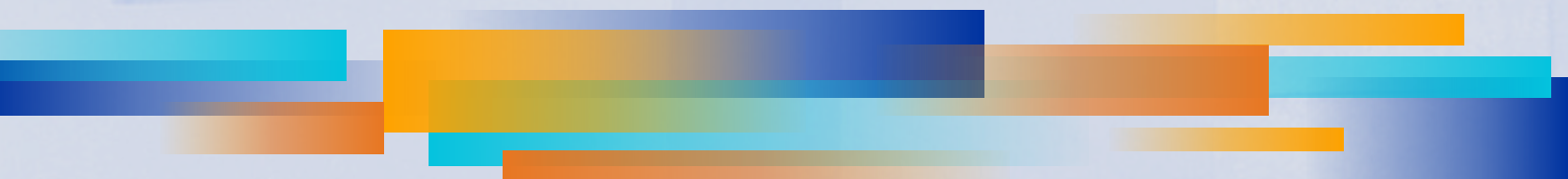




COUNCIL FOR THE WELFARE OF CHILDREN

2025 ACCOMPLISHMENT REPORT



Message from the Executive Director



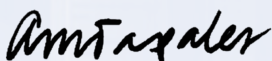
As the primary inter-agency coordinating body of the Philippine government on children's concerns, the year 2025 marked a period of significant gains for the Council for the Welfare of Children (CWC). The agency's accomplishments reflect a strengthened and more responsive system for child protection and development. Among these are the launch of the 24/7 operations of the MAKABATA Helpline 1383, which serves as a platform for reporting and responding to cases involving children; policy reform efforts through the 20th CWC Legislative Agenda for Children (CLAC); revival of the Presidential Awards for Child-Friendly Municipalities and Cities (PACFMC); institutionalization of the Child Budget and Expenditure Tagging and Tracking (CBETT) Tool; and the development and rollout of various sectoral plans that address the multifaceted needs of children.

These achievements affirm the country's ongoing commitment to upholding children's rights and promoting their best interests. These also demonstrate the importance of coordination, evidence-based policymaking, and community engagement in ensuring that no child is left behind.

Even with these triumphs, CWC recognizes that much work remains. Persistent and emerging challenges continue to affect Filipino children, including the alarming rise in adolescent pregnancy, various forms of violence, and gaps in access to essential services. In this light, the Council reaffirms its commitment to its mandate—continuing to strengthen systems, expand partnerships, and push for policies and programs that will secure a safer, more empowering environment for children.

It takes a village to protect and empower a child. CWC extends its deepest gratitude to all stakeholders, partners, and duty-bearers whose commitment and collaboration have been vital to the success of the agency's programs, projects, and activities. From national government agencies and local government units to civil society organizations and communities, each has played a meaningful role in advancing the welfare of Filipino children.

Basta bata, tayo ang bahala!

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "AmTapaless".

USEC. ANGELO M. TAPALES
Executive Director V

Executive Summary

The **Council for the Welfare of Children (CWC)** is an attached agency of the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD), created under **Presidential Decree 603**, or the **Child and Youth Welfare Code**, in **1974**. CWC is mandated to coordinate the implementation and enforcement of all laws concerning children, and to formulate, monitor, and evaluate policies, programs, and measures for children both at the national and regional levels.

Over the years, the Council's mandate and functions have been strengthened through various executive issuances and legislative measures, including **Executive Order No. 233** in 1987 and **Republic Act No. 8980** in 2000. Guided by these legal frameworks, CWC continues to pursue its ultimate mission of protecting children from all forms of abuse and exploitation, defending children's rights, promoting their welfare and development, and ensuring that children are accorded priority attention at all levels of governance.

As part of its continuing efforts to institutionalize child protection mechanisms, CWC established the **Regional Sub-committees for the Welfare of Children (RSCWCs)** to ensure the effective implementation and enforcement of child-related laws and policies across the regions.

In 2025, CWC achieved significant accomplishments across policy development, service delivery, advocacy, and inter-agency coordination. The year was marked by strengthened systems and mechanisms for child protection, enhanced support for LGUs, and greater engagement at national and international levels, reflecting the Council's continued commitment to promoting children's rights throughout the Philippines.

MAKABATA Helpline 1383

In 2025, the MAKABATA Helpline 1383 commenced full 24/7 operations, receiving a total of 2,241 reports during the year. This figure represents a 47.05% increase compared to 2024, indicating the public's heightened awareness of the Helpline and growing trust in the Council's child protection mechanisms.

Resolutions

The Council Board issued a total of 17 resolutions including approvals of the 2025 Child-Friendly Local Governance Audit (CFLGA) results; additional conferees for the 2023 Seal of Child-Friendly Local Governance (SCFLG); the revival of the 2025 Presidential Awards for Child-Friendly Municipalities and Cities (PACFMC) after a five-year hiatus; adoption of Guidelines on the Selection of Child Representatives, and the institutionalization of the Child Budget and Expenditure Tagging and Tracking (CBETT) Tool.

Policy Advocacy and Legislative Support

CWC approved and adopted the 20th CWC Legislative Agenda for Children (20th CLAC). The Council also submitted 17 position papers on various legislative measures, including the Zero Draft of the Omnibus Disability Law, the proposed amendments to the Safe Spaces Act, and the bill further strengthening the Early Childhood Care and Development (ECCD) System.

Plan Development

The Council played an active role in the development and launch of the ComCHA Comprehensive HIV Initiative, the National Action Plan on Ending Child, Early, Forced Marriages and Unions (CEFMU), as well as the Philippine Strategic Plan against OSAEC-CSAEM, through its strong coordination with partner agencies.

Technical Assistance

CWC recorded a significant increase in technical assistance services during the year, with a 185.54% increase in simple requests, a 579.08% rise in complex assistance, and 204.02% increase in highly technical support, totaling 8,473 services provided. Among these services, 4,789 were conferred to external stakeholders, while 3,684 were internal requests. In addition, CWC institutionalized vital technical assistance knowledge management systems for LGUs in partnership with the DSWD Academy and the University of the Philippines Open University.

Digital Advocacy and Public Information

The Council strengthened its digital outreach through the production of 497 social media posts, including social media cards, audio-visual presentations, livestreams, photo and press releases, and other publicity materials. The Council also conducted regional orientations to promote the usage of the Guide for Media Practitioners on the Reporting and Coverage of Children. Furthermore, the MAKABATA Teleradyo program marked its 100th episode and renewed its memorandum of understanding with the Radio Philippines Network (RPN) for another broadcast season.

Local Governance and Child Rights

The 2025 Child-Friendly Local Governance Audit (CFLGA) recorded a 66.97% passing rate, reflecting an 11.65% point increase in passing municipalities compared to 2024, reflecting CWC's strengthened support to LGUs. The Council played an active role in the formulation of Local Child Safeguarding and Protection Policies (LCSPPs) and institutionalized the CBETT system for LGUs. At the regional level, the Regional Sub-Committees for the Welfare of Children issued a total of 57 resolutions during the year, including those adopting the creation of a Children in Situations of Armed Conflict Technical Working Group (CSAC-TWG) and the establishment and institutionalization of a Local Council against HIV.

Participation in National and International Platforms

CWC played a significant role in securing the Philippines' removal from the UN Secretary-General's Children and Armed Conflict (CAAC) Monitoring Mechanism after 22 years. The Council also convened the Joint National Consultation on the End-Term Review of the Regional Plan of Action on Ending Violence against Women (EVAW) and Ending Violence against Children (EVAC), in partnership with the Philippine Commission on Women (PCW) and the ASEAN Commission on the Promotion and Protection of the Rights of Women and Children (ACWC). In addition, CWC contributed to the organization of the Regional Meeting of the Pathfinding Countries on Ending Violence Against Children in the Asia-Pacific, as well as the Roundtable Discussion with the UN Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Violence against Children (UN SRSG on VAC) and Philippine stakeholders.

Budget Utilization and Staffing Rate

The agency achieved a budget utilization rate of 93.97%, amounting to Php 162,232,810.90 out of the Php 172,635,682.11 total appropriations. This includes a 99.70% utilization of continuing appropriations, and a 93.42% utilization of current appropriations. CWC also achieved a 93.85% staffing rate for plantilla positions, and 97.75% for Contract of Service positions.

Overall, 2025 marked a year of significant progress for CWC, characterized by strengthened policies, expanded services, and improved coordination at the local, national, and international levels. The gains achieved during the year reflect the Council's sustained efforts to institutionalize child protection mechanisms and uphold the Philippines' commitments to children's rights, providing a strong foundation for further advancing child welfare initiatives in the years ahead.

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INTRODUCTION

The Council for the Welfare of Children (CWC) is the primary policy-making, coordinating, and monitoring body for children's rights and welfare in the Philippines. Established on 10 December 1974, through Presidential Decree No. 603, also known as the Child and Youth Welfare Code, the CWC has been at the forefront of championing children's rights for five decades.

Throughout its history, the CWC has evolved through various executive orders, including EO No. 708 in 1981, which placed it under the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD), and EO No. 806 in 2009, which further strengthened its mandate. The CWC continues to coordinate the implementation and enforcement of all child-related laws, policies, programs, and services across government and non-government sectors.

Vision

A child-friendly Philippines where children are empowered, protected, and nurtured to achieve their full potential.

Mission

To lead in the formulation and promotion of policies, plans, and programs that uphold and protect children's rights and well-being through effective coordination, advocacy, and monitoring.

Mandate

The CWC is mandated to coordinate, monitor, and evaluate the implementation of laws and policies on children's rights and welfare, ensuring a holistic approach to child development and protection.

CWC's 2025 performance reflects its unwavering commitment to upholding children's welfare from the local to the international level. Through policy and plans formulation, legislative and public advocacy activities, multi-sectoral partnerships, and the steadfast improvements in the MAKABATA Helpline 1383 operations, the Council continues to ensure that every Filipino child enjoys their rights to survival, development, protection, and participation.

HIGHLIGHTS OF ACCOMPLISHMENTS

POLICY FORMULATION

As the primary planning and policy-making body for children, the Council for the Welfare of Children plays a salient role in integrating children's priorities into government action by facilitating consultations with children and stakeholders, engaging in legislative advocacy, and coordinating policies and programs with other agencies.

The CWC Board, composed of line government agencies and stakeholders, approves policies and plans that set the direction for child rights and welfare policies. Supporting this process, the Technical Management Group (TMG) functions as the clearinghouse that reviews and endorses key agenda items before they are presented to the CWC Board. This structure ensures that all policies and programs are thoroughly evaluated, strategically aligned, and effectively implemented to safeguard the rights and well-being of Filipino children.

Issued Resolutions

In 2025, the CWC issued 17 Board Resolutions that were instrumental in establishing strategic policy directions, institutionalizing programs, and reinforcing governance frameworks to advance child protection and development across the country.

Table 1: Target vs. Accomplished Number of Issued Resolutions

Issuing Body	TARGET VS. ACCOMPLISHMENT		
	2025 Target	2025 Accomplishment	Variance
Council Board	13	17	↑+4
Regional Sub-Committees for the Welfare of Children	25	57	↑+32

Key policy decisions made by the CWC in 2025 included establishing the focus and theme for the 33rd National Children's Month, "OSAEC-CSAEM Wakasan: Kaligtasan at Karapatan ng Bata, Ipaglaban!"; finalizing enhanced guidelines, tools, indicators, and the executive order for the 2026

Presidential Awards for Child-Friendly Municipalities and Cities (PACFMC); approving the 2025 Child-Friendly Local Governance Audit (CFLGA) results; adopting the 20th CWC Legislative Agenda for Children; endorsing the Child Budget and Expenditure Tagging and Tracking (CBETT) Tool and supporting its national roll-out; supporting and adopting the Revised Protocol for the Case Management of Child Victims of Abuse, Neglect, Exploitation and Discrimination (CANE+D); approving the Guidelines on the Nomination and Selection of a Child Representative to the CWC Board; and adopting the Child Safeguarding and Protection Policy along with the Local Child Safeguarding and Protection Policy (LCSP).



At the regional level, the Regional Sub-Committees for the Welfare of Children (RSCWCs) issued 57 resolutions, demonstrating the sustained commitment of regional bodies to localizing child rights policies. Notable actions included the creation of the Children in Situations of Armed Conflict Technical Working Group (CSAC-TWG) in Region X; the inclusion of the National Commission on Indigenous Peoples (NCIP), PhilHealth, and the Commission on Higher Education (CHED) as new members of the RSCWC in the Cordillera Administrative Region (CAR); the recommendation for all LGUs in Central Luzon to enact ordinances providing appropriate incentives to Violence Against Women and Children (VAWC) officers and ensuring the designation of qualified personnel in accordance with national guidelines; and the establishment and institutionalization of a Local Council Against HIV in Region VI.

Through the adoption of strategic policy instruments at the national level and the issuance of context-responsive resolutions at the regional level, CWC reinforced a coordinated child protection framework that translates national priorities into localized action. These efforts demonstrate the Council's strong commitment to ensuring that child protection initiatives are effectively implemented across all levels of governance.

Position Papers

Table 2: Number of Position Papers and Bills Provided with Policy Recommendations in 2025

Legislative Support	2025 Accomplishment
Position Papers	17
Bills Provided with Policy Recommendations	54

CWC contributed to the legislative landscape by developing 17 position papers and providing policy recommendations on 54 bills. These policy inputs supported critical legislative measures, including the Sex Offender Registry Ordinance (SORO) of Valenzuela City; the National Care and Support Plan for Neurodiversity; the establishment of a National Rehabilitation and Physiotherapy Center for Persons with Disabilities (PWDs); the Persons with Disabilities Number Coding and Parking Privileges Act; the Ligtas Pinoy Centers Act; the bill further strengthening the Early Childhood Care and Development (ECCD) System; the Zero Draft of the Omnibus Disability Law; the institutionalization of national awareness and observances for Filipino Sign Language Day and Month, National Persons with Dwarfism Awareness Day, and National Day of Awareness for Persons with Down Syndrome; and the proposed amendments to the Safe Spaces Act.

These efforts demonstrate CWC's proactive role in shaping policies that protect and promote the rights and welfare of children, including cross-cutting issues. By providing evidence-based position papers and policy recommendations, the Council has helped ensure that critical legislative measures address the diverse needs of vulnerable populations. Through these contributions, CWC reinforces its commitment to fostering an inclusive, child-centered, and rights-based policy environment across the country.

Legislative Advocacy Activities

In 2025, CWC actively engaged in legislative advocacy and policy discussions to advance child rights and protection. Through a series of consultations and coordination activities conducted during the first semester of the year with the Luzon, Visayas, and Mindanao Clusters; Children in Need of Special Protection (CNSPs); national government agencies (NGAs), and civil society organizations (CSOs), the Council developed the 20th CWC Legislative Agenda for Children (CLAC). The agenda identified the following priority legislative measures: the Magna Carta of Children (MMC), the establishment of the Philippine Commission on Children (PCCh), the promotion of positive and non-violent discipline of children, the institutionalization of Women and Children Protection Units, and measures to prevent adolescent pregnancy.

To advance its legislative agenda, CWC presented the proposed 20th CLAC during the Consultation on the Human Rights Legislative Agenda convened by the Commission on Human Rights (CHR) on 17 July 2025, where the Magna Carta of Children was identified as one of CHR's 10 priority legislative measures. CWC also presented the 20th CLAC during the Organizational Meeting of the House of Representatives Committee on the Welfare of Children held on 15 September 2025. In addition, CWC presented the agenda during a meeting with the Light Rail Transit Authority (LRTA) on 02 October 2025 in preparation for the celebration of National Children's Month, and during a courtesy meeting with Kindernothilfe on 03 October 2025.

These advocacy efforts highlight CWC's sustained commitment to advancing a cohesive and responsive legislative agenda for children through strategic engagement with legislators, government agencies, and development partners.

PLAN DEVELOPMENT

National Launch of the CWC - Committee on Children and HIV and AIDS (ComCHA) Comprehensive HIV Initiative

With concerted efforts from the CWC-Committee on Children and HIV and AIDS (ComCHA), in collaboration with the National Young Key Population Network (NYN) Philippines, the National Launch of Comprehensive HIV Initiatives was successfully held on 15 January 2025. The event featured the Comprehensive Package of HIV Services for Prevention, Screening, Treatment, Care and Protection, and brought together representatives from LGUs, CSOs, partner agencies, as well as children, adolescents, and young people who are among the key beneficiaries and advocates of the program.

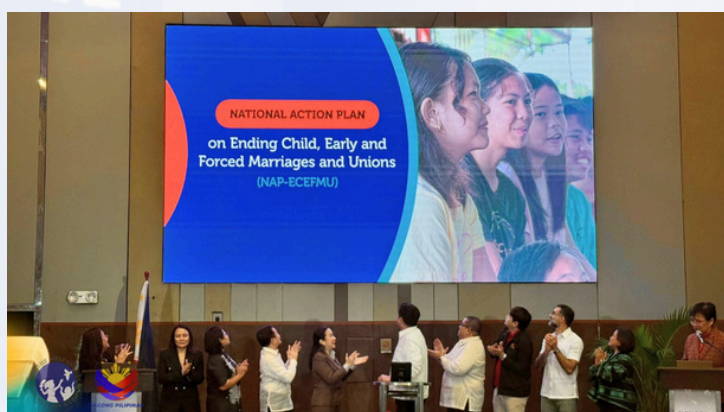


The Comprehensive Package provides standardized protocols and guidelines designed to enhance the quality and consistency of services delivered by social hygiene clinic staff, service providers, civil society organizations, consultants, and both national and local development partners. These guidelines are essential for building and sustaining effective service delivery networks that support HIV prevention, treatment, and care, with a particular focus on the needs of children and young people.

The launch represented a significant milestone in advancing a rights-based, inclusive, and child-sensitive approach to HIV service delivery in the Philippines, emphasizing the collective commitment of all stakeholders to ensure the protection, participation, and wellbeing of children and young people affected by or at risk of HIV. Overall, the Comprehensive Package of HIV Services shows the government and its partners' commitment to a holistic and inclusive response to HIV, ensuring that no one is left behind in the pursuit of protection. Moving forward, CWC plans to develop a child-friendly version of the technical document to make its content more accessible to young audiences.

Launch of the National Action Plan on Preventing Child, Early, Forced Marriages and Unions (NAP-PCEFMU) for 2025-2028 and Signing of the Memorandum of Agreement for the Pilot Testing of the Model of Intervention (MOI) for Child Marriage

Working together with DSWD and other members of the interagency committee to end CEFMU, CWC played a key role in launching the National Action Plan on Preventing Child, Early, and Forced Marriages and Unions (NAP-ECEFMU) for 2025-2028, as well as in the signing of the Memorandum of Agreement for the pilot testing of the Model of Intervention (MOI) for Child Marriage during a national event held on 12 December 2026 in Quezon City. The event highlighted the strong commitment of the government and civil society organizations to a coordinated, nationwide effort to combat CEFMU, signaling unified leadership and collective resolve to protect children's rights and accelerate the elimination of child marriage. Formulated through a nationwide consultative process involving diverse stakeholders, the NAP-ECEFMU provides a five-year strategic roadmap that aims to eliminate the practice of child marriage in the Philippines, envisioning a society in which all children, especially adolescent girls, are empowered and protected, fully enjoy their rights, realize their potential, and make informed decisions about their relationships and lives, free from the risks of child, early, and forced marriages and unions.



Launch of the First Philippine Strategic Plan against Online Sexual Abuse or Exploitation of Children and Child Sexual Abuse or Exploitation Materials (OSAEC-CSAEM) for 2025-2028

Built on the vision that “every child is free from online sexual abuse, online sexual exploitation, and all forms of sexual abuse or exploitation materials,” the First Philippine Strategic Plan against OSAEC-CSAEM was launched on 11 December 2025 by the National Coordination Center against OSAEC-CSAEM. The five-year plan serves as a guiding framework for government agencies, civil society organizations, and other stakeholders to safeguard, protect, and empower children against all forms of OSAEC and CSAEM. Developed through extensive nationwide consultations with over 300 stakeholders — including government agencies, law enforcement, prosecutors, social workers, civil society organizations, foreign counterparts, private sector partners, children, young people, and victim-survivors — the plan is grounded in lived realities and frontline experience. It focuses on four key result areas: prevention and advocacy; protection and response; law enforcement, prosecution, and compliance; and partnerships and networking. As Chair of the Technical Working Group for the Prevention and Advocacy area, CWC plays a central role in coordinating initiatives to prevent online sexual abuse and exploitation of children, ensuring that interventions are both child-centered and evidence-based.



Ongoing Initiatives

As part of the development process of the Child Rights Research Agenda (CRRA), the Research Consortium on Children’s Rights (RCCR) conducted a series of consultations to ensure a participatory and inclusive approach. A Children’s Consultation was initially held on 04-05 October 2025, bringing together child representatives from various sectors and regions to ensure that children’s lived experiences, priority issues, and perspectives on research participation were directly reflected in the research agenda. During the activity, children identified key child rights concerns and shared recommendations on ethical and meaningful child participation in research, which were consolidated and used as critical inputs in refining the proposed CRRA. These inputs were subsequently presented and validated during the National Consultation held on 14-15 October 2025,

which gathered representatives from national government agencies, civil society organizations, and academic institutions. The national consultation served as a platform to review the proposed CRRA, integrate sector-specific perspectives, and further validate research priorities to ensure that the agenda is comprehensive, multi-sectoral, and responsive to both policy needs and children's realities.

Updates on the consultation outcomes and the draft CRRA, were presented at the 3rd RCCR Regular Meeting on 18 November 2025, where members provided comments and suggestions to enhance the document; these inputs were subsequently consolidated and formally conveyed to the consultant on 26 November 2025, to guide the CRRA's revision and finalization.

LOCALIZATION AND INSTITUTIONALIZATION OF POLICY, PLANS, AND PPA's FOR CHILDREN

Recognizing the essential role of local governments in safeguarding children's rights and ensuring a whole-of-nation approach to fulfilling the Philippines' commitments under international treaties and national laws, CWC actively pursued localization and institutionalization initiatives. In this context, the Regional Committees/Sub-Committees for the Welfare of Children (RC/SCWCs), as CWC's counterpart at the sub-national level, serve as coordinating channels between the national government and local government units.

Institutionalization of the Child Budget and Expenditure Tagging and Tracking (CBETT) Tool

CWC led the drafting, finalization, and national launch of the Child Budget and Expenditure Tagging and Tracking (CBETT) Tool, a strategic mechanism designed to enhance transparency and accountability in the allocation and utilization of resources for child-focused programs and services. The launch included the ceremonial signing of the Joint Memorandum Circular (JMC) in partnership with the Department of Budget and Management (DBM), the Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG), and the Bureau of Local Government Finance (BLGF). By providing LGUs and national agencies with a practical tool to systematically track local and national budgets for child welfare programs, the CBETT Tool is expected to ensure that public resources directly contribute to the protection and development of Filipino children across all levels of government.



Technical Assistance Provided

Table 3: Number of Technical Assistance Provided in 2024 vs. in 2025

Classification	2025 Accomplishment	2024 Accomplishment	Percent Change
Simple	4,383	1,535	↑185.54%
Complex	3,409	502	↑579.08%
Highly Technical	681	224	↑204.02%
TOTAL	8,473	2,261	↑274.75%

In 2025, there was a significant increase in the provision of technical assistance (TA) to NGAs, LGUs, NGOs, and other stakeholders, rising from 2,261 TAs in 2024 to 8,473 TAs in 2025 — a 274.75% increase in services conferred both to external and internal stakeholders. This surge was facilitated by the Council's various divisions: the Localization and Institutionalization Division (LID) for providing trainings and workshops to LGUs; the Policy, Planning, and Research Division (PPRD) for policy formulation, planning, and secretariat functions to the Council's internal and external structures; the Public Advocacy and Information Office (PAIO) for communication and advocacy support; the Monitoring and Evaluation Division (MED) for supporting the CFLGA and providing technical assistance to LGUs; and the Administrative and Financial Division (AFD) and Management Information Systems Unit (MISU) for internal support to the Council's divisions; and the Project Management Office (PMO), for addressing reports to the MAKABATA Helpline 1383.

A key highlight was LID's technical support in the formulation of the LCSPPs for Negros Occidental Province; Marilao, Bulacan and its Barangay Councils for the Protection of Children (BCPCs); Batangas Province; the Municipality of Mauban, Quezon; and Cotabato City. In addition, CBETT orientations and capacity-building activities were conducted for Sta. Rosa, Laguna; Quezon Province; Calbiga, Samar; and Maguindanao Del Sur, further strengthening local government capacities in child protection planning and monitoring.

The substantial increase in technical assistance highlights the Council's commitment to empowering LGUs, NGAs, NGOs, and other partners in advancing child protection initiatives. Through coordinated efforts across its divisions, CWC continues to build local capacities, enhance policy implementation, and ensure that children's rights and welfare remain at the forefront of governance and community development.

Ongoing Initiatives

The LID, together with the RC/SCWCs, continues to enhance regional technical assistance and expand the rollout of the Four Legacies for Children (4LCs) and CBETT Tool for 2026. Moving forward, CWC aims to officially cascade the approved LCPC Toolkit and JMC to the RC/SCWCs, and conduct a learning session with regional coordinators on the formulation of the 4LCs. These initiatives are designed to enhance the capacity of regional bodies and LGUs to institutionalize child protection mechanisms across the country.

THE MAKABATA HELPLINE 1383

In response to the mandate of the President under Executive Order No. 79 s. 2024, the MAKABATA Helpline 1383 was institutionalized as part of the Reporting Component of the MAKABATA Program. Now operating 24/7, the MAKABATA Helpline 1383 serves as the central reporting system for all issues and concerns related to CNSPs and is envisioned as the country's primary public helpline for children. It is designed to provide a safe, accessible, and efficient mechanism for reporting, responding to, and monitoring cases of violence, abuse, exploitation, or psychosocial concerns. The helpline operates through calls, emails, and various social media platforms, ensuring timely feedback and support. It also empowers children to report incidents affecting themselves or others, reinforcing their protection and rights.



Statistics

In 2025, the number of valid reports received by the **MAKABATA Helpline increased by 57.20%**, rising **from 937 cases in 2024 to 1,473 in 2025**, reflecting the public's increased awareness of the Helpline. Despite this increase, a significant portion of the total cases consisted of incomplete reports or concerns not related to children. Notably, while 65 calls were received outside office hours in 2024, these were prevented in 2025 following the helpline's transition to full 24/7 operations, ensuring continuous accessibility and response.

Table 4: Summary of Total Number of Valid and Invalid per Reports

TOTAL NUMBER OF REPORTS														
CATEGORY	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC	TOTAL	%
VALID	101	76	125	61	94	122	152	158	114	136	171	163	1,473	65.73%
INVALID	49	67	49	53	37	43	44	74	93	91	85	83	768	34.27%
TOTAL	150	143	174	114	131	165	196	232	207	227	256	246	2,241	100%

Valid - are those that contain sufficient, legitimate, and actionable information related to child protection or welfare concerns. categorized by the nature of the actual incident or issue reported.

Invalid - are those that do not provide clear or truthful information to be processed or acted upon. These often include unintentional erroneous

Table 5: Total Number of Valid Reports per Case Category

TOTAL NUMBER OF REPORTS PER CASE CATEGORY (VALID)			
CATEGORY	2025	2024	Percent Change
Abandoned	1	4	↓75.00%
Behavioral Problem	15	2	↑650.00%
Bullying	16	3	↑433.33%
Child Custody	22	17	↑29.41%
Child Labor	6	1	↑500.00%
Child Trafficking	6	3	↑100.00%
Cyber Bullying	17	0	-
Cybercrime	47	7	↑571.43%
OSAEC-CSAEM	75	9	↑733.33%
Economic/Financial Abuse	41	11	↑272.73%
Inquiry	358	165	↑116.97%
Incomplete Report	509	582	↓12.54%
Neglected	43	4	↑975.00%
Physical Abuse	152	18	↑744.44%
Psychological Abuse	38	16	↑137.50%
Sexual Abuse	52	22	↑136.36%
Children in Street Situations	16	10	↑60.00%
Acts of Lasciviousness	7	5	↑40.00%
Verbal Abuse	6	5	↑20.00%
Others (Concerns Not Related to Children)	149	52	↑186.54%
Missing Children	5	1	↑400.00%
Child Living with HIV	1	0	-
Welfare Check	87	0	-
TOTAL	1,669	937	↑78.12%

The total number of valid case categories recorded per individual amounted to 1,669 cases. The most frequently reported category was classified as Incomplete Reports, with 509 cases (30.50%). This suggests that a substantial number of callers or reporters were either unable to provide sufficient information or disengaged before the report could be fully documented. This was followed by Inquiry-related concerns, totaling 358 cases (15.10%), highlighting the Helpline's role as a trusted source of information on child protection laws, available services, and referral pathways.

Among protection-related concerns, Physical Abuse was the most prevalent, accounting for 152 cases (9.11%). This was followed by Other Concerns not directly related to children, with 149 cases (8.93%), and Welfare Check concerns, which comprised 87 cases (5.21%). Sexual and online-related concerns were also notable. Reports related to OSAEC-CSAEM accounted for 75 cases (4.49%), while Sexual Abuse cases totaled 52 (3.12%). All remaining categories recorded 50 cases or fewer.

Table 6: Total Number of Invalid Reports per Case Category

TOTAL NUMBER OF REPORTS PER CASE CATEGORY (INVALID)			
CATEGORY	2025	2024	PERCENT CHANGE
Wrong Dialed	332	247	↑34.41%
Prank Reports	3	10	↓70.00%
Dropped Call	260	202	↑28.71%
Fraudulent Call	1	0	-
Test Call	106	63	↑68.25%
TOTAL	702	587	↑19.59%

The table presents a total of 702 invalid reports recorded across all case categories for the year, representing 15.53% of the overall reports. The largest share of invalid reports came from Wrong Dialed calls, with 332 cases, indicating that nearly half of the invalid entries resulted from callers mistakenly contacting the helpline. This was followed by Dropped Calls, which accounted for 260 cases, which may signify that call disengagement, or interrupted communication is a significant challenge in report handling.

Another notable category was Test Calls, totaling 106 cases, reflecting instances where callers may have been checking the functionality of the helpline rather than reporting an actual concern. In contrast, Fraudulent Calls were minimal, with only one (1) case, while Prank Reports recorded three (3) cases, indicating that intentional misuse of the helpline was relatively rare.

Regions with the Most Calls

Table 7: Total Number of Reports per Area/Region

REGION	2025	2024	PERCENT CHANGE
N/A	1,363	1,300	↑4.85%
Not Stated	428	48	↑791.67%
NCR	264	76	↑247.37%
Region IV-A	94	27	↑248.15%
Region III	65	32	↑103.13%
Region VII	38	11	↑245.45%
Region VI	17	8	↑112.50%
Region X	17	1	↑1600.00%
Region VIII	14	3	↑366.67%
Region I	11	3	↑266.67%
Region IV-B	11	3	↑266.67%
Region II	9	1	↑800.00%
Region V	8	1	↑700.00%
Region XI	7	4	↑75.00%
Region XII	7	2	↑250.00%
Region IX	6	-	-
Region XIII	6	2	↑200.00%
International	4	1	↑300.00%
BARMM	1	1	-
CAR	1	-	-
TOTAL	2,371	1,524	↑55.58%

The data showed that the "N/A" category has the biggest total number of cases received with 1,363 cases in which the informant does not mention his/her region. The "Not Stated" category refers to reports without specified regions, totaling 428 reports. The National Capital Region (NCR) received a total of 264 cases and is followed by Region IV-A CALABARZON with a total of 94 cases, while Region III has a total of 65 cases.

Other regions including Regions I, II, IV-B MIMAROPA, V, VI, VII, VIII, IX, X, XI, XII, XIII, CAR, BARMM and International Calls each received less than 50 cases. The statistics on this table shows that the majority of child protection reports received came from highly urbanized regions and those adjacent to NCR.

Status of Reports

Table 8: Total Number of Reports Per Status

STATUS	TOTAL	%
CLOSED	2,368	99.87%
ONGOING	0	0.00%
PENDING - For further assessment	3	0.13%
TOTAL	2,371	100%

For 2025, 2,368 out of 2,371 or 99.87% reports were closed. No reports are tagged as "Ongoing" while there are three (3) cases tagged as "Pending" reports, which indicate the need for additional information and further assessment by the Helpline Officers.

Major Activities and Partnerships

Helpline Protecting Children in the Digital Age: A Helpline and Hotline Summit



Held on 11 July 2025 with the theme "Helplines Protecting Children in the Digital Age," the summit served as a national platform to convene government agencies, local government units, civil society and child rights organizations, ICT and telecom partners, youth and child representatives, and development partners. The summit was a platform to discuss best practices, challenges, and innovations in operating helplines and hotlines for children.

To expand the reach of the MAKABATA Helpline 1383, streamline communication protocols, and provide more localized support, CWC forged partnerships with Project PEARLS and the Boy Scouts of the Philippines (BSP). By leveraging BSP's extensive nationwide network of young scouts, the Council sought to amplify the reach of its programs and integrate child-centered initiatives into youth leadership and community-building efforts. CWC also renewed its Memorandum of Understanding with Destiny Rescue Pilipinas Inc., adhering to the "whole-of-community" approach that values sustained collaboration between government and non-government organizations. Moreover, in efforts to increase the Helpline's awareness and accessibility, the Council conducted the MAKABATA Helpline 1383 Regional Rollout in Region VI, enabling the identification of localized needs and the development of more responsive, region-specific interventions.

To broaden the Helpline's scope and strengthen inter-agency coordination, the MAKABATA Helpline team engaged in exploratory discussions with key partners, including the Presidential Anti-Organized Crime Commission (PAOCC) on coordination mechanisms for complex cases involving human trafficking, exploitation, and organized crime; the Cybercrime Investigation and Coordinating Center (CICC) on potential integration between the MAKABATA Helpline 1383 and the CICC's Hotline 1326; and the Mindfulness, Love, and Compassion (MLAC) Institute for Psychosocial Services on possible collaboration to provide psychosocial support for children of Overseas Filipino Workers (OFWs).

In efforts to enhance the Helpline's management model and operational systems, the CWC-PMO conducted a learning visit to the Baguio City Smart City Command Center, which provided insights into the potential adoption of similar command and response mechanisms. The Council also led a strategic workshop for the enhancement of the MAKABATA Helpline 1383 Manual of Operations in Pampanga, in collaboration with partner agencies, including the Philippine National Police - Women and Children Protection Center (PNP-WCPC), Juvenile Justice and Welfare Council (JJWC), Department of Justice (DOJ) - NCC-OSAEC-CSAEM, Department of Tourism (DOT) and Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE).

To strengthen frontline response, Helpline Officers underwent a Basic Orientation on Psychological First Aid (PFA) to equip them with the skills to recognize stress reactions and provide effective support through proper communication and behavioral techniques. The MAKABATA Helpline 1383 team also participated in the "Ako Para Sa Bata" Conference, ensuring that officers remain updated on emerging issues, global best practices, and enhanced technical competencies in responding to complex cases of child abuse and exploitation.

By staying aligned with the shifting child protection landscape, continuously enhancing the operations of the Helpline, and forging partnerships with other agencies and organizations, the MAKABATA Helpline 1383 continues to improve the quality, accessibility, and effectiveness of interventions and support provided to Filipino children in distress.

ADVOCACY AND MOBILIZATION OF RESOURCES

CWC paired its policy formulation and planning efforts with continuous public awareness and advocacy initiatives, ensuring that children's rights are safeguarded not just legally, but also socially embraced and actively promoted. By engaging communities, media, and partners, these initiatives elevated child rights to the forefront of governance while cultivating collective action in protecting and advancing the welfare of every child.

National Observances and Special Campaigns

CWC successfully led the **2025 National Children's Month (NCM) Celebration** centered on the theme: **"OSAEC-CSAEM Wakasan: Kaligtasan at Karapatan ng Bata, Ipaglaban!"** The Council successfully coordinated the distribution of advocacy materials to national government agencies and regional partners, with the following activities highlighting the month-long observance:



1. **Talakayang Makabata:** The 2025 National Children's Month (NCM) Press Conference (23 October 2025, DSWD Central Office)
2. **National Children's Month (NCM) Kick-Off Ceremony** (07 November 2025, Crowne Plaza Hotel, Quezon City)
3. **National Play Advocacy Week** (15 November 2025, LGU Quezon Province)
4. **National Children's Month – House of Representatives Activities** (17-20 November 2025, House of Representatives)
5. **8th Conference on Parenting in the Digital Age** (24 November 2025, CWC - MAKABATA Teleradyo Program)
6. **National Children's Month (NCM) Culminating Ceremony** (26 November 2025, SM Skydome, SM North EDSA, Quezon City)



These activities strengthened national advocacy against Online Sexual Abuse and Exploitation of Children (OSAEC) and Child Sexual Abuse or Exploitation Materials (CSAEM), while amplifying public engagement and inter-agency collaboration.

Aside from NCM, CWC actively participated in 25 major national and international observances in collaboration with children, parents, caregivers, duty-bearers, and partners. Advocacy efforts were carried out through social media collaterals, printed materials, Makabata Teleradyo episodes, and Knowledge Management Session webinars.

Notable observances included:

- National Autism Consciousness Week
- National Awareness Week for the Prevention of Child Sexual Abuse and Exploitation (CSAAW)
- Safer Internet Day
- National Women's Month and Girl Child Week
- World Day Against Child Labor
- National Disability Rights Week
- National Nutrition Month
- Juvenile Justice and Welfare Consciousness Week
- 18-Day Campaign to End Violence Against Women
- International Human Rights Day, among others

CWC led the 2025 Girl Child Week, aligned with National Women's Month, through the kick-off activity **"Sari-Saring Kaalaman Laban sa Karahasang Pangkasarian"** on **25 March 2025** at the Laura Vicuña Foundation, which addressed gender-based violence, online risks, and child-friendly approaches such as play, art, and mindfulness.



For the 18-Day Campaign to End Violence Against Women, the MAKABATA Teleradyo Program featured the campaign on 08 December 2025, with the Executive Director of the Philippine Commission on Women as guest speaker.



Media Engagements and Public Advocacy

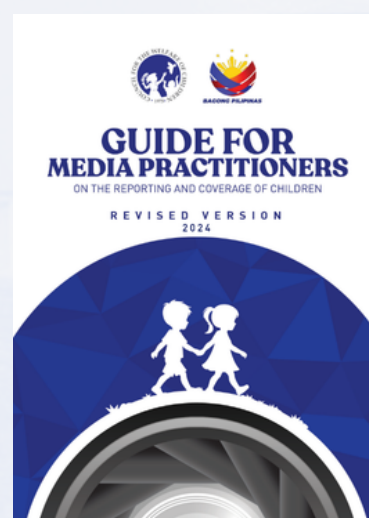
One of CWC's flagship advocacy platforms is the MAKABATA Teleradyo Program, which provides regular updates and discussions on child rights, protection, and development. Following the renewed partnership with the Presidential Broadcasting Service (PBS), formalized through a Memorandum of Agreement, the program resumed airing on 10 June 2024, with an expanded schedule every Monday from 4:00 PM to 6:00 PM on Radyo Pilipinas.

CWC also actively engaged local and national media to amplify child rights advocacy and raise public awareness on key issues affecting children. Throughout 2025, Undersecretary Angelo M. Tapales, together with other officials, participated in numerous interviews, press conferences, and media appearances across print, radio, television, and online platforms. These engagements covered a wide range of topics including child and adolescent pregnancy prevention, Online Sexual Abuse and Exploitation of Children (OSAEC), bullying, child labor, mental health, juvenile justice, and the regulation of social media use among minors.

In total, CWC participated in numerous media engagements across the year, including but not limited to:

- Press conferences and official briefings, such as those on Child and Adolescent Pregnancy, Child Sexual Abuse Awareness Week (CSAAW), and National Children's Month
- Radio and television interviews on major networks including Radyo Pilipinas, DZBB, DZMM, PTV4, Net25, UNTV, Bombo Radyo, and regional radio stations
- Print and online media features highlighting trends in violence against children, early childhood care and development (ECCD), and child-sensitive reporting
- Special advocacy segments focused on regulating social media use of minors, addressing online gambling exposure, bullying prevention, child labor eradication, and the implementation of child protection laws

From January to March, CWC participated in high-profile press conferences and interviews with government agencies, news outlets, and public affairs programs, highlighting critical child protection issues and legislative priorities. In May and June, the Council used media platforms, print publications, and television programs to discuss the Guide for Media Practitioners on the Reporting and Coverage of Children, early childhood care, and the importance of child-sensitive reporting, while also addressing risks such as child beauty pageants and HIV-AIDS among minors.



During the mid-year months, CWC intensified media visibility around National Children's Month preparations and online safety initiatives, highlighting campaigns like the MAKABATA Helpline 1383 and the drive against OSAEC. This period also saw extensive coverage of child labor prevention, child-friendly governance, and mental health advocacy through Teleradyo programs and television interviews, ensuring that child-focused policies reached diverse audiences nationwide.

From July to December, media engagements highlighted the Council's continued advocacy for online child safety, ethical media coverage, juvenile justice reforms, nutrition, and emergency response for children in disasters. Notably, the Council discussed the regulation of social media use for minors, exposure to online gambling, and the implementation of child protection measures in schools and communities. CWC also engaged with international and national journalists, participated in studio interviews, and provided expert commentary on viral incidents affecting children, maintaining a consistent presence in both traditional and digital media.

Through these coordinated efforts, CWC ensured that children's rights and protection remained highly visible in the public sphere, reinforcing the Council's role as a leading authority in child advocacy and public awareness.

Advocacy Outputs and IEC Materials

In 2025, CWC issued 43 high-impact official statements that addressed pressing child protection issues, legislative developments, and social concerns. These statements highlighted CWC's strong stance on child and adolescent pregnancy prevention, child abuse cases, online sexual exploitation, and other forms of violence against children. Among the statements released were the Council's support for Supreme Court decisions on child abuse cases, denouncements of inappropriate jokes and performances affecting children, and urgent calls for the protection of children's rights in HIV-related cases. CWC also issued statements in response to incidents of child sexual abuse, child trafficking, bullying, and online exploitation, including high-profile cases involving minors in Butuan City, Antipolo, Ormoc, Palawan, and other areas.



The Council further expressed concern over viral cases of child marriage, abuse by caregivers and educators, and online sexual abuse, consistently emphasizing the “best interest of the child” in all legal and social proceedings. Statements also included calls for stronger protection mechanisms during elections, natural disasters, and other situations affecting children, as well as support for legislation regulating social media and online gambling exposure among minors. Notable advocacy outputs include reactions to Supreme Court convictions, recognition of historical milestones in child protection, and urgent reminders to parents, teachers, and communities to safeguard children in both physical and digital spaces.

These statements, together with other IEC materials such as posters, AVPs, and digital content, strengthened CWC’s advocacy reach, informed the public on children’s rights and protection measures, and supported the implementation of child-focused policies and programs nationwide. Overall, the Council developed **310 CWC IEC materials, 230 MAKABATA Teleradyo IEC materials, and 497 social media posts.**

Knowledge Management Sessions (KMS)

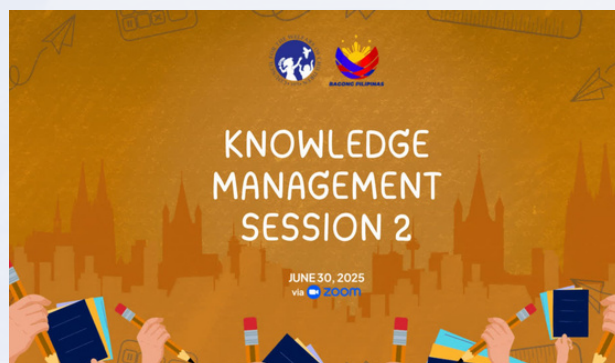
On Poverty

CWC conducted the 2025 Knowledge Management Session (KMS) entitled “Labanan ang Kahirapan, Magandang Bukas Para sa Bata” on 26 March 2025 via Zoom. The session supported the harmonized advocacy campaign for the Pantawid Pamilyang Pilipino Program (4Ps) and reinforced the State’s commitment to breaking the intergenerational cycle of poverty through investments in children’s education, health, nutrition, and early childhood care.



On World Day Against Child Labor (WDACL)

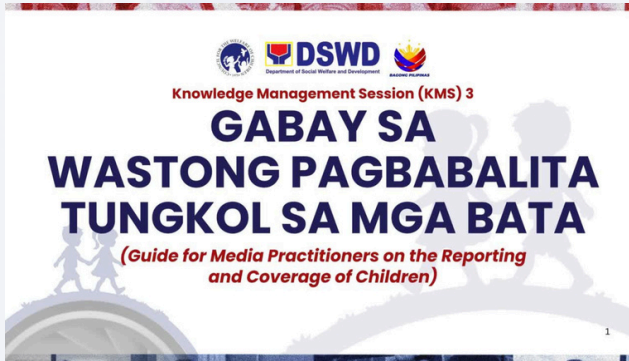
On 30 June 2025, CWC conducted its second KMS themed “Sa Bagong Pilipinas: Mag-Aaral ang Bata, Hindi Manggagawa!” in line with the World Day Against Child Labor. The session highlighted legislative developments, safeguarding mechanisms, and policy interventions to address child labor while upholding children’s rights.



Promotion of the Guide for Media Practitioners on the Reporting and Coverage of Children

CWC conducted regional orientations and e-learning sessions to promote ethical, child-sensitive reporting, including:

- Regional Orientation - Cebu City (19 September 2025)
- Regional Orientation - Guimaras (18 November 2025)
- LCPC E-Learning via Facebook Livestream (24 September 2025)



These activities disseminated the Enhanced Guide for Media Practitioners, updated in 2024, to address emerging issues such as OSAEC–CSAEM and digital media risks. The sessions emphasized child privacy, consent and assent, dignity, sensitivity, and responsible storytelling, reinforcing that children's welfare must always take precedence over media content.

MONITORING AND EVALUATION

In carrying out its mandate, the CWC ensures that child-centered programs and policies are effectively implemented, well-coordinated, and properly monitored. In 2025, the Council advanced initiatives that reinforced governance systems, strengthened mechanisms for child-friendly local governance, and enhanced monitoring and evaluation processes.

2025 Child-Friendly Local Governance Audit (CFLGA) Results

The Child-Friendly Local Governance Audit (CFLGA) is a performance assessment tool designed to measure the extent to which local government units (LGUs) have integrated child rights into their development planning and governance processes.

The Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG) serves as the lead implementing agency, ensuring that all LGUs are assessed against the established child-friendly governance indicators.



Meanwhile, the CWC, as the national focal agency for children's rights, provides technical assistance, policy direction, and monitoring support to ensure that the CFLGA remains aligned with national child protection frameworks and international commitments.

Table 9: Number of Audited Municipalities and Cities for the 2025 CFLGA

	2025 ACCOMP.	YEAR-ON-YEAR		TARGET VS. ACCOMP.	
		2024 Accomp.	Percentage Point Change	2025 Target	Variance
Total No. of Municipalities and Cities	1,634	1,634	↑0.67%	1,634	+17
No. of Audited Municipalities and Cities	1,629	1,618		1,612	
Percentage of Audited Municipalities and Cities	99.69%	99.02%		98.65%	

In 2025, a total of 1,629 municipalities and cities were audited, a 0.67% point increase from the 1,618 in 2024. This represents 99.69% of the total 1,634 municipalities and cities nationwide, an improvement from the 98.02% audit rate in 2024, reflecting enhanced participation and commitment to the audit process.

Table 10: Number of SCFLG Eligible Municipalities and Cities in 2025

	2025 ACCOMP.	YEAR-ON-YEAR		TARGET VS. ACCOMP	
		2024 Accomp.	Percentage Point Change	2025 Target	Variance
No. of Audited Municipalities and Cities	1,629	1,618	↑11.65%	-	+4.99% increase
No. of Eligible Municipalities and Cities	1,091	895		1,010	
Percentage of Passed Municipalities and Cities	66.97% (11.65% point increase from the 2024 SCFLG Conferees)	55.32% (14.04% point increase from the 2022 SCFLG Conferees)		61.98% (6.66% increase from the 2024 SCFLG Conferees)	

The number of eligible municipalities and cities that passed the CFLGA significantly increased from 895 in 2024 to 1,091 in 2025, marking an 11.65% point improvement. This resulted in a higher percentage of passing LGUs, with 66.97% of municipalities and cities meeting CFLGA criteria in 2025, compared to 55.32% in 2024.

The notable increase in municipalities and cities passing the CFLGA reflects significant progress in strengthening local capacities for child protection and welfare. This improvement demonstrates the effectiveness of CWC's initiatives in promoting compliance with child-friendly governance standards nationwide.

2025 Presidential Awards for Child-Friendly Municipalities and Cities (PACFMC)



After five (5) years, CWC revived the Presidential Awards for Child-Friendly Municipalities and Cities (PACFMC) to serve as an incentives system for LGUs that implement child-centered programs. The awarding ceremony was held on 22 December 2025, conferring plaques of recognition to 20 National Finalists and five (5) National Awardees, namely: Cabagan, Isabela under the First to Third Class Municipality Category; Sto. Tomas, La Union for the Fourth to Sixth Class Municipality Category; Tagaytay City, Cavite under the Component City Category; Naga City for the Independent Component City Category; and Quezon City under the Highly Urbanized City Category.



The revival of the PACFMC shows CWC's commitment to recognizing and incentivizing local governments that prioritize child-centered programs. By honoring exemplary LGUs through this awards system, the Council continues to promote best practices and inspire broader adoption of child-friendly initiatives nationwide.



2025 State of the Filipino Children Report (SOFCR)

In 2025, CWC developed the State of the Filipino Children Report (SOFCR), which presents a comprehensive analysis of gains, gaps, and emerging issues affecting children across sectors. consolidated national and sectoral data on child survival, development, protection, and participation, drawing from administrative records, national surveys, and reports from partner agencies. Anchored on its Theory of Change (ToC) and Performance Measurement Framework (PMF), the Report highlighted progress in strengthening child protection mechanisms, expanding social protection coverage, and improving access to essential services, while also identifying persistent challenges such as disparities in service delivery, vulnerabilities in conflict- and disaster-affected areas, and emerging online risks.

The report highlighted that children aged 0-17 comprise 36.46% of the total Philippine population, equivalent to 39.7 million children based on the 2020 Census. In the area of development, the 2024 Functional Literacy, Education, and Mass Media Survey (FLEMMS) recorded a 70.8% functional literacy rate among Filipinos aged 10-64, with females (74.1%) outperforming males (67.6%).

On early childhood development, the 2024 Child-Friendly Local Governance Audit (CFLGA) reported 96.12% national coverage of Early Childhood Care and Development (ECCD) services, with 2.7 million children enrolled. Meanwhile, local governments allocated Php 47.31 billion (38.65%) of Real Property Tax revenues to the Special Education Fund in 2024.

In the area of protection, data from the 2024 Labor Force Survey showed that the agriculture sector accounted for 64.4% of child labor cases in 2024, underscoring the need for strengthened enforcement and targeted interventions. The SOFC further emphasized governance improvements, noting that 1,130 LGUs (64%) reported having an established database for children, strengthening local monitoring and evidence-based planning.

Through the SOFC, CWC reinforced evidence-based policymaking, guided national and local planning processes, and identified priority policy recommendations to address persistent disparities and emerging risks affecting Filipino children.

Ongoing Initiatives

The enhancement of the SCFLG Knowledge Management System (KMS) is currently in Phase III, focusing on further system refinements to improve efficiency and reliability. Meanwhile, the development of the PACFMC KMS continues with the implementation of the 3rd and 4th tranches to complete the remaining system components and enhancements. Additionally, the Council is revising the Terms of Reference (TOR) for the engagement of an ICT Consultant to support the Phase II enhancement of the Subaybay Bata Monitoring System (SBMS).

CWC COORDINATED STRUCTURES FOR CHILDREN

By virtue of Executive Order No. 233, s. 1987, sectoral panels were established to address the five (5) major concerns of children. Since then, the mandate and functions of the CWC have steadily expanded alongside the enactment of new child-related laws, which led to the creation of additional sectoral committees and subcommittees. These bodies implement programs and activities aligned with their respective areas of concern.

CWC continues to play a central role across these child-focused structures and inter-agency mechanisms by providing leadership, technical guidance, coordination, and advocacy to ensure that children's rights are protected and mainstreamed in both national and local governance. In 2025, CWC's active engagement in these mechanisms contributed to key milestones and sustained the implementation of priority child-focused initiatives.

Under Technical Management Group

Under the Technical Management Group (TMG), CWC spearheaded critical initiatives through its Committees and Sub-Committees:

The **Committee on Children with HIV/AIDS (ComCHA)** launched the Comprehensive Package of HIV Services for Prevention, Screening, Treatment, Care, and Protection, which sets out standardized protocols and guidelines to improve the quality and consistency of services for children and young people affected by HIV. The package serves as a key reference for social hygiene clinic staff; social workers, case managers, and health workers; Local AIDS Councils (LACs), Local AIDS Coordinating Bodies, and Local Health Boards (LHBs); civil society organizations (CSOs); consultants, interns, and volunteers; national and local development partners; Global Fund Principal Recipients and Sub-Recipients; and child and adolescent/youth clients and patients. These guidelines are instrumental in strengthening and sustaining service delivery networks tailored to the needs of children and young people.

From February to March 2025, the **Sub-Committee on Children with Disabilities (SC CWD)** convened a series of coordination meetings with member agencies to finalize the Results Matrix of the Strategic Action Plan for Children with Disabilities (SAP4CWD), ensuring alignment of targets, indicators, and agency commitments.

The **Sub-Committee on the Protection and Welfare of Children in Street Situations (SC PWCiSS)** undertook the second phase of developing the Philippine National Multi-Sectoral Strategic Plan on Children in Street Situations (2025-2030) on 01-05 April 2025. This was followed by a localization workshop for the Strategic Plan on 08-10 December 2025 to support its adoption at the local level. The Sub-Committee also conducted a National Training of Trainers on the Youth Advocacy Toolkit on 18-21 December 2025 to strengthen youth participation and advocacy capacities.

The **Research Consortium on Children's Rights (RCCR)** secured approval of its Terms of Reference (TOR) on 15 May 2025, formalizing its structure and operational framework. It subsequently held exploratory and partnership meetings with key academic institutions and development partners, including the Polytechnic University of the Philippines (Department of Economics and Research Institute for Social and Human Development), EDUCO Philippines, ChildFund Philippines, ERDA Foundation, De La Salle University - Social Development Research Center, Philippine Statistics Authority, the Congressional Policy and Budget Research Division, Ateneo Human Rights Center, Consuelo Zobel Alger Foundation, and the University of the Philippines Diliman (Department of Family Life and Child Development). Moreover, the RCCR conducted a consultation with children on 04-05 October 2025 and a national stakeholders' consultation (NGAs, CSOs, and academe) on 14-15 October 2025 to support the development of the Child Rights Research Agenda.

These initiatives under the Technical Management Group demonstrate CWC's coordinated approach to advancing the rights of children across multiple sectors. Through the development of standardized service protocols, strategic action plans, localized workshops, and research collaborations, the Council has strengthened service delivery networks, promoted evidence-based policymaking, and empowered children and youth as active participants in advocacy. Collectively, these efforts highlight CWC's commitment to fostering inclusive and child-centered programs that address the diverse needs of vulnerable children nationwide.

Created by Law under CWC

With the Council for the Welfare of Children (CWC) serving as Secretariat, the Inter-Agency Committee on the Prohibition of Child Early, Forced Marriages and Unions (IAC-PCEFMU), formally launched the **National Action Plan to End Child, Early, Forced Marriages and Unions (NAP ECEFMU)** on 12 December 2025, following a series of multi-sectoral validation workshops to ensure coherence, responsiveness, and stakeholder ownership. The Committee also strengthened regional collaboration through its participation in the 3rd Regional Partners Roundtable on Ending Child Marriage in Southeast Asia on 11-13 November 2025, contributing to knowledge exchange and the advancement of coordinated child protection systems.



As the government chair of the **National Child Protection Working Group (NCPWG)**, CWC, together with UNICEF Philippines and ChildFund Philippines, conducted the N/RCPWG Retreat and Planning on 25 November 2025. The activity aimed to enhance the functionality of the 14 Regional Child Protection Working Groups (RCPWGs), align priorities, and disseminate updates on key child protection developments at the subnational level.

With CWC as chair, the **Inter-Agency Committee on Children in Situations of Armed Conflict (IAC CSAC)** convened coordination meetings among member agencies to advance the implementation of the CSAC law and related agreements. Key initiatives included the rollout of the CSAC e-Course with the Commission on Human Rights, the development of the Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG) Agency-Specific Protocol, and the conduct of CSAC capacity-building activities in partnership with the Office of the Presidential Adviser on Peace, Reconciliation and Unity (OPAPRU).

Created by Law

CWC actively engaged in the work of the Inter-Agency Council Against Trafficking (IACAT), including participation in the 3rd Regional Meeting of Southeast Asian National Committees Against Trafficking in Persons on 02 September 2025, the IACAT Annual Review and Reflection Workshop on 11-14 November 2025, and the 11th Manila International Dialogue against Trafficking on 20 November 2025, contributing to strengthened regional and national anti-trafficking efforts.

The Council likewise participated in regular meetings with the **Juvenile Justice and Welfare Council (JJWC)** and the **National Coordination Center against OSAEC and CSAEM (NCC-OSAEC-CSAEM)**. Through the **Department of Justice Committee for the Special Protection of Children (DOJ CSPC)**, CWC contributed to the launch of the Revised Protocol in the Case Management of Child Abuse, Neglect, Exploitation, and

Discrimination (CANE+D) on 14 August 2025, participated in a Visioning Workshop on 01-03 October 2025, and engaged in the DOJ Justice Summit on Children's Rights on 03 November 2025.

International Engagements

In addition to its leadership in national child-focused mechanisms, CWC actively engaged in regional and international platforms to ensure that children's rights are integrated into broader governance frameworks and global commitments.

Following the establishment of national measures to monitor grave child rights violations, the Philippines was removed from the monitoring of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict (SRSG-CAAC). Moving forward, the country is expected to strictly implement its Roadmap on the Protection of Children in Situations of Armed Conflict and sustain the close monitoring of grave child rights violations in the Philippines.



In 2025, CWC co-organized the Regional Meeting of the Pathfinding Countries on Ending Violence against Children in Asia-Pacific on 12-13 November 2025 with the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD), UNICEF, and the United Nations Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Violence Against Children (SRSG VAC), Dr. Najat Maalla M'jid. The delegates gathered both onsite and online, reflecting a shared resolve to accelerate progress toward ending all forms of violence against children by 2030 and beyond. Representatives from the eight pathfinding countries of the region — Cambodia, Japan, the Philippines, Papua New Guinea, Sri Lanka, Timor-Leste, Indonesia, and Mongolia — joined international experts, civil society partners, and UN agencies.

This was followed by a Roundtable Discussion between the Philippine Government and the UN SRSG-VAC on 14 November 2025. The discussion aimed to elevate violence against children (VAC) as a national priority, present key achievements and commitments, examine ongoing challenges, and identify priority areas for joint action toward achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) target of ending VAC by 2030.

The Council also co-organized the Joint National Consultation on the Review of the Regional Plan of Action on the Elimination of Violence against Children (RPA-EVAC) and the Elimination of Violence against Women (EVAW) on 18-19 September 2025. The consultation was a key step in ensuring the success of the review process, as it examined the intersections of EVAW and EVAC and identified shared strategies that could jointly address these deeply alarming issues.

Moreover, CWC participated in activities of the ASEAN Commission on the Promotion and Protection of the Rights of Women and Children (ACWC) held in Kuala Lumpur, further advancing the Philippines' engagement in regional child rights advocacy and cooperation.

Through co-organizing regional meetings, roundtable discussions, and joint consultations, as well as participating in ASEAN initiatives, the Council has strengthened cross-country collaboration, promoted evidence-based strategies, and advanced collective efforts to eliminate violence against children. These initiatives highlight CWC's role as a bridge between national priorities and international commitments, ensuring that the Philippines remains a proactive leader in child rights advocacy.

GENERAL ADMINISTRATION AND SUPPORT SERVICES

Financial Management

In 2025, CWC achieved a **fund obligation rate of 93.97%**, amounting to **Php 162,232,810.90** out of the **Php 172,635,682.11** total appropriations. This includes a **99.70% utilization of continuing appropriations** worth **Php 15,056,475.11**, and a **93.42% utilization of the current appropriations** amounting to **Php 147,176,335.79**. These financial management efforts ensured that operational programs, projects, and activities were adequately supported by the Council.

Table 11: Budget Utilization per Source of Fund

Fund Source	Amount	Utilization	BUR%
FY 2025 General Appropriations Act (RA No. 12116)	157,532,520.00	147,176,335.79	93.42%
FY 2024 Continuing Appropriations (RA No. 11975)	15,101,162.11	15,056,475.11	99.70%
Grand Total	Php 172,635,682.11	Php 162,232,810.90	93.97%

Human Resource Management

As of 31 December 2025, CWC has filled **61 out of 65 plantilla positions (93.85%)** and **87 out of 89 Contract of Service positions (97.75%)**. Overall, **148 out of 154 personnel positions have been filled, reflecting a 96.10% staffing rate**.

To further strengthen organizational capacity, the Council implemented targeted staff development initiatives aimed at enhancing technical competencies and promoting inclusive practices. Among these was the Training on the Use of Sex-Disaggregated Data Management and Gender Inclusiveness and Sensitivity held on 27-30 October 2025, which equipped personnel with improved skills in gender-responsive data collection, analysis, and reporting. The activity likewise reinforced the systematic integration of gender inclusiveness and sensitivity across programs, policies, and internal operations.

In addition, CWC personnel participated in a Cybersecurity Awareness Seminar Training conducted on 01-03 December 2025, enhancing staff awareness of digital risks, safe online practices, and data protection measures to safeguard organizational information assets.

Digital Transformation

The Council operationalized two (2) financial monitoring systems that are now actively utilized by the Budget Section to strengthen fiscal oversight and accountability. These systems support financial monitoring, and Work and Financial Plan (WFP) tracking, particularly on obligations and disbursements to enable more accurate reporting and improved expenditure management.

In line with its digitalization initiatives, the Council also developed and rolled out a Human Resource Management Information System (HRMIS) to streamline personnel records management and enhance human resource processes. To further strengthen its information security infrastructure, the Council completed the procurement of an antivirus subscription, successfully installed and deployed across all CWC desktop computers and integrated it with the existing firewall appliance.

Procurement Services

CWC efficiently facilitated a total of **516 procurement transactions for goods and services through public bidding and alternative procurement methods**. In 2025, 228 purchase orders and 12 contract agreements were processed. These efforts ensured the uninterrupted and timely provision of resources necessary to support program implementation and day-to-day operations.

With high fund utilization rates, a nearly fully staffed workforce, targeted capacity-building initiatives, the operationalization of digital monitoring and HR systems, and the timely facilitation of procurement transactions in 2025, the Council ensured that its programs and operations were effectively supported. These achievements reflect CWC's commitment to operational excellence, transparency, and the continuous strengthening of institutional capacity to advance child welfare and protection initiatives in the country.

SOCIAL INCLUSIVITY

Promotion and Provision of Employment Opportunities

CWC has an established policy on **Equal Employment Opportunity Principle** through **Administrative Order No. 2025-03** otherwise known as **Policy on the Equal Opportunity (EOP)** in All Human Resource Systems wherein the Council recognizes the right of all officials and employees to be treated equitably and is committed to providing consistent competency-based employment practices.

A total of four **(4) personnel were hired under Contract of Service and Permanent status who are considered as PWD**. With strategic budget allocations totaling Two Hundred Seventy-Eight One Hundred Twelve Pesos only (Php 278,112.00) under MOOE and Two Million Two Hundred Thirty-Four Thousand Three Hundred Twenty-Eight Pesos only (Php 2,234,328) under PS for FY 2025, the Council continued its commitment to integrating and supporting PWD staff within its workforce, reaffirming its dedication to diversity and inclusivity.

Programs, Projects, and Activities

Information, Education, and Communication (IEC) Campaign/Advocacy

In observance of National Disability Rights Week from 17-23 July 2025, CWC conducted online advocacy initiatives through its official Facebook platform in coordination with the National Council on Disability Affairs.

On **10 July 2025**, CWC posted an official announcement supporting the celebration of **National Disability Rights Week with the theme “Innovation for Inclusion: Building Inclusive Communities Together.”** The post emphasized solidarity with NCDA in advancing disability rights and called attention to the specific situation of Children with Disabilities. It underscored the importance of ensuring that policies and programs uphold their right to dignity, participation, and equal opportunities. The post also encouraged public engagement and support for initiatives promoting an inclusive society where no child is left behind regardless of ability or background.



On **17 July 2025**, CWC released an educational advocacy post highlighting key issues affecting children with disabilities. The post cited findings from Carraro, L., et al. (2023), which estimated that a child with a disability requires between 40 percent and 80 percent additional expenditure to attain the same standard of living as other children. The post emphasized that this disparity underscores the need for comprehensive government support, including inclusive health, education, and social protection services. It further reiterated that children with disabilities face disproportionate risks of rights violations and called for the creation of enabling and supportive environments that empower them to fully enjoy their rights.



Legislative Advocacy

For its legislative activities, the Council developed position papers and policy recommendations on the following bills:

- House Bill (HB) No. 9787, “An Act Recognizing Difference in Neurodevelopment, Upholding the Rights of Neurodivergent People, and Instituting a National Care and Support Plan for Neurodiversity”
- HB No. 3163, “National Rehabilitation and Physiotherapy Center for PWDs Act of 2022”

- Substitute Bill on Parking fees and Number Coding Scheme (In Substitution of House Bills Numbered 4446, 7635, and 9847 or the “Persons with Disabilities Number Coding and Parking Privileges Act”
- Input to the Zero draft Omnibus Disability Law
- Unnumbered Substitute Bill (In Substitution Of House Bills Numbered 2901, 3739, 4623, 5194, 5497, 6555, 7319, 8440, 8593, 9467, And 10973) or An Act Providing for Validity Periods of Identification Cards Issued to Persons With Disabilities, And Prescribing Penalties Therefor, Further Amending for the Purpose Republic Act No. 7277, Otherwise Known As “The Magna Carta For Persons With Disability”
- Consolidated Matrix on HB Nos. 544, 837, 837, 1028, 1314, 1916, 2128, 2797, 2957, 3476, 3676, 3770, 4130, and 4661 (Part 1 and Part 2)
- HB No. 3671 or An Act Declaring the Last Full Week of September of Every Year as the “National Week of the Deaf” and September 23 as “Filipino Sign Language Day”
- HB No. 3672 or “An Act Declaring the Month of October of Every Year as the ‘National persons with Dwarfism Awareness Month’ and October 25 as the ‘National Persons with Dwarfism Awareness Day’”
- HB No. 3673 or “An Act Declaring February 6 of Every Year as the National Day of Awareness for Persons with Down Syndrome”

Child Rights Research Agenda (CRRA)

CWC also spearheaded the drafting and development of the Child Rights Research Agenda under the Research Consortium on Children’s Rights. The Agenda was designed to guide evidence generation aligned with the 4th National Plan of Action for Children 2023 to 2028, the Philippine Development Plan 2023 to 2028, the 4th Philippine Human Rights Plan 2024 to 2028, and the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child.

While primarily focused on children, the Child Rights Research Agenda adopts a life course and intersectional approach that recognizes the interconnected realities of children, older persons, and persons with disabilities within families and communities. The Agenda prioritizes research areas that address poverty, inclusive social protection, protection from violence and neglect, access to health and mental health services, alternative care systems, disaster resilience, and equitable life opportunities.

The research priorities under the dimension on Equitable Life Opportunities include studies on multidimensional poverty, inclusive social protection, and vulnerable family contexts. These areas generate policy insights relevant to multigenerational households where older persons often serve as caregivers or dependents, and where persons with disabilities experience layered vulnerabilities.

Under the Protection dimension, the Agenda calls for strengthened evidence on violence prevention, reporting mechanisms, alternative care systems, and community-based protection structures. Research in these areas contributes to broader protective systems that also benefit older persons and persons with disabilities who may face neglect, abuse, or social exclusion.

The Agenda likewise emphasizes the importance of disaggregated data systems, inclusive service delivery, and rights-based programming in health, education, social protection, and disaster risk reduction. These research directions support the development of more responsive and inclusive policies across vulnerable sectors.

Through the development of the Child Rights Research Agenda, the Council strengthened the national research framework by identifying evidence gaps, promoting ethical and participatory research standards, and encouraging coordinated knowledge generation. Although child-centered in mandate, the Agenda contributes to policy recommendations and affirmative actions that are responsive to the holistic needs of older persons and persons with disabilities within inclusive and rights-based development frameworks.

CWC Sub-Committee on Children with Disabilities (SC CWD)

From February to March 2025, the CWC Sub-Committee on Children with Disabilities (SC CWD) convened a series of coordination meetings with member agencies to finalize the Results Matrix of the Strategic Action Plan for Children with Disabilities (SAP4CWD), ensuring alignment of targets, indicators, and agency commitments.

MAKABATA Helpline 1383

In 2025, CWC continued the implementation and strengthening of the MAKABATA Helpline 1383 as a child protection reporting and response mechanism.

For 2025, a total of 28 reports were received concerning children with disabilities. These cases were classified into various categories of disability. Eleven cases involved psychosocial and behavioral disabilities, followed by six (6) cases involving learning, cognitive, or intellectual disabilities. Cases involving mental disabilities, chronic illnesses leading to disabilities, orthopedic disabilities, and communication deficits were fewer than five (5) each. No reports were received involving visual or seeing disabilities during the reporting period.

In addition, a total of 28 grandparents accessed the MAKABATA Helpline in 2025. Monthly utilization included one (1) in January, seven (7) in April, three (3) in June, six (6) in July, four (4) in August, three (3) in October, two (2) in November, and two (2) in December. These figures reflect the engagement of older persons, particularly grandparents who serve as primary or secondary caregivers, in seeking assistance and guidance related to child protection concerns.

The MAKABATA Helpline 1383 serves as an accessible platform for reporting cases of abuse, neglect, exploitation, and other rights violations affecting children. Through its referral pathways and coordination with local government units, social welfare offices, law enforcement agencies, and other service providers, the Helpline supports timely intervention and case management. In situations where cases involve family members who are older persons or persons with disabilities, appropriate referrals are facilitated to the concerned agencies and service providers within the protection network.



To know more about CWC visit:

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