



NATIONAL COUNCIL AGAINST CHILD LABOR

SEMI-ANNUAL REPORT July to December 2020

“Part of our efforts to uphold human rights is protection of the rights of children and the right against discrimination. Early last year, I signed Executive Order No. 92 creating the National Council Against Child Labor. Government efforts to protect the rights of children will be amplified to prevent, reduce and eliminate any form of child labor.”

- President Rodrigo Roa Duterte, State of the Nation Address, 27 July 2020

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

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 Philippine Program Against Child Labor (PPACL) by all concerned agencies and organizations for the protection of the rights of vulnerable sectors, specially 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.

From July to December 2020, the NCACL continued working towards achieving the vision of the Philippine Program Against Child Labor (PPACL) of a child labor-free Philippines. Among the accomplishments of the NCACL are the following:

- Approved the PPACL Strategic Framework 2020-2022 and the NCACL Technical Working Groups and its composition
- Disseminated Call for Nomination for sectoral representatives (workers sector, employers sector, and non-government organizations) to the National Council Against Child Labor
- Continued labor inspection, rescue of child laborers, and capacity-building of law enforcers
- Sought the assistance of a Senator and Deputy Speaker of the House of Representatives to author the proposed amendments to Republic Act No. 9231
- Referred 64,739 child laborers for the provision of necessary services and provided the necessary services to 40,860 child laborers
- Removed 51,671 child laborers from child labor
- Conducted various advocacy activities to raise awareness about child labor and existing programs/projects addressing child labor

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

The following are the accomplishments of the NCACL for the period July to December 2020 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

Call for Nomination for Sectoral Representatives to the National Council Against Child Labor

On 5 August 2020, the DOLE Secretary as Council Chairperson disseminated a Call for Nomination for sectoral representatives (workers sector, employers sector, and non-government organizations) to the National Council Against Child Labor pursuant to Section 1 of Executive Order No. 92 and Council Resolution No. 1, Series of 2020 (*A Resolution Approving the Criteria and Process for Nomination of Sectoral Representatives to the National Council Against Child Labor*).

Five (5) organizations from the workers sector, one (1) organization from the employers sector, and four (4) non-government organizations responded to the call for nomination. Of these 10 nominees, nine (9) were considered qualified nominees, namely:

Sector	Organization
Workers	Federation of Free Workers
	Alliance of Workers in the Informal Economy/Sector
	Trade Union Congress of the Philippines
	Philippine Federation of Labor
	National Congress of Unions in the Sugar Industry of the Philippines
Employers	Employers Confederation of the Philippines
NGOs	Educational Research and Development Assistance (ERDA) Foundation, Inc.
	World Vision Development Foundation, Inc.
	Laura Vicuña Foundation, Inc.

In order to determine which nominees will be recommended to the Office of the President as sectoral representatives, Council members were requested to rank the nominees based on their qualifications.

Regular Meetings of the National Council Against Child Labor

The Council held its 2nd Regular Meeting for 2020 on 28 August 2020 wherein the Council members discussed and approved the following: PPACL Strategic Framework 2020-2022; five (5) Technical Working Groups of the Council; and the NCACL 1st Semester 2020 Report to the Office of the President.

The following are the Intermediate Outcomes of the PPACL Strategic Framework 2020-2022:

1. Strengthened and localized National Council Against Child Labor towards better coordination of its members and partners at all levels;
2. Improved and inclusive enforcement of anti-child labor laws at the national and local levels;
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;
4. Improved generation, dissemination, and use of knowledge on child labor among stakeholders, policymakers, program implementers, and the general public; and
5. National Child Labor Monitoring and Evaluation System established and maintained.

The following, on the other hand, are the five (5) Technical Working Groups of the Council as well as their Chairperson and Co-Chairperson:

Technical Working Group	Chairperson	Co-Chairperson
Institutional Building/Partnerships	Council for the Welfare of Children	Department of the Interior and Local Government
Enforcement	DOLE-Bureau of Working Conditions	Department of Justice
Social Service Delivery	DSWD-Program Management Bureau	Department of Education
Knowledge Management and Advocacy	Philippine Information Agency	-
Monitoring and Evaluation	DOLE-Planning Service	National Economic and Development Authority

During the 3rd Regular Meeting of the Council on 8 October 2020, the following were discussed and approved: inclusion of the International Labour Organization (ILO) and United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF) as ex-officio members of the Council; Council Resolution No. 2, Series of 2020 (*A Resolution Approving the Technical Working Groups of the National Council Against Child Labor*); and the submission of comments on the two (2) reports of the United States Department of Labor (*2019 Report on the Findings on the Worst Forms of Child Labor* and *2020 List of Goods Produced by Child Labor and Forced Labor*).

Moreover, the Council agreed to support the conduct by the ILO of a research on child labor in sugarcane production.

Amendments to Republic Act No. 9231

The DOLE Secretary sent separate letters dated 15 September 2020 to Representative Lorna Regina Legarda, Deputy Speaker of the House of Representatives and to Senator Pia Cayetano seeking their assistance to author the proposed amendments to Republic Act No. 9231 (*An Act Providing for the*

Elimination of the Worst Forms of Child Labor and Affording Stronger Protection for the Working Child, Amending for this Purpose Republic Act No. 7610, Otherwise known as the “Special Protection of Children Against Abuse, Exploitation, and Discrimination Act”). This is in addition to the letter dated 9 March 2020 sent by the DOLE Secretary to Representative Yedda Marie Romualdez, Chairperson of the Committee on the Welfare of Children of the House of Representatives, seeking her assistance to introduce reforms through legislation on the proposed amendments to Republic Act No. 9231.

Protocol on Handling Children in Situations of Armed Conflict

On 29 September 2020, the *Protocol on Handling Children in Situations of Armed Conflict* was formally adopted through a virtual signing ceremony by members of the Inter-Agency Committee on Children in Situations of Armed Conflict led by the Council for the Welfare of Children. The Protocol was developed in partnership with the UNICEF and the Philippine Legislators’ Committee on Population and Development.

In order to mainstream Republic Act No. 11188 (*Special Protection of Children in Situations of Armed Conflict Act*) at the local level, the law and its Implementing Rules and Regulations were disseminated in August 2020 through a nationwide caravan gathering of 430 national and regional frontline service providers from the government, private sector, civil society organizations, child protection allies, and child rights advocates. Moreover, the Council for the Welfare of Children published a compendium of the latest policy references on children in situations of armed conflict: Republic Act No. 11188, its IRR, and the *Protocol on Handling Children in Situations of Armed Conflict*. Around 100 copies were initially distributed to the Philippine National Police units nationwide through the PNP Women and Children Protection Center and Police Community Affairs and Development Group. The materials will also be disseminated nationwide through the Regional Committees / Sub-committees for the Welfare of Children and can be accessed through the official website of the Council for the Welfare of Children.

INTERMEDIATE OUTCOME 2

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

Labor Law Enforcement

From July to December 2020, the DOLE inspected 3,927 establishments wherein 81.31% are located in Luzon, 6.04% are located in Visayas and 12.66% are located in Mindanao. The decline in the number of establishments subjected to labor inspection was mainly attributed to the COVID-19 pandemic which posed restrictions in the conduct of labor inspection and business operation. Inspection activities were suspended in areas declared under Enhanced Community Quarantine and Modified Enhanced Community Quarantine. Of the 3,927 establishments inspected from July to December 2020, the DOLE found no violation on Republic Act No. 9231.

Rescue operations under the *Sagip Batang Manggagawa* (SBM) mechanism also continued despite the restrictions brought about by the declaration of community quarantine in the country. From July to December 2020, a total of five (5) rescue operations were conducted through the SBM mechanism wherein a total of 10 child laborers (1 in Region 6; 3 in Region 7; and 6 in Region 8) were removed from hazardous and exploitative working conditions. This brings to a total of 3,621 child laborers already removed from hazardous and exploitative working conditions since its inception in 1993.

The child laborer who was rescued in Region 6 was turned over to his family. The result of the rescue operation was referred to the Department of Justice for proper disposition.

Two (2) of the three (3) rescued child laborers in Region 7 each received PHP 2,200 monetary claim while the other child laborer received PHP 3,000 from their respective employer. One of them received medical assistance through laboratory tests and provision of medicines.

The six (6) rescued child laborers in Region 8 were turned over to their parents. Four (4) of them were referred to the Technical Education and Skills Development Authority for skills training while two (2) were referred to the Department of Health for medical assistance. The families of these six (6) child laborers were referred to DOLE for provision of livelihood assistance.

Criminal law enforcement

One of the strategies to strengthen the capacity of law enforcement personnel to enforce anti-child labor laws is to integrate child labor-related laws in the training module of law enforcement agencies.

The Philippine National Police conducted two (2) capacity-building activities which were attended by 1,015 PNP personnel from the Women and Children Protection Desks and Police Regional Offices. One of the topics discussed was the Philippine Legal Framework for the Protection of Children which includes Republic Act No. 9231 and Executive Order No. 92, Series of 2019.

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 July to December 2020, the DOLE issued 385 working child permits to 376 children engaged in public entertainment or information. This brings to a total of 76,495 working child permits issued by the DOLE to 76,260 children in public entertainment or information since 1996.

To protect working children against COVID-19, the DOLE Secretary issued Labor Advisory No. 24-A, Series of 2020 (*Revised Guidelines on Engagement of Children 15 to Below 18 Years of Age in Public Entertainment or Information During Community Quarantine*) on 11 September 2020 which provides that a child 15 to below 18 years of age may be allowed to participate on-cam in studio or location shoots for public entertainment or information during community quarantine provided that the minimum public health standards as prescribed by the Inter-Agency Task Force for the Management of Emerging Infectious Diseases, Department of Health, Department of Labor and Employment, Department of Trade and Industry and other government agencies are strictly implemented and observed. This Labor Advisory also provides that a child has the right to refuse work in accordance with Republic Act No. 9231 and Republic Act No. 11058 (*An Act Strengthening Compliance with Occupational Safety and Health Standards and Providing Penalties for Violations Thereof*).

Administrative Issuances Related to Child Labor

The DOLE Secretary issued the following to further protect children against child labor:

- Department Order No. 216, Series of 2020 (*Rules and Regulations Governing Recruitment and Placement of Industry Workers by Private Employment Agencies for Local Employment*)

on 27 October 2020 which provides that one of the requirements for application for issuance of license to operate of a private employment agency is a Notarized Affidavit of Undertaking stating that the applicant shall denounce and never support nor engage in any or all acts involving illegal recruitment, trafficking in persons, violation of anti-child labor laws or crimes involving moral turpitude or similar activities.

- Department Order No. 217, Series of 2020 (*Rules and Regulations Governing Recruitment and Placement of Domestic Workers by Private Employment Agencies for Local Employment*) on 27 October 2020 which provides that one of the requirements for application for issuance of license to operate of a private employment agency is a Notarized Affidavit of Undertaking stating that the applicant shall denounce and never support nor engage in any or all acts involving illegal recruitment, trafficking in persons, violation of anti-child labor laws or crimes involving moral turpitude or similar activities.

Launch of Project Against Child Labor

The World Vision Development Foundation, Inc. launched on 14 September 2020 “Project Against Child Exploitation” or Project ACE with funding from the United States Department of Labor. Project ACE will work with the government of the Philippines particularly with different inter-agency structures dealing with children such as the National Council Against Child Labor, Inter-Agency Council Against Child Pornography, and Inter-Agency Council Against Trafficking to strengthen regulations and policies to address the worst forms of child labor including online sexual exploitation of children, and violations of acceptable conditions of work.

INTERMEDIATE OUTCOME 3

Expanded access of child laborers 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 in order to locate and identify the children who will be withdrawn from child labor to achieve the target in the Philippine Development Plan 2017-2022 to remove children from child labor. While the 2011 Survey on Children provided the estimates on the number of child laborers in the country and its disaggregation by region, it did not provide information on who and where these child laborers are.

From January to December 2020, 11,083 child laborers have been profiled by the DOLE, 64,739 child laborers have been referred for the provision of necessary services and 40,860 child laborers and their families have been provided with necessary services such as livelihood assistance, skills training, emergency employment, financial assistance, membership to 4Ps, and counselling. A total of 51,671 child laborers have been removed from child labor.

Thus, from 2018 to 2020, a total of 266,873 child laborers have been profiled by the DOLE; 261,132 child laborers have been referred for the provision of necessary services; 59,635 child laborers have been provided with necessary services; and 56,276 child laborers have been removed from child labor.

DOLE Regional Office	Accomplishments (2018 to December 2020)			
	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	16,516	16,453	3,868	157
CAR	5,800	5,436	670	1,581
1	12,821	12,821	4,116	3,760
2	7,466	7,466	6,144	3,858
3	22,567	22,567	2,907	6,109
4A	23,356	19,658	1,150	3,873
MIMAROPA	10,341	10,341	2,103	2,145
5	31,956	31,956	4,748	667
6	21,024	21,024	724	3,235
7	20,850	19,234	2,710	3,901
8	21,047	21,047	5,528	8,535
9	11,914	11,914	8,738	6,314
10	32,931	32,931	7,752	6,645
11	10,083	10,083	6,119	2,880
12	10,823	10,823	1,532	1,353
Caraga	7,378	7,378	826	1,263
TOTAL	266,873	261,132	59,635	56,276

Livelihood Assistance to Parents of Child Laborers

The provision of livelihood assistance to parents of child laborers is a strategic response to prevent and eliminate child labor. The livelihood assistance provided can be in the form of Negokart, starter kits, or materials needed to start a livelihood undertaking. 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 December 2020, a total of 6,484 parents of child laborers were provided with livelihood assistance by the DOLE. This brings to a total of 42,672 parents 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, vegetable, meat, rice, fabric conditioner); bicycles for delivery services; face mask and face shield-making; candle-making; metal craft shop; hog, poultry and cattle raising; farm implements; 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 December 2020, total of 9,386 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 81,826 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 continued to conduct virtual awareness-raising activities on child labor and on existing programs/projects addressing child labor. Through the *Batang Malaya* social media accounts (Facebook, Instagram, Twitter, and YouTube), different child labor-related information, education, and communication (IEC) materials were shared to the public such as webinars and video presentations; infographics on the *Batang Malaya* campaign and laws and policies related to child labor; 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; and articles and infographics on various child labor-related initiatives of NCAAC member-agencies and other social partners.

IEC materials related to the 2020 World Day Against Child Labor (WDACL) and 2020 National Children's Month (NCM) celebrations were also disseminated such as national and local activities, webinars, statements of support, episodes of *Talakayang Pambata* which is a live educational discussion about child labor, and throwback photo cards on previous WDACL celebrations.

As of December 2020:

- the Batang Malaya Facebook page has 3,826 followers, 3,734 likes, and attained 525,431 impressions;
- the Batang Malaya Instagram account has 121 followers;
- the Batang Malaya Twitter account has 467 followers and received 77,228 impressions;
- the Batang Malaya YouTube channel has 482 subscribers and 10,833 video views.

The DOLE also developed these online IEC materials – together with other infographics about child labor, Philippine Program Against Child Labor, National Council Against Child Labor, Sustainable Development Goals, international instruments on child labor, 2019 National Children's Month and 2020 World Day Against Child Labor winning entries – into pop-up display, exhibit panels, roll-up banners, and 2021 planner which will be used for intensifying advocacy against child labor.

A webinar on *#KeepKidsSafe: Advancing Efforts to Fight Online Sexual Abuse and Exploitation of Children (OSAEC)* was conducted on 6 November 2020 by the Institute for Labor Studies to encourage OSAEC-related data owners, academe, technology designers, and OSAEC experts to collaborate and improve the country's ability to protect children online. The webinar highlighted various interventions being done by the national government, local government units, and civil society organizations in combating OSAEC.

Communication Planning Workshop

The Council, through the Knowledge Management and Advocacy Technical Working Group, conducted a Communication Planning Workshop for the development of the PPAAC Communication Plan for 2021-2022 on 19-20 October 2020. The workshop was attended by the members of the Technical Working Group and other social partners.

2020 National Children’s Month Celebration

The Council member-agencies participated in the celebration of the National Children’s Month in November 2020 which focused on *Upholding Children’s Rights During the Pandemic Like COVID-19*, with the theme “*Sama-samang Itaguyod Ang Karapatan ng Bawat Bata sa Panahon ng Pandemya!*”

The following webinars which run for the whole month of November 2020 were conducted to help children, as well as their family, cope up with the COVID-19 pandemic:

- *PandeMIC Check: The Local Experiences of LGUs in Protecting Children and their Rights During COVID-19 Pandemic*
- *Self-care for Children and Adolescents*
- *Coping with Blended Distance Education for Young Learners*

INTERMEDIATE OUTCOME 5

National Child Labor Monitoring and Evaluation System established and maintained

Recognizing the importance of generating updated data on child labor for targeting and planning purposes, the Philippine Statistics Authority has included a rider module on child labor in the October round of the Labor Force Survey since 2017.

The Council, through its Monitoring and Evaluation Technical Working Group, started developing monitoring and evaluation tools such as the Results Matrix for the PPACL Strategic Plan 2020-2022 and other reporting templates to track the progress of the implementation of the PPACL Strategic Plan. The Results Matrix is a tool which will track the progress of the indicators under the five (5) Intermediate Outcomes of the PPACL Strategic Plan 2020 – 2022. It shows the baseline, annual target, accomplishments, means of verification, frequency of data collection and reporting, level of data disaggregation, reporting entity, and responsible agency.