

**[ KKPP DEPARTMENT ORDER NO. 23, S. 1994, May 27, 1994 ]**

**GUIDELINES IN THE IMPLEMENTATION OF SPECIAL PROJECT ON ASSISTANCE TO DISADVANTAGED TRANSNATIONAL CHILDREN/YOUTH**

**I.  
RATIONALE**

The emerging issue on the disadvantaged transnational children has caught the attention of all sectors of society. Transnationals are the children born out of relationships between Filipinos and foreign nationals, particularly the children of Filipinos with Americans (Amerasians) and Japanese (Japanese-Filipino) relationship.

The Department of Social Welfare and Development is mandated through Executive Order No. 123 to care, protect and rehabilitate the disadvantaged sectors of the society. Likewise the President, His Excellency Fidel V. Ramos, has directed the Department to coordinate with the Department of Interior and Local Government (DILG), NGOs and LGUs to look into the situation of the Amerasians and their families.

Based on dialogues with the Amerasians and their families and the result of the survey/registration conducted, the following needs were identified:

1. educational assistance/scholarship;
2. skills development training;
3. livelihood assistance/employment
4. socio-legal assistance; and
5. medical/health services

The DSWD in collaboration with other GOs/NGOs proposed a package of support services for the disadvantaged transnationals, particularly the Amerasians.

Regarding the Japanese-Filipino children, there is still a dearth of information as to their exact number and profile as well as their needs. However, with the recent cases of abandoned children of Japanese fathers who were repatriated to the Philippines, a need to respond to this issue is called for. According to Kenshi Nishida of the Young Lawyers Association of Japan, it is estimated that there have been about 25,000 Japanese-Filipino marriages in the last 6-7 years many of which ended in divorce or separation leaving the children to the care and custody of the mother without any support from the Japanese father. Per Batis (an NGO involved in

Japanese-Filipino children), there are about 10,000 Japanese-Filipino in the country needing protection and assistance.

The project also includes the conduct of a survey on the Japanese-Filipino children to have baseline data on them and determine their needs. These data will be the basis of programs to be developed for them.

## **II. DESCRIPTION**

The project seeks to respond to the economic, educational, medical, legal and psycho-social needs of the transnational children and their families. Priority is given to the children of Filipinos with Americans and Japanese parentage.

Amerasians are the first generation children of relationships between American military personnel (servicemen and civilian personnel connected with the base) and Filipino women.

Japanese-Filipinos are the first generation children having Japanese and Filipino parentage needing assistance.

### **A. Objectives:**

The project will provide opportunities for the survival, protection and development of transnational children as well as enhancing the capacity of their families to be self-reliant, productive and contributive members of society. Specifically, the project shall:

1. Provide continuing data in the number and profile of transnational children as well as their current situation;
2. Provide sustainable self-employment opportunities to generate income to meet their financial/economic needs;
3. Provide basic skills, knowledge and related information required to perform a specific income generating activity;
4. Provide educational assistance for formal schooling as well as non-formal education;
5. Provide socio-legal assistance to aid Amerasians/ Japanese-Filipinos establish their identities;
6. Provide medical and health services in coordination with the Department of Health;
7. Strengthen linkages and referral system with other government/non-government/people's organizations; and
8. Provide information and data for decision-making and future planning.

### **B. Coverage**

The project is nationwide in scope covering 1,500 transnational children. Priority shall be given to transnationals 0 to 24 years of age. This shall be implemented for one year with possible expansion next year to cover more beneficiaries.

### *C. Components:*

The project shall employ various components to respond to the needs of the transnational children and their families.

#### *1. Pre-Implementation*

1.1. Coordinate/collaborate with other agencies involved in the project (networking and advocacy) in order to strengthen linkages and for an effective referral system.

1.2. Conduct of research/survey in order to have a baseline data in transnational children and their families.

1.3. Recruit/select and train the following personnel to be involved in the project:

1.3.1. 1 SWO III — act as the project coordinator (BCYW)

1.3.2. 7 SWO IIs — identify, screen and monitor project beneficiaries (management of the case)

- FO-based (for FOs which have no allocated SWO II, regular SWO IIs shall be tapped to assist in the implementation of the project)

1.3.3. 1 Clerk II - files/maintains records/data regarding the project for reference and other purposes (BCYW)

1.4. Establish pool of volunteers in the communities which shall complement the efforts of workers in carrying out project activities. Community organizations like the Pag-asa Youth Movement, Senior Citizen's Association, Women's organizations and Parents' Association shall likewise be tapped in carrying out the project activities.

#### *2. Project Implementation*

##### *2.1. Identification/ screening of beneficiaries*

The identification of the needs and problems of the transnationals are based on the results of the survey/ registration . The SWO II in the region in coordination/cooperation with the local Social Worker in the area can use the data for follow-up in preparation of case study.

##### *2.2. Provision of direct and support services*

Support services are available for the transnational children as well as their families but will be provided according to their needs. Linkages with other DSWD programs and services shall be established to ensure the success of the project.

2.2.1. Livelihood — geared towards the economic rehabilitation of the children/youth

and their families through the provision of integrated package of financial, technical as well as support services. These are:

- a. *Social Preparation* which ensures that the children/ youth and their families are capable of utilizing the assistance given and there are no psycho-social problems that would hinder the fruitful pursuit of the project.
- b. *Basic Business Management Training* enhances and upgrade the managerial skills of the beneficiaries in the management of micro-enterprise.
- c. *Capital Assistance* provides seed fund which shall bear no interest and shall require no collateral. Rollback, which shall be payable within one to two years, shall be deposited in a trust fund.
- d. *Support Service* which provides counselling to enable the children/youth to have access to entitlement and also to learn management and control of resources to achieve sustained development.

2.2.1.1. To be able to join this livelihood program, the identified children/ youth and their families:

- a. must be a resident in the barangay and plan to stay in the barangay for the next two years;
- b. must be physically fit to engage in income generating projects;
- c. must have in the past or at present experiences/skills in income generating activities; and
- d. must be at least 16 years old.

2.2.2. Skills Training — aims at developing the positive work habits, attitudes and basic skills of the children/youth and their families to acquire gainful employment by providing them with training opportunities in their own communities.

2.2.2.1. The children/youth and their families to be included in the skills training must meet the following eligibility requirements:

- a. must have the aptitude, interest and capacity to undertake the training and have a high motivation for employment;
- b. must be sixteen years old and above;
- c. must be a resident of the barangay for the last six months; and
- d. must finish the prescribed duration of the training.

2.2.3. Educational Assistance - provision of material and financial assistance like school uniforms, supplies, equipment in a public school as well as fees for skills or vocational training such as automation, electronics, etc.