



Canada 

# **Supporting Women's Economic Empowerment in the Philippines Project**

## Regional Technical Working Group (RTWG) Meeting – R7

20 May 2020 @ 2:00PM via Zoom

# Proposed Agenda/Talking Points:

- Key agreements in previous online RTWG meeting
- M&E Data Collection updates & deadlines
- Exemption of PCW- WEE Project from the NBC Circular 580
- No Cost Project Extension until December 2021
- WFP 2020-2021 Re-calibration
- WEE Project Reports Submission (Narrative and Progress)
- WEE Project's Product Brochure
- Study on the Immediate Effects of COVID 19 on WMEs
- Other matters
- Next RTWG meeting



# RTWG Meeting (28 April 2020)



# Exemption of PCW- WEE Project from the National Budget Circular 580

- This Circular applies to programs and activities charged to the General Appropriations Acts (GAA) Funds. Thus, WEE Project Fund, which is treated as a grant, is **not covered by this policy**. For your guidance below are the necessary next steps to be undertaken pertaining to the WEE Project:
  1. We advise partners to secure the PCW-downloaded funds for the **sole implementation of the WEE Project**;
  2. Partners with issued Notice of Cash Allocations (NCAs) for the implementation of the WEE Project can proceed with project implementation/fund utilization provided continuous **adherence to guidelines issued by the Inter-Agency Task Force on Emergency Infectious Diseases (IATF-EID)**;
  3. If needed, partners may already conduct monitoring/field visits but with **strict compliance to health-related measures and policies implemented in your respective regions/areas**. The health and safety of our workers are the project's top priorities during these times. We strongly recommend observance of precautionary measures and conduct of visits to WMEs, only when necessary;
  4. Partners can proceed with **the hiring of Project Assistants** (COS engagement) as the Project is not affected by NBC 580. The period of engagement depends on partners' assessment on the feasible period of implementation until 2021.

# No-cost Project Extension

- As per communication with members of the Project Steering Committee (PSC), the Project is being proposed to be **extended until December 2021**. This is to provide partners ample time to catch-up with implementation and achieve the desired Project results among our WMEs.
- Considering that the project extension entails no additional funds, partners are advised to assess and **recalibrate Work and Financial Plans (WFPs)** accordingly, based on the PMO-allocated project funds.
- Kindly ensure that the identified period of extension in 2021 **maximizes funds for the completion of project activities and outcomes; and continues the engagement of Project Assistants as well**. Moreover, the Project recommends for partners to evaluate the responsiveness of existing activities and methodologies to emerging needs of WMEs; and to identify corresponding interventions and strategies adapting to the “new normal” environment.

# WEE Project's Product Brochure

- The development of Product Brochures is a PMO-initiated activity, which aims to come up with a reference material for buyers and organizations who are interested in collaborating with our WMEs.
- The brochure will feature the top three (3) products of our WMEs. Related to this, may we request the WEE Project Regional Technical Working Group's (RTWG) assistance in **screening the top ten (10) WMEs per region** based on the recommended criteria.

Thank you!  
Stay Safe! 😊