What is Sagip Batang Manggagawa (SBM)?

The *Sagip Batang Manggagawa (SBM)* is an inter-agency quick action mechanism which aims to respond to cases of child labor in extremely abject conditions. It employs an inter-agency quick action team for detecting, monitoring and rescuing child laborers in hazardous and exploitative working conditions.

What are the objectives of SBM?

SBM focuses on the following objectives:

1) Establishment of community-based mechanisms for detecting, monitoring and reporting cases of most hazardous forms of child labor;
2) Conduct of surveillance and rescue operations and/or provision of other appropriate interventions for the relief of child laborers in extremely abject conditions;
3) Provision of physical and psychological services to child labor victims;
4) Filing of administrative and criminal case/s; and
5) Facilitation of the return of the child laborers to their parents, guardians or custodians.

What are the mechanics of SBM Quick Action Teams (SBMQAT)?

1) Regional Child Labor Committee (RCLC) shall establish a regional quick action team (QAT) with the RCLC Secretariat acting as the regional quick action desk.
2) Department of Labor and Employment Regional Offices shall serve as the Regional Child Labor Committee (RCLC) Secretariat in their respective regions.

3) Program Implementation Committees (PIC) at the provincial, municipal or city level shall likewise establish a SBMQAT with the PIC Secretariat acting as the municipal/city quick action desk.

4) Regional/ municipal/ city SBMQATs shall be composed of program partners and other local organizations.

What governs the implementation of the SBM?

SBM implementation is governed by a Memorandum of Agreement between and among the different government agencies and non-government organizations wherein the specific roles and responsibilities of each agency are defined. Said MOA was signed by the Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE), as lead agency, and the Departments of Social Welfare and Development, Interior and Local Government, Health, Education and Justice including the Philippine National Police, National Bureau of Investigation, Philippine Information Agency, Commission on Human Rights, Trade Union Congress of the Philippines, Employers Confederation of the Philippines, National Council for Social Development and Kamalayan Development Foundation, Incorporated on 19 May 1994, which formally launched the SBM.