

**FACTCHECK 2016 #2**  
**CRITICAL AGENDA: Pantawid Pamilyang Pilipino Program (4Ps)**

While the Philippine economy steadily grows, the country's poverty incidence remains high at approximately 25% since 2012. One of the government's biggest poverty reduction programs is the Pantawid Pamilyang Pilipino Program (4Ps). It aims to break the intergenerational cycle of poverty by investing in poor households' health and education. The program specifically addresses maternal, infant, and child mortality; malnutrition and stunting of children; basic education completion; and child labor. To receive the grant, households enrolled in the program need to fulfill conditions set by the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD).

As of August 2015, 4.4 million active households are enrolled in the 4Ps covering 10 million children aged 0 to 18. From January to August 2015, PhP27.15 billion was paid to beneficiaries – PhP13.23 billion of which was paid for education and the rest paid for health. According to a World Bank study in 2013, beneficiaries of the program spend 38% more on education and 34% more on health compared to those not enrolled in 4Ps. This increase indicates that households under the program invest more in the education and health of their children giving them more chances of breaking the cycle of poverty in their families. Another recent study by the Philippine Institute of Development Studies (PIDS) says that the number of out-of-school-youth has decreased to 1.2 Million to 2.9 Million in 2008 due to 4Ps and the K-12 program.

Critics of the 4Ps argue that the program is a form of dole out encouraging dependency that is unsustainable. The large budget of the program is also being questioned. Critics argue that the budget allotted for 4Ps can go to other development programs such as job creation. Many have also pointed out the vulnerability of the program to political capture, thus making good governance in 4Ps management and operations extremely crucial.

**Presidential Candidates and the 4Ps**

All presidential candidates support the continuation and expansion of the 4Ps. Jejomar Binay and Miriam Defensor-Santiago expressed the need to improve its implementation. Binay commented that the program needs better targeting. Santiago expressed the need to plug leakages and proposed to reduce program cost by involving local authorities in the implementation of the 4Ps. On the expansion of the program, Binay wants to include senior citizens in the coverage while Grace Poe pushes for post-CCT livelihood programs. Mar Roxas pushes for the institutionalization of 4Ps.

All candidates explicitly mention 4Ps in their platforms. Duterte, Poe, and Santiago promise to expand 4Ps by including a livelihood component. Duterte will complement the 4Ps by giving loans to poor families for small and medium enterprises. Poe will integrate technical-vocational training in the program and provide livelihood opportunities. Santiago plans on complementing 4Ps with a grant-for-work program. Roxas, on the other hand, wants to provide college scholarship grants to top high school student beneficiaries. Binay proposes to expand the coverage to include senior citizens. On the 4Ps implementation, Poe and Santiago have differing views on the involvement of local governments. Poe does not want 4Ps funding to go through local government units (LGUs) to prevent the program from being politicized while Santiago wants LGUs to implement the program. Poe has other proposals for the expansion of 4Ps such as allocating an additional PhP6 billion for the program to include the coverage of near-poor households and working with third party organizations to conduct independent impact assessments.

Both Santiago and Roxas have track record on 4Ps. Santiago authored a bill on the 4Ps. Roxas took part in the implementation as head of DILG, a partner of DSWD in 4Ps.

## Vice Presidential Candidates and the 4Ps

All vice presidential candidates support the continuation of 4Ps. Allan Peter Cayetano, Francis “Chiz” Escudero, and Antonio Trillanes want to expand the coverage of 4Ps. Cayetano wants to provide capital to poor families and victims of calamities and disasters. Escudero wants to include a livelihood component, while Trillanes wants to include farmers and fishermen in the coverage. On implementation, Cayetano wants to increase the 4Ps budget allocation and Trillanes wants to streamline the program to ensure no leakages. Only Leni Robredo is pushing for the institutionalization of the 4Ps. Bongbong Marcos was a critic of the program, but he changed his stand just recently and has called for the expansion of 4Ps.

On the vice presidential candidates’ platform, Robredo, Escudero, Cayetano, and Marcos explicitly mention 4Ps in their platforms. Robredo clearly champions 4Ps pushing for its institutionalization. Escudero, Cayetano, and Marcos propose to expand the program and include a livelihood component. Escudero proposes to provide capital for small businesses and work with the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) for training. Cayetano, sharing Duterte’s platform, proposes to give loans to poor families for small and medium enterprises. Marcos vows to complement 4Ps with “cash for work”, “cash for reforestation”, or “cash for community service”.

Only Robredo has a clear track record supporting her stand and platform while Marcos’ track record shows his opposition to the program. Robredo is the author of a bill in Congress pushing for the institutionalization of the 4Ps, while Marcos sought to cut its budget.

### What is FactCheck 2016?

FactCheck is a continuing project of the Ateneo School of Government (ASoG), through its Political Democracy Reforms (PODER) and Government Watch (G-Watch) programs, that provides verified information on candidate’s position, platform and track record as a voter’s basis in making their decisions on who to vote and what issues and agenda to further advance. Now on its third cycle, the 2016 FactCheck, as

in the previous 2010 and 2013 elections, probes candidate’s position, platform and track record on key issues and agenda identified through consultations with organizations at the local and national levels. It highlights and mainstreams critical issues in the election agenda to contribute in making elections issue- and platform-oriented.

FactCheck 2016 focuses on 10 issues:

- Agriculture, fisheries development and agrarian reform
- Participatory and pro-poor budgeting (BuB)
- The Pantawid Pamilyang Pilipino Program (4Ps)
- Political and Electoral Reforms
- Meaningful youth participation
- Education and Health Services to Vulnerable Sectors
- Social Justice for the Bangsamoro and the Indigenous Peoples (IPs)
- Urban Development
- Environmental-ecological Protection and disaster risk and reduction management (DRRM)
- Anti-corruption

The following process was undertaken in coming up with the FactCheck:

- Formal letters were sent out to all the candidates requesting for their position, platform and track record on the agenda we identified.
- Based on the input from the candidates, we did the ‘fact-checking’ by checking on official reports and documents and reports from credible newspapers/ online media. For the candidates who did not send their inputs, our take off point was their official website.
- We then processed the data using a processing table and following our measures and indicators.

#### ***Factcheck 2016 Measures and Indicators***

Position refers to the candidates’ pronouncements about the agenda that can be found in printed materials like

news, statements or online. We determine whether the candidate is for, against or neutral.

Platform refers to the candidates' plans in tackling the agenda as stated in their official platform. We determine whether the agenda is mentioned, not mentioned in the platform.

Track record refers to the direct action taken by the candidates in advancing/realizing the agenda. We determine whether the candidates' track record is concrete, not concrete, no record or opposition based on whether the candidates has taken direct action in terms of bills filed, laws passed, decisions made, programs/ projects personally/ directly championed as stated in official or reliable/ verifiable records. We mark the candidates' track record 'opposition' if s/he has taken an opposition position on the agenda.

- After a researcher prepared the data processing table, at least two other researchers peer reviewed the data and the briefer. We then prepared the infographics and finalized the briefer for posting on FactCheck 2016 Facebook page (<https://www.facebook.com/factcheck2016/>)
- The final checking was crowdsourced. We allowed anyone using the online platform (Facebook) to point to us any credible source that would correct any wrong data on our FactCheck. Upon receiving such feedback, we checked the source, verified it and corrected the FactCheck (if needed), indicating the correction we made.

Note: The data and figures can still be updated and we are open to additional sources from anyone. Please contact us through our FB page.

PODER/ G-Watch deems FactCheck 2016 mainly as a platform to mainstream critical issues and agenda identified through studies and consultations of PODER/ G-Watch and to facilitate the exchange of citizens and politicians

on these issues and agenda.

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