OFWs in 2020. About 26.6 percent of the total 1.77 million OFWs worked in Saudi Arabia. The total remittance in 2020 was 134.77 billion pesos, which was lower than the 210.40 billion pesos reported in 2019.

According to anecdotes, Filipinos working abroad have had to deal with possible discrimination and cultural differences, adjust to extreme climate, adapt to high cost of living especially food rent, and personal expenses, fear of getting sick, inability to witness children growing, deal with homesickness, experience maltreatment from bad employers, cope with broken relationships, and deal with anxiety over no savings.

A report by the International Organization for Migration (IOM, 2020) Philippines on the impact of COVID-19 on OFWs, noted that, in 2020, the Philippines saw a 75 percent drop in overseas deployment while facing an unprecedented number of repatriations under the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic. The report gathered that the returning OFWs had to deal with early termination without compensation, loss wages, gender disparity throughout the process, joblessness, and loss in household income.

3.7 Impact of Poverty on Indigenous Peoples

The Population Census in 2010 for the first time included an ethnicity variable but no official figure for Indigenous Peoples (IPs) has been released yet. The population of IPs thus continues to be estimated at between 10 percent and 20 percent of the national population of 100,981,437, based on the 2015 population census (International Work Group for Indigenous Affair, 2022).

The same source above noted that "IPs in the Philippines have retained much of their traditional, pre-colonial culture, social institutions and livelihood practices. They generally live in geographically isolated areas with a lack of access to basic social services and few opportunities for mainstream economic activities, education or political participation. In contrast, commercially valuable natural resources such as minerals, forests and rivers can be found primarily in their areas, making them continuously vulnerable to development aggression and land grabbing."

A paper from the International Labour Organization (ILO) in the Philippines affirmed that "many of the 110 ethno-linguistic indigenous groups in the Philippines experience discrimination, degradation of resource bases, and armed conflict. IP communities, generally located in distinct ancestral territories, have high rates of unemployment,

underemployment, and illiteracy. While their socio-economic, cultural, and spiritual lives revolve around their ancestral domains, IPs see their ownership of land shrinking and disregarded".

The COVID-19 global pandemic affected the indigenous communities in the country and disrupted their economic, political, and social lives. Many of them lost their livelihoods while some were stranded in communities with limited access to food supplies, basic health services or testing for COVID-19. Many of them had to rely on relief goods and basic information on the virus protection measures from indigenous organizations and private groups.

Based on the study conducted by DSWD PDPB entitled DSWD Social Protection Programs: A Focus on Indigenous Peoples, the education component had the largest contribution to the overall risk level of poor IP households, with 78.7 percent or 597,198 IP households belonging to the risk level 3. This can be attributed to the low educational attainment of the household heads, and somehow also related to the attendance to school of school-aged members of the households. Eduardo and Gabriel (2021) explain that the current curriculum of education programs is incapable of addressing the special needs of the IPs/ICCs because the system of education still assumes universality of application, disregarding the distinctive nature of IP students' cultural orientation and social experiences. The health component comes next with a contribution of 49.8 percent or 377,715 IP households belonging to the risk level 3. In the State of the World's Indigenous Peoples of United Nations, Lama (2016) states that one of the primary experiences of the indigenous peoples in Asia and a key reason for indigenous health deficit is the lack of access to adequate and culturally appropriate health care services for IPs.

3.8 The situation of LBTQIA+ in the Philippines

"State-actor violence against LGBT Filipinos is pervasive. Police frequently charge LGBT individuals with violating the "Public scandal" provision of the Revised Penal Code which is a broadly worded public morality law discriminatorily applied against the LGBT community. There are glaring instances of discrimination, marginalization and exclusion of sexual orientation and gender identity issues from various legislative bills." This is based on a report entitled "Human Rights Violations on the Basis of Sexual Orientation, Gender Identity, and Homosexuality in the Philippines" submitted for consideration at the 106th Session of the Human Rights Committee for the fourth periodic review of the Philippines.

The report further exhorted that "LGBT persons are entitled to their full rights under the International Convention on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR.) In order to protect access and enjoyment of these rights the Government of the Philippines must take positive steps to repeal discriminatory laws and combat violence targeted at LGBT individuals. There is an urgent need for the Committee to take appropriate action to ensure LGBT people can enjoy the rights within the Convention to which they are entitled."

The LGBTQI+ community is vibrant in the Philippines despite not being legally recognized under the Social Reform and Poverty Alleviation Act of 1998. LGBTQIA+ is an inclusive term that includes people of all genders and sexualities, such as lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, questioning, queer, intersex, asexual, pansexual, and allies. While

each letter in LGBTQIA+ stands for a specific group of people, the term encompasses the entire spectrum of gender fluidity and sexual identities.

4. DSWD'S RESPONSE TO POVERTY BASED ON ITS MANDATE

The response to the emerging issues and concerns affecting the SWD sector required the DSWD to respond decisively and in a strategic way to fulfill its mandate and goal of addressing hunger and poverty of Filipinos especially the most disadvantaged and vulnerable sectors of the society. In the process, the Department had to rely on data and information as the basis for its decisions and actions which has been the usual practice of DSWD ever since.

Meanwhile, to ease the burden and cushion the effects of the current economic crisis, the DSWD continued the distribution of the PhP 500 cash subsidy under the Targeted Cash Transfer (TCT) program. This was the response of Secretary Erwin T. Tulfo when asked about the agency's efforts to help poor Filipinos cope with the rising cost of fuel and other commodities during the Post-State of the Nation Address (SONA) Economic Briefing 2022 at the Philippine International Convention Center last July 26,2022.

Meanwhile, a DOF-NEDA-DSWD-DBM Joint Memorandum Circular (JMC) No. 1, series of 2022 or the General Guidelines for the Implementation of the TCT Program was signed allowing the government to distribute cash subsidy under the TCT Program to some 1.2 million household-beneficiaries who have existing cash cards amounting to Php 1,000, or two-months' worth of subsidies. The program aims to cushion the impact of the elevated costs of fuel and other commodities. The intended beneficiaries of the program are the bottom 50 percent of Filipino households around the country. Under the guidelines, the DSWD provided cash grants amounting to PhP 3,000, or PhP 500 per month for six months, to an approximate 12.4 million household-beneficiaries (DSWD, 2022).

The beneficiaries are composed of four million households under the Pantawid Pamilyang Pilipino Program (4Ps); six million non-4Ps households and individuals who were previously beneficiaries of the Unconditional Cash Transfer Program (UCT) of 2018 to 2020 under the Tax Reform for Acceleration and Inclusion Law, which include beneficiaries of the Social Pension Program; and 2.4 million households in the database of Listahanan that fall within the first to fifth income decile, or other poverty data sources of the DSWD.

The DSWD issued Memorandum Circular No. 15, s. 2022 entitled Updated Guidelines for the Implementation of the AICS to ensure the faster and more efficient delivery of services by adjusting the rates of assistance and the approving authorities of the Central and Field Offices (FOs) and the SWD Offices. It also simplified the intake/eligibility forms and documentary requirements.

In response to the issues and concerns affecting the Filipino families, the National Committee of Filipino Family (NCFF) initiated strengthening partnerships and encouraging active participation of government agencies and private sector/non-governmental organizations/civil society organizations implementing programs for the family.

The other poverty alleviation programs and services of the DSWD continued on such as the KALAHI-CIDSS (Kapit-Bisig Laban sa Kahirapan – Comprehensive and Integrated Delivery of Social Services), Sustainable Livelihood Program (SLP), Supplementary Feeding Program (SFP), and the Social Pension Program for indigent senior citizens.

DSWD's role in the provision of technical support to LGUs and its regulatory function

Apart from the delivery of national government programs relevant to poverty alleviation, the DSWD is mandated to provide technical assistance and regulatory functions to LGUs and the civil society in the delivery of various SWD programs and services. This is based on the Executive Order No. 15, s. 1998 and Executive Order No. 221, s. 2003 stipulating the redirected functions and operations of DSWD from a direct service deliverer to a technical assistance provider. This was also as a direct result of the decentralization of government functions stipulated in Republic Act 7160.

In 2019, the DSWD conducted an assessment that sought to identify the capacity gaps present in the Local Social Welfare and Development Offices (LSWDOs) along delivery of SWD programs and services. The results of the assessment served as the Department's baseline data for its provision of technical assistance to LGUs. The report entitled 2019-2021 LSWDO Service Delivery Assessment National Report was prepared by the DSWD Social Welfare Institutional Development Bureau (SWIDB), together with its counterpart sections and units in the FOs.

The report revealed the following findings:

a) 128 or 98 percent of the 131 City Social Welfare and Development Offices (CSWDOs) met the minimum requirements in service delivery capacity;
b) There were nine (9) CSWDOs that achieved an overall Service Delivery Capacity Index of Level 3, which means they could be possible benchmarks for good practices;
c) CSWDOs were doing fairly well in Administrative and Organization. Almost all met or exceeded the minimum requirements in the different subcomponents,
d) Few or less than 10 percent of CSWDOs have been assessed as Low in the subcomponents, except for Planning (28 percent);
e) Among the three components, Program Management was an area where a significant number of CSWDOs were assessed at Level 1, indicating opportunity for moving beyond minimum, and
f) Similarly, the Functionality of LCPC and LCAT-VAWC were subcomponents of Institutional Mechanisms where there was quite a number of CSWDOs assessed at Level 1.

C. PURPOSE AND OBJECTIVES

The main purpose of the "DSWD R&E Agenda, 2023-2028" is to:

1. Guide the Department in prioritizing research themes and topics which will support the attainment of the Department's vision that all *Filipinos are free from hunger and poverty, have equal access to opportunities, enabled by a fair, just and peaceful society and its* mission *to lead in the formulation, implementation and coordination of SWD policies and programs for and with the poor, vulnerable and disadvantaged.*

2. Produce R&E results to support formulation of policies which are responsive to the SP and SWD needs of the poor, vulnerable and marginalized taking note of the need to harmonize with the DSWD Policy Agenda.

3. Provide guidance to the Department on the overall plan for the monitoring of R&E.

The R&E Agenda will serve as the Department's guide and plan in the conduct of quality and relevant R&E that will provide evidence for the management's decision-making process. These decisions are intended to cause the improvement of the effectiveness and accountability of various interventions along the Department's organizational and foundational outcomes, and indicators reflected in its Results Framework and the Department's Strategic Plan.

The R&E Agenda seeks to increase the productivity rate of DSWD in producing quality, relevant and meaningful R&E that will respond to the present social development and economic issues and that will fill in the knowledge gaps that are not addressed by the current SWD interventions.

To manage changes in a structured organization, change strategy is one of the thoughtful ways in order to meet organization goals and objectives. These strategies are critical for reducing resistance and achieving project objectives.

As a "change strategy", the R&E, in the long term, are meant to contribute to the Department's mandate of creating greater and more significant impact to its target population, particularly the vulnerable and hard to reach sectors of the society.

More specifically, the R&E agenda presents the following:

1. Priority R&E themes/topics for 2023-2028.
2. Sample/Selected R&E plans for high priority topics.
3. Sample/Selected Evaluability Assessment and Evaluation Checklist of priority evaluation topics.

The primary users of the DSWD R&E Agenda are the DSWD Management, the NRE TWG, the PDPB, the various bureaus, offices, and services of the Department, and other stakeholders. The secondary users of the Agenda include the donor partners who might be interested to sponsor certain R&E themes, the academic and research community, even DSWD personnel who are interested to conduct research on DSWD programs and services, and other stakeholders.

D. SCOPE, FOCUS, AND COVERAGE

In terms of scope, the DSWD R&E Agenda 2023-2028 encompasses priority topic/themes relevant to the SWD sector that will inform the Department's relevant programs, projects, policies, strategies, and interventions (not including other government sectors and the private sector).

The R&E Agenda shall be implemented, applied, and utilized by the Offices, Bureaus, Services, and Units (OBSUs) of the Central and FOs, as well as by external stakeholders who partner with the Department in the conduct of R&E related to or involving SWD. This may include local and international research institutions, ~~the~~ academe, independent researchers, Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs), Civil Society Organizations (CSOs), other National Government Agencies (NGAs), LGUs and DSWD Attached Agencies (AAs). Furthermore, DSWD Field Offices may contextualize the R&E topics based on their local situation and based on their relevant and timely needs and requirements.

Evaluations are normally focused on programs, projects, key activities, policies, strategies, and other interventions that took place in the past. The evaluation plan, however, covers interventions that were implemented in the last 6 years. Meanwhile, real time evaluations (RTE) or rapid assessment cover interventions happening in real time, usually in response to an emergency, to provide immediate feedback during field work rather than afterwards.

It must be noted that the R&E Agenda could cover subjects of common interest with other government sectors, subjects that are cross-cutting, or subjects that are applied in coordination with other national government agencies.

In addition, the extent of the agenda for R&E will also guarantee that the DSWD's strategic direction and Policy Agenda are attained.

E. CONCEPTUAL FRAMEWORK

The **"DSWD R&E Policy" or the "Guidelines for the Conduct of R&E in the DSWD" (MC 09-2019)** provides overall guidance to the Department and external researchers and partners on the development, implementation, monitoring and utilization of R&E involving the DSWD. The said policy institutionalized the formulation and monitoring of the DSWD R&E Agenda and provided standards and criteria in the conduct of R&E in the Department.

The **DSWD Strategy 2028**, which provides the strategic emphasis, will serve as the foundation for the R&E Agenda 2023-2028 as the Department operationalizes it to carry out its mission as outlined in its mandate.

The R&E Agenda seeks to support the **PDP 2023-2028** and the DSWD Strategy after its completion because strategy review through R&E is a typical step in the development or updating of strategies and plans.

DSWD Results Framework. One of the major elements relevant to the development and implementation of R&E in the Department is the DSWD Results Framework. The DSWD Results Framework reflects the various activities, outputs, and outcomes of the organization that are relevant in the fulfillment of its mandate, powers and functions. The R&E Agenda is linked to the Department's Results Framework in two ways. First, all R&E conducted by the Department, and/or with or by its partners are anchored on these objectives. Secondly, all R&E that are intended to be conducted aim to support the information needs and knowledge gaps of the Department, as stipulated in its Results Framework. The Results Framework for 2023-2028 of DSWD will not be available while the formulation of the R&E Agenda is being crafted, or until after the DSWD Strategic Plan has been formulated.

DSWD Policy Agenda 2020-2025. The DSWD R&E Agenda is also informed by the DSWD Policy Agenda 2020-2025. This document serves as the DSWD guide in operationalizing its mandate and mission in line with the formulation of policies that will address the needs and emerging issues of various vulnerable marginalized sectors of the society. Specifically, it serves as a blueprint for addressing persisting as well as emerging cross sectoral SWD issues in the country; guides the DSWD offices in crafting policy issuances and programs; and provides an evidence-based list of SWD issues needing appropriate interventions.

Current and emerging SWD Situation Analysis. The R&E Agenda took into consideration the situation of the poor, disadvantaged and vulnerable sectors by looking at the overall SWD Sector Context and the internal DSWD Context. The prioritization of the R&E Agenda topics should consider the data and information gaps along each sector and program.

The R&E Agenda was developed in accordance with the standards of the 2015 National Evaluation Policy Framework (NEPF) and the 2020 Guidelines on Evaluation in the National Government. The **2015 NEPF** was issued officially through a joint Memorandum by the NEDA and the Department of Budget Management (DBM) in 2015. The Policy requires all evaluations to apply standardized evaluation procedures as provided for in the Guiding Principles/Evaluation Standards. It also requires implementing agencies to use evaluation findings for recommendations and appropriate management response, including follow through actions, to improve program effectiveness, efficiency, and accountability.

Meanwhile, the **2020 Guidelines on Evaluation in the National Government** was issued basically to translate the NEPF into action, and guide (i) government staff involved in planning, commissioning, and managing evaluations; (ii) managers from implementing agencies who use evaluations to assure the relevance, coherence, efficiency, effectiveness, and sustainability of programs and projects; (iii) users of evaluation results including stakeholders and partners, the legislature, and oversight agencies; (iv) evaluators who need to understand government evaluation principles, standards, and processes; and (v) the broader national development and evaluation community.

The implementation of the DSWD R&E Agenda, 2023-2028, hopes to be boosted up further by the issuance of **Special Order 1091 series of 2022,** which reconstitutes the

NRE-TWG. The Order seeks to further strengthen the role of R&E in generating evidence-based information for policy and program development.

The R&E-TWG is composed of representatives from all clusters of the Department who shall work with the PDPB in the operationalization of the DSWD R&E Policy. Specifically, they are expected to contribute to the implementation of the R&E Policy and Agenda by reviewing R&E products; promoting the culture of evidence-based policy and program development; and strengthening the capacity of offices and personnel in Research, Monitoring and Evaluation.

The following illustration depicts the diagrammatic presentation of the conceptual framework of the DSWD R&E Agenda 2023-2028:

Figure 1. Conceptual Framework for the DSWD R&E Agenda 2023-2028

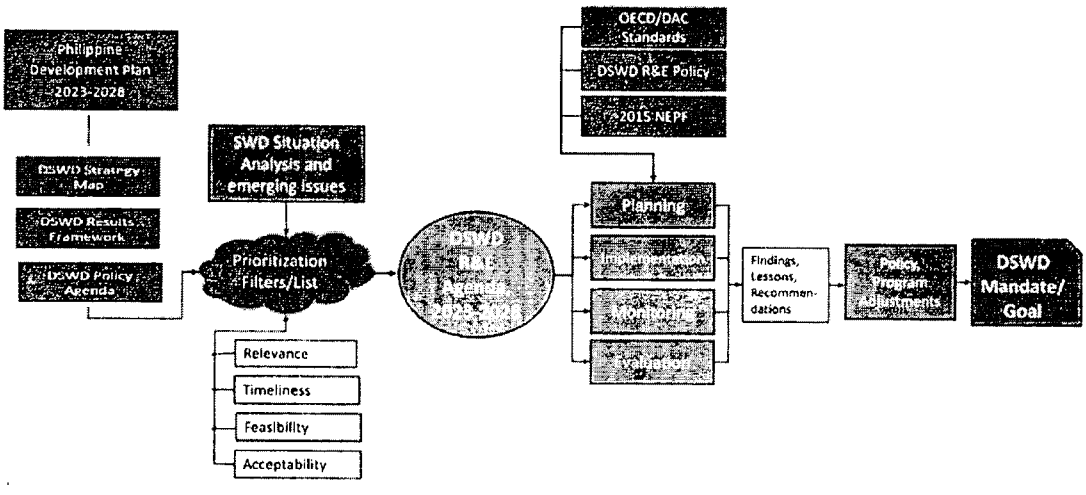


Figure 1 shows the conceptual framework for the DSWD R&E Agenda 2023-2028 based on the existing and significant framework used in policy and plans development. As shown in the figure the DSWD R&E Agenda 2023-2028, in terms of its planning, implementation, monitoring, and evaluation, is guided by the R&E benchmarks laid out in the R&E standards of the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development/Development Assistance Committee (OECD/DAC), the DSWD R&E Policy (DSWD R&E Policy), and the 2015 NEPF. These are all in gray rectangles in the diagram. The OECD/DAC provides the international standards, norms, and practices in evaluation while the NEPF outlines the Philippines' standards for evaluation. The DSWD R&E Policy stipulates the principles and parameters for R&E activities supported by the Department.

The whole R&E process seeks to produce findings, lessons, and recommendations that will serve as evidence to guide the management in making policy or programmatic decisions. The priority R&E Agenda were based on the SWD situation analysis that focused on the conditions of the poor, disadvantaged and marginalized sector; and were selected based on a set of prioritization filters namely relevance, timeliness, feasibility, and acceptability.

Same with the DSWD Policy Agenda, the R&E Agenda is also anchored and informed by the PDP, DSWD Strategy 2028 and DSWD Results Framework 2023-2028 which provides the strategic focus (rowing and steering functions) that the Department will operationalize to deliver its mission, vision and core functions along SWD and Social Protection. As support to the Policy Agenda, the R&E Agenda will provide evidence information from wealth of data within and outside the DSWD. Likewise, the Policy Agenda will feed priority policy directions of the Department that requires research/evaluation to support the policy options/alternatives to be identified during the process of policy analysis.

F. ASSESSMENT OF THE PREVIOUS R&E AGENDA 2019-2022

Outlined below are the results of the assessment of previous R&E Agenda that have been conducted internally by the DSWD-PDPB. Also included are the results of the assessment conducted by the National Consultant commissioned to develop the current R&E Agenda based on previous Agenda, which also included 19 R&E documents produced by the DSWD in the last three years, i.e., 2019 to 2021.

1. Internal Assessment of the DSWD R&E 2019-2022

Over a period of five (5) years, i.e., from 2016 to 2020, the DSWD completed a total of 40 R&E products. The biggest number of R&E reports were submitted in 2020 with 20 completed R&E.

There was a general agreement amongst DSWD stakeholders that the apparent increase in the number of completed R&E by the different DSWD OBSUs from 2016 to 2019 may be attributed to the establishment of the PDPB-RED.

In 2019, the Bureau concentrated its efforts on strengthening the R&E function of the Department. During this year, the PDPB conducted a review of the existing R&E practices that resulted in the approval of the "DSWD R&E Policy" and the amendment of "DSWD Research Protocol".

In 2020, the number of completed R&E dropped sharply to only six (6). In 2021, the number of completed R&E dropped further to only four (4) R&E products. The travel and social distancing restrictions along with the Department's realignment of funds due to the COVID 19 pandemic significantly affected the momentum that was building up in the conduct of R&E.

On R&E focus or themes. Most of the R&E completed by CO-OBS from 2019 to 2021 were focused on Organizational Outcome 1 or Well-being of poor families improved and Organizational Outcome 2 or Rights of the vulnerable sectors promoted and protected. No R&E was undertaken for Organizational Outcome 3 or Immediate relief and recovery of disaster victims/survivors ensured. Meanwhile, there was very minimal R&E along Organizational Outcome 4 or Continuing compliance of SWD agencies to standards in the delivery of social welfare services ensured; and Organizational Outcome 5 or Delivery of SWD programs by LGUs, through LSWDOs improved.

On sectoral focus. The subject matters of completed R&E were mostly on family and community sectors while focus on the elderly and persons with disabilities were not given much attention. Looking at the priority topics/subjects of the DSWD R&E Agenda, 2019 to 2021, it was apparent that most of them were not given attention in the completed R&E. Only a few of the priority topics/subjects were given attention such as: on IP, social pension and SLP, and delivery of social welfare and social protection programs and services in the context of devolution.

On the use of data collection and analysis in a challenging situation. In the conduct of R&E, data collection through face-to-face interview and focus group discussion were significantly affected by the travel and social distancing restrictions. To address the challenge, the PDPB-RED was forced to adapt a new tool called KOBO Toolbox. KoboToolbox is a suite of tools for field data collection for use in challenging environments. The software is free and open source. Through this app, the staff of PDPB-RED were able to manage data collection and analysis through remote data collection and in real time.

2. External Assessment of the R&E Conducted by DSWD in 2019-2022

In the "DSWD R&E Agenda 2019-2022" a total of 24 high priority topics were identified for evaluation while 16 high priority topics were identified for research, for a grand total of 40 R&Es within the duration of the said Agenda. The prioritization was based on four criteria of relevance (40 percent); timeliness (30 percent); feasibility (20 percent); and acceptability (10 percent). There were also other topics considered to be at medium or low priority levels. These were no longer part of the assessment.

These high priority topics were spread across eight areas of concern or what is referred to as Organizational Outcome (1-5) and Foundational Outcomes (6-8) culled from the DSWD Results Framework.

Most of the high priority topics for evaluation and research were on "Rights of the Poor and Vulnerable Sectors promoted and protected" with 10 topics supposedly slated for evaluation and nine topics scheduled for research. There was only one topic reflected for evaluation in one area of concern. Meanwhile, only one topic for research was identified in another area of concern.

On the R&E productivity of the RED-PDPB. From 2019 to 2021, a total of 19 major R&E documents were produced by the DSWD based on the electronic copies of R&E reports forwarded to this consultant by the RED-PDPB.

Ten of these R&Es were conducted in 2019 prior to the COVID-19 pandemic. At the height of the pandemic, DSWD continued its high productivity rate by coming up with seven more R&Es in 2020 and two R&Es in 2021.

On top of managing the R&E function of the Department, the PDPB-RED was also engaged in the actual conduct of R&Es. The list of R&Es revealed that the Division was also considerably productive in 2020 and 2021 at the height of the COVID-19 pandemic by conducting five R&Es - three in 2020 and two in 2021. Three of these were evaluations while two were research.

On R&E in the high priority list. Based on the 19 electronic copies of R&E Reports, majority (10 reports) were in the high priority list of R&Es identified in the DSWD R&E Agenda, 2019-2022. This means that at least 10 R&E topics or 25 per cent of the 40 R&E topics identified in the high priority list for 2019-2022, were implemented. This also means that the DSWD R&E Agenda at least served its purpose of guiding the Department in the conduct of R&E within the duration of the Agenda.

On category/type (whether research or evaluation). Again, based on the 19 R&E Reports, DSWD apparently conducted more evaluations than research from 2019 to 2022. Of the R&E Reports, 12 (63 percent) were evaluations while seven (36 percent) may be categorized as research.

Commissioned research firms/consultants. Of the 19 R&E products, the assessment gathered that three were commissioned to *Philippine Institute of Development Studies (PIDS)*; two (2) were commissioned to *Economic Policy Research Institute,* two were commissioned *to Infoshare Management System* and another one was commissioned to *Isabela State University*. Three R&Es were conducted by individual consultants while another three were by a team of consultants. The others, as already cited, were conducted by the RED-PDPB.

Donor-supported R&E. Some of the R&E were supported by donor agencies like UNICEF Philippines, the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT) of the Australian Government, and AusAID.

On theme/subject/focus. The 4Ps and SLP appeared to be important DSWD interventions as both were subjected to R&E at least four times from 2019 to 2021. Four (4) R&Es focused on livelihood as topics while 6 were on the Conditional Cash Transfer.

Methodology. Nine of nineteen R&Es reports showed that mixed methodologies were used in data gathering and analysis and combined both quantitative and qualitative approaches. The most common data collection methods employed in the mixed methods were desk research, questionnaires, key informant interviews, structured interviews, focus group discussion, and consultation workshops.

The capacity of the PDPB-RED within DSWD appeared to be evident as they have explored a variety of methods and tools and maximized available technology (e.g., statistical software packages, interview software, online instruments) to come up with highly technical reports.

Use of Theory of Change. Of the eleven evaluation reports, five demonstrated the use of TOC as a guide for the analysis of the programs and services being evaluated. One evaluation made use of the results framework. Five did not have a TOC nor a results framework.

Evaluation criteria used. The most common evaluation criterion used in the 11 evaluation reports was "impact". There were six evaluations that focused only on "impact". The other evaluations used the five (5) standard evaluation criteria of relevance, effectiveness, efficiency, impact and sustainability.

3. Recommendations for the Next R&E Agenda

Given the institutionalization of R&E policies in the Department, support to the utilization of R & E Agenda needs to be further strengthened. Existing efforts and strategies need to be recalibrated to promote the conduct, dissemination and utilization of studies that will guide the Department in the right direction. Thus, the successor R&E Agenda will further ensure that the following concerns will be addressed through the following recommendations from the respondents:

- Formulation of the Agenda should be properly consulted to the stakeholders including prioritization of topics
- Awareness, appreciation, and utilization of the next research agenda must be ensured
- The implementation of the Agenda should be properly monitored
- Strategies in Promoting the Utilization of R&E findings should be recalibrated

G. METHODOLOGY AND PROCESS

The overall approach in the formulation of the R&E Agenda 2023-2028 was consultative and participatory to ensure full ownership of and accountability for the planned R&E by the concerned offices in the DSWD. Even if travel and social distancing restrictions related to the COVID-19 pandemic have somehow relaxed, soliciting inputs for the R&E Agenda were undertaken online. This includes the consultations, workshops, validation sessions, and mentoring sessions.

Mixed Method Approach

A mixed method approach was used in soliciting inputs, insights, and feedback on the R&E Agenda. Towards this end, documents review, questionnaire, online consultations, and validation sessions were used.

Documents review - A thorough review of relevant documents was conducted such as the DSWD R&E Policy 2019, DSWD Research Agenda 2010-2014, DSWD R&E Agenda 2019-2022, DSWD Policy Agenda, and the Initial Assessment Report of the R&E Agenda 2019-2022. A quick scoping review of R&E completed in the last six years was conducted.

Survey Questionnaire – A questionnaire was transformed to google survey and administered among key respondents to generate relevant information regarding R&E agenda (i.e., status, themes, cost, fund source, utilization, communication, management response). Questions were asked regarding bottlenecks and barriers in formulating the agenda and the factors that facilitate and hamper the conduct of R&E in the respective offices.

Online Consultations – Series of consultations were conducted particularly with the members of the NRE-TWG and the PDPB to gather additional insights and suggestions on the draft outputs and to triangulate findings and observations from the documents review.

Assessment of the past R&E Agenda– An analysis of the R&E Agenda, 2019-2022 has been conducted based on DSWD's Internal Assessment Report on the same. The consultant conducted a separate analysis of the DSWD R&E Agenda 2019-2022 focused on the high priority R&E topics. A separate analysis was done on a compendium of eight completed R&E forwarded by the PDPB to this consultant.

Coaching and Mentoring Sessions - The following sessions were conducted by the Consultant with the DSWD CO-OBS and DSWD FOs as participants:

- Refresher / Brief Overview of R&E
- Developing a R&E Agenda with Prioritization
- Developing R&E Plan with Costing
- Assessing and strengthening evaluability

Consultation Workshops with key stakeholders - As part of the consultation phase of the formulation of the R&E Agenda, a workshop was conducted to gather inputs from the key stakeholders within and outside the Department. The activity identified areas or topics for R&E studies and prioritized these topics and areas based on a commonly agreed set of criteria. The workshop recommended strategies that will help ensure the success of the agenda's implementation and suggested other relevant activities deemed necessary for the Department.

The output of these workshops formed part of the R&E agenda which were routed to the OBS and FOs for final review prior to endorsement to the DSWD Management. At least two (2) consultation workshops were conducted with representatives of DSWD CO-OBS, FOs, DSWD Attached and Supervised Agencies, Academe, LGUs and CSOs.

Blended Meetings with DSWD Team – Throughout the consultancy period, the NRE-TWG, through the secretariat team, worked closely with the Consultant via blended meetings for the development, finalization, and institutionalization of the DSWD R&E Agenda. The secretariat documented the inputs and recommendations from the coaching and mentoring sessions, the consultation workshops, and from the routing of outputs for review. Finally, the consultant presented the draft Agenda to the DSWD ManCom / ExeCom and incorporated their inputs to the final version of the DSWD R&E Agenda, 2023-2028 for approval by the Management.

DSWD ExeCom and ManCom Approval and Adoption- The Final R&E Agenda was formulated based on the review of documents, and the outputs of the coaching and mentoring sessions and consultation workshops with stakeholders. The final draft shall be presented to the DSWD ManCom and ExeCom for approval and issuance of Administrative Order.

H. THEORY OF CHANGE ON THE DSWD R&E AGENDA 2023-2028

A significant component of the DSWD R&E Agenda 2023-2028 is a TOC which was constructed to facilitate its implementation, monitoring, and evaluation.

A TOC is a development method that explains how a given intervention, such as the R&E, is expected to achieve its desired change (end result) to amplify its contribution to a

higher level of result which is the overall goal of the organization. The R&E Agenda does not exist for itself but for a purpose higher than itself.

The TOC is useful in visualizing what end-result is desired for the R&E Agenda; what intermediate results or outcomes or key result areas must be in place; what outputs or another level of pre-conditions must be at hand; and what it would take to achieve the intended results at each step of the way in the results-chain towards the vision. The TOC is usually translated into a "results framework".

A TOC is usually formulated to address a specific problem. In this case, the statement of the problem was based on the assessment of the previous R&E Agenda 2019-2022 which was reviewed and validated by the participants of DSWD in a Workshop on 27-29 July, 2022.

Statement of the problem: The R&E Agenda in DSWD appears to be in need of systematic planning and proper management such that the planned themes and topics were not fully attained; R&E products were not quality assured, fully utilized, communicated, and disseminated to intended users.

Theory of Change on the DSWD R&E Agenda

(Narrative Form)

The vision of change or result that DSWD desires in terms of R&E is:

Vision of Change: "DSWD-supported R&E are well-planned; managed on time and budget; quality assured; well-disseminated, and produce independent, impartial, and credible evidence that directly inform policies, programs and decisions in support of the over-all goal of DSWD"

For the above desired vision or goal to happen, the following conditions referred to as "outcomes" or "key result areas" (KRAs) must be in place:

Table 1. Description of the Outcomes in the TOC

Outcomes	Description of the outcomes (KRAs)
Outcome 1.	Well-planned DSWD Agenda for the next six (6) years developed and adopted.
Outcome 2.	High priority R&E themes funded every year with high quality R&E products.
Outcome 3.	R&E reports effectively utilized for decision and properly communicated.
Outcome 4.	DSWD has adopted a strong R&E culture with a TWG that has capacity to manage R&E functions.

This means that if all the above four (4) pre-conditions or outcomes or KRAs are met, then the vision of "DSWD-supported R&E are well-planned; managed on time and budget; quality assured; well-disseminated, and produce independent, impartial, and credible

evidence that directly inform policies, programs and decisions in support of the overall goal of DSWD" will be attained.

Meanwhile, to realize the above four stated outcomes (KRAs), the following inter-related "outputs" must be at hand:

Outcome 1: Well-planned DSWD Agenda for the next 6 years developed and adopted.

Outputs:
1. A manageable list of R&E themes/topics identified and prioritized.
2. DSWD OBS committed conduct of specific R&E topics
3. Costed R&E Plans prepared for high priority R&E Topics.
4. Evaluability of high priority R&E Plans assessed and strengthened.
5. A Memorandum Circular issued officially adopting and prescribing the DSWD R&E Agenda, 2023-2028.
6. R&E Agenda Communication Plan

Outcome 2: High priority R&E themes funded every year with high quality R&E products.

Outputs:
1. Workflow for the management of R&E established and followed.
2. Approved activity proposals every year for conduct of R&E topics
3. Procurement for the approved and funded R&E topics done on time.
4. R&E products are reviewed for Quality Assurance and submitted on time.
5. Evaluation Management Response Plan developed for evaluation initiatives.

Outcome 3: R&E reports are properly communicated and effectively utilized for evidence-based decisions.

Outputs:
1. Communication products are developed on the R&E findings for dissemination
2. R&E findings and recommendations are shared with ManCom and ExeCom.
3. Policy papers on the R&E findings developed and shared with concerned parties.
4. Concerned offices have their Management Response on the recommendations of conducted R&E.

Outcome 4: DSWD has adopted a strong R&E culture with a TWG that has capacity to manage R&E function.

Outputs:
1. All NRE-TWG members have the capacity to manage R&E functions in DSWD.
2. Culture of R&E established in the department.
3. The DSWD top management demonstrates a strong support for R&E

Figure 2. Theory of Change on the DSWD R&E Agenda
(Diagrammatic form)

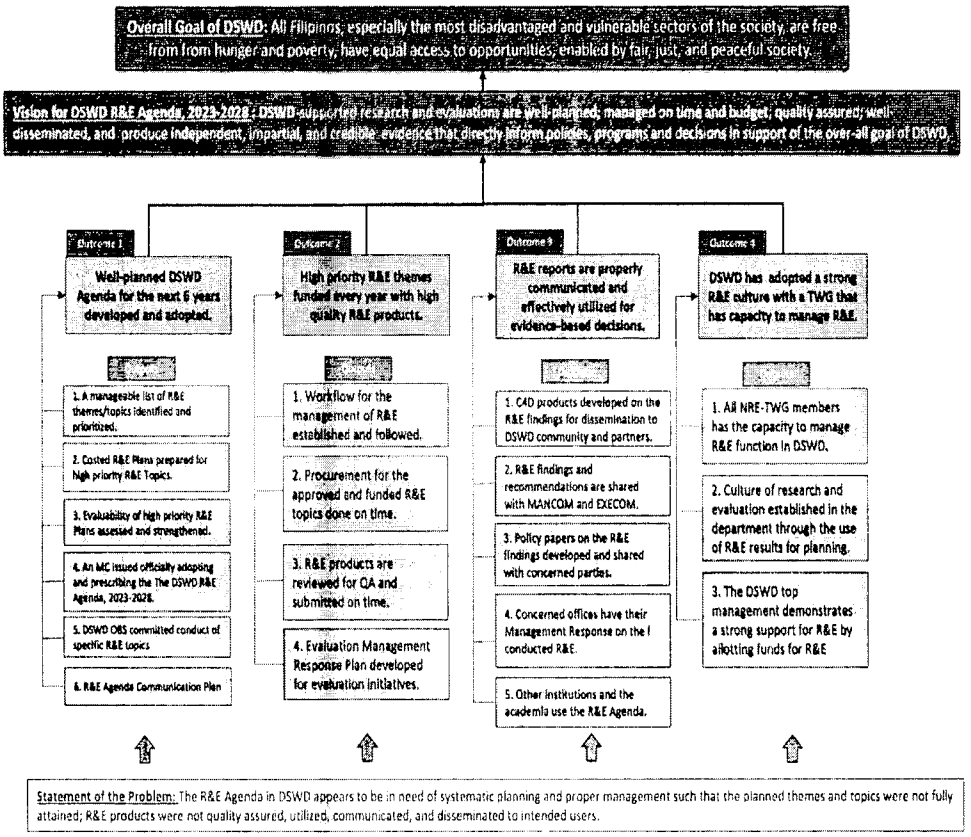


Figure 2 shows the TOC of the R&E Agenda. It depicts the results chain or the pathways to the desired goal of R&E Agenda. Note the link between the vision for the R&E Agenda 2023-2028, and the overall goal of DSWD to demonstrate the purpose for which the Agenda was formulated, i.e., to support the evidence-generation need of the mandate of the DSWD.

Meanwhile, the outcomes and outputs below the "Vision of the R&E Agenda" are clearly indicated, again to show the chain of results or pre-conditions that must be present to achieve the purpose for which the R&E Agenda was created.

Note also the four arrows emanating from the statement of the problem below pointing towards the end result of the TOC. The connecting lines clearly depict the link from the outputs to the outcomes, to the desired vision for the R&E Agenda, and finally to the overall goal of DSWD.

I. PRIORITY R&E THEMES AND TOPICS FOR 2023-2028

The DSWD priority R&E themes and topics for 2023-2028 was developed through a rigorous process of brainstorming, consultations, and validation sessions with different internal and external stakeholders. These consultation sessions were organized and coordinated by the PDPB of the DSWD.

Table 2. Criteria used in the Initial Selection of the R&E Topics

Selection Criteria	Assigned percentage weight	Description
Relevance	40%	▪ Relates to issues affecting SWD sectors; ▪ Aids in SWD legislation/s, proposed or existing; ▪ responsive to emerging issues and trends ▪ Aligned with DSWD's results framework (Strategic Map 2028) ▪ Contributes to risk management response (evaluation or research
Timeliness/ Urgency	30%	▪ It requires immediate action needed to aid in decision-making in developing critical interventions
Feasibility	20%	▪ Adequate time and resources (e.g., human and financial) are available ▪ Recognizes partnerships for possible funding
Acceptability	10%	▪ Grounded on cultural sensitivity; aligned with principles of autonomy, and justice. ▪ not inflict harm to both respondents and researchers/evaluators

The long list of tentative R&E topics was further trimmed down to a more manageable number considering the budgetary and human resource limitations of the Department, particularly the PDPB-RED. The reduction of the list is also important because the list of R&E topics will eventually determine the performance of the Department in terms of R&E. With a very long and unrealistic list, the probability of getting a low performance rating becomes greater.

The purpose of the long discussions and the prioritization process was to come up with a practical number of R&E topics that the Department can realistically and feasibly accomplish every year for the next 5-6 years given the DSWD's comparative advantage and limitations.

If the Department has been able to manage an average of three R&Es in the last three years, with two evaluations and one research, it should be reasonable enough to plan for at least six R&Es in the next five years or a total of 30 R&E topics given the remarkable experience in the past, a stronger PDPB-RED, and a reconstituted R&E TWG.

The filters used for the prioritization of the R&E topics for the R&E Agenda of DSWD for 2023-2028 and the corresponding assigned percentage weight and description are shown below:

Table 3. Criteria Used for the Prioritization of R&E Topics for 2023-2028

Prioritization Criteria	Assigned percentage weight	Description
▪ Alignment with DSWD's mandate and goal of reducing risks and vulnerabilities of families to poverty	40%	▪ The extent to which the R&E topic aligns with the mandate and functions of the DSWD. ▪ The extent to which the R&E topic will provide evidence geared towards strengthening the effectiveness and accountability of programs and services. ▪ The extent to which the topic will improve the achievement of the poverty reduction goals of the Department.
▪ Responsive to critical issues and concerns affecting the SWD sector	30%	▪ The extent to which the R&E topic will fill data gaps addressing critical issues and concerns affecting the poor, marginalized, and vulnerable sectors. ▪ The extent to which the R&E topic will generate evidence directly from the SWD sector
▪ Requiring evidence-based information and data for immediate management decisions (urgency)	20%	▪ The extent to which the R&E topic will provide data and information on a timely basis for DSWD management for issues and concerns requiring urgent and immediate policy or programmatic decisions.
▪ The capacity of DSWD to conduct/ manage R&E considering human, financial, technology, and partners	10%	▪ The extent to which the R&E topics could be implemented promptly and successfully given available human, financial, and technological support whether internally or from external partners.

The DSWD R&E Agenda 2023-2028 is organized based on the five (5) Thematic Areas. This is in line with the DSWD mandates and existing framework along the SWD sector. During the implementation of this next R&E agenda it will provide more substantive and provide more details as to research questions that need to be studied by DSWD and other researchers. These questions are aimed at guiding the conduct of research, and are by no means exhaustive.

THEMATIC AREA 1: Improved Delivery of National Social Protection and SWD Programs

In line with the DSWD mandate, evidence-based information to be generated from this thematic area will be useful for DSWD in strengthening the effectiveness and accountability in the delivery of national social protection and SWD programs relevant to poverty alleviation. This thematic area also harmonizes with the DSWD's 2028 Strategic Focus 2 which seeks *to improve the well-being of beneficiaries and 4Ps households through strengthened social welfare system.*

In terms of evaluation, evidence will be made available to determine the relevance, impact, and sustainability of the national programs such as the 4Ps, SLP, and the AICS. The planned evaluations in this thematic area will provide guidance to the department in ensuring that the national programs are responsive to the needs of the poor, vulnerable, and marginalized sectors of the society.

Meanwhile, the planned research topics hope to fill the gap in the expansion of the coverage and reach of the SLP using other service delivery modalities.

Some of the R&E topics under this theme are:

Research:

- *Exploring Possible Additional Modalities of the SLP to the LGUs in a Devolved Setup*
- *Comparative Analysis of the Livelihood Progression of Sustainable Livelihood Participants Across Income Groups*
-

Evaluation

- *Impact Evaluation of the 4Ps*
- *Performance Evaluation of 4Ps After the Enactment of Republic Act 11310*
- *Impact Evaluation of the SLP Interventions to its Program Participants*
- *Evaluation of the Effectiveness of Partnership Engagement to the SLP Participants*
- *Evaluation of the Implementation of DSWD's AICS Program*

THEMATIC AREA 2: Strengthened Capacity of LGUs to Deliver Social Protection and SWD Programs

This thematic area is directly aligned with DSWD's 2028 Strategic Focus 1 which seeks to *increase the capacity of LGUs to improve the delivery of social protection and social welfare services.* The R&E topics selected in this thematic area will provide evidence-based information that will support decision-making in strengthening this strategic focus and the mandate of the Department in providing technical assistance to LGUs in the delivery of various SWD programs and services.

The results of the assessment on the capacity gaps of LSWDOs in the delivery of SWD programs and services revealed that there were still a number of gaps in terms of the LGUs' implementation of devolved programs and functions in selected LGUs. For instance, among the components of service delivery capacity, it is in Program Management, specifically along Monitoring and Reporting and Case Management, where more MSWDOs show lower capacity. There are also areas of concern in the Implementation

and Evaluation/Case Conference, as well as the Referral System and keeping a Database of Clients. Meanwhile, there were also gaps identified in the process of providing technical support to LGUs by the DSWD Central Office. Both of these will be addressed in this Thematic area. The identified R&E topics will seek to fill these gaps.

Some of the R&E topics identified under this theme are:

Research:

- *Review of Indigency Parameters Used by the LGUs in the Philippines.*

Evaluation:

- *Process Evaluation of the Provision of DSWD's Technical Assistance to LGUs*
- *Evaluation of DSWD's Devolved Programs and Functions in Selected LGUs*
- *Assessment of the Budget Allocation and Utilization for Basic Social Services Employed by LGUs*
- *Evaluation of Social Protection Mainstreaming to LGUs*

THEMATIC AREA 3: Enabling Laws and Policies Relevant to Social Protection and SWD Programs

As the responsible national government agency, it is the DSWD's mandate to formulate and coordinate policies that will provide direction to itself, its attached agencies, partners, and intermediaries in implementing and delivering social protection and SWD services to different sectors particularly the poor, marginalized, and vulnerable. The R&E topics under this thematic area will technically fulfill this mandate.

The R&E topics aim to produce evidence that will inform the formulation of policies that will, in turn, strengthen the implementation and delivery of social protection and SWD programs. The planned R&E activities will be directed towards providing guidance and support to the management in making evidence-based policy decisions.

The R&E topics under this theme aims to ensure that an enabling policy environment is being adopted not only internally by the Department but the whole of the country for the entire social welfare system. This would entail having responsive SWD policies and carrying out participatory processes that will encourage collaborative support from stakeholders and partners. An enabling policy environment will create a condition that will support and improve DSWD operations and the entire Philippines' Social Protection Strategy. Further, topics under this theme aim to continuously strengthen its programs and services and push for necessary reforms in the Department through review and assessment of existing policies.

Evidence gathered through these topics would aid in the formulation of policies that will promote people-centered sustainable development by enhancing case management, social assistance and social safety nets interventions. Likewise, conduct of relevant policy studies as included in this theme would help enhance governance by harnessing whole-of-government and partnership approaches.

Some of the R&E topics under this theme are:

Research:

- *Review of the DSWD SWD Index using Listahanan Indicators: An Alternative Approach to the Measurement of Beneficiaries' Well-Being*
- *Comparative Analysis of Socio-economic Characteristics of 4Ps Households across Data Sources: Validation of Listahanan and 4Ps Administrative Data*
- *Cost-effectiveness Analysis of Basic Income Grant: A Simulation Approach towards Universal Social Protection*
- *Establishing the Philippines' Social Protection Strategy for the Near-poor Households*
- *Review of the Gains, Challenges, and Lessons in the Philippine Social Welfare System*

Evaluation

- *Assessment of the Implementation of the 4Ps KILOS UNLAD Social Case Management Strategy*
- *Evaluation of the Indigenous Peoples Participation Framework*

THEMATIC AREA 4: Immediate Disaster Response and Early Recovery Ensured

The DSWD is expected to be at the forefront of any disaster response attending to the immediate relief and early recovery needs of the disaster victims. This thematic area will directly address this important function of the DSWD. As the frequency and severity of disasters continue to rise in the Philippines, it is important to evaluate how the Department manages disaster response at different levels. The evaluation topics in this thematic area, will seek to consolidate past experiences of the department with a view to improve disaster response management and procedures at the national and regional levels.
The evaluation topics under this theme are:

Evaluation:

- *Process Evaluation of Disaster Response and Management Programs*
- *Process Evaluation of DSWD Regional Response Operation Centers*

THEMATIC AREA 5: Social Welfare Development Agencies Compliant with SWD Standards

This thematic area corresponds to the regulatory function of the DSWD in terms of ensuring that SWD programs and services in the public and private sectors comply with the national policies and standards while adhering to the principles of human rights. Part of this function is related to registration and licensing of SWDAs and accreditation of SWD programs and services.

The identified research topics here will review the accreditation of residential care facilities and community-based services. Meanwhile, the evaluation topic will look at best practices and lessons learned from residential care facilities identified as centers of excellence. An evaluation will specifically look at the quality-of-care services and programs for sexually abused children

The R&E topics under this theme are:
Research:

- *Review of the Accreditation of Residential Care Facilities*
- *Review of the Accreditation of SWD Community-Based Services*

Evaluation:

- *Evaluation of Centers and Residential Care Facilities Identified as Centers of Excellence*
- *Evaluation of programs and services for sexually abused children*

The **DSWD priority list of R&E topics for 2023-2028** classified into five (5) thematic areas, categorized as research or evaluation, with the responsible CO-OBS, and the tentative timeline, is presented in the below table.

The R&E topics initiated by the STB are not included in this priority list of R&E topic following the *DSWD MC. 9 series of 2018* indicating that "Studies led by the STB that are part of the social technology development process shall not be covered by the review protocols and Agenda, and these shall be undertaken based on the existing policy on social technology development" (AO 14, S. 2018).

The analysis of the entries follows at the bottom of the table.

Table 4. DSWD's Priority Research and Evaluation Topics for 2023-2028

Item	Research and Evaluation Topic	Responsible CO-OBSU	Timeline
THEMATIC AREA 1: Improved Delivery of National Social Protection and SWD Programs			
RESEARCH			
1	Exploring Possible Additional Modalities of the SLP to the LGUs in a Devolved Setup	SLP	2023
2	Comparative Analysis of the Livelihood Progression of Sustainable Livelihood Participants Across Income Group	SLP	2028
EVALUATION			
3	Impact Evaluation of the 4Ps [1]	4Ps	2024
4	Performance Evaluation of 4Ps After the Enactment of Republic Act 11310	4Ps	2023-2024
5	Impact Evaluation of the SLP Interventions to its Program Participants	SLP	2024
6	Evaluation of the Effectiveness of Partnership Engagement to the SLP Participants.	SLP	2023
7	Evaluation of the Implementation of DSWD's AICS Program	PMB	2025
8	Evaluation of the SFP of DSWD in Selected Communities and Day Care Centers	PMB	2024
9	Process Evaluation of Alternative Family Care Program	PMB	2027

[1] by virtue of R.A. 11310, PIDS is mandated to conduct the Impact Evaluation of the 4Ps and that the 4Ps-NPMO shall be monitoring its conduct and completion

Table 4. DSWD's Priority Research and Evaluation Topics for 2023-2028			
Item	**Research and Evaluation Topic**	**Responsible CO-OBSU**	**Timeline**
10	Assessment of the Senior Citizens' Access to DSWD Social Protection Programs During the COVID-19 Pandemic	PDPB	2023
11	Process Evaluation of the Recovery and Reintegration Program for Trafficked Persons	PMB	2028
12	Assessment of the Community Organizing and Community Development Approaches in Implementing the DSWD's Specialized Programs	KC	2027
13	Performance--Evaluation of the of KALAHI-CIDDS National Community-Driven Development Program's Additional Financing	KC	2025
14	Process--Evaluation of Bangsamoro Umpungan sa Nutrisyon (BangUN) Project	BangUN	2026
15	Impact Evaluation of the International Social Welfare Services to Filipino Nationals	ISSO	2025
THEMATIC AREA 2: Strengthened Capacity of LGUs to Deliver Social Protection and Social Welfare and Development Programs			
RESEARCH			
16	Review of Indigency Parameters Used by the LGUs in the Philippines	PDPB	2024
EVALUATION			
17	Process Evaluation of the Provision of DSWD's Technical Assistance to LGUs	SWIDB PMB	2025
18	Evaluation of DSWD's Devolved Programs and Functions in Selected LGUs	SWIDB PMB	2024
19	Assessment of the Budget Allocation and Utilization for Basic Social Employed by LGUs	SWIDB PMB	2025
20	Evaluation of Social Protection Mainstreaming to LGUs	PDPB	2024
THEMATIC AREA 3: Enabling Laws and Policies Relevant to Social Protection and SWD Programs			
Item	**Research and Evaluation Topic**	**Responsible CO-OBS**	**Timeline**
RESEARCH			
21	Systematic Review of the Labor Market Interventions of Different NGAs	PDPB	2024
22	Assessment on the Different Modes of Provision of Government Subsidy to Beneficiaries	FMS 4Ps KC SLP PMB STB	2025
23	Baseline Study on the Socio-Economic Characteristics of Social Protection Beneficiaries	PDPB	2026

Table 4. DSWD's Priority Research and Evaluation Topics for 2023-2028			
Item	**Research and Evaluation Topic**	**Responsible CO-OBSU**	**Timeline**
24	Assessment of the Breadth and Depth of DSWD Social Assistance and Safety Nets Programs and Services	PDPB	2025
25	Contribution Analysis of the Impact of DSWD's Social Protection Programs in Poverty Reduction	PDPB	2026
26	Review of the DSWD SWD Index using Listahanan Indicators: An Alternative Approach to the Measurement of Beneficiaries' Well-Being	4Ps	2024
27	Comparative Analysis of Socio-economic Characteristics of 4Ps Households across Data Sources: Validation of Listahanan and 4Ps Administrative Data	4Ps	2028
28	Cost-effectiveness Analysis of Basic Income Grant: A Simulation Approach towards Universal Social Protection	PDPB	2026
29	Establishing the Philippines' Social Protection Strategy for the Near-poor Households	PDPB	2023
30	Review of the Gains, Challenges, and Lessons in the Philippine Social Welfare System	PDPB	2025
31	Caring for Carers: Exploring the Psychosocial Wellbeing of DSWD's Frontline Personnel	HRMDS	2025
32	Evaluation of the Implementation of the Solo Parents Act of 2022	PMB STB PDPB	2027
EVALUATION			
33	Assessment of the Implementation of the 4Ps KILOS UNLAD Social Case Management Strategy	4Ps	2026
34	Evaluation of the Indigenous Peoples Participation Framework	PDPB 4Ps KC SLP PMB STB	2027
THEMATIC AREA 4: Immediate Disaster Response and Early Recovery Ensured			
Item	**Research and Evaluation Topic**	**Responsible CO-OBS**	**Timeline**
EVALUATION			
35	Process Evaluation of Disaster Response and Management Programs	DRMB	2024
36	Process Evaluation of DSWD Regional Response Operation Centers	NRLMB	2024
THEMATIC AREA 5: Social Welfare Development Agencies are compliant with SWD Standards			
Item	**Research and Evaluation Topic**	**Responsible CO-OBS**	**Timeline**
RESEARCH			
37	Review of the Accreditation of Residential Care Facilities	PMB, SB	2024
38	Review of the Accreditation of SWD Community-Based Services	PMB, SB	2026

Table 4. DSWD's Priority Research and Evaluation Topics for 2023-2028			
Item	**Research and Evaluation Topic**	**Responsible CO-OBSU**	**Timeline**
EVALUATION			
39	Evaluation of Centers and Residential Care Facilities Identified as Centers of Excellence	PMB, SB	2024
40	Evaluation of programs and services for sexually abused children.	PMB	2026

Description of the priority list of R&E topics for 2023-2028

1. The series of consultations conducted by the PDPB-RED with internal and external stakeholders in the last three months of 2022 resulted in a total of 40 priority R&E topics for its DSWD R&E Agenda for 2023-2028.

2. These R&E topics were distributed across the five (5) pre-identified thematic areas. There were thirteen evaluation topics identified for Thematic Area 2 on "strengthening the capacity of LGUs in delivering social protection and SWD services". A total of twelve research topics were identified for Thematic Area 3 on "enabling laws and policies relevant to social protection and SWD programs". There were four evaluation topics identified for Thematic Area 1 on "improved delivery of national social protection and SWD programs". There were at least two R&E topics classified under the two other Thematic areas. This good balance of R&E across the thematic areas rightfully reflects the focus and mandate of the DSWD.

3. The table below shows the distribution of R&E topic by thematic areas.

Table 5. Distribution of R&E Topics by Thematic Area

THEMATIC AREAS	RESEARCH TOPICS	EVALUATION TOPICS
1. Improved Delivery of National Social Protection and SWD Programs	1	4
2. Strengthened Capacity of LGUs to Deliver Social Protection and SWD Programs	2	13
3. Enabling Laws and Policies Relevant to Social Protection and SWD Programs	12	2
4. Immediate Disaster Response and Early Recovery Ensured	0	2
5. Social Welfare Development Agencies are compliant with SWD Standards	2	2
TOTAL	**17**	**23**

4. The table below shows the distribution of R&E topics by responsible CO-OBS.

Table 6. Distribution of R&E Topics by Responsible CO-OBS

DSWD CO-OBS	RESEARCH TOPICS	EVALUATION TOPICS
4Ps	3	2
BangUN	1	-
DRMB	1	-
HRMDS	-	1
ISSO	1	-
KC	2	-
NRLMB	1	-
PDPB	2	8
PMB	5	-
SLP	2	2
PDPB 4Ps KC SLP PMB STB	1	-
FMS 4Ps KC SLP PMB STB	-	1
PMB STB PDPB	-	1
SWIDB PMB	3	-
PMB SB	1	2
Grand Total	**23**	**17**

5. In terms of timeline, there will be four research and two evaluations scheduled for the first year of the R&E Agenda, i.e., 2023. The largest number of R&E activities is expected to materialize in 2024 where there will be eight evaluations and four research. An average of five R&Es will be happening yearly from 2026 to 2028. Notably, there will only be 2 research and 1 evaluation planned in 2028.

Table 7. Distribution of R&E Topics by Year

CALENDAR YEAR	RESEARCH	EVALUATION
2023	2	3
2024	4	8
2025	4	5
2026	4	3
2027	1	3
2028	2	1
TOTAL	**17**	**23**

* The Impact Evaluation of 4Ps will be conducted twice, i.e., 2024 and 2027

J. IMPLEMENTATION AND INSTITUTIONAL ARRANGEMENTS

1. IMPLEMENTATION

Selection of topics and schedules. The topics identified in the R&E Agenda shall be prioritized by the OBSUs, FOs, SAs and AAs in its R&E activities. Third party evaluators and researchers shall also be guided by the Agenda. To ensure that the R&E Agenda shall be followed, all OBSUs, FOs, AAs, and other researchers and evaluators shall coordinate all R&E activities to be conducted with the PDPB for appropriate review. Other R&E topics that are not included in the Agenda may still be conducted as long as there is sufficient time and funds. Newly proposed topics should also be assessed using the same criteria and rating scales.

Funding. The PDPB shall include in its annual Work and Financial Plan (WFP) a budget for (i) policy-related research to ensure that at least one (1) Central Office initiated research is implemented per year, and (ii) evaluation studies assigned to the Bureau scheduled to be conducted within the specified time period as indicated in the Department's Agenda. Likewise, an amount of PhP 300,000.00 for each FO who will request for fund augmentation will be allocated and included in PDPB Annual WFP. The request of FOs shall be made prior to the preparation of the WFP, as this will be the basis of the PDPB for fund allocation. In cases where the proposed research has funding requirements exceeding PhP 300,000.00, the FO shall augment additional fund. Moreover, appropriate budget allocations required to ensure the conduct of the various R&E strategies of the Department (e.g., capacity building initiatives, advocacy and dissemination activities such as but not limited to the annual conduct of conferences and publication of journals, and other incentive mechanisms) shall be included in the Bureau's WFP.

The DSWD Field Offices and CO-OBS shall allocate adequate funds for the conduct of R&E studies every year, as provided for by the NEPF, especially those implementing core social protection programs. Said budget shall be reflected in their respective WFP. Further, the FOs and other OBS can also generate funds from external sources for the conduct of their own R&E priorities in accordance with the existing budgeting, accounting and auditing rules.

Likewise, PDPB shall also allocate a certain amount in its WFP for the conduct of particular research. OBSUs/FOs who may be proponents of research shall also allocate certain amounts in their WFP. PDPB shall also work closely with the Resource Generation and Management Office (RGMO) regarding resource generation by tapping other sources of funds such as foreign-assisted projects and international and local funding organizations, to ensure that adequate funding is available for R&E-related

activities. Likewise, RGMO shall also ensure well-coordinated grant programs and conduct close monitoring and evaluation of on-going activities related to such projects.

Ethical Standards and Impartiality. The implementers of this agenda shall be sensitive to the cultural, social and economic environment of all stakeholders, particularly those under study, and conduct themselves in a manner that is fair and appropriate to the environment. The DSWD Research Ethics Committee (REC) shall act as the overall ethics approving and clearing body for all R&E studies conducted by the Department. It shall at all times act in the full interest of potential research participants and affected communities and consider the welfare and needs of persons involved in the studies, while having due regard for the requirements of relevant regulatory agencies (e.g., PNHRS-PHREB, DOH-FDA, CHED, NCIP, etc.) and Philippine laws and policies, especially those concerning vulnerable groups (e.g. women, children, elderly, indigenous peoples, persons with disabilities). Furthermore, it is the responsibility of the Department to ensure that studies are conducted with the highest possible degree of impartiality in order to maximize objectivity and minimize the potential for bias. In some cases, it may be appropriate to commission an independent third-party evaluator/researcher to undertake portions of, or the entire, research or evaluation.

2. INSTITUTIONAL ARRANGEMENTS

The Policy Development & Planning Bureau shall take the lead role in the implementation of these Agenda and carry out the following tasks:

1. Spearhead the formulation of the DSWD R&E Agenda, and in particular, prepare the draft agenda and organize the required consultation activities with OBS and partners;
2. Ensure the approval and issuance of the DSWD R&E Agenda;
3. Organize, in partnership with the Social Welfare Institutional Development Bureau (SWIDB) and Social Marketing Service (SMS), the necessary public conferences or fora such as for the dissemination of the R&E Agenda, as well as the findings for completed R&E;
4. Lead the conduct of R&E studies on topics relevant to the measurement of the organizational outcomes and outputs, as well as for special programs and projects, and provide necessary technical assistance to FOs and OBSUs, especially those without dedicated Research and monitoring and evaluation Teams;
5. Guide the Department in the utilization and adoption of findings for decision-making and program improvement, including the development of positions on certain issues, as well as in the formulation and/or amendment of a particular legislation or policy, among others.

The Policy & Plans Division (PPD) through the Policy Development and Planning Section (PDPS) shall take the lead role in the implementation of these Agenda at the Field Office. The PDPS shall then carry out the following tasks:

1. Participate in the development of the DSWD R&E Agenda and spearhead the cascading of the same to its respective region;
2. Lead the conduct of R&E at the Field Office level;
3. In partnership with the Capacity Building Section and Social Marketing Section, shall organize regional research and evaluation conferences and fora in line with the promotion of research and evaluation in the FO;

OBSUs/Attached Agencies / Supervised Agencies / Other Sections and Units within the Field Office, including Centers and Institutions, shall partake in the implementation of this Agenda, and in particular, it shall:

1. Participate in the formulation of the R&E agenda, specifically in the identification of the proposed topics and areas, among others;
2. Conduct R&E studies, and engage with partners if deemed appropriate, in close coordination with the PDPB, based on the provisions prescribed in this policy;
3. Partake in the development and implementation of other R&E initiated by OBS especially those that concern them or their stakeholders;

National R&E -TWG, shall oversee and provide advisory role to all priority, Department-wide, and Department-funded and initiated R&E, and shall carry out the following tasks:

1. Partake in the development and implementation of the Department's R&E Agenda;
2. Participate in the review process of R&E proposals and reports for onward submission to the Management;
3. May act as implementers or co-implementers in the conduct of R&E to be undertaken by the respective CO-OBS;
4. Ensure that the proposed R&E would incorporate security of private data in relation to Data Privacy Act and would conform with the DSWD Data Privacy Protocol;
5. Attend regular and special meetings and actively participate in the TWG initiatives.

Regional R&E -TWG, shall oversee and provide advisory role to all priority, region-wide and FO- funded and initiated R&E and in particular, it shall:

1. Partake in the development and implementation of the Department's R&E Agenda, as well as in the cascading of the Agenda at the regional level;
2. Participate in the review process of research and evaluation proposals and reports for endorsement to the Regional Director;
3. Ensure that the proposed R&E would incorporate security of private data in relation to Data Privacy Act and would conform with the DSWD Data Privacy Protocol;
4. Attend regular and special meetings and actively participate in the Regional R&E-TWG initiatives.

Research Ethics Committee, shall act as the overall ethics approving and clearing body for all R&E studies conducted by the Department, and in particular, it shall:

1. Review ethical acceptability of all R&E studies involving human participants, which are conducted by DSWD Offices, Bureaus, Sections and Units;
2. Ensure that the proposed R&E is responsive to the priorities as well as the emerging concerns of the Department and the sectors it serves, as stipulated in this DSWD R&E Agenda;
3. Issue ethical clearance required for the implementation of the study once the research is found scientifically and ethically sound based on criteria set by Section VIII of the DSWD R&E Policy (MC 9, s. 2019)".

Social Marketing Service (SMS) and its regional counterpart shall help in the dissemination of the R&E agenda including R&E findings, and in particular, it shall:

1. Organize in partnership with the PDPB or FO-PPD, relevant conferences and fora for the dissemination of the R&E agenda including R&E findings. This may include but not limited to providing assistance in terms of event management, overall packaging of the event, and media assistance as necessary; and
2. Assist the PDPB or FO-PPD in the development of appropriate communication materials related to R&E, as well as in the packaging of the R&E reports (e.g., electronic and print copies) being disseminated to stakeholders.

K. R&E PLANS, COSTING, AND EVALUABILITY ASSESSMENT OF SELECTED R&E TOPICS FOR 2023

This section presents the R&E Plans, Costing, and Evaluability Assessment of the R&E topics scheduled for implementation in 2023. A similar exercise will be done annually to prepare for the R&E topics planned for the following year. In general, these three activities are required to ensure the efficient implementation the R&E Agenda of the Department year by year.

The "R&E Research Plan" provides guidance through each step of the way towards the completion of the R&E topic. It clarifies the object of the R&E, the purpose and objectives, methodology, scope and coverage, R&E criteria and tailored questions, timelines and other administrative requirements.

"R&E Costing" estimates the cost of conducting an R&E for all the phases and components of the R&E activity that would require fees, payments, or expenses, such as professional fees, travel expenses, stipends, cost of meetings, communication, printing, etc.

The "Evaluability Assessment" of the planned R&E topic is an important stage as it determines the extent to which the object of evaluation can be evaluated in a reliable and credible manner and whether an evaluation will provide timely and sound information for decision-making.

The three R&E topics scheduled for 2023 are:

1. Performance Evaluation of the 4Ps after the Enactment of R.A. 11310.
2. Assessment of Senior Citizens' Access to DSWD Social Protection Programs and Services During the COVID-19 Pandemic
3. Evaluation on the Effectiveness of Partnership Engagement to SLP Participants

The following narratives describe the evaluation plans, costing, and evaluability assessment of each of the above three (3) evaluation topics. The presented R&E Plans, costing, and evaluability assessments of the three R&E topics for 2023 were crafted and submitted by the concerned OBSUs, namely – 4Ps NPMO, SLP NPMO, and PDPB.

1. **R&E Title:** Performance Evaluation of the "4Ps " After the Enactment of R.A. 11310

1.1 Evaluation Plan

Provisional Title of the R&E	Performance Evaluation of the 4Ps after the Enactment of R.A. 11310
Objects of the R&E	4Ps
Type of R&E	Process Evaluation
Purpose of the R&E	Since its full inception in 2008, there have been a number of assessments both summative and formative undertaken to evaluate the 4Ps. The Program has conducted three waves of Impact Evaluation with findings officially released in 2012, 2014, and 2020. It also conducts an annual spot check, a rapid monitoring and evaluation activity that seeks to determine the quality, effectiveness and efficiency of program implementation. 4Ps has been institutionalized through the enactment of RA 11310 in 2019. With this important milestone, it is deemed relevant and timely to conduct an assessment that will focus on the enabling mechanism for the programs' implementation as provided for by the newly enacted law. Further, the focus on program implementation is important as it will take into account the coverage, results and recommended actions from previous evaluations. Conducting a performance evaluation of the program will help inform the program managers and implementers of concerns that need to be addressed in order to further improve the implementation of the 4Ps, especially now that the poor households are expected to stay in the Program for a maximum of seven (7) years unless recommended by the National Advisory Council (NAC) for a longer period. It will also help address some of the identified recommendations from the latest Impact Evaluation report. Further, this evaluation is also envisioned to be able to propose inputs to the current design of 4Ps. The primary users of the results of this evaluation are the managers, key implementers and legislators. The secondary users are the community leaders, the academe, research, and other stakeholders who are interested in pursuing further knowledge on 4Ps.
Objectives of the R&E	The general objective of this evaluation is to assess the program's implementation in terms of the following enabling mechanisms before and after the enactment of RA 11310:

	• Legislation and supporting policies: Implementing Rules and Regulations, Administrative Orders, Memorandum Circular etc. that were released upon the enactment of RA 11310. • Structure: DSWD Organizational Structure and human resource complement for the implementation of 4Ps by the National Program Management Office and the Regional Program Management Office • Budget: General Appropriation Act (GAA) • Interagency support as mandated in RA 11310 a. Department of Education (DepEd) b. Department of Health (DOH) c. Department of Agriculture (DA) d. Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE) e. Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) f. Department of Agrarian Reform (DAR) g. Department of Science and Technology (DOST) h. Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (TESDA) i. LGUs (thru MOA/SIA) • Monitoring and Evaluation component This evaluation will also endeavor to provide recommendations to the current design of the 4Ps.
Evaluation Criteria	• Relevance • Effectiveness • Efficiency • Coherence • Sustainability • Equity
Scope and Coverage	This evaluation will assess the 4Ps implementation across 17 regions in the Philippines before and after the enactment of RA 11310. The program will be assessed in terms of its enabling mechanisms as stipulated in RA 11310. It will cover the analysis of data from the program managers/key implementers and the beneficiaries of the program. Specifically, this evaluation will cover information coming from the members of the National Technical Working Group composed of the National Advisory Council members-agencies and other key agencies of convergence as enumerated under Section 49 (b) of the 4Ps IRR; LGUs coursed through the Department of Interior and Local Government (DILG); non-governmental organizations and Civil Society organizations partnered in the program; DSWD program managers, implementers and key staff; and a sample of program beneficiaries.
Tailored R&E Questions	*Relevance* • Does the program address poverty in the Philippines? If yes, how and to what extent?

	• Is 4Ps an appropriate program intervention in poverty reduction in the Philippines? *Effectiveness* • Is the current design of the program an enabling factor to achieving its intended results? *Efficiency* • How is the program being implemented? Is it implemented as it was designed? Are all activities being implemented as intended? If not, why? • Are the enabling mechanisms provided for in RA 11310 being implemented as stipulated? Are there gaps? • Are there gaps in the provision and flow of program inputs? • Does the program have a sufficient budget allocation to fulfill its mandated coverage and activities? • Is the organizational structure and human resource complement of the Program responsive and sufficient to fulfill its mandate and activities efficiently and effectively? • Does the program have a sound monitoring and evaluation component? *Equity* • Are there enabling mechanisms provided for in RA 11310 to make the program available and accessible to poor households in rural areas (e.g., Indigenous Peoples (IP) beneficiaries in geographically isolated and disadvantaged areas is) in the same manner as they are in urban areas? *Coherence* • Are there programs in the Philippines that have similar objectives with that of the 4Ps? • To what extent is 4Ps coherent with other interventions which have similar or related objectives? • To what extent is 4Ps coherent with national and international targets on poverty? • To what extent is 4Ps coherent internally? *Sustainability* • Are there mechanisms in place to sustain the gains of the program in the lives of the beneficiaries? • Is the program responsive to unforeseen risks and vulnerabilities (i.e., disaster, pandemic, etc.)
Methodology	This evaluation will employ a mixed-method approach which will include both qualitative and quantitative methods. For the quantitative portion, the main data collection method will be a survey; while for the qualitative part, key informant interviews, case studies, and focus group discussions, extensive document reviews among others will be undertaken. In summary: This evaluation will cover the analysis of data and information coming from the members of the National Technical Working Group composed of the National Advisory Council members-agencies and other key

	agencies of convergence as enumerated under Section 49 (b) of the 4Ps IRR; LGUs coursed through the DILG; NGOs and CSOs partnered in the program; DSWD program managers, implementers and key staff; and a sample of program beneficiaries. Thus, respondents will be the different stakeholders as follows: a. Program Managers (with representation from the NPMO and RPMO) b. Implementers and key staff (with representation from the NPMO, RPMO, Provincial Operations Office and City/ Municipal Operations Office) c. Implementers and key staff from implementing partners - school facilities, health facilities, Land Bank servicing branch d. Representatives from the National Advisory Council: 1. Department of Education (DepEd) 2. Department of Health (DOH) 3. Department of Agriculture (DA) 4. Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE) 5. Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) 6. Department of Agrarian Reform (DAR) 7. Department of Science and Technology (DOST) 8. Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (TESDA) e. Representative from each of the Regional Advisory Councils f. Representative from selected Provincial Advisory Councils g. Representative from selected Municipal Advisory Councils h. Representatives from selected LGUs (including Local Chief Executives) i. Representatives from other organizations that partnered with the program j. Randomly selected sample of beneficiaries per region This evaluation will be implemented by an external consultant that will be contracted by the DSWD through GOP funding (GAA). The engagement will involve conceptualization, sampling, the conduct of data collection and analysis, report writing, and presentation of findings. The scope of the evaluation will be nationwide. Sampling design and estimates of sample size and power calculations for the quantitative and qualitative assessment shall be finalized by the consultant in consultation with and approval of the DSWD prior to the conduct of pre-testing of data collection tools.
Projected Time Frame	The evaluation will be conducted for a duration of 46 weeks. It will commence right after the issuance of the Notice to Proceed (NTP) and the conduct of inception/on-boarding meeting. ***Target date (per Activity Proposal) : January to November 2023
Lead and support agencies	DSWD - 4Ps NPMO, Planning Monitoring and Evaluation Division; PDPB
Estimated Cost	DSWD shall pay the Consultant the amount of Ten Million Sixty-Six Thousand Nine Hundred Eighty pesos (PhP 10,066,980.00) for the

	services rendered - upon acceptance and approval of the agreed deliverables stipulated in this Terms of Reference (TOR).
Source of budget	The whole contract amount is chargeable against FY 2023 GAA Appropriation of the Pantawid Monitoring and Evaluation Fund as included in its FY 2023 Work and Financial Plan.
Desired Evaluator	The Service Provider shall have the following qualifications: ▪ Minimum of 10 years' experience in the conduct of quantitative and qualitative analysis in the context of program evaluation studies (large-scale studies), including surveys covering at least 1500 households; preferably with a strong background in public policy and social protection programs in the Philippines and/or countries with a similar socioeconomic context; ▪ Has key personnel with doctoral/master's degree in any of the following fields: economics, demography, statistics, development studies, social work, sociology, social welfare policy, and other related social sciences; ▪ Has key personnel with at least five (5) years of experience and/or strong background in the development and implementation of program evaluation designs, sampling, and quantitative and qualitative methodology; ▪ Has key personnel with technical expertise in the management, validation, and analysis of data using statistical software such as SPSS and Stata, among others; ▪ Has key personnel with background and experience in the planning and implementation of large-scale studies and has experience in training field researchers and data collection supervision; and ▪ Has enough key personnel and support staff who can devote time for the duration of the research engagement.

1.2 Costing of the Evaluation

Project Title: Performance Evaluation of the 4Ps After the Enactment of R.A. 11310

1.2.1 Summary of Budgetary Requirements

This evaluation will be implemented by an external institution that will be contracted by the DSWD through GOP funding. The engagement will involve conceptualization, sampling, conduct of data collection and analysis, report writing and presentation of findings of the study.

DSWD shall pay the Consultant the amount of Ten Million Sixty-Six Thousand Nine Hundred Eighty pesos (PhP 10,066,980.00) for the services rendered and upon compliance with the agreed deliverables stipulated in the Terms of Reference (TOR). The whole contract amount is chargeable against FY 2023 GAA of the 4Ps Monitoring and Evaluation Fund, incorporated in its FY 2023 WFP. The amount due to the consultant shall be inclusive of appropriate taxes, board and lodging, travel expenses, and other operational and incidental expenses arising from this engagement (Please refer to the detailed budget

breakdown). Payment shall be made in five (5) tranches upon acceptance by the DSWD of the various reports and deliverables.

Particulars	Cost
Remuneration of Personnel (Professional Fees for Key Experts and Field Personnel)	PhP 4,350,000.00
Evaluation Implementation and Data Collection Costs (Transportation, training cost, living allowances, printing, etc.)	PhP 3,797,150.00
Dissemination costs (Publication and Dissemination)	PhP 242,000.00
Tax (20%)	PhP 1,677,830.00
TOTAL	PhP 10,066,980.00

1.2.2 Detailed Budget/Cost Estimate

A: Remuneration of Personnel		**# days/ months**	**Rate**	**Total cost**
Professional fees	Principal Investigator 1	12 months	Php150,000 X 25% LOE	PhP 450,000
	Principal Investigator 2	12 months	Php150,000 X 25% LOE	PhP 450,000
	Principal Investigator 3	12 months	Php150,000 X 25% LOE	PhP 450,000
	Research Associate 1	12 months	Php100,000 X 85% LOE	PhP 1,020,000
	Research Associate 2	12 months	Php100,000 X 85% LOE	PhP 1,020,000
	Research Assistant 1	12 months	Php50,000 X 80% LOE	PhP 480,000
	Research Assistant 2	12 months	Php50,000 X 80% LOE	PhP 480,000
TOTAL A:				**PhP 4,350,000**

B: Evaluation Implementation and Data Collection costs		**QTY/UNIT**	**Cost**	**Total**
Conceptualization and Questionnaire Development	Representation and Transportation	5 days x 3 pax	Php7,500	PhP 112,500
Travel Cost for Pre-	RT Airfare	2 pax	Php18,000	PhP 36,000

B: Evaluation Implementation and Data Collection costs		QTY/UNIT	Cost	Total
testing	Accommodation and meals	3 days x 2 pax	Php5,000	PhP 30,000
	Local transportation	2 days x 1 vehicle	Php5,000	PhP 10,000
Training of Enumerators Travel Cost for Pilot Run of Training Manual	RT Airfare	2 pax	Php18,000	PhP 36,000
	Accommodation and Meals	3 days x 2 pax	Php5,000	PhP 30,000
	Local Transportation	2 days x 1 site	Php5,000	PhP 10,000
Focus Group Discussions	RT airfare of study team	4 trips x 3 pax (Luzon, Visayas, Mindanao)	Php18,000	PhP 216,000
	Accommodation and meals	3 days x 3 pax x 6 sites (2 sites/island group)	Php5,000	PhP 270,000
	Local Transportation	3 days x 6 sites	Php5,000	PhP 90,000
	Transportation Allowance of FGD Participants	10 pax x 8 FGDs	Php500	PhP 40,000
	FGD venue and meals	15 pax x 8 FGDs	Php750	PhP 90,000
	Materials for FGDs (metacards, Manila paper, sticker paper)	8 FGDs	Php500	PhP 4,000
Key Informant Interviews	Interview rate	50 pax	Php2,200	PhP 110,000
Survey	Interview rate	1000 pax	Php1,500	PhP 1,500,000
Write shop	Venue	3 days	Php15,000	PhP 45,000
	Accommodation and meals	3 days x 11 pax	Php5,000	PhP 165,000

B: Evaluation Implementation and Data Collection costs		QTY/UNIT	Cost	Total
	Transportation	3 days x 2 vehicles	Php5,000	PhP 20,000
Other costs	Operations cost			PhP 200,000
	Contingency Fund			PhP 20,000
	Management Cost	10% of the total cost		PhP 762,650
Total B:				**PhP 3,797,150**

C: Dissemination Costs		QTY/UNIT	Cost	Total cost
Dissemination Forum	At least 2 dissemination fora (public fora, presentation to Congress, and technical workshop			PhP 202,000
Publication	Report	Php40,000 for 50 pages x 400 copies	Php40,000	PhP 40,000
TOTAL C:				PhP 242,000

TAX (20%)	PhP 1,677,830.00
Total Evaluation Costs	PhP 10,066,980

1.3 Evaluability Assessment:

R&E Title: Performance Evaluation of the 4Ps after the Enactment of R.A. 11310

Parameters	Evaluability Assessment
1. **Programme Design:** (Determine whether the quality of the strategy/programme design allows for an evaluation. Review the TOC and "Results Framework". Examine the programme relevance and appropriateness.	

Parameters	Evaluability Assessment
▪ Does the programme clearly identify the problem and stakeholders (context analysis).	The programme clearly identifies the problem and stakeholders. The TOC and Results Framework of the Program is a result of a series of consultations and workshops among stakeholders. It was ensured that the results framework is aligned with the existing TOC back then. However, through the passage of time and with the enactment of the law, RA 11310 (An Act Institutionalizing the 4Ps) there have been program enhancements that were not captured in the previously created TOC. Hence, for this evaluation, review of TOC was made and the following revisions were proposed: a. Additional qualifier was added to the medium term outcome, from "utilization of government and social services" it was revised to "increased utilization of government social services. For the long-term outcome, from "beneficiaries' income, health, and disaster risk vulnerabilities", it was revised to "beneficiaries' income, health, and disaster risk vulnerabilities reduced". b. Additional hypotheses (IF-THEN statements) to the TOC the was added: i. IF they earn higher paying jobs. THEN their incomes increase, and they have greater chances of escaping poverty thus ending its intergenerational transfer ii. IF poor families are capacitated with life skills through FDS THEN they will have better chances in dealing with economic shocks such as disasters and pandemic iii. IF poor families are able to receive guidance through their stay in the Program, THEN they will attain a higher level of well-being (from survival to subsistence and to self-sufficiency). c. Additional overall IF-THEN Statement as a summary of all assumptions/theory of change narrative. "IF poor households with members who are 0-18 years old and/or pregnant women who are beneficiaries of 4Ps are compliant to the conditions of the Program (children are attending school; children and pregnant women visits the health center; pregnant women deliver in a health facility; and grantees attend the family development session etc.), THEN they will receive cash grants that will allow them to have additional financial resource for household

Parameters	Evaluability Assessment
	consumption, and support for the education and health needs of their children; be equipped with necessary life skills; and will have access to various government and social services, THEREBY ensuring that children are kept healthy and in school with better chances in the labor market in the succeeding years; and fostering more positive behaviors from among the members of the household beneficiaries (i.e. value in education, good health practices, good parenting, financial literacy, navigating through disaster and pandemic times) facilitating the transition of the poor households from mere subsistence to a more improved level of well-being (self-sufficiency) thus resulting in a lower incidence of poverty relative to the previous generation." d. In the original version of the TOC, the four pathways identified for the Pantawid household to be able to break the poverty cycle are following: (1) income augmentation through the cash grants; (2) education pathway; (3) health pathway; and (4) the social pathway through Family Development Sessions (FDS). In the proposed revision, Kilos Unlad (KU) is identified as an additional component to the fourth pathway, which is the social pathway. Its description is added in the discussion of the narrative. e. Pandemic was added as among the "Conditioning/Confounding Factors under Economic Shocks"
▪ Does the programme have a clear strategic intent and an explicit theory of change? Does it have a clear pathway to change?	Yes, but it needs updating given that there have been program enhancements that were not captured in the previously created TOC in the early phase of program implementation. Currently, the indicators that the evaluation intends to look into are aligned with the objectives of the Program, interest of the management, and responsiveness to the current situation among others. Also, pathways to change are clearly defined in the TOC. However, for this evaluation, proposed updating include the following: In the original version of the TOC, the four pathways identified for the Pantawid household to be able to break the poverty cycle are following: (1) income augmentation through the cash grants; (2) education pathway; (3) health pathway; and (4) the social pathway through Family Development Sessions (FDS). In the proposed revision, Kilos Unlad (KU) is identified as an additional component to the fourth

<table>
<tr><th>Parameters</th><th>Evaluability Assessment</th></tr>
<tr><td></td><td>pathway, which is the social pathway. Its description is added in the discussion of the narrative of TOC.</td></tr>
<tr><td>▪ Does the quality of the design of the Programme allow for an evaluation?</td><td>Yes. The program design defines the components that will allow for sound evaluation.</td></tr>
<tr><td>▪ Does the programme have clear expected results at various levels of the results chain?</td><td>Yes. Various components at outputs, outcomes and goal levels are identified and defined in the Results Framework. However, just like the TOC, the RF needs updating to account for the components that were not included in the crafting of the previous version.</td></tr>
<tr><td>▪ Does the programme articulate the levels of activities, financial resources, results and strategies?</td><td>Yes. The program has a Results Framework where outputs and corresponding activities are defined. These activities are reflected in the Work Financial Plan of 4Ps per fiscal year cycle.

In terms of financial resources, based on the table below, the budget for the Pantawid Program has an upward trend with 1.29B in 2008 to 106.8B in 2021.

<table>
<tr><th>YEAR</th><th>ANNUAL BUDGET (in PhP)</th></tr>
<tr><td>2008</td><td>1,297,100,000.00</td></tr>
<tr><td>2009</td><td>8,300,000,000.00</td></tr>
<tr><td>2010</td><td>10,000,000,000.00</td></tr>
<tr><td>2011</td><td>21,194,117,000.00</td></tr>
<tr><td>2012</td><td>39,444,651,000.00</td></tr>
<tr><td>2013</td><td>44,911,104,000.00</td></tr>
<tr><td>2014</td><td>62,614,247,000.00</td></tr>
<tr><td>2015</td><td>62,322,890,000.00</td></tr>
<tr><td>2016</td><td>62,665,628,000.00</td></tr>
<tr><td>2017</td><td>78,186,551,000.00</td></tr>
</table>
</td></tr>
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Parameters	Evaluability Assessment	
	2018	89,408,303,000.00
	2019	89,752,324,000.00
	2020	108,765,970,000.00
	2021	106,800,569,000.00
	TOTAL	785,663,454,000.00
2. Availability of Information: The availability and validity of "quality" of information; the extent to which data and monitoring systems produce accurate and verifiable measurement of results. (Examine programme accessibility and adequacy)		
▪ Does the programme have sufficient data and information on the intervention and the context?	Yes. The program has various administrative data and those that coming from 4Ps is easily provided upon entering into a Data Sharing Agreement. As regards to data from other agencies, there are instances wherein difficulty is experienced due to their own data sharing protocols. Also, there is sufficient data disaggregation for the assessment. Demographic and socio-economic profiles of the beneficiaries are available in the Program's database.	
▪ Does the programme have baseline information?	The baseline for this assessment or possible proxy could be established through the extensive desk review that is part of the design of this evaluation.	
▪ Does the programme have a monitoring system to gather and systematize information with defined responsibilities, resources and periodicity?	The 4Ps has a dedicated Planning Monitoring and Evaluation Division with three technical sections, Planning Section, Statistics Section and Research Section. The monitoring function of the program which includes gathering and administration of relevant administrative data is taken care of by the Statistics Section while the evaluation functions are taken care of by the Research Section. The 4Ps utilizes a database called Pantawid Pamilya Information System (PPIS) which would be the among the main source of data for the study. Administrative data that will be used will be accessed through the program's information system. Other source references for the study such as Legislation and supporting policies, Organizational Structure and human resource information is also available. Moreover, other data information collected will be from the beneficiaries, program	

Parameters	Evaluability Assessment
	managers, program implementers (field and central office), partner agencies (regional and national advisory council), and LGU's during the survey. Also, the program has conducted both summative (three waves of Impact Evaluation) and process evaluations (annual Spot Check).
▪ Does the programme have solid and measurable indicators?	Yes. The objectives of the program are clearly defined. This will allow crafting of measurable indicators that correspond for each program objective.
3. Conduciveness of the Context: Data and the conduciveness of the context. Would an evaluation be feasible, credible and useful? (Examine stakeholder involvement, resources, and capacity, and political context)	
▪ What is the level of stakeholder involvement, and their perspective on the programme?	Inputs are usually provided by various stakeholders particularly the management and program implementers. National Advisory Council (NAC) members may also be requested to provide inputs together with other stakeholders. The LGUs as among the partner implementers and the beneficiaries themselves are among the respondents.
▪ Does the programme have resources and capacities to undertake the evaluation (such as an adequate budget, time, technical knowledge?)	Yes. On Human Resources: With the intention that the project be fully outsourced, part of the minimum qualification for the consultant is for the consulting firm to have enough key personnel and support staff who are experts and technically adept and can devote time for the duration of the engagement. On the side of the DSWD, the 4Ps NPMO have Evaluation Specialists to manage the evaluation. The Policy Development and Planning Bureau (PDPB) shall serve as evaluation oversight. On Budget: Budget for the conduct of the evaluation study is submitted for approval of the Principals. Also, the Program has an allotted budget for the conduct of M&E activities where the funding for the process evaluation can be charged. The budget for the process evaluation will be included in the GAA. The DSWD through the 4Ps-NPMO has Evaluation Specialists to manage this study. The Consultant/winning bidder should have an adequate competent human resource to form the core Project Team and support teams to implement this evaluation.

Parameters	Evaluability Assessment
	On sufficiency of time for evaluation: The timeline allotted for the process evaluation is 12 months and details of which will be presented in the proposal that will be submitted. On availability of service providers: There are available service providers who can conduct the process evaluation. The 4Ps and/or DSWD have experienced working with several consultants conducting studies on the Program. Procurement for the study will be open for bidding.
▪ How conducive is the institutional and socio-political context (for example, is there an evaluation culture, groups of interest that could influence the independence of the evaluation, etc.) ▪ If the evaluation is done internally, what initiatives will be done to ensure objectivity and reduce subjectivity?	Since the full inception of the 4Ps in 2008, there have been a number of assessments both summative and formative undertaken to evaluate the 4Ps. The Program has conducted three waves of Impact Evaluation with findings officially released in 2012, 2014, and 2020. It also conducts an annual Spot Check, a rapid monitoring and evaluation activity that seeks to determine the quality, effectiveness and efficiency of program implementation. DSWD will engage an institution that will conduct the whole project in accordance to set government guidelines for a period of One (1) year to preclude any possible biases and conflict of interest in the study. Procurement will be done through a public bidding. Service providers or consultants will be invited to bid whether they have or no previous project engagement with the Department. The winning bidder/consultant will be guided and supported by the 4Ps National Program Management Office. The PDPB of DSWD shall also be involved as Evaluation Oversight, hence, the proposal shall also be routed to their office during the approval process. Experts from other institutions (academe and other research arms) shall be invited to be members of the panel of peer reviewers.
4. Accountability (Management Structure, monitoring, reporting, ownership and leadership)	
▪ Does the programme have a clear management structure?	Yes. There is a clear management structure for the program being a regular national program of the Department. It has a NPMO at the DSWD CO, composed of 12 Divisions, one of which is the Planning Monitoring and Evaluation Division which is responsible for the program's R&E. The NPMO has a counterpart RPMO at the regional level; Provincial Operations Office at the provincial level, and; Municipal

Parameters	Evaluability Assessment
	Operations Office at the municipal level. Other implementing mechanisms include the NAC.
▪ Do implementers and partners have responsibilities, accountability, and ownership of the programme?	Yes. With the enactment of the law, the program has also been identified as the national poverty reduction strategy and a human capital investment program which also embodies the provision to its beneficiaries of human development program which provides social protection, social assistance, social development and other complementary support services which shall be attained in partnership with concerned agencies, local government and other stakeholders towards improving the health and nutrition, education and socio-economic aspects. Thus, while the DWSD is the lead agency in the implementation of 4Ps, the attainment of its goal is not solely within the Department but through the convergence of different agencies. As provided for under Section 15 of the 4Ps Act, an Advisory Council shall be created at the regional and national levels to be headed by the DSWD. The regional advisory councils and National Advisory Council shall have, as members, representatives from the DSWD, Department of Health (DOH), Department of Education (DepEd), Department of Agriculture (DA), Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE), Department of Trade and Industry (DTI), Department of Agrarian Reform (DAR), Department of Science and Technology (DOST), and Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (TESDA). The regional advisory councils and NAC shall also have, as additional members, two (2) representatives from accredited Non-Governmental Organizations working or monitoring social welfare service programs.

Based on the above evaluability assessment, the "Performance Evaluation of the *4Ps* after the Enactment of R.A. 11310" is ready for evaluation.

2. **R&E Title:** Evaluation of Senior Citizens' Access to DSWD Social Protection Programs and Services During the Covid-19 Pandemic

2.1 Evaluation Plan

Provisional Title of the R&E	Assessment of Senior Citizens' Access to DSWD Social Protection Programs and Services During the Covid-19 Pandemic
Objects of the R&E	DSWD Social Protection Programs for Senior Citizens
Type of R&E	Program Evaluation
Purpose of the R&E	The purpose of this assessment is to further evaluate and provide an evidence-based account of the quality, effectiveness and efficiency of the implementation of social protection programs and services for senior citizens during the pandemic. The assessment generally aims to determine the senior citizens' access to DSWD Social Protection Programs during the COVID-19 Pandemic.
Objectives of the R&E	Specifically, it aims to: 1. Identify the challenges of senior citizens in accessing DSWD social protection programs in the time of pandemic. 2. Assess the responsiveness of the DSWD existing policies, designs and programs for senior citizens in times of pandemic. 3. Determine the factors in accessing DSWD social protection programs and services in times of pandemic. 4. Recommend strategies to address the gaps in the current DSWD policies and programs affecting social protection of senior citizens as basis for program, policy and implementation design adjustments.
Evaluation Criteria (If evaluation)	To determine accessibility, the following standard will be used: • Coverage • Eligibility • Affordability • Participation and information • Physical access
Scope and Coverage	The assessment will only be limited to the social protection programs and services for senior citizens that is being implemented by the Program Management Bureau (PMB) in Regions NCR, Calabarzon, VI, VIII, IX and XI (with the highest and lowest target and/or served from CY 2019 – 2021), representing two (2) regions per cluster (Luzon, Visayas, Mindanao). The following programs will be the focus of the assessment: 1. Social Pension for Indigent Senior Citizens 2. Centenarian Gift 3. Residential Care Facilities for Senior Citizens
Tailored R&E Questions	1. What are the challenges of senior citizens in accessing DSWD programs and services? Are the DSWD programs responsive to the needs of senior citizens in times of pandemic?

	2. What are the factors affecting the access of senior citizens during the pandemic? Are there existing national/local level initiatives that aimed to improve the access of senior citizens during the pandemic? 3. What are the emerging concerns/issues affecting senior citizens in times of pandemic? Is there an increase in reporting of abuses on senior citizens - domestic violence, crimes of persons and properties? 4. What are the corresponding policy recommendations to address the gaps in the implementation of DSWD policies and programs as well as emerging issues affecting the social protection of senior citizens?
Methodology	The assessment will employ a mixed method approach, both qualitative and quantitative, through document review, key informant interviews (KIIs), focus group discussion (FGDs), surveys, and few case studies. There will be a total of 660 survey to be conducted, 24 FGDs and 72 KIIs.
Projected Time Frame	The assessment will be conducted for eight months, from April 2023 to November 2023.
Lead and support agencies	DSWD 1. PDPB-RED 2. PMB 3. DSWD FOs NCR, Calabarzon, VI, VIII, IX and XI
Estimated Cost	Total: PhP 4,024,000.00 • PhP 1,024,000.00 (Available Budget from DSWD-PDPB Fund for CY 2023) • PhP 3,000,000.00 (To be outsourced)
Source of budget	DSWD-PDPB Fund for CY 2023 and Outsourced Fund (to be determined)
Desired Evaluator	With experience in conducting research for the government in a consultant capacity and knowledgeable on senior citizens' policies and social protection programs of the government.

2.2 Costing of the Evaluation

R&E Title: Evaluation of Senior Citizens' Access to DSWD Social Protection Programs and Services During the Covid-19 Pandemic

Estimated Cost Total: PhP 4,024,000.00 • PhP 1,024,000.00 (Available Budget from DSWD-PDPB Fund for CY 2023) • PhP 3,000,000.00 (To be outsourced)	
Particulars	Amount
Consultancy Package • Honorarium for the Sector Expert and Research Associate • Field Interviewers during the data collection • Transcriptionists/Translations, Encoding • Transportation Expenses Expected Output • Inception Report (Workplan, Approaches and Methodologies) • Data Collection Tools and Enumerations Manual • Data Gathering Activities (Desk Review, KIIs, Survey and FGDs) • Data Collection Progress Report with Final Electronic Data • Final Research Report Presentation of Findings	PhP 4,000,000.00
Consultation Meeting • 15 pax x 4 meeting @ PhP400.00 per meeting	PhP 24,000.00

2.3 Evaluability Assessment

R&E Title: Evaluation of Senior Citizens' Access to DSWD Social Protection Programs and Services During the Covid-19 Pandemic

Parameters	Evaluability Assessment
1. Programme Design:	
▪ Does the programme clearly identify the problem and stakeholders (context analysis)	Yes. The Philippines is identified as one of the countries with an ageing population, as the proportion of persons aged 60 and above is at 7.5 percent or 7,548,769 of the total population in 2015 and is projected to increase to 15.9 percent by 2045. This projected increase in the number of senior citizens entails greater support needed particularly along social protection programs for senior citizens. Though several social protection programs and services for senior Citizens were implemented, accessibility of senior citizens remains to be a concern, particularly during the pandemic. Necessary adjustments in the policies, processes, mechanism and implementation were employed, however, considering the vulnerabilities and challenges of availability and accessibility of social protection programs and measures for senior citizens, this study is most necessary, relevant and timely to further evaluate and provide and evidence-based account of the quality, effectiveness and efficiency of program implementation of the Department for senior citizens.
▪ Does the programme have a clear strategic intent and an explicit theory of change? Does it have a clear pathway to change? ▪ Does the quality of the design of the Programme allow for an evaluation?	▪ Yes. Existing policies and guidelines of the programs should consider the context of the pandemic.
▪ Does the programme have clear expected results at various levels of the results chain?	▪ Yes.
▪ Does the programme articulate the levels of activities, financial resources, results and strategies?	▪ Yes.

Parameters	Evaluability Assessment
2. Availability of Information: The availability and validity of "quality" of information; the extent to which data and monitoring systems produce accurate and verifiable measurement of results. (Examine programme accessibility and adequacy)	
▪ Does the programme have sufficient data and information on the intervention and the context?	▪ Yes. For residential care facilities, there are case folders of individual client being maintained by the Centers. For other programs, i.e., Social Pension for Indigent Senior Citizens and Centenarians Program, there is an offline version of the system for monitoring, but needs to be improved.
▪ Does the programme have baseline information?	▪ Yes, based on the regular report being submitted, but as to numbers only. Data with specific information will still be requested from the Field Offices.
▪ Does the programme have a monitoring system to gather and systematize information with define responsibilities, resources and periodicity?	▪ Yes, there is a regular monitoring of the accomplishment of the program. There is an information system maintained but an offline version.
▪ Does the programme have solid and measurable indicators?	▪ Yes, the program has means of verifications provided in the committed indicators in the HPMES which is aligned with the objectives of the program.
3. Conduciveness of the Context: Data and the conduciveness of the context. Would an evaluation be feasible, credible and useful? (Examine stakeholder involvement, resources, and capacity, and political context)	
▪ What is the level of stakeholder involvement, and their perspective on the programme?	▪ LGUs and Service Providers i.e., LandBank of the Philippines were partners in the implementation of the program.
▪ Does the programme have resources and capacities to undertake the evaluation (such as an adequate budget, time, technical knowledge?)	▪ There is an available budget amounting to PhP1,024,000.00, but is not adequate to conduct the study because during the market study, a minimum of PhP4,000,000.00 will be needed for this study.
▪ How conducive is the institutional and socio-political context (for example, is there an evaluation culture, groups of	▪ The Department has an established NRE-TWG to oversee and provide advisory role to all priority and initiated R&E as well as a PDPB-RED and even NPMOs have their research and evaluation unit, however, it is highly recommended that an external consultant be engaged for this study.

Parameters	Evaluability Assessment
interest that could influence the independence of the evaluation, etc.)? ▪ If the evaluation is done internally, what initiatives will be done to ensure objectivity and reduce subjectivity?	
4. Accountability (Management Structure, monitoring, reporting, ownership and leadership)	
▪ Does the programme have a clear management structure?	▪ Yes, there is a clear management structure for the program, considering that these programs were the regular programs of the Department along community-based and residential care facilities. One of which is considered as big tickets program of the Department, which usually ranks from 2nd to 3rd program with highest fund allocated per year.
▪ Do implementers and partners have responsibilities, accountability, and ownership of the programme?	▪ Yes, there are dedicated staff assigned to oversee the implementation of the program from the Central Office to Field Office. There is also an established partnership with key implementers at the local level, i.e., LGUs through the LSWDOs and Office for the Senior Citizens (OSCA).

Based on the above Evaluability Assessment, the "Evaluation of Senior Citizens' Access to DSWD Social Protection Programs and Services During the Covid-19 Pandemic" is ready for evaluation.

3. **R&E Title:** Evaluation of the Effectiveness of Partnership Engagement to SLP Participants

3.1 Evaluation Plan

Provisional Title of the R&E	Evaluation of the Effectiveness of Partnership Engagement to SLP Participants
Objects of the R&E	SLP of the DSWD
Type of R&E	Impact Evaluation
Purpose of the R&E	For over 10 years, the SLP of the DSWD has been engaging national and local partners to facilitate the provision of livelihood programs. With the changes brought about by the devolution of certain functions of the national government to the local government, it is deemed necessary to take a look into the partnership engagements of SLP both at national and local level. The program needs to determine the relevance, effectiveness, efficiency, sustainability, impact, and coherence of its partnership engagement particularly in terms of how partnerships are being forged and managed in order to provide sound program and policy recommendations to the LGUs in a devolved setup. The primary users of the evaluation are the DSWD Management for any of the possible programmatic or policy decisions emanating from the findings and recommendations of the evaluation.
Objectives of the R&E	The general objective of this evaluation is to evaluate the partnership engagements of SLP in terms of building and management process. Specifically, it aims to achieve the following: ▪ To evaluate the SLP partnership building and management process/model and resulting partnerships in terms of relevance, effectiveness, efficiency, sustainability, impact, and coherence; ▪ To identify the role of SLP in partnership building and management in a post devolution; and ▪ To provide policy and program recommendations to the LGUs in a devolved setup.
Evaluation Criteria	▪ Relevance ▪ Effectiveness ▪ Efficiency ▪ Coherence ▪ Sustainability

Scope and Coverage	The evaluation will cover the list of SLP partners with ongoing engagement as well as those with more than two (2) years of collaboration to obtain as much comprehensive information as possible. These partners should have provided assistance and intervention to SLP regular program participants.
Tailored R&E Questions	General Who are the partners that SLP engaged with (national to local level, public and private, etc.) from 2011 to present? What is the partnership process/model used by SLP in determining the program partners? *Relevance* ▪ Do partnerships' objectives and design respond to the needs of the program, beneficiaries and the community? ▪ How do the beneficiaries perceive the assistance from the partners? *Efficiency* ▪ How do SLP and its partners work and collaborate with each other? ▪ How well are resources accessed from partnerships utilized? *Effectiveness* ▪ Is the partnership successful in accomplishing its desired outcomes/outputs? ▪ What are the facilitating and hindering factors that contribute to the effectiveness or ineffectiveness of partnership building and management process? ▪ What are the recommendations in improving the SLP partnerships to ensure the effectiveness of its building and management process? *Coherence* ▪ How well do the partnerships fit with the other components of SLP? Sustainability ▪ How do the partnerships start and how are they sustained overtime? ▪ To what extent do the benefits continue after the completion of the partnerships?
Methodology	With the various number of research concepts and methodologies available to carry out the result of this study, a Consultant shall be hired to guide and assist the SLP in the development, administration and finalization of the study.
Projected Time Frame	▪ The evaluation study will be conducted as early as 1st quarter of the year 2023 with a nine-month period of engagement with the hired consultant. ▪ It will commence right after the issuance of the Notice to Proceed (NTP) and the conduct of inception/on-boarding meeting.
Lead and support agencies	▪ SLP NPMO ▪ Program Monitoring and Evaluation Section (PMES) ▪ Partnership Building Section (PBS)
Estimated Cost	The cost intended for this evaluation is for the hiring of a consultant for the duration of nine (9) months amounting to One Million Pesos (Php 1,000,000.00), inclusive of applicable taxes. It covers the professional fees and travel expenses during the actual conduct of data gathering, if applicable.

Source of budget	SLP GAA 2023 FUNDS
Desired Evaluator	The Consultant should meet the following qualifications: ▪ Holder of Doctorate/Master's Degree in Statistics, Economics, Social Science or other related fields, including but not limited to developmental studies, entrepreneurship, business, finance, etc.; ▪ Experienced in conducting and implementing R&E for the government (e.g., from NEDA, PIDS, Academe, etc.); ▪ Knowledgeable on partnership building and management process evaluation; ▪ Experienced in using qualitative and quantitative research methodologies (sampling, designing data gathering tools. conduct of FGDs and structured interviews), and in facilitating statistical analysis, and reporting; ▪ Experienced in the preparation, development, and conduct of assessment and evaluation pertaining to SWD; ▪ Has extensive experience in writing research reports/outputs; ▪ Knowledgeable with the SWD sector and research protocols; ▪ Has expertise in project management skills; ▪ Has excellent oral and written communication skills;

3.2 Costing of the Evaluation

The cost intended for this evaluation is for the hiring of a consultant for the duration of nine (9) months amounting to One Million Pesos (PhP 1,000,000.00), inclusive of applicable taxes. It covers the professional fees and travel expenses during the actual conduct of data gathering, if applicable.

3.3 Evaluability Assessment

R&E Title: Evaluation of the Effectiveness of Partnership Engagement to SLP Participants

Parameters	Evaluability Assessment
1. **Programme Design:** (The quality and adequacy of design; whether the quality of the strategy/programme design allows for an evaluation.) Look at Theory of Change/Results Framework (examine programme relevance and appropriateness)	
Does the programme clearly identify the **problem and stakeholders** (context analysis)?	Yes. The SLP has been engaging with partners for over 10 years of its implementation to support the program achieves its desired outcome in ensuring the sustainability of the livelihood/enterprises of its program participants. Unfortunately, the program has yet to conduct an impact evaluation to assess and evaluate, through an evidence-based understanding, the relevance, effectiveness, efficiency, sustainability, impact, and coherence of the partnership engagements and how these were able contribute to the reduction of vulnerabilities, increase in productivity and sustainability of SLP projects.
Does the programme have a clear strategic intent and an explicit **theory of change**? Does it have a clear pathway to change? Does the quality of the design of the Programme allow for an evaluation?	Yes. SLP has a TOC with an outcome objective "Participants have access to external resources through network linkages" which is a clear outcome indicator in terms of access to micro-insurance (micro-financial institutions), access to institutional markets, and engagement to public and private partners for their sustainability Thus, through this evaluation, SLP aims to assess the impact of partnership engagement (both public and private partners) to its intended participants and identify gaps to enhance the partnership building and management of the SLP.
Does the programme have **clear expected results at various levels** of the results chain?	Yes. Various components at the outcome and output levels are clearly identified and defined in the TOC including where the partnership engagement is attributed to.
Does the programme articulate the levels of **activities, financial resources, results and strategies**?	Yes. All levels of activities in the TOC are defined and strategized to ensure that the desired outcomes and impact are achieved. Thus, all program activities have a budget allocation reflected in the Annual WFP of the SLP.
2. **Availability of Information:** The availability and validity of "quality" of information; the extent to which data and monitoring systems produce accurate and verifiable measurement of results. (Examine programme accessibility and adequacy)	

Does the programme have **sufficient data and information on the intervention** and the context?	Yes. SLP secure and maintain various administrative data not just on the demographic/socio-economic profile of the program's beneficiaries and the intervention/s provided to them, but also data pertaining to the partners engaged throughout the course of time and/or currently collaborating with the program. This includes relevant data/information with supporting documents such as MOA/MOU/JMC/DSA with partners, accomplishment reports, and terminal reports being maintained by SLP NPMO. It can be available upon request but a bit scattered and needs to be organized
Does the programme have baseline information?	Yes. There is a baseline information on the list of partners and particular engagement with them but will also need intensive desk review.
Does the programme have a **monitoring system to gather and systematize information** with define responsibilities, resources and periodicity?	Yes. The SLP (both national and regional level) utilizes various information systems namely Offline Baseline System (OBS), Offline Monitoring and Assessment System (OMAS), LAG Information System, and SLP Referral Management System which were maintained and managed by the IT Unit of the Program Monitoring and Evaluation Section (PMES) to produce a monthly, quarterly, semester, and annual report. The big chunk of data to be used for the study will be coming from some of these information systems. Further, a separate quarterly monitoring in terms of accomplishment per partnership engagement has been maintained by the Partnership Building Section (PBS) of SLP using MS Office Excel. However, there is a need for alternative means of verification to support its existing documentation. Moreover, other sources of data will be collected from the beneficiaries, implementers, partners (both public and private), and/or LGUs during the conduct of survey, if applicable.
Does the programme have **solid and measurable indicators**?	Yes. The program has measurable indicators that correspond to the outcome and output objectives of the program.
3. Conduciveness of the Context: Data and the conduciveness of the context. Would an evaluation be feasible, credible and useful? (Examine stakeholder involvement, resources, and capacity, and political context)	
What is the **level of stakeholder involvement**, and their perspective on the programme?	The SLP NPMO will work closely with the RPMO (both management and program implementers) to conduct the evaluation study. The LGUs, being one of the partner implementers of the program, and the beneficiaries themselves are among the target respondents for the study.

	Partners (both the government and private sector) will also be requested to participate and provide inputs in the evaluation considering that the result of this evaluation will benefit the betterment of the partnership building and management of SLP.
Does the programme have **resources and capacities to undertake the evaluation** (such as an adequate budget, time, technical knowledge?)	Yes. The program allotted a budget for the conduct of M&E activities where the funding for this particular evaluation study, particularly in employing a technical expert, can be charged upon approval of the project proposal and terms of reference. A nine-month period of engagement with the technical consultant shall be allotted for this study which will be identified in the proposal to be submitted.
How conducive is the institutional and socio-political context (for example, is there an **evaluation culture, groups of interest that could influence the independence of the** evaluation, etc.)? If the evaluation is done internally, what initiatives will be done to ensure objectivity and reduce subjectivity?	There has been a number of R&E studies conducted and coordinated by SLP both in-house and with external researchers almost every year that seeks to determine the effectiveness and efficiency of program implementation. Due to the rising demand for R&E studies within the Department, it is highly recommended that an external consultant be engaged for the evaluation. Thus, SLP will engage a technical consultant throughout the whole duration to ensure that there will be no biases and conflicts of interest in the study. Following the set guidelines of DSWD on the procurement process, service providers or consultants will be invited for public bidding and the winning bidder will be assisted by the SLP NPMO.
4. Accountability (Management Structure, monitoring, reporting, ownership and leadership)	
Does the programme have a clear **management structure?**	Yes. There is a clear management structure for the program considering that SLP is one of the regular programs of the Department. Administrative Order No. 1 series of 2019 provides the management structure of the SLP NPMO under the Specialized Program subcluster in the Operations Group.
Do implementers and partners have **responsibilities, accountability, and ownership** of the programme?	Yes. There is an established unit within the SLP NPMO through the Evaluation and Policy Development Unit of the Program Monitoring and Evaluation Section (PMES) that oversees the R&E studies of the program. The attainment of the program's desired outcome is not solely on the DSWD SLP but also through strong collaboration and partnership with different agencies (public and private), local government, and other stakeholders.

Based on the above Evaluability Assessment, the "Evaluation of the Effectiveness of Partnership Engagement to SLP Participants" is ready for evaluation.

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R&E Topics	Relevance (40%)	Timeliness/ Urgency (30%)	Feasibility (20%)	Acceptability (10%)	Total Score	Prioritization	Responsible Office
Process Evaluation of Alternative Family Care Program	36.44	27	17.67	8.89	**90.00**	High	PMB
Assessment on the Need to Establish a Mindanao Disaster Resource Center (MDRC)	40	30	12	8	**89.60**	High	DRMB
Relevance/Harmonization of assistance provided by the Department to disasters	89.7143	91.5714	85.1429	88.8571	**89.27**	High	DRMB
Allocation of Resources of LGUs for Basic Social Services in view of the Devolution	90.7143	87.8571	88	90.2857	**89.27**	High	SWIDB PMB
Service Gap Analysis of SWDAs	89.8571	89.5714	86.7143	89.4286	**89.10**	High	SB
Process Evaluation of Disaster Response and Management Programs	40	30	11	7	**88.40**	High	DRMB
Assessment of the Kilos Unlad Implementation	35	25	18	10	**88.00**	High	PANTAWID
Impact Evaluation of Supplementary Feeding Program	35	25	18	10	**88.00**	High	PMB
Impact of SAP on food consumption of poor and low income household **Secondary data- FIES/ APIS (food and health expenditure)	89.2857	85.7143	87.4286	90.2857	**87.94**	High	PMB PANTAWID PDPB
Role of Contract of Service Workers in the delivery of services of DSWD	34.22	27.17	17.78	8.56	**87.72**	High	HRMDS
Process Evaluation of Recovery and Reintegration Program for Trafficked Persons (RRPTP)	35.47	26.5	17.11	8.56	**87.63**	High	PMB
Assessment on Knowledge, Attitude, Practice (KAP) of Beneficiaries and Partner stakeholders on the DSWD Programs.	90.2857	83.7143	87.1429	87.8571	**87.44**	High	SMS

R&E Topics	Relevance (40%)	Timeliness/ Urgency (30%)	Feasibility (20%)	Acceptability (10%)	Total Score	Prioritization	Responsible Office
Role and Contributions of Social Workers in the DSWD	86.4286	83	81.2857	87.5714	**84.49**	Medium	HRMDS
Study on the existing CO and CDD approach employed in implementing the Department's Specialized programs	34.67	24.5	16.78	8.44	**84.39**	Medium	OUS - OPERATIONS
Role of Strategic Human Resource Management on Organizational Development	34	25	17	8.19	**84.19**	Medium	HRMDS
Evaluation of AICS-Related Services of Local Government Units	34	25.17	16.22	8.44	**83.83**	Medium	PMB
Cost Benefit Analysis on Community-based Drug Rehabilitation Program	85.1429	82.1429	81.1429	85.8571	**83.51**	Medium	STB
Comparative Analysis on KAP survey from 2017-2021	84	78.5714	86.1429	87.1429	**83.11**	Medium	SMS
Feasibility Study for Incentive Mechanisms for LGUs based on Service Delivery Capacity and Competency Assessment (SDCCA)	33.33	24.83	16.22	8.39	**82.78**	Medium	SWIDB
Research on additional social services for Solo Parents	33.33	24.67	16.22	8.56	**82.78**	Medium	PMB
Effectiveness of DSWD Protective Programs' Communication Strategies	32.89	23.67	17.22	8.61	**82.39**	Medium	SMS PMB
Process Evaluation of Yakap Bayan After Care Program	83.2857	78.7143	82.7143	86	**82.07**	Medium	STB
Impact of Change Management to agency staff and employees	83.2857	79	77.8571	82	**80.79**	Medium	HRMDS
Process Evaluation on Persons with Disabilities Affairs Office (PDAO) in the Selected Municipalities	29	24	17	10	**80.00**	Medium	PMB

R&E Topics	Relevance (40%)	Timeliness/ Urgency (30%)	Feasibility (20%)	Acceptability (10%)	Total Score	Prioritization	Responsible Office
Impact Assessment of International Social Welfare Services for Filipino Nationals	22	15	10	6	**52.20**	Low	ISSO
Profiling of climate change resilience strategies of 4Ps Beneficiaries	10	10	10	10	**40.00**	Low	PANTAWID

5. **Workshop on developing a R&E Plan with costing and Evaluability Assessment conducted virtually on October 18-20.** In this workshop, the participants from DSWD CO-OBS will develop a costed research plan for each of the identified priority list with the following details:
   - Provisional Title of the R&E
   - Objects of the R&E
   - Type of R&E
   - Purpose of the R&E
   - Evaluation Criteria (If evaluation)
   - Scope and Coverage
   - Methodology
   - Projected Time Frame
   - Lead and support agencies
   - Estimated Cost
   - Source of budget

   For topics categorized as evaluation, an evaluability assessment will be conducted for each of them focusing on the object (subject) of evaluation which may either be a program, service, strategy, policy, or a major activity. In consultation with the RED-PRD team, the following key areas will be assessed to determine whether a meaningful evaluation may be conducted.

   - **Programme Design:** The quality and adequacy of design; whether the quality of the strategy/programme design allows for an evaluation; whether the objectives and results were adequately designed. Looks at TOC/Results Framework *(Examines programme relevance, appropriateness, and coherence).*

   - **Availability of Information:** The availability and validity of "quality" of data and information; the extent to which data and monitoring systems produce accurate and verifiable measurement of results. *(Examines programme accessibility and adequacy)*

     Conduciveness of the Context: Data and the conduciveness of the context; whether an evaluation would be feasible, credible and useful. (*Examines stakeholder involvement, resources, and capacity, and political context)*

   - **Accountability Management Structure, monitoring, reporting, ownership and leadership.** Questions on whether the programme has a clear management structure, or whether development partners have responsibilities, accountability, and ownership of the programme.

6. **Presentation of the draft Final DSWD R&E Agenda 2023-2028 to the ManCom/ExeCom in a combined or separate session. November 2022.** These presentations to the ManCom and ExeCom are significant events that will determine the successful implementation of the R&E Agenda. The sessions hope to solicit full support and a complete buy-in from the DSWD leadership to ensure budgetary allocation and unhampered annual implementation of the R&E Agenda for 2023 to 2028. Feedback from these events is expected to raise the level of the R&E Agenda which could possibly require final revision of the document.