

THE PHILIPPINES

Philippine
Commission
on Women



**CROSS-SECTORAL COLLABORATION:
Gender Mainstreaming and Prevention
and Response to Sexual and
Gender-based Violence in Disaster Risk
Reduction and Management (DRRM) and
Climate Change Adaptation (CCA)**



POLICY FRAMEWORK

- **Philippine Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Act (RA 10121)**
 - Section 2(j) provides for the policy of the State to ensure that disaster risk reduction and climate change measures are **gender-responsive**.
 - Section 9 (m) of the law also mandates the Office of Civil Defense to institutionalize **gender analysis in early recovery and post-disaster needs assessment**
 - Section 11 (a.7) requires the inclusion of the **Head of the Local Gender and Development Offices** as a member in the **Local DRRM Councils**.



POLICY FRAMEWORK

- **National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Plan (NDRRMP), 2011-2028**

Recognizes that gender mainstreaming cuts across the four (4) DRRM thematic areas:

- prevention and mitigation,
- preparedness,
- response, and
- recovery and rehabilitation

Promotes **gender-sensitive vulnerability and capacity analysis** of women, men, children, people with disabilities, older persons and other groups in all disaster risk reduction and management activities, and encourages a **balance in the participation and decision making roles of women and men in DRRM.**



POLICY FRAMEWORK

- **Climate Change Act or RA 9729**

Section 12 (j) provides for the creation of a National Strategic Framework and Program on Climate Change which includes **gender mainstreaming as one of the ten (10) components**.

- **National Climate Change Action Plan (NCCAP), 2011-2028**

Has an ultimate goal **“to build the adaptive capacities of women and men in their communities, increase the resilience of vulnerable sectors and natural ecosystems to climate change, and optimize mitigation opportunities towards a gender-responsive and rights-based sustainable development”**.

Specific gender-related activities have been identified in NCCAP’s seven (7) strategic actions, and the Plan recognizes that certain activities cut across strategic priorities and sectors including gender mainstreaming

POLICY FRAMEWORK

Magna Carta of Women (MCW) or RA 9710

Section 9. Protection from all forms of

violence. Giving priority to the defense and protection of women against gender-based offenses and helping women attain justice and healing.

➔ Incremental increase in the recruitment and training of women in fields that provide services for women victims of gender-related offenses



POLICY FRAMEWORK

Right to Protection from Violence

➔ Mandatory human rights and gender-sensitivity training for all government personnel involved in the protection and defense of women against gender-based violence



➔ ***Establishment
of VAW Desk in
every barangay***

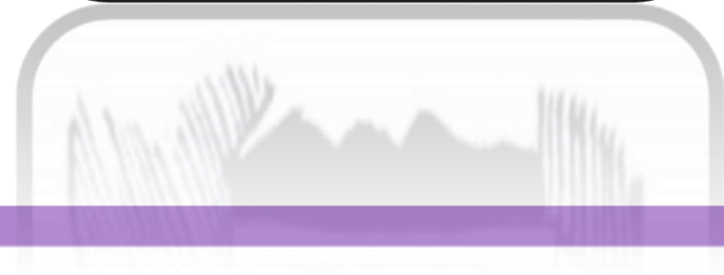
DILG, DSWD, DepEd, DOH, PCW JMC 2010-2

Guidelines in the Establishment of a Violence Against Women (VAW) Desk in Every Barangay

(Signed December 9, 2010)



- ✓ Setting up of VAW Desk
- ✓ Designation of VAW Desk Person
- ✓ Functions of Barangay VAW Desk
- ✓ Protocol in Handling VAW Cases at the Barangay Level
- ✓ LGU's GAD Budget





ABOUT **80%** OF THE TOTAL 42,028 BARANGAYS IN THE PHILIPPINES
HAD ESTABLISHED BARANGAY VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN DESKS





POLICY FRAMEWORK

- **Magna Carta of Women (MCW) or RA 9710**

- **Section 10. Right to protection and security in times of disasters, calamities, and other crisis situations**

- Women have the **right to protection and security** in times of disasters, calamities, and other crisis situations especially in all phases of relief, recovery, rehabilitation, and construction efforts

- Government to provide for **immediate humanitarian assistance, allocation of resources, and early resettlement**, if necessary, and **address the particular needs of women from a gender perspective** to ensure their **full protection from sexual exploitation and other sexual and gender-based violence** committed against them.



MECHANISMS



NATIONAL LEVEL

Inter-Agency Council on Violence Against Women and Their Children (IACVAWC)





IACVAWC Functions

- Promotion
 - Public information and advocacy
 - Creation of mechanisms to ensure the integration of VAWC core messages in the programs of all stakeholders, specifically in the education, curriculum, training modules and manuals, and other VAWC-related documents
- Capacity-building of stakeholders
- Development of comprehensive programs for victim-survivors
- Networking with other stakeholders
- Development and institutionalization of a monitoring and documentation system of VAWC cases



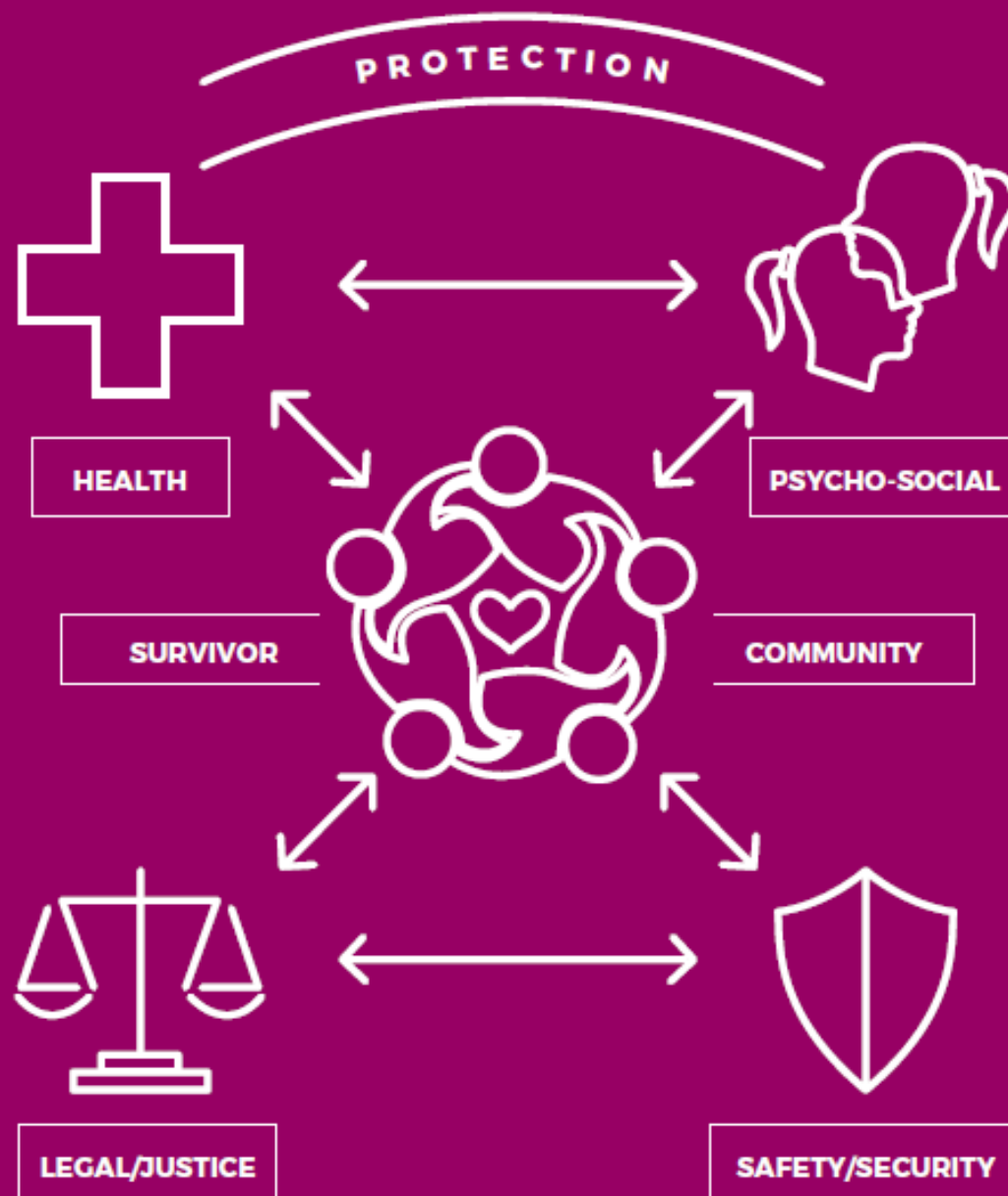
LOCAL LEVEL

LOCAL COMMITTEES ON ANTITRAFFICKING AND VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN AND THEIR CHILDREN (LCAT-VAWC)

- City/ Municipal Mayor
- City/ Municipal Planning and Development Coordinator
- City/Municipal Social Welfare and Development Officer (C/MSWDO)
- City /Municipal Health Officer (C/MHO)
- Chairperson of the Committee on Women, Children and Family,
Sangguniang Panlungsod/Pambayan
- City /Municipal Public Employment Services Officer (PESO)
- City /Municipal Prosecutor
- City Director/City/Municipal Local Government Operations Officer
(C/MLGOO)
- City /Municipal Chief of Police
- NGO Representatives of the following sectors:
 1. Women
 2. Children
 3. Overseas Filipino Workers



- 1 Institute policies and programs to protect women and children who are victims of trafficking and violence (formulate local ordinances and resolutions).
- 2 Create and establish systems on surveillance, investigation, and rescue to ensure effective and efficient coordination.
- 3 Undertake information, education, and advocacy campaign against trafficking in persons and VAWC.
- 4 Monitor and oversee the strict implementation of RA 9208, RA 9262, and other related laws for the protection of women and children, and of the IACAT and IACVAWC national plans of action.



To increase access to quality support services, the second strategic plan aimed for more functional and strengthened VAW desks, increased health facilities, more women- and child- friendly spaces and better LGU policies supportive of VAW efforts.

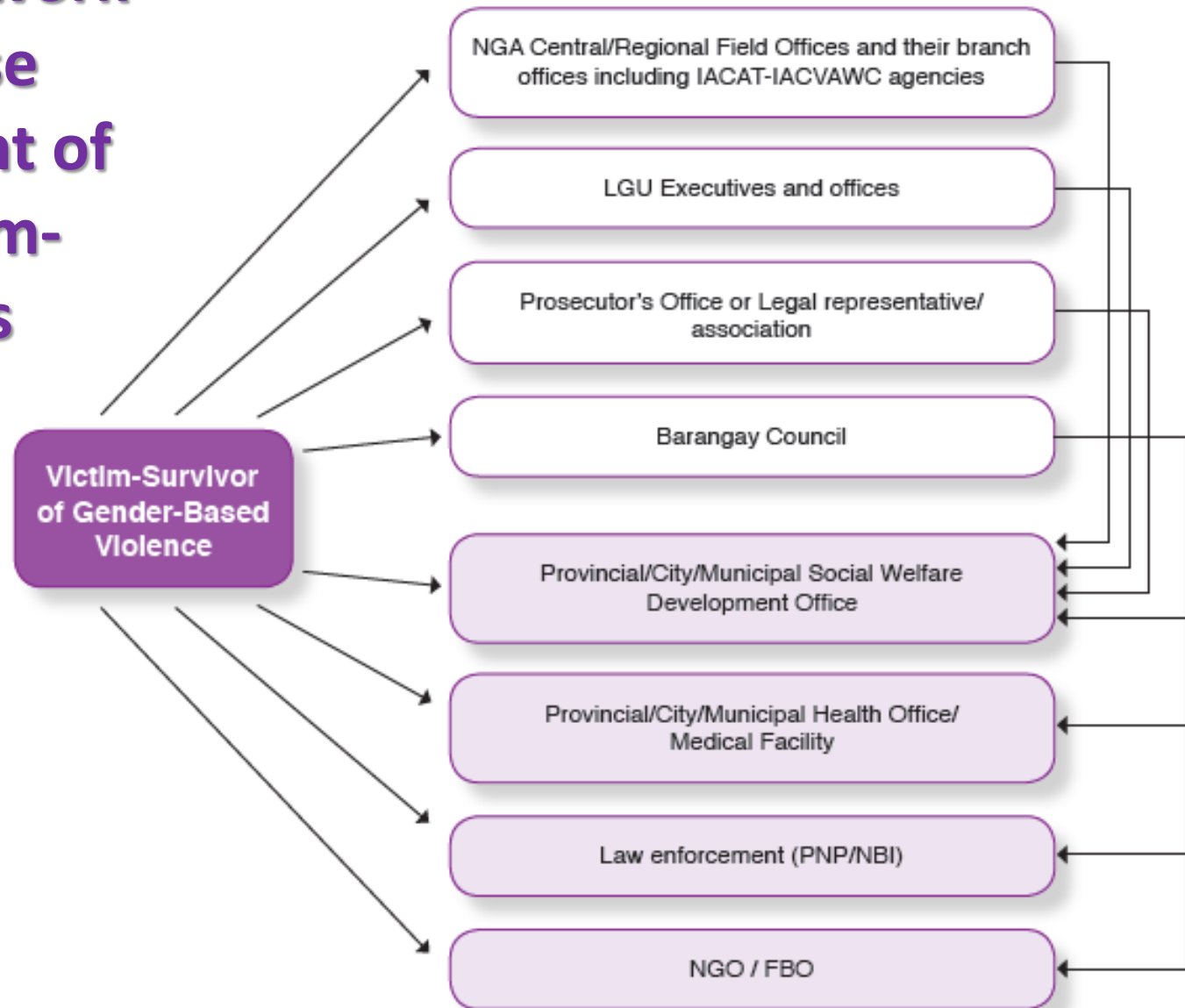


Guiding Principles

- Best interest of the child
- Comprehensive continuum of care
- Confidentiality and right to privacy
- Empowerment
- Gender-sensitivity
- Individual treatment and care
- Informed consent
- Non-discrimination
- Participation, self-determination and right to information
- Respect for and protection of human rights
- Right to access to justice



Referral Network in the Case Management of VAW Victim- Survivors





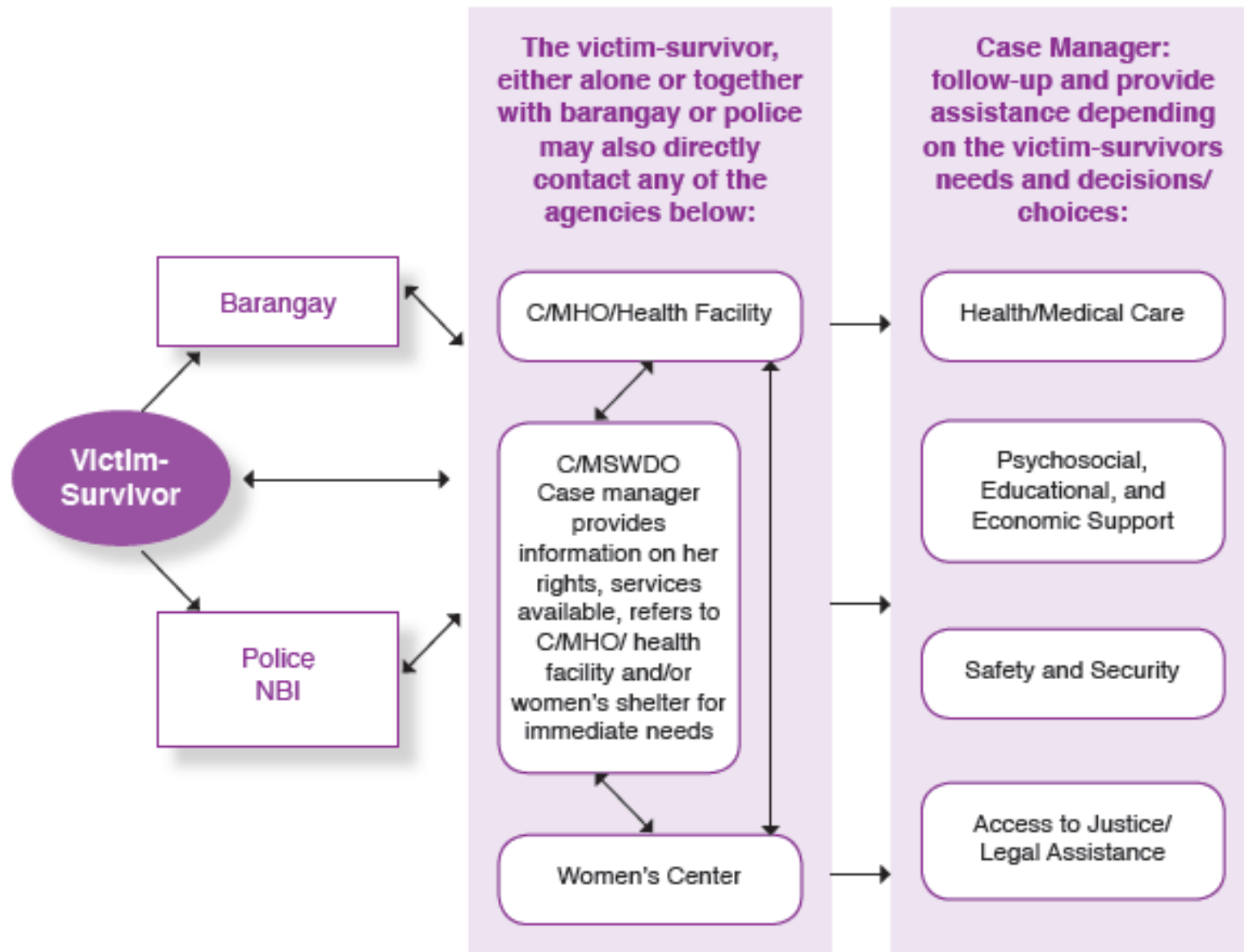
Response System

- **Women and Children Protection Unit (WCPU)**, for physical-medical examination of a victim and treatment of injuries, and to ensure preservation of evidence of violence. WCPUs are managed by trained health professionals and are present in DOH-retained hospitals and in some local government hospitals.
- Legal, for access to justice, through the **Department of Justice, National Bureau of Investigation, Public Attorney's Office**, and the courts, for cases that are brought to the court. Assigned lawyers and judges are expected to be gender sensitive and have comprehensive understanding of RA 9262 and other relevant laws.
- Also included in the network of providers are the **NGOs** that provide various support services to victims such as shelter, psychosocial counseling and legal services.



Response System

- The Barangay **VAW Desk** as a first responder to VAW a complainant. The VAW desk officer is expected to inform the victim about the law, options available to her and information on other services that she may avail. The officer can link her directly to the other services, such as to police, social worker or a medical professional if she has injuries. As needed, the officer may assist the victim in filling for a barangay protection order (BPO) to prevent further violence from the offender.
- The police, for protective and security services, through the **Women and Children Protection Desk (WCPD)**, handled by women police officers trained on gender sensitivity and in handling VAW cases;
- The social worker, for **psychosocial and reintegration services**, rendered through residential and community-based facilities of DSWD and local government units. Social workers often times become the case managers as they keep record of the victim's case and its progress.





Preventing and Responding to SGBV during Disaster Situations

- **Establishment of Women and Children Friendly Spaces (WCFS) as facility to serve VAWC victims in evacuation camps, outside the camps and temporary shelters**
 - In 2014 and 2015, DSWD established 23 women-friendly spaces (WFS) in Regions 6, 7 and 8 which served 36,579 women victims of trafficking, sexual, physical and emotional. LGUs referred 71 VAW survivors to these WFS
 - DSWD trained 238 WCFS facilitators on gender sensitivity, handling GBV cases and management and operation of the facilities.

Preventing and Responding to SGBV during Disaster Situations

- Issuance of policies to create **crisis centers or temporary shelters** through a DILG issuance to the LGUs.
- Inclusion of VAW-related criteria (e.g. functional VAW referral system) in the **Seal of Good Local Governance**.





Preventing and Responding to SGBV during Disaster Situations

- **Establishing a government database and system for the collection and analysis of VAW data**

With the support of United National Population Fund (UNFPA) and Spanish Agency for International Development Cooperation (AECID), IACVAWC developed and pilot-tested a **VAW Documentation System (VAWDocs)** to harmonize documentation of cases.

The primary objective of this documentation system is to avoid multiple counting and track the progress of each case, and address gaps in monitoring the implementation of the law.



Preventing and Responding to SGBV during Disaster Situations

- **Increasing health facilities assisting VAWC victims and capacitating service providers**
 - 39 Women and Child Protection Units (WCPUs) in 4 cities and 24 provinces
 - DOH has 67 functional WCPUs in 70 of its retained hospitals, located in 21 cities and 27 provinces, with the three others having a Women and Children Protection Coordinator



Remaining Gaps

- **Lack of comprehensive (quality) package of services for victims of VAW and inadequate resources for these**
- **Inadequate resources.** Competing allocations on the use of the GAD budget for GAD related programs
- **Lack of feedback mechanisms** or standard measure to determine and monitor **quality of response** as basis for continuing improvement (effectiveness, gender sensitivity, access, affordability, etc.) continue to affect the quality of services provided to women-victims
- **Inadequate measures to deal with perpetrators and the risks they pose to victims.** Restorative justice as an approach to handling cases



Recommendations

1. Conduct **research/mapping out of programs and services** that are available in each municipality and include this in information dissemination. The list could also be a basis for referral, such as for psychiatrists, NGO service providers, trained WCPU providers, etc.
2. Ensure **availability of clear and user-friendly information and guidelines on services available in communities** in user-friendly format and language.
3. Review models of **one-stop shop for service delivery** and propose replication in LGUs to increase access of victims. Exploring a **'one-time interview' scheme** where the victim is interviewed by all service providers may be considered in order to facilitate quicker action, minimize repeat interviews and going back-and-forth of victims.
4. Create/establish **additional facilities** to ensure accessibility to victims (e.g. WCPUs, residential facilities, WFS) and build capacities of service providers.



Recommendations

5. Ensure **availability of service providers who are trained in handling cases** of VAW.
6. Issue **clear guidelines on budget allocation for VAW programs** for national and local government. In relation to this, ensure closer monitoring of GAD plans and budgets specifically on their allocation of budget for VAW programs. Urge local chief executives (LCE) and local sanggunians to include budget items for VAW in their annual work and financial plan and to allocate their GAD budget for care facilities, legal assistance, counseling or psychological evaluation and operation of VAW desks.
7. Regularly assess adequacy and quality of service of facilities based on **performance standards for VAW**



Recommendations

8. Strengthen **interagency coordination for referral and partnership with CSOs/NGOs** for service delivery

Women's Crisis Center which provides psychosocial counseling; the WOMENLEAD and Women's Legal and Human Right Bureau which support legal cases; and Bantay Familia in Naga City which provides actual psychosocial and legal assistance to victims and promotes multisectoral and community approach to violence by empowering women and mainstreaming gender issues in government programs

Bantay Banay and Lihok Pilipina in Cebu, Gender Watch Against Violence and Exploitation (GWAVE) in Dumaguete City that provides a range of assistance to victims and also engages in advocacy, capacity building and monitoring VAW desks.



Thank you.