

Pledge by Philippines

Ratified the Convention on the Rights of the Child on 21 August 1990

Ratified the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the involvement of children in armed conflict on 26 August 2003

Ratified the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the sale of children child prostitution and child pornography on 28 May 2002



Pledges

1. Implementation of the Third National Plan of Action for Children for 2017-2022 (NPAC). The NPAC is a medium-term plan of action for children that lays the foundation and defines the key outcomes in achieving the SDGs by 2030. The Plan of Action includes the Philippine Plan of Action to End Violence Against Children (PPAeVAC) and the National Response Plan Against Child Pornography, among others.
2. The Council for the Welfare of Children (CWC), together with various governmental agencies to include the Presidential Human Rights Committee Secretariat, will spearhead in organizing activities to highlight the 30th anniversary of the Convention on the Rights of the Child in November under the theme “Karapatan ng mga Bata” (“The Rights of the Children”).
3. Issuance of a Memorandum by the Department of Education (DepEd) announcing the celebration of the National Children’s Month and the 30th Anniversary of the CRC in November 2019 to include promotion of activities with/of other agencies,
4. Conduct of child rights and/or child protection Summit with inter-agency and multi-stakeholder participation,
5. Development and posting of collaterals pertaining to the celebration through different modes such as; website/social media banner, tarpaulin, leaflets on child rights and wearing of paraphernalia on Children’s Day (November 20).
6. Organize press releases on the celebration with pieces written by children on the rights of the CRC.
7. Social media campaign creating awareness on children’s rights, uploaded daily to the DepEd social media platforms with infographics that use a child-friendly interpretation of the right, e.g., Karapatan mag-aral (right to study), karapatanmaglaro (right to play) etc.
8. Discussion of child rights in the classroom.
9. Longitudinal Cohort Study on the Filipino Girl and Boy Child
10. Evaluation of the National Early Childhood Care and Development (ECCD) Program
11. National Children’s Congress
12. Consultation on the children’s legislative agenda for the 18th Congress
13. Film showing on advocacy campaigns on the rights of the child (such as “Boses”
14. Annual awarding ceremony of the Presidential Awards for Child-Friendly Municipalities and Cities in the Philippines to culminate the activities.

15. Training of trainers on Disability Inclusive Disaster Risk Reduction and Management and Climate Change Adaptation conducted in the province of Albay on April 23-27, 2019.
16. Partnership with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) on the 5-year project on “Building the Resilience of Persons with Disabilities to Cope with the Impacts of Climate Change.”
17. Local Government Unit (LGU) Convention on Disability Inclusive Local Governance to be held in September to October 2019, which includes topics on children with disabilities.

OVERVIEW

The Constitution of the Philippines provides for the protection and promotion of human rights. Section 11, Article II provides that the States values the dignity of every human person and guarantees full respect for human rights. It provides that the State shall defend the right of children to assistance, including proper care and nutrition, and special protection from all forms of neglect, abuse, cruelty, exploitation, and other conditions prejudicial to their development. It recognizes the vital role of the youth in nation-building and protection of their development and well-being.

CONTRIBUTION IN RESPONSE TO THE CRC FORMAT FOR CRC 30

In response to the template prepared by the CRC Secretariat in preparation for the CRC 30 exhibit to be held in November 2019 in Geneva, the Philippines is pleased to provide the following information:

- 1) **In light of the commitments we have made under the Convention on the Rights of the Child and its Optional Protocols, as applicable, we have undertaken the following to highlight our commitment to the promotion, protection and realization of the rights of the child in celebration of the 30th anniversary of the Convention:**

WHAT?

Implementation of the Third National Plan of Action for Children for 2017-2022 (NPAC)

The NPAC is a medium-term plan of action for children that lays the foundation and defines the key outcomes in achieving the SDGs by 2030. The Plan of Action includes the Philippine Plan of Action to End Violence Against Children (PPAeVAC) and the National Response Plan Against Child Pornography, among others.

WHY?

The 3rd NPAC is aligned with the advocacy and national program framework entitled “Child Friendly Philippines: A Caring and Protective Society for and by Children” that mandates the

creation of a recognition and audit system for local government units that exhibit positive results with programs targeted at ensuring children's well-being.

Among the goals of the 3rd NPAC are:

- reduction of child poverty incidence from 31.4 percent in 2015 to 20.35 percent by 2022;
- increase in birth registration to 95 percent in 2022 from 87.4 percent in 2011;
- reduction in all forms of malnutrition by 2022;
- for children under 5 years of age, stunting is reduced to 21.4 percent from 33.4 percent in 2015;
- 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.
- address the nutritional needs of adolescent girls, pregnant and lactating women; reduce new-born mortality rate; lessen child labor in all its forms; and reduce all forms of violence/exploitation of children, among others.

The 3rd NPAC was formulated through multi-stakeholder consultations with **civil societies** led by the Civil Society Coalition on the Rights of the Child (CRC Coalition) and **child-led organizations** from different regions of the Philippines.

Its formulation bears in mind the four principles of the UN Convention on the Rights of Child, namely: **Survival** (Goal 1: Children have a better quality and improved way of life); **Development** (Goal 2: Children are well nourished, have healthy lives, active learners, with good quality education); **Protection** (Goal 3: Children are safe and free from violence, abuse, neglect, and exploitation); and **Participation** (Goal 4: Children actively participate in decision-making processes affecting their lives according to their evolving capacities).

HOW?

The Philippines undertakes the following in the implementation of the 3rd NPAC:

- Adoption of policy measures to enhance child rights promotion and protection;
- Coordination among line agencies and stakeholders;
- Mainstreaming of child rights into local development planning and governance and increased allocation of budget;
- Awareness-raising, education and training;
- Research and studies on the vulnerability of children;
- Review and follow-up on the implementation of the 5-year National Plan of Action for Children (NPAC) with main objective of narrowing gaps between present situation of Filipino Children and the State vision for them by 2025.

WHEN?

Review and assessment on the goals and targets vis-à-vis the accomplishments of the third National Plan of Action for Children by the year 2023.

WHO?

The implementation of the 3rd NPAC requires a whole-of-government approach, led by the **Council for the Welfare of Children (CWC)**, the focal inter-agency body of the Philippine Government for children.

The CWC is mandated to coordinate the implementation and enforcement of all laws; formulate, monitor and evaluate policies, programs and measures for children. Providing dynamic leadership in ensuring a child-friendly and child-sensitive society where every child fully enjoys his/her rights.

- 2) **The Philippines is pleased to provide the initial list of plans that are being organized to celebrate the 30th anniversary of the Convention:**

National Children's Month

Republic Act 10661 (R.A. 10661) was adopted into law on 28 July 2014 declaring November of every year as the "National Children's Month". The law was enacted in commemoration of the adoption of the Convention on the Rights of the Child by the UN General Assembly on 20 November 1989. The law seeks to instill the Convention's significance in the Filipino consciousness.

In this context, the Council for the Welfare of Children (CWC), together with various governmental agencies to include the Presidential Human Rights Committee Secretariat, will spearhead in organizing activities to highlight the 30th anniversary of the Convention on the Rights of the Child in November under the theme "Karapatan ng mga Bata" ("The Rights of the Children").

The Committee on the Welfare of Children in the House of Representatives of the Philippines also commits to collaborate activities in partnership with child-focused non-governmental organizations such as the Child Rights Network, Save the Children, Plan International and the Philippine Legislator's Committee on Population and Development to commemorate CRC 30.

Education and training

- Issuance of a Memorandum by the Department of Education (DepEd) announcing the celebration of the National Children's Month and the 30th Anniversary of the CRC in November 2019 to include promotion of activities with/of other agencies;
- Conduct of child rights and/or child protection Summit with inter-agency and multi-stakeholder participation;

- Development and posting of collaterals pertaining to the celebration through different modes such as; website/social media banner, tarpaulin, leaflets on child rights and wearing of paraphernalia on Children's Day (November 20);
- Organize press releases on the celebration with pieces written by children on the rights of the CRC;
- Social media campaign creating awareness on children's rights, uploaded daily to the DepEd social media platforms with infographics that use a child-friendly interpretation of the right, e.g., Karapatan mag-aral (right to study), karapatanmaglaro (right to play) etc; and
- Discussion of child rights in the classroom.

Socio-Economic Development

- Longitudinal Cohort Study on the Filipino Girl and Boy Child

The Philippines' National and Economic Development Authority (NEDA) in partnership with the Department of Health, United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) and United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) in the Philippines initiated the 15-year longitudinal Study with initial funding support from the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade of the Australian Government and the UNICEF. The National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA) is the chairperson and the technical secretariat of the study's National Steering Committee.

- Evaluation of the National Early Childhood Care and Development (ECCD) Program

The ongoing conduct of ECCD aims to assess how the ECCD system operates to contribute to the achievement of the relevant outcomes of the Philippine Development Plan, 2017-2022 including but not limited to the readiness of 4-year-old for kindergarten, and to contribute to ECCD Council's efforts to determine its future strategic direction in strengthening its capacity to enable the achievement of desired ECCD goals.

The 10-month evaluation, which started in May 2019, will be carried out in two phases. The first phase will map out how the different components and efforts interact towards the common objectives of the National ECCD System both at the policy and operational levels. The second phase will assess a chosen coordinative mechanism against the overall landscape and objectives of the ECCD in the Philippines.

The evaluation is commissioned by the NEDA – Monitoring and Evaluation Staff through the United Nations Development Programme in the Philippines.

- National Children's Congress
- Consultation on the children's legislative agenda for the 18th Congress

- Film showing on advocacy campaigns on the rights of the child (such as “Boses”)
- Annual awarding ceremony of the Presidential Awards for Child-Friendly Municipalities and Cities in the Philippines to culminate the activities.

Disability and Welfare

- Training of trainers on Disability Inclusive Disaster Risk Reduction and Management and Climate Change Adaptation conducted in the province of Albay on April 23-27, 2019

The objectives of the said training were to:

- *Develop Disability Inclusive Action Plans on Disability Inclusive DRRM*
 - *Establish and develop Disability DRRM structures (local pool of trainers and committees) for the implementation of the Disability Inclusive DRRM Program*
 - *Recognize and develop the capacities and skills of the vulnerable groups (including children, women, older persons and persons with disabilities) and ensure their active and continued participation.*
 - *Capacity building for responders*
 - *Conduct of orientation using the LAHAT HANDA, a disability Inclusive Manual on DRRM.*
- Partnership with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) on the 5-year project on “Building the Resilience of Persons with Disabilities to Cope with the Impacts of Climate Change.”

The National Council on Disability Affairs (NCDA) will be the implementing agency and chair of the National steering Committee in the Philippines on the conduct of the project. It aims to build capacity to effectively work on improving the resilience of persons with disabilities, including children with disabilities to climate change and related disasters through capacity building strategies/activities, development of early warning infrastructures, awareness raising and reinforcement of climate change and DRRM-related policies.

- Local Government Unit (LGU) Convention on Disability Inclusive Local Governance to be held in September to October 2019, which includes topics on children with disabilities.