



After-Action Review

Leveraging 4Ps Programme for Emergency Response

March 2025



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Foreword

Department of Social Welfare and Development

Reinforced by the effects of climate change and human-induced hazards, disasters and calamities have become more detrimental and challenging to the safety and stability of Filipino families.

In fact, during the last quarter of 2024, the Philippines experienced the devastating impacts of Severe Tropical Storm Kristine (international name: Trami), which struck the Bicol Region and other nearby provinces.

One of the disaster response mechanisms implemented by the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) and the United Nations World Food Programme (UN-WFP) was to provide immediate assistance through the database of the Pantawid Pamilyang Pilipino Program (4Ps), the national poverty reduction strategy and human capital investment program.

By tapping the 4Ps database to top up the cash assistance for its household beneficiaries, a faster, more efficient, and more scalable response was achieved, allowing for seamless aid distribution with reduced logistical demands for on-site distribution.

To document the progress and outcomes of this initiative, the DSWD and the UN-WFP have prepared this After-Action Review (AAR). This report will provide an in-depth assessment of the achievements, challenges, and best practices that will help guide disaster responders and humanitarian agencies in creating a stronger and more responsive delivery of emergency and disaster recovery assistance to poor communities.

With this, I extend my congratulations to the UN-WFP, the DSWD Disaster Response Management Group (DRMG), and their partners for their guidance and dedication in completing this significant document.



I hope this report will serve as a valuable resource for partners and stakeholders in strengthening and enhancing disaster response and mitigation initiatives for vulnerable populations across the country.

Thank you.

REX GATCHALIAN

Secretary

Department of Social Welfare and Development

World Food Programme

In the evolving landscape of humanitarian response, the Philippines serves as a powerful example of resilience and innovative practices. The series of typhoons that struck the country in late 2024, impacting millions of Filipinos and inflicting widespread damage to homes, agriculture, and the economy, demonstrated the severity of natural hazards and the importance of adaptive and flexible response systems.

This report highlights the extraordinary collaboration between the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) and the World Food Programme (WFP) in leveraging the 4Ps: Pantawid Pamilyang Pilipino Program, the national social protection programme, to address the compounded impacts of multiple typhoons. It provides a glimpse into how pre-established systems, when thoughtfully adapted, can swiftly deliver assistance to those most in need, ensuring both efficiency and inclusivity during challenging times.

Drawing inspiration from past initiatives such as the response to super typhoon Haiyan in 2013, the application of adaptive and shock-responsive social protection (ASRSP) mechanisms in the aftermath of recent storms has set a benchmark for global practices. The swift dissemination of cash assistance to 30,270 affected households across the hardest-hit regions of the Philippines reflects a strong commitment to innovative practices for efficient and effective response, while empowering communities and restoring dignity amid adversity.

The document provides useful insights for stakeholders, policymakers, and practitioners involved in social protection and disaster management. Learning from adaptive response



strategies and the implementation of shock-responsive social protection, it encourages continued innovation and collaboration. Together, we can develop systems that address immediate crises and strengthen the communities' long-term growth and stability.

Our profound gratitude to all those who contributed to this endeavour. May this account of adaptability and determination inspire meaningful discussions and actions for the years ahead.



REGIS CHAPMAN

Representative and Country Director
United Nations World Food Programme



Overview and Context

In the last quarter of 2024, the Philippines experienced an unprecedented series of powerful storms within a span of 25 days. Initially, severe tropical storm Kristine (international name: Trami) made landfall on October 24, 2024, traversing mainland Luzon and causing extensive flooding and landslides, particularly in the Bicol Region. Subsequently, five additional typhoons arrived in quick succession, exacerbating the impacts of Kristine on areas that had barely begun to recover. Collectively, these six typhoons affected over 16 million individuals and inflicted damage worth PHP 16 billion (US\$269 million) on agriculture, housing, and infrastructure across 17 out of 18 regions.

In response to the compounded impacts of these storms, and in support of the government-led emergency response, the World Food Programme (WFP) and the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) collaborated with local government units (LGUs) to augment the ongoing distribution of family food packs with the provision of cash assistance to 4Ps households. The 4Ps (Pantawid Pamilyang Pilipino Program) is the government's core national social protection programme, providing financial assistance to low-income households to enhance food security, health, education, and welfare, and requiring

beneficiaries to meet conditions such as school attendance and health check-ups.

In 2013, WFP applied a similar approach, reaching over 100,000 4Ps households in the aftermath of typhoon Haiyan. At that time, WFP transferred funds to DSWD for onward disbursement to 4Ps beneficiaries. This example of leveraging national social protection programmes for emergency response has since become a globally recognized good practice in what is commonly known as ASRSP.

In response to the recent storms, DSWD and WFP collaborated once again, successfully demonstrating how the 4Ps programme can be used to deliver cash top-ups to address crisis-related needs. With updated legislation on grant transfers, WFP accessed 4Ps data to facilitate direct transfers to beneficiaries' bank accounts.

Within two weeks of the initial storm, WFP reached over 22,000 vulnerable 4Ps households with cash transfers utilizing WFP's corporate loan facility to advance emergency funds. As additional funding became available, the cash assistance expanded to 30,270 households across Bicol, Cagayan Valley, and Central Luzon.

DSWD and WFP co-designed sensitization materials to inform recipients about the cash assistance and trained DSWD's 4Ps staff on community engagement. Standard operating procedures were established to enhance DSWD's grievance redress mechanism and ensure the timely resolution of beneficiaries' concerns.

To review and analyse the strengths and challenges of the intervention, DSWD, WFP, and LGUs involved in the response conducted a joint After-Action Review (AAR) in March 2025. The review has allowed the Government and WFP to examine the implementation of cash assistance and identify areas to strengthen social protection systems to be more adaptive and responsive to shocks in accordance with national and sub-national priorities.

Acknowledgements

The cash assistance and related efforts to strengthen the Government's 4Ps social protection programme were made possible thanks to WFP's corporate loan facility to advance emergency funds, as well as the generous support of the Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade; the United Nations Central Emergency Response Fund; the Global Affairs Canada; the Republic of Korea; the United Kingdom Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office; the United States Agency for International Development's Bureau for Humanitarian Assistance; and Stop Hunger (and its founding partner Sodexo), a private sector partner.



Objectives of the AAR

The AAR provided a platform to convene stakeholders with the following objectives:

- Review the typhoon response operation utilizing the 4Ps programme and mechanisms.
- Identify challenges and opportunities for future operationalisation.
- Develop policy recommendations to ensure the shock responsiveness of the 4Ps and other social protection programmes in the Philippines.

The findings from the AAR will be used to develop a roadmap for technical assistance, aimed at continuing to support the Government in strengthening ASRSP systems.

Participants' Profile

The AAR included participation from the Government representing the DSWD Central Office and Field Offices in Cagayan, Bicol, and Central Luzon, as well as WFP staff. To gain a comprehensive understanding of the operations, the AAR involved local officials and authorities in the discussions. At the strategic level, the Assistant Secretary of DSWD's Disaster Response Management Group and Director, 4Ps Deputy Program Manager for Administration, supported the discussions and workshops. At the operational level, participating offices included:



No.	Agency / Organization / Office
1	Department of Social Welfare and Development – Office of the Assistant Secretary
2	Department of Social Welfare and Development – Disaster Response Management Bureau (DRMB)
3	Department of Social Welfare and Development – Conditional Cash Transfer Group
4	Department of Social Welfare and Development – Region 02 (Cagayan Valley)
5	Department of Social Welfare and Development – Region 03 (Central Luzon)
6	Department of Social Welfare and Development – Region 05 (Bicol Region)
7	Local Government Unit of Aparri, Cagayan
8	Local Government Unit of Sta. Teresita, Cagayan
9	Local Government Unit of Baler, Aurora
10	Local Government Unit of Dipaculao, Aurora
11	Local Government Unit of Bula, Camarines Sur
12	Local Government Unit of Ragay, Camarines Sur
13	Local Government Unit of Tinambac, Camarines Sur
14	Local Government Unit of Libon, Albay
15	Local Government Unit of Guinobatan, Albay



4Ps Emergency Response at a Glance

By leveraging the Government's 4Ps social protection programme, DSWD and WFP provided emergency cash assistance to households affected by the compounded effects of typhoons in the provinces of Albay, Aurora, Cagayan, and Camarines Sur. The 4Ps is the Philippines' national poverty reduction strategy and human capital investment programme, which offers conditional cash transfers to poor households to enhance health, nutrition, and education.

To address the food gaps and other household-level needs of these 4Ps beneficiaries during the recent emergency, a transfer value was set at PHP 6,700 per family, including PHP 3,300 per month plus PHP 50 for withdrawal fees for two months. Information about the program was communicated to LGUs and beneficiaries through messaging and sensitization efforts. By accessing the data and information of beneficiaries through a data-sharing agreement between DSWD and WFP, cash assistance was directly deposited into beneficiaries' bank accounts using WFP's corporate platforms SCOPE and

plugPay¹, ensuring safety and cost-effectiveness. Beneficiaries were able to access the cash via ATMs and Points of Sales (POS) systems. Existing systems were utilized to monitor distribution and gather community feedback, ensuring the programme's effectiveness.

The major impacts and takeaways of the intervention included prevention of further deterioration of food security, support to economic recovery, strengthened social protection linkages, scalability and efficiency, and system strengthening. The injection of cash into local economies stimulated market activity and supported small businesses.

Objective

To complement the Government-led emergency response, WFP provided top-up cash assistance to beneficiaries of the 4Ps social protection programme. This initiative aimed to address the

¹ WFP's SCOPE is a digital beneficiary management system used to register and authenticate people receiving assistance, ensuring aid reaches the right individuals efficiently. It supports tracking, targeting, and delivering cash, as well as food or vouchers, improving transparency and accountability in humanitarian operations. WFP's plugPAY is a digital payment platform that enables recipients to receive cash assistance directly into their preferred bank accounts or mobile wallets, enhancing efficiency and financial inclusion. Integrated with SCOPE, plugPAY utilizes beneficiary data to streamline cash transfers, ensuring accurate and timely delivery of aid.

immediate food security and nutritional needs, as well as other household priorities, of families affected by the disaster.



Targeting. DSWD and WFP targeted 4Ps families across the worst affected areas in Bicol, Cagayan Valley, and Central Luzon based on the Government's official disaster reporting system using the Disaster Response Operations and Monitoring Information Center (DROMIC) Report. With available resources, DSWD and WFP prioritized 4Ps families with children under five.



Transfer value. DSWD and WFP determined the value of the cash transfer at PHP 3,300 per month. This was based on 30 percent of the Minimum Expenditure Basket established by the National Cash Working Group in 2022, to cover immediate food and other urgent essential needs of affected people.



Data access and delivery mechanism. WFP ensured a secure data transfer from the Government's 4Ps database to WFP's beneficiary management platform, SCOPE. The cash was directly deposited into beneficiaries' bank accounts using WFP's digital payment platform plugPay, thus eliminating the need for on-site cash distribution, reducing cost and enhancing safety and security.



Messaging and sensitization. DSWD and WFP co-developed communication materials that provided information on how and why there were selected, with clear and concise messages to encourage households to use the cash for food, shelter, and other essential needs, particularly for their young children. A brief training package was also developed in consultation with DSWD and LGUs. The package included a checklist for municipal links on key interpersonal communication techniques to ensure that the right information about the initiative/intervention was delivered to beneficiaries in a timely and effective manner.



Accessing assistance. Beneficiaries were able to immediately access cash, as markets, Automated Teller Machines (ATM), and Points of Sales (POS) systems were operational. This enabled independent purchasing decisions while simultaneously reviving the local market.



Monitoring. DSWD and WFP used the existing grievance redress and monitoring system of the 4Ps programme to oversee the distribution of cash assistance. WFP collaborated with 4Ps field implementers and local authorities to address grievances and collect community feedback.



About the 4Ps (*Pantawid Pamilyang Pilipino Program*)

Launched in 2008 and institutionalized in 2019 by Republic Act No. 11310, the 4Ps is the Philippines' national poverty reduction strategy and human capital investment programme that provides conditional cash transfers to poor households to improve health, nutrition, and education.

As general criteria, 4Ps beneficiaries are households that i) are classified as poor and near-poor based on the Standardized Targeting System and the poverty threshold issued by the Philippine Statistics Authority at the time of selection, and ii) have members who are aged 0-18 years, or pregnant at the time of registration.



Reflecting on the 2024 Typhoon Response Journey



Activity 1: The Response Timeline

During this activity, participants mapped the response timeline and milestones resulting in a comprehensive overview of the cash operation during the emergency. Each group carefully outlined the key events and activities at the strategic and operational levels, pinpointing crucial moments that led to the operation's success.

Strategic collaboration. The existing Memorandum of Understanding between DSWD and WFP enabled both parties to quickly agree on the collaboration. Principal and executive support was paramount in setting up the intervention. As a result of a joint consultation at the National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council (NDRRMC), DSWD and WFP were able to initiate discussions on how to immediately provide household-level interventions to augment the daily and basic needs of the disaster-affected

population in response to the compounded effects of the recent typhoons.

Operational coordination. The operational readiness and flexibility of the 4Ps system, established through the long-standing partnership with the LGUs and the communities, significantly accelerated the execution of the intervention. WFP's readiness to deploy a skilled emergency team alongside the DSWD field offices was critical to bridge strategic vision with operational implementation.

Efficiency. Cash assistance demonstrated strong efficiency by leveraging the existing 4Ps programme to rapidly deliver aid to affected families. Delivery of cash within two weeks of the emergency, disbursement success rates, reliable targeting through 4Ps database, and positive beneficiary feedback reflect the intervention's cost-effectiveness and operational strength, reaching those most in need quickly and at scale.



Deep Dive: Unlocking Insights and Experience

Activity 2: Operational Review

Following the review of the timeline, participants engaged in focus group discussions to identify good practices and lessons learned. They reflected on the elements that were effective during the response, as well as the obstacles and challenges that will require further improvement.

Good Practices

Existing partnership framework. The long-standing partnership between DSWD and WFP significantly contributed to the effective implementation of the programme. The existing Memorandum of Understanding served as a comprehensive framework governing the partnership.

Management support. Support from the highest levels of management within DSWD and WFP was evident through the prompt signing of the Data Sharing Agreement (DSA). This facilitated programme implementers adhering to the stipulated terms and conditions following the necessary clearances and guidance from the executive officials.

Data sharing. The existing partnership framework and consistent management support enabled the signing of regional DSAs in alignment with both the objectives and mandates of DSWD and WFP. The DSAs were accompanied by Terms of Reference to provide clear guidelines for the specific implementation arrangements.

Operational readiness of the 4Ps programme.

The pre-existing 4Ps system facilitated the prompt identification of specific institutional arrangements along with the detailed requirements and processes necessary to implement the intervention. This well-established system, operational for decades, demonstrated its efficacy by utilizing already functional mechanisms, such as LGU coordination, field level availability of 4Ps workforce, community parent coordination, existing focus group discussion modules and platforms, etc.

Established levels of coordination. The entry points for coordination and implementation were clearly defined. At the national level, relevant offices such as the Disaster Response Management Group and 4Ps National Program

Management Office were engaged. At the regional level, the respective units were appropriately involved including the Disaster Response Management Division, 4Ps Regional Program Management Office, Policy and Planning Section, Legal Office, and Budget and Finance Unit. The existing coordination platform of the 4Ps field staff and the LGUs was leveraged to facilitate more effective and efficient communication and dissemination of information through family development sessions, social media channels, and through the existing parent leaders in the area.

Realistic timelines. A workplan was formulated by DSWD and WFP to guide the implementation of the intervention. Clearly defined and achievable timelines were established, with corresponding responsibilities assigned to the relevant offices during the planning meeting, which was immediately conducted following the landfall of severe tropical storm Kristine.

Utilization of the existing government system for targeting. The DROMIC Report, which serves as the official incident management and reporting tool of the government, was utilized for geographical targeting. According to the DROMIC Report, DSWD and WFP evaluated the LGU with the highest number of affected and displaced populations, analysed the data based on the total population count of each locality, and prioritised those with a high percentage of affectation.

The Pantawid Pamilya Information System (PPIS) was employed to obtain the necessary data and information for beneficiary targeting. Utilizing the PPIS, DSWD and WFP extracted data of 4Ps households with children under the age of five. This type of dataset is regularly updated within the system. This data was subsequently transferred to a beneficiary import matrix to facilitate WFP's registration and enrolment processes within its corporate system.

Establishing clear prioritization criteria.

DSWD and WFP jointly defined prioritization criteria, ensuring the intervention focused on 4Ps households with children aged 0-5 years who are particularly vulnerable during crises and may face significant challenges in accessing adequate nutrition during these times.

Defined transfer value. The value of the cash transfer was determined and mutually agreed upon by DSWD and WFP at PHP 3,300 per month, which was based on 30 percent of the 2022 Minimum Expenditure Basket (MEB) to address the immediate food and other urgent needs of the affected population. Additionally, PHP 50 was allocated per transfer to cover withdrawal fees. The transfer value was coordinated with the Cash Working Group in late October at the onset of severe tropical storm Kristine.

On 11 November, the national Cash Working Group, in consultation with DSWD, presented a temporary MEB. The Cash Working Group had initiated the revision of the 2022 MEB a couple of months earlier, but not all clusters had completed their sector-specific updates by the time the response was launched. The temporary MEB incorporated updated cost data in five sectors while retaining 2022 values for others. The full MEB was estimated at PHP 23,662, with a recommended multi-purpose cash assistance transfer value of PHP 11,830 (50 percent coverage). However, recognizing the need for flexibility and complementarity with government programmes, DSWD recommended a minimum transfer safeguard of 20 percent of the MEB (PHP 4,730).

Due to the severity of the situation, WFP provided PHP 6,700, equivalent to 57 percent of the DSWD recommended minimum transfer value. This is also equivalent to two months' assistance based on previously agreed transfer value per household. This reduced the administrative cost to WFP and created savings for beneficiaries in terms of potential bank fees, and time and cost spent to reach financial service providers. DSWD and WFP

explained the one-off transfer as part of orientations and sensitizations.

Scalability and efficiency of bank-to-bank transfers. Digital payments served as an effective method for cash transfers, reducing logistical challenges and costs, and providing timely assistance. The success rate of transfers was near 100 percent.

Clear and standard messaging. DSWD and WFP jointly developed communication materials to influence behaviours. Adapted to the local languages, these materials were clear, concise, and targeted, reminding households to practice healthy, positive behaviours even in the context of emergencies. The messages and the training package were developed through stakeholder consultation and guided by rapid needs assessments. These communication materials complemented other channels supported by the Government, including social media, chat groups, and referral systems.

Efficient government grievance redress system (GRS). DSWD and WFP used the existing grievance redress system of the 4Ps programme to oversee the distribution of cash assistance. WFP collaborated with 4Ps field implementers and local authorities to address grievances and collect community feedback.

Complementarity with other humanitarian assistance. The cash assistance complemented the support provided by national and local authorities, as well as non-governmental organizations and other UN Agencies. It served as an augmentation to the Government's family food packs. The cash assistance also supplemented various food and non-food items, along with other relief assistance provided by other humanitarian partners operating on the ground. It also provided a platform for UN agencies, such as UNICEF (United Nations Children's Fund), to harmonize and standardize the transfer value to optimize the intervention's rationale, proper messaging, and unified coordination mechanisms.

Bottlenecks and Challenges

Qualified beneficiaries without existing transaction accounts. The extended turnaround time for processing cash cards or ATM replacements hindered other eligible beneficiaries from receiving assistance and resulted in their exclusion from the intervention. ATM replacements are centrally processed by the Landbank Head Office. Going forward, the 4Ps National Programme Management Office may explore the possibility of localizing the process to shorten the turnaround time for processing cash cards or replace ATM cards.

4Ps households that did not meet the established criteria. Considering that the intervention targeted households participating in the 4Ps programme with children under the age of five, due to the heightened vulnerability of these groups, other households within the 4Ps programme that did not meet the specified criteria were excluded. DSWD and WFP worked diligently to communicate this message to the affected families and communities through sensitization materials. However, these households, facing similar challenges and disproportionately affected by the emergency, were still eager to benefit from the intervention. Similarly, other poor and near-poor households affected by the storms and profiled under the National Household Targeting System (also known as *Listahanan*) were excluded from the intervention.

To reduce the exclusion of equally vulnerable populations who are not eligible for 4Ps benefits, DSWD should further explore the horizontal expansion of the programme. This effort should be grounded in a comprehensive understanding of the scale of exclusion among vulnerable non-4Ps households, using both national and local registries. It is essential to assess the feasibility of delivering emergency cash assistance to currently excluded households through bank transfers and other digital channels, with the same speed and efficiency as for 4Ps beneficiaries. A pilot initiative could help generate evidence and provide a model for the Government to consider in implementing horizontal expansion.

Clear delineation of LGU involvement.



The Terms of Reference did not specify the precise roles and responsibilities of LGUs, leading to uncertainty about their participation in programme implementation and subsequently causing confusion. In addition to sending courtesy letters, there should be sufficient time allocated for coordination and communication between DSWD and Local Chief Executives (Mayors) and other relevant offices such as the Municipal Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Office (MDRRMO) and Municipal Social Welfare and Development Office (MSWDO).

Delayed submission of the DROMIC Report. The prompt and timely submission of DROMIC data by LGUs is essential for effective geographical targeting. Delays in submission impede the geographic prioritization process due to the prioritization of immediate response activities, such as evacuation, rescue operations, and the establishment of camps.

Adequate time for orientation and sensitization.

To the extent possible, in-person orientation sessions for DSWD and LGU staff are critical ahead of actual cash transfers. These sessions provide comprehensive knowledge of the GRS guide note, List of Frequently Asked Questions, and sensitization materials, thereby better equipping field implementers. As the 4Ps programme becomes increasingly shock-responsive, the speed of orientation and sensitization needs to align with the speed of cash assistance.

Coordination. DSWD played an important role in coordinating cash assistance efforts at both national and sub-national levels. DSWD and WFP increasingly worked with LGUs to ensure assistance is well coordinated. Continued efforts to strengthen participation and ensure regular coordination meetings among cash actors could further improve the effectiveness of the response. Inter-agency coordination within the Humanitarian Country Team and through the Cash Working Group showed areas for improvement, with some delays in joint planning and varying levels of alignment with Government-led efforts.

 Enabling Factors (good practices)	 Constraining Factors (bottlenecks)
Long-standing DSWD–WFP partnership with a governing MoU	Exclusion of 4Ps households not meeting specific criteria, despite vulnerability
Strong management support and timely regional Data Sharing Agreement sign-off with clear Terms of Reference (TOR)	Exclusion of eligible beneficiaries due to lack of transaction accounts
Operational readiness and maturity of the 4Ps system and previous experience leveraging the system for shock response	Exclusion of poor/near-poor households profiled under <i>Listahanan</i> also impacted by the shock
Multi-level, structured coordination mechanisms (national to field level)	Lack of clear TOR on LGU roles and responsibilities, causing confusion



Moving Forward: Envisioning Future Strategies

Activity 3: Recommendations

The discussions highlighted the necessity for policy adjustments to i) incorporate shock-responsive measures, ii) streamline implementation mechanisms for expedited response, and iii) enhance engagement with LGUs to ensure efficient last-mile delivery. Various recommendations were identified at the **strategic level** (policy revision and planning), **operational level** (program execution), and **community level**.

Strategic Level

Advocating for a risk layered approach to allocate resources more efficiently by matching different types of risks with the most appropriate tools or financing mechanisms.

No single department, agency or programme can meet all pre- and post-emergency requirements alone. There is a need to advocate for a layered approach by designing systems that integrate and coordinate across multiple programmes, sectors, and stakeholders. This layered design is essential to ensure more comprehensive, timely, and inclusive responses to future shocks.

Incorporating emergency cash transfer assistance into the 4Ps force majeure policy.

During periods of disaster, following a declaration of a national or local state of calamity, full monthly grants are provided to 4Ps beneficiaries, and conditionalities are waived. Given the positive outcomes of the recent intervention, there is considerable potential to utilize the 4Ps system to support the poorest households by allocating budget within DSWD for emergency cash assistance to 4Ps beneficiaries affected by disasters. This assistance could serve as a supplement to the regular grants received by households, thereby addressing their needs during emergencies and disasters.

Capitalizing on the 4Ps force majeure policy.

In the event of a declaration of state of calamity and subsequent activation of the force majeure policy, there is the potential to expedite the grant distribution process and facilitate advance payments for the immediate or subsequent month. In this case, payment thereof should still be subjected to liquidation in accordance with existing financial rules and government regulations.

Pre-arranged financing. The design of future programmes and policies should consider incorporating pre-arranged risk financing mechanisms and integrating them with social protection systems such as the 4Ps or other similar initiatives. This approach could provide opportunities to link operational delivery with pre-arranged financing, thereby positioning social protection as a fundamental component of the DSWD's disaster risk management strategies

Flexible digital payment solutions are instrumental in enhancing financial inclusion, particularly for marginalized sectors such as the beneficiaries of the 4Ps programme. By diversifying payment options, there is greater potential to provide a comprehensive and adaptable financial service. This includes updating the banking features of transaction accounts to cater to the specific needs of beneficiaries, thereby ensuring seamless and efficient transactions. Additionally, the integration of mobile wallets will offer a more accessible and user-friendly platform for financial engagements, promoting financial literacy and autonomy among recipients.

Replicating the system for AA cash intervention. DSWD and WFP have demonstrated that an established database system profiling beneficiaries, along with an existing transfer mechanism and an operational digital payment solution, can significantly enhance the efficiency, reach, and probability of disbursing cash assistance prior to the landfall of a typhoon. This initiative serves as an exemplary mechanism for building evidence in the implementation of anticipatory action cash interventions.

Establishment of a National Data Sharing Agreement. To improve coordination on ASRSP initiatives, it is recommended that DSWD and WFP enter into a National Data Sharing Agreement. This agreement would be activated in anticipation of an imminent disaster (anticipatory action) or during rapid response operations. It would be institutionalized through a standard operating

procedure that guides programme implementation at the sub-national level.

Digitalizing the DROMIC system for enhanced efficiency. To ensure swift incident management reporting and data collection, the DROMIC system should establish a digital information system that can be deployed to sub-national offices, accompanied by appropriate capacity-building measures and interventions.

Operational Level

Establishment of clear institutional arrangements. It is imperative to articulate the roles of internal DSWD offices as well as the pertinent offices at the LGU level. This should delineate the responsibilities of various offices in data transfer, sensitization, distribution monitoring, and grievance redress management for DSWD, WFP, and LGU.

Preparation of sensitization materials. Draft and provide communication materials in both English and Filipino, with regional offices responsible for translating these materials into local languages and dialects as well as adapting them for local context, as necessary. Explore other channels or communication tactics to ensure broader and inclusive reach, such as video recording for those who may have reading difficulties.

Transfer value. Set a pre-determined transfer value which will serve as reference for organizations implementing multi-purpose or sector-specific cash-based transfers based on existing approved MEB rates established through coordinated discussion between the Government and the inter-agency Cash Working Group, plus provision for transportation expense to claim assistance.

Coordination of cash assistance. The inter-agency Cash Working Group should review its Terms of Reference and transition responsibilities to the Government. DSWD may lead the national Cash Working Group, with support from other

relevant government institutions and agencies, to ensure coordination, cross learning, and alignment.

Geographical and beneficiary targeting.

The continued utilization of the DROMIC Report for geographical targeting and the Pantawid Information System for beneficiary targeting is recommended. It is also advised to review the criteria for beneficiary selection to consider other vulnerable sectors within the 4Ps programme for cash assistance.

Establishment of workable timelines. Following the establishment of the National DSA, it is essential to develop a feasible timeline for programme implementation. This should consider the necessary preparations for setting up the intervention, coordination, sensitization, transfer, monitoring efforts, etc.

Community Level

If resources permit, other vulnerable groups within the 4Ps should be considered, including households with single parents, older persons, persons with disabilities, and Indigenous Peoples, who are disproportionately affected during emergencies. Most, if not all, vulnerability data can be extracted from the 4Ps database.

Expanding support to vulnerable households outside of 4Ps would require preparatory work and a review of existing social protection programmes to understand how these can be leveraged to improve response time and expand the reach of assistance. DSWD may pilot horizontal expansion using either existing national or local beneficiary registries.

Strengthening coordination with local authorities. During emergency response efforts, it is crucial for various government entities, non-government organizations, and UN agencies

operating on the ground to ensure that resources are allocated appropriately, and assistance reaches those most in need. To achieve this, all key stakeholders, and the DSWD field officer through their municipal links, should consistently liaise with the LGU for pre-crisis planning, joint planning and assessment, and other capacity strengthening interventions.

Analysis of Other Potential SP Programme for Emergency Response: Going Beyond 4Ps

This exercise examined the potential for adapting social protection (SP) programmes to enhance disaster preparedness, response, and recovery. As part of the AAR, participants discussed possible strategies to activate other SP programmes before, during, and after disasters, integrate anticipatory actions, and address potential challenges.

Assistance to Individuals in Crisis Situations (AICS). This assistance is provided to address individuals or households experiencing idiosyncratic shocks. Cash assistance can be accessed every three months. A database of AICS recipients is maintained, which includes information on address, contact details, and mobile wallet accounts. The AICS programme is also occasionally utilized to provide immediate cash assistance to households most affected during emergencies, considering the substantial financial resources allocated to the programme. Using historical data of AICS availment during emergencies cross matched with the social registry of the poor in affected areas, DSWD will be able to determine how much of the AICS budget can be used to support SRSP both as a vertical top up or expanding the reach to other vulnerable sectors outside regular SP programme list.

Cash for Work (CFW) activities. Designed as a temporary employment measure while engaging in community work, this social assistance can be utilized for mitigation, response, and early recovery activities. The list of participants is provided by the LGU, and beneficiaries are selected based on the project's purpose. While the current set up involves registration being conducted manually, there is no existing database to store the data and information of project recipients, and payments are made by cash in hand scheme. CFW as a modality can be made more efficient to deliver SRSP by using the list of beneficiaries of existing social protection programmes, or in cases of LGU implementation use of CBMS database, CFW as a delivery modality can expand AA, preparedness, or early recovery support. Cash will then be delivered through the existing SP delivery mechanism.

The Sustainable Livelihood Program (SLP) and KALAH-CIDSS are designed as community-level interventions. These types of assistance can be utilized as post-disaster interventions by restoring livelihoods and businesses, as well as rebuilding community infrastructures. A disaster modality

strategy has been embedded in the regular programming of KALAH-CIDSS. These are ad hoc associations endorsed by local authorities through a barangay/local resolution. Community or group cash transfers support for specific marginal groups before and during emergencies can be channelled using these programmes.

Walang Gutom Program is the Philippines' new flagship social protection programme that aims to decrease the incidence of involuntary hunger experienced by low-income households and make them productive citizens of the country. Through a whole-of-nation approach, the programme aims to provide monetary-based assistance in the form of an Electronic Benefit Transfer card that will be loaded with food credits amounting to PHP 3,000 to purchase a select list of food commodities from partner merchant store/s. The programme highlights a mechanism for the delivery of social protection interventions using digital platforms to access food. *Walang Gutom* intends to cover 750,000 households by 2027 and has a potential for supporting anticipatory and/or emergency cash transfer interventions.



Summary of Agreements and Ways Forward

Activity	Recommendations / Agreements	Timeliness	Responsible Office
Data Sharing Agreement (DSA) / Terms of Reference (TOR)	WFP and DSWD will draft the National DSA for review by Data Protection Officers and the Legal Officer.	October 2025 (Signing of Agreement)	DSWD / WFP
	Develop Standard Operating Procedures or TORs to guide the execution of the programme at the sub-national level.	CY 2025	WFP / 4Ps-NPMO, DRMB
	Conduct a nationwide orientation to introduce key features of the programme which includes trigger for activation, coordination mechanism, transfer value, etc.		
Coordination Mechanism	Ensure the SOP/TOR clearly stipulates coordination mechanisms for national, regional, and local offices.	N/A	DSWD / WFP
Geographic and Beneficiary Targeting	Discuss the prioritization of beneficiaries and establish standard targeting criteria to ensure consideration of the most vulnerable for the programme.	N/A	DSWD / WFP
Transfer Value	Coordinate with Government and the national cash working group to establish a standard transfer value.	N/A	DSWD / WFP
Sensitization	Review and come up with standard communication materials. Conduct proper orientation to municipal links. Provide ample timeline for LGU coordination and beneficiary orientation.	N/A	DSWD / WFP
Going Beyond 4Ps	Further discuss potential utilization of other SP programmes for anticipatory action and emergency response, subject to approval and concurrence of principals.	2025	DSWD / WFP
AAR Documentation Report	DSWD-DRMB and WFP to finalize the report and share with participants.	October 2025	DSWD / WFP

Photo Credits

Cover: With the cash assistance from DSWD and WFP, Marissa Gonzaga was able to secure food for her family and restart their small egg business, after their home was flooded during severe tropical storm Kristine. © WFP/Earvin Perias

Page 5: Super typhoon Pepito caused significant infrastructure damage in a coastal municipality in Dinadiawan, Aurora Province. © WFP/Dante Diosina, Jr.

Page 6: Families with children under 5 registered under 4Ps received cash support from WFP. © WFP/Earvin Perias

Page 7: Group photo of participants of the external AAR. © WFP

Page 8: Two families in Ballesteros, Cagayan receive cash assistance from WFP and DSWD. © WFP/Nicole Pagulong

Page 10: Participants of the external AAR mapped out a timeline of the typhoon response. © WFP

Page 11: AAR participants engaged in focus group discussions to reflect on best practices and lessons learned from the response. © WFP

Page 15: WFP and DFAT staff are pictured with cash assistance beneficiaries at a Landbank ATM in Baler, Aurora Province. © WFP/Vivian Lellie Reyes

Page 18: Michelle Leymes, a mother of five from Baler, Aurora, said she'll use the cash assistance to buy nutritious food for her family. © WFP/Earvin Perias

World Food Programme

11/F South Tower Rockwell Business Center Sheridan, Mandaluyong City, Philippines

+63 2 8833 6229 | wfp.philippines@wfp.org

wfp.org/countries/philippines