



NATIONAL COUNCIL AGAINST CHILD LABOR

SEMI-ANNUAL REPORT

January to June 2021

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The United Nations General Assembly has unanimously adopted a resolution declaring 2021 as the **International Year for the Elimination of Child Labour** in order to accelerate the achievement of Sustainable Development Goal Target 8.7 to end child labor in all its forms by 2025. Coordinated global action to achieve Target 8.7 is led by the Alliance 8.7 which brings together actors at all levels to collaborate, strategize, share knowledge, and ultimately accelerate progress in eradicating forced labor, modern slavery, human trafficking, and child labor.

As contribution to the global efforts towards the elimination of child labor, the Philippines implements the Philippine Program Against Child Labor (PPACL) which is the national program for the prevention and elimination of child labor in the country. The National Council Against Child Labor (NCACL) created under Executive Order No. 92, Series of 2019 (*Institutionalizing the National Council Against Child Labor to Upscale the Implementation of the Philippine Program Against Child Labor*) is tasked to coordinate and oversee the implementation of the PPACL by all concerned agencies and organizations for the protection of the rights of vulnerable sectors, especially the children, strengthen related institutional mechanisms, and establish further measures to contribute to the prevention, reduction, and elimination of any form of child labor. It is composed of 19 government agencies with the Secretary of the Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE) as the Chairperson and the Secretary of the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) as the Co-Chairperson.

Among the accomplishments of the NCACL are the following:

- Approved Council Resolution No. 1, Series of 2021 (*A Resolution Approving the Philippine Program Against Child Labor Strategic Framework 2020 – 2022*)
- Submitted the Action Pledge of the Philippines for the 2021 International Year for the Elimination of Child Labour
- Approved the nominees to be recommended as sectoral representatives to the NCACL
- Continued labor inspection, rescue of child laborers, and capacity building of labor inspectors
- Profiled 50,648 child laborers

- Referred 32,400 child laborers for the provision of necessary services and provided the necessary services to 8,880 child laborers
- Removed 13,069 children from child labor
- Conducted various advocacy activities related to child labor
- Developed monitoring tools to effectively monitor the progress of the implementation and accomplishments of the PPACL

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

The following are the accomplishments of the NCACL for the period January to June 2021 under the five (5) Intermediate Outcomes of the PPACL Strategic Framework for 2020 – 2022:

INTERMEDIATE OUTCOME 1

Strengthened and localized National Council Against Child Labor towards better coordination of its members and partners at all levels

Regular Meetings of the National Council Against Child Labor

The Council held its 1st Regular Meeting for 2021 on 2 March 2021 wherein the Council members discussed and approved the following: five (5) recommended nominees for the sectoral representatives (workers sector, employers sector, and non-government organizations) to the NCACL for submission to the Office of the President; Resolution No. 1, Series of 2021 (*A Resolution Approving the Philippine Program Against Child Labor Strategic Framework 2020-2022*); Alliance 8.7 and the submission of the Action Pledge of the Philippines for the 2021 International Year for the Elimination of Child Labour; and inclusion of the Alternative Learning System Task Force in the NCACL Technical Working Group. In addition, a representative from the University of San Carlos Office of Population Studies Foundation, Inc. presented their Policy Note entitled “Early Work/ Labor Patterns of Filipino Children and their Implications on Policy” under the Longitudinal Cohort Study on the Filipino Child during the meeting.

During the 2nd Regular Meeting of the Council held on 8 April 2021, the following were discussed: extension of the submission of documentary requirements by the recommended sectoral representatives to the NCACL; proposed Action Pledge of the Philippines as part of the 2021 International Year for the Elimination of Child Labour; proposed monitoring indicators of the ASEAN Roadmap on the Elimination of the Worst Forms of Child Labour by 2025; and, the initial result of the child labor rider module in the Labor Force Survey from 2017 to 2019. The Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA) agreed to include the updated estimates on child labor in the proposed Action Pledge of the Philippines by publishing the official results of the child labor rider module in 2021.

Action Pledge of the Philippines for the 2021 International Year for the Elimination of Child Labour

The Philippines, as part of its commitment to the global effort to end child labor, has submitted its Action Pledge for the 2021 International Year for the Elimination of Child Labour to the Alliance 8.7 Secretariat on 15 May 2021. The Action Pledge are actions that contribute to ending child labor which stakeholders will complete by 2021. The 2021 Action Pledge of the Philippines is *release of updated estimates on child labor in the Philippines and provision of services to families of child laborers* with the following components:

1. Release of updated estimates on child labor in the Philippines

The current official data on child labor in the Philippines is based on the 2011 Survey on Children conducted by then National Statistics Office (now PSA). Since it is already 10 years old, it does not provide accurate picture of the child labor situation in the country. An updated data will enable the different stakeholders to come up with an accurate analysis of the situation and work on appropriate interventions. Thus, a rider module on child labor has been included in the October Round of the Labor Force Survey starting 2017. While the results have not yet been released, the PSA has made a commitment to release it in 2021.

2. Nationwide implementation of the Strategic Helpdesks for Information, Education, Livelihood and Other Developmental Interventions (SHIELD) Against Child Labor Project

The SHIELD Against Child Labor Project was piloted by the DSWD from 2017-2019 in four (4) regions. The Project was targeted to be implemented nationwide in 2020 but has been deferred to 2021 due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The Project will allow the institutionalization of the profiling of child laborers through the Barangay Helpdesks which is necessary in locating and identifying the child laborers, determining the assistance to be provided to them and their families, and facilitating the delivery of services in order to remove the children from child labor.

3. Provision of livelihood and skills training to parents/guardians/older siblings of child laborers

The provision of livelihood and skills training to parents/guardians/older sibling of child laborers will allow the families to have a source of income and capability to sustain it. This will prevent their children to engage in child labor in order to meet their basic needs. The DOLE and TESDA committed to provide livelihood assistance and skills training, respectively, to 2,289 parents/guardians/older siblings of child laborers.

Inter-Agency Structures Against Child Labor at the Regional and Local Level

The NCACL Secretariat gathered information on existing and functional inter-agency structures/councils/committees against child labor at the regional and local level. At the regional level, 11 regions have functional inter-agency structures against child

labor while five (5) regions utilize their existing structures for the protection of children, such as the Regional Sub-Committee for the Welfare of Children, in addressing issues on child labor. At the local level, child labor-related concerns are discussed at the local councils for the protection of children.

Partnerships with International Development Organizations

- *World Vision’s Project Against Child Exploitation (Project ACE)*

The DOLE, as Chairperson of the NCACL, and World Vision Development Foundation, Inc. signed a Memorandum of Agreement for the implementation of Project ACE on 14 June 2021. Project ACE aims to: 1. improve the enforcement of the legal framework pertaining to the worst forms of child labor (WFCL), including online sexual exploitation of children (OSEC), and violations of acceptable conditions of work; 2. improve assistance services for victims of WFCL, including OSEC, and violations of acceptable conditions of work; and, 3. strengthen partnerships to accelerate progress in addressing WFCL, including OSEC, and violations of acceptable conditions of work.

- *International Labour Organization’s program against child labor in the Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (BARMM)*

The ILO and the Government of Japan have partnered to reduce the WFCL in the agricultural communities in BARMM through their project “*Achieving reduction of child labour in support of education: Programme to reduce the worst forms of child labour in agriculture sector in BARMM.*” The project aims to provide support to the government of BARMM to develop effective strategies to combat child labor by involving the tripartite stakeholders and non-government actors in integrating child labor issues in BARMM’s social economic development policies, programmes, and budget.

On 15 June 2021, the Ministry of Labor and Employment of the BARMM held a virtual event to celebrate World Day Against Child Labor. Among the topics discussed were the following: Bangsamoro Child Labor Sagip Program which is BARMM’s initiative to prevent and eliminate child labor; the PPACL; and the ASEAN Roadmap on the Elimination of Child Labour.

INTERMEDIATE OUTCOME 2

Improved and ensured enforcement of anti-child labor laws at the national and local levels

Labor Law Enforcement

Labor Inspectors of the DOLE are required to undergo and pass a basic training course on general labor standards which includes topic on child labor and working children, and occupational safety and health (OSH) before they can be provided with General Authority by the Labor Secretary. In May 2021, a total of 47 Labor Inspectors attended and passed this basic training course on general labor standards and OSH.

From January to June 2021, the DOLE inspected a total of 36,388 establishments, 99% of which were found to be compliant with anti-child labor laws. Of the 36,388 establishments inspected from January to June 2021, four (4) establishments have noted violations on Republic Act No. 9231 (*An Act Providing for the Elimination of the Worst Forms of Child Labor and Affording Stronger Protection to the Working Child, Amending for this Purpose Republic Act No. 7610, as Amended, Otherwise Known as the "Special Protection of Children Against Child Abuse, Exploitation, and Discrimination Act"*), namely:

- long hours of work
- hazardous work
- employment of a child below 15 years of age without work permit

Of these four (4) establishments, one (1) is located in Region VII, one (1) is located in Region IX, and two (2) are located in Region X. Two (2) of these establishments are engaged in construction, one (1) is engaged in manufacturing, and one (1) is engaged in animal breeding.

Rescue operations under the *Sagip Batang Manggagawa* (SBM) mechanism also continued despite the restriction brought about by the declaration of community quarantine in the country. From January to June 2021, a total of six (6) rescue operations were conducted through the SBM mechanism wherein a total of 13 child laborers (3 from Region VII, 4 from Region VIII, and 6 from Region XI) were removed from hazardous and exploitative working conditions. This brings to a total of 3,634 child laborers removed from hazardous and exploitative working conditions through the SBM mechanism since its inception in 1993.

In an operation jointly conducted by the National Bureau of Investigation-Bulacan District Office and the Bulacan Environment and Natural Resources Office to investigate reported violations on environmental protection laws being committed by an aluminum recycling plant in Norzagaray, Bulacan, two (2) child laborers were discovered working in unsafe and unhealthy environment in the said plant. These two (2) child laborers were immediately profiled by the DOLE Bulacan Field Office and were referred to the LGU for livelihood, educational, and financial assistance. The NBI filed criminal charges against the owner and two (2) workers of this aluminum recycling plant for violation of environmental laws and for violation of Republic Act No. 9231.

Issuance of Working Child Permit

Republic Act No. 9231 provides that a child below 15 years of age shall not be employed except when he/she works directly under the sole responsibility of his/her parents or legal guardian or his/her employment or participation in public entertainment or information is essential. In both cases, the employer shall first secure a work permit from the DOLE before engaging such child.

From January to June 2021, the DOLE issued a total of 435 working child permits to 426 children engaged in public entertainment or information.

INTERMEDIATE OUTCOME 3

Expanded access of child laborers, children at risk of child labor, and their families to social protection, including health, education, child protection, and decent work

Profiling of Child Laborers

The DOLE continued the profiling of child laborers it initiated in 2018 despite the restrictions brought about by the implementation of community quarantine in order to locate and identify the children who will be withdrawn from child labor.

For 2021, the DOLE aims to profile at least 169,817 child laborers and continue the referral, provision of necessary services, and withdrawal from child labor of the profiled child laborers since 2018. Thus, the DOLE hired 864 Government Internship Program beneficiaries to serve as enumerators for the profiling activity and encoders of the data of profiled child laborers. The DOLE also hired 107 project-based community facilitators who were assigned at its Regional Offices and Field Offices to continue the assessment of needs of these child laborers and the referral of the needs of the child laborers and their families to appropriate agencies or organizations for the provision of necessary services.

From January to June 2021, a total of 50,648 child laborers have been profiled, 32,400 have been referred for the provision of necessary services, and 8,880 child laborers and their families have been provided with necessary services such as livelihood assistance, educational assistance, skills training, emergency employment, financial assistance, membership to 4Ps, and counselling among others. A total of 13,069 children have been removed from child labor.

Thus, from 2018 to June 2021, a total of 317,521 child laborers have been profiled by the DOLE; 293,532 child laborers have been referred for the provision of necessary services; 68,515 child laborers have been provided with necessary services; and 69,345 children have been removed from child labor.

DOLE Regional Office	Accomplishments (2018 to June 2021)			
	No. of child laborers profiled	No. of child laborers referred for the provision of necessary services	No. of child laborers provided with necessary services	No. of children removed from child labor
NCR	20,052	19,281	3,868	157
CAR	7,421	6,513	709	1,582
1	14,578	13,980	5,979	5,030
2	8,914	8,746	6,144	5,260
3	28,411	28,220	3,258	8,454
4A	24,982	20,071	1,229	3,873
MIMAROPA	13,270	12,679	2,157	2,200
5	33,041	32,040	5,433	5,329
6	25,077	22,909	754	3,235
7	24,129	20,996	4,472	3,904
8	25,262	25,262	5,697	8,539
9	13,801	12,598	8,847	6,314

10	41,439	34,219	10,126	8,465
11	13,942	13,942	7,114	2,880
12	14,534	13,763	1,896	2,558
Caraga	8,668	8,313	832	1,565
TOTAL	317,521	293,532	68,515	69,345

Livelihood Assistance to Parents of Child Laborers

One of the strategic responses to prevent and eliminate child labor is the provision of livelihood assistance to parents of child laborers. Under the Guidelines of the DOLE Integrated Livelihood and Emergency Employment Program, beneficiaries of livelihood programs of the DOLE should not allow their children to be engaged in child labor.

From January to June 2021, a total of 2,730 parents/guardians of child laborers were provided with livelihood assistance by the DOLE amounting to ₱47,815,308.60. This brings to a total of 47,422 parents/guardians of child laborers provided with livelihood assistance by the DOLE since 2008.

Some of the livelihood assistance provided to parents of child laborers by the DOLE are retailing services (sari-sari store, vegetables, meat, rice, frozen goods); Negokarts; food stalls (street food, snacks/merienda, carinderia); small business/projects (candle making, furniture making, boat engine for Abaca weaving, chili processing, bibingka making, calamansi extract concentrate production); hog, poultry and cattle raising; farm implements; vulcanizing shop; and agricultural supplies trading.

Project Angel Tree

Project Angel Tree aims to provide an array of social services that range from food, clothing or school supplies made available by sponsors or benefactors or “angels” to child laborers and their families.

From January to June 2021, a total of 5,607 child laborers were provided with school supplies, food/grocery packs, vitamins, toiletries, and hygiene kits, among others which were donated by civic organizations and private institutions who acted as “angels” or sponsors of the project. This brings to 87,433 the total number of child laborers and children at risk who benefited from Project Angel Tree since 2006.

INTERMEDIATE OUTCOME 4

Improved generation, dissemination and use of knowledge on child labor among stakeholders, policymakers, program implementers and the general public

Advocacy Activities

The Council intensified its advocacy activities to raise awareness on child labor and programs addressing child labor through the utilization of various platforms such as television, radio, print, and social media.

Using its tagline “*Batang Malaya*” which is also the official social media handle being used by the Council for its advocacy campaign, the Council together with its partners have extended its reach virtually. As of June 2021, the *Batang Malaya* online presence is as follows:

- Facebook: 523 posts; 5,103 likes; 5,447 followers; 445,803 people reached
- Twitter: 693 tweets; 484 followers; 109,299 impressions
- Instagram: 146 posts; 197 followers
- YouTube: 19 videos; 557 subscribers; 12,329 views

Through these *Batang Malaya* social media accounts, the following child labor-related information, education, and communication (IEC) materials were shared to the public: infographics on laws and policies related to child labor, *Batang Malaya* campaign, and various child labor-related initiatives of NCACL member-agencies and other social partners; webinars and video presentations; and, press releases and photo news on the implementation of the DOLE Child Labor Prevention and Elimination Program such as the provision of livelihood assistance to parents of child laborers and Project Angel Tree gift-giving activities.

There were also guest appearances in the following media platforms to discuss about child labor and programs to address it:

- DOLE V-Cafe via DOLE Facebook Page
- PCOO Public Briefing #LagingHandaPH via PTV 4’s broadcast, radio, and online platforms
- DOLE-DZBB’s Oh My Job! Program via GTV’s broadcast, radio, and online platforms
- National Library of the Philippines (NLP) Live Kuwentuhan with Ate Melai via NLP Book Cart Facebook page
- ABS-CBN News Channel via ANC broadcast, television, and online platforms
- CWC Bata Bata, Sagot Kita Program via CWC Facebook page
- Talakayang Pambata Live Episode via Batang Malaya Facebook page

A total of 338 IEC materials in the form of infographics, news articles, posters, photos, video materials, radio plug, spoken word poetry pieces, storytelling session pieces, among others were developed and disseminated.

Since 2002, the Philippines has been joining in the international observance of World Day Against Child Labor (WDAKL) every June to raise awareness on the plight of child laborers and to demonstrate the country’s solidarity in the worldwide campaign against child labor.

For the 2021 celebration of WDAKL, the global theme was “Act now to end child labour!”. The theme focuses on the actions being undertaken for the 2021 International Year for the Elimination of Child Labour. The theme for the Philippine celebration was “*Makibahagi, Makialam, at Magkaisa para sa #BatangMalaya*”. At the national level, the NCACL and its social partners conducted various awareness-raising activities, interactive activities and contests for children and youth, gift-giving for child laborers and children at risk, awarding of livelihood grants to parents of child laborers, training

for children and youth advocates against child labor, talk shows featuring child labor, storytelling sessions about child rights, and dissemination of video statement of support from the members of the Council and their social partners. The following were the activities in celebration of the 2021 WDACL:

- Conduct of Spoken Word Poetry Contest from May to June 2021 by the NCACL in partnership with Words Anonymous to raise awareness on child labor and provide venue for Filipino children and youth participants 12 to 30 years of age to express their ideas, thoughts, and views on child labor through spoken word poetry which was participated by 148 children and youth from 16 regions
- Storytelling sessions on child rights and child labor from 21 to 25 June 2021 conducted by the “Kuwentistas” of the NLP – Ate Melai, Kuya Tom, and Kuya James – through the NLP Book Cart Facebook page
- Conduct of a virtual event “Saving Children from Hazardous Work for the World Day Against Child Labor” on 12 June 2021 by ChildFund Philippines, Inc. through their Building Capacity Awareness, Advocacy and Programs (BuildCA²P) Project
- Conduct of *Training of Children and Youth Advocates Against Child Labor* on 17 to 19 June 2021 via Zoom which was attended by 27 children and youth participants from different regions in the country who are all active members of children and youth committees/organizations
- Mga Mensahe ng Pakikiisa Para sa *#BatangMalaya* Campaign – video messages from heads and representatives of NCACL member-agencies and social partners extending their support to the *#BatangMalaya* Campaign – which were uploaded to the *Batang Malaya* Facebook page and YouTube channel in June 2021
- Broadcasting of Philippine Information Agency’s video material on child labor and the WDACL celebration in national and local TV stations and through their social media accounts as well as radio plug on child labor for national and local radio stations across the country
- Live episode of *Talakayang Pambata* on 30 June 2021 via the *Batang Malaya* Facebook page which featured the highlights of the activities for the 2021 WDACL Celebration in the Philippines.

Aside from these national level activities, the DOLE Regional Offices have also conducted various activities in celebration of the 2021 WDACL such as the DOLEkula Film Making Contest of DOLE Region X, Project Angel Tree gift giving, distribution of livelihood assistance to parents of child laborers, webinars on child rights and child labor, exhibit and virtual posting of information materials, and multimedia arts contests.

Communication Plan 2021-2022

The Knowledge Management and Advocacy Technical Working Group led the updating and initial implementation of the PPACL Communication Plan 2021-2022. The Plan aims to increase the awareness and generate support on the campaign

against child labor and the protection of the rights and welfare of children. Specifically, it aims to:

- Enhance the level of knowledge and understanding of parents and guardians on children’s rights, various forms of abuse and violence particularly on child labor, and their prevalence and effect on children’s overall development;
- Advocate for the active involvement of community leaders and media in eradicating child labor and protecting children’s rights;
- Encourage business sectors and industries to integrate anti-child labor measures in their policies, processes, and practices;
- Make LGUs understand their crucial role and responsibility in addressing the issue of child labor and impress upon them that consistent child labor programs contribute to a child-friendly local governance; and
- Encourage legislators to include issues on child labor, child rights, and protection of children in their legislative agenda.

Researches on Child Labor

There are three (3) on going researches on child labor, namely:

- *Government and Civil Society: Advancing Efforts to Fight Online Sexual Abuse and Exploitation of Children (OSAEC)* being conducted by the Institute for Labor Studies and targeted to be completed by November 2021 which seeks to capture the good practices and initiatives in improving the Philippines’ ability to protect children online
- *Child labor in the sugarcane production in the Philippines* being conducted by the ILO with support from USDOL and targeted to be completed by June 2022 which aims to strengthen the evidence on child labor in the sugarcane sector to inform policy actions wherein emphasis will be on the role of social protection in addressing child labor and the impact of COVID-19 on child labor
- *Child Labor in the Supply Chain in Corn, Banana, Rice, and Coconut Crop Agriculture in Mindanao* being conducted by ChildFund Philippines with support from USDOL and targeted to be completed by October 2021 which aims to analyze child labor in the supply chain in corn, banana, rice, and coconut crop agriculture in Mindanao.

INTERMEDIATE OUTCOME 5

National Child Labor Monitoring and Evaluation system established and maintained

Child Labor Target in the Philippine Development Plan

Under Chapter 11 of the Philippine Development Plan (PDP) 2017-2022, the indicator on child labor is “number of children aged 5-17 years removed in child labor increased”

with the initial target “Reduce cases of child labor by 30 percent”. Thirty percent (30%) of the 2.1 million children engaged in child labor based on the results of the 2011 Survey on Children conducted by the PSA is about 630,000 children. However, this indicator on child labor was changed to “number of child laborers” with the target set at “zero” pursuant to the PDP 2017-2022 Midterm Update to recognize child labor as a violation of human rights. Thus, all child laborers must be removed from child labor. Further, the baseline data used in the updated PDP has been changed from 2.1 million to 1.066 million children engaged in child labor based on the initial results of the rider module on child labor conducted by the PSA in the October 2017 round of the Labor Force Survey.

Monitoring Tools of the Philippine Program Against Child Labor

The Monitoring and Evaluation Technical Working Group spearheaded the development of the Results Matrix and Quarterly Monitoring Report Form of the PPACL Strategic Plan 2020-2022 to effectively monitor the progress of the implementation and accomplishments of the PPACL.

The Results Matrix will serve as the main monitoring tool to track the quantitative accomplishments of the PPACL. It contains performance indicators for each Intermediate Outcome and Major Final Output identified in the PPACL Strategic Plan 2020-2022. The Results Matrix also contains baseline, disaggregated targets and accomplishments by year from 2020 to 2022, means of verification, frequency of data collection, data disaggregation, and reporting entity or responsible agency.

The Quarterly Monitoring Report Form, on the other hand, will capture qualitative information regarding the status of implementation of strategies/key interventions identified in the PPACL Strategic Plan 2020-2022. The tool will also capture issues and concerns encountered in the implementation these strategies/key interventions and the recommended actions to address them.