



Republic of the Philippines
Department of Health
NATIONAL NUTRITION COUNCIL
MIMAROPA REGION

6th Floor, Avire Tower, P. Tuazon cor. Lakandula St., Project 4, Quezon City



Highlights of the Joint Regional Nutrition Committee and Regional Technical Working Group Meeting, s. 2023

16 February 2023 | 9:00 AM | Madison 101 Hotel + Tower, Quezon City

I. ATTENDANCE

NAME	POSITION / DESIGNATION	AGENCY
1. Reynaldo O. Wong	Regional Director	POPCOM MIMAROPA
2. Jobelle M. Bura-ay	Nutritionist-Dietitian III	DSWD MIMAROPA
3. Dana Sophia M. Alonzo	Nutritionist-Dietitian II	DSWD MIMAROPA
4. Patricia Symouny M. Galang	Project Technical Assistant II	DOST MIMAROPA
5. Christian G. Mendoza	Acting Chief Budget and Management Specialist	DBM MIMAROPA
6. Zurich S. Dilao	Nutritionist Dietitian II	DEPED MIMAROPA
7. Lance Andrei T. De Jesus	LGOO II	DILG MIMAROPA
8. Elna Y. Yoo	Science Research Specialist II	DENR MIMAROPA
9. Angeline T. Villa	Midwife II	NCIP MIMAROPA
10. Marietta L. Alvis	Agriculturist II	DA MIMAROPA
Online Participants		
11. Victoria Asuncion S. Mendoza	OIC- Regional Director	PIA MIMAROPA
12. Gene Ace T. Sapit	Information Officer I	PIA MIMAROPA
13. Judy Mae V. Masangkay	Supervising Economic Development Specialist	NEDA MIMAROPA
14. Filipina P. Badilla	OIC, Fisheries Credit Facilitation Unit	BFAR MIMAROPA
15. Joel Lorenzo C. Guevara	Senior Trade-Industry Development Specialist	DTI MIMAROPA
NNC MIMAROPA		
16. Ma. Eileen B. Blanco	Nutrition Program Coordinator	NNC MIMAROPA
17. Keren Faye M. Gaya	Nutrition Officer III	NNC MIMAROPA
18. Bianca Louise Veronica M. Estrella	Development Management Officer II	NNC MIMAROPA
19. Jhanna Camela C. Torres	Development Management Officer II (PNFP)	NNC MIMAROPA

20. Nichole Kate S. Loyola	Project Evaluation Officer I	NNC MIMAROPA
21. Lorelie C. Millares	Project Development Officer I	NNC MIMAROPA
22. Florius De Uno Anies	Administrative Aide III	NNC MIMAROPA

II. PRELIMINARIES

The meeting started at around 9:35 AM with a prayer and singing of national anthem, NNC hymn and MIMAROPA hymn through audio-visual presentation.

III. DECLARATION OF QUORUM

NOIII Gaya acknowledged the RNC and RTWG members present in the meeting. Of the nineteen (19) regional line agencies, ten (10) were in attendance onsite and five (5) from the Zoom platform, constituting a quorum of 78.95% as declared by NPC Blanco who called the meeting in order.

IV. OPENING REMARKS

NPC Blanco presided the meeting on behalf of RNC Chair Regional Director Mario S. Baquilod. The Joint Regional Nutrition Committee and Regional Technical Working Group in Nutrition was convened to present and discuss the 2022 OPT results of which from the top 10 with the highest prevalence rate of stunting and underweight, three (3) municipalities ranked 1st, 2nd, and 3rd namely Mansalay, Oriental Mindoro, Abra de Ilog and Paluan, Occidental Mindoro, respectively.

NPC Blanco also added that the meeting was an avenue for the RNC members to identify and commit programs specifically for the 3 mentioned areas.

V. AGENDA

NPC Blanco presented the provisional agenda as follows:

1. Review of Highlights of the Previous Meeting
2. 2022 NNC MIMAROPA Accomplishment report
3. 2023 Plans, Programs and Activities
4. 2022 MIMAROPA Nutrition Situation
5. RNC Resolution No. 1, s. 2023, "Enjoining all LGUs in MIMAROPA Region to Provide Prescribed Anthropometric Measurement Tools for Use in the OPT Plus and Capacitate BNSs as Members of the OPT Plus Team"
6. RBATF Updates
7. Agency Updates
8. Other Matters

The meeting agenda was moved for approval by RD Wong of POPCOM MIMAROPA and was duly seconded by Ms. Marietta Lavis of DA MIMAROPA.

VI. HIGHLIGHTS

Agenda	Agreements/Action Lines
<p>A. Review of Highlights of the Previous Meeting</p> <p>In the interest of time and to give ample time to discuss the main agenda, NPC Blanco requested the body to dispense the review of the highlights of the previous meeting. Since the highlights was sent to the RNC members a month after the meeting last September 2022, she suggested that members can email their comments on the highlights until 2 March 2023. Receiving none until the set date means that there are no comments on the highlights.</p>	<p>The suggestion was approved by the body.</p> <p>Deadline for the comments on the highlights is on 2 March 2023.</p>
<p>B. 2022 MIMAROPA Accomplishments</p> <p>DMOII Estrella presented the 2022 accomplishments of NNC MIMAROPA, different activities were done under the Nutrition Policy, Standards, Plans and Program Development and Coordination, Philippine Food and Nutrition Surveillance, Promote Good Nutrition, and the Assistance to National, Local Nutrition and Related Programs were shown and presented.</p>	
<p>C. 2023 Plans, Programs and Activities</p> <p>NOIII Gaya facilitated the discussion of the 2023 plans, programs, and activities. Different activities and number of targets under the Nutrition Policy, Standards, Plans and Program Development and Coordination, Philippine Food and Nutrition Surveillance, Promote Good Nutrition, and Assistance to the National, Local Nutrition and Related Programs were enumerated and discussed.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ NNC secretariat to coordinate with DepEd for the latest nutritional status of school children in the Region. Mr. Dilao of DepEd agreed to provide the requested data upon sending the official request letter. ▪ NNC secretariat to request to DILG the copies of the 2022 second semester PPAN Accomplishment Report of the (5) five provinces and two (2) cities, list of the barangays and municipalities with submitted PPAN Accomplishment Reports, Resolutions on the reorganization of Local Nutrition Committees (LNC) of MIMAROPA

	<p>region to DILG, for consolidation purposes. Mr. De Jesus of DILG agreed to provide the copies upon sending the official request letter.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Ms. Alvis of DA said that they will coordinate with Nutrition Office of Puerto Princesa City to check if they can join in the 2023 Nutrition Month Launching and launch their research program regarding the formulation of food for possible inclusion as food commodity in dietary supplementation program of the Region. ▪ Ms. Bura-ay, ND III of DSWD said that they are currently formulating a Nutrition Case Management project that will be focused on malnourished or undernourished children in Day Care Center from which they will coordinate with NNC whenever they need help or technical assistance. NPC Blanco assured them that NNC MIMAROPA can provide technical assistance in their endeavors. They were only asked to send a letter NNC to request what assistance NNC MIMAROPA can extend. ▪ RD Wong of POPCOM shared that they have a recently approved half a million worth of project for the Social Protection Program for Adolescent Mothers and their Children in which one of the important components is nutrition. However it is piloted only for Calapan City this year. <p>He added that they are drafting a program through the Regional Population Executive Board (RPEB) entitled "InfoServe Caravan", in which all member agencies of the RPEB including NNC can have an information promotion or SBCC activities. This program also includes provision of services that all government agencies could provide to the LGUs. He also shared that Nutrition month coincides with the Family World Population Day in July and he aspires RPEB to convince the different agencies to converge in Puerto Princesa City to promote all the government services bringing the government closer to the people.</p> <p>Additionally, RD Wong shared that in 2022 Nutrition Month, they conducted a Webinar focusing on Nutrition in IPs entitled K.A.I.N. or the <i>Katutubo ang Una sa Nutrisyon!</i></p>
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	<p>To summarize RD Wong committed the Infoserve Caravan and the Social Protection Program as entry points of POPCOM for coordination with NNC.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ NPC Blanco commended the idea of RD Wong in which she called a “One-Stop Shop” where all agencies can showcase their services and people will be aware of those services. <p>She also shared that NNC conducted a similar activity during the 2022 Nutrition Month Launching in Abra De Ilog, Occidental Mindoro, however, only 2 agencies participated namely DOH and BFAR. For this year she has high hopes that more agencies will join the activity to show to the community the services they provide for them.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Ms. Galang of DOST shared that their proposal for “Food Safety in Nutrition in Emergency Response” has just been approved by their RD. The project aims to address the problem of neglecting nutrition and food safety during emergencies. She added that the Phase I of the project will focus more on LGU Consultations and capacity building in which they may tap NNC for any assistance that they will need. She added that they used the 2022 OPT results in identifying LGU beneficiaries for the project. ▪ In connection with Ms Galang’s sharing, NPC Blanco said that there are many adaptors of nutribun in MIMAROPA such as bakeries in Calapan City who recently adapted the technology with the assistance from DOST. RD Wong asked if nutribun is fortified in which NPC Blanco answered that it is fortified with Vitamin A and already has several flavors to avoid taste fatigue among children. ▪ ND II Dilao of DepEd shared that he prepared a proposal for a project called project “FRESHEN UP” which is a project for both learners, teaching and non-teaching personnel of DepEd MIMAROPA. ▪ NPC Blanco thanked all the agency for sharing their nutrition-related programs and commended each agency’s efforts in addressing malnutrition in the region. She added that the new PPAN 2023-2028 covers all the life stages so that no one will be left behind.
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<p>D. 2022 MIMAROPA Nutrition Situation</p> <p>NPC Blanco suggested to discuss the result of the 2022 OPT first before presenting the RNC Resolution No. 1 s. 2023 for approval of the body.</p> <p>PEO I Loyola then proceeded with the discussion of the nutrition situation of the MIMAROPA Region. She highlighted the ranking of provinces and municipalities by prevalence of malnutrition in the Region as well as the ranking in national level.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ RD Wong asked for any possible reason of the decreased in the OPT coverage, PEO I Loyola answered that it was because the LGU focused more on the roll out of Covid-19 vaccination and the too high projected target population set in the OPT Plus by the DOH. NPC Blanco agreed that the projected population was really very high which makes it difficult for the LGUs to meet the target. She further stressed that the weighing is done using the “<i>suyod</i> system” wherein all 0-59 months children are weighed. Aside from that she added that because of the pandemic some parents were still hesitant on allowing their children to be measured. PEO I Loyola also shared that most IPs in the region did not cooperate in the OPT activity. ▪ Upon presentation of the nutrition situation of the region, several comments, and ideas on how to combat malnutrition were raised: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. RD Wong expressed his happiness to be in the meeting witnessing firsthand the presentation of the nutrition situation of our children. He then suggested that as RTWG, to work together and correlate the OPT results using a cross-tabbing, multifactorial, and multivariable analysis with: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -poverty incidence using the tool of DSWD -number of children data from POPCOM or FHIS -family expenditure and income -employment data from DOLE He said that we need to look at these different variables to come up with the root cause of the problem because our innocent children, who are our future, are the ones being affected by this problem of malnutrition. <p>He then suggested to the RTWG to have a careful study of the nutrition situation, since this is a serious problem that could remain standing over the next years if not addressed immediately.</p> <p>He also stated that he wanted to use the nutrition situation data of MIMAROPA when they go to the LGUs so that he could ask what the possible causes of the nutrition problem</p>
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After the sharing of ideas regarding the presented nutrition situation of the Region, NPC Blanco proceeded with the discussion of the following actions taken by NNC MIMAROPA to immediately address the problem in the region:

1. Coordination Meeting with RD Baquilod to discuss the 2022 OPT Results on 11 January 2023
2. Coordination and advocacy meetings in Oriental Mindoro:
 - with Gov. Humerlito Dolor on 16 January 2023
 - with Mayor Ernilo Villas of Bulalacao on 17 January 2023
 - with Mayor Ferdinand Maliwanag of Mansalay on 17 January 2023
 - with Mayor Elegio Malaluan and MNC member of Bongabong on 17 January 2023
3. BNS Training in Mansalay on 17-20 January 2023
4. Planned coordination meetings with Gov. Gadiano of Occidental Mindoro and Mayors of Paluan and Abra De Ilog
5. BNS Basic Training Course in Romblon Province

are? He said that we need to have an answer to it, end it and move forward.

NPC Blanco explained that NNC need to identify what does the LGUs need for us to be able to respond effectively. She also reiterated that the RTWG is the technical arm of the RNC and suggested to sit down together and honestly assess the situation to find out how each agency can help in the problem.

2. Ms. Alvis suggested to the technical working group to go down to the top 3 municipalities to validate the data submitted, bring our own measuring tools, and validate if all the data are correct because despite of the many interventions done, the 3 municipalities are still in the top 3 ranking in stunting and underweight at the national level.
 - On the problem about the diet of IPs which is more on root crops and *saba*, RD Wong suggested if it is possible to come up with a genetically modified cassava and *saba* that is already full of nutrients. He shared that when he was still in Zamboanga, the French government provided biscuit high in protein to the children affected by Zamboanga siege, and he was thinking if IPs can eat food like that. However, NPC Blanco said that IPs refused to eat anything that are new to them.
 - On the other hand, Ms. Alvis shared that to get the cooperation of IP communities, it is important to build trust among them first before the delivery of services. She said it based on her experience during the social preparations they conducted in IP communities.
 - In addition, Ms. Villa of NCIP also shared some techniques on how to get the cooperation of IPs. She said that it is important to get to know them first, talk to their leaders first about the services that we are going to provide them and the leaders will be the one to talk to their people. She explained that it is not hard to get IPs cooperation, they only need more time since everything is a process for them and they do a lot of consultations with their community members

After the presentation of the actions taken by NNC MIMAROPA, NPC Blanco shared that most of the local chief executives were thinking that one possible reason for such result of the OPT is the non-cooperation of IPs in the Region. She then acknowledged that this is a challenge for the TWG on how we can help address the problem on IPs considering their culture.

- She also shared that IP children love to eat candies and asked if it is possible to develop candies using what IP community eats with different nutrients added in it.
- Ms. Villa also shared that they have a regular monthly zoom meeting with IP leaders and they are planning to invite NNC in one of those meetings to explain to them the nutrition problems among IPs.
- Ms. Alvis and Ms. Villa both agreed that it is not hard to communicate and coordinate with IP community and that they only need more time since every new thing to them is a process.
- Ms. Villa also shared that they would propose a program addressing concerns on health and nutrition among IPs.
- RD Wong said that if the technical working group is planning to go to the IP communities, maybe there is a need to undergo a training on the psychology of IPs and to sensitized with IPs culture by inviting a person that could really help us know more about IP culture.
- NPC Blanco suggested to invite a speaker in one of the RNC and RTWG meetings such as the PMUI to orient the group about the culture of IPs.
- PNFP Torres shared that from her Tutok Kainan experience, there were some problems encountered when dealing with the IP community, such as their non-cooperation during the height and weight taking activity in their community. She also shared that there are several food items that they do not eat, examples are oatmeal, tilapia and bangus, and for some other fishes it will still depends on where the fish came from.
- NPC Blanco suggested to invite someone from NCIP and PMUI in one of the RNC and RTWG meetings to present the basic rules in going down to IP communities. The only concern NPC Blanco thinks about the plan of going down to the IP communities to know their culture and properly address the problem is that the process will take time. She was worried about the SAM cases among IPs which requires immediate action that

	<p>is why she suggested to think of a short-term plan for those children who need immediate help while planning for the orientation of RNC and RTWG members.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ NPC Blanco emphasized that NNC will closely coordinate with NCIP to assist NNC in convincing IP leaders to participate and cooperate in the different nutrition services offered by the agency. She also requested all the agencies to include nutrition if applicable, in their respective activities or programs if they will go down the areas with high malnutrition rate. ▪ RD Wong suggested to create a Resolution No. 2 enjoining LGUs to initiate and ensure fund allocation to nutrition specific interventions that could directly address the problem in their respective area of jurisdiction such as food production, gardening, and dietary supplementation program.
<p>E. RNC Resolution No. 1, s. 2023, “Enjoining all LGUs in MIMAROPA Region to Provide Prescribed Anthropometric Measurement Tools for Use in the OPT Plus and Capacitate BNSs as Members of the OPT Plus Team”</p> <p>NOIII Gaya facilitated the reading of the RNC Resolution No. 1, s. 2023, “Enjoining all LGUs in MIMAROPA Region to Provide Prescribed Anthropometric Measurement Tools for Use in the OPT Plus and Capacitate BNSs as Members of the OPT Plus Team”.</p> <p>After reading the resolution, NPC Blanco asked the body for questions, suggestions, and clarifications.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ RD Wong asked if the resolution is only for the tools and suggested to create another resolution from which LGU will create an opportunity to provide foods in every household, create opportunity for food production and food distribution. ▪ Everyone in the group agreed to create two more resolution aside from the one presented today: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Resolution No. 2 - a resolution encouraging LGU to come up with nutrition programs that will help solve or alleviate their malnutrition problem. 2. Resolution No. 3 - a resolution that will focus on the Agency Collaboration to solve the nutrition problem in MIMAROPA. ▪ Upon agreement of the creation of two more resolution, NPC Blanco then requested for the approval of Resolution No. 1. Miss Alvis moved that the resolution be approved while RD Wong seconded the motion.
<p>F. Regional Bantay Asin Task Force Updates</p> <p>PNFP Torres presented the updates on the Regional Bantay Asin Task Force</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Miss Alvis asked the basis to know if salt has adequate iodine in it to which NPC Blanco answered the iodine content of salt should be at least 15 ppm to be adequate.

<p>which includes the 2022 accomplishment, salt monitoring result, Findings and Recommendations during the RBATF Program Implementation Review and the 2023 Plans, Projects and Activities in terms of:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> technical assistance; result and monitoring; promotion and advocacy; and program support and management 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Miss Alvis further asked on what were the actions done by NNC after finding out that the iodine content of the salt is inadequate. NPC Blanco then answered that NNC informs FDA and DOH through a letter about the result of the testing for their further actions. NPC Blanco stressed that salt at the salt plant should have 30-70 parts per minute (ppm) of iodine so that when transported to the household and stored should still have no less than 15 ppm iodine content. Mr. Mendoza of DBM clarified the discrepancy in the results – 100% of market vendors sell salt with inadequate iodine content while households and food service in the same area had and adequate iodine content.
<p>G. Agency Updates</p> <p>Each agency presented their 2022 accomplishments and plans for 2023.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> DA DepEd DILG BFAR DSWD DENR 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> NPC Blanco asked ND II Dilao if they already have data on nutritional status of school children since in this year's MELLPI tool, NNC Central Office already open the indicator for the nutritional status of school children. ND II Dilao said that they have a baseline data for 2022 and NNC can write a letter to RD Capulong requesting for the data. It was highlighted in the presentation of DSWD that the budget for feeding increased from Php 15 to Php 21. Ms. Yoo of DENR said that they are committing to work with NNC and include nutrition in the mission of each Community Resource Management Framework (CRMF) of the people's organization. She said that DENR may also request for a resource speaker from NNC to discuss nutrition during the conduct of their yearly CRMF training. NPC Blanco said that NNC will explore inviting a resource speaker from DILG for the Barangay Captain Orientation after the local election. She also reiterated that NNC will write a letter of request to DILG for the copies of the 2022 second semester PPAN Accomplishment Report of the (5) five provinces and two (2) cities, list of the barangays and municipalities with submitted

	<p>PPAN AR, Resolutions on the reorganization of Local Nutrition Committees (LNC) of MIMAROPA region to DILG, for consolidation purposes.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ LGOO II De Jesus also shared one of their proposed project relative to nutrition which is the <i>HAPAG</i> that will focus on the creation of barangay community gardens, this project will be disseminated through a Memorandum Circular 001 of DILG.
<p>H. Other Matters</p> <p>For other matters, the MELLPI schedule was discussed briefly and NPC Blanco said that it will most likely to start after the holy week.</p> <p>She added that there will be an orientation on MELLPI Pro Tool for the Regional Nutrition Evaluation Team on 10 March 2023 via Zoom.</p>	

VII. SYNTHESIS AND ADJOURNMENT

1. In the interest of time and to give more time to discuss the main agenda of the meeting, the group dispensed the discussion of the highlights of the previous meeting and requested to email additional inputs until 2 March 2023.
2. DMOII Estrella presented the 2022 accomplishment of NNC MIMAROPA to the RNC.
3. NOIII Gaya facilitated the discussion of the 2023 plans, programs, and activities of NNC MIMAROPA in which other member agencies shared the
4. PEO I Loyola discussed the nutrition situation of the MIMAROPA region, and she pointed out that the prevalence of malnutrition in Oriental Mindoro is higher than the prevalence of malnutrition in the region. Aside from that, she also highlighted that Oriental Mindoro rank first in all forms of malnutrition.
5. NOIII Gaya facilitated the reading of the RNC Resolution No. 1, s. 2023 RNC Resolution No. 1, s. 2023, "Enjoining all LGUs in MIMAROPA Region to Provide Prescribed Anthropometric Measurement Tools for Use in the OPT Plus and Capacitate BNSs as Members of the OPT Plus Team". After the reading, NPC Blanco called for comments from the members, in the end, the resolution was unanimously approved by the body.

6. Everyone in the group agreed to prepare two more resolutions aside from the Resolution which was presented during the meeting.
 - Resolution No. 2 - Resolution encouraging LGUs to ensure fund allocation to local nutrition programs that will help solve or alleviate their malnutrition problem.
 - Resolution No. 3 Agency Collaborations to solve the nutrition problem in MIMAROPA.
7. PNFP Torres presented the updates on the Regional Bantay Asin Task Force which includes the 2022 accomplishment, salt monitoring result, RBATF program implementation review's findings and recommendation and the 2023 plans.
8. DepEd, DA, DSWD, DENR, BFAR, and DILG presented their 2022 accomplishments and their plans for 2023.
9. MELLPI schedule was discussed briefly, and NPC Blanco said that it will most likely start after the holy week and on 10 March 2023, there will be an orientation in using the MELLPI Pro Tool for the RNET members on 110 March 2023 via Zoom.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:00 PM. NPC Blanco thanked the RNC members for joining the meeting and sharing their plans for 2023 and for committing to help solve the malnutrition problem in MIMAROPA Region.


Prepared by:


LORELIE C. MILLARES
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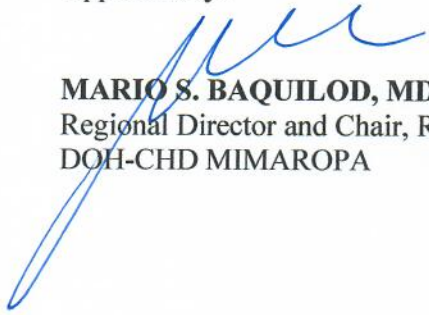
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Noted by:


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Approved by:


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Regional Director and Chair, Regional Nutrition Committee
DOH-CHD MIMAROPA