

Comprehensive Program for Street Children, Street Families and IPs, especially Bajaus

Frequently Asked Questions

QUESTIONS	Answers
<p>What is the Comprehensive Program for Street Children, Street Families and IP's especially Bajaus?</p>	<p>The Comprehensive Program for Children and Families At-Risk on the Streets is an integrated approach in responding to the needs of street children and their families, with an ultimate goal of contributing to the reduction of vulnerabilities of children, families and indigenous peoples at-risk on the streets. It provides a package of services, interventions and opportunities for children and families at-risk on the streets to live productively in a safe environment.</p> <p>This is in line with Chapter 2, Section 17 (f) of the Local Government Code of the Philippines which states that the National Government may provide or augment the basic services and facilities assigned to a lower level of local government when such services are not made available or inadequate to meet the requirements of its inhabitants.</p> <p>It involves the development of income generating opportunities and skills training for children, their families and Bajaus to prevent them from working</p>

	<p>on the streets, creation of centers where they could have life skills trainings and literacy activities keep them away from the street.</p> <p>Incentive packages and fund augmentation schemes shall also be provided to barangays that keep their children safe and off the streets.</p>
<p>What have we done so far?</p>	<p>Refer to briefing kits</p>
<p>What are the Services Provided?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Advocacy <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The Program shall encourage the parishes, schools, communities, etc. against giving money to children, families and Bajaus in the street. This will also advocate the different venues where they may give gifts to the children, such as the activity centers. The BCPCs shall also be tapped as partners in the Program. ○ The key messages developed by the Council for the Welfare of Children shall also be popularized by reproducing advocacy materials such as flyers, tarpaulins, etc. ▪ Activity Center for Children <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The project aim to institutionalize the activities for street children in activity centers wherein Local Government Units shall regularly

gather street children found in thoroughfare areas for the activities in their nearest centers.

- o Activities in the center include character building, values formation, life skills trainings, medical missions, etc.

- **Camping Project for Street Children**

- o The Camping Project is a three (3) days outdoor activity designed to provide opportunity for the street children to experience various activities geared towards character building and personal development.
- o It is a strategy where integrated social services will be provided to the street children throughout the camping period while community-based programs are also provided to their families to ensure parental capability and family readiness once the child is reintegrated in the family after attending the camping project.

- **Comprehensive Balik Probinsya Project**

- o This aims to provide street families who opt to return to their respective provinces a comprehensive package of services which includes shelter, livelihood, educational and health services in order to prevent to their eventual return to the streets of Metro Manila.

- **Educational Assistance Program**

- This aims to provide financial assistance to street children during enrolment period for their school supplies and other needs. Also, a feeding program shall be designed with the different public schools to ensure that the children are well-nourished while at the schools.

- **Livelihood Assistance**

- For the community-based street families, livelihood assistance shall be provided through the SEA Program. Enrolment in vocational courses and allowances for job seekers may also be provided.

- **Reintegration to the Family and Alternative Parental Care Arrangements**

- Reach-out activities are conducted in coordination with the various agencies concerned on the welfare of street children in accordance with the Protocol to Reach Out to Street Children developed by the CWC.
- Appropriate interventions shall be provided to the reached-out children, especially those found to be abandoned or neglected. These are based on the assessment of the LGU social workers.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Deployment of Street Facilitators in Identified Critical Areas <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Street facilitators will be assigned in the areas with the following task/responsibilities. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Profile the identified street dwellers in the area. ▪ Monitor the daily activities of street dwellers. ▪ Facilitate group activities for street children at activity centers/barangay facilities. ▪ Coordinate directly with the barangay officials, NGOs, POs and other service providers having regular sessions with street children/dwellers in the area. ▪ Encourage street dwellers to be involved in the programs, services, activities that would eventually help them leave the street life. ▪ Organize street children and their parents for various activities. ▪ Submit weekly report to CSWDOs and DSWD-FOs
<p>Why there is proliferation of street children/families</p>	<p>Results of the initial monitoring of the DSWD-NCR showed that street children enrolled through the Program have reduced street activities.</p> <p>However, there are still other children who end up on the streets for a number of reasons, many of which are rooted in family instability and</p>

despite Compre Project?

poverty. Children most often leave home because they are fleeing instability or have been rejected and abandoned by their families for various reasons: disabilities, disease or disobedience.

Many of the children we have previously worked with have left their homes to flee domestic violence, abusive relatives or neglectful families. Others have done so because their families live in severe economic distress, either in rural villages or city slums, and are unable to care for them. It is not uncommon that parents in extreme poverty will encourage older children to leave home to find 'work,' which may include begging, selling scrap materials for recycling or prostitution. Many who flee extreme poverty to join street life often do so under the impression that it will provide them with more opportunity and economic advantages than their home lives could offer.

Difference between Compre, MCCT and Pantawid Familyang Pilipino Program

Both the Comprehensive Program for Street Children, Street Families and IPs, especially Bajaus and the Modified Conditional Cash Transfer for Homeless Street Families provide intervention and rehabilitation activities to children and families who are already living and working in the streets. They both aim to reduce the visibility and vulnerability of the street children and families through an integrated approach in responding to their needs.

However, in terms of client category, the following are the differences:

1. **Comprehensive Program for Street Children, Street Families and IPs**

- a. **Community-based street families**, have homes in relocation sites or in urban poor communities. However, due to lack of livelihood in their communities, they adopt the streets as their dwelling place to earn but return to their homes on a regular basis. This group is targeted by the Program for the livelihood and other activities.

- b. **Street children**-refers to children who stay most of time (4 hours and above) on the streets and in public places and are engaged, while in the streets, in varied types of activities other than engaging in economic activities to earn a living (2006 National Workshop Survey on CBSP in selected areas in the Philippines/UNICEF/UP Manila Child Protection Unit.)

Street children are further classified into two groups and both are targeted by the Program:

- i. **Children on the street** (also termed as Community-Based Street Children) – these are children who spend majority of their time on the street because that is where they earn their

livelihood. These children normally return home to communities and/or their families on a regular basis.

- ii. **Children of the street** – these are children who spend most of their time on the street, living, working and playing. They have families in communities but return home infrequently or not at all. They have often chosen to live on the street because of problems at home including extreme poverty, violence and substance abuse.

Children of the street includes two subgroups:

- **Abandoned and neglected children** – this is a group of children who are on the street because they have no families, have been abandoned or neglected by their families, or have been displaced from their families. They maintain no connection with their families. They live and work on the streets and are normally out of school.
- **Children of street families** – these are children who live with their families on the street. Their families have often been homeless for a long period of time and they earn

	<p>their livelihoods on the streets. Many of these families make their homes in wooden pushcarts, moving from place to place around the city.</p> <p>2. Modified Conditional Cash Transfer for Homeless Street Families</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Homeless street families pertains to the displaced families, either by fire, demolition, family crisis, or false hopes on an improved life in the Metropolitan had no choice but to go to the street. They reside in sidewalks and pavements where they also sleep, eat, play, take a bath, etc. Some of them have pushcarts which serve as their homes and source of livelihood as they use the cart as “sari-sari” store from which they sell fruits or other store items to earn their income. Homeless street families reached-out by the Program are referred to the MCCT-HSF Program.
<p>Intervention for Batang Hamog</p>	<p>In Metro Manila areas, there has been alarming number of “Batang Hamog” street children whose activities are undertaken early in the morning which include cleaning vehicle wind shields, entering public utility vehicles and wiping shoes of passengers, giving envelopes to commuters, and sniffing solvents (rugby, vulca-seal, etc). They are also involved in petty crimes such as snatching, theft and “Bukas Kotse” (hold up and robbery).</p>

Responding to the increasing number of street children, community service through volunteer work is one of the proven strategies which provided emotional, social and physical benefits, as well as myriad of experiences and opportunities for street children and their families. This will eventually encourage street children to return to school and gain technical and social skills to prevent them from begging, scavenging vending and selling on the street.

The Community Service Project aims to provide opportunity for street youth to develop their positive skills and experience community service through rendering certain number of hours of work through appropriate supervision of local social workers and authorities to prevent them from street crimes (bukas kotse, snatching, theft) begging, scavenging, vending on the street and eventually encourage them to return to school and continue their education.

It is a thirty (30) days outdoor activities designed to provide opportunity for the street children to experience community voluntary services geared toward character building, personal and social development. It is a strategy where street children (“Batang Hamog”) will gain access to local community and social services. During this period, Cash for Work Activities are also

provided to compensate their service and augment their basic needs for food, clothes and transportation and prevent them snatching, “Bukas Kotse” (hold up and robbery) especially during the yuletide season.

What are the areas covered?

2016 Priority Areas

Region	2016
NCR	All 17 LGUs
III	Clark, Pampanga Subic, Olongapo Bataan
IV-A	Imus, Cavite Kawit, Cavite Antipolo City Taytay, Rizal
V	Legazpi City
VI	Iloilo City
VII	Cebu City
XI	Davao City

