National Household Targeting System for Poverty Reduction

Identifying who and where the poor are

National Household Targeting System for Poverty Reduction (NHTS-PR) is an information management system that identifies who and where the poor are. This makes available to national government agencies and other social protection stakeholders a pioneer database consisting of a comprehensive organization of information of the poor households nationwide.

The first of its kind in the Philippines, this database is used for the following: 1) analyzing *who and where the poor are*; 2) focus targeting of special protection programs to the poor that reduces leakage or under-coverage; 3) objectively identify beneficiaries of social protection programs of various government and non-government agencies, civil society and basic sectors.

Executive Order No. 867 issued in March 9, 2010 has directed all National Government Agencies (NGAs) to adopt the results of NHTS-PR in identifying prospective beneficiaries for their social protection programs nationwide.[2]

The household assessments were completed last December 2009. The NHTSPR was able to assess and subject to **Proxy Means Test (PMT) 10,909,456 households** in the 17 regions, 80 provinces, and 137 cities and 1,493 municipalities nationwide. Of these **5,255,118 households** identified as poor. In Field Office III, a total of **712,255 households** were assessed and subjected to PMT in the 7 provinces, 13 cities and 127 municipalities. Of these **322,622 households** were identified as poor. PMT is a statistical model that estimates household income using proxy variables or income predictors. The assessment was supported by two (2) major activities, On-Demand Application and Validation. These activities respond to issues or under coverage and inclusion of non-poor households. These processes aim to ensure the integrity of the database before sharing it with other government agencies and social protection stakeholders. The database of the poor is for updating after four (4) years.

The summary gives us the profile of the poor households answering two major themes of "who and where the poor are." The answer to the question shall be briefly described using the composition of the poor household; the household members' highest educational attainment and occupation; features of the housing structure and access to basic service or facilities like water, electricity and sanitary toilet; households' ownership of assets; tenure status of housing; and difference in cost of living.

NHTS-PR Project Cycle

A. Preparatory Phase

1. Selection of provinces, municipalities and cities

2. Identification of data collection strategy

D. Data Report Generation Phase

8. Final list of HH below poverty incidence to be shared by MIS

9. Use of Targeting System

10. Feedback from data users

B. Data Collection and Analysis Phase

3. Data Collection

4. Data entry, analysis, and determination of poverty status.

C. Validation and Finalization Phase

5. Launching of On-Demand Application (ODA)

6. Posting of list of classified poor and non-poor HH and review by LVC

7. Preparation of final list by poverty incidence.