

## ABND in the Philippines:

### Summary of the review meeting with Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE)

18 September 2014

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#### Participants

- DOLE (Ahmma Charisma L. Satumba, Adeline De Castro, Stella Z. Banawis, Cyrus C. Policarpio)
- ILO (Ma. Concepcion Sardana, Ia Macapanpan, Loveleen De, Katharina Bollig)

#### Main points of interest

The agenda of the meeting with DOLE was to discuss and verify the policy gaps, implementation issues and recommendations outlined in the ABND matrix, in preparation for the presentation of the matrix to the core group. During the meeting, social insurance, social welfare and social safety net schemes were discussed. The discussion of labour market interventions was postponed to the next DOLE review meeting.

#### Social Insurance

As the policy gaps and implementation issues had been addressed during the core group (CG) meeting on 29 August 2014 already, only the recommendations for social insurance schemes were discussed.

#### *Recommendations*

- A potential unemployment insurance (UI) scheme in the Philippines should be referred to as an employment insurance scheme, and discussed by tripartite constituents.
- The priority in the Philippines is rather on an employment insurance than a child allowance. There is hardly any discussion on a child allowance at the moment, as 4Ps is in place for the poorest population groups.
- Clear and effective solutions for awareness generation among local government units (LGUs) and beneficiaries should be explored and implemented. Concrete action points could include tie-ups with other organizations and agencies such as Partnership of Philippine Support Service Agencies Inc. (PhilSSA) and Public Employment Service Offices (PESOs).
- The Employees' Compensation Program (ECP) should be handled by a single agency.
- The infrastructure for the Unified Multi-Purpose ID (UMID) is not in place yet, and this is more of an implementation issue than a policy gap. With full implementation of the UMID, it could be used as a national database that also encourages access to social insurance systems.

- PhilHealth treatments and all-case-rates should be displayed in local communities and made more visible, to increase PhilHealth members' awareness of their benefits and entitlements.
- Setting up of a health authority could be considered, which is currently not in place. Such an authority would be responsible for regulating medical fees for example.
- There is an instruction from President Aquino to study how far the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) pension system can be covered under the Government Service Insurance System (GSIS). Moreover, a proposal is being drafted by AFP to reform the scheme into a self-reliant pension system.

## Social Welfare

### *Implementation Issues*

- It was mentioned, that insufficient screening of indigent senior citizens for the social pension might be considered as an implementation issue.
- Limited resources in implementing the Supplementary Feeding Program (SFP) might impact the targeting mechanism, making it unclear and inefficient, and resulting in random selection of beneficiary children.

## Social Safety Nets

### *Recommendations*

- Group similar programmes and services together under a single policy umbrella.
- Explore using a standard targeting mechanism and a common database for all safety net programmes, e.g. National Household Targeting System for Poverty Reduction (NHTS-PR).
- In order to improve disaster preparedness, good practices (from other areas and countries) could be identified and either replicated or adopted to the Philippines (to the extent possible).
- In order to address funding problems in LGUs, the sharing of funds between richer and poorer LGUs should be explored.