



NATIONAL COUNCIL AGAINST CHILD LABOR

SEMI-ANNUAL REPORT

July to December 2021

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Philippine Program Against Child Labor (PPACL) 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. The NCACL 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 as well as two (2) representatives each from the workers sector, employers sector, and non-government organizations with program on child labor.

Section 10 of Executive Order No. 92, Series of 2019, mandates the Council to submit semi-annual reports to the President through the Executive Secretary, on the operations of the Council, and its accomplishments relative to the prevention and elimination of child labor.

Among the accomplishments of the NCACL are the following:

- Approved the PPACL Strategic Plan 2020-2022 Results Matrix and Quarterly Monitoring Report Form
- Approved the PPACL Communication Plan 2021-2022
- Submitted the nominees to be recommended as sectoral representatives to the NCACL to the Office of the President
- Continued labor inspection, rescue of child laborers, and capacity building of labor inspectors and other stakeholders
- Profiled 184,018 child laborers
- Referred 186,291 child laborers for the provision of necessary services and provided the necessary services to 41,450 child laborers
- Removed 32,780 children from child labor
- Conducted various advocacy activities related to child labor

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

The following are the accomplishments of the NCACL for the period July to December 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 3rd Regular Meeting for 2021 on 8 July 2021 wherein the Council members discussed and approved the PPACL Strategic Plan Results Matrix and Quarterly Monitoring Report Form as well as the PPACL Communication Plan 2020-2022. During this meeting, the following were also presented: report on the 2021 World Day Against Child Labor (WDACL) celebration; updates on the Philippine Action Pledge for the 2021 International Year for the Elimination of Child Labour; handling of donations of child laborers; media coverage of child laborers; and, highlights of the report on the 2020 Child Labour Global Estimates.

Based on the 2020 Child Labour Global Estimates jointly published by the International Labour Organization and UNICEF as co-custodian of Sustainable Development Goal Target 8.7, there were about 160 million children engaged in child labor worldwide, 79 million of them were performing hazardous work, and more than 70% of child laborers were in agriculture. The global trend on child labor is increasing while the trend in Asia and the Pacific region is decreasing. It is estimated that there will be an additional 8.9 million child laborers at the end of 2022 if no measures will be put in place to mitigate the impact of COVID-19. To reverse the global upward trend in child labor, the report recommended the following: provision of adequate social protection for all including universal benefits for children; increase in spending on quality education and getting all children back to school including children who were out of school before COVID-19 pandemic happened; promotion of decent work for adults so families will not have to resort to children helping to generate family income; ending harmful gender norms and discrimination that influence child labor; focusing on child labor in agriculture; and, strengthened systems that prioritize vulnerable populations.

During the 4th Regular Meeting of the Council held on 14 October 2021, the following were discussed: 1st Semester 2021 Accomplishment of the PPACL; updates on the Philippine Action Pledge for the 2021 International Year for the Elimination of Child Labour; United States Department of Labor (USDOL) 2020 Report on the Findings on the Worst Forms of Child Labor; activities for the 2021 National Children's Month (NCM); and, World Vision Development Foundation, Inc.'s Project Against Child Exploitation (Project ACE).

According to the USDOL 2020 Report on the Findings on the Worst Forms of Child Labor which was published on 29 September 2021, the Philippines achieved

moderate advancement in its efforts to eliminate the worst forms of child labor. Included in this report are details on the government's accomplishments cited in the report, the gaps that need to be addressed, and the list of suggested government actions to eliminate child labor in the country.

Sectoral Representatives to the National Council Against Child Labor

The DOLE Secretary, as Council Chairperson, sent a letter to the President recommending the following nominees as Sectoral Representatives:

Workers Sector

1. Benedicto Marasigan (Federation of Free Workers)
2. Gloria Madayag (Alliance of Workers in the Informal Economy/Sector)

Employers Sector

1. Jose Roland Moya (Employers Confederation of the Philippines)

Non-Government Organizations

1. Daphne Culanag (World Vision Development Foundation, Inc.)
2. Sr. Ma. Victoria Sta. Ana (Laura Vicuña Foundation, Inc.)

2021 Action Pledges of the Philippines

The Philippines, as part of its commitment to the global effort to end child labor, has submitted its Action Pledges for the 2021 International Year for the Elimination of Child Labour to the Alliance 8.7 Secretariat through the NCACL. The Action Pledges are actions that contribute to ending child labor which stakeholders will complete by 2021. At the end of 2021, the following were the accomplishments relative to the Action Pledges of the Philippines:

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

The Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA) has included in the October round of the Labor Force Survey (LFS) a rider module on child labor since 2017. The PSA published the *Special Release on Working Children and Child Labor Situation* on 15 December 2021 which provides the results of this rider module on child labor for the October 2019 and October 2020 rounds of the LFS. The special release can be accessed through <https://bit.ly/PSA-CL2021>.

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

The nationwide implementation of the SHIELD Against Child Labor Project of the DSWD commenced in July 2021. As of December 2021, there are already 36 municipalities/cities implementing the Project. The DSWD has allocated budget for the provision of assistance to 100 child laborers for each region and the hiring of Project Development Officer in 16 regions who will serve as focal persons for the implementation of the Project.

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

As of December 2021, the DOLE has provided livelihood assistance to 5,884 parents/guardians of child laborers while the Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (TESDA) has provided skills training to 192 parents/guardians of child laborers from six (6) regions.

International/Local Engagement and Partnership

- *International Engagement*

Members of the NCACL attended a virtual workshop organized by the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) of the United Nations Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific, in collaboration with the International Labour Organization, on “*The role of agricultural stakeholders in ending child labour in Agriculture, in Asia and the Pacific Region*” on 28 September 2021. The regional workshop aimed to: 1) raise awareness on child labor in agriculture and its subsectors, giving voice to agricultural stakeholders to address child labor in Asia and the Pacific Region; 2) recognize the agricultural stakeholders’ role and efforts in addressing child labor in agriculture in Asia; 3) build momentum towards more concerted action at local, national and regional level with a view to contribute to achievements towards Sustainable Development Growth Target 8.7; and 4) identify ways to step forward efforts to prevent child labor in all agriculture subsectors.

- *Localization of NCACL and mainstreaming of child labor*

Efforts to localize the National Council Against Child Labor and mainstream programs to address child labor at the local level continued for the 2nd Semester of 2021. There are 11 functional Regional Councils Against Child Labor which convenes regularly. In addition, the focal persons on child labor of the DOLE Regional/Field Offices discuss child labor and raise child labor concerns during meetings of local structures addressing concerns of children such as the Regional Sub-Committee on the Welfare of Children, Regional Inter Agency Committee Against Trafficking, among others.

The DSWD organized the following groups of children advocating against child labor in Leyte to participate in the conduct of the WDAKL and NCM celebrations as well as other child labor-related activities:

- Children Against Child Laborers Organization
- Samahan ng mga Kabataan Kontra Child Labor
- Kabataang Kalasag ng Tawig
- SHIELD Kids
- Samahan ng Batang Malaya sa Dalas
- Samahan ng Batang MALAYA Kontra Child Labor
- Barangay Children Association of Sumangga

INTERMEDIATE OUTCOME 2

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

Labor Law Enforcement

Under DOLE Department Order No. 183, Series of 2017, among the priority establishments for inspection are those who employ children. Part II-C of the Labor Inspection Checklist is dedicated to the detection of child labor in the workplace. For the 2nd Semester of 2021, the DOLE's Labor Inspection Program was able to inspect a total of 22,417 establishments, 99% of which were found compliant with anti-child labor laws. There were two (2) establishments with noted violations on anti-child labor laws particularly on allowable hours of work for those 15 to below 18 years of age and engaging children below 18 years of age to hazardous work. The child laborers found during inspection were employed in fishing and manufacturing. Noted violations of these establishments were corrected.

Rescue operations under the Sagip Batang Manggagawa (SBM) continued in the second semester of 2021. From July to December 2021, four (4) rescue operations were conducted wherein a total of five (5) child laborers – three (3) from Region 9 and two (2) from Region 6 – were removed from hazardous and exploitative working conditions. This brings to a total of 3,639 child laborers already removed from hazardous and exploitative working conditions since its inception in 1993.

These rescued child laborers were profiled and their families provided with immediate assistance. In July, an operation conducted by the Regional Anti-Trafficking Taskforce in Region 9 resulted in the rescue of two (2) child laborers from working as fishers in a fishing vessel. The parents of the children were provided with livelihood assistance. In September, a child working in a canning factory was rescued by the DOLE Zamboanga Field Office. The family of the child was provided with food items and vitamins by the DOLE. Meanwhile, in Negros Oriental, DOLE SBM Quick Action Team were able to conduct two (2) rescue operations which resulted to the rescue of two (2) child laborers from a bakery store and a resort. The child rescued from the bakery store is an all-around help (delivery boy, helper, baker, hauler) while the child rescued from the resort is a laborer. Both families of the child laborers were provided with monetary assistance and counseling.

Cases related to Child Labor/ Trafficking of Children

The Interagency Council Against Trafficking (IACAT) maintains an anti-trafficking in persons central database pursuant to Republic Act No. 9208, as amended by Republic Act No. 10364. Based on the report of the IACAT for 2021, there were 80 cases related to child labor/ trafficking of children filed at the prosecutor's office, 105 were filed at the courts, while 84 were with convictions by end of 2021. Cases filed and convicted were on forced labor, labor trafficking, cybersex trafficking, pornography, sexual exploitation, and prostitution.

Capacity Building of Implementers

The World Vision Development Foundation, Inc. is implementing Project ACE which aims to support the Philippine Government's effort to address the worst forms of child labor (WFCL) including online sexual exploitation of children (OSEC). Launched in 2019, the Project is currently being implemented in Cagayan de Oro City and Quezon City. Two (2) batches of *Training on Prevention, Detection, Case Handling, and Rescue of Victims of Worst Forms of Child Labor* were conducted by the DOLE and World Vision under Project ACE on September 17 and October 15 respectively via Zoom. A total of 181 participants – composed of 151 Labor Inspectors and 30 other implementers and partners in the enforcement of anti-child labor laws such as the DOLE Regional and Field Office child labor focal persons, Community Facilitators, law enforcement agency staff, and other representatives from the LGU – were capacitated in this training. Topics discussed during the training included the following: international and local mechanisms to promote and protect children's rights; understanding the rights of children, protecting them from being at risk, and identifying WFCL and OSEC; situationer on child labor in the Philippines; overview on the PPACL and NCACL; child labor inspection checklist; orientation on SBM and NCR experience; detecting, reporting, referral mechanism, case handling and tracking of WFCL and OSEC cases; and, roles and responsibilities of labor inspectors and major stakeholders.

On 2 and 7 December 2021, World Vision, in partnership with ABA ROLI, conducted an online training on *Understanding Relevant Laws and Trauma-Informed Care for Victims of Worst Forms of Child Labor including Online Sexual Exploitation of Children* for 76 service providers in Cagayan de Oro City and Quezon City. The capacity building for service providers aimed to: increase knowledge on child rights and prevailing child protection issues especially on WFCL and OSEC; understand trauma, its impact, and how it is manifested in the people; understand how to put trauma-informed care into practice; and, identify and implement self-care strategies to prevent burnout.

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.

In light of the implementation of Alert Level Systems set by the Inter-Agency Task Force for the Management of Emerging Infectious Diseases, the DOLE Secretary issued Labor Advisory No. 22, Series of 2021 (*Engagement or Participation of a Child Below 15 Years of Age in Public Entertainment or Information During the Implementation of Alert Level Systems for COVID-19 Response*) in November 2021. This advisory provides for the work arrangement of a child below 15 years of age depending on the Alert Level being implemented in the area where the child will be engaged in public entertainment or information.

From January to December 2021, the DOLE issued a total of 828 working child permits to 804 children below 15 years of age engaged in public entertainment or information. This brings to 77,323 the number of working child permits issued to 77,064 children by the DOLE since 1996.

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

Strategic Helpdesk for Information, Education, Livelihood, and Other Developmental Interventions (SHIELD) Against Child Labor

The DSWD has started the nationwide implementation of the SHIELD Against Child Labor Project in July 2021. This project focuses on strengthening efforts at the local level through establishment of barangay help desk, development of local registry on child labor, and conduct of advocacy and capacity building activities. The DSWD had allocated budget for the provision of assistance to 100 child laborers for each region and the hiring of Project Development Officers (PDOs) in 16 regions who will serve as focal persons for the implementation of the Project. Fifteen (15) PDOs have already been hired in 15 DSWD Field Offices.

As of December 2021, a total of 1,478 child laborers have been identified as beneficiaries from the 36 municipalities in 14 regions implementing the Project. These municipalities are as follows:

Region	Province	City/Municipality	Region	Province	City/Municipality
CAR	Apayao	Pudtol	VI	Antique	Sibalom, Tobias Fornier, Hamtic, Barbaza, Laua-An, Valderrama
I	Ilocos Norte	Marcos	VII	Cebu	Carcar, Lapu-Lapu City, Daanbantayan
II	Isabela	Cordon	VIII	Leyte	Ormoc, Kananga
II	Cagayan	Solana	IX	Basilan	Isabela City
II	Nueva Vizcaya	Kasibu	X	Bukidnon	Maramaa
IV-A	Quezon	Catanauan, Mulanay	XI	Davao del Norte	Asuncion, Panabo
MIMAROPA	Occidental Mindoro	Magsaysay, Rizal	XI	Davao del Sur	Davao City, Magsaysay
V	Sorsogon	Pilar	XI	Davao de Oro	Nabunturan
V	Albay	Manito	XII	Sultan Kudarat	Senator Ninoy Aquino, Isullah, Surallah
V	Catanduanes	Caramoran	Caraga	Surigao del Sur	Tandag City
V	Comarines Norte	Jose Panganiban, Paracale			

Skills Training for Parents/Guardians/Older Siblings of Child laborers

The TESDA provides skills training to identified parents/guardians/older siblings of profiled child laborers. From these TESDA beneficiaries, 117 have graduated, 39 have undertaken assessment, 20 have been provided with National Certificate, and 19 have been employed already. However, not all referred beneficiaries were located and not all located beneficiaries were interested in undergoing skills training. The TESDA is now exploring partnership on the ground to scale up the provision of skills training to parents/guardians/older siblings of child laborers.

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.

From January to December 2021, a total of 184,018 child laborers have been profiled, 186,291 have been referred for the provision of necessary services, and 41,450 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 32,780 children have been removed from child labor.

Thus, from 2018 to 2021, a total of 460,268 child laborers have been profiled by the DOLE; 454,520 child laborers have been referred for the provision of necessary services; 101,085 child laborers have been provided with necessary services; and 89,056 children have been removed from child labor.

DOLE Regional Office	Accomplishments (2018 to 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	25,567	25,504	4,573	364
CAR	9,742	9,378	1,087	1,694
1	21,150	21,150	11,549	7,224
2	15,891	15,891	7,940	5,750
3	42,810	42,810	5,007	12,001
4A	39,358	35,753	890	3,873
MIMAROPA	20,051	20,051	5,298	2,383
5	54,659	54,659	6,670	6,142
6	37,166	37,166	3,544	3,235
7	37,235	35,519	4,438	5,129
8	34,676	34,676	7,207	10,884
9	20,590	20,590	12,284	8,346
10	47,860	47,860	12,499	10,463
11	20,928	20,928	13,455	5,906
12	19,951	19,951	3,714	3,964
Caraga	12,634	12,634	930	1,698
TOTAL	460,268	454,520	101,085	89,056

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 December 2021, a total of 5,961 parents/guardians of child laborers were provided with livelihood assistance by the DOLE. This brings to a total of 48,588 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 December 2021, a total of 13,632 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 95,458 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.

The Council and its partners developed and disseminated various child labor information, education, and communication (IEC) materials to the public through print, broadcast, outdoor, and social media platforms. These materials include the

following:

- infographics, trivia cards, posters, calendars, t-shirts, photos, and audio-visual presentations on child labor, related laws and issuances, and child labor-related celebrations;
- news articles, e-newsletters, photos, and videos on programs, projects, and other initiatives of stakeholders to address child labor;
- speaking engagements on child labor-related topics such as media guesting and online talk show;
- updates on Philippine Action Pledge for the 2021 International Year for the Elimination of Child Labour;
- PSA Special Release on Working Children and Child Labor Situation in the Philippines 2019-2020;
- updates on the national and regional-level activities for the 2021 NCM celebration;

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 December 2021, the *Batang Malaya* online presence is as follows:

- Facebook: 692 posts; 5,234 likes; 5,593 followers; 531,560 people reached
- Twitter: 764 tweets; 471 followers; 123,645 impressions
- Instagram: 189 posts; 186 followers
- YouTube: 51 videos; 575 subscribers; 13,341 views

Through these *Batang Malaya* social media accounts, the various child labor-related 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 NCAAC 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 activities where child labor and programs to address it have been discussed:

- BWSC Technical Learning Session on Philippine Program Against Child Labor
- LVF National Youth Congress Against Child Labour
- BWSC Orientation on Child Labor for DOLE Hotline 1349 Assistance Officers and Support Staff
- DSWD Training on Handling Child Labor Cases and the Use of the Child Labor Local Registry System in partnership with EDUCO
- Regional Orientation on SHIELD Against Child Labor of DSWD 4A
- Series of National Orientation on SHIELD Against Child Labor and ReSPPEC
- Oh My Job! radio program to discuss the NCM celebration and Project Angel Tree component of the DOLE Child Labor Prevention and Elimination Program

The DSWD continued to provide technical assistance as well as conduct orientations and capacity building activities to DSWD Field Offices and service providers at the LGUs on the implementation of the SHIELD against Child Labor Project.

In July 2021, the Project ACE of World Vision, in partnership with the LGUs of Quezon City and Cagayan de Oro, conducted series of awareness-raising activities on World Day Against Trafficking wherein the following topics were discussed: Child Rights and Child 101; SBM; Republic Act No. 10364; and, available services for the victims of WFCL of LGUs and other private partners.

PPACL Communication Plan 2021-2022

During the 8 July 2021 Regular Meeting of the Council, the PPACL Communication Plan 2021-2022 was approved. The Plan highlighted the communication objectives, messages, and indicators corresponding to each target audience (parents/guardians, community leaders, media, business groups, LGUs, and legislators). The Plan emphasized the role of media as one of the partners of the Council in raising awareness on child labor and reporting child labor cases.

Researches on Child Labor

Two (2) researches on child labor have been completed, namely:

- *Government and Civil Society: Advancing Efforts to Fight Online Sexual Abuse and Exploitation of Children (OSAEC)* conducted by the Institute for Labor Studies and published as an Issue Paper which aimed to bridge the gap of the growing cases of OSAEC by mainstreaming existing government actions and interventions of organizations especially during this pandemic; and to identify ways forward on how children will be more protected from this exploitation and abuse. The issue paper provided the following recommendations:
 - Intensify cross-sectoral collaboration through: public and private sectors working on developing systems that could detect live streaming and distribution of pornographic materials involving children and monitor suspicious online activities; active involvement of mass media companies to raise awareness about child abuse and exploitation and promote responsible parenting
 - Develop more inclusive interventions for children with special needs such as establishment of effective child protection policies and procedures in schools and development of PWD-friendly platforms
 - Strengthen parental responsibility and progressive parenting by equipping parents in detecting and reporting OSAEC to authorities and monitoring of children's behavior in school through parent-teacher cooperation
 - Promote community action against OSAEC
 - Enhance advocacy efforts to end child labor and its emerging forms by also considering constant communication research
 - Ensure adequate victim support and reintegration services through the following: utilization of government agencies' prescribed Gender and Development budget to fund shelters and advocacy efforts to stop child abuse; maximize Official Development Assistance from international

community to direct efforts of organizations and agencies in providing reintegration services and facilities for OSAEC victims; and, explore alternative business models to improve the provision of livelihood assistance and its sustainability both in the urban and rural areas.

- Collaboration in expanding knowledge on OSAEC between government research arm such as the ILS

- *National-Level Legal and Policy Analysis on Minimum Standards for Occupational Safety and Health and Worst Forms of Child Labor in the Philippines* conducted by the American Bar Association Rule of Law Initiative under Project ACE of World Vision. The policy analysis provided an overview of the legal framework of the child protection system in the Philippines, citing the ratification of international conventions through the enactment of numerous national laws translating to the creation of agencies and mechanisms pursuant to the commitment of safeguarding child's rights. Extensive examination of laws and policies issued by government bodies that provides services to issues relating to children culminated to the following conclusions of the study, among others: laws and policies in the Philippines pertaining to child's rights are overly developed; there is no one body which brings together the various interagency councils working to protect children from the worst forms of child labor; there are numbers of laws affecting and restricting the effectiveness of prosecution and investigation of online sexual exploitation of children; some livelihood assistance programs of the government may have an unintended consequence of contributing to child labor in the Philippines; one of the allowable exceptions to child work (working for a home-based business or a family farm) is unregulated; the DOLE's negative list of hazardous work is difficult for the layperson to understand and apply to homebased workplace. In resolving these findings, the study recommends the following:
 - Institutionalization of the Philippine Commission on Children as the main and focal body that oversees all concerns relevant to children's rights including child labor which would also house the baseline data to create a centralized management information system
 - Inclusion in school curriculum and employment seminars the rights of the children particularly regarding the aspect of labor to raise awareness of individuals and duty bearers
 - Considering the numerous laws enacted as a response to child rights issues, there is a need to revisit the policies to enable a more efficient prosecution and investigation of child related offenses
 - Overlapping mandates of existing mechanisms must be re-examined to harmonize and maximize the functionality of child right's agencies
 - Development of a positive list of hazardous work and guidelines, and to ensure these guidelines are fully understood at the local level

The following two (2) researches on child labor are still ongoing:

- *Child labor in the sugarcane production in the Philippines* being conducted by the ILO with support from USDOL 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 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

Special Release on Working Children

The Philippine Statistics Authority published the *Special Release on Working Children and Child Labor Situation* on 15 December 2021. This publication highlighted the results of the rider module on child labor during the October 2019 and October 2020 rounds of the LFS. The 2020 data from the rider module showed the following:

- On working children
 - Around 2.8 percent of the estimated 31.17 million children 5 to 17 years of age or 872 thousand children were working
 - Children belonging to the older age groups (15 to 17 years) were more likely to work than the younger ones
 - Male children were more likely to work than female children
 - Across occupations, working children in elementary occupation continued to account for the largest group at 65.8%
 - Across broad industry groups, the agriculture sector registered the highest proportion of working children in 2019 (44%) and 2020 (47.4%). Working children in the industry sector consistently accounted for the smallest contributing sector
 - Across regions, 12.4% resided in Region 10, 11.1% resided in Region 5, and 9% resided in Region 4A
- On child labor situation in the country
 - An estimated 596.9 thousand or 68.4% of the working children were engaged in child labor. This was higher than the estimate in 2019 which was at 61.2%
 - Across age groups, the largest proportion of children considered to be engaged in child labor were in the 15 to 17 years of age bracket at 73.3%
 - Across broad industry group, about 64% of child laborers were in the agriculture sector, 28.6% were in the services sector, and 7.9% were in the industry sector
 - Across regions, 13.1% are from Region 10, followed by Region 5 with 9.2%

Monitoring Tools of the Philippine Program Against Child Labor

During its 8 July 2021 Regular Meeting, the NCACL approved the PPACL Strategic Plan 2020-2022 Results Matrix and Quarterly Monitoring Report form was approved. These monitoring tools will be used by the Council and its Technical Working Groups to effectively monitor the progress of the implementation and accomplishments of the PPACL.

Child Labor Local Registry System

One of the main components of the SHIELD Against Child Labor Project of the DSWD is the development of the Child Labor Local Registry (CLLR) System. The CLLR System is a digital tool that will serve as the national database of child laborers in the country and will capture and record relevant information to help in the prevention, detection, removal, and rehabilitation of child laborers in the Philippines. It is a centralized and digitized record of victims of child labor in the country and the services provided to them and their families. The DOLE and the DSWD are currently working to forge a Memorandum of Agreement on the use of and sharing of data of the CLLR System for a more efficient case management and monitoring of child laborers for both the SHIELD Project and DOLE Profiling of Child Laborers.