

**Inputs of the Commission on Human Rights of the Philippines to the report of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights by mandate of the Human Rights Council resolution 49/12 on the rights of persons with disabilities**

**01 September 2022**

The Commission on Human Rights of the Philippines (CHRP),[[1]](#footnote-1) as the country’s national human rights institution, submits this written input on the OHCHR annual thematic study on the rights of persons with disabilities.

This submission utilizes the CHRP’s own documentation of independent monitoring activities and statements undertaken by all CHRP offices in responding to the concerns of persons with disabilities on support systems to ensure community inclusion, including as a means of building forward better due to the COVID-19 pandemic. In addition, this submission takes into consideration reports from the government, civil society, media, and international non-governmental organizations.

**Does your country have laws, policies, plans, strategies or programmes at any level of government relating to individualized support for persons with disabilities? In particular initiatives related to:**

***Communication: Support to overcome barriers that limit the ability to communicate and be understood:***

1. The implementation of programs at all levels of government in the country, is usually defined based on existing legislations. The following are the enabling laws in promoting communication support of person with disabilities:
   1. Republic Act No. 10905, which lapsed into law on July 21, 2016, requires all franchise holders or operators of television stations and producers of television programs to provide “closed caption”[[2]](#footnote-2) options for news programs and pre-scripted programs.[[3]](#footnote-3)
   2. Republic Act No. 11106, directs government agencies involved in the education of the deaf to use Filipino Sign Language (FSL) as the medium of instruction. The following provisions also mandates these governmental instrumentalities, to wit:
      1. The [*Komisyon sa Wikang Filipino*](https://kwf.gov.ph/tungkol-sa-kwf/) is tasked to establish a national system of standards, accreditations, and procedures for FSL interpretation;[[4]](#footnote-4)
      2. Courts, quasi-judicial agencies, and other tribunals shall use FSL as the official language for the deaf in all public hearings, proceedings, and transactions.[[5]](#footnote-5) Further, FSL shall also be used as the official language of the deaf employees in government workplaces;[[6]](#footnote-6)
      3. State hospitals and health facilities shall ensure that health services are accessible to the Filipino deaf patients, while private health facilities are encouraged to provide deaf patients with access to health services;[[7]](#footnote-7) and
      4. To ensure access to information, the *Kapisanan ng mga Brodkaster sa Pilipinas*, and the Movie and Television Review and Classification Board (MTRCB) shall require FSL interpreter insets in news and public affairs programs.[[8]](#footnote-8)
   3. Republic Act No. 10533, states that basic education shall be delivered in languages understood by the learners. Transition from the mother language to Filipino and English as the language of instruction shall be made from Grade 4 to Grade 6. The law includes Filipino Sign Language as the mother language of individuals with pertinent disabilities;[[9]](#footnote-9)
   4. Republic Act No. 10410, mandates the State to establish a National System for Early Childhood Care and Development which will promote the inclusion of children with special needs, provide for reasonable accommodation and accessible, and advocate respect for cultural and linguistic diversity, including the use of FSL as the language of the deaf community.[[10]](#footnote-10)
   5. Republic Act No. 11650, institutionalizes an inclusion policy for learners with disabilities in all early and basic education schools. To ensure that no one is denied admission on the basis of disability, schools are mandated to provide an accessible quality education for learners with disabilities.[[11]](#footnote-11)
2. The pronouncement of the Supreme Court, through its Office of the Court Administrator (OCA), relative to Circular No. 106-2022,[[12]](#footnote-12) encouraging the exemption of deaf parties and their sign language interpreters from in-court hearings, and otherwise, be allowed to appear during court hearings via online video conferencing. “The circular comes after the request of Komisyon sa Wikang Filipino Chairman Arthur P. Casanova, in consultation with the Philippine Federation of the Deaf and the Philippine National Association of Sign Language Interpreters. According to them, COVID-19 protocols required in in-court hearings, such as wearing face masks, hamper the effectiveness, speed, and accuracy of communication between the deaf signer and their interpreter.”[[13]](#footnote-13)
3. In March 2020, immediately after COVID-19 became a worldwide health crisis, the Commission on Human Rights of the Philippines (CHRP) released a series of human rights advisories including CHR (V) A2020-009 or the *Human Rights in the Time of COVID-19 in the Philippines in Pursuit of the Rights-Based Model of Disability Amid the COVID-19 Pandemic in the Philippines*[[14]](#footnote-14). In response, the Department of Interior and Local Government (DILG) promptly issued Memorandum Circular No.: 2020-066 or the *Guidelines on Providing Proper Welfare of Persons With Disabilities During the Enhanced Community Quarantine Due to the Corona Virus 2019 (COVID-19) Pandemic*[[15]](#footnote-15) to ensure access to food and health services by the sector of persons with disabilities. With its power of general supervision over local government units, the DILG mandated the enforcement of the guidelines as well as its dissemination with CHRP’s human rights advisory attached.
4. As early as 2010, the government, through the National Council on Disability Affairs (NCDA) and the National Computer Center (NCC), has been pushing for accessible website design across government agencies. In Joint Circular No. 1, series of 2010, NCDA and NCC promulgated the Accessible Design Guidelines based on the Web Design Accessibility Recommendation Checkpoints recommended by the Philippine Web Accessibility Group.[[16]](#footnote-16) Shortly after its establishment, the Department of Information and Communications Technology issued Memorandum Circular No. 2017-004 mandating all government agencies and instrumentalities, including state universities and colleges, government-owned and controlled corporations, local government units, the Congress, and the Judiciary, to adopt the Philippine Web Accessibility Policy to ensure accessibility of web content to persons with disabilities.[[17]](#footnote-17)

***Decision-making: Support to make decisions and exercise legal capacity:***

1. Republic Act No. 11036, states that mental health service users must provide a written informed consent in the form of “advance directives” before mental health professionals, workers, and other service providers implement a plan, program of therapy or treatment.[[18]](#footnote-18) Among the elements of informed consent are:
2. informed consent to treatment shall incorporate voluntarism or consent given by the service user without threat or coercion, undue influence, or manipulation;
3. competency to understand information, communicate a decision, understand its consequences;
4. disclosure of the mental health professional on the possible benefits and risks of the treatment and its alternatives;
5. understanding or capacity to understand information relevant to the circumstance and appreciate the foreseeable consequences of making (or failing to make) a decision; and
6. the decision of the service user authorizing the mental health professional, workers, and other service providers to execute the proposed treatment plan which is consistent with their preferences or advance directives”.[[19]](#footnote-19)

Informed consent may be subject to exceptions during psychiatric or neurologic emergencies, or when there is impairment of decision-making capacity; provided, all conditions are met: (a) in compliance with the advance directive, if available, unless doing so would pose an immediate risk to the service user or the people around him/her; (b) only to the extent that such treatment or restraint is necessary and only while the impairment of decision-making capacity persists; (c) upon order of the attending mental health professional, provided that the Internal Review Board of the Facility reviews the order within fifteen (15) days, and every fifteen (15) days while the treatment or restraint continues; and (d) such involuntary treatment or restraint is in strict accordance with the approved guidelines by appropriate authorities.[[20]](#footnote-20)

Under the law, the service users may set their preference in relation to treatment through a notarized advance directive.[[21]](#footnote-21) They may also designate a legal representative who shall provide support and help to the service user; act as substitute decision maker when the service user has temporary impairment of decision-making capacity or when the advance directive is not applicable; and be consulted with matters relating to the treatment and therapy of the service user.[[22]](#footnote-22)

Service users may also designate up to three supporters, including the legal representative. Supporters shall have the authority to access the service user’s medical record, consult with the service user vis-a-vis the proposed treatment; be present during the service user’s appointments and consultations.[[23]](#footnote-23)

1. In March 2022, Republic Act No. 11650 or the *Instituting a Policy of Inclusion and Services for Learners with Disabilities in Support of Inclusive Education Act* was signed into law.[[24]](#footnote-24) The passage of this act reflects the government’s commitment in ensuring that learners with disabilities will reach their full potential “towards self-sufficiency and become fully participative members of society”[[25]](#footnote-25) and “in preparation for independent living and community life”[[26]](#footnote-26) through provision of “public early and basic education and support and related services based on their needs.”[[27]](#footnote-27)

Earlier this year, the Department of Education (DepEd) issued DepEd Order No. 023, series of 2022 or the *Child Find Policy for Learners with Disabilities Towards Inclusive Education*.[[28]](#footnote-28) This policy, in accordance with Republic Act No. 11650, mandates all levels of governance of DepEd, including public schools, to identify, locate, and evaluate learners with disabilities to address their physical, intellectual, psychosocial, and cultural needs. Further, DepEd Order No. 023 ensures that “no child is left behind” and that all “learners with disabilities will have access and full participation in the basic education program.”[[29]](#footnote-29)

1. In 2018, the Republic Act No. 11106 or the *Filipino Sign Language Act* was passed into law. This law declares the Filipino Sign Language (FSL) as the national sign language of the deaf as well as the official sign language for all public transactions, services, and facilities.[[30]](#footnote-30) The newly-signed Implementing Rules and Regulations of the FSL Act mandates the Department of Justice, the Judiciary and the Department of Interior and Local Government to formulate standards and implement policies, among others, for the use of FSL in legal interpreting in courts and their respective offices for all hearings, proceedings, and transactions involving deaf Filipinos.[[31]](#footnote-31)
2. In 2013, accessible polling places were created for persons with disabilities and senior citizens through the passage of Republic Act No. 10366 or *An Act Authorizing the Commission on Elections to Establish Precincts Assigned to Accessible Polling Places Exclusively for Persons with Disabilities and Senior Citizens.*[[32]](#footnote-32) On 23 January 2019, the Commission on Elections promulgated Resolution No. 10486 which laid down the general instructions for the establishment of Emergency Accessible Polling Places for persons with disabilities, older persons, and heavily pregnant voters.[[33]](#footnote-33) The Commission on Elections entered into Memorandum of Understanding with other government agencies, organizations of persons with disabilities, and civil society organizations to ensure the electoral participation of and reasonable accommodation for persons with disabilities.[[34]](#footnote-34)

***Mobility: Support for personal mobility and access to affordable and available assistance:***

1. Batas Pambansa Bldg. 344, prohibits the granting of license or permit for the construction, repair or renovation of buildings, establishments, institutions or public utilities unless the owner or operator installs accessibility features, including but not limited to sidewalks, ramps, and railings. In the case of parking spaces, the owner or operator shall reserve sufficient and suitable space for the use of disabled persons.[[35]](#footnote-35) The Implementing Rules and Regulations of BP 344 sets the standards and minimum requirements for accessibility of transportation, buildings, establishments, institutions or public utilities.[[36]](#footnote-36)
2. To respond the need to ensure available assistance is given to person with disabilities, the Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (TESDA), signed a Memorandum of Agreement to pursue a joint project entitled “Uplifting the PWDs through Skills Development”, that would provide free skills training to persons with disabilities nationwide, with focus on the “Training for Work Scholarship Program”, (TWSP) and Two-Prolonged Strategy on Poverty Reduction, to focus on:

* *skills training so that the persons with disabilities could be issued and receive the National Certificate which is necessary for job application here and abroad; and*
* *interventions through skills development by providing access to training to qualified persons with disability for self or wage employment to uplift their socio-economic status. Likewise, the Technical Vocational Education and Training (TVET) institutions promised to help the project in providing skills for persons with disabilities.[[37]](#footnote-37)*

1. The National Council on Disability Affairs (NCDA), lobbied with the Department of Transportation (DOTr) Commuters Affairs Office-Persons with Disabilties’ Commuters Rights Group, in mobilizing commuters with disabilities nationwide to demand for their rights to have accessible public transport in land, air and sea travels.[[38]](#footnote-38) It resulted in the issuances of (a) Joint Memorandum Circular No. 2018-001[[39]](#footnote-39) to ensure the safety of persons with disabilities and senior citizens in boarding and disembarking an aircraft in the course of their travels; and (b) Department Order No. 2017-018[[40]](#footnote-40), mandating all Airport Authorities to facilitate compliance by requiring aircraft operators having accessible passenger boarding ramps for the use of persons with disabilities and senior citizens.
2. The Department of Health (DOH) and the University of the Philippines-College of Public Health, and NCDA coordinated the preparation of the “Multisector Action Plan on Drowning Prevention in the Philippines (2016-2026),” which aims to enhance interventions on drowning prevention especially in high-risk groups, strengthen implementation and enforcement of policies and regulations on drowning prevention.[[41]](#footnote-41)
3. Another initiative of the DOH, is the issuance of Executive Order No. 12, this guideline includes measures, such as handling reproductive health needs of persons with disabilities and promoting disability sensitivity training for health workers and service providers. [[42]](#footnote-42)
4. The Community Action and Resources for Accessible and Better Living Environment for Persons with Disability (CARE-ABLE), is a community-based intervention which enables persons with disability to access available resources, programs and services in the community. The project aims to provide holistic interventions to persons with disabilities and reduce barriers for greater access to resources both from the government and non-government actors.[[43]](#footnote-43) The project has the following five (5) components[[44]](#footnote-44), namely: (i) Establishment of Barangay Helpdesks; (ii) Support Services; (iii) Capability Building; (iv) Strengthening Local Mechanisms; and (v) Organization of Community Volunteers.

**Housing and accommodation: Support in relation to housing and living arrangements in the community, including home modifications:**

1. Under the 1987 Constitution, “the State shall, by law, and for the common good, undertake, in cooperation with the private sector, a continuing program of urban land reform and housing which will make available at affordable cost, decent housing and basic services to underprivileged and homeless citizens in urban centers and resettlement areas.”[[45]](#footnote-45) The following strategies[[46]](#footnote-46) will be adopted to achieve the targets for building safe and secure communities to address the implementation issues in the delivery of decent and affordable housing to the intended beneficiaries (e.g. poor, underprivileged, and communities vulnerable to hazards):
   1. Develop integrated neighborhoods and sustainable communities particularly for low-income household. The government will implement the “National Spatial Strategy (NSS) which seeks to address the challenges of agglomeration economics, connectivity, and vulnerability. These solutions will help address the issue of low occupancy rate and cater more sustainably to the needs of the homeless, poor, and underprivileged beneficiaries;
   2. Intensify implementation of alternatives and innovative solutions in addressing the housing needs of the lower income classes and vulnerable sector;
   3. Mainstream program convergence budgeting in housing and resettlement, and innovative housing finance modalities; and
   4. Strengthen housing as a platform to reduce poverty and improve social outcomes.
2. In Executive Order No. 105,[[47]](#footnote-47) there is a need to establish a program, which will address the housing requirements of neglected, abandoned, abused, and unattached older persons and person with disabilities. The Housing Program for the Poor Older Persons and Persons with Disabilities, includes the establishment / donation of group/foster homes for the poor and those incapable of self-care including its management, maintenance and operations.[[48]](#footnote-48)

**Family and household support: Support to families and households with members with disabilities:**

1. The Implementing Rules and Regulations of Republic Act 10754[[49]](#footnote-49), provides for support for those caring for and living with persons with disabilities. “Those for and living with a person with disability, up to the fourth degree of affinity or consanguinity, shall be granted tax incentives in accordance with the provisions of the National Internal Revenue Code, as amended. For purposes of granting the incentives, persons with disability shall be treated as dependents under Section 35(b) of the National Internal Revenue Code of 1997, as amended, and as such, individual taxpayers providing care for them shall be accorded the privileges granted by the Code insofar as having dependents under the same section is concerned;[[50]](#footnote-50)
2. Republic Act No. 9442 or the *Magna Carta for Disabled Persons* - This law “aims to provide persons with disability, the opportunity to participate fully into the mainstream of society”[[51]](#footnote-51) and recognizes that persons with disabilities “have the same rights as other people to take their proper place in society,”[[52]](#footnote-52) “should be able to live freely and as independently as possible,”[[53]](#footnote-53) and that their rights “must never be perceived as welfare services.”[[54]](#footnote-54) Significant features of the law include:
   1. Discounts from prime commodities and basic necessities and other goods and services - The law mandates the provision of at least 20% discount from all establishments (including hotels and similar lodging establishments, restaurants, and sports and recreational centers) for services and goods utilized and purchased by a person with disability; from purchases of medicine; from admission fees charged by places of leisure and amusement (including theaters, cinema houses and concert halls, circuses, and carnivals); from medical and dental services in government and private facilities; and from air, sea, and land transportation fees.
   2. Educational privileges - The law also mandates the provision of educational assistance to persons with disability for them to pursue primary, secondary, tertiary, post tertiary, as well as vocational or technical education in both public and private schools.
   3. Express lanes privileges - The law mandates further that persons with disabilities shall be accorded priority treatment in all private, commercial and government establishment transactions.
   4. Prohibitions on verbal, non-verbal ridicule and vilification against persons with disabilities - The law prohibits any individual, group or community from ridiculing and vilifying persons with disabilities. Such acts are penalized under the law.
   5. To provide a comprehensive health care and rehabilitation system for disabled senior citizens to foster their capacity to attain a more meaningful and productive ageing; and
   6. To recognize the important role of the private sector in the improvement of the welfare of senior citizens and to actively seek their partnership.[[55]](#footnote-55)
3. The Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD), issued a new guideline[[56]](#footnote-56) “to continuously implement the Assistance to Individuals in Crisis Situation (AICS), a program to support government efforts in providing aid to individuals and families seeking assistance for medical, funeral, food, transportation, educational and other support services. Undoubtedly, there is an observed increase in the number of clients who are suffering from the severe economic effects brought by the Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) pandemic.[[57]](#footnote-57) The said guideline clearly enumerates particular support/assistance that will be made available to concerned eligible program beneficiaries[[58]](#footnote-58), such as:
4. Program Beneficiary, the AICS is intended for individuals and families determined to be in a “state of active crisis” or “crisis situation”[[59]](#footnote-59) or needed financial or material support from the National Government, whether or not as a form of augmentation to that provided by the client’s LGU, based on the assessment of a DSWD Social Worker. In general, any individual, whether indigent or not, who is in crisis situation or in difficult circumstances in life may be assisted through the provision of any of the assistance available; and
5. Program coverage includes, financial assistance, material assistance, psychosocial support and referral services.
6. In April 2019, *Pantawid Pamilyang Pilipino Program* (Bridging Program for the Filipino Family), one of the national government’s social protection support project, was institutionalized through Republic Act No. 11310 or *An Act Institutionalizing the Pantawid Pamilyang Program.*[[60]](#footnote-60) The *Pantawid Pamilyang Pilipino Program* provides conditional cash transfer to qualified household-beneficiaries, as well as “social protection, social assistance, social development and other complementary support services in partnership with concerned agencies, local government and other stakeholders towards improving the health and nutrition, education and socio-economic aspects of their lives.”[[61]](#footnote-61) Under the Implementing Rules and Regulations of Republic Act No. 11310, persons with disabilities are part of the vulnerable groups which “shall be automatically included in the standardized targeting system to be conducted by the” Department of Social Welfare and Development.[[62]](#footnote-62)
7. On 22 February 2019, the Republic Act No. 11228 or *An Act Providing for the Mandatory Philhealth Coverage for All Persons with Disability, Amending for the Purpose Republic Act No. 7277, As Amended, Otherwise Known as the “Magna Carta for Persons with Disability”* was passed into law. It ensures the mandatory enrollment of persons with disabilities under the National Health Insurance Program of the Philippine Health Insurance Corporation (PhilHealth).[[63]](#footnote-63) Further, the Implementing Rules and Regulations of Republic Act No. 11228 mandated the development of exclusive packages for persons with disabilities that will “address their specific health and development needs, in addition to existing PhilHealth benefits.”[[64]](#footnote-64)
8. Additional benefits and privileges were granted to persons with disabilities through Republic Act No. 10754 or the *An Act Expanding the Benefits and Privileges of Persons with Disability*.[[65]](#footnote-65) As reported by the NCDA to the Department of Justice, the Council received complaints about alleged refusal of a certain pharmacy to honor the 12% value-added tax (VAT) exemption for medicines afforded to persons with disabilities through Republic Act No. 10754.[[66]](#footnote-66) In its opinion published in the NCDA website, the Department of Justice stressed that since the effectivity of the said law on 8 April 2016, the tax exemptions on purchase of medicines, including foods for medical purposes, should be given to persons with disabilities.[[67]](#footnote-67)
9. Republic Act No. 10747 or the *Rare Diseases Act of the Philippines* declared that people with rare disease shall be considered as persons with disabilities with the rights and privileges granted by the *Magna Carta for Persons with Disabilities*.[[68]](#footnote-68) As a reiteration in February 2022, the Department of Interior and Local Government, together with the NCDA and the Department of Health, issued Memorandum Circular No 2022-017 on the inclusion of cancer and rare diseases as a type of disability to ensure the adequate care and support for patients and survivors of cancers and rare diseases.[[69]](#footnote-69)

**What are the government institutions, departments and ministries in charge of budgeting, financing and implementing of the above programs?**

1. In the Philippines, [funds for the use of government entities are appropriated or authorized following a process with the following major steps](https://www.dbm.gov.ph/wp-content/uploads/2012/03/PGB-B1.pdf): 1) individual agencies prepare their estimates of expenditures or proposed budgets for the succeeding year and submit these estimates or proposals contained in required budget forms to the Department of Budget and Management[[70]](#footnote-70) (DBM) following baseline figures, guidelines and timetable earlier set; 2) agencies justify details of their proposed budgets before DBM technical review panels; 3) DBM reviews and consolidates proposed budgets of all agencies for inclusion in the President's proposed budget for submission to Congress; 4) agencies explain the details of their proposed budgets in separate hearings called by the [House of Representatives](https://www.congress.gov.ph/about/?about=mandate) and the [Senate of the Philippines](http://legacy.senate.gov.ph/) for inclusion in the General Appropriation Bill; and 5) the President signs the General Appropriation Bill into law or what is known as the General Appropriations Act (GAA).
2. The national line agencies and the local government units (LGUs) have the obligations to ensure that funds are made available in the implementation of programs for persons with disabilities in the country. These national agencies are:
3. [Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD)](https://www.dswd.gov.ph/) shall ensure that the annual budgets include provisions to fund programs and provide support for persons with disabilities[[71]](#footnote-71) with the main participation of the National Council of Disability Affairs (NCDA);
4. **National Council on Disability Affairs** (NCDA)is the national government agency attached to the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) by virtue of Executive Order no. 33, mandated to formulate policies and coordinate the activities of all agencies, whether public or private, concerning disability issues and concerns. As such, the NCDA is the lead agency mandated to be the government policy-making, planning, monitoring, coordinating and advocating for the prevention of the causes of disability, rehabilitation and equalization of opportunities in the concept of rights-based society for persons with disabilities and lead in the implementation of programs and projects;
5. To supplement the funds, of the DSWD and NCDA, there also government agencies that must ensure that they have an earmarked budget for persons with disabilities in compliance with existing legislations and policies, such as:
6. The local government units[[72]](#footnote-72) has the responsibility to make available the social welfare services in the various jurisdictions, which include programs and projects on child and youth welfare, family and community welfare, women’s welfare, welfare of the elderly and **disabled persons[[73]](#footnote-73),** […….].
7. The implementation of the Supreme Court (SC) ruling in the Mandanas case (General Register No. 199802, July 3, 2018)[[74]](#footnote-74). The SC ruled that all collections of national taxes, except those accruing to special purpose funds and special allotments for the utilization and development of the national wealth, should be included in the computation of the base of the just share of local government units.[[75]](#footnote-75)
8. The Department of Public Works and Highways allocated P83 Million under fiscal year 2017 General Appropriations Act for the construction of “Disability Resource and Development Center (DRDC)” to be a model as a one-stop disability resource center.[[76]](#footnote-76)

**How are persons with disabilities and their representative participate in organizations, the level of involvement in the design and monitoring?**

1. In the Philippines, the rights of persons with disabilities in general are recognized and guaranteed under the 1987 Constitution under the Articles on the Bill of Rights.[[77]](#footnote-77) Aside from this, there are constitutional provisions which guarantee the prioritization of the rights of this sector. These provisions focus on the following:
   1. Right to Assemble- “Shall recognize the right of disabled persons to participate in processions; rallies, parade, demonstrations, public meetings, and assemblages or other forms of mass or concerted action held in public.[[78]](#footnote-78)
   2. Right to Organize- “The State recognizes the right of disabled persons to from organizations or associations that promote their welfare and advancement or safeguard their interest”.[[79]](#footnote-79)
   3. Right to suffrage - “... The Congress shall also design a procedure for the disabled and the illiterates to vote without the assistance of other persons. Until then, they shall be allowed to vote under existing laws and such rules as the Commission on Elections may promulgate to protect the secrecy of the ballot.”[[80]](#footnote-80)
   4. Right to education - “The State shall: … Provide adult citizens, the disabled, and out-of-school youth with training in civics, vocational efficiency, and other skills.”[[81]](#footnote-81)
   5. Right to health - “The State shall adopt an integrated and comprehensive approach to health development which shall endeavor to make essential goods, health and other social services available to all the people at affordable cost. There shall be priority for the needs of the underprivileged sick, elderly, disabled, women, and children. …”[[82]](#footnote-82)
2. Advocates such as the Alliance of Filipino Families for Mental Health, Inc., and the Youth For Mental Health (Y4MH) were involved in the drafting of the Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR). Other organizations of persons with disabilities were invited for the public consultation on the IRR. Other organizations representing persons with disabilities were also invited for the public consultation of the IRR of the 2018 Mental Health Act.
3. In 2010, Republic Act No. 10070 or *An Act* *Establishing Institutional Mechanism to Ensure the Implementation of Programs and Services for Persons with Disabilities in Every Province, City, and Municipality, Amending Republic Act No. 7277 Otherwise Known as the Magna Carta for Persons Disabilities, as Amended for Other Purposes* was enacted into law.[[83]](#footnote-83) This mandates the creation of Persons with Disability Affairs Office (PDAO) in every province, city, and municipality in the country. It further outlines the functions of PDAO, which includes ensuring “the participation of non-government organizations and people’s organizations in the implementation of all disability-related laws and policies” and representing the sector in “meetings of local development councils and other special bodies”.[[84]](#footnote-84) Republic Act No. 10070 also gives priority to qualified persons with disabilities for the positions under PDAO.[[85]](#footnote-85)
4. The Department of the Interior and Local Government issued Memorandum Circular No. 2021-041 in April 2021 to call on all local government units to fulfil their legal obligations under Republic Act No. 10070.[[86]](#footnote-86) This issuance reiterated the need for PDAOs to have their own budget for operations and services, as well as for the PDAO staff to conduct regular consultations/meetings with the sector of persons with disabilities to raise possible issues and emerging concerns.[[87]](#footnote-87)

**Does your country have a strategy to develop legislation, policies and programmes to enable the development of support systems which includes targets, indicators and an accountability mechanism? Please provide references to the documentation.**

1. Yes, the Philippine Development Plan[[88]](#footnote-88) (PDP), developed by the National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA)[[89]](#footnote-89) enumerates strategies as guide of the government agencies and stakeholders so that coordinated care and support system for persons with disabilities are provided. These strategies[[90]](#footnote-90), include the following:
2. **Promote a healthy lifestyle,** as provided for in the Universal Health Care Act (UHC Act), a National Health Human Resource Master Plan will be formulated and implemented. The Department of Health (DOH) will also improve the recruitment and deployment process. Pools of medical and allied health professionals will be mobilized, especially during health emergencies, per level of care nationwide. In addition, a network of community health volunteers who will assist in providing surveillance and information dissemination services during health emergencies will be established. These will ensure that the quality and supply of human resource for health (HR will meet the needs of the population, especially of vulnerable groups (e.g., **persons with disabilities** during health emergencies;[[91]](#footnote-91)
3. **Intensify organization and electoral reforms,** spearheaded by the Commission on Elections[[92]](#footnote-92) (COMELEC), the government will push for political and electoral reforms to integrate new election protocols such as, but not limited to, automation and online system of voter registration, digitization of voters’ list, enhancement of voting measures for senior citizens and **persons with disabilities**, and establishment of additional polling places for indigenous groups. Rules and regulations on party-list development, anti-political dynasty, and campaign financing will also be pursued;
4. **Build capacity in preparing business continuity plans (BCPs) across industries,** the ability to tap alternative suppliers and beef up inventory capacity will insulate enterprises against vulnerabilities. Support will be provided by capacitating firms to prepare their customized BCPs[[93]](#footnote-93) individuals starting up their own businesses – particularly youth, women and **persons with disabilities**—will require a supportive policy environment from the national and local government. Blended finance or the strategic use of development finance to mobilize additional funding for sustainable development will be tapped;[[94]](#footnote-94)and
5. **Develop efficient and resilient national supply chain network system,** transport agencies will continue to formulate convergence programs with concerned agencies with an emphasis on improved connectivity and enhanced mobility, multimodal transport terminals complete with ancillary facilities will be revived to develop initiatives that will address the unique needs of **persons with disabilities**, elderly, women, and children in terms of mobility within the transport network, particularly in public transport systems.
6. The Department of Interior and Local Government (DILG), has directed the 81 provinces, 146 cities and 1,488 municipalities in the country to be subjected to the “Seal of Good Local Governance” (SGLG).[[95]](#footnote-95) The SGLG, puts primacy to integrity and good performance as pillars of meaningful local autonomy and development. It is a progressive assessment system that gives distinction to remarkable local government performance across several areas.[[96]](#footnote-96)
7. The SGLG Act[[97]](#footnote-97) features four components: (i) expansion of assessment criteria from seven to ten; (ii) creation of the Council of Good Local Governance; (iii) provision of the SGLG Incentive Fund; and (iv) development of more responsive capacity building intervention packages, which are likewise gradually integrated in the implementation cycle.[[98]](#footnote-98)
8. Among the expanded ten (10) assessment criteria, “promoting the welfare of persons with disability” will be evaluated under the social protection and sensitivity. In particular, the following will be assessed:

* Promoting the welfare of persons with disability, compliance with the Accessibility Law in the province, main provincial hospital and Compliance with the Accessibility Law in the province, main provincial hospital and one LG-managed tertiary education facility/ technical vocational education and training center: ramps with handrails at the entrance/exit, special lift/elevator, as applicable, and wheelchair-accessible toilets with grab bars; and
* Functionality of Persons with Disability Affairs Office: (a) ordinance; (b) permanent PDAO Head; and (c) Accomplishment Report of any persons with disabilities -related PPAs.[[99]](#footnote-99)

1. The Department of Information and Communications Technology (DICT), has prepared the E-Government Masterplan (EGMP) 2022, to serve as a blueprint for a harmonized government information system. This plan outlines DICT’s intent of developing the country’s e-Government systems through the digital transformation of basic services that cut across the whole of-government. The goal is to achieve “One Digitized Government” for the country and one of the significant features in this plan, is the “Philippine Registry for Persons with Disability”.[[100]](#footnote-100)
2. The Philippine Statistics Authority launched the OpenStat (http://openstat.psa.gov.ph) in 2017. OpenStat is an online platform that makes different statistical data collected and compiled by the government available to the public.[[101]](#footnote-101) Thus, data on persons with disabilities are easily accessible on this online platform.
3. Republic Act No. 11032, mandates all offices and agencies which provide government services are hereby mandated to regularly undertake cost compliance analysis, time and motion studies, undergo evaluation and improvement of their transaction systems and procedures and reengineer the same if deemed necessary to reduce bureaucratic red tape and processing time.[[102]](#footnote-102)

**Does your country have legislation or policies, at any level of government, regulating and coordinating a care and support system? Please provide references to the documentation.**

1. The DOH- Health and Wellness Program of Persons with Disabilities[[103]](#footnote-103) has been configured to address all the issues and aligned with the thrusts and goals of Universal Health Care, the Global Disability Action Plan 2014-2021. This is a program designed to promote the highest attainable standards of health and wellness for persons with disabilities by fostering a multi-sectoral approach towards a disability inclusive health agenda. The objectives are:
   1. To address barriers and improve access and reasonable accommodations of persons with disabilities to health care services and programs;
   2. To ensure the accessibility, availability, appropriateness and affordability of habilitation and rehabilitation services for persons with disabilities, including children with disabilities;
   3. To ensure the development and implementation of policies and guidelines, health service packages, including financing and provider payment schemes for health services of persons with disabilities;
   4. To enhance capacity of health providers and stakeholders in improving the health status of persons with disabilities;
   5. To strengthen collaboration and synergy with and among stakeholders and sectors of society to improve response to a disability inclusive health agenda through regular dialogues and interactions; and
   6. To provide the mechanism in facilitating the collection, analysis and dissemination of reliable, timely and complete data and researches on health-related issues of persons with disabilities in order to develop and implement evidence-based policies and interventions.
2. The Action Framework for the Health and Wellness Program of Persons with Disabilities is adapted from the three major objectives of the WHO Global Disability Action Plan 2014-2021. As applied in the country, program actions or interventions shall focus on the following areas: 1) removal of barriers and improve access to health services and programs; (2) strengthening and expansion of rehabilitation, habilitation, assistive technology, and community-based rehabilitation; (3) strengthen collection of relevant and internationally comparable data on disability and support research on disability and related services.
3. The Philippine Council for Mental Health (PCMH) Mental Health Strategic Plan (2019-2023) sets the targets and indicators of its member agencies[[104]](#footnote-104) and organizations for the next 5 years, with respect to the implementation of the Mental Health Act. These targets and indicators include plans on the drafting, dissemination, and implementation of the *Guidelines for Informed Consent, Supported Decision Making, Advance Directives, and Legal Representation, in relation to Republic Act 11036, otherwise known as the Mental Health Act* and the *Guidelines on the Creation of the Mental Health Internal Review Board and Providing for its Rules of Practice*. The PCMH monitors the implementation of the law through the quarterly reporting of the accomplishments and scorecard of its members.
4. The Comprehensive Program for Children /Persons with Disabilities aims to promote service to all types of C/persons with disabilities whose ages is 0-59 years of age regardless of sex and status. The self-help group of persons with disability that will be organized or already organized shall serve as the vehicle in the implementation /delivery of the comprehensive program. This is to enhance persons with disabilities’ capacity to attain a more meaningful, productive and satisfying way of life and ultimately become self-reliant, productive and contributing members of society. The Comprehensive Program shall have the following services to respond to the needs of the persons with disabilities [[105]](#footnote-105):
5. Community Based Services: Disability Preventive Service, Early Detection, Prevention and Intervention of Disability (EDPID);
6. Restorative Services: Assistance for physical restoration services;
7. Rehabilitative Services: Self and Social Enhancement Services, Self and Social Enhancement, Training and Employment Support Services, Access to Information Communication Technology;
8. Alternative Family Support Services: Foster Care Service, Adoption, Kinship Family Care, Legal Guardianship, Group Home Service;
9. TAWAG-Tuloy Aral Walang Sagabal for Children with Disabilities;
10. Family Counselling Services;
11. Parent Effectiveness Service (PES);
12. Empowerment Reaffirmation of Paternal Abilities for persons with disabilities;
13. Pre-Marriage Counselling;
14. Marriage Counselling Service;
15. After-Care Services;
16. Referral Services; and
17. Center-Based Services (Residential): Social Services, Homelife/ Group Living Services, Psychological Services, Educational Services; Recreational, Sports and other Socio-Cultural activities, and Dietary Services.

**Please provide data on persons with disabilities and families and households accessing care and support systems.**

1. Persons with disabilities has to be in the Philippine Registry for Persons with Disabilities (PRPWD), which has 625,000 as of June 28, 2022.[[106]](#footnote-106) In terms of disability card subsidy, the “initial findings on the research study on “cost of raising children with disabilities, conducted by OPM, Nossal Institute and Life Haven CIL, 2022 revealed that;
2. Merging information on ownership and use of disability data card, the subsidy received by each household and how this is distributed across consumption quintiles were computed;
3. For those using the card benefit is equivalent to 2.5% of the overall household budget; and
4. Subsidy is clearly skewed towards the better off.[[107]](#footnote-107)
5. Majority of persons with disabilities in the Philippines belong to poor families with minimum wage earners under the ‘no work, no pay’ scheme. They do not have enough money to stock up on basic food items, medicines, and other essentials, such as hygiene kits for women. Children with disabilities are also in situations of conflict, emergencies, and disasters, but it appears that they are the least protected. Existing services are designed broadly, and there is little or no customized approach in addressing the needs of sectors, such as women and children with disabilities, and for the different types of impairments.[[108]](#footnote-108)
6. During the current situation, the foremost clamor of persons with disabilities in the Philippines is to be adequately informed about the government response to the pandemic and the regulations, including advisories, to ensure the health and well-being of the people. It has been a challenge for the deaf community to obtain information through broadcast media when there are no insets for sign language interpretation and no sufficiently visible captions or subtitles of suitable text size.[[109]](#footnote-109)
7. Another instance is emergency hotlines that would require the informant to report verbally, which obviously could not be accessible for the deaf community. More so, relief distribution during the enhanced community quarantine by local government units to supply their constituencies with food and other necessities often overlook the needs of persons with disabilities.[[110]](#footnote-110)
8. From the regions, Persons with Disabilities faced difficulties in accessing food supplies and other necessities. CHR-Cordillera Administrative Region (CAR) employees decided to voluntarily donate money from their own pockets for the purchase of relief goods for persons with disabilities in Baguio City and Benguet. The Office also conducted investigative monitoring about the situation of persons with disabilities during the enhanced community quarantine. Most persons with disabilities are in remote areas and live in shanties or makeshift houses, while those in accessible places are either renting or living with relatives. With the nature of their job, most of them being blind massage therapists, there was a total stoppage of their work and livelihood activities.[[111]](#footnote-111)
9. Relief goods provided by the government do not include hygiene and menstrual kits an there is the absence of provision for family planning and reproductive health services and commodities for women with disabilities.[[112]](#footnote-112)
10. In general, the outbreak of COVID-19 has worsened the situation of persons with disabilities and has exacerbated existing inequalities as more barriers emerge that hinder the fulfillment of their human rights. The root cause remains that persons with disabilities are not part of decision-making to address the COVID-19 pandemic, in emergency response and relief operations, and that specific vulnerability and protection needs are not considered in designing government interventions.[[113]](#footnote-113)
11. The DILG issued Memorandum Circular No. 2020-066 entitled “Guidelines on Providing Proper Welfare of Persons with Disabilities During the Enhanced Community Quarantine Due to the Corona Virus 2019 (COVID-19).” This memorandum circular orders local government units from the provincial government down to barangay level to create a list of persons with disabilities within their area of jurisdiction and include them in the distribution of food packs, including the kind of food and medicine they received.[[114]](#footnote-114)

**Please provide the impact of the COVID19 pandemic on persons with disabilities and families and households with members with disabilities:**

1. Moving towards disability-inclusive recovery in employment and livelihood in the time of COVID-19, the Project Inclusion Network (PIN), the Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE), the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI), and the Employees Compensation Commission (ECC) are one in the belief that Persons with Disability should not be left behind in the efforts to recover from the effects of COVID-19 pandemic. Persons with Disability, under normal circumstances, already experience barriers that hinder them from fully participating in society and are further aggravated by the current circumstances that the COVID-19 pandemic has brought about.[[115]](#footnote-115) The survey aims to further determine the impact of COVID-19 pandemic on Persons with Disability in employment and entrepreneurship, and document their needs to be able to participate in the labor and entrepreneurial market post-pandemic.[[116]](#footnote-116)
2. The CHRP through the Economic, Social, Cultural, Rights (ESCR) Center, received several reports from persons with disabilities stating their fears due to the uncertainties they experience during the current situation. They reported the need for local government units to step up in particularly addressing their needs as human persons and to immediately and adequately support them in these challenging times. Thus, the Department of Interior and Local Government (DILG) issued a guideline indicating the need to have uniform, programmatic and strategic by local government units (LGUs) to fulfil the needs of persons with disabilities, among others.[[117]](#footnote-117) All local government units (LGUs) will keep track of all the initiatives undertaken at the community level, we will be able to address the needs of everyone and will ensure that no one should be left behind.
3. The Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) reiterated its previous advice and reminder to senior citizens and persons with disabilities to refrain from going out and lining-up to claim their emergency subsidy under the Social Amelioration Program (SAP) of the government. Instead, they can send a representative to claim the cash aid if these are given through payouts.[[118]](#footnote-118)
4. The Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE), did extend its Katulong at Gabay sa Manggagawang may Kapansanan (KaGabay) Program to persons with disabilities even in the provinces.[[119]](#footnote-119)
5. The Employees’ Compensation Commission (ECC)[[120]](#footnote-120) listed 49 persons with disabilities beneficiaries from Central Luzon and Davao in its KaGabay, a special assistance program for persons with disabilities who lost employment due to work-related sickness or injury.
6. The program is intended to facilitate the integration of persons with disabilities into the economic mainstream through physical restoration, training for re-employment, or entrepreneurship;
7. On top of the assistance, the persons with disabilities have been provided with other ECC benefits, such as sickness, disability benefits, medical reimbursements, cash assistance of P10,000, free physical and occupational therapy, and free skill or entrepreneurial training; and
8. To encourage the grantees in expanding their livelihood enterprises, the ECC can further provide the recipients with P10,000 as a complementary livelihood grant after one year.
9. The Philippine National Deployment and Vaccination Plan for COVID-19 Vaccines[[121]](#footnote-121), included disadvantaged groups in the specific categories, as follows[[122]](#footnote-122):
10. The Decision Matrix in determining priority eligible population groups: Ensure that vaccine prioritization considers vulnerabilities, risks and needs groups because of underlying societal, geographic or biomedical factors;
11. Socio-demographic groups at significant higher risk other than senior citizens and indigent populations [e.g. Persons Deprived of Liberty (PDLs), Persons with Disabilities, Indigenous Peoples, Filipinos living in high-density areas)- All Persons with Disability as determined by DSWD, and National Council for Disability Affairs (NCDA) and LGUs; and
12. Interim minimum required date fields for master listing using persons with disability-ID.
13. The Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD), issued an Omnibus Guidelines to harmonize the implementation of Emergency Subsidy Program, through its social amelioration programs, as required under Republic Act (R.A.) No. 11649 or the “Bayanihan to Heal as One Act”. Memorandum Circular No. 5 remains valid and effective insofar as social amelioration program for the 4Ps beneficiaries is concerned.[[123]](#footnote-123) These guidelines shall apply in the implementation of the following:[[124]](#footnote-124)
14. Emergency Subsidy Program (ESP) through Social Amelioration Programs (SAP) of the DSWD in the form of Assistance to Individuals in Crisis Situation (AICS);
15. Livelihood Assistance Grants (LAG) to families qualified as “low-income households”, as hereinafter defined, in the areas under community quarantine, and shall remain in force for three months, coinciding with the effectivity of R.A. No. 11469: Provided, That the effectivity hereof shall ipso jure be extended upon the extension of the effectivity of R.A. No. 11469 if such law be given extension; and
16. Provided further, that the distribution of food and non-food items to the most affected individuals and families, including stranded workers and homeless individuals who are located in a Local Government Unit (LGU) due to the community quarantine, shall be continued by the DSWD upon request of the LGUs.
17. The Inter-Agency Task Force (IATF) for the Management of Emerging Infectious Diseases, issued the amended Omnibus Guidelines to harmonize and codify existing guidelines of the IATF and member-agencies pertaining to community quarantine, which shall be applied to all regions, provinces, cities, municipalities and barangays placed under community quarantine. ………..”home service therapy for Persons with Disabilities shall be allowed”, to operate or be undertaken for the duration of the Enhanced Community Quarantine (ECQ).[[125]](#footnote-125)
18. The Philippine Health Insurance Corporation, Benefit package for testing of SARS-CoV-2, “to help cover the treatment, patients can make use of their HMOs or private health insurance as well as mandatory discounts such as senior citizen and persons with disabilities discounts, if applicable, to substantially cover treatment costs. However, for those who do not have the means and even those whose financial capacity is compromised, PhilHealth assured them that they can still apply for additional support.[[126]](#footnote-126)
19. The Department of Trade and Industry Resource Generation and Management Service (RGMS), in partnership with the Bureau of Domestic Trade Promotion (BDTP), the Knowledge Management and Information Service (KMIS), and the Regional Operations Group (ROG), will be staging on 30 July 2020 the very first Online Trade Fair for our micro, small, and medium enterprises (MSMEs) owned by persons with disability.[[127]](#footnote-127) In line with the celebration of the 42nd National Disability Prevention and Rehabilitation (NDPR) Week while observing Proclamation No. 922, the fair, entitled Biz-Ability Online Trade Fair, aims to give our persons with disability entrepreneurs the initial exposure and experience to sell their products online through well-known and big platforms amid the pandemic.[[128]](#footnote-128)
20. The Office of the President issued a memorandum[[129]](#footnote-129) reiterating additional measures to address the rising cases of COVID-19 pandemic, with due consideration on the needs of the needs of “persons with disabilities may be allowed outdoors for their therapy as well as for outdoor non-contact sports and other forms of outdoor exercises, upon presentation of prescription from their physicians or persons with disabilities ID.[[130]](#footnote-130)
21. On the part of the CHRP, in the exercise of its advisory mandate to the government, the following were undertaken:
22. Issued the human rights advisory series[[131]](#footnote-131) to expound on the standards for the protection and promotion of the rights of persons with disabilities, considering the context of the COVID-19 pandemic in the Philippines; and
23. Philippine Observatory on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities a.k.a (PHoRPD), in 2020, against the backdrop of uncertainty brought about by COVID-19 pandemic, the CHRP, has initiated the development of the PHoRPD, in active collaboration with six disability rights specialists, who represented children with disabilities, deaf/hard of hearing, with orthopedic impairment, speech impaired, and visual impaired. Due to the pandemic, rapid digital transformation has become even more necessary to keep track the human rights situation of persons with disabilities in the Philippines. The PHoRPD manifests an interactive and reliable information center for, by and with persons with disabilities. It is intended to be continually improved, as it is being utilized, by all stakeholders in pursuit of the principle of universal design as stipulated in the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UNCRPD).

* The PHoRPD is patterned after the UNCRPD, through PHoRPD, the CHRP expounds on the concepts and principles in the UNCRPD (for instance reasonable accommodation, social protection, and independent living) in so far as they are applicable to the unique circumstances of persons with disabilities in the Philippine context. In this sense, PHoRPD is CHRP’s digital platform to enrich the standards on the rights-based model of disability in the Philippines. More so, PHoRPD has the features to gather data on how and to what extent the State-Party has considered or acted upon the 2018 concluding observations on the Philippines by the United Nations’ Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities; and
* Information in the PHoRPD is presented using multi-media facilities, such as infographics, videos, and machine-readable texts. Data are generated through CHR’s existing mechanisms of monitoring, investigation, and legal assistance, including the education and promotion campaigns on human rights. Fundamental to the digital platform is the several partnership mechanisms that CHR convenes and maintains through the PHoRPD, i.e. inter-agency within government, with organizations of persons with disabilities (OPD), business sector, academe, and civil society. Regular quarterly meetings are being held to discuss concerns and problems that confront persons with disabilities, such as on accessibility, limited government support during the COVID-19 Pandemic, and the need to accelerate the implementation of the Philippine law (R.A. No. 11228) on automatic coverage of persons with disabilities in the State-Party’s health insurance fund (a.k.a., PhilHealth), among others. Good practices of stakeholders are also being discussed and documented during these meetings. As such, the PHoRPD is conveying a very strong message on the need to form a unified Philippine rights-based movement anchored on the meaningful participation of persons with disabilities, through an independent information dissemination that highlights persons with disabilities’ collective priorities and aspirations in order to live a life of dignity.

1. As the National Human Rights Institution (NHRI) of the Philippines, the CHRP has the mandate vested by the 1987 Constitution of the Republic of the Philippines and the Paris Principles to promote and protect the full range of human rights including civil and political rights, and economic, social and cultural rights. It has the responsibility to regularly report and monitor human rights situations and violations, and recommend steps in advancing the realization of human rights and dignity of all. The Commission has “A”-status accreditation from the Sub-Committee for Accreditation. It is a member of the Global Alliance of National Human Rights Institutions (GANHRI). [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. Under Republic Act No. 10905, closed caption is defined as shall mean a method of subtitling television programs by coding statements as vertical data signal that are decoded at the receiver and superimposed at the bottom of the television screen

   [Republic Act No. 10905], §1 (2016). [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. An Act Requiring All Franchise Holders or Operators of Television Stations and Producers of Television Programs to Broadcast or Present Their Programs with Closed Caption Options, and For Other Purposes, [Republic Act No. 10905], §2 (2016). [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
4. An Act Declaring The Filipino Sign Language As The National Sign Language Of The Filipino Deaf And The Official Sign Language Of Government In All Transactions Involving The Deaf, And Mandating Its Use In Schools, Broadcast Media, And Workplaces [The Filipino Sign Language Act], Republic Act No. 11106, § 5 (2018). [↑](#footnote-ref-4)
5. *Id.* § 6. [↑](#footnote-ref-5)
6. *Id.* § 7. [↑](#footnote-ref-6)
7. *Id.* § 8. [↑](#footnote-ref-7)
8. *Id.* § 10. [↑](#footnote-ref-8)
9. An Act Enhancing the Philippine Basic Education System By Strengthening Its Curriculum And Increasing The Number Of Years For Basic Education, Appropriating Funds Therefor And For Other Purposes [Enhanced Basic Education Act of 2013], Republic Act No. 10533, § 4 (2013). [↑](#footnote-ref-9)
10. 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, Appropriating Funds Therefor and For Other Purposes [Early Years Act (EYA) of 2013], Republic Act No. 10410, § 2 (2013). [↑](#footnote-ref-10)
11. An Act Institutionalizing A Policy of Inclusion and Services for Learners with Disabilities in Support of Inclusive Education, Establishing Inclusive Learners With Disabilities In All Schools Districts, Municipalities And Cities, Providing For Standards, Appropriating Funds Therefor, And For Other Purposes [Instituting a Policy of Inclusion and Services for Learners with Disabilities in Support of Inclusive Education Act], Republic Act No. 11650, § 5 (2022). [↑](#footnote-ref-11)
12. Office of the Court Administrator-Supreme Court, [Conduct of Videoconferencing Hearings in Cases Involving Deaf Litigants and Witnesses, [OCA Circular No. 106-2022], (May 11, 2022). [↑](#footnote-ref-12)
13. Statement of Executive Director, Atty. Jacqueline Ann de Guia, welcoming the Supreme Court’s pronouncement encouraging deaf parties and sign language interpreters to use video conferencing during court hearing, June 14, 2022. [↑](#footnote-ref-13)
14. Commission on Human Rights, Human Rights Advisory Series on Human Rights in the Time of COVID-19 in the Philippines in Pursuit of the Rights-Based Model of Disability Amid the COVID-19 Pandemic in the Philippines (2020), available at <http://chr.gov.ph/wp-content/uploads/2020/05/Human-Rights-Advisory-HR-in-the-times-of-COVID-19-in-the-PHL-in-pursuit-of-the-rights-based-model-of-disability-amid-the-COVId-19-pandemic-the-in-the-PHL-CHR-V-A2020-009.pdf> [↑](#footnote-ref-14)
15. Department of Interior and Local Government, *Guidelines on Providing Proper Welfare of Persons With Disabilities During the Enhanced Community Quarantine Due to the Corona Virus 2019 (COVID-19) Pandemic* (2020), available at <https://www.dilg.gov.ph/issuances/mc/Guidelines-on-Providing-Proper-Welfare-of-Persons-with-Disabilities-during-the-Enhanced-Community-Quarantine-due-to-the-Coronavirus-2019-COVID-19-Pandemic/3189> [↑](#footnote-ref-15)
16. National Council on Disability Affairs and National Computer Center, *Joint Circular No. 1* (2010), available at <https://www.ncda.gov.ph/disability-laws/joint-circulars/accessible-website-design-guidelines/> [↑](#footnote-ref-16)
17. Department of Information and Communications Technology, *Memorandum Circular No. 004* (2017), available at <https://dict.gov.ph/wp-content/uploads/2017/10/DICT-MC-004-2017-PRESCRIBING-THE-PHILIPPINES-WEB-ACCESSIBILITY-POLICY-AND-ADOPTING-FOR-THIS-PURPOSE-ISO-IEC-405002012-INFORMATION-TECHNOLOGY-W3C-WEB-CONTENT-ACCESSIBILITY-GUIDELINES-WCAG-2.0-A.pdf>,. [↑](#footnote-ref-17)
18. An Act Establishing a National Mental Health Policy for the Purpose of Enhancing the Delivery of Integrated Mental Health Services, Promoting and Protecting the Rights of Persons Utilizing Psychosocial Health Services, Appropriating Funds Therefor and Other Purposes [Mental Health Act], Republic Act No. 11036, § 8 (2018). [↑](#footnote-ref-18)
19. Rules and Regulations Implementing the Mental Health Act, Republic Act No. 11036, § 8 (2018). [↑](#footnote-ref-19)
20. Republic Act No. 11036, § 13. [↑](#footnote-ref-20)
21. *Id*. § 9. [↑](#footnote-ref-21)
22. *Id*. § 10. [↑](#footnote-ref-22)
23. *Id*. § 11. [↑](#footnote-ref-23)
24. Republic Act No. 11650, *An Act Instituting a Policy of Inclusion and Services for Learners with Disabilities in Support of Inclusive Education, Establishing Inclusive Learning Resource Centers of Learners with Disabilities in All Schools Districts, Municipalities, and Cities, Providing for Standards, Appropriating Funds Therefor, and for Other Purposes* (2022), available at <https://mirror.officialgazette.gov.ph/downloads/2022/03mar/20220311-RA-11650.pdf> [↑](#footnote-ref-24)
25. *Id.* [↑](#footnote-ref-25)
26. *Id.* [↑](#footnote-ref-26)
27. *Id.* [↑](#footnote-ref-27)
28. Department of Education, *DepEd Order No. 023, s. 2022* (2022), available at <https://www.deped.gov.ph/wp-content/uploads/2022/05/DO_s2022_023.pdf> [↑](#footnote-ref-28)
29. *Id.* [↑](#footnote-ref-29)
30. Republic Act No. 11106, *An Act Declaring the Filipino Sign Language as the National Sign Language of the Filipino Deaf and the Official Sign Language of Government in All Transactions Involving the Deaf, and Mandating Its Use in Schools, Broadcast Media, and Workplaces*  [↑](#footnote-ref-30)
31. Commission on the Filipino Language, *The Implementing Rules and Regulations of Republic Act No. 11106, Known as the “Filipino Sign Language Act”* (2021), available at <https://mirror.officialgazette.gov.ph/downloads/2022/03mar/20211206-IRR-RA-11106-RRD.pdf> [↑](#footnote-ref-31)
32. Republic Act No. 10366, *An Act Authorizing the Commission on Elections to Establish Precincts Assigned to Accessible Polling Places Exclusively for Persons with Disabilities and Senior Citizens* (2013), available at <https://www.officialgazette.gov.ph/2013/02/15/republic-act-no-10366/> [↑](#footnote-ref-32)
33. Commission on Elections, *Resolution No. 10486* (2019), available at <https://comelec.gov.ph/php-tpls-attachments/2019NLE/Resolutions/com_res_10486.pdf> [↑](#footnote-ref-33)
34. Department of Interior and Local Government, *Memorandum of Understanding on the Electoral Participation and Reasonable Accommodation of Persons with Disability, Senior Citizens, and Heavily Pregnant Voters* (2019), available at <https://dilg.gov.ph/PDF_File/issuances/memo_circulars/dilg-memocircular-201956_c67f5c6741.pdf> [↑](#footnote-ref-34)
35. An Act to Enhance the Mobility of Disabled Persons by Requiring Certain Buildings, Institutions, Establishments and Public Utilities to install Facilities and Other Devices, Batas Pambansa Blg. 344 § 1 (1983). [↑](#footnote-ref-35)
36. Rules and Regulations Implementing the Batas Pambansa Blg. 344, rule IV (1994). [↑](#footnote-ref-36)
37. 2017 NCDA Annual Report, An Inclusive Society for Persons with Disabilities where “No One is Left Behind”. [↑](#footnote-ref-37)
38. Id. [↑](#footnote-ref-38)
39. Department of Transportation, et.al. Installation of Accessible Passenger Boarding Ramps/Aircraft Stairs for PWDs and Senior Citizens, [Joint Memorandum Circular No. 2018-001], (Feb. 21, 2018) available at <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1F04xfwECkxr6zwaqnMBKCMfXhXm9kFgU/view>, (last accessed Aug. 31, 2022). [↑](#footnote-ref-39)
40. Department of Transportation, Installation and use of PWD and Senior Citizens Accessible Passenger Boarding Ramps by Airline Operations and Airport Ground Handlers, [Department Order No. 2017-018], (Dec. 18, 2017), available at <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1F04xfwECkxr6zwaqnMBKCMfXhXm9kFgU/view>, (last accessed Aug. 31, 2022). [↑](#footnote-ref-40)
41. 2017 NCDA Annual Report, An Inclusive Society for Persons with Disabilities where “No One is Left Behind”. [↑](#footnote-ref-41)
42. Executive Order No. 12, “Zero Unmet Need for Modern Family Planning” Through the Strict Implementation of the Parenthood and Reproductive Health Act”, (July 2017), available at <https://doh.gov.ph/sites/default/files/publications/EO%20No.%2012%20-%20Zero%20Unmet%20Need%20for%20MFP%20Initial%20Progress%20Report-min.pdf>, last accessed (Aug. 23, 2022). [↑](#footnote-ref-42)
43. Department of Social Welfare and Development, (Community Action and Resources for Accessible and Better Living Environment for Persons with Disability, CARE-ABLE), available at <https://stb.dswd.gov.ph/care-able/>, (last accessed Aug. 23, 2022). [↑](#footnote-ref-43)
44. Id. [↑](#footnote-ref-44)
45. Housing and Urban Development Coordinating Council, Building Safe and Secure Communities, Chapter 12-04-07-2017, available at <https://hudcc.gov.ph/sites/default/files/styles/large/public/document/Chapter%2012-04-07-2017.pdf>, (last accessed Aug. 23, 2022). [↑](#footnote-ref-45)
46. Id. [↑](#footnote-ref-46)
47. Office of the President, Approving and Directing the Implementation of the Program “Provision of Group Home/Foster Home for Neglected, Abandoned, Abused, Detached and Poor Older Persons and Persons with Disabilities, [Executive Order No. 105], (May 16, 2002). [↑](#footnote-ref-47)
48. Id. [↑](#footnote-ref-48)
49. Republic Act No. 10754, Ac Act Expanding the Benefits and Privileges of Persons with Disability, 01 December 2016. [↑](#footnote-ref-49)
50. Section 6, IRR of RA 10754, An Act Expanding the Benefits and Privileges of Persons with Disability, 01 December 2016 [↑](#footnote-ref-50)
51. National Council of Disability Affairs, Implementing Rules and Regulations Rules and Regulations of the Magna Carta for Disabled Persons, Republic Act. 9442, rule II, § 4. [↑](#footnote-ref-51)
52. *Id.* [↑](#footnote-ref-52)
53. *Id.* [↑](#footnote-ref-53)
54. *Id.* [↑](#footnote-ref-54)
55. An Act Granting Additional Benefits and Privileges to Senior Citizens, Further Amending Republic Act No. 7432, as Amended, Otherwise Known as “An Act to Maximize the Contribution of Senior Citizens to Nation Building, Grant Benefits and Special Privileges and for other Purposes [Expanded Senior Citizens Act of 2010], Republic Act No. 9994, § 2 (2010) [↑](#footnote-ref-55)
56. Department of Social Welfare and Development, Updated Guidelines for the Implementation of the Assistance to Individuals in Crisis Situation Program, [Memorandum Circular No. 15, s. 2022] (Jul. 29, 2022). [↑](#footnote-ref-56)
57. Id. [↑](#footnote-ref-57)
58. Beneficiary refers to the person who actually needs the assistance, or on whose behalf the assistance is being sought from the DSWD through an authorized representative. The beneficiary is the ultimate recipient of the assistance, (DSWD Memorandum Circular No. 15, s. 2022). [↑](#footnote-ref-58)
59. Crisis Situation/ is a time in the individuals’ life when they experience a breakdown or disruption in their usual or normal daily activities or family functioning. Such disruption prevents them from adequately performing their social roles and functions, and may lead them into worsened life situations, (DSWD Memorandum Circular No. 15, s. 2022). [↑](#footnote-ref-59)
60. Republic Act No. 11310, *An Act Institutionalizing the Pantawid Pamilyang Program* (2019), available at <https://www.officialgazette.gov.ph/downloads/2019/04apr/20190417-RA-11310-RRD.pdf> [↑](#footnote-ref-60)
61. Department of Social Welfare and Development, *Implementing Rules and Regulations of Republic Act No. 11310* (2019), available at <https://pantawid.dswd.gov.ph/wp-content/uploads/2020/02/RA-11310.pdf> [↑](#footnote-ref-61)
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63. Republic Act No. 11228, *An Act Providing for the Mandatory Philhealth Coverage for All Persons with Disability, Amending for the Purpose Republic Act No. 7277, As Amended, Otherwise Known as the “Magna Carta for Persons with Disability”* (2019), available at <https://www.officialgazette.gov.ph/downloads/2019/02feb/20190222-RA-11228-RRD.pdf> [↑](#footnote-ref-63)
64. Philippine Health Insurance Corporation, *Implementing Rules and Regulations of Republic Act No. 11228* (2020), available at <https://www.philhealth.gov.ph/about_us/IRR_RA11228.pdf> [↑](#footnote-ref-64)
65. Republic Act No. 10754, *An Act Expanding the Benefits and Privileges of Persons with Disability* (2016), available at <https://www.officialgazette.gov.ph/2016/03/23/republic-act-no-10754/> [↑](#footnote-ref-65)
66. Department of Justice, *Opinion No. 18, s. 2017* (2017), available at <https://www.ncda.gov.ph/wp-content/uploads//2017/08/DOJ-Opinon-No.-18-S.2017-on-RA-10754.pdf> [↑](#footnote-ref-66)
67. *Id.* [↑](#footnote-ref-67)
68. Republic Act No. 10747, *An Act Promulgating A Comprehensive Policy in Addressing the Needs of Persons with Rare Disease* (2016), available at <https://www.officialgazette.gov.ph/2016/03/03/republic-act-no-10747/> [↑](#footnote-ref-68)
69. Department of Interior and Local Government, *Inclusion of Cancer and Rare Diseases Under Type of Disability* (2022), available at <https://dilg.gov.ph/PDF_File/issuances/memo_circulars/dilg-memocircular-2022217_1665a70d72.pdf> [↑](#footnote-ref-69)
70. The Department of Budget and Management, created under Executive Order No. 25 dated April 25, 1936, is mandated under this Order and by subsequent issuances to promote the sound, efficient and effective management and utilization of government resources (i.e., technological, manpower, physical and financial) as instrument in the achievement of national socioeconomic and political development goals. [↑](#footnote-ref-70)
71. An Act Establishing an Institutional Mechanism to Ensure the Implementation of Programs and Services for Persons with Disabilities in every Province, City and Municipality, Amending Republic Act No. 7277, Otherwise known as the “Magna Carta for Disabled Persons”, as amended and for other Purposes, [Republic Act 10070], § 4 (2010). [↑](#footnote-ref-71)
72. Local Government Units refers to provinces, cities, municipalities, barangays, and other political subdivisions as may be created by law, and, to the extent herein provided, to officials, offices, or agencies of the national government, Republic Act 7160, “Local Government Code of 1991”, § 4 (1991). [↑](#footnote-ref-72)
73. Id, § 17 (iv). [↑](#footnote-ref-73)
74. The ruling significantly expands the tax base for LGUs’ share in national taxes to include not only national internal revenue taxes but also customs duties and fees. [↑](#footnote-ref-74)
75. Office of the President, Full Devolution of Certain Functions of the Executive Branch to Local Governments, Creation of A Committee on Devolution, and for Other Purposes, [Executive Order No. 183, s. 2021], (June 1, 2021). [↑](#footnote-ref-75)
76. 2017 NCDA Annual Report, An Inclusive Society for Persons with Disabilities where “No One is Left Behind”. [↑](#footnote-ref-76)
77. PHIL. CONST. Art. III. [↑](#footnote-ref-77)
78. PHIL. CONST. § 2. [↑](#footnote-ref-78)
79. PHIL. CONST. § 3. [↑](#footnote-ref-79)
80. PHIL. CONST. Art. V § 2. [↑](#footnote-ref-80)
81. PHIL. CONST. Art. XIV § 2. [↑](#footnote-ref-81)
82. PHIL. CONST. Art. XIII § 11. [↑](#footnote-ref-82)
83. Republic Act No. 10070, *An Act Establishing Institutional Mechanism to Ensure the Implementation of Programs and Services for Persons with Disabilities in Every Province, City, and Municipality, Amending Republic Act No. 7277 Otherwise Known as the Magna Carta for Persons Disabilities, as Amended for Other Purposes* (2010), available at <https://www.ncda.gov.ph/disability-laws/republic-acts/republic-act-no-10070/> [↑](#footnote-ref-83)
84. *Id.* [↑](#footnote-ref-84)
85. *Id.* [↑](#footnote-ref-85)
86. Department of Interior and Local Government, *Memorandum Circular No. 2021-041* (2021), available at <https://dilg.gov.ph/PDF_File/issuances/memo_circulars/dilg-memocircular-2021412_256cfaa856.pdf> [↑](#footnote-ref-86)
87. *Id.* [↑](#footnote-ref-87)
88. The Philippine Development Plan (PDP) 2017-2022 has been formulated to lay down the foundation for inclusive growth, a high-trust and resilient society, and a globally competitive knowledge economy. This foundation is intended to be strong enough for the next three development plans to build on. [↑](#footnote-ref-88)
89. The [National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA)](https://neda.gov.ph/about-neda/) is the **country’s premier socioeconomic planning body**, highly regarded as the authority in macroeconomic forecasting and policy analysis and research. It provides high-level advice to policymakers in Congress and the Executive Branch. Its key responsibilities include:

    1. Coordination of activities such as the formulation of policies, plans, and programs to efficiently set the broad parameters for national and sub-national (area-wide, regional, and local development);
    2. Review, evaluation, and monitoring of infrastructure projects identified under the Comprehensive and Integrated Infrastructure Program consistent with the government’s thrust of increasing investment spending for the growing demand on quality infrastructure facilities; and
    3. Undertaking of short-term policy reviews to provide critical analyses of development issues and policy alternatives to decision-makers.

    [↑](#footnote-ref-89)
90. Updated Philippine Development Plan: 2017-2022, available at [file:///C:/Users/CHR62/Downloads/122421\_Updated-PDP.pdf](about:blank) , (last accessed 19 August 2022). [↑](#footnote-ref-90)
91. NEDA-Updated Philippine Development Plan: 2017-2022 (Page 185). [↑](#footnote-ref-91)
92. The [COMELEC](https://comelec.gov.ph/?r=AboutCOMELEC/OrganizationalInfo) is the principal government agency tasked by the Constitution to enforce and administer all laws and regulations concerning the conduct of regular and special elections. It is a body that is designed to be constitutionally independent from the executive, legislative and judicial branches of government to ensure the conduct of free, fair and honest elections. As an added measure, the constitution also grants fiscal autonomy to enable the COMELEC to operate effectively, efficiently and free from political interference. The constitution mandates that "funds certified by the Commission as necessary to defray the expenses for holding regular and special elections, plebiscites, initiatives, referenda, and recalls, will be provided in the regular or special appropriations and, once approved, will be released automatically upon certification by the Chairman of the Commission." [↑](#footnote-ref-92)
93. Regulatory sandboxes or testing grounds for emerging industries will require a high degree of regulatory flexibility, market openness, and a competitive policy environment. Further supporting the growth of emerging industries may spur innovation but may also cause disruption to traditional sectors (e.g. growth of fintech that may disrupt traditional financial sector). [↑](#footnote-ref-93)
94. The Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade has just established the Emerging Markets Impact Investment Fund (EMIIF) which will be accessible to financial intermediaries in countries like the Philippines. The EMIIF intends to invest in funds for SMEs, or in financial intermediaries such as banks who, in turn, will lend to SMEs. A unique feature of the EMIIF scheme is a “gender lens investing” plan that will encourage investment in activities that positively affect women. Thus, EMIIF will either: (a) make available non-grant instruments to invest in SME funds, with the goal to play the role of an anchor fund from which other funds will be crowdsourced; or (b) use its funds to directly assist and support SMEs. [↑](#footnote-ref-94)
95. Seal of Good Local Governance: Pagkilala sa Katapatan at Kahusayan ng Pamahalaang Lokal, Memorandum Circular 2021-042 (08 April 2021), available at <https://dilg.gov.ph/PDF_File/issuances/memo_circulars/dilg-memocircular-2021412_ab3479e822.pdf>, last accessed (Aug. 23, 2022). [↑](#footnote-ref-95)
96. Seal of Good Local Governance: Pagkilala sa Katapatan at Kahusayan ng Pamahalaang Lokal, Memorandum Circular 2021-042 (08 April 2021), available at <https://dilg.gov.ph/PDF_File/issuances/memo_circulars/dilg-memocircular-2021412_ab3479e822.pdf>, last accessed (Aug. 23, 2022). [↑](#footnote-ref-96)
97. An Act Establishing and Institutionalizing the Seal of Good Local Governance for Local Government Units, and Allocating for This Purpose the Seal of Good Local Governance Fund, [The Seal of Good Local Governance Act of 2019], Republic Act No. 11292, (July 23, 2018). [↑](#footnote-ref-97)
98. Seal of Good Local Governance: Pagkilala sa Katapatan at Kahusayan ng Pamahalaang Lokal, Memorandum Circular 2021-042 (08 April 2021), available at <https://dilg.gov.ph/PDF_File/issuances/memo_circulars/dilg-memocircular-2021412_ab3479e822.pdf>, last accessed (Aug. 23, 2022). [↑](#footnote-ref-98)
99. Seal of Good Local Governance: Pagkilala sa Katapatan at Kahusayan ng Pamahalaang Lokal, Memorandum Circular 2021-042 (08 April 2021), available at <https://dilg.gov.ph/PDF_File/issuances/memo_circulars/dilg-memocircular-2021412_ab3479e822.pdf>, (last accessed Aug. 23, 2022). [↑](#footnote-ref-99)
100. Id. [↑](#footnote-ref-100)
101. E-Government Masterplan 2022, Department of Information and Communications Technology (2019), available at <https://dict.gov.ph/ictstatistics/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/EGMP-2022.pdf> , last accessed (Aug. 22, 2022). [↑](#footnote-ref-101)
102. An Act Promoting Ease of Doing Business and Efficient Delivery of Government Services, Amending for the Purpose Republic Act No. 9485, otherwise knowns as The Anti-Red Tape Act of 2007, and for other purposes, [Ease of Doing Business and Efficient Government Service Delivery Act of 2018], (Republic Act. No. 11032 § 5), May 28, 2018. [↑](#footnote-ref-102)
103. DOH, Persons with Disabilities-Health and Wellness Program for Persons with Disabilities, available at <https://doh.gov.ph/persons-with-disabilities>, (last accessed Aug. 19, 2022). [↑](#footnote-ref-103)
104. The PCMH is composed of the following: (a) Secretary of DOH as Chairperson; (b) Secretary of DepED; (c) Secretary of DOLE; (d) Secretary of the Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG); (e) Chairperson of CHR; (f) Chairperson of CHED; (g) One (1) from the academe/research; (h) One (1) representative from medical or health professional organizations; (i) One (1) one representative from non-government organizations (NGOs) involved in mental health issues. The Department of Social Welfare and Development and the National Center for Mental Health are permanent, non-voting, resource persons to PCMH. [↑](#footnote-ref-104)
105. Department of Social Welfare and Development, Guidelines on the implementation of the Comprehensive Program for Children/Persons with Disabilities (C/PWDs), (Administrative Order No. 19, s. 2010). [↑](#footnote-ref-105)
106. Abner Manlapaz, President, Life Haven Center for Independent Living, Issues and Concerns of Persons with Disabilities, CSOs Consultation on the UN Universal Periodic Review of the Philippines-Rights of Specific Persons or Group at the University Hotel, University of the Philippine, Diliman (Aug. 11, 2022). [↑](#footnote-ref-106)
107. Id. [↑](#footnote-ref-107)
108. See Aging and Disability Task Force. Aging and Disability Inclusive Response to COVID-19 Facebook post or (CHR, Rights during a Pandemic: The 2020 Annual Report on the Human Rights Situation in the Philippines- [↑](#footnote-ref-108)
109. Commission on Human Rights of the Philippines, Human Rights Advisory Series on Human Rights in the time of COVID-19 in the Philippines in Pursuit of the Rights-Based Model of Disability amid the COVID-19 pandemic in the Philippines, [CHR (V) A2020-009], (April 29, 2020). [↑](#footnote-ref-109)
110. Ibid. [↑](#footnote-ref-110)
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113. Id. [↑](#footnote-ref-113)
114. Department of Interior and Local Government, Guidelines on Providing Proper Welfare of Persons with Disabilities During the Enhanced Community Quarantine Due to the Corona Virus 2019 (COVID-19), 31 March 2020, available at https://www.dilg.gov.ph/PDF\_File/issuances/memo\_circulars/dilg-memocircular-2020331\_44e4c8be1a.pdf, accessed 25 June 2020. [↑](#footnote-ref-114)
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116. Id. [↑](#footnote-ref-116)
117. Department of Interior and Local Government, Guidelines on Providing Proper Welfare of Persons with Disabilities during the Enhanced Community Quarantine due to the Corona Virus 2019 (COVID-10) Pandemic, [Memorandum Circular No. 2020-066], (March 31, 2020] [↑](#footnote-ref-117)
118. Department of Social Welfare and Development, DSWD advises seniors, persons with disabilities to send representatives to claim SAP, available at <https://www.dswd.gov.ph/dswd-advises-seniors-pwds-to-send-representatives-to-claim-sap/> (last accessed Aug. 23, 2022). [↑](#footnote-ref-118)
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120. Id. [↑](#footnote-ref-120)
121. Department of Health, National Deployment and Vaccination Plan for COVID-19, Interim Plan, January 2021. [↑](#footnote-ref-121)
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