



NATIONAL COUNCIL AGAINST CHILD LABOR

ACCOMPLISHMENT REPORT FOR CY 2022



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 programs 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:

- DOLE profiled 160,288 child laborers and referred them for the provision of necessary services
- NCACL provided various services to 36,919 child laborers and their families such as livelihood assistance, educational assistance, skills training, emergency employment, financial assistance, membership to 4Ps, and counselling among others
- Through collaboration among members, NCACL removed 57,870 children from child labor
- Approved three (3) Council Resolutions – Council Resolution No. 1, Series of 2022 (*A Resolution Urging the Council Members to Accelerate the Provision of Necessary Services to Profiled Child Laborers*), Council Resolution No. 2, Series of 2022 (*A Resolution Supporting the Durban Call to Action on the Elimination of Child Labour*), and Council Resolution No. 3, Series of 2022 (*A Resolution Recommending the Approval of the Official Logo of the National Council Against Child Labor*)
- Conducted the Assessment Workshop of the Philippine Program Against Child Labor Strategic Framework 2020-2022 and the Consultation for the Development of the PPACL Strategic Framework 2023-2028
- Conducted various advocacy activities and awareness-raising campaigns

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

The following are the accomplishments of the NCACL for the year 2022 under the five (5) Intermediate Outcomes of the PPACL Strategic Framework 2020-2022:

INTERMEDIATE OUTCOME 1

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

In order to achieve a child labor-free Philippines, there is need to strengthen and localize the NCACL as reflected under Intermediate Outcome 1 of the PPACL Strategic Framework 2020-2022. Strategies to achieve this goal include (1) developing regional and local structures against child labor in mainstreaming child labor related concerns at the regional and local levels and (2) identifying mechanisms that will harness and nurture partnerships. The accomplishment of these strategies is being handled by the Institutional Building/Partnership Technical Working Group (TWG).

For 2022, the following are the targets under Intermediate Outcome 1 and its Major Final Outputs:

- 100% of existing anti-child labor councils at the regional level functional
- 100% of child labor councils and other structures related to children at the regional level oriented on anti-child labor laws and other related laws/issuances
- 100% of quarterly meetings of the NCACL and existing Regional Councils Against Child Labor conducted

Regular Meetings of the National Council Against Child Labor

The NCACL has conducted four (4) regular meetings and seven (7) special meetings while its TWGs have convened a total of 27 meetings.

The Council held its 1st Regular Meeting for 2022 on 27 January 2022 via Zoom wherein the Council members discussed the development of the NCACL Logo, as well as updates on the United States Department of Labor 2021 Report on the Findings of the Worst Forms of Child Labor, International Year on the Elimination of Child Labour and DOLE Profiling of Child Laborers.

The Council also discussed and approved Council Resolution No. 1, Series of 2022 (*A Resolution Urging Council Members to Accelerate the Provision of Necessary Services to Profiled Child Laborers*). Said Resolution provides for concerned Council members to accelerate the provision of necessary services to the profiled child laborers in order to remove the children from child labor. It also entrusts the Social Service Delivery TWG to come up with an action plan to implement the Resolution.

Further, the Philippine Statistics Authority presented the *Special Release on Working Children and Child Labor Situation* published on 15 December 2021. The following are the highlights of the report:

- Clarification on the revised figures for the 2019 and 2020 estimates which used the updated 2015 Census-based population projection (CBPP) as opposed to the 2010 CBPP used for the 2017, 2018 and 2019 estimates
- On working children, the 2020 data showed that:
 - 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 X, 11.1% resided in Region V, and 9% resided in Region IV-A
- On child labor situation in the country, the 2020 data showed that:
 - 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 X, followed by Region V with 9.2%

During the 2nd Regular Meeting for 2022 held on 21 April 2022 via Zoom, the Council discussed the PPACL 2nd Semester 2021 Report, participation to the 5th Global Conference on the Elimination of Child Labour in Durban, South Africa, activities for the 2022 World Day Against Child Labor Celebration, as well as salient features of Republic Act No. 11648 (*An Act Providing for Stronger Protection Against Rape and Sexual Exploitation and Abuse, Increasing the Age for Determining the Commission of Statutory Rape, amending for the Purpose Act No. 3815, as Amended, otherwise known as "The Revised Penal Code," Republic Act No. 8353, also known as "The Anti-Rape Law Of 1997," and Republic Act No. 7610, as Amended, otherwise known as the "Special Protection of Children Against Abuse, Exploitation and Discrimination Act"*).

The Institute for Labor Studies also presented the following findings and recommendations of their Issue Paper entitled *"Government and Civil Society: Advancing Efforts to Fight Online Sexual Abuse and Exploitation of Children (OSAEC)"*:

- There are existing structures and plans on OSAEC at the national level. These are the National Council Against Child Labor and its Philippine Program Against Child Labor and the Philippine Plan of Action to End Violence Against Children

- There are research activities related to OSAEC which are the National Baseline Study on Violence Against Children and the Literature Review on the Drivers of Violence Affecting Children
- There are good practices in the enforcement of laws such as that by the DOJ-Office of Cybercrime which functions and closely coordinates with other government agencies, with assistance from CSOs, in case management and adjudication
- There are existing protection and reintegration efforts through the Save the Children PH and partners which collaborates to effectively implement child protection programs as well as social protection and economic support from government agencies, CSOs, and LGUs.
- Recommendations from the Issue Paper include the following:
 - Intensify cross-sectoral collaboration
 - Develop more inclusive interventions for children with special needs
 - Strengthen parental responsibility and progressive parenting
 - Promote community action against OSAEC
 - Enhance advocacy efforts to end child labor and its emerging forms
 - Ensure adequate victim support and reintegration services
 - Collaboration in expanding knowledge on OSAEC

The Council held virtually its 3rd Regular Meeting for 2022 on 25 August 2022 wherein the Council members discussed the following: 5th Global Conference on the Elimination of Child Labour; 2022 World Day Against Child Labor Celebration, highlights of the National Stakeholders' Summit of Councils and Interagency Bodies Addressing the Worst Forms of Child Labor including Online Sexual Exploitation of Children; and the conduct of the Assessment of the Philippine Program Against Child Labor Strategic Framework 2020-2022 and 3rd Anniversary Celebration of the Institutionalization of the NCACL.

During this meeting, Council Resolution No. 2, Series of 2022 (*A Resolution Supporting the Durban Call to Action on the Elimination of Child Labour*) was approved, while the approval of Council Resolution No. 3, Series of 2023 (*A Resolution Recommending the Approval of the Official Logo of the National Council Against Child Labor*) was deferred pending further revisions.

On 3 November 2022, the Council held its 4th Regular Meeting and was presided by DOLE Secretary Bienvenido E. Laguesma. The Council discussed the following: 1st Semester 2022 Accomplishments of the NCACL; highlights of the Assessment Workshop of the PPACL Strategic Framework 2020-2022, 3rd Anniversary Celebration of the Institutionalization of the NCACL, and 2nd National Stakeholders' Summit of Councils and Interagency Bodies Addressing the Worst Forms of Child Labor including Online Sexual Abuse and Exploitation of Children; conduct of the Consultation for the Development of the PPACL Strategic Framework 2023-2028; and sectoral representatives to the NCACL. The revised Council Resolution No. 3, Series of 2022 regarding the official logo of the Council was also presented and approved.

The highlights of the *United States Department of Labor Report on the 2021 Findings on the Worst Forms of Child Labor* published on 28 September 2022 was also presented during this meeting. According to this report, the Philippines achieved *moderate advancement* in its efforts to eliminate the worst forms of child labor. Countries are assessed based on the minimum requirements for each assessment level and efforts made in relevant areas covering laws and regulations, enforcement, coordination, polices, and social programs. For 2021, there were nine (9) countries with Significant Advancement while 73 countries have achieved Moderate Advancement, including the Philippines. On the other hand, 37 countries have attained Minimal Advancement while nine (9) countries have been given a rating of No Advancement and three (3) countries were not assessed. 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.

Celebration of the 3rd Anniversary of the Institutionalization of the NCACL

The institutionalization of the NCACL is an important milestone in the fight against child labor in the country. As such, the DOLE, as the Chairperson of the NCACL, spearheaded the celebration of the Council's 3rd anniversary on 15 September 2022 at the Swiss-Belhotel Blulane, Sta. Cruz, Manila. The anniversary celebration gathered the NCACL members and partners and became a venue to recognize the invaluable support of each member towards achieving the goal of a child labor-free Philippines.

A total of 70 NCACL members and partners attended the celebration. Key achievements and accomplishments of the NCACL since 2020 were presented. There were also video messages of support from DSWD, DOH, DILG, NEDA, NCMF, and NAPC Children Basic Sector who expressed their affirmations of continuing partnership and collaboration in the fight to end child labor in the country.

Sectoral Representatives to the National Council Against Child Labor

President Rodrigo Roa Duterte has signed the appointment of the following sectoral representatives to the Council on 04 March 2022 who officially took their oath on 09 March 2022:

Workers Sector

- Ms. Gloria P. Madayag, Alliance of Workers in the Informal Economy/Sector
- Mr. Benedicto Marasigan III, Federation of Free Workers

Non-Government Organization

- Ms. Daphne DG. Culanag, World Vision Development Foundation, Inc.

These appointed sectoral representatives will serve for a term of three years pursuant to Section 1 of Executive Order No. 92, Series of 2019.

International/Local Engagement and Partnership

- ***5th Global Conference on the Elimination of Child Labour***

Members of the NCACL took part in the 5th Global Conference on the Elimination of Child Labour held on 15-20 May 2022 in Durban, South Africa. The Conference was participated in-person and online by member states of the International Labour Organization, employers organizations, workers organizations, civil society organizations, and child representatives. The Philippine Delegation in the Conference were composed of in-person participants from DOLE and Philippine Overseas Labor Office-Geneva, as well as virtual participants from DOLE-Bureau of Workers with Special Concerns, Department of Social Welfare and Development, Department of Agriculture, Department of Justice, Technical Education and Skills Development Authority, Council for the Welfare of Children, Alliance of Workers in the Informal Economy/Sector, and World Vision Development Foundation, Inc.

The Conference aimed to: (1) assess progress made towards achieving the goals of Target 8.7 of the Sustainable Development Goals; (2) discuss good practices implemented by the different stakeholders around the world; and (3) identify gaps and urgent measures needed to accelerate the elimination of both child labour and forced labour.

The output of the Conference was the approval of the outcome document dubbed as the Durban Call to Action on the Elimination of Child Labour. The Call to Action embodies the commitment to scale up action on six (6) key areas. The following were the points identified under the Durban Call to Action: (1) Making decent work a reality for adults and youth above the minimum age for work; (2) Ending child labor in agriculture; (3) Preventing and eliminating child and forced labor through data-driven policy and programmatic responses; (4) Realizing children's right to education; (5) Achieving universal access to social protection; and (6) Increasing financing and international cooperation. The Call to Action also contains 49-point recommendations on effective and immediate measures that can be undertaken by different stakeholders.

- ***International Labour Organization's (ILO's) "Achieving reduction of child labour in support of education: Programme to reduce the worst forms of child labour in agriculture sector in BARMM (ARISE Project)***

ARISE Project is funded under the ILO/Japan Government multi-bilateral programme in partnership with the Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (BARMM) with a duration from October 2020 to December 2023. This Project is part of a bigger project of the ILO which aims to reduce child labor in the Region and is currently being implemented in Myanmar and the Philippines.

The Project aims to: (a) build the capacity of government, social partners, civil society organizations, community members and extension workers; (b) 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 into the social economic development policies,

programmes and budget, accordingly; and (c) increasingly rely on existing procedures, structures and infrastructure which have proven to be more sustainable, through relevant national policies, strategies and plans such as the Philippine Development Plan (PDP) and the Unified Bangsamoro Development Plan.

The following are the three (3) identified pillars in the conduct of an Integrated Area-Based Approach to combat child labor:

- Improved non-formal education services and opportunities, and increased access to skills training;
- Economic empowerment opportunities are provided and rural farming communities mobilized; and
- Improved policy responses to child labor through regulatory framework and institutional development for the reduction and elimination of the worst forms of child labor.

The first pillar involves improvement on non-formal education and skills training for children and their parents, promotion of quality of life through improvements in occupational safety and health, counseling services such as responsible parenthood, and apprenticeship schemes.

The second pillar has two (2) major components – economic empowerment and social mobilization – as a way to combat child labor. Under this pillar, ARISE Project will create social and economic capital through community programs to provide economic opportunity to the community. The project will also support the establishment of community-based child labor monitoring system. In return, the community will be incentivized through the establishment of community-based service outlets (CBSOs) to increase their economic opportunities. This will be a venue for the creation of business schemes, employment creation, and linkage to markets similar to a one-stop shop.

The third pillar focuses on improving policies in BARMM, particularly those concerning child labor. This involves the development of the Bangsamoro Regional Action Plan on Child Labor and ensuring that child labor issues are included in the policies and plans of BARMM such as the 2nd Bangsamoro Development Plan, the Ministry of Labor and Employment (MOLE) Strategic Plan, and the Bangsamoro Labor and Employment Code.

Since its implementation, ARISE Project has accomplished the following:

- Strengthened engagement with BARMM through the support and commitment of MOLE and other BARMM ministries.
- Advocated for inclusion of child labor issues in key policies, plans, and programs such as the proposed Bangsamoro Labor and Employment Code with salient provisions on child labor and occupational safety and health.

Deliberations for the approval of the Code is ongoing at the Parliament. The ILO is also supporting MOLE in their strategic planning to ensure child labor is incorporated in their plans. The Project supported the labor administration

assessment in terms of human and financial resources. The 2nd Bangsamoro Development Plan will also consider inclusion of child labor issues.

- Prompted the creation of a child labor unit in MOLE which will be officially launched in March 2023
- Supported the development of the Bangsamoro Regional Action Plan on Child Labor
- Explored possible partnership between the Philippine Statistics Authority and its regional counterpart in BARMM for the conduct of a child labor survey.

There has been an orientation of PSA staff both in Manila and BARMM on the conduct of the child labor survey with support from ILO specialists

- Developed a Child Labor Training Manual which was pilot tested in August 2022 with resource speakers from DOLE-BWSC and DOLE RO12. The activity was participated in by MOLE and relevant ministries and stakeholders. The roll-out of the training module is slated on 2023
- Supported the celebration of the World Day Against Child Labor (WDACL) in BARMM.

Chief Minister Ahod Ebrahim committed that they will take the lead in addressing child labor in the region. Other activities during the celebration were as follows: #raiseyourhandforkids campaign; posting of key messages in the region via electronic board; video production on child labor; orientation on Supporting Children's Rights through Education, Arts, and Media (SCREAM) module; motorcade; and, launch of the child labor training manual. The different activities in celebration of the WDACL were featured in local and national newspapers.

- **Project Against Child Exploitation (Project ACE)**

The DOLE and World Vision Development Foundation, Inc. (World Vision) continued collaborative work in 2022 through the latter's Project Against Child Exploitation or Project ACE. On 15-16 June 2022, Project ACE conducted the *National Stakeholders' Summit of Councils and Interagency Bodies addressing Worst Forms of Child Labor including Online Sexual Abuse and Exploitation of Children*. Representatives from the National Council Against Child Labor, Inter-Agency Council Against Trafficking, Inter-Agency Council Against Child Pornography, workers' group, non-government organizations, youth sector, and other stakeholders attended the Summit.

The summit featured presentations on the 5th Global Conference on the Elimination of Child Labour, National Level Legal and Policy Analysis of Minimum Standards for Occupational Safety and Health, Regional Plan of Action for the Protection of Children from All Forms of Online Exploitation and Abuse in ASEAN, USDOL recommendation on their findings on the Worst Forms of Child Labor in the Philippines, and Institute for Labor Studies' study *Government and Civil Society: Advancing efforts to fight OSAEC*.

Among the highlights of the summit are sharing of promising practices, experiences, and lessons of the national inter-agency bodies and local government units in upholding children's rights; creation of a Convergence Action Plan among national inter-agency bodies; and signing of a unified statement of the stakeholders against child exploitation.

The 2nd National Stakeholders' Summit of Councils and Inter-Agency Bodies Addressing the Worst Forms of Child Labor including Online Sexual Exploitation of Children was held on 20-22 September 2022 in Quezon City. This Summit aimed to celebrate milestones and impact stories from among Project ACE stakeholders, gather insights and document lessons learned, and prepare a convergence plan among partners, councils, interagency bodies, and major stakeholders' plans and activities.

Among the activities during the Summit were the following: press conference; presentation of ILO-UNICEF Global Report on Child Labor, Food and Agriculture Organization Framework on Ending Child Labor in Agriculture, and reports from Project ACE, NCAACL, Inter-Agency Task Force Against Trafficking, Inter-Agency Council Against Child Pornography, Philippine National Police, and LGUs of Cagayan de Oro and Quezon City; symbolic handover of module for the Training on Detection, Prevention, Case Handling, and Rescue of Victims of Worst Forms of Child Labor in the Philippines; turnover of equipment for LGUs to be used in the localization of DSWD's SHIELD Against Child Labor Project; World Café; and Action Planning. As an offshoot of the Summit and as part of the 2022 National Children's Month Celebration, World Vision has been conducting orientations on child labor for all barangays in Cagayan de Oro City to encourage greater efforts against child labor in the area.

On 17 December 2022, Project ACE Vietnam team went to DOLE Central Office and met with DOLE officials and the BWSC for a study visit in order to learn more about the PPACL and the NCAACL.

- ***Orientation of partners in the Informal Sector***

In October 2022, the DOLE-BWSC provided an orientation for the board members and officers of the Alliance of Workers in the Informal Economy/Sector and the National Anti-Poverty Commission- Workers in the Informal Sector. The orientation covered topics on child labor, the PPACL, the NCAACL, and the DOLE-Child Labor Prevention and Elimination Program.

- ***Localization of NCAACL 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 in 2022. There are 13 functional Regional Councils Against Child Labor which convenes regularly to discuss strategies to curb child labor in their respective area.

The DILG continued to strengthen the different barangay councils for the protection of children (BCPC) to ensure that there is a comprehensive program for the prevention and elimination of child labor. The BCPC is in charge of planning and

implementing activities on child protection at the barangay level and is composed of the punong barangay as chair, chair of the committees on health, education and family, barangay secretary, a child representative and concerned government agencies. BCPCs are rated on the following criteria: organizational sustainability; policies and plans for children; budget allotment for the organization; and service delivery monitoring and management of children. For 2021, the DILG assessed the level of functionality of 36,472 out of the 42,042 barangay which were as follows:

<i>Ideal</i>	<i>Mature</i>	<i>Progressive</i>	<i>Basic</i>
10,290	17,621	6,917	1,644

The DILG conducts the assessment of the functionality of BCPCs every 1st quarter of the year in which the period covered is the preceding year.

Further, the Council for the Welfare of Children reported that the Philippine National Strategic Framework for Plan Development for Children or “Child 21”, the 25-year framework for planning programs and interventions that promote and safeguard the rights of the Filipino children, has undergone an evaluability study from August to December 2022. The study aimed to determine the extent to which it can be evaluated in a credible and reliable manner prior to its termination in 2025.



INTERMEDIATE OUTCOME 2

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

Paramount to the goal of a child labor-free Philippines is the enforcement of anti-child labor laws which is embodied under Intermediate Outcome 2 of the PPACL Strategic Framework 2020-2022. In order to ensure and improve this outcome, it is imperative that 1) capacities of implementers and partners to enforce anti-child labor laws are strengthened, 2) child labor inspection and monitoring activities are intensified, and 3) mechanisms to improve child laborer identification, rescue, and case prosecution are strengthened.

For 2022, the following are the targets and accomplishments under Intermediate Outcome 2 and its Major Final Outputs:

- 99% of establishments inspected compliant with anti-child labor laws
- Law enforcement personnel and other stakeholders provided with training on anti-child labor laws and Sagip Batang Manggagawa (SBM) mechanism

Labor Law Enforcement

Under DOLE Department Order No. 183, Series of 2017 (*Revised Rules on the Administration and Enforcement of Labor Laws pursuant to Article 128 of the Labor Code, as Renumbered*), among the priority establishments for inspection are those employing children. Part II-C of the Labor Inspection Checklist is dedicated to the detection of child labor in the workplace. The DOLE's Labor Inspection Program was able to inspect a total of 81,314 establishments, 99% of which were found compliant with anti-child labor laws. There were eight (8) 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 the following industries: fishing, manufacturing, accommodation and food service activities, construction, and wholesale and retail trade. Noted violations of these establishments were corrected through the removal of the children from their workplace.

Rescue operations under the *Sagip Batang Manggagawa* (SBM) continued in 2022. The SBM Quick Action Teams (SBM QATs) conducted seven (7) rescue operations wherein 99 child laborers were removed from hazardous and exploitative working conditions and referred to the appropriate agencies for provision of necessary services. This brings to a total of 3,739 child laborers already rescued by the SBM QATs through the conduct of 997 rescue operations since its inception in 1993.

The DOLE also ordered the closure of two (2) establishments for violations of Republic Act No. 9231 – one (1) in Davao De Oro engaged in wood production because of engaging children aged 15-17 years of age in hazardous work, one of whom suffered

an injury which resulted in the loss of three (3) of his fingers and one (1) in Pampanga for engaging a minor in prostitution. These child laborers were profiled by the DOLE and provided with various assistance such as educational assistance to the children and livelihood starter kit and emergency employment to their parents/guardians.

Capacity-Building of Implementers

Among the collaborative activities of DOLE and World Vision through the Project ACE was the conduct of the 3rd and 4th batches of *Training on Prevention, Detection, Case Handling, and Rescue of Victims of Worst Forms of Child Labor* on 11-12 April 2022 and 18-19 October 2022 via Zoom, respectively. A total of 283 participants composed of labor inspectors and 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 officers, 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, as well as identifying the worst forms of child labor (WFCL) and online sexual exploitation of children (OSEC); situationer on child labor in the Philippines; overview on the PPACL and NCACL; child labor inspection checklist; orientation on Sagip Batang Manggagawa; detecting, reporting, referral mechanism, case handling, and tracking of WFCL and OSEC cases; and, roles and responsibilities of labor inspectors and stakeholders.

The PNP - Women and Children Protection Center has also conducted an orientation for 853 law enforcers nationwide on anti-child labor laws.

The DILG also conducted the following activities for the development of a training module on child protection:

- Inception workshop with subject matter experts on the development of knowledge products on child protection for the capacity-building of the local council for the protection of children on 21-22 November 2022
- Consultation workshop with NGAs and NGOs for the development of a module on the formulation of barangay ordinance on child protection on 28-30 November 2022
- Writeshop with partner NGAs and NGOs on the development of child protection module on 06-09 December 2022

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 December 2022, a total of 1,917 working child permits were issued by the DOLE to 1,905 children below 15 years of age engaged in public entertainment

or information. This brings to 79,239 the number of working child permits issued to 78,969 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

In order to remove children from child labor and to prevent children to enter child labor, it is important to address its root cause – poverty and lack of access to necessary services. Intermediate Outcome 3 of the PPACL Strategic Framework 2020-2022 aims to expand access of child laborers, children at risk of child labor, as well as their families to social protection, including health, education, child protection, and decent work.

For 2022, the following are the targets and accomplishments under Intermediate Outcome 3 and its Major Final Outputs:

- Proportion of profiled child laborers and their household provided with various social protection services (psychosocial interventions, health services, legal support, and other social protection services)
- 30% of child laborers with access to basic education and different educational services, and provided with educational support

DSWD's Strategic Helpdesks for Information, Education, Livelihood, and other Developmental Activities (SHIELD) Against Child Labor

The SHIELD Against Child Labor Project is a community-based project which will strengthen efforts at the local level through the establishment of helpdesks and a local registry on child labor for referral and convergence of support services. Specifically, the Project seeks to (1) identify child laborers in the community and ensure evidence-based case management through an operational Child Labor Local Registry (CLLR) System; (2) improve access of child laborers and their families to appropriate services; and (3) increase awareness and capacities of child laborers, their families, and duty-bearers on addressing child labor. The SHIELD Against Child Labor Project aims to assist children engaged in the worst forms of child labor, families of child laborers, and communities with incidence of the worst forms of child labor. Local government units and local stakeholders as well as employers including financiers, landowners/hacienderos, and contractors are considered indirect beneficiaries of the Project.

For 2022, grant-giving activities have been conducted for beneficiaries in CAR, Region VII, and IX. Capacity-building activities were also conducted in Regions VI and VII. Moreover, the DSWD finalized the Implementing Guidelines of SHIELD Against Child Labor through the issuance of DSWD Memorandum Circular No. 11 Series of 2022 which institutionalized the project's components, implementation procedures, and use of the CLLR System. The Memorandum Circular also specified the roles and responsibilities of DSWD offices and LGUs.

As of 31 December 2022, **1,400 child laborers** have already received assistance through the SHIELD Against Child Labor Program and 14 out of 16 DSWD Field Offices were able to identify and validate child laborers who can be beneficiaries of this Program.

Childfund's Building Capacity, Awareness, Advocacy and Programs (BuildCA2P)

BuildCA2P works to build the capacity of civil society organizations (CSO) to effectively combat child labor through improving capacity of CSOs in addressing child labor and promoting acceptable work conditions in crop agriculture such as banana, corn, coconut, and rice in Mindanao; specifically in Bukidnon, Davao del Norte, and North Cotabato. The 5-year program funded by the US Department of Labor has intensified its campaign since 2018 to take urgent measures to uphold children's rights including efforts and respond to child labor cases.

ChildFund, in partnership with Ateneo de Davao, has conducted training on community research to its project partner CSOs Halad Uma Alang sa Nasud (Hauman) and Kaanib Foundation Inc. to better understand child labor. Data gathered were shared to the DOLE and the DSWD to assist the child laborers profiled. Results of the research were used as basis for initiating the implementation of suitable programs and projects in the identified areas. At present, 3,979 children engaged and at-risk of child labor have been profiled by the CSOs.

CSOs were capacitated to provide livelihood assistance and create community savings and loan programs for parents of child laborers. BuildCA2P helped established 60 community savings groups with 898 members. ChildFund has also partnered with TESDA and DTI to provide skills training to parents of child laborers. Through the project and its partner CSOs, community-based child protection groups were established and reactivated at the barangay level. The CSOs lead community volunteers in realizing their roles and responsibilities in establishing child protection and child labor-free policies.

Through this project and with the help of Probe Media Foundation, ChildFund has trained CSOs, as well as DOLE and DSWD child labor focal persons, LGUs, Barangay and Sangguniang Kabataan officials in Regions X, XI, and XII to produce advocacy materials on child labor.

BuilCA2P has also launched *Bata ang Bida* online talk show on its Facebook page to feature stories about children, parenting and health tips, and highlight efforts of partner organizations in implementing child protection and anti-child labor campaigns and policies. Along with this, the project has also launched the '*I Stand Against Child Labor*' campaign which aims to gather messages of support from government officials, celebrities, and child rights advocates to become key influencers in promoting the rights of the children and strengthening anti-child labor advocacies.

BuildCA2P also encourages youth participation through '*Youth Speaks*', an online campaign giving young people a platform to voice their opinions on children's issues. The project has also organized youth leaders called the Youth Champs who serve as youth influencers in the community championing children's rights and child labor-free advocacies.

ChildFund, through the project, has also allocated funds for COVID-19 response for covered areas in Mindanao to ensure that children, especially those who are engaged as farm laborers, are given assistance to help mitigate the socio-economic impact of the pandemic to their families' incomes through provision of food packs and personal protective equipment.

Aside from providing school supplies, BuildCA2P has also partnered with DepEd to identify the needs of child laborers in school. At present, the project has provided school supplies to 1,300 child laborers in North Cotabato, school support which includes provision of TV, printers, bond papers, facemasks and alcohol to 32 schools in the three covered provinces.

DOLE's 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 2022, **160,288** child laborers have been profiled by the DOLE, of which **159,546** have been referred for the provision of necessary services while **36,919** child laborers have been provided with necessary services. A total of **57,787** child laborers have been removed from child labor.

Thus, from 2018 to December 2022, a total of **620,556** child laborers have been profiled by the DOLE, **614,808** have been referred for the provision of necessary services and **138,460** child laborers have been provided with necessary services. The services provided to these child laborers include the following:

- educational assistance
- medical assistance
- legal assistance
- counselling
- birth registration
- feeding program

DOLE Regional Office	Accomplishments (2018 to 2022)			
	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	29,982	29,919	4,837	479
CAR	12,541	12,177	1,296	1,995
I	28,918	28,918	14,634	11,445
II	20,793	20,793	9,819	5,973
III	53,935	53,935	7,834	20,715
IV-A	51,967	48,362	1,349	3,873
MIMAROPA	28,609	28,609	10,056	5,431
V	71,275	71,275	10,104	11,844
VI	50,046	50,046	3,804	3,235
VII	53,013	51,297	4,934	8,979

VIII	44,502	44,502	9,602	13,843
IX	27,951	27,951	16,389	11,175
X	68,241	68,241	13,975	21,671
XI	25,077	25,077	20,794	18,425
XII	30,996	30,996	5,796	6,883
Caraga	22,710	22,710	3,237	2,365
TOTAL	620,556	614,808	138,460	148,331

- provision of school supplies, hygiene kit, and food packs through Project Angel Tree

The families of these child laborers were also provided with various services such as livelihood assistance, emergency employment, job placement/employment facilitation, skills training, financial assistance, medical assistance, housing assistance, and inclusion to DSWD’s Pantawid Pamilyang Pilipino Program.

These services have contributed to the removal of **148,331 profiled child laborers** from child labor.

Members of the NCACL are now in agreement that the provision of necessary services to the profiled child laborers must be accelerated in order to fast-track their removal from child labor with the issuance of Council Resolution No. 1, Series of 2022 (*A Resolution Urging Council Members to Accelerate the Provision of Necessary Services to Profiled Child Laborers*). In particular, the DSWD has disseminated this Council Resolution to their regional counterparts.

DOLE’s 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.

For 2022, a total of 4,811 parents/guardians of child laborers have been provided with livelihood assistance by the DOLE amounting to PHP 40,704,115.24. This brings to a total of 51,024 parents/guardians of child laborers provided with livelihood assistance by the DOLE since 2008.

DOLE’s 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 2022, there were 19,144 child laborers who were provided with school supplies, food packs, toiletries, and other items donated by civic organizations and private institutions who acted as “angels” or sponsors of the project. This brings the total number of beneficiaries to 114,722 since 2006.

INTERMEDIATE OUTCOME 4

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

Raising awareness on the plight of child laborers and ways on how to combat this is given importance under Intermediate Outcome 4 of the PPACL Strategic Framework 2020-2022 through improved generation, dissemination and use of knowledge on child labor among stakeholders, policymakers, program implementers and the general public.

For 2022, the following are the targets and accomplishments under Intermediate Outcome 4 and its Major Final Outputs:

- Utilization of various platforms for the dissemination of information on child labor
- Information on child labor from various sources collected
- Increased participation of various stakeholders on child labor related activities
- Child Labor Knowledge Sharing System (CLKSS) updated and mainstreamed
- DOLE Hotline 1349 and social media used as platforms to address child labor-related concerns
- Awareness on pressing and emerging child labor issues and innovations heightened through the following:
 - Two (2) researches on child labor conducted and cited or utilized for policy development
 - Five (5) activities participated by the Speakers Bureau
 - Conduct of one (1) national level activity and several regional level activities in observance of the World Day Against Child Labor in June
 - IEC materials on child labor produced and disseminated
 - One (1) webinar on child labor concern hosted/conducted

Advocacy Activities

The Council continued to intensify 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 2022, there is a 24% increase from 2021 in the *Batang Malaya* social media accounts with the breakdown as follows:

- Facebook: 987 posts; 6,347 likes; 7,075 followers; 965,150 people reached
- Twitter: 870 tweets; 451 followers; 144,346 impressions
- Instagram: 253 posts; 228 followers
- YouTube: 56 videos; 651 subscribers; 16,903 views

Through these *Batang Malaya* social media accounts, these 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 NCAACL 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.

2022 World Day Against Child Labor Celebration

Every year since 2002, the Philippines joins in the international observance of World Day Against Child Labor (WDACL) in the month of June to raise awareness on the plight of child laborers and to demonstrate the country’s solidarity in the worldwide campaign against child labor. The theme for the 2022 Philippine celebration is “*Karapatan at Kalagayan ng Batang Manggagawa: Sagipin, Tugunan, at Protektahan*”

ng Bayan” which was adopted from the 2022 global theme “*Universal Social Protection to End Child Labour*” to call for increased investment in social protection systems and schemes to establish solid social protection floors and protect children from child labor.

For the 2022 celebration of WDAFL, the NCACL conducted various awareness-raising activities related to child labor in June 2022. Below are the highlights of the 2022 WDAFL celebration:

- The National Council Against Child Labor conducted a Logo-Making Contest which spanned from February to June 2022. The winning logo will serve as the official logo of the NCACL subject to further refinements or alterations, if necessary, and will be used in its communications and information materials in printed and digital media. The Facebook post on the contest launch reached nearly 200 thousand people. The Logo-Making Contest was opened to Filipinos 15-24 years of age currently residing in the Philippines. Participants created their original logo using any graphics editing software with elements that symbolize the powers and functions of the NCACL. A brief description explaining the concept and design of their logo were also included in the submissions. A total of 189 entries were received by the Council Secretariat from participants nationwide.
- The Department of the Interior and Local Government issued Memorandum Circular No. 2022-087 enjoining all local government units, DILG Regional Offices, and BARMM Ministry of the Interior and Local Government to support the observance of the 2022 WDAFL celebration.
- The ChildFund Philippines, Inc. - Building Capacity, Awareness, Advocacy and Programs (BuildCA2P) Project led the *Saving Children from Hazardous Work Virtual Event and Children’s Congress* on 9-10 June 2022 in Davao Del Norte in partnership with the Regional Council Against Child Labor - Region XII and Provincial Government of Davao Del Norte.

More than 100 youth advocates participated in the virtual and face-to-face Children’s Congress on 9 June 2022 which featured discussions of different agencies on their programs for children and child laborers. During the planning session, the youth advocates shared their views about child labor and crafted plans to strengthen their advocacy against child labor in their communities. Among their plans are to organize the children and youth in their community and form a Barangay Children’s Association that will champion child’s rights and protection, and use the social media platform to spread information about child labor, its effects on children, and urge the public to do their share in strengthening the advocacy to end child labor. The children also enjoyed playing traditional Filipino games, joined poster-making contest, and flew kites during the Congress.

Moreover, the virtual event on 10 June 2022 highlighted the efforts and interventions extended to covered communities of BuildCA2P Project, commitment of different partner agencies to address child labor, announcement of winners of DOLE Davao Region’s DOLEkula Film Festival and “I Stand Against Child Labor” campaign of BuildCA2P Project.

- The DOLE also appeared during the following media guestings:
 - PTV Public Briefing #LagingHandaPH on 10 June 2022 wherein BWSC Director Ma. Karina Perida-Trayvilla discussed what child labor is, the current national situation of child labor, activities for the 2022 World Day Against Child

Labor celebration in the Philippines, and information on the #BatangMalaya campaign.

- DOLE sa AFP Radio on 14 June 2022 wherein Director Trayvilla discussed child work, child labor and its worst forms, national situation on child labor, programs and initiatives of the DOLE and other agencies/organizations to address it, contact information for queries on child labor and reporting child labor cases, and activities for the 2022 World Day Against Child Labor celebration in the Philippines.
- The Council and its partners have extended the reach of the celebration virtually through continuous virtual information dissemination from May to June 2022 in their websites and social media handles. Various child labor-related information materials were shared to the public such as press releases, infographics, audio-video presentations, and profile picture frames
- The 2022 WDAFL Culminating Activity was conducted on 27 June 2022 at the Ichikawa Hall, Occupational Safety and Health Center, Quezon City and participated by the members and partners of the NCACL from government agencies, workers sector, employers sector, and non-government organizations, youth advocates, media, academe, and other stakeholders. The activity was also livestreamed through the Facebook page of Radio Television Malacañang and crossposted on the Batang Malaya PH Facebook page and other social media accounts of members and partners of the NCACL. The livestreamed videos garnered 24 thousand views and reached 22 thousand people on Facebook. The announcement and awarding of winners of the contest was conducted during this Culminating Activity.

National Children's Month Celebration

For the 2022 National Children's Month Celebration in November, the theme is *"Kalusugan, Kaisipan, at Kapakanan ng Bawat Bata Ating Tutukan"* to focus on how mental health cuts across children's right to survival, development, protection, and participation and how we can collectively call for actionable changes crucial to children's overall wellbeing. Among the activities are the Talakayang Makabata Press Conference, launching of the Makabata Helpline, jingle-making contest, documentaries/video screening on mental health, and free entrance in museums.

Child Labor Knowledge Sharing System

The DOLE, in coordination with the NCACL-Knowledge Management and Advocacy TWG, developed the Batang Malaya CLKSS website accessible through <https://batangmalaya.ph/>. It serves as a knowledge sharing platform that integrates and facilitates knowledge exchange on all information on child labor and the concerted efforts and initiatives of the NCACL and its partners against child labor.

The Batang Malaya CLKSS website features, among others, child labor-related laws and issuances, manuals and infographics, researches and publications, videos, and information on various programs and services of agencies/organizations related to the prevention and elimination of child labor. It also relays updates on the

accomplishments with regard to the Philippine Program Against Child Labor and the Batang Malaya Campaign. It has integrated quad-media features in which the updates on the social media handles of the Batang Malaya were displayed. It also encourages reporting of child labor incidents through an enhanced reporting module.

CWC's Makabata Helpline

The Council for the Welfare of Children launched the Makabata Helpline in November 2022 as a helpline accessible to the public for reporting child abuse and other child protection-related issues including child labor through call, e-mail, and social media platforms. The helpline will also facilitate immediate coordination and referral of children-related cases to other agencies/organizations for appropriate intervention, monitoring, and feedback. The CWC tapped different agencies and organizations to be its partners in the operation of the helpline particularly to adopt it as an additional helpline service for child labor-related concerns, act on cases referred, and promote it to the general public to maximize its operation to benefit more Filipino children and families.



INTERMEDIATE OUTCOME 5

National Child Labor Monitoring and Evaluation system established and maintained

In order to monitor the implementation of the PPACL Strategic Plan, Intermediate Outcome 5 focuses on establishing and maintaining a National Child Labor Monitoring and Evaluation system through the development of a Monitoring and Evaluation Framework and ensuring that the child labor reporting system is used by national and local implementers.

For 2022, the following are the targets and accomplishments under Intermediate Outcome 5 and its Major Final Outputs:

- Monitoring of the accomplishments of the Philippine Program Against Child Labor
- Monitoring the 100% submission of Results Matrix and Quarterly Monitoring Report Form of the NCACL Technical Working Groups
- Submission of Semi-Annual Reports of the NCACL to the Office of the President

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 profiled child laborers in the country and the services provided to them and their families. The DOLE and the DSWD have signed 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 profiled under the SHIELD Against Child Labor Project and DOLE Profiling of Child Laborers.

The DOLE has issued Administrative Order No. 90 Series of 2022 identifying the DOLE National CLLR System Focal Persons. On 27 April 2022, these focal persons were oriented on the use of the CLLR System at the DSWD Central Office. The DOLE has also started identifying its regional and provincial CLLR System focal persons.

Assessment Workshop on the PPACL Strategic Framework 2020-2022

The NCACL, led by DOLE, conducted an Assessment Workshop on the PPACL Strategic Framework 2020-2022 on 14-16 September 2022 in Manila. The workshop served as a venue to assess the accomplishments of the targets under the PPACL Strategic Framework 2020-2022, identify gaps and challenges, and come up with recommendations in preparation for the next strategic framework.

A total of 70 NCACL members and partners participated in the workshop. The following is a summary of recommendations during the workshop:

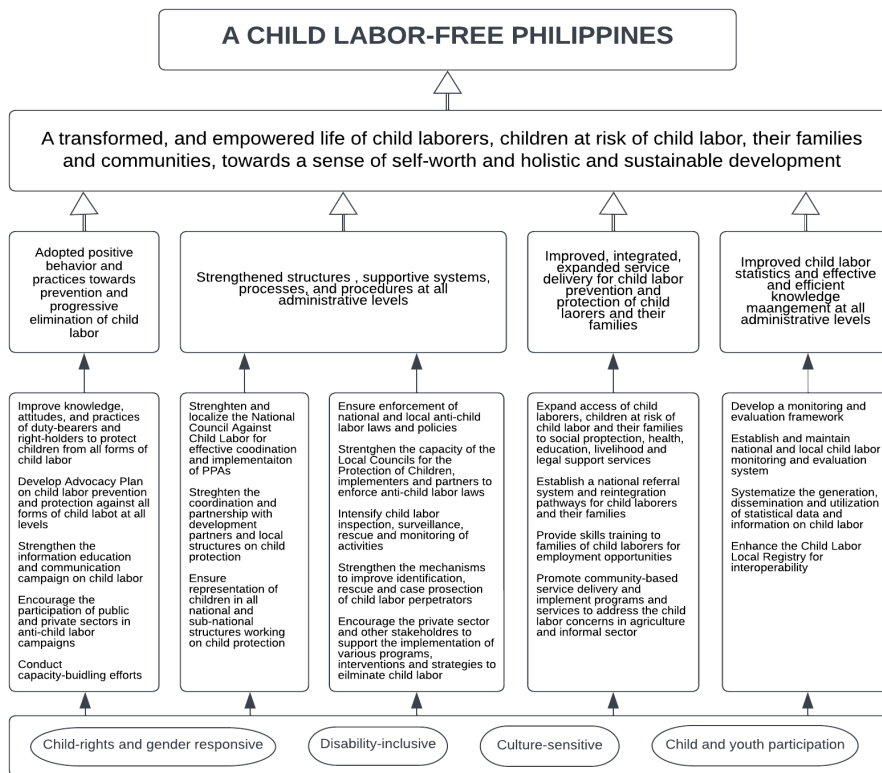
- On legal framework, there is a need to amend Republic Act No. 9231 to address contemporary issues as well as to strengthen the National Council Against Child Labor through legislative fiat
- In the area of localization, legislate local ordinances to support national laws related to child labor.
- Regarding community awareness, the clamor is to prioritize raising awareness on child labor in the agricultural sector considering that it is the sector with the highest incidence of child labor. There is also a recommendation to revisit the communication plan to reach larger target audience of the program.
- Under enforcement, among the recommendations were the increase of funding for law enforcement, increase the number of labor inspectors and provide specialized training for them.
- On social programs, include more effective and specialized aftercare services for child laborers, issue guidelines on handling child laborers in schools, invest in quality education, support the roll-out of SHIELD Against Child Labor nationwide, expand assistance to farmers and other agricultural workers, highlight the importance of a national referral and monitoring mechanism on child labor, and develop standardized module/toolkit for utilization of supportive organizations
- In the area of monitoring and evaluation, there is a suggestion to give focus on the establishment of mechanisms to assist and generate data on children at risk of child labor, together with their households and communities, to prevent new entrants, develop a Monitoring and Evaluation Plan, ensure regular release of the results of the rider module on child labor, and provide assessment and analysis of data for use of agencies in providing technical assistance to local counterparts.
- Formulate strategies and mechanisms that will institutionalize budget allocation for PPACL

Consultation for the Development of the PPACL Strategic Framework 2023-2028

A Consultation on the Development of the PPACL Strategic Framework 2023-2028 was held on 01-02 December 2022 in Quezon City. This consultation is a follow-through activity of the Assessment Workshop conducted in September 2022. A total of 100 participants composed of representatives from NCACL members and partners, child labor focal persons from the 17 regions including BARMM, and other stakeholders provided their inputs for the development of the Strategic Framework

2023-2028. Below is the proposed PPACL Strategic Framework 2023-2028 developed during this Consultation for the approval of the Council in 2023:

PROPOSED PHILIPPINE PROGRAM AGAINST CHILD LABOR STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK 2023-2028



WAYS FORWARD

The National Council Against Child Labor will endeavor to accomplish the following:

- Continue collaboration among members of the Council as well as with other social partners and stakeholders
- Continue the process for the appointment of remaining vacant sectoral representatives
- Continue building the capacity of implementers and stakeholders
- Fast track the provision of services to profiled child laborers
- Monitor the progress of profiled child laborers to remove them from child labor
- Strengthen the different programs, projects, and activities (PPAs) related to child labor such as the DOLE's Child Labor Prevention and Elimination Program and the DSWD's SHIELD Against Child Labor
- Continue the national roll-out of the SHIELD Against Child Labor
- Continue intensifying public awareness on child labor
- Finalize the Philippine Program Against Child Labor (PPACL) Strategic Framework 2023-2028 taking into consideration the results of the Assessment of the PPACL Strategic Framework 2020-2022 and subsequent consultations, Philippine Development Plan 2023-2028, ASEAN Roadmap on the Elimination of Child Labour, and the Durban Call to Action on the Elimination of Child Labour
- Develop the Action Plan and Results Matrix of the PPACL Strategic Framework 2023-2028 in consultation with the members and partners of the Council