



REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
**COUNCIL FOR THE
WELFARE OF
CHILDREN**



FY 2023 NARRATIVE ACCOMPLISHMENT REPORT



CWC COORDINATED STRUCTURES FOR CHILDREN. The Council for the Welfare of Children (CWC), performs its coordinative role in the implementation and enforcement of child-focused and child-related laws by ensuring the functionality of various committees/structures, who are expected to formulate and deliberate plans, policies, and other strategies, at the national and regional level, that will respond to the existing and evolving issues and concerns of children.

In 2023, the agency served as secretariat, member, and/or chairperson of 16 structures for children.

The **Board**, which serves as the final decision-making body of the Council, have adopted a total of **15 resolutions** focused on:

- Supporting all memorandum of understandings (MOUs) entered into by the CWC with various national government agencies (NGAs), local government units (LGUs), and civil society organizations (CSOs), to:
 - **strengthen the implementation of the MAKABATA Helpline** through partnership with NGAs and LGUs with focus of advocacy campaigns, information dissemination, and program and service convergence;
 - **optimize collaboration efforts in responding and preventing worst forms of child labor, including online sexual abuse and exploitation;**
 - **heighten advocacy** through dissemination of relevant and accurate information, strategies, and action plans for children;
- Adopting the theme and focus for the **2023 National Children's Month – Healthy, Nourished, Sheltered: Ensuring the Right to Life for All;**
- Recognizing the **creation of the Local Councils for the Protection of Children (LCPC) Consortium** as an official committee under the Technical Management Group. The LCPC Consortium will serve as an oversight committee that will ensure the convergence of all initiatives to strengthen the LCPCs at all levels.
- Recognizing the **Regional Committee/Sub-Committee for the Welfare of Children (RC/SCWC) as a committee** under the Council Board who is expected to carry out the roles and functions of the Council at the regional by advocating, mobilizing, and providing technical assistance to all regional stakeholders;
- Extending the **moratorium in the implementation of the Presidential Award for Child Friendly Municipalities and Cities (PACFMC)** in view of the ongoing enhancement in the guidelines, indicators, and tools as a result of the impact assessment conducted in 2022;
- **Adopting the Protocol on Handling Children in Situations of Armed Conflict** which was developed to ensure that children in situations of armed conflict (CSAC) are treated exclusively as victims insofar as their status as involved, affected, or displaced due to armed conflict; and
- Affirming the **hold-over capacity of the two private individuals** sitting as members of the Board, while the call for nomination and selection process is on-going.

Prior to the Board's approval and adoption, **there were concerns that were thoroughly reviewed by the Technical Management Group**, or the technical review arm of the Council.

By virtue of Executive Order no. 233 series of 1987, sectoral panels were created to respond to the five (5) major concerns of children. Since then, CWC's functions have been expanding in accordance with the passage of new laws that resulted in the creation of additional sectoral committees and sub-committees. These structures have been organizing activities specific to their areas of concern:

Committee on Children in HIV/AIDS (COMCHA)

As the committee expected to coordinate, oversee, and act as advisory committee in developing, implementing, and monitoring plans, policies, and programs for children living with HIV/AIDS, it spearheads the conduct of the National Children and Young People's Planning Forum (NYPPF). This forum acts as a safe space for children to freely discuss their concerns, opinions, and recommendations to address issues they have experienced or are currently experiencing. For 2023, a total of five (5) forums were conducted across the country.

The ComCHA was at the helm of two development processes,

- a) the 7th AIDS Medium Term Plan Operational and Costed Plan with and for Children and Young People on HIV and AIDS which in turn will form part of
- b) a more comprehensive and harmonized 4th National Plan of Action for Children alongside the National Children and Young People's Planning Forum.

Inter-agency Committee on Children in Situations of Armed Conflict (IAC CSAC)

The passage of Republic Act No. 11188 also known as the Special Protection of Children in Situations of Armed Conflict Act in 2019 resulted in the creation of the Inter-Agency Committee on Children in Situations of Armed Conflict (IAC CSAC) with function to ensure proper implementation of the law.

For 2023, the IAC-CSAC has initiated efforts on advocacy and partnership with CSOs through the conduct of three (3) exploratory meetings. As a result, a memorandum of understanding was entered into with The Teach Peace, Build Peace Movement (TPBPM), a civil society organization that works towards achieving peace in an intergenerational approach through innovative peace education. Moreover, the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), which has a legal unit that deals with children in situations of armed conflict, offered to provide necessary technical assistance to the committee and the CWC.

The committee also shepherded the drafting of CSAC Agency-Specific Protocols of DepEd and DOH, that provides guidelines in the step-by-step procedures in handling and treatment of children who are victims of grave child rights violations in situations of armed conflict. They have also provided technical assistance to the newly operating MAKABATA helpline through conduct of orientation on the CSAC law and equip them on the proper handling of cases.

One of the highlights of the committee's accomplishment is their step towards the development of an advocacy and communication plan that will mainstream the implementation of the law.

National and Regional Child Protection Working Group (N/RCPWG)

The National Child Protection Working Group was created by virtue of Republic Act No. 10821 or the Children's Emergency Relief and Protection Act, with primary function on enhancing child protection in emergency through coordination of intervention and implementation of minimum standard of child protection in humanitarian actions.

Due to the geographical vulnerabilities of the Philippines to disasters and emergencies, a similar structure at the regional levels known as the Regional Child Protection Working Group, is established to serve as the central coordinating body of all child protection activities in their respective regions.

In 2023, three (3) regular meetings were conducted that discussed the lessons learned during the previous emergencies. This includes lack of capability in collecting age, sector, and sex disaggregated data and provision of mental health and psychosocial support service. As such, the group reviewed its existing work plan and identified the need to conduct further capacity building sessions given the country's vulnerability.

At the regional level, two (2) capacity building sessions were conducted by region 1 and Cordillera Administrative Region (CAR) to provide target participants overview on the current effort of the CWC at the national and regional level, including the functions of existing child-related committees such as Local Councils for the Protection of Children (LCPCs), Regional Committee/Sub-Committee on the Welfare of Children RC/SCWCs, and Regional Child Protection Working Groups (RCPWGs).

Committee on Family and Alternative Parental Care (COMFAPC)

This committee serves as a coordination forum for government institutions, agencies, international, and national CSOs with mandates and initiatives on children in the context of family and alternative parental care.

Due to the restrictions implemented as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, the committee have been inactive. As the CWC is also waiting for the passage of Republic Act No. 11642 or the Domestic Administrative Adoption and Alternative Child Care Act, this inactivity was extended. This is to give way to the reorganization efforts to be conducted by the affected agency, and for them to put their processes in place.

Following the enactment of the law, **the CWC reconvened the structure by conducting two (2) bilateral meetings** with its previous chairperson and the National Authority on Child Care (NACC) to discuss the reconstitution of the entire committee, any possible overlap on mandates, gaps, and point of collaboration from June to July 2023. It was agreed that the committee will be reconvened and maintained as one of CWC's sectoral panels that will serve as an avenue for collaboration.

With this agreement, the committee convened a total of **two (2) regular meetings** from August to September 2023, discussing the needed improvement in its existing Terms of Reference, composition or membership, and leadership.

Sub-Committee on Children with Disabilities (SC CWD)

The sub-committee as the primary structure in determining issues and concerns of children with disabilities and respond to them through legislation/policy, or review of program implementation, have convened **three (3) regular meeting** that served as avenue for them to discuss the group's activities in line with the different awareness and celebration week specific on or related to CWDs, and the development and finalization of the new Strategic Action Plan for Children with Disabilities (SAP4CWD).

Specific to the SAP4CWD, a team of consultants was hired to guide the sub-committee in its formulation. The presence of consultants became vital to ensure that an applicable and effective design for the conduct of consultation sessions with different stakeholders will be facilitated and that its results will be included in the final plan. Through the cost-sharing effort of the sub-committee members, **five (5) consultation workshops with concerned NGAs, CSOs, regional representatives, CWDs, and their parents/caregivers** were conducted from September to October. The new plan is expected to address the identified gaps and challenges in the implementation of the previous plan based on the findings and recommendations of its review and assessment.

The plan's latest draft incorporating the results of the consultation was already with CWC and is ready for presentation to the TMG for the review prior to the Board's approval and adoption.

In addition, the sub-committee as spearheaded by CWC and NORFIL Foundation conducted an advocacy activity in line with the celebration of the National Autism Consciousness Week that focused on discussing and understanding autism spectrum disorder and highlight success stories of individuals/children with disabilities who were able to prove that they are more than their condition.

Sub-Committee on the Protection and Welfare of Children in Street Situation (SC PWCiSS)

This sub-committee is an inter-agency structure that aims to develop, review, and recommend plans, policies, programs, and activities to address children in street situation (CiSS) concerns. After the review of its existing terms of reference and discussion on the expansion of members and change in leadership, the CWC is currently sitting as its chairperson and secretariat.

The sub-committee is continuously coordinating the implementation of its existing strategic plan. Part of the strategies identified in the plan is the adoption of the International Day of Children in Street Situation (IDCiSS) into a local policy to ensure sustained conduct of awareness raising campaigns on the protection of CiSS. Moreover, training of trainers for the implementation of the video and discussion guide, which was developed to address the stereotypical view on CiSS alongside with the localization of the plan.

To sustain its functionality, the sub-committee has conducted four (4) regular meetings where they discussed its leadership, line-up of 2023 activities, proposed policies related to CiSS, and reviewed its plan.

Sub-Committee on Sexual Abuse and Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children (SC SACSEC)

This sub-committee serves as a coordination forum for government institutions, agencies, and international, and national civil society organizations with mandates and initiatives on children who are victims of sexual abuse and commercial sexual exploitation.

Since 2019, the Sub-Committee has solely focused on the conduct of awareness activities for the National Awareness Week for the Prevention of Child Sexual Abuse and Exploitation otherwise known as, "Child Sexual Abuse Awareness Week (CSAAW)".

For 2023 the awareness week carried the theme "Stop Online and Offline Abuse and Exploitation of Children. Act Now!". With this and in light of the passage of Republic Act 11930 or the Anti-OSAEC and Anti-CSAEM Act, the sub-committee conducted **three (3) awareness raising activities** empowering adolescents, young children, and all individuals to become agents of change within their communities as they play a meaningful role in the fight against sexual violence; enlightening them on the realities of child sexual abuse and exploitation; capacitating them on the different mechanisms to address these cases as provided by existing and new laws; and provide information on the current situation of children in terms of accessibility to internet and preventive measures to be considered.

The CWC also initiated reconvening meetings with its current chairperson to discuss its terms of reference, possible duplication of efforts with other structures/committees, and ways forward to improve the sub-committee's coordination mechanisms.

National Committee on Child and Youth Participation (NCCYP)

As the committee tasked to formulate and recommend policies on child participation, the National Committee on Child and Youth Participation (NCCYP) have conducted **four (4) meetings** in order to maintain the functionality of its coordination and feedback mechanism, to discuss structure improvements, and to assess and plan the performance of its function including orientation on the **Enhanced Guidebook on Child Participation, Child Participation Advocacy and Communication Plan, and Comprehensive Guidelines on the Establishment, Strengthening, and Monitoring of Local Children's Association.**

Following these documents' finalization and adoption from 2021 to 2022, the committee with CWC's Localization and Institutionalization Division (LID) as lead have conducted **five (5) clusters of Training of Trainer Sessions** in North and South Luzon, Visayas, and North and South Mindanao. It was participated by the LCPC and RC/SCWC members from 18 provinces, cities, and municipalities from April to July 2023. The activity aimed to provide them comprehensive knowledge on the contents of the said frameworks, and to gather their commitments and translate it into an action plan.

After the conduct of all session, the LID has recorded common concerns on: (1) resource allocation to adopt and implement the guidelines; (2) LGU's unfamiliarity or minimal knowledge on the provision of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child; (3) further technical assistance or capacity-building sessions shall be conducted.

Research Consortium on Children's Rights (RCCR)

With the intent to also strengthen CWC's research function to ensure evidence-based plan and policy formulation, the Research Consortium on Children's Rights was conceptualized to serve as the main committee responsible in identifying and conducting research on the existing and evolving situations of children.

The creation of the consortium jump started last April to October 2023, when various NGAs and CSOs were invited for a meeting to consult them on the possible contents of the terms of reference. Following their recommendations, the CWC is still in the process of formulating and finalizing the terms of reference and will call for another meeting to formalize leadership and membership.

As soon as organized, the group is expected to be an advisory group who will develop a research agenda on children which will set the list of priority studies to be conducted in order to improve or develop new and existing policies and strategies.

National Steering Committee on Child Rights Advocacy (NSC CRA)

The National Steering Committee on Child Rights Advocacy (NSC-CRA) replaced the Communication Committee which reports to the TMG, composed of NGAs, NGOs, CSOs, and faith-based organizations in 2014. It leads in the development, implementation, monitoring, evaluation of advocacy and communication plans, and in the observance of special events on children such as, but not limited to the Girl – Child Week Celebration every 4th week of March and the National Children's Month celebration every November.

In the essence of meaningful and genuine child participation, the CWC engages children from the member-agencies of the NSC-CRA to plan, discuss, and support in the implementation of advocacy events/activities. To help facilitate this, the CWC conducted an online survey with children in February 2023 which culled out recommendations on the focus and theme for the national observances for children.

Through the recommendations of the children in the survey, the 2023 Girl-Child Week focused on "adolescent pregnancy" and in which, and theme "Strong Girls, Strong World: Protecting Girls' Rights and Well-being in the Face of Adversity". The identification of the focus and theme was made possible through the child representatives from NSC-CRA member-agencies, academe, and the CWC Gender and Development (GAD) Focal Point System.

Subsequently, the CWC conducted the 2023 NCM-Children's Brainstorming Session (NCM-CBS) on 18 March 2023 to consult and validate the results of the online survey. Through this, children were able to discuss proposed activities at the national, regional, and local levels this November 2023.

As a result of the online survey for children and the 2023 NCM-CBS, the 2023 NCM focused on "healthcare and nutrition," with the theme "Healthy, nourished, sheltered: Ensuring the right to life for all". It emerged from the concerns and challenges affecting children from the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic and the accelerated inflation rate recently where prices of basic commodities and services consumed by the public soared.

The committee convened four (4) regular meetings where they discussed and deliberated the National Children's Month theme and focus prior to its presentation to the TMG and Board. In the series of meetings, the committee also tackled the updating of its terms of reference, membership, and representation, and a list of specific activities to be conducted for the NCM were also deliberated with DSWD and NYC as co-lead.

2023 National Children's Month

The National Children's Month (NCM) Celebration this 2023 marks the 31st anniversary of commemorating the United Nations' (UN) adoption of the Convention of the Rights of the Child (CRC) on 20 November 1989. This year's theme will focus on healthcare and nutrition with the theme "Healthy, Nourished, Sheltered: Ensuring the Right to Life for All". It emerged from the concerns and challenges affecting children from the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic and the accelerated inflation rate recently where prices of basic commodities and services consumed by the public soared. Below are the highlights of the 2023 NCM celebration:

NCM Press Conference: "Talakayang Makabata"

In order to facilitate two-way communication with and influence the perception of the public on the mental health of children, a news conference or press conference for the 31st National Children's Month entitled "Talakayang Makabata" was held on October 24, 2023 at Max Restaurant, Quezon City Circle, Quezon City. The activity aimed to communicate the goals of our organization to the public, enabling them to recognize and understand the role of policy-making bodies and the Filipinos in achieving a child-friendly and child-sensitive society. It is also an effective way to disseminate information on children's mental health to different priority public.



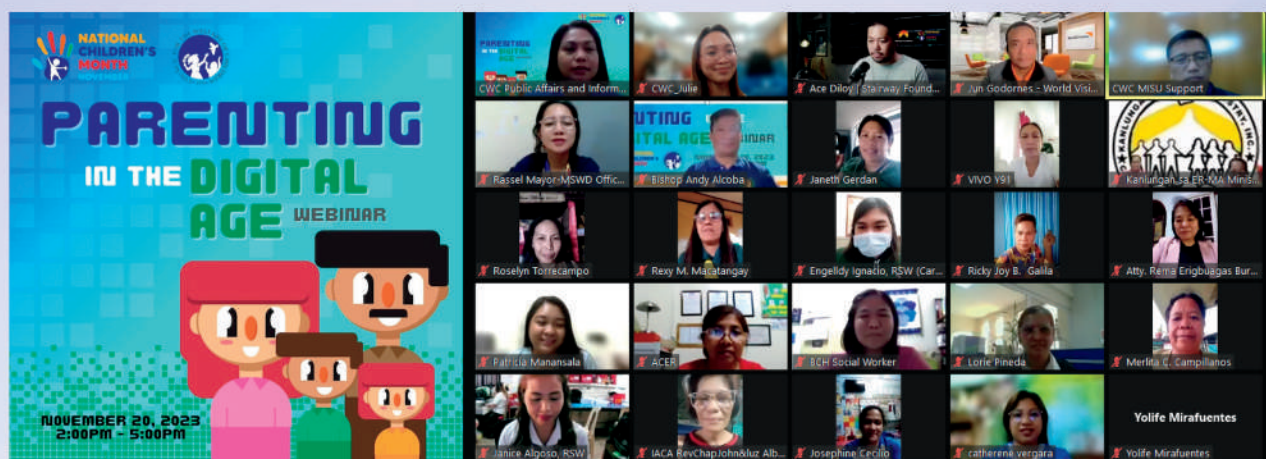
NCM Kick-Off Event

The 31st NCM celebration was officially started the National Children's Month activities through **"Pista ng mga Bata: The National Children's Month Kick-off Ceremony"** at Valenzuela City Amphitheater, November 6, 2023. Major partner of the event is Valenzuela City LGU and UNICEF. Participants numbered to 1,200 from LGU Valenzuela City, officials and representatives of National Government, Non-Government Organization (NGOs), private sector, parents, and children attended the event.

It was indeed an opening festive celebration that highlighted children's rights to survive, develop, participate, and be protected with the guidance of their parents, guardians, teachers, and duty-bearers. Wearing their favorite fruits and vegetables, everyone was amazed by their creativity and eye-catching OOTDs, in line with the NCM 2023's theme **"Healthy, Nourished, Sheltered: Ensuring the right to life for all"**. The maximum participation of children, parents, and the messages from and attendance of the Valenzuela City Mayor Wes Gatchalian, CWC Executive Director Angelo Tapales, USEC, Vergeire of the Department of Health, other partners and visitors from the Valenzuela LGU, DSWD, DOH, NNC, UNICEF, and PhilHealth fulfilled the whole event.



5th Webinar on Digital Parenting



House of Representative (HoR) NCM Event

The House Committee on Welfare of Children chaired by BHW party-list Representative Angelica Natasha Co opened 31st National Children's Month celebration in the House of Representatives with a renewed commitment to continually empower and improve the lives of children. The HOR NCM Event runs from November 20-25, 2023 at HOR lobby.

In her speech during the event's opening program, Rep. Co underscored the House's crucial role in shaping the lives of children, having the power to formulate policies and programs that will provide them the necessary tools and resources so they could succeed and create a positive impact to society.

Former Committee on the Welfare of Children chairperson Yedda Marie Romualdez—who urged her colleagues to continue empowering and protecting the rights of children—led the ribbon-cutting ceremony for the art exhibit which is part of Children's Month celebration.

Among those who attended the opening ceremony are Reps. Irene Gay Saulog, Laarni Lavin Roque, Arlene Brosas, Marissa "Del Mar" Magsino, France Castro, Lianda Bolilia, and Jude Acidre.



Philippine Play Coalition (PPC) NCM Event

The National Play Advocacy Week (NPAW) celebration was conducted through the Play Fair Week on November 14-16, 2023 at the Provincial Capitol Grounds, Pampanga. The event was facilitated and coordinated by PAIO and MED with participants from RSCWC III and Province of Pampanga officials and employees, parents and their children.

Activities conducted are the review of draft Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Philippine Play Coalition (PPC), preparation of advocacy materials and kit for child participants and PPC members, management of booth for the Fair Play.

NCM Culminating Event

This year marks the importance of our collective efforts to create a robust impact on improving children's healthcare and nutrition and providing them an avenue to speak, participate, and be salient agents toward building a healthier, more resilient, and child-friendly Philippines.

The 31st National Children's Month Culminating Ceremony with the theme "Bata, Bida Ka!" was held on November 26, 2023 at SM Aura, BGC, Taguig in major partnership with SM Cares and LGU Taguig City. It was attended by Vice-President and DepEd Secretary Sara Z. Duterte as keynote speaker of the event. Likewise, Congressman Raul Daza, with Congresswomen Angelica Natasha Co, Chairperson on Committee on Children and Senator Pia Hontiveros of the Senate providing their recorded messages in support to the NCM.



Local Council for the Protection of Children (LCPC) Consortium

The Local Council for the Protection of Children Consortium was established to evaluate the overall and various strategies being implemented by its members as a response to the 2012 study on LCPC Functionality. In relation to this, the consortium is expected to formulate new strategies to ensure that LCPCs are functional and contributing to the achievement of the overall goal of a child-friendly society.

The consortium has convened three (3) regular meetings in 2023 to improve its structural arrangement by reviewing and improving its terms of reference in preparation for the consortium's strategies to be recognized as one of the official structures/committees under the Board and TMG.

COORDINATION WITH OTHER CHILD-FOCUSED STRUCTURES MANAGED BY OTHER AGENCIES/INSTITUTIONS. Aside from the structures/committees directly managed and coordinated by CWC, it also attends to and provides necessary inputs to other existing committees being maintained by other government agencies to ensure that children's rights are properly integrated to any of its plans, activities, programs.

Child Rights Network

The Child Rights Network is the largest alliance pushing for child rights legislation in the country. It lobbies for its own legislative agenda which includes Positive Parenting, Adolescent Pregnancy Prevention, Civil Registration and Vital Statistics, the Philippine Commission on Children and the Magna Carta for Children. Most are aligned with the priorities identified in the 19th CWC Legislative Agenda for Children.

As the only government agency member of the network, CWC have widened its reach in conducting its legislative lobbying efforts and have engaged into different collaborative efforts in developing and disseminating information, education, and communication (IEC) materials. CWC contributes to the performance of the network's function by providing relevant inputs during its meetings. To highlight, the agency participated in its General Assembly and Advocacy and Communication Planning Workshop and provided inputs on Adolescent Pregnancy Prevention, Magna Carta of Children and the Civil Registration and Vital Statistics System which was held last June 2023.

Presidential Human Rights Committee and National Recommendations Tracking Database

The Presidential Human Rights Committee is an inter-agency body mandated to advise the President on all human rights concerns and issues. Through its secretariat, coordination with government and private agencies, entities and groups, are being conducted for the formulation, implementation, and monitoring of the National Human Rights Action Plan. It also ensures the compliance to all obligations under the international human rights instruments where the country is a party of.

The CWC as an attached agency of the Department of Social Welfare and Development and given its mandate, spearheads the coordination and development of all reportorial requirements to the United Nations on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC). In addition, the agency also provides relevant inputs to other treaties.

In 2023, the CWC is one of the agencies to be included as part of the delegation to the United Nations Committee on the Elimination of all Forms of Racial Discrimination (UNCERD) Constructive Dialogue last 19-20 April. The agency has provided significant information on the recent developments and efforts for children in situations of armed conflict and in eradicating racial discrimination among children.

Moreover, the agency also provided status of its efforts for children with disabilities as the 3rd state compliance report to the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UN CRPD) is already due for submission last June 2023. CWC highlighted

the country's efforts in promoting every child's right to participation through the development of the Enhanced Guidelines on Child Participation and Establishment, Strengthening, and Monitoring of Local Children's Associations (LCA). Activities conducted by the SC CWD was also incorporated in the report.

Furthermore, the CWC is also coordinating with the PHRCS for the implementation of the National Recommendations Tracking Database, an interactive web application designed to help state parties monitor the status of recommendations provided by the respective treaty bodies.

National Economic and Development Authority – Social Development Committee Technical Board

As a member of the committee, the CWC has attended four (4) of its meetings where updates on the status of child-specific and child-related bills were presented. Also, part of what was raised in the committee is the need to identify new and strengthen existing strategies in improving program and service delivery and information dissemination specifically on adolescent health, sexuality education, and education.

Specific to the concerns on adolescent pregnancy, CWC also emphasized the need to optimize the coordination and collaboration of key agencies to develop and advocate to implement key programs that will address the concern from the national to local level, highlighting further the role of the Sangguniang Kabataan.

Lastly, the agency was able to fulfill the submission of its digital transformation initiatives and spearheaded the discussion on the development of the Philippine Development Report on Child Rights as requested by the committee.

POLICY AND PLAN DEVELOPMENT. Considered as the main plan and policy-making body for children, CWC develops policies and frameworks to ensure that children's rights are included in the government's priorities.

CWC Legislative Agenda of Children

In each congress, CWC develops a legislative agenda for children which sets the priority policies to be lobbied within the legislative cycle and serves as the basis for policy advocacy efforts in collaboration with partner agencies and organizations. The legislative agenda is aimed towards the fulfillment of the concluding observations and recommendations of the UNCRC, international and national instruments, and national plans of action.

For the 19th Congress, priority bills identified by children to be included in the legislative agenda are: (1) Establishment of the Philippine Commission on Children and the Magna Carta of Children, (2) Positive Parenting, (3) Adolescent Pregnancy Prevention, (4) Access to Mental Health and Psychosocial Services, and (5) Strengthening Institutions for Child Participation.

In relation to this, legislative kits and social media cards were developed, published, and distributed that will help the agency on its lobbying efforts and in popularizing children's top priorities which they think would best respond to their current situation. To increase its reach, CWC also coordinates with different instrumentalities to provide in depth orientation as to the content of its legislative agenda.

Child Protection Policy

Demonstrating its unwavering commitment to child protection, the agency has consistently strengthened its internal framework. Established in 2014, the CWC Child Protection Policy (CPP) served as a foundational document, raising awareness of children's rights and outlining protocols for preventing and responding to abuse and exploitation within the CWC context.

Since then, the CPP has evolved. A 2017 revision incorporated new laws and streamlined reporting and response processes. However, recognizing the ever-changing landscape of child protection, particularly in the digital realm, the CWC initiated a review during an April 2023 training with Stairway Foundation Inc. This evaluation identified the need for further updates to fully encompass new legislation and ensure the CPP effectively addresses the evolving digital environment and children's evolving needs and participation in CWC activities.

Simultaneously, capacity building session on the development of CPP was conducted for the regional coordinators who are in charge with the coordination of the RC/SCWCs. After this session, they are expected to advocate for its adoption at their respective area of assignment.

Policy Recommendations (through Position Paper)

The CWC is committed to ensuring that policies and legislation are crafted with the Filipino children's best interests in mind. With this, the CWC has provided its recommendations to a total of 91 policy issuances and bills filed in the House of Representatives and Senate of the Philippines. The agency was able to provide a total of 31 inputs and position papers on matters affecting children — Adolescent Pregnancy Prevention, Positive Parenting, the strengthening/modernizing/ Reorganizing the Council for the Welfare of Children, and the creation of the Philippine Commission on Children.

National Plan of Action for Children

As the focal interagency body for children, the CWC spearheaded the development of the Philippine National Strategic Framework for Plan Development for Children (2000-2025) or popularly known as the Child21, which serves as the strategic framework for planning programs and interventions to promote and safeguard Filipino children's rights.

This framework was and is being implemented through the development and localization of four (4) accompanying medium term plans or the National Plan of Action for Children (NPAC). The 1st and 2nd NPAC were implemented from 2005 to 2010, and 2011 to 2016 respectively. While the recent 3rd NPAC was implemented from 2017-2022. As such, prior to its cessation in 2022, preliminary consultation sessions/workshops with NGAs, CSOs, regional representatives, and children in the National Capital Region were conducted.

Given the diversity of children's concerns depending on their context, a separate consultation for children at the regional level was identified to be necessary. Thus, in 2023, consultation sessions were conducted in five (5) clusters in North and South Luzon, Visayas, and North and South Mindanao. In this series of consultations, children raise concerns on:

- Lack of child participation in governance as a major issue. In response to this issue, they recommended the creation of a more active and functional mechanism for children's participation in policy decision-making at different administrative levels of government. In particular, the children were able to identify the following aspirations:
 - *Children are capable of making decisions for themselves*
 - *More active and functional mechanisms for children's participation*
 - *Children's opinions are heard*
 - *Children can participate in sports*
 - *Increased number of child advocates*
- Child protection issues that must be addressed in the 4th NPAC particularly on violence, child abuse, and exploitation (online and non-online), child labor, abuse at home, rape, discrimination, unsafe neighborhoods, and violent communities.

These concerns were considered in drafting the 4th NPAC which will have a desired vision of change that is focused on ensuring children are enjoying their rights to survive, thrive and develop in a safe, protective, climate-resilient environment where their participation in the decision-making process is taken significantly and seriously.

The agency is targeting to launch the new plan by 2024 as soon as a well-founded monitoring and evaluation system, and advocacy and communication mechanism are already integrated.

LOCALIZATION AND INSTITUTIONALIZATION OF PLANS AND POLICIES. In recognition of the local government's vital role in protecting the rights of children and to ensure the whole of nation approach in fulfilling the country's commitment to international treaties and implementation of national laws, localization and institutionalization efforts were pursued by CWC.

With the implementation of the Mandanas-Garcia Ruling, which significantly increased the tax base on which the share of the LGUs is computed from strengthened fiscal decentralization. Thus, to mitigate its fiscal impact to the national government, full devolution of basic services and facilities was identified as a key measure. Given that CWC is not a service providing agency, it focused on heightening its advocacy and provision of technical assistance for LGUs to improve their implementation capacity and overall service delivery for children.

Regional Plan of Action for Children

To ensure the achievement of goals, outcomes, and targets of NPAC at the regional level, development of Regional and Local Plans of Action for Children (RPAC/LPAC) was identified as one of the key strategies. The development of RPAC will enable the national and regional government to harmonized and consolidate its efforts in integrating child rights in the regional and local development planning towards the achievement of national results.

For 2023, a consultant was hired to assist the CWC in providing guidance to all RC/SCWC in the formulation of their respective RPACs through conduct of orientations and workshops from June to August 2023. The workshops guided the participants in identifying the child rights deprivations in their respective regions using their draft Regional Situational Analysis and different regional plans for children.

After these workshops, each region conducted follow through actions towards the finalization of their draft plans. In detail, there were six (6) RC/SCWCs that conducted the finalization sessions for their RPAC 2024-2028, while two (2) RC/SCWCs (Region I and III) already had an approved Regional Plan of Action for Children (RPAC) 2024-2028 on the regional level.

Regional Situational Analysis on Children

In order to develop an evidence-based Regional and Local Action Plan for Children, formulation of a Regional Situational Analysis on Children is essential. To assist the regions in developing their RSAC, orientation and write shops were conducted to assist the Regional Committee/Sub-Committee for the Welfare of Children (RC/SCWC) members and secretariat.

For 2023, finalization of these RSACs were prioritized by the regions through conduct of workshops. As of December 2023, there are already three (3) regions, namely Regions I, VIII, and CAR, that has a finalized situational analysis, while the rest are still being reviewed by the national office's focal person.

In the course of reviewing the draft reports, the national office recommended for each region to include context and analysis for data reported to properly identify priority areas for improvements and status monitoring for children, and to ensure that visual presentation leads to an effective display of information. Lastly, all regions were reminded to include sectoral data, such as those of CWDs, CiSS, among others, including sex and age disaggregation with proper analysis.

Four Legacies for Children

With the vision for a child-friendly and child-sensitive society, CWC advocates for the local government's adoption of the Four Legacies for Children that serves as the regional guide in upholding the best interest of children. The Four Legacies are composed of the Local Development Plan for Children, Local Investment Program for Children, Local Code for Children, and Local State of Children Report which is guided by the four (4) core rights of children – survival, development, protection, and participation.

In 2023, the CWC have organized eight (8) technical assistance to 46 LCPCs to assist them in developing these four legacies with the aim to sustain their functionality and enhance their capacity and knowledge on the concepts of child rights and the process of formulating their plans.

MONITORING AND EVALUATION. Part of CWC's function is to monitor and evaluate the implementation of policies, plans, and programs for children. In 2021, its Monitoring and Evaluation Division was established as part of its long-standing effort to strengthen its operational and organizational capacity to ensure that no concerns of children will be left behind. The said division is mandated to collect, organize, and analyze relevant data on children – different issues of children, services provided to them, among others.

Monitoring and Evaluation Framework

As the agency aims to properly monitor the implementation of international and national commitments in mainstreaming children's rights, the development of the Subaybay Bata Monitoring and Evaluation System (SBM-ES) framework was proposed. This intends to develop and integrate a statistical and results-based monitoring and evaluation (RBME) framework in the SBMS. Due to procurement related issues, hiring a consultant who was supposed to assist the agency was called off. Nonetheless, the agency pushed through with the development of a draft RBME system with three key components – People, Processes, and Product (3Ps).

The 3Ps is composed of the following: (a) People who are skilled, motivated and working together to implement the M&E plans for the maintenance of the functional M&E system, (b) Data Management Processes, and (c) Information Product being used in decision making.

In order to sustain the momentum of developing an effective M&E system, the agency also prioritized investing on its personnel's capacity to perform the expected outputs and outcomes by conducting a series of capacity-building sessions and workshops on M&E Framework Development. This is to provide key CWC personnel with deeper understanding and appreciation of RBME concepts, tools, and techniques. Consequently, a zero draft of CWC's logical framework was produced and utilized in drafting the Theory of Change narrative.

This is yet to be finalized because of the need to consult child representatives across all regions to gather their opinions, inputs, and recommendations as the agency gives importance to their participation in all levels of governance and consistent with the UN mantra: "Nothing about us, without us".

Child-Friendly Local Governance Audit (CFLGA) and Seal of Child-Friendly Local Governance (SCFLG)

The CFLGA is a results-based assessment tool and an annual mandatory audit designed to gauge the level of performance of LGUs in implementing programs and instituting measures to uplift the welfare status of children. Entwined with the objective to streamline and accelerate the audit process, the agency ensures the effective operationalization of the Knowledge Management System (KMS), with main intention to digitize, collate, and manage submission of relevant documents for the annual audit.

Accordingly, the CWC awards the Seal of Child-Friendly Local Governance (SCFLG) – a recognition system for LGUs delivering clear and outstanding positive results for children and is being conferred by the CWC Board to LGUs who passed the mandatory audit.

The result of the 2022 audit, which lasted until June 2023, demonstrated an increase in the eligible LGUs from 372 in 2021 to 782, including the additional 44 LGUs that had an overall passing average but failed in only one (1) indicator, specifically on the Fully Immunized Children indicator (FIC) under the Survival category. Out of the 1,634 LGUs, a total of 98.65% or 1,612 were audited. Of the total number of audited municipalities and cities, 738 (45.78%) were found to be eligible for the Seal of Child-Friendly Local Governance (SCFLG). These results were presented to the TMG last June 2023 and were endorsed for adoption and approval of the Board.

Subsequently, the Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG)— as the lead agency implementing the audit and with CWC as co-facilitator— conducted a Program Review and Evaluation Workshop (PREW) to discuss the lessons and challenges on its operational and technical implementation and enhance it as a monitoring system for local government performance.

The result of the PREW and the past agreements to regularly evaluate the applicability and necessary improvement needed in implementing the audit indicated that there will be expected changes in the audit process, indicators and tools. This became a consideration in halting the supposed conduct of KMS Phase III improvement for 2023.

MAKABATA Helpline 1383 re-launched in October 2023

The MAKABATA Helpline primarily aims to develop a mechanism that will provide quick response, monitoring, and feedback from reports of abuses, exploitation, and neglect of children received through calls, electronic mail and different social media platforms concerning child rights. With the CWC's assertion that no child deserves to be silenced, abused and exploited – the MAKABATA Helpline ensures that they have someone to report to.

MAKABATA Teleradyo airing

The CWC through its Public Affairs and Information Office (PAIO) facilitated and coordinated the production in the official airing of the MAKABATA Teleradyo over Radyo Pilipinas 3 on November 25, 2023. The Radio Program is the first radio platform of CWC which discusses issues and concerns on children, the national program of Agencies, other partners and stakeholders on children.



The Makabata Teleradyo was made possible through the Memorandum of Agreement reached between Radyo Pilipinas 3 Philippine Broadcasting System and CWC on December 15, 2023. From its initial airing in November to December 2023, six (6) episodes were already aired with resource persons from DSWD, Miriam College, PNP-WCPC, National Child Care Authority, Bureau of Fire Protection, and Ban.

To know more about CWC visit:

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