

GAD ISSUES AND CONCERNS

EDUCATION

The total population of school going population are 67,079 in which 14,292 are pre-school (3-6), 19,959 are elementary (7-12), 19,829 are in secondary (13-18) and 12,999 are in tertiary (19-22). For working age group (15-64) there are 109,925 household populations for the year 2015 in which 55,659 are males and 54,266 are females or a corresponding sex ratio of 102.57. Labor force population (15 & over) are 117,765 for which 59,162 are males while 58,603 are females with a sex ratio of 100.95. While the dependent household population are 59,468 in which 51,628 are young population (0-14) and 7,840 are old population (65 and over). It is the primary mandate of the law that all people have equal access and elimination of discrimination in education scholarship in availing vocational and college programs/courses. Base on the data available there is a presence of an ample number of individuals who are Out-of-School Youth. To address this the City Government of Digos initiated a Scholarship Program for indigent out-of-school youth who will qualifies with the requirements. This program will greatly help put back into the schools those young individuals in order for them to become professionals and productive members of the society in the near future. It is one of the targets of the government to have population of well-educated citizenry. For having such is always connected to a progressive and developed society. By providing Scholarship Grant to qualified students the continuity of educating these students will be ensured.

WOMEN'S SECTOR

The women's sector is one of the points of intervention for the program. It is the primary mandate of the state as embedded in the law that the state shall ensure that women are provided with equal access to formal source of credit and capital. Along with this line women must be given the chance to develop all their capacities and capabilities. Empowerment also entails that all aspects of development be given to them, especially, in terms of economic matters. Women should not be viewed as purely domestic commodity. They must be given an active part in the economic activities of the study. In answer to this, the need for the capacitation of the women in economic concept and framework must be given due emphasis. Cooperative, being a means combating economic incapacity, can greatly help a greater number of women in the community realize the economic upliftment they so long desired.

HEALTH ISSUES

Health is another of the areas of concern of the City Government of Digos. It is embedded in the law that the state shall at all times provide for comprehensive, culture-sensitive and gender responsive health services and programs covering all stages of women's life cycle and which addresses the major causes of women's mortality and morbidity. With the large population residing in the city it cannot be denied that a considerable of the citizens belong to the poverty line. This sector of the population, particularly the women and children's sectors are very vulnerable to health problems. And their capacity to respond to such vulnerability is very low. To answer such concerns, the City Government of Digos City initiated the following programs, to wit:

- a. Medical Assistance Programs to Indigent Patients admitted at Government and Private Hospitals. This program will answer the needs of the indigent patients who cannot pay hospital bills and buy medicines during and after hospital care management.
- b. Health Promotion and Development Program. This program will cater and look into the increasing prevalence of lifestyle related diseases such as High Blood Pressure, Diabetes, Kidney Troubles and other diseases of same origins.
- c. Comprehensive Assistance to Indigents and Other Marginalized Sector (Lingap). This program is set to give a means of livelihood to indigents and other marginalized sector who are suffering from poor access in earning a living. Gender related issues and the low income capacity of the residents will be addressed by this particular program.
- d. PhilHealth Program for Indigents. This is another area of concern pertaining to the provisions of health services to the majority of the residents of the city. This program will ensure that those families belonging to the vulnerable sector of the society will have access to PhilHealth. This will also give them the chance to enjoy the health programs of the government and will ease their burden somehow.
- e. STI HIV-AIDS Program. As a growing city, Digos has its own share of the development as well as the negative side of it. With the increase of the population prevalence of HIV/STI related cases in the city is now being felt. This is something that need to be addressed for it will cause further harm not only to the victims of it but to the image of the city, in the totality.
- f. Nutrition Program. Along with the provision of health is the maintenance of the nutritional level of the children. The prevalence of malnutrition cases of children in some barangays in Digos City is indeed very true. If this situation will not be addressed this will lead to another health problems in the future.

- g. Support to Health and Water Sanitation Program. Water is one of the main most important resources that support human existence. The absence of which is tantamount to the demise of humanity. For this reason, unsafe water is a threat to the entire human population, water is one of the easier means of pathogens and other harmful elements. The maintenance of safe, potable water is indeed vital to the existence of the people in the city. Also, the maintenance of proper sanitation of the city is one of the main focus of this program in particular. As such support activities in relation to this need is in place.
- h. Maternal and Child Health and Nutrition Program. The prevalence of cases of high-risk pregnant women and infants in the city is another area of concerns of the City Government of Digos. There is a need to maintain the health and wellness of this sector of the population for the vitality of the population is indeed something that the city must maintain. Also, with the increasing vulnerabilities towards this sector of the population, such as diseases and other related threats the need to have a comprehensive and responsive plan that will address the needs timely and very in need.
- i. Blood Services Program. It cannot be denied that blood is one of the needs of man. For blood is the main life support of the human body. In cases of accidents and medical maneuvers, safe blood supply is in need. But the limited access to affordable and safe blood supply in the city creates some trouble. This is something that needs to be addressed in order to ensure that those who are suffering from diseases, ailments and accidents wherein blood is in need had a reliable supply of healthy and safe blood.
- j. Oral Health Care Program. Oral hygiene is one trivial concern that needs to be addressed. For the mouth, being the means of mastication of food, as well as it being one of the primary means of entry of food, water, air and other elements into the body, needs to be kept healthy at all times. The lack of awareness on the importance of dental hygiene among men, women and most especially children is now becoming quiet a problem in the poor families. For they have less access to dentist and other related medical practitioners. This program will ensure that those who have less opportunity to access the services of dentist will be given due emphasis. As well as other activities tangent to maintenance of oral health will be given to them.
- k. Family and Community Welfare Program. Family is the basic unit of society. It is the fundamental institution that supports the integrity of the entire population. The survival of the city depends on a strong family supporting it. With the multi-layering of gender issues (women living in poverty, indigenous women, women in informal sectors and solo

parents) in the different barangays of Digos City, there exist a threat to the institution of family. These particular gender issues are detrimental to women as well as to the children. This program will cater to the needs of the maintenance of the entire family. And this will ensure that the entire integrity of the community as a whole will be protected.

- l. Support to Balay Kalinga Program. In the city today, there exist an increasing number of street children abandoned, neglected, abused and exploited. Also, number of women who are victims of violence in homes and in other environments are likewise increasing. These kinds of scenarios pose threats to the residents of the city. The increasing number of street children is unhealthy to the image of the entire community. It shows a failure of the present set-up where the family is slowly becoming less functional and taken for granted. In the case of women, even though there is already a law protecting them, domestic violence of which they are the victims are still happening. With these events present the need for a support facility that will address to these present situations is really in need. The Balay Kalinga Program will greatly alleviate somehow the needs of these street children and battered women, addressing to the needs by means of reinforced intervention programs pertaining to their own specific needs.
- m. Gabriela Silang Program. At present there is an increased number of children who engaged in crimes such as riots, illegal drugs, break-in in homes, and other petty crimes. This presence of children in conflict with law forms a new threat not only to the residents of the city but also to the visitors and casual passers-by. The Gabriela Silang program will provide for these children who have done unlawful acts a place where they can be given intervention programs to rehabilitate them and bring them back into the streamline society. With this program the threat caused by the presence of this children will be minimized, if not obliterated. And this will help the city manage the presence of these children.

OTHER PROGRAM:

OUT-OF-SCHOOL YOUTH SUPPORT PROGRAM

The youth sector of the society is one of the sectors that need further development and attention. Though there are considerable numbers of this sector are going to school, there are still those who are not, the so-called Out-of-School Youth. The City Government of Digos perceived the needs to help this sector of the society. It had in mind a program that will for a support group to these young individuals. The program is geared to develop OSY to become productive citizens of the city. Its primary aim is to empower, develop and capacitate the youth to become self-reliant and responsible individual. The interventions that the Out-of School Youth

Program will give to the youth will greatly help them become who they really are and will ease the government from all the troubles that this sector can give.

WOMEN AND CHILDREN PROTECTION PROGRAM

Republic Act 9262 or the Violence Against Women and Children Act of 2004 mandates that the women and children be protected from domestic violence. This violence includes physical, emotional, economic and psychological abuses addressed into the women and children of the family. The City Government of Digos had prepared a program for the intervention on this particular situation. The aim of the program is to reduce number of VAWC cases. Also, it seeks to provide comprehensive health services that includes psychosocial and legal assistance towards healing and empowerment.

PAUPERS BURIAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

With birth comes death. These are the two realities in life that everyone has to deal with. As the city's population grow, together with it is the unprecedented increase of the numbers of residents who falls below the poverty line. And among the dilemma that this sector of society is facing is the problems pertaining to burying their dead love ones. To answer this needs the city Government of Digos crafted the Paupers Burial Assistance Program. The program is aimed to provide decent burial to poorest of the poor individuals. By having this program the city is showing its concerns towards these marginalized members of the community and give them a chance of a dignified and proper burial.

MASS VACCINATION (ANTI-RABIES) PROGRAM

One of the present problems being faced by the city is the presence of stray dogs within the vicinity. This problem is brought about by the presence of irresponsible dog owners. If this problem will not be addressed there are chances of increase exposure of residents to rabies brought about by dog bites. To answer this problem the city initiated the Mass Vaccination (Anti-Rabies) Program of all dogs both stray and those that are owned. With this program the residents will be keep safe and away from the threats from rabies brought about by dog bites.

CRISIS INTERVENTION PROGRAM

The City of Digos, like any other places of the country and the world, are being besetted by different calamities and disasters, the most recent of which is the intermittent occurrences of earthquakes. These fortuitous events create fear and worries to the residents of the city and have a negative effect to business, education, family life and all other aspects of society. The City Government always looked into the welfare of the people. For this reason, the Crisis Intervention Program was created in order to provide intervention/assistance to families who fell victims of such calamities and disasters.

INTEGRATED PEST MANAGEMENT PROGRAM

Agriculture is the main means of livelihood in the city of Digos. The crops that are being produced ranges from rice, corn, different fruits and almost all kinds of vegetables. There are poultry and livestock production as well. The sector of agriculture has been dealing problems pertaining to pest control. In this connection the City Government crafted the Integrated Pest Management Program. This program aims at providing the farmer the necessary information and technical assistance to control the presence of pests in the farms and all other areas of agriculture.

CROP PRODUCTION ENHANCEMENT PROGRAM

Being an agricultural area, the city has on its mind the welfare of the marginalized farmers. It cannot be denied that most of the farmers are not gaining much from their efforts. And this is what the city is aiming to address. To answer this the Crop Production Enhancement Program is created. This will help the marginalized farmers increase their income by providing them the necessary farm inputs and technical assistance to crop production.

FARM YOUTH DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM

In connection to agricultural development, the city perceived the need to train young individuals on agriculture as well as to give them the necessary inputs agri-technology programs. As of the moment there is low participation, acceptance and awareness on agricultural development and other agricultural technology programs among youth sector. The Farm Youth Development Program focuses on making the youth productive members of the community by means of capacitating them in agriculture and providing them all the basic information, exposure and training on recent agricultural trends and innovation which will give them the edge in production. The program will answer two basic needs which are food security and provision of a more decent way living.

CROP PRODUCTION PROGRAM ON CORN

Other than rice, the other crop that the farmers produce is corn. With the advent of time the corn production is slowly dwindling. At this moment the production of corn is really not that much. The need to increase the production of corn is really needed because the demand of it in the market is high. To answer this need the Crop Production Program on Corn is crafted. This program will provide awareness on corn production to farmers. Technical assistance and farm implements will be provided to them. And trainings and workshops will be likewise, given to them.

VEGETABLE PROGRAM

Digos City is one of the vegetables producing city of the region. The concentration of vegetable production is at Brgy. Kapatagan, Digos City. Though many are farming vegetables the capacity of these farmers on the activity are not much. There is a need to enhance their learning on recent technological trends on farming vegetables. Also there is a need to capacitate them in terms of financial capabilities for them to be able to appreciate the economic aspect of their farming activity.

RURAL IMPROVEMENT CLUB-LIVELIHOOD SKILLS TRAINING PROGRAM

The Rural Improvement Club (RIC) is one of the organizations that looks into agricultural production and development. This group is primarily composed of women in the agriculture and fishery sector. In spite of the presence of this organization still there is limited contribution of women in the agriculture and fishery sector. This is because most of the women are restricted into doing their domestic functions. In order to boost the participation of the women in agriculture and fishery production they will be given livelihood skills training thru the Rural Improvement Club (RIC). Aside from the skills training and its accompanying support, the efforts of the women in producing their crops/fishery products will be recognized and awarded. This award mechanism will endure that they will be encouraged to produce more and participate in the program with vigor and great drive.

GAD OPERATIONAL ADVOCACY AND EDUCATION PROGRAM

The Gender and Development (GAD) is among the topmost point of the provision of service of the government. In spite of the efforts of the government to give GAD a priority, still there exist a low level of gender consciousness of policy makers, legislators, and public officials and employees on women and children needs and concerns. There are legislations that are not sensitive and responsive. And the need to streamline these legislations into become more

responsive to make it more operational is really needed. And in connection to this GAD awareness training and team building must be done. Another problem confronted by the implementors of the GAD Program is lack of sex disaggregated data of some activities and trainings and programs implemented by other offices. This means that not all are thoroughly represented in trainings, seminars and workshops. The need to create program-based sex disaggregated data system to all GAD related and implemented activities will reflect the participation of the target groups, which in this case are the women and youth.

SUPPORT TO PRODUCTIVITY, SKILLS AND CAPABILITY BUILDING OF EMPLOYEES

The City Government of Digos is really making all the efforts to have an effective, responsive and inclusive governance and implementation of its programs and projects. But even though efforts are made there is still low productivity skills of employees. In this connection there is a need to have a capability building activity so as to make all the employees of the city more productive and effective.

MNCHN Program

The quality of care that both mother and newborn receive during pregnancy, at delivery, and in the early postnatal period is essential to ensuring women remain healthy and that children get a strong start.⁵ Many stillbirths and newborn deaths could be averted if more women were in good health, well-nourished, and receiving quality care during pregnancy, labor, and delivery, and if both mother and newborn received appropriate care in the postpartum period. The Maternal, Newborn, Child Health and Nutrition Program of city aims to provide quality care for pregnant women and their newborn children. Maternal deaths and newborn mortality are the primary goal of this program to be eliminated. With this MNCHN program, the health of pregnant mothers and their children in the city will be given total quality care.

Nutrition Program

The rapid economic development of Digos City has also brought social challenges in the locality. One of them is the presence of malnutrition situation among the population. In particular, the city continues to face persistent problems of undernutrition, stunting, wasting, overweight/obesity and specific micronutrient deficiencies that seriously affect children and mothers.

The city government and concerned local authorities continue to assess, monitor, and seek adequate responses to this kind of health problem among the population through the local nutrition program of the city. This program aims to reduce, if not eradicate, cases of malnutrition among children in the city. With this program, health and nutrition, especially for those children affected by malnutrition, will be given preferential attention for them to be in healthy condition.

SUPPORT TO SAFE BIRTHING FACILITY

Health is right and a core concern of development. Pursuant to Section 16 RA 7160 which mandates that every local government unit shall exercise the powers expressly granted, those necessary implies there from and those which are essential to the promotion of the general welfare; LGUs are also called upon to implement the Maternal, Newborn, Child Health and Nutrition (MNCHN) strategy of the Department of Health which calls for the coordinated actions with the end goal of improving women and children's consequently affecting a rapid reduction in the maternal, newborn and child mortalities towards attaining Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) of the Philippines No. 4 and 5 within the set time frame. Beneficiaries of this program are pregnant women and newborn.