



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



**3rd National Plan of Action for Children
2017-2022**

About the cover: Photo taken by Christopher Leones of Aeta children in school in
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3rd National Plan of Action for **Children** (2017-2022)

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MESSAGE



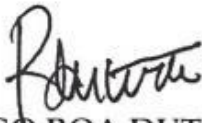
My warmest greetings to the **Council for the Welfare of Children (CWC)** on its publication of the **3rd National Plan of Action for Children**.

Securing a brighter future for the youth remains to be of utmost importance to the government. I am thus pleased with CWC's passion and dedication this cause, and for spearheading strategies and programs that will enable us to meet our international obligations and achieve our development plans in relation to children.

It is my hope that you remain steadfast in your commitment to provide a better quality of life for our youth. May you continue to inspire everyone to take concrete action to address issues concerning child abuse, labor, healthcare and education, among others.

We assure you of our full support in all your advocacies and interventions for child welfare and development. Together, let us ensure that our younger generation will live and grow in a nurturing environment.

May you have a successful and productive event.


RODRIGO ROA DUTERTE

MANILA
October 2018

THE PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES

MESSAGE



Warmest greetings to all children and child advocates!

As chair of the Council for the Welfare of Children (CWC), I am honored to present the 3rd National Plan of Action for Children (NPAC) 2017-2022, a landmark endeavor for the Filipino children. This document is a result of a comprehensive and progressive multi-sector planning aimed at translating into action the vision of the national government set in the Child 21: Philippine National Strategic Framework for Plan Development for Children.

Over the years, we have successfully reached significant milestones to promote the welfare and protect the rights of the Filipino children. We have also seen the commitment and collaboration of the government and civil society which have impressively led to the realization of our goals for children despite the setbacks that beset the country. We are confident that no amount of challenge will ever stop us in chasing our aspirations to provide them a better quality of life. In fact, all hard work and sacrifices of various stakeholders are directed towards harmonizing efforts to create a nurturing society for the present and next generation of Filipino children.

As Irish artist Stacia Tauscher once said, "We worry about what a child will become tomorrow, yet we forget that he is someone today." This principle is the very core of NPAC – to build a society where children are the key players of their own development. They may be children, but they are individuals who have something to say and their voices must be heard. Let us, therefore, institute mechanisms of participation so that they will always have a chance to express themselves, share their thoughts, and take part in realizing what they think are best for them.

We hope that you join us in ensuring that no child is ever left behind. Be one with us in using this NPAC as our main guide for it outlines the key goals and strategies which will help us enable children to enjoy their basic rights as enshrined in our constitution.

Whether we are in government or in the private sector, let us be united for our children. As Nelson Mandela said, "There can be no keener revelation of a society's soul than the way in which it treats its children."


ROLANDO JOSELITO D. BAUTISTA
Chairperson, CWC Board
Secretary, Department of Social Welfare and Development

MESSAGE



The development of the 3rd National Plan of Action for Children (NPAC), 2017 – 2022 is another milestone towards achieving our vision for the Filipino children contained in the Philippine National Strategic Framework for Plan Development for Children, 2000 – 2025 or CHILD 21. This medium-term plan continues what have been started in the past two (2) NPAC documents – including what have not yet been achieved completely, and the other emerging issues that continue to plague the Filipino children.

The 3rd NPAC, similar to its previous predecessors, retains to be a multi-sector, rights-based, and results-oriented action plan for children. At the end of 2022, we will be able to measure how the NPAC has contributed to the goals and targets of the Philippine Development Plan. Its goals and targets are consistent with the three pillars of the PDP - *Malasakit*, *Pagbabago*, and *Patuloy na Pag-unlad*. For the promotion of *Malasakit*, the 3rd NPAC proposes a child-rights focused and child-centered governance and respect for cultural diversity. It provides a framework with unique and inclusive programs for each child with regard to their race and religion. For the second pillar, which is *Pagbabago*, the NPAC ensures that all children, especially the vulnerable ones, are given equal opportunities, access to quality basic services. Lastly, for the *Patuloy na Pag-Unlad*, the NPAC provides poverty alleviation strategies for children and their families.

Furthermore, the 3rd NPAC supports many of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) that pertain directly to children. The goals and targets contained in the 3rd NPAC also identify which of the SDGs are being responded to that makes it easy for us to determine which SDGs are being fairly addressed, and those that would need additional push.

It is interesting that we have sustained the participation and collaboration of government agencies with those from the different sectors, to include the civil society, private organizations, faith-based groups, and no less than the children themselves which contributed to the growing share of strategic partnerships for the best interest and well-being of children. The role of children in the crafting of this document has been solidly planned and taken with utmost consideration. We know, that their role will not end here, rather, they will continuously be engaged in monitoring the extent by which this plan has effectively cause positive outcome for them.

At the end of the day, we all be able to gauge how much the 3rd NPAC has portrayed in making the lives of our children better and enjoying their every right to achieve their full potentials. We are pleased with this landmark achievement for the Filipino children. Our individual agency efforts on children are all linked and converged here, so let us remain connected and steadfast in keeping children first in our agenda. Let nothing hinder us from delivering the best for the Filipino children as we continue to believe their crucial role in keeping this nation great.


MARY MITZI "MITCH" CAJAYON-UY
Executive Director V
Council for the Welfare of Children

LIST OF ACRONYMS

2 nd NPAC	Second National Plan of Action for Children	CDW	Child Development Worker
3 rd NPAC	Third National Plan of Action for Children	CIAC	Children in Armed Conflict
4Ps or <i>Pantawid</i>	<i>Pantawid Pamilyang Pilipino</i> Program	CICL	Children in Conflict with the Law
ACCAP	Association of Child Caring Agencies of the Philippines	CLIP	Comprehensive Local Integration Program
ADB	Asian Development Bank	CLJIP	Comprehensive Local Juvenile Intervention Program
AFP	Armed Forces of the Philippines	CLKSS	Child Labor Knowledge Sharing System
AIDS	Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome	C/MSWDO	City/Municipal Social Welfare and Development Officer
ALS	Alternative Learning System	CNJIP	Comprehensive National Juvenile Intervention Program
AO	Administrative Order	CNSP	Children in Need of Special Protection
ARMM	Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao	CompR	Completion Rate
ASEAN	Association of Southeast Asian Nations	CPC	Country Programme for Children
ASRH	Adolescent Sexual and Reproductive Health	CRC	Convention on the Rights of the Child
BCPC	Barangay Council for the Protection of Children	CRIN	Child Rights International Network
BEE	Bureau of Elementary Education	CSAC	Children in Situations of Armed Conflict
BEIS	Basic Education Information System	CSO	Civil Society Organizations
BJMP	Bureau of Jail Management and Penology	CSR	Cohort Survival Rate
BPA	<i>Bahay Pag-asa</i>	CSSP	Conflict-Sensitive Peace Promoting
BPI	Bureau of Plant Industry	CWC	Council for the Welfare of Children
BUCOR	Bureau of Corrections	CWD	Children with Disabilities
CAR	Children At-Risk	DA	Department of Agriculture
CAR	Cordillera Administrative Region	DA-TRC	Drug Abuse Treatment and Rehabilitation Center
CALABARZON	Cavite-Laguna-Batangas-Rizal-Quezon	DCC	Day Care Center
CCT	Conditional Cash Transfer	DCW	Day Care Worker
CDC	Child Development Center	DepEd	Department of Education

DILG	Department of the Interior and Local Government	IACAT	Inter-Agency Council Against Trafficking
DOJ	Department of Justice	IAC-CIAC	Inter-Agency Committee on Children in Armed Conflict
DOLE	Department of Labor and Employment	ICT	Information and Communication Technology
DOST	Department of Science and Technology	IDPs	Internally Displaced Persons
DRRM	Disaster Risk Reduction and Management	IEC	Information, Education and Communication
DSWD	Department of Social Welfare and Development	ILO	International Labour Organisation
EBEIS	Enhanced Basic Education Information System	IMCI	Integrated Management of Childhood Illnesses
ECCD	Early Childhood Care and Development	JJWC	Juvenile Justice and Welfare Council
ECCDC	Early Childhood Care and Development Council	KC-NCDDP	<i>Kapit-Bisig Laban sa Kahirapan</i>
ECE	Early Child Education		Comprehensive and Integrated Delivery of Social Services -National Community-Driven Development Project
EFA	Education for All	Kto12	Kindergarten to Grade 12
ENC	Essential Newborn Care	LCE	Local Chief Executive
EO	Executive Order	LCPC	Local Council for the Protection of Children
EPI	Expanded Program on Immunization	LGC	Local Government Code
ERDA	Educational Research and Development Assistance Foundation	LGU	Local Government Unit
FIES	Family Income and Expenditure Survey	LLCO	Labor Laws Compliance Officer
FourCs	Convergence of Councils and Committees for Children	LSWDO	Local Social Welfare and Development Officer
FNRI	Food and Nutrition Research Institute	LVF	Laura Vicuña Foundation
GAA	General Appropriations Act	MACR	Minimum Age of Criminal Responsibility
GER	Gross Enrolment Ratio	MAM	Moderately Acute Malnutrition
GCRV	Grave Child Rights Violations	MARP	Most At-Risk Population
HIV	Human Immunodeficiency Virus	MC	Memorandum Circular
IACACP	Inter-Agency Council Against Child Pornography	MCH	Maternal and Child Health
		MDG	Millennium Development Goals
		MDT	Multi-Disciplinary Team

MIMAROPA	Mindoro-Marinduque-Romblon-Palawan	NMR	Neonatal Mortality Rate
MMR	Maternal Mortality Ratio	NNC	National Nutrition Council
MRRS-GCRVS	SAC Monitoring Response and Reporting System for Grave Child Rights Violations in Situations of Armed Conflict	NNeVAC	National Network to End Violence Against Children
NAP-WPS	National Action Plan on Women Peace and Security	NNS	National Nutrition Survey
NBI	National Bureau of Investigation	NPAC	National Plan of Action for Children
NBOO	National Barangay Operations Office	NSCB	National Statistical Coordination Board
NBS-VAC	National Baseline Study-Violence Against Children	NSO	National Statistics Office
NCCT	National Council for Children's Television	NYC	National Youth Commission
NCDA	National Council on Disability Affairs	OFWs	Overseas Filipino Workers
NCDC	National Child Development Center	OOB	Office of Cybercrime
NCIP	National Commission on Indigenous Peoples	OPAPP	Office of the Presidential Adviser on the Peace Process
NCLC	National Child Labor Committee	OSY	Out-of-School Youth
NCMF	National Commission for Muslim Filipinos	PACFMC	Presidential Awards for Child-Friendly Municipalities and Cities
NCR	National Capital Region	PAO	Public Attorney's Office
NDA	National Dairy Authority	PCW	Philippine Commission on Women
NDHS	National Demographic and Health Survey	PD	Presidential Decree
NDRRMCC	National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Coordinating Council	PDEA	Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency
NEDA	National Economic and Development Authority	PDP	Philippine Development Plan
NER	National Enrolment Ratio	PIA	Philippine Information Agency
NGA	National Government Agency	PNP	Philippine National Police
NGO	Non-Government Organization	PPACL	Philippine Program Against Child Labor
NJJWMIS	National Juvenile Justice and Welfare Management Information System	PPAN	Philippine Plan of Action on Nutrition
		PSA	Philippine Statistical Authority
		RA	Republic Act
		RBME	Results-Based Monitoring and Evaluation
		RRCY	Regional Rehabilitation Center for the Youth
		RJJWC	Regional Juvenile Justice and Welfare Committee

RUSF	Ready-to-Use Supplementary Food	WHO	World Health Organization
SAM	Severe Acute Malnutrition		
SBM	<i>Sagip Batang Manggagawa</i>		
SBMMS	<i>Subaybay Bata</i> Macro Monitoring System		
SCFLG	Seal of Child-Friendly Local Governance		
SDC	Social Development Committee		
SDG	Sustainable Development Goals		
SK	<i>Sangguniang Kabataan</i>		
SLP	Sustainable Livelihood Program		
SOCCSKSARGEN	South Cotabato- Cotabato-Sultan Kudarat- Sarangani-General Santos		
START	Strategies Towards Acceptance, Reintegration and Transformation		
SWAD	Social Welfare and Development		
SY	School Year		
TESDA	Technical Education and Skills Development Agency		
TIP	Trafficking in Persons		
TMG	Technical Management Group		
TVET	Technical Vocational Education Training		
U5MR	Under-five Mortality Rate		
UN	United Nations		
UNCRC	United Nations Committee on the Rights of the Child		
UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund		
VAC	Violence Against Children		
WASH	Water, Sanitation and Hygiene		
WCPD	Women and Children Protection Desk		
WinS	WASH in Schools		

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The 3rd National Plan of Action for Children (3rd NPAC), 2017-2022, is the third and the penultimate multi-sector medium-term rights-based and results-oriented action plan that concretizes the strategies, policies and programs for children into an action plan to achieve Child 21's vision for Filipino children by 2025. The 3rd NPAC is driven by the country's commitment to the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child and related Optional Protocols to uphold children's rights. It is consistent with children related goals and targets of the Philippine Development Plan, 2017-2022 and the commitments to the Sustainable Development Goals 2030. It further takes into account the results, significant findings and unfinished agenda of the 2nd NPAC, 2011-2016, which was focussed on the Millennium Development Goals set for achievement in 2015.

The 3rd NPAC is focussed on children's rights to improve the quality and standards of life for them, survival and development, protection and participation and fosters non-discrimination and inclusivity.

A policy framework is adopted to illustrate the significant contributions of national government broad sector plans that include children and those that articulate children-specific and child-focused policies and programs. Regional and local plans of action for children shall be developed to contribute to national goals and targets and address those that shall address their distinct situations. The 3rd NPAC integrates the salient features of the Philippine Plan of Action for Nutrition, Philippine Health Agenda, Philippine Program of Action Against Child Labor, Philippine Plan of Action for the Elimination of Violence Against Children, among others, and further puts together child-related sector and inter-

agency programs and projects and those of the United Nations System, primarily the United Nations Children's Fund, other multilateral and bilateral agencies and civil society organizations and non-government organizations.

The 3rd NPAC provides an overall strategic framework that outlines the aspirations to achieve the following goals: (1) for children to have a better quality and improved way of life; (2) that children are well nourished, have healthy lives and are active learners with good quality education; (3) that children are safe and free from violence, abuse, neglect and exploitation; and, (4) that children are actively participating in decision-making processes affecting their lives according to their evolving capacities. A strategic framework is provided for each goal which are translated into sub-goals and expected outcomes.

First, for a better quality and improved way of life, the 3rd NPAC aims for: (i) the reduction in child poverty incidence and that national anti-poverty programs are directed to poor households with children through conditional cash transfers and sustainable livelihood programs, those for families in conflict-vulnerable and conflict-affected areas, and livelihood and emergency programs for parents of child laborers while a poverty alleviation program shall be designed specifically for children; (ii) poor and vulnerable households are covered by universal health insurance and with access to social protection; (iii) exposure and vulnerability to climate-related extreme events and other social and environmental shocks and disasters are reduced and that affected children are given relief, rehabilitation and protection during natural and man-made disasters; and (iv) child combatants and children of former combatants return to normal and productive lives through peace

and development interventions in conflict-affected areas. In addition, the 3rd NPAC shall continue to push for legal identity of all Filipino children and universal birth registration as a very basic and inalienable right of a child to a name.

Second, for children to be well nourished, have healthy lives and are active learners with good quality education, the 3rd NPAC aims to: (i) end children's hunger and achieve food security and improved nutrition by drawing on broader and multi-sector nutrition-sensitive programs that address the underlying effects of malnutrition and nutrition-specific programs that address the immediate causes of malnutrition focussing on the first 1,000 days of a child's life through infant and young child feeding, complementary and supplementary feeding; (ii) reduction of maternal mortality to less than 90 deaths per 100,000 live births, new born deaths to 10 per 1,000 live births and under-five deaths to 22 per 1,000 live births and reduction of morbidities by ensuring maternal and child health care, including new born care, with time-tested and proven interventions and ensuring adequate essential supplies, drugs, access to health care and medical facilities; (iii) combatting HIV, tuberculosis, malaria and other water-borne and communicable diseases; (iv) prevention and treatment of substance abuse as defined in the broad national drug prevention program; (v) reduction of childhood disabilities, deaths and injuries from accidents and road crashes; (vi) universal access of adolescents to reproductive health care services; (vii) access to quality early child care and development with the expansion and accreditation of day care services and child development centers and mandatory kindergarten to make young children ready for school; (viii) inclusive and quality basic education, alternative delivery modes,

flexible learning options and alternative learning systems; and (ix) ensuring households and children with access to water, sanitation and hygiene particularly in waterless communities and in day care centers and in schools.

Third goal, that children are safe and free from violence, abuse, neglect and exploitation aimed at addressing major challenges: (i) child labor in all its form is reduced by 30 percent towards its progressive elimination by 2025 and make the Philippines Child Labor Free; (ii) reduction in the trafficking of children; (iii) halting the recruitment of children as soldiers by non-state armed groups and that grave child rights violations are monitored, reported on and responded to; (iii) ending all forms of violence against children; (iv) reduction of children in conflict with the law through restorative justice with preventive, rehabilitative, reintegration, legal and aftercare services; and (v) putting an end to sexual abuse and exploitation particularly those committed online. Furthermore, that children in Metro Manila and other urban centers are not at-risk on the streets and that children left behind, abandoned, neglected, orphaned, with overseas working parents and those in correctional facilities, children left behind by soldiers killed in action, those with drug-dependent parents, are safe and in the care of foster or adoptive parents, other family members and relatives.

A safe and protective environment shall be provided by reinforcing or installing mechanisms for strict enforcement of the provisions of the law, upgrading the skills and competence of social workers, police, investigators, other law enforcers, and all those concerned in the protection and rescue of children, a more forceful legal system, preventive measures including awareness raising, personal safety lessons

in schools, family development sessions, rehabilitation through center-based facilities and other public and NGO-run caring services, reintegration to the family and community, and legal assistance to victims and prosecution of offenders.

Fourth goal, that children are actively participating in decision-making processes affecting their lives according to their evolving capacities by aiming, more specifically, at a responsive, inclusive, participatory and representative decision-making among children. The Philippines Child Participation Framework defines the various venues and opportunities and the spaces and standards for child participation. The 3rd NPAC shall push for children and youth participation in governance processes and in conflict affected situations.

A broader strategic approach shall be pursued, beyond traditional child-specific and child-centred programs and projects by taking into account national socio-economic programs that have bearing and impact on children. A more comprehensive approach is adopted by weaving in and identifying programs that are national in scope and intended for the general population or particular population groups that are not directly focused on children but strategically impact on their lives and situations especially along poverty alleviation, social protection, and food security. Targeting shall be further sharpened to reduce disparities by concentrating purposively-designed program interventions to where most vulnerable children or where child poverty incidences or under-nutrition are high such as the evolving *BangUn* program in the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao, children who are in situations of armed conflict and disasters, and where identified and distinctive problems of children are

widespread such as where child trafficking and sexual abuse and exploitation persist.

The 3rd NPAC embarks on a broad legislative and policy agenda to address prevailing children issues and concerns, to ensure adherence to international standards and instruments to which the country is a party to, and to give priority and basis for advocacy.

Studies and research are identified and incorporated into relevant sections for evidence-based policymaking. The research agenda takes into account inclusion statistics, equity and impact evaluation of public policies, budgets and development programs to inform strategies, planning and programming for children.

Time-tested and proven-effective programs and projects for children shall be renewed and sustained more aggressively and their outreach and coverage expanded. These shall be reinforced with innovative programs that shall respond to emerging priorities and the introduction of high-impact programs in partnership with the private sector and other programs of CSOs/NGOs aligned with those of government towards a common direction.

New programs and plans shall be developed such as on child poverty alleviation, private sector adoption of an LGU to counter child poverty, *Buklod Paglaom* for CICL, concept paper for Project Homes for street children, children left behind by parents working overseas, in correctional facilities or incarcerated, children left behind by soldiers killed in action, and children of drug-dependent parents. An advocacy and communication plan is also being developed in support of the 3rd NPAC.

Broad and continuing partnerships shall be pursued with the United Nations System, multilateral and bilateral agencies through

various programs of cooperation for children. The private sector shall be engaged to support and invest in high impact programs that will have major bearing on improving and elevating the living standards of children. Civil society organizations/non-government organizations shall be enjoined to support programs, provide technical assistance to contribute to the achievement and monitoring of 3rd NPAC goals and targets.

The Council for the Welfare of Children shall have the following key deliverables: policy development and research - codification of children's laws, child rights protection framework and system, child protection policies in the work place, 3rd NPAC research agenda and research advisory group; plan development - guidelines for mainstreaming the 3rd NPAC in regional and local plans, development of new programs for child poverty alleviation, advocacy and communication plan for the 3rd NPAC; Presidential Awards for Child-Friendly Municipalities and Cities (PACFMC); acceleration of monitoring and reporting on grave child rights violations; reporting on the situation of children - periodic report to the UN CRC, thematic annual State of Filipino Children Report (SOFCR), annual, mid-term and final 3rd NPAC reports; and a harmonized monitoring and evaluation (M&E) system.

The roles of institutional and inter-agency coordination mechanisms at national and regional levels are described. Foremost is the FourCs or Convergence of Councils and Committees for Children and the Regional Committees/Sub-Committees for Children and Local Councils for the Protection of Children. Institutional mechanisms shall be enhanced and human resource capacities and competence of composite technical, managerial and frontline workers for the operation and administration of social and

other related services at national, regional and local levels shall continue to be upgraded.

Local governance shall be strengthened, through the joint efforts of the Department of the Interior and Local Governance and CWC, by conducting child-friendly local governance audit and strengthening the role of the consortium of Local Councils for the Protection of Children.

The critical role, primary responsibility and accountability of local governments in the implementation of the 3rd NPAC, ensuring that children are intrinsically embedded in their local development plans and executive-legislative agenda and basic services for children are managed, administered and delivered efficiently and sufficiently.

Children, families and communities shall be empowered by providing them with appropriate and supportive measures for expanding their learning opportunities, participation in children informal and formal organizations, family development sessions and community improvement processes and recognition of their respective valuable roles and contributions to social-economic advancements.

The 3rd NPAC shall track two-level results, at child and program performance levels using results monitoring tools designed for the 3rd NPAC. The 3rd NPAC and *Subaybay* Bata Macro Monitoring System shall be harmonized and made web-based for easy access. The harmonized system shall draw data mainly from the Philippine Statistical Authority, National Nutrition Surveys, and other official sources. It shall include integration of data from sector-specific systems such as AngelNet on trafficking and VAWC, the field health service information system, basic education information system, child labor knowledge sharing system, social welfare information management

system, national juvenile justice welfare management information system, and other administrative/routine reporting systems. The 3rd NPAC shall conduct annual, mid-term and terminal/final implementation review, assessment and reporting on its performance.

Part I Introduction

The 3rd National Plan of Action for Children (3rd NPAC), which covers the period 2017-2022, is the third and the penultimate multi-sector medium-term action plan that concretizes the strategies, policies and programs for children into an action plan to achieve and realize the vision for Filipino children by 2025.

This vision is articulated in Child 21 which serves as the blueprint for national government agencies, local government units (LGUs) and non-government organizations (NGOs), in planning measures/interventions and budget appropriations to achieve the goals and targets for the realization of Filipino children's rights in the 21st century. Child 21 is translated into clear, actionable and time-bound plans in medium-term multiple-year time frames toward disparity reduction concretized in the National Plan of Action for Children (NPAC) and local plans of actions for children.

The First National Plan of Action for Children (NPAC1) was for the period 2005-2010 and the Second National Plan of Action for Children (2nd NPAC) for the period 2011-2016. The 2nd NPAC came in a most critical period when the Philippines' commitment to achieving the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) by 2015 was measured. A terminal and final report of the results of the 2nd NPAC provided recommendations for consideration in the 3rd NPAC.

Chapter 1 provides a brief profile of the country. Chapter 2 describes the transition of the 2nd NPAC to the 3rd NPAC. And Chapter 3 summarizes the international commitments and policy anchors of the 3rd NPAC, its goals, strategic framework, programs and projects.

Chapter 1 The Philippines

The Philippines: A Brief Country Profile

The Philippines is an archipelago located in Southeast Asia, bounded by the Philippine Sea to the east, Celebes Sea to the south, and South China Sea, now referred to as the West Philippine Sea, to the north and the west. It is comprised of 7,107 islands, although only about a thousand of these are inhabited, with a coastline of 31,800 square kilometers that cut across more than 80 percent of its provinces. The islands are volcanic in origin and most are part of the Pacific Ring of Fire. Mountain ranges also abound. The natural configuration and topography of the country renders it prone to natural disasters and makes the delivery of basic services challenging.

The country has a total land area of 301,780 square kilometers (116,518 square miles). It is divided into the three major islands of Luzon, Visayas, and Mindanao comprising 17 regions, of which 16 are administrative regions and one is autonomous. Politically and administratively, it is further subdivided into four (4) clusters of local government units: 81 provinces, 145 cities of which 33 are highly urbanized cities, 1,489 municipalities, and 42,036 *barangays*.

The total population of the Philippines, as of August 2015, was 100,981,437, based on the 2015 Census of Population (POPCEN)¹ higher by 8.64 million to the 92.34 million populations registered in 2010, and by 24.47 million to the 76.51 million populations in 2000. The Philippine population increased by 1.72 percent annually, on average, during the period 2010 to 2015, lower than that during the period 2000 to 2010 at 1.90 percent.

Three (3) of the 17 regions have a combined 38.1 percent share of the population: CALABARZON (Region IVA), the biggest population in 2015 with 14.41 million, followed by the National Capital Region (NCR) with 12.88 million, and Central Luzon (Region III) with 11.22 million. The Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (ARMM), on the other hand, was the fastest growing region with an average annual population growth rate of 2.89 percent.

The child population was 28.69 million in 1990 and it grew to 38.2 million in 2007 or 43.3 percent of the country's total population. The 2015 POPCEN showed that the number of Filipino children aged 0-17 years old increased to 38.36 million. The number of children under-five is expected to reach 11.076 million by 2030 or 8.7 percent of the population.

Real gross domestic product is projected to grow by 6.9 percent in 2017 and 2018.² According to the World Bank, with sound domestic macroeconomic fundamentals and an accelerating recovery among other emerging markets and developing economies, the Philippines is expected to remain one of East Asia's top growth performers.

The country's three (3) most populous regions -- Central Luzon, NCR, and CALABARZON -- account for nearly two-thirds of the Philippine domestic production. NCR had the largest share

¹ <https://www.psa.gov.ph/content/highlights-philippine-population-2015-census-population>

² <http://www.worldbank.org/en/news/feature/2017/05/04/philippines-economic-update-april-2017>

to GDP at 37.9 percent in 2015, followed by CALABARZON at 15.5 percent, and Central Luzon at 8.9 percent, for a combined total share of 62.3 percent. The growth of these regions has been due primarily to the location of the central government, which facilitates the expansion of the industry and services sectors. On the other hand, the regions with the smallest contributions to GDP are the ARMM at 0.7 percent, followed by the Caraga Region (Region XIII) at 1.3 percent, and Mindoro Occidental, Mindoro Oriental, Marinduque, Romblon, Palawan (MIMAROPA or Region IVB) at 1.6 percent.³

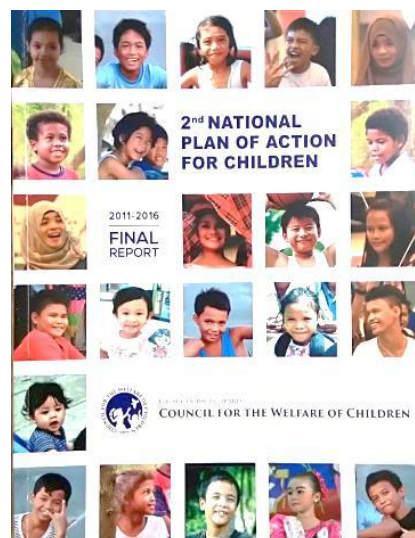
The disparities and inequities in the situation of Filipino children are largely affected by the rapid growth in population, increasing poverty, and the damaging effects wrought by natural and human-induced disasters, including conflict situations. Children from impoverished families and households, whether they live in remote and far-flung areas or in densely populated urban communities and settlements, are marginalized and predisposed to deprivations of basic social services and exposure to various risks and vulnerabilities to economic shocks rendered by the displacement, destruction to agriculture and properties, lack of livelihood opportunities owing to major typhoons that devastate the country several times a year.

³ Philippine Development Plan, 2017-2022, National Economic Development Authority, Philippines

Chapter 2 From the 2nd to the 3rd National Plan of Action for Children

The Second National Plan of Action for Children articulated the country's pathway for the period 2011-2016 to realizing the vision of Child 21. Anchored on the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UN CRC), the 2nd NPAC adopted a rights- and results-based approach to programming aimed at monitoring two tracks: child-level results and program performance. An intensive terminal review of the 2nd NPAC was undertaken and achievement/non-achievement, results, lessons learnt and recommendations for the 3rd NPAC were provided in its final report. The same rights- and results-based approach is adopted in the 3rd NPAC and enhanced to address lessons learnt in the 2nd NPAC.

The 2nd NPAC underscored the country's commitment to the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) which were a set of concrete and specific goals aimed at addressing extreme poverty in its many dimensions - income poverty, hunger, disease, lack of adequate shelter, and exclusion - while promoting gender equality, education, and environmental sustainability. Towards these ends, three 2nd NPAC goals were identified. The first goal was for children and their mothers to have a better quality of life and measured by MDG1 to MDG8 targets. The second goal was to ensure that children are safe and free, thereupon, protected from violence, abuse, neglect and exploitation. This was to be measured by MDG+1 to MDG+12 targets which were specific to the various conditions of children who need special protection. And, the third goal envisioned that children are actively participating in decision-making processes affecting their lives and indicated by the achievement of MDG++ on child participation. The goals of the 2nd NPAC are carried over to the 3rd NPAC although modified and improved to give special focus on standards and quality of life.



The MDG culminated in 2015 and a global post-MDG agenda is now set and expanded to 17 Sustainable Development Goals for 2030. The findings and recommendations of the 2nd NPAC end-of-cycle report identified the unfinished agenda that feeds into strategic directions for the 3rd National Plan of Action for Children, 2017-2022 with a renewed and new set of goals and targets for Sustainable Development.

2nd NPAC Results for Children. Delivering the 2nd NPAC's promised results for children was mixed. The most challenging were in the reduction of child poverty incidence which stood at 31.4 percent in 2015 (from 35.2 percent in 2011) and in ending hunger. On the other hand, there was a steady decline in neonatal, infant and under-five mortalities but desired results and targets were not achieved. Neonatal deaths were at 13 per 1,000 live births in 2015 vis-à-vis a target reduction to 10 deaths per 1,000 live births by 2016; infant deaths were 21 per 1,000 live births missing the MDG target reduction of 19 by 2015; and, under-five deaths per 1,000 live births were 27 in 2015 missing the MDG target of reducing

under-five deaths to 26.7 per 1,000 live births.⁴ Enrolment in early education was also behind targets. The downward trend in elementary school participation needs to be addressed although promising developments were observed in cohort survival and completion. Gross enrolment at elementary level was 105.3 percent in school year (SY) 2015-2016, down from 109.2 percent in SY 2012-2013 while net enrolment was 92.4 percent in SY 2015-2016 also down from 95.13 percent in SY 2012-2013. The more promising developments in the education sector were in the increase in cohort survival rate (CSR) which stood at 84.75 percent in SY 2014-2015 and completion rate at 82.65 percent. Dropout or school-leavers rate also went down to 4.58 percent and 2.93 percent from previous school years.

Children from poor, separated and dysfunctional families are at greater risks to abuse, exploitation and violence. Among the foremost challenges of children who need special protection are in the elimination of child labor and the end of violence against them because of the magnitude and severity of their problems. Child labor numbered 2.1 million in 2011; no updated data is available. A national baseline study on violence against children revealed that 80 percent of children experience all forms of violence which include physical, psychological, sexual, peer (bullying) and cyber violence. Children are abandoned, neglected or separated from their parents because of poverty, destitution, hardships. They are given up for adoption because of unwanted pregnancies. They are left behind by parents who are in search of greener pastures estimated at 3-6 million children left behind by overseas Filipino workers (OFWs) or by parent(s) who are in correctional facilities. There are no data on actual number and extent of children abused and exploited. The number of children in conflict with the law was reported at 5,972 in the first semester of 2016 by the Philippine National Police (PNP).

Key Policy and Program Results and Significant Findings. Implementation of the 80 programs and projects identified in the 2nd NPAC was at 97.5 percent but the rates of accomplishment and implementation of each program and project were not measured. Implementation was highly dependent on the relevance of legislative policy measures, enforcement and compliance, adequacy of resources and corresponding expenditure, absorptive capacity at managerial, technical and service delivery levels, governance and political will, and functional mechanisms and structures.

Twenty-eight (28) child-focused and child-related laws were passed from 2011 to 2016. Gains were achieved in the quality, relevance and adherence of policies and programs to the principles of CRC and to the concluding observations and recommendations of the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child. They included laws and executive measures to improve health care and services, the coverage and quality of education for consistency with international standards (Republic Act or RA 10533 Enhanced Basic Education Act or K to 12), special protection measures for children in especially difficult circumstances, including the monitoring of grave child rights violations (Executive Order 138), children and youth participation, and on children's relief during emergencies and disasters (RA

⁴ Child mortality data for 2015 were included in and derived from the 8th National Nutrition Survey conducted by the Food and Nutrition Research Institute (FNRI). In the end of cycle review process of the 2nd NPAC, the FNRI recommended its use as part of the terminal report. However, the official data to be used for the 3rd NPAC shall be from the Philippine Statistical Authority.

10821 Children's Emergency Relief and Protection Act). Given the numerous laws that have already been passed, the Board of the Council for the Welfare of Children (CWC) approved the Codification of Children's Laws.

Public sector budgets and investments for children increased considerably in the past two (2) decades. The social services sector had the largest allocation among all sectors with a 34 percent share of the national budget in 2013 and went higher to 37 percent in 2015. The Department of Health (DOH), Department of Education (DepEd), and Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD), whose services cater mostly to children, were among the highest budgeted agencies. A "Financing for Children" study in 2013, commissioned by the CWC, was the first-ever study intended to guide more rational and equitable resource allocation/planning for children. Making public sector budgets more child-friendly are confronted by the following concerns: (a) funds for health care and social welfare service delivery are allocated to national agencies despite the devolution of said services to local government units; (b) uncertainty in the percentage of sector budgets actually allocated to and dispensed by LGUs; and, (c) the lack of a mandated provision in the Local Government Code for a specific fund for nutrition programs in the LGUs.

A mandatory audit of LGUs for Child-Friendly Local Governance (CFLG) was launched by the Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG) and CWC in 2014. A paradigm shift in the mode of evaluation from a voluntary application for the annual Presidential Awards for Child-Friendly Municipalities and Cities (PACFMC) to mandatory audit was introduced and enforced. The twelve (12) assessment criteria focused on outcome/results of national goals and targets for children from as a customary program performance output assessment. A passing mark and awarding of the Seal of Child-Friendly Local Governance (SCFLG) became an eligibility requirement for the Presidential Awards.

Cash grants and livelihood assistance were provided through two major programs: (a) *Pantawid Pamilyang Pilipino* Program (*Pantawid* or 4Ps), a conditional cash transfer (CCT) strategy with budget allocations that ranged from PhP62.6 billion to PhP64.3 billion between 2014-2016, benefitting >< 10 million children 0-18 years old, and (b) the Integrated Livelihood Program of the Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE) which gave assistance for specific livelihood programs in kind to 18,140 parents of child laborers, 6,436 children removed from child labor and 11,829 at-risk children prevented from child labor.

Complementary and supplementary feeding were provided to children who were underweight, for a given period of time, to arrest malnutrition in facilities where children converge specifically in day care centers (DCCs) and in schools (1.68 million). Milk feeding was also provided through dairy cooperatives and 256,294 children were served from 2010 to 2014. Strategic nutrition interventions in emergencies are also provided.

Comprehensive maternal and child health care and nutrition (MCHN) have been packaged to include time-tested and effective interventions such as the immunization program, control of acute respiratory infections and control of diarrhoeal diseases, and micronutrient supplementation. Interventions were also implemented to prevent mortality and morbidity resulting from child injuries, malaria and dengue fever cases, Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV) mother-to-child transmission and cases among adolescents.

Policies and standards have been developed and incorporated in the curricula and training designs for capacity building and skills upgrading of frontline workers, technical staff, programme managers and other categories of relevant government staff and workforce. Among these were: (a) DOH policy on facility-based maternal deliveries assisted by qualified and trained health personnel; (b) DOH and the National Nutrition Council (NNC) joint capacity building activities on Infant and Young Child Feeding; (c) Early Childhood Care and Development Council's (ECCDC) "Standards and Guidelines for Center-based Early Childhood Programs for 0-4 years old Filipino Children" for a registration and credential system for early childhood care and development (ECCD) services and facilities; (d) DepEd's training activities and teaching/learning modules for the adoption of mother tongue-based multi-lingual education and on the revised curricula for K to 12; (e) Department of Labor and Employment's (DOLE's) capacity building for its Labor Laws Compliance Officers (LLCOs) focusing on laws pertaining to labor standards, occupational health and safety, and child labor, among others; and (f) PNP trainings for Women and Children Protection Desk (WCPD) officers on investigative skills and filing of appropriate criminal cases, case build-up, gender sensitivity, advocacy, effective communication and values formation. Planning and monitoring skills have also been upgraded with technical assistance and training support such as in breastfeeding monitoring, development of comprehensive local juvenile intervention plans, grave child rights violations monitoring.

Infrastructure were developed and upgraded. DepEd's 2010 classroom backlog targets were accomplished. MDG targets on access to potable water sources and basic sanitary facilities were achieved due mainly to increased public resources for the construction of water supply sources and sanitary facilities in schools and communities. Center-based residential facilities as temporary shelters providing care and protection for neglected and abandoned children, sexually exploited and victims of violence and children in conflict with the law (CICL), such as *Bahay Pag-Asa* (BPA), were put-up and upgraded.

Preventive and rehabilitative measures were provided to address the requirements of children with special needs, as mandated by law. Community rehabilitative services, inclusive and special education were made accessible and provided to children with disabilities. Legal and protective support were provided and the following programmes were undertaken: Philippine Program Against Child Labor (PPACL), *Kabuhayan Program*, personal safety lessons in schools, a comprehensive juvenile justice program, including center-based interventions and community-based prevention and diversion programs, comprehensive programs for street children with special attention to Bajaus.

More specific strategies and programs for children of indigenous and Muslim populations, children in armed conflict and those in emergency situations included education strategies that are culturally relevant such as the mainstreaming of *madrasah* education, the implementation of a comprehensive program for children involved in armed conflict, disaster risk reduction and management, climate change adaptation, nutrition intervention packages and education in emergencies.

Child participation and empowerment in decision-making affecting their lives was promoted in various settings. A "National Guidebook on Child Participation in the Philippines" that set the national standards on child participation to provide policy,

programmatic and technical and policy guidance in ensuring consistency in meaningful child participation was launched in 2014. A child-friendly version of the Guidebook on Child and Youth Participation was developed and disseminated in 2016.

Studies and statistical surveys were undertaken during the period in review to establish baseline data and provide evidence for informed policy decisions. Following a rights-based and results-oriented programming approach, a two-track Results-Based Monitoring and Evaluation (RBM&E) Framework and System was developed and utilized to measure and report on results for children and programme performance. Guidelines and tools for annual reporting, mid-term evaluation, and final end-cycle implementation report were expounded following consultative and intensive review processes at national and regional levels.

2nd NPAC's Unfinished Agenda and Future Directions for the 3rd NPAC. Target setting and prioritization can be further sharpened and focused. Geographic areas hounded by poverty, most deprived, and identified as geographically isolated and disadvantaged areas (GIDAs) need to be prioritized. The reduction of income poverty among children and its many dimensions, especially in ending hunger, should be in the core of national and local development agenda. The regions with highest income-based child poverty, as of 2012, are the ARMM at 64.1 percent, Eastern Visayas (Region VIII) at 56.5 percent and SOCCSKSARGEN or the South Cotabato-Cotabato-Sultan Kudarat-Sarangani-General Santos region (Region XII) at 54.1 percent.

The CWC Legislative Agenda for the 17th Congress, 2016-2018, can incorporate those that have long been pending in the legislative mills and not enacted upon in previous Congresses: (a) prohibition of corporal Punishment; (b) increase in the age of statutory rape; (c) strengthening the CWC; (d) protection of children affected by armed conflict (CAAC); and, (e) protection of children with disabilities (CWDs), which needs to be reconciled with the Inclusive Education bill.

Higher public financing and equitable distribution of public resources for children's programs need to be addressed and the following can be done: (a) results-based budgeting using a tracking system which measures investments/resources vis-à-vis results for children; (b) inclusion of strategic budgetary lines for disadvantaged children, situations that require social measures and safeguards for maintaining budgetary lines even in situations of economic crisis, natural disasters or other emergencies; and, (c) undertake transparent and participatory decentralized budgeting process concomitant with proper accountability.

Expansion of criteria for the mandatory Child-Friendly Local Government Audit (CFLGA) to include: (a) Child-Labor Free Barangay (certificate); (b) Comprehensive Local Juvenile Intervention Programme (CLJIP) integration into the Local Development Plan; and (c) one percent internal revenue allotment (IRA) allocation for the strengthening of Local Councils for the Protection of Children (LCPCs) in the CFLGA.

A more long-term and sustainable strategy for child poverty alleviation is recommended through: (a) expansion of poverty reduction measures to involve other agencies that provide livelihood opportunities; (b) review and adjustment of the level of cash grants

provided in *Pantawid*; (c) assessment/reporting on operational mechanics i.e. cash grant distribution, transfer schemes, funds management; (d) training of beneficiary children/parents of *Pantawid* for employability or livelihood; and (e) a withdrawal plan to ensure sustainability.

Existing nutrition programs need to be renewed more intensively and new and more aggressive interventions be developed for all age groups of children and provided with adequate funds. These can include nutrition-specific and nutrition-sensitive interventions such as the first 1,000 days of life starting from conception and before the second birthday of the child. Interventions for older age groups of children also need to be developed.

A national comprehensive plan or national strategic framework for children affected by disasters and emergencies should be formulated aligned with the overall efforts of the national government on disaster risk reduction and management following the enactment of RA 10821 on Children's Emergency Relief and Protection.

The formulation of the research agenda for the 3rd NPAC could take into account inclusion statistics, equity, and impact evaluation of public policies, budgets and development programmes to inform strategies, planning and programming for children. It can consider the following: (a) assessment and review of various structures and mechanisms at regional and local levels, including the recommendation to make LCPCs and/or Regional Committees/Sub-Committees for the Welfare of Children (RC/SCWCs) as the "umbrella" coordinating structure or "mother" committee/council of existing committees/councils for children; (b) cost-benefit analysis of *Pantawid* given the huge increase (and coverage) and unparalleled cost of public sector investment to one program; (c) a study on causes and circumstances of foetal deaths and validation of infant deaths; (d) maternal mortality review on causes of low prenatal care to determine maternal and neonatal deaths prevention strategies; (e) a quick survey to generate data on indigenous people and Muslim children particularly those pertaining to basic indicators (health, education, etc.); (f) a comprehensive qualitative and quantitative study to assess the causes, nature and extent of commercial sexual exploitation and child pornography; and, (g) a survey to determine the extent and role of child participation and contribution in family decision processes, student councils participating in School Governing Councils and child representative participation in the LCPCs.

Chapter 3 The 3rd National Plan of Action for Children

The 3rd National Plan of Action for Children, 2017-2022, is the third and the penultimate multi-sector medium-term action plan that concretizes the strategies, policies and programs for children into an action plan to achieve and realize the vision for Filipino children by 2025.

Children's Rights: Vision, Goals and Development Plans

Child 21. The vision is laid down in the overarching long-term development agenda of the Philippine National Strategic Framework for Plan Development for Children or Child 21, 2000-2025, which articulates that by 2025, Filipino children would have been:

- *Born healthy and well with an inherent right to life, endowed with human dignity;*
- *Happy, loved and nurtured by a strong, stable and God-loving family;*
- *Living in a peaceful, progressive, gender-fair and child-friendly society;*
- *Growing safe in a healthy environment and ecology;*
- *Free and protected by a responsible and enabling government;*
- *Reaching his/her full potential with the right opportunities and accessible resources;*
- *Imbued with Filipino values steeped in his/her indigenous cultural heritage;*
- *Assertive of his/her rights as well as those of others; and*
- *Actively participating in decision-making and governance, in harmony and in solidarity with others in sustaining the Filipino nation.*



Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC). The 3rd NPAC is a rights-based plan anchored on the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UN CRC). The Philippines ratified the CRC in 1990, a year after it was adopted by the UN General Assembly. It also ratified the following: (a) Convention's Optional Protocols on the Sale of Children, Child Prostitution and Child Pornography in 2002; (b) the Optional Protocol on Children in Armed Conflict in 2003; (c) the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Child and Political Rights, aimed at the abolition of death penalty also in, 2003; and, (d) the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, including children, in 2008.

The CRC is the most widely ratified and comprehensive human rights treaty in history that embodies social economic, cultural, civil and political rights of all children. It provides a common ethical and legal framework for the development of an agenda for children and a common reference against which progress may be assessed. CRC has four foundation principles: non-discrimination, best interest of the child, right to life, survival, and development, and respect for the views of the child.

Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The 3rd NPAC is the first medium-term plan of action for children that lays the foundation and defines the key results and outcomes towards achieving the Sustainable Development Goals by 2030. The SDGs comprise a set of combined new and re-emphasized MDGs but the end to poverty remains to be at the core of the sustainable development agenda.



There are 17 Sustainable Development Goals and ten (10) of these are directly related to children:

- SDG 1 End poverty in all its forms everywhere
- SDG 2 End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture
- SDG 3 Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all ages
- SDG 4 Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all
- SDG 5 Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls
- SDG 6 Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all
- SDG 8 Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all
- SDG 11 Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable
- SDG 13 Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts
- SDG 16 Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels

The SDGs that are not directly related to children but impact on their situations are the following:

- SDG 7 Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all
- SDG 9 Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and foster innovations
- SDG 10 Reduce inequality within and among countries
- SDG 12 Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns
- SDG 14 Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development
- SDG 15 Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss
- SDG 17 Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the global partnership for sustainable development



Philippine Development Plan (PDP), 2017-2022. The 3rd NPAC draws lessons and recommendations from the previous NPAC, as summarized in the previous chapter, and from emerging priorities, directions and commitments aligned with those of the Philippine Development Plan. The PDP is anchored on the Duterte administration's 0 to 10 Development Agenda and gears towards achieving the *AmBisyon Natin 2040*. The Plan enunciates the country's development strategies, policies, programs, and activities. The overall objective of the PDP is to lay down a solid foundation for inclusive growth, a high-trust society, and a globally competitive knowledge economy.

The 3rd NPAC is driven by a long-term vision to realize children's rights. Goals and desired results for 2017-2022 have been formulated for its progressive achievement and are made consistent with the three pillars of the PDP and the

overall commitment to the Sustainable Development Agenda.

The first pillar on "*Malasakit*" aimed at enhancing the social fabric by regaining people's trust is illustrated in the 3rd NPAC's overall thrust of child-rights focused and child-centered governance and respect for cultural diversity by ensuring that programs and projects are inclusive, designed and implemented for all children in general, and special programs that are designed specifically for children of indigenous peoples and Muslim children.

The second pillar on "*Pagbabago*" or reducing inequality is the core strategy of the 3rd NPAC. It espouses equity at the same time focusing in areas that lag behind in children's indicators to ensure that vulnerable children are given equal opportunities, access to quality basic services, and not discriminated upon for a better and improved standard of living, food security, adequate nutrition and health care, inclusive and quality basic education, safe and protective environment.

The third pillar on "*Patuloy na Pag-unlad*" or increasing potential growth for children is reflected in poverty alleviation for children and their families, promotion of peace and development in conflict vulnerable areas, relief and rehabilitation for children in disaster-prone and disaster-affected areas.

3rd NPAC Strategic Approach

As a rights-based and results-oriented plan of action, the 3rd NPAC is focussed on children's rights to improve quality and standards of life for them, survival and development, protection, non-discrimination, and participation. And as such, it recognizes that a broader strategic approach is called for beyond child-specific and child-centred programs and projects by taking into account national socio-economic programs that have bearing and impact on children.

The 3rd NPAC's overall strategic framework, towards realizing children's rights, is shown in Figure 1 below.

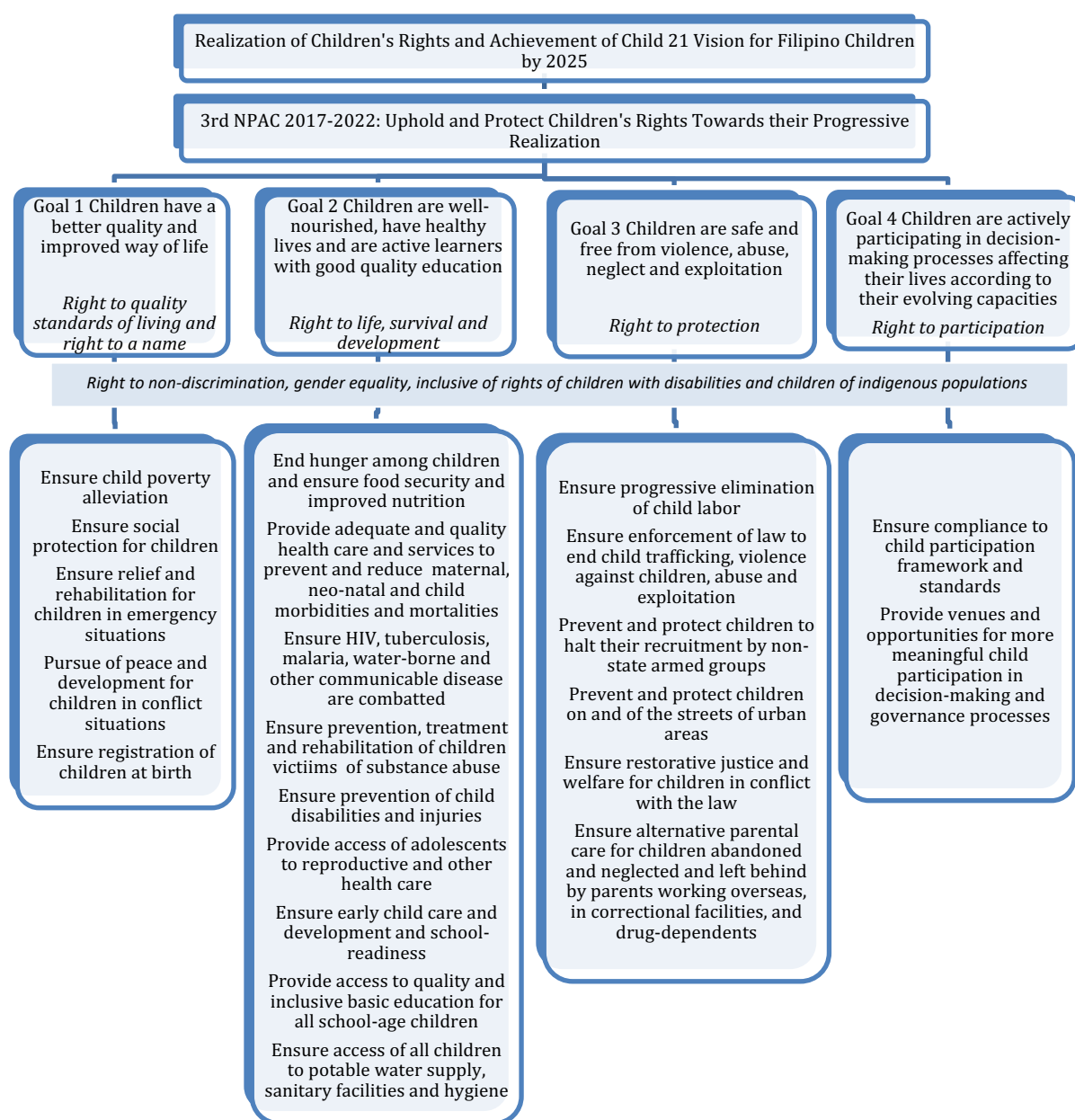


Figure 1 3rd NPAC Overall Strategic Framework

The 3rd NPAC puts together sector and agency plans on children and at the same time introduces strategies and programs which the Council for the Welfare of Children spearheads to reinforce and strengthen existing ones. It is calling on the private sector, through its corporate social responsibility, to support LGUs to improve children's living standards in areas that lag behind to reduce inequities. It shall sustain United Nations and multi-lateral/bi-lateral agency cooperation for children. It is further embarking on a government and civil society/non-government organization (CSO/NGO) partnership for joint accountability for children.

3rd NPAC Plan Development Process

The 3rd NPAC is a product of an extensive consultative process involving national government agencies, interagency committees/councils, CSOs, NGOs, and children's organizations. At the helm of the plan development process is the CWC. The plan development process, as illustrated in Figure 2 below, constituted two (2) phases.

The first phase, conducted in late September until the fourth quarter of 2016, was two-pronged. First, it basically focussed on the terminal implementation review, assessment and analysis of the factors that contributed to the achievement/non-achievement of the targets, strategies, policies and programs. The final report of the 2nd NPAC was approved by the CWC Board in December 2016. And second, the process segued to defining the general directions of the 3rd NPAC based on the findings and recommendations of the review process.

The second phase, which commenced in February 2017 until the approval of the 3rd NPAC by the CWC Board in October 2017, was on setting the goals, targets, strategies, policies, programs and plans of the 3rd NPAC. It further defined the 3rd NPAC's legislative and research agenda, the critical role of duty-bearers, monitoring and evaluation and the development of its Results Matrix. The process involved a series of planning workshops, consultative discussions and meetings, and technical/policy reviews/additional inputs.

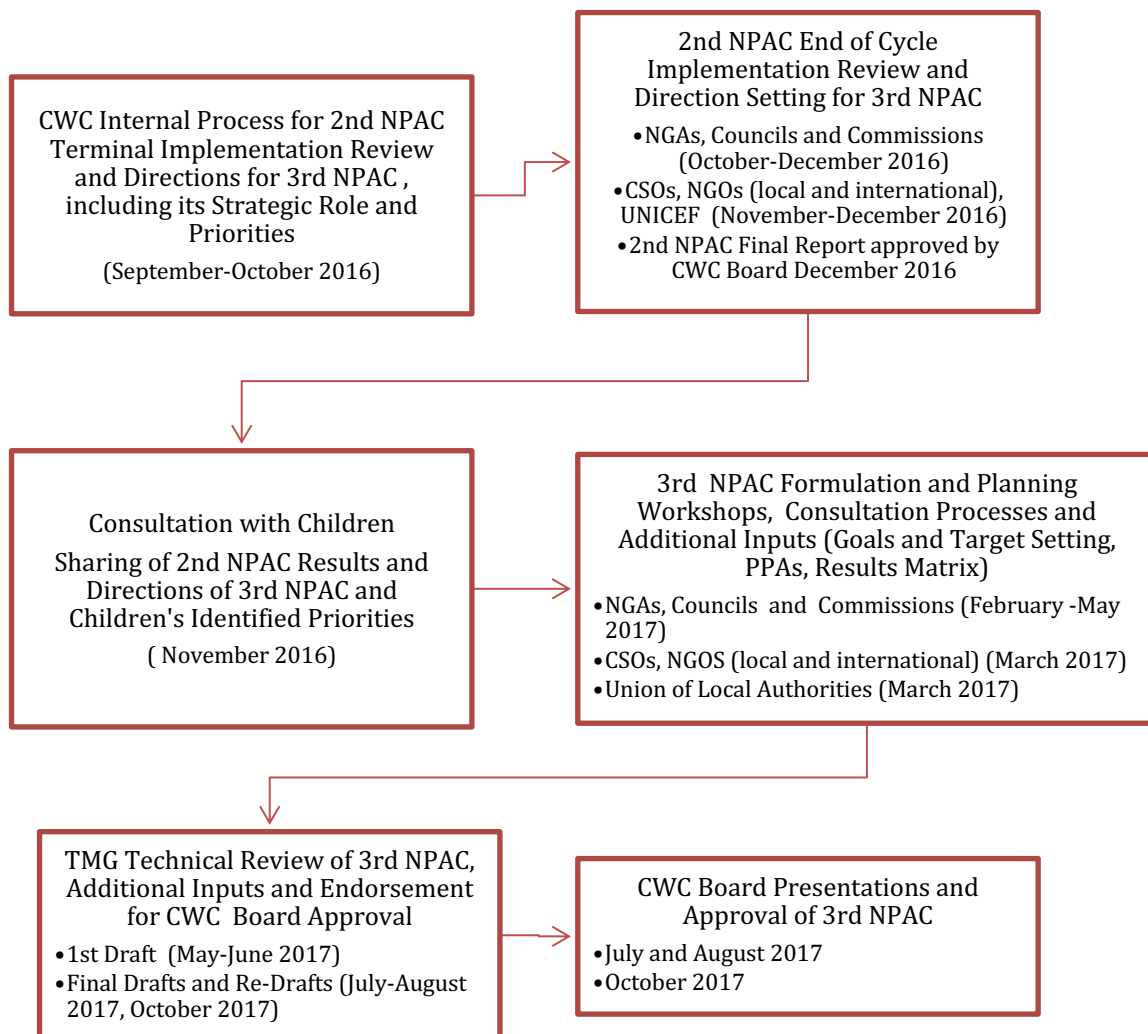


Figure 2 3rd NPAC Development and Plan Formulation Process

Policy Framework

The country's long-term vision as articulated in *AmBisyon Natin 2040* and Child 21 (2025) and transformed into multiple time-bound development and action plans are main drivers to realizing Filipino children's right as a commitment to the Convention on the Rights of the Child.

The international commitments and national development agenda provide the directions and pathways of the 3rd NPAC. The six-year children's development agenda, 2017-2022, articulated in this plan, vow to effect "real change" and raising the notch higher for a better quality of life for all Filipino children.

The 3rd NPAC policy framework, as shown in Figure 3 below, illustrates the significant contributions of national sector plans that include children and those that articulate policies, programs and strategies that directly address children's rights to quality of life, survival and development, protection, non-discrimination and participation.

Child-Related Sector Plans

-  Inter-Agency Council against Trafficking (IACAT) Strategic Plan
-  Philippine Health Agenda
-  Philippine Plan of Action for Nutrition, 2017-2022
-  Philippine Youth and Development Plan
-  Social Welfare Plan
-  Violence against Women and Children (VAWC) Plan
-  Other Sector Plans

Child-Focused and Child-Specific Program Plans and Frameworks

-  Child Injury Prevention Multi-Sector Plan
-  Comprehensive National Juvenile Intervention Programme (CNJIP), 2017-2022
-  Education Plan
-  Inter-Agency Council against Child Pornography (IACACP) Response Plan on Online Child Pornography
-  National Council for Children's Television (NCCTV) Plan
-  Philippine Program Against Child Labor Strategic Framework (PPACL), 2017-2022
-  Philippine Plan of Action to End Violence against Children (PPAeVAC), 2017-2022
-  Government of the Philippines (GOP) and the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) 7th and 8th Country Programmes for Children (CPC)
-  National Strategic Plan on Children with Disabilities 2019-2022
-  CSO/NGO Plans for Children
-  Other Child-Specific Plans

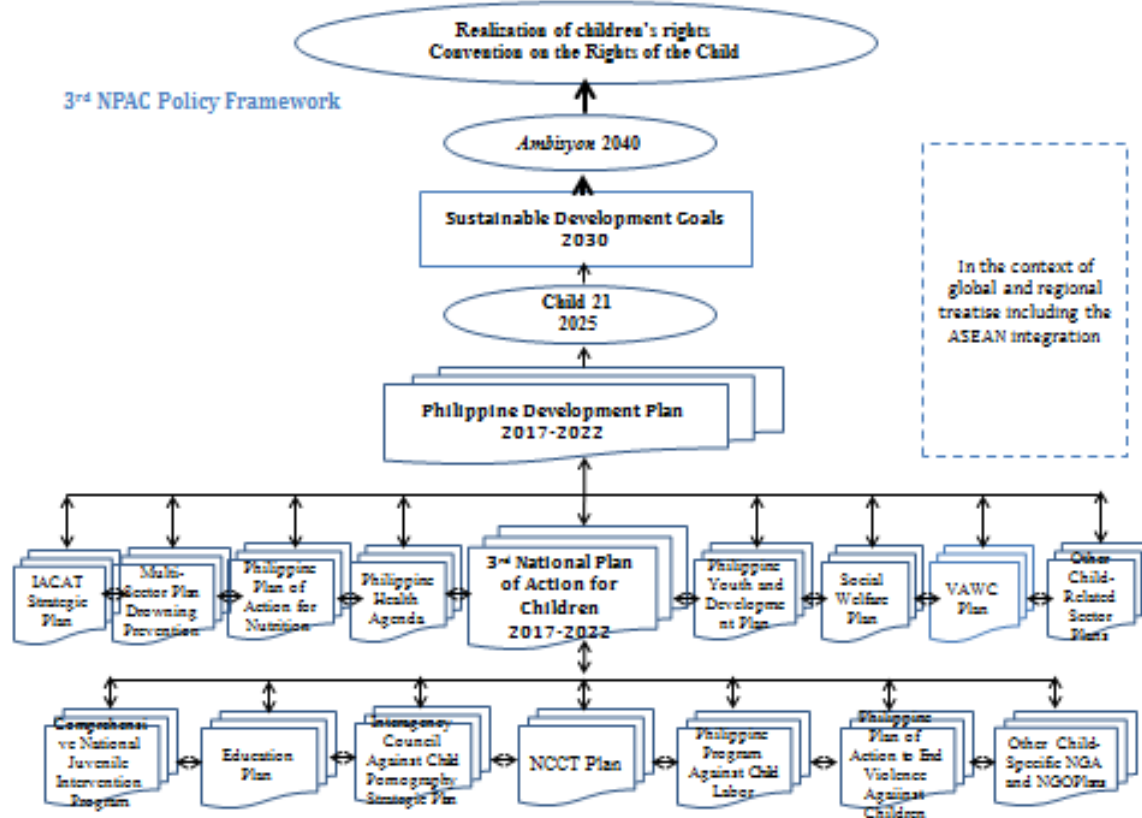


Figure 3 3rd NPAC Policy Framework

Regional and local level plans of action for children shall be formulated to contribute to the achievement of the 3rd NPAC goals and targets and identify those that shall respond to their specific situations and requirements. Guidelines shall be provided in transforming the national plan to regional and local plans.

3rd NPAC Goals

The 3rd NPAC is aimed at advancing the progressive realization of children's rights and further pursuit of time-bound commitments for children and sustainable development:

Table 1 3rd NPAC Goals

Goal 1 Children have a better quality and improved way of life
Goal 1.1 Child poverty incidence is reduced from 31.4 percent in 2015 to 20.35 percent by 2022 (SDG 1.1) ⁵
Goal 1.2 Children from poor and vulnerable households are substantially covered by universal health insurance and appropriate social protection measures (SDG 1.2)
Goal 1.3 The resilience of poor children and those in vulnerable situations are building up and the exposure and vulnerability of children to climate-related extreme events and other social and environmental shocks and disasters are reduced (SDG 1.5)
Goal 1.4 Child combatants and children of former combatants are demobilized and reintegrated back to their communities
Goal 1.5 All Filipino children have legal identity and that birth registration is increased to 95 percent in 2022 from 87.4 percent in 2011 (SDG 16.9)
Goal 2 Children are well-nourished, have healthy lives and are active learners with good quality education
Goal 2.1 Hunger among children is reduced and their access, to safe, nutritious and sufficient food all year round is ensured (SDG 2.1) ⁶
Goal 2.2 All forms of malnutrition is reduced by 2022, and that, for children under 5 years of age, stunting is reduced to 21.4 percent from 33.4 percent in 2015 and wasting is reduced to <5 percent from 7.1 percent in 2015 and prevalence of overweight for the same age group is reduced to <3.9 percent from 3.9 percent in 2015 and that the nutritional needs of adolescent girls, pregnant and lactating women and other persons are addressed (SDG 2.2)
Goal 2.3 Maternal mortality ratio is reduced to less than 90 deaths per 100,000 live births in 2022 from 221 deaths per 100,000 live birth in 2011 (SDG 3.1)
Goal 2.4 New-born mortality rate is reduced to 10 deaths per 1,000 live births in 2022 from 13 deaths per 1,000 live births in 2015 and infant mortality rate is reduced to 15 deaths per 1,000 live births in 2022 from 23 deaths per 1,000 live births in 2013 (SDG 3.2)

⁵ Target reduction of child poverty incidence reduction is based on the assumption that the percentage reduction of poverty among households to 14 percent by 2022 (as set in PDP) is shared equally with children.

⁶ The SDG and PDP indicator/target is for households: Proportion of households meeting the 100 percent recommended energy intake increased from 31.7 percent in 2015 to 37.1 percent in 2022.

Goal 2.5 Under-five mortality is reduced to 22 deaths per 1,000 live births in 2022 from 31 deaths per 1,000 live births in 2013 (SDG 3.2)
Goal 2.6 The epidemics of HIV, tuberculosis, other diseases among mothers, youth and children are reduced by 50 percent in 2022 from their status prior to 2017(SDG 3.3)
Goal 2.7 Substance abuse among children, including narcotic drug abuse, is reduced by 2022 (SDG 3.5) toward its subsequent elimination
Goal 2.8 The number of deaths and injuries from road traffic crashes is reduced by 50 percent in 2022 based on the number of deaths prior to 2017 (SDG 3.6) ⁷
Goal 2.9 Universal access to sexual and reproductive health-care services (SDG 3.7)
Goal 2.10 Young girls and boys, 0-4 years old, are prepared and ready for primary education and formal schooling and that kindergarten net enrolment rate for 5-year-old children is increased to 95 percent in 2022 from 74.65 percent in 2015 (SDG 4.2)
Goal 2.11 School-age children have access to equitable and quality basic education and that elementary net enrolment rate is increased to 95 percent in 2022 from 91.05 percent in 2015 and junior high school net enrolment to 75.44 percent in 2022 from 68.15 percent in 2016 ⁸ and that girls and boys complete basic education leading to relevant and effective learning outcomes (SDG 4.1)
Goal 2.12 Households and their children have access to safe and affordable drinking water and to adequate sanitary and hygienic facilities with special attention to the needs of girls, CWDs and those in vulnerable situations (SDG 6.2)
Goal 3 Children are safe and free from violence, abuse, neglect and exploitation
Goal 3.1 Child labor in all its form is reduced by 30 percent from the 2.1 million working children reported in 2011 toward its elimination by 2025 (SDG 8.7)
Goal 3.2 Child trafficking is reduced in 2022 (SDG 8.7 and SDG 16.2) toward its subsequent elimination
Goal 3.3 Children are prevented and rescued from recruitment as combatants by non-state armed groups (SDG 8.7)
Goal 3.4 All forms of violence against children are reduced in 2022 from 80 percent in 2015 (SDG 16.2) toward subsequently ending them
Goal 3.5 Reduction in the number of new cases of children in conflict with the law and rehabilitation and reintegration of CICL to their families and communities by 2022 (SDG 16.3)

⁷ The PDP indicator/target for the general population: Death rate due to road traffic accidents decreased (number of deaths per 100,000 population) from 8.9 percent in 2014 to 6.3 percent in 2022.

⁸ Baseline and target for senior high school are still being determined.

Goal 3.6 All forms of abuse and exploitation of children are reduced by 2022 toward subsequently ending them
Goal 3.7 Children are not at-risk on the streets of Metro Manila and other urban centers
Goal 3.8 Children left behind are safe and in the care of foster or adoptive parents, other family members and relatives
Goal 4 Children are actively participating in decision-making processes affecting their lives according to their evolving capacities
Goal 4.1 A responsive, inclusive, participatory and representative decision-making among children according to their age level and evolving capacities (consistent with SDG 16.6)

Strategies

The following strategies shall be pursued to achieve the desired goals and expected results or outcomes for children:

- Putting more aggressive and results-oriented approaches high in the agenda of the 3rd NPAC in addressing the major challenges that were identified in the 2nd NPAC specifically in calling an end to child poverty, hunger, child labor, child trafficking, recruitment of child soldiers, and violence against children;
- Adoption of a holistic and more comprehensive approach that go beyond child-focused and child-specific programmatic interventions by weaving into the 3rd NPAC and identifying programs that are national in scope and intended for the general population or particular population groups that are not directly focused on children but strategically bear and impact on the lives and situations of children especially along poverty alleviation, social protection, and food security;
- Sharpen targeting and disparity reduction by concentrating purposively-designed program interventions to more vulnerable children or where child poverty incidences are high, children who are in situations of armed conflict and disasters, and where identified and distinctive problems of children are widespread;
- Advocacy for child-centred and enabling policy measures for budget support and funds augmentation to local governments for programs managed by national government agencies;
- Engaging the private sector to support and invest in high impact programs that will have major bearing on improving and elevating the living standards of children;
- Amplification of the critical role, primary responsibility and accountability of local governments in the implementation of the 3rd NPAC, ensuring that children are intrinsically embedded in their local development plans and executive-legislative agenda

and that basic services for children are managed, administered and delivered efficiently and sufficiently;

- Enhancement of institutional mechanisms and building human resource capacities and competence of composite technical, managerial and frontline workers for the operation and administration of social services at national, regional and local levels;
- Building a more cohesive and expanded CSO/NGO partnership for the 3rd NPAC to ensure and maximize their contributions and sharing of their technical expertise, programs and projects, and development assistance for children, including financing;
- Empowerment of children, families and communities by providing them with appropriate and supportive measures for expanding their learning opportunities, participation in children informal and formal organizations, family development sessions and community improvement processes and recognition of their respective valuable roles and contributions to social-economic advancement; and,
- Build-up the evidence or basis for addressing emerging issues: children whose parents are in correctional facilities, stateless children and surrogacy, among others.

Policies, Programs and Projects

The 3rd NPAC embarks on a broad legislative and policy agenda to further advance the progressive realization of children's rights (Annex I). A legislative agenda for children shall be pursued by the CWC in line with its function to initiate, promote and advocate the adoption of policies and measures to promote and protect children's rights. A legislative agenda for children is needed to address prevailing issues and concerns on children, adhere to international standards and instruments to which the country is a party to, and give priority and basis for advocacy. In addition, legislative and policy measures shall be pushed for by relevant sectors and agencies with lobby support of child rights advocates and champions for children. The 3rd NPAC's legislative agenda also includes the children-related measures identified in the PDP.

Studies and research are identified and incorporated into relevant sections for evidence-based policymaking. The research agenda (summarized in Annex II) takes into account inclusion statistics, equity and impact evaluation of public policies, budgets and development programs to inform strategies, planning and programming for children. A Research Advisory Group shall be formed as an inter-agency group with CWC as the lead agency to oversee the coherence, relevance and importance of the studies identified in the 3rd NPAC research agenda. Research and studies shall be funded by proponent agencies from their regular budgets or from special funds and other sources. The Research Advisory Group shall also serve as venue for source funding to pursue unfunded research and studies.

The 3rd NPAC puts together child-related and child-focused and specific programs from national government agencies, interagency councils and commissions, other special bodies,

and in partnership with the private sector, CSOs and NGOs. It recognizes that the achievement of the aspirations and goals for children can be realized by larger socio-economic development initiatives and cannot be isolated from them.

Time-tested and proven-effective programs and projects for children shall be renewed and sustained more aggressively and their outreach and coverage expanded. These shall be reinforced with innovative programs that shall respond to emerging priorities and the introduction of high-impact programs in partnership with the private sector and other programs of CSOs/NGOs aligned with those of government towards a common direction.

Programs and Projects to Improve Living Standards of Filipino Children

The 3rd NPAC puts child poverty alleviation as a fundamental strategy towards a better way of life and improving the living standards of Filipino children. In addition to child poverty alleviation, children's living standards shall be improved with social protection, relief, rehabilitation and protection during emergencies, peace and development in conflict-affected areas, and, importantly, birth registration for a child's legal identify.

Child poverty alleviation programs and projects are directed to parents but bear on the status of their children. Foremost is the *Pantawid Pamilyang Pilipino* Program, a human development program that aims to break the intergenerational cycle of poverty by investing in children through conditional cash transfers. Livelihood support programs to families and communities are to be provided through *Kapit-Bisig Laban sa Kahirapan* Comprehensive and Integrated Delivery of Social Services-National Community-Driven Development Project (KC-NCCDP) and Sustainable Livelihood Program (SLP) or the transition program for graduating *Pantawid* beneficiaries, *Payapa at Masaganang Pamayanan* (PAMANA) sustainable rural development and convergence programs in geographically isolated and disadvantaged areas and conflict-affected communities, DOLE Integrated Livelihood and Emergency Employment Program (DILEEP) for families of working children and child laborers and their families. A more child-specific anti-poverty program shall be developed. The private sector shall be tapped to support LGUs with anti-poverty programs for children.

Existing social protection that impact on children shall be given focus. In addition to *Pantawid*, universal health insurance coverage for Filipino children and their families including a severe acute malnutrition benefit package are provided through the National Health Insurance Program (NHIP).

Children's emergency relief and protection shall be provided under an umbrella Comprehensive Emergency Program for Children to be spearheaded by major national agencies – DOH, DepEd, DSWD – in partnership with LGUs. Children shall be provided with packages of social and protection, health care and nutrition, and education. This also covers the provision of disaster relief assistance and early recovery program. Permanent evacuation and relief centers in areas which are highly-prone to natural disasters and child-friendly spaces shall be established. Family development sessions (FDS) shall be strengthened and families affected by disasters and calamities shall be provided with emergency shelter assistance/core shelter assistance, and cash for work. Continuing trainings of LGUs on disaster risk reduction and management shall be conducted.

Peace and development in conflict-affected areas where children are most vulnerable can materialize with the implementation of the government's peace agreements with various groups. A national system for Rapid Family Tracing and Reunification shall be developed for displaced children, unaccompanied and separated. A National Action Plan on Women Peace and Security shall be formulated.

Programs and Projects on Food Security, Nutrition, Health Care, Early Child Development, Education, and Water, Sanitation and Hygiene

There are two major types of nutrition programs that will be pursued, consistent with the Philippine Plan of Action on Nutrition (PPAN): (a) nutrition-sensitive programs that address underlying effects of malnutrition; and (b) nutrition-specific programs that address immediate causes of malnutrition.

Nutrition-sensitive programs that shall be undertaken are as follows: (a) Farm-to-market roads and child nutrition; (b) Target Actions to Reduce Poverty and Generate Economic Transformation (TARGET) and child nutrition; (c) Coconut Rehabilitation Program; (d) *Gulayan sa Paaralan*; (e) *Diskwento* caravans in depressed areas; (f) Family Development Sessions; (g) Mainstreaming nutrition in sustainable livelihood; (h) Public works infrastructure and child nutrition; (i) Adolescent Health and Nutrition Development and (j) Water, Sanitation and Hygiene.

Nutrition-specific programs that address immediate causes of malnutrition include those that are identified in the Philippine Integrated Management of Acute Malnutrition Program. The First 1,000 Days of Life is a major policy that shall include programs and projects which shall focus on the strengthening and promotion of the following: Mother-Baby-Friendly Health Facility Initiative Certification and Accreditation, community-based complementary feeding practices, breastfeeding in the workplace, breastfeeding both in the government and private sectors, breastfeeding in public places, and breastfeeding support for women in informal economies and small-medium enterprises.

Complementary, supplementary and feeding programs and projects shall be implemented by different national government agencies and the respective bureaus and offices under them and in partnership with other agencies, the LGUs and other non-government entities. Moderately acute malnutrition and severe acute malnutrition shall be managed therapeutically with provisions of "ready to use supplementary food" through the Stunting and Low Birth Weight Prevention and Zero Severe Acute Malnutrition Projects. Supplementary feeding projects include the National Dietary Supplementation Program, Micronutrient Supplementation, and the Mandatory Food Fortification. 180-200-day feeding programs for underweight and malnourished children include the expansion of Milk Feeding (local dairy cooperatives) and the Supplementary Feeding Programs in day care centers and early childhood development centers and the School Feeding Program. The ARMM shall pursue the *Bangsamoro Umpungan sa Nutrisyon* Program (BangUN), the Duterte administration's flagship program in combating hunger and malnutrition in the ARMM in line with its theme of "reducing vulnerabilities of children from hunger and malnutrition in the ARMM".

Health care interventions are embodied in the National Health Plan which is further articulated in related sub-plans that are critical to reducing maternal and neonatal mortalities: (a) the National Safe Motherhood Program which defines the policies and specific interventions to reduce maternal mortality and improve maternal care, and; (b) the Philippine New-born Action Plan.

For new-born care: (a) *Unang Yakap*, for the continuing implementation of the essential intrapartum and new-born care (EINC), lactation management, and the care for the small baby package of interventions; (b) human milk banking and network development for preterm, low birth weight and sick new-born infants in neonatal care units; and (c) new-born screening for the early detection and early intervention for the prevention of disabilities. Child health care shall focus on decreasing the prevalence of vaccine-preventable diseases and other diseases by further strengthening the National Immunization Program (NIP) and the Integrated Management of Childhood Illness (IMCI). Oral health care shall, likewise, be continued.

Other communicable and water-borne diseases that affect mothers, children and youth shall be prevented and interventions are detailed in the National AIDS and STI Prevention and Control Program, National Tuberculosis Prevention and Control Program, Water-borne Diseases Program, National Malaria Prevention and Control Program, National Emerging and Remerging Infectious Disease Prevention and Control Program and National Hepatitis Prevention and Control Program.

The National Drug Rehabilitation Program shall be implemented through the health sector's Prevention and Treatment of Substance Abuse Program and the DSWD's Strategies toward Acceptance Reintegration and Transformation (START) Program.

Early child development interventions that shall be pursued: putting in place and enforcing quality standards and the accreditation of facilities and venues that provide ECCD services; upgrading of existing public day care system into national child development centers (NCDCs); further expansion of LGU day care programs to achieve the target to put up a child development center (CDC) in every barangay and provide home-based day care services in remote and far-flung areas; and scaling-up of ECCD programs of NGOs-CSOs. The professionalization of ECCD service providers shall be promoted through the Early Childhood Teacher Education Program and the training of child development workers (CDWs) in the identification and profiling of children with disabilities.

The education agenda shall focus on quality and inclusive basic education. In its support, an inclusive education policy framework shall be developed, spearheaded by the Department of Education together with concerned agencies, to establish seamless strategies and mechanisms to adequately respond to diverse learning needs. Gender equality, non-discriminatory policies and protection policies shall be mainstreamed in various interventions, learning and teaching methods and materials, and school improvement plans and management.

The K to 12 program, the flagship program of the education sector, shall be fully implemented. Culturally relevant Muslim education and indigenous people's education shall form part of the K to 12 curriculums for Muslim and IP school children. Efforts to getting and keeping children in school up to completion of basic education shall continue to be intensified. Special education shall provide access to children with special needs or those with disabilities.

A policy on Flexible Learning Options on alternative delivery modes (ADMs) and alternative learning systems (ALS) shall continue to be enhanced. Alternative Delivery Modes of education delivery in the formal school system that are proven and effective modalities shall be continued. These are the Enhanced Instructional Management by Parents, community and Teachers (E-IMPACT), Modified In-School Off-School Approach (MIMOSA), and Open High School Program (e.g. Project Ease/home studies program/blended learning). Other programs include multi-grade education for children learners in sparsely populated, geographically isolated and disadvantaged areas (GIDAs), education service contracting (ESC) that extends financial support to private education for qualified junior high school students in public schools and the technical vocational education and training (TVET) for out-of-school children.

Innovative alternative learning system shall be developed and introduced to cover those who are not reached by the formal basic education system: introduction of ALS in drug rehabilitation centers, alternative learning methods for GIDAs, as well as densely populated areas, and establishing ALS in countries with undocumented Filipino migrants where children do not have access to formal education. The Basic Literacy Program, under the ALS, shall be delivered also through a contracting scheme with qualified education service providers with the use of government funds for field operations. ALS enrollees may be enrolled in the Basic Literacy Program or the continuing education-accreditation and equivalency (A&E) based on the results of their functional literacy test.

Emphasis on curricular reform will be given to culture and the arts, drug abuse prevention, reproductive health, gender, environment, disaster risk reduction and management, climate change, and science and technology. Furthermore, the curriculum will be made more gender-responsive and relevant by contextualizing and localizing lessons.

Waterless and poor communities shall be empowered to put up or increase their access to water supply and sanitary facilities through *Salin-Tubig* and KC-NCDDP. Child development centers and schools shall be provided with adequate potable water supply and sanitary facilities. Hygiene practices shall be promoted. A WASH strategy shall be pursued as a collaborative effort with different sectors and as a long-term approach in the prevention and control of water-borne diseases.

Programs and Projects for Children in Need of Special Protection

The Philippine Program against Child Labor (PPACL) aims to achieve a Child Labor-Free Philippines by aggressively expanding the creation and accreditation of Child Labor-Free Barangays and Child Labor-Free Establishments. Project Angel Tree which provides an array of social services that range from food, clothing, educational assistance or school supplies made available by sponsors or benefactors ('angels') to child laborers and their families shall be accelerated. *Sagip Batang Manggagawa* (SBM), the inter-agency quick action mechanism to respond to cases of child labor in extremely abject conditions in a timely manner, shall be strengthened.

The program strategy to deter child trafficking shall be on the prevention and suppression of trafficking in persons and the conduct of inter-agency and police operations, through child desks in prosecution offices, to intercept and rescue children from being trafficked and to entrap criminal elements after surveillance. The Recovery and Reintegration Program for Trafficked Persons (RRRTP), a comprehensive package of programs and services, enhancing the psychosocial and economic needs of the beneficiaries shall be implemented.

The Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) shall implement and enforce its directives and circulars pertaining to recruitment of children by non-state armed groups. More focussed interventions shall be on conflict-sensitive peace promoting (CSPP) approach, protection and empowerment of children in situations of armed conflict, and the rescue of child soldiers who shall be provided with appropriate services and interventions. The implementation of EO 138 on the Monitoring, Response and Reporting System of Grave Child Rights Violation in Situations of Armed Conflict (MRRS-GCRVSAC) shall be accelerated.

The Philippine Plan of Action to End Violence Against Children (PPAeVAC) shall focus on (a) parenting programs and positive discipline; (b) teaching children and developing their skills and ability to protect themselves from becoming victims of violence; (c) development of a comprehensive, multi-sector, protective, mental, health, legal, economic, and judicial response plan on VAC and a structure for its implementation; (d) provision of free legal counselling and multi-sector services; and (e) establishment of a help hotline across the country.

A comprehensive national juvenile intervention program takes into account the prevention, rehabilitation, diversion and reintegration of children at-risk and in conflict with the law. Key program interventions include: (a) policies, protocols and standards to provide a safe and protective environment for CICL and CAR; (b) primary, secondary and tertiary interventions to prevent children from committing criminal offenses; (c) center-based services and residential care facilities through *Bahay Pag-Asa* and Regional Rehabilitation Centers for the Youth; (d) diversion programs to prevent children from committing offenses against the law; and, (e) after-care programs. Agricultural camps shall likewise be put up. More essentially, positive parenting and life skills education and positive behaviour for children shall be promoted.

Ending abuse and exploitation shall be pursued through stopping on-line abuse and cyber-bullying, quad media advocacy on #StopChildPornPh Program, putting up a child-sensitive HELPLINE for children and the provision of free legal counselling, advice and legal aid to child victims of abuse, including case management support for those who choose to file a case in court.

Basic services for street children shall be provided through modified conditional cash transfers (MCCTs) for street families with children and LGU-initiated projects.

Alternative parental care for abandoned and neglected children shall continue to be provided through foster care and adoption programs wherein children are legally adopted. A program shall be developed for other children left behind, such as those whose parents are imprisoned, those whose parents are overseas workers, and those whose parents are soldiers killed in action, and those whose parents are drug dependents.

Child Participation

The Philippines Child Participation Framework provides the policy guidelines, standards and spaces for child participation. The 3rd NPAC shall focus on more meaningful children and youth participation in governance processes and in conflict-affected situations.

Part II Children’s Right to a Better Quality and Improved Way of Life

Goal 1 Children have a better quality and improved way of life

The 3rd NPAC goal 1 upholds children’s rights to have better quality and improved standard of living reflects the overall thrust of the 3rd NPAC. It aims to contribute to SDG 1 to end child poverty in all its forms indicated by the reduction of child poverty incidence and the inclusion and coverage of children in social protection systems, including children’s emergency relief and rehabilitation, peace and development in conflict-affected areas. Children’s births shall be registered giving them the basic and fundamental right to a name. The strategic framework to achieve Goal 1 and its sub-goals is illustrated in Figure 4 below.

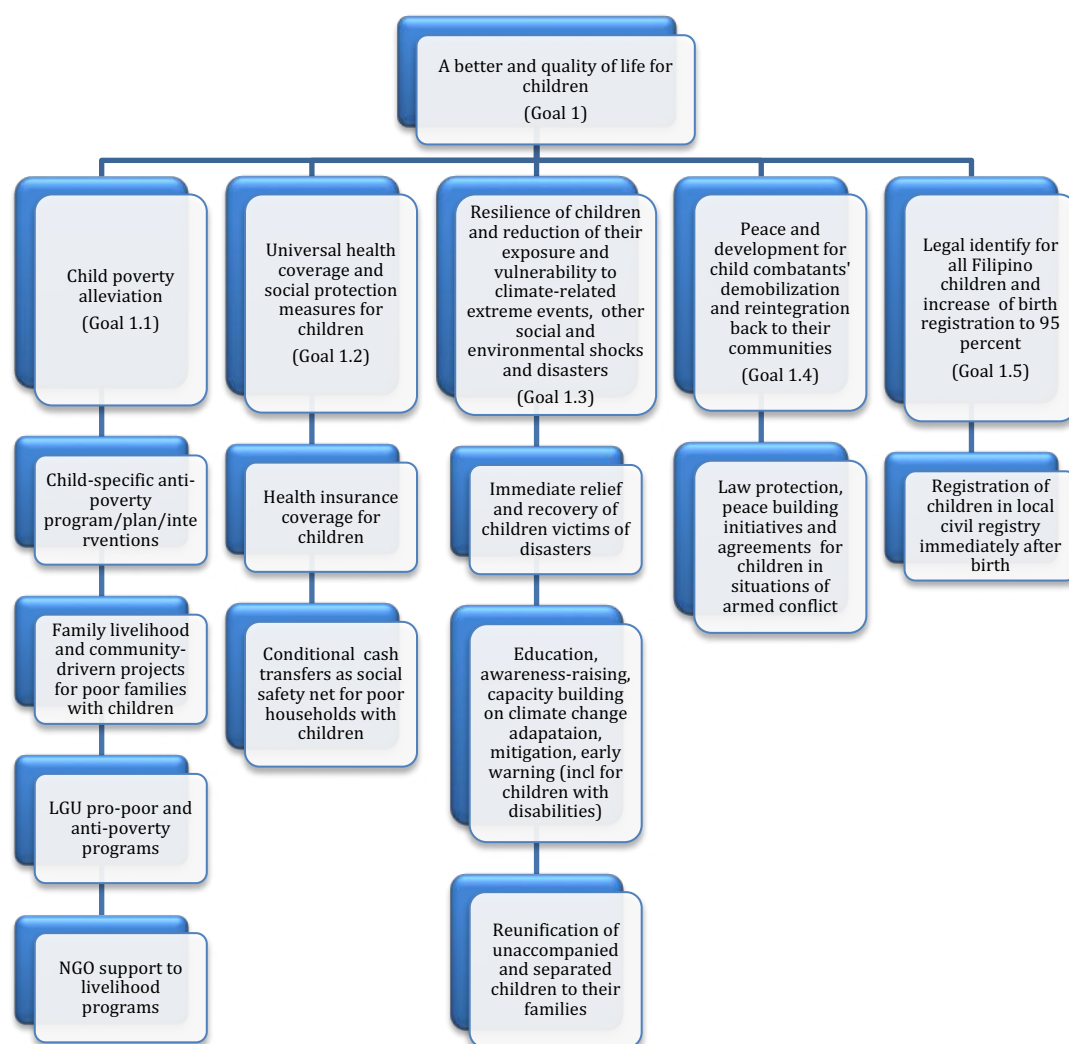


Figure 4 Goal 1 Strategic Framework

Chapter 4 Child Poverty Alleviation

Assessment and Challenges

The country's poverty incidence reduced to 21.6 percent in 2015 from a baseline of 26.3 percent in 2009 due to the "82 percent increase in per capita income among the bottom three deciles, which was much higher than the 29 percent increase in the poverty line. Subsistence incidence also declined from 10.9 percent of individuals in 2009 to 8.1 percent in 2015". The expansion of *Pantawid Pamilya*, a conditional cash transfer to family beneficiaries to put children in school, among other conditions, was a "major factor that resulted in the significant decline in poverty rate". (PDP, 2017-2022)

Poverty alleviation and the aspiration for a better quality standard of life is an arduous challenge that can combine both development and palliative interventions that cut across population groups and sectors that need it most.

Children are the most vulnerable population groups affected by poverty. Children living in poverty was measured based on income poverty (of families) and the more multi-dimensional measure that goes beyond income poverty and considered deprivations from quality health care, nutrition, education. The Philippine Statistical Authority (PSA) used income poverty in determining child poverty. The Family Income and Expenditure Survey (FIES) showed that poverty incidence among children decreased by 0.1 percentage point from 35.3 in 2009 to 35.2 percent in 2012 and it further decreased by 3.8 percentage points from 35.2 in 2012 to 31.4 percent in 2015.

"*Listahanan*" or the National Household Targeting System used the more multi-dimension concept of child poverty and able to provide a more updated 2015 data. The *Listahanan* 2nd Round Assessment, revealed a much higher number/percentage of children living in poverty - 15.1 Million or 52.7 percent of all children aged below 18 and 7.3 Million or 25.5 percent youth aged 15 to 30 years old are considered living in poverty in 2015. *Listahanan*, formerly known as the National Household Targeting System for Poverty Reduction (NHTS-PR), identifies who and where the poor are in the country.

There are no programs or projects that specifically address child poverty. Existing programs are more directed to their families and parents. Anti-poverty policies are agency-initiated and an encompassing policy has yet to be established.

A more long-term and forward-looking sustainable strategies, schemes and programs for poverty reduction and social protection can be enhanced and strengthened.

Goal and Expected Outcomes

Goal 1.1 Child poverty incidence is reduced from 31.4 percent in 2015 to 20.35 percent by 2022 (SDG 1.1)

Outcome 1.1.1 Child-specific anti-poverty program plan is in place

Outcome 1.1.2 Well-being of poor families with children, those in conflict-affected areas and child laborers is improved through family livelihood interventions and community-driven projects

Outcome 1.1.3 LGUs have enabling pro-poor and anti-poverty programs that benefit their constituents and their children

Outcome 1.1.4 Poor families assisted by NGOs have improved financial and economic capacity and sustainable sources of income to meet the basic needs of their children

Strategies

The 3rd NPAC targets the reduction of child poverty incidence from 31.4 percent in 2015 to 20.35 percent by 2022 with the assumption that children shall have a share and shall equally benefit from the government's effort in economic improvements to reduce overall poverty incidence from 21.6 percent in 2015 to 14 percent by 2022 (PDP, 2017-2022).

The 3rd NPAC shall focus its child poverty alleviation strategies on parents and families that directly affect or may impact on children. A child poverty alleviation program shall likewise be developed.

National government agencies that support income generating and livelihood programs are expanded beyond those for children and families living under normal and peaceful conditions to include those in conflict-affected areas.

Corporate social responsibility shall be actively promoted among business entities to engage them for public-private programmes of poverty alleviation measures directed to LGUs with a majority of families below poverty line in targeted areas of ARMM, Eastern Visayas, SOCCSKSARGEN, and Caraga.

Contingent to the achievement of the 3rd NPAC target is the Philippine Government's 0+10-Point Socio-Economic Agenda in combatting generational poverty, improve living standards, and sustain high economic growth by, among others, investing in human capital development and improving social protection programs. DSWD shall employ and improve its convergence strategy to harmonize the continued implementation of core poverty reduction programs like the *Pantawid*, Sustainable Livelihood Program, and *Kapit-Bisig Laban sa Kahirapan* Comprehensive and Integrated Delivery of Social Services Program -National Community-Driven Development Project (KC-NCDDP).

Policies, Programs and Projects

The country's poverty reduction measures among households shall contribute largely to the reduction of the incidence of child poverty. Programs that are directed to parents of particular groups of children are identified in the 3rd NPAC to strengthen efforts in reducing child poverty. Child-specific poverty alleviation programs shall also be developed.

Child-specific anti-poverty program plan shall be put in place (Outcome 1.1.1) to contribute to the overall achievement of Goal 1.1 to reduce child poverty.

The Council for the Welfare of Children, together with the National Anti-Poverty Commission and other concerned agencies, shall explore the development of a child poverty alleviation program.

Policies and programs on family livelihood interventions and community-driven projects shall be pursued to improve the well-being of poor families with children, those in conflict-affected areas and child laborers (Outcome 1.1.2). These include Pantawid Pamilya, Sustainable Livelihood, the KC-NCDDP, PAMANA and DILEEP programs, the latter specifically for parents of child laborers.

Existing programs and policies can be reinforced with the passage of An Act to Reduce Poverty and Promote Human Capital Development through the Creation of National Conditional Cash Transfer Program (NCFTP) for the selection of areas to be covered by the *Pantawid Pamilya* Program and ensure continuous funding for its implementation.

Pantawid Pamilya Pilipino Program. *Pantawid* shall continue to provide social assistance to the poor to alleviate their immediate needs, in the short term, through regular and modified conditional cash transfers. In the long-term *Pantawid* is a social development program that aims to break the intergenerational cycle and consequences of poverty, in the long term, through investment in human capital so that poor children will have a better life and future.

Sustainable Livelihood Program (SLP). The Sustainable Livelihood Program shall contribute to the economic sufficiency of poor families, prioritizing *Pantawid Pamilya* beneficiaries in developing employable skills, securing gainful employment, earning steady and sufficient income, and accessing social security and financial institutions through capacity building. In addition, it shall contribute to the social adequacy of *Pantawid Pamilya* families by engaging them to participate in SLP associations for livelihood activities within and outside the community.

The SLP offers two (2) tracks to its target beneficiaries: the microenterprise development (MD) and employment facilitation (EF) tracks. These shall be done through four (4) modalities: i) seed capital fund, ii) cash for building livelihood assets, iii) skills training, and iv) employment assistance fund. These, along with interventions from private and public sector partners, expand the livelihood asset base, such as human, social, physical, natural, and financial assets, of program participants to equip them in securing gainful employment and successfully managing micro-enterprises. SLP shall operate through five (5) major stages: (a) social preparation; (b) project development; (c) project proposal review and approval; (d) project operationalization; and (e) project sustainability.

Kapit-Bisig Laban sa Kahirapan Comprehensive and Integrated Delivery of Social Services-National Community-Driven Development Project. KC-NCDDP aims to benefit poor households and empower communities as partners in development, improve local governance, and reduce poverty by implementing barangay-level projects that respond to the communities' felt needs and problems. Through the program, DSWD shall provide communities with better access to basic services and improve core local poverty indicators in project areas.

Payapa at Masaganang Pamayanan. *PAYapa at MASaganang PamayaNAn* or PAMANA is the national government's convergence program spearheaded by the Office of the Presidential Adviser on the Peace Process (OPAPP) that extends development interventions to isolated, hard-to-reach and conflict-affected communities, ensuring that they are not left behind. PAMANA aims to improve governance, empower communities in addressing issues of conflict and peace, and reduce poverty and vulnerability in conflict-affected areas through sustainable rural development, community infrastructure and focused delivery of social services. It further aims to achieve lasting peace through three (3) pillars: pillar 1 on laying the foundation at national level referring to policy reforms that establish the foundation of peace, pillar 2 on delivery of services at community level promoting the convergent delivery of services and pillar 3 on connecting to other communities at regional and sub-regional levels linking conflict affected areas to markets and promoting jobs generation in provincial and municipal governments.

PAMANA projects that support poverty alleviation that impact on children of indigenous people and Muslim communities affected by conflict include: IP-community driven development projects; community infrastructure, livelihood, social protection services for vulnerable sectors; agricultural productivity support; agri-fishery; capacity building projects and activities for peace-building; community infrastructure; development of settlement site; electrification; flood control system; livelihood; roads and bridges; water supply system. These shall be pursued and implemented by OPAPP in partnership with DSWD, DILG, and the National Commission on Indigenous Peoples (NCIP).

The PAMANA Program is affirmed by the Duterte Administration's six-point Peace and Development Agenda as the program that will deliver peace promoting catch-up socio-economic development in conflict-affected and conflict-vulnerable areas. It aims to address issues of injustices and improve community access to socio-economic interventions; improve governance by building the capacity of NGAs and LGUs for a conflict-sensitive, peace-promoting, culture-sensitive and gender-sensitive approach to human rights promotion and development; and, empowering communities and strengthening their capacities to address issues of conflict and peace.

DOLE Integrated Livelihood and Emergency Employment Program. The DILEEP is a program of the DOLE that aims to contribute to the prevention and elimination of child labor by providing families of child laborers access to decent livelihood opportunities for enhanced income which can be in the form of Negokart, starter kits, or materials needed to start a livelihood undertaking. Under the DILEEP guidelines (DO 137-14), none of the children of livelihood beneficiaries should be engaged in child labor.

An impact evaluation of the DOLE's livelihood assistance to parents of child laborers shall be undertaken. The evaluation shall determine the impact and effectiveness of livelihood assistance in reducing the prevalence of and entry into child labor. It shall also delve the potential for scale-up in reducing the incidence of child labor.

LGUs shall contribute to child poverty alleviation by supporting and enabling pro-poor and anti-poverty programs that benefit their constituents and their children (Outcome

1.1.3) through Assistance to Disadvantaged Municipalities (ADM) and in partnership with the private sector, adopt selected LGUs for support to anti-child poverty programs.

Assistance to Disadvantaged Municipalities. The program, which seeks to strengthen LGUs to become more able partners in national development, shall contribute to implementing the anti-poverty programs at the local level which shall impact on children. This shall be done through the implementation of higher good governance standards, improvement of capacities to generate resources, and strengthening of abilities to deliver basic services. The ADM program provides a revitalized thrust to government's efforts to increasing and improving rural development in line with its national development goals.

Private Sector Partnership with LGUs. The CWC shall pro-actively promote, mobilize and engage the private sector, particularly corporations and business establishments, through their corporate social responsibilities, to contribute to child poverty alleviation by adopting an LGU and providing appropriate interventions that may include cash or in-kind assistance, as capital seed fund, entrepreneurial skills. CWC and DILG shall recommend that the use of results of the Child-Friendly Local Governance Audit (CFLGA) as basis for selecting LGUs that can be “adopted”. Families which fall below poverty lines and other child indicators in the “adopted” LGUs shall be prioritized.

NGOs shall assist poor families in improving their financial and economic capacity and sustainable sources of income to meet the basic needs of their children (Outcome 1.1.4) through their child poverty alleviation and other livelihood programs in their covered areas.

Non-Government Organizations Support to Child Poverty Alleviation and Other Livelihood Programs. NGOs shall work together with national government agencies and LGUs in specific and targeted areas on child poverty alleviation projects.

NGOs shall empower communities in targeted areas to participate in livelihood and social protection programmes and improved employability skills of youth in Metro Manila, Central Luzon, Southern Tagalog, Western Visayas, Central Visayas, Eastern Visayas, and SOCCSKSARGEN. It includes supporting sustainable livelihoods and increasing food production through capacity building, strengthening the employability skills of the youth and making social protection programs child sensitive. These shall be undertaken in partnership with the Technical Skills and Development Authority (TESDA) and LGUs.

NGO family support to livelihood programs will consist of activities that will lead to the formation and development of cooperatives and the Community Managed Savings and Credit Associations (CoMSCA). These are: the provision of skills trainings on micro-entrepreneurship, business values and management; organizing of CoMSCA groups, and provision of capital loan assistance. These services will be provided to household members of beneficiaries as a way to help improve the economic capacities of families for them to be able to support their children in school. The program shall provide school supplies, uniforms and bags and part of the miscellaneous fees of the children. The remaining costs of education will be part of the responsibility of the households. CoMSCA is a community-based group that mobilize and manage the members' own savings, providing loans to members and offering a

limited form of financial insurance. Some of the CoMSCA members have now levelled up from savings to savings mobilization and are now running their own small-scale agriculture and non-agriculture businesses thereby contributing to family income.

The NGO *Kababaihan Kagandahan Kabuhayan* (KKK) livelihood program includes feeding programs, provision of small scale businesses/entrepreneurships where parent beneficiaries can work even inside their homes, and recipients are provided with lists of available services within their areas and the NGO serves as “mediator” for them to access basic services. The following activities shall be undertaken together with LGUs for basic services, DOLE for livelihood programs, CROSS Catholic Outreach for funding of feeding programs: (a) regular weekly food supplement for children and mothers in Child Protection Clinic areas; (b) urban gardening for parents and children; (c) values formation for parent beneficiaries; (d) establishment of seed fund for KKK to ensure sustainability and for capital assistance; and (e) close collaboration and partnership with LGUs and access their basic services for the people – health department, social services. The program shall focus mainly in Metro Manila.

Chapter 5 Social Protection Measures that Impact on Children

Assessment and Challenges

Social protection in the Philippines constitutes "policies and programs that seek to reduce poverty and vulnerability to risks and enhance the social status and rights of the marginalized by promoting and protecting livelihood and employment, protecting against hazards and sudden loss of income, and improving people's capacity to manage risks".⁹ The country further adopted a Social Protection Operational Framework for a better and improved quality of life for its beneficiaries through the reduction of poverty and vulnerability and the inclusion and enhancement of the social status and rights of the marginalized.¹⁰

The Philippines' Social Protection system has four (4) components: (1) labor market interventions - measures aimed at enhancing employment opportunities and protection of the rights and welfare of workers; (2) social welfare - preventive and developmental interventions that seek to support the minimum basic requirements of the poor, particularly the poorest of the poor, and reduce risks associated with unemployment, resettlement, marginalization, illness, disability, old age and loss of family care of which social welfare and assistance programs usually comprise direct assistance in the form of cash or in-kind transfers to the poorest and marginalized groups, as well as social services including family and community support, alternative care and referral services; (3) social insurance - programs that seek to mitigate income risks by pooling resources and spreading risks across time and classes, designed in such a way that beneficiaries pay a premium over a given period of time to cover or protect them from loss of income and unemployment as a result of illness, injury, disability, retrenchment, harvest failure, maternity, old age, etc., and includes micro- and area-based schemes to address vulnerability at the community level (health insurance, etc.); (4) social safety nets - stop-gap mechanisms or urgent responses that address effects of economic shocks, disasters and calamities on specific vulnerable groups, measures that specifically target affected groups with specific objective of providing relief and transition, which include emergency assistance, price subsidies, food programs, employment programs, retraining programs and emergency loans.

Social protection for children is also discussed in other chapters of the 3rd NPAC; mainly Chapter 4 on Child Poverty Alleviation and Chapter 6 on Children's Emergency Relief and Protection and in related chapters such as on food and feeding programs, alternative parental care, among others. This chapter focuses mainly on universal health coverage and conditional cash transfers that impact on children.

Universal health coverage for Filipinos is provided through PhilHealth for those in the formal sector comprised of employed workers, indigents without any means of support, retirees and the elderly, and individual payers or those not falling under the three (3) earlier groups, comprised mostly of Overseas Filipino Workers. Through the years, the coverage and

⁹ National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA)-Social Development Committee (SDC) Resolution No. 1, Series of 2007 entitled Adopting A Philippine Definition of Social Protection

¹⁰ NEDA-SDC Resolution No. 3, Series of 2012, Approving and Adopting the Social Protection Operational Framework

benefits have been expanded including the point of service program, no balance billing, among others. Payments of members and counterpart contributions of employers are subsidized by funds for the health coverage flow from general taxation and the cost of insurance for the poor and the elderly (senior citizens).

A bill is pending in Congress for the amendment of the universal health insurance into a Universal Health Care for All Filipinos Act wherein membership shall be categorized into both contributory and non-contributory workers, the latter being those who give no contributions such as the indigents, and expansion of medical insurance coverage. The bill further proposes the reconstitution of the Philippine Health Insurance Corporation (PhilHealth) into the Philippine Health Security Corporation (PHSC) as the national purchaser of health services.

Children of enrollees to PhilHealth numbered only 385,456 (as of 2013). In 2016, PhilHealth was able to provide Normal New-born Care Packages to 818,465 babies in the amount of PhP1. 3 billion and Maternity Care Packages to 350,312 mothers in the amount of PhP2.7 billion.

The *Pantawid* Program was infused with an unprecedented huge funds allocation for one single program that reached PhP62.6 billion in 2014, PhP64.3 billion in 2015 and PhP62.7 billion in 2016. Almost ten (10) million children 0-18 years were served under the *Pantawid* Program in 2016. The significant increase in coverage results from the increased resources to include beneficiaries under the Modified Conditional Cash Transfers (MCCT), and the extension of the program to high school students.

Two (2) impact evaluation studies of the *Pantawid* were conducted in 2012 and 2014. The studies evaluated the program coverage, implementation/operationalization, and its impact on the welfare of its household beneficiaries. There is a need, however, to conduct further study on the adjustment of the amount of cash grants to consider the effects of inflation and a strategy for household beneficiaries graduating from the program.

Goal and Expected Outcome

Goal 1.2 Children from poor and vulnerable households are substantially covered by universal health insurance and appropriate social protection measures (SDG 1.2)

Outcome 1.2.1 Health insurance coverage ensures affordable, acceptable, available and accessible health care services for all including children

Outcome 1.2.2 Conditional cash transfers are provided as a social safety net and stop-gap measure to alleviate the immediate needs of poor families with children

Strategies

The two major social protection programs shall contribute mainly to achieving Goal 1.2 which is aimed at providing vulnerable families and children with universal

health coverage, which is also included in PAMANA, and the regular and modified conditional cash transfer or *Pantawid Pamilya Pilipino Program*.

Both interventions are national in scope, with extensive coverage and infused with public funds. Though in the case of PhilHealth, funds are mainly derived from contributing members and public funds are added to cover specific vulnerable groups and benefit packages.

Policies, Programs and Projects

Health insurance coverage shall be implemented through the National Health Insurance Program (NHIP) and the related health insurance coverage in PAMANA to ensure affordable, acceptable, available and accessible health care services for all including children (Outcome 1.2.1).

National Health Insurance Program. The program, managed by the Philippine Health Insurance Corporation (PhilHealth), constitutes one universal health insurance program for the entire Filipino population. It provides health insurance coverage and ensures affordable, acceptable, available and accessible health care services for all citizens of the Philippines, including children. The program shall include a sustainable system of funds constitution, collection, management and disbursement for financing basic minimum packages and other supplementary packages of health insurance benefits by a progressively expanding proportion of the population.¹¹ The standards and quality of care provided by health facilities shall be improved through PhilHealth accreditation. Through the health facility enhancement program, infrastructure and equipment of health facilities shall be upgraded. A PhilHealth benefit package is being developed for children with severe acute malnutrition. The DOH shall develop an advocacy and communication plan for PhilHealth package for children and campaign materials for PhilHealth coverage.

PAMANA Program. The Health Insurance Program is one component of the Social Protection Package (SPP) of the PAMANA program of the OPAPP under the DOH and implemented through PhilHealth. The program commits to enrol beneficiaries under the full subsidy scheme of PhilHealth for one (1) year which may be renewed annually, subject to the agreement of the parties and the availability of funds provided they are not covered by any other sponsored programs or that they remain in the same economic category to qualify. These shall include the construction/re-construction of health facilities and provision of equipment, medicines and medical supplies and coverage.

Conditional cash transfers shall be provided as a social safety net and stop-gap measure to alleviate the immediate needs of poor families with children (Outcome 1.2.2) through the government's *Pantawid* and MCCT programs and the NGO Family Support Program.

***Pantawid Pamilyang Pilipino Program* and the Modified Conditional Cash Transfer Program.** The *Pantawid* Program, as discussed in the Chapter 4, has the twin objectives of social assistance by providing conditional cash transfers as social safety net and stop-gap measure to alleviate the immediate needs of poor families, in the short term, and social

¹¹ https://www.philhealth.gov.ph/about_us/mandate.html

development to break the intergenerational poverty cycle, in the long term, through investment in human capital. *Pantawid* is a social protection program that invests in the health and education of children 0-18 years old from eligible poor households. It shall sustain supporting family beneficiaries under its regular modality. A convergence strategy for the transitioning of household and children beneficiaries of *Pantawid* shall be developed.

The MCCT complements the *Pantawid* Program by expanding CCT coverage to families and children in difficult situations. These include those who live and work in the streets, itinerant IP migrant families, families with children with disabilities, child laborers and children in conflict with the law, displaced families due to manmade and natural disasters, and victims of trafficking.

All MCCT beneficiaries as identified by the DSWD are automatically enrolled and covered as indigent members under the NHIP.¹²

The 2017 Annual Thrusts and Priorities of the DSWD (reference AO No. 10 s2016), include the following agenda related to the *Pantawid* Program: (a) review of family development sessions and expansion of topics to include responsible parenthood and reproductive health, environmental protection, climate change, anti-drug abuse, patriotism, and love of country; (b) provision of rice subsidy to *Pantawid* beneficiaries; and (c) development of models of intervention for non-*Pantawid* poor families.

A study on the adjustment of the amount of cash grants given to household beneficiaries shall be undertaken to consider the effects of inflation. In addition, a study to define the strategy for household beneficiaries graduating from the program shall also be done.

Family Support - Social Protection Program. Social protection family support dimension is an NGO program that consists mostly of linkages with institutions and other financing organizations for business loans, grants and marketing opportunities. Social protection linkages for health and nutrition, social security, and risk and disaster-preparedness are included in this program. The NGO provides the link and helps in the printing of informational materials on social protection services to make the information accessible to households for them to have easier access. Social protection programs will serve as safety nets in times of crisis situations that threaten livelihoods, income and health conditions.

¹² PhilHealth Circular No. 014, s. 2012. The supplemental circular adopts the guidelines on the “Entitlement of NHIP Benefits of all *Pantawid Pamilya Pilipino* Program Beneficiaries of the DSWD”.

Chapter 6 Children's Emergency Relief and Protection

Assessment and Challenges

The Philippines lies along the typhoon belt facing the Pacific Ocean and within the Pacific “ring of fire” making it prone to natural disasters and grappling with around 24 typhoons a year, 3-4 of which are “super typhoons”, earthquakes, and volcanic eruptions. These have caused massive destruction to lives, properties, infrastructure and crops affecting millions of Filipinos. In addition, uncontrolled settlements in danger zones further expose the country to more calamities.

Children remain to be most vulnerable and worst affected. Children are at higher risk to disease outbreaks and, in worst cases, mortalities, food insecurity, disrupted schooling, homelessness, and separation from families.

The large scale damage and losses due to natural disasters severely affect highly populated areas, economic centers, the general population - rich, middle class and poor and vulnerable alike - in rural and urban areas, living in danger areas such as uplands and river embankments, sea shores, informal settlements in at-risk areas. Natural disasters are most likely to increase in number and intensity due to climate change.

The Children's Emergency Relief and Protection Act, R.A. No. 10821, was passed into law in May 2016. It formulates a Comprehensive Emergency Program for Children for handling disasters and other emergency situations to protect children, pregnant and lactating mothers, and supports their immediate recovery, in line with accepted and practiced international humanitarian standards.

Goal and Expected Outcomes

Goal 1.3 The resilience of poor children and those in vulnerable situations are building up and the exposure and vulnerability of children to climate-related extreme events and other social and environmental shocks and disasters are reduced (SDG 1.5)

Outcome 1.3.1 Immediate relief and early recovery of disaster victims/survivors especially among children

Outcome 1.3.2 Education, awareness-raising and human and institutional capacity on climate change mitigation, adaptation, impact reduction and early warning are improved, including early warning devices for children with disabilities (SDG 13.3)

Outcome 1.3.3 Unaccompanied children and separated children are reunified with their families

Strategies

Children affected and displaced by natural and human-induced disasters shall be provided with emergency relief, protection and recovery assistance to build-up their resiliency and to reduce their exposure and vulnerability to climate-related

events and other social and environmental shocks and disasters (Goal 1.3). These shall be indicated by the reduction in number of casualties and children affected by natural and man-made disasters.

These shall include special assistance and strategies for children with disabilities by ensuring the availability of early warning devices such as sirens, signages with large prints and color contrasts.

Immediate relief and recovery of disaster victims/survivors shall be provided to children affected and displaced by natural and human-induced disasters and calamities. Disaster relief assistance shall be provided within 72 hours upon occurrence of disaster and children shall be assisted so that their lives are restored to normalcy.

Policies, Programs and Projects

Immediate relief and early recovery of disaster victims/survivors especially among children (Outcome 1.3.1), and related legislative measure, shall be pursued through a package of services that comprise the Comprehensive Emergency Program for Children and basic health services and health emergency management.

A legislative measure that shall provide for the **Mandatory Establishment of Women- and Child-Friendly Spaces in All Evacuation Centers in the Country** shall be lobbied for. It envisaged promoting, protecting and providing the needs of women, including nursing mothers, young girls and children when they are in temporary shelters or in evacuation centers during emergency situations.

Comprehensive Emergency Program for Children (DSWD, DOH, DepEd, LGUs). Children shall be provided with package of services under the comprehensive emergency program which includes social services and protection, health care and nutrition, and education. This shall be inclusive of: (a) **Disaster Relief Assistance** where LGUs shall be supported in the prepositioning of emergency stockpiles. Internally displaced persons and children shall be provided with social protection services; (b) **Early Recovery Program** where families affected by disasters and calamities shall be provided with emergency shelter assistance/core shelter assistance, and cash for work; (c) establishment of **Permanent Evacuation and Relief Centers and Child-Friendly Spaces** in areas which are highly prone to natural disasters and conflict-affected. LGUs' capacity in disaster risk reduction and management shall be further strengthened.

Health Emergency Management Program. Health emergency management shall have the following components: minimum initial service package on sexual reproductive health to prevent and manage the consequences of sexual violence during emergencies and to prevent neonatal and maternal morbidities and mortalities; Basic health services which include immunization of children 0-11 months, and nutrition in emergencies which include continued promotion of breastfeeding, provision of supplemental vitamins and minerals for pregnant women and children under-fives, among others.

Education, awareness-raising and human and institutional capacity on climate change mitigation, adaptation, impact reduction and early warning shall be improved, including

early warning devices for children with disabilities (Outcome 1.3.2) by putting in place a policy on education in emergencies, tapping structures for disaster risk reduction and management, with NGO support, family development sessions. Additionally, a family tracing and reunification system shall be developed.

A **policy on education in emergencies**, risk reduction, preparedness and response mechanisms to ensure the continuity of basic education during humanitarian crisis, is expected to be in place. Increased public spending on risk-informed, inclusive, and appropriate education interventions or programs shall be advocated for.

NGOs shall support the policy on education in emergencies and shall work closely with mandated agencies in the National and Local Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Councils in the event of human crisis in the following areas: (a) safe learning facilities; (b) support in implementing the DepEd policies and guidelines relative to School Disaster Management; (c) risk reduction and resilience education; (d) children's meaningful participation in risk reduction and disaster preparedness; and (e) capacity building for families and communities to provide safe home environments for children, including the development of family preparedness plans.

Family Development Sessions. DSWD shall improve and strengthen FDS with comprehensive modules on environmental protection, climate change, anti-drug abuse, patriotism, reproductive health and love of country [ATP 2017]. *Pantawid* families shall be reached out for information and education on environmental protection and climate change.

Rapid Family Tracing and Reunification System. A national system for Family Tracing and Reunification shall be developed to ensure that displaced children, unaccompanied and separated from their families are provided with alternative parental care and reunified with their families.

Chapter 7 Peace and Development in Conflict Affected Areas

Assessment and Challenges

The Philippines has a long history of armed conflict, where children have been victims of human rights violations, internal displacement, and even recruited by armed groups to serve as messengers, spies, and soldiers for the armed groups.

The number of children in conflict affected areas or caught in situations of armed conflict between government forces and rebel groups have not been fully accounted for. There have been various reports by the United Nations, NGOs and other human rights groups of the number of affected children but none on its totality and comprehensive data is collected officially or available for evidence-based policymaking and planning.

While Executive Order (EO) 138 for the Adoption of the Comprehensive Program Framework for Children in Armed Conflict was issued, it focussed mainly on a monitoring, reporting and response system for grave child rights violations. There is a need for a more comprehensive bill to effectively deter the use and exploitation of children in armed struggles.

Peace and development initiatives are critical to bringing normalcy in the lives of children in conflict affected areas.

Goal and Expected Outcome

Goal 1.4 Child combatants and children of former combatants are demobilized and reintegrated to their communities

Outcome 1.4.1 Children in situations of armed conflict are protected by law and peace building initiatives and agreements

Strategies

The achievement of the goal shall be measured by the number of child combatants and children of former combatants who are demobilized and reintegrated to their communities resulting from instituting legislative and policy measures that protect them and the peace building agreements that are forged with non-state groups.

The strategy shall be three-pronged: peace building and promotion to provide normal and productive lives for children, provision of social protection programs, and reunification of children to their families.

Peace agreements shall be spearheaded by the OPAPP in partnership with the Commission on Higher Education (CHED), Department of Agriculture (DA), Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), DepEd, DOH-PhilHealth, DSWD, PNP and TESDA.

It shall be implemented in conflict-affected and conflict-vulnerable areas which may include the following: CAR (Abra, Apayao, Benguet, Ifugao, Kalinga, Mountain Province); Region IVB (Oriental Mindoro, Palawan); Region V (Albay, Camarines Norte, Camarines Sur, Masbate,

Sorsogon); Region VI (Negros Occidental), Region VII (Negros Oriental); Region VIII (Northern Samar, Western Samar); Region IX (Zamboanga del Norte, Zamboanga del Sur, Zamboanga Sibugay, City of Isabela); Region X (Bukidnon, Camiguin, Lanao del Norte, Misamis Occidental, Misamis Oriental); Region XI (Compostela Valley, Davao del Norte, Davao del Sur, Davao Occidental, Davao Oriental, Davao City; Region XII (Cotabato, Sarangani, South Cotabato, Sultan Kudarat, Cotabato City); Region XIII (Agusan del Norte, Agusan del Sur, Surigao del Norte, Surigao del Sur); ARMM (Lanao del Sur, Maguindanao, Basilan, Sulu, Tawi-Tawi).

Peace building initiatives shall be supported by social protection programs for former rebels to mainstream them and their children back to society. Furthermore, children who are separated from their families or abandoned due to armed conflict shall be reunited with their families.

Policies, Programs and Projects

Critical to achieving the goal to demobilize child combatants and children of former combatants and to reintegrate them to their communities are the enactment of a law for children in situations of armed conflict, the forging of peace agreements, a comprehensive local integration program for those in armed struggle, and a national program for women peace and security (Outcome 1.4.1).

The passage of House Bill No. 13 for the protection of children in situations of armed conflicts in the 17th Congress shall continuously be lobbied for to: ensure the protection of the children's well-being; create an environment that will foster their physical, psychological, intellectual, and moral development; and mould the children into patriotic, responsible, and productive citizens. The protection of children from armed conflict is an important aspect of a comprehensive strategy to resolve conflict and should be a priority of the State. The bill shall further provide for the prevention, rehabilitation, and reintegration as well as the rescue and demobilization of children in situations of armed conflict.¹³ Data on children in armed conflict areas shall be collected and used for pursuing strategic interventions to expand and enhance those that are provided in the subsequent interventions.

Implementation of Peace Agreements. Meaningful implementation of the peace agreement with the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) towards healing in the *Bangsamoro* shall be pursued for completion of the implementation of the Government of the Philippines-Moro National Liberation Front (GPH-MNLF) Peace Agreement. Although held in abeyance (as of writing this plan), the government shall review its position regarding the signing and implementation of final peace agreement with Communist Party of the Philippines/New People's Army/National Democratic Front (CPP/NPA/NDF) and the immediate conclusion of the peace process with the Cordillera Bodong Administration-Cordillera People's Liberation Army (CBA-CPLA). Peace and development interventions shall be pursued by OPAPP together with other concerned agencies.

¹³ Protect Children from Armed Conflict, Press Release from the House of Representative Press and Public Affairs Bureau, 22 February 2017

OPAPP shall facilitate the delivery of the following interventions in partnership with other implementing agencies, LGUs, CSOs. These stem from peace agreements signed by the government and armed groups. (a) GPH-MILF Peace Process – socio-economic development programs in acknowledged camps and for the decommissioned combatants and their communities; (b) GPH-MNLF Peace Process – Social Protection Packages for former MNLF combatants, next-of-kin and community members, implementation of PAMANA projects in support of the GPH-MNLF 1996 Final Peace Agreement; and (c) CBA-CPLA Peace Process – delivery of services/assistance to both MOA and key non-MOA stakeholders of the CBA-CPLA peace process and Employment/Livelihood Sustainability Plan.

Comprehensive Local Integration Program (CLIP). The CLIP is a program for individuals who have decided to abandon armed struggle and return to the fold of the law and mainstream back to society. It is a peace building and social protection program that provides interventions to former New People’s Army (NPA) rebels and members of *Militia ng Bayan* (MB) in becoming productive citizens of society thereupon providing a better way of life and normalcy for their children.

National Action Plan on Women Peace and Security. Activities include re/orientation – training, technical assistance in the formulation and localization of National Action Plan on Women, Peace, and Security (NAP-WPS) particularly girl child issues in conflict areas. Localization of NAPWPS, and monitoring and evaluation of Local National Action Plan (LNAP) on WPS shall be pursued. This will be implemented by OPAPP in partnership with the Philippine Commission on Women and LGUs.

Chapter 8 Right to a Name

Assessment and Challenges

The number of births registered in 2014 had a total of 1,748,857, a decrease of about 0.7 percent compared to 1,761,602 births in 2013. In 2014, there was an average of 4,791 babies born daily or 200 babies born per hour or three babies per minute.

Births from 2005 to 2014 showed an erratic trend. More males (912,465 or 52.2%) were born than females (836,392 or 47.8%) which resulted to a sex ratio of 109 males per 100 females. The ARMM had the lowest number of registered births of only 14,783 (0.8%) of the total.¹⁴

Government conducted mobile birth registration in far-flung areas, particularly in provinces in the Mindanao. In 2012, the DSWD-ARMM conducted a four-town free mobile registration drive, with more than 5,000 adults and children availing of the service. In 2013, Muslim Mindanao Autonomy Act No. 293, or An Act Establishing Free Birth Registration in the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao was enacted to ensure that every constituent has full access to a name, nationality and identity.

Major barriers to birth registration were: (i) lack of awareness among families and communities on the importance of birth registration; (ii) social and cultural practices of indigenous peoples and the Muslim population which are not compatible with the requirements for birth registration; and (iii) distance and physical barriers that hinder access and mobility for registration.

While the Civil Registration Law decrees that birth registration is free, some LGUs seek to generate revenues by charging for miscellaneous expenses.

Orphaned children and foundlings are not registered primarily due to the inability to determine their origins and other factors related to their situations.

The country is confronted with a growing number of undocumented children of Filipino mothers working overseas. Whether these children are wholly or partly Filipinos, they become legal non-entities as their births cannot be registered nor birth certificates issued for them if their mothers do not have valid "*iqamas*" or residence certificates. The host of complex issues of these mothers, such as illegal entries, absence of working permits, runaways from or abused by employers, prevent them from obtaining "*iqamas*" and giving births in hospitals where birth certificates are issued.¹⁵

Goal and Expected Outcome

Goal 1.5 All Filipino children have legal identity and that birth registration is increased to 95 percent in 2022 from 87.4 percent in 2011 (SDG 16.9)

¹⁴ <https://www.psa.gov.ph/content/live-births-philippines-2014>

¹⁵ Source: "The Condition of Overseas Filipino Workers in Saudi Arabia" – Final Report of the Investigating Mission of the Committee on Overseas Workers' Affairs (COWA) to Saudi Arabia, January 9-12, 2011, Philippine Congress. The Report referred to estimates on the number of undocumented children in Saudi Arabia provided by Atty. Dulfie Tobias-Shalim, Social Service Attache in Riyadh.

Outcome 1.5.1 Children are officially registered after birth in local civil registry offices

Strategies

A major strategy is nationwide birth registration campaigns spearheaded by the Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA) together with major national government agencies, local governments and local civil registrar and the media.

Roving teams shall be deployed to reach out to newly born children in far-flung areas. The PSA also offers free mobile registration in schools and hard to reach areas for special groups. A Free Mobile Civil Registration Project was also initiated for the reconstruction of damaged or lost civil documents in emergency affected areas.

Policies, Programs and Projects

Universal birth registration interventions shall be pursued to achieve the goal of providing all Filipino children with legal identity (Goal 1.5).

Civil Proclamation 1106 was signed in 2015 which declared the years 2015-2024 as the Civil Registration and Vital Statistics Decade. The proclamation instructs Philippine government agencies to design programmes to increase civil registration.

Even prior to the Presidential Proclamation, other measures pertaining to children's registration were adopted through Memorandum Circulars (MCs) issued by the DILG:¹⁶

- ❖ MC No. 2005-014 on the Conduct of Birth Registration campaigns in LGUs which aims to achieve 100 percent birth registration of children in the country pursuant to the National Plan of Action and the Global Campaign for Universal Birth Registration launched by the United Nations in February 2005.
- ❖ MC No. 2006-086 on the Conduct of Free Birth Registration of Indigent Children in LGUs which calls for the active involvement of all local chief executives, DILG field personnel, and other concerned parties, and seeks to guarantee that every child can claim the right to a name and nationality as key to all other rights despite various social, economic, cultural, legal and physical barriers.

Universal Birth Registration. Proactive steps are taken by LGUs and other partners to increase the rate of birth registration at the Local Civil Registrar. Roving birth registration teams go to remote, far-flung and hard-to-reach communities particularly upland and cultural communities to locate and register new-borns and facilitate late birth registration. Barangay-level Civil Registration Systems shall be implemented nationwide and institutionalized at the local level.

The *Pantawid* is also exploring the possibility of extending free birth registration for its beneficiary families. It includes birth registration in a module of family development sessions.

¹⁶ Philippines Draft Response to the UN-CESCR Concluding Observation (Advance Unedited Version October 2016)

Universal birth registration campaigns are supported through partnerships of local governments, local, national and international agencies, and the media. The PSA pursued awareness campaigns on the importance of civil registry documents, while setting up registration outlets near schools, hard-to-reach areas, and indigenous communities. Registration centers are also available in malls, travel agencies, remittance centers, and other convenient locations.

In order to ensure that children born to Overseas Filipino Workers (OFWs) are registered, guidelines have been issued by the PSA. Report of birth is made to Philippine embassies/consulates, particularly in the Middle East, for which necessary assistance is provided.

Part III Children's Right to Adequate Nutrition, Health Care, and Inclusive Quality Education

Goal 2 Children are well-nourished, have healthy lives and are active learners with good quality education

This Section focuses on policies, programs, and projects in upholding children's rights to survival and development. The strategic framework for Goal 2 is illustrated in Figure 5.

1. Ending children's hunger and achieving food security and improved nutrition shall draw on broader and multi-sector nutrition-sensitive programs that address underlying effects of malnutrition and nutrition-specific programs that address the immediate causes of malnutrition focusing on the first 1,000 days of a child's life through infant and young child feeding, complementary and supplementary feeding;
2. Maternal and child health care which includes new-born care, combatting aids, tuberculosis, malaria and other water-borne and communicable diseases, prevention and treatment of substance abuse, child injury prevention, and adolescent and reproductive health care services;
3. Early child care and development to improve quality and standards of center-based and community-based day care services and child development and learning centers and mandatory kindergarten;
4. Inclusive and quality basic education through (a) formal schooling with the full implementation of K to 12, Muslim and indigenous children's education programs, gender equality, special education programs for children with disabilities and getting and keeping children in school, (b) alternative delivery modes and flexible learning options, multi-grade education, technical-vocational education, (c) alternative learning system which shall be introduced in drug rehabilitation centers, alternative learning methods for GIDAs, as well as densely populated areas, and in countries with undocumented Filipino migrants where children do not have access to formal education; and (d) thematic education programs for children with disabilities, drug prevention, peace education;
5. Water, sanitation and hygiene in waterless communities and in day care centers and in schools.



Figure 5 Goal 2 Strategic Framework

Chapter 9 Ending Children's Hunger and Achieving Food Security and Improved Nutrition

Assessment and Challenges

Hunger is a form of food insecurity and prolonged hunger may lead to malnutrition, illness, mental and physical growth retardation. Statistical data and indicators are drawn from two major sources: the PSA's Philippine Food Security Information System (PhilFSIS) and the Food and Nutrition Research Institute-Department of Science and Technology (FNRI-DOST) periodic National Nutrition Survey (NNS).

Food security in the country is measured by a Food Security Index (FSI) which aggregates various indicators representing various facets of food security. It also measures stability of the dimensions of food security such as availability, accessibility and utilization. "The country's food security is generally stable to which the availability of major food items contributed positively to an upward direction. Food security was also affected positively by other factors such as the share of poverty alleviation budget and share of the agriculture budget to total budget and food utilization in terms of dietary energy supply." ¹⁷

"Food security greatly affects the nutritional and health status of the household members. It also serves as a proxy indicator of poverty and their inability to access food. An increasing trend was seen in the proportions of households who were food secure over the past twelve (12) years with an average rate of 1.54 percent annually. The proportions of households who were considered food secure increased from 30.7 percent in 2011 to 34.1 percent in 2013."¹⁸ The percentage of food insecurity was estimated at 52.8 percent among households and 17.9 percent among children in 2013. ¹⁹

The 8th National Nutrition Survey was conducted in 2013-2014 and updated in 2015 by the FNRI-DOST. The 8th NNS had the following components: anthropometry, biochemical, clinical, dietary intake of households and individuals, demographic and socio-economic profiles of participants, food security, government program participation, selected health risk factors pertinent to nutrition, infant and young child feeding, maternal and child health, and the salt survey.

The 8th NNS revealed that the proportion of households meeting the 100 percent recommended energy intake was 31.7 percent in 2015 while the proportion of children six (6) months to 5 years old that met the 100 percent recommended intake of energy was 23.2 percent. The energy intake of pregnant women and lactating mothers registered an upward trend from 2003 to 2008 but went down in 2013; meanwhile the opposite was noted for

¹⁷PhilFSIS Website, PSA, 2014. PhilFSIS Website is a one-stop-shop web-based information system that retrieves, analyses, and share selected statistical data/indicators and other information related to food security in the Philippines.

¹⁸ 8th National Nutrition Survey – Overview, FNRI-DOST, updated July 2015

¹⁹ Department of Agriculture (for validation)

preschool children where a downward trend was observed from 2003 to 2008 but increased in 2013.

Under-nutrition among children under-five remains a major challenge. In 2015²⁰, stunting (low height-for-age) for children below 5 years old was 33.4 percent, underweight was 21.5 percent, wasting was 7.1 percent and overweight for height was 3.9 percent.

Under-five children belonging to the poorest population had the highest stunting rates with 49.2 percent prevalence. Following this group are the poor quintile with 39.5 percent, then middle quintile with 31.5 percent. The rich and the richest quintile, on the other hand, had lower stunting rates with 22.1 percent, and 14.8 respectively.

The ARMM had the highest stunting rates with 45.2 percent prevalence, higher than the national average of 33.4 percent. The regions of Eastern Visayas, MIMAROPA, Bicol, and SOCCSKSARGEN also have a stunting prevalence of 40 percent and higher. The regions with the lowest stunting rates are the NCR and Central Luzon, with 24.9 percent and 23.1 percent, respectively.

MIMAROPA and Eastern Visayas had the highest wasting rates with 9.7 percent and 8.4 percent, respectively. Although wasting rates were low compared to underweight and stunting rates, a prevalence of more than five (5) percent is a matter of serious concern. Children are at high morbidity and mortality risks if they are wasted and these are brought about by calamities or severe illnesses. For the same period, 2015, underweight among 5-10-year-old children were 31.2 percent, stunting was 31.1 percent, and wasting 8.4 percent. Among adolescents 10-19 years old, stunting was 31.9 percent while wasting was 12.5 to 31.5 percent.

Infant and young child feeding practices are crucial to improving the health and nutritional status of children. Between 2011 and 2013, higher proportions of new-born infants were initiated to breastfeeding within one (1) hour after delivery at 77.1 percent while exclusive breastfeeding rate among 0-5.9 month-old children was 52.3 percent in 2013. The practice of breastfeeding is higher among mothers from the poorest and poor quintiles, living in rural areas, with lower educational attainment, not gainfully employed and with more children.

Under-nutrition among the 0-5-year-old age group of children can have “irreversible health” impacts that may extend as they become adults. This particular age group is crucial for mental and physical development. But the high rates of underweights, stunting and wasting among children >5 years old also need to be addressed.

The immediate causes of child malnutrition are inadequate food and nutrient intake, poor caregiving and parenting practices and the burden of infectious diseases. Malnutrition is also characterized by over nutrition that may be caused by unhealthy diet, lack of access to healthy foods, and absence of physical activity.

Goals and Expected Outcomes

²⁰ Statistical data on under-nutrition is derived from the 8th NNS, FNRI-DOST, as updated in 2015.

Goal 2.1 Hunger among children is reduced and their access to safe, nutritious and sufficient food all year round is ensured (SDG 2.1)

Outcome 2.1.1 Children are food secure and with safe, nutritious and sufficient food intake

Goal 2.2 All forms of malnutrition is reduced by 2022, and that, for children under 5 years of age, stunting is reduced to 21.4 percent from 33.4 percent in 2015 and wasting is reduced to <5 percent from 7.1 percent in 2015 and prevalence of overweight for the same age group is reduced to <3.9 percent from 3.9 percent in 2015 and that the nutritional needs of adolescent girls, pregnant and lactating women and other persons are addressed (SDG 2.2)

Outcome 2.2.1 Immediate causes of malnutrition are addressed with enabling policies in place

Outcome 2.2.2 Infants are breastfed until six (6) months of age

Outcome 2.2.3 Malnutrition is prevented, treated and managed through supplementary and complementary feeding and food supplementation

Strategies

There are two major national plans that embody the food security and nutrition programmatic directions: (a) Philippine Plan of Action on Nutrition (PPAN), 2017-2022, of the National Nutrition Council and (b) National Infant and Young Child Feeding (IYCF) Strategic Plan, 2018-2030, crafted by the UNICEF. Both plans were developed and crafted based on consultations with various stakeholders.

The PPAN laid out three distinct program categories for food security and to address the malnutrition problem: (a) nutrition-sensitive, (b) nutrition-specific, and (c) enabling management support programs. The 3rd NPAC nutrition component is based mainly from the PPAN which is the country's overall nutrition plan.

The following strategic thrusts shall be pursued: (a) focus on the first 1,000 days of life - from conception and before child's 2nd birthday; (b) complementation of nutrition-specific and nutrition-sensitive programs; (c) intensified mobilization of LGUs; (d) reaching geographically isolated and disadvantaged areas and communities of indigenous peoples.

The National Infant and Young Child Feeding Strategic Plan 2018-2030 builds on the PPAN to serve as the guidance document to address the various infant and young child feeding practices through the First 1,000 Days of Life.

Policies, Programs and Projects

Programs for children and the general population aim to contribute to the twin goals to end hunger, achieve food security and improving nutrition and promoting sustainable agriculture (Goals 2.1 and 2.2): (a) nutrition-sensitive programs that address the underlying effects of malnutrition which shall basically counter hunger and food insecurity through various agency programs in accordance with their mandates; and (b) nutrition-specific programs that address the specific causes of malnutrition, foremost of which is the first 1,000 days policy and program,

breastfeeding complementary and supplementary feeding programs, milk feeding, and ARMM-specific Bang-Un program.

Nutrition-Sensitive Programs that Address the Underlying Effects of Malnutrition

The following programs shall be undertaken to make children food secure and to provide access to safe, nutritious and sufficient food (Outcome 2.1.1):

(a) Farm-to-market roads and child nutrition, Department of Agriculture (DA); (b) Target Actions to Reduce Poverty and Generate Economic Transformation (TARGET) and child nutrition, (DA); (c) Coconut Rehabilitation Program, Philippine Coconut Authority (PCA); (d) *Diskwento* caravans in depressed areas, Department of Trade and Industry (DTI); (e) Family Development Sessions for child and family, DSWD; (f) Mainstreaming nutrition in sustainable livelihood, DSWD; (g) Public works infrastructure and child nutrition, Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH); (h) Adolescent Health and Nutrition Development, DOH; and (i) Water, Sanitation and Hygiene, DOH, DILG.

Gulayan sa Paaralan. Public schools with available lands to establish a vegetable garden through which students shall be taught science and nutrition related to vegetable farming. A variety of vegetables will be propagated to address micronutrient deficiencies such as protein-energy malnutrition, Vitamin A Deficiency (VAD), Iron Deficiency Anaemia (IDA), and Iodine Deficiency Disorder (IDD). Instead of distribution of open-pollinated vegetable seeds, the Philippine Seed Industry (PSI) will distribute vegetable seedlings. Simple garden tools will be distributed. The program shall be implemented by the Bureau of Plant Industry-Department of Agriculture (DA-BPI) together with the DepEd.

The passage of An Act Providing Free Food for Children in Public Schools and Day Care Centers from Products of Farmers Purchased by the Government Otherwise Known as School Feeding Purchased from Poor Farmers Program shall be advocated and lobbied for.

Nutrition-Specific Programs that Address the Immediate Causes of Malnutrition

The immediate causes of malnutrition shall be addressed by putting enabling policies in place (Outcome 2.2.1) such as a law on first 1,000 days which shall be the focus of the Philippine Integrated Management of Acute Malnutrition Program.

A law on first 1,000 days shall be pushed for to support the implementation of nutrition and health programs among young children.

The Philippine Integrated Management of Acute Malnutrition Program shall focus on First 1,000 Days of Life. Through DOH's Disease Control and Prevention Bureau, its Regional Offices and Hospitals, the program shall be implemented according to the following phases: Phase I (2017) – 17 provinces – Regions V, VI, VII, VIII, IX, XI, XII, ARMM; Phase II (2018) – Phase I provinces plus 21 priority areas in I, II, III, IVA, IVB, X, XIII, CAR and NCR; Phase III (2019-2020 onwards to cover 60-80 percent of 4-6th class municipalities); Phase IV 2021-22 – to cover the rest of the country.

Complementary, supplementary and feeding programs and projects shall continue to be pursued and expanded to generate desired nutritional outcomes. These shall be implemented

by different national government agencies and the respective bureaus and offices under them and in partnership with other agencies, the LGUs and other non-government entities.

Trainings and seminars for parents on nutrition and child health shall complement existing nutrition and feeding programs in family development sessions and pre-marriage counselling.

Breastfeeding Programs and Projects

Breastfeeding programs and projects as defined in the National Infant and Young Child Feeding (IYCF) Strategic Plan, 2018-2030, shall be implemented to ensure that infants are breastfed until six (6) months of age (Outcome 2.2.2):

Mother-Baby Friendly Health Facility Initiative Certification and Accreditation, Strengthening Community-based Complementary Feeding Practices of IYCF, Strengthening Breastfeeding in the Workplace, both in Government and Private Sectors, Strengthening Promotion Breastfeeding in Public Places and Breastfeeding Support for Women in Informal Economies and Small-Medium Enterprises (SMEs) and the Breastfeeding TSEk Campaign and the First 1,000 Days.

The **National Infant and Young Child Feeding Strategic Plan, 2018-2030**, will serve as the guidance document to address and expand infant and young child feeding practices in the country.

A bill providing for a 120 day paid maternity leave for all working mothers to encourage breastfeeding and provide better maternal protection, and 30 day paid leave for fathers was approved in the Senate and the measure is currently pending approval in the House of Representatives.

Mother-Baby Friendly Health Facility Initiative Certification and Accreditation. All hospitals and birthing facilities will ensure that they are certified (certificate of commitment) and accredited (certificate of accreditation) in accordance with the Mother-Baby-Friendly Hospital Initiative (MBFHI) – 10 Steps to Successful Breastfeeding, Certification and Accreditation Status and Compliance of Hospitals and other birthing facilities shall be improved following the WHO/UNICEF Mother-Baby Friendly Hospital Initiative – 10 Steps to Successful Breastfeeding. Guidelines for Local Government Units, Hospital Administrators and Private Sectors on making their Health Facilities Mother-Baby Friendly shall be developed. DOH shall mobilize its provincial DOH officers and engage the LGU counterparts to increase the number of birthing facilities that will be certified/ accredited as a Mother-Baby Friendly Health Facility

Relatedly, the capacities of DOH apex hospitals and select provincial end-referral centers shall be developed to provide human milk banking services as part of the care provided for preterm, low birth weight and sick new-born infants. In addition, DOH shall procure human milk pasteurizers to ensure continuous supply of breast milk. Human milk bank network shall be established in every region through the identification of breast milk storage facilities and breast milk collection points.

Strengthening Community-based Complementary Feeding Practices of IYCF. A national policy or National Guidelines on the Establishment of Breastfeeding and Nutrition Community Support Groups for LGUs shall be developed to address the needs of pregnant and lactating

women in the community on breastfeeding support, complementary feeding and nutrition counselling. DOH Central and DOH Regional Offices, including DOH-ARMM shall develop a pool of breastfeeding peer counsellors and nutrition counsellor trainers and trainers for every province. The capacity of DOH Regional Offices and Provincial Health Offices shall be developed for the establishment of a sustainable pool of trained breastfeeding and nutrition counsellors for every barangay. Every provincial /chartered/highly urbanized city health office shall mobilize their resources in establishing breastfeeding and nutrition counsellors for every barangay in their municipalities, with focus on 4-6th class municipalities.

Strengthening Breastfeeding in the Workplace both in Government and Private Sectors.

In partnership with DOLE, the Civil Service Commission (CSC), private sector groups, the institutionalization and implementation of breastfeeding in the workplace shall be endeavoured to increase breastfeeding rates of the country. Legislative advocacy for the passage of the International Labour Organization Convention 183 on Maternity Protection and on the Establishment of Child Minding Centers in the Workplace settings shall be launched. Capacity development shall focus on: (a) occupational health professionals – doctors and nurses, and human resource managers to implement breastfeeding in the workplace; and (b) CSC and DOLE compliance officers on breastfeeding in the workplace. Business establishments shall be certified as a “Mother-Baby Friendly Workplace”.

The DOH shall collaborate with the DOLE and the CSC in the implementation of breastfeeding in the workplace. For the Mother-Baby Friendly Workplace certification, the DOH and its DOH Regional Offices and DOH-ARMM, and the DOLE Regional Office compliance officers will work together with the private sector, while the CSC Regional and/or Field Offices will work with the government sector.

Strengthening Promotion Breastfeeding in Public Places and Breastfeeding Support for Women in Informal Economies and Small-Medium Enterprises (SMEs).

Breastfeeding in the public places and breastfeeding support for women in informal economies and SMEs shall be promoted to provide an environment where women can continue to breastfeed as they go about their daily routines. Capacity development activities will be done for select government agencies involved in the promotion and support of breastfeeding in the public places and for LGUs involved in the promotion and support of breastfeeding women in the informal economies and SMEs. DOH shall work in partnership with Department of Transportation (DOTr) agencies (Land Transportation and Franchise Regulatory Board, Marina, Philippine Ports Authority, Manila International Airport Authority, Civil Aeronautics Board, Light Railway Transit, Manila Metro Railway Transit); DOT for hotels and resorts; DTI such as the Philippine Economic Zone Authority (PEZA) and jointly with DILG, LGUs for SMEs, malls, markets and plazas.

Breastfeeding TSEk Campaign and the First 1,000 Days. A health promotion and communication plan for IYCF and first 1,000 days will be developed. Multimedia campaign on breastfeeding and complementary feeding shall be strengthened by DOH together with the Philippine Information Agency (PIA), Philippine News Agency (PNA), Philippine Broadcast Services, and PTV 4. DOH shall provide the necessary resources and investment needed for the whole year round nationwide campaign on Breastfeeding TSEk and corresponding campaigns for complementary feeding with continued breastfeeding.

Complementary, Supplementary and Feeding Programs and Projects

The prevention, treatment and management of malnutrition (Outcome 2.2.3), shall be pursued with the following programs and projects: (a) prevention and management of acute malnutrition through the Stunting and Low Birth Weight Prevention and Zero Severe Acute Malnutrition projects; (b) supplementation interventions such as the National Dietary Supplementation Program, Micronutrient Supplementation, and Mandatory Food Fortification; (c) feeding programs to include milk feeding, supplementary feeding in day care centers, school-based feeding, and ARMM-specific *Bangsamoro Umpungan sa Nutrisyon* Program.

Acute malnutrition prevention and management interventions:

- a. **Stunting and Low Birth Weight Prevention Project** will focus on nutritionally-at-risk pregnant, lactating women, including adolescent mothers who will be provided with one sachet of “ready to use supplementary food” (RUSF) for 90 days (2nd to 3rd trimester during pregnancy) until first 30-60 days postpartum. Moderately acute malnourished (MAM) infants and young children 6-59 months that are almost severely acute malnourished (SAM) are prioritized in the implementation of the RUSF. Infants 6 months to 23 months shall be given one sachet of lipid-based nutrient supplement (LNS) as part of complementary feeding with continued breastfeeding. Pregnant women shall be given one sachet of LNS as part of dietary supplementation program. Implementation shall be led by LGUs through their DOH-trained SAM management team.
- b. **Zero Severe Acute Malnutrition (SAM) Project** for the management of severe acute malnutrition among infants and young children 6-59 months whose weight for height measurements are less than -3 standard deviation which shall be done at outpatient therapeutic centers (e.g. Rural Health Units (RHUs), health centers, etc.) and inpatient therapeutic centers (hospitals). Procurement of commodities to manage severe acute malnutrition (e.g. RUTF, F75, F100, and ReSoMal) shall be continued. Likewise, capacity development of LGU SAM management team shall be continued. Roll-out of training modules shall be used in training for SAM. A PhilHealth benefit package for SAM is being developed. Overweight and obesity shall also be managed and prevented.

Supplementation interventions shall include the following: (a) **National Dietary Supplementation Program** where the DOH, together with the DSWD, shall provide dietary supplementation to pregnant women, children, and 6-23 months old, children 24 – 59 and together with the DepEd, for school-age children. Food plant for producing food supplements will be developed, produced and provided to children and pregnant women by the FNRI, LGUs, State Universities and Colleges (SUCs), NGOs; (b) **Micronutrient Supplementation of** Vitamin A, iron-folic acid, multiple micronutrient powder, and zinc to pregnant women and children; and (c) **Mandatory Food Fortification** where the following foods shall be fortified and regulated: rice with iron, flour with vitamin A and iron, sugar and cooking oil with vitamin A, and salt with iodine.

Feeding programs shall be sustained and expanded:

- a. **Milk Feeding Program.** The DA through its National Dairy Authority (NDA) shall promote and support milk feeding in day care centers and schools through local dairy cooperatives.

The program aims to improve the nutritional status of malnourished children and, at the same time provide additional income for local dairy farmers by tapping them as suppliers of milk. Milk is to be supplied by local dairy cooperatives. It also promotes cost-sharing with LGUs.

- b. **Supplementary Feeding Program.** Center-based facilities for young children such as day care centers and child development centers, home-based supervised neighbourhood play and school-based supplementary feeding shall be provided to underweight children. Feeding days shall be extended to 180-200 days or the whole school year from the current 120 days.
- c. **School-Based Feeding Program.** Public schools shall establish and maintain their *Gulayan as Paaralan* as source of ingredients for the 120-day feeding programs in schools. Schools shall establish and maintain *Gulayan sa Paaralan* as a source of ingredients for the feeding program and shall encourage the families of the beneficiaries to have their own home gardens so that the nutritional improvement is maintained at home. In case the actual number of target beneficiaries is greater than the allocation, schools shall take the responsibility of feeding the identified severely wasted and wasted students through canteen funds or through collaboration with LGUs, NGOs, CSOs, Parent-Teacher-Community Associations (PTCAs), and other stakeholders. Additionally, hygiene kits and iron tablets shall be provided by DepEd to all wasted and severely wasted learners in Kindergarten to Grade 6.

An Impact Evaluation of Supplemental Feeding shall be conducted to determine its effect on children's performance in school.

Bangsamoro Umpungan sa Nutrisyon Program (BangUN). BangUN is the Duterte administration's flagship program in combating hunger and malnutrition in the ARMM in line with its theme of "reducing vulnerabilities of children from hunger and malnutrition in the ARMM". BangUN aims at saving the lives of children, 0 to 12 years old, from hunger and malnutrition due to extreme poverty and persisting armed conflict in areas within the autonomous region. More specifically, it aims to: (a) improve the nutritional status of 0-12 years old children identified as underweight and severely underweight who are residing in priority communities and/or enrolled in *madaris* and public elementary schools with no feeding programs; (b) empower parents in the communities to achieve food security and good health for their children and their families in general; and, (c) build resilient communities by facilitating their access to convergence of various nutrition-support programs of government agencies. The prevalence of stunting in the growth of children under five years old in 2015 is highest in ARMM where poverty is aggravated by its vulnerability to natural and man-made disasters including armed conflict. The DSWD Central Office and its regional counterpart, DSWD-ARMM, shall be mainly responsible for the program, in partnership with several national and regional line agencies. The program shall initially be undertaken in the following areas: in Mamasapano, Datu Salibo, Datu Piang, Shariff Saidona Mustapha, Shariff Aguak, Guindulungan, and Talayan in Maguindanao; and in the towns of Jolo, Maimbung, and Patikul in Sulu.

Chapter 10 Maternal and Child Health Care

Assessment and Challenges

All pregnant women are at risk and despite good antenatal care coverage; women continue to die from causes attributed to pregnancy and childbirth. Maternal mortality ratio (MMR) was estimated at 221 deaths per 100,000 live births in 2011, based on the Family Health Survey (FHS). The country was unable to achieve its MDG (2015) target of 52 maternal deaths per 100,000 live births.

Young girls, 13-20 years old, are considered highly at-risk for pregnancies because of their physical conditions; the risk is aggravated by their inability to have the sufficient number of prenatal check-ups. About one (1) in four (4) pregnant mothers or 24.8 percent are nutritionally at-risk, with the youngest mothers (age <20 years old) at highest risk (37.2%) (8th NNS).

Emergency obstetric and new-born care services are available only in secondary and tertiary level facilities that limit access of those living in remote and far-flung communities. There is also a lack of health professionals that serve in these communities. As such, past policies on maternal care accommodated home deliveries assisted by trained traditional birth attendants (TBAs).

The DOH reported that birthing centers run by private midwives receive little supervision from government. The supervision comes annually in the form of compliance to licensing and accreditation requirements of DOH and PhilHealth, respectively. While general licensing and accreditation requirements are complied, reports of poor service quality and violation of professional and ethical standards have been confirmed by the Philippine Regulatory Commission (PRC) Board of Midwifery.

The health sector is confronted with gaps in human resources, facilities and budgetary resources. National health programs that are centrally-controlled limit the scope of LGUs for locally-governed health system and the delivery of integrated health care and services to children and women.

The health status of children continued to improve as indicated by the downward trend and steady decline in neonatal, infant and mortality rates. Deaths among neonates were 13 per 1,000 live births, among infants were 21 per 1,000 live births and among under-fives were 27 per 1,000 live births (8th NNS).²¹ Infant and under-five health outcomes improved but safe childbirth remains a concern. While infant and under-five mortality decreased from 2011 to 2015, maternal mortality remains high.

Key findings from the 2013 National Demographic and Health Survey (NDHS) showed that: (a) more than half of infant deaths occur during the first month of life (neonatal mortality); (b) infant and under-five mortality were highest among babies living in rural areas; (c) higher parities were those from mothers who have less education or are in the lowest wealth quintile; and (d) children born in short intervals have also higher mortality risks. It also found that

²¹ NNS, FNRI, 2015

under-five mortality was highest in the ARMM and in Northern Mindanao (Region X). Infant and under-five mortalities were high in SOCCSKSARGEN and MIMAROPA. Infant mortality in the Caraga Region was also high.

Progress in combating communicable diseases had been uneven. The 2015 targets for malaria mortality and tuberculosis detection rates were met and while malaria morbidity rate significantly declined from 2011 to 2014, it increased again in 2015. The increase in malaria morbidity and mortality was concentrated in endemic areas (e.g., Palawan) and among indigenous peoples and mobile populations.

There has been a substantial increase in newly-diagnosed HIV cases. Prevalence of HIV remains below one percent of the total population but there has been a steady increase in the number of newly-diagnosed HIV cases since 2010. The number of new HIV antibody sero-positive individuals increased to 1,098 in May 2017 from 741 percent in May 2016 or a 48 percent increase. This was the highest recorded cases since 1984. Eighty-seven percent of those were asymptomatic at the time of reporting. Most (95%) were male. The median age was 28 years old (age range: 2 years - 67 years) with more than half belonging to the 25 - 34 year age group while 30 percent were youth aged 15 - 24 years. The regions with the most number of reported cases were: NCR with 404 (37%) cases, Region IVA with 155 (14%) cases, Region III with 108 (10%) cases, Region VII with 98 (9%) cases, and Region XI with 60 (5%) cases. An additional 273 cases (25%) came from the rest of the country. (HIV/AIDS & ART Registry of the Philippines or HARP, 2017)

A shift in modes of transmission among children diagnosed with HIV was observed. Mother-to-child transmissions among diagnosed 0 to 17 year old children were lower at 31 percent from 2007 to 2017 compared to 77 percent from 1984 to 2006. More than half of transmissions or 56 percent were through sexual contact, and 12 percent (29) through sharing of infected needles. In 2016, there were 414 estimated pregnant women living with HIV. Moreover, 65 percent (20 out of 31) of reported babies born to HIV positive mothers did not have an HIV test.

The prevalence rate of drug use increased to 2.3 percent or about 1.76 million individuals from 1.8 percent or 1.3 million drug addicts in 2012. Only a total of 4,392 were admitted in rehabilitation facilities in 2014 and a 34 percent increase in admission to rehabilitation facilities were reported more recently (Dangerous Drugs Board, 2012). Data from 29 residential and two (2) non-residential treatment and rehabilitation facilities showed that the average age of patients was 30 but the youngest was 9 years old while 47.79 percent of the reported cases first tried to use drugs belong to the 15-19 age groups. Half of the reported cases (50.30%) have taken drugs 2 to 5 times a week while 21 percent use them daily.

The Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency (PDEA) reported that almost 1,000 minors were used in illegal drug activities from 2006-2016. According to the NGO Children's Legal Rights and Development Centre, there are 31 minors who were killed due to the war on drugs, and could be higher if other cases were documented. Some were direct targets, while the others were considered collateral damage. The PNP WCPB reported that 26,415 children allegedly involved in using, selling, or transporting drugs surrendered to police between July 2016 and January 2017.

In 2010, the PSA reported that the country has 1,443,000 persons with disability (PWDs) and 18.9 percent or 372,154 of which are children from ages 10 to 14. To update existing data, the 2016 National Disability Prevalence Survey/Model Functioning Survey was conducted from November to December 2016. It adopts the World Health Organization (WHO) Model Disability Survey, and explores disability as an outcome of interactions between a person with a health condition and various environment and personal factors rather than focusing on a person's health or impairments. Results are due in the 4th quarter of 2017.

The National Commission on Disability Affairs (NCDA) also reported in 2011 that the most prevalent types of disabilities in Philippine communities are visual impairments, orthopedic, speech, hearing, and mental.

PhilHealth coverage for newborn screening increased from 393 in 2004 to 5,620 in 2014. These screenings are important for detecting disabilities in newborns for early prevention. PhilHealth also provides a benefit package for CWDs specifically for hearing, visual, mobility impairments.

The legality of RA 10354 or the Responsible Parenthood and Reproductive Health Law (RH Law) of 2012 was upheld by the Supreme Court although some of its provisions were deemed unconstitutional. One issue raised was its provision on access to birth control and family planning methods by minors. The Court ruled that minors are not allowed access to modern methods of family planning without written consent from a parent or a legal guardian. However counseling and request for information can be freely accessed.

Based on the foregoing and the magnitude of health concerns that affect mothers, including young mothers, adolescents and children, the 3rd NPAC needs to set its direction towards their survival and healthy lives and lifestyle through preventive, treatment and rehabilitative interventions.

Goals and Expected Outcomes

Goal 2.3 Maternal mortality ratio is reduced by 2022 to less than 90 per 100,000 live births from 221 deaths per 100,000 live births in 2011 (SDG 3.1)

Outcome 2.3.1 Maternal mortality and morbidity is averted with basic emergency obstetric care

Goal 2.4 New-born mortality rate is reduced to 10 deaths per 1,000 live births in 2022 from 13 deaths per 1,000 live births in 2015 and infant mortality rate is reduced to 15 deaths per 1,000 live births in 2022 from 23 deaths per 1,000 live births in 2013 (SDG 3.2)

Outcome 2.4.1 Essential maternal and new-born care prevents and addresses the complications of prematurity and low birth weight

Goal 2.5 Under-five mortality is reduced to at least as low as 22 deaths per 1,000 live births in 2022 from 31 deaths per 1,000 live births in 2013 (SDG 3.2)

Outcome 2.5.1 Children's health and well-being, growth and development is ensured by an integrated and comprehensive approach of preventive and curative elements

Outcome 2.5.2 Children are immunized to halt the prevalence of vaccine-preventable diseases and other communicable diseases

Outcome 2.5.3 Prevalence of oral health morbidity is reduced through the prevention and management of dental caries

Goal 2.6 The epidemics of HIV, tuberculosis, other diseases among mothers, youth and children are reduced by 50 percent in 2022 from their status prior to 2017(SDG 3.3)

Outcome 2.6.1 The transmission of HIV and STI among key affected population (KAP) is reduced and its impact at the individual, family, and community level is mitigated with free and available voluntary HIV counselling and testing service and outreach

Outcome 2.6.2 Children are prevented from acquiring soil-transmitted helminths and schistosomiasis through mass drug administration and deworming

Goal 2.7 Substance abuse among children, including narcotic drug abuse, is reduced by 2022 towards its subsequent elimination (SDG 3.5)

Outcome 2.7.1 Drug use among children and youth is prevented through education programs

Outcome 2.7.2 Children who are into use of illegal drugs and substance abuse are treated for their mental health and provided with psycho-social and other interventions for their rehabilitation

Goal 2.8 Child disability is prevented and the number of deaths and injuries from road traffic crashes is reduced by 50 percent in 2022 based on the number of deaths prior to 2017 (SDG 3.6)

Outcome 2.8.1 Child disability is prevented through newborn screening and those with disabilities are referred for treatment and rehabilitation

Outcome 2.8.2 Child disability and injury, particularly those resulting from road crashes, are prevented through road safety management

Goal 2.9 Universal access to sexual and reproductive health-care services (SDG 3.7)

Outcome 2.9.1 Adolescent Friendly Health Facility (AFHF) Standards by Levels of Competencies are revised to provide spaces for health examination and counselling of adolescents

Strategies

Maternal and child health care goals and expected outcomes have been set to measure targets vis-à-vis indicators, as identified in the SDG, that are crucial to life and survival of children.

Strategies and interventions, derived from the National Health Plan and from the several sub-plans related to a particular health concern are identified in the 3rd NPAC to achieve the goals and expected outcomes.

Health care shall guarantee services for all life stages by improving standards and quality of care by health facilities through DOH regulatory measures, certification on Mother-Baby Friendly Health Facility Initiative, and PhilHealth accreditation.

Supply and demand for reproductive, maternal, new-born, child, adolescent care and nutrition shall be improved. Essential quality health commodities, services and medicines shall be made available, accessible and affordable.

Health facilities, both infrastructure and equipment, shall be upgraded through the health facility enhancement program.

A wide-range of medically-proven preventive, control and curative programs over a long span of time shall be sustained to decrease the prevalence of vaccine-preventable diseases and other communicable diseases which are among the leading causes of morbidity and mortality. These include the reduction of the prevalence oral health morbidities, physical, visual, hearing, developmental and other mental disabilities in children through early screening, prevention, early referral and management dental caries and disabilities, promotion of oral health, mental health and well-being.

A One Health Initiative is promoted in the Philippine Health Agenda as collaborative efforts of multiple disciplines that is working locally, nationally, and globally to achieve the best health for all, regardless of economic status.

Review of health human resource development plan to address reproductive, maternal, new born, child, adolescent health, oral health, nutrition, early child development, injury and disability prevention and rehabilitation, water, sanitation, and hygiene shall be reviewed.

Policies, Programs and Projects

Maternal Health Care

The policies and programs on maternal health care shall contribute to the reduction of and avert maternal mortality and morbidity (Goal 2.3, Outcome 2.3.1): Maternal Mortality Review, implementation of health reforms for rapid reduction of maternal mortality, an expanded maternity leave law, national safe motherhood program, maternal death surveillance and response, and basic emergency obstetric care.

A Maternal Mortality Review shall be conducted by the DOH. The study can include determining the causes for low prenatal care which can help determine more specific maternal and neonatal deaths prevention strategies.

The national policy on Implementing Health Reforms to Rapidly Reduce Maternal and Neonatal Mortality (AO 2008-0029), considered as a “mother policy”, mandates the national

and regional offices to advocate for the adoption of maternal new-born child health and nutrition (MNCHN) as a national strategy in the implementation of maternal-new-born, child health and nutrition-related programs.

Senate Bill 1305 or the “**Expanded Maternity Leave Law of 2017**” shall be advocated for final passage to give all female workers, regardless of civil status or legitimacy of her child, 120 days maternity leave with pay and an option to extend it for another 30 days without pay. Single mothers shall also be granted a total of 150 days maternity leave with pay. With the expansion of maternity leaves, mothers would have more time to prepare themselves for safe delivery and lactation, breastfeeding and care for their babies for a longer period of time. Fathers would also benefit from the measure if passed into law, as it seeks to grant 30 days of leave – more than the allowed 7 days of paid leave under Republic Act 7322.

National Safe Motherhood Program. Preventive health care shall be accorded to pregnant women with the goal of providing regular check-ups that allow the health workers to identify, prevent and treat potential health problems throughout the course of the pregnancy while promoting healthy life style that benefit both mother and child.

The **Maternal Death Surveillance and Response (MDSR)**, a system for generating the maternal mortality data needed to track program implementation progress across LGUs, shall be implemented. MDRRS introduces an approach, which harnesses the public health system in the collection and quality assurance of relevant data and the identification of systemic gaps that contribute to maternal mortality. The municipal, provincial, and city health providers are the main actors in the reporting and review process.

The provision of basic emergency care to mothers and babies to avert maternal and new born morbidity and mortality shall be improved with capacity building and monitoring of health and birthing workers and facilities. **Basic Emergency Obstetrics and New Born Care (BEmONC)** training courses shall be undertaken; these focus on the functions provided at the primary level by a team of experienced and trained skilled birth attendants (doctor, nurse and midwife). Annual meetings with BEmONC trainers shall be conducted for continuous skills upgrading and updating on related policies. The PRC Board of Midwifery and the DOH shall undertake monitoring and supervision of midwives operating birthing centers for quality service and adherence to the **Scope and Standards for Midwifery Practice** in the Philippines.

The goal of the related **DOH Human Resource Development and Training Program** is to upgrade the competence of the service delivery teams. Ensuring the public health providers’ (BEmONC Teams) competence in saving lives is the current focus of the BEmONC Skills Training program. Training Centers shall conduct re-training of key public health providers (City/Municipal Health Officers, Public Health Nurses and Rural Health Midwives) to enable them to competently deliver the service package and work effectively as part of the BEmONC Team.

New-born Care

To contribute to the reduction of new-born and infant deaths (Goal 2.4), essential maternal and new-born care shall be undertaken to prevent and address the

complications of prematurity and low birth weight (Outcome 2.4.1). These include the conduct of a foetal, new-born and infant death review for the development of related protocols, the Philippine New-born Action Plan which includes the *Unang Yakap* strategy, care for the small baby package, new-born screening to determine disabilities and for proper referral.

A Foetal, New-born and Infant Death Review shall be conducted by the DOH. Foetal deaths are equally important as new-born deaths. An evidence-based comprehensive protocol on foetal, neonatal and infant death review and reporting system is needed to guide health workers to improve the quality of care for foetus in utero and for new-borns.

Unang Yakap. The updated Philippine New-born Action Plan, crafted by the DOH, shall be institutionalized. The continuing implementation of the essential intrapartum and new-born care (EINC) reprogrammed as essential maternal and new-born care, now encompassing lactation management, and the care for the small baby package of interventions will be the core critical components to reduce preventable new-born deaths specifically addressing complications of prematurity and low birth weight. Capacity development of health professionals on essential maternal and new-born care and lactation management and care for the small baby shall be done.

Care for the Small baby is a package of interventions for preterm and low birth weight infants developed by the DOH. This is composed of EINC at birth, kangaroo mother care and community support and follow-up. The following shall be done: enhancement of capacities of health facilities on quality of improvement of maternal and new-born health services; sustaining maternal new-born health programs through coaching, mentoring and supportive supervision; development of a health promotion and communication plan essential maternal and new-born care and care for the small baby; improving the capability of apex/end-referral hospitals for perinatal-neonatal expertise through the health facilities enhancement program; and strengthening of service delivery network of maternal and new-born care, with specific focus on care for the small baby.

New-born Screening. RA 9288 or the New-born Screening Act and RA 9709 or the New-born Hearing Screening Act are two (2) legislative measures that ensure new-borns have access to screening for certain conditions that can result to deafness, mental retardation, serious health complications, or death if left undetected and untreated. Corollary to the early screening for disabilities is the expansion of congenital birth defect surveillance system and the development of a telegenetic system for the management of birth defects. Early detection and early intervention for the prevention of disabilities shall be carried out, new born screening of disability and hearing screening shall be fully implemented and support services for children with disabilities such as sign language, interpreters, assistive devices and educational materials shall be provided.

Child Health Care

Basic and time-tested effective programs shall be sustained for continuing reduction of under-five mortalities (Goal 2.5), prevent morbidities and child health care through an integrated approach for managing childhood illnesses (Outcome 2.5.1),

immunization against vaccine-preventable diseases (Outcome 2.5.2), and oral health care (Outcome 2.5.3).

Integrated Management of Childhood Illness (IMCI). IMCI is an integrated approach of preventive and curative elements to overall child health and well-being. It aims to reduce death, illness and disability, and to promote improved growth and development among children under five years of age. The strategy includes three main components for improvement: (a) case management skills of health-care staff; (b) overall health systems; and (c) family and community health practices.²² A review of the current state of implementation of the IMCI program of the DOH shall be undertaken. In addition the study aims to collect information on the following: (a) resources needed to conduct IMCI activities (financial, human or material resources); (b) policies and guidelines to implement child health activities effectively; (c) IMCI activities conducted (capacity building, procurement of essential drugs and vaccines; quality of care delivered by primary health care workers); (d) coverage of IMCI for new-borns, infants and older children; and (e) mortality, morbidity, nutritional status of target population (children <5 years) from routinely collected data (Philippine Health Statistics, FHSIS, etc.)

National Immunization Program (NIP). The National Immunization Program, as an essential component of IMCI, consists of the following antigens: (a) BCG vaccine, single dose given at birth; (b) Monovalent Hepatitis B vaccine given at birth; (c) DPT-Hib-Hep B vaccine, 3 doses given at 6-10-14 weeks of age; (d) Oral Polio vaccine (OPV), 3 doses given at 6-10-14 weeks of age, a single dose of Inactivated Polio vaccine (IPV) is given with the 3rd dose of OPV at 14 weeks; (e) Pneumococcal conjugate vaccine (PCV), 3 doses given at 6-10-14 weeks of age; (f) Rotavirus vaccine given at a minimum age of 6 weeks with a minimum interval of 4 weeks between doses - the last dose should be administered not later than 32 weeks of age; (g) Measles –containing vaccine (either monovalent measles vaccine or MMR) given at 9 months of age; and (h) Measles-Mumps-Rubella (MMR) vaccine given at 12 months of age. In addition to being administered to infants in health hospitals and other health facilities, a school- based immunization program shall be provided as catch-up doses for school children and adolescents: Measles-Rubella (MR) and Tetanus-Diphtheria (Td) vaccines to Grade I and Grade VII students enrolled in public schools; Human Papillomavirus (HPV) to female children 9-10 years old; and, Quadrivalent HPV 2 doses given at 0 and 6 months.

National Oral Health Care Program. Oral health conditions such as dental caries, periodontal diseases and oral cancers, are considered forms of non-communicable diseases that are linked to dietary and lifestyle-related practices. The National Oral Health Policy shall be revised and updated to branch out from the adult population, to pregnant and lactating women, infants and young children and adolescents. Legislative advocacy shall be pursued for the amendment of the Internal Revenue Code – Sugar and Sweetened Beverage Excise Tax aimed at reducing dental caries, complications of diabetes, and obesity.

The *Garantisadong Pambata* campaign shall be sustained to include fluoride varnish application at least twice-thrice a year, among under-five/pre-school children aims to reduce dental caries among these vulnerable groups. Mass fluoride varnish application shall be

²² “Maternal, New-born, Child And Adolescent Health – Integrated Management of Childhood Illnesses”, World Health Organization

conducted. Oral health services shall be enhanced and provided to pregnant and lactating women and infants and young children 6-59 months e.g. oral health examination, application of pits and fissures and sealants, oral prophylaxis, curative dental procedures.

Combatting HIV, Tuberculosis, Malaria and Other Water-Borne and Communicable Diseases

The goal to reduce the epidemics of HIV, tuberculosis, other diseases among mothers, youth and children (Goal 2.6) shall be done by: mitigating the transmission of human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) and sexually transmitted infection (STI) through interventions identified in the Sixth Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome (AIDS) Medium Term Plan (2017-2022) specifically the National STD-HIV-AIDS Prevention and Control Program (Outcome 2.6.1) such as through free and available voluntary HIV Counselling and Testing Service and outreach; and mass drug administration and deworming as identified in the Neglected Tropical Diseases Prevention and Control Program to prevent children from acquiring soil-transmitted helminths and schistosomiasis (Outcome 2.6.2).

The CWC legislative agenda for the 17th Congress includes the passage of Amendment to RA 8504 or the Philippine AIDS Prevention and Control Program of 1998. While awaiting the amendment, a Joint Memorandum Circular shall be issued to allow minors to avail of treatment with consent given by the Social Workers or the attending physician.

The Sixth AIDS Medium Term Plan (2017-2022) was developed to provide strategic direction for national, regional and local multi-sector AIDS response. The Sixth AIDS Medium Term Plan has the following targets: (a) increase knowledge of HIV transmission, prevention and services among 15 to 24 years old to 90 percent; (b) prevent new HIV infections among 15 to 24 years old; (c) test and treat 90 percent of people living with HIV; and, (d) elimination of mother-to-child transmission of HIV.

A National AIDS and STI Prevention and Control Program (DOH). The program aims to reduce the transmission of HIV and STI among the key affected population (KAP) and the general population and mitigate its impact at the individual, family, and community level. HIV will be prevented through free and available voluntary HIV Counselling and Testing Service and outreach. Community assemblies shall be conducted to reduce stigma. Resources for social hygiene clinics shall be augmented. Multi-sector coordination shall be done through the Philippine National AIDS Council (PNAC).

Annual Medical Mission and Orientation on HIV, AIDS and Other Communicable Diseases. Medical assistance shall be provided by NGOs in their respective covered areas. They shall also support activities in raising awareness on proper hygiene and healthy living including in the organization of children/youth forums. Lecture series focussed on proper hygiene, sexuality and healthy living shall be conducted. Forums called *Laudato Si* (Care for our Common Home) as a cleanliness drive shall be promoted.

Neglected Tropical Diseases Prevention and Control Program. Mass drug administration (MDA) and deworming campaign shall target children one-year-old and above, bi-annually, in

all provinces with soil-transmitted helminths (STH) and endemic provinces for schistosomiasis. MDA drugs shall be distributed to eligible population to control morbidity related to STH, schistosomiasis and LF. Management of acute and chronic cases shall be done at the point of care (hospitals, RHUs and clinics). Harmonization of approach and practice among private and public providers shall be guided by standards of care from Clinical Practice Guidelines.

Prevention and Treatment of Substance Abuse

The National Drug Rehabilitation Program (NRDP) is the main government program that shall contribute to the reduction and eventual elimination of substance abuse among children, including narcotic drug abuse (Goal 2.7). Drug use among children shall be prevented through Drug Use Prevention Education (Outcome 2.7.1) and if they are already into illegal drug use and substance abuse shall be treated and rehabilitated through the Dangerous Drugs Abuse Prevention and Treatment Program and Strategies Toward Acceptance, Reintegration and Transformation (START) Program (Outcome 2.7.2).

The National Drug Rehabilitation Program is the government's center-piece program on its "War against Drugs". EO 15 (2017), which created the Inter-Agency Committee on Anti-illegal Drugs (ICAD) and headed by the PDEA, mandates an integrated system of planning, implementation, and enforcement of anti-illegal drug abuse policies, programs, and projects. The EO through ICAD attempts to balance the government's response to the drug problem through comprehensive programs, in recognition of drugs being a community and public health issue.

Available literature and data about children who live with parents who are drug dependent and with substance abuse problems can be delved into for development or adaptation of identified strategies to address the needs of said children.

Drug Use Prevention Education. School children shall be educated on the harmful effects of drug abuse to their physical, mental and psychosocial being. Drug use prevention shall be incorporated as a module in the basic education curricula. (Also discussed in Chapter 12) Other opportunities shall be tapped to widely promote drug education especially for children out of school such as through media, parent education sessions and other NGO initiatives.

Dangerous Drugs Abuse Prevention and Treatment Program. The DOH is mandated to lead in the primary, secondary, and tertiary prevention of drug abuse in the country through the Dangerous Drugs Abuse Prevention and Treatment Program. The health sector's strategy shall be a unified and rational health response in the fight against drug abuse, through a more effective drug abuse prevention, treatment and rehabilitation. Major interventions include the following: classification of drug dependents, among whom are children and youth, establishment of four (4) mega Drug Abuse Treatment and Rehabilitation Centers (DA-TRCs) and conversion of one district hospital per province, without TRCs, into a TRC; scaling-up the training of health primary care providers/front liners in the conduct of the WHO Alcohol,

Smoking and Substance Involvement Screening Test (ASSIST)²³ and community-based interventions and physicians in the management of substance use, abuse and dependence disorders; the inclusion of a detoxification package in PhilHealth in the amount of PhP10,000.

Strategies toward Acceptance, Reintegration and Transformation Program. The program generally aims to support former users of illegal drugs to make their way back to society as productive citizens after undergoing rehabilitation, transformation, and reintegration. DSWD leads the 3rd pillar of the NDRP through its START program. Aftercare services for rehabilitated drug surrenders include skills training opportunities, psychosocial programs and other community-based programs such as cash for work and SLP that will encourage them to actively participate in community service.

Yakap Bayan (Embrace of the People) Program, which aims to turn recovering drug dependents into community leaders, was launched by the DSWD. In addition to medical and psychosocial services, including detoxification and counselling, drug dependents will be given livelihood and skills training, and other capacity-building activities especially in disaster response. These can be either center- or community-based interventions.

Child Disability and Injury Prevention

Two major programs aim to contribute to the prevention of child disability and the reduction of deaths and injuries from road traffic crashes (Goal 2.8): the National Child Development and Disability Prevention Program/National Violence and Injury Prevention Program (VIPPP) through new-born screening and referral for treatment and rehabilitation (Outcome 2.8.1) and the Philippine Road Safety Action Plan (PRSAP) and Walk the Way shall further contribute as preventive measure through road safety management (Outcome 2.8.2)

National Child Development and Disability Prevention Program/National Violence and Injury Prevention Program. Child development and disability prevention program is a clustering of DOH programs on new-born screening, new-born hearing screening, birth defects, rare diseases, child injury prevention. The program will be pursued through the following: partnership with LGUs, and PhilHealth; technical collaboration between the New-born Screening Reference Center, New-born Screening Centers in Manila, Central Luzon, Southern Tagalog, Visayas, and Mindanao; the New-born Hearing Screening Reference Center.

DOH apex hospitals' capability for assessment, management and rehabilitation of children with disabilities shall be strengthened with the enhancement of health facilities. Values orientation and disability sensitivity training for health workers shall be pursued.

PhilHealth Z Benefit Package for children with physical, visual, hearing and development disabilities who need continuing care for rehabilitation shall be provided. Advocacy materials shall be developed for demand generation to utilize the PhilHealth Z Benefit Package

²³ The Alcohol, Smoking and Substance Involvement Screening Test (ASSIST) was developed to detect and manage substance use and related problems in primary and general medical care settings. http://www.who.int/substance_abuse/activities/assist/en/

Philippine Road Safety Action Plan. The PRSAP aims to reduce the number of road crash deaths by half by 2020. The number of road crash deaths never dipped below 8,000. More than 500 children die each year as a result of road crashes. PRSAP has five (5) pillars: (1) road safety management; (2) safer roads; (3) safer vehicles; (4) safe road users; and (5) trauma care and rehabilitation. Road safety management includes the development of policies and implementation of programs on road safety; institutionalizing road safety units in key government agencies and LGUs; passing enabling laws, ordinances, and regulations on road safety; and lobbying for legislative and executive action to allocate funding for road safety, among others.

Walk the Way Program. The NGO program shall promote pedestrian safety by teaching children safe walking and for parents and communities to ensure that the walking environment for their children is safe. The program shall continue to train Grades IV, V and VI students in 28 public schools on pedestrian safety. Schools shall be Safe School Zones by making them walkable and injury free for children. Young road safety advocates, parents, teachers and communities shall be trained.

Adolescent and Reproductive Health Care Services

Universal access to sexual and reproductive health-care services (Goal 2.9) shall be pursued through a National Adolescent Health Development Program (AHDP) and the Adolescent Friendly Health Facility (AFHF) Standards by Levels of Competencies shall be revised to provide spaces for health examination and counselling of adolescents (Outcome 2.9.1). In addition, the implementation of the National Family Planning Program, Family Development Sessions, and related NGO programs on health and nutrition directed to adolescents for their adoption of positive practices to protect their pregnancies are all aimed at achieving Goal 2.9.

National Adolescent Health Development Program. The Adolescent Friendly Health Facility Standards by Levels of Competencies shall be revised. These standards were crafted by the DOH in collaboration with partner agencies working for and with adolescents. Following its dissemination to DOH regional offices nationwide, spaces for health examination and counselling of adolescents, and financial and manpower support shall be worked out at the local level in order to operate the AFHF standards.

AHDP and Adolescent Health Education and Practical Training (ADEPT) for healthcare providers, guidance counsellors and school health personnel shall be conducted nationwide; ADEPT and Healthy Young Ones Training, on the other hand, are for Provincial Coordinators of the ARMM. Skills development shall also be pursued through Leaders for Health and Health Advocates in collaboration with the Reserve Officer's Training Course (ROTC). Peer health educators training shall be done with out-of-school youth and in-school young people.

National Family Planning Program. EO No. 12 on Attaining and Sustaining "Zero Unmet Need for Modern Family Planning" and Administrative Order (AO) No. 2017-0005, "Guideline in Achieving the Desired Family Size through Accelerated and Sustained Reduction in Unmet Need for Modern Family Planning Methods" shall direct involved agencies to implement their mandates in attaining the purpose of the EO/AO which target all women of reproductive age,

including girls ages 15 to below 18 years of age, who have unmet needs for modern Family Planning Methods and especially the poor. Strategies include the following: (a) establishment of family planning services in Hospitals; (b) engagement of CSOs, the private sector and faith-based organizations to implement the Family Planning Program; (c) conduct of demand generation activities for modern methods; (d) conduct of outreach services; and (e) provision of technical assistance and family planning logistics support.

Family Development Session. FDS modules shall be improved and strengthened to include environmental protection, climate change, anti-drug abuse, reproductive health, patriotism and love of country. Communities shall be made aware of sexual and reproductive health issues and interventions. *Pantawid* families and youth shall be reached out for information and education on sexual and reproductive health.

Health and Nutrition Program. NGO programs shall support interventions for improved practices among parents and caregivers of children under-five on maternal and child health. It shall ensure that adolescents adopt positive practices to protect their pregnancies and prevent HIV and AIDs. The following interventions shall be done: (a) improving access to quality health services to manage treatable and preventable causes of death among mothers; (b) reducing the unmet needs for quality family planning and reproductive health services; (c) delivering of evidence-based nutrition-specific interventions during the “first 1,000 days of life” which is the period between pregnancy up to the child’s second birthday; (d) empowering adolescents to practice abstinence or reduce risky behaviors to prevent teenage pregnancies, delay space for childbirth, and avoid sexually transmitted infections; and, (e) contributing in reducing risks to stunting among children under two (2) years old and WASH-related illnesses particularly diarrhea among communities.

Chapter 11 Early Child Care and Development

Assessment and Challenges

Early child education (ECE), as a requisite for young children to be school-ready is comprised of both formal and non-formal systems. The formal system for 3-4-year-old children is provided for in day care and other center-based facilities and 5-year-old children go to either day-care centers or in kindergartens. Non-formal education is mainly provided through home-based and community-based ECCD interventions.

ECCD enrolment of 3-4-year-old children in public day care programs increased minimally from 35 percent in 2011 to 38 percent in 2013. Although the number of day care centers increased from 51,797 in 2011 to 53,436 in 2013²⁴, these are not enough to cover the number of 3-4-year-old children in densely populated urban areas or are inaccessible to those who live in far-flung islands or mountainous communities.

There are no reports on enrolment in day care services provided through community-based and home-based facilities, NGO-run day care and private nursery schools or early learning centers. Privately-run facilities abound in highly urbanized cities where there are larger populations. Enrolment in non-public DCCs is not normally captured in LGU or DSWD reports.

Despite the mandatory enrolment of five-year-old children in kindergartens, a 100 percent enrolment has not been achieved with only enrolment rate of 74.65 percent in SY 2015-2016. Early childhood education such as attendance to day care and kindergarten prepares a child to formal school and prevents school dropouts in the early grades. About 82 percent of children enrolled in Grade 1 in SY 2012-2013 had some forms of early childhood education (ECE). In SY 2012-2013, the drop-out rate in Grade 1 was 12.51 percent with more boys (13.84%) compared to girls (10.94%). The drop-out rates tapered down to 5.02 percent in Grade 2 and 2.27 percent to Grade 6, although it was higher in Grade 5 at 4.95 percent.

Goal and Expected Outcomes

Goal 2.10 Young girls and boys, 0-4 years old, are prepared and ready for primary education and formal schooling and that kindergarten net enrolment rate for 5-year-old children increased to 95 percent in 2022 from 74.65 percent in 2015 (SDG 4.2)

Outcome 2.10.1 ECD services for 0-4-year-old children meet quality standards

Outcome 2.10.2 Children 0-4 have access to quality early childhood development, care, and pre-primary education so that they are ready for primary education

Outcome 2.10.3 Day care workers (DCWs) and child development workers/teachers (CDWs/Ts) capacity and skills are upgraded to deliver quality ECD services

²⁴ Source: Philippine Education for All 2015 Review Report

Outcome 2.10.4 Early childhood interventions in health and nutrition services are integrated in well and sick child visits

Outcome 2.10.5 ECD programs are scaled-up with NGO/CSO support to ECD interventions at the community and local levels

Outcome 2.10.6 ECCD is mainstreamed in local government development and investment plans

Outcome 2.10.7 Mandatory kinder education is accessible to five-year-old children

Strategies

Achieving the goal and expected outcomes of ECCD shall be measured mainly by the number and percentage of 3-4-year-old children who attended day care, kindergarten enrolment rate of 5-year-old children, and drop-out rate in Grades 1-2. The latter indicates whether indeed young children are school-ready.

ECCD strategies that are critical to providing access to inclusive, comprehensive and quality services shall be pursued: putting in place and enforcing quality standards and the accreditation of facilities and venues that provide ECCD services; upgrading of existing public day care system into national child development centers; further expansion of LGU day care programs to achieve the long-held target to put up a day care center in every barangay and provide home-based day care services in GIDAs; and scaling-up of ECCD programs of CSOs.

Early childhood developmental delays and disability detection, intervention and referral system shall continue to be pursued.

Capacity building initiatives shall be enhanced with continuous updated training opportunities for day care workers (DCWs). The capacities of health workers on integrating early child development assessment, referral and interventions in services and programs being given during well and sick child visits shall also be enhanced. The ladder curriculum shall also be continued and expanded to further upgrade and professionalize child development workers/teachers.

ECCD services provided in venues such as child development centers and other NGO-run day care centers shall be regulated and accredited.

Policies, Programs and Projects

Policies and programs shall be pursued to prepare and make young girls and boys, 0-4 years old ready for primary education and formal schooling and that kinder enrolment rate for 5-year-old children is increased to 95 percent (Goal 2.10).

A bill on the **Magna Carta for Day Care Workers** which consolidated fifteen (15) proposed measures all of which aim to improve the social and economic well-being of DCWs had been approved at the House of Representatives. The proposed measure shall provide DCWs with regular salaries and *plantilla* positions, security of tenure, and additional compensation, such as overtime pay, hazard allowance and subsistence allowance. Its passage into law shall contribute largely to the quality of day care services rendered by DCWs to 3-4-year-old children.

Center-based early childhood programs shall be assessed according to a set of standards and guidelines and accreditation of Child Development Centers (CDCs) and DCCs shall be done to provide ECD services for 0-4-year-old children that meet quality standards (Outcome 2.10.1).

Standards and Guidelines for Center-Based Early Childhood Programs. To ensure the quality of ECD services, all public and private centers offering programs for children ages 0-4 shall undergo an assessment in accordance with the Standards and Guidelines for Center-Based Early Childhood Programs for 0 to 4 years old Filipino Children and the Guidelines on Registration and Granting of Permit and Recognition to Public and Private Child Development Centers/Learning Centers.

These two documents reflect policies on integrated services of health, nutrition, early learning, and social services carried out by qualified service providers. They cover seven (7) areas demonstrating effective practices for early care, development and education for children: (1) Health, Nutrition, and Safety; (2) Physical Environment and Safety; (3) Interaction and Relationships Between Staff and children, Among Children and other Adults; (4) Staff Qualifications, Staff Development and Continuing Education; (5) Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment; (6) Family Involvement and Community Linkages; and (7) Leadership, Program Management and Support. Internal and External Assessment Committees will be formed.

Accreditation of Child Development Centers and Day Care Centers. The DSWD shall conduct regulatory services and accreditation of CDCs and DCCs (public and private) to assure continuing compliance to standards in the delivery of services.

For children 0-4 to have access to quality early childhood development, care, and pre-primary education so that they are ready for primary education (Outcome 2.10.2), National Child Development Centers (NCDCs) shall be established to increase the number of facilities/centers catering 0 – 4 year old children, conversion of public child development centers and continuing day care services, provided by LGUs, both center-based or home-based. In addition, children with disabilities (CWDs) in ECD centers shall be provided with assistive devices.

National Child Development Centers. NCDCs shall be established to increase the number of facilities/centers catering 0 – 4 year old children. More DCCs shall be converted into Child Development Centers and 7,000 CDCs shall be upgraded to ensure safe, inclusive and effective learning environment for children ages 0 – 4. NCDC is the flagship program of the ECCD Council and also known as *Bulilit* Centers. It is the Council's barangay-based learning center which serves as a laboratory for the conduct of research and innovations on early learning for

children 0-4 years old. It serves as a ground-level venue for implementing ECCDC programs and activities and also as a convergence point for the community effort on child development as well as a repository of related and relevant data and documents on best practices in the community on ECCD. As counterpart in the establishment of the NCDC, the LGU shall identify the land area on which the NCDC is to be established as well as provision of the following: perimeter fence, outdoor play area and equipment, maintenance and operational expenses of the NCDC (utilities), hiring, salary, and continuity of the services of the Child Development Teacher (CDT) who will manage and organize classes for 0 - 4 year old children in the NCDC.

Conversion of Public Child Development Centers. ECCD facilities and centers shall be upgraded by the ECCD Council in partnership with LGUs to ensure safe, inclusive and effective learning environment for children ages 0-4. As part of the mandate of the ECCD Council in assisting communities for the establishment, expansion, and improvement of public ECCD programs and facilities, the Council implemented the “Conversion Program of Public Child Development Centers”. An assessment/evaluation of the current program shall be conducted to identify the best practices that may be adopted for future implementation.

Additional funds will be given to LGUs with established NCDCs for the refurbishment or procurement of learning/teaching materials of existing ten (10) CDCs. The LGU shall identify ten (10) CDCs which will receive financial assistance for refurbishment or procurement of learning/teaching materials. Subsequently, the ten (10) CDWs from the identified CDCs shall undergo the Early Childhood Education Program (ECEP) prior to the start of classes in their CDCs. The Council provided for the professionalization of ten (10) CDWs stationed in the identified CDCs through the ECEP.

Day Care Services. Day care services, provided by LGUs, can be center-based or home-based or both and includes the following types of day care arrangements: day care centers, child-minding centers, home-based and supervised neighbourhood play and day care mom/family day care. The day care system is the largest provider of early childhood care and education services of children 3 to 4 years old. Activities include supervised play and group activities (arts and crafts, music and movement, storytelling), child care and personal hygiene, health and nutrition education, learning experiences for basic literacy, numeracy and socialization. Children in day care centers shall be covered with supplemental feeding and milk feeding programmes. The use of ECCD checklist shall be continued to determine children's development in various domains. Updated resource materials, service manuals and training modules will be provided to day care workers.

Early Child Education for Children with Disabilities. Early intervention and education of children with disabilities shall be expanded. CWDs shall be provided with assistive devices. Day care workers and child development workers shall be provided with skills training for the handling and management of CWDs in the centers. Regulatory services shall ensure that the centers are compliant to accessibility law.

The capacity and skills of DCWs and child development workers/teachers (CDWs/Ts) shall be upgraded to deliver quality ECD services (Outcome 2.10.3) through Early Childhood Teacher Education Training Program to professionalize

ECCD service providers and training child development workers in the identification and profiling of CWDs.

Early Childhood Teacher Education Program. The ECCD Council shall promote the **Professionalization of ECCD Service Providers** to provide permanent positions for ECCD Service Providers (CDWs and teachers), for eventual push towards a magna carta for CDWs/Ts. It shall contribute to children's security and safety especially in terms of their development through ECCD programs implemented in the centers.

CDTs shall undergo 18 units in Early Childhood Education to reach a total of 7,700 trained CDTs. Through the Human Resource Development component of the ECCD system, the ECCD Council established the Early Childhood Teacher Education Program (ECTEP) in partnership with TEIs to create a customized, six (6) week training program which provides CDTs from identified cities/municipalities with NCDCs 18 units in Early Childhood Education. Upon the establishment of the NCDC, a qualified CDT who will manage and organize classes in the NCDC shall be hired by the LGU through the office of the Mayor. The CDT then shall undergo ECTEP prior to the full operation of the NCDC.

As part of the systematic professionalization function of the ECCD Council, additional ten (10) CDWs from converted child development centers in cities/municipalities with NCDCs will be trained under ECEP in partnership with TEIs. This program offers 18 units in ECE in a six-week time frame similar to ECTEP. The knowledge and skills acquired by the CDTs through the ECTEP and ECEP ensures their capability to deliver developmentally appropriate services for children from ages 0-4 years old. The ECCD Council established nationwide partnerships with TEIs in providing ECCD Service providers additional knowledge, skills, methods, approach and up-to-date trends and strategies in ECCD. The LGU shall identify ten (10) CDCs who will receive financial assistance for refurbishment or procurement of learning/teaching materials. Subsequently, the ten (10) CDWs from the identified CDCs shall undergo the ECEP prior to the start of classes in their CDCs.

Training of Child Development Workers in the Identification and Profiling of Children with Disabilities. CDWs will be trained to determine the disability present in the child and to identify relevant strategies/solutions to the problems on the type of disability present. CDWs will appreciate the importance of their role in the child's development. The training is intended to capacitate them on the identification and profiling of children with disabilities and on basic management/intervention for the CWDs. The CDW may facilitate access to health and education.

An ECCD campaign in the health sector shall be pursued to integrate early childhood interventions in health and nutrition services and in well and sick child visits (Outcome 2.10.4).

ECCD Campaign for the Health Sector. Pre- and antenatal care facilities provide information and services regarding early detection of disability in children and protection of the rights of children with disabilities. Integration of early childhood interventions in health and nutrition services is done during well and sick child visits. The ECCD Assessment Tool for 0-3 years shall be used by health workers. Provincial, city and municipal health offices shall be provided with

capacity development and technical assistance to equip primary health care workers on the use of the ECCD Assessment Tool. The *Garantisadong Pambata* Manual of Operations to integrate ECCD assessments and ensure enrolment to day care centers or national child development centers will be developed.

NGOs, in partnership with LGUs, shall assist and prepare children in ensuring quality and free and/or affordable ECCD day care services in their respective areas of coverage through the following: ECCD learning materials; supplemental feeding for underweight children; empowerment of parents, especially mothers, through self-help associations that will cater to additional livelihood, primary health care and other social-economic activities; training of DCWs on new teaching methods.

ECD interventions at the community and local levels shall be scaled-up with NGO support through the *Kapit-Bahay sa Paaralan* (Outcome 2.10.5).

***Kapit-Bahay Sa Paaralan* Support to ECCD Program.** NGOs shall support children under-five years old, including those with disability, in their respective areas of coverage, to enable them to have developmentally appropriate skills necessary for attending formal school and providing early learning opportunities in target areas. Existing teaching/learning materials shall be contextualized to ensure that they are relevant, culturally- and age-appropriate. Capacity building support for: (a) ECCD facilitators; (b) parents, caregivers, and other community members shall be capacitated to ensure that children are learning, healthy, safe and protected; and (c) local government partners and CSOs towards setting up, sustaining, and increased public spending for ECCD programs.

ECCD shall be mainstreamed in local government development and investment plans (Outcome 2.10.6).

Mainstreaming ECCD to Local Government Units. The DILG, in partnership with UNICEF, shall continue to push for LGU increased investments in ECCD. Orientation and advocacy initiatives shall be pursued with local chief executives (LCEs), local legislators (*Sanggunian* members), and local finance committees for their appreciation and recognition of their crucial roles in mainstreaming ECCD in their Executive and Legislative Agenda (ELA), Comprehensive Development Plans (CDPs) and Annual Investment Plans/Programs (AIPs). Training programs for local health and social welfare officers shall be conducted using manuals comprising three (3) modules: Early Childhood Care and Development, Child-Friendly Local Governance, and Mainstreaming ECCD to LGUs.

Mandatory kindergarten education shall contribute largely to achieving the targeted 95 percent kindergarten net enrolment rate for 5-year-old children (Goal 2.10) and ensuring that these children are school-ready (Outcome 2.7.10). School readiness shall be measured by reduction in drop-out rates of children in Grades 1 and 2.

Mandatory Kindergarten Education. RA 10157 or the Kindergarten Education Act integrates kindergarten in basic education or K to 12 as the first stage of compulsory and mandatory formal education. Kindergarten education assists children in their transition to formal schooling. Children shall be made school-ready and schools made ready, safe and

friendly for children. DepEd shall prepare classrooms, teachers and other school/learning requirements to accommodate annual enrolment.

Chapter 12 Inclusive and Quality Education

Assessment and Challenges

Universal primary education can be considered achieved using the gross enrolment rate for elementary school. However, school participation at the elementary level needs to address two important concerns: (a) the downward trend in net enrolment ratio (NER) for the elementary level from 95.13 percent in SY 2012-2013 to 92.57 percent in SY 2014-2015; and (b) the wide gap between gross enrolment rate (GER) and net enrolment rate in the past three school years which signifies that a huge number of pupils in elementary education are over-aged. GER was 109.20 percent as of 2016.

The decrease in enrolment rate at the elementary level was a result of the improvements made in the Department of Education's Basic Education Information System (BEIS) and in tracking learners by assigning a Learner Reference Number (LRN) for each student. The system allowed for more accurate tracking of enrollees and transferees and therefore better reporting of enrolment figures among others.

One in every ten or about 4 million Filipino children and youth was out-of-school. The top reasons for not attending school are getting into union or marriage at an early age, insufficient family income to attend school, lack of personal interest, housekeeping and high cost of education. Also cited but did not appear to be among the most common reason for leaving school is the inability of some children to cope with school work.²⁵

K to 12 or the Enhanced Basic Education Act is the center-piece of the education agenda. It established the foundation for the expansion of basic education from the original ten-year term to 12 years with an additional two years of senior high school. This massive reform in the curriculum aims to make the Filipino children more globally-competitive life-long learners. Its full implementation, however, must ensure that the necessary inputs are provided in time, including: adequate physical infrastructure such as school buildings; quality learning materials and implements such as textbooks, libraries, and information and communication technology (ICT)-assisted learning; and the hiring, training and professional development of teachers, both pre-service and in-service and putting in place effective system to monitor and evaluate the outcomes in terms of quality and access.

To promote equal access among learners, the DepEd developed several programs that cater to the needs of children in vulnerable groups. These include children with disabilities, children belonging to minority groups, and out-of-school children and youth. The DepEd Special Education (SPED) program continues to make significant progress with 54,282 enrollees in elementary and 100,459 in the secondary level for SY 2015-2016. DepEd instituted a Five-Year Development Plan for Education for Children and Youth Disabilities (2014 – 2019) which provides for a roadmap consistent with the Incheon Strategy²⁶ (2012).

According to the 2010 POPCEN and the estimate of the National Commission on Indigenous Peoples (NCIP), there are approximately 5 million IP children aged 5 to 15 years old who

²⁵ Source: Functional Literacy Education and Mass Media Survey (FLEMMS), PSA, 2013

²⁶ The Incheon Strategy to "Make the Right Real" for Persons with Disabilities (PWDs) in the Asian and Pacific region defined 10 interrelated goals for achievement in 2013 to 2022, the Asia-Pacific region decade for PWDs.

should be enrolled in Kindergarten to Grade 9. In school year 2016-2017, a total of 2,251,765 IP learners have enrolled from Kindergarten to Grade 6 including non-graded SPED and 678,072 in secondary education.

DepEd enacted several policies that address IP children's education: (a) Department Order (DO) No. 62 (s. 2011) Adopting the National IP Education Policy Framework; (b) DO No. 103 (s. 2011) Creation of IP Education Office; (c) DO No. 32 (s. 2015) - Adopting the IP Education Curriculum Framework; (d) DO No. 50 (s. 2016) Hiring Guidelines for Teacher I Position in Schools Implementing IPs Education Effective School Year 2016-2017; and (e) DO No. 3 (s. 2017) Multi-Year Implementing Guidelines on the Allocation and Utilization of the Indigenous Peoples Education Program Support Fund.

Madaris, specifically the standard private *madrasah*, have been harmonized, upgraded and modified as a component of the education system. Pursuant to DO No. 51 (2014), the standard curriculum for elementary public schools and private madaris is prescribed and all madrasah institutions in the country are required to adopt and implement standard curriculum to obtain government accreditation. In the public schools, the enriched curriculum is, likewise, prescribed and mandates the offering of Arabic Language and Islamic Values Education (ALIVE) for Muslim students in areas where there is a Muslim population. In SY 2016-2017, the number of enrollees for Muslim learners totalled 938,366 from Kindergarten to Grade 6 and 253,393 from Grades 7 to 10.

The DepEd must be able to continuously invest in school infrastructure and complete classroom and school building requirements and the upgrading of materials and equipment to broaden children's learning horizons and updating with technological advancements. It should be prepared to accommodate the increased requirements in the mandatory kindergarten enrolment and the additional two years in basic education.

Goal and Expected Outcomes

Goal 2.11 School-age children have access to equitable and quality basic education and that elementary net enrolment rate increased to 95 percent in 2022 from 91.05 percent in 2015 and junior high school net enrolment to 75.44 percent in 2022 from 68.15 percent in 2016²⁷ and that girls and boys complete basic education leading to relevant and effective learning outcomes (SDG 4.1)

Outcome 2.11.1 Basic education policies are inclusive

Outcome 2.11.2 Inclusive basic education is child-centered and gender-sensitive, appropriate for diverse learning needs and resulting into quality learning and teaching outcomes

Outcome 2.11.3 All children, including, children of indigenous peoples, children with disabilities, children with special needs and in vulnerable situations have equal access to all levels of education and vocational training (SDG 4.5)

²⁷ Baseline and target for senior high school is still being determined.

Outcome 2.11.4 Government and private sector partnership is improved and expanded to widen the access of school-age children to quality education

Outcome 2.11.5 Alternative delivery modes expand learning options for school-age children who are unable to go to regular formal education classes

Outcome 2.11.6 Alternative learning system is widely implemented to provide access for those who are not reached by the formal basic education system

Outcome 2.11.7 Thematic education policies and programs enrich the basic education curriculum

Outcome 2.11.8 Enabling education strategies are expanded and institutionalized

Strategies

The Department of Education identified its ten-point agenda/emerging priorities which shall be pursued in 2016-2022:

- a) Continue the full implementation of K to 12, and ensure that the necessary inputs are timely provided, including: adequate physical infrastructure such as school buildings; quality learning materials and implements such as textbooks, libraries, and ICT-assisted learning; and the hiring, training and professional development of teachers, both pre-service and in-service and putting in place effective system to monitor and evaluate the outcomes in terms of quality and access;
- b) Continue the efforts to get our school-age children to school, and to keep them in school up to completion of basic education. These include counselling programs, remedial classes, continuation of school feeding programs, ensuring school facilities and environment are conducive to school attendance and learning, and strengthening gender and equity component of school curricula;
- c) Intensify efforts for extensive positive outcomes on ALS for those who are not reached by the formal basic education system, whether children, youth or adults. Better targeting of beneficiaries, broader coverage, prioritization of these programs by implementing units, partnerships, and modalities that fit the circumstances of target learners, which will start with introducing catch-up programs to expand the coverage of ALS at regional, national and international levels by: introducing ALS in drug rehabilitation centers, developing alternative learning methods for GIDAs, as well as densely populated areas, and establishing ALS in countries with undocumented migrants where children don't have access to formal education;
- d) Strengthen the drug education component in Science and Health by providing real-life lessons via alternative learning methods, such as through film, dance, music and painting, starting with Grade 4. This includes implementation of comprehensive policy on drug testing for students, personnel and teachers, and key programme components such as education and awareness, prevention, protection and rehabilitation of students found to be using illegal drugs;

- e) Introduction of curricular and non-curricular programs and institutional capacity building to be responsive to the aspirations and most urgent needs of the nation, specifically: addressing poverty and inequality; meeting the challenges of climate change; and upgrading to keep pace with the knowledge and information age. Highlighting competence in science and technology, ICT, climate change preparedness, adaptation and mitigation, innovation, creative imagination, entrepreneurial spirit, and a disposition to help our communities and sectors particularly those that are left at the margins of growth and development, forging collaborative efforts with outside stakeholders that are possessed with most advanced data, expertise, and experience in these fields;
- f) Foster critical thinking. Enriching appreciation of culture and arts that spring from our diversity and rich historical experiences as a people would round out the scope of our basic education. The curricular content on culture and arts will be complemented by greater actual exposure to these by both teachers and students;
- g) Continue cooperation with the private sector and communities, as well as with bilateral and multilateral institution;
- h) Expand working partnerships such as Adopt-a-School and *Brigada Eskwela*, as concrete mechanisms and expression of cooperation and solidarity to advance the cause of basic education for all;
- i) Harness collective spirit through upgrading the DepEd communication strategy and program to be able to reach out to local, national and even global communities to realize our collective vision of accessible, quality, relevant and liberating basic education for every Filipino child; and
- j) Further pursue the following: *Abot-Alam* Program, Child Protection Programs/Policy and WASH.

Policies, Programs and Projects

Education policies, programs and projects are aimed at providing school-age children with access to equitable and quality basic education, increasing enrolment rates at various levels of basic education, and completion of basic education leading to relevant and effective learning outcomes (Goal 2.11).

An inclusive education policy framework shall be developed and a basic education research agenda shall be undertaken to ensure that basic education policies are inclusive and responsive to diverse learning needs (Outcome 2.11.1).

The education agenda shall focus on quality and inclusive basic education. In its support, an **Inclusive Education Policy Framework** shall be developed, spearheaded by the Department of Education together with concerned agencies, to establish seamless strategies and mechanisms to adequately respond to diverse learning needs. The proposed legislative measure for the Protection of Children with Disabilities shall include the inclusive education policy framework, the pending bill on inclusive education and the recommendation to use the LGU Special Education Fund (SEF) for CWDs.

Basic Education Research Agenda. The DepEd shall undertake a research agenda that consists of four (4) basic themes or basic education topics, namely: (1) Teaching and Learning; (2) Child Protection; (3) Human Resource Development; and (4) Governance. It further recognizes the following cut across themes of the agenda: Disaster Risk Reduction and Management; Gender and Development; and Inclusive Education.

- **Instruction:** Teaching and learning strategies of teachers to ensure inclusive and learner-centered education, and factors affecting the teacher's delivery of curriculum.
- **Curriculum:** Contribution of curriculum in achieving learning outcomes and responsiveness of curriculum.
- **Learners:** Factors affecting the learning behaviour and value-formation of learners and factors that make a well-rounded, happy, and smart learner.
- **Child Protection:** Addressing protection concerns such as bullying, teenage pregnancy, child abuse, addiction and media consumption Child Protection (DepEd) for which a research study shall be undertaken.
- **Inclusive Education:** Readiness of the DepEd to provide an inclusive learning environment, and the perceptions of internal and external stakeholders on inclusive education.

The DSWD, on the other hand, shall conduct An Impact Evaluation of Educational Assistance Beneficiaries of AICS or (expanded) Aid to Individuals in Crisis Situations.

Basic Education

Inclusive basic education shall be child-centered, gender-sensitive and appropriate to diverse learning needs with quality learning and teaching outcomes (Outcome 2.11.2) through K to 12 and by getting and keeping children in school.

K to 12 Education. The K to 12 program shall be fully implemented by providing essential inputs: adequate physical infrastructure such as school buildings; quality learning materials and implements such as textbooks, libraries, and ICT-assisted learning; and the hiring, training and professional development of teachers, both pre-service and in-service and putting in place effective system to monitor and evaluate the outcomes in terms of quality and access.

Getting and Keeping Children in School. Efforts to get school-age children to school and to keep them in school up to completion of basic education shall be continued and intensified. This includes continuation of school feeding programs; ensuring school facilities and environment are conducive to school attendance and learning, and strengthening gender and equity component of school curricula.

All children, including, children of indigenous peoples, children with disabilities, children with special needs and in vulnerable situations shall be provided with equal access to all levels of education and vocational training (Outcome 2.11.3) through the integration of Muslim education in K to 12, indigenous people's education, gender equality, and special education for children with special needs.

Muslim Education Program. The program, now integrated to K to 12, contains a comprehensive standard or enhanced basic education curriculum in Arabic Language and Islamic Values Education for all Muslim learners from both public and private *madaris*. The DepEd provides allowance or honorarium for *asatidz* and program support fund to regions, selected divisions and selected public elementary and secondary schools with organized ALIVE classes.

Indigenous People's Education Program. Children of indigenous peoples are provided with access to basic education which is culturally relevant. Non-discriminatory policies and guidelines for schools and other public spaces and institutions such as guidelines for wearing hijab and other Islamic practices shall be issued and disseminated to all concerned agencies. The program ensures the right of children of indigenous people to basic education that is responsive to their context, respects their identities, and promotes the value of their indigenous knowledge, skills, and other aspects of their cultural heritage.

Gender Equality in Education. Gender equality projects and activities shall be mainstreamed in school improvement plans, particularly targeting the needs of IP and Muslim girls, children with diverse sexual orientation, gender identity and gender expressions (SOGIE), and women and girls with disabilities. The following shall be pursued: development of school improvement plans with programs and projects on gender equality and gender-based violence prevention and support to schools for response mechanisms for gender-based violence and support to educational and training institutions for the establishment and functionality of Committees on Decorum and Investigation (CODI) of sexual harassment. Policies on the institutionalization of gender in the curricula and instructional materials shall be put in place. Teaching models and exemplars on gender-responsive teaching techniques and classroom management across learning areas shall be adopted.

Special Education Program. The program provides access to basic education among children with special needs such as the gifted and talented, the mentally retarded, the visually impaired, the hearing impaired, the orthopedically handicapped, the learning disabled, the speech defective, and children with behaviour problems. Children who are deaf receive instruction in sign language. Students with visual impairments are to be provided with educational materials in formats that are readily accessible. While students with intellectual disabilities, developmental disabilities, deaf/blindness, autism and other disabilities shall be provided with assistive devices, adapted curricula and appropriate learning materials. The program is implemented through SPED centers and regular schools with DepEd classes.

Government and private sector partnership shall be expanded to widen the access of school-age children to quality education (Outcome 2.11.4) through the voucher program to enable qualified senior high school students to enrol in private high schools and colleges, education service contracting, technical-vocational education and through NGO-support to formal schooling, catch-up and inclusive education program.

Voucher Program for Senior High School. A voucher is a subsidy given by the Government to qualified Grade 10 completers, as determined by the DepEd, to enable them to enrol in a non-DepEd Senior High School of their choice such as private high schools, private colleges

and universities, local universities and colleges (LUCs), state universities and colleges (SUCs), and technical and vocational institutions (TVIs).

The Private Education Assistance Committee (PEAC) receives and processes submitted applications, and forward the results to the DepEd for approval. The PEAC is headed by the Secretary of Education as its chairman and is composed of representatives from the National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA), Catholic Educational Association of the Philippines (CEAP), Association of Christian Schools, Colleges, and Universities (ACSCU), and the Philippine Association of Colleges and Universities (PACU).

Education Service Contracting (ESC) Program. The ESC Program aims to democratize and improve access to quality junior high school education through government extension of financial assistance to deserving elementary school graduates who wish to pursue their junior high school education in private schools. ESC has been expanded to include the Open High School Program (OHSP) as an alternative mode of delivery providing students with greater access to junior high school education. Program beneficiaries in ESC-participating private junior high schools are assured of the government's commitment to support their education for as long as they meet the requirements for regular promotion to each of the succeeding school years until they graduate.

The management of the program is contracted out by the DepEd to PEAC National Secretariat, which is the trustee of the Fund for Assistance to Private Education (FAPE), a perpetual trust fund created by and between the Philippine and United State governments under EO 156 s. 1968, for the purpose of providing assistance to private education in the country.

Education Support-Technical Vocational Education and Training (TVET). Out-of-school children also have the choice to enrol in TESDA accredited short courses and community-based skills training programs for them to be able to have skills and be economically productive. NGOs shall support and will coordinate with TESDA and local government units in relation to this assistance.

NGO Education Support to Formal Schooling and Catch-Up Program. NGO education assistance to children under this category has four (4) components: provision of school supplies, uniforms and bags; provision of authorized contributions; coordination and orientation with parents, schools and barangays; and profiling and monitoring of assisted children. The school supplies will be provided to children before the opening of classes in June. These items are part of the hidden costs of education and if provided to children, will be of great help towards the completion of their studies. Catch-Up program shall be provided directly to elementary and high school students enrolled in formal education classified as urban children and rural children (dropout, at-risk children, indigenous children, child laborers).

NGO Inclusive Education Program. In partnership with the DepEd, NGO-assisted schools shall sustain learning-conducive environment for children's good health, learning, and protection. The following will be undertaken: (a) teacher training support; (b) engagement with communities to support learning in the home and community settings (after school reading remediation program and alternative delivery mode for children who are out-of-

school); (c) collaboration with community stakeholders to mobilize financial, technical, and other resources to support enhancement/maintenance of school physical facilities; (d) provide support for schools in adopting their local Child Protection Policy and Code of Conduct; (e) strengthen organizational capacity of school governing councils, local school boards, and local government units to deliver comprehensive, inclusive, and quality services for basic education; and (f) capacity building of child-led organizations for children to meaningfully participate in education governance.

Alternative Delivery Modes

A policy on flexible learning options shall support alternative delivery modes (ADMs) to expand the learning options for school-age children who are unable to go to regular formal education classes (Outcome 2.11.5).

Alternative Delivery Modes. ADMs are tried and tested alternative modalities of education delivery within the confines of the formal school system that allows schools to deliver quality education to its target beneficiaries. Modalities include the Enhanced Instructional Management by Parents, Community and Teachers (E-IMPACT), Modified In-School Off-School Approach (MIMOSA), and Open High School Program (e.g. Project Ease/home study program/blended learning).

Multi-Grade Program in Philippine Education. Children learners in sparsely populated, isolated and far-flung areas are provided with basic education through multi-grade classes. The Multi-Grade program provides access to and quality elementary education through the opening of complete multi-grade classes and completion of incomplete schools in far-flung barangays. It provides instructional materials, training, and school buildings and introduces community support schemes. A multi-grade class is composed of learners in multiple grade levels taught by a single teacher.

Alternative Learning System

Alternative Learning System shall be widely implemented to provide access to those who are not reached by the formal basic education system (Outcome 2.11.6), whether children, youth or adults. Programs include the basic literacy program, accreditation and equivalency, and NGO support to ALS and home study.

Better targeting of beneficiaries, broader coverage, and prioritization of these programs by implementing units, partnerships, and modalities that fit the circumstances of target learners, which will start with introducing catch-up programs to expand the coverage of ALS at local, regional national and international levels by:

- ❖ introducing ALS in drug rehabilitation centers
- ❖ developing alternative learning methods for hard-to-reach mountain regions, small islands, as well as densely populated areas
- ❖ establishing ALS in countries with undocumented Filipino migrants where children do not have access to formal education.

Basic Literacy Program (BLP). The Basic Literacy Program, under the ALS, aims to eradicate illiteracy by developing the basic literacy skills of reading, writing and numeracy. The program is delivered through a contracting scheme with qualified education service providers with the use of government funds for field operations, The mobile teachers of the DepEd also conducts BLP. The BLP targets marginalized learners such as the out-of-school youths, adults, and, in extreme cases, school-aged children. The contracting scheme of basic literacy programs shall be intensified.

Accreditation and Equivalency (A&E) Program. The program aims to provide an alternative pathway of learning for out-of-school youth and adults who are literate but who have not completed basic education. They shall undergo accreditation and equivalency that enable them to complete elementary and high school education outside the formal school system. As in the BLP, Accreditation and Equivalency is delivered through a contracting scheme with qualified education service providers using government funds for field operations. The mobile teachers of the DepEd also conduct A&E.

NGO Support to Alternative Learning System and Home Study Program. NGOs further support children outside of the formal school system, in their respective coverage area, with alternative learning system. Scholarships/sponsorships to students from primary to tertiary shall be provided through ALS, home study program, regular schooling, and other educational schemes. Tutorial services and values formation shall also be provided. Volunteers shall be encouraged to partner and work with NGOs.

NGOs work closely and provide education support to ALS in partnership with DepEd. These include: conduct of ALS session using the DepEd module; provision of learning materials, food; honorarium for Instructional Manager (IM); training of IMs in coordination with DepEd; coordination with the District ALS Coordinator; profiling and monitoring of assisted children. The education support to ALS specifically caters to the learning needs of children who have dropped out-of-school for many years so that they can finish their grade or high school levels through a certification programme. Out-of-school children and youth upon assessment will be encouraged to enrol in ALS with the aim of completing his/her elementary or high school studies through the accreditation and equivalency test.

Thematic Education Programs

Thematic education policies and programs which include special education, drug education, peace education, and culture and arts shall contribute to the enrichment of the basic education curriculum (Outcome 2.11.7).

Special Education. The DepEd shall develop an Omnibus Special Education Policy, Guidelines on Bursary for Learners with Disability and the Guidelines on Gifted and Talented.

Drug Education. Drug education shall be strengthened under the Science and Health subjects by providing real-life lessons via alternative learning methods, such as through film, dance, music and painting, starting in Grade 4. This includes implementation of comprehensive policy on drug testing for students, personnel and teachers, and key program components such as

education and awareness, prevention, protection and rehabilitation of students found to be using illegal drugs.

Peace Education. OPAPP shall work with the DepEd in the reactivation and mainstreaming of peace education as espoused under EO 570 “Institutionalizing Peace Education in Basic Education and Teacher Education.” OPAPP shall facilitate the following: (a) support to the operationalization of Technical Working Group under EO 570; (b) development and enhancement of knowledge products for Peace Education (teaching exemplars, modules, guidebooks, training manuals); and (c) peace education and capacity development program for teachers, peace educators, local leaders (including formulation of community-based peace education programs, following a total school approach) shall be undertaken. These shall be undertaken to make government peace and development institutions and mechanisms more responsive to peace, conflict and security issues and concerns. Other major agencies shall involve the following: CHED, DILG, National Commission on Culture and Arts (NCCA), NCIP, NEDA, National Youth Commission (NYC), and TESDA.

Culture and Arts. The appreciation of culture and arts springs from the country’s diversity and rich historical experiences as a people. Culture and arts in basic education shall be enriched. The curricular content on culture and arts will be complemented by greater actual exposure to these by both teachers and students.

Enabling Education Strategies

Enabling education strategies, such as institutional capacity building and partnership building shall be expanded and institutionalized (Outcome 2.11.8).

Institutional Capacity Building. Curricular and non-curricular programs shall be introduced. Capacity building shall be institutionalized in the DepEd system. Capacity building shall be done to be responsive to the aspirations and most urgent needs of the nation, specifically in the following: addressing poverty and inequality; meeting the challenges of climate change; and upgrading to keep pace with the knowledge and information age. Highlighting competence in science and technology, ICT, climate change preparedness, adaptation and mitigation, innovation, creative imagination, entrepreneurial spirit, and a disposition to help communities and sectors particularly those that are left at the margins of growth and development, forging collaborative efforts with outside stakeholders that are possessed with most advanced data, expertise, and experience in these fields.

Partnership Building. Working partnerships such as Adopt-a-School and *Brigada Eskwela*, shall be expanded as concrete mechanisms and expression of cooperation and solidarity to advance the cause of basic education for all. Collective spirit shall be harnessed through upgrading DepEd’s communication strategy and program to be able to reach out to local, national and even global communities to realize the collective vision of accessible, quality, relevant and liberating basic education for every Filipino child.

Chapter 13 Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH)

Assessment and Challenges

Access to safe and potable water supply and sanitation and hygiene practices are essential to people's health and well-being. The country's target on access to safe water was achieved. The proportion of households with access to safe water supply, which basically includes children's access, was at 83.7 percent and access to basic sanitary facilities was 92.2 percent in 2013. However, there were still 1.2 million households with no access to safe water and 1.8 million households with no access to sanitary toilet facilities. No data exclusively on children is available.

An estimated 43.7 percent and 44.7 percent of preschool-age and school-age children, respectively, were found to be infected with soil-transmitted helminths an indication of a lack of access to safe and clean water and poor sanitation and hygiene practices. These children are at-risk of getting sick or dying from infections with intestinal parasites, abdominal pain and diarrhoea, with anaemia or nutritional deficiencies that can impede a child's learning and ability to stay in school.

Goal and Expected Outcomes

Goal 2.12 Households and their children have increased access to safe and affordable drinking water (SDG 6.1) and to adequate sanitary and hygienic facilities, with special attention to the needs of girls, CWDs and those in vulnerable situations (SDG 6.2)

Outcome 2.12.1 Poor and waterless communities have access to safe water supply through grant financing and capacity development

Outcome 2.12.2 School children in all public schools have access to sanitary toilets with adequate water supply

Outcome 2.12.3 School children in preschool and elementary levels with safe, sanitary and hygienic practices

Outcome 2.12.4 WASH data in both public and private schools are available to inform policy formulation and program planning

Strategies

Waterless and poor communities shall be empowered to put up or increase their access to water supply and sanitary facilities.

Schools shall be further expanded as the pivotal venue in reaching more children and providing access to WASH.

A WASH strategy shall be promoted by the DOH as a collaborative effort with various sectors and as a long-term approach in the prevention and control of national tropical diseases (NTDs). Complementary public health interventions shall support morbidity control of NTDs. WASH is the key intervention towards the elimination of NTDs.

Policies, Programs and Projects

WASH programs and projects aim to contribute to providing children and households with increased access to safe and affordable drinking water and to adequate sanitary and hygienic facilities, with special attention to the needs of girls, CWDs and those in vulnerable situations (Goal 2.12).

The *Salin-Tubig* program and the KC-NCDDP to provide poor and waterless communities with access to safe water supply through grant financing and capacity development (Outcome 2.12.1).

Sagana at Ligtas na Tubig sa Lahat or Salin-Tubig. The *Salin-Tubig* program, under the stewardship of DILG, aims to provide water supply to poor and waterless communities. It provides grant financing and capacity development to increase access to water and sanitation services and increase capacity of LGUs and water service providers in the planning, implementation and management of water supply facilities in a sustainable manner. Integrated Water, Sanitation and Hygiene are included in the capacity building program of day care centers and schools without access to potable water supply.²⁸

KALAHI-CIDSS-NCDDP Water Supply. Empowered and participating barangays and communities in KC-NCDDP shall be provided with investment grants that support their proposals to implement water supply projects in response to the felt needs that they themselves have identified. The KC-NCDDP support to barangay and community water supply projects correlates with the *Salin-Tubig* program.

Through the public education system's school sanitation and hygiene interventions, school children in all public schools shall be provided with access to sanitary toilets and adequate water supply (Outcome 2.12.2).

School Sanitation and Hygiene. All public schools shall put sanitary toilets with adequate water supply, with toilets separate for girls and boys, and with easy access for children with disability. School sanitation and the maintenance of toilet facilities shall strictly comply with the relevant implementing rules and regulations of the Code on Sanitation (PD No. 856).

School children in preschool and elementary levels shall be provided with essential health care services and interventions to enable them to acquire safe, sanitary and hygienic practices (Outcome 2.12.3).

Essential Health Care Program. Public school children in preschool and elementary levels shall be provided with interventions such as daily hand washing with soap, tooth brushing with fluoride toothpaste, and bi-annual deworming to improve their health. The program is financially covered by LGUs, depending on the number of children involved.

²⁸ Memorandum Circular 2016- 49, Guidelines for the Implementation of the Provision of Potable Water Supply, FY 2016 - *Sagana at Ligtas na Tubig sa Lahat or Salin-Tubig*, DILG

Through the WASH in Schools (WinS) project, WASH data in both public and private schools can be made available to inform policy formulation and program planning (Outcome 2.12.4).

WASH in Schools. WASH data in both public and private schools shall be collected nationwide and shall form part of the Enhanced Basic Education Information System. WinS indicators have been identified for data collection which shall be tracked annually: (a) availability of drinking water, (b) regularity of cleaning of sanitation facilities, (c) availability of group hand washing facilities, (d) compliance with food handling standards, and (e) number of learners dewormed.

Part IV Children are Safe and Free from Violence, Abuse, Neglect and Exploitation

Goal 3 Children are safe and free from violence, abuse, neglect and exploitation

A child protection framework and system is being developed to provide a safe and protective environment for children. It shall evolve from economic, social and other sector policies, the more child-centric framework identified in the national plan of action for children and other child-specific sector plans, and the different forms of and components of child protection. There are intersecting strategies and interagency mechanisms that need to be identified to develop the child protection system.

A safe and protective environment and relevant and intersecting policies, programs and projects shall be provided to:

1. working children and those who are in hazardous and exploitative working conditions;
2. children who are trafficked for various reasons;
3. children who are recruited as child soldiers by non-state armed groups and all other children caught in situations of armed conflict;
4. children victims of different forms of violence;
5. children at-risk or in conflict with the law;
6. abuse and exploited children;
7. children at-risk on the streets; and
8. abandoned and neglected children and those left behind by overseas working parents and imprisoned/incarcerated parents, children left behind by soldiers killed in action and those whose parents are drug-dependents.

In advancing the agenda for children who need special protection, the following shall be pursued: passage of new laws or amendments; strict enforcement, compliance, implementation and monitoring of legislative measures and policies at both national and local levels; budget augmentation and equitable resources for child protection; and, establishment of a reliable and updated database system that cover the wide-spectrum of children who need special protection.

The strategic framework for Goal 3 is illustrated in Figure 6.



Figure 6 Goal 3 Strategic Framework

Chapter 14 Towards Ending Child Labor

Assessment and Challenges

About 3.3 million children, 5 to 17 years old, were estimated to be working in 2011. From among them, 2.1 million were engaged in child labor and of those engaged in child labor, 61 percent of working children or 2.0 million children were working in hazardous environments.

Poverty-related problems have subjected children to engage in exploitative and hazardous working conditions. There were more boys in child labor, with a sex ratio of 198 male children aged 5 to 17 years old for every 100 females of the same age groups because boys are found to work at an early age to contribute to the family income. These children were mostly in the agriculture and service sectors such as in sugar and pineapple plantations and those engaged in pyrotechnics and small scale mining.²⁹

The Survey of Children, which provided the data on working children and those engaged in child labor, was conducted in 2011. A more updated and latest data should be made available for evidenced-based, accurate and area-focused planning of anti-child labor interventions. Being a special survey, the DOLE and the PSA are unable to get funding for its regular conduct.

Goal and Expected Outcomes

Goal 3.1: Child labor in all its form is reduced by 30 percent from the 2.1 million working children reported in 2011 toward its elimination by 2025 (SDG 8.7)

Outcome 3.1.1 Policies and institutional mechanisms are in place to protect children from hazardous working conditions and cases of child labor in extremely abject conditions are responded to in a timely manner

Outcome 3.1.2 Realize the vision of a “Child Labor-Free Philippines” through influencing change and obtaining commitment and support from stakeholders

Outcome 3.1.3 Child laborers, their families, and communities have transformed their lives towards their sense of self-worth and empowerment

Strategies

The Philippine Program Against Child Labor (PPACL) aims to achieve a Child Labor-Free Philippines and works to gradually realize this vision through the following strategies: (a) institutionalization of the National Child Labor Committee and anti-child labor mechanisms at the regional and local levels towards better coordination of its members and partners; (b) establishment of anti-child labor units in implementing government agencies and providing funds for its operations; (c) allocation of funding for PPACL, particularly in relation to projects and activities supporting the removal of child laborers from hazardous work; (d) improvement of enforcement of anti-child labor laws at the national and local levels; (e)

²⁹Survey on Children, PSA, 2011

expansion of access of child laborers and their families to social protection, health, education and decent work through the establishment of barangay-based help desks and strengthening of Barangay Councils for the Protection of Children (BCPCs); (f) improvement of the generation, dissemination and the use of knowledge among stakeholders, policymakers and program implementers, including conduct of regular surveys on child labor; and (g) establishment and maintenance of a national child labor monitoring and evaluation system, including a barangay-based child labor registry.

The program aims to transform the lives of child laborers and their families towards their sense of self-worth. More importantly, it shall continue to work towards the prevention and progressive elimination of child labor in the country through protection, withdrawal, healing and reintegration of child workers into a caring society.

The Department of Labor and Employment implements its Child Labor Prevention and Elimination Program through its Regional and Provincial Field Offices. The DOLE also works with other government agencies, LGUs, employers' group, workers' organizations, civil society organizations and international social development organizations.

Policies, Programs and Projects

The goal to reduce child labor in all its form toward its elimination by 2025 (Goal 3.1) shall be realized by strengthening the policies and institutional mechanisms in place (Outcome 3.1.1), realizing the vision for a child labor-free Philippines (Outcome 3.1.2), and the transformation of the lives of child laborers and their families (Outcome 3.1.3).

The issuance of permits for working children and strengthening of *Sagip Bata Manggagawa* to protect and save children from hazardous working conditions shall be sustained to achieve Outcome 3.1.1.

Working children below 15 years of age are required to have working permits. The permit secured by the employer, parent or guardian from the DOLE for any child below 15 years of age in any work allowed under Republic Act No. 9231.

Sagip Bata Manggagawa (SBM). SBM is an inter-agency quick action mechanism which aims to respond to cases of child labor in extremely abject conditions in a timely manner. It employs an inter-agency quick action team for detecting, monitoring and rescuing child laborers in hazardous and exploitative working conditions. The SBM is governed by a Memorandum of Agreement between and among the different government agencies and non-government organizations.

The vision for a "Child Labor-Free Philippines" shall be realized (Outcome 3.1.2) by establishing Child-Labor Free Barangays and Child-Labor Free Establishments.

Child Labor-Free Barangay. The program aims to contribute to the vision of a "Child Labor-Free Philippines" through influencing change and obtaining commitment and support from

stakeholders to make barangays free from child labor. Pursuant to DOLE Administrative Order No. 657, barangays enrolled under this campaign must meet certain criteria in order to be certified as child labor-free.

Child Labor-Free Establishment. One of the recognition awards under the Incentivizing Compliance Program of the DOLE is awarded to establishments that are child labor-free. It refers to a company/establishment that is not employing child labor and not using products or materials produced through the use of child labor. Child Labor-Free Establishment aims to promote compliant and socially responsible business practices as establishment-based component of the Child Labor-Free Philippines campaign.

Child laborers, their families, and communities shall be supported with livelihood opportunities and emergency employment through the DILEEP and Project Angel Tree and with NGO support to combat child labor to enable the transformation of their lives toward their sense of self-worth and empowerment (Outcome 3.1.3).

DOLE Integrated Livelihood and Emergency Employment Program. As discussed in Chapter 4, the DILEEP aims to contribute to the prevention and elimination of child labor by providing families with access to decent livelihood opportunities for enhanced income so that, none of the children of livelihood beneficiaries shall be engaged in child labor.

Project Angel Tree. Project Angel Tree of the DOLE aims to improve the economic and social conditions of child laborers and their families and increase the number of allies and advocates of child labor prevention and elimination. The project provides an array of social services that range from food, clothing, educational assistance or school supplies made available by sponsors or benefactors ('angels') to child laborers and their families.

NGO Support to Combatting Child Labor. NGOs shall support the strengthening of the National Committee on Child Labor, DOLE, and other agencies and stakeholders to combat child labor and ensure the protection and development of children to intensify its campaign against child labour and trafficking. An NGO Community Mobilization for Education (COME) project shall be replicated to other areas. The following activities shall be pursued: (a) preventive interventions through education programs for at least 500 child laborers and children at-risk each year; (b) awareness raising and capacity building of community members to help decrease the vulnerability of children and youth from sugar plantations; (c) Parent's Formation (PES)/Annual Family Congress; and (d) conduct of the 4th National Conference for the Protection of Children in the Sugar Industry where sugarcane planters/owners, NGO workers and civil society groups and government officials gather to ensure child protection in the sugar industry, which is one of the top industries that employ child workers.

Chapter 15 Putting an End to Child Trafficking

Assessment and Challenges

Children are trafficked internationally and domestically for sexual exploitation, labor (slave labor and bonded labor), marriage and adoption, illegal activities (begging, drug trade). The extent and magnitude is not known but the Philippines have become a source, transit and destination country for cross-border trafficking of children.

Due to the covert nature of trafficking, it is difficult to determine the actual number of child victims. There are no data that can provide policymakers and decision makers with basis for gauging the extent and magnitude of the problem and whether progress is made in tackling and halting trafficking in children.

Despite stringent measures in airports and sea ports, child traffickers use diverse modus operandi to elude the law. Their criminal networks enable them to thwart arrest and evade prosecution.

Although support from civil society and international organizations has led to more holistic and effective anti-trafficking solutions, governments bear primary responsibility for addressing human trafficking.

“Among the main causes of child trafficking in the Philippines are poverty, low economic development in communities of origin, gender inequalities, limited employment opportunities, existence of and access to public infrastructure (roads, schools, health centers, etc.), large family sizes, inadequate awareness among families, and sex tourism.”³⁰

Goal and Expected Outcomes

Goal 3.2 Child trafficking is reduced in 2022 (SDG 8.7 and SDG 16.2) toward its subsequent elimination

Outcome 3.2.1 The criminal justice system response to child trafficking is made more forceful to deter trafficking in children

Outcome 3.2.2 School children are made aware on and know how to protect themselves from being trafficked

Outcome 3.2.3 Children who are trafficked within the country and overseas are supported to enhance their psychosocial and economic needs

Outcome 3.2.4 Girls are enabled and supported to protect themselves from exploitation, abuse and trafficking

Strategies

³⁰ Source: Fact Sheet: Child Trafficking in the Philippines, UNICEF Philippines

The 3Ps paradigm is adopted as the overall strategy to deter trafficking in children: prosecution of traffickers, protection of child victims, and preventing the crime.

Policies, Programs and Projects

The goal to reduce child trafficking toward its subsequent elimination (Goal 3.2) shall be ensured with a more forceful criminal justice response system (Outcome 3.2.1), by making school children aware on protecting themselves (Outcome 3.2.2), by providing psychosocial and economic support to children who are trafficked (Outcome 3.2.3), and by enabling girls to protect themselves (Outcome 3.2.4).

The establishment of a coordinated inter-agency operative and monitoring system, speedy disposition of cases, and mandatory training for involved personnel shall contribute to making the criminal justice system's forceful response to deter child trafficking (Outcome 3.2.1).

A more operative and systematic monitoring mechanism to deter the trafficking of children shall be established through the Inter-Agency Council against Trafficking (IACAT). The IACAT shall be supported by regional mechanisms such as the RIACAT-Violence against Women and Children (VAWC) and the Regional Committee/Sub-Committee for the Welfare of Children.

The criminal justice response to child trafficking shall be made more forceful by treating the prosecution of cases as seriously as other grave crimes and with utmost speed in disposition of the cases.

Mandatory training for social workers, police, prosecutors, judges, other government and IACAT personnel on the provisions and enforcement of the law and their respective updates. This shall be incorporated in the human resource development plans of their respective agencies.

Operations shall be conducted to intercept and rescue children from being trafficked and to entrap criminal elements after surveillance. Profiling and deferred departure of perpetrators shall follow appropriate legal procedures.

To prevent and suppress trafficking, school children shall be made aware on how to protect themselves through school caravan information drives and personal safety lessons in schools (Outcome 3.2.2).

Prevention and Suppression of Trafficking in Persons. In addition to doing its regular function for case build up, the Philippine National Police shall continue dialogues with community partners, LGUs and NGOs for the prevention, protection, and suppression of trafficking of children. It shall partner with other agencies and DepEd for school caravan information drives on trafficking in persons (TIP), VAWC, cyber pornography and other sexual exploitation abuse. School children shall also be given personal safety lessons.

The Recovery and Reintegration Program for Trafficked Persons shall be implemented to enhance the psychosocial and economic needs of children who are trafficked within the country and overseas (Outcome 3.2.3).

Recovery and Reintegration Program for Trafficked Person. Vulnerabilities of children from all forms of trafficking including recruitment and use of children in armed conflict shall be reduced. DSWD shall provide a comprehensive package of programs and services that enhance the psychosocial and economic needs of children. The same package shall be provided to distressed and undocumented overseas Filipino children through the **International Social Welfare Services for Filipino Nationals** program.

NGO GREAT and PEACE programs shall support the protection of girls from exploitation, abuse and trafficking (Outcome 3.2.4).

NGO Girls Reject Exploitation, Abuse and Trafficking (GREAT) and PEACE Programs. An NGO program for girls called GREAT shall be launched. The program shall cover a wide range of areas for the protection of girls which include conducting sessions on protective behaviour; child sexual abuse; counter-trafficking; online abuse and child pornography /cyber-bullying; bullying at home, schools and community; corporal punishment; teenage pregnancy. It shall conduct an Annual Formation Session on Child Protection Policy and signing of agreement from the Board of Trustees to the employees, volunteers and parent advocates. A functional child protection alert system shall be installed.

Chapter 16 Halting Child Recruitment by Non-State Armed Groups

Assessment and Challenges

The non-passage of the bill on Protecting Children Affected by Armed Conflict Situations in the 16th Congress led to the issuance of EO 138 (Adoption of the Comprehensive Program Framework for Children in Armed Conflict). The EO focused only on one aspect of protecting children in armed conflict situations and was issued while the more comprehensive bill awaits passage into a law.

Peace initiatives with various non-state armed groups, continuously being pursued by the Philippine government negotiation panels, have been protracted and children are caught and used in armed conflict situations as soldiers.

Goal and Expected Outcomes

Goal 3.3 Children are prevented and rescued from recruitment as combatants by non-state armed groups (SDG 8.7)

Outcome 3.3.1 Policies that protect children and prevent their recruitment as child soldiers or used in armed conflicts are enforced and implemented

Outcome 3.3.2 Children recruited by non-state armed groups as soldiers or combatants are rescued

Outcome 3.3.3 Grave child rights violation in situations of armed conflict are monitored, responded to and acted upon and reported accordingly

Strategies

The strategy shall focus on a more strengthened policy that shall enable various government agencies in pursuing peace efforts with non-state groups to ensure that children are not recruited or used in armed conflicts and that they are protected and monitored at all times. Research studies shall be conducted to inform policy-making.

The Armed Forces of the Philippines shall implement and enforce its directives and circulars pertaining to the recruitment of children by non-state armed groups such as the CPP-NPA, MILF, and MNLF. The AFP shall enhance and develop engagement with other stakeholders involved in child recruitment. A reporting mechanism shall be institutionalized and reporting shall be enhanced and disseminated.

A survey and profiling of children engaged in armed conflict either as combatant, courier, guide or spy (child soldiers) shall be conducted.

Policies, Programs and Projects

Children shall be prevented and rescued from recruitment as combatants by non-state armed groups (Goal 3.3).

The following shall be enforced and implemented (Outcome 3.3.1): a situational analysis of Children in armed conflict situations and the enactment of a law for their protection and the implementation of programs for the Protection and Empowerment of Children in Situations of Armed Conflict and Conflict-Sensitive Peace Promoting interventions.

An Analysis of the Situation of Children in Conflict-Affected and Conflict-Vulnerable Areas based on Data from the National Baseline Study on Violence Against Children shall be conducted to establish baseline situation of children in conflict-affected and conflict-vulnerable areas for the evaluation of government's peace and development interventions and to inform the development of a situation analysis of children in armed conflict.

The lobbying for the enactment of House Bill No. 13 on Protecting Children Affected by Armed Conflict Situations shall be done in the 17th Congress, to strengthen EO 138.

Protection and Empowerment of Children in Situations of Armed Conflict. OPAPP shall provide inputs to government policies and programs specific to children in conflict and in fragile situations. It shall facilitate the following initiatives: development and implementation of policies for the protection of CSAC and support to the protection of rights and promotion of interests of children in situations of armed conflict.

Conflict-Sensitive Peace Promoting (CSSP). OPAPP's current strategies in protecting the rights and promoting the interests of children in armed conflict situations is through the mainstreaming of CSPP approach in local governance in collaboration with the DILG-Bureau of Local Government Development (BLGD) and in the work of national agencies. Under the Comprehensive Local Integration Program, even CSAC who have assumed combatant roles are not required to show or surrender firearms. The CSPP approach encourages and facilitates children's active involvement in the identification and development of programs that will respond to their differentiated needs and specific vulnerabilities while at the same time recognizing and cultivating their skills and competencies. It also encourages and facilitates the participation of their families, communities and other major stakeholders supporting the need for community-based approaches, building local capacities and creating a culture of peace and shared responsibility.

Child soldiers shall be rescued from non-state armed groups (Outcome 3.3.2) following a negotiated agreement and coordinated effort among relevant government entities.

Rescue of Child Soldiers. Child recruitment case/s by non-state armed groups shall be elevated by the OPAPP to the negotiating table and other non-state actors for appropriate actions. Compliance to peace agreements shall be ensured. Rescued child soldiers shall be provided with appropriate services and interventions. This shall be done in coordination with CWC, DSWD, AFP, PNP, DILG, LGUs and the Commission on Human Rights (CHR).

The enforcement of EO 138 shall enable the monitoring, response and action to grave child rights violation in situations of armed conflict (Outcome 3.3.3) based on a set of procedures.

Monitoring, Response and Reporting System of Grave Child Rights Violation in Situations of Armed Conflict (MRRS-GCRVSAC). Following EO 138, the CWC is designated as the focal agency for the MRRS-GCRVSAC in partnership with the OPAPP. Coordination and corroboration response to GCRVs and in data gathering and reporting shall be enhanced. In a situation when an armed encounter may transpire, the LGU can convene the LCPC to evaluate the impact of the encounter thereby assessing and providing the necessary response and assistance to the victims as well as to the affected populace. DILG shall require all LGUs to operationalize this procedure and make the LCE responsible and accountable in the resolution of the situation. The LCE shall direct the PNP to conduct investigation so as to file charges to the perpetrators as well as to determine accountability for damage to properties or the need to provide financial assistance to the victims. An Assessment of the implementation of the MRRS for Grave Child Rights Violations in Situations of Armed Conflict shall be done jointly by the OPAPP and CWC.

Chapter 17 Ending Violence Against Children

Assessment and Challenges

The 2015 National Baseline Study on Violence against Children or NBS-VAC-Philippines³¹ found that 80 percent of children had experienced different forms of violence - physical, psychological, sexual, peer (bullying) and cyber violence - at home, in school, in the workplace, in the community and during dating.

- Severe violence was experienced by males 4.5 more than female of the same age group.
- Having OFW parents were found to increase the risk of experiencing severe physical violence.
- Psychological violence by almost 60 percent of children with separated parents, being adopted, living with another person who is not a relative, and having a romantic partner.
- Twenty-two (22) percent of 13-17-year-old was found to have suffered from sexual violence and 32 percent of perpetrators of forced consummated sex in the home were fathers. In the community, forced consummated sex was committed by groups of gangsters or drug addicts, religious people and barangay officials.
- Forty-one percent of the same age group of children reported to have experienced peer violence or bullying mainly because of their physical appearance, status in life, and skin color. Children who are more likely to experience bullying have dysfunctional households such as alcoholic or drug-using household, lived with other people (non-relatives), and are smokers and internet addicts.

Following the above NBS-VAC Study, survey results and analysis led to the identification of issues that need further research:

- experiences of violence among vulnerable groups such as children affected by armed conflict (CAAC), IP children, children with disabilities, children in conflict with the law, LGBT, etc.;
- effectiveness of current interventions on parenting, including child protection messages and information with family development sessions;
- understanding social norms that may condone or prevent/limit violence.

Goal and Expected Outcomes

Goal 3.4 All forms of violence against children is reduced in 2022 from 80 percent in 2015 (SDG 16.2) toward subsequently ending them

Outcome 3.4.1 All settings where violence against children (VAC) occurs are further established to provide basis for policy and program enhancement

Outcome 3.4.2 Parents adopt positive discipline approach in bringing up their children

³¹ 2015 National Baseline Study on Violence Against Children (NBS-VAC-Philippines), Council for the Welfare of Children, 2016

Outcome 3.4.3 School children are taught life skills and personal safety to develop their abilities in reporting experience of violence, in seeking help when needed, and in managing their own anger and impulsivity

Outcome 3.4.4 Children victims of violence are provided with after-care medical and psychosocial support for their rehabilitation

Outcome 3.4.5 Violence against Women and Children (VAWC) desk in every barangay is established and made functional to deter violence against women and children, especially girls

Strategies

The Philippine Plan of Action to End Violence Against Children (PPAeVAC) identified several strategies that shall be pursued towards the attainment of its goals: (a) promotion of parenting programs and positive discipline; (b) building awareness, teaching children and developing their skills and ability to protect themselves from becoming victims of violence; (c) development of a comprehensive, multi-sector, protective, mental, health, legal, economic, and judicial response plan on VAC and a structure for its implementation; (d) provision of free legal counselling and multi-sector services; and (e) establishment of a help hotline across the country. Capacity building and in-service training of frontline workers shall be conducted. Communication strategies for behaviour change shall be developed and widely disseminated.

Policies, Programs and Projects

Policies, programs and projects are identified to achieve Goal 3.4 for the reduction of all forms of violence against children.

The different settings where violence against children (VAC) exists shall be established by conducting a national research agenda which shall provide the basis for policy and program enhancement (Outcome 3.4.1).

A National Research Agenda on Violence against Children. A national research agenda on Violence against Children can probe all settings where violence occurs. The research agenda can be developed within the scope of the CWC Research Advisory Group. A research network or group such as the Child Abuse, Neglect and Exploitation (CANE) research group can spearhead the development of the research agenda.

Parenting programs and family development sessions that incorporate modules on positive discipline, including integration in the school curriculum, shall contribute to enabling parents to adopt such approach in bringing up their children (Outcome 3.4.2).

Parenting Program and Positive Discipline. Positive discipline in everyday parenting shall be incorporated in family development sessions as a supplementary module. Capacity building of frontline workers to promote parenting and positive discipline shall be conducted through in-service training programs for teachers, social workers, DCWs, CDWs, health workers. A

comprehensive communication for behaviour change strategy shall be developed to come up with print and broadcast materials. Parenting programs and positive discipline shall be integrated in the school curriculum.

NGO Program for Safe Homes and Communities. NGOs shall pursue the following: capacity building on positive discipline, child protection including child protection in emergencies; and model building for comprehensive program on positive discipline, school based child protection mechanism and community-based child protection mechanisms. Legislative advocacy at the local level shall be undertaken particularly in support of the passage of the bill on Positive Discipline – local prohibition ordinance; child protection policy; positive discipline ordinance; advocacy for child protection programs, policies, and activities (including budget advocacy), enhancement of Local Children’s Code. NGOs shall organize support group to sustain positive discipline practice and mobilize support for the Positive Discipline Bill.

Life skills education and personal safety lessons shall be imparted and taught to school children for the development of their abilities in reporting experience of violence, in seeking help when needed, and in managing their own anger and impulsivity (Outcome 3.4.3).

Life Skills Education and Personal Safety Lessons. Children shall be taught and their skills in protecting themselves from violence shall be developed through the integration of age-appropriate lessons in K to 12 curriculum. These would include developing their abilities in reporting experience of violence, in seeking help when needed, and in managing their own anger and impulsivity.

After-care medical and psychosocial support shall be provided to children victims of violence for their rehabilitation (Outcome 3.4.4).

Service Delivery. Appropriate and gender-sensitive health, psychosocial assistance, medical services, rehabilitation, re-integration, and other after-care support for all child victims of violence, including child and adolescent victims of violence during emergencies shall be provided.

VAWC desk in every barangay shall be established and made functional, based on standards and guidelines for measuring functionality, to deter violence against women and children, especially girls (Outcome 3.4.5).

Violence against Women and Children’s Desks. VAWC desks of the PNP shall be established in every barangay and made functional to deter violence against women and children, especially girls. Standards and guidelines for measuring the functionality of barangay VAWC desks are developed and used in their regular monitoring. Monitoring report on barangay VAWC desks shall be prepared regularly to ensure that they are functional.

Chapter 18 Juvenile Justice and Welfare

Assessment and Challenges

Children in conflict with the law (CICL) are defined in the Juvenile Justice and Welfare Act (JJWA) as those children who are alleged, as accused, or adjudged as having committed an offense under Philippine laws. The minimum age of criminal responsibility (MACR) is being challenged in Congress for its reduction from 15 years old to 12 years old.

Data on the number of children in conflict with the law is provided by different agencies, depending on their mandates, that can result to either double reporting or wide gap in cases reported. The Philippine National Police reported that 5,972 children were in conflict with the law for the first semester of 2016. Among the categories of cases, crimes against property were highest at 40 percent followed by crimes against person at 29 percent. The DSWD reported on the number of children served in community-based and residential facilities and regional centers which totalled 1,583 for the first three (3) quarters of 2016. On the other hand, LGU *Bahay Pag-Asa* (BPA)³² reportedly served 635 cases as of June 2016. Most CICL come from poor families, without stable income, and from broken families and separated parents.

The rehabilitation and reintegration of CICL, despite an enabling environment, can be hampered by the following: (a) delay in court proceedings, which result to prolonged stay of CICL in detention institutions or other facilities, (b) the lack of implementation of required customized interventions for CICL, (c) the insufficient capacity of the pillars of juvenile justice, e.g. social workers, police, prosecutors, and judges, and (d) the weak commitment of LGUs, which are primarily responsible for the implementation of programs for CICL at the local level.³³

Goal and Expected Outcomes

Goal 3.5 Reduction in the number of new cases of children in conflict with the law (CICL) and rehabilitation and reintegration of CICL to their families and communities by 2022 (SDG 16.3)

Outcome 3.5.1 A Comprehensive Juvenile Intervention Programme (CNJIP) with preventive, immediate response, rehabilitation, reintegration and after care services for CICL is available and accessible by the rights holders at all levels

Outcome 3.5.2 Parents and caregivers of CICL and children at-risk (CAR) to be in conflict with the law practice positive discipline, fulfil their parental obligations to their children, use positive discipline in raising their children, and prevent domestic violence and juvenile delinquency

³² No correlation was determined as to whether the children served in residential facilities were part of the reported cases of the Philippine National Police

³³ Source: Evaluation of Intervention and Rehabilitation Program in Residential Facilities and Diversion Programs for Children in Conflict with the Law, Universalia for UNICEF, 2015

Outcome 3.5.3 Children in conflict with the law and children at-risk demonstrate positive behaviour, self-management, and life skills that will equip them to resist illegal drugs, alcohol and tobacco use, violence, criminal acts and other high-risk behaviours

Outcome 3.5.4 Results-based research, information, monitoring and evaluation system on CICL/CAR are developed and implemented

Outcome 3.5.5 All relevant organizational structures for CICL and CAR at all levels are functional, strengthened and recognized as the lead authority on juvenile justice and welfare system

Outcome 3.5.6 RA 9344, as amended by RA 10630, is implemented and monitored effectively, and policy gaps are identified and fully addressed

Strategies

A Comprehensive National Juvenile Intervention Programme (CNJIP) shall be put in place to ensure the availability and accessibility to preventive measures, immediate response, rehabilitation, and reintegration and after care services for CICL and CAR. Strategies and interventions shall promote peaceful and inclusive societies and shall provide access to justice for all especially among children who are at-risk and who become in conflict with the law.

Strategies and interventions comprise three (3) interrelated systems and interventions at primary, secondary and tertiary levels where the child, family and community are embedded. These include the following: (a) policies, protocols and standards to provide a safe and protective environment for CAR and CICL; (b) regional and local comprehensive plans for juvenile intervention programs with corresponding budgetary appropriations; (c) a strengthened institutional partnership in pursuit of the collective and effective mission of the Juvenile Justice and Welfare Council (JJWC); (d) primary and secondary interventions by both national government agencies and LGUs to prevent children from committing criminal offenses; (e) center-based services and residential care facilities to enable the rehabilitation of CICL; (f) comprehensive processes for the reintegration of CICL to their families and the provision of aftercare services; (h) service providers and case managers equipped with skills for improved competencies in handling and managing CICL; (i) empowered families and communities that initiate and undertake diversion programs to prevent children from committing offenses against the law; and (j) venues for children participation in community affairs.

A safe and protective environment for CAR and CICL shall be driven by the following: (a) integrated care management protocol used by stakeholders in managing CAR and CICL cases; (b) regional and local comprehensive plans for juvenile intervention programs with corresponding budgetary appropriations; (c) agency standards formulated by member and coordinating agencies of the JJWC; and, (d) media guidelines on reporting cases of CAR/CICL that uphold children's rights to confidentiality.

Policies, Programs and Projects

The 3rd NPAC puts together the salient strategies and interventions of the CNJIP as complemented by other sector and non-government initiatives with a common goal of reducing the number of CICL towards their rehabilitation and reintegration to their families and communities (Goal 3.5).

The CNJIP identifies preventive, immediate response, rehabilitation, reintegration and aftercare services which shall be made available for CICL and accessible to rights holders at all levels (Outcome 3.5.1) which include the institutionalization of a restorative justice and welfare system, national policies, protocols and rules on juvenile justice and welfare harmonized with RA 9344 as amended, policy researches, primary and secondary interventions for children at-risk and tertiary interventions for CICL.

Institutionalization of a Restorative Justice and Welfare System. A restorative justice and welfare system for CICL and CAR will be institutionalized. Government actions for the implementation of juvenile intervention programs shall be coordinated by the JJWC. Juvenile justice and welfare programs shall be integrated in member and coordinating agencies' plans and budgets. All 17 Regional Juvenile Justice and Welfare Committees (RJJWCs) shall be provided technical assistance and support to ensure their functionality.

Policies, Protocols and Standards. These will be put in place to provide a safe and protective environment for CICL and CAR. National policies, protocols and rules on juvenile justice and welfare shall be harmonized with RA 9344 as amended, and its implementing rules and regulations, with the UN CRC and international standards on juvenile justice (consistent with Outcome 3.5.6) .

Policies, standard integrated protocols, and procedures in managing cases of CICL and CAR from initial contact to reintegration shall be effectively and consistently applied by all juvenile justice and welfare system duty bearers. Regional and local comprehensive plans for juvenile intervention programs shall be developed and approved with corresponding budgetary appropriations. Close monitoring shall be done on the utilization of the mandatory one percent allocation for Local Councils for the Protection of Children, as provided for in RA 9344. Agency standards shall be formulated by member and coordinating agencies of the JJWC. Media guidelines on reporting cases of CAR/CICL will be enhanced to ensure that children's rights to confidentiality are upheld.

Policy briefs and evidence-based position papers, together with other IEC materials, shall be prepared, updated and disseminated and used for legislative briefings/hearings.

A Research Agenda on Juvenile Justice and Welfare. The JJWC shall pursue policy researches and other studies on issues affecting CAR and CICL and the implementation of the amended RA 9344:

- A Study on Children Affected by the War on Drugs. A study to determine the effects on children of the government's war on drugs. Data on effects/impact on children need to be collected: who were killed and who were affected (those abandoned by or parents are missing)
- Descriptive Study on Existing Intervention Programs and Public Investments for CAR and CICL
- Updating of Legal Research on RA 9344 as amended

The DSWD shall also conduct A Study on Diversion and Alternatives to Detention: A Documentation of Good Practices.

Primary and Secondary Interventions for Children At-Risk. Children at-risk shall be provided with primary and secondary interventions by concerned national government agencies and LGUs to prevent them from committing crimes.

Families and communities shall be empowered to initiate and undertake diversion programs. LGUs are expected to put up effective family-based and community-based prevention programs.

Residential Care, Rehabilitation and Diversion

Center-Based and Residential Care Facilities. Center-based services and residential care facilities provide 24-hour facilities to enable the rehabilitation of CICL: *Bahay Pag-Asa* and Regional Rehabilitation Center for the Youth. LGUs and DSWD shall continue to maintain and expand BPAs and RRCYs. All or 100 percent of BPAs and RRCYs shall be targeted for accreditation by DSWD.

BPA standards shall be integrated in the Revised DSWD AO No. 15 “Revised Residential Care Service”.

NGO Residential Care Services. NGOs reinforce access of CICL to public center-based and residential care services. They shall review the situation of children in their residential home with sworn statements prior to the appearance of children in court. Counselling shall be provided before, during and after court hearings to ensure their protection and safety while being interviewed or testifying in court. An agreement with referring agencies shall be forged to delineate roles: NGOs provide residential care services while government agencies are responsible for the court case process. Around 15,000 persons per year shall be targeted under the program which shall be focussed mainly in Metro Manila and shall cover other provinces.

BPA-Intensive Juvenile Intervention Support Center (IJISC) Program. The IJISC program shall ensure access of CICL to community-based interventions to reduce re-offending by CICL. A program guide shall be used for full implementation.

Buklod Paglaom para sa CICL: Holistic Psychosocial and Economic Interventions for CICL shall be pilot-tested by the DSWD in Regions II, X, XII and NCR. The program shall have three (3) components: (a) individual and family therapy which will be based on therapy models from clinical psychology, group work and advocacy sessions which shall respond to negative influence, specifically Aggression Replacement Training and Functional Family Therapy; (b) group work and advocacy sessions which shall respond to negative influence and pressures exerted on a child by his peers to participate in gangs, engage in drug use or abuse and other illegal activities; and (c) intensive aftercare includes application of the transitional living strategy, provision of skills training at BPA, conduct of home visits and follow-up sessions, coaching volunteers, BCPCs and *Pag-Asa* Youth Association members and provision of livelihood package to ensure continuity of care to CICL who have completed their rehabilitation program.

Agricultural Camps. CICL serving sentences shall be transferred from the National *Bilibid* Prison (NBP) and other facilities to agricultural camps. Agricultural camps shall be established and managed by the Bureau of Corrections (BuCor), in coordination with DSWD. The following agricultural camps shall be established: Luzon-3 (2 for male, 1 female); Visayas-2 (1 male, 1 female); and, Mindanao-3 (2 male, 1 female).

CICL Diversion from Formal Court Proceedings. JJWC shall issue resolutions on guidelines in diversion and other alternatives to detention for zero children in jail and other locked-up facilities. The enhanced use of diversion and other alternatives to detention shall be promoted at the following levels: *Katarungang Pambarangay*; law enforcement; prosecution; and the Courts. Policies, procedures and rules on diversion and alternative measures at all levels shall be firmed up, implemented, promoted and evaluated. A qualitative research shall be conducted to inform the government of the practice and effectiveness of diversion.

Intensified advocacy campaigns/information drive on diversion program shall be undertaken for all barangays. A training module on diversion shall be developed for all concerned duty bearers.

Aftercare and Reintegration

Aftercare Program. Aftercare services, supervision and support shall be provided by the multi-disciplinary team (MDT) for the safe and smooth transition of CICL into the community and to prevent recidivism. Local Social Welfare and Development Officers (LSWDOs), with technical assistance and support from the RJJWC, shall work together to connect CICL with programs and services they need after being rehabilitated and released from residential care. They shall be assisted in acquiring essential living skills and referred to alternative learning programs, technical skills development, and employment programs to improve their life chances.

Reintegration Program. CICL discharged from center-based and residential care facilities shall be prepared for their reintegration to society through conduct of case conferences, orientation, and the formulation of transitional living plans. Parents and families shall also be prepared by social workers, through home visitations, to welcome children back to their homes and for acceptance by the community. Close coordination and meeting will be pursued with all stakeholders including Family Court Judges, the DSWD Social Welfare and Development (SWAD) teams, Local Chief Executives, LGU social workers, barangay council members.

Parents and caregivers of CICL and CAR shall be equipped with parenting skills to practice and use positive discipline in raising up their children, fulfil their parental obligations to their children, and prevent domestic violence and juvenile delinquency (Outcome 3.5.2).

Positive Parenting

Positive parenting skills shall be integrated in Parent Effectiveness Services (PES), Family Development Sessions, Empowerment and Re-Affirmation of Paternal Abilities (ERPAT), Parent-Teacher-Community Associations (PTCAs), National Family Violence Prevention Program (NFVPP) and in other parenting programs of both the government and NGOs. Additionally, positive parenting skills development shall be included in the curriculum of the Commission on Higher Education and the DepEd curriculum for social workers, health workers and teachers.

Capacity building for duty-bearers for their knowledge and skills development in implementing positive parenting programs shall be implemented. These duty-bearers include social workers, social work assistants, child development workers, day care workers, health workers, teachers, and staff of child caring institutions such as house parents, community organizers, barangay workers, police officers, psychologists, psychiatrists and church workers.

CICL and CAR shall also be equipped with age-appropriate life skills education and positive behaviour to enable them to resist illegal drugs, alcohol and tobacco use, violence, criminal acts and other high-risk behaviours (Outcome 3.5.3).

Life Skills Education and Positive Behaviour of Children

Age-appropriate life skills education and positive behaviour for children and adolescents shall be integrated into the curriculum for the training of teachers, DCWs, CDWs, social workers, and community development workers. A manual on life skills and positive behaviour shall be developed for implementation in existing school-based and community-based activities for children and adolescents. School-, institution- and community-based interventions on positive, preventive and protective behaviour, self-management, and life skills that will allow children to resist illegal drugs, alcohol and tobacco use, violence, criminal acts and other high-risk behaviours shall be implemented and monitored.

Awareness Raising

NGO Program on ‘Ang Bata at Ang Batas’ (The Child and the Law). The program shall focus on raising awareness and capability building to equip parents, officials, and youth with knowledge of laws protecting children. The project shall have four (4) phases: Phase 1 will focus on setting up of the system which shall basically consist of the formation of children advocates, selection of experts, and training materials development. Phase 2 will focus on training. It is also in this phase, when the project will implement the actual training at the local level. Phase 3 will concentrate on the development of other training aids such as video, advocacy works including consultations, dialogues, forums, and other activities to raise public and community awareness. Phase 4 will focus on the documentation of best practices and impact evaluation of the project to all stakeholders as well as to the community.

The development of results-based research, information, monitoring and evaluation system on CICL/CAR (Outcome 3.5.4) shall be done through the conduct of policy researches and the establishment of a national juvenile justice and welfare

management information system. RA 9344, as amended by RA 10630, shall be implemented and monitored effectively, and policy gaps shall be identified and fully addressed (Outcome 3.5.6).

Results-Based Research, Information Management, Monitoring and Evaluation

Policy researches and other studies are discussed in the earlier section of this Chapter, under Research Agenda.

A national juvenile justice and welfare management information system (NJYW-MIS) with accurate and updated information on CICA at the national, regional and local levels shall be established and used for planning, program development, and policy adjustments. JJWC monitoring and evaluation mechanisms and tools with indicators shall be set consistent with global juvenile justice indicators and shall be utilized to generate regular accomplishment reports and to identify policy and program gaps and recommendations. The NJYW-MIS is discussed further in Child Monitoring Data Systems in Chapter 27 on Reporting, Monitoring and Evaluation.

All relevant organizational structures for CICA and CAR at all levels shall be made functional, strengthened and recognized as the lead authority on juvenile justice and welfare system (Outcome 3.5.5) with capacity building and technical support provided by the National and Regional Secretariat of JJWC.

Organizational structures for CICA and CAR

Organizational structures for CICA and CAR at all levels, spearheaded by the JJWC together with the Regional Juvenile Justice and Welfare Committees and the Local Councils for the Protection of Children, shall be made functional, strengthened and recognized as the lead authority on juvenile justice and welfare system. The JJWC National Secretariat and the RJJWC Secretariat in all regions provide quality technical support to the JJWC and RJJWCs along program development, policy formulation, capacity building, advocacy, research, monitoring and evaluation.

Chapter 19 Ending Abuse and Exploitation of Children

Assessment and Challenges

The regions with the highest reported cases of child pornography cases are NCR, Central Luzon, Central Visayas, Zamboanga Peninsula, and Northern Mindanao.³⁴

There is a lack of understanding on the issue of child pornography that results to low reporting of incidence and difficulty in identifying victims. The low reporting of incidents and the difficulty in identifying the victims of child pornography serve as challenges in the delivery of mandatory programs and services for victims of child pornography as provided for in RA 9775 or the Anti-Child Pornography Act of 2009.

Recovery and rehabilitation programs and services for victims have not yet been fully maximized with only 124 cases served by the DSWD and other government and non-government agencies. The lack of available data and proper documentation of cases is a problem.

Although cognizant of the difficulty in obtaining data because of its sensitive nature, a study, nonetheless, needs to be undertaken to determine the magnitude and extent of physical and sexual abuse and exploitation to inform policymakers for the development of programs and interventions, and their eventual enforcement and implementation that will build up towards ending the abuse and exploitation of children.

Goal and Expected Outcomes

Goal 3.6 All forms of abuse and exploitation of children are reduced by 2022 towards subsequently ending them

Outcome 3.6.1 Evidence-based studies provide information on causes, nature and extent of commercial sexual exploitation and child pornography

Outcome 3.6.2 Children, youth and their parents are empowered and educated on child protection from online sexual abuse and exploitation

Outcome 3.6.3 Children victims of abuse, violence and exploitation have access to help online and free legal counselling

Outcome 3.6.4 Children are empowered to reject abuse, violence and exploitation and led to their healing and recovery

Strategies

Given the popularity and accessibility of today's information and communication technology to the young and adult generation, solutions suggest the use of the same technology platforms which bait children and youth to online child abuse. Child online protection shall be a core strategy that can lead to halting child abuse and exploitation.

³⁴ Based on the 2010-2015 report of the Inter-Agency Council against Child Pornography.

Stopping child abuse and exploitation shall be done through the concerted efforts of different specialized offices or bureaus of national government agencies, including the Philippine Center for Transnational Crimes, and inter-agency councils, and partnership with NGOs.

Legal protection and assistance shall be provided for the rescue and filing of cases of abused and exploited children.

Policies, Programs and Projects

Evidence-based studies shall be conducted to determine the causes, nature and extent of commercial sexual exploitation and child pornography (Outcome 3.6.1) in order to establish the basis for the reduction of abuse and exploitation of children (Goal 3.6).

A comprehensive qualitative and quantitative study shall be undertaken to assess the causes, nature and extent of commercial sexual exploitation and child pornography. The study can provide policymakers and program planners with evidence-based information for the development of stronger and more deterrent measures, strategies and interventions that can eventually halt abuse and exploitation.

The #StopChildPornPh Program is the national online prevention and protection strategy aimed at educating and empowering children, youth and their parents on child protection from online sexual abuse and exploitation (Outcome 3.6.2).

#StopChildPornPh Program. The #StopChildPornPh Project is a National Online Prevention and Protection against Child Pornography. The major focus of the project is to educate and empower children and youth, their parents or guardians, and other child duty-bearers, e.g. barangay leaders and social development (SWD) service providers on child protection online. It has three (3) major components: (a) establishment of #StopChildPornPh web portal wherein online platforms shall be patterned after popular applications or internet mediums such as social media apps e.g. Facebook, twitter and instagram, gaming apps, mobile apps, government services link or online referral system; (b) organization and capability building of children and youth, parents/guardians and other child duty-bearers as cyber patrollers; and (c) organization and capability building of child online protection specialists. An online reporting and referral system shall be established. Child Online Protection (COP) information, education and communication (IEC) materials shall be developed by COP core group of specialists and widely disseminated. The project shall be pilot-tested in five (5) regions with high reports of child pornography cases: NCR, Central Luzon, Central Visayas, Zamboanga Peninsula, and Northern Mindanao. The project shall ensure that the covert issue on child pornography will be unleashed and properly documented to become sources of learning and basis of intervention building or enhancement.

Stopping online abuse and cyber-bullying, access to help online and free legal counselling shall be provided to prevent and protect children from becoming victims of abuse, violence and exploitation (Outcome 3.6.3).

Stopping Online Abuse and Cyber-Bullying. Related to stopping online child pornography, children shall be protected from online abuse and exploitation. A quad media advocacy strategy shall be developed to further deter online abuse. The Inter-Agency Council against

Child Pornography (IACACP) shall steer the initiatives to stop online abuse and exploitation with the Department of Justice (DOJ) Office of Cybercrime (OOC) on the lead.

HELPLINE. A child-sensitive HELPLINE for children shall be developed and popularized as an avenue for reporting and counselling all forms of violence and exploitation of children. It shall be established and made accessible throughout the country, including in areas under emergency situations. The agencies involved are the DSWD, DILG, PNP and LGUs.

Free Legal Counselling. Free legal counselling and advice and legal aid to child victims of abuse shall be provided, by DOJ and the Public Attorney's Office (PAO) including case management support for those who choose to file a case in court.

NGOs shall support the empowerment of children to reject abuse, violence and exploitation and led to their healing and recovery (Outcome 3.6.4)

NGO Program on Boys Reject Abuse, Violence and Exploitation (BRAVE) and PEACE. BRAVE associations among boys, both children and youth, shall be established. A pool of resource speakers among them shall be developed to become frontline advocates against all forms of violence and exploitation. Gender Sensitivity Training (GST) and other child protection training workshops shall be conducted including GST sessions in schools and communities especially among men and boys. A Stop the Demand campaign shall be launched using social media and print advocacy/campaigns. The program shall target 15,000 persons annually.

To strengthen Child Protection Clinic on Wheels program, NGOs shall advocate at the grassroots level to equip and assist community members in setting up their own protective alert system in order to safeguard children from all forms of abuse and exploitation. Children and youth who are survivors of child sexual abuse shall be accompanied towards their healing and recovery and towards becoming good Christians, honest and productive citizens.

The PEACE program, on the other hand, is intended for the healing and recovery of resident girls who are survivors of sexual abuse. PEACE stands for the following: P – protective and nurturing environment; E – expression of their feelings without judgment; A – analyse their situation and accepting their reality of being abused/trafficked; C – claim control over one's life and assertiveness training; and, E – empower to plan and rebuild their lives for the future.

Chapter 20 Keeping Children Away from Living and Working on the Streets

Assessment and Challenges

Street children can be children on the street and children of the street. Children on the street are children who spend a majority of their time on the street to earn their livelihood but normally return home to their communities or to their families on a regular basis. Children of the street spend most of their time on the street, living, working or playing.

Children of the street may belong to families who also live on the streets or they have families in communities but return home infrequently. They are generally not in school and have chosen to live on the street because of problems at home, including extreme poverty, violence and substance abuse. These children are either abandoned or neglected.

No exact number of street children in the country is available because of their mobility and their seasonal stay in the streets. A rapid appraisal of street children and street families in Metro Manila was conducted by DSWD-NCR in 2016 where a total of 14,759 were reached-out. Manila had the most reached-out cases with 9,790 (66.3%). Children comprise the most number of reached-out cases with 53.9 percent compared to the 46.1 percent of adults reached-out. From among these children: 51.7 percent were returned to their families and relatives, 37 percent were sheltered in LGU-run facilities, 4.9 percent were referred to DSWD-RCFs and 4.4 percent were referred to other LGUs of residence. A small percentage or 0.26 percent were referred to NGOs/community-based organizations/faith-based organizations and another 1.8 percent were referred to the National Center for Mental Health for psychiatric evaluation and treatment.

Although the rapid appraisal was conducted only in 2016, the focus and coverage was limited to particular streets in ten (10) priority areas which were identified due to high incidence/prevalence of street dwellers in the areas. There is a need to conduct a more comprehensive survey that includes other urban centers in other parts of the country.

Goal and Expected Outcomes

Goal 3.7 Children are not at-risk on the streets of Metro Manila and other urban centers

Outcome 3.7.1 Circumstances of children on and of the streets are identified and analysed for appropriate and responsive policy and program recommendations

Outcome 3.7.2 Highly urbanized cities and urban centers have LGU-specific programs to keep children away from the streets

Outcome 3.7.3 Street children, street families and Bajau children and families are provided with a comprehensive program

Outcome 3.7.4 Homeless street families with children return to their local communities for inclusion in the regular and modified CCT program

Strategies

A baseline study shall be conducted to determine the numbers of street children and who they are to inform policymakers and LGUs for development of appropriate plans and interventions and budget allocations.

Poverty alleviation measures such as CCT and other livelihood programs shall include street families and their children as beneficiaries.

Contiguous LGUs shall work together for a concerted effort to keep children off the streets. LGUs, in partnership with regional DSWD and DepEd, shall ensure that they are able to provide safe havens and home facilities for street children who are homeless coupled with appropriate health care, nutrition and getting them back to school.

Policies, Programs and Projects

The circumstances of children on and of the streets shall be identified and analysed for appropriate and responsive policy and program recommendations (Outcome 3.7.1) to prevent them from becoming at-risk on the streets particularly in highly urbanized cities and other urban centers.

The CWC shall pursue a study that shall determine the population of street children on and of the streets in known areas where they proliferate, establish their socio-demographic profiles, and analyse their situations to come up with an appropriate/responsive policy and programmatic recommendations.

LGU-specific programs and projects for street children in highly urbanized cities and urban centers shall be developed and implemented to keep them safe and away from the streets (Outcome 3.7.2).

LGUs can also replicate the **Reach-Out** strategy in the NCR. Reach-Out is the process by which the children are physically taken away from the streets and hazardous environment to protect them from further harm or abuse and are brought to a diagnostic and assessment center for further assessment and case management. Children can be returned to their respective families and relatives, sheltered in LGU-run facilities or referred to DSWD or in the LGUs where the children actually reside.

In addition to LGU street children programs, project Homes and a comprehensive program shall be provided to street children and street families and Bajau children and families (Outcome 3.7.3).

Project HOMES and Comprehensive Program for Street Children, Street Families and Bajaus. Project HOMES is an on-going concept being developed by the Social Technology Bureau of DSWD. A comprehensive program for street children and street families and Bajau children and families on/of the streets shall be provided.

Homeless street families with children shall be included in the regular and modified CCT program by giving them the regular packages and additional interventions such as psychosocial and therapeutic services, livelihood opportunities, to keep them

away from the streets and to enable them to return to their local communities (Outcome 3.7.4).

Modified CCT for Homeless Street Families (HSF) with Children. The unique needs of homeless street families and street children shall be addressed through the program. It aims to: provide an intensive family case management and delivery of comprehensive program and services; connect the homeless street families to appropriate formal programs/institutions; and help homeless street families to return to their local communities for inclusion in the regular program. Beneficiaries shall be those with children age 0-18 years old identified as homeless street families by CSOs in the region, LGUs or DSWD Field Offices and are not included in *Listahanan* as regular beneficiary of the CCT. The program package consists of a direct grant of Php300-Php500 per child per month enrolled in school and direct grant of Php500 per family per month for the health package. Other support services and interventions shall be provided in the immediate short-term. In addition, therapeutic and psychosocial interventions and access to job and livelihood opportunities shall be provided. MCCT guarantees that street children beneficiaries shall have direct access to services.

Chapter 21 Alternative Parental Care for Abandoned and Unaccompanied Children and Children Separated from their Families

Assessment and Challenges

External factors such as natural disasters, pandemics, severe economic downturn; household factors such as poverty or domestic violence; and, individual factors such as disability, drug abuse or parental incapacity all potentially have negative impacts on family integrity that could result to neglect of care to children.

Children are given up for adoption because of poverty and the growing number of young single mothers who have unwanted children. Relatives and extended families generally take care of orphaned children in the Philippines but when they themselves are poor, the responsibility becomes a burden.

There are a number of difficult or complicated cases encountered by the DSWD that were not explicitly stated in Republic Act 9523³⁵. Internal and external factors on the turn-around time of cases for the issuance of CDCLAA or the Certification Declaring a Child Legally Available for Adoption affect compliance to the prescribed timeline.

There is no current system that monitors the movement of cases of children for alternative parental care nationwide in real time, including the actual number of NGO-Child-Caring Agencies. As such, the DSWD could hardly obtain a universe of eligible children for adoption or foster care in residential care facilities.

Advocacy for the program is wanting. Few prospective adoptive parents and foster parents are being developed and licensed by the DSWD. Most of them have no capability to care for siblings and children with special needs while some refuse to care for children with negative family background. These children are either cleared for inter-country adoption and be adopted by foreign adoptive parents or stay in the facility for long-term care and placement.

Many adoptive parents tend to resort to birth simulation due to the tedious process and costs involved in the judicial process of adoption. To address the issue of “simulated births”, RA 8552, the Domestic Adoption Act, provided for an amnesty period to legitimize the relationships of parents with children they supposedly “adopted”. However, this was not fully availed of. Several bills were filed and are pending in Congress that provided for a new ten-year amnesty period. It also provided for administrative adoption where petitions for rectification of simulated birth and petitions for adoption could be filed with the Local Social Welfare and Development Office.

The Foster Care Act of 2012 strengthens family and alternative parental care arrangements through a strengthened foster care program, provision of incentives for foster care families

³⁵ Republic Act 9523 An Act Requiring Certification of the Department of Social Welfare And Development (DSWD) to Declare a "Child Legally Available for Adoption" as a Prerequisite for Adoption Proceedings, Amending for This Purpose Certain Provisions of Republic Act No. 8552, Otherwise Known as the Domestic Adoption Act of 1998, Republic Act No. 8043, Otherwise Known As The Inter-Country Adoption Act of 1995, Presidential Decree No. 603, Otherwise Known as The Child And Youth Welfare Code, and For Other Purposes

and relaxation of requirements. Children who may be entitled to foster care are those with developmental or physical disability, or those who are homeless, victims of armed conflict or trafficking. Under the law, LGUs have been given the primary responsibility in implementing related programs. As of 2015, there were 1,705 licensed foster parents accredited and accessed by DSWD. Between 2011 and 2016 (Q1), 3,734 children were placed in foster care. From 2012 to 2015, PhP41 million has been utilized for the implementation of the Act.

RA 9523 of 2009 requires the certification of the DSWD to declare a child legally available for adoption, as a pre-requisite for local and inter-country adoption. From 2009 to 2015, a total of 4,859 CDCLAAAs were issued, of which 2,854 were through regular/agency adoption, 168 through foster parent's adoption, and 1,837 through direct placement. From 2009 – 2015, a total of 979 children were locally adopted, while 2,854 were cleared for inter-country adoption (ICA). In 2016, 440 children were cleared for ICA, including relative adoption cases.

A continuing challenge for maintaining an appropriate family environment is the rising number of overseas Filipino workers (OFWs) who leave behind their children. As of 2015, there were 2,447,000 reported OFWs, of which 1,197,000 are male and 1,250,000 are female. As a result, an estimated 3 to 6 million children are left behind, either by one or both parents. The social costs of labor migration outweigh the economic benefits as the separation can affect family relationships. Young children of migrant workers regard themselves as having been abandoned by their parents while many adolescents tend to be resentful.

Children of parents in correctional facilities are also left behind in the custody of relatives or other family members. CWC commissioned a study in 2016 which provided baseline information on the experience of children with parents in correctional facilities. The study noted that children do experience the negative impacts of having incarcerated parents, such as the absence of a normal family environment, bullying due to the stigma of having a parent in jail, lack of access to basic services such as quality education and health care. The study also found that there were no services specifically for children of inmates.

The study recommended advocacy, policy, and implementation measures that government can undertake. Clearer policies and standards for children with incarcerated parents are needed, coupled with coordination with concerned agencies and NGOs. Information campaigns are also needed to inform inmates and their families about their rights.

Goal and Expected Outcomes

Goal 3.8 Children left behind are safe and in the care of foster or adoptive parents, other family members and relatives

Outcome 3.8.1 Eligible children are placed out for foster care or for adoption

Outcome 3.8.2 Children abandoned, neglected and orphaned are provided with NGO-initiated family and kinship care interventions

Outcome 3.8.3 A plan of action for children with parents who work overseas, in detention/correctional facilities and children left behind by soldiers killed in action and

with parents who are drug dependent is developed to keep them safe and prevented from violence and abuse by their caregivers

Strategies

The Association of Child Caring Agencies in the Philippines (ACCAP) and the Council for the Welfare of Children Committee on the Family and Alternative Parental Care (ComFAPC) shall continue to disseminate the UN Guidelines for the Alternative Care of Children among relevant stakeholders and duty bearers. Popularizing this and ensuring the implementation of the guidelines will pave the way for the review of existing policies, criteria and procedures in the licensing and accreditation of child caring and child placing government and non-government agencies.

Alternative parental care shall be provided to abandoned and neglected children through two (2) established programs of the DSWD: (a) the Foster Care Program, and (b) the Adoption Program.

Policies and programs shall be developed for considerably new categories of children left behind that have not been given attention. Children left behind also include those whose parents work overseas, incarcerated or in correctional facilities and whose parent/s were soldiers killed in action and those whose drug-dependent parents were imprisoned or killed in the “war on drugs”.

Policies, Programs and Projects

Alternative parental care for abandoned, neglected and orphaned children shall be provided by placing out eligible children to foster care or for legal adoption (Outcome 3.8.1) in accordance with existing laws.

In addition to existing laws, a Philippine Adoption Act for Abandoned and Neglected Children and for Children with Special Needs and the amendment to RA 8972 on Benefits and Privileges to Solo Parents and their Children shall be pursued. Both measures are identified in the legislative agenda of the PDP.

Children who need parental care are those who are neglected and abandoned for which an alternative parental care program is in place and will be strengthened.

Alternative Family Care Program: Foster Care and Adoption. The DSWD is the primary agency that manages and oversees alternative family care and child placement services particularly foster care and adoption. Laws on alternative care were enacted: RA 10165 on foster care, RA 8552 on domestic adoption, and RA 9523 on certification for legal adoption. These laws that mandate the provision of services for children needing temporary or permanent placement are being strengthened to ensure that no hurried decision is made for relinquishing parental authority for the child’s best interest.

DSWD Field Offices promote foster care as the best substitute parental care arrangement for children in need of temporary care, develop and maintain a pool of licensed foster parents and place eligible for foster care to experience one-on-one care and to deinstitutionalize children from residential care facilities. Children under foster care are also given subsidy for their basic needs.

Children below 18 years old deprived of family care and protective services shall be provided with home and family environment and temporary parental care. Children who may be entitled to foster care are those with developmental or physical disability, or those who are homeless, victims of armed conflict or trafficking. Advocacy on the benefits of being a foster parent shall be intensified and foster care arrangement process shall be simplified without prejudice to the requirements/process of DSWD.

The DSWD Field Office facilitates the development of local prospective adoptive parents and the regional matching conference of children based on the domestic adoption law and the foster care law. Inter-regional matching is done in the DSWD Central Office and facilitates the clearance of Filipino children for inter-country adoption.

NGOs shall support government initiatives for children abandoned, neglected and orphaned by providing them with their programs on family and kinship care interventions (Outcome 3.8.2)

NGO Family-Based Care and Family Strengthening Program. Eight (8) NGO Children's Villages were established for children who have lost parental care (orphaned and abandoned children) and those at-risk of losing parental care (neglected, abused and poverty stricken children). In these villages are family houses, where the center of the delivery of its program is the individual child. Children's Village takes on a holistic approach to child development by providing protection, education and health in a caring village environment and a loving home. The program shall include professional specialized advice and counseling specific therapies, educational specialists and psychologists. Children's village is supported with professional staff (social workers, educational specialists, nurses, etc.) to empower families and the families to care and empower their children. Children who lost parental care are covered with the program inside the village.

Program interventions include: (a) provision and linking access of educational health services, participation and child protection to information, capacity building and responsibilities and reproductive health to children and youth; (b) family development services; and (c) community empowerment through resource sharing and sustainable partnerships.

NGO Youth Development and Empowerment Program. Children's village acknowledges the transformation of children to adolescence for those under their care - both for those inside the village and for those outside the village with the latter having either minimal or full supervision. Aside from the transition phase they are undergoing as adolescents, the youth will be transferred to the Youth Facility, separately as boys and girls as they reach the age of 14 for boys and 16 for girls, where they experience the rite of passage from childhood going to adulthood. The transfer is a preparation for them to become responsible individuals especially in facing the different changes and challenges along the way. All 14-year-old youth boys will

stay in the youth facility until they are 17 years old. In the youth facility, they live together under the guidance and supervision of an adult youth care worker, male coworker for boys and female coworker for girls. The youth are given life skills training necessary to prepare them to pursue life on their own. The facility is a training ground where structure and discipline are emphasized, while families left in the village will remain as the source of love and support.

NGO Kinship Care Program for Tacloban City. Immediate services like food, clothing and education were provided to 150 children who lost their parents because of typhoon Haiyan. Session on parenting, child protection and child rights were also conducted. After almost four (4) years, an assessment will be conducted to redesign and improve its package of services to provide the needs and uplift the situation of children who lost their parents. It aims to involve LGUs and local social welfare and development offices for the sustainability of kinship as an alternative care.

A plan of action for children left behind, whose parents work overseas, in detention/correctional facilities and children left behind by soldiers killed in action and with parents who are drug dependent, shall be developed to keep them safe and prevented from violence and abuse by their caregivers (Outcome 3.8.3).

A Plan of Action for Children Left Behind. Children are also left behind by parents who work overseas and whose parents are in correctional facilities. Children of soldiers killed in action and those with drug dependent parents are also left behind. These children are in different situations and need specific interventions. A program plan for children left behind shall be formulated. A study on parents in correctional facilities was already conducted in 2016 while an analysis of the effects on children and consequences of family separation owing to search for greener pastures can be similarly initiated. Data can also be gathered on children left behind by soldiers killed in action and by drug-dependent parents who were either killed or imprisoned resulting from the “war on drugs”.

Part V Child Participation

3RD NPAC GOAL 4 CHILDREN ARE ACTIVELY PARTICIPATING IN DECISION-MAKING PROCESSES AFFECTING THEIR LIVES ACCORDING TO THEIR EVOLVING CAPACITIES

Children can be involved in decision-making and their suggestions/recommendations are considered in all aspects, levels and settings affecting their lives in accordance with their evolving capacities. The inputs of children are incorporated in the plans from situational analysis to strategic planning to implementation and evaluation. They can also be involved or consulted in legislative and policy development of measures that affect them.

The Philippines Child Participation Framework defines the various venues and opportunities and the standards for child participation. The 3rd NPAC shall push for children's participation in governance processes and in conflict affected situations. Goal 4 strategic framework is illustrated in Figure 7 below.

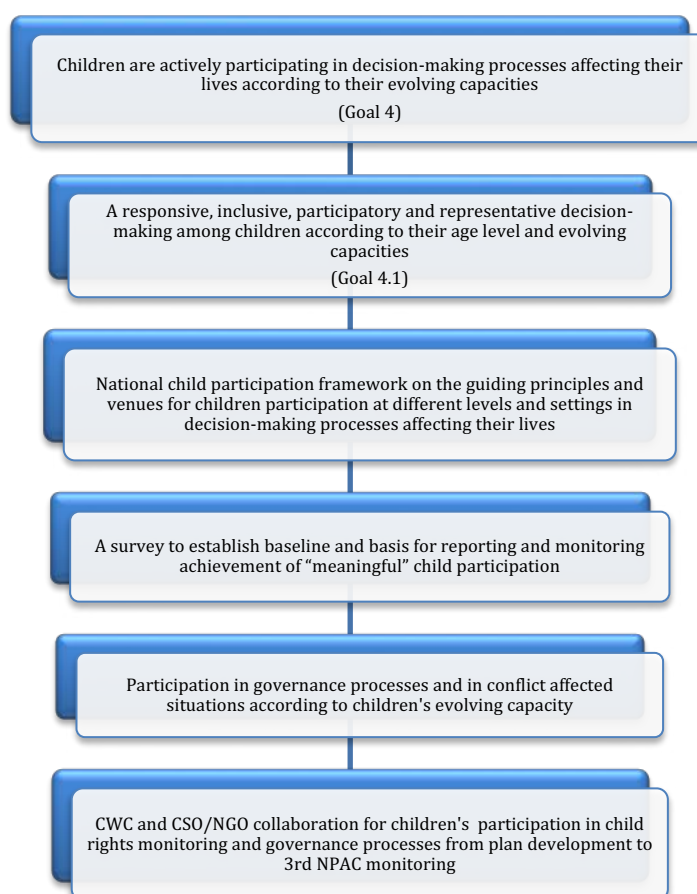


Figure 7 Goal 4 Strategic Framework

Chapter 22 Child Participation Framework

Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) Child Participation Framework

On a regional scale, child participation is given impetus in the context of emerging developments in the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) for which the Philippines chairs the third pillar on ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community (ASCC) through the Department of Social Welfare and Development.

ASEAN Consultation on Creating an Enabling Environment for Child Participation. This is a three-year project led by the Philippines that aims to help set a framework for promoting child participation in the ASEAN. It will be comprised of a series of activities including the conduct of a baseline study, the development of plans of action, and sharing of experiences.

Baseline Study on Children's Issues and Participation in the ASEAN.

The baseline study will be composed of a regional report and country reports from the ten (10) member-states including the Philippines. The target respondents of the study are: (a) children; (b) government agencies responsible for the rights of children; (c) civil society organizations actively working with children and their families; (d) individuals and organizations that are members of or working with persons or children with disability, indigenous groups, and other special groups or minorities; (e) members of the academe; and (f) religious groups. The aim of the baseline study is to determine how children can become more engaged in decision-making processes, as well as the factors that prevent them from engaging in the said processes.

ASEAN or the Association of Southeast Asian Nations is an organization comprising ten (10) countries in the Southeast Asian region: Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Indonesia, Lao People's Democratic Republic (Lao PDR), Malaysia, Myanmar, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, Vietnam. These countries are also members of the United Nations.

Under the ASEAN structure the issues of children are discussed within the ASEAN Socio-Cultural Committee and particularly by two sectoral ministerial bodies: the ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Social Welfare and Development (AMMSWD) which is a gathering of ministers of each country's Ministry or Department of Social Welfare and Development which meets once every three years and the ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Youth (AMMY) a gathering composed of ministers of Ministry or Department of Youth Affairs or its equivalent in each country which meets once every two years.

ASEAN Children's Forum (ACF). The ACF is a regional gathering / meeting for children every two (2) years organized to promote children's rights to participation wherein they are able to share their perspectives and recommendations on diverse issues that affect them. The conference was developed by CWC, UNICEF Philippines, and the National Committee for Child and Youth Participation (NCCYP).

The ASEAN Children's Forum and the establishment of the ASEAN Commission on the Promotion and Protection of the Rights of Women and Children (ACWC) are some of the platforms for children's participation.

Philippines' National Framework for Children's Participation

The National Framework for Children's Participation puts together the laws that uphold children's participation in the family, the community, and in nation building. It discusses the evolving definitions of children's participation, the guiding principles and venues where children can participate meaningfully. More importantly, the framework presents the voices of children, their experiences, opinions, and the lessons they have learned in upholding their participation. The spirit of the Framework is the children's voice. The Philippines' National Framework for Children's Participation was used as the benchmark for the development of the ASEAN framework.

National Guidebook on Child Participation in the Philippines. The CWC guidebook is designed to set national standards and criteria on child participation to provide policy, programmatic and technical and policy guidance in ensuring consistency in meaningful child participation. The guidebook shall be disseminated nationwide.

Guidebook on Child and Youth Participation. The child-friendly version of the national guidebook will also be disseminated nationwide. The main users of this particular guidebook are children and youth.

Spaces and Standards for Child Participation

Spaces for Child Participation. Children's right to participation can be exercised in diverse spaces such as the home, school, immediate community and in society at large.

Standards for Child Participation. A set of minimum standards have been developed as guide posts for events and activities conducted for and with children:

- An ethical approach: transparency, honesty and accountability – Adults should have children's best interest at heart and it should always be the primary consideration. Transparency means that everyone involved including children should be aware of how things are progressing. Honesty facilitates trust in the relationship between adult and children. Any important information that will equip the child to make good decisions regarding his or her participation should be given. There should be measures and processes in place to check if everything was done according to plans and existing policies.
- A children friendly environment – In order for children to be comfortable participating in activities, feel safe with the place and the over-all atmosphere should be friendly. Even the process of participation should be developed in a way that is accessible and easy to follow considering the capacity of the child. Children should be aware of possible dangers that may happen to them, e.g. when talking to adult strangers or going out of the venue of the activity. They should also be aware about the persons or groups they can approach to and report untoward incidents that may happen.
- Equality of opportunity – Every child should be given the chance or the option to participate regardless of physical capacity, gender, ethnicity, economic capacity or other

status. In some cases, adjustments to the design of an activity or provision of additional support should take place in order to allow everyone to join. It is also important that the design of activities or projects do not reinforce discrimination and violence between and among children.

- Participation promotes the safety and protection of children – Every endeavor where children are involved is a potential contribution to make their world a better place to live in. They are encouraged to share their views and experiences in the hope that there will be prompt and appropriate action from adults and authorities. As part of ensuring a child-friendly environment, all efforts must be made to ensure the safety of the child wherever he or she is engaged. Measures to prevent them from being exposed to harm or abuse should be made.
- Ensure the commitment and competency of adults involved in the process – Whatever role adults play in an activity that involves children would require them to be patient, skillful and sensitive to the needs of the child in order for him or her to have the optimum participation experience. The adult can be the partner, the mentor, the protector and the role model of the child in his or her quest to be involved in society.

Chapter 23 “Meaningful” Child Participation

Assessment and Challenges

Child participation and empowerment in decision-making affecting their lives is promoted in several settings but it is difficult to gauge unless a special survey is undertaken.

The extent of child participation through children’s associations or organizations which are normally established or are supported by NGOs duly registered, licensed, and accredited by the DSWD must be determined particularly if these can be considered “meaningful” child participation.

Children and youth are given opportunities to participate in local policymaking processes with the enactment of RA 10742 or the new *Sanggunian Kabataan (SK)* law in 2016. As yet, however, there are no standards and procedural guidelines for Local Youth Development Councils.

Goal and Expected Outcomes

Goal 4.1 A responsive, inclusive, participatory and representative decision-making among children according to their age level and evolving capacities (consistent with SDG 16.6)

Outcome 4.1.1 Children participation at different levels and settings in decision-making processes that affect their lives are guided by a national framework

Outcome 4.1.2 A survey on child participation provides data and information to determine “meaningful” child participation

Outcome 4.1.3 Children participate in governance processes and in conflict affected situations according to their evolving capacities

Outcome 4.1.4 Children are facilitated and empowered to participate in child rights monitoring and governance processes from plan development to 3rd NPAC monitoring

Strategies

The national child participation framework provides the guiding principles and venues for children participation at different levels and settings in decision-making processes that affect their lives (Outcome 4.1.1).

The national child participation framework sets the evolving definitions of children’s participation, the guiding principles and venues where children can participate meaningfully. Spaces and standards for child participation can be exercised in diverse spaces such as the home, school, immediate community and in society at large following a set of minimum standards as guide posts for events and activities conducted for and with children (as elaborated in Chapter 20).

While recognizing children and youth participation in family decisions and in school affairs, the 3rd NPAC strategy shall be levelled up to harness children's evolving capacity for and contribution to community development particularly in the area of governance.

Policies, Programs and Projects

Following the guiding principles and venues in the national child participation framework, data and information on "meaningful" child participation shall be determined by conducting a survey (Outcome 4.1.2) to establish the baseline and the basis for reporting and monitoring whether indeed "meaningful" child participation is achieved (Goal 4.1).

A Survey on Child Participation. A survey will be done to determine "meaningful" child participation. The survey can cover: (a) child participation and contribution in family decision processes to establish baseline; (b) student councils participating in the deliberations and decisions of the School Governing Council; and (c) whether indeed child representative actively participate in the LCPCs and their views are heard and considered. Furthermore, child and youth participation in community development shall be determined.

Local Youth Development Councils (LYDCs), *Sangguniang Kabataan*, and conflict-sensitive peace promoting capacity building shall provide children with opportunities to participation in governance processes and in conflict affected situations according to their evolving capacities (Outcome 4.1.3)

Children and Youth in Local Policymaking and Governance

The increase in the number of Local Youth Development Councils, with child youth representative as permanent member shall be promoted. The guidelines for the standards and procedures for Local Youth Development Councils as mandated in RA 10742 or the 2016 *Sangguniang Kabataan* law of 2016 are being drafted by the National Youth Commission (NYC), Commission on Elections (COMELEC) and DILG. IEC materials shall be developed to support the advocacy campaign for the new law. The "Know Elections Better" campaign shall be conducted.

The government internship program for the youth shall be expanded and shall gradually be introduced to children 15 to below 18 years old.

Child Participation in Conflict-Affected and Conflict-Vulnerable Areas

Conflict-Sensitive Peace Promoting (CSPP) Capacity Building. Compliance to participation of the child representation including other vulnerable groups (i.e., indigenous peoples, women, elderly and persons with disability) in the Comprehensive Development Plan formulation process shall be ensured.

CWC and CSO/NGO collaboration, organization of children and youth associations and the Child Rights Governance program shall facilitate and empower children to participate in child rights monitoring and governance processes from plan development to 3rd NPAC monitoring (Outcome 4.1.4).

CSO/NGO Child Participation Initiatives

CWC and CSOs and NGOs shall continuously collaborate in promoting and supporting child participation in the following: awareness-raising and mobilization; formation of children and parent's associations; creation of venues and opportunities for child participation; guidance for children's representation in local structures; capacity building and training; values development sessions; and sustainability mechanism. Children and youth shall be organized into associations towards their empowerment and development. Venues for child participation shall be created wherein they will be enabled to voice out their opinions and ideas and opportunities shall be initiated for children helping children and youth helping youth.

Child Rights Governance (CRG). The scope of CRG program includes child rights monitoring, strengthening local and national governance for children through children and CSO participation, and public investment in children. The program interventions include capacity building among children, CSOs and government bodies and agency, strengthening partnerships, coalition and collective action, building evidence on the current child rights situation (i.e. development of child rights monitoring report), and supporting advocacy and social accountability or the constructive engagement between citizens and government in monitoring government's use of public resources to improve service delivery, protect rights and promote community welfare, particularly on the full implementation of the RA 10821. The CRG program engages LGUs through partnership and capacity building initiatives on child rights and social accountability.

Empowering Children to Participate in Monitoring the Implementation of the 3rd NPAC. The program shall involve partner children's organizations of the Civil Society Coalition on the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CSC-CRC) and members of the Children Talk to Children about the UNCRC (C2C) Coalition. It shall provide technical assistance and support to CWC in designing and implementing a clear and comprehensive mechanism for monitoring the implementation of the 3rd NPAC together with children. It will further provide a platform for children to report about their situation in relation to 3rd NPAC implementation.

Part VI Implementation, Coordination and Monitoring

National government agencies and inter-agency councils are the major duty-bearers of the 3rd NPAC with the Council for the Welfare of Children (CWC) at the forefront.

The implementation and coordination mechanism for the 3rd NPAC shall involve the following:

-  The Council for the Welfare of Children, as the policy coordination body for children, is responsible for the overall directions, management, coordination, monitoring and evaluation of the 3rd NPAC.
-  Key national government agencies shall be responsible for related policies, programs and projects in accordance with their respective mandates: Armed Forces of the Philippines, Department of Agriculture, Department of Education, Department of Health, Department of the Interior and Local Government, Department of Labor and Employment, Department of Justice, Department of Social Welfare and Development, Early Child Care and Development Council, Juvenile Justice and Welfare Council, National Council on Disability Affairs, National Economic and Development Authority, National Youth Council, Office of the Presidential Adviser on the Peace Process.
-  Four Cs or the Convergence of Councils and Committees for Children and Other National Inter-Agency Committees
-  Regional Sub-Committees for the Welfare of Children

The critical role of LGUs in the 3rd NPAC together with Local Chief Executives, Local Development Councils, Local Councils for the Protection of Children which shall be supervised by the DILG and shall perform a mandatory audit on their Child-Friendly Local Governance.

The 3rd NPAC takes into account the contribution of CSOs and NGOs as valuable partners in the implementation, coordination and monitoring of the 3rd NPAC.

Reporting, monitoring and evaluation shall adopt a results-based monitoring system which shall be harmonized with other existing monitoring systems on children.

Chapter 24 Institutional Structures for 3rd NPAC Implementation and Coordination

The fulfilment of the aspirations and achievement of the goals and desired results of the 3rd NPAC shall require financial and human resources.

Budgetary resources for 3rd NPAC programs and projects, policy development and lobbying for legislative measures, research and other relevant undertakings shall be allocated on annual basis by concerned agencies. These shall be covered in the General Appropriations Act. LGU budgets shall be derived from their Internal Revenue Allotments and locally sourced revenues. Related 3rd NPAC programs and projects shall be reflected in Annual Investment Programs. Funding agencies such as the United Nations Children's Fund support national and local programs for children through its 8th Country Programme for Children. The private sector, CSOs, and NGOs shall fund their respective programs, projects and other initiatives.

The implementation and coordination of the 3rd NPAC involve different sectors at national and local government levels and established institutional structures.

Council for the Welfare of Children (CWC)

The Council for the Welfare of Children (CWC or Council), as the policy coordination body for children, is responsible for the overall directions, management, coordination, monitoring and evaluation of the 3rd NPAC.

The Council is comprised of an inter-agency Board and is supported by a Technical Management Group (TMG) and Secretariat. The Council Board provides the directions in the promotion and protection of the welfare of children, approves and adopts resolutions on specific concerns on children and youth. The TMG, comprised of Bureau or Service Directors, deliberates on the findings and the recommendations that affect the 3rd NPAC and is responsible for technical consistency, accuracy and relevance of policies and plans. It serves as clearing house for the Council Board. The Secretariat is tasked by the Council Board to oversee the management, coordination and monitoring of the 3rd NPAC and is responsible for ensuring that venues are provided and convened for consultation, review and reporting processes.

National government agencies, commissions and councils shall be responsible for ensuring that the goals, outcomes and targets of sectors pertinent to their respective mandates are achieved and that their programs, projects and activities are implemented, monitored and reported upon.

For common goals and targets, e.g. reduction of the incidence of child poverty, universal birth registration, and a lead agency among agencies concerned shall be identified to regularly monitor and report on status and progress of achieving the outcomes.

The Council for the Welfare of Children shall be responsible for the following:

- a) policy development which will entail the organization of a drafting committee and institutionalization of partnerships with law schools and other child rights legal

- luminaries for the development of draft bills, policies, guidelines, protocols and providing technical inputs to ensure that children's lens are taken into account;
- b) policy advocacy and lobbying by identifying and engaging champions for children's concerns, creation of lobby groups who can influence legislators/policymakers/others and establish partnership with pro-children legislators for the passage/issuance of child-focussed bills and policies and providing them with technical papers and policy briefs for informed policy decisions;
 - c) creation of venues and opportunities in fostering commitments for increased investments and budgetary support for children from both the public and private sectors;
 - d) development of policy briefs and other collaterals that can be used in advocating for legislative measures and policies which are in the priority agenda;
 - e) spearhead the development and mainstreaming of the 3rd NPAC in national and local development plans
 - f) strengthening the role of RSCWCs as the umbrella structure for children in the region and in the provision of technical assistance to sub-national stakeholders;
 - g) partnerships with research institutions, organization of a research advisory group and monitoring/tacking of progress and completion of the 3rd NPAC research agenda, dissemination and utilization of the research findings and recommendations to inform and enhance policies and programs; and,
 - h) monitoring and evaluation of the implementation of the 3rd NPAC using defined consultative processes, monitoring tools and evidence-based sources.

CWC shall have the following key deliverables for the 3rd NPAC:

Legislative and Policy Measures

1. Legislative Agenda for the 17th Congress and 18th Congress

The development of a Legislative Agenda for Children for the 17th and 18th Congress for the enactment of laws that shall address continuing, prevailing and emerging issues and concerns on children and compliance international standards and instruments to which the country is a party to shall be pursued in line with CWC's core function to initiate, promote and advocate the adoption of policies and measures to promote and protect children's rights.

Following is the CWC Legislative Agenda for the 17th Congress:

- Prohibition of Corporal Punishment and Promoting Positive Discipline
- Amendment to RA 8353 or the Anti-Rape Law to Increase the Age of Statutory Rape and Sexual Consent from 12 Years to 16 Years. Official data shows that majority of victims of rape are between the ages of 13-15 years old.
- Removal of the Distinction and Discrimination against Children Born Out-of-Wedlock
- Strengthening the Council for the Welfare of Children including the mandatory allocation of 5 percent from budgets of national government agencies and LGUs under the Government Appropriations Act
- An Act Providing for the Special Protection of Children in Situations of Armed Conflict and Promoting Penalties for Violations Thereof (House Bill No. 13)
- Protection of Children with Disabilities
- The proposed legislative agenda for the Protection of Children with Disabilities shall be further expanded to include the pending bill on inclusive education and the recommendation to use the LGU Special Education Fund (SEF) for CWDs.

The Legislative Agenda for the 18th Congress shall be developed based on the bills/measures that did not pass the 17th Congress and other emerging concerns which would legislation. In addition, CWC shall continue to support and advocate for legislative and policy measures for children. (Annex I – 3rd NPAC Legislative and Policy Agenda)

Legislative and policy advocacy shall be pursued at national and local levels in partnership with child rights networks and, child rights advocates which shall be formed into lobby groups. It shall tap eminent persons, luminaries, persons of authority or public officials and other personalities to promote and advocate for their personal and priority concern or advocacies as champions for children. CWC shall prepare policy briefs and provide technical support.

2. Codification of Children's Laws

The CWC shall pursue the finalization of the codification of children's laws and policies and endorsed for its passage into law. The codification of children's laws is expected to ensure coherence of the various legislative and policy measures and the scope, structures and budgetary requirements as stipulated in the various laws. Together with the DILG, the CWC shall ensure that a set of minimum standards for LGUs will be defined to guide LCEs on how to put into effect the mandatory requirements and stipulations of various laws on children. This would also include the consolidation of issuances/memorandum circulars/guidelines pertaining to the establishment and functionality of Local Councils for the Protection of Children and in coordination with other child- related mandated local structures.

3. Child Rights Protection Framework and System

The CWC is finalizing its Child Rights Protection Framework and System that shall provide a legal- and evidence-based conceptual and operational framework to inform policy making, planning and programming for child rights protection covering the four broad categories of child rights: survival, development, protection and participation. The framework shall identify the major drivers and determinants of child rights protection. It shall identify and respond to major and emerging issues and risks faced by the poorest and most vulnerable children and unfulfilled rights of children at national and sub-national levels.

4. Child Protection Policies in the Work Place

The CWC shall continue to advocate for government agencies and the business sector to craft their child protection policies in the workplace. The existence of said policies in the workplace is a measure can ensure that public servants and private sector executives and personnel consistently abide with child protection measures and deter or discourage them to commit any violations.

Studies and Research

5. 3rd NPAC Research Agenda and Research Advisory Group

The CWC shall organize a Research Advisory Group that shall review and provide technical advice in the proposed research agenda for the 3rd NPAC. Partnerships with research institutions shall be established. The CWC shall: (a) provide venues for the dissemination and utilization of the research findings and recommendations to inform and enhance policies and programs; (b) undertake some of the items in the Research Agenda; and (c) monitor and track progress of the national research agenda.

Plans and Programs

6. Guidelines for Mainstreaming the 3rd NPAC in Regional and Local Plans

The CWC shall provide modular guidelines for the mainstreaming of the 3rd NPAC and build capacities for regional and local planning for children.

7. Development of New Programs

The CWC shall develop new programs to contribute to the improvement of children's standard of living.

Data on child poverty incidence shall be established, in partnership with the Philippine Statistical Authority, to inform the development of an anti-child poverty program together with the National Anti-Poverty Commission, DILG and other concerned agencies.

The CWC shall engage the private sector to invest in adopting child-friendly LGUs, in partnership with the DILG. Business establishments, entities, foundations and other concerned private entities, through their corporate social responsibilities, shall be urged to adopt LGUs that do not meet or pass the Child-Friendly Local Government Audit. Appropriate interventions shall be provided to parent beneficiaries in the LGUs that shall be adopted. The

criteria for parent beneficiaries shall be aligned with those of KC-NCDDP, *Pantawid Pamilya* and Sustainable Livelihood Programs.

8. Acceleration of Monitoring and Reporting on Grave Child Rights Violations

Executive Order (EO) 138 for the Adoption of the Comprehensive Program Framework for Children in Armed Conflict was issued to protect children in armed conflict situations. EO 138 created and established a Monitoring, Reporting and Response System for Grave Child Rights Violations in Situations of Armed Conflict as the monitoring arm within the Children in Armed Conflict Program Framework. Its primary objective is to protect children in armed conflict situations by preventing the occurrence of grave child rights violations and ensuring timely response.

The CWC, as the focal agency for MRRS-GCRVSAC, established the appropriate coordinative network at the national and local levels and shall primarily be responsible for continuously conducting orientation activities on the Protocol on Monitoring, Reporting and Response System (MRRS). It shall further ensure that standard data and information pertaining to grave child rights violations are generated, compiled and made available for appropriate interventions by concerned agencies.

CWC shall continue to advocate for a law on Children in Armed Conflict as a comprehensive measure to halt children recruited in armed conflict or are caught in such situations. As of writing this plan, Senate Bill 1474 adopted the House of Representatives' version which combines the legal provisions contained in House Bills 13, 1280, 2345, 3050, 4676. CWC shall continue to lobby and monitor through its passage from deliberations in the Committee on Appropriations to plenary discussions to bicameral meetings.

Information, Education and Communication

9. Advocacy and Communication Plan for the 3rd NPAC

An advocacy and communication plan shall be designed to support the achievement of the goals and targets of the 3rd NPAC through appropriate and effective communication strategies and activities by: advocating for legislation and policies that promote and strengthen child rights and child welfare; mobilizing support for and participation in child rights programs; and, promoting good governance for child care and protection. Advocacy for children and related policies shall be based on documented evidences.

Multi-media campaigns shall be strengthened to promote and raise awareness in partnerships with the Presidential Communications Office, Philippine Information Agency, Philippine News Agency, Philippine Broadcast Services, PTV4 and other commercial media facilities, including social media. Social media shall form an integral part of media advocacy together with print, radio and television. CWC shall work with *Anak TV*, a conglomeration of all TV networks, for wider advocacy on children's rights.

After a successful 2016 One Million *Lapis* Campaign, the CWC shall campaign for one million school bags and supplies for children in situations of armed conflict in 2017. Public awareness and generating their support shall be launched through events and other venues/forums. IEC

materials that convey clear and persuasive messages and courses of action shall be developed and widely disseminated.

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

The Presidential Awards for Child-Friendly Municipalities and Cities shall continue to be given as annual awards to LGUs which have passed the Child-Friendly Local Governance Audit and have been assessed as qualified and deserving of being awarded as a child-friendly LGU. The CWC and DILG can consider expanding and elevating the award system to the provincial level, subject to funding approval of the DBM.

Reporting, Monitoring and Evaluation

11. Reports on Filipino Children

- a. Periodic Report to the UN CRC, 5th and 6th reports covering the period 2008 to 2017 for submission in September 2017. The submission of the next report is dependent on the schedule set by the UN CRC; although traditionally reports should be submitted every five (5) years.
- b. Thematic Annual State of Filipino Children Report (SOFCR) for which proposed themes are listed in Chapter 25;
- c. Annual, Mid-Term and Final 3rd NPAC Reports wherein the CWC shall compile report submission of agencies using the 3rd NPAC Results Matrix and convening and preparing annual, mid-term and final reports.

12. A Harmonized Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) System

CWC shall manage a harmonized M&E system and database that can feed inputs to UNCRC periodic reporting, annual SOFCR and annual, mid-term and final 3rd NPAC reports. CWC shall maintain a web-site which shall be the national repository for children's data.

3rd NPAC Major National Partners: National Government Agencies, Commissions and Councils

The major government partners for children in implementing the 3rd NPAC are the following:

Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) for protection of children in armed conflict situations and halting recruitment of children as soldiers by non-state armed groups;

Department of Agriculture (DA) for food security, school gardening and milk feeding together with the National Dairy Authority;

Department of Education (DepEd) for formal and non-formal basic education;

Department of Health (DOH) for ensuring access to basic public health services, together with its attached agencies: the National Nutrition Council and the Philippine Health Insurance Corporation;

Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG) for general supervision over local governments and in the promulgation of related policies, rules, regulations and other issuances, and its attached agency, the Philippine National Police;

Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE) for the plan of action to end child labour;

Department of Justice (DOJ) for child protection, together with its attached agency, the National Bureau of Investigation, and its Office of Cybercrime;

Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) for social protection and a wide-range of social welfare measures;

Early Child Care and Development Council covering children 0-8 years old;

Juvenile Justice and Welfare Council (JJWC) for protection of children at-risk and in conflict with the law;

National Council on Disability Affairs (NCDA) for child disability interventions;

National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA) for technical guidance in children-related development planning, policymaking, and programming initiatives;

National Youth Commission for youth policies and involvement;

Office of the Presidential Adviser on the Peace Process (OPAPP) for strengthening the capacities of the most vulnerable groups in situations of armed conflict, which include children;

Philippine Information Agency for advocacy and communication support.

Details of the aforementioned mandates and roles are provided in Annex III.

Convergence of Councils and Committees for Children and Other National Inter-Agency Committees

The FourCs or Convergence of Councils and Committees for Children shall be maximized to ensure that their respective mandates and courses of actions towards achieving the 3rd NPAC goals, outcomes and targets are coordinated, complemented and reinforced.

The CWC shall convene a quarterly (TWG) or semi-annual (for Council members) consultation process involving the following members: Committee for Special Protection of Children, Early Childhood Care and Development Council, Inter-Agency Council Against Trafficking, Inter-Agency Council Against Child Pornography, Juvenile Justice and Welfare Council, National Nutrition Council, National Child Labour Committee, National Council on Disability Affairs, and the National Council for Children's Television.

The **National Child Labor Committee (NCLC)** is an inter-agency, tripartite and multi-sector body composed of government agencies, employers' group, workers' organizations, civil society organizations, and international organizations.

A multi-stakeholder **National Network to End VAC (NNeVAC)** shall be formalized in 2017 with a clear term of reference and organizational structure. The NNeVAC shall plan, monitor, and evaluate the implementation of the PP AeVAC and other VAC-related concerns. It shall also be responsible for formulating a national VAC agenda in terms of policy, research and evaluation. The NNeVAC shall be led by the DILG and CWC. Government and non-government organizations together with inter-agency committees and networks shall work hand in hand to implement the NNeVAC plan and agenda. In addition to the DILG and CWC, the government agencies are the DepEd, DSWD, CHR, CWC, PIA, PAO, the Judiciary. Civil society organizations (CSOs), NGOs and inter-agency networks include the ACCAP, BTS National Network, Childfund, CRN, ERDA Foundation, IBP, PCMN, PLCPD, Save the Children, WV and other members of the FourCs such as the CSPC, IACAT, IACACP.

Regional Sub-Committees for the Welfare of Children

The Regional Sub-Committees for the Welfare of Children (RSCWC), as the inter-agency structure at the subnational level, shall coordinate/monitor/report on the implementation of the Regional Plan of Action for Children (RPAC) in line with the outcomes and targets of the 3rd NPAC. The RSCWC, together with CWC, shall also take the lead in providing technical assistance to LGUs for ensuring that the goals, targets and relevant programs of the 3rd NPAC are made integral to local development plans and annual investment programs.

Chapter 25 Local Governance for Children

The Local Government Code or RA 7160, passed in 1991, is an empowering legislative measure for local governments as it decentralized powers and authority and responsibility for governance to duly-elected Local Chief Executives (LCEs) at the provincial, city and municipal levels. Accountability for results, however, rests not only on the Governor or Mayor and on the Vice-Mayor, who is the presiding officer of the *Sanggunian* or the local legislative body, but to the entire organizational structure of the LGU.

Local Development and Investment Plan Formulation

LGUs are mandated to prepare a comprehensive multi-year multi-sector development plan or called Comprehensive Development Plan (CDP) to be initiated by the Local Development Council and approved by the *Sanggunian* (Section 106 of the Local Government Code). LGUs are also required to formulate three (3) principal instruments to implement the CDP: the Local Development Investment Program (LDIP), the Legislative Agenda (LA), and the Executive and Legislative Agenda (ELA). The Executive and Legislative Agenda (ELA) is a planning document, covering a three-year period corresponding to the term of local elective officials that is mutually developed and agreed upon by both the executive and legislative departments of an LGU. The ELA is not meant to replace or duplicate existing planning systems in LGUs.

The local planning system and process is the venue and opportunity for integration of cross-sector concerns which include the transformation and mainstreaming of the 3rd NPAC in planning instruments of the LGU. The goals, strategies and programs identified therein shall be advocated with LGUs through its LGU league network - League of Provinces of the Philippines (LPP), League of Cities of the Philippines (LCP), League of Municipalities of the Philippines (LMP), Vice Governors' League and the Union of Local Authorities of the Philippines (ULAP) - in order that sector areas concerning children be integrated into the CDP, ELA and the AIP utilizing local planning structure and processes to respond to these requirements.

The Local Development Council (LDC) plays a crucial role in ensuring equity³⁶ in public investments throughout the local development planning and budgeting process. The equity dimensions in public financial management (PFM) systems and processes at both national and local levels were reviewed and findings were put forward in a UNICEF-funded study³⁷ entitled "The integration of equity in PFM Systems in the Philippines" (June 2017). The study provided recommendations across different stages of the local development planning and budgeting cycle and processes which LGUs can possibly pursue to further enhance equity.

Joint Memorandum Circular (JMC) No. 001 series of 2007 of four national agencies, namely the DILG, NEDA, Department of Budget and Management (DBM) and the Department of Finance

³⁶ For UNICEF, "equity means that all children have an opportunity to survive, develop and reach their full potential, without discrimination, bias or favouritism. To the degree that any child has an unequal chance in life — in its social, political, economic, civic and cultural dimensions — her or his rights are violated" (2013). UNICEF identified the goal of equity-focussed policy that is "to eliminate the unfair and avoidable circumstances that deprive children of their rights." (2010)

³⁷ The study was conducted in 2016-2017 for UNICEF by Oxfam Policy Management Limited, United Kingdom.

(DOF), collectively known as the Oversight Agencies (OAs), was issued for the synchronization and harmonization of LGU planning, investment programming, revenue administration, budgeting and expenditure management, performance monitoring and coordination in fiscal oversight. The JMC provides opportunities for interface between NGA) and LGUs and strengthens the complementation between provinces and their component cities and municipalities. It established the significant role of the province in formulating development plans, policies and strategies that are built on the development concerns, thrusts and programs of its component cities and municipalities, to ensure that local development goals and objectives are aligned with regional and national priorities.

3rd NPAC and Role of Local Chief Executive

The role of the Local Chief Executive is pivotal in making decisions with regard to putting children in the core of the LGU's agenda, prioritizing children's programs/projects and earmarking the funds needed to implement them. A local ordinance can be passed by the *Sanggunian* for the approval of local development plans and the annual investment program.

The programs and projects identified in the 3rd NPAC, which are mainly covered by nationally mandated policies, is a shared responsibility between national government agencies for policy directions, technical assistance and funds augmentation and the LGUs for its main responsibility in the delivery of basic social services. The function and administration of health care and social welfare include basic services which have been devolved to LGUs: (a) implementation of programs and projects on primary health care and maternal and child health care; (b) health services provided in secondary and tertiary facilities; (c) medicines, medical supplies, and equipment needed to carry out services; and (d) social services which include programs and projects on child and youth welfare, and family and community welfare, among others.

Local Development Council and Other Mandated Local Structures

The Local Development Council, the Local Health Board, and the Local School Board are local coordinating bodies required by the Local Government Code. The LDC is most influential in charting the development plan and programs of the LGU with technical inputs of sector committees. At the city or municipal level, the Local Development Council is headed by the Mayor and comprised of the following: (a) all barangay captains in the city or municipality; (b) the chairman of the committee on appropriations of the *Sangguniang Panlungsod* or *Sangguniang Bayan* concerned; (c) the congressman or his/her representative; and (d) representatives of nongovernment organizations operating in the city or municipality, who should constitute not less than one-fourth of the members of the fully organized council.

Local Council for the Protection of Children

In addition to the foregoing, several children-related inter-agency committees are also required by law including the creation of the Local Councils for the Protection of Children. The LCPC is expected to be designated as the “mother” council for the various local inter-agency bodies for children.

Local Councils for the Protection of Children (LCPCs) are the primary local-based institutions responsible for planning and spearheading programs for children at respective local levels. A one percent share of the Internal Revenue Allotment for the strengthening of the LCPC is stipulated in RA 9344. The DILG provides the oversight and monitoring of the establishment and functionality of LCPCs based on a number of criteria.³⁸

The level of LCPC functionality is categorized as:

Basic when the council attained a rating of 20 percent and below, and satisfied the requirements for organization and/or meetings;

Progressive when the council attained a rating of 21-50 percent, and aside from organization and meetings, and also satisfied the requirements for any of the sub-indicators under Policies, Plans and Budget or Accomplishment Report;

Mature when the council attained a rating of 51-79 percent, and satisfied the requirements for organization and meetings, and any of the sub-indicators for Policies, Plans and Budget or Accomplishment Report;

Ideal when the council attained a rating of 80-100 percent, which means it was able to satisfy the requirements for all the indicators of a functional LCPC.

Child-Friendly Local Governance Audit

The DILG shall conduct a mandatory audit of LGUs on Child-Friendly Local Governance (CFLG). Twelve (12) assessment criteria are used as benchmarks and a scaling system is used in measuring the results and performance of the LGUs consistent to national standards, averages or targets. The criteria shall be further reviewed and amended to change or add new criterion.

Assessment teams are mobilized to conduct the audit in all of the municipal and city LGUs. The LGUs that pass the audit shall be awarded a Seal of Child-Friendly Local Governance and becomes eligible for the Presidential Awards for Child-Friendly Municipalities and Cities.

³⁸ DILG Memorandum Circular 2005-07 provides the guidelines and indicators in monitoring the functionality of LCPCs.

Criteria for the Seal of Child-Friendly Local Government Audit

1. Percentage reduction in the deaths among children below five years old
2. Percentage reduction in the number of children under six with below normal weights
3. Percentage increase in the number of 3-4- year-old children attending center-based day care services
4. Completion rate for elementary schooling
5. Absence of child labor or percentage reduction in child labor cases
6. Percentage reduction in the number of children victims of violence, abuse, neglect and exploitation (all forms, including physical violence, sexual abuse, and exploitation, and trafficking in persons)
7. Safety measures for children in the community and schools
8. Extent of mainstreaming of children's rights to survival, development, protection and participation in the core development agenda of LGUs
9. An ordinance establishing Barangay Violence Against Women and their Children (VAW/C) Desks
10. PhilHealth accreditation in its main health facility or rural health unit for Maternal Care Services and Primary Care
11. A Local School Board (LSB) Plan for the year that is aligned with the School Improvement Plan (SIP)
12. Completion of at least 70 percent of its LSB Plan

Role of the Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG) in Monitoring Local Councils for the Protection of Children

The DILG has the mandate to monitor the functionality of the Local Council for the Protection of Children (LCPC). In the past years, DILG issued guidelines relative to the monitoring of the functionality of LCPCs. For the 3rd NPAC, the similar demand for the full functionality of LCPC is needed in order to ensure the presence of an overall coordinating mechanism for children at the local level.

LCPC Consortium

The Local Council for the Protection of Children (LCPC) is the inter-agency mechanism in local governments that advocate for child rights, plan, initiate and recommend program interventions for children and monitor the status of children in their respective localities.

The LCPC Consortium, spearheaded by CWC and DILG, together with other NGA and NGO members, is the mechanism that facilitates, oversees and strengthens coordination in making

the LCPCs truly effective in child-friendly local governance. Through the LCPC Consortium, the LCPC monitoring system will be improved for greater efficiency and improved reporting on the situation of children. It is also in charge of finding and pooling the resources needed to implement the actions necessary to sustain a national strategy making LCPCs more effective.

In 2016, the DILG conducted an analysis of the CFLGA which looked into: (a) current trends of the results, and (b) areas on which LGUs obtained the lowest scores. The next phase of the study is the presentation to the LCPC Consortium of the presence and extent of different stakeholders on children at national level.

Role of the Leagues of Local Governments

The Union of Local Authorities of the Philippines (ULAP) is the umbrella organization of all leagues of local government units and locally elected government officials. Its creation was endorsed by Executive Order 35, series of 2004. ULAP was created to convene and represent and its member leagues and local governments to national and sub-national policy and program committees in continuous pursuit of strengthening and capacitating LGUs for local autonomy and good governance.³⁹

ULAP is comprised of the League of Provinces of the Philippines (LPP), League of Cities of the Philippines (LCP), League of Municipalities of the Philippines (LMP), *Liga ng mga Barangay* (LNB), League of Vice Governors of the Philippines (LVGP), Provincial Board Members League of the Philippines (PBMLP), Vice Mayors League of the Philippines (VMLP), Philippine Councilors League (PCL), and National Movement of Young Legislators NMYL).

The Leagues shall play a role in the 3rd NPAC by advocating and providing the venue for LGUs to be knowledgeable and updated on the developments on children at the national level that have implications at the local level. The Leagues can be the platform to push the 3rd NPAC in the local development agenda and to raise issues and concerns on how LGUs can contribute to achieving the national goals and targets for children in 2017-2022. The Leagues shall partner with CWC in the monitoring of 3rd NPAC implementation by LGUs using the Results-Based Monitoring and Evaluation reporting tools.

³⁹ <http://ulap.net.ph/>

Chapter 26 Government and United Nations and Multilateral/Bilateral Agency Cooperation and CSO/NGO Partnerships

The United Nations System and other multilateral/bilateral aid agencies, civil society organizations (CSOs) and non-government organizations (NGOs) commit to specific SDGs, pursuant to their respective mandates, and implement them to contribute to the realisation of desired outcomes.

The United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) has a comprehensive Country Programme for Children (CPC) forged with the Philippine Government as represented by the NEDA. UNICEF is in transition from the 7th to the 8th CPC that runs across the 2017-2022 period of the 3rd NPAC. CPC covers the broad range of children's rights – survival, development, protection and participation – while it promotes equity, adopts area-focused strategy and promotes governance for children. The World Health Organization (WHO) provides technical expertise for health concerns, while the International Labour Organization supports the elimination of child labour.

Aid development agencies such as Australia's Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade and the United States Agency for International Development also provide support to education initiatives, among others. Other international agencies include Save the Children and Plan International.

Support to achieving the goals and outcomes of the 3rd NPAC, either as a member of government-UN-NGO inter-agency bodies or in their individual agency capacities and mandates are identified. These are through the following: (a) advocacy for legislative issues for children; (b) programs or projects across a wide spectrum of child rights; (c) advocacy for child participation; (d) knowledge sharing; (e) broadening the partnerships of civil society organizations and NGOs as partners for children; and (f) creative engagement and collaboration of CSOs with NGAs and LGUs for improved agency performance.

CSOs and NGOs shall be involved in the 3rd NPAC in the following: children in emergency situations, birth registration, health and nutrition, education, child protection and prevention of violence and trafficking in children, juvenile justice, care of abandoned children. Many NGOs support and actively promote child participation.

GO-CSO/NGO shall be partners in developmental changes for children by mutual sharing of resources. They shall be active partners through the following: technical expertise and assistance, funding support to programs and projects consistent with their mandates, support to collection and sharing of data and information, best practices. Locally-based NGOs shall partner with LGUs and shall complement and synchronize their work and activities with those of the LGUs.

NGOs shall rally support for the passage of legislative measures for children. They shall identify and convince policy champions for children.

NGOs shall enhance their advocacy initiatives to ensure that the aspect of child participation is incorporated in government programs. They shall evolve strategies and conduct activities

for meaningful participation of children in issues, concerns and initiatives that affect them. They shall ensure active participation of children in the full cycle of the 3rd NPAC. A monitoring and evaluation system shall be established in the organizing and mobilization of children. A functional Barangay Children's Association can be included as an additional criterion for child-friendly municipality/city.

The list of CSO/NGO partners is described in Annex IV.

Coalitions, Networks and Partnerships among NGOs

On abandoned, neglected, surrendered, abused and children with special needs: The Association of Child Caring Agencies of the Philippines or ACCAP is comprised of 72 child caring and placing agencies nationwide and 14 foreign adoption agencies as associate members. Its work is being carried out by member organizations that are licensed and accredited by the DSWD to operate as child caring and placement agencies.

On post traumatic psycho-social support: The Philippine Children's Ministries Network (PCMN), through its Safe Child and Operation Safe programs, aims to develop children's resilience after traumatic experience through psycho-social support. It shall train children on disaster preparedness and enabling them to use their skills to protect themselves. Youth and adult facilitators shall be trained on psycho-social support interventions for children in disasters.

On youth employment: (a) VIDES bread baking training; (b) EDUCO skills development of out-of-school youth; and (c) SC Skills to Succeed Project.

On the elimination of violence against children: CSOs, NGOs and child networks shall participate actively in the revitalization of the National Network to End Violence Against Children (NNeVAC) such as ACCAP, BTS National Network, Childfund, CRN, ERDA Foundation, IBP, PCMN, Philippine Legislators Committee on Population and Development (PLCPD), Save the Children, World Vision. Church institutions and faith-based organizations shall be mobilized to support the agenda and plan to end violence against children specifically in promoting parenting and life skills education and personal safety lessons in their programs and preaching.

On empowerment of children: The Civil Society Coalition on the Convention on the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CSC-CRC) is supporting child participation by empowering them to monitor the implementation of the 3rd NPAC. The CSC-CRC is composed of; ChildFund Philippines, Child Hope Asia, Consuelo Foundation, ECPAT Philippines, ERDA Foundation, *Fundacion Educacion y Cooperacion* (EDUCO), Good Neighbors International Philippines, John J. Carroll Institute on Church and Social Issues (ICSI), Kindernothilfe Ev. Philippines (KNH), Open Heart Foundation, Philippines against Child Trafficking (PACT), Plan Philippines, *Salinlahi* Alliance for Children's Concerns, Save the Children, *Unang Hakbang* Foundation, VIDES Philippines Volunteers Foundation Inc., and World Vision Development Foundation, Inc.

Chapter 27 Reporting, Monitoring and Evaluation

The 3rd NPAC shall adopt a rights-based and results-based monitoring and evaluation approach, introduced as the RBM&E Framework and System in the 2nd NPAC. Child rights monitoring systems shall be harmonized.

Two-track Monitoring: Changes in Situation of Children and Performance Monitoring

A two-track monitoring system shall be pursued. The first track is focused on the monitoring of the higher and strategic result or the monitoring of child level results which are primarily the 3rd NPAC Goals and Outcomes. The second is the monitoring of program level results which include the monitoring of outcomes and outputs of inputs, projects, and programs.

Following a rights- and results-based programming approach and a two-track monitoring system, the 3rd NPAC goals, outcomes and outputs are defined in a Results Matrix using vertical and horizontal logical framework. The Results Matrix guides the monitoring of achieving the national goals, targets and program performance. Regional targets shall be aligned to contribute to national goals and targets.

Report monitoring shall be done through: (a) annual public reporting on the situation of Filipino children at the national level; (b) provincial, city and municipal government reports to their constituents on progress made on the status and progress of children in their jurisdiction; and (c) an annual, mid-term and final (terminal) report of the 3rd NPAC.

Annual State of Filipino Children Reports for the past 15 years, 2001-2016, were published and disseminated:

Table 2 Annual State of Filipino Children Reports, 2001-2016

Year	Theme
2001	Implementation of the Philippine Plan of Action for Children (PPAC) and the Summit for Children
2002	The Five (5) Components of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UN CRC) (in relation to its Year Anniversary)
2003	Promoting the Rights of the Child to Development
2004	Bright Child
2005	Adolescence
2006	Nutrition
2007	Media, ICT, and Children
2008	Children in Disaster
2009	Violence Against Children
2010	Child-Friendly Governance with Focus on the Allocation of Resources for Children

2011-2012	Strengthening the Local Mechanisms for Children: Institutionalizing Local Councils for the Protection of Children
2013	Adolescent Pregnancy in the Philippines
2014	Ensuring Children's Rights to a Safe and Meaningful Participation
2015	A Safe and Protective Environment for Children
2016	Education of Children with Disability and Children of Indigenous Peoples

For the 3rd NPAC period, following are the proposed themes for the Annual State of Filipino Children Report, 2017-2022, subject to CWC Board approval:

Table 3 Annual State of Filipino Children Reports, 2017-2022

Year	Theme
2017	Children Affected by Illegal Drugs
2018	Ending Hunger and Malnutrition Among Children
2019	Online Child Protection
2020	Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children
2021	Child-Friendly Local Government Audit
2022	Ending Child Poverty

Child Monitoring Data and Systems

The **Philippine Statistical Authority (PSA)** is at the forefront of the country's statistical mechanisms and the authority for vital statistics and civil registration. It is responsible for the conduct of national population censuses, family income and expenditure surveys, and national demographic and health surveys, food security information, among others.

Official national data are collected through censuses and administrative reporting. These are supplemented by household surveys and other special surveys which can provide nationally representative or specific information on the status of children, allowing for monitoring across a range of social stratifiers.

The **Food and Nutrition Research Institute (FNRI)**, as part of its mandate and commitment to define the Filipino citizenry's nutritional status (E.O. 128 Sec. 22), conducts periodic National Nutrition Surveys (NNS). The NNS is the key source of data for the national government on nutrition-related information and on health matters as well. The objective of the NNS is "to determine and evaluate the food intakes, nutrition and health status of Filipinos, and provide official statistics on food, nutrition and health situations of the country".

Harmonized Results-Based M&E Framework for *Subaybay Bata* and the 3rd NPAC. There are two overarching monitoring systems that shall be harmonized by CWC: (a) the *Subaybay Bata* Macro Monitoring System (SBMMS) and (b) the Results-Based Monitoring and Evaluation (RBM&E) System of the National Plan of Action for Children which shall be updated from that of the 2nd phase to the 3rd NPAC following its new set of goals, targets and indicators.

The harmonized system aims to: (a) simplify, unify and streamline reports submitted to CWC from its partner agencies to avoid unnecessary duplication of submissions; (b) ensure that common indicators required by both RBM&ES and SBMMS are captured in one harmonized tool and in a single submission; (c) firm-up the monitoring framework and system of CWC; and, (d) ensure that data generated are analysed, synthesized, and transformed into information and shared for plan and policy formulation and program development.

The two systems are complementary. Both are designed to report on the fulfilment of children's rights. The SBMMS reports directly on outcomes and measures compliant to the articles of the Convention on the Rights of the Child and following the indicators and guidelines for reporting required by the UN Committee on Child Rights. While the RBM&E is a progressive performance and annual reporting on the goals, outcomes and outputs of the 3rd NPAC all of which aim to contribute to the fulfilment of children's rights. Both SBMMS and 2nd NPAC RBM&E derive their information and data from the same systems i.e. the Philippines' official statistical system and administrative information system.

The harmonized system shall provide the needed data and information for reporting to the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child and on the 3rd NPAC. Indicators shall be simplified and streamlined according to the two-track monitoring system of the 3rd NPAC: child level results monitoring and program performance monitoring.

Child-related sectors have their specific monitoring systems that could be linked to the above harmonized M&E system. Among them are identified below.

Angel.Net. The PNP shall maintain and upgrade its Angel.Net. It shall establish and maintain a central data base system on TIP and other VAWC cases for investigators.

Child Labor Knowledge Sharing System. The Child Labor Knowledge Sharing System (CLKSS) is an information technology tool that supports the Philippine Program against Child Labor (PPACL) in sharing relevant data real-time, fostering communication, improving program monitoring and automating child labor case referrals. The PPACL and its network of mutually enabling social partners work towards the prevention and progressive elimination of child labor through protection, withdrawal, healing and reintegration of child workers into a caring society. The following are among the functionalities of CLKSS: (a) child labor program monitoring; (b) reports generation; (c) provide information on different child labor programs that may include their services, beneficiaries, resources, and updates; (d) provide information on PPACL partners and their activities in support of the child labor program; (e) real-time monitoring of the status of child labor cases reported through CLKSS; (f) integration with referral system of child labor case; (g) repository of child labor materials including good practices and case studies; (h) a venue for discussions; (i) possible integration with other related information systems. The CLKSS can be accessed through www.batangmalaya.ph or <http://site.clkss.org.ph>.

Field Health Service Information System (FHSIS). The FHSIS is the Philippine's public health information system that puts together the data sourced, collected and reported from the different levels of local governance structure. It is a facility-based information system designed to provide basic health service delivery for Maternal and Child Health Care and its programs. It includes health surveillance data on infectious diseases, maternal mortality, immunization, nutritional supplementation, and other health-related data. Morbidity data are tabulated by age group, sex, region, province, and city.

Information System for Inclusive Education. DepEd maintains two (2) important information systems which could provide relevant data on its goal to ensure inclusive education for children, namely: the Enhanced Basic Education Information System (EBEIS) and Learner's Information System (LIS).

The EBEIS is a database of education statistics, sector performance indicators and profile of public and private schools, learning centers and other education service providers. It is a web-based system designed to enhance information management at all levels of the education system (school, division, regional and national levels) through streamlined processes and use of information and communication technologies. It aims to: (a) improve the collection of data/information from the schools and field offices and efficiently render delivery of data/information to various stakeholders; (b) support information requirements for planning, quality assurance, monitoring and evaluation, and other decision-making activities at all levels of the education system; and (c) provide a venue for sharing, using and reusing knowledge within the DepEd through improving access to data/information.

It provides the following services: (a) online submission of annual education statistics; (b) generation of School Report Card; (c) access to current and historical achievement test results; (d) generation of school level performance indicators; and (e) online access to Electronic SBM Assessment Tool and school's current and historical record of SBM practice.

The Learner Information System is an online facility that provides for the registration of learners enrolled in public schools to: (a) provide a standard registration system for learners; (b) track learners' progress/performance; (c) provide learner information for better program planning and supervision of schools and learning centers; and (d) enhance management of learner records. For this purpose, each person who enters the Philippine basic education program is issued with a Learner Reference Number (LRN). The LRN is intended to reference a "Registry of Learners" which serves a centralized and authoritative database of learners' basic information. Since its installation, the LIS has allowed the DepEd to generate the total public school enrolment based on actual registration of learners.

Through the use of automation and technology in these information systems, DepEd generates relevant data for its planning, budgeting and resource allocation among others. The EBEIS and LIS, along with the other information systems, are integrated seamlessly into a unified information system to establish the linkage of the data being collected for more efficient utilization of data.

Social Welfare Information Management System. The *Listahanan*, formerly the National Household Targeting System for Poverty Reduction, is the DSWD information management

system that identifies who and where the poor are in the country. Collected information from households are encoded to a web application and subjected to a Proxy Means Test (PMT), a statistical model that estimates the income of a household based on the variables included in the family assessment form. The use of the PMT enables the identification of the poor in the most objective, systematic and transparent manner.

National Juvenile Justice Welfare Management Information System (NJJWMIS). The JJWC shall institutionalize a centralized information management system and registry of children in conflict with the law. The NJJWMIS will be established as an online internet-based system to generate reliable and updated information on CAR and CICL. It will collect, receive and process all data from member and coordinating agencies and LGUs to produce statistical reports with analysis to support policy formulation and program development which can be accessed with appropriate authorization by member and partner agencies of JJWC.

The following NJJWMIS modules shall be used by stakeholders at national and local levels: Mandatory Registry; Integrated social Management System; Inter-Agency Referral System; and Monitoring of LGU Compliance.

Monitoring and Evaluation Systems

3rd NPAC Results-Based Monitoring and Evaluation System shall adopt a structured monitoring and evaluation system and process that will probe, examine and analyse the contributions/achievements of policies, programs and projects toward achieving the goals and outcomes of the 3rd NPAC. It shall also look into how research/studies, advocacy and communication strategies and institutional mechanisms at national, regional and local levels have all supported implementation of policies, programs, projects and policies. A set of M&E tools shall be provided to serve as templates for reporting, analysis and evaluation.

A National Child Labor Monitoring and Evaluation System shall be established and maintained. Monitoring and evaluation framework, scorecards and instruments on child labour shall be developed. The child labor monitoring and evaluation system shall be used by national and local child labor implementers. The M&E system shall be evaluated and refined as needed.

A Philippine Plan of Action to end Violence against Children (PPAeVAC) Monitoring and Evaluation System shall be put in place. A results-based monitoring and evaluation mechanism and structure shall be setup by 2017 and the national mechanism shall be made functional for data collection, analysis, sharing, and dissemination from 2018 to 2022.

Results-Based Monitoring Tools

Monitoring tools for results and performance tracking will guide agencies responsible for data collection and monitoring. Reporting forms (templates), based on the Results Matrix, shall be provided for uniformity in content reporting and ease in accomplishment. These will be

submitted to the CWC for integration and consolidation to the overall monitoring, evaluation and reporting on the 2nd NPAC.

The monitoring report forms provide the data and trends towards the achievement of intended goals and targets as bases for the assessment of the situation of children and program performance. These should be further analysed by probing deeply into the factors affecting performance.

Templates shall also be provided to synthesize reports for legislative and policy measures enacted and passed and research and studies undertaken. The templates shall provide the basic content for reporting on the status and enforcement of laws and policy measures and the key findings and recommendations of research and studies. The format ensures that important aspects and key elements are highlighted in the report.

The monitoring section or unit of the CWC Secretariat shall be responsible for compiling the reports and analysing major findings.

3rd NPAC Evaluation

Program performance review and evaluations, including impact evaluation, will be conducted. An annual review will be conducted to focus on programmatic performance. A mid-term review will be conducted in 2018 to determine if program performance is contributing to or in the right track to achieving the 3rd NPAC goals and SDGs for children. The assessment of performance in the mid-stream of the 3rd NPAC will guide stakeholders for strategies and programs that need to be re-directed or accelerated. Towards the end of the program cycle in 2022, an impact evaluation and a final or terminal report will be conducted.

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Annex I 3rd NPAC Legislative Agenda

CWC Legislative Agenda for the 17th Congress (2016-2019)

A Legislative Agenda for Children is initiated by the Council for the Welfare of Children in line with its function to initiate, promote and advocate the adoption of policies and measures to promote and protect children's rights.

A legislative agenda for children is needed to address prevailing issues and concerns on children, adhere to international standards and instruments to which the country is a party to, and give priority and basis for advocacy.

- Prohibition of Corporal Punishment and Promoting Positive Discipline
- Amendment to RA 8353 or the Anti-Rape Law to Increase the Age of Statutory Rape and Sexual Consent from 12 Years to 16 Years. Official data shows that majority of victims of rape are between the ages of 13-15 years old.
- Removal of the Distinction and Discrimination against Children Born Out-of-Wedlock
- Strengthening the Council for the Welfare of Children
- An Act Providing for the Special Protection of Children in Situations of Armed Conflict and Promoting Penalties for Violations Thereof (House Bill No. 13)
- Protection of Children with Disabilities
- The proposed legislative agenda for the Protection of Children with Disabilities shall be further expanded to include the pending bill on inclusive education and the recommendation to use the LGU Special Education Fund (SEF) for CWDs.

Other Proposed Legislative Measures

Poverty Reduction

- An Act to Reduce Poverty and Promote Human Capital Development through the Creation of NCFTP to strengthen the selection of areas to be covered by the *Pantawid Pamilya* Program and ensure continuous funding for its implementation.

Social Protection

- Amendment of the universal health insurance law into a Universal Health Care for All Filipinos Act wherein membership shall be categorized into both contributory and non-contributory workers

Children in Emergency Situations

- Mandatory Establishment of Women- and Child-Friendly Spaces in All Evacuation Centers in the Country to promote, protect and provide the needs of women, including nursing mothers, young girls and children when they are in temporary shelters or in evacuation centers during emergency situations.

Nutrition

- Sugar and Sweetened Beverage Tax - Amendment of the Internal Revenue Code – Excise Tax on Sugar and Sweetened Beverage – for reduction in dental caries, complications of diabetes, and obesity
- An Act Providing Free Food for Children in Public Schools and Day Care Centers from Products of Farmers Purchased by the Government Otherwise Known as School Feeding Purchased From Poor Farmers Program

Early Childhood Care and Development

- A law on “First 1,000 Days” that shall seek to implement a comprehensive health care program to protect mothers and their children from malnutrition in their first 1,000 days. A child's first 1,000 days, the period covering the 9 months of a mother's pregnancy and her child's first two years is dubbed as a 'window of opportunity' which is extremely crucial to a child's fair start in life.
- Magna Carta for Day Care Workers which shall provide regular salaries and plantilla positions, security of tenure, and additional compensation, such as overtime pay, hazard allowance and subsistence allowance. Its passage into law shall contribute largely to the quality of day care services rendered by Day Care Workers to 3-4-year-old children.
- Professionalization of ECCD Service Providers to provide permanent positions for ECCD Service Providers (Child Development Workers and Teachers), for eventual push towards a magna carta for CDTs/Ws. It shall contribute to children's security and safety especially in terms of their development through ECCD programs implemented in the centers.

Health

- Expansion of Maternity Leaves to give all female workers, regardless of civil status or legitimacy of her child, 120 days maternity leave with pay and an option to extend it for another 30 days without pay. Single mothers shall also be granted a total of 150 days maternity leave with pay. With the expansion of maternity leaves, mothers would have more time to prepare themselves for safe delivery and lactation, breastfeeding and care for their babies for a longer period of time. Fathers would also benefit from the measure if passed into law, as it seeks to grant 30 days of leave...
- Amendment to RA 8504 or the Philippine AIDS Prevention and Control Program of 1998

Child Protection

- Bill of Rights for Children Victims Act
- Amendment of RA 9231 for enhanced protection mechanism for working children and the institutionalization of the National Child Labor Committee and provide funds for its operations
- Anti-Violence Against Women and their Children Law
- Retention of the Minimum Age of Criminal Responsibility
- Bill on Anti-Computer Pornography
- Philippine Adoption Act for Abandoned and Neglected Children and Children with Special Needs (inclusive of the proposed Baby Abandonment Prevention Act)

- Amendment of RA 8972 on Benefits and Privileges for Parents and their Children

Non-Discrimination

- Expansion of the proposed legislative measure for the Protection of Children with Disabilities to include an inclusive education policy framework, the pending bill on inclusive education and the recommendation to use the LGU Special Education Fund (SEF) for CWDs
- Anti-Discrimination Based on Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity. To penalize discriminatory acts such as but not limited to: non-hiring or dismissal of workers, refusal of admission from any educational institution, denial of access to services available to the general public, revocation of license, denial of access to establishments or facilities on the basis of SOGI; establish mechanism to monitor, report and record incidents of SOGI-based discrimination and abuse; create redress mechanism to address complaints of acts of discrimination; provide guidelines in: a) handling of LGBT victims of SOGI-based discrimination and and abuse, and b) handling LGBTs arrested and detained for criminal and civil offense; mandate the review and repeal or amendment of provisions of existing national and local policies discriminatory to LGBTs (e.g., Amend RPC to define acts that constitutes grave scandal provision of the RPC, DOH Memorandum that forbids homosexuals to donate blood); mandate the crafting of non-discriminatory policies in employment and job retention, training and education; mandate awareness-raising campaigns with media, public and private institutions, educational and training institutions.

Youth Governance

- Implementation of the *Sanggunian Kabataan* Reform Act of 2015

Proposed Policy Measures (including work-in-progress)

Council for the Welfare of Children

- Codification of Children's Laws (or amendment to PD 603) as approved by the CWC Board)
- Crafting of Child Protection Policies in the Workplace (DILG, NEDA, DOJ)
- Guidelines in the Implementation of the Monitoring, Reporting and Response System (MRRS) for Grave Child Rights Violations in Situations of Armed Conflict (GCRVSAC)

Department of Health

- Enhanced National Oral Health Policy, branching out the adult population, in addition to pregnant and lactating women, infants and young children and adolescents
- Promotion of a Healthy Lifestyle Among the Youth
- Prevention of HIV/AIDS Infection Among the Youth
- Focus on Mental Health and Suicide Prevention Mechanisms

Department of Education

- **Inclusive Education Policy Framework** to establish seamless strategies and mechanisms to adequately respond to diverse learning needs. The proposed legislative measure for the Protection of Children with Disabilities shall include the inclusive education policy framework, the pending bill on inclusive education and the recommendation to use the LGU Special Education Fund (SEF) for CWDs.
- Omnibus Special Education Policy
- Guidelines on Bursary for Learners with Disability
- Guidelines on Gifted and Talented
- Flexible Learning Options
- Healthy Food and Beverage in Schools
- Guidelines on Adolescent Health

National Youth Commission

- Youth Representation in Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Councils
- Expansion of Government Internship Program (for the youth)

Annex II 3rd NPAC Research Agenda

Evaluation of Cash Transfers and Livelihood Support

- Cost-Benefit Analysis of the *Pantawid Pamilyang Pilipino* Program as of end 2016 (DSWD). A cost-benefit analysis of the *Pantawid* Program is inevitable given the unparalleled cost of investment for a single program vis-à-vis coverage and results.
- Impact Evaluation of the DOLE Livelihood Assistance to Parents of Child Laborers. (DOLE) The DOLE livelihood assistance program shall be evaluated to determine its impact and effectiveness in reducing the prevalence of and entry into child labor. The evaluation shall also look into the potential for scale up in reducing the incidence of child labor.

Nutrition-Related and Health Care Evaluation and Studies

- Impact Evaluation of Supplemental Feeding, as its effect on children's performance in school (DSWD, DepEd)
- Foetal, Newborn and Infant Death Review (DOH). Foetal deaths are equally important as newborn deaths. An evidence-based comprehensive protocol on foetal, neonatal and infant death review and reporting system is needed to guide health workers to improve the quality of care for foetus in utero and for newborns.
- Maternal Mortality Review (DOH). The study can include determining the causes for low prenatal care which can help determine more specific maternal and neonatal deaths prevention strategies.

Basic Education Research Agenda

- The research agenda of the DepEd consists of four (4) basic themes or basic education topics, namely: (1) Teaching and Learning; (2) Child Protection; (3) Human Resource Development; and (4) Governance. It further recognizes the following cut across themes of the agenda: Disaster Risk Reduction and Management; Gender and Development; and, Inclusive Education.
 - Instruction: Teaching and learning strategies of teachers to ensure inclusive and learner-centered education, and factors affecting the teacher's delivery of curriculum.
 - Curriculum: Contribution of curriculum in achieving learning outcomes and responsiveness of curriculum.
 - Learners: Factors affecting the learning behaviour and value-formation of learners and factors that make a well-rounded, happy, and smart learner.
 - Child Protection: Addressing protection concerns such as bullying, teenage pregnancy, child abuse, addiction and media consumption.

- Inclusive Education: Readiness of the department to provide an inclusive learning environment, and the perceptions of internal and external stakeholders on inclusive education.
- An Impact Evaluation of Educational Assistance Beneficiaries of AICS shall be done by DSWD.

Studies on Children who Need Special Protection

- Gap Analysis on Republic Act No. 9231 (DOLE). The study will provide inputs on the amendment of Republic Act No. 9231 Possible support for the institutionalization of the National Child Labor Committee and funding for its operation
- Child Protection (DepEd) The study will look into how protection concerns such as bullying, teenage pregnancies, child abuse, addiction, and media consumption can be addressed.
- Effectiveness of Current Interventions on Parenting, including child protection messages and information within Family Development Sessions (DSWD)
- A Comprehensive Qualitative and Quantitative Study on Commercial Sexual Exploitation and Child Pornography. The study can assess the causes, nature and extent of commercial sexual exploitation and child pornography in the country.
- Assessment of DSWD Residential Care Facilities (DSWD)
- Analysis of the Situation of Children in Conflict-Affected and Conflict-Vulnerable Areas Based on Data from the National Baseline Study on Violence Against Children (OPAPP and CWC) – to establish baseline situation of children in conflict-affected and conflict-vulnerable areas for the evaluation of government's peace and development interventions and to inform the development and implementation of peace and development interventions on the situation of children in armed conflict.
- Assessment of the Implementation of the Monitoring, Reporting and Response System (MRRS) for Grave Child Rights Violations in Situations of Armed Conflict (GCRVSAC) (OPAPP and CWC)
- Analysis of the effects on children and consequences of family separation due to search for greener pastures

Violence Against Children

Following the National Baseline Study on Violence Against Children in 2015, survey results and analysis led to the identification of issues that need further research:

- Experiences of Violence among Vulnerable Groups such as CAAC, IPs, CWD, CICL, LGBT, etc.
- Effectiveness of Current Interventions on Parenting, including child protection messages and information with Family Development Sessions
- Understanding of Social Norms that may Condone or Prevent/Limit Violence

A National Research Agenda on Violence Against Children across all settings where violence occurs can be developed, under the ambit of the Research Advisory Group. A research network or group such as the Child Abuse, Neglect and Exploitation (CANE) research group can spearhead the development of the research agenda.

Juvenile Justice and Welfare

- A Qualitative Research on the Practice and Effectiveness of Diversion (JJWC)
- A Study on Children Affected by the War on Drugs. A study to determine the effects on children of the government's war on drugs. Data on effects/impact on children need to be collected: who were killed and who were affected (those abandoned by or parents are missing)
- A Study on Diversion and Alternatives to Detention: A Documentation of Good Practices (DSWD)
- Descriptive Study on Existing Intervention Programs and Public Investments for Children at-Risk and Children in Conflict with the Law (JJWC)
- Updating of Legal Research on RA 9344 as amended (JJWC)

Media and Communication

- Television- Viewing Habits, Amount of Exposure and Program Preferences of Children in Public and Private Schools in the Philippines (NCCT)
- Effects of TV Viewing to Children's Cognitive Skills, Emotional Stability, Interpersonal Relationship and Filipino Cultural Values (NCCT)
- *Pagdalumat sa Imahe ng Pamilyang Inilalarawan sa loob ng Telebisyon at Epekto nito sa Kultura ng Pag-aalaga at Pagpapalaki ng mga Bata sa mga Tahanan sa Quiapo, Maynila* (NCCT)
- Role of Parental Mediation in the Progression of Aggression Tendencies in Children with Short and Long Attention Span (NCCT)

Surveys to Establish Data

A Survey of IP and Muslim Children. The survey can generate data: population, birth registration, health, education, etc. A quick survey can be done to generate data on IP and Muslim children particularly those pertaining to basic indicators (birth registration, health, education, etc.)

- A Survey on Child Participation. A survey will be done to determine achievements or non-achievements in “meaningful” child participation. The survey can cover: (a) child participation and contribution in family decision processes to establish baseline; (b) student councils participating in the deliberations and decisions of the School Governing Council; and (c) whether indeed child representative actively participate in the LCPCs and their views are heard and considered.

An Assessment and Review of Structures and Mechanisms at Regional and Local Levels

An assessment and review of the interagency mandates structures and mechanisms, especially those that are child-focussed or child-related at regional and local levels is recommended, their mandates, functionality and level of coordination.

- A Study on Regional and Local Level Interagency Mandates, Structures and Mechanisms of Coordination (CWC, DILG)
- A Study on LCPCs and/or the RSCWCs as the “Mother” Committee/Council for Children
- Review of the Parameters and Utilization of the One Percent LGU IRA Share for LCPCs (CWC, DILG)
- Review of the Evaluation Criteria on LCPC Functionality (DILG)

Annex III National Government Agencies, Commissions and Councils Partners for the 3rd NPAC

Department of Agriculture (DA). The Department of Agriculture is responsible for agricultural growth and development which includes the overall responsibility for food security. It provides the national policy framework on agriculture and supports LGUs in implementing agri-based rural development. The DA supports the 3rd NPAC goal on food security and, through its Bureau of Plant Industry and the National Dairy Authority, one of its attached agencies, supports center-based and school-based nutrition interventions.

Department of Education (DepEd). The Department of Education formulates, implements, and coordinates policies, plans, programs and projects in the areas of formal and non-formal basic education. It supervises all elementary and secondary education institutions, including alternative learning systems, both public and private; and provides for the establishment and maintenance of a complete, adequate, and integrated system of basic education relevant to the goals of national development. The DepEd shall contribute to the 3rd NPAC goals of ensuring healthy, well-nourished and active learners and that children are safe and free from all forms of violence, abuse, neglect and exploitation. The 3rd NPAC goal is fully supported by the DepEd's mission of protecting and promoting the right of every Filipino to quality, equitable, culture-based and complete basic education, for all types of learners. DepEd further supports the goal to ensure the safety of children from all types of violence with its thrust of protecting the welfare of all learners and making schools a safe space for learners. Several policies are implemented to protect the rights of every learner and protect them from all forms of abuse.

Department of Health (DOH). The Department of Health is responsible for ensuring access to basic [public health](#) services by all Filipinos through the provision of quality [health care](#) and the regulation of all health services and products. It is the government's over-all technical authority on health. The National Nutrition Council and the Philippine Health Insurance Corporation are attached agencies of the DOH.

Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG). The Department of the Interior and Local Government assists/advises the President in the exercise of general supervision over local governments and in the promulgation of related policies, rules, regulations and other issuances. It is mandated to establish and prescribe plans, policies, programs and projects to further strengthen the administrative, technical and fiscal capabilities of local government offices and personnel. It formulates plans, policies and programs which will meet local emergencies arising from natural and man-made disasters.¹

The DILG is also responsible for the establishment of a system of coordination and cooperation with the citizenry and local executives to ensure effective and efficient delivery of basic services to the public.

¹ <http://www.dilg.gov.ph/page/Powers-Functions/21>

The DILG, being the primary agency in-charge of cascading laws, policies, and related issuances from the national level to the local level consistent with its own mandate to exercise general supervision over all local government units (LGUs), will have the primary role in localization in the implementation of the 3rd NPAC.

Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE). The Department of Labor and Employment is a national government agency with 16 Regional Offices, 83 Field Offices with four (4) Satellite Offices, 38 overseas posts, six (6) bureaus, seven (7) staff services and 10 agencies attached to it for policy and program supervision and/or coordination. The DOLE is mandated to formulate policies, implement programs and serve as the policy-coordinating arm of the Executive Branch in the field of labor and employment. The vision of the DOLE is to ensure that every Filipino worker attains full, decent and productive employment. Its mission is to promote gainful employment opportunities, develop human resources, protect workers and promote their welfare, and maintain industrial peace. The DOLE serves more than 40 million workers comprising the country's labor force, covering those in the formal and informal economies. The DOLE maintains linkages with workers' organizations, employers' groups, non-government organizations, other government agencies, the academe, international organizations and with the international community particularly countries where overseas Filipino workers are based. The DOLE is the focal agency for the prevention and elimination of child labor in the Philippines. It also serves as Chairperson of the National Child Labor Committee, an inter-agency, multi-sector and tripartite body that leads in the implementation of the Philippine Program Against Child Labor. The DOLE also is a member of the CWC Board.

Department of Justice (DOJ). The Department of Justice (DOJ) is the government's principal law agency and serves as the government's prosecution arm and administers the government's criminal justice system by investigating crimes, prosecuting offenders and overseeing the correctional system. Among its core functions include the following: (a) administration of the criminal justice system; (b) legal counsel of government; (c) provision of free legal assistance; (d) alternative dispute resolutions. The DOJ is significantly involved in the implementation of the penal, national security, and social welfare laws, including those for children, contributing to the goals and intent of the 3rd NPAC: (a) Rape Victim Assistance and Protection Act of 1998 (RA 8505), which mandates the DOJ to participate in inter-agency efforts to establish Rape Crisis Centers in every city or province for the purpose of rendering assistance to rape victims; (b) Anti-Trafficking in Persons Act of 2003 (R.A. 9208), which mandates the prosecution of persons accused of human trafficking and for that purpose, created the Inter-Agency Council on Trafficking (IACAT), of which the Secretary is Chairman; (c) The Anti-Violence Against Women and Their Children Act of 2004 (RA 9262), which designated the DOJ as a member agency of the Inter-Agency Council on Violence Against Women and their Children (IACVAWC), the monitoring body of government initiatives to counter violence against women and children; (d) Executive Order 53 (2011) amending EO No. 275 pursuant to the Special Protection of Children Against Abuse, Exploitation, and Discrimination Act (RA 7610), designating the DOJ Secretary as the Chairperson of the Committee for the Special Protection of Children; (e) Anti-Child Pornography Act of 2009 (IRR of RA), designating the Secretary of Justice as member of Inter-Agency Council Against Child Pornography that is tasked to coordinate, monitor and oversee the implementation of Anti-Child Pornography Act; and, (f) Cybercrime Prevention

Act of 2012 (RA 10175), the Office of Cybercrime within the DOJ designated as the central authority in all matters related to international mutual assistance and extradition.

Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD). The DSWD seeks to serve as the national policy and regulatory institution for social welfare and development from which LGUs, NGOs, and other members of civil society involved in social welfare and development anchor their thrust and directions (EO 15). The DSWD is responsible for formulating national social welfare and development policies, plans, programs, and statistics, especially as these relate to family development and poverty groups and in monitoring and evaluating the implementation of policies, plans and programs on family welfare and development and poverty alleviation efforts in the social welfare and development sector. It is responsible for setting standards, accreditation, and provision of consultative services to institutions, organizations and persons engaged in social welfare activities. Three inter-agency bodies for children are attached to the DSWD: Council for the Welfare of Children, Juvenile Justice and Welfare Council, and the National Youth Commission.

Early Childhood Care and Development Council (ECCDC). The Early Childhood Care and Development (ECCD) Council is a national government agency in the Philippines first tasked as a coordinating body on early childhood education by virtue of Republic Act 8980 of 2000, and officially established as a Council in 2009 through Executive Order No. 778. In 2013, R.A. 10410 or the “Early Years Act of 2013” also known as the EYA Law was enacted. This is “An Act Recognizing The Age From Zero (0) To Eight (8) Years As The First Crucial Stage Of Educational Development And Strengthening The Early Childhood Care And Development System (ECCD System) Appropriating Funds Therefor and For Other Purposes.” PAGCOR funds majority of the Council’s programs.

Guided by the responsibilities specified in the EYA Law, the Council focuses on the establishment of the national ECCD system that shall ensure the implementation of quality ECCD programs. The ECCD system has four major components, namely: ECCD curriculum; parent education and involvement, advocacy and mobilization of communities; human resource development, and ECCD management. The Council is tasked to: establish national ECCD standards, develop policies and programs, ensure compliance thereof, and provide technical assistance as well as program support to ECCD service providers.

Of paramount importance is the partnership that the Council has developed since 2014 with local government units, especially in the establishment of National Child Development Centers (NCDCs). The Council provides funds for the construction of the NCDC and teaching-learning resources. For its part, the local government provides the required land area and its development, the perimeter fence and playground structures including the salary of the Child Development Teacher (CDT) from the second year of its operation.

The Council consists of a Governing Board and a Council Secretariat. The member agencies of the Council are also its core partners, namely: the Department of Education, Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD), Department of Health (DOH), [National Nutrition Council](#) (NNC), the Union of Local Authorities of the Philippines (ULAP) and a private ECCD practitioner.

Juvenile Justice and Welfare Council (JJWC). The Juvenile Justice and Welfare Council is a policy-making, coordinating and monitoring body tasked with the implementation of the Juvenile Justice and Welfare Act, as amended, through its member and coordinating agencies (Rule 11 of the Revised Implementing Rules and Regulations of R.A. No.10630).

The specific functions of JJWC are to: (a) oversee and drive the implementation of RA 9344 as amended by RA 10630; (b) coordinate the implementation of the juvenile intervention programs and activities by national government agencies and other partner agencies which support and promote the success of the entire national juvenile intervention program. All programs relating to juvenile justice and welfare shall be adopted in consultation with the member agencies of the JJWC.; (c) consult with the various leagues of local government officials in the recommendation, formulation and implementation of policies and strategies for the prevention of juvenile delinquency, the promotion of juvenile justice and welfare, and the institutionalization of the principles of restorative justice.

The JJWC shall advise the President on all matters and policies relating to juvenile justice and welfare. It shall bring to the attention of the President the gaps in existing policies or other policy measures that should be addressed. Whenever appropriate, the JJWC shall recommend to Congress the appropriate remedial legislation in regard to juvenile justice and welfare administration, juvenile intervention, delinquency prevention, and the mainstreaming and institutionalization of the principles of restorative justice.

The JJWC shall also be responsible for policy formulation and program development on juvenile justice and welfare and research and monitoring. The JJWC, through its member agencies, shall conduct regular inspections of jails, detention centers, youth homes that house or hold CICL, child-caring institutions and all other institutions that provide temporary care including, but not limited to “*Bahay Pag-asa*” and youth rehabilitation facilities. It shall also undertake spot inspections, on its own initiative, in order to check compliance with the standards provided in the Act and the Rules, and to make the necessary recommendations and initiate proper actions, in coordination with, and through, the appropriate agencies.

National Council on Disability Affairs (NCDA). The National Council on Disability Affairs is the national government agency mandated to formulate policies and to coordinate the activities of all agencies, whether public or private, concerning disability issues and concerns. As such, the NCDA is the lead agency tasked to steer the course of program development for persons and children with disabilities and the delivery of services to the sector. The NCDA’s role in the 3rd NPAC shall be two-fold, namely, to advocate and promote various activities of children with disabilities (CWDs) and to actively participate and provide technical assistance in addressing the concerns of CWDs and other programs/projects/activities related to CWDs.

National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA). Following are the possible roles of NEDA in the implementation of the 3rd NPAC: (a) consideration and inclusion of children-related development issues, concerns and strategies in the Philippine Development Plan, its results matrix, and the annual Socio-Economic Reports; (b) provision of technical assistance in children-related development planning, policymaking, and programming initiatives; and,

(c) tapping NEDA Regional Offices and the Regional Development Councils in advocating for the promotion and protection of children's rights.

National Youth Commission (NYC). The National Youth Commission is the policy-making coordinating body of all youth-related institutions, programs, projects and activities of the Philippine government (RA 8044 or the Youth in Nation Building Act of 1995). Youth is defined as those belonging to the age range of 15 to 30 years old, which effectively includes children 15 to below 18 years old. The NYC is responsible for the following: (a) provide the leadership in the formulation of policies and in the setting of priorities and direction of all youth promotion and development programs and activities; (b) encourage wide and active participation of the youth in all governmental and non-governmental programs, projects and activities affecting them; (c) harness and develop the full potential of the youth as partners in nation-building; and (d) supplement government appropriations for youth promotion and development with funds from other sources. The NYC is attached to the DSWD (EO No. 795).

Office of the Presidential Adviser on the Peace Process (OPAPP). OPAPP is undertaking and supporting policies, programs, projects and activities to strengthen the capacities of the most vulnerable groups in situations of armed conflict, which include children.

OPAPP is a member of the Inter-Agency Committee on Children In Armed Conflict (IAC-CIAC). IAC-CIAC issued the "Protocol on the Monitoring, Reporting, and Response System (MRRS) on the Grave Child Rights Violations (GCRVs) in the context of Armed Conflict", pursuant to Executive Order No. 138 (s. 2013), Amending the EO 56 (s. 2001) Adopting the Comprehensive Program Framework for Children in Armed Conflict, Strengthening the Council for the Welfare of Children (CWC) and For Other Purposes.

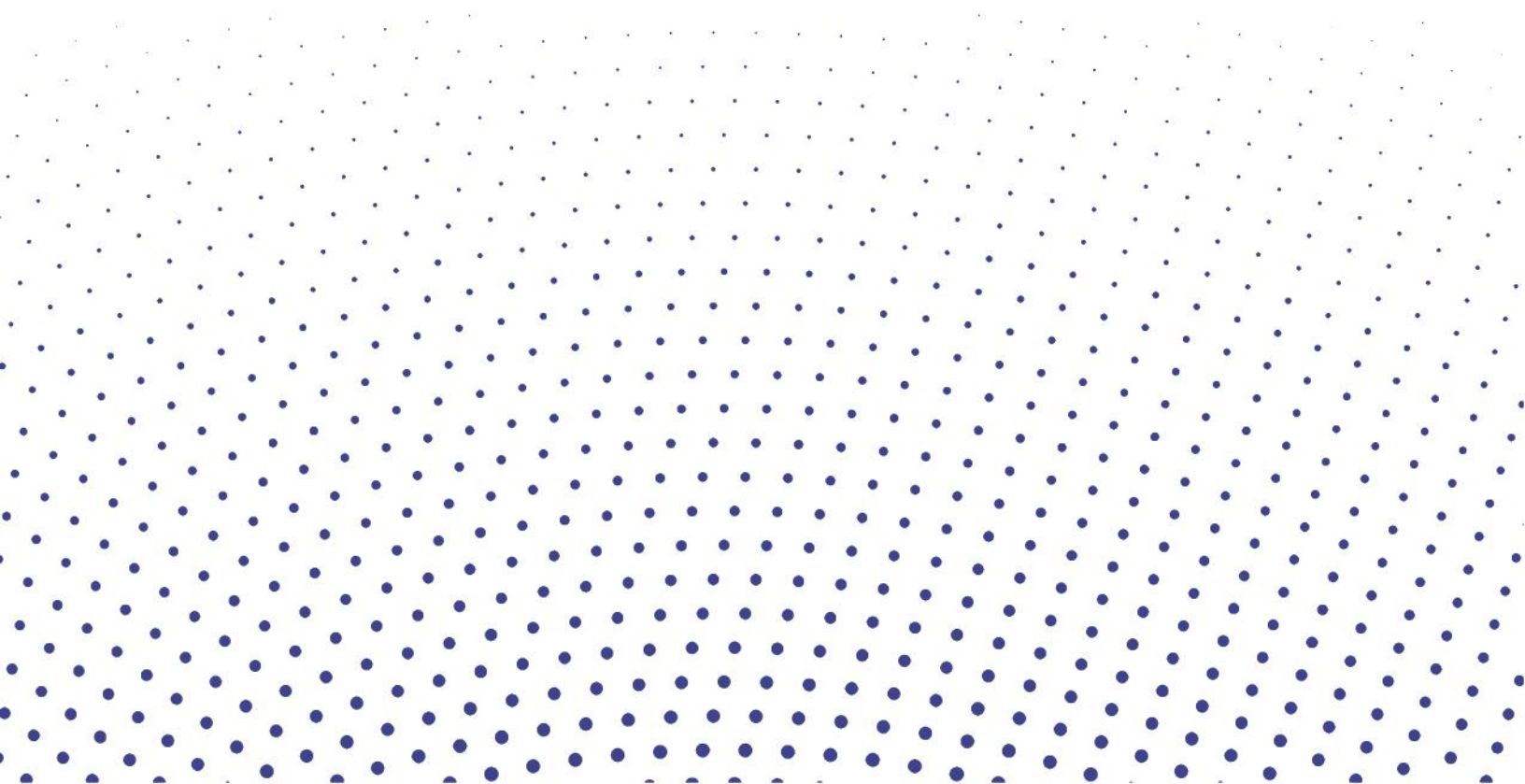
The Protocol lists down the following as OPAPP's roles and responsibilities: (a) provide the overall peace perspective in the formulation of policies and development of programs for Children in Situations of Armed Conflict (CSAC) towards their implementation; (b) integrate child rights promotion and protection of rights of CSAC into the peace negotiations and other peace-building programs and processes; (c) coordinate with concerned agencies on the identification of priority conflict areas for purposes of program/service interventions; (d) facilitate the development of a child-specific demobilization program in coordination with concerned agencies. This program would not require the show or surrender of firearms by CIAC who have assumed non-combatant roles; and, (e) facilitate the implementation of programs and projects in the rehabilitation and reintegration of CSAC in coordination with concerned agencies.

In furtherance of the aforementioned roles and responsibilities, the following describe OPAPP's ongoing efforts and initiatives relative to Children in Armed Conflict (CIAC): (a) participation in the IAC-CIAC OPAPP, attends regular meetings, provides inputs on matters related to the peace process and participates in all activities conducted by the IAC-CIAC; and, (b) mainstreaming Conflict-Sensitive Peace Promoting (CSPP) in providing the overall peace perspective in the formulation of policies and development of programs for CSAC.

OPAPP coordinates with NGAs, LGUs and CSOs in the implementation and oversight of the following peace-building interventions which benefit children, their families and

communities in conflict-affected and conflict-vulnerable areas: (a) PAMANA Program; (b) National Action Plan on Women, Peace and Security (NAP-WPS), and (c) People's Peace Tables which provide a platform for stakeholders to have conversations on peace and conflict issues and concerns started with National Peace-building Conversations in Davao City, and peace tables organized for IP leaders of Caraga, Ranao Sultanate and traditional leaders, Mindanao Peoples Peace Movement composed of tri-peoples of Mindanao, and women and organization of Peace Tables with other stakeholders such as that for local government units, youth, sector groups, and others.

Philippine Information Agency (PIA). The Philippine Information Agency is the official public information arm of the Government of the Republic of the Philippines. It is attached unit of the Presidential Communications Operations Office (PCOO). The PIA works with the Office of the President, National Government Agencies and other public sector entities in communicating their programmes, projects and services to the Filipino people, especially those that concern and impact on children.



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