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ANNUAL REPORT 2016

unicef 
for every child

Dear Friends and Partners,

Forty-one million children make up 40 per cent of the Philippines' population of 103 million.

And yet for many Filipino children, mere survival is a challenge. About a third of these children or 14 million, live in poverty. Their families lack the minimum monthly income of P 9,064 for acquiring both essential food and non-food needs so children can grow up in a safe, healthy and enabling environment.

UNICEF's mission is to protect the rights and well-being of all children because each child, no matter who, where, and what age they are, have a right to enjoy the same opportunities in life. This means being able to go to school, eat healthy meals, seek medical help when needed, and grow up in nurturing and caring families and communities.

In order to realize this for children, UNICEF tirelessly works with the government on enacting and improving policies, budgets and laws to give children a better chance at having a good start in life. UNICEF aims to affect and improve not just a few children's lives, but the lives of ALL children, because having an education, being able to see a doctor when needed, and living in safe communities, are rights, not privileges, that every child should enjoy.

It is a big dream, but UNICEF shares this dream with many others. We work with the government, businesses, the academe, faith-based groups, individuals and other development partners to make the Philippines a better place for children.

And we cannot do this without **YOUR HELP**. In this Annual Report for 2016, we are

proud to report and share with you our key achievements.

In 2016, UNICEF worked with armed groups to disengage hundreds of children in Mindanao. Most of these children are now back in school. To improve children's health, we also worked to make communities open-defecation free so children can enjoy better health in their communities. UNICEF also worked with Philhealth to expand medical insurance coverage for premature babies, as well as including children with disabilities in a new insurance package that covers diagnosis, therapy as well as assistive devices.

These are only a few of UNICEF's accomplishments in 2016, made possible through your support.

We have made progress in spite of formidable challenges. Together, in the years to come, we can do so much more. Thank you for your generous support!

With gratitude,



A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Lotta Sylwander', written in a cursive style.

Lotta Sylwander
Country Representative
UNICEF Philippines



EDUCATION

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Early learning permanently strengthens children's ability to learn, prepares them better for school, and lowers the chances that they will repeat or drop out. But in the Philippines, nearly one in four Grade 1 pupils have not benefitted from early childhood education. UNICEF's Education Programme is working to expand access to quality Early Childhood Care and Development (ECCD) and basic education, and help children become ready for school before they enter Grade 1.

- With the Department of Education (DepED), UNICEF did a situational analysis of children who tend to be left behind in schooling, such as children who have disabilities, are out-of-school, belong to indigenous communities or live in remote areas. The analysis showed that children skip school mainly because of (1) lack of personal interest, (2) illness or disability, and (3) parent's belief that the child is too young to go to school. The results were used as basis for the DepED's strategic plan for disadvantaged learners.
- UNICEF supported the DepED and 36 local government units (LGUs) all over the country in strengthening the ECCD-Kinder-Primary Education Link through the mapping of all children in the *barangay* (village) and by training teachers on age-appropriate strategies, play-based learning and the ECCD checklist for monitoring child development. The initiative aims to ease the transition of 0 to 8-year-old children, especially those in hard-to-reach areas, to pre-school, kindergarten and elementary school. The mapping of children helped increase the access of about 6,000 3 to 5-year-old children to ECCD and kindergarten services.
- As part of the national programme, parenting education sessions of the government improved parental beliefs and attitudes towards ECCD and schooling which in turn boosted parents' involvement in their children's holistic growth and development. The mapping of all children in the *barangay* (village) helped increase the access of about 6,000 3 to 5-year-old children to ECCD and kindergarten services.

In 2015, 2,700 Filipino women died giving birth. Between 1990 and 2015, the death rate of mothers declined by 25 per cent, far from the Philippines' Millennium Development Goal of 75 per cent. Moreover, 89 Filipino children under the age of 5 die every day due to poor health. UNICEF assistance aims to lower the death rate of children and mothers, and improve the health and nutrition status of children and women.

- UNICEF helped the government formulate the Philippine Plan of Action for Nutrition. A study led by UNICEF revealed that the country's economy loses USD 4 billion every year because of malnutrition. The study formed the basis for the National Nutrition Council's (NNC) budget allocation to 15 Scalable Nutrition Actions from 2017 to 2022.
- In Zamboanga City and 27 LGUs hit by conflict in the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (ARMM), more than 800 severely malnourished children received life-saving care, more than 25,000 children received Vitamin A, and 17,562 pregnant and breastfeeding women were advised on the best way to feed babies.
- UNICEF and the World Health Organization mobilized resources for the project to end tetanus, which can kill mothers and newborn babies fast by attacking the central nervous system. The project reached about 90 per cent of its vaccination target of 300,000 women of reproductive age in the ARMM and Isabela City.



**HEALTH &
NUTRITION**



SOCIAL INCLUSION & CHILD POVERTY

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About 35 per cent of all Filipino children, or more than 14 million, live in poverty. Millions of children have no access to sanitary toilets, safe water or electricity at home. UNICEF is helping in the formulation of development strategies, plans and budgets that guide policies to reduce child poverty and strengthen social services and governance.

- The government endorsed two groundbreaking, UNICEF-supported, health insurance packages that have a nationwide coverage. The first covers healthcare and rehabilitation services for 5 million children with disabilities. UNICEF established service delivery networks and prepared communication plans to address stigma against these children. The second is a package for families to access care for babies suffering from preterm and low-birth-weight complications. This package can reach 300,000 premature and small newborns every year.
- UNICEF and the Department of Social Welfare and Development contributed to the Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR) of the new Children's Emergency Relief and Protection Act. The law aims to protect the basic rights of children in activities before, during and after emergencies. UNICEF supported a national consultation to raise awareness of the contents of the Act and to ensure that the final IRR would meet standards in humanitarian response.
- The first 1,000 days of a child – from the mother's womb to the second birthday – is a critical period of physical development that lays the foundation of lifelong health. With government and NGO partners, UNICEF advocated for First 1,000 Days draft bills among members of the Senate and House of Representatives. The bills call for better funding in health and nutrition to help families out of poverty. The government allotted USD75 million to the NNC for the First 1,000 Days initiative in 10 focus provinces. UNICEF helped NNC in drawing up guidelines and a monitoring system.

More than 4 million Filipino children lack access to clean drinking water, and about 4 million have no access to sanitary toilets. Unsafe water and poor sanitation and hygiene practices can cause waterborne illnesses such as diarrhea and intestinal worm infection. UNICEF's WASH programme aims to improve children's health and boost their ability to do well in school by preventing these illnesses.

- A national WASH in Schools Policy was approved after two years of UNICEF advocacy and technical support. It will cover early learning centres and schools, and promote cleanliness in school grounds and teaching students proper hygiene and sanitation. As a result of direct UNICEF support, 564 schools and day care centres started practicing daily student group hand-washing in 2016. In addition, one provincial government and 25 municipal LGUs began extending financial support to WASH in Early Childhood Care and Development (ECCD).
- The mentoring and training of six Provincial WASH Committees resulted in higher WASH budgets and plans to help them raise their sanitation status. Through UNICEF support, 33 barangays (villages) successfully ended open defecation (Grade 1) and are moving towards having upgraded sanitation facilities for sustainable sanitation (Grade 2). Moreover, in Typhoon Haiyan-affected areas, 98,098 people started having access to safe drinking water, and 186 barangays reached Grade 1 status. A clean environment helps prevent sickness, especially in children.
- In emergency situations in Mindanao, 9,219 people were given access to safe water, adequate sanitation facilities and proper hygiene practices. In temporary sites in Zamboanga, 8,525 people received hygiene supplies such as soaps and sanitary pads.



**WATER, SANITATION
& HYGIENE (WASH)**

A photograph showing a group of children holding hands in a circle outdoors. The children are wearing casual clothing like t-shirts and shorts. The background is a grassy area with some buildings and trees. The image is partially obscured by an orange banner at the bottom left containing the text 'CHILD PROTECTION'.

CHILD PROTECTION

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One in three Filipino children have experienced physical violence; three in five have endured psychological violence such as verbal abuse, threats or neglect; and one in five suffered sexual violence while growing up. UNICEF's Child Protection Programme addresses child safety issues and the prevention of abuse, violence and neglect.

- UNICEF led the first-ever National Baseline Study on Violence against Children (VAC) and a Systematic Literature Review on VAC. The data provided better understanding of the occurrence and drivers of all forms of violence. Gender analysis gave inputs into the drafting of the Philippine Plan of Action to end Violence Against Children. The initiatives increased the dialogue on VAC prevention and response among stakeholders.
- In line with the global strategy to protect children online, UNICEF focused on multi-sectoral coordination and training. A total of 117 police officers were trained on computer-facilitated crimes against children so they could investigate and prosecute criminals, and protect children from online risks.
- UNICEF gave technical advice to the DepED and Stairway Foundation in drafting CyberSafe modules for use. Awareness raising on the risks and opportunities of the Internet reached more than 11,000 parents and children. Community-based child protection systems were also set up.
- UNICEF expanded its network of child online protection partners to include internet service providers, cable networks and telecommunications companies. The group agreed to strengthen efforts against online exploitation of children, including customized training.

The Philippines is one of the world's most disaster-prone countries in the world, according to a 2015 UN report. It has a high incidence of emergencies that distress thousands of children every year. It has also suffered from decades-long conflict between armed groups. This setting makes UNICEF's humanitarian and peace-building assistance a major part of its Country Programme.

- In 2016, UNICEF responded to four humanitarian situations: Super Typhoon Haima, fighting in Maguindanao Province, diarrheal outbreak in Samar Province and drought in Mindanao. In these four situations, 73 cases of grave child rights violation were reported, of which 82 per cent were confirmed and responded to.
- UNICEF distributed water kits and disinfectants to 12,360 victims of Typhoon Lawin, including children; hygiene supplies to 5,775 people; and materials for toilet repair to 3,500 people. 3,000 children benefited from school supplies and materials.
- With the National Youth Commission, UNICEF celebrated the National Day for Youth in Climate Action through a big concert in Manila and school-based and awareness-raising activities nationwide.
- Under the UN-Moro Islamic Liberation Front Action Plan, UNICEF facilitated the release of hundreds of child soldiers, and conducted advocacy that reached 4,856 community members, including children. Psychosocial support was given to 4,075 conflict-affected and displaced children in evacuation centres.
- In Mindanao, 13,785 teenagers affected by armed conflict learned life skills. For National Peace Month, UNICEF trained 588 adolescents to promote peace in their communities.



**EMERGENCIES,
DISASTER RISK REDUCTION &
PEACE BUILDING**



HIV & AIDS PREVENTION

The Philippines has the world's fastest-growing HIV epidemic, which is hitting the youth the hardest. From 2011 to 2015, newly diagnosed HIV cases jumped 230 per cent among Filipinos 15-19 years old. UNICEF assistance aims to prevent HIV and AIDS infection, especially among young Filipinos.

- UNICEF conducted with the Department of Health (DOH) a situational analysis of adolescents at risk of HIV. The analysis found that these adolescents (1) start engaging

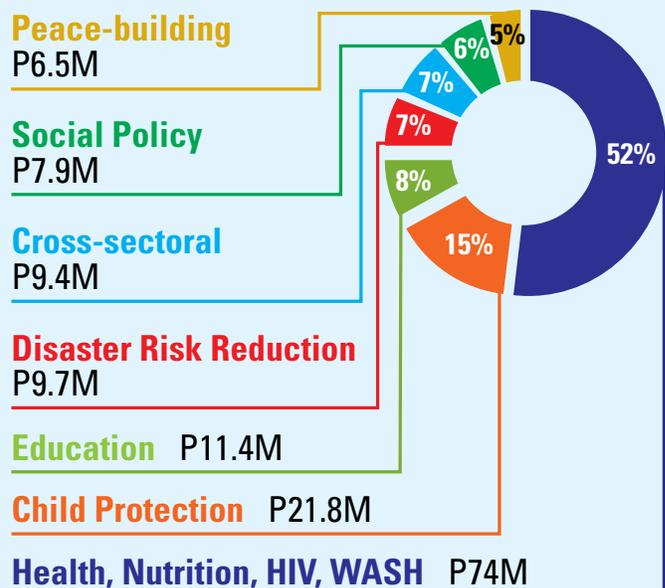
in high-risk behaviours (ex. first sex, first drug use) between the ages of 16 and 20; (2) have low access to HIV services; and (3) have low knowledge of HIV and self-perceived risk of contracting HIV.

- A partnership between the DOH and UNICEF to quicken or speed up HIV response by using evidence resulted in greater commitment and funding from LGUs for programme on teenage health.
- Advocacy led to the signing of agreements in Zamboanga City and Iloilo City which offer minors at risk of HIV access to life-saving information and services. UNICEF's focus on improving service coverage and outreach boosted the average number of adolescents accessing services (ex. HIV testing, medical treatment) from three clients to 83 clients per month in the facilities of UNICEF partners in Zamboanga and Iloilo.

Here's what UNICEF has done with your support

UNICEF Philippines Programme Funds Utilization (2016) total: P141.1M

In 2016, UNICEF Philippines improved children's survival, development, health and safety by providing life-saving supplies and technical expertise to government and NGO partners in the areas of education, health & nutrition, water and sanitation, child protection, peacebuilding, disaster risk reduction, HIV/AIDS prevention, and emergency response.



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