

# Increase the budget for 4Ps so more children can go to school and have access to education



**Cash transfer programs are effective in reducing child poverty, encouraging school enrollment, increasing use of health services, and improving child nutrition.**

**Continuously funding such programs can help mitigate the socio-economic impacts of the pandemic especially that an estimated 42-66 million children worldwide could fall into extreme poverty, adding to the estimated 386 million children already in extreme poverty in 2019.<sup>1</sup>**

## **ACCESS TO SOCIAL PROTECTION IS EVERY CHILD'S RIGHT**

**Congress needs to increase the budget allocation for 4Ps so that it can cover the entire family. If the budget for 4Ps is increased, more children will have access to education and health services.**

## **CONTEXT**

The 4Ps has benefited 4.3 million poor households with 7.8 million children as of June 2020.

It showed encouraging results in keeping children healthy and in school. It results to increased productivity in adulthood and, in the long run, breaks the inter-generational transmission of poverty.

Over the years, there has been a notable decline in coverage among 4Ps children beneficiaries from as high of 10.2 million children in November 2015 to its lowest of 7.8 million in 2020.

The 4Ps only provides education grants to a maximum of 3 children per household. The three-child limit per household policy has resulted to exclusion of vulnerable children in the same household.

Republic Act 11310 or the 4Ps Act of 2019 does not prescribe nor limit the number of children who can benefit from the education grant per eligible household.

## **THE COST OF MAKING 4PS INCLUSIVE FOR ALL CHILDREN IN CURRENTLY ENROLLED HOUSEHOLDS**

In 2020, the DSWD allocation for the 4Ps was P108 billion. The current proposal to increase the allocation to P113 billion will enable the DSWD to expand the coverage and reach an additional 1,023,874 children and the program inclusive for all children in the household.

<sup>1</sup> Bastagli et al, 2016; Handa et al 2017