



# **NATIONAL COUNCIL AGAINST CHILD LABOR**

**2023 ACCOMPLISHMENT REPORT**

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## 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 for 2023 are the following:

- DOLE monitored 160,288 child laborers and referred 34,530 for further provision of necessary services
- DSWD validated 19,269 child laborers and referred 3,131 child laborers to other programs and services
- NCACL provided various services to 54,999 child laborers and their families such as livelihood assistance, educational assistance, skills training, emergency employment, financial assistance, membership to Pantawid Familyang Pilipino Program, and counselling among others
- Through collaboration among members, NCACL removed 37,368 children from child labor
- Approved Council Resolution No. 1, Series of 2023 (*A Resolution Approving the Philippine Program Against Child Labor Strategic Framework 2023-2028*), and Council Resolution No. 2, Series of 2023 (*A Resolution Approving the Philippine Program Against Child Labor Action Plan 2023-2028*)
- Conducted the *Planning Workshop for the Development of the Philippine Program Against Child Labor Action Plan 2023-2028*, and the *4th Anniversary Celebration of the Institutionalization of the National Council Against Child Labor*
- Conducted various advocacy activities, awareness-raising campaigns, and capacity-building activities
- Select members of the NCACL forged partnerships at the national and local level

## ACCOMPLISHMENTS

The following are the accomplishments of the NCACL for the year 2023 under the four (4) End-of-Program Outcomes of the PPACL Strategic Framework 2023-2028:

### End-of-Program Outcome 1

#### **Adopted positive attitude, behavior, and proactive approaches towards prevention and progressive elimination of child labor as well as reintegration of withdrawn child laborers and their families in mainstream society**

Social and behavioral change campaign in the country in relation to the fight to end child labor is the primary component under this End-of-Program Outcome. This strategy includes continuous conduct of advocacy activities, development and dissemination of printed and digital IEC materials, conduct of orientations and seminars for different target audiences, and the development of a PPACL Communication Plan.

#### **Advocacy Activities**

The Council continued its vigorous 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. A total of 16,170 printed materials and 279 digital materials were produced and disseminated. These materials include the following:

- infographics, social media cards, notebooks, posters, calendars, bookmarks, bags, tarpaulins, stickers, commitment boards, t-shirts, photos, and audio-visual presentations on child labor, related laws and issuances, and child labor-related celebrations; and
- news articles, e-newsletters, photos, and videos on programs, projects, and other initiatives of stakeholders to address child labor.

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 2023, engagements of the *Batang Malaya* social media accounts were as follows:

- Facebook: 239 posts and stories published; 8,056 followers; 173,358 people reached
- Twitter / X: 513 followers
- Instagram: 248 followers; 24 posts
- YouTube: 664 subscribers; 20,210 video views

Through these *Batang Malaya* social media accounts, 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 Council members 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.

These IEC materials were also shared by the official social media accounts of the members of the NCACL and its partners. Further, news and press releases on child labor were also published in the official website of the DOLE.

## **2023 World Day Against Child Labor Celebration**

Every year since 2002, the Philippines joins in the international observance of World Day Against Child Labor (WDAKL) 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 NCACL spearheads the celebration of the WDAKL in the Philippines.

For the celebration of the 2023 WDAKL, the global theme is *“Social Justice for All. End Child Labour!”*. The theme for the 2023 WDAKL Philippine celebration is **“Buong bansa, lahat ng bata, sama-sama para sa Batang Malaya”** to emphasize the need to intensify multi-sectoral and multi-stakeholder collaboration, including the children, to scale-up efforts against child labor and advocate for social justice towards the achievement of a child labor-free Philippines. The members and partners of the NCACL conducted various awareness-raising activities on child labor-related concerns in June 2023. Below were the major activities of the 2023 WDAKL celebration:

- Nationwide simultaneous conduct of the *Araw ng Kalayaan para sa #BatangMalaya* on 12 June 2023 wherein DOLE Regional Offices conducted various activities such as: learning and entertainment activities for children and their parents/guardians including puppet shows, storytelling sessions, free play at indoor play areas, magic shows, and parlor games; service caravan including awarding of livelihood assistance, distribution of various gift packs, medical mission, haircut, massage; signing of Pledge of Commitment with stakeholders; orientations on various programs and services related to child labor and livelihood trainings for parents/guardians; skills training, multimedia arts contests; fun run; and dissemination of information materials
- Conduct of various talkshows, training session, fora, and storytelling sessions
- Issuance of the Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG) Memorandum Circular No. 2023-089 (*Observance of the 2023 WDAKL*) enjoining all Provincial Governors, City/Municipality Mayors, Punong Barangays, and Sanggunian Kabataan Chairpersons to join the celebrations through various means such as conduct of awareness-raising activities, printing and hanging of 2023 WDAKL tarpaulin, sharing of IEC materials in their official websites and social media accounts, and participation in 2023 WDAKL activities

- Issuance of Council for the Welfare of Children (CWC) memorandum in support of the 2023 WDAAC and the conduct of various regional activities by the respective Regional Committee or Sub-Committee for the Welfare of Children
- Guesting in various radio and television stations nationwide
- Dissemination of information, education, and communication materials through print (e.g. press releases, infographics, tarpaulins, flyers, exhibits, photoboosts), broadcast (e.g. radio guesting, radio plug), web, and social media (e.g. infographics, AVPs) of the members of the NCACL and its partners

The NCACL, in partnership with the DOLE NCR and LGU Caloocan City, spearheaded the Culminating Activity for the 2023 WDAAC celebration held on 23 June 2023 at Buena Park Sports Complex, Caloocan City. This Culminating Activity included the following:

- Signing of Pledge of Commitment in support of the PPACL Strategic Framework 2023-2028 by members of the NCACL and other stakeholders
- Ceremonial Signing of the Memorandum of Understanding on the Makabata Helpline between the DOLE and CWC
- Service caravan for profiled child laborers and their families
- Launching of the Batang Malaya Child Labor Knowledge Sharing System (CLKSS) website
- Showing of messages of support from members of the NCACL
- Storytelling session and puppet show for the profiled child laborers
- Exhibit of artworks of children and documentaries about child labor

## 2023 National Children’s Month

The National Children’s Month (NCM) is celebrated annually in the Philippines in the month of November as declared under Republic Act No. 10661, with the CWC, DSWD, and National Youth Commission as lead agencies to commemorate the adoption of United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child on 20 November 1989.

For the 2023 NCM celebration, the theme is *“Healthy, Nourished, Sheltered: Ensuring the Right to Life for All!”* which focused on healthcare and nutrition to uphold children’s right to survival, and highlighted the importance of accessible and quality healthcare for children despite any health and economic crises.

Among the activities for the celebration are: learning sessions and children’s conferences; recitation of Panatang Makabata; service caravans including Project Angel Tree, provision of livelihood assistance, skills trainings, among others; fun run and parades; multimedia arts contests including quiz bee, slogan, poster, mural, film, and drawing; hanging of streamers outside office premises; and virtual dissemination of IEC materials through social media.

## **Makabata Helpline of the Council for the Welfare of Children**

The DOLE and the CWC entered into a Memorandum of Understanding on the use of the Makabata Helpline in reporting cases of child labor during the Culminating Activity of the 2023 WDACL Celebration in June. This Helpline, which was launched in November 2022, is 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-related concerns, act on cases referred, and promote it to the general public to maximize its operation to benefit more Filipino children and families.

### **End-of-Program Outcome 2**

**Strengthened and harmonized structures, supportive systems, processes, and procedures to implement, monitor, and evaluate relevant laws, policies, programs, projects, and services related to child labor at all administrative levels and across all sectors including civil society organizations working on child protection**

There are two (2) components under this End-of-Program Outcome. One of the components focuses on NCACL strengthening, expansion, localization, and harmonization of efforts. Under this component, strategies include: capacity-building of duty bearers at the local and national level; updating of policies and programs related to child labor interventions profiling, service provision, and monitoring of child laborers; and establishment of Regional Councils Against Child Labor.

The next component under this outcome is the enforcement of anti-child labor laws and relevant laws and policies. Priority strategies under this component include: updating of existing modules; improving coordination and interoperability between stakeholders; and prioritization of areas and industries with high incidence of child labor in inspection, among others.

### **Regular Meetings of the National Council Against Child Labor**

The NCACL has conducted three (3) regular meetings and one (1) special meeting while its Technical Working Groups have convened a total of 28 meetings.

The Council held its 1<sup>st</sup> Regular Meeting for 2023 on 14 February 2023 at the Labor Governance Learning Center, DOLE Executive Building, Intramuros, Manila wherein the Council members discussed the conduct of the planning workshop for the Strategic Framework, the highlights of the consultation for the development of the PPACL Strategic Framework, as well as the celebration of the 2023 WDACL.

The remaining three (3) vacant sectoral representatives to the Council was also discussed wherein the Council agreed to resubmit the nomination of the Employers Confederation of the Philippines as one of the employers sector representative to the Office of the President for appointment and to issue a Call for Nomination for the remaining two (2) vacant positions for one (1) employers sector representative and one (1) non-government organization (NGO) representative. During this meeting, the Council also discussed the proposed PPACL Strategic Framework 2023-2028.

A Special Meeting of the Council was convened on 28 March 2023 wherein the proposed Strategic Framework was discussed and approved. Likewise, the Council members agreed to issue Resolution No. 1, Series of 2023 (*A Resolution Approving the Philippine Program Against Child Labor Strategic Framework 2023-2028*).

The Council held its 3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter Meeting on 18 August 2023 via Zoom wherein the following were discussed: updates on the 2023 Accomplishment Report, 2023 World Day Against Child Labor, the Philippine Statistic Authority's Special Release on Working Children Situation; and the 4<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration of the Institutionalization of the NCACL. During this meeting, the nominees for the sectoral representatives were presented and it was agreed that an Ad Referendum regarding the nominees will be sent out. Further, the Council discussed the proposed PPACL Action Plan 2023-2028 and approved the issuance of Council Resolution No. 2, Series of 2023 (*A Resolution Approving the Philippine Program Against Child Labor Action Plan 2023*).

The 4<sup>th</sup> Quarter Meeting of the NCACL was conducted on 19 October 2023 at the Quezon City Hall. During the meeting the following were discussed and approved: revised logo of the NCACL; endorsement of the two (2) nominees for the employer and non-government organization sectoral representatives to the NCACL; and the four (4) Technical Working Groups of the NCACL. There was also a presentation on the 2023 National Children's Month Celebration, the United States Department of Labor 2022 Findings on the Worst Forms of Child Labor, and planned activities of the NCACL for 2024.

#### **4<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration of the Institutionalization of the NCACL**

The institutionalization of the NCACL is an important milestone in the country's campaign to end child labor. The implementation of the PPACL through the efforts of the members and partners of the NCACL underscores the importance of employing a whole-of-society and holistic approach in addressing child labor. This convergence of efforts highlights the commitment of the Philippine government to protect, respect, and fulfill the rights and enrich the welfare of children through the prevention and elimination of child labor in all its forms in the country.

The NCACL conducted its 4<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration of the institutionalization on 19 October 2023 at the Risen Garden, Quezon City Hall, Quezon City. The activity featured the success stories of former child laborers who have been removed from child labor. The highlight of the activity was the service caravan for the 200 profiled child laborers and parents of child laborers. During the service caravan, the

parents/guardians of the children were given Certificates of Eligibility for livelihood assistance from the DOLE which they may present to the DOLE Quezon City Field Office for provision of livelihood assistance. The Quezon City LGU has also distributed Disaster Risk Reduction and Management “Go Bags” and Joy of Urban Farming kits to the parents/guardians while the sponsors provided bags with school supplies and hygiene kits to the children. The local government has also set-up a booth on Scholarship and Youth Development Program wherein beneficiaries learned how they can avail of the scholarship programs. Further, QC Health Department provided medical assistance.

Likewise, a ceremonial signing on the renewal of the Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) between the DOLE and the World Vision Development Foundation, Inc. (World Vision), one of the members of the NCAACL, on the implementation of the Project Against Child Exploitation (ACE), was also conducted.

A total of 300 participants composed of the members and partners of the NCAACL as well as profiled child laborers and their families from Quezon City attended the celebration.

### **Inter-agency coordination, local partnership and localization of structures**

Strengthening partnership and collaboration is an important strategy under this outcome. A number of Memoranda of Agreement (MOA) or Memoranda of Understanding (MOU) between partner agencies both at the national and local level were signed by select members and partners of the NCAACL:

- MOU on the use of the Makabata Helpline 1383 between the CWC and the following: local government units of Quezon City and San Juan City; national government agencies such as the DOLE, DICT, DOJ, MTRCB, NBI, and the PNP-WCPC; and non-government organizations Destiny Rescue Pilipinas, World Vision, IBP-Makati Chapter, PYDN Kaibigan Chat Line, Claudio Teehankee Foundation Inc., / Legal Aid Society of the Philippines (LASP), PLDT-SMART, Miriam College - Child Rights Advocacy Center (MC-CRAC), Stairway Foundation, Save the Children, Radio Pilipinas News, International Justice Mission (IJM), and Mabuhay Shriners
- MOA between World Vision and various agencies and organizations on the implementation of Project Against Child Exploitation
- MOA with 75 LGUs in the implementation of SHIELD

Efforts to localize the NCAACL and mainstream programs to address child labor at the local level continued in 2023. Pursuant to DOLE Administrative Order No. 356, Series of 2023, each DOLE Regional Office shall establish a Regional Council Against Child Labor which will reflect the composition and structure of the National Council Against Child Labor, when able. There are 14 functional Regional Councils Against Child Labor which convenes regularly to discuss strategies to curb child

labor in their respective area. Further, the Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao has also created a Child Labor Protection Unit.

In Quezon City, Ordinance Number SP-3201, S 2023 (*An Ordinance Creating a Child Labor Prevention and Elimination Program (CLPEP) section under the Quezon City Public Employment Service Office and providing funds therefor*) was passed and City Resolution No. SP 9307, Series of 2023 establishing the partnership between Quezon City LGU and DSWD’s SHIELD Against Child Labor Project through a Memorandum of Agreement was signed.

The DILG continues to monitor the LCPC functionality to ensure that all LGUs have established mechanisms to protect child rights and deliver services for children. The criteria for LCPC functionality can be classified into basic, progressive, mature, and ideal categories meeting the indicators specified under DILG Memorandum Circular 2021-039. Below is the national summary of the 2023 LCPC Functionality Assessment Report:

<b>Total No. of Provinces</b>	<b>Mature</b>	<b>Ideal</b>	<b>Increase from 2022 (ideal)</b>
82	32 (41%)	25 (32%)	12 (92%)

<b>Total No. of City (HUC/CC/ICC)</b>	<b>Mature</b>	<b>Ideal</b>	<b>Increase from 2022 (ideal)</b>
148	44 (31%)	90 (64%)	29 (47.5%)

<b>Total No. of Municipality</b>	<b>Mature</b>	<b>Ideal</b>	<b>Increase from 2022 (ideal)</b>
1,486	568 (39%)	638 (53%)	166 (35.2%)

The CWC, as the primary agency for children’s concerns in the Philippines with the mandate of formulation, review, monitoring, and evaluation of all policies, plans, programs, and measures for children, ensured that concerns have the appropriate responses through various inter-agency committees/structures established. The CWC performs a coordinative role in the implementation and enforcement of child-focused and child-related laws, in particular, the Inter-Agency Committee on Children in Situations of Armed Conflict and the Sub-Committee on Sexual Abuse and Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children. These interagency committees respond to children in situations of armed conflict and children who are victims of sexual abuse and commercial sexual exploitation, respectively, both of which are worst forms of child labor.

The International Labour Organization’s (ILO) Project ARISE in the Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (BARMM) strengthened institution building through the formal establishment of the Ministry of Labor and Employment’s Child Labour and Protection Unit and revitalization of the Project Advisory and Review Committee (PARC) specifically addressing child labor in the Region.

## Policies on Child Labor

In 2023, the DOLE Secretary has issued the following to further protect children from abuse, exploitation, and discrimination, including child labor and its worst forms:

- Department Order No. 239, Series of 2023 (*Guidelines in the Implementation of the Department of Labor and Employment Integrated Livelihood and Emergency Employment Program*) which provides that among the qualified beneficiaries for the grant of livelihood assistance are the parents of child laborers who have been profiled by the DOLE regardless of being active 4Ps beneficiary status.
- Department Order No. 283, Series of 2023 (*Rules on the Administration and Enforcement of Labor Standards Pursuant to Article 128 of the Labor Code of the Philippines, As Renumbered, And Republic Act No. 11058*) which reiterates that among the priority establishments and workplaces in the conduct of inspection are those employing children. It also provides for the conduct of Technical and Advisory Visit for micro establishments whose module shall include child and family welfare programs.
- Administrative Order No. 356, Series of 2023 (*Guidelines in the Implementation of the DOLE Child Labor Prevention and Elimination Program*) which institutionalizes the Child Labor Prevention and Elimination Program (CLPEP) as the Department's official program to address child labor, aligns the strategies of the CLPEP with the Philippine Program Against Child Labor, and provides the DOLE Regional Offices guidance and procedures for its effective and efficient implementation.

With the objective of preventing children from engaging in child labor and removing them from child labor, said Guidelines also strengthened the CLPEP to employ a strategic and holistic approach in the delivery of interventions to child laborers and their families through the implementation of various programs, projects, and activities of the DOLE Central Office and the DOLE Regional Offices through the following strategies:

- *Social and Behavioral Change Campaign Against Child Labor* through regular conduct of diverse advocacy activities
- *Enforcement of Child Labor Laws* through administration and enforcement of labor standards, rescue of child laborers, and issuance of working child permit
- *Access to Social Protection* through profiling of child laborers and provision of services to child laborers and their families
- *Monitoring of Child Laborers*
- *Strengthening of Partnerships and Inter-Agency Collaboration* through the National Council Against Child Labor and Regional Councils Against Child Labor; convergence with partners, and capacity-building activities
- *Knowledge Management* through the Batang Malaya Child Labor Knowledge Sharing System or Batang Malaya CLKSS website accessible through the link: [batangmalaya.ph](http://batangmalaya.ph)

The DILG has also incorporated Barangay Committees for the Protection of Children (BCPC) Indicators in the Seal of Good Local Governance for Barangay (SGLGB) to institutionalize the system of recognition and award incentives for barangays. Under the SGLGB, several indicators are outlined to measure the functionality of the BCPCs, a critical mechanism at the local level that would help address children's concerns such as child abuse, and child labor, among others. While the Seal for Good Local Governance has only recently been introduced with only six (6) benchmark indicators on child concerns, it is anticipated that future iterations will incorporate additional indicators, possibly encompassing measures for barangays to effectively combat child labor.

The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) Mining and Geosciences Bureau has also incorporated in the proposed amendment of Republic Act No. 7076 (*Small Scale Mining Act*), particularly in its penal provisions, child labor as one of the prohibited acts subject to penalty of imprisonment and/or applicable fine.

The World Vision, through its Project Against Child Exploitation and in coordination with the city and barangay LGUs, has assisted in the amendment and updating of policies and programs related to child labor in its project areas in Quezon City and Cagayan de Oro City. Meanwhile, in Brgy. Sauyo, the Barangay Council for the Protection of Children Plan for 2023 was updated and in Brgy. Bagong Silangan the Work and Financial Plan for 2023 was approved.

Further, through the ILO's Project ARISE in BARMM, child labor lens has been incorporated in the education sector through Supporting Children's Rights through Education, the Arts, and the Media (SCREAM) modules in pilot sites. In addition, the Project facilitated the development of the Bangsamoro Regional Action Plan Against Child Labor (BRAP-CL).

## **Labor Law Enforcement**

Under DOLE Department Order No. 283, Series of 2023 (*Rules on the Administration and Enforcement of Labor Standards Pursuant to Article 128 of the Labor Code of the Philippines, As Renumbered, And Republic Act No. 11058*) 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. From January to December 2023, the DOLE found 12 establishments employing children wherein nine (9) were assessed to be compliant with anti-child labor laws. The remaining three (3) establishments found to have violations were immediately ordered to correct the violation and four (4) child laborers involved were removed from the workplace.

The DOLE spearheads the Sagip Batang Manggagawa (SBM) inter-agency quick action mechanism to respond to the worst forms of child labor, especially in cases requiring the immediate removal of child laborers from establishments. The inter-agency quick action team composed of the DOLE as the lead convenor together with the DSWD, and law enforcement agencies detects, monitors, and rescues child

laborers in establishments with violations on child labor. From January to December 2023, two (2) child laborers were rescued in two (2) SBM rescue operations conducted in Region IV-A. This brings to a total of 3, 741 child laborers already rescued by the SBM QATs through the conduct of 999 rescue operations since its inception in 1993. These rescued child laborers were profiled and assessed by the DOLE for referral to appropriate agency and provision of necessary services.

The DENR continuously monitors large-scale mining companies with the use of standardized monitoring checklist in the Mandatory Safety and Health Compliance Requirements that includes the item *“Strict implementation of mine labor age limit of 18 years old for both surface and underground mine operations”*. For 2023, the DENR found no mine worker under 18 years of age employed in large-scale mining companies/operations.

### **Criminal Law Enforcement**

The National Bureau of Investigation (NBI) pressed on conducting operations to rescue children from abusive situations, particularly those who are victims of online sexual abuse and exploitation and trafficking, both of which are worst forms of child labor.

In August 2023, six (6) of the eight (8) rescued victims during an entrapment and rescue operation were minors wherein one (1) subject was indicted for violation of Republic Act No. 9208 as amended by Republic Act No. 11862.

In September 2023, six (6) minor victims were rescued during an entrapment operation wherein two (2) subjects were charged with violation of Republic Act No. 9208 as amended by Republic Act No. 11862.

In December 2023, three (3) minor victims were rescued during an operation wherein three (3) subjects were charged with violation of Republic Act No. 11930 and Republic Act No. 9208 as amended by Republic Act No. 11862.

### **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 2023, a total of 2,973 working child permits were issued by the DOLE to 2,964 children below 15 years of age engaged in public entertainment or information. This brings to 80,295 the number of working child permits issued to 80,028 children by the DOLE since 1996.

## Capacity-Building of Implementers

For 2023, the following capacity-building activities for duty-bearers at the local and national levels on child labor issuances, laws, and practices as well as technical assistance to LGUs were conducted by members of the NCACL:

1. Pagbansay: Capacity Development Training for Police Officers, Cagayan de Oro City (January 19-21, 2023)
2. Training of Quezon City Task Force Sampaguita, Quezon City (January 27, 2023)
3. Training of Quezon City School heads on child rights for the special protection of children in school, Quezon City (March 09-10, 2023)
4. Child Labor Orientation Forum to Brgy. Captains and Barangay Council for the Protection of Children, City Council for the Protection of Children, Liga ng Barangays and DOLE Regional Office No. 10, Cagayan de Oro City (February 24, 2023)
5. Training on the Use of the Child Labor Local Registry System (April 2023)
5. Capacity-Building on SHIELD for Quezon City City Council for the Protection of Children and Barangay Council for the Protection of Children in the 3 pilot barangays, Quezon City (May 17-18, 2023)
6. Retooling of the Monitoring Form for Children and Youth Programs (June 6-9, 2023)
7. DepEd-Learners Rights Protection Office Writeshop for the Development of Training Session Guides for Skill-building on Addressing Child Labor Issues, Manila (June 20, 2023)
8. Orientation of the salient points of RA 11930 IRR and presentation of the proposed Anti-OSAEC Ordinance in Quezon City partners and stakeholders (July 12, 2023)
9. Anti-Trafficking in Persons Seminar in CDO (July 25-28, 2023)
10. Pagbansay 2.0 for Police Officers (October 11-13, 2023)
11. Orientation on the PPAACL Strategic Framework and Action Plan and the DOLE CLPEP for DOLE focal persons (November 7-8, 2023)
12. Empowering Hotline Heroes: Child Protection Training for QCitizen Helpline (November 15-16, 2023)
13. Orientation on Child Protection Laws to the Guidance Counselors and Designated Guidance Counselors in partnership with RIACAT-VAWC-ACP 10 (November 27-29, 2023)

The DSWD has also provided technical assistance for all its Field Offices on the use of their new reporting template as well as conducted orientation on the SHIELD Against Child Labor Program to 345 LGUs with high incidence of child labor and in seven (7) DSWD Field Offices. The DOLE continued to provide technical support in the implementation of its Child Labor Prevention and Elimination Program to its Regional and Field Offices. In addition, the Alliance for Workers in the Informal Economy/Sector provided orientation on child labor laws to barangay livelihood committee chairpersons and youth organizations in 27 barangays in Surigao del Norte.

### **End-of-Program Outcome 3**

#### **Improved integrated service delivery and expanded access to prevention, withdrawal and protection, rehabilitation, and reintegration of child laborers and their families**

The primary component under this outcome is the access to social protection with strategies that aims to: expand and improve the delivery of services to child laborers, children at risk, and their families through intensified convergence of services and resources and establish a national referral system and reintegration pathway; strengthen the capacity of service providers and duty-bearers, including community members, in the expanded delivery of programs and services to child laborers and their families; and increase participation of the private sector in the provision of programs and services to child laborers and their families.

#### **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.

As of December 2023, the following are the accomplishments of the SHIELD Program:

- **19,269** validated child laborers
- **2,703** child laborers beneficiaries of the SHIELD Program
- **3,131** child laborers referred to other programs and services of DSWD
- **4,358** profiled child laborers provided with programs and services from other agencies
- **1,499** child laborers provided with educational assistance who are already back to school
- **1,986** child laborers assessed to be out of child labor situation

## **DOLE's Monitoring of Profiled Child Laborers**

From 2018-2022, the DOLE conducted profiling of child laborers to locate and identify the children who will be referred to appropriate agencies and organizations for the provision of necessary services to remove them from child labor in order to achieve the target on child labor under the Philippine Development Plan. For 2023, the DOLE focused on the monitoring of child laborers profiled in 2022 in order to track their status and fast track the delivery of interventions to facilitate their removal from child labor.

For 2023, the following are the accomplishments of the DOLE monitoring of child laborers

- **160,288** profiled child laborers monitored
- **119,965** were further referred to other agencies/ organization
- **54,999** were provided with various services
- **34,530** were assisted through DOLE programs
- **35,382** were validated as removed from child labor

The services provided to these child laborers include the following: educational assistance, medical assistance, legal assistance, counselling, birth registration, feeding program, as well as 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.

## **DOLE's Livelihood Assistance to Parents of Child Laborers**

The provision of livelihood assistance to parents of child laborers is a strategic response to prevent and eliminate child labor. The livelihood assistance provided can be in the form of Negokart, starter kits, or materials needed to start a livelihood undertaking. Under the Guidelines of the DOLE Integrated Livelihood and Emergency Employment Program, beneficiaries of livelihood programs of the DOLE should not allow their children to be engaged in child labor.

For 2023, a total of **16,818** parents of child laborers were provided with livelihood assistance. Some of the livelihood assistance provided by the DOLE to parents of child laborers are retailing services; Negokarts; food stalls; small business/projects; hog, poultry and cattle raising; farm implements; vulcanizing shop; and agricultural supplies trading.

## **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 2023, there were 12,567 child laborers who were provided with school supplies, hygiene kits, food packs, grocery items, clothes, toys, and free services such as haircut, medical and dental check-up, amusement/fun play, and psychosocial services. This brings the total number of beneficiaries to 127,289 since 2006.

### **DOLE's national service caravan**

The DOLE also provides direct services to child laborers and their families through national service caravans conducted during major events of the Council such as the World Day Against Child Labor and its 4th Anniversary celebration of the NCACL. The DOLE, together with other members of the NCACL, provided various services such as livelihood grants, medical and dental services, free haircut and massage services, counselling, scholarship application, legal assistance, interactive activities for children, and gift-giving activities, among others.

### **TESDA's Skills training**

The Technical Education and Skills Development Authority also provided skills training for the parents/guardians/older siblings of child laborers. A total of 491 beneficiaries were enrolled and have graduated from various skills training in 2023 including cake making, dishwashing and fabric conditioner making, meat processing, and basic massage.

## **End-of-Program Outcome 4 Improved child labor statistics and effective and efficient knowledge management at all administrative levels**

There are two (2) components under this outcome: (1) knowledge management on child labor; and (2) monitoring and evaluation. These components focus on improved generation, dissemination and use of accurate and updated statistical data and information on child labor among stakeholders, policymakers, program implementers, and the general public; establish, periodically review for improvement, calibrate whenever necessary, and efficiently maintain a national child labor monitoring and evaluation system.

Priority activities for 2023 under the two (2) outcomes are: generate, disseminate, and utilize timely, accurate, accessible and updated statistical data; ensure timely release of the results of the rider module on child labor; and establish PPACL Monitoring and Evaluation Framework, among others.

## Latest statistics on child labor and working children

Since 2017, the Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA) has been including a rider module on child labor in the October rounds of the Labor Force Survey. For 2023, PSA published the *Special Release on Working Children Situation* on 25 July 2023 which included the results of the October 2020, October 2021, and October 2022 rider module on child labor. The following are the highlights of the said release:

- The Labor Force Survey (LFS) expanded its data collection to include information on working children, starting in October 2017 and continuing in every October survey.
- The PSA adopted the definitions of working children and child labor provided by the DOLE and the ILO. These definitions were used to identify industries and occupations involving hazardous work and activities.
- With regard to the statistical trend of working children, it showed that older children (aged 15 to 17) were more likely to work compared to younger children (aged 5 to 14). From 2020 to 2022, the number of older working children decreased each year, while the number of younger working children increased.
- Most working children in 2022 were engaged in elementary occupations which generally involve manual labor. Among different industries, the services sector had the highest number of working children (49%), followed by agriculture (43.2%).
- In 2022, around 12.8% of working children lived in SOCCSKARGEN, 11.1% in CALABARZON, and 10.5% in Central Visayas
- With regard to child labor, in 2022, 56% of working children or around 858 thousand were engaged in child labor, a decrease from the previous years (2021 and 2020). Most child laborers in 2022 were found in the agriculture sector (68.8%), followed by the services sector (25.9%), and the industry sector (5.3%).
- In 2022, the top 5 regions with the highest incidence of child labor were Region 12 (SOCCSKSARGEN), Region 7 (Central Visayas), Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (BARMM), Region 10 (Northern Mindanao), and Region 1 (Ilocos Region). In 2020 and 2021, the highest incidence of child labor was in Region 10 (Northern Mindanao).

## Child Labor Knowledge Sharing System (CLKSS)

The NCAACL, during the 2023 WDAACL Celebration Culminating Activity in June, launched the Batang Malaya CLKSS website accessible through <https://batangmalaya.ph/>. This website 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 NCAACL 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. The public has started using the reporting feature wherein a total of four (4) reported possible incidents of child labor have been received and validated by the DOLE.

Quick links of NCACL partners have also been inserted in the CLKSS website. As of 2023, it has garnered 7,657 views and 2,560 new visitors.

### **Development of Training Modules**

The DILG, in partnership with the Humanitarian Legal Assistance Foundation, Inc., United Nations Children’s Fund, and select national government agencies and non-government organizations working on child protection, developed the *Child Protection Training Manual on the Preparation of Situational Analysis and Drafting of Barangay Ordinance*. This manual is designed to guide the process of formulating a situational analysis that is a crucial initial step in local development planning. It aims to capacitate local government officials, including barangays, in understanding the circumstances of various groups, such as children-in-conflict with the law, children at risk, and child laborers. In addition, this manual aims to play a key role in shaping policies, programs, and services that address the specific needs and priorities of children and their families. This material also includes guidelines on formulating barangay ordinances essential for translating plans into policies.

The DOLE under its Labor Inspection Program also provides for the conduct of Technical and Advisory Visit for micro establishments whose module shall include child and family welfare programs. The module includes basic orientation on Republic Act No. 9231 and other anti-child labor laws as well as the DOLE Child Labor Prevention and Elimination Program. DOLE regional and field implementers were capacitated on this module in March 2023.

### **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 profiled 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.

For 2023, the DSWD conducted the National Roll Out of the CLLR System on 26-28 April 2023 wherein DSWD Regional Focal Persons of the SHIELD Program and

their counterparts in the Regional Information and Communications Technology Management Unit were capacitated in the use of the system. Participants were provided with first-hand experience in the profiling of child laborers in the system.

### **Development of the Philippine Program Against Child Labor Strategic Framework 2023-2028 and its Action Plan**

The NCACL spearheaded the development of the PPACL Strategic Framework 2023-2028 and its Action Plan, with support from the ILO, and through various consultation and meetings between and among NCACL members and partners, regional implementers including the Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao, and other stakeholders.

On 28 March 2023, the NCACL approved the Philippine Program Against Child Labor Strategic Framework 2023-2028. This Framework will continue to contribute to the achievement of the vision of the PPACL of a child labor-free Philippines. This goal is also envisioned to support the attainment of the goals outlined in the 8-point socio-economic agenda of the present administration specifically on reducing the vulnerability of Filipinos, through its pillars: a) develop and protect capabilities of individuals and families; and b) transform production sectors to generate more quality jobs and competitive products.

The Program Goal is also aligned with the strategy of the Philippine Development Plan (PDP) 2023 – 2028 of implementing a holistic approach to address child labor. It is likewise supportive of the ASEAN Roadmap on the Elimination of the Worst Forms of Child Labor and the Sustainable Development Goal Target 8.7 to take immediate and effective measures to end child labor by 2025.

More specifically, the PPACL aims to achieve and be measured against the four (4) End-of-Program Outcomes over a period of six (6) years (2023-2028):

- Adopted positive attitude, behavior, and proactive approaches towards prevention and progressive elimination of child labor as well as reintegration of withdrawn child laborers and their families in mainstream society;
- Strengthened and harmonized structures, supportive systems, processes, and procedures to implement, monitor, and evaluate relevant laws, policies, programs, projects, and services related to child labor at all administrative levels and across all sectors including civil society organizations working on child protection;
- Improved integrated service delivery and expanded access to prevention, withdrawal and protection, rehabilitation and reintegration of child laborers and their families; and
- Improved child labor statistics and effective and efficient knowledge management at all administrative levels.

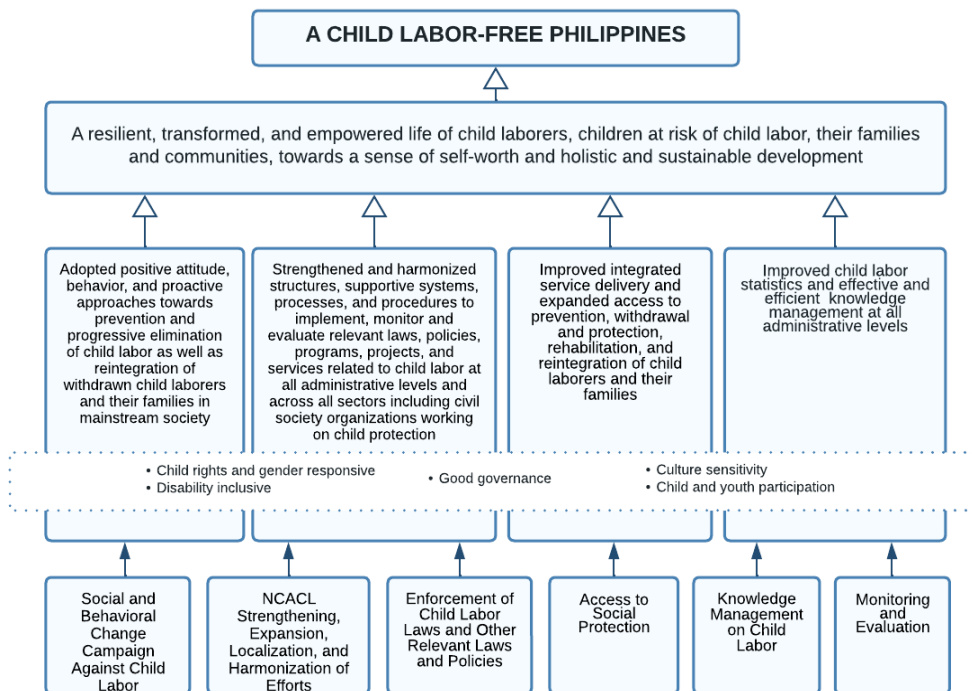
The PPACL will also ensure the integration of the following cross-cutting themes in the four (4) End-of-Program Outcomes mentioned above: child rights and gender responsiveness; disability inclusiveness; good governance; cultural sensitivity; child and youth participation.

Following the approval of the strategic framework, the DOLE conducted the *Planning Workshop for the Action Plan of the PPACL Strategic Framework 2023-2028* on 18-21 April 2023 in Tagaytay City in order to identify the major final outputs, activities, and indicators to achieve the program goal of a child labor-free Philippines.

On 23 August 2023, the NCACL approved PPACL Strategic Plan 2023-2028 through Resolution No. 2, Series of 2023. Under this plan, the following near and medium-term outcomes are enumerated:

1. Duty-bearers manifest improved knowledge, attitudes, and practices to protect children from all forms of child labor;
2. NCACL strengthened, expanded, and localized for effective coordination and efficient implementation of PPAs against child labor
3. Enforcement of anti-child labor laws and other relevant laws and policies against child labor at both national and local levels ensured;
4. Access of child laborers, children at risk of child labor, and their families to social protection, including health, nutrition, education, child protection, referral to livelihood programs, rehabilitation, psychosocial services, prosecution services, and decent work expanded;
5. Generation, dissemination, and use of accurate and updated statistical data and information on child labor among stakeholders, policymakers, program implementers, and the general public improved; and
6. National child labor monitoring and evaluation system established, periodically reviewed for improvement, calibrated whenever necessary, and maintained efficiently.

Below is the logical framework of the PPACL Strategic Framework and its Action Plan covering the period of six (6) years.



## **NCACL Technical Working Groups**

Pursuant to Section 5 of Executive Order No. 92, Series of 2019 and in connection with ensuring that each End-of-Program Outcome and their corresponding near and medium term outcomes are implemented and monitored, the NCACL approved the creation of four (4) Technical Working Groups (TWGs), namely: Advocacy and Communication, Enforcement and Partnership, Social Service Delivery, and Knowledge Management, Monitoring, and Evaluation. Each TWG shall be composed of members of the NCACL whose membership is attached in the Annex.

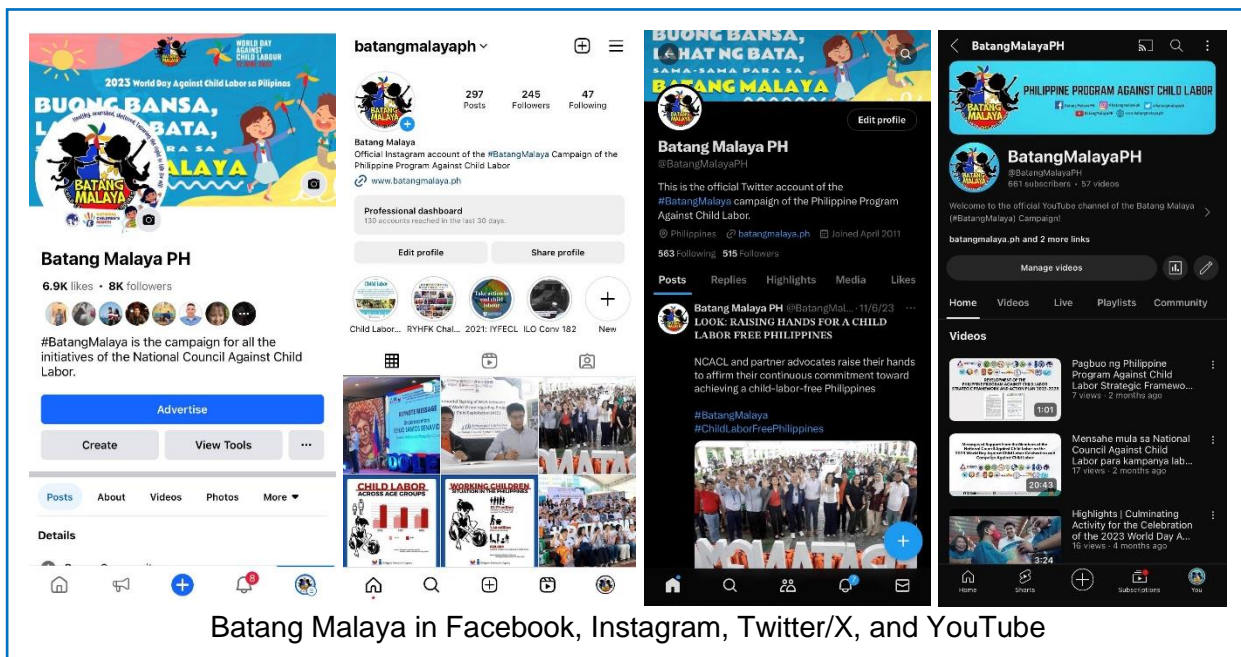
## **WAYS FORWARD**

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

- Ensure the integration of issues and concerns of child laborers and their families in various policies, plans, and programs of the concerned government agencies and various stakeholders.
- 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 related to child labor such as the DOLE's Child Labor Prevention and Elimination Program and the DSWD's SHIELD Against Child Labor Project
- Continue intensifying public awareness on child labor
- Develop the PPACL Communication Plan and Monitoring and Evaluation Framework
- Expand network and collaborate with partners from the different sectors for a whole-of-society approach on addressing child labor

# PHOTO GALLERY

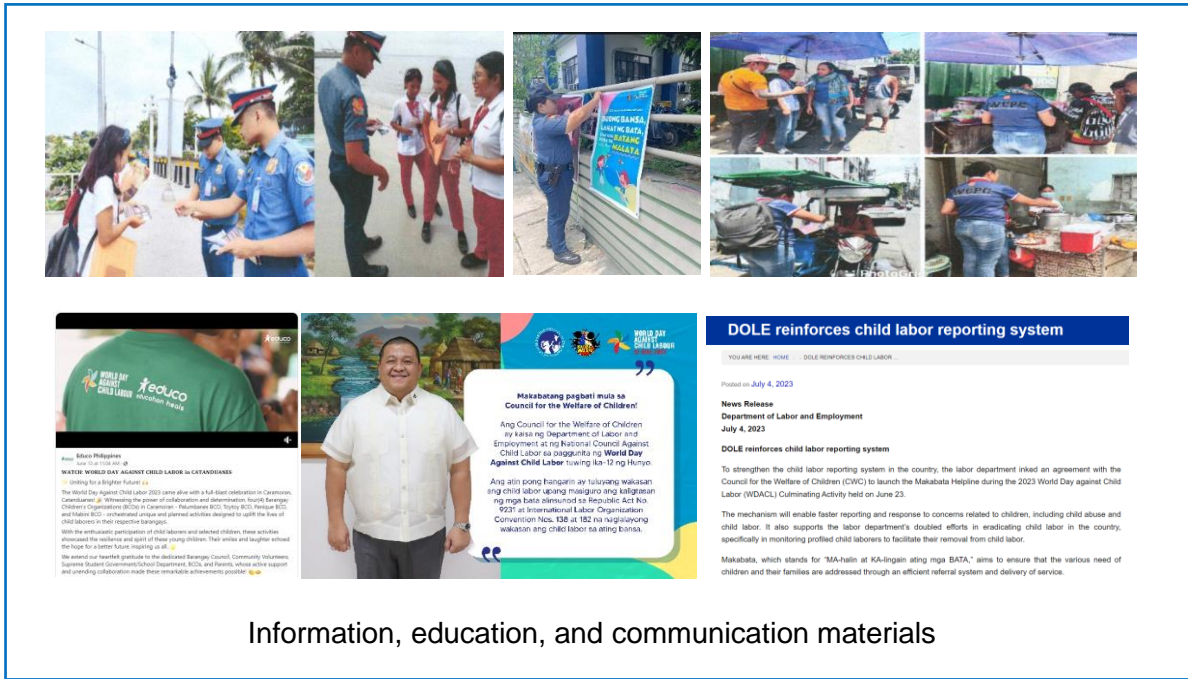
## Advocacy Activities



Batang Malaya in Facebook, Instagram, Twitter/X, and YouTube

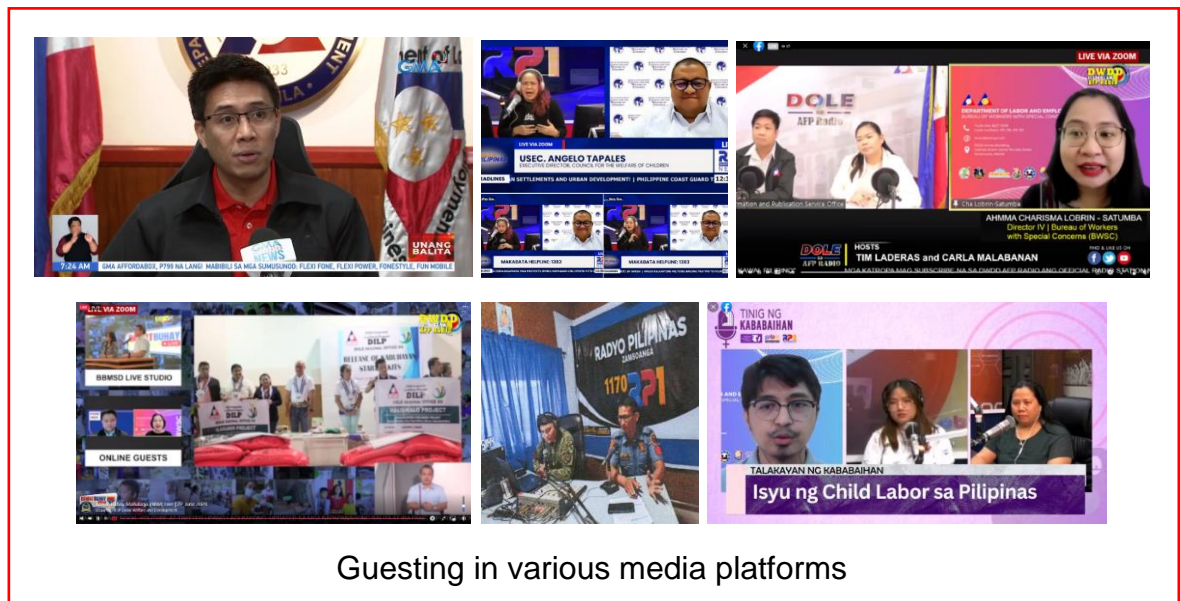


Information, education, and communication materials



Information, education, and communication materials

### Radio/Media Guesting



Guesting in various media platforms





Culminating activity of the 2023 WDACL celebration

# 4th Anniversary Celebration of the Institutionalization of the National Council Against Child Labor



# Child Labor Knowledge Sharing System

https://batangmalaya.ph

**BATANG MALAYA** Home  
Child Labor Knowledge Sharing System

**BATANG MALAYA**  
Child Labor Knowledge Sharing System

**Programs and Services Against Child Labor**

Department of Labor and Employment | Department of Social Welfare and Development | Department of the Interior and Local Government | ChildFund Philippines, Inc. | World Vision Development Foundation, Inc.

**Reporting of Child Labor Incident**

Let us work together for the rights and welfare of children towards a child labor-free Philippines!  
Sama-sama tayong bumibilang panta sa katapusan ng kapakanan ng mga bata hangal sa hangalang Child Labor-free Philippines! Panta sa #BatangMalaya!

Report a child labor incident here  
Mag-report ng insidente ng child labor dito:

Remember:  
Positive:  
Kindly fill out all necessary information to properly address your report.  
Hangal't maaari, kumpletuhin ang mga impormasyong ibibigay apang matatagpuan ng bawat ang iyong report.

**Laws and Issuances**

Search here...

**Frequently Asked Questions**

Would you like to read in English or Filipino?  
Custo mo bang magbasa ng English o Filipino?

English | Filipino

# Makabata Helpline of the Council for the Welfare of Children

**MAKABATA HELPLINE**

REPORT CASES OF VIOLENCE AGAINST CHILDREN

**CALL 1383**

09153541383 (SMART) | 09158022375 (GLOBE)

**STOP CHILD LABOR**

**HOW TO REPORT TO MAKABATA HELPLINE?**

**1 WHO MAY REPORT?**  
Any person may directly report either through phone/telephone calls, emails, and social media platforms for any concern or violation of child rights.  
All children are encouraged to have access to the helpline and report any incident of child abuse. The person who reports need not be the victim or complainant, as long as they have knowledge of the incident.

**2 RECEIPT OF REPORT**  
Once a report is received at the Makabata Helpline via any of the identified points of contact, the Helpline Officer who is also a licensed social worker, will collect the basic information of the child and endeavor to identify the reason for the call or how the caller/referring party may be helped.

**3 VERIFICATION**  
The Helpline Officer will verify the report received in order to determine what appropriate service must be extended to the caller/ referring party

**4 NATURE OF SERVICE**  
INQUIRY REFERRAL EMERGENCY

**5 WHAT TO REPORT?**  
All types of abuse but not limited to:  
• PHYSICAL • EXPLOITATION  
• VERBAL • NEGLECT  
• SEXUAL • DISCRIMINATION  
• EMOTIONAL • OTHERS

Makabata Helpline | 0915 8022375 (Globe) / 09153541383 (Smart)  
makabata\_helpline | makabata1383@cwcc.gov.ph

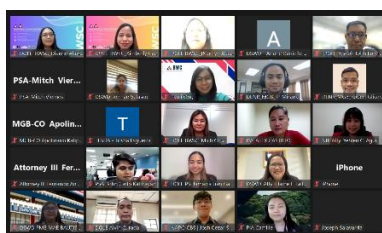
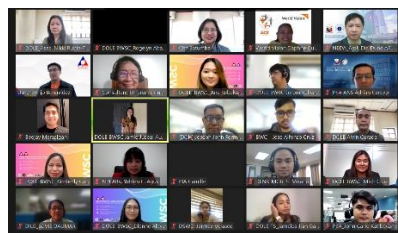
## Meetings of the National Council Against Child Labor



1<sup>st</sup> Regular Meeting on 14 February 2023 at the DOLE Building, Intramuros, Manila



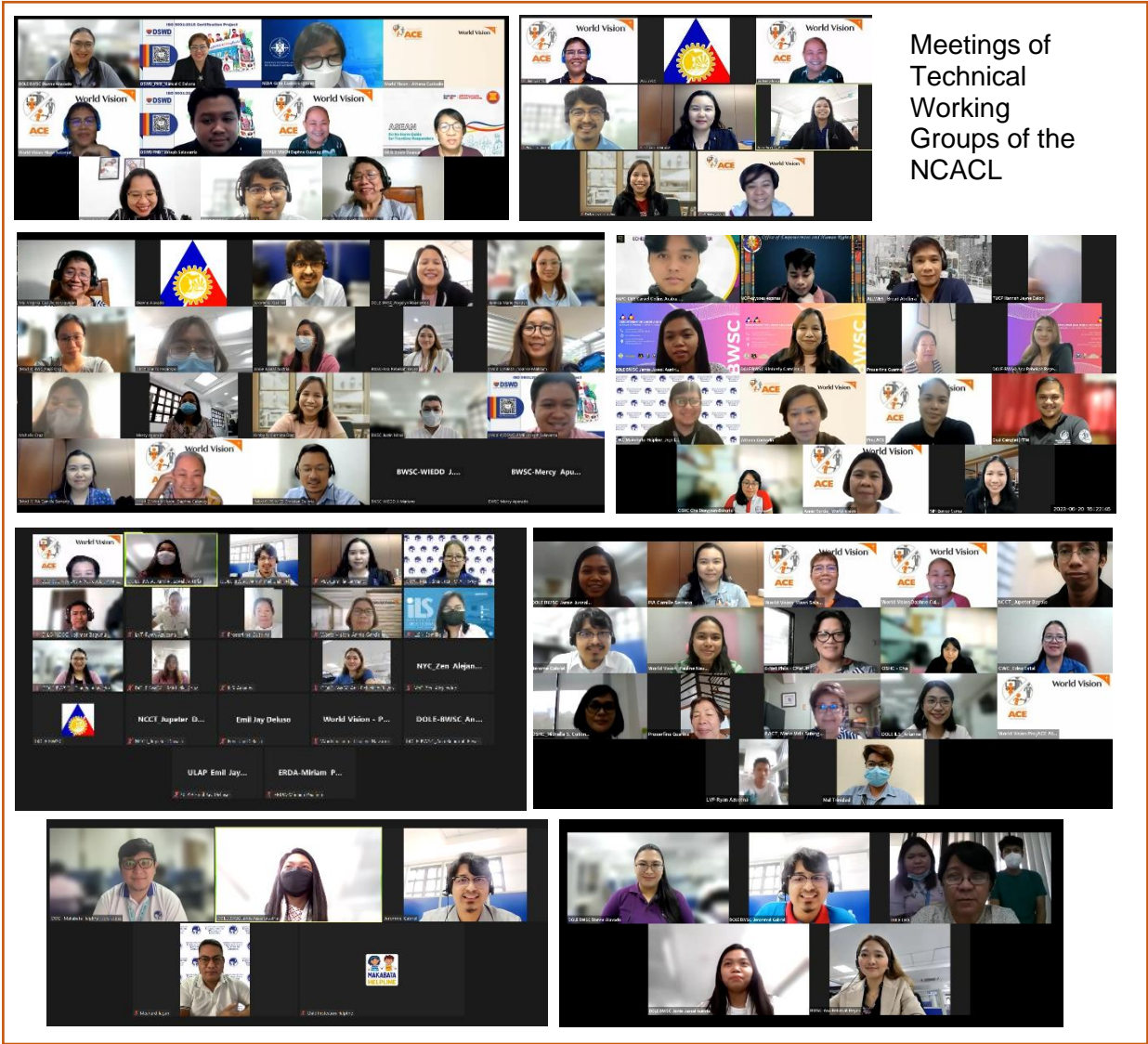
Special meeting for the approval of the PPACL Strategic Framework on 28 March 2023 via Zoom



3<sup>rd</sup> Regular Meeting on 18 August 2023 via Zoom



4<sup>th</sup> Regular Meeting on 19 October 2023 at Risen Garden, Quezon City Hall



Meetings of Technical Working Groups of the NCACL

## Meetings of Regional Councils Against Child Labor



## Forging of Memorandum of Agreement/Understanding between partner agencies at the national and local level



## Capacity-Building for Implementers and Stakeholders



Training of Quezon City Task Force Sampaguita, Quezon City (27 January 2023)



Child Labor Orientation Forum to Brgy. Captains and Barangay Council for the Protection of Children, City Council for the Protection of Children, Liga ng Barangays and DOLE Regional Office No. 10, Cagayan de Oro City (24 February 2023)



Capacity-Building on SHIELD for Quezon City Council for the Protection of Children and Barangay Council for the Protection of Children, Quezon City (17-18 May 2023)



Private Sector's Child Labor Forum (23 June 2023)



Orientations on the Child Labor Local Registry System



Orientation on the Philippine Program Against Child Labor Strategic Framework 2023-2028 and Guidelines in the Implementation of the DOLE Child Labor Prevention and Elimination Program (08-09 November 2023)

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



## DOLE's Child Labor Prevention and Elimination Program



## TESDA's Skills Training for Parents/Guardians of Child Laborers



## Development of the PPACL Strategic Framework 2023-2028 and its Action Plan

