

# Including Homeless Families and Children in the Social Protection System: A Brief Review of International Experience and an Analysis of Data on the Philippine Pilot Program

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## **ABSTRACT:**

The Pantawid Pamilyang Pilipino Program (4Ps) is one of the pillars of the Philippine social protection system. The 4Ps, under the management of the Department of Social and Welfare and Development (DSWD), has covered over seven million children belonging to approximately three million poor families with homes from the period in between February 2008 to May 2012. In an effort to extend social protection for the homeless, the DSWD launched the Modified Conditional Cash Transfer for Homeless (MCCT-HSF) program in the second half of 2012. The MCCT-HSF, viewed as an extension of the 4Ps, intends to provide immediate relief, support, and services to homeless families. It is also designed as a mechanism through which homeless families can transition into the 4Ps. This study serves as a review of a number of social protection programs that are similar to the MCCT-HSF and as a preliminary analysis of the data gleaned from the pilot implementation of the MCCT-HSF. A review of the social protection programs for the homeless of other countries suggests that the success of these kinds of programs require the development of cost-effective transient housing facilities or temporary shelters, and the provision of personalized psychosocial counseling services. The data from the MCCT-HSF pilot implementation indicate that homeless families found in Metro Manila originate from several of the poorer regions of the Philippines that are close to the National Capital Region. The dataset also reveals that most of the homeless included in the pilot implementation attained only an elementary level education. A considerable proportion of the homeless are either unemployed or employed in the informal sector. The study finds that the provision of temporary shelters, institution of personalized psychosocial support systems, and development of integrated targeting and monitoring systems are crucial to the success of social protection programs targeting the homeless.

