DSWD
Department of Social Welfare and Development

LISTAHANAN

Listahanan, also known as the National Household Targeting System for Poverty Reduction (NHTS-PR), is an information management system that identifies who and where the poor are nationwide.

Listahanan makes available to national government agencies (NGAs), local government units (LGUs), non-government organizations (NGOs), and other stakeholders, a database of poor households as basis in identifying potential beneficiaries of social protection programs and services.

Why do we need a targeting system?

A unified set of criteria for identifying the poor would enable convergence and complementation of social protection programs in addressing the different dimensions of poverty. This will maximize the impact of social protection programs and, at the same time, minimize waste of resources.

Through the use of a unified poverty database in the identification of program beneficiaries, the resources of government are better utilized since the right people are identified and assisted. This strategy enables the government to reduce leakage rates in program beneficiary selection.

DSWD uses the database in targeting beneficiaries for its various programs and services like the Pantawid Pamilyang Pilipino Program, Social Pension for Indigent Senior Citizens, Unconditional Cash Transfer Program, and among others.

Other agencies and organizations may use the database through a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) with DSWD.
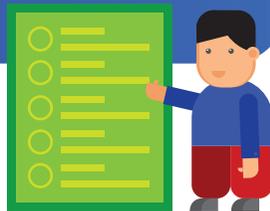
What are the legal bases for the Listahanan?

The following are the legal bases and the issuances for the implementation of Listahanan:

- Department Order No. 1 Series of 2008, Adoption of the Targeting System for Poverty Reduction as a Mechanism for Identifying Potential Beneficiaries of the DSWD Social Protection Programs and Services.

- National Statistical Coordination Board (NCSB) Resolution No. 18 Series of 2009, Recognizing and Enjoining Support to the Targeting System being implemented by the DSWD as a Tool to Identify Beneficiaries of Social Protection Programs.

- Executive Order 867 series of 2010, Providing for the Adoption of the NHTS-PR as the Mechanism for Identifying Poor Households who shall be Recipients of Social Protection Programs Nationwide.

- EO 867 series of 2010 mandates all NGAs to use the Listahanan for their social protection programs and services.

What is Listahanan's data collection process?

The data gathering process for the poverty database is called the household assessment, which is undertaken in four-phase cycles:

1 **Preparatory Phase –** involves the identification of areas to be assessed and the data collection strategy appropriate for areas identified.

All provinces, municipalities, and cities are covered by the household assessment. The assessment strategy for rural classified barangays shall be saturation i.e. all households will be assessed. Meanwhile, in urban barangays saturation in identified pockets of poverty will be used.

Also included in this phase are updating of the Proxy Means Test (PMT) model, enhancement of the Listahanan information technology systems, hiring and training of field staff, and orientation of LGUs, and other project partners on the implementation of the assessment.

2 **Data Collection and Analysis Phase –** conduct of home visits to collect basic information of household members using the Household Assessment Form (HAF). The data collected using the form is encoded directly to the database using a data entry application.

Once the household information is encoded, the collected data is endorsed for PMT processing where the household income is estimated. The households are then classified as poor and non-poor, applying the official provincial poverty threshold.

3 **Validation and Finalization Phase –** the initial list of poor households is generated and posted in conspicuous places within the barangay for the community to review. Households who were not visited during the assessment are given the chance to appeal and be assessed.
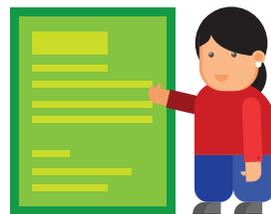
4 **Report Generation Phase –** after the list of poor is finalized, the NHTO produces the 'profile of the poor" and disseminates this to NGAs, LGUs, NGOs, and other social protection stakeholders.

The data collected and encoded into the data entry form are subjected to the Proxy Means Test (PMT) after validation. PMT is a statistical model that approximates the welfare level of the households based on observable verifiable proxy indicators of the family's income such as: materials used in house structure; family's access to basic services, and facilities like water, and electricity; and, ownership of specific assets, among others.

PMT is vital to the project because it identifies the family's income through non income indicators and comparing them to the official poverty threshold of the provinces hence identifying whether the household is poor or non-poor.

What are the Inclusion and Exclusion Errors?

As in any other statistical model-based methodology, the PMT is not perfect, thus, inclusion and exclusion errors may occur.

- **Inclusion error –** refers to the error when a true non-poor family was classified by PMT as poor.

- **Exclusion error –** refers to the error when a true poor household was classified as non-poor using the PMT.

How many households have been assessed and are now part of the Listahanan poverty database?

Based on the second assessment done in 2015, the Listahanan database identified 5,251,194 households as poor out of the total 15,485,429 households assessed. Of the total identified poor households, there are 1,232,985 poor households in the urban areas and 4,018,209 from the rural areas.

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