



Republic of the Philippines
Department of Education
Region XI
SCHOOLS DIVISION OF DIGOS CITY

Office of the Schools Division Superintendent

September 5, 2025

DIVISION MEMORANDUM

SGOD-2025-573

To : Assistant Schools Division Superintendent
Division Chiefs
Education Program Supervisors
Public Schools District Supervisors
Public School Heads
Public School Teachers
All Others Concerned

Subject: **DISSEMINATION OF PCW-MC NO.2025-07: REAFFIRMING GENDER MAINSTREAMING AS THE MANDATED STRATEGY AND THE GAD APPROACH AS ITS GUIDING FRAMEWORK FOR PROMOTING GENDER EQUALITY AND INCLUSIVE DEVELOPMENT WITHIN BUREAUCRACY**

This is in reference to Regional Memorandum FTAD-2025-030 dated September 2, 2025, signed by Rebonfamil R. Baguio, Assistant Regional Director, Officer-in-Charge, Office of the Regional Director, re: **Dissemination of PCW-MC No.2025-07: Reaffirming Gender Mainstreaming as the Mandated Strategy and the GAD Approach as its Guiding Framework for Promoting Gender Equality and Inclusive Development Within Bureaucracy.**

The Philippine Commission on Women (PCW) reiterates that Gender Mainstreaming (GM) is the National Government's primary and legally mandated strategy for institutionalizing gender equality and women's empowerment across all governance processes in accordance with the Magna Carta for Women (RA 9710).

In addition, it is clarified that the GAD approach shall remain the guiding framework for GM, while complementary frameworks such as Gender Equality and Social Inclusion (GESI) may be adopted to reinforce but not replace its foundational principles.

In support thereof, this Office directs Schools to disseminate this Memorandum Circular for information, guidance, and compliance.

Attached is a copy of the PCW-Memorandum Circular for reference.

MELANIE P. ESTACIO, PhD, CESO VI
Schools Division Superintendent

For and in the absence of the
Schools Division Superintendent

Region XI Schools Division of Digos City
RECORDS SECTION

PETER-JASON C. SENARILLOS
Senior Program Specialist-SMN,
Officer In-Charge

Enclosed: As stated.
SGOD/jsa

RELEASED
DATE: SEP 09 2025 TIME: 4:46 PM
BY: [Signature]



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Republic of the Philippines
Department of Education
DAVAO REGION



September 2, 2025

REGIONAL MEMORANDUM
FTAD-2025-030

DISSEMINATION OF PCW-MC NO.2025-07: REAFFIRMING GENDER MAINSTREAMING
AS THE MANDATED STRATEGY AND THE GAD APPROACH AS ITS GUIDING
FRAMEWORK FOR PROMOTING GENDER EQUALITY AND INCLUSIVE
DEVELOPMENT WITHIN BUREAUCRACY

To: Schools Division Superintendents
Chief Education Supervisors

1. The Philippine Commission on Women (PCW) issued a Memorandum Circular No. 2025-07 entitled: Reaffirming Gender Mainstreaming as the Mandated Strategy and the GAD Approach as its Guiding Framework for Promoting Gender Equality and Inclusive Development within Bureaucracy.
2. The PCW-MC reiterates that Gender Mainstreaming (GM) is the national government's primary and legally mandated strategy for institutionalizing gender equality and women's empowerment across all governance processes in accordance with the Magna Carta of Women (RA 9710).
3. In addition, it is clarified that the GAD approach shall remain the guiding framework for GM, while complementary frameworks such as Gender Equality, Disability, and Social Inclusion (GEDSI) or Gender Equality and Social Inclusion (GESI) may be adopted to reinforce but not replace its foundational principles.
- ✓4. In support thereof, this Office directs Schools Division Superintendents and Chiefs of Functional Divisions to disseminate this Memorandum Circular to offices for information, guidance and compliance.
5. Attached is a copy of the PCW-Memorandum Circular for reference.

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
RECORDS SECTION
RELEASED

By: *[Signature]*
Date: *Sept. 04, 2025*
0925120251

Encl.: As stated
ROF3/app

ALLAN G. FARNAZO
Director IV

By the Authority of the Regional Director

[Signature]
REBONFAMIL R. BAGUIO
Director III



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**[For Information and Sharing] PCW Memorandum Circular No. 2025-07:
Reaffirming Gender Mainstreaming as the Mandated Strategy and the GAD
Approach as its Guiding Framework for Promoting Gender Equality and Inclusive
Development within Bureaucracy**

1 message

29 AUG 2025

Fri, Aug 29, 2025 at 2:35 PM

Francess Gin L. Cornelio <fglcornelio@pcw.gov.ph>

Cc: Technical Services and Regional Coordination Division <tsrzd@pcw.gov.ph>, "Kim Harold T. Peji"

<khtpeji@pcw.gov.ph>, "Karen G. Dagnalan-Dy" <kgdagnalan@pcw.gov.ph>

Bcc: region11@depd.gov.ph

Greetings from the Philippine Commission on Women (PCW)!

We are pleased to share with you the **PCW Memorandum Circular No. 2025-07** titled "**Reaffirming Gender Mainstreaming as the Mandated Strategy and the Gender and Development (GAD) Approach as its Guiding Framework for Promoting Gender Equality and Inclusive Development within Bureaucracy**," issued on **26 August 2025**.

This Circular reiterates that **Gender Mainstreaming (GM)** remains the national government's primary and legally mandated strategy for institutionalizing gender equality and women's empowerment across all governance processes, in line with the **Magna Carta of Women (RA 9710)**. It also clarifies that the **GAD approach** continues to be the guiding framework for implementing GM, while complementary frameworks such as **GEDSI/GESI** may be used to strengthen—but not replace—the foundational principles of GAD.

Kindly share this Circular with the RGADC members and your respective networks for their guidance in aligning institutional strategies, programs, and processes—including GAD Plans and Budgets (GPBs) and GAD Accomplishment Reports (GAD ARs)—with these directives.

Thank you for your continued support in advancing gender-responsive governance.

On behalf of the PCW,
Francess



Know more about our services thru
our Citizen's Charter

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PCW-Memorandum-Circular-No.-2025-07-Reaffirming-Gender-Mainstreaming-as-the-Mandated-Strategy-and-the-Gender-and-Development-GAD-Approach-as-its-Guiding-Framework-for-Promoting-G.pdf
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MEMORANDUM CIRCULAR NO. 2025 - 07

FOR: All Heads of Executive Departments, National Government Agencies, Bureaus, Offices, State Universities and Colleges (SUCs), Government-Owned and/or Controlled Corporations (GOCCs), Legislative and Judiciary Branches, Constitutional Bodies, Other Government Instrumentalities, and All Others Concerned

SUBJECT: Reaffirming Gender Mainstreaming as the Mandated Strategy and the Gender and Development (GAD) Approach as its Guiding Framework for Promoting Gender Equality and Inclusive Development within Bureaucracy

DATE: 26 August 2025

1. Policy Statement

1.1. To ensure alignment amidst evolving development priorities, and in compliance with the *Magna Carta of Women* (Republic Act No. 9710), this Circular reaffirms **Gender Mainstreaming (GM)** as the national government's **primary and legally mandated strategy** for institutionalizing gender equality and women's empowerment in all sectors of governance.

1.1.1 Section 36 of the *Magna Carta of Women* explicitly mandates that "All departments, including their attached agencies, offices, bureaus, state universities and colleges, government-owned and –controlled corporations, local government units, and other government instrumentalities **shall adopt gender mainstreaming as a strategy to promote women's human rights and eliminate gender discrimination in their systems, structures, policies, programs, processes, and procedures...**"¹

1.2. Gender Mainstreaming serves as the **institutional strategy** for embedding gender perspectives across the whole governance cycle—from policy design and planning, to resource allocation, implementation, monitoring, and evaluation. A key principle of GM is **intersectionality**, which recognizes that gender inequality is often compounded by other factors such as disability, age, ethnicity, socioeconomic status, or sexual orientation.² This ensures that government programs are not only gender-responsive but also inclusive of multiple and overlapping vulnerabilities. *To put GM into practice, the government applies a specific guiding approach: Gender and Development (GAD).*

¹ Republic Act No. 9710, *Magna Carta of Women* (2009).

² United Nations: Office of the Special Adviser on Gender Issues and Advancement of Women. *Gender Mainstreaming: An Overview* (2002).

1.3. **Gender and Development (GAD)** is the guiding approach that enables government institutions to operationalize GM. It is the **policy paradigm** that focuses on transforming structures, systems, and processes that perpetuate gender inequality. Unlike the earlier **Women in Development (WID)** framework, which concentrated on integrating women into existing structures, or **Women and Development (WAD)**, which emphasized women's collective role in development, **GAD shifts the focus to systemic change**.³ It calls on institutions to examine and reform power relations, address barriers, and ensure that both women and men have equitable access to, and control over, development resources and opportunities.

1.4. This Circular underscores that **frameworks such as Gender Equality, Disability, and Social Inclusion (GEDSI) or Gender Equality and Social Inclusion (GESI) are complementary lenses, not substitutes for GAD**. These frameworks function as **analytical tools** that help sharpen the practice of GAD, much like Sara Longwe's Women's Empowerment Framework and the Triple Role Analysis model.⁴ They emphasize intersectionality and highlight how overlapping disadvantages affect individuals and groups. In practice, *applying a GEDSI lens strengthens the implementation of GAD by ensuring that policies and programs respond to the full diversity of people's lived realities*.

1.5. The integration of GAD, enriched by GEDSI and other analytical lenses, must lead to **tangible and measurable actions** within government institutions. The mechanisms for this are already in place under existing policy instruments—particularly the **PCW-DBM-NEDA Joint Memorandum Circular 2022-01**, which prescribes the process for preparing, implementing, monitoring, and reporting GAD Plans and Budgets (GPBs) and GAD Accomplishment Reports (GAD ARs).⁵ Accordingly, all government agencies and instrumentalities are hereby directed to:

1. **design, fund, implement, monitor, and report** on initiatives that advance gender equality, including those using GEDSI/GESI perspectives;
2. **integrate these initiatives** as part of their overall **GM strategy**; and
3. **ensure that all outputs and outcomes** are captured in their GPBs and GAD ARs, in line with RA 9710 and in pursuit of a unified national goal of **inclusive, equitable, and rights-based development**.

2. Guiding Principles

2.1. The following principles shall guide all government agencies, offices, and instrumentalities in advancing **gender-responsive and inclusive governance**:

2.1.1. GM is the **mandated institutional strategy** for achieving gender equality across all aspects of governance, as provided under the *Magna Carta*

³ Moser, C. (1993). *Gender Planning and Development: Theory, Practice and Training*. Routledge; Rathgeber, E. (1990). *WID, WAD, GAD: Trends in Research and Practice*. *Journal of Developing Areas*, 24(4), 489–502.

⁴ Longwe, S. (1991). *Gender Awareness: The Missing Element in the Third World Development Project*; Molyneux, M. (1985). *Mobilization without Emancipation? Women's Interests, the State and Revolution in Nicaragua*. *Feminist Studies*, 11(2), 227–254.

⁵ Philippine Commission on Women (PCW), Department of Budget and Management (DBM), & National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA). (2022). *Joint Memorandum Circular 2022-01: Guidelines on the Preparation of Annual GAD Plans and Budgets and GAD Accomplishment Reports to Implement the Magna Carta of Women*.

of Women (RA 9710).⁶ GM shall be applied consistently throughout the governance cycle, from planning and budgeting, to implementation, monitoring, and evaluation, ensuring that policies, programs, and services are responsive to gender concerns.

2.1.2. GAD serves as the **conceptual and policy approach** that operationalizes GM.⁷ GAD shifts the focus from simply integrating women into existing systems (as in earlier frameworks such as WID and WAD) to transforming structures, systems, and power relations that perpetuate inequality.⁸ It ensures that governance reforms are not only gender-sensitive, but are also directed towards equitable participation, benefit, and empowerment of all genders.

2.1.3. GM, guided by the GAD approach, recognizes that gender inequality intersects with other forms of discrimination such as **age, disability, ethnicity, sexual orientation, and gender identity**.⁹ Government agencies must therefore adopt an **intersectional and rights-based approach** so that programs and services address the realities of diverse groups, with special attention to those who are most marginalized.

2.1.4. Frameworks such as **GEDSI** or **GESI** are recognized as valuable complementary perspectives that can enrich the practice of GAD and GM. *These frameworks must be applied in a manner that reinforces, and does not replace, the foundational principles of GAD and the legally mandated strategy of GM.*¹⁰

2.1.5. Government agencies are directed to give special attention to issues affecting women and girls with disabilities, indigenous peoples, and other marginalized communities in their GAD and GM efforts. Mainstreaming these concerns strengthens the **inclusivity, responsiveness, and equity** of governance outcomes.

2.1.6. All GAD initiatives must uphold **accountability and participatory governance**. This requires that policies and programs are informed by reliable data, supported by participatory mechanisms, and shaped through meaningful engagement with women's organizations, civil society, and marginalized sectors.¹¹

3. Operational Guidelines

3.1. To ensure consistent implementation of gender-responsive and inclusive governance, all government agencies, offices, and instrumentalities shall observe the following operational directives:

⁶ Republic Act No. 9710, *Magna Carta of Women* (2009), Sec. 36.

⁷ Philippine Commission on Women (PCW). (2015). *Gender Mainstreaming Evaluation Framework (GMEF)*.

⁸ Moser, C. (1993). *Gender Planning and Development: Theory, Practice and Training*. Routledge; Rathgeber, E. (1990). *WID, WAD, GAD: Trends in Research and Practice*. *Journal of Developing Areas*, 24(4), 489–502.

⁹ UN Women. (2017). *Gender Mainstreaming: Resource Package*.

¹⁰ Philippine Commission on Women (PCW), Department of Budget and Management (DBM), & National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA). (2022). *Joint Memorandum Circular 2022-01: Guidelines on the Preparation of Annual GAD Plans and Budgets and GAD Accomplishment Reports to Implement the Magna Carta of Women*.

¹¹ PCW. (2019). *GEWE Plan 2019–2025*.

3.1.1. Agencies shall continue to adopt and sustain GM as their institutional strategy for promoting gender equality, in line with the MCW and national policy frameworks.

3.1.2. Agencies shall apply **GAD approach** as the guiding lens in formulating, implementing, monitoring, and evaluating their policies, programs, and services. This ensures that GM is effectively translated into practice, with agency goals, mandates, and functions aligned to GAD principles.

3.1.3. Agencies shall regularly use the Gender Mainstreaming Evaluation Framework (GMEF), the GAD Focal Point System Functionality Assessment (GFAST), and other prescribed tools issued by PCW to assess and strengthen their gender mainstreaming efforts.

3.1.4. Agencies shall prepare and submit their annual GPBs and GAD ARs in accordance with PCW's guidelines and timelines, ensuring that these reflect priority gender issues and commitments under the GM approach.

3.1.5. **For inclusion-related programs, activities, and projects (PAPs) such as those addressing the concerns of persons with disabilities, indigenous peoples, senior citizens, and other marginalized groups to be reflected in the GPB, agencies must demonstrate that these PAPs are grounded in a clearly identified gender issue.** These initiatives shall be framed within the GM strategy to ensure coherence with the MCW, GAD mandates, and PCW's objective of making governance more inclusive and gender-responsive.

3.1.6. Agencies are encouraged to contextualize and broaden their GM strategies using the GAD approach, ensuring that intersecting factors such as age, ethnicity, disability, and socio-economic status are addressed. These considerations must not replace GM as the core institutional strategy, but rather reinforce and strengthen its inclusive and intersectional application

3.1.7. Agencies are likewise reminded that gender mainstreaming is a shared responsibility. **All units within the agency must contribute to institutional GAD results, not just the GFPS.** Monitoring and accountability mechanisms shall be strengthened to reflect this whole-of-agency approach.

4. Duties and Responsibilities of the GAD Focal Point System (GFPS)

4.1. As the lead mechanism for institutionalizing gender mainstreaming, the Gender and Development Focal Point System (GFPS) shall ensure that the application of GEDSI/GESI principles is situated within the broader context of Gender Mainstreaming. **The GFPS must guarantee that the integration of GEDSI/GESI in their GPBs reinforces rather than dilutes the core mandate of addressing gender-based inequalities.** GEDSI/GESI should be applied in a way that enhances the responsiveness of GAD efforts by recognizing intersecting forms of discrimination, while remaining anchored on the core principles and strategic goals of the GM strategy. In relation to GAD Planning and Budgeting, the GFPS shall:

4.1.1. Ensure that the GAD Budget is primarily used to address gender issues, as mandated by the MCW. When applying GEDSI/GESI within their GPBs, it must be clearly shown that the gender issue being addressed is intersectional in nature—meaning it reflects the compounded barriers experienced by women and men with disabilities, older persons, indigenous women, or other vulnerable groups.

4.1.2. Integrate GEDSI/GESI perspectives in gender analysis by identifying how specific vulnerabilities (e.g., disability, ethnicity, age, socio-economic status) intersect with gender to deepen exclusion or inequality. This analysis must inform the identification of gender issues and causes of gender issue in the GPB.

4.1.3. Develop GAD programs, activities, and projects (PAPs) that directly respond to the identified intersectional gender issues, ensuring they are aligned with GM strategies, consistent with national GAD policies, and promote inclusive and equitable outcomes.

4.1.4. Ensure that GPBs and GAD ARs articulate the intersectional context of the gender issues being addressed, including how GEDSI/GESI-informed interventions contribute to reducing gender-based and multi-dimensional discrimination.

4.1.5. Establish or strengthen internal GAD monitoring and evaluation systems to ensure that GEDSI/GESI-informed interventions are effectively tracked, and that GAD outcomes are assessed against inclusive development goals.

4.1.6. Facilitate orientation and capacity-building activities to enhance the agency's understanding and application of intersectionality in gender analysis and planning, in support of more inclusive and responsive GAD programming.

4.1.7. Agencies are encouraged to retain the name "GAD Focal Point System (GFPS)" in accordance with the official policies issued by the PCW.¹² Renaming the GFPS into other terms such as "GEDSI Committee" or names to include other alternative frameworks **is not within the bounds of existing guidelines**. Any changes to its nomenclature or structure shall be subject to prior **review and consultation** with PCW.

6. Effectivity and Transitory Provisions

6.1. All government agencies, offices, and instrumentalities currently adopting **GEDSI, GESI, or other related frameworks** are directed to review and realign these approaches with the **GM strategy, guided by the GAD approach**, in accordance with the *MCW (RA 9710)* and existing national GAD-related policies.¹³ This ensures policy coherence, prevents duplication of efforts, and reinforces the

¹² Based on PCW Memorandum Circular No. 2011-01, Guidelines for the Creation, Strengthening, and Institutionalization of the Gender and Development (GAD) Focal Point System (October 21, 2011).

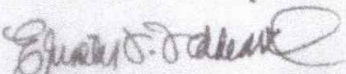
¹³ Republic Act No. 9710, *Magna Carta of Women* (2009), Sec. 36.

government's unified commitment to **inclusive, equitable, and gender-responsive governance**.

6.2. In the process of alignment, agencies shall continue to apply the **GAD approach as the central paradigm** for operationalizing GM. While complementary frameworks such as GEDSI/GESI may provide additional analytical insights, these must be integrated in a manner that strengthens, and does not displace, the principles and mechanisms already institutionalized through the GAD framework.¹⁴

6.3. The PCW shall issue supplementary guidance, technical notes, or capacity-building interventions, as may be necessary, to support agencies in harmonizing existing inclusion frameworks under the overarching GM strategy and in line with GAD-related directives.¹⁵

6.4. This Circular shall take effect immediately upon issuance and shall remain in force unless superseded, amended, or repealed by subsequent policy directives.


ERMELITA V. VALDEAVILLA
Chairperson

¹⁴ Philippine Commission on Women (PCW). (2015). *Gender Mainstreaming Evaluation Framework (GMEF)*.

¹⁵ PCW, Department of Budget and Management (DBM), & National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA). (2022). *Joint Memorandum Circular 2022-01: Guidelines on the Preparation of Annual GAD Plans and Budgets and GAD Accomplishment Reports to Implement the Magna Carta of Women*.