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E-Net Philippines

ALTERNATIVE BUDGET INITIATIVE

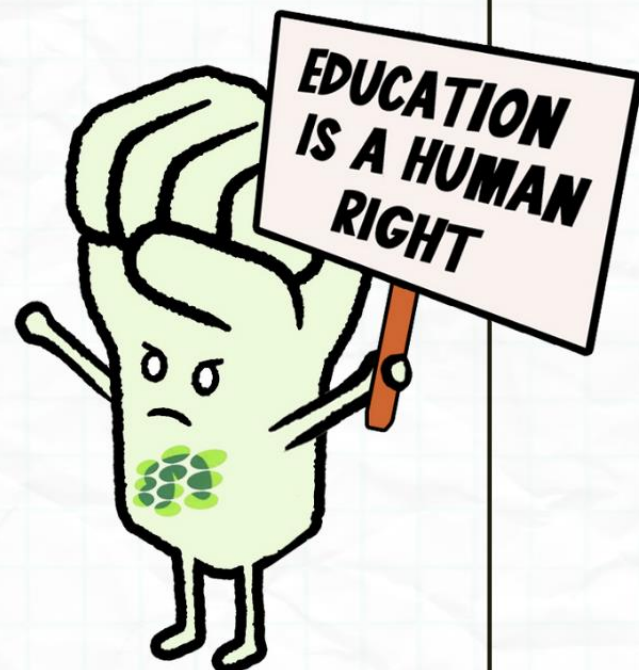
Education Consultation

FY 2024

MARCH 17, 2023

9:00 AM- 3:00PM

 **zoom**



E-Net Philippines held the Alternative Budget Initiative-Education Consultation FY 2024 last 17 March 2023 at 9:00 in the morning to 3:00 in the afternoon via zoom. A total of 22 organizations attended the event—16 of the organizations are E-Net members and seven are non-members. The program was formally opened with a prayer followed by the Philippine National Anthem.

Alternative Budget Initiative Background

Moja facilitated the program and introduced the Alternative Budget Initiative to the participants. Alternative Budget Initiative (ABI), which is led by Social Watch Philippines, is a consortium of civil society organizations and individuals conducting annual budget analysis and engages the national government agencies, legislature, and local government units (LGUs) in the national and local budget processes by coming out with civil society crafted Alternative Budget Proposals. The ABI proposals consist of proposals for increased allocation for critical socioeconomic services, particularly on health, education, environment, agriculture, social protection and macroeconomic.

E-Net Philippines is the lead organization for the ABI-Education Cluster or the ABI-EDUC. As head of the ABI-EDUC, alternative budget proposals for education are crafted from sectoral members' recommendations and submitted to government – education agencies and the legislative. E-Net participates in budget hearings and deliberations to lobby legislators to adopt the alternative budget proposals in the General Appropriations Act (GAA).

Moja also presented the following reasons why budget advocacy is important: because it is the peoples' money; the government is accountable to the people; because good public programs need to be prioritized and funded (and budgets are the clearest expression of government priorities); and government commitments and promises are meaningless and can't be implemented without proper budgetary support.

The following are the purpose of the ABI-EDUC Consultation in the 1st Quarter of the Year:

On the 1st quarter of the year, the Budget Preparation/Formulation happens

- DBM issues the Budget Call for Agencies;
- Agencies hold consultations and prepare Agency Proposals to be submitted to DBM;
- DBM Technical Hearings are held towards Proposal Consolidation
- Consolidated Proposal is submission to Congress as the National Expenditure Program for the Next Fiscal Year) – So, the Budget Call for this year (2023) is for the next Fiscal Year 2024

1st Quarter CSO Entry Point to engage in the National Budget Process

- Budget Advocacy Learning Sessions
- Consultations with Stakeholders
- Sectoral Writeshops
- Preparation of Alternative Budget Proposals
- Submission of ABI proposals to Agencies
- Dialogue with/ Lobby Agencies

Highlights of E-Net's 2022-2023 ABI-EDUC Proposal/ Gains and Misses

Ms. Alvelyn Joy Berdan, National Coordinator of E-Net Philippines, presented the Highlights of E-Net's 2022-2023 ABI-EDUC Proposal/ Gains and Misses. Ms. Berdan presented the following session objectives: share updates on the budget advocacy gains in educ budget FY 2023; scan our spaces and opportunities of engagement; and briefly discuss the budget cycle with respect to CSO budget advocacy activities for FY 2024.

She then explained that under the national budget cycle, the four main E-Net engagements and milestones are: preparation and formulation of budget, legislation and enactment, execution, and accountability. She added that from January to May, the agency has to submit budget proposal to the Department of Budget and Management (DBM), attend technical hearings with the department, and participate in proposal consolidation.

The civil society organizations with Social Watch and Alternative Budget Initiative also have to consult with their members to identify proposals to the Department of Education (DepEd), Commission on Higher Education (CHED), among others. During the preparation and formulation of budget, accountability actions are also simultaneously being done while also assessing gains and losses. Ms. Berdan also shared that E-Net submitted two ABI proposals for 2023: Alternative Budget Proposal for Early Childhood Care and Development 2023 and Alternative Budget Proposal for Education 2023.

The following are the major points of ABI's proposal to DepEd: Policy guidelines formulation for ALS-Persons with Disabilities and Community-based Alternative Learning System (ALS); Consultation with disability stakeholders –procurement process modification; Gender lens evaluation of DepEd Curriculum; Basic Education Facilities; and Textbook and Instructional Materials. Other identified programs on the ABI proposal are the following: Computerization program, Tools & equipment for TVL in IP schools, Infra for Last Miles Schools, New School Personnel, Establishment of ILRCs for learners with disabilities (or conversion), data collection, IPED learning centers, increase support to Madrasah, ALS, Guidance Councilors, School-based feeding program, and Teachers' training, orientation on ESD, teachers' welfare.

Under the Early Childhood Care and Development proposal, the main points are: Inclusion of early learning in the first 1,000 days program; Inclusion of early education in localized; Comprehensive Emergency Program for Children (CEPC); Child Development Center Facilities; Alternative Early Learning Program; School-based Feeding Program; and Training of child development teachers, workers and kindergarten teachers, including their supervisors and all staff working with children on inclusive practices.

The following are ABI's recommendation to CHED and State Universities and Colleges (SUC): Increase the amount of budget needed to operationalize the components of the UAQTEA and UNIFAST and expand the number of beneficiaries; Pandemic Response – Support to Teachers and Students; Support to Prepare and Strengthen the Health Care System; Increase the budget for Scholarships of faculty students; Increase Budget for Extension Services and programs of universities to reach the marginalized; Budget for psychosocial and counselling services for

students (specifically budgeting for mental health program) and establishment of mental health offices in campuses; and Secure electricity access, establish free public internet and extend the use of modern learning technologies for marginalized students in TVET and higher education.

For the Technical Vocational Education & Training (TVET), the following are included in the proposal submitted to the Legislators: skill, re-skill and empower young people and adults thru a sustained and publicly funded education and skills training program; strengthen Adult Learning and Education (ALE) and promote and strengthen lifelong learning development in the country; build more colleges and TVET centers in rural areas; and promote agriculture as a viable and versatile career option.

Ms. Berdan then presented the ABI 2023 budget gains:

- 1) PhP53.320M increase in the child protection program, of which PhP20M goes to PhP10M operations support for the DepEd-LRPO (formerly, CPU), PhP2M for capability building activities, development of monitoring system on the functionality of child protection committees, conduct of research and data management, PhP3.5M for consultations on child protection policy, and PhP4.5M for the strengthening of child protection committees in schools (from PhP4.747M to PhP58.067M confirmed in the 2023 GAA);
- 2) PhP100M special provision learning resources for learners with disabilities, which includes the provision of personal safety lessons for learners with disabilities (confirmed in the 2023 GAA);
- 3) PhP54.001M construction, operation, and maintenance of the Alternative Learning System (ALS) Community Learning Centers (CLCs), including the provision of desks, furniture, and fixtures (under Flexible Learning Options) (confirmed in the 2023 GAA);
- 4) PhP64M for the construction of Inclusive Learning Resource Centers (under Flexible Learning Options) (for confirmation with concerned office);
- 5) Learner Support Programs: from P2,350,397,000 to P2,447,647,000 (PhP97.250M increase)
- 6) Disaster Preparedness and Response Program: from P136,983,000 to P2,136,983,000 (PhP2B increase);
- 7) National Assessment Systems for Basic Education: from P155.508M to 431.779M (276.271M increase);
- 8) Development and Promotion of Campus Journalism: from P2.056M to P46.904M (PhP44.848M increase);
- 9) National Literacy Policies and Programs: from P11.460M to P23.749M (PhP12.289M increase);
- 10) Early Language Literacy and Numeracy: from P23.627M to P81.675M (PhP58.048M increase);
- 11) Computerization Program: from PhP8,901,928,000 to PhP11,360,529,000 (PhP2,458,601,000 increase);
- 12) Basic Education Facilities: from PhP9,802,315,000 to PhP23,417,897,000 (PhP13,615,582,000 increase);
- 13) Indigenous Peoples Education (IPEd) Program: from PhP53.359M to PhP154.431M (PhP101.072M increase);
- 14) New budget item: Special Education Program: PhP581,625,000 (alternatively, the PhP64M for the construction of Inclusive Learning Resource Centers might be lodged here);

- 15) Operation of Schools - Junior High School (Grade 7 to Grade 10): from PhP160.881B to PhP161.096B (PhP215M increase);
- 16) Operation of Schools - Senior High School (Grade 11 to Grade 12): from PhP45.414B to PhP45.622B (PhP208M increase); and
- 17) Teacher Quality and Development Program: from P3.918M to P100.169M (PhP96.251M increase).

Presentation of DepEd's National Program Priorities – MATATAG Education Agenda

Ms. Ana Marie C. Calapit, Director of Finance Service of the Department of Education, presented the overview of Basic Education Report (BER) 2023 and of the MATATAG program. Ms. Calapit explained that the BER 2023 aims to present the state of basic education in the country, and the plans and initiatives of the Department to fulfill its mandate. The DepEd intends to provide a broad report about the basic education sector, which will include updates on the on-going review of the K to 12 curriculum. The BER will also launch the education the education agenda and the new call to action for all Filipinos.

She then discussed that MATATAG program stands for **M**ake the curriculum relevant to produce competent, job-ready, active, and responsible citizens; **T**ake steps to accelerate the delivery of basic education facilities and services; **T**ake good care of learners by promoting learner well-being, inclusive education, and a positive learning environment; and **G**ive support to teachers to teach better.

Ms. Calapit then discussed the current challenges faced by DepEd. According to her, the country has 28.4 million learners enrolled this School Year 2022-2023. However, there are only 327,851 school buildings in the country. She recognized that there is a need to improve and repair facilities to accommodate the growing number of learners. Under the curriculum and graduate employability, she presented the following challenges: the curriculum content is congested; some prerequisites of identified essential learning competencies are missing or misplaced; and a significant number of learning competencies cater to high cognitive demands. The result of PISA 2018 also showed that 81% of Filipino Learners who participated in PISA 2018 could not deal with basic math, 81% had trouble understanding texts of moderate length. And 78% could not recognize correct explanations for scientific phenomena or draw valid conclusions from given data.

She also discussed some of the reforms implemented by the DepEd since 2022 such as: brought learners back to school; implemented National Learning Recovery Plan; reskilled and upskilled teachers and school leaders; and commenced the revision of the curriculum. Ms. Calapit then tackled the MATATAG program in more detail.

Mr. Francis Raymund C. Migrino, Executive Assistant II of Office of the Undersecretary for Finance, presented the Finance Strand Directions of the MATATAG program. The following are the financial direction under each agenda of the MATATAG program:

- **Make** the curriculum relevant to produce competent, job-ready, active, and responsible citizens:

Initiate and sustain financing initiatives to support activities relevant to improving the quality of education.

- **Take** steps to accelerate the delivery of basic education facilities and services:

- 1) Ensure availability and facilitate timely release of funds;
- 2) Strengthen budget formulation and preparation process to ensure strategic allocation of resources;
- 3) Sustain reforms in Finance to transform work spaces to a modern “work place.” This includes the dual shift from paper documents with physical and wet signature to digital files with electronic signature;
- 4) Digitization of essential processes;
- 5) Facilitate the expansion of the GASTPE program; and
- 6) Sustain and initiate activities providing funding support for training and development of teachers through ODA and grants.

- **Take** good care of learners by promoting learner well-being, inclusive education, and a positive learning environment:

Sustain and initiate activities that provide funding support such as grants and loans for initiatives and activities supporting inclusive education and wellbeing of learners.

- **Give** support to teachers to teach better:

- 1) Facilitate the creation of plantilla positions for both teaching and non-teaching personnel;
- 2) Sustain and initiate activities providing funding support for training and development of teachers through ODA and grants;
- 3) Establishment of new Provident Fund with Employee-Employer Share under EO 641 s.2007 to provide supplementary welfare benefits to DepEd employees by providing additional benefits such as health cards and supplementary retirement and separation benefits;
- 4) In coordination with BHRD, revisit the policy on Special Hardship Allowance;
- 5) Together DepEd BHRD and in collaboration with Bangko Sentral, promote financial literacy among teachers. Strengthen financial literacy programs for teacher through massive information drive and campaigns; and
- 6) Engage GSIS to reconcile the reported GSIS premium deficiencies, and negotiation on lowering interest rates on teachers’ loans and other GSIS and benefits.

Open Forum

Special Education Budget (SPED)/ Inclusive Education Gains and Implementation

Ms. Mitzi Chan, E-Net Advocacy Specialist, asked Mr. Migrino regarding the 2022-2023 gains specifically on IP Education community learning centers, Madrasah education, and learning centers budget. She asked if Mr. Migrino knows about the release of the budget under said programs, and their current implementation state. Mr. Migrino answered that the SPED budget spending was discussed in 2022 budget hearing due to its low budget spending. He added that for 2023 budget, PhP 581 million is already for comprehensive release. The DepEd is also trying to work on the utilization of the 2022 under-utilized SPED fund. He added that they can contact the program team to submit a status report regrading inclusive education programs.

Ms. Chan highlighted the importance of the fund utilization. She explained that they are working hard to lobby for bigger fund, yet they are facing under and non-utilization of the funds. She added that ECCD also has a low budget utilization. She then asked what the usual causes of the under-utilization of the funds are.

Mr. Migrino answered that if funds are for later release, the department has to request for the DBM to release the funds. Due to this, they have to submit various documents before they can access the funds. If the DBM finds deficiencies on the submitted files, the DBM has to return the documents to DepEd and the department has to submit them again. This process causes delays.

Another reason for budget under-utilization is the lack of available finalized guidelines regarding fund utilization. Even if the budget is already available, if there is no finalized guidelines yet, they can still not use the fund. The department already encouraged the related program teams to submit multi-year guidelines to avoid delays due to lack of available fund guidelines.

He also added that in 2022 there were still Covid19 restrictions. There are also delays in procurement because bidders cannot comply to bidding requirements. There are also other delays in building schools due to procurement and implementation problems, especially if the location is far. To address this, the DepEd now involves the local government units and even to the Armed Forces of the Philippines in ensuring school constructions.

Mr. Migrino also showed the 2022 SPED budget utilization. Out of PhP 571 million, only PhP 443 million has been utilized. The remaining PhP 127 million needs to be utilized before 2023 ends. For the Madrasah, 68.84% of the fund has been utilized in 2022 and needs to be utilized before 2023 ends. Ms. Chan asked for a copy of the 2022 budget utilization, on which Mr. Migrino agreed.

Magna Carta of Public School Teachers

Serafin Molina of Teachers Inc. asked about the lack of funds of some of the provisions under the Magna Carta of Public School Teachers. He asked what are the necessary engagements needed so they can push for the needed funding. Mr. Migrino answered that they support the Magna Carta for Teachers, but the Department Secretaries are not present to answer those questions. He also added that apart from the Magna Carta of Teachers there are also other magna cartas

that are still unfunded. He shared that in 2021, they submitted a list of unfunded laws related to education. However, the budget provided to the department could not cover everything. He assured Mr. Molina that the DepEd always tries to push for budget allocation, but the country's fund is not enough to cover everything.

Research Budget and DepEd Budget Details

Dr. Rhodius Noguera of Brain Pedagogy asked about the lack of budget for research. He highlighted that research is the backbone of education when it comes to educational transformation. Related policies should be based on researches, yet there is no budget for it. He also added to provide more details about the budget allocation and the basis for the elements shown in the budget details. Mr. Migrino answered that under the GAA there is a Policy and Research program budget. There is also an In-service Training program with research component budget. He added that there are parameters to support the numbers in budget proposals. The budget allocations are adjusted depending on the budget approved and on DepEd's priorities. The department's budget is also posted online on DepEd's website under the transparency seal.

Basic Education Agenda Program

Ms. Olivia Lucas, E-Net Philippines President, asked about the Basic Education Agenda budget particularly for school constructions, psycho-social improvement of the situation of children, and feeding program. She also asked if it is worthwhile to build a partnership with DepEd under the open government partnership program to help each other in ensuring that funds that are delivered are implemented. How can they work together in lobbying in the House of Representatives and the Senate? Can they build a partnership for monitoring of the progress of the implementation of the budget. She is also concerned about congressional insertions and how is this handled.

Mr. Migrino answered that regarding the insertion, the largest is on the school building program. Most of the 2023 increases in DepEd budget is from the Self Learning Modules budget that was not utilized. There was also an insertion on Special Education because Senator Will pushed for additional budget for more ILRCs in the regions. The Child Protection program also received an insertion. The rest are internal reallocation within the DepEd. The bulk of Congressional insertion is on basic facilities. Regarding the DepEd and CSO partnership, he suggested that CSOs can focus on the office for school infrastructure facilities, which is solely focused on school building program. Ms. Lucas asked how much is the DepEd proposed budget for this year. Mr. Migrino answered that they are still yet to submit the budget proposal. Hopefully by the end of March there is already an initial budget proposal. He added that Ms. Lucas can take a look at their proposal once it's done, so the DepEd can consider her comments before they submit it to the DBM.

Ms. Lucas proposed that they can talk separately about the DepEd's challenges when they present their budget to the DBM technical working group. Mr. Migrino agreed. He also added that the technical working group meeting with the DBM is usually on April. The DBM usually asks for the utilization status, but since it's still the second quarter the budget utilization is still low.

Hiring Guidelines, Capacity Building of Teachers, Administrative Load of Teachers

Ms. Clariz Fetesio of NORFIL stated that DepEd should fix the teacher hiring guidelines. She said to ease out the hiring application process to increase the teacher-learner ratio. She also added that DepEd should prioritize the capacity building of teachers rather than principals and supervisors, and to lessen the administrative work of teachers. Mr. Migrino said that Vice President Sara Duterte actually wants to focus on teacher hiring issues. He explained that LGU-funded teachers, learning support aid, and volunteer teachers who are applying for plantilla position will be prioritized. He added that Vice President Duterte wants a monthly report regarding the teacher hiring status. Regarding the needed requirements, they are currently talking to the Civil Service Commission to lessen the requirements needed.

WASH Guidelines and Database

Ms. Jofti Villena of Social Watch Philippines explained that E-Net has a proposal for hygiene facilities for public schools. She asked if the DepEd has guidelines for WASH facilities, specifically on sanitation. She also asked who updates their wins database. She also asked regarding the WASH budget, specifically on sanitation. This will help E-Net in engaging with DBM.

Mr. Migrano said that regarding WASH, the DepEd has a specific program embedded on the new construction of school buildings. There should be a water and sanitation provision whenever we build new schools or classrooms. There was a line item made—priority school health facility—due to the pandemic. The 2023 proposed budget specifically for that was 14 billion, but was not approved by the DBM. For oral care, under the school dental health program, the DepEd proposed 2.4 billion fund but it was not considered by DBM. These will be proposed again for the 2024 budget. He added that for the database update, they still need to check the designated person.

Magna Carta of Public School Teachers Implementation and Budget Monitoring

Prof. Flora Arellano of E-Net and Teachers Inc. raised the issue on correct and full implementation of the Magna Carta of Public School Teachers, which is still unfunded. She asked how they should prepare for its road mapping. She explained that not only it is still not yet fully implemented, but there are also some confusions regarding the benefits under the magna carta. She also asked about the budget monitoring and how they can promote the participation of CSOs in localized budgeting. She added that it's important to have a CSO and DepEd caucus regarding DepEd budget. It would be better for them to discuss before they attend legislative hearings. She also raised about procurement policies and bidding processes to stop graft and corruption within the department and opening partnership with CSO to guard the process.

Mr. Migrino answered that partnership with CSO is important. However, he explained that the open government partnership is now under the school infrastructure and facilities office. He also explained that the CSOs can reach out to the Procurement Secretary regarding their intention to be part of the procurement monitoring. He added that he can refer and introduce E-Net to concerned officials in related offices.

Budget for FSL Interpreters

Ms. Carolyn Dagani, President of Philippine Federation of the Deaf, commented that there should be budget for hiring FSL interpreters during meetings and inclusive classes. Mr. Migrino stated that this is actually part of DepEd budget under the SPED budget.

Reallocate Intelligence Fund for Education Budget

Ms. Fetesio also commented that intelligence fund should be reallocated and should be used for educational materials, magna carta implementation, and training of teachers. Mr. Migrino said that the Vice President is open for budget reallocation of confidential funds. He added that for 2023, the DepEd proposed for Schools Operations Equity Fund that can be distributed to schools that need additional MOOE fund.

Schools Operations Equity Fund

Mr. Alce Quitlag of Social Watch Philippines asked if the Schools Operations Equity Fund is a separate budget line item or integrated in MOOE fund. Mr. Migrano answered that this is a separate budget line so it will be distributed equitably. Mr. Migrano also added that they will propose it again for the 2024 budget as it was not approved in the 2023 budget. The proposed budget for the 2023 was 15.2 billion.

School Dental Health Program Fund

Ms. Harriet Escarcha of Konkoyo Peace Activity Center Information asked about the dental caries prevention fund. She explained that there was a study done stating that there was a large percentage of Grade 1 and 6 students with dental caries. She asked what are the DepEd's program improvement after this study. She also asked about the CCDH per capita investment per student. She also asked if how the department adjusts when the DepEd's budget proposal is not approved.

Mr. Migrano answered that when the ideal budget proposal is not approved, they have to check the priorities of the department. They can also adjust ("dagdag-bawas") the funds depending on the budget cut. He added that the department also considers external partners like the World Bank for building constructions to augment budget deficiency. Regarding the budget for school health, he explained that they can ask the office of AsSec. Dexter Galman of Bureau of Learning Support Services to address the issue on school dental health program.

The facilitator thanked the speakers after the open forum. The awarding of certificates for the guest speakers followed.

LUNCH BREAK

Identification of ABI-EDUC Budget Priorities for FY 2024

Ms. Mitzi T. Chan, E-Net Advocacy Specialist, facilitated the Identification of ABI-EDUC Budget Priorities for Fiscal Year 2024. The ABI-EDUC will focus on three levels of education: ECCD, DepEd for Basic Education, and CHED and SUCs for Higher Education. She explained that they will have

a breakout session to conduct the workshop from 1:00 to 3:00 in the afternoon. She added that it would be better if they can include the costing for the budget proposal.

Ms. Mitzi explained that the breakout session will be divided into three based on three different levels of education. The grouping will depend on the organization's focus. Ms. Mitzi said that the submitted proposal for the ECCD Council has no clear budget costing yet. However, the working group on the cluster of very young children agreed that the budget allocation should have a 20% increase. The ECCD budget proposal for 2023 includes:

- Inclusion of early learning in the first 1,000 days program
- Inclusion of early education localized Comprehensive Emergency program for Children (CEPC)
- Child Development Center facilities
- Alternative Early Learning program
- School-based Feeding program
- Training of child development teachers, workers and kindergarten teachers, including their supervisors and all staff work with children on inclusive practices

They have to deliberate on the workshop if the listed inclusion would still be the same for the next budget proposal. For Basic Education, Ms. Mitzi explained that in the past proposals they always list the specific costing for each item. The 2023 proposal priorities were:

- Budget to implement newly-passed laws specifically: ALS Act, Inclusive Education for Learners with Disabilities, Excellence in Teacher Education Act
- Basic Education Facilities: Accessibility Audit of Schools, WASH, Electrification, Last Mile Schools
- School-Based Feeding Program
- Teachers' Welfare
- Trainings: Administrators, teachers, non-school personnel, parents
- Textbooks and Other Instructional Materials
- Inclusive Education Programs
- New School Personnel

For Higher Education, the following are included in the past budget proposal:

- Increase the amount of budget needed to operationalize the components of the UNAQTEA and UNIFAST and expand the number of beneficiaries.
- Pandemic Response: Support to teachers and students, support to prepare and strengthen the health care system
- Increase the budget for scholarships of faculty students
- Increase budget for extension services and programs of universities to reach the marginalized.
- Budget for psychosocial and counselling services for students (specifically budgeting for mental health program) and establishment of mental health offices in campuses
- Secure electricity access, establish free public internet and extend the use of modern learning technologies for marginalized students in TVET and higher education

Past proposal particularly for Technical Vocational Education and Training (TVET) are as follows:

- Skill, re-skill and empower young people and adults thru a sustained and publicly funded education and skills training program
- Strengthen Adult Learning and Education (ALE) and promote and strengthen lifelong learning development in the country
- Build more colleges and TVET centers in rural areas
- Promote agriculture as a viable and versatile career option.

Based on the discussion in the morning session, the following are some areas that need to be included in the budget proposal: Research, Basic Education Facilities, Magna Carta of Public School Teachers, Hiring of New Teachers, FSL Interpreters, and Inclusive Education Programs. One of the participants commented that hiring of non-teaching personnel should also be included in the proposal. Ms. Luz also asked if there is already an IRR on Inclusive Education law. Mz. Mitzi answered that there is still no IRR as of now. The first inter-agency consultation regarding the IRR, on which E-Net was part of, was held last January. However, there is still no schedule for the next inter-agency consultation.

Before the breakout session, Daryl of E-Net explained how to use the jam board for the breakout session. The participants were given 45 minutes to conduct the workshop.

BREAKOUT SESSION

Presentation

The following is ECCD’s presentation presented by Ms. Harriet combining current and past proposals:

Current Proposal	Past Proposal
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Training of child development teachers, workers, kindergarten teachers, including their supervisors and all staff working with children, and parents on inclusive practices <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Training should include: positive parenting, addressing gender-based violence (GBV) - Training or refresher of child development for teachers and other service providers on early detection - Positive parenting orientation for parents (further identify other CB for parents) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Alternative Early Learning Program ▪ Child Development Center Facilities (explore rural and urban based specific models) ▪ School feeding programs (connect with farmer’s group and avoid relying on food manufacturers who are producing processed food, which are not good for 0–4-year-olds) ▪ Inclusion of early learning in the first 1,000 days program ▪ Inclusion of early education in localized Comprehensive Emergency Program for Children (CEPC)

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Environmental protection/ awareness (green ECCD program and project) ▪ Harmonization of various activities mapping children at risk of delays and/ or children with disabilities ▪ Refinement of referral pathway for children at risk of delays and/ or children with disabilities (linking to both private and public services and programs) ▪ Accessible facilities for students using wheelchairs and other assistive devices 	
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Ms. Alve added that the challenge that their group faced is the issue on specific costing per category. Related data still needs to be checked before they can allocate specific amount based on the needs on the ground. Ms. Mitzi answered that they still have a week to finish the ECCD budget proposal so they can still check the needed data for the costing basis.

The following is the DepEd/ Basic Education presentation:

<p>ABI Health Recommendation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Supporting the ABI educ proposal on the handwashing stations for 1,000 priority schools. But we're hoping to ass a costing for sanitation ▪ In costing for sanitation, it is imperative to get the DepEd's proposal for priority school health facilities and/ or guidelines for school building construction and maintenance ▪ We hope to be guided by the Department's own costing than do our own since the infra is quite technical. We're to analyze the data and provide the CSO perspective ▪ The idea for the sanitation costing is to graduate schools from one star to three stars ▪ Costing for inclusive school sanitation and hygiene (e.g. universally designed toilets and facilities). We hope to develop this together with the network of children
<p>Inclusive Education Program</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Increase budget for Inclusive Education programs- education for learners with disabilities, IPed, Muslim education, Last Mile Schools ▪ Restore 5 billion budget for Last Mile Schools ▪ 100 million for Inclusive Learning Materials for Learners with Disabilities; IP Curriculum Development; Production/ printing of IP developed education modules; TVL for IP schools ▪ Budget to Support the Curriculum Review for Key Stage 1: needed resources from stakeholders (ie SEAMEO: INNOTECH); capacity building workshops with CLMD Capacity building for Education in Emergencies (EIE)

Community Gardens

- School Feeding and School feeding for 2 million identified wasted and severely wasted learners: PhP25 x 240 feeding days (*updated costing and days from past proposal of PhP 18 x 120 days*) = PhP 6,000 x 2,000,000 kindergarten, grade 1 and severely wasted learners
- Budget for the sustainable upkeep of Gulayan sa Paaralan or community gardens to integrate health and nutrition alongside school-based feeding programs

Magna Carta of Public School Teachers, Trainings, SWP

- Budget for implementation of Magna Carta of Public School Teachers provisions: Annual Medical checkup PhP 5,000 x 900,000 teachers and personnel = PhP 4,500, 000, 000 (P4.5 billion)
- Teachers' Training: Implementation of Inclusive Education for Learners with Disabilities—PhP 5,000 training budget (food and accommodation for 3-day training, transportation, matis)
- Training of receiving teachers on IE in the municipalities in far flung areas (not highly urbanized)
- SWP: include provision on personal safety lessons for learners with disabilities in the proposed PhP 100 million budget
- SWP: the PhP 1.990 billion LRPO-level budget proposal for Child Protection Program for FY 2024 Budget
- SWP: for Child Protection Program or realistically, select items under the LRPO proposal related to CPC functionality and LRPO operations on CP policy implementation'

- Budget for building/ strengthening the database on children with disabilities
- Consultations and Writeshops Policy Guidelines formulation- ALS Persons with Disabilities and Community-based ALS
- Evaluation of the DepEd curriculum and textbooks using gender lens
- Magkaroon ng budget para sa mga nagtuturo ng IKSP

The last presentation is for the CHED group proposal:

- Research and Innovation: Earmark substantial finds for the development of research in the Universities
- Student Support: Allocate budget for mental health program/ establishment of mental health office in each campus
- Student assistance for those note eligible for scholarship grant
- Financial assistance and scholarships for working students
- Allocate budget for construction of more IT laboratories
- Student leadership trainings and counselling services
- Scholarships for Faculty: Trainings for teachers
- Allocate budget for additional safety personnel and equipment to ensure safety and quality education of students for the new normal set up of education
- Sign language and positive teaching approach training for faculties
- Faculty Development Fund: Budget for continuing trainings of faculty for the multi-mode of teaching
- Mandatory medical check-ups of students (SUCs)

After the presentations, Ms. Mitzi told the participants that they can still add more to the presented proposals even after the event. She added that it would also be better if they could add the costing for the particular items. Before closing the discussion, Ms. Mitzi shared important dates for their next steps:

- March 13-17 Big Items Budgets
- March 20-25 Submission of Proposals from Regional Offices
Budget for Other PAPs
For ABI-Educ- finalization and submission of ABI EDUC Proposal to DepEd, other agencies with costing
- March 28-30 DepEd Budget Deliberation and Consolidation for ABI-Educ/ Health- Meeting with Assistant Secretary Galvan on Educ/ health proposals
- April Submission of Agency budgets to DBM (April 28 Deadline)
For ABI-EDUC- Meeting with DepEd regarding: Consolidated DepEd budget; cooperation regarding budgets to lobby; meeting with DBM TWG

Ms. Alve also thanked the Social Watch Philippines for helping E-Net. Moja then thanked the participants before formally closing the event.

Participating E-Net Member-Organizations (16):

Active Genuine Youth Leaders Association (AGYLA). Food for the Hungry Philippines, Inc. Kalipunan ng mga Sektor sa Caloocan (KASECA). Konkokyo Peace Activity Center Information Office, Inc. (KPACIO). Lakas ng mga Katutubong Ayta ng Sambales (LAKAS). MAG ILMU INC. NORFIL Foundation. Paaralang Bayan ng Ayta sa Zambales (PBAZ). Pagtinabangay Foundation Inc. (PFI). Pinagsamang Lakas ng Kabataan – PILAK. Public Services Labor Independent Confederation (PS LINK). Save the Children Philippines. Teachers Dignity Coalition. Teachers and Employees Association for Association for Change Education Reforms and Solidarity (TEACHERS INC). Unang Hakbang Foundation (UHF). Singkamas Youth.

Participating Non-member Organizations (7):

ABI Health Cluster. ABM 12 PESO. Brain Pedagogy. Ormoc City Senior High School. Ormoc City School Division. Philippine Federation of the Deaf. Social Watch Philippines.###