



# DSWD EXPRESS

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## Australian officials conduct study visit to DSWD projects in Bicol

A two-day community visit which commenced last May 26 was undertaken by Australian Embassy officials headed by Ambassador David Dutton to DSWD project sites funded by Australian government in Bicol.

Joining the ambassador were Rosella Agcaoili (senior program officer) and Robyn Piti (counselor for peace and education).

The said group visited Pilar, Donsol and Legazpi City wherein they have interviewed community-implementers and beneficiaries of Kapit-Bisig Laban sa Kahirapan-Comprehensive and Integrated Delivery of Social Services (KALAH! CIDSS), Pantawid Pamilyang Pilipino Program and Sustainable Livelihood Program (SLP), the social protection programs of DSWD which have been long supported by the Australian government.

The visit provided the opportunity to Australian visitors the information on how the said programs/projects are being implemented and converged at the community level and how these contributed to local growth and personal development.

According to DSWD FO V Dir. Garcia, the officials of the Australian Embassy learned



Australian Embassy officials visit DSWD project sites of KALAH! CIDSS in Pilar and Donsol in Sorsogon and Legazpi City last May 26 and 27, respectively. (L-R) Rosella Agcaoili (senior program officer), Australian Ambassador David Dutton, Robyn Piti (Counselor for peace and education) during a study visit in Brgy. Esperanza, Pilar, Sorsogon last May 26.

directly from the beneficiaries and implementers of the community being served by DSWD.

"In particular, I've learned the community-driven

development approach [of KALAH! CIDSS] is really interesting. This is new to me because I'm still learning our work here," Ambassador Dutton said.

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## DSWD received recognition from Civil Service Commission



Legazpi City- The Department of Social Welfare and Development, Field Office 5 was awarded with the Certificate of Revalidation (Level II-Accredited Status). The awarding and commitment building ceremony was held last April 8, 2014 at the Civil Service Commission, Regional Office 5, Arimbay Legazpi City.

Director Arnel P. Garcia received the award from CSC Regional Director Cecilia Nieto. The award is in recognition for the Field Office for having continuously met the requirements for Level II-Accredited Status. This is pursuant to CSC Resolution No 1301682 which provides to take final action on its appointments under the program to institutionalize Meritocracy and Excellence in Human Resource Management. On the other hand, Ms. Lorna Rebanal, Administrative Officer V and Head of the

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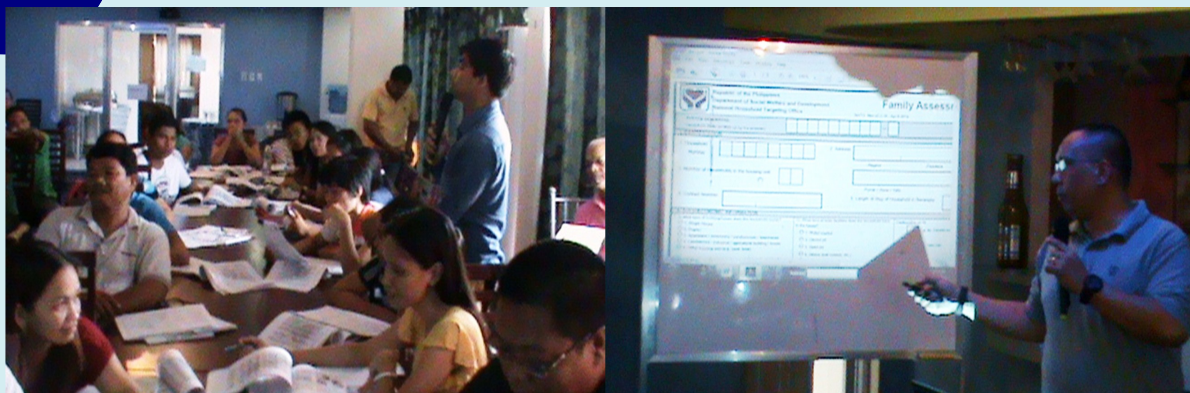
“The Superwoman”





30 April 2014

## Listahanan equips field implementers on special validation



**Camarines Sur-** The National Household Targeting Unit (NHTU) 5 of the Department of Social Welfare and Development conducted the 3-day training for Enumerators on April 28-30, 2014 at Regal Plaza Hotel in Camarines Sur Province.

The said training is in preparation to the conduct of special validation for Social Pension and Modified Conditional Cash Transfer (MCCT) this quarter.

“For this special validation, Region 5 will cover 10, 643 social pensioners and 472 MCCT beneficiaries all over the region”DSWD Regional Director Arnel Garcia said.

“Rigorous trainings will equip the staff in the effective conduct of assessment. These include guidelines, systems and actual

implementation” he added.

A total of 66 staff will be deployed region wide for the special assessment. Same training for the area supervisors was already conducted last April 26-27 at Sarung Bangui Resort, Sto. Domingo Albay.

Social Pension is one of the social protection programs of DSWD that grants P500 monthly stipend to indigent senior citizen.

Meanwhile, MCCT Program provides cash to street families, displaced families, nomadic indigenous peoples (IPs), and to those living in isolated and disadvantaged areas on the condition that they send their children to school and regular health check-ups.

17 March 2014

## National training on gender-responsive governance and Participatory gender and audit held

The Department of Social Welfare and Development Field Office-Bicol Pantawid Pamilyang Pilipino Program, recently conducted National Training on Gender-Responsive Governance and Participatory Gender Audit in Legazpi City.

The training aims to: a. increase the capacity of the field staff in applying technical skills in gender and wider knowledge on gender-responsive governance; b. enhance Gender and Development (GAD) audit tools customized primarily for pantawid pamilya beneficiary-level-assessment; c. and to have advocacy strategy concepts to make local government units more gender responsive.

Regional Director Arnel B. Garcia said the training is useful to improve the capacity of the staff in planning out and implement a stronger advocacy to encourage more pantawid pamilya women beneficiaries engaged in decision making and perform leadership roles in the communities.

About 47 participants who are GAD focal persons from 17 regions attended the activity.

The trainings includes, interactive discussions, lectures, open forum and workshops along the concept of development, sex and gender and the impact of these concepts on society; enabling factors and stages of gender mainstreaming; gender audit and what to look at in gender audits with-



in the organization; program and project implementation management; monitoring and evaluation; and the framework and application on audit processes.

During the training, participants listen attentively; carefully provide assessments and recommendations to improve the implementation of the pantawid pamilya program along gender responsiveness.

According to Rosalie Mapa, GAD focal person of DSWD 5 under pantawid pamilya, the training helps a lot to in order to assess and provide them a glimpse on how they can further enhance the gender impacts of the conditional cash transfer program that specifically targets women.



29 January 2014

## Albay and Municipal LGUs forge MOA on DSWD's poverty-reduction projects



Albay inked the Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) with its six prioritized municipalities under DSWD's PLGU Engagement Pilot this January 24 at Hotel St. Ellis.

The said municipalities were Polangui, Oas, Pioduran, Jovellar, Guinobatan and Manito. DSWD has provided a grant of P100 million while the Provincial Government of Albay has P75 million for its counterpart contribution.

The poverty-reduction projects were as follows:

Polangui Rehabilitation/Improvement of Danao-Matacon Farm to Market Road Jovellar Construction (Rehabilitation/improvement) of Bautista-San Vicente Farm to Market Road Pioduran Rehabilitation/Improvement of Buyo-Palapas Farm to Market Road Manito Concreting of Centro-Nagotgot-Banao-Inangmaharang Farm to Market Road Oas Improvement/Repair of Batbat-Cabaloaon-Balanac Farm to Market Road

ADB has also been an active development partner wherein they provided support to strengthen capabilities in this pilot project.

23 January 2014

## 16 LGUs in Bicol inks MOA on Listahanan

Sixteen (16) Local Government Units in the region inked a Memorandum of Agreement with the Department of Social Welfare and Development Field Office 5 through its information management system dubbed as

"Listahanan". Listahanan is the country's database of poor households which makes available to national government agencies and other social protection stakeholders as reference in identifying potential beneficiaries of social protection programs.

The provincial orientations conducted last December with the Local Chief Executives, P/C/Municipal Social Welfare Officer and P/C/Municipal Planning and Development Officer caught their attention to enter to a Memorandum of Agreement with the department.

They likewise expressed their support to the upcoming household assessment to be conducted this year.

The municipalities of Del Gallego, Garchitorena, Baao, Tinambac, Magarao, Milaor, Ocampo, Nabua, Ragay & Sagñay in Camarines Sur province, San Lorenzo Ruiz in Camarines Norte, Bagamanoc, Catanduanes, Baleno and Palanas, Masbate, Jovellar and Polangui Albay were among the LGU's who requested the data.

The data sets will contain list of poor households with their basic information such as names, date of birth, age and address.

Such information will be used by LGU's as a primary targeting mechanism in determining potential beneficiaries or recipients of the programs and services. This is to ensure that the benefits of their program go to those who really in need.

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14 February 2014

## Listahanan identified child laborers in Bicol get assistance from DOLE

Four hundred child laborers identified by Listahanan or National Household Targeting System for Poverty Reduction (NHTS-PR) recently received assistance from the Department of Labor and Employment Field Office 5. This was simultaneously conducted throughout the region in the last quarter of 2013.

"Our aim is to give joy to at least 80% of the total child laborers in the region."DOLE Regional Director Lacambra said.

The Project Angel Tree is a feeding and gift giving activity for child laborers. It is spearheaded by the Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE) in cooperation with private establishments. Donations include toys, bags, school supplies and groceries.

Listahanan provided the list of child laborers to DOLE for the implementation of Project Angel Tree. The latter entered to a memorandum of agreement for the use of data specifically to the list of child laborers in the region as their beneficiaries.

"The list of child laborers provided to us by the DSWD's Listahanan has been very useful to us in the identification of child laborers in the region" bared Edward Lovedorior,Regional Focal Person on Child Labor Program.

"We are now processing the livelihood assistance for their parents under our Kabuhayan Para Sa Mga Magulang ng Batang Manggagawa (KASAMA) Program"Lovedorior added.

Aside from Project Angel Tree, DOLE also used the Listahanan's data on their Regional Anti-Labor Strategic Planning as reference on the number of child laborers in the region.

Listahanan is the country's database of poor households which makes available to national government agencies and other social protection stakeholders as reference in identifying potential beneficiaries of social protection programs.





16 January 2014

## "May kita sa lansangan"

### FEATURE

**D**etermination leads to success" these are the words that bounded his life to provide the needs of his family.

Alexander A. Biola, 31, of Barangay San Roque, Legazpi City, in the province of Albay was among the beneficiaries of Pantawid Pamilyang Pilipino Program who was absorbed by the Department Public Works and Highways (DPWH) as a regular road maintenance employee. The doors of opportunity was opened to "Alex" as he fondly called by his friends when he was able to perform beyond what is expected to him during the Trabahong Lansangan Project- a joint project of the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) and DPWH providing employment opportunities to Pantawid pamilya beneficiaries.

Regional Director Arnel B. Garcia of DSWD said in the Trabahong Lansangan Project, beneficiaries are provided with livelihood opportunities for six months within a year, apart from receiving their stipend. "The DPWH, employ beneficiaries for road maintenance, declogging of drainage laterals, and street sweeping," he added.

"Pasalamat ako nin marhay sa oportunidad na ini ta nagkaigwa ako nin trabaho, kung bako sa proyekto dai kutana ako magkakaigwang ngunyan na regular na income [I am thankful for the opportunity, If not with the trabahong lansangan project, I would not have a regular income now]," he said.

In maintaining the road regularly, Alex received a salary of P409 daily. "Dakulang tabang na po ito samuyang pamilya, [It is a big help to my family]" he said.

### *What he had gone through*

Alex could not imagine how he was able to cope up with the challenges he had. "Trabaho ko lang kaidto sa construction, tapos problema ko po ang pagpapakain sa aking pamilya, pati gatas ni baby [I only worked in the construction before and providing food for my family and milk to my baby is a daily struggle], he utter in a soft voice.

It was even harder for him when his 10 months old baby Alynnna was diagnosed with pneumonia. "Grabe ang paghadit ko sa aki ko, maray ngani ta nagamit mi su Philhealth na itinao samuyang mga benepisyaryo. Nalibre kami sa ospital. [I am so worried about my child. But I am thankful that we were able to use the benefits coming from Philhealth which was issued to Pantawid Pamilya beneficiaries. We avail the medical service for free]," he related.

Beneficiaries of Pantawid Pamilya can avail health insurance benefits through Philippine Health Insurance Corporation (PhilHealth). The Pantawid pamilya beneficiaries and their qualified dependents are provided with insurance coverage for hospitalization in PhilHealth accredited hospital and non-hospital facilities.

In addition, they are entitled to the No Balance Billing Policy when admitted in non-private accommodation beds of government hospitals for any of the 23 cases covered under case payment; when availing of outpatient surgeries, hemodialysis and radiotherapy in non-hospital facilities; when availing of outpatient packages for tuberculosis, malaria, HIV/AIDS; and when availing of the services under the Maternity Care Package and Newborn Care Package in accredited birthing homes and lying-in clinics.

### *A Dream to Pursue*

Alex said it was his willpower, determination, and his family why he was able to little by little improve his family's ways of living. "Maski mapagal pero kinakaya para sa pamilya. Abo ko na maranasan kan mga aki ko ang hirap ta wara sindang inadalan arog mi. Ang pangarap mi man sana na mag-agom ay makatapos hangang college ang samuyang mga aki. Iyo sana ito ang mapapamana namuya sa inda, [Even though it is tiring but I am trying hard for my family. I do not want my kids to experience hardship because they had not finished their education, like us. Our dream for our kids is for them to



**Cleaning up.** With perseverance, Alexander A. Biola, 31, of Barangay San Roque, Legazpi City, clears the drainage canal in Barangay Rawis, Legazpi City. Apart from helping maintain the cleanliness of the city, he said he is grateful of his job as he can now able to sustain the needs of his family.

finish college. It is the only treasure we can give to them]," he said.

Alex would not bother the sun's heat or the awful odors of drainage canals while doing the clearing. He said he is proud of his job. "Maugma ako ta nakakatabang ako sa paglinig kan banwa. [I am grateful of my job because in this way I can help attain the cleanliness of my Municipality.]," he said. His areas of assignment are barangays of Cabangan, Padang, Bigaa, Arimbay, Rawis and Bunot in the City of Legazpi.

In addition to his living, Alex would sell lumpia to his neighbors during weekends. "Nung nagkatrabaho ako, nakaipon kami, kaya nagtinda ako ning lumpia pandagdag kita. Nakaka-P300 man ako sa sarong aldaw. [When I got hired, we were able to save money from my income. I earn P300 daily from selling lumpia] he said.

The cash grants that their family received also helps a lot in financing the education of his children and maintaining good health of his family members. "Nagpasalamat po ako sa tabang na itinao kan gobyerno. Ang pangadyi ko lang po ay sana diretso na mapakaray an samong pamilya sa pagkaigwa kong trabaho ngunyan. Gigibuhon mi man an gabos ming makakaya para maging maayos ang samong pamilya. [I am thankful of the help provided by the government. I prayed that our family will continue to improve now that I have a regular job. I will also do the best that I can to improve my family's well-being]," he firmly said.

Alex may have a lot of problems to encounter along the way to pursue his dreams for his family but as he said "all is possible for a man with deep faith and determination





## DSWD FO 5 HOLDS 63RD ANNIVERSARY



DSWD LOYALTY  
AWARDEES





## THE DSWD GALLERY



Regional Day Care  
Workers Convention  
6 June 2014





## THE DSWD GALLERY



TURNOVER OF 50-UNIT  
CORE SHELTERS IN GOA,  
CAMARINES SUR

Groundbreaking Ceremony of  
Batbat Cabaloaon Farm to  
Market Road in Guinobatan,  
Albay



Listahanan conducts  
special validation for  
Social Pension and  
Modified Conditional  
Cash Transfer  
Program for Families  
in Need of Special  
Protection



Forging of Memorandum of  
Understanding between the  
DSWD & Federation of  
Association on Community and  
Children Empowerment Inc.  
Partnership (FACE), a child and  
youth caring agency.





## THE DSWD GALLERY



Groundbreaking of rehabilitation/  
improvement of DANA0-PINTOR  
Farm to Market Road



DSWD inks Memorandum of Understanding with NASOL Haircraft Corporation, Fundline Finance Corporation and Entrepreneurs Alumni Development Cooperative for sustainable livelihood opportunities to pantawid pamilya beneficiaries



One Step Project implemented  
in Daraga, Albay





22 April 2014

## DSWD provides assistive devices to differently abled persons in Masbate



San Pascual Mayor Zacarina Lazaro(upper left), MSWDO Josephine Enriquez(upper right) and PWD Focal Person Edgar Canoy(bottom right) turn-over wheelchairs to differently abled persons



The Department of Social Welfare and Development, Field Office 5 has recently turned over 71 pieces of assistive devices under the Grassroots Participatory Budgeting Project, to LGU of San Pascual, Masbate.

This assistive devices which was received by Mayor Zacarina Lazaro, are as follows: 21 quad canes, 31 wheelchairs, 21 cane and 4 pairs of crutches.

According to Mayor Lazaro, the provision of assistive devices to the differently abled persons of the municipality is first of its kind. Mayor Lazaro said that this project will provide an opportunity for the PWD sector to be able to be integrated in the society, especially those who have not been able to go out of their house because of the problem in mobility.

The LGU plans to provide these differently abled sectors with work training and employment or other

services for income or profit. This is to enable them to realize their aspiration and become assets to their families and communities.

On the other hand, DWSD Director Arnel B. Garcia explained that the purchase of these assistive devices is still part of the 2013 project of the Grassroots Participatory Budgeting Project or the Bottoms-up –Budgeting.

The Grassroots Participatory Budgeting Project (GPBP) is an approach in preparing the budget proposal of agencies taking into consideration the development needs of the poor cities/ municipalities as identified in their respective local poverty reduction action plans that shall be formulated with strong of basic sector and other civic society organization





## Australian officials conduct study visit

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Moreover, the Senior Australian Embassy officials were able to observe the conduct of the Family Development Session (FDS) and interact with the beneficiaries in Brgy. Esperanza, Pilar and Brgy. Pangpang in Donsol.

Similarly, the officials interviewed the community-implementers on how they managed and constructed the Australian-supported day care centers and school buildings under KALAHI CIDSS project in the same barangays.

“Natupad yung pangarap naming na makakuha ng proyekto sa KALAHI CIDSS. Maayos at maganda na ang day care center namin [Our dream to get a KALAHI CIDSS project came true. We now have a clean and orderly day care center],” Marites Triñanes, a Pantawid Pamilya beneficiary said.

Australian government through the Australian Agency for International Development (AusAID) has already provided a total grant of Php45,332,272.75 to complete the construction of 45 school buildings and day care centers which is being benefited by 14,597 household beneficiaries in seven (7) municipalities in Bicol. These municipalities are Pilar, Claveria, Cataingan, Palanas, Manito, Rapu-Rapu and Donsol which previously implemented KALAHI CIDSS, however, certain communities were not prioritized under the project.

“For Australian government, education is the highest priority. In our development work in the Philippines, we’ve been supporting programs promoting education,” he added.

Mayor Josephine Alcantara of Donsol had agreed to Ambassador Dutton and said that she strongly supports programs for education

that’s why she highly value KALAHI CIDSS project in Donsol.

Meanwhile, the local government unit (LGU) of Pilar headed by Mayor Dennis Reyes, assured the Australian donors that all community projects are in good hands.

“We will take care of the repairs in partnership with the barangay LGUs. If the barangay’s funds are already exhausted, we will provide resource augmentation,” he said.

Ambassador Dutton personally thanked the communities they visited during the two-day trip in Bicol.

“It is great to come to a classroom and see what real difference it makes to people’s lives,” he said.

The Australian government played a fundamental role in the inception of the Pantawid Pamilya in 2008 and has continuously provided support in further enhancing the implementation of the Program. As part of the exit strategy for the Pantawid Pamilya beneficiaries, Australia has likewise supported SLP to help ensure that families will be able to continue the education of their children.

Gil Tuparan, Senior Technical Officer of DSWD Central Office who was joined by DSWD regional staff namely Assistant Regional Director for Operations Corazon Miña, KALAHI CIDSS Project Coordinator Jaygee Masanque, KALAHI CIDSS Engineer Rene Barba, SLP External Relations Officer Earl Cecilio, Convergence focal person Marilou Palacio and Pantawid Pamilya Provincial Link Cecil Gubot were also present during the said activity.

13 April 2014

## Transition planning held

One of the goals of Pantawid Pamilyang Pilipino Program is to guarantee the sustainable development of Pantawid Pamilyang Pilipino Program beneficiaries.

With this, the Local Government Unit (LGU) of Calabanga, Camarines Sur together with the Department of Social Welfare and Development Bicol recently conducted the municipal transition planning in Legazpi City in preparation for the conclusion of Pantawid Pamilya.

More than 35 participants coming from LGU, DSWD staff and 2 beneficiary of the said program carefully crafted the municipal transition plan in order to assure that the current socio-economic conditions of the beneficiaries of the program will be sustained and continue to improve.

Indicated in the plan are socio-economic interventions which ensure that there is continuity in terms of support coming from local government and partners agencies so that the pantawid pamilya beneficiaries will no longer go back from their previous conditions.

According to Municipal Mayor Eduardo A. Severo, the LGU commit itself to continuously provide assistance and interventions to improve the welfare of the people such us empowerment and participation, economic opportunities, basic services and social protection.



Further, before the said planning, a team building activity was conducted in order to build leadership, confidence, communication, trustworthy, cooperation, and collaboration among the members of LGU and DSWD Staff towards work and in providing social services to its beneficiaries. Lydia B. Boringot, school principal and representative coming from Department of Education said the team building activity is a very helpful to develop trust among members, gain new friends, and improve collaboration and cooperation to our partners.



## **DSWD received recognition from Civil Service Commission**

*..Continued from Page 1*

Human Resource Development were given Certificate of Appreciation in recognition of her devotion and dedication to duty which significantly contributed to the successful revalidation of the DSWD, Field Office 5 as level II- Accredited Status.

About 20 institutions; SUCs, Local Government Units, National Government Agencies were given same recognition.

Part of the momentous event was the signing of the Memorandum of Commitment and the recitation of the Pledge of Commitment by all the agency representatives.

for Level III- Deregulated status by initiating innovations/The agencies are likewise encouraged to aspire to qualify enhancements to eventually qualify for the Center for Excellence/ Seal of Excellence, a recognition given by the Civil Service

## **16 LGUs in Bicol inks MOA on Listahanan**

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The Listahanan's data is protected under a memorandum of agreement, which ensures that the data will be used only for its intended purposes.

A MOA is required if the information being requested includes the names of family or household members.

Also, as stipulated in the MOA, the data user must integrate Listahanan in all its social marketing activities highlighting or emphasizing the use of the targeting system in identifying beneficiaries of its social protection programs and projects. Provide regular feedback on data utilization and resolution on complaints regarding beneficiary eligibility and ensure the confidentiality and use of requested data only for purposes agreed upon.

At present, DSWD 5 has a total of 37 Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) with various organizations utilizing the Listahanan's data

### **FEATURE STORY**

## **DSWD and Legazpi City tap partners for employment and livelihood support, forge MOA under Urban Kalahi-CIDSS pilot project**

The city government of Legazpi City and the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) has forged a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) with the academe, business institutions and employment agencies to support project beneficiaries in livelihood and employment for two of the city's barangays under the pilot implementation of Urban Kalahi-CIDSS (Kapit-Bisig Laban sa Kahirapan- Comprehensive and Integrated Delivery of Social Services) last February 11, 2014 at the Legazpi City Hall.

The MOA Signing aims to strengthen the role of industries and private sectors in their corporate social responsibility commitment of helping improve the economic lives of the urban poor by serving as , and provider of technical support through provision of capability building activities to communities, employer, and ready market.

"I would like to thank all our partners, specifically the involved schools and manpower services, who render their commitment in corporate social responsibility to help the poor," DSWD Field Office V Regional Director Arnel Garcia said.

Rawis and Bitano, the pilot areas of Urban Kalahi-CIDSS in the Bicol region, will soon be completing the construction of livelihood center with provision of garments production equipment and construction of community development center, respectively, this year.

In connection with this, DSWD tapped Mariners' Polytechnic Colleges Foundation (MPCF)-Legazpi City, Aquinas University of Legazpi (AUL), Genecom Institute Of Science And Technology, Inc., Stretch Distribution, Inc., and Personnel Solutions.

As part of the sustainability component of the projects in the barangays, the aforementioned partners will provide employment (long-term or temporary) and conduct relevant trainings and seminars to interested residents from both barangays.

"Sustainability is the real mission of the project and we will implement it properly by engaging other non-government organizations," Mayor Noel Rosal said.

Present during the MOA signing were DSWD Dir. Arnel Garcia, Roy Calfoforo of DSWD Central Office, Mayor Noel Rosal, Brgy. Capt. Joel M. Balinis of Bitano, Brgy. Capt. Joel Oroscio of Rawis, Romulo Antivola of AUL, Ellaine Marie Tate of Personnel Solutions, Alma Alvarez of Genecom, Kalahi-CIDSS community volunteers and other local officials from the barangay and city LGUs.

The Kalahi-CIDSS project is one of the core poverty alleviation programs of DSWD along with Pantawid Pamilyang Pilipino Program and Sustainable Livelihood Program (SLP)





## “Young mother’s journey to fulfillment”



**Studying Hard.** Glyza De Luna, 26, commits herself to education to achieve her dreams of getting a job, providing the needs of her children and supporting her family and siblings.

While some were given the opportunity to enter in school, Glyza De Luna, 26, had struggled tremendous adversity in her life only to achieve her dream of education.

As a mother, Glyza of Barangay Balibago, Manito, Albay, supported herself, children and her parents for years with temporary jobs.

She always wanted to have a college degree but there was never enough money for her to finance her education and the daily needs of her children.

Until she became a grantee of Student Grants-in-Aid Program for Poverty Alleviation (SGPPA) of Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) in partnership with Commission on Higher Education (CHED) and Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE).

SGPPA aims to contribute in the increase of the number of enrollment in higher education in line with the national government’s priority degree programs among poor households and support college graduates’ entry to labor markets through placement assistance.

### Her struggles

During her childhood years, Glyza could hardly go to school as she needed to help her parents earn for a living. There are those times that her parent would not allow her to attend classes instead wash loads of *sako bags* at about 4:00 in the morning up until in the afternoon. After she finished her high school in

2005, she worked as a cashier and a sales lady in a bakery shop to send money to her parents and to her siblings for their daily expenses. Years later, she met a man and was blessed with three children—KC, 5, John Forex, 3, and Carl Manuel, 2.

The need to continue working to support herself and her daughter made it a long, hard road to pursue her dream of earning a degree.

### Assistance Comes

But the trend of poverty in her family was changed until her parents were identified as qualified beneficiary of Pantawid Pamilyang Pilipino Program of DSWD.

Pantawid Pamilya or conditional cash transfer is a right –based and social development program of the national government that provides cash grants to poor families to improve their health, nutrition and education particularly to children aged 0-14 and pregnant woman.

Under Pantawid Pamilya, family beneficiaries received monthly assistance of P500 grant in health; and P300 grant in education for children 3-14 years old with a maximum of three children per household.

“Dahil sa Pantawid Pamilya napatuloy nin mga gurang ko ang pagpaklase sa mga tugang ko. Ngayon, kahit puro-pano, nabayadan ninda ang mga projects sa school at su iba pang bayadan. Mas naging malusog man sinda ta libre ang pagpacheck-up buwan-buwan sa health center. [Through Pantawid Pamilya my parents were able to keep my brothers and sisters in school. At least now, they were

able to finance my sibling’s school projects and other fees. Their health also improved since the program allows them to go to health center for free monthly check-up.]” she stated with gladness in her face.

Apart from receiving cash assistance in the Program, Glyza now is on her second year of college taking up Bachelor of Science in Food Technology in Bicol University Tabaco Campus.

Under SGPPA, a student-grantee receives a maximum of P60,000.00 scholarship grant per school year – P20,000 for tuition, P5,000 textbook fees and other learning materials, and P35,000 (that is, P 3,500/ month x 10 months) stipend (for board and lodging, transportation, clothing, health/ medical needs, basic school supplies and other related costs).

Currently, a total of 335 student grantees were enrolled in different universities and colleges in Bicol Region. In addition, 4,150 potential grantees were validated to benefit under SGPPA for 2014 – 2015.

“Dahil sa SGPPA, yung pangarap ko pong magkaroon ng degree ay natupad. Sana yung programa mas marami pang matulungan na mga katulad ko na gustong makamit ang kanilang pangarap na magkaroon ng magandang buhay. Sisikapin at pag-iigihan ko rin pong makatapos kahit mahirap. [Because of SGPPA, my dream of having a degree came true. I hope that the Program would be able to help more people like me attaining their dreams of having a better future. I will also do my part of committing myself of completing the course no matter how hard it would be,]” she firmly said.

In the meantime, Glyza has remained dedicated to her education. She has gone a lot of struggles in her life and has every intention of earning her degree. Glyza’s courage and determination in the face of adversity and love for her children and family is what she holds on to, to attain success.

“Sana yung naranasan ko po ay magbigay pag-asa sa mga taong gustong ipagpatuloy ang kanilang pag-aaral, kahit mahirap at magbigay inspirasyon sa maraming tao na ipagpatuloy ang pagsuporta sa programa at makatuglo sa maraming pang tao na katulad ko. [I also hope that my experience will give hope to people who want to pursue their education despite their sufferings and will inspire a lot of people to continue supporting the program and helping people like me,]” she ended



## “The Superwoman”

Men and women with supernatural powers only exist in fiction. However, for some reasons you can encounter characters like them in real life. Everyday a hero is born but the way to becoming one is a bumpy ride.

In a span of at least fifteen (15) hours, she prepares breakfast, lunch and dinner, neatens the house, get the laundry done and completes the remaining household chores. A regular work she assumed since 1984 after her marriage with Simplicio, a farmer.

But there's more to being a housewife.

Sometime in 2012, the course of a woman's life changed. Crispina Cacidilla, one of the 1505



residents of a rustic village in Gainza, the smallest town in Camarines Sur, stood up for the common interest of their village.

Crispina or “Cris”, as what her family and neighbors call her, has extended her commitment to her community. From being a mother of five, she was able to herd at least 20 people in pursuing a common goal.

Barangay Malbong is an agricultural community where most of its male residents are farmers while the women are engaged in handicraft production. Given the seasonal livelihood opportunities, still unemployment was one of the causes of poverty. This was not new because the resources are not enough to suffice the needs of a family in Malbong.

Cris, a high school graduate, has witnessed the impact of this in their locality. As an aspiring teen, she wanted to get a degree in Education but her parents were not able to send her to college because of their scarce income.

This has drove Cris to initiate action in solving the common predicament in their village.

### *Volunteer life*

During the barangay assembly conducted by DSWD in 2012, the villagers agreed and elected her as the head of the volunteers for the implementation of the Kapit-Bisig Laban sa Kahirapan-Comprehensive and Integrated Delivery of Social Services (Kalahi-CIDSS).

Cris recounted her acceptance message: “Inaako ko ang responsabilidad pero hinahagad ko man ang sa indong suporta tanging mapagayon ang dalagan kan satuyang magiging proyekto [I accept the responsibility, however, I would like to ask for your support to smoothen the implementation of the project].”

In just a span of a year, Cris, living up to what she promised, translated her vision into reality with the help of the other volunteers and the local council.

The production center for handicraft providing more livelihood opportunities specially to unemployed women was completed in September 18, 2013. But to Cris, the events prior to its completion were more unforgettable.

Cris, being part of the group who led and managed the implementation of the said community subproject, described the experience as thorny and debilitating.

Onset of the productivity center's construction, Cris heard negative remarks from her neighbors who doubted their group. As the head

of the volunteers, she remained strong for her peers and inspired them to continue their humble cause.

“Hinikayat ko ang kairiba ko na patunayan mi na sala ang tigaisip ninda [I encouraged my colleagues to prove them wrong],” she explained.

She would regularly meet them and discuss underlying issues that may hinder the completion of their productivity center and troubleshoot these. The very common issue was the time consumed by community volunteering wherein their time for work and family are sacrificed.

According to Cris, they would usually provide reinforcement to the volunteer who cannot attend to meetings and seminars initiated by Kalahi-CIDSS.

“Nagauron kaming volunteers para masolusyonan [We discuss to find solutions],” she added.

### *Her family and the community*

Time is an important element in volunteering specially if you meld it with filial responsibilities. At first it was difficult. Cris divided her time as a mother to her family and as a volunteer to her community.

Cris tried her best to conform to the new challenge. She amicably adjusted her time because she is not just a housewife but also a community leader.

Subsequently, she made her children understand of her plight and asked them to support her.

“Dahil may obligasyon ako sa barangay, sinabi ko sa pamilya ko na magtarabangan kita [I told my family to cooperate because I have my obligation to the community],” she explained.

But later on, she was able to mend this inhospitable circumstance and settled her personal fret.

On the other hand, Simplicio said that he is aware of his wife's philanthropic activities in their neighborhood and learned to accept what Cris is doing and supports her.

“Maogma ako para sa iya ta nakakaserbisyo siya sa barangay [I am happy for her because she serves our community],” he said.

### *Malbong women speaks out*

Cris was one of those people who fought for their productivity center to get the grant from Kalahi-CIDSS of 553,743.08 added





to the counterpart contribution of the local government unit amounting to 191,287.00.

“Kinumbise ko ang mga tawo nung prioritization na iyo ini ang kaipuhan sa barangay mi ta kadaklan ning babae samo warang trabaho [I convinced other people to prioritize our community because most of the women are unemployed],” she said.

During the prioritization, the elected residents represented their respective communities to decide on how to divide their resources accordingly. Cris together with selected volunteers won the approval of the majority and convinced them that they are worth of the funding.

The productivity center answered the people’s clamor to augment the income of the 293 households in Malbong and empower its women to contribute to its economic growth.

Lydia San Jose, also one of the volunteers, said that the productivity center is not only an edifice for handicraft making but also a place for the women and mothers to build a life outside their homes.

“May pagkakataon ang mga babae na makisalamuha digdi [There is an opportunity for the women to mingle here],” she said.

In addition, Cris wanted more out of their productivity center. Though women in Malbong are accustomed to weaving baskets and handicrafts, she would like to explore other creative ways of earning. According to her, the more livelihood opportunities, poverty will be rapidly alleviated.

“Bako sana kami nakatuon sa buri basket-making pero gusto mi man maghanap ki iba pang alternatibong pagkakakitaan [We are not only focused on basket making. We would also like to look for other alternative forms of income],” she added.

#### ***KAAGAPAY formed: empowered stewards***

Just before the productivity center was completed, the Kalahi-CIDSS volunteers of Malbong organized the Kaunlaran sa Agrikulturang Pangkabuhayan (KAAGAPAY) to ensure not only the maintenance of the project but to guarantee stable employment in the community.

From being the head of the volunteers, Cris transitioned to becoming the president of the said association. She said that that they would tap other government agencies to improve the capacities of their group to cope up with latest technology used in handicraft. They have registered the association in Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE) in December 2012.

Months after the completion of the productivity center, the group already sold handcrafted “parols” or lanterns made out of plastic straws and sold their products in the nearby schools.

As of November 2013, more than 35 members were already registered in KAAGAPAY and according to Chirs; she is expecting its members to increase.

#### ***There’s more to being a housewife***

From a woman perceived to be a mother, she was transformed into someone persitent and accepted the challenges of a community volunteer. She was able to prove that her passion to serve the people in the community is more important than turning down her detractors.

Cris believes in the law of attraction. She said that if you trust yourself that you can do it, then you would certainly accomplish it if you believe.

To Cris, there’s more to being a housewife.


Through Kalahi-CIDSS, her knowledge was enriched; she developed her leadership skills, improved relationship with others and became a good example in the community.

Contrary to what is popularly seen in comics and TV series, fictional heroes sought peace, justice and truth against villains inflicting danger and desolation while Cris pursued leadership and accountability to fight poverty together with the people in the community.

30 May 2014


## **DSWD Bicol activates text hotline on Listahanan**



**MAKIALAM SA**  **Listahanan**  
TALAN NG PAMILYANG KAKANGALANAN

**I-text sa**  
**09299663651**

Listahanan <space> pangalan <slash> lugar <slash> detalye  
**Halimbawa:**  
Listahanan Juan Cruz/Albay/Di kami napuntahan ng enumerator

 DSWD 5  email: listahananfo5@gmail.com  DSWD

Legazpi City— In line with its efforts to ensure that the real poor are selected, the Department of Social Welfare and Development Field Office 5 activated the text hotline for Listahanan.

“The text hotline will serve as a venue where queries, clarifications and complaints on the implementation of the program are being addressed.” explained DSWD Regional Director Arnel Garcia.

The text hotline will be manned by DSWD staff and will be available on weekdays from 8:00 in the morning to 5:00 in the afternoon.

Aside from the text hotline, Garcia said that they also entertain queries on their official Facebook fan page and email address. “This is to provide quality and efficient service to our constituents.” Garcia said.

This 2014, Listahanan is set to conduct the 2nd round of household assessment. House to house interviews are to be conducted by the enumerators to update the database of poor households.

It can be recalled that DSWD conducted the first assessment in 2009 where 461, 242 poor households were identified in Bicol region out of 775, 014 households assessed region wide.

Listahanan is an information management system that aims to establish a database of poor households that will become beneficiaries of social protection programs



The screenshot shows the Facebook fan page for DSWD Field Office V-Bicol, Magnolia St., PBN Buraguis, Legazpi City 4501. The page has a blue header with the DSWD 5 logo and a search bar. Below the header, there's a section for 'The Official Facebook Fan Page DSWD Field Office V-Bicol' with a 'Like' button. The main content area shows a timeline of posts, including a photo of a family and a post about a 'Survival of Family from Poverty'.

The bottom part of the screenshot shows the DSWD Field Office 5 website. The website has a blue header with the DSWD logo and a search bar. Below the header, there's a section for 'The Official Facebook Fan Page DSWD Field Office V-Bicol' with a 'Like' button. The main content area shows a timeline of posts, including a photo of a family and a post about a 'Survival of Family from Poverty'.







**DID YOU  
KNOW**



**in BICOL ..**

**46.6% or 681,541** poor Bicolanos  
have no occupation

**18.9% or 276,538** of them are  
laborers & unskilled workers

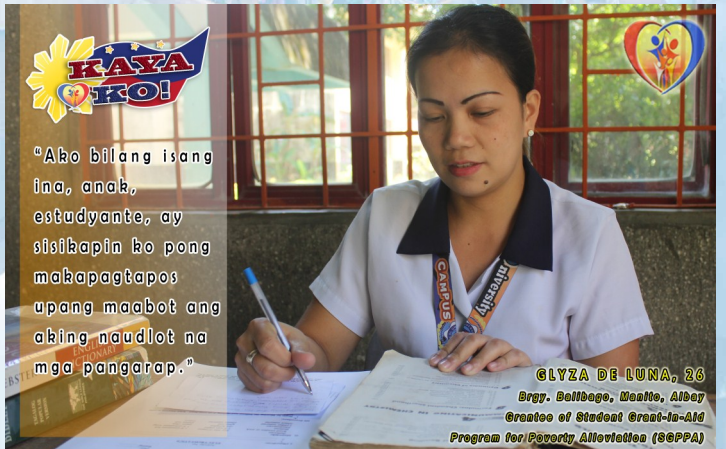
**18.1% or 265,568** are farmers,  
forestry workers & fisherfolks

*These statistics are based on the Listahanan data as of July 2011*



**NELIA ILACAD, 60**  
Grandmother with PWD child  
Brgy. Gale, Tawi, Albay  
Beneficiary of Modified Conditional  
Cash Transfer Program (MCCT)

**"Sa tabang kan  
programa,  
naukudan ko hung  
pano mag-ataman  
kan arog ni Ruby.  
Matabang po ako sa  
abot kan makahaya  
ko para  
makatabang sa  
hapwa."**



**"Ako bilang isang  
ina, anak,  
estudyante, ay  
sisikapin ko pong  
makapagtapos  
upang maabot ang  
aking naudlot na  
mga pangarap."**

**GLYZA DE LUNA, 26**  
Brgy. Balibago, Marikina, Albay  
Grantee of Student Grant-In-Aid  
Program for Poverty Alleviation (SGPPA)



**"Nabuksan ang kaisipan ko na  
dapat pala hindi lang sa loob  
lang ng bahay kundi dapat aware  
ka din sa mga nagyayari sa  
barangay mo, sa mga proyekto  
na binibigay sa komunidad.  
Dapat mag participate tapos  
magsalakit sa community."**



**Michelle dela Torre, KALAHI CIDSS Volunteer/Pantawid Pamilya Parent Leader  
Rawis, Legazpi City**

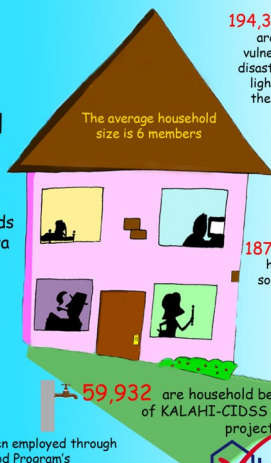


There are **461,242**  
poor households in Bicol



**368,015** households  
are Pantawid Pamilya  
beneficiaries

**2,566** households have been employed through  
Sustainable Livelihood Program's  
Employment Facilitation project



The average household  
size is 6 members

**194,350** households  
are found to be  
vulnerable to natural  
disasters as they used  
light materials for  
their roof & outer  
walls

**187,673** households  
have no safe water  
source and unsanitary  
practices

**59,932** are household beneficiaries  
of KALAHI-CIDSS water system  
projects



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