**ADDITIONAL CONTRIBUTION FROM THE REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES TO THE OHCHR CALL FOR INPUTS PURSUANT TO ITS MANDATE IN**

**HRC RESOLUTION 43/L.34 ON STATISTICS AND DATA COLLECTION**

**ABOUT PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES (PWDs)**

Further to Note Verbale No. NV-EPG-299-2021 dated 20 October 2021, the Permanent Mission of the Philippines conveys additional contribution in response to OHCHR’s call for inputs through Note Verbale No. OHCHR/TESRPRD/DESIB/HRESIS dated 24 August 2021 on its reporting mandate pursuant to HRC resolution 43/L.34 on a “study on statistics and data collection under article 31 of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) requiring contributions to be submitted to the OHCHR in an accessible format”.

The information below was provided by the Philippines’ Department of Human Settlements and Urban Development (DHSUD), the main planning and policy-making, regulatory, program coordination, and performance monitoring entity for all housing, human settlements, and urban development in the Philippines. The DHSUD, which is mandated through Republic Act 11201 of 14 February 2019, is responsible for the development and adoption of a national strategy to ensure the alignment of policies, programs and projects to provide access to decent, affordable, resilient and sustainable housing communities to all Filipinos, particularly the underprivileged and those in the low-income bracket.

**Responses to Questions Prepared by the OHCHR**

**Measures and services available at municipal, regional or national levels to support people living in poverty**

The DHSUD provided the following list of programs, ordinances, and laws available to support people living in poverty:

1. The **National Shelter Program**- DHSUD’s flagship program designed to assist the homeless – in particular, the informal settler families (ISFs) – and the low- and middle-income Filipino families. It has three major components, namely, regulations, finance and production. The DHSUD, through its various bureaus and services, provides regulatory functions while its attached agencies – composed of the Home Development Mutual Fund or PAG-IBIG Fund, National Home Mortgage Finance Corp. (NHMFC) and Socialized Housing Finance Corp. (SHFC) – are in charge of the financing side. The National Housing Authority (NHA) serves as the primary production unit.

*Concrete action at the onset of the covid pandemic:*

1. Three-month moratorium on loan payments implemented by attached agencies upon President Rodrigo Duterte’s declaration of the enhanced community quarantine in March 2020;
2. PAG-IBIG increased its House Construction Financing Line to Php 10 billion (approximately USD 198 million) from only Php 2 billion (approximately USD 39.6 million).
3. **Community Mortgage Program** (CMP) – Established in 1988, the CMP is a people-led finance and community development program implemented by SHFC, which assists legally organized associations of low-income groups to acquire and develop a tract of land under the concept of community ownership. The loan may be used for land acquisition (Phase 1), site development (Phase 2), and house construction or home improvement (Phase 3).
4. **Pantawid Pamilyang Pilipino Program** (4Ps) is a human development measure of the national government that provides conditional cash grants to the poorest of the poor to improve the health, nutrition, and education of children aged 0-18. This program was patterned after the conditional cash transfer schemes in Latin American and African countries which have lifted millions of people around the world from poverty.
5. **Five-year Informal Settler Families (ISFs) Housing Program** aims to provide on-site or in-city housing for more than 100,000 families living on top or near “danger zones” such as estuaries, waterways, rivers and creeks. Former President Benigno Aquino approved a P50 billion fund allocation for the implementation of the project and committed P10 billion a year to it until he steps down from office in 2016.
6. **Disiplina Village in Valenzuela City** – the flagship in-city relocation site and public rental housing project for ISFs in the country. With a total of 12.9 hectares, the Disiplina Villages in Ugong and Bignay accommodate more than 4,594 informal settler families, clearing up Valenzuela City from ISFs living in danger zones.
7. **Quezon City Ordinance No. SP-1516 series of 2005** recognizes persons in prostitutions as victims. It imposes penalties only on the perpetrators, such as the pimps and recipients of the sexual act. It also provides services to persons **exploited in prostitution through education campaigns against prostitution, crisis intervention service, education and socio-economic assistance, sustainable livelihood skills training, financial support for scale businesses, integration and complete after-care programs, health services, counselling, and temporary shelter**.
8. **Republic Act 8368** entitled “An Act Repealing Presidential Decree No. 772, Entitled “Penalizing Squatting and Other Similar Acts”, or otherwise known as the “Anti-Squatting Law Repeal Act of 1997”, which was promulgated on 27 October 1997, made all pending cases under the provisions of Presidential Decree No. 772 dismissed upon its effectivity.
9. **Magna Carta of the Poor (RA 11291)** – President Rodrigo Duterte signed into law the Magna Carta of the Poor (Republic Act 11291) on 12 April 2019. This law declared that it is the policy of the State to uplift the standards of living of the poor and the homeless and that Filipinos have a right to adequate housing to live in a decent, safe, and culturally appropriate place with dignity, security of tenure in accordance with RA 7279 or the “Urban Development Housing Act” of 1992.

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