

Administrative Order No. 22
Series of 2019**SUBJECT: THE DSWD RESEARCH AND EVALUATION AGENDA 2019-2022****I. RATIONALE / BACKGROUND**

The Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) envisions all Filipinos to be free from hunger and poverty, to have equal access to opportunities, to be enabled by a fair, just, and peaceful society. The DSWD is mandated to lead in the formulation, implementation and coordination of social welfare and development policies and programs for and with the poor, vulnerable and disadvantaged. With its operations becoming larger in scale, scope and speed, there is a need to ensure that the programs and projects being implemented are truly contributing to the Organizational and Foundational Outcomes of the Department, and of the sectoral and societal goals of the country as articulated in the Philippine Development Plan (PDP) 2017-2022, particularly on *accelerating human capital development* (Chapter 10) and *building socio-economic resiliency of individuals and families* (Chapter 11). To be able to make the right decisions, the Department has recognized the importance of and the need for evidence-based information. Evidence-based information does not only allow the management to formulate well-informed policies and make relevant changes in the operationalization of its programs, it also ensures the Department's accountability to its stakeholders. By moving towards an evidence-based management system, the Department is able to provide more relevant, responsive, and efficient social protection services to the poor and marginalized sectors of the country.

For the Department to be able to provide timely and responsive evidence-based information, and with the growing interest in research and evaluation within and outside the Department, it is deemed important that an integrated and comprehensive policy on research and evaluation for the Department be established. This Research and Evaluation Policy shall provide overall guidance to the Department and partners on the development, implementation, monitoring and utilization of researches and evaluation studies involving the DSWD. Part of this policy is the development of the research and evaluation agenda which shall provide direction to the Department and to other evaluators and researchers alike in terms of the possible areas to study. Prior to the initiative of coming up with a comprehensive Research and Evaluation Agenda, two separate documents were already crafted in 2016, the *Evaluation Agenda* and the *Research Agenda*. However, approval of both documents was postponed to wait for the finalization of the DSWD Strategic Plan. These two documents are now consolidated into a single document as the Research and Evaluation Agenda. This Agenda shall ensure that the most-needed information shall be prioritized and generated in aid of important decision-making. Furthermore, it shall provide direction along the processes, the funding, and the institutional arrangements with regard to the conduct of research and evaluation activities in the Department.

In 2018, the Department adopted the DSWD Strategic Plan 2018-2022 which was a product of the firming up its organizational and societal contributions towards national development anchored on the Ambisyon Natin 2040, the 10-point socio-economic agenda and the

priorities of the Duterte Administration. This strategic plan includes the Organizational Strategic Results Framework which guides the actions and strategies that the Department will operationalize to deliver its mission.

Anchored on the DSWD Strategic Plan, the Research and Evaluation Agenda outlines the department's research and evaluation direction on priority areas and topics that will be undertaken to be responsive to the emerging concerns of the social welfare development sector. The agenda will serve as a reference material and guide not only of the Department and its Offices, but also of its partners, including student researchers, in the selection of topics to be studied from 2019 to 2022.

II. LEGAL BASES

1. **Executive Order No. 15, S. 1998.** Redirecting the Functions and Operations of the Department of Social Welfare And Development – redirects the mandate of DSWD from a direct service deliver to a technical assistance provider as a result of the devolution of basic services which further iterates the role of DSWD as monitor and evaluator of SWD policies, programs and projects.
2. **DSWD Memorandum Circular No. 9, S. 2011.** Guidelines for the Formulation of DSWD's 5-year Research Agenda – requires the Department to formulate 5-year Research Agenda which is comprehensive, holistic and responsive to the needs of the social welfare and development sector.
3. **Executive Order No. 80, S. 2012.** Directing the Adoption of a Performance-Based Incentive System for Government Employees – provides for the need to strengthen performance monitoring and appraisal system based on existing systems like the Organizational Performance Indicator Framework (OPIF) and the Results-based Performance Monitoring System (RBPMS).
4. **DBM National Budget Circular No. 552, S. 2014.** Guidelines on the Shift to the Outcome-based Performance-Informed Budget (PIB) for FY 2015 – requires the agencies to formulate organizational outcomes which could be short term or medium term based on the principles of results-based performance management, as reference for planning, budgeting, monitoring and evaluation.
5. **DSWD Memorandum Circular No. 4, S. 2014.** Guidelines in the Operationalization of the Unified Results-based M&E System – introduces results-based M&E as a management approach in the Department by utilizing the methodology of the results framework in monitoring and evaluating organizational objectives at various levels.
6. **DBM – NEDA Joint Memorandum Circular No. 01, S. 2015.** National Evaluation Policy Framework of the Philippines – requires implementing agencies to formulate and maintain a rolling 6-year agenda, create neutral evaluation units initially at the central level, and develop evaluation plans during budget submission in accordance with best practices.
7. **DBM National Budget Circular No. 560, S. 2015.** Implementing Guidelines on Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) Expenses – prescribed agencies to develop Evaluation Plans and allocate 3% of program/project cost to M&E.

8. **DSWD Administrative Order No. 10 S. 2018.** Adopting the DSWD Strategic Plan 2018-2022 – introduces the DSWD Strategic Plan as the Department's medium-terms articulation of strategic directions until 2022 and aims to provide guidance to all OBSUs and FOs in implementing, monitoring and evaluating the Strategic Plan.
9. **DSWD Memorandum Circular No. 9, S. 2019.** Guidelines for the Conduct of Research and Evaluation in the DSWD – provide overall guidance to the Department, including its Offices, Bureaus, and Services, as well as its Field Offices, and external researchers and partners on the development, implementation, monitoring and utilization of researches and evaluation studies involving the DSWD. In addition, it institutionalizes the formulation and monitoring of the DSWD Research and Evaluation Agenda and provides standards and criteria in the conduct of researches and evaluation studies in the Department.
10. **DSWD Memorandum Circular No. 10 S. 2019.** Protocol for the Conduct of Research Studies in the DSWD Offices, Centers and Institutions, including Request of SWD Data/Information – guides researchers in undertaking research study concerned with the Department and serves as guide for the DSWD's personnel in accommodating researchers. It also provides the processes involved in releasing SWD Data/statistics in the DSWD.

III. OBJECTIVES

The DSWD Research and Evaluation Agenda aim to steer the Department towards results-based management of its programs and projects and ensure that the Department's policies, programs, and projects are relevant and responsive in catering to the needs of the poor, vulnerable, and marginalized. Furthermore, the implementation of research and evaluation activities anchored on the agenda intends to institutionalize a culture of formulating policies and making decisions grounded on results-based information. Specifically, the agenda aims

1. Guide the Department along the conduct of quality and relevant research and evaluation studies that shall support or provide evidence to the attainment of the identified DSWD organizational and foundational outcomes, and indicators reflected in its Results Framework and Department Strategic Plan;
2. Provide a recommended list of areas and topics to be studied within the designated timeline to guide the Department in determining whether its policies, programs, and projects are attaining their intended results; and
3. Increase utilization rate of conducted research and generate knowledge that will respond to the present social development and economic issues and to fill in the knowledge gaps that are not addressed by the current SWD interventions.

IV. SCOPE AND COVERAGE

The Research and Evaluation Agenda shall cover all research and evaluation studies initiated by the Department, regardless of execution (i.e. in-house, joint, or outsourced). A **research study** refers to “any original and systematic investigation undertaken in order to increase knowledge and understanding and establish facts and principles. It usually consists of information acquired from research investigation backed up by related literature”. While **evaluation** is a type of research that has a significant role in promoting evidence and results-based policy and decision-making in the Department. It is defined as a “systematic and objective assessment of an ongoing or completed project, program or policy, its design, implementation and results with the overall goal of determining its relevance and fulfillment of objectives, developmental efficiency, effectiveness, impact and sustainability. It focuses

on the expected and achieved accomplishments of the intervention by examining the results chain, processes, contextual factors and causality, in order to understand achievements or the lack thereof. Due to its role in the policy- and decision-making process of the Department, it stands on its own from other branches and types of policy research.¹

Moreover, this Agenda shall be implemented, applied and utilized by the Offices, Bureaus, Services and Units of the Central and Field Offices, as well as by external stakeholders who partner with the Department in the conduct of researches or evaluations related to or involving the DSWD, such as local and international research institutions, the academe, independent researchers, non-government organizations/civil society organizations, private institutions, other National Government Agencies, local government units, and DSWD Attached Agencies.

V. DSWD RESULTS FRAMEWORK

One of the major elements relevant to the development and implementation of researches and evaluation studies 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 fulfilment of its mandate, powers and functions. The research and evaluation program of the DSWD is linked to the Department's Results Framework in two ways. First, all researches and evaluation studies conducted by the Department, and/or with or by its partners are anchored on these objectives. Secondly, all researches and evaluation studies that are intended to be conducted aim to support the information needs and knowledge gaps of the Department, as stipulated in its Results Framework.

At each level of the Results Framework, indicators are formulated to measure the level and extent of attainment of the organization in each of its objectives. The various researches and evaluation shall provide evidence and information about these indicators to effectively investigate the overall performance of the Department. Furthermore, researches, such as exploratory and descriptive types, are conducted to determine the different issues and concerns along social welfare and development (SWD) that are important to support policy and program design and implementation.

¹ Lifted from DSWD MC No. 9 S. 2019

**AMBISYON
NATIN 2040**

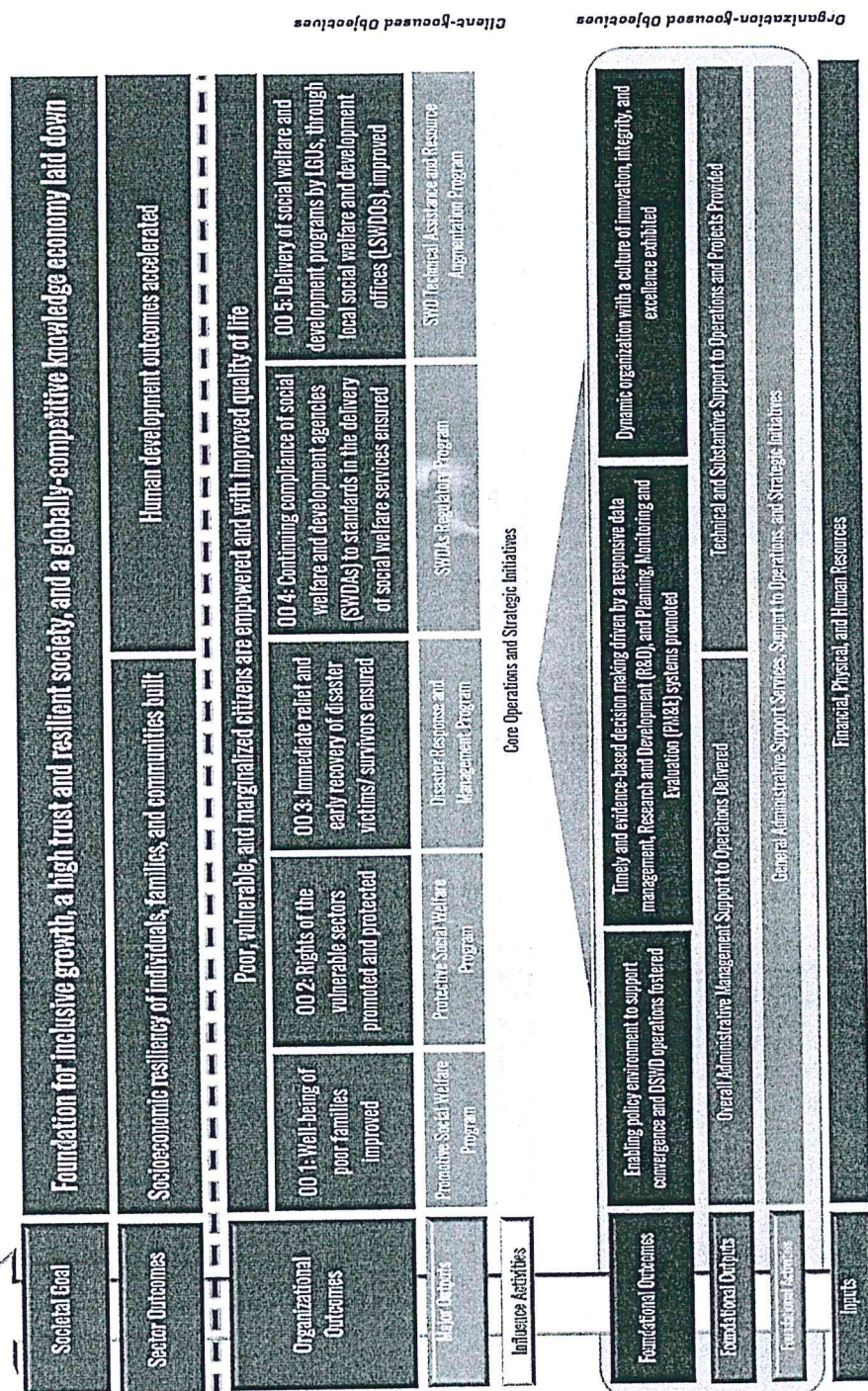
VISION

The Department of Social Welfare and Development envisions all Filipinos free from hunger and poverty, have equal access to opportunities, enabled by a fair, just, and peaceful society.

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

MATATAG, MAGINHAWA, AT PANATAG NA BUHAY



VALUES

Maagap at Mapagkakalingang Serbisyo

Serbiyong Watang Puwang sa Kaligtasan

Patas na Pagtrato sa Komunidad

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

The most recent data from the Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA) reveal that 1 in 5 Filipinos were poor in 2015 with 21.6% poverty incidence which is equivalent to 21.9 Million poor Filipinos. Poverty is targeted to be eradicated by 2040 as the Philippines is committed in achieving the Ambisyon 2040 in line with the global Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The SDGs aim to have no poverty by 2030 which would involve the process of targeting the most vulnerable, increasing access to basic resources and services, and supporting communities affected by conflict and climate-related disasters. On the other hand, the Ambisyon 2040 aspires that all Filipinos will have *Matatag, Maginhawa at Panatag na Buhay* by 2040 wherein the description of Maginhawa embraces the aspect that no one is poor and no one is ever hungry.

The DSWD advocates for the social welfare and development concerns of disadvantaged individuals and families, including children and youth, women, senior citizens, persons with disabilities and similarly situated individuals.

A. Social Welfare and Development Sector Context

1. Children and Youth

- The Juvenile Justice Welfare Act of 2006 promotes and protects the physical, moral, spiritual, intellectual and social well-being of children and youth and thus exempts them from criminal liability. Lowering the minimum age of criminal responsibility to 9 years old will have significant effect on the delivery of psycho-social services for children, considering that there were only few *Bahay Pag-Asa* left for Children in Conflict with the Law (CICL).
- Despite the numerous legislations pertaining to protection of children, statistics shows the persistence of child abuse in the country. One of the findings of the Council for the Welfare of Children (CWC) and the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) in their *National Baseline Study on Violence against Children (VAC)*, conducted in 2015, 8 in 10 children and young people in the Philippines have experienced some form of violence in their lifetime that usually begins at home. 60.4% of physical violence happened at home, followed by 14.3% in school, 12.5% in the community, 7.1% in the workplace and 6.2% during dating.
- On child labor and child exploitation cases, based on the 2011 survey on children of the PSA, there are 2.1 million child laborers aged 5-17 years old. About 95% of them are in hazardous work considering that they are beyond the minimum allowable age for work but still exposed to hazardous work. Children work in farms and plantations, in dangerous mines, on streets, in factories, and in private homes as child domestic workers. Agriculture remains to be the sector where most child laborers can be found at 58%.
- In terms of child trafficking, Philippines is considered as source country, a destination and transit country for men, women, and children subjected to sex trafficking. The DSWD in 2018 reported providing social welfare services for 5,632 distressed overseas and trafficked children, where 52% are girls and 48% are boys.
- Despite the existence of the *Anti-Child Pornography Act of 2009* which ensures the protection of children from all forms of online abuse and exploitation including cyber-bullying, the Philippines still recorded online child abuse as the leading form of cybercrime in 2014, involving children mostly 10-14 years old, largely in Luzon and Cebu.

- A 2015 national study found that children and youth aged 13-24 years are affected by high levels of violence in the country. Two (2) in 3 experience physical violence, 2 in 5 experience psychological violence and 1 in 4 experience sexual violence. About 40% children aged 6-10 years and 70% of older children suffer from bullying or peer violence.
- In a rapid assessment conducted in Central and Western Mindanao, it was estimated that 10-30% of the population in the MILF controlled areas were children participating in activities directly related to the armed conflict.
- In 2015, of the 28.7 Million poor individuals who constitute the 5.1 million poor households of Listahanan 2, 15.1 Million or 52.7% are Children.
- From 2016 to 2018, the number of children and youth in need of special protection served by the DSWD residential care facilities has decreased by almost 25%.
- On teenage pregnancy, the Philippines National Demographic and Health Survey 2017 reported that there were 4,897 women aged 15 – 19 who have had a live birth or who are pregnant with their first child. Around 54% of these women were residing in rural areas while the remaining 46% were residing in urban areas, mostly from NCR.

2. Women

- The 2017 National Demographic and Health Survey (NDHS) shows that 17% of women have ever experienced physical violence since age 15. Experience of physical violence is higher among divorced, separated, or widowed women (33%) than married women (19%) and never-married women (12%) and the most common perpetrator of physical violence is the current husband/partner (36%). Moreover, 41% of women aged 15-49 who have experienced physical or sexual violence have never sought help to end the violence or told anyone about the violence while 34% sought help to stop the violence and 25% told someone about the violence but did not seek help.
- In 2016, UN Women claimed that in the past two decades, an annual average of 172,000 Filipino Women Migrant Workers (WMWs) were deployed overseas as new hires. Currently, WMWs still outnumber men, but their proportion of the total deployment has considerably decreased. Abuse and exploitation, illegal recruitment, contract substitution and debt bondage continue to be experienced by WMWs, especially domestic workers. There are also violations of sexual and reproductive health rights due to discriminatory laws in migrant-receiving countries.
- In the 2018 Trafficking in Persons Report, the U.S. Department of State classified the Government of the Philippines under Tier 1 which means that it fully meets the minimum standards for the elimination of trafficking but was not able to improve the availability and quality of protection and assistance services for trafficking victims. While the government increased funding for equipment and facilities for the Philippine National Police Women and Children's Protection Center from 23 million pesos in 2017 to 106 million pesos in 2018, support for anti-trafficking task forces declined as the number of prosecutors assigned to the task forces decreased from 240 in 2016 to 203 in 2017. Moreover, it was also noted that there is no DSWD shelter/residential care facility (RCF) that is designated solely for the specialized care of trafficking victims.
- A World Health Organization-funded study by the Department of Health (DOH) and the University of the Philippines – National Institute for Health (UP-NIH) conducted in March 2007 places the number of solo parents at about 14 million or about 30.5% of total population nationwide; about 95% (13.3 million) of solo parents are female.
- In the most recent Listahanan assessment, 48.4% or 13.9 Million of the 28.7 Million poor individuals are women while the remaining 14.8 Million are men.

- Women in especially difficult circumstances that were served by the DSWD residential care facilities has decreased by 55%, from 3,594 in 2016 to 1,678 in 2017 and 1,619 in 2018.
- As of December 2016, a total of 166,562 Household Service Workers (HSWs) have been recorded by the Philippine Embassy. Of these, 101,807 or 61% are women.

3. Senior Citizens

- The results of the 2015 Census of Population showed that 7,548,769 or 7.5% of the 100,981,437 Philippine population in 2015 were senior citizens. Of the household population 60 years old and over, 42.1% were gainful workers; and of these, 37.7% were farmers, forestry workers or fishermen and 15.8% were workers engaged in elementary occupations, while 13.5% of the gainful senior citizens are managers.
- Of the 28.7 million poor individuals who constitute the 5.1 million poor households based on the Listahanan 2 (2015) data, 1.2 million or 4.17% are senior citizens.
- Senior Citizen clients that were served in residential care facilities of DSWD increased by almost 5 times from 320 clients in 2016 to 1,678 in 2017. Nonetheless, this number lowered by 51% in 2018, wherein only 820 senior citizen clients were served in residential care facilities of DSWD.
- A new study of the World Health Organization (WHO) in 2017 showed that 1 in 6 elderly people experienced some form of abuse including psychological abuse (11.6 percent), financial abuse (6.8 percent), neglect (4.2 percent), physical abuse (2.6 percent) or sexual abuse (0.9 percent). Relative to this, the Reporting System and Prevention Program for Elder Abuse Cases (ReSPPEC) was developed by DSWD, to ensure holistic and efficient systems of reporting, investigating, documenting and monitoring of elder abuse in the community.

4. Persons with Disability

- Of the 92.1 million household population in the country, 1.4 million persons or 1.57% had disability, based on the 2010 Census of Population and Housing. Of the total persons with disabilities in 2010, males accounted for 50.9% while females comprised 49.1%. For every five persons with disabilities, one (18.9%) was aged 0 to 14 years, three (59%) were in the working age group (aged 15 to 64 years), and one (22.1%) was aged 65 years and over. Meanwhile, the results of the Listahanan in 2015 showed that 313,574 or 1.1% of the 28.7 million poor individuals are persons with disabilities.
- In 2018, the residential care facilities of DSWD catered to 756 persons with disabilities and 873 were served in non-residential care facilities.
- The Magna Carta for Disabled Persons, ensures equal opportunities, especially in the areas of employment for Disabled Persons. However, anti-discriminatory practices in the area of employment remains in wanting. There is still limited access to education, training and financial opportunities for the persons with disabilities especially for those in the rural and remote areas. DSWD was able to serve only 730 persons with disabilities in National or Area Vocational Rehabilitation Centers (N/AVRCs) in 2018.
- According to the 2013 study of the DSWD, entitled, *Rethinking Programs and Services Reform for Persons with Disabilities in N/AVRCs*, most of the graduates in N/AVRCs come from its center vicinity and other nearby provinces while limited number of clients from rural areas and other provinces are catered by its centers. To date, the Philippine government has yet to come up with classification of disabilities that can facilitate the production of statistics on persons with disabilities and help pertinent agencies and service providers to develop adequate and appropriate programs for persons with disabilities. The stigma on disability confounds the absence of reliable statistics

because some families are reluctant to disclose if they have member/s in the family or household who have disabilities.

5. Family

- In the 2015 National Household for Poverty Reduction (NHTS PR) or the Listahanan income distribution of the 5.2M poor households identified nationwide, 90.61% were found to earn below the annual per capita poverty threshold of P15,057.005 (the needed income for a family of six members to be out of poverty). This means that a poor household with six (6) members each earned PhP41.22 per day. These poor households were found in National Capital Region (NCR) which is a highly urbanized area.
- In a 2015 Rapid Appraisal of Comprehensive Program for Street Children, Street Families and Indigenous Persons (IPs) conducted by the DSWD Field Office National Capital Region (NCR), Homeless Street Families (HSF) accounted for at least 5,425 families. The largest share of this figure are located in the NCR at 60.5% or 3,508 families, followed by Region 7 at 11.8% or 687 families. In terms of length of stay on the streets, the Rapid Appraisal of Homeless Street Families (HSF) conducted by the Pantawid Pamilyang Pilipino Program (4Ps) National Program Management Office reported that 43.8% families were considered chronic or staying on the streets for more than eight years, 28% were episodic (between three to seven years), and 28.6% are transients (less than two years). Implications of street dwelling to children and families include lack of access to education, lack of access to health services, child labor, high-risk behaviors (i.e. substance abuse and unprotected sex), exploitation (i.e. trafficking and prostitution), and drug abuse.
- A total of 21 tropical cyclones entered the Philippine Area of Responsibility in 2018. Of which, 8 made landfall and affected about 1.3 million families. As of 2018, 995,680 families (40%) out of the 2,448,921 disaster-affected families were covered by disaster response services. Most of the beneficiaries served were victims of Tropical Depression Henry and Inday and Typhoon Ompong.

6. Internally Displaced Persons

- Despite the peace process efforts, the increased frequency of armed conflicts have caused harm to DSWD beneficiaries and the communities. Women and children are the most vulnerable in such conflict situations and DSWD has to provide the immediate services for these individuals. Aside from the existing programs and services of the Department, it should also strengthen involvement to peace process and overall national government strategy for peace building in conflict affected areas.
- The 2017 Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre Report cited that in the Philippines, there were 645,000 internally displaced persons (IDPs) due to conflict and violence and 2,529,000 IDPs due to disasters. This left prolonged vulnerabilities and development gaps especially for those displaced over extended periods of time. Major challenges of IDPs include lack of access to safe, durable housing, education, and livelihood opportunities. Forced relocation impacted on Ethnic minorities such as the Sama Bajau and the Lumad in Mindanao.
- As of December 2018, 71,650 households affected by Marawi Siege were engaged under Cash-for-Work (CFW) which involves transitional support and citizenship building through temporary employment, specifically by providing families cash assistance in exchange for community works. Moreover, a total of 35,533 families displaced by the war in Marawi City were granted with livelihood assistance through the provision of seed capital fund.

7. Overseas Filipinos (OFs)

- The Philippine Embassy in Kuala Lumpur reported that in December 2015, a total of 620,043 OFs in Malaysia. Of these, an estimate of 298,450 or 48% were undocumented OFs who were in need of the assistance and services of the Philippine Embassy.
- In 2015, it was found that 8,056 out of 119,828 or 7% of the Household Service Workers (HSWs) in Kuwait were recorded as undocumented. Moreover, 88% (8,056 out of 9,170) of the undocumented OFWs in Kuwait were HSWs.
- In the 2017 Assessment of DSWD's International Social Welfare Services for Filipino Nationals, it was mentioned that different types of distressed OFs were found in various countries but the highest number of cases of abuse and maltreatment was observed in Middle East countries. These cases included unfair labor practices, lack of food, overworking, poor accommodation, and physically, verbally or sexually abused by their employers. These OFs required psychosocial services and needed medium to long term case management as well as referral services on reintegration interventions in the Philippines. On the other hand, OFs in prisons due to immorality, drug-related and other cases will require jail visits and counselling from the SWATs whenever necessary.

8. Other Areas of Concern

- Considering that there are multiple aspects that constitute poverty, the Philippine Statistics Authority has recently adopted the Multi-dimensional Poverty Index (MPI). The MPI looks beyond income to understand how people experience poverty in multiple and simultaneous ways. It provides information on which dimension the Filipinos are most deprived in. A Filipino is identified as multi-dimensionally deprived if he or she is deprived in at least one third of the indicators or at least four of the 13 indicators. In 2017, the multi-dimensionally deprived Filipinos or the proportion of Filipinos deprived in at least four out of the 13 indicators, was estimated at 17.3%. In terms of the intensity of their deprivation, on average, they were multi-dimensionally deprived by 41.2% in 2017.
- Dr. Dennis Mapa of the University of the Philippines – School of Statistics, defined near-poor household in his study, as a non-poor household at a given time but with higher probability of becoming poor in the future due to “shocks” affecting the household such as health, economic, disaster and the like or also referred to as transient poor. The average per capita income of near poor household was set at 10% above the poverty threshold in 2015, equivalent to PhP22,748, thus its population may range from 4.21 Million to 12.25 Million. Most of them, or 8.07% of population, are fishermen found in Region V, VIII, XI, Caraga and ARMM.
- There is lack of data on the number and distribution of indigenous peoples in the Philippines. PSA estimates it at 8 million from the 2010 Census while the National Commission on Indigenous Peoples (NCIP) estimates that there are about 14 million IPs in the country. Thus, there is a need to have credible data on Indigenous Peoples in the Philippines.

B. Internal Context

1. Program and Operations Issues

The DSWD Assessment Report 2018 cited major program implementation gaps and issues including low benefit level of cash transfers due to inflation; limited information on certain indicators of DSWD outcomes; weak access of beneficiaries to other complementary interventions that will improve their conditions/well-being; frequent changes in operational guidelines that causes delay in the implementation of programs; and human and budgetary resource constraints, which are ripe for revisiting and evaluation.

Organizational Outcome 1: Well-being of poor families improved

- The compliance rate of Pantawid beneficiaries for Education conditions exceeded the target for 2018 while compliance rate for Health conditions, excluding attendance to Family Development Sessions (FDS), almost reached the target. However, it can be noted that these compliance rates are lower compared to the compliance rates in 2016 and 2017.
- Relative to this, the 2nd wave impact evaluation (IE) study on Pantawid found that the program was able to keep children in school and improve their access to health services but was less successful in keeping children healthy. This may then imply that the adequacy of the cash grants and health services and other complementary services availed thru the program may not be sufficient to guarantee the attainment of nutritional outcomes for Pantawid children.
- From 2016, there has been a continuous decline in the number of households assisted through the SLP and since 2017, there was a huge drop in the number of Employment Facilitation (EF) track beneficiaries. This was also exacerbated by the discontinuation of Skills Training Modality and Skills Training Fund for EF participants.

Organizational Outcome 2: Rights of the poor and vulnerable sectors promoted and protected

- At the end of the feeding interventions for the 7th cycle implementation of the SFP, 84% of malnourished children have shown weight improvements. While SFP improves access of children to food, its design does not address food insecurity at the household level. Furthermore, the program does not have interventions that will improve the household beneficiaries' access to adequate water, sanitation, food safety and health services.
- Based on the Social Pension validation activity as of 30 March 2019, 90.18% of the 108,897 assessed Social Pensioners used their cash grants to augment their daily subsistence and medical needs.
- Medical assistance is most demanded among the clients served with Assistance to Individual in Crisis Situation which equates for the biggest share of total cost of assistance.
- For the first year of the UCT implementation, 9,496,894 were provided cash grants, among whom less than 70% claimed their grants.

Organizational Outcome 3: Immediate relief and early recovery of disaster victims/survivors ensured

- 84% of the disaster-affected households were assisted to early recovery stage. However, operational concerns, including insufficient number of personnel in DSWD, no regular conduct of program review, and interference of local politicians were still reported.
- The COA Report on 2017 revealed the very poor percentage of liquidation of cash advances and fund transfers in the amount of Php1.49 billion for Emergency Shelter Assistance (ESA) as of December 31, 2017. However, DSWD explained upon the release of the 2017 COA report, that considering the date of occurrence of Typhoon *Nina* (December 2017), the implementation of recovery and rehabilitation programs, projects and activities (PPAs) were actually done in CY 2018. It was also further clarified that as of January 2019, only 14.24% or Php 212,195,880 have not been liquidated out of the P1.49 billion. Concerned special disbursing officers and local government units are still in the process of preparing the liquidation documents for subsequent recording in the Department's book of accounts.

Organizational Outcome 4: Continuing compliance of SWD agencies to standards in the delivery of social welfare services ensured

- Less than 10% of accredited SWDAs and Registered and Licensed SWAs have sustained compliance to standards in 2018.
- There were delays which affected the timeliness of issuance of Certificates of Accreditation to the SWDAs and Service Providers, including delays in the submission of Security Paper (SECPA) inventory and high number of void certificates due to erroneous/incomplete entry of information. There was also difficulty in the delivery of SECPA papers to the FOs since the allowable means is only through hand carry.

Organizational Outcome 5: Delivery of SWD programs by LGUs, through LSWDOs, improved

- The LSWDO Service Delivery Assessment Tool was enhanced in 2018 to determine the level of service delivery of LSWDOs as frontline service providers of SWD programs and services, and, identify specific gaps, problems or issues and concerns affecting their capacities as basis for technical assistance and/or resource augmentation by DSWD.
- In 2018, 1,390 out of the 1,715 LGUs were provided with TA by the DSWD while 878 LGUs received assistance from the DSWD thru resource augmentation,
- There is a need for DSWD to come with up a client satisfaction tool that will serve as uniform measurement for technical assistance and resource augmentation satisfactory.

2. Support to Operations, Administrative and Financial Management Issues.

Despite the years of experience in delivering projects, programs and services for the people, gaps and issues such as delays in downloading of funds, slow procurement process, slow review and approval of proposals still arose. Risks assessment as part of the pre-implementation stage of projects would help prevent such concerns. It was also greatly emphasized in the CY 2019 DSWD Thrusts and Priorities re-evaluation of programs to make sure they remained relevant to the needs of the communities are

highly encouraged, along with the creation of timely, relevant and applicable models of intervention for the poor, marginalized and vulnerable sectors. Moreover, the evaluation of devolved social welfare programs to LGUs that did not involve funding from DSWD, was also included in the activities to ascertain the programs' status, relevance, applicability and outcome.

Foundational Outcomes

- In the recently adopted DSWD Strategic Plan, some of the outcome indicators have limited information and thus affects the timeline of decision and policy-making. Relative to this, there is a need to strengthen monitoring and development of appropriate tools to measure organizational outcomes and improve utilization of findings from M&E reports, studies and researches for responsive policy-making.
- The rapid expansion of DSWD programs, projects and services led to the need for additional plantilla positions. However given the difficulty of this process, the lack of plantilla positions has resulted to heavy workload especially those in front line service. Aside from the heavy workload, DSWD personnel are deployed to disaster-affected areas and geographically-isolated and disadvantaged areas (GIDA) where they are vulnerable to various health and security risks. In fact, even the anticipated 7.2 magnitude earthquake or known as The Big One may cause loss of life or injuries to DSWD officials and personnel leading to disruption of the Department's operations for disaster response and regular program.
- Information systems are underutilized thus there is a need to closely monitor the utilization of the newly developed databases and information systems.
- The Department intends to establish knowledge management in the organization to improve learning and to foster a culture of excellence across DSWD Offices. As the leader in Social Protection, DSWD aims to initiate innovations that are fully documented that will strengthen our programs and services and push for reforms in the sector that we belong to.

C. Studies conducted on Social Welfare and Development

Research and Evaluation studies along Social Welfare and Development have been conducted by external organizations and internally by DSWD and partner stakeholders, these can then be used by development decision makers as evidences to support policies and programs.

From 2016 to 2018, a total of 109 SWD-related studies were reviewed, and of these, around 32% are related to the improvement of well-being of poor individuals and families; with Pantawid Pamilya as one of the major areas of concern. Those related to the promotion and protection of the rights of the poor and vulnerable sectors have almost the same weight at 33% of the studies conducted; most of these studies are on Family sector and Children and Youth sector concerns. Studies related to Persons with Disabilities, Indigenous People and the Senior Citizens had the lowest percentage at 1%, 2% and 5% respectively. Furthermore, disaster-related studies are also trending with 25%, and most of these involved the Philippine experience on Typhoon Haiyan (Yolanda). On the other hand, studies related to Social Welfare and Development Agencies (SWDAs) and Local Social Welfare and Development Offices

(LSWDOs) were still not popularized, even within the internal studies conducted by DSWD and partner stakeholders.

Various internal studies on Organizational Outcome 1, particularly evaluation and assessment of the Pantawid Pamilya, KC-NCDDP and SLP were notably conducted by the NPMOs from 2016-2018. Pantawid Pamilya remain to be one of the popular area of study while the external studies on KC-NCDDP and SLP were noticeably less. Based on the quick scoping review conducted on studies related to OO 1, findings of the internal studies were generally consistent with the results of external studies. The following present the highlights of the result of the scoping review on OO 1:

- Assessment and case studies on the compliance to Pantawid Pamilya conditionalities provided recommendations toward the attainment of the program outcome on beneficiaries' sustained attendance to school and access to preventive health care services. A number of studies also aimed to assess the effectiveness of the FDS to health, nutrition and education of the family.
- All of the Pantawid IT-related studies focused on the development of system for the improvement of payment of grants to beneficiaries.
- As there are already a number of the case studies on the implementation of Pantawid Pamilya in different LGUs, future studies should focus on other aspects of the Program. Among the topics with minimal or no coverage at all are MCCT implementation, different Pantawid Pamilya systems (beneficiary data management, compliance verification and grievance redress), and partnership with stakeholders.
- The success of the implementation of KC-NCDDP in attaining its program outcome (increase in access to major KC investments in KC-NCDDP municipalities) and outputs (KC-NCDDP sub-projects completed in accordance with technical plans and schedule; households that benefitted from completed KC-NCDDP sub-projects) were well-documented in the evaluation studies. However, further research is needed to take account of the gains made by the communities and make sense of the effects of CDD and similar good governance and empowerment interventions.
- External studies on SLP should be encouraged to further substantiate the result of internal studies on the program. The various assessment conducted have provided substantial recommendations such as: re-assessment of targeting of SLP; intensification of Social Preparation phase; strengthening of capacity of people and adequate support provision; and re-establishment of effective field management and monitoring systems.

From 2016 to 2018, internal studies related to Organizational Outcome 2 was very minimal, but the numerous external studies on this matter would have complemented the information/data requirements. The following results were gathered thru quick scoping review of studies on promotion and protection of rights of the poor and vulnerable sector:

- On adoption and foster care, there is a lack of comprehensive and reliable data on children without parental care, and children in alternative care which is due to the weakness of the monitoring and information management systems in place for childcare and protection.
- Studies on School-Based Feeding Program focused on measuring the attainment of objectives of the program and knowing the various factors affecting the attainment of the nutrition outcome. These studies also cited

recommendations on improving the program from the point of view of the stakeholders. But studies assessing the processes of the program are also needed.

- Majority of studies on child abuse examined the effects of domestic violence on children and provided recommendations for the improvement of child welfare. However, studies that look at the proper handling and management of these children are lacking.
- Studies related to Children in Conflict with the Law usually provided the causes for children to commit delinquency and the impacts of the case to the well-being of the children involved. But studies assessing the implementation of the RA 9344 or the Juvenile Justice and Welfare Act of 2006 would also be needed to gain information, appreciation, and knowledge on the respective roles and obligations of the stakeholders under program.
- Data on street children were also available through the studies conducted, focusing more on the causes of emergence of the problem. However, studies evaluating the services provided to street children were not much explored.
- Studies on Older Persons focus on assessment of their functionality in terms of income or labor participation but there were no rigorous studies examining the services and support for elders.
- Recent studies on women focus on cases of violence against women and relates it to women empowerment. Yet, studies evaluating the implementation of RA 9262 or the Anti-Violence Against Women and Their Children Act of 2004 are still lacking.

There were also numerous disaster-related studies or those related to immediate relief and early recovery of disaster victims/survivors 2016 to 2018, but the studies focused more on the Typhoon Yolanda experience. Conducted studies assessed the shelter programs provided not only by DSWD but also by other partners. Moreover, the process of Disaster Risk Reduction Management was also evaluated by past studies focusing on its effectiveness and efficiency considering the intensity of the natural disasters that we have experienced. Emergency and early rehabilitation processes were also examined by looking at the adequacy, inclusiveness and sensitivity to the needs of the clients. However, the delineation of tasks between the local and national offices should also be looked into.

Studies related to Foundational Outcomes are very minimal, and those conducted aimed to improve the existing systems and mechanisms of the government. These studies assessed the planning, budgeting, security and procurement system of the government.

Studies related to Organizational Outcome 4 and 5 are also very minimal despite the importance of assessing the compliance of SWD agencies to standards in the delivery of social welfare services and examining the functionality of LSWDOs.

The results of these conducted SWD studies could provide partial evidence and information on the indicators of the DSWD Results Framework and could be used to support enhancements in the policy and program design and implementation. Likewise, continuous conduct of research and evaluation studies, especially those to be initiated by DSWD, are deemed necessary to effectively investigate the overall performance of the Department and identify other relevant and emerging issues and

concerns along SWD. For instance, studies mainly focusing on the population of DSWD clients/beneficiaries could be conducted to assess the performance of the existing DSWD programs, projects and services in terms of attaining the desired outcomes while studies involving the overall population of the country could be done to help the Department take actions on the emerging SWD issues and concerns and come up with new social technologies.

VII. RESEARCH AND EVALUATION CRITERIA FOR PRIORITIZATION, AREAS AND TOPICS

Using the DSWD Results Framework as primary reference, several areas for research and evaluation were determined which the Department and its partners has to undertake within the lifespan of the Research and Evaluation Agenda 2019-2022. The following section provides the research and evaluation areas and topics that were classified according to the level of prioritization. The table below shows the **criteria used for prioritization**.

Table 1: Criteria in the Prioritization of Topics

Criteria	Description
Relevance 40%	A topic is considered relevant if (a) the main problem or evaluation question relates to issues that affect a great number of SWD sectors; (b) it provides insight to important SWD legislation/s, whether proposed or existing; (c) it is responsive to emerging issues and trends as well as being (d) it is directly linked to key indicators in the Department's results framework; and/or (e) contributes to the agency's addressing the risk management response.
Timeliness 30%	A topic is considered timely and urgent if it requires immediate action or attention in order to respond to a pressing issue or concern. Herein, the result of the study is needed to aid in decision-making as well as in developing critical interventions at various levels to address the problem or issue.
Feasibility 20%	A topic is deemed feasible or doable if there are available time and resources (e.g. human and financial) to conduct the study. In determining a topic's feasibility, the availability of resources in the organization, whether internally or with external support, shall be considered. The topic can also be considered feasible when it recognizes possible partnerships necessary to implement the study.
Acceptability 10%	A topic must be firmly grounded on cultural sensitivity and be aligned with the basic ethical principles of autonomy, beneficence, and justice. Topics identified should not inflict harm and pose psychological and other risks to both respondents and researchers/evaluators while carrying out the study.

A. Well-being of poor families improved. The DSWD is the lead agency in the formulation, implementation and coordination of social welfare and development policies and programs for and with the poor, vulnerable and disadvantaged. Thus, the Department implements

specialized programs that empower the poor families and help them increase their economic and social well-being and become active participants to development which would then contribute to the socio-economic agenda of the government – investment in human capital development and improving social protection programs. Given these, existing policies and programs on social protection should be reviewed and amended, if necessary. With the magnitude and extent of the Department's implementation of its programs and projects, the evaluation of these is essential in steering the Department towards the right direction in terms of achieving its desired outcomes.

Item	PRIORITY TOPICS OO 1	Level of Priority
EVALUATION		
1	Impact and sustainability of the Sustainable Livelihood Program to poor families	High
2	Program evaluation of DSWD's specialized programs (determining its sustainability and impact on the improvement of well-being of beneficiaries)	High
3	Cost Benefit/Effectiveness Analysis of the Specialized Programs	High
4	Participation of women in CDD activities in the localities	Medium
5	Effects of convergence strategy in improving access of Pantawid and non-Pantawid families to various SWD services	Medium
6	Evaluation of the SLP in terms of relevance to the needs of the communities	Medium
7	Assessment report on the availment of economic opportunities vs. availability of child caring support among SLP participants and Pantawid Pamilya beneficiaries	Low
RESEARCH		
1	Study on the different program modalities of SLP	High
2	Baseline/cross-sectional and longitudinal study of SLP beneficiaries	High
3	Study on the existing CO and CDD approach employed in implementing the Department's Specialized programs	Medium
4	Study on the rationalization of the amount of grants provided to the beneficiaries	Medium
5	Case studies of SLP beneficiaries belonging to different sectors (Indigenous People, Persons with Disabilities, Senior Citizens)	Medium
6	DSWD's suitable role in productive inclusion (considering capacities, existing programs and competencies of other NGAs – DOLE, DTI, partnerships)	Low
7	Adaptation of CDD approach at the local level	Low
8	Gender-responsive Specialized Programs	Low
9	Longitudinal Study of Pantawid Families	Low
10	Causes and potential magnitude of non-compliance in Pantawid Pamilya conditionalities	Low

Item	PRIORITY TOPICS OO 1	Level of Priority
11	Adequacy of cash grants and health services for Pantawid Families	Low
12	Study on current school attendance of school-aged children and years of schooling of household members	Low
13	Study on health insurance coverage of poor households	Low
14	Study on improved quality of life thru measuring living standards dimension	Low

Several evaluation studies have been conducted on Pantawid Pamilya and Kapit-Bisig Laban sa Kahirapan- Comprehensive and Integrated Delivery of Social Services – National Community- Driven Development Program (KC-NCDDP), being two of the major flagship program of the government for poverty alleviation. Moreover, pertinent studies on these programs can still be explored as necessary, to build more evidences and aid in the enhancements of the program.

- B. Rights of the poor and vulnerable sectors promoted and protected.** DSWD guarantees that the vulnerable individuals and groups, namely, the children, youth, women, persons with disability, senior citizens, disadvantaged families, solo parents and indigenous peoples are able to benefit from the programs and services provided by the government. Furthermore, this is the contribution of the Department towards the fulfilment of the country's commitment to the various international instruments/treaties for the protection of the rights of the victims of violence, the marginalized and the disadvantaged or those excluded from the mainstream society. Therefore, various social protection policies and the statutory programs of the Department should be assessed in line with the promotion of the vulnerable sectors' rights.

Item	PRIORITY TOPICS OO 2	Level of Priority
EVALUATION		
1	Assessment of the Juvenile Justice System Pillars on the Prevention and Rehabilitation of CICL	High
2	Program impact of supplementary feeding particularly on nutritional status of children	High
3	Impact of social pension program specifically on the capacity of senior citizens to meet daily subsistence needs	High
4	Efficiency and effectiveness of services provided by centers and institutions	High
5	Reintegration of trafficked persons in their families and communities	High
6	Leakage, inclusion/exclusion errors, and other targeting issues on various SWD services, such as on SFP and Social Pension	High
7	Relevance and effectiveness of Assistance to Individuals in Crisis Situations (AICS)	High

Item	PRIORITY TOPICS OO 2	Level of Priority
8	Appropriateness and relevance of treatment intervention in centers and institutions	High
9	The Impacts of Conditional Cash Transfers to Near-Poor Households in the Philippines: An Ex-Ante Evaluation Study	High
10	Evaluation of the BangUn Project	High
11	Appropriate interventions to perennial clients of Crisis Intervention Units	Medium
12	Impact Evaluation of Conditional Cash Transfers to Households with Malnourished Children (covered by SFP)	Medium
13	Evaluation of the Unconditional Cash Transfer Program	Medium
14	Part II – Assessment of International Social Welfare Services for Filipino Nationals	Medium
15	Assessment of the Implementation of Auxiliary Social Services	Low
16	Impact Evaluation of the Parenting Effectiveness Service and Empowerment and Reaffirmation of Paternal Abilities	Low
RESEARCH		
1	Cost of Disability	High
2	Addressing the Issue of Child Cyber-Pornography	High
3	Psycho-social Responses for Internally Displaced People	High
4	Interventions to potential victims of trafficking (or those intercepted at various ports and airports)	High
5	Study on appropriate interventions for adoptive children who suffered adoption disruption	High
6	Research on additional aid/services for Solo Parents	High
7	Research on IP programs and services	High
8	Accessibility of SP programs for Persons with Disabilities	High
9	Mental Health and abuse (disaster, PWDs)	High
10	The Need for Long Term Care Policy for Senior Citizens in the Philippines	Medium
11	DSWD's role on Drug Rehabilitation and Reintegration	Medium
12	Human Trafficking and Disaster	Medium
13	Social Interventions to HIV/AIDS victims and families	Medium
14	Contextualizing the UN on the rights of the child in the Philippine culture setting	Low
15	Level of awareness on the culture of family labor	Low
16	Social Cost of Migration	Low
17	Intimate Partner Violence (IPV) or Domestic Violence Against Men	Low
18	Extent of services provided to street children particularly on food and nutrition aspect	Low
19	Research study on the increasing number of Child Caring Agencies vis-a-vis caring agencies for other sectors	Low

Item	PRIORITY TOPICS OO 2	Level of Priority
20	Tracker study of all programs and services being provided by DSWD (effectiveness, efficiency and intervention gaps)	Low
21	Situational Analysis of Children in Armed Conflict in the Philippines	Low

Studies related to the conditions of the Indigenous People and Persons with Disabilities could be initiated by DSWD to help gauge the concerns of these sectors and provide appropriate social intervention. Most recommended research topics under OO2 are considered necessary for the development of appropriate interventions.

- C. Immediate relief and early recovery of disaster victims/survivors ensured.** The Department also has a critical role in addressing the immediate needs of the individuals, families and communities affected by human-induced and natural disasters. As such, studies should be done to help strengthen disaster operations mechanisms of the Department, resulting to provision of timely response to the victims/survivors of disasters.

Item	PRIORITY TOPICS OO 3	Level of Priority
EVALUATION		
1	DRRM: Department's preparedness for the new normal	High
2	Evaluation of the Department's Risk Resiliency Program - Cash for Work for Climate Change Adaptation and Mitigation	High
3	Efficiency and effectiveness of disaster response (system, structure, volunteers)	High
4	The Disaster Response Operations Monitoring and Information Center's Reporting System	High
5	Culture-Specific Disaster Preparedness and Response	Medium
6	The Department's Early Recovery Services - Cash for Work and Emergency Shelter Assistance	Medium
7	Resiliency of core shelter houses and relevance of Neighborhood Association for Shelter Assistance	Low
8	Assessment of the Government Procurement Processes and Procedures During Disaster	Low
9	Assessment of Donations (absorptive capacity, administrative layers)	Low
10	Evaluation of the Department's provision of TARA for Post-disaster needs assessments	Low
RESEARCH		
1	Assessment of Readiness of Disaster Responders in handling PWDs during disasters	Medium
2	Children's involvement in community actions before, during and after disasters	Low

Item	PRIORITY TOPICS OO 3	Level of Priority
3	Study on the improvement of the liquidation rates and formulation of cash advance and fund transfer system	Low

- D. Continuing compliance of SWD agencies to standards in the delivery of social welfare services ensured.** The Department is mandated to act as “steerer or enabler” of SWD programs by setting standards and assessing the quality of SWD programs and services of Social Welfare and Development Agencies (SWDAs). Through registration, licensing and accreditation, the DSWD ensures that SWDAs are providing efficient and effective programs and services to the poor and vulnerable sectors.

Item	PRIORITY TOPICS OO 4	Level of Priority
EVALUATION		
1	Impact of TARA provided to the SWDAs	Medium
2	Improvement of service delivery by licensed and accredited SWDAs	Medium
3	SWD Standards: Its Applicability and its Effect to the Community	Medium
RESEARCH		
1	Attaining Centers of Excellence (Study on compliance to DSWD Managed Facilities)	High
2	Effect of ABSNET on policy formulation	Medium
3	Abuse on privilege on donations	Low

- E. Delivery of SWD programs by LGUs, through LSWDOs, improved.** The Department is mandated to improve the delivery of SWD programs and services by the LGUs through the provision of technical assistance and resource augmentation (TARA) to our local government partners, particularly the Local Social Welfare and Development Offices (LSWDOs).

Item	PRIORITY TOPICS OO 5	Level of Priority
EVALUATION		
1	Degree/extent of effectiveness of DSWD interventions on capacitating the LSWDOs along the delivery of SWD and SP services	High
2	Effects of social protection mainstreaming at the local level and the extent of coordination related to the delivery of SP programs and services	High
3	Effectiveness/functionality of City/Municipal Action Teams and intervention planning	Medium

Item	PRIORITY TOPICS OO 5	Level of Priority
4	LGU adoption of DSWD's social technologies	Low
5	Effectiveness of TARA of PSWDO to C/MSWDO vs. TARA of DSWD to C/MSWDO	Low
6	Appropriateness and responsiveness of social protection policies, tools, and systems	Low
7	Balance between steering role vis-à-vis rowing functions	Low
8	Assessment of Local Government Performance in Social Protection	Low
RESEARCH		
1	Increasing Functionality of LSWDOs as Frontline Service Providers	High
2	Knowledge, Awareness, and Perceptions of Local Chief Executives on Social Protection and Social Welfare and Development	High
3	Delivery of social welfare and social protection programs and services in the context of devolution	Low
4	Incentive system for LSWDOs	Low
5	Study on the sufficiency of SW supply vis-a-vis LSWDO needs	Low
6	Study on knowledge needs of LSWDOs, knowledge audit, knowledge and information flow mapping the Department	Low
7	Case Studies on LGU Social Protection initiatives	Low

F. Enabling policy environment fostered. In order to maximize the magnitude of the impact of DSWD programs and services, the Department shall have enabling policy environment fostered that is characterized by 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.

Item	PRIORITY TOPICS FOUNDATIONAL OUTCOME: Enabling policy environment fostered	Level of Priority
EVALUATION		
1	Effect of centrally-crafted policies on regional implementation and delivery of services	High
2	Service Providers Competencies and Work Performance as Basis for Learning Development Intervention	Medium
3	Assessment of Volunteers' engagement to several programs/projects	Low
RESEARCH		
1	Process Documentation Researches of Public-Private partnership engagement	Low
2	Determining the effective role of DSWD under a federal system of governance	Low

Item	PRIORITY TOPICS FOUNDATIONAL OUTCOME: Enabling policy environment fostered	Level of Priority
3	Public Expenditure Review of Social Protection Programs and Responses	Low

G. Timely and evidence-based decision making driven by a responsive data management, Research and Development (R&D) and Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation (PM&E) systems promoted

The DSWD management is expected to utilize its existing systems as bases for evidence-based planning and policy-making as a reflection of the positive change in management's culture of decision-making

Item	PRIORITY TOPICS FOUNDATIONAL OUTCOME: Timely and evidence-based decision making driven by a responsive data management, Research and Development (R&D) and Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation (PM&E) systems promoted	Level of Priority
EVALUATION		
1	Interoperability and efficiency of DSWD-wide M&E processes and data flow	High
2	Effectiveness of DSWD performance management systems	High
3	Status of internal convergence of systems	Medium
4	Effectiveness of knowledge management implementation particularly on the utilization and relevance of knowledge products and documentation of good practices	Medium
5	Evaluation of the Internal Financial Management Reforms as to compliance with oversight regulatory and safety measures	Medium
6	Review of existing DSWD management frameworks including data management systems	Medium
7	Evaluation of the Social Technology facilities as to relevance and applicability to intended customer base	Low
RESEARCH		
1	State of IT in the department	Low
2	Link between performance evaluation and PBB	Low

H. Dynamic organization with a culture of innovation, integrity and excellence exhibited. The DSWD aims to initiate innovations that are fully documented that will strengthen its programs and services and push for necessary reforms in the Department. Furthermore, DSWD aspires to exemplify a culture of integrity and excellence in delivering its programs and services.

Item	PRIORITY TOPICS FOUNDATIONAL OUTCOME: Dynamic organization with a culture of innovation, integrity and excellence exhibited	Level of Priority
EVALUATION		
1	Responsiveness of the DSWD organizational structure, including re-clustering of Offices and staffing requirements	High
2	Efficiency/process assessment of procurement system	High
3	Strategy on media and communication	Medium
4	Effectiveness of DSWD integrity management program	Medium
5	Effect of hiring MOA Workers	Medium
RESEARCH		
1	Strategic Human Resource and Organizational Development	Medium
2	The Gains/Setbacks of ISO 9001 Certification	Medium
3	Good Practices/Lessons Learned in policy, project and program development and implementation	Low
4	Extent of policy awareness of DSWD employees: basis for development of feedback mechanism	Low
5	Post-retirement satisfaction	Low

VIII. IMPLEMENTATION

The Research and Evaluation Agenda shall be utilized immediately upon its approval and shall be updated accordingly following the conduct of the mid-term review on the DSWD Results Framework to ensure that the research and evaluation studies to be undertaken are in line with the objectives of the Department.

Selection of topics and schedules. The topics identified in the document shall be prioritized by the Offices, Bureaus, Services, Units (OBSUs), Field Offices (FOs), Supervised Agencies (SAs) and Attached Agencies (AAs) in its research and evaluation activities. Third party evaluators and researchers shall also be guided by the Agenda. To ensure that the Evaluation Agenda shall be followed, all OBSUs, FOs, AAs, and other researchers and evaluators shall coordinate all research and evaluation activities to be conducted with the Policy Development and Planning Bureau (PDPB) for appropriate review. Other study topics that are not included in this 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.

Topics identified as high priority are required areas for study or evaluation in order for the Department to report on its outcomes and therefore are scheduled to be conducted within the first 2 years from the approval of the agenda. The rest of the topics (medium and low) may be conducted within the four-year period.

Office/Program-Level Research and Evaluation Agenda. OBS from the Central office and the Field Offices are not precluded from preparing their respective Agenda that shall guide their Office or Program in doing studies that are relevant and timely based on their needs and requirements, towards the promotion of evidence-based decision-making.

In doing so, the OBS and FOs shall be guided by the following:

1. The OBS/FO-level agenda should be aligned to the Department's Agenda and should support the overall objectives of the DSWD as reflected in its Strategic Results Framework.
2. The OBS/FOs shall adhere to the R&E Framework of the Department, and in particular shall:
 - a. Implement the same standards and criteria for research and evaluation; and
 - b. Base their respective agenda on the Results Framework or Theory of Change which stipulates the Program/Office outcomes and outputs.
3. OBS/FOs shall at the minimum follow the key procedures in the development of the agenda, as stipulated in this policy. Specifically, the agenda should be:
 - a. Consulted with key stakeholders of the Office/Program, including but not limited to the R&E TWG of the Department; and
 - b. Submitted under the regular policy development process

Funding. The PDPB shall include in its Annual Work and Financial Plan a budget for (i) policy-related researches 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 Php300, 000.00 for each Field Office who will request for fund augmentation will be allocated and included in PDPB Annual Work and Financial Plan. The request of Field Offices shall be made prior to the preparation of the WFP, as this will be the basis of the PDPB for fund allocation. In cases that the proposed researches have funding requirement of more than P300,000.00, the FO shall augment additional fund. Moreover, appropriate budget allocations required to ensure the conduct of the various research and evaluation strategies of the Department (i.e. 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 research and evaluation studies every year, as provided for by the National Evaluation Policy Framework, especially those implementing core social protection programs. Said budget shall be reflected in their respective Work and Financial Plan (WFP). Further, the Field Offices and other OBS can also generate funds from external sources for the conduct of their own research and evaluation priorities in accordance with the existing budgeting, accounting and auditing rules.

Likewise, PDPB shall also allocate certain amount in its WFP for the conduct of particular researches. OBSUs/FOs who may be proponent of researches 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 research and evaluation-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. 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 Research and Evaluation Agenda, and in particular, it shall prepare the draft agenda and organize the required consultation activities with OBS and partners;
2. Ensure the approval and issuance of the DSWD Research and Evaluation Agenda;
3. Organize, in partnership with the Social Welfare Institutional Development Bureau (SWIDB) and Social Marketing Service (SMS), the necessary public conferences or forum such as for the dissemination of the Research and Evaluation Agenda, as well as for the findings for completed researches evaluation studies;
4. Lead the conduct of research and evaluation 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 M&E 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 Research and Evaluation Agenda and spearhead the cascading of the same to its respective region;
2. Lead the conduct of researches and evaluations 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 research and evaluation agenda, specifically in the identification of the proposed topics and areas, among others;
2. Conduct research and evaluation 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 researches and evaluation studies initiated by OBS other than them 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 researches and evaluations, and shall carry out the following tasks:

1. Partake in the development and implementation of the Department's Research and Evaluation Agenda;
2. Participate in the review process of research and evaluation proposals and reports for onward submission to the Management;
3. May act as implementers or co-implementers in the conduct of researches and evaluations to be undertaken by the respective CO-OBS;
4. 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 researches and evaluations and in particular, it shall:

1. Partake in the development and implementation of the Department's Research and Evaluation 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. Attend regular and special meetings and actively participate in the RR&E-TWG initiatives.

Social Marketing Service (SMS) and its regional counterpart shall help in the dissemination of the research and evaluation agenda including research and evaluation findings, it shall:

1. Organize in partnership with the PDPB or FO-PPD, relevant conferences and fora for the dissemination of the research and evaluation agenda including research and evaluation 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 researches and evaluation studies, as well as in the packaging of the research and evaluation reports (e.g. electronic and print copies) being submitted to stakeholders.


X. EFFECTIVITY

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

Issued in Quezon City, this 27th day of December 2019.


ROLANDO JOSELITO D. BAUTISTA
 Secretary

Certified True Copy:


 24.01.2020
MYRNA H. REYES
 OIC-Division Chief
 Records and Archives Mgt. Div.