

HIGHLIGHTS OF ASSESSMENT-BASED NATIONAL DIALOGUE RAPID ASSESSMENT PROTOCOL WORKSHOP

2-3 June 2015

Discovery Suites, ADB Avenue, Ortigas Center, Pasig City

ACTIVITY OVERVIEW

The Rapid Assessment Protocol Workshop was conducted last June 2-3, 2015 at Columbus Conference Room, Discovery Suites, 25 ADB Avenue, Ortigas Center, Pasig City. Following the Island-wide Consultations held last March and April this year in Clark, Iloilo City, and Cagayan De Oro respectively, policy gaps and implementation issues and the corresponding recommendations were generated at the regional or local level. As the second step of the Assessment-based National Dialogue (ABND) exercise in the Philippines, the proposed policy options, which can be cost-estimated, were identified and be subjected to International Labor Organization's Rapid Assessment Protocol (RAP) tool to determine the cost of its implementation over a five (5) to ten (10) year period.

It was attended by government agencies such as National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA), Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA), Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE) – Employees Compensation Commission (ECC), Institute of Labor Studies (ILS), Bureau of Workers with Special Concerns (BWSC) and Planning Service, Department of Social and Welfare Development (DSWD), Department of Interior and Local Government (DILG), Department of Education (DEPED), National Council for Disability Affairs (NCDA), Philippine Health Insurance Corporation (PHIC), Social Security System (SSS), Social Security Commission-Office of Commissioner Ibarra Malonzo), Tri-partite organizations (Federation of Free Workers (FFW), Employers' Confederation of the Philippines (ECOP), Civil Society Organizations (Social Watch Philippines and among others), and international development agencies (UNICEF, ILO)

OBJECTIVE

The workshop aims to discuss and fine-tune the results of the RAP on the estimate costs of the proposed social protection interventions.

HIGHLIGHTS

DAY ONE (2 June)

- Employee's Compensation Commission Executive Director Stella Z. Banawis led the program as the master of ceremonies. On behalf of DOLE Assistant Secretary Maria Gloria Tango, she gave the welcome remarks to formally open the activity. She acknowledged all the participants for responding to the invitation and encourage them to actively participate in the workshop to achieve substantive results.
- DOLE Undersecretary Ciriaco A. Lagunzad III delivered his keynote message. He emphasized the significance of cost-estimation in public-policymaking process which will ensure the programs are effective and sustainable over the years. He also encouraged all participants to actively join in the discussion of designing scenarios. He noted that accurate data or statistics, and apt mind-set and view point are necessary in the RAP exercise. Acquiring accurate data or statistics is clearly deemed as necessary to have a realistic projection for each policy option. He also reminded them to be realistic and practical in deciding what recommendations to take. He said that our vision of a social protection for all should not remote to the fiscal capacity of the government.
- Ms Loveleen De and Ms Katharina Bollig of the International Labor Organization (ILO), presented a brief overview on the concepts and processes of Assessment-based National Dialogue (ABND) and Rapid

Assessment Protocol (RAP) Model. Firstly, Ms De explained that the social protection under the ILO framework which is defined primarily as guarantee to cover individuals from financial consequences due to life-cycle risks such as maternity, sickness, unemployment, work-injury, disability, old-age, among others. In such case that existing gaps in the access of social protection particularly the workers in the informal sector, she emphasized the significance of establishing social protection floor to give at least minimum level of social protection to all residents. As she noted, social protection floors are nationally defined, giving a country the autonomy to decide on the types, scope and coverage of interventions. She said that one way to achieve social protection floor (SPF) is through ABND.

Afterwards, the ABND was discussed, giving focus on its three basic steps. In the ASEAN region, the Philippines, along with Myanmar and Cambodia, is still in the process of conducting the ABND exercise, while Thailand, Vietnam and Indonesia were completed. With the recommendations validated at the local level, the Philippines is on its way to the 2nd step of the exercise which is the cost estimation.

Ms De gave a brief orientation on the process and model of RAP. She noted that the recommendations must be classified whether it can be cost-estimated or not to properly frame the policy options/scenarios. Relevant data on government operation, macroeconomic indicators, labor market and demographics will be the basis for costing the benefits, with the percentage per GDP and government expenditures. In conclusion, she said that the advantage of RAP is (1) Shows the cost of the 'nationally-defined SPF' in a country, and (2) Provides a basis to initiate and facilitate national dialogue. However, she noted that the results are simplistic and indicative, which actuarial studies are required before designing a new scheme. After the presentation, the floor was opened to questions, comments and clarifications from the participants. The following are the highlights of the open forum:

- Mr Abner Manlapaz of Social Watch Philippines inquired about the assurance that social protection will be fully realized without overlooking other marginalized and vulnerable sectors. Ms De said that the right recommendations should push through at the higher level. She added that the national workshop will be a best venue for greater participation among stakeholders.
- Ms Ollie Luces of Social Watch Philippines encouraged greater participation from the informal sector members in the ABND process.
- Dr. Sugay of PHILHEALTH suggest to work straight in the actual Philippine scenarios instead of doing a RAP simulation activity. Ms De replied that the objective of the said activity is to familiarize participants on the ABND RAP process.
- ILO facilitated a workshop to give participants a practical application of the RAP Model. Each group has to allocate budget money in the social protection interventions in a fictional state named *Coresiaby* earning points in the quiz game entitled "Who wants to be a Protectionnaire". Each group was given policy scenarios and calculated the cost of SPF using the RAP model.

PRESENTATION OF DRAFT SCENARIOS AND RAP MODEL

- Ms Loveleen De introduced the RAP model for the Philippines. Accordingly, she had briefly presented the quantifiable and costable recommendations and the draft list of the identified scenarios. She encourage the group to continue actively the discussion on the following day.
- She gave a walkthrough of the draft scenarios based on the recommendations. She noted the following: (1) parameters must be specific; for instance, the extent of subsidies that the government can provide in percentage, (2) a recommendation can be converted into several scenarios. She reminded the body that the scenarios mentioned do only serve as a basis for starting the discussion.

- On the recommendation to partly subsidize the SSS premiums of informal sector members, she emphasized the need to determine the amount of subsidies as a parameter. On Pantawid Pamilyang Pilipino Program (4Ps), she said that the recommendation can be broken down into several scenarios: (1) increase the grant, subject to the changes due to inflation, (2) extend the benefits to the 4th and 5th child, (3) Provide fortified cereal mix for 6 to 24 months old through food voucher/food mix. On TESDA technical-vocational programs, one identified recommendation was the provision of daily sustenance allowance to low income people enrolled under TESDA courses such as the Training for Work Scholarship Program (TWSP). It was agreed that the scenarios for allowances have to be fixed not below the poverty threshold indexed to inflation to all low income people. On emergency employment program, it was recommended to introduce a special emergency employment intervention for PWDs, paid at the regional minimum wage, and provided with protective gear, and social security coverage which have to be cost-estimated.
- Ms De briefly introduced the costing model for the Philippines and explained the basis for using the different sources of data and statistics. Once the RAP has been finalized, the cost can be summarized for all the scenarios and project the total cost of the social protection floor for the quantifiable recommendations. It can be determined through low and high scenarios of how the SPF will cost to the government.
- As mentioned, demographic data were presented. The data were categorized according to gender types and 5 year age bracket groups. However, she noted that the missing single age population is essential for some recommendation. She also added that the data from 2005 to 2012 are actual data while the 2013 to 2020 are projections. Data on labor force (e.g. minimum wage, labor participation rate, unemployment rate, among others), government operations (summary of the government revenue and expenditure), and macroeconomic indicators were also presented.

Q&A

- Commissioner Malonzo inquired if the indicative calculation of SPF will not take into account the existing cost of social protection interventions. Ms De clarified that the estimation will only cover the additional cost for the government to implement the SPF in the country, and not the total social protection cost. He also inquired about the reference unit for computation is whether individual or household. Ms De said that the programs such as the 4Ps take household as a unit as far as the model goes. But it can be done in the different scenarios.
- It was asked if the pregnant mother can be considered in the costing of recommendation for SFP. Ms De said that it would be included in the discussion.

DAY TWO (3 June)

- DOLE Assistant Secretary Maria Gloria A. Tango gave a brief message to formally resume the program. She assured the body that ABND is still a working progress and will welcome recommendations that had not surface during the activity. She acknowledged the participation of stakeholders and ILO for their technical support.
- Director Banawis reiterated that ABND is still a work in progress. She mentioned about a consultation workshop to be conducted by the UNICEF on ABND, which will focus on social protection for children. She noted that the ABND core group will decide about the deadline for the submission of inputs or recommendations for the assessment matrices. Instead of a group activity, the Philippine scenarios will be discussed in the plenary.

- Ms Loveleen De gave a brief review of the draft scenarios based on the recommendations. Afterwards, she opened the discussion starting with the recommendation for PHILHEALTH for the national government to partly subsidize the health care benefits of the informal sector workers. The following were the highlights of discussion:

PHILHEALTH

- One of the problems of Philhealth on the issue of low coverage of informal sector is fragmentation. As far as their concern, they are looking at the LGUs. Who will identify them, and where are they? How many informal sectors are we looking at?
- DSWD said that National Household Targeting System can be used. The new targeting category, “near poor”, can be used for targeting.
- Director Banawis said that the issue of targeting system cannot be cost-estimated and therefore will not be covered by RAP model. She noted that PHILHEALTH provides 100% subsidy to selected beneficiaries. Is the 30% subsidy for the vulnerable sectors. If Philhealth is already providing subsidies, the subsidy option should be dropped from the list.
- Doctor Sugay said that the PHILHEALTH coverage targets decile 1-4. The poor are actually placed at deciles 1 and 2. The vulnerable informal sector members maybe assumed to fall under that decile 1-4 though it has not been saturated. No informal sector category is present in the NHTS. The question for PHILHEALTH is “where they will they get the remainder of the informal sector who are not included in the NHTS and, at the same time, do not get subsidy for PHILHEALTH.
- DSWD concurred that they do not specify whether they work in the formal or informal sectors, but instead, consider their income status. It was said that the present PHILHEALTH coverage in contrast to the total population is 87 percent, looking at a 13 percent gap.
- Ms Ollie Luces of Social Watch Philippines suggested to work with the local government units (LGUs) on identifying the gap since they are mandated to register all informal sector workers. A budget could be provided for the registration of all so that all LGUs, and maybe DSWD, can list. The budget can be allocated for registration and then download it to the LGUs so that they can do a hundred percent registration. She clarified that the registration procedure should not be voluntary, instead a group of people will go down and go street by street/market by market. Meanwhile, the problem of NAPC informal sector is on Social Security System (SSS) due to difficulty of registration, for PHILHEALTH it is easier.
- Director Banawis informed the body that DOLE came up with a 2.5 million vulnerable workers based on the 2011 labor force survey. Beforehand, it was figured out from the 15.1 million self-employed and unpaid family workers. She added that the Bureau of Workers with Special Concerns (BWSC) started to profile these vulnerable workers through the support of DOLE regional offices at the ground level. Convergence will be a key among DSWD, PHILHEALTH and DOLE to determine the gap on identifying vulnerable workers. Assistant Secretary Tango added that the profiling is currently in the encoding phase. Once finished, it can be shared with other agencies. They are looking to finish the encoding by the end of the current quarter. PHILHEALTH inquired if they can use BWSC’s profiling of vulnerable workers as an initial baseline to target the vulnerable informal sector workers. Assistant Secretary Tango agreed and noted the BWSC to fast track the encoding.
- PHILHEALTH said that the subsidy from the national government is still for consideration because it has to be included in the provisions of the General Appropriations Act (GAA). Using the DOLE’s database,

PHILHEALTH can propose subsidy through the Sin Tax law (RA 10351). It was noted that RA 10351 already provides subsidy under the current GAA to the vulnerable sectors and the near poor.

- It was suggested to set the parameters at 100% for the national government subsidy using the baseline data of DOLE. The National Household Targeting System (NHTS) targets under the sin tax law are both for the poor and non-poor, as identified by the DSWD. MsDe asked the body if they will have to just settle into one scenario, which put the subsidy at 100%, or if the group prefer to enlist additional scenarios.
- Assistant Secretary Gloria A. Tango said that the DOLE's profiling of vulnerable workers is based on NHTS may overlap with the latter. She supported the call to seek other sources and suggested to tap the LGU's support at the local level, as indicated earlier.
- Mr Abner Manlapaz proposed to create two scenarios, one is at 50 percent and the other at 100 percent subsidy for the informal sector members who are yet to be covered. Ms Luces added to consider the funds in order to improve and harmonize the databases, such as providing funds for the DILG and the LGUs to do a 100 percent Listahanan.
- PHILHEALTH noted that the law mandates LGUs to shoulder subsidy for the informal sector members whichever the gaps that were not covered by the national government. They are coordinating with ULAP and DILG to include in the scorecard for performance rating the coverage of informal sector. For the next round of Listahanan, they have coordinated with DSWD to include the classification or the types of income sources for the NHTS in order to cover the informal sector.
- It was recommended to include all PWDs in the informal sector to be included as beneficiaries of PHILHEALTH. As to the data, the LGUs have the list of PWDs in their respective municipality/city and they also issue IDs for PWDs.
- Mr Augusto Rodriguez of UNICEF raised the need to categorize the financial issues to the operational issues. He highlighted the difficulty of transferring funds from the national government to local government units (It is against the law, as noted). Even the Philhealth can afford the remaining gap percentage, the operational issue indicated should be solved first. The issue at hand is that, assuming that the PHILHEALTH can accommodate the costs, (1) can sin tax can be tapped? (2) If it so, how can it be downloaded to the local government. Funds cannot just be put from sin tax into IRA, a technical gap experienced for most government projects. For instance, only 13 percent of the BUB allocated funds were utilized last year.
- Ms Dolores Adayo of Department of Interior and Local Government (DILG) said that among the challenges in identifying the vulnerable sectors is the lack of manpower. For instance, the average personnel of MSWDs is at 15 and they have to cover at least thousands of households. If funds are available to the local government, it may be used up for capacity building trainings or hiring of additional personnel for the proposed database. There is also lack of awareness of who really are the qualified beneficiaries. On the other, Mr. Abner Manlapaz pointed out that the group must decide the scenarios to be cost-estimated and set aside the administrative issues. The affordability of the recommendations is the point of the RAP.

ADDITIONAL COST/HEALTH SERVICES

- MrAntonio Asper raised some concerns which were brought out during the Island-wide Consultations. These include (1) high cost of medicines, (2) high cost of professional fees, (3) increasing/high cost of hospitalization, (4) issue of the availability of public health services. He asked if these concerns can be

discussed since half of them cannot be cost-estimated. Ms Loveleen De suggested to frame the issues in a different way so that it may be cost-estimated. Otherwise, these cannot be considered as quantifiable recommendations. In response, Director Banawis clarified that the ABND core group has decided that those recommendations, which cannot be cost-estimated, will be endorsed to the concerned government agency. However, she raised a possible concern of how the implementation of the said implementations be monitored.

- Ms Luces suggested to include the raised concerns as additional operation cost for the PHILHEALTH. Mr Manlapaz added that the DOH has its initiative to increase the benefits and coverage of PHILHEALTH. Mr Asper asked for the possibility to cost the operational expenses of the PHILHEALTH recommendation.
- To follow up, Director Banawis inquired if the administrative cost is already included in the RAP equation. PHILHEALTH clarified that the administrative cost are included in their projection since it is part of their mandate as part of benefit development. Regarding their benefit development system, the clinical pathway is to determine which the correct clinical management of every case have been proposed. They usually get costing from the hospitals and other sources. The health services that the persons receive are on the mandate of the DOH. PHILHEALTH is an attached agency of DOH. Patient may have the PHILHEALTH benefit but the quantity and quality of services are mandate of DOH. The supply side (DOH) and the benefit side (PHILHEALTH) should complement.
- Mr Antonio Asper of Federation of Free Workers (FFW) shared his apprehension for leaving behind these issues. There is a need to clear up the recommendation of 100% subsidy by accompanying operational or administrative expenses, either to be supplied by premium increase or a subsidy from the national government. He proposed for a scenario with operational expense which could be cost-estimate later on. Ms De suggested that the group can have a sub-scenario for additional administrative cost. The group decided to settle in just one recommendation.

SSS

- It was asked the amount that the government can subsidize for the SSS premiums of the informal sector members and the capability of informal sector members to pay the rest of the premiums. At present, she noted that the national and local governments have partial subsidies for vulnerable sectors wherein the LGUs have to identify the beneficiaries.

UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE

- Ms Loveleen De briefly explained the concept of unemployment insurance as a recommendation for the SPF. She said that it would be contributory in nature but the government would provide subsidies, which can be cost-estimated. Ms Nympha Ragel made it clear that the RAP results are still be subject for validation by the SSS.
- On the fifth scenario, Ms. Ragel commented that it has to annotate that in the event of no corresponding payment coming from the government or from the PWDs, the pension should not be increased without the corresponding premium payment increase and suggested for government subsidy, in case the recommendation is presented.
- Mr Asper emphasized that the employment insurance is different from unemployment insurance. The latter, under the 1952 ILO Convention, only provides employment benefits in case of employment loss and particularly cover those with employer-employee relationship. He suggested to design the feature first with the employment insurance scheme before holding the recommendation to subsidize the operational and benefit cost of the said scheme. One design that could be considered has three features, namely, (1) unemployment benefit for those who have been removed from work without

reputable cause, (2) cost for the job search, depending on how many weeks or months, and (3) trainings. Once the features are discussed, then it is the time to discuss the percentage of subsidies.

In response, Ms De said that the proposed unemployment insurance includes the improvement of job search measure, and be complemented with unemployment insurance. She also added that the group has to decide on the amount of the insurance benefits (e.g. 50 percent of the salary, 60 percent of the salary). In the RAP model, it was assumed at 50 percent. She also added that the time-frame should be critical in framing the scenario. Ms Ragel suggested that the results of the simulation have to be eventually endorsed to the Actuarial department of SSS to ensure that proposal that coming out would already be sitting well on the management of the SSS.

- Ms De presented the initial costing results for the said recommendation, which was set at 50 percent and maximum 6 months of time frame. She suggested to come up with different scenarios at different rates and time frames.
- Director Banawis asked if it is right to assume that employer's and employee's shares will be at 25 percent respectively and the 50 percent falls to government. Ms De agreed however the increase of the premium rates still has to be calculated. Whatever the cost of unemployment insurance is, if the subsidy is at 50 percent, the remaining 50 percent shall be shared by the employer and employees. The increase in premium has to be calculated. She added that the indicated 50 percent refers to the total cost of the scheme. She asked the group to decide for the following: (1) replacement rate, (2) duration of the benefits, and (3) percentage of government subsidy.
- Mr Abner Manlapaz recognized the discrepancy between the number of enrollees under the social security schemes and the total population. He pointed out several questions: (1) How can we ensure the income security of informal sector workers? (2) how the need for higher benefits of the PWDs be addressed? He added that it must be a pension scheme rather than be based on contributory approach.
- Mr Asper said that the difference of contributory and pension schemes should be clear. As explained briefly, the pension benefits are given for those people 60 years of age and above. He clarified that the proposal of Mr Manlapaz comes to be a financial assistance or allowance. On the other hand, the skilling of PWDs in order for them to enter the labor market could be added on the other proposed social protection interventions, which could be free or subsidize depending on the income capacity of the beneficiaries. He proposed that the group must decide whether the unemployment insurance would only cover the formal sector and progressively absorb the self-employed. He suggested that it would be best to put the subsidies on the self-employed so that it can be equalized.
- Ms Luces pointed out that some self-employed are reasonable or adequate income to afford social security premiums. She added that some of the informal sector workers might be able to enter the labor market once more due to disability caused by accidents, deterioration of health condition, and among others. Ms De assured that the informal sector and the PWDs have a different set of recommendations for the SPF. She suggested to keep the two recommendations, for IS and PWDs, separate.
- Mr Manlapaz commented about the need to ensure unemployment insurance would help informal sector members given the contributions they provide and the implementation scheme. Ms De replied that these are operational or administrative issues and thus can be discussed later on. She added to include as a recommendation to develop operational rules identifying unemployed informal sector members.
- The group decided to set the parameter to 3 months and 6 months, and the benefit rate at 45 percent and 50 percent. Mr Asper commented that the timeframe should be set less than 6 months to put

limits/pressure on the job seekers. Director Banawis suggested to set the income replacement rate at 90 percent since it is the present guideline of SSS and ECC. Ms De solicited ideas regarding the government subsidy to augment the contribution which is presently set at 30% and 50%. It was set at 1/3 and 1/2.

SUBSIDY FOR THE INFORMAL SECTOR WORKERS

- Atty. Alan Ortiz suggested to the group to use “counterpart contributions” instead of subsidy. He clarified that it is not for all informal sector members, but limited those in particular income level. He also informed the group about a proposed law providing subsidy to individuals earning P 8,000.00 per month, minimum P2,500.00.
- Ms Luces inquired which agency is responsible for the welfare of the vulnerable sectors since SSS is mainly a contributory scheme and possible will not cover all. Mr Asper clarified that in the SSS scheme, those paying higher premium are actually subsidizing those paying lower premiums. Ms Luces said that no subsidy is being provided to those individual at the lowest income bracket at the present.

DISABILITY ALLOWANCES

- Ms Luces gave emphasis on the exhaustive nature of work of the informal sector members which limit their earning capacity to pay social security premiums. At some extent, it could be recognized as an undefined disability. Mr Manlapaz said that the SSS provides allowance for those who provide care-giving services and gave a suggestion for SSS to consider raising the amount of allowance in order to cover the expenses. Ms De agreed to add such scenario. Mr Manlapaz suggested to set the rates the same as with the Kasambahays

Director Banawis informed the body about the ECC’s program providing carer’s supplemental allowance at PHP 500.00 although limited to persons with work-related disabilities. Mr Manlapaz suggested to include all types of disabilities on the said provision of allowance. Relative to this, Ms De said that it requires appropriate data such as the number of people with disabilities, number of care-givers who are taking care of PWDs in order to cost-estimate these scenarios. She sought assistance from the concerned agencies. Mr Manlapaz suggested to use the databases of SSS and GSIS.

- The group agreed to include the provision of allowance to all types of disabilities as scenario. Mr Manlapaz recommended to stick on providing means-tested disability allowance to all PWDs. Ms Luces suggested to include those with learning disabilities and should use individual as a unit and not household.

Ms De raised her concern on means-tested allowances if the total amount goes together to the care-giver and the individuals, and how to ensure that the individual PWD does not pay the care-giver. On this matter, Ms. Luces proposed to conduct period visit as means of monitoring. Mr Manlapaz said that the disability allowance should be at the top of all the other social benefits provided.

- Ms Luces proposed that the poor health conditions of workers in the construction industry and informal sector may be considered as a disability, and thus be part of the disability. However, Director Banawis said that it would depend on the official definition of disability. NCDCA announced that DOH will issue a new definition of Persons with Disability (PWDs) by this year.
- Assistant Secretary Maria Tango said that the government provides other types of interventions aside from the social pension, for instance livelihood assistance and trainings. Ms Luces suggested to provide tax incentives to PWDs however, it was mentioned that it is already been institutionalized.

PANTAWID PAMILYANG PILIPINO PROGRAM

- Ms Luces said that those poor households which are not covered by conditional cash transfer program could possibly among the gaps identified on vulnerable sectors. Based on their own survey, 30-40% of poor households are yet to be covered or still in the process of being identified in the program. She also suggested to consider family as a unit, instead of households. DSWD clarified that family is already used as the unit for the current round. All 4Ps beneficiaries will be covered even if they are not covered by the roster as long as they present their IDs to avail entitlements.
- Ms Luces suggested to put a simple cash transfer for individuals based on income levels. She also noted that the school participation rate has stagnated for the last years according to DEPED. This issue should be looked into a holistic point of view, and not simply of nutrition only. Subsidies are to be provided for incurred cost by families such as transportation, food, and school projects (which depends on the type of works and grade level). She also added that the minimum number of family members is at 5, thus the limitations on 3 children is not realistic, particularly in rural areas (which reach as high as 12). Mr Rodriguez inquired about the availability of statistics on the children population per family. Ms Luces said that the NHTS has some data for the number of children of which the DSWD has covered.
- Director Banawis said that the rationale for the said criteria limits is to encourage Filipino families to limit their offspring. Ms Luces suggested to provide lump-sum amounts for the families. Mr Asper proposed to increase the amount of provided and then decrease the amount of cash grant.
- In response to the inquiry of MsRadhika Nagesh of ILO, Mr. Asper clarified that the parameters were set to all children since the amount of benefits, are usually divided among family members, regardless how large or small. Ms Nagesh suggested to limit the provision of grants to children already borne out to make the policy prospective. In response, Ms Luces said that such policy should be inclusive. The government needs to engage women into education and employment taking these as the most effective means to reduce family size. Mr Asper suggested to tweak the program by setting the subsidy not higher than the poverty line threshold, or ensure the parents has a guaranteed income for one year by working in certain days. Ms Luces suggested to take away the number of children as criteria, instead, set it per family.
- DSWD gave an update on the 4Ps. Because of the application of convergence approach, sustainable livelihood program became a critical component for the program. Ms Luces suggested to include the provision of insurance coverage in the government employment program (e.g. MMDA street sweepers were reportedly not covered by insurance). Mr Asper concurred and added that the ILO is encouraging the UN agencies to include insurance to their assistance or interventions.
- Dr. Sugay said that the health grant must first be defined in order to get a realistic cost projection since 4Ps beneficiaries are already covered by PHILHEALTH's TSEKAP program. The LGUs have to capacitate the health units. Ms De clarified that the RAP model is limited to government expenditure, and not in impact evaluation. Ms Luces cited Australian Aid and World Bank study concluding that 4Ps has had little impact and that we cannot stay at the current scenario.
- The group agreed to drop the scenario 3 for 4Ps since it was already agreed by the group that no cap should be place on the number of qualified children as beneficiaries.
- 4Ps aims to improve the human capital of the children by keeping them in school and tracking their health condition. The abovementioned suggestion could be a separate program. Mr Asper suggested to provide credit vouchers. NAPC raised their concern on credit voucher could be deemed as another dole-out component and may overlap with other feeding programs, and instead, suggested to conduct specialized trainings for the parents.

- Mr. Rodriguez said that complimentary feeding is crucial after the breastfeeding and the government is yet to implement such kind of program. The impact of benefits from conducting trainings maybe insignificant for the children. 6 to 24 months period is critical for child's development.
- Another parameters being considered is 0 to 24 months. However, it was turned down since during the 0 to 6 months period, children are doing breastfeeding. Ms Luces said that in drafting this particular scenario, the health condition of the mother should be considered. The health of children and the mother should be considered separately. The grant for mothers was recommended to be a separate program from 4Ps (limiting the grant of 4Ps to PhP 500-1000). Ms Luces noted that most grandmothers are the lactating mothers, given the steady younger age of motherhood in the Philippines.
- Director Banawis asked the body if the increase in the amount of health benefits is imperative. Ms Luces said that the increase will be put on purchasing supplements. PHIC mentioned the available maternity package worth P8,000.00, with pre-natal coverage of P 1,500.00, and the remaining for the maternal delivery.

SUPPLEMENTARY FEEDING PROGRAM

- Ms Luces raised that SFP could be implemented as a universal targeted program or continues to be an initiative at the LGU level. There were problems observed in the LGU experiences, one is that the vague number of children who actually benefited. She added that one of the problems could be the difficulty to develop a meal plan due to lack of ingredients. She suggested to provide fortified cereal mix through subsidized basis or marginal provision of food/cereal vouchers to all families, taking away issues on marketing and procurement.
- It was said that the DOST has developed fortified cereals used for disaster responses, and asked if it could be considered. Mr Asper suggested to take note of this recommendation among the implementation issues, although he expressed apprehension particularly on the government's capacity to implement universally. It was responded that a partnership was made with LGUs to facilitate the production and delivery.
- DEPED gave a brief overview of their school-based feeding program. It was said that the only covers students in the kindergarten to grade 3 levels. Per capita allocation per child is P15 pesos, with additional P1 for administrative cost. The basis for qualified beneficiaries are those identified under the malnutrition scale, and not all students. Scenario 1 (all children parameter) could not be practical because of the huge population of children in public schools and limited funds for the Department.

The basis used to identify beneficiaries is the National Nutrition Survey. In line with the Philippines' progressive realization to achieve full coverage, Director Banawis suggested that if scenario 1 be retained so that they will find out when the country will be capable of universal coverage. She cited that some countries have already been doing the full coverage of feeding program. Ms Ollie reminded the body about the separating the issue of hunger and malnutrition. At present, the program prioritize on severely wasted students. Those in rural areas have to walk back to their homes far away to take their lunch, which often are not available. She suggested to provide a certain meal for all, or provide a supplementary drink (chocolate is more preferred than milk).

- The group agreed to put in the scenario to expand to all students/children by progressively realization, starting from the day-care center, kindergarten and grade 3, to grade 6. Will stick with meal concept. It was suggested to increase the coverage from 120 days to whole school calendar days (205 days).

Scenario 1: Provide meal to all students meal. Scenario 2: Provide meal and milk to all students meals. Scenario 3: Provide meal to those not attending school (home-based and out of school youth)

- NAPC asked about the possible duplication of programs if the scenarios for the 4Ps and SFP. Director Banawis clarified that the recommendations aim to cover all levels, in contrast to 4Ps which is targeted. Non-CCT families will benefit from the program. Ms Luces said that not set the computation of benefits at fix terms, instead the computations should be per regions respectably. Mr Manlapaz raised his concern on giving prioritization between cash grant and employment program, which should come first? Director Banawis said that both benefits, for the CCTs particularly, will go along. Mr Asper recommended to leave the actuarial study on the grants for parents and children. Once done, the computation will determine if it meet the poverty threshold and adjust afterwards.
- Mr Asper suggested to put out benefits for those who do not attend school because of the possible overlap of CCT, SFP and education services. The parents should be given the responsibilities, he added. Mr Manlapaz raised his concern for the ALS student, Mr Asper suggested to restrict the OSY to ASL students. MsLuces said that students face a lot of issues, such as transportation, family etc., which affects their attendance to schools. Street children usually start around age of five. Mr Asper recognize the problems but raised his apprehension on the implementation of home-based feeding program. Mr Rodriguez said that the most apt program for those who are not attending school be prioritized in CCTs.

Director Banawis suggested to consider the scenario under the CCT, instead of SFP. Mr Manlapaz said that the point of the recommendation is to promote inclusion of PWDs into the society. He also mentioned the exclusion of transportation as provision for the special education funds at the LGU level, as observed in the law. Since it looks more into legal provisions, Mr Asper suggested to flag the recommendation until the group can come up with a computable scenario. Ms Luces noted that in 2012-2013, DEPED reported about 1, 773, 000 attended kindergarten (95.2 percent participation rate). Mr Manlapaz noted that the PWD students should be prepared for gainful employment and that will required capacitating the teachers, improving facilities and services, and among others.

INCLUSIVE EDUCATION

- Director Banawis said that the preparation of schools for mainstreaming PWD students can be cost-estimated. Provision of transportation was included under the programs for children/TESDA, instead in SFP. Provision of capacity building for teachers and infrastructure of public schools to cater to the needs PWD students were added. (Improve the capabilities of public schools for inclusive education, as suggested by Mr Manlapaz, e.g. capacity building for teacher, accessibility, cultural sensitivity and language for IPs).
- On improving inclusiveness of education for IPs, Mr Asper suggested to the body to have a separate recommendation for the immediate needs of IPs. Mr Manlapaz said that they should consult first the stakeholders. Atty. Ortiz said that the issue of difficulty of establishing schools and health units in the ancestral domain areas raised during the Luzon consultations. Mr Asper suggested to conduct consultations with the concerned stakeholders. Ms Luces reiterated that the Muslim community is not part of the IPs and should be in a separate discussion.

TESDA PROGRAMS

- Mr Asper recognized that there are implementation issues in the apprenticeship and training programs and, thus, needs to reorientation towards its objectives.
- It was asked if the students enrolled in the TESDA accredited assessment training centers are included in the recommendation. In response, Mr Asper gave a quick overview of the present programs and

trainings of TESDA, and noted that the critical question lies whether the government is willing to fund TVET institutions. MsLuces highlighted that there is discrepancies on the capacity of TESDA to absorb public school graduates. Mr Asper replied that the K+12 education system will provided TVET courses in senior high schools wherein TESDA will function at the regulatory area. As added, training programs should be recognized also as a poverty reduction strategy.

- Mr Manlapaz mentioned that one of the obstacles for PWDs is transportation. In most cases, the transportation is more expensive for the PWDs. Director Banawis suggested to increase the amount of daily allowances.
- It was suggested to consider the provision of training vouchers instead of allowance. Mr Asper recommended to focus on Dual Training system or Apprenticeship because they are paid with salary. He suggested for government to subsidize the 25% of the salary so that it will meet the minimum wage. Training vouchers shall be aligned with the apprenticeship program of the private companies using training vouchers with government subsidies.
- It was suggested to include CCT beneficiaries as target of the TESDA programs. Ms Luces suggested that the individuals not covered by CCT program but below the poverty line should also be given priorities.
- DSWD mentioned about their community based training program implemented through OJT program with partners. They have educational program simultaneous with the apprenticeship program, making it a dual training system. They do not have dormitories available for the trainees but can arrange for a minimal fee. Mr Asper commented that the operational guidelines can be tweaked to accommodate necessary changes but needed apt statistics to calculate the costs. Atty. Ortiz highlighted about few feedbacks they received that amount of training vouchers is not sufficient at the present rate, resulting for private institutions to minimize the quality of services. It needs legislation to adjust the amount of training voucher. Mr Asper clarified that the amount of the training voucher is not the same with the poverty threshold. Regarding Ms De's inquiry on how to calculate the cost of the vouchers, he said that it could be accessed through TESDA.
- Director Banawis asked why there is a need to fund trainings for call center agents when the BPO companies can train them respectively. Mr Asper noted that the BPO companies are among the major sources of employment in the Philippines, and thus it is among the incentives by the government to encourage BPO investments in the country. However, at present, the provision of training vouchers is suspended.
- On encouraging apprentice program, the scenario was said to be not cost-estimated. It was suggested to raise the number of target beneficiaries for the training vouchers. TESDA scholars are 14,000. In qualifying scholars, PESFA take into consideration the income level.
- One of the concerns of the PWDs (with hearing impairment/disability) on TESDA programs is the lack of sing language interpreters.

DILEEP

- Director Banawis said that the PWDs are already priority targets of the DILEEP. Mr Manlapaz shared that one of the issues on emergency employment programs is that only one is selected per household and, usually, the PWDs and the elderly are the least choice to get the opportunity. He suggested to open the opportunity to all, regardless of his or her status. It was also raised that a study must be considered to look at the possible work/employment for the PWDs. Ms Nagesh inquired how many PWDs should be increased for the Emergency Employment Program.

SPES

- Mr Asper opened the discussion for the recommendation to expand the coverage of Special Program for the Employment of Students (SPES). Director Banawis clarified that the number of coverage for SPES is not limited by hundred but to thousands. She noted that the children of those workers who had work related accidents/disabilities can access the program. Mr Abner Manlapaz reiterated his recommendation to include civil society organization/non-government organization as co-partners for implementation, aside from the government agencies. MsLuces added to include the out-of-school youth to be enrolled next school year as among the priority beneficiaries.

OTHER CONCERNS

- Atty. Ortiz asked whether the group will have an opportunity to review the recommendations since there are recommendations which appears to be RAP-able but is not present in the initial draft scenarios. Ms De assured that these recommendations can be considered and added.
- Ms Aura Sevilla noted that the scenario 1 for the elderly is already covered by the law and suggested to be dropped. She proposed to set the amount of benefits at P 1,500.00 since the present rate seems to be not enough. She also suggested to include means-tested universal pension. Atty. Ortiz raised his concern since the minimum pension provided by SSS is set at P1,200.00. Provide a means-tested social pension of P750, P1500 per month to all poor elderly >60 years of age
Provide a means-tested social pension of P750, P1500 per month to all poor elderly >60 years of age, who are not beneficiaries of other pension schemes.
- Atty. Ortiz raised the issue of including the recommendation to cover government contract of service workers/personnel in the GSIS to the RAP model. At present, they are recognized as self-employed. He also raised the concerns among the barangay officials, day-care workers, LGU contract workers, etc. Ms Ragel inquired that when would be GSIS be notified or informed about the scenarios. Mr Asper said that the ABND core group to ensure that all concerned stakeholders are invited.

**ASSESSMENT-BASED NATIONAL DIALOGUE
RAPID ASSESSMENT PROTOCOL (RAP) SCENARIOS**

SCHEMES	RECOMMENDATIONS	SCENARIOS
PHILHEALTH	Subsidize social insurance premiums for the informal sector by the national government.	Provide a 100% national government subsidy for PHILHEALTH premium for all vulnerable informal sector members. <i>Consider the operational cost for the health care services (supply side, regulatory among others)</i>
SSS	Introduce an unemployment insurance scheme with job search assistance and draw resources to support this.	Introduce employment insurance scheme for the informal sector and for Persons with Disability Introduce an employment insurance scheme wherein the national government subsidizes 1/3 of the contributions and 1/2 of the contributions. Benefit replacement rate of 45%, 60% and 90% of income. Unemployment allowance for 3 months or 6 months.
	Partly subsidize social insurance premiums for the informal sector by the national government.	Provide a ___ national government counterpart contribution for SSS premiums for informal sector who are earning at least P2, 500 but not more than P8, 500 monthly. <i>ECC benefit should also be considered for the informal sector</i>
Pantawid Pamilyang Pilipino Program (4Ps)	Increase the amount being provided to beneficiaries.	Increase the benefit amount to ___ per family for education based on the poverty line Guaranteed income for the parents through employment programs (e.g. SLP) to include insurance coverage Increase the benefit amount to PHP___ for health grant for the children. <i>Health grant coverage should be defined first before the identification of the increase in the benefit amount.</i>
	Extend the benefit coverage to 4 th child and beyond.	
	Provide a fortified cereal mix to 6-24 months old children under 4Ps, as this age group is highly vulnerable to malnutrition.	Provide food or cereal vouchers worth PHP200 per child for families with 6-24 months old children to be supplied by FNRI DOST in partnership with LGUs
Supplementary Feeding Program	Provide meal in the entire school days as part of the school curriculum, instead of only 120 feeding	Provide a meal and supplementary drink to all children in public schools (K to grade 6) under SFP for the whole school year (200 to 205 days).

SCHEMES	RECOMMENDATIONS	SCENARIOS
(SFP)	days.	<i>Progressive implementation</i>
Social Pension for Indigent Senior Citizens	Increase the present amount of social pension for the elderly and index the benefits on inflation.	Provide a means-tested social pension of P750, P1500 per month to all poor elderly >60 years of age
Programs for children, elderly and PWDs	Provide a disability allowance to all PWDs	<p>Provide a means-tested social pension of P750, P1500 per month to all poor elderly>60 years of age, who are not beneficiaries of other pension schemes.</p> <p>Provide a means-tested social pension, inclusive of care-giver allowance, of P2000, P3000, P4000 per person and per month, indexed on inflation, to all PWDs (qualified PWDs beneficiaries)</p> <p><i>Provide school transportation services for PWDs</i> <i>Improve capability of public schools for inclusive education (e.g. teacher training, assistive devices, accessibility, educational materials)</i></p>
TESDA	Provide a daily sustenance allowance to low-income people enrolled under TESDA	<p><i>Align TESDA training programs for the poor using training vouchers (inclusive of transportation allowance).</i></p> <p><i>Amount of the training vouchers will be identified by TESDA depending on the type of training to be enrolled upon.</i></p> <p><i>Encourage apprenticeship programs (dual training system) using training vouchers.</i></p> <p><i>Increase the number of training vouchers to match the available jobs.</i></p> <p><i>Improve capability of TESDA for inclusive education (e.g. teacher training, assistive devices, accessibility, educational materials)</i></p>
DILEEP	Include PWDs in the target group.	<p>Increase number of beneficiaries who are PWDs from ____ to ____</p> <p>Increase grant amount given to PWDs</p> <p><i>Identify jobs that are suitable for PWDs.</i></p>
SPES	Expand coverage of students and time period.	<p>Increase coverage (depending on the baseline) to ____ students including students with disabilities.</p> <p><i>Simplify the requirements for out-of school youth.</i></p>

SCHEMES	RECOMMENDATIONS	SCENARIOS
		<p><i>Extend employment coverage to NGOs</i></p> <p><i>Include Personal Assistance Programs in community level</i></p>
CBEP	Consider longer employment period for CBEP.	Consider guaranteed employment from 30days to 100 days a year at minimum wage plus social insurance based from the baseline of CBEP.