



2024

**NATIONAL COUNCIL
AGAINST CHILD LABOR
ACCOMPLISHMENT REPORT**

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 preliminary accomplishments of the NCACL for 2024 are the following:

- DOLE monitored 178,194 profiled child laborers and assisted 177,646 through DOLE programs and by other agencies/organizations
- DSWD provided assistance to 1,107 child laborers beneficiaries of the SHIELD Program and referred 1,346 child laborers to other programs and services
- NCACL provided various services to 66,668 child laborers and their families such as livelihood assistance, educational assistance, skills training, emergency employment, financial assistance, membership to Pantawid Pamilyang Pilipino Program, and counselling, among others
- Through collaboration among members, NCACL removed 86,196 children from child labor
- Conducted the *Planning Workshop for the Development of the Philippine Program Against Child Labor Communication Plan 2024-2028*, and the *5th Anniversary Celebration of the Institutionalization of the National Council Against Child Labor*
- Approved Council Resolution No. 1, Series of 2024 (*A Resolution Recognizing the Representation of the Children Basic Sector-Council Members in the Regional Councils Against Child Labor as Child Representatives*)
- The PSA published the Special Release on Working Children Situation on 20 November 2024 which showed a decrease in the number of child laborers from 828 thousand in 2022 to 678 thousand in 2023
- Conducted various advocacy activities, awareness-raising campaigns, and capacity-building activities
- Conducted quarterly information and service caravans on the prevention and elimination of child labor
- 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 information, education, and communication (IEC) materials, conduct of orientations and seminars for different target audiences, and the development of a PPACL Communication Plan.

PPACL Communication Plan 2024-2028

Among the priority strategies under this Outcome is the development of the PPACL Communication Plan. The PPACL Communication Plan 2024-2028, a product of multi-stakeholder learning sessions and workshops, was approved by the NCACL during its 3rd Quarter Meeting held on 29 August 2024.

The learning sessions and workshops for the development of this Communication Plan conducted on 20-22 March 2024 via Zoom and 03-05 April 2024 at B Hotel, Quezon City were participated by various stakeholders from members of the Advocacy and Communication Technical Working Group of the NCACL, representatives from the DOLE Regional Offices as well as from the Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao Ministry of Labor and Employment. Childfund's Project Sustainable Programs for Education, Advocacies and Knowledge (Project SPEAK) engaged technical consultants and World Vision Development Foundation, Inc., through its Project Against Child Exploitation, provided logistics support for the development of this Communication Plan.

This Communication Plan will serve as the blueprint for the NCACL as well as its regional and local implementers in the development and implementation of its IEC activities to achieve the vision of a child-labor free Philippines. It provides the advocacy vision, communication objectives, outputs, target audiences, key messages, channels, strategies, among others on key areas of communication on child labor in the country: legislation and policy, capacity-building, IEC development, and networking and stakeholder engagement. Attached as Annex is the approved PPACL Communication Plan 2024-2028.

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 IEC materials to the public through print, broadcast, outdoor, and social media platforms. These include a total of 15,804 printed materials (i.e. infographics, roll-up banners, hand fans, planners, booklets, photo exhibit, flyers/brochures, posters, stickers, calendars, bookmarks, and pins, among others) and 4,136 digital materials (i.e. news articles, photo releases, films and audio-visual presentations, social media cards, radio commercials, situation reports, and text blasts, among others) in various languages on child labor, related laws and issuances, provision of services to child laborers and their families, hotlines for reporting of child labor-related concerns, advocacy activities, child labor-related celebrations, stories of former child laborers, *Batang Malaya* campaign, and other initiatives of stakeholders to address child labor.

In addition, the National Commission on Indigenous Peoples continued to develop advocacy materials on child labor and integrate said materials in community visitations and similar forums to raise awareness among indigenous cultural communities/indigenous peoples.

The Philippine National Police - Women and Children Protection Center also sustained the conduct of outreach, information drive, and awareness campaigns on forms of abuse and exploitation of children including the distribution of IEC materials in various communities nationwide and posting through the Aling Pulis Facebook page of more than 4,000 media cards relating to violence against women and children and trafficking in persons.

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 2024, engagements of the *Batang Malaya* social media accounts were as follows:

- Facebook: 8,141 followers
- Twitter/X: 518 followers; 1,581 posts
- IG: 241 followers; 343 posts
- YouTube: 688 subscribers; 24,093 views

Through these *Batang Malaya* social media accounts, IEC materials were shared to the public: news, press, and photo releases; radio and other media interviews; infographics on laws and policies related to child labor; various child labor-related initiatives of Council members and other social partners; and video presentations and webinars among others. These IEC materials were also shared by the official social media accounts and published on websites of the members of the NCACL and its partners.

The Learner Rights and Protection Office of the Department of Education, in partnership with World Vision Development Foundation, Inc., has also started developing session guides on child labor for teachers.

DOLE Information Caravans

For 2024, the DOLE, in coordination with the members and partners of the NCACL and Regional Councils Against Child Labor (RCACLs) conducted quarterly information caravans at the local level to provide orientation on child rights, child labor and related laws and issuances, various programs and services to address child labor such as the PPACL, DOLE Child Labor Prevention and Elimination Program (CLPEP), DOLE Integrated Livelihood and Emergency Employment Program, youth employability programs, DSWD SHIELD Against Child Labor Project, human trafficking, business management, mental health, basic hygiene, family planning, and responsible parenting, among others, for child laborers, parents/guardians, members and partners of RCACLs, LGUs, private sector, NGOs, child representatives, community leaders, teachers and students, and other stakeholders.

At the regional level, a total of 11,419 participants participated in the information caravans conducted nationwide in June 2024 in celebration of the 2024 World Day Against Child Labor.

Aside from the caravans, the DOLE Regional Offices also conduct regular orientations and seminars on target audiences. For 2024, a total of 215 orientations were conducted for 29,181 participants including child laborers, their parents/guardians, national government agencies-line personnel, local government unit officials, association of barangay captains, PESO employees, 4Ps beneficiaries, workers in the informal sector, owners and representatives from micro-establishments, employers, private companies, non-government organizations, workers associations, youth advocates, artists, Sangguniang Kabataan Federation, teachers and students, guidance councilors, women federations, mining corporations, former rebels, PWDs, and job seekers. Topics of these orientations include child rights, Republic Act No. 9231 and other child labor-related laws and issuances, child work vs. child labor, PPACL, DOLE CLPEP, DSWD SHIELD Program, human trafficking, entrepreneurial development training, and drug abuse, among others.

The DOLE Regional Offices also had 13 interviews/appearances on radio, television, and online media, and served as resource persons to 29 capacity-building initiatives of various local government units, local councils, universities and colleges, non-government organizations, and other agencies and organizations to discuss child labor, related laws and issuances, and programs and services to address it.

2024 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 NCACL spearheads the celebration of the WDACL in the Philippines.

For this year's celebration, the local theme is ***"Bawat Bata, Malaya: Mithiin ng Nagkakaisang Bansa!"*** which was adopted from the global theme *"Let's act on our commitments, End Child Labour!"* which will focus on the celebration of the 25th anniversary of the adoption of International Labour Organization (ILO) Convention No. 182 on the Worst Forms of Child Labor (1999) and is an opportunity to remind all stakeholders to improve their implementation of the two fundamental ILO Conventions on child labor – ILO Convention No. 182 and ILO Convention No. 138 for Minimum Age for Admission to Employment or Work (1973).

At the regional level, the DOLE Regional Offices, in partnership with the RCACLs and other social partners, have conducted various activities in June 2024, which include, among others, the aforementioned information caravan, service caravans including the awarding of livelihood assistance under the DOLE Integrated Livelihood Program (DILP) and Project Angel Tree gift giving activity; sharing of success stories of former child laborers; commitment signing; contests such as mural painting, poster making, dance, rap challenge; flash mob; film viewing; interactive activities for children such as parlor games, mascots, face painting, and storytelling; cultural shows; art exhibit; motorcade and parades; fun run; zumba; photo booths; and dissemination of IEC materials.

During these activities, around 1,244 parents/guardians of child laborers have benefitted from PHP 29 million worth of livelihood grant under the DILP. Said livelihood grants are in the form of items/materials for sari-sari store, farming, hog raising, baking, food processing, carpentry, fishing, egg production, welding, and rice retailing, among others. Meanwhile, a total of 5,310 child laborers, on the other hand, have benefitted from the conduct of Project Angel Tree gift giving activities. Educational supplies, food packs, IEC materials, hygiene kits, medicine kits, vitamins/supplements, toys, grocery items, among others, were provided to them by sponsors from the members of the RCACL, local government units, and other partners.

The DSWD has also allocated budget to their Field Offices amounting to PHP 800,000.00 for the conduct of various activities in support to the WDACL celebration such as: information caravan on topics related to child labor and child protection; puppet shows, competitions, gift giving, and free services, among others.

The CWC, in coordination with ILO, Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA), and DOLE, conducted the Knowledge Management Session webinar *"Ang Mukha ng Batang Manggagawa sa Pilipinas"* on 26 June 2024 which was participated by said agency employees and representatives from the Regional Committee/Sub-Committees for the Welfare of Children. The webinar tackled global frameworks and commitments, working children and child labor situation, and DOLE CLPEP and local strategies on addressing child labor in the country. This initiative seeks to raise awareness of the harsh realities faced by child laborers, highlighting their profiles, vulnerabilities, and the social and economic factors that perpetuate the issue. The webinar emphasizes the importance of policies, international treaties, and programs such as the DOLE CLPEP.

The DOLE Bureau of Workers with Special Concerns (BWSC), in coordination with the DOLE Region 3, spearheaded the conduct of the 2024 WDACL Culminating Activity on 19 June 2024 at Jose V. Yap Sports and Recreational Complex in San Jose, Tarlac. Around 350 participants composed of profiled child laborers and their parents/guardians, members of the NCACL, representatives from the DOLE Central Office and the Regional and Provincial/Field Offices of DOLE RO 3, members and partners of the RCACL in Central Luzon, representatives from the Local Government Units in Tarlac, and other local social partners.

The activities conducted during the Culminating Activity were information and service caravan for the child laborers and their parents/guardians, sharing of success stories of former child laborers dubbed as “*Mga Kuwento ng Tagumpay ng mga Batang Malaya*”, and signing of Memorandum of Agreement between members of the RCACL in Region 3.

Included as Annex to this Report is the Activity Report of the 2024 World Day Against Child Labor.

International Public Information Sharing for ASEAN and other countries in Asia

The DOLE and World Vision Development Foundation, Inc. - Project Against Child Exploitation (Project ACE) conducted the International Public Information Sharing for ASEAN and other countries in Asia on 28-30 May 2024 at the Diamond Hotel Manila to learn from government and non-government organizations strategies in tackling worst forms of child labor, online sexual abuse and exploitation of children, and violations of acceptable conditions of work.

Representatives from the ASEAN member states and other countries in Asia; Project ACE Philippines and Vietnam, and their partners; embassies where World Vision operates; funding organizations; child rights organizations and institutions; members of the NCACL; and representatives from the local government units of Quezon City and Cagayan De Oro City attended the event.

Representatives presented the respective situations of their countries on accomplishments on activities and strategies, challenges, good practices, and innovations adopted to support and ensure the sustainability of mechanisms addressing child labor on the themes of enforcement, family and child victim care, and convergence. The DOLE, DSWD, Department of Justice (DOJ), Council for the Welfare of Children (CWC), Philippine National Police (PNP), and the local government of Quezon City presented for the Philippines. There were presentations from international partners on international commitments on addressing child labor.

Simultaneously, there was also a festive corner that showcased related programs and projects of Project ACE partners in the Philippines including parents/guardians of former child laborers from Region 3 and 4A who are beneficiaries of DOLE Integrated Livelihood Program (DILP) who marketed their products.

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 Council held its 1st Quarter Meeting on 27 February 2023 wherein the Council members discussed the updates on the 2023 accomplishments, official logo, and Technical Working Groups of the NCACL as well as the conduct of major activities of the Council such as the development of the PPACL Communication Plan, celebration of the WDACL and the 5th anniversary celebration of the institutionalization of the NCACL. During this meeting, the following development partners and their projects on child labor also shared their accomplishments¹:

- World Vision Development Foundation, Inc. (World Vision) Project Against Child Exploitation (Project ACE)
- International Labour Organization (ILO) Project achieving reduction of worst forms of child labor in support of education (ARISE)
- ChildFund Philippines, Inc. (ChildFund) Project Sustainable Programs for Education, Advocacy, and Knowledge (SPEAK)

The Council held its 3rd Quarter Meeting for 2024 on 29 August 2024 wherein updates on the 2024 1st Semester Accomplishment of the NCACL, conduct of the 2024 WDACL celebration; 5th Anniversary Celebration of the Institutionalization of the NCACL, and the ILO-Canada Project on *Strengthening Freedom of Association and Actions against Child Labor*. The Advocacy and Communication Technical Working Group Chairperson also presented the proposed PPACL Communication Plan which was duly approved by the Council. The Executive Order No. 67

¹ Activities of these projects contribute to the four (4) End-of-Program outcomes and are included in this Report under the respective End-of-Program Outcome.

(Creating the Presidential Office for Child Protection) was also presented for the information of the Council.

Further, the Council discussed the request from the National Anti-Poverty Commission, endorsing NAPC Children Basic Sector Resolution No. 3, Series of 2024 (*Resolution requesting the NCACL on the Recognition and Automatic Representation of the Children Basic Sector – Council Members in the Regional Council Against Child Labor*). The Council has approved the request of the NAPC Child Basic Sector to recognize and endorse the representation of the newly elected Children Basic Sector – Council Members in the Regional Councils Against Child Labor for the period 2023-2026 to participate in the different programs, projects, and activities for the welfare of children. For this purpose, the Council Resolution No. 1, Series of 2024 (*A Resolution Recognizing the Representation of the Children Basic Sector-Council Members in the Regional Councils Against Child Labor as Child Representatives*) was approved. Attached as Annex is copy of Council Resolution No. 1, Series of 2024.

On 11 December 2024, the Council held its 4th Quarter Meeting for 2024 wherein the following projects on child labor were discussed: ILO-Canada Project on Strengthening Freedom of Association and Actions Against Child Labor; and, DOLE-UNICEF Work Plan 2024-2026 for the UNICEF Philippines Country Program Document 2024-2028. Likewise, updates on the following were also presented: 5th Anniversary Celebration of the Institutionalization of the NCACL; United States Department of Labor (USDOL) 2023 Report on the Findings on the Worst Forms of Child Labor and List of Goods Produced with Child Labor and Forced Labor; Questionnaire on the Trade and Development Act Report and Trafficking Victims Protection Reauthorization Act; and, ASEAN Roadmap on the Elimination of the Worst Forms of Child Labour by 2025 and ASEAN Declaration on the Elimination of Child Labour, including the Worst Forms of Child Labour.

The Philippine Statistics Authority also presented the Special Release on Working Children Situation published on 20 November 2024.

5th 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 DOLE BWSC, in coordination with DOLE Regional Office No. 4-A, spearheaded the conduct of the 5th Anniversary Celebration of the Institutionalization of the NCACL on 21 September 2024 at the Laguna Sports Complex Gymnasium in Sta. Cruz, Laguna. Around 500 participants composed of profiled child laborers from the provinces in CALABARZON and their parents/guardians, members of the NCACL, representatives from the DOLE

Central Office and the Regional and Provincial Offices of DOLE Region 4-A, members and partners of the RCACL in CALABARZON, representatives from the local government units in Sta. Cruz, Laguna, as well as other local social partners participated in the activity.

The following activities have been conducted during this celebration: signing of the Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) between the members of the reactivated RCACL 4-A; information caravan including orientation on Republic Act No. 9231, PPACL, DOLE Child Labor Prevention and Elimination Program (CLPEP), and other programs against child labor; service caravan including provision of various services from the members and partners of the N/RCACLs; showcase of success stories of former child laborers from different sectors; interactive activities for children; and exhibit and distribution of information materials on child labor.

Included as Annex to this Report is the Activity Report of the 5th Anniversary Celebration of the Institutionalization of the NCACL.

Inter-agency coordination, local partnership and localization of structures

Efforts to localize the NCACL and mainstream programs to address child labor at the local level continued in 2024. 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. As of September 2024 there are 15 functional RCACLs 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.

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.

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 Department of Agriculture (DA) is looking into areas of coordination in combatting child labor in the agriculture sector through the different programs of DA to provide families of farmers and fisherfolks with access to livelihood, farm inputs, machineries, and access to finance and market. There is also collaboration

between DA, NCMF, and TESDA to establish link between the government and the Muslim and IP youth in support to programs on youth development on sustainable farming and on skills training.

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.

Partnership with international development partners with Projects on child labor

Members of the NCACL continue to promote and deepen partnership with development partners with projects to address child labor.

Project Against Child Exploitation (Project ACE) of World Vision Development Foundation, Inc. (World Vision)

Project ACE coordinates and collaborates with national government agencies through Memorandum of Agreement with different agencies such as the DOLE, DSWD, PNP, and the DOJ. The Project also works with the Department of Information and Communications Technology and DepEd. There is also existing collaboration with the National Coordinating Center against Online Sexual Abuse or Exploitation and Child Sexual Abuse or Exploitation Material (NCC-OSAEC-CSAEM). The following are the accomplishments of Project ACE for 2024:

- Conduct of information exchanges with different stakeholders at the national and local level and with Project ACE Vietnam
- Cascading of the Implementing Rules and Regulations of Republic Act No. 11930 to private sectors in partnership with CWC, Inter-Agency Council Against Trafficking, DICT, DSWD, PNP, and Anti-Money Laundering Council (AMLC)
- Forging of MOA with the RCACL 10, and the local governments of Quezon City and Cagayan de Oro City
- Conduct of capacity-building activities at the regional and local level in project areas involving representatives from the local government, barangay chairman and SK chairpersons as well as partners from the private sector
- Close coordination in three pilot barangays in Quezon City and Cagayan de Oro City
- Advocacy and communication engagement
- Development and dissemination of IEC materials such as hotline stickers, posters, pull-up tarpaulins, calendars, bookmarks, planners, RA 9231 and its IRR Handbook
- Provision of support for activities related to the campaign against child labor such as the conduct of the 2024 WDACL, development of the PPACL Communication Plan, conduct of quarterly meetings of the RCACL X and RIACAT VAWC X, as well as the development of a training module for labor inspectors

- Conduct of national information sharing summit, public information sharing with ASEAN and other countries, and stakeholder's validation and sustainability plan.

Project SPEAK (Sustainable Programs for Education, Advocacies, and Knowledge) of ChildFund Philippines, Inc.

Project SPEAK (Sustainable Programs for Education, Advocacies, and Knowledge) which is being implemented by ChildFund Philippines, Inc., Kaanib Foundation, Inc., and Ha Uman Association, Inc. and funded by the European Union, aims to create awareness and understanding of child labor as well as establish response mechanisms against child labor in Mindanao. It serves as one of the partners of the National Council Against Child Labor, particularly its Advocacy and Communication Technical Working Group. Among its significant contributions to the Philippine Program Against Child Labor (PPACL) are the following:

- At the national level, provision of technical assistance on the development of the PPACL Communication Plan 2024-2028 as well as on the Training Workshops on the Development of Information, Education, and Communication Materials on Child Labor
- Assistance in the profiling of 1,109 child laborers located in geographically isolated and disadvantaged areas (GIDA); 949 of the 1,109 children received educational support; 474 children have already been disengaged from the worst forms of child labor; and, 174 children who were at high risk of child labor were successfully kept from engaging in such activities and referred to government agencies for proper interventions
- Project SPEAK and DepEd trained school principals and teachers on Inclusive School Contingency Planning Integrating Anticipatory Action. The training was designed to ensure that the Philippine school system is prepared for all hazards and disasters, including the impact of climate change, through proactive and responsive actions.
- On child and youth participation, Project SPEAK and its partners conducted a Regional Children's congress and leadership training sessions
- On advocacy awareness, the Project provided government agencies with training to strengthen their advocacy planning, communications, and media production skills to raise awareness about child labor and promote acceptable conditions of work (ACW) in crop agriculture. Multimedia campaign was launched in partnership with DOLE Regional Office No. 10 through advocacy billboard at Cagayan de Oro city and Tagum city, Davao, del Norte. In addition, Project SPEAK conducted Child Protection workshops to twelve community-based organizations (CBOs) and parents of profiled children to raise awareness about the difference between child labor and child work, its effects on the development of children, and the promotion of acceptable conditions of work.

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) of the International Labour Organization (ILO)

ARISE Project is funded under the ILO/Japan Government multi-bilateral programme in partnership with the Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (BARMM). The Project uses an Integrated Area Based Approach and 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. Provided below are the accomplishments of the Project for 2023 and 2024:

- The Project provided technical assistance in the incorporation of child labor lens in the education sector through Supporting Children’s Rights through Education, the Arts, and the Media (SCREAM) modules in pilot sites. These SCREAM modules are used in classrooms to increase awareness of young people on child labor. SCREAM modules are currently being implemented by trained educators in several schools/communities.
- Development of Child Labor Training Manual to increase awareness and capacity of duty bearers and stakeholders on child labor issues, concepts, and laws
- Institution building through the formal establishment of MOLE’s Child Labour and Protection Unit in 2023 and revitalization of the Project Advisory and Review Committee (PARC)
- Support in the development of the Philippine Program Against Child Labor (PPACL) Strategic Framework and its Action Plan 2023-2028 and facilitated the development of the Bangsamoro Regional Action Plan Against Child Labor (BRAP-CL)
- Support in the conduct of the regional celebration of WDAFL in BARMM in partnership with MOLE, and in the pilot sites led by the local government units in the municipalities of South Upi, Maguindanao del Sur and Wao, Lanao del Sur
- On going development of a child labor monitoring system.

Strengthening Freedom of Association and Actions Against Child Labor Project of the ILO

The ILO is implementing the Project “*Strengthening Freedom of Association and Actions Against Child Labour in the Philippines*”, with support from Employment and Social Development Canada. This Project seeks to: (1) deliver outputs that will promote freedom of association and right to organize, and (2) support the Philippine Program Against Child Labor to remove children from child labor. The outcomes and outputs under the Child Labour Component of this Project are the following:

Outcome 2 The Philippine Programme Against Child Labour is supported in removing children from child labour and keeping them in school
Output 2.1 : Feasibility Study on Child Labour Free Certification
Output 2.2 : Campaign against child labour at sectoral levels
Output 2.3 : National child labour monitoring system (CLMS) developed
Output 2.4 : Strengthened enforcement mechanisms to ensure no child labour in trade sectors

The Project was launched on 6 August 2024 wherein members of the NCACL provided valuable inputs during the inception workshop to identify priority interventions. The NCACL, through the DOLE, are coordinating closely with the ILO in the implementation of this Project.

Issuances on Child Labor and related laws and policies

- Presidential directives to address OSAEC/CSAEM and accomplishments for 2024 are as follows:
 1. PBBM-2024-1037: Directed the NCC-OSAEC-CSAEM to publicize the Registry of Blacklisted Alien and OSAEC-CSAEM Offenders. The NCC-OSAEC-CSAEM, in partnership with relevant agencies and with assistance from the Stairway Foundation, Inc. are currently developing the Registry of Blacklisted Alien and OSAEC/CSAEM Offenders and its guidelines.
 2. PBBM-2024-38: Directed the NCC-OSAEC-CSAEM, in coordination with the CWC and other agencies, to expand the proposed MAKABATA EO. The DSWD has finalized and endorsed the proposed MAKABATA EO to the Office of the President for consideration and approval. Said proposed EO is aligned with the proposed revised Protocol for Case Management of Child Victims of Abuse, Neglect, Exploitation, and Discrimination being developed by the Committee for the Special Protection of Children.

On 6 December 2024, the President signed Executive Order No. 79 Series of 2024 (*Establishing the Mahalin at Kalingain Ating Mga Bata (MAKABATA) Program, and Institutionalizing the MAKABATA Helpline 1383*). The Executive Order aims to prevent child labor and enhance reporting mechanisms by institutionalizing the MAKABATA Helpline 1383 as a 24/7 centralized platform for reporting child-related concerns, including child labor. This Executive Order establishes a referral pathway linking government agencies, LGUs, and private sector partners for efficient coordination and response. By categorizing child labor victims as “children in need of special protection (CNSPs)” the Executive Order ensures that such victims receive immediate support and long term assistance.

3. PBBM-2024-39: Directed the DILG to issue a Memorandum Circular to

include the adoption of anti-OSAEC ordinance as an indicator in CFLGA. The DILG has added the existence of an anti-OSAEC ordinance and a Magna Carta for Children in the revision of the CFLGA indicators to be implemented in 2025. The DILG has also partnered with the International Justice Mission in the drafting of a template ordinance as a guide for LGUs.

4. PBBM-2024-40: Directed DOJ, DILG, and PNP to strengthen case build-up investigation of OSAEC-CSAEM cases to ensure that cases will reach the courts. The DOJ is set to release a Department Circular designating existing prosecutor-members of the DOJ-Anti Trafficking Task Forces to be the same specialists prosecutors to closely coordinate with law enforcement agencies in the case build-up investigation of OSAEC and CSAEM cases. The IACAT and NCC-OSAEC-CSAEM have also conducted trainings to enhance the capacity of law enforcers and prosecutors in investigating and prosecuting cases and foster collaboration between them.
 5. PBBM-2024-943: One Stop Shop Center. In order to increase aftercare services, the NCC-OSAEC-CSAEM and the IACAT Secretariat convened the TWG on the One Stop Shop for Adult and Child Victim-Survivors of Trafficking and OSAEC. The TWG is composed of members from the DSWD, IACAT Operation Center, DOH, PNP-Anti Cybercrime Group, PNP-Women and Children Protection Center, National Bureau of Investigation (NBI), CyberTIP, and NCR Anti-Trafficking Task Force.
- DILG Memorandum Circular 2024-094 issued on 10 July 2024 integrates OSAEC-CSAEM indicators in the Child Friend Local Governance Audit (CFLGA). All City and Municipality Mayors are encouraged to: enact local ordinance against OSAEC and CSAEM pursuant to Republic Act No. 11930; train LGU staff/social service workforce to implement special child protection laws, including OSAEC CSAEM; monitor the number of reports made by the LSWDO to whom a report of a suspected or alleged OSAEC/CSAEM incidents are made; include RA 11930 in the Local Code for children; and, include in the menu of PPAs the advocacy initiatives including celebrating the second Tuesday of February every year as Safer Internet Day for Children Philippines.
 - The DILG has also incorporated Barangay Council 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 DENR also issued a Memorandum for all Mines and Geosciences Bureau Regional Directors to instruct all contractors, permit holders, and permittees within their jurisdiction to conduct advocacy activities regarding Republic Act No. 9231 and programs and services against child labor.
- The Office of the City Government of Cotabato has issued Executive Order No. 128, Series of 2024 (*Creating the Cotabato City Council Against Child Labor (CCACL) to Protect and promote the Welfare of Children and Eliminate Child Labor*) which reiterated the definition of child labor and child and provides for the policy of the City Government of Cotabato to exert its utmost efforts to protect and promote the welfare of children in Cotabato City. The Order also created the CCACL composed of the City Mayor as Chairman, Secretary to the City Mayor as Vice Chairman, and whose members shall be composed of the heads of relevant city offices as well as a representative from the Ministry of Labor and Employment.
- The DOLE has issued Department Order No. 246. Series of 2024 (*Implementing Rules and Regulations of Republic Act No. 11996 or “An Act protecting the Welfare of Workers in the Movie and Television Industry”*) which reiterated the hours of work of a working child and the employment of a minor in the Movie and Television Industry.
- The National Youth Commission continues to support the PPACL through taking a multi-faceted approach by strengthening child protection policies in the Philippines as a Key Policy Agenda of the NYC for 2022-2024 and aligning the same to the Philippine Youth Development Plan 2023-2028.
- World Vision has supported development/amendments in the policies related to child labor interventions in Cagayan de Oro and Quezon City:
 - An Ordinance Providing for the Elimination of the Worst Forms of Child Labor and Affording Stronger Protection for the Working Child Against Child Abuse, Exploitation and Discrimination in Brgy 14, Bonbon, and Macasandig in Cagayan De Oro City
 - Quezon City Council Resolution No. SP-9730, S-2024 on World Day Against Child Labor Celebration, *A Resolution Urging All Government Institutions and Agencies, Barangays, Non-Government Organizations, People’s Organizations, and All Concerned Stakeholders of Quezon City to Observe and Join in the Celebration of World Day Against Child Labor Every Year in the Month of June.*

In addition, there is a pending bill in the House of Representatives, House Bill (HB) 10159 (*Magna Carta for Children*) which seeks to institutionalize a comprehensive

and robust framework for protecting, developing, and empowering Filipino children. Key features of the bill include the elimination of child labor and the designation of children as “zones of peace” in conflict areas. It also mandates establishing child-friendly spaces, strengthening institutions that serve children and ensuring access to education, healthcare, and legal aid. It likewise promotes positive parenting. It was approved by the House Committee on the Welfare of Children on 13 May 2024, and is now pending for second reading. A counterpart bill, Senate Bill 2612, has been referred to the Senate Joint Committees on Women, Children, Family Relations and Gender Equality, and Finance, where it has been awaiting deliberation since 19 March 2024.

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. Further, this Department Order provides for the conduct of Technical Advisory Visits (TAV) in micro establishments wherein special laws for working children is included in the Family and Child Welfare Module. From January to October 2024, three (3) establishments were found to have violated the Anti-Child Labor Law (RA 9231). These establishments were given a 20-day correction period, during which they complied by removing the child workers from their premises. After proper assessment, the children and their families were provided with either of the following services: rescued and received the money claims during inspection; became a beneficiary of the Special Program for Employment of Students for 20 days; parent/s became a TUPAD beneficiary for 10 days; and assisted in getting back to school through an Alternative Learning System.

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*”. Since 2023, the DENR found no mine worker under 18 years of age employed in large-scale mining companies/operations.

Criminal Law Enforcement

The PNP has conducted operations on combatting online sexual abuse and exploitation of children (OSAEC). From January to December 2024, the PNP has conducted a total of 148 OSAEC operations that resulted in the arrest of 64 suspects and rescue of 227 victims which was recorded in the PNP Crime Information Reporting and Analysis System (CIRAS), reflecting the significant efforts of the PNP in combating OSAEC.

The 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. For the period January to June, the NBI has arrested a total of 52 individuals involved in Online Child Exploitations and Child Trafficking while a total of 77 children were rescued.

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 October 2024, there were 2,805 working child permits issued to 2,788 children below 15 years of age engaged in public entertainment or information.

This brings to 86,254 the number of working child permits issued to 86,007 children by the DOLE since 1996.

Capacity-Building of Implementers

For 2024, 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 NCAACL:

- DSWD continued to provide technical assistance to its Field Offices on the implementation of the SHIELD Against Child Labor Program. Likewise, they have provided technical assistance to 85 LGUs on the implementation of said Program.
- DILG conducted HUNTAHAN sa Barangay: Optimizing Barangay-based NGOs Participation in Child Protection in the Barangay through the BCPC. This nationwide online orientation on the vital roles of CSOs in the LCPCs with a particular focus on their involvement in planning and monitoring projects for children was held in March 2024 via Facebook Live and Zoom. The orientation included discussion on various issues affecting children, including child labor. Additionally, it highlighted best practices from LGUs showcasing successful collaboration with CSOs in delivering services
- ILO's ARISE Project conducted several trainings on SCREAM Modules for 13 trainers and 473 duty bearers composed of educators, student teachers, and community members
- DOLE, in partnership with ChildFund Philippines through Project SPEAK, conducted the *Training on the Development of Information, Education, and Communication Materials (IEC) Materials on Child Labor* to capacitate the DOLE Regional and Provincial/Field Offices in the development of IEC materials on child labor and to develop effective IEC materials necessary to raise the awareness of stakeholders and the public on the situation of child laborers in the country, and gather support on initiatives to address child labor.

The training workshops were conducted virtually and face-to-face sessions in three (3) batches. A total of 113 Child Labor Prevention and Elimination Program (CLPEP) focal persons, DOLE information officers, and BWSC personnel were capacitated on the said training.

- DOLE conducted a *Training on Effective Secretariat* to capacitate the DOLE personnel at the national and its Regional Offices as well as representative from the Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (BARMM) on how to effectively and efficiently carry out their functions as Secretariat of their respective National/Regional Council/s Against Child Labor. A total of 50 personnel attended the training.
- The PNP WCPC conducted specialized course on investigation of crimes involving women and children for PNP WCPD officers, Basic Trafficking in Persons, Trafficking in Persons Specialist Investigators Course and Proper Handling of CICL And CAR seminar attended by WCPC and WCPD investigators
- The PNP also conducted Child Protection Policy Training of Trainers for WCPD investigator to provide clear guidelines and procedures for identifying reporting and addressing child protection issues and to ensure the consistency and fairness in dealing with sensitive matters
- The PNP WCPC likewise conducts capacity-building for police personnel nationwide on skills and competencies on handling child abuse cases and occurrence of violence against children.
- ALLWIES conducted orientations for its members regarding laws and policies on child labor.
- Philippines Against Child Trafficking conducted the webinar *Addressing Vulnerabilities and Building Empowered Communities to Combat Child Trafficking for Labor Exploitation* wherein child labor was discussed.
- World Vision conducted the following orientations and seminars:
 - Championing children participation: Orientation seminar for child representatives as pivotal members of the BCPC
 - Various awareness raising activity initiated by the Diocese of Novaliches, Home Owner's Association in Barangay Matandang Balara, Quezon City Public Employment Office, and Home Owner's Families Incorporated in Barangay Bagong Silangan

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 component under this outcome is 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 Program 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, SHIELD Program 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 Program 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.

DSWD Memorandum Circular No. 11, Series of 2022, was issued on 30 June 2022, to institutionalize the implementation of the SHIELD Against Child Labor project.

From January to June 2024, the following are the accomplishments of the SHIELD Program:

- **1,107** child laborers beneficiaries of the SHIELD Program
- **1,346** validated child laborers referred to other programs and services of DSWD
- **427** child laborers provided with other DSWD programs and services
- **314** child laborers referred to other agencies for provision of programs and services
- **474** child laborers provided with educational assistance who are already back to school
- **251** child laborers assessed to be out of child labor situation

Moreover, 85 local government units (LGUs) were provided with technical assistance to effectively implement the SHIELD Program and 18 LGUs have replicated the program.

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 and 2024, the DOLE focused on the monitoring of child laborers profiled from 2018 to 2022 in order to track their status and fast track the delivery of interventions to facilitate their removal from child labor.

From January to December 2024, the following are the accomplishments of the DOLE monitoring of child laborers

- **178,194** profiled child laborers monitored
- **177,646** were assisted through DOLE programs and by other agencies/organizations wherein:
 - 150,849 were further referred for assistance
 - 65,767 were provided with various services
- **85,945** 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.

From January to November 2024, a total of **13,590 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 (PAT) 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 November 2024, there were **9,622 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.

DOLE's 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 5th Anniversary celebration of the Institutionalization 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.

For the 1st quarter of 2024, in coordination with DOLE Regional Office No. 12, the information and service caravan was conducted on 19 March 2024 at KCC Mall General Santos City. A total of 100 profiled child laborers and 100 parents/guardians from Sarangani, General Santos City, and Municipality of Alamada received various services from partner agencies: school supplies, hygiene kits, and food packs from DOLE, Provincial Social Welfare and Development Office, ChildFund Philippines, and other partners; profiling for skills training of Technical Education and Skills Development Authority; counselling and story-telling sessions from Philippine National Police; and health education from Department of Health.

The second information and service caravan for 2024 was conducted as one of the highlights of the 2024 Culminating Activity of the celebration of the WDACL on 19 June 2024 at the Jose V. Yap Sports and Recreational Complex, San Jose, Tarlac. This activity was in coordination with DOLE Regional Office No. 3 wherein around 350 participants joined the event composed of profiled child laborers and their parents/guardians, members of the NCACL, representatives from the DOLE Central Office and the Regional and Provincial/Field Offices of DOLE RO 3, members and partners of the RCACL in Central Luzon, representatives from the local government units in Tarlac, and other local social partners. Salient features of the Republic Act No. 9231 and DOLE programs and services were discussed to the children and their parents/guardians. Participants also received free services and assistance from the DOLE, DOH, PSA, TESDA and local social partners such as the Occupational Health Nurses Association of the Philippines. It includes livelihood grants to the parents/guardians, gifts (e.g. educational supplies, grocery items, food packs, clothes, rice, and hygiene kits) through PAT for profiled child laborers, legal consultation services, medical and dental services, registration to the Philippine Identification System, free medicines, haircut, massage, and nail care.

In coordination with DOLE Regional Office No. 4-A, the 5th Anniversary celebration of the Institutionalization of the NCACL was conducted on 21 September 2024 at the Laguna Sports Complex Gymnasium, Sta. Cruz, Laguna. An information and service caravan was conducted that provided orientation on Republic Act No. 9231 and DOLE CLPEP, among others, and provision of various services to the profiled child laborers and their parents/guardians. The event was participated by around 500 participants composed of profiled child laborers from all the provinces in CALABARZON and their parents/guardians, members of the NCACL,

representatives from the DOLE Central Office and the Regional and Provincial Offices of DOLE Region 4-A, members and partners of the Regional Council Against Child Labor in CALABARZON, representatives from the local government units in Sta. Cruz, Laguna, as well as other local social partners. Gifts such as educational materials and health kits were provided to 100 profiled child laborers while livelihood assistance were provided to their parents/guardians. Various medical and dental check-ups, registration to the Philippine Identification System, massage, and skills demonstration for pizza making and 3D printing were also included in the activities.

For the 4th quarter, the DOLE, together with partners, conducted the information and service caravan at Don Leopoldo Sison Convention Center in Alaminos, Pangasinan, in coordination with DOLE Regional Office No. 1 on 26 November 2024. Around 600 participants attended the information and service caravan composed of 150 child laborers and their parents/guardians, members and partners of the RCACL, and other local social partners. Activities during the caravan were: ceremonial awarding of livelihood assistance under the DOLE Integrated Livelihood Program; gift-giving for the former child laborers from several local social partners; interactive activities for the children; and, provision of various social services. Among the social services provided were cash assistance from the DSWD. medical services, vaccination services, pampering services, PhilSys registration, consultation on civil registration, mobile clearance, and mobile kusina.

Further there were informational booths for DOLE programs such as PESO Employment Services (PES), Special Program for the Employment of Students (SPES), Government Internship Program (GIP), JobStart, Tulong Panghanapbuhay sa Ating Disadvantaged Workers (TUPAD), DILP, CLPEP, and Kasambahay, were also situated to educate interested attendees on the available support and interventions.

The child laborers also enjoyed various games, raffle draws, mascots, and shows during the activity.

TESDA’s Skills Training

The Technical Education and Skills Development Authority as part of its commitment to the implementation of the PPACL, has included in their target the provision of skills training for 32 parents/guardians/older siblings of child laborers for each region. From January to December 2024, a total of 1,264 beneficiaries were enrolled and have graduated from various skills training. A total of 139 beneficiaries were assessed of which 136 were certified. Most of the skills training conducted are short programs/competencies that do not require assessment and certification.

REGION	ENROLLED	GRADUATES	ASSESSED	CERTIFIED
NCR	37	37	-	-
CAR	34	34	16	16

I	31	31	-	-
II	69	69	21	21
III	56	56	-	-
IV-A	82	82	-	-
IV-B	158	158	14	12
V	28	28	-	-
VI	10	10	-	-
VII	43	43	10	10
VIII	25	25	25	25
IX	75	75	-	-
V	16	16	14	13
XI	446	446	39	39
XII	43	43	-	-
Caraga	111	111	-	-
TOTAL	1,264	1,264	139	136

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 2024 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 Estimates on Child Labor

The Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA) published the Special Release on Working Children Situation on 20 November 2024. The report showed a decrease in the number of child laborers in 2023 compared with data from 2022 and 2021. Based on the report, 62% or 678 thousand of the estimated 1.09 million working children aged 5 to 17 years old in 2023 are engaged in child labor. 62.1% (421,038) are male children while 37.9% (256,962) are female children. Across age groups, child laborers aged 15 to 17 years old account for the largest share of working children in child labor at 74.4% (504,432) while child laborers aged 5 to 14 years old are at 25.6% (173,568). By broad industry group, the agriculture sector continued to account for the largest share of child laborers at 65.3%, followed by the services sector at 30.7% and the industry sector at 4.0%. Attached as Annex is the Special Release for reference.

Child Labor Knowledge Sharing System (CLKSS)

The Batang Malaya CLKSS website accessible at <https://batangmalaya.ph>, 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 website was officially launched in June 2023 during the 2023 WDACL celebration.

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 in 2023. For 2024, two (2) reports have been received and validated, and 11 queries on various concerns on child labor has been responded by DOLE.

Quick links of NCACL partners have also been inserted in the CLKSS website. As of 2024, it has garnered 28,153 views and 12,386 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 World Vision Development Foundation, Inc. (World Vision), through their Project Against Child Exploitation (Project ACE), has developed the Training Module on “Prevention, Detection, Case Handling and Rescue of Victims of Worst Forms of Child Labor”. This Training Module was crafted based on the learnings from the four (4) batches of training of Labor Inspectors, Child Labor Prevention and Elimination Program focal persons, and other stakeholders on prevention, detection, case handling and rescue of victims of worst forms of child labor in the Philippines conducted in partnership with the DOLE from 2021 to 2022.

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 2024, the DSWD provided technical assistance to its Field Offices, specifically by conducting coaching and mentoring sessions on the CLLRS on 13-15 March 2024 and roll-out of the CLLRS to the LGUs in Region X on 13-14 April 2024.

Development of PPACL Monitoring and Evaluation Framework

The BWSC, as Secretariat of the NCACL, is collaborating with the ILO through “*Strengthening freedom of association and action against child labour in the Philippines*” towards the development of the PPACL Monitoring and Evaluation Framework. As such, professional services of a Consultant will be engaged for this undertaking. The NCACL Knowledge Management, Monitoring, and Evaluation Technical Working Group is currently working on finalizing the Terms of Reference for the hiring of a Consultant.

Statistical Framework on Children

The PSA, with support from UNICEF, spearheaded the conduct of the Validation Workshop of the Statistical Framework on Children. The Statistical Framework on Children developed by the PSA aims to serve as a foundational reference for the design and implementation of a national strategy for the development of children statistics in the country. It includes indicators centered on the child’s survival,

development, protection, participation, and governance. It also includes an indicator on child labor.

Situational Analysis of Children

UNICEF, in collaboration with the Council for the Welfare of Children, National Economic and Development Authority, and Philippine Statistics Authority, launched the Virtual Situational Analysis of Children in the Philippines on 21 October 2024. The Virtual SitAn, accessible through www.situationofchildren.org/ph, is a web-based platform designed to serve as a central hub for exchanging data, knowledge, and evidence on children, focusing on 25 sub-dimensions of child rights, including the right to protection from violence, abuse, exploitation, neglect, and harmful practices such as child labor.

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, development 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 awareness of the public and private sector on child labor
- Develop the Monitoring and Evaluation Framework
- Expand network and collaborate with partners from the different sectors for a whole-of-society approach on addressing child labor