

Department of Labor and Employment
Bureau of Workers with Special Concerns
Manila

Bureau of Workers with Special Concerns

The Bureau of Workers with Special Concerns (or BWSC) shall develop policies, programs, projects and systems and provide advisory assistance to the Office of the Secretary and the Regional Offices relative to the development and protection of disadvantaged workers that include workers in the informal economy, women workers, young workers, working children, rural workers, indigenous peoples, sugar and biofuel workers, rural workers, indigenous people, sugar and biofuel workers, and differently-abled workers, among others, towards their economic development and social protection.

As such, the BWSC shall perform the following basic functions:

1. Formulates policies and develops programs, projects, systems and strategies to enhance existing livelihood of disadvantaged workers;
2. Develops and manages access of young and other disadvantaged workers to training modalities that develop and enhance their employability as wage or self-employed workers;
3. Develops and manages programs and recommends policies advocating for the protection, welfare and empowerment of disadvantaged workers;
4. Oversees the implementation of the DOLE child labor prevention and elimination program and acts as the coordinator of the Philippine Program Against Child Labor;
5. Manages the implementation of RA 6982 or Sugar Amelioration Act of 1991 and Section 17 of RA 9367 or the Biofuels Act of 2006;
6. Formulates strategies and programs for workers in the informal economy affected by natural calamities and armed conflicts in restoring their lost livelihood; and

7. Establishes linkages and partnerships with local and international organizations to mobilize resources and enhance program advocacy and implementation.

The Bureau shall be headed by a Director and shall have the following

Divisions with the corresponding functions and responsibilities, as follows:

Women Workers Development Division

1. Formulates and recommends policies addressing the social protection of women workers;
2. Develops and manages programs to enhance/ facilitate vulnerable women workers' access to adequate social protection and employment opportunities;
3. Develops and manages advocacy programs for women workers' rights, family welfare and other related issues,
4. Prepares position papers, technical reports on proposed legislative measures, compliance with national laws and international instruments affecting women workers,
5. Provides technical assistance to DOLE-ROs in the implementation of women workers programs, including the family welfare program; and
6. Performs such other functions as may be provided by law or as may be assigned by the Secretary.

Young Workers Development Division

1. Formulates and recommend policies addressing the social protection of child and young workers;

2. Develops and manages programs to enhance facilitate vulnerable young workers' access to adequate social protection and employment opportunities.
3. Develops strategies to advocate for the protection of child and vulnerable young workers' rights and other related issues;
4. Prepares position papers, technical reports on proposed legislative measures, compliance with national laws and international instruments affecting child and young workers;
5. Oversees the implementation young workers' programs;
6. Acts as the coordinator of the Philippine Program Against Child Labor;
7. Provides technical-assistance to DOLE-ROs in the implementation of child and young workers programs; and
8. Performs such other functions as may be provided by law or as may be assigned by the Secretary.

Workers in the Informal Economy Development Division

1. Formulates and recommend policies addressing the social protection, access to productive resources and representation of the workers in the informal economy to policy-making bodies;
2. Develop and manages program to enhance existing livelihood of the workers in the informal economy
3. Develops and manages programs and projects for the workers in the informal economy that enhance facilitate access to adequate social protection and employment opportunities
4. Develops programs and projects for the workers in the informal economy affected by natural calamities and armed conflicts in restoring their lost livelihood;
5. Provides technical assistance to DOLE-ROs in the implementation of programs for the workers in the informal economy; and

6. Performs such other functions as may be provided by law or as may be assigned by the Secretary

Workers Social Amelioration and Development Division

1. Formulates, recommends and advocates policies and programs that are intended to carry out and improve the provisions of the Sugar Amelioration Act or RA 6982 and Sec.17 of the Biofuels Act or RA 9367;
2. Oversees and coordinates the implementation of social and economic programs, projects and activities for the covered workers as provided under RA 6982 and Sec 17 of RA 9367;
3. Provides comprehensive secretariat and technical support services to the Sugar and Biofuels Tripartite Councils;
4. Undertakes efficient, effective and economical management of workers development liens relating to the general supervision and administration of the Social Amelioration Program in the sugar industry, and Sec. 17 of the Biofuels Act or RA 9367;
5. Renders technical assistance to the DOLE Regional Offices and Program Partners to further strengthen the implementation of the provisions of RA 6982 and Sec. 17 of Ra 9367;
6. Develops, reviews and updates systems, strategies and procedures of the Social Amelioration Program in the sugar and biofuel industries;
7. Develops or replicates the Social Amelioration Program in the sugar industry in other agricultural industries; and
8. Performs such other functions as may be provided by law or as may be assigned by the Secretary.

Program Monitoring and Technical Support Services Division

1. Assists in the formulation of the Bureau's strategic plan, thrusts and priorities for the disadvantaged workers;

2. Sets-up and manages monitoring and evaluation systems for the programs and services of the Bureau;
3. Conducts periodic desk monitoring and evaluation of regular programs and projects of the Bureau for the disadvantaged workers,
4. Develops and oversees the management information systems and other IT-related resources of the Bureau;
5. Conducts researches for the Bureau in coordination with the concerned divisions;
6. Develops and disseminates appropriate information-communication materials and maintains a resource center related to disadvantaged workers;
7. Documents and disseminates success stories, good practices and lessons learned from program management and field implementation; and
8. Performs such other functions as may be provided by law or as may be assigned by the Secretary.