## Republic of the Philippines Department of Health NATIONAL NUTRITION COUNCIL Region III

## REGIONAL NUTRITION COMMITTEE Resolution No. 1, Series of 2012

ADOPTING THE REVISED IMPLEMENTING GUIDELINES ON OPERATION TIMBANG PLUS (OPT Plus)

WHERAS, nutrition plays a vital role in an individual's growth and development with growth as a measure of an individual's health and nutritional well-being;

WHEREAS, two methods of growth assessment in communities in the Philippines are being implemented, namely; Growth Monitoring and Promotion (GMP), the individual child regular growth monitoring for counselling and intervention, and the conduct of mass weighing referred to as Operation *Timbang* (OPT);

WHEREAS, OPT Plus is the annual mass weighing with the addition of the measurement of length or height of all preschool children aged 0-71 months old in a community to identify and locate families with malnourished preschool children, and determine the overall nutrition situation in the area every 1<sup>st</sup> quarter of the year (January-March);

WHEREAS, the "Plus" in OPT Plus refers to the:

- Inclusion of length and height measurement in the conduct of OPT *Plus* because using weight and length or height in combination can help best describe a child's nutritional status in terms of stage of deterioration of nutritional status of the child;
- Effort of the OPT team to come up, through a group-coordinated effort, with only one set of OPT *Plus* data for consistency among the different functionaries and groups;
- 3. Extra effort of local nutrition committee, particularly members of Community Health Teams, to jointly discuss, analyze and utilize the OPT *Plus* results for identification of actions to address the malnutrition problem in the locality; and
- 4. Use of the Child Growth Standards (CGS) as the country's standard for growth assessment of children as the single international standard that represents the best physiological growth for all the children from birth to five years of age and establish the breastfed infant as the normative model for growth and development as stipulated in NNC Governing Board resolution No. 2, series 2008, "Adoption of the New WHO Child Growth Standards for Use for Children 0-5 years old in the Philippines".

WHEREAS, the 7 provinces and 13 cities of Central Luzon had already adopted the WHO-Child Growth Standards for assessing children at the barangay, municipal and provincial levels; the Provincial Nutrition Action Officers (P/CNAOs) and District/City Nutrition Program Coordinators (DCNPCs) had undergone the necessary orientations on the use of WHO-CGS beginning January 2010 by the NNC Regional Office III and had undergone the Regional Training of Trainers in September 2011 by the DOH-Center for Health Development (CHD) Regional Office III while the concerned nutrition and health workers conducted the echo trainings at the provincial, municipal and barangay levels.

WHEREAS, the 7 provinces and 13 cities of Central Luzon had already submitted results of 2010-2011 Operation Timbang conducted at the barangays and municipalities in the provinces using the WHO-Child Growth Standards to DOH-CHD and NNC Regional Offices, and had used the OPT results in assessing, planning, coordinating, monitoring and evaluation of the local nutrition programs.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED AS IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED, in consideration of the above premises, we the REGIONAL NUTRITION COMMITTEE hereby adopt the revised implementing guidelines on OPT *Plus*;

FURTHER RESOLVED that the following actions be pursued to support the implementation of the revised implementing guidelines on OPT *Plus*;

- 1. For regional agencies including but not limited to the Department of Health-Center for Health Development (DOH-CHD), Department of Social Welfare and development (DSWD), Department of Education (DepED), and the Department of the Interior and Local government to issue the region-wide order in support of this RNC Resolution;
- The National Nutrition Council (NNC) Region III Secretariat and the Center for Disease Prevention and Control of the DOH-CHD III to lead in the conduct of orientation among local government functionaries on the revised implementing guidelines on OPT *Plus* to ensure its consistent adoption; and
- The NNC Region III Secretariat, with support from the DOH-CHD Regional Office, DSWD Field Office, DepED Regional Office and Department of Science and Technology Regional Office of Central Luzon to ensure the availability of calibrated weighing scales and verified height boards.

Approved this 6<sup>th</sup> day of November 2012

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