



Philippine Plan of Action to **End**
Violence Against Children
(PPAEVAC)



Council for
the Welfare
of Children

In Partnership with:

unicef  for every child

**Philippine Plan of Action to End
Violence against Children**

Philippine Plan of Action to End Violence against Children

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Preface

One of the basic child's rights is to be given protection against abuse, danger and violence. The Philippines, for so long a time, has been hard-pressed in committing efforts to eradicate violence against children. The Philippine Plan to End Violence against Children (PPAEVAC) 2017-2022 is a translation of the continued efforts and commitments of the Philippine government in eliminating violence against children.

The PPAEVAC concurs to the findings of the National Baseline Study on Violence against Children (NBS-VAC), a study commissioned through the efforts of the Council for the Welfare of Children (CWC) and the National Steering Committee on National Baseline Study on Violence against Children (NSC on NBS-VAC). Results of the study show the high overall prevalence of violence against Filipino children and youth, presence of corporal punishment and verbal abuse in Filipino families, high prevalence of violence in all forms to LGBT children and youth, among many other types of violence committed against our children. Despite all these, the study noted that there is low disclosure and reporting of these acts of violence.

In order to effectively implement the recommendations of the NBS-VAC, the PPAEVAC, a multi-sectoral plan of action, was developed through consultative processes with government agencies and institutions, local and international non-governmental organizations (NGOs), civil society organizations (CSOs), faith-based organizations (FBOs), professional groups, the academe, private sector, parents, and children.

Challenges to address violence against children remain a salient issue in the Philippines. The PPAEVAC, however, serves as the torch that will bring hope to finally end violence against our Filipino children. Through our collaborative efforts towards the fulfillment of the target goals of the PPAEVAC, we will finally achieve a violence-free society for, by, and with the children. Together as one, we must end violence against children!

Board Resolution

Republic of the Philippines
COUNCIL FOR THE WELFARE OF CHILDREN
No. 10 Apo Street, Sta. Mesa Heights
1114 Quezon City

COUNCIL BOARD RESOLUTION NO. 1
Series of 2017

A RESOLUTION ADOPTING THE PHILIPPINE NATIONAL PLAN OF ACTION TO End VIOLENCE AGAINST CHILDREN (PPAEVAC)

WHEREAS, the National Baseline Study on Violence Against Children (NBSVAC) was conducted in 2015 and results was launched in 2016;

WHEREAS, based on the results of the baseline study, a Philippine Plan of Action to End Violence Against Children (PPAEVAC) was formulated and is a multisectoral road map towards VAC reduction; reflects government's recognition of child rights; rights-based, equity-focused, results-oriented, and gender-responsive; addresses specific SDG targets and is consistent with "Child 21" and the Philippines' National Plan of Action on Children;

WHEREAS, 3 cluster consultations (Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao) which includes the children and one national consultation were conducted to gather inputs for the said plan;

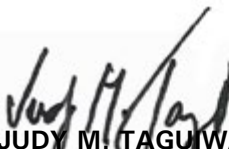
WHEREAS, the plan brought together the commitments of all stakeholders and harmonizes their plans into a collective whole; addressed the factors that cause VAC as guided by the principles of RBM and ToC; approached VAC in a comprehensive fashion as VAC is a multi-faceted issue; and will serve as a tool for decision makers in programming, policy adjustments, research, advocacy, and fundraising.


WHEREAS, the plan was initially presented to the Board during its November 8, 2016 meeting but suggestions and areas for enhancements were forwarded specifically on being strategic and with focussed interventions;

WHEREAS, to respond to the Board suggestions, a validation/enhancement workshop was conducted.


NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED AS IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED that the Board approves and adopts the Philippine Plan of Action to End Violence Against Children (PPAEVAC) as presented during the first special Board meeting on 15 February 2017;

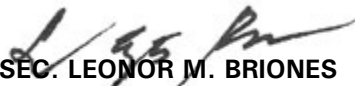
Adopted this ____ day of _____ 2017, Quezon City.



SEC. JUDY M. TAGUWALO
Chairperson, CWC Board
Department of Social Welfare and Development

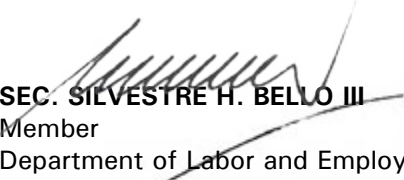


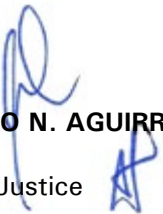
Republic of the Philippines
COUNCIL FOR THE WELFARE OF CHILDREN
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1114 Quezon City



SEC. PAULYN JEAN ROSELL-UBIAL
Member
Department of Health *hp*

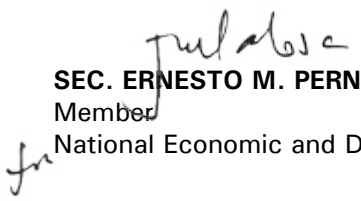

SEC. LEONOR M. BRIONES
Member
Department of Education *sm*

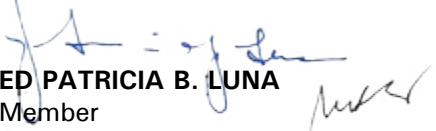

SEC. ISMAEL D. SUENO
Member
Department of the Interior and Local Government


SEC. SILVESTRE H. BELLO III
Member
Department of Labor and Employment



SEC. VITALIANO N. AGUIRRE II
Member
Department of Justice *A*


SEC. EMMANUEL F. PIÑOL
Member
Department of Agriculture


SEC. ERNESTO M. PERNIA
Member
National Economic and Development Authority *for*


ED PATRICIA B. LUNA
Member
Council for the Welfare of Children
Secretariat


ASEC. MARIA-BERNARDITA T. FLORES
Member
Executive Director, National Nutrition Council


ROSE JADE EUGENIE S. DELGADO
Member
Youth Representative





MALACAÑAN PALACE
MANILA



My warmest greetings to the Council for the Welfare of Children (CWC) as it publishes the Philippine Plan of Action to End Violence Against Children (PPAEVAC).

This publication serves as a guide for the Council, various government agencies, sectoral groups and the entire society towards reducing cases of violence involving the youth. I laud the CWC for pursuing initiatives that augment the government's effort to uphold the rights and promote the welfare of Filipino children.

May the PPAEVAC be fully realized as we respond to our children's need for protection, care and development. I hope that this project will complement other programs that aim to benefit our young citizens who, in the future, will also be significant contributors in nation-building.

As we take on the challenge of establishing real change, it is important to ensure that everyone gets the social services that he or she deserves. Our children, being the most vulnerable members of our populace, needs us most in these trying times. Let us work together to secure their well-being and to allow them to explore the world with confidence, self-respect and dignity.

Congratulations on the Council's success and more power.

RODRIGO ROA DUTERTE
President of the Philippines



On behalf of the national leadership of the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD), I congratulate the Council for the Welfare of Children for finalizing the Philippine Plan of Action to End Violence Against Children (PPA EVAC)! Congratulations all agencies that participated in the crafting of this very important document!

The PPAEVAC should be supported and popularized because it can serve as an effective blueprint to address the proliferation of various types of violence against children, including sexual abuse and exploitation. The efforts of the CWC and its partners to document and monitor incidents of child abuse and CWC and its partners to document and monitor incidents of child abuse and other forms of violence against children are laudable. All government agencies and networks should be active and monitor the safety and welfare of Filipino children.

The PPAEVAC 2017-2012 serves as the Philippine government's commitment and contribution to attain the ASEAN Regional Plan of Action on the Elimination of Violence against Children 2015-2025. The national plan covers the following areas of intervention which are also present in the regional Plan of Action prevention; protection; response and support services; data collection; coordination, monitoring and evaluation; and partnership.

The Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) calls on our units to take a more pro-active role in reporting cases of violence against children. More importantly, we want to promote a mindset among Filipinos that violence against children in whatever form is wrong and should not be tolerated in a society that claims to have respect for children's rights.

We cannot be indifferent to cases of violence against children. We must all the more stand on their behalf because in many cases, those who should be protecting them have failed them; or even more tragically, they are the perpetrators of exploitation and violence. As we always tell the public through our various social media accounts, incidents of violence against children including sexual exploitation and child labor may be reported to the DSWD barangay offices, the police, or other concerned agencies or non-governmental organizations working on children's welfare. We also make it known that children themselves may file the complaint, or on their behalf, their parents, guardians, relatives, social workers, the barangay chairperson, or at least three concerned citizens may do so.

Let us unite behind this collective vision: no child should be a victim of violence, abuse and exploitation. We must give our support to projects towards prevention of violence, as well as those that aim to assist children who have been subjected to cruelty and violence. It is also very important to increase the knowledge and awareness on children's rights and violence against children among children themselves, parents, and those who work in close proximity with children. Let us collectively work hand in hand to ensure that the contents of PPA EVAC are implemented!


JUDY M. TAGUIWALO
DSWD Secretary



On behalf of the **Council for the Welfare of Children (CWC)** Secretariat, I would like to congratulate everyone involved in the success of the **Philippine Plan of Action to End Violence Against Children (PPAEVAC)**. The spirit of partnership among national and local governments and NGOs working for children is getting stronger and better throughout these years, working to reach a common goal: *to eliminate, if not end, violence against children.*

The **PPAEVAC** is a multi-sectoral road map, blueprint, or comprehensive guide towards the goal of reducing the prevalence of VAC in the Philippines. It is considered as part of the government's commitment to build a safe, caring, protective society for children that is free from violence. Further, the PPAEVAC reflects the government's recognition of the rights of children to protection from violence based on the Convention on the rights of the Child and relevant Philippine Laws. The Plan is consistent with "Child 21" or the "Philippines National Strategic Framework for Plan Development for Children, 2000-2025" and the 5 year National Plan of Action for Children (NPAC). The Plan specifically addresses 3 targets from the **Sustainable Development Goals, SDG 5.2 and SDG 16.1 and 16.2**, which makes the Plan relevant because it will contribute to the government's fulfilment of its obligation to the SDG.

By working together to end VAC in the country, we are all working towards the fulfilment of a "**Child-Friendly Philippines: A Caring and Protective Society for, by and with Children**". May this document serve as the guide for our plans to finally put an end to violence against children.

Again, congratulations and mabuhay!


PATRICIA B. LUNA
Executive Director



My congratulations to the Council for the Welfare of Children and the team behind the formulation of the Philippine Plan of Action to End Violence Against Children (PPAEVAC). The Department of Education recognizes the efforts of the various government, non-government, and civil society organizations in coming up with a consolidated plan to address the persistent issue that is violence against children.

The existence of this plan only shows that while it is challenging to protect children from all forms of violence, it is not altogether impossible. Indeed, if everyone can come together, we can strategically target the risk factors and tackle violence against children before it occurs. We are now re-orienting our perspectives and formulating strategies towards prevention.

The results presented in the National Baseline Study on Violence Against Children are alarming. It is reported that 4 in 5 of children (80% of respondents) have experienced violence in any form, whether in the home, school, community, cyberspace, or during dating. In schools, 14% have experienced physical violence, the most common form of which is corporal punishment committed by a teacher or an adult in the school. The incidence of peer violence is also high. Sixty-five (65%) percent of children surveyed have experienced bullying. Other forms of violence are cyberbullying and sexualized content. Increasingly, more male students are becoming victims of sexual violence. Despite the general belief that girl-children are more at-risk, the study reveals that boys are as vulnerable to different forms of sexual abuse as girls. Given these data, disclosures of abuse are reported to be low. When children chose to disclose, they are more likely to do so to their teachers. Teachers might be the ones whom children approach because they spend most of their time in schools.

Given this, we recognize that schools should be safe spaces for children to learn and develop essential life skills. The Department is mandated to ensure that all schools and learning institutions are conducive to the education of the child. Thus, it is the task of school administrators, teachers, guidance counselors, and non-teaching personnel to promote the rights of children, and uphold their best interest. The Child Protection Policy of the Department (D.O. 40, s. 2012) provides special protection for all children against all forms of violence and other circumstances prejudicial to their development.

The Department commits to adopt and implement the PPAEVAC to ensure the protection of children in schools. It is our hope that by educating children, parents, and the community, we will help end the cycle of violence.


LEONOR MAGTOLIS BRIONES
DepED Secretary



The Department of Interior and Local Government (DILG) as a regular member of the Council for the Welfare of Children (CWC) and the Sub-Committee on the National Baseline Study on Violence Against Children (NBS-VAC) is proud to be one of the key participants in the crafting of this **National Plan of Action to End Violence Against Children (NPAEVAC) for 2017-2022**.

Kudos to the CWC and the team that conducted the National Baseline Study on Violence Against Children through the able support of the United Nations Children Emergency Fund (UNICEF) and participating local government units.

Children are very prone to physical, mental, sexual, emotional and other forms of abuses in their environs, even right at their very own home. There are millions of toddlers, young and out-of-school children throughout the country who are in dire need of assistance in order to break free from poverty, violence, crime and exploitation.

We are one with the entire country in responding to the mandate of building a safe, caring, protective and nurturing environment for our young Filipino children through this NPAEVAC, a set of government's intervention to combat violence against children at the very core.

With this publication further ignite the spirit of dedication and meaningful implementation of the national plan of action to create gender-responsive, child-sensitive, and results-oriented programs and projects that are geared towards helping the most vulnerable children in our society.

ISMAEL D. SUENO
DILG Secretary



My warm greetings to all fellow advocates of the right of children.

It has often been said that children are our future. Thus, it becomes critical that government commit to foster an enabling environment that respects, protects, and fulfills the right of children to attain their full potential as responsible citizens.

The Philippine Plan of Action to End Violence Against Children is the culmination of the multi-sectoral efforts to promote the continuing decrease in the incidence of violence against children in the country. It brings together the aspirations of the different sectors of society, recognizing that this issue is a multi-faceted one that requires a multi-sectoral, multidisciplinary approach to achieve our goals. In the same way, the health problems our country face also require solutions that are multi-sectoral and the support from different stakeholders.

Therefore, the call for us now in the Department of Health is to refocus our goals and to channel our resources and energy towards achieving a health system we aspire which offers financial protection and responsiveness for the best possible outcomes with no disparity.

This is what the Philippine Health Agenda would like to champion. In particular, we would like to guarantee services that provide care for all life stages, ensure that these services are accessible in functional service delivery networks, sustainably finance these through universal health insurance, and consequently, also guarantee health for all Filipinos.

We would like to achieve these guarantees through our strategy we call A-C-H-I-E-V-E.

- A** - Advance primary care and quality
- C** - Cover all Filipinos against financial health risk
- H** - Harness the power of strategic health human resource
- I** - Invest in digital health and data for decision-making
- E** - Enforce standards, accountability and transparency
- V** - Value patients and respect clients
- E** - Elicit multi-sector, multi-stakeholder support for health

The changes we want will need much work and support of not just the entire health sector, but of all sectors in society. We hope to improve the quality of environments from home to work and school, creating truly healthy spaces for everyone. Let us work hand in hand so that every Filipino child can achieve their full potential. All for Health towards Health for All!

Congratulations and *mabuhay!*


PAULYN JEAN B. ROSELL-UBIAL, MD, MPH, CESO II
Secretary of Health



Greetings!

The protection of the rights of children enshrined under the 1987 Constitution and in the Convention of the Rights of the Child adopted by the UN General Assembly are the moving force for the creation of the Council for the Welfare of Children hand in hand with the Committee of Special Protection of Children.

The goal is to harmonize and coordinate efforts towards the managing limited resources and stronger impact in project implementation on child protection. Through concerted and sustained efforts of the different sectors in the government, we can move forward in this task of protecting children from various forms of abuse, violence and exploitation.

At this juncture, I would like to extend congratulations to the CWC for its successful task of coming up with the Plan of Action to End Violence Against Children (PPAEVAC).

Protection should not be limited to those who are victims but should include those who are considered child offenders. It is for the best interest of the child taken into consideration for every program and policy created.

Together, hand in hand we can be the voice of these children, who in society are often ignore and whose call are taken for granted. Let us always bear in mind that these children are the future of our nation.


REYNANTE B. ORCEO
Undersecretary



UNICEF congratulates the Council for the Welfare of Children and the Steering Committee of the first-ever National Baseline Study on Violence Against Children (NBS-VAC) for the very successful launch of the study's results in December 2016; as well as for the subsequent development of the Philippine Plan of Action to End VAC in the country.

This is a huge milestone not only in our continuous work to protect the life, health, safety and dignity of Filipino children; but also in UNICEF's active collaboration with and support for all the work done by various government agencies in addressing this alarming issue.

It is certainly of deep concern that so many forms of violence pervade and harm the lives of Filipino children across all settings, committed by people they trust – especially at home and in communities where they should thrive in a healthy environment. Evidence generated in the NBS-VAC also demonstrated the need for expressed high-level government commitment and multi-sectoral partner support to implement the national Plan of Action.

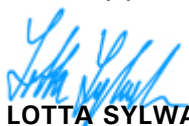
Thus, we are very happy to see the outcome of highly collaborative efforts of government and civil society partners in putting together the PPAEVAC; and taking considerable account of the results of the 4th Philippine National Children's Consultation in May 2016. Jointly hosted by UNICEF and CWC, it was encouraging for us to see over 200 child representatives from across the country and different sectors discuss their opinions and experiences on VAC at a community level. We want our children and youth to be active agents of the discussion and in coming up with solutions to end violence.

Finally, this Plan of Action is closely aligned with the Philippine government's commitment to the UN sustainable development goals (SDGs), in which VAC is a worldwide priority agenda to "end abuse, exploitation, trafficking and all forms of violence and torture against children (SDG 16.2)." Clearly the Philippines is taking this leap forward in the right direction, to address and respond to the need of an integrated approach in ending violence; including parents and teachers, national agencies, local governments and youth associations.

Again, my congratulations to the National Steering Committee chaired by CWC, with the support of the Department of Social Welfare and Development, Department of Education, Department of Health, Department of Justice; and NGO partners ChildFund, Child Protection Network, the Consuelo Foundation, Open Hearts Foundation, Parenting Foundation of the Philippines, Plan International, Save the Children, UP-Manila National Institute of Health, the World Health Organization and World Vision.

We look forward to continue working with our partners in the Philippine government, civil society and local communities in implementing this Plan of Action and see an end to all forms of violence against our children.

Mabuhay po kayong lahat, at ipagpatuloy natin ang positibong pangangalaga sa ating kabataang Pilipino!



LOTTA SYLWANDER
Representative
UNICEF Philippines



There is boldness in this proposal. The Philippine Plan of Action to End Violence Against Children (PPAEVAC) of the Republic of the Philippines (2017-2022) is many things at once: far reaching, vast in scope, introspective, result-oriented, and faithful.


It has to be, as the National Baseline Study on Violence Against Children (NBS VAC) unearthed some chilling findings: two of three children have experienced physical abuse, while three out of five have been exposed to psychological violence. How many of our children have experienced both, for prolonged periods of time? How many of these children do you know? How many do we not know?

I applaud the directive that the Council of the Welfare of Children has taken, in uniting multiple entities such as the Local Government Units (LGU), Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs), Civil Society Organizations (CSOs), Faith-Based Organizations (FBOs), and the academe. However, the input given by contributing children and their respective parents/families regarding this matter is perhaps the most tantamount, as it sheds a clearer light on how to tackle this problem. The PPAEVAC represents one of the Philippines' strongest moves to date to address the longstanding phenomenon of violence against children in the household.

The participation of numerous government offices such as the Department of Health (DOH), Department of Interior and Local Government (DILG), Department of Education (DepEd), Philippine National Police (PNP), Department of Justice (DOJ), National Bureau of Investigation (NBI), National Economic Development Authority (NEDA), National Youth Commission (NYC), Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE), Department of Agriculture (DA), local government units and our own Commission on Human Rights (CHR), puts forward a united front towards the end of violence against children. These are powerful, relevant authorities that have decided to band together to end children's oppression.

As the culmination of years of intensive, nationwide collaboration between professionals from a wide spectrum of fields including doctors, social workers, lawyers and others, this action plan provides the child's right community in the Philippines, both in government and civil society, with a detailed blueprint on how to enhance the scope of protection of children from violence in the household. The task ahead is daunting, but with the PPAEVAC, we now have important tools we need to forge ahead in this crucial endeavor.

The Commission looks forward to teaming up again with the CWC and its partner organizations in fulfilling the objective of this comprehensive action plan. Violence has never solved anything. The PPAEVAC wishes to nip the problem in the bud, by finding the cause for violence as well as aiming for its elimination. It's a bold plan. Yet, it is necessary. An environment free of violence is what we all envision for our children.


JOSE LUIS MARTIN C. GASCON
Chairperson
Commission on Human Rights of the Philippines



Taking off from the 2015 National Baseline Study and the Systematic Literature Review on Violence Against Children, the Philippine Plan of Action lays down the groundwork on how individuals and groups can work together to protect and uphold the rights of children.

As a private, U.S.-based Foundation working for the promotion of children’s well-being through the prevention and treatment of their abuse, neglect and exploitation, Consuelo Foundation reiterates its commitment by engaging and collaborating with partners such as the Council for the Welfare of Children and local government units to develop innovative approaches to counter violence, abuse and trauma among children. For almost thirty years, Consuelo Foundation has significantly invested on prevention programs and strategies such as parenting education, life skills integration in youth programs, and child-focused advocacy particularly at the local levels. All these are being done even as we capacitate shelter partners to address the protection, healing and recovery efforts of children survivors of abuse.

It is heartening to know that Consuelo Foundation is on the right track when it comes to interventions that contribute to “pathways to change” described in this document. After all, it is the wish of our Founder and Benefactress, Consuelo Zobel Alger, to see that the most vulnerable population - our children - are nurtured and cared for.

To fellow advocates, may you find value in the strategies outlined on this plan. To our allies in this challenging work, may this further strengthen our ties to combine our strengths and expertise in making this world a safe place for children.

Congratulations and mabuhay to all our partners in government and the private sector, especially to the Council for the Welfare of Children and UNICEF, for leading all of us in this invaluable endeavor!

Carmela Andal-Castro
ATTY. CARMELA ANDAL-CASTRO
Managing Director
Consuelo Zobel Alger Foundation

List of Acronyms

ABC	Ateneo Bulatao Center
ACCAP	Association of Child Caring Agencies of the Philippines
ASEAN	Association of Southeast Asian Nations
BCPC	Barangay Council for the Protection of Children
BTSNN	Break the Silence National Network
C4BC	Comprehensive Communication for Behaviour Change
CBCP	Catholics Bishops' Conference of the Philippines
CHED	Commission on Higher Education
CHR	Commission of Human Rights
COA	Commission on Audit
CPN	Child Protection Network
CPTCSA	Center for the Prevention and Treatment of Child Sexual Abuse
CRC	Convention on the Rights of the Child
CSO	Civil Society Organizations
CSPC	Committee on the Special Protection of Children
CWC	Council for the Welfare of Children
DA	Department of Agriculture
DepEd	Department of Education
DILG	Department of the Interior and Local Government
DOH	Department of Health
DOJ	Department of Justice
DOLE	Department of Labor and Employment
DOST	Department of Science and Technology
DSWD	Department of Social Welfare and Development
ECPAT	End Child Prostitution, Child Pornography and the Trafficking of Children for Sexual Purposes
ERDA	Educational Research and Development Assistance Foundation
FAPSA	Federation of Associations of Private Schools and Administrators
FBO	Faith-Based Organizations
FLAG	Free Legal Assistance Group
HIV	Human immunodeficiency virus
IACAT	Inter-Agency Council against Trafficking
IACACP	Inter-Agency Council against Child Pornography
IACVAWC	Inter-Agency Council on Violence against Women and their Children
IBP	Integrated Bar of the Philippines
IMEM	Integrated Monitoring and Evaluation Mechanism
KRA	Key Result Area

LCPC	Local Councils for the Protection of Children
LDRRM	Local Disaster Risk Reduction and Management
LGBT	Lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender
LGU	Local Government Unit
LNB	Liga ng mga Barangay
LSWDO	Local Social Welfare and Development Office
NAPC-CBS	National Anti-Poverty Commission – Children Basic Sector
NASWEI	National Association for Social Work Education, Inc.
NBI	National Bureau of Investigation
NBS-VAC	National Baseline Study on Violence against Children
NCCP	National Council of Churches in the Philippines
NCIP	National Commission on Indigenous Peoples
NCPWD	National Commission on Persons with Disability
NCYP	National Committee on Child and Youth Participation
NEDA	National Economic Development Authority
NGO	Non-governmental organization
NJIS	National Justice Information System
NNEVAC	National Network to End Violence against Children
NYC	National Youth Commission
OWC	Office for Women and Children
PAO	Public Attorney’s Office
PAPA	Philippine Ambulatory Pediatric Association
PCMN	Philippine Children’s Ministries Network
PCOO	Philippine Communications Operations Office
PCW	Philippine Commission on Women
PHILJA	Philippine Judicial Academy
PIA	Philippine Information Agency
PLCPD	Philippine Legislators’ Committee on Population and Development
PNP	Philippine National Police
POPCOM	Commission on Population
PPAEVAC	Philippine Plan of Action to End Violence against Children
PSRTI	Philippine Statistical Research and Training Institute
PTCA	Parent, Teachers and Community Association
PYAP	Pag-Asa Youth Association of the Philippines
RJJWC	Regional Juvenile Justice and Welfare Committee
SLR	Systematic literature review
SMS	Short Message Service
SOGI	Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity
UNICEF	United Nations Children’s Fund
UP MANILA	University of the Philippines Manila
UP NIH	National Institute of Health
VAC	Violence against Children

Definitions

Advocacy	A strategy that aims to influence decisions within political, economic and social systems and institutions of government – or any institution – at different levels. Usually conducted by a group of ‘advocates’, advocacy includes research, issuing press releases, organizing press conferences, media campaigns, public speaking, and lobbying legislators and policy makers.
Adolescents	Persons who experience the period of adolescence, the period in human growth and development that occurs after childhood and before adulthood, which begins with the onset of physiologically normal puberty, and ends when an adult identity and behaviour is accepted. This period of development corresponds roughly to the period between the ages of 10 and 19 years.
Awareness raising	A process of providing information to individuals, groups and communities that is designed to increase the level of knowledge about specific topics, usually associated with behavioural change or the adoption of new desirable practices, including breastfeeding, proper nutrition and hand washing.
Capacity Building	The process of equipping individuals and groups with the knowledge, information, skills and attitudes that enable them to perform specific tasks effectively and efficiently towards the attainment of specific objectives or desired results. Much more than training, capacity building can be done through methods including coaching, mentoring, on the job training, apprenticeship, field exposure, exchange visits, reading and on line studies.
Caregiver	A paid or unpaid person who provides care and protection to a child and is expected to pay attention to the needs of the child in the house. A caregiver may be the mother, father, older sibling, grandmother, housemaid or any relative.
Child	Every human being below the age of 18 years unless the law applicable to the child states that the age of majority is attained earlier, as defined by the Convention on the Rights of the Child.
Child abuse	Any threatening or violent interaction of a physical, psychological or sexual nature that may cause physical or psychological harm to a child. This includes neglect and withholding essential aid, medical care and education. Sexual, mental and physical abuse are forms of physical violence. The other forms of child abuse include bullying or peer violence, cyber violence, dating violence, forced consummated sex and collective violence.

Child protection	Preventing and responding to violence, exploitation and abuse against children – including commercial sexual exploitation, trafficking, child labour and harmful traditional practices, such as female genital mutilation/cutting and child marriage.
Child Protection Policy	A statement of commitment to safeguard children from harm that clarifies what is required to protect children. A child protection policy helps to create a safe and positive environment for children and to show that the organization is taking its duty and responsibility of care seriously.
Child Participation	Children taking part in a process or playing a role in a process at their level, according to their evolving capacities, thinking for themselves, expressing their views effectively, and interacting in a positive way with other people. Child participation also refers to involving children in decision-making on matters that affect their lives, the lives of the community and the larger society in which they live.
Demand Side	The users of services, the programme ‘recipients’ or ‘beneficiaries’. It can also refer to the individuals, households and communities or those who are targets of service delivery, advocacy, education and awareness raising activities, or of community organization.
Enabling Environment	A set of interrelated conditions – including legal, organisational, fiscal, informational, political, and cultural – that impact on the capacity of development actors, such as civil society organization (CSOs), to engage in development processes in a sustained and effective manner.
Gender-based violence	Violence against women based on women’s subordinate status in society. This includes any act or threat by men or male-dominated institutions that inflict physical, sexual or psychological harm on a woman or girl because of her gender. Gender-based violence includes physical, sexual and psychological violence including: domestic violence; sexual abuse including rape and sexual abuse of children by family members; forced pregnancy; sexual slavery; and traditional practices harm women.
Life skills education	A method used to promote personal and social development among children and young people, to build their capacity to make decisions in day-to-day life, to prevent health or social problems from occurring, and to protect themselves from possible abuse, violence and injury.
Local Council for the Protection of Children	An inter-agency and multi-sectoral institutional mechanism at all levels of local government units (LGUs) that serves as a child rights advocate, and is in charge of planning, monitoring and implementing local development plans for children, which are designed to ensure the protection and safety of local children.

Local Development Plan	A document that contains the deliberate, rational and continuous effort of the LGU, with active participation of the community, to accelerate its process of development and growth by optimizing the use of local resources. A local development plan is directed towards making public services, public spaces and infrastructure available to the constituency.
Local Investment Programme	A planning tool used in implementing the comprehensive local development plan. It is a multi-layer listing of programmes and projects with cost estimates and sources of funds.
Supply Side	The service delivery inputs including human resources, supplies, infrastructure, facilities and equipment provided on the basis of formal sectoral planning. It can also include the service delivery system and service providers, technical planners and managers.
Parenting	The process of promoting and supporting the physical, emotional, social, financial and intellectual development of a child from infancy to adulthood. Also referred to as 'child rearing', parenting refers to the aspects of raising a child and all the responsibilities and activities involved.
Partnership	The process of building coordination, cooperation and collaboration with other agencies, institutions, communities, groups of people, and certain individuals, with the aim of working together and joining forces, or combining resources towards a common goal.
Personal safety lessons	Lessons designed to protect children from any form of manipulation that includes bullying and abuse, specifically sexual abuse. This is a violence prevention programme that empowers children to take part in their own protection by giving them information and skills within their own culture and religion.
Positive Discipline	A non-violent approach to parenting or teaching that teaches children and guides their behaviour while respecting their rights to healthy development, protection from violence, and participation in their learning.
Theory of Change	Used for strategic planning or programme/policy planning to identify the current situation (in terms of needs and opportunities), the intended situation and what needs to be done to move from one to the other. This can help the design of more realistic goals, clarify accountability and establish a common understanding of the strategy to be used to achieve the goals.
Violence	A term that represents any act against children that causes harm, injury, abuse, neglect or negligent treatment, maltreatment, and/or exploitation, whether accepted as 'tradition' or disguised as 'discipline', including hindering child development. This is guided by article 19 of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC).

Violence against children (VAC)

Defined as “physical maltreatment, emotional abuse, sexual abuse, neglect or negligent treatment, or commercial and other forms of exploitation, resulting in actual or potential harm to the child’s health, survival, development or dignity in the context of a relationship of responsibility, trust or power” (*Violence against children: According to the World Report on Violence and Health* [2002]). VAC can happen in settings including home, school, the community, workplace, public spaces and cyberspace.

Vulnerable children

Belong to families, households, groups and communities, and are at risk of being abused, hurt, injured or neglected for reasons including: poverty, socio-political, cultural or religious, gender, physiological related reasons. Specifically, this term refers to children with disabilities, children who belong to certain indigenous communities or tribal groups, children from poor families, some girl children, working children, children in conflict with the law and children in humanitarian or disaster settings.



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Introduction

The Philippine Plan of Action to End Violence against Children (PPAEVAC) of the Republic of the Philippines (2017-2022) is a multi-sectoral road map designed for the progressive reduction of violence against children. This is part of the Government's general commitment to build an enabling environment that respects, protects and fulfils the rights of all children. It also reflects the Government's recognition of children's rights to survival, development, protection and participation, and their right to attain their full potential, as enshrined in the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC).

The PPAEVAC gathers the individual commitments of all government agencies and institutions, local and international non-governmental organizations (NGOs), civil society organizations (CSOs), faith-based organizations (FBOs), professional groups, the academe, private sector, parents, and children into a collective whole. It harmonizes and outlines the plans and efforts of stakeholders in the hope of addressing the factors that cause both violence against children in different settings and among the most vulnerable children. It was designed to be as comprehensive as possible because VAC is a multi-faceted issue that calls for a multi-disciplinary, multi-sectoral and multi-stakeholder approach to address its roots. This purpose of

this alignment of forces, services, talents is to make a greater impact on the goal of reducing VAC in the Philippines.

PPAEVAC systematically translates the findings of the 2015 National Baseline Study on Violence against Children into action. The plan adopted the recommendations of the study and took on its diagrammatic Impact Pyramid Models as part of its conceptual framework.

PPAEVAC focuses on breaking the cycle of violence by addressing its root causes on the demand side, building the capacity of children to protect themselves, improving legislation, enhancing integrated services for preventing and responding to violence, and ensuring access to social services. The Plan has provisions for monitoring collective and individual interventions to prevent and respond to VAC, documenting good practices, reflecting on lessons learned, and evaluating the implementation of the plan at its mid- and end-term.

PPAEVAC can serve as a guide for policy makers, planning and programming officials, researchers and donors who want to make a meaningful contribution to VAC prevention and response by addressing the gaps in the policies, programmes, data and resources indicated in the Plan.

Anchored on the provisions of the CRC, PPAEVAC reflects the philosophy of non-discrimination, the best interests of the child, survival and development, and the views of the child. It upholds action that is rights-based, child-sensitive, gender-responsive, equity-focused and results-oriented. As a cross-cutting concern, the Plan provides an opportunity for meaningful child participation.

PPAEVAC was developed with the collective effort of government agencies and partners headed by the Council for the Welfare of Children (CWC), with technical input and support from the UNICEF Philippines Country Office. It is a product of a series of regional consultation workshops held in the City of Manila for representatives of the eight regions in Luzon; in Cebu City for representatives of the four regions of the Visayas; and in Davao City for representatives of the six regions of Mindanao. The workshops had two stages. The first was conducted with agency workers from the Government, International and Local NGOs, FBOs and CSOs. The second involved children, their parents and relatives who also acted as their chaperons.

The regional workshops were attended by 423 participants, who were mostly representatives from the Regional Committee/Sub-Committee for the Welfare of Children (RC/SCWC), programme managers of NGOs, CSOs and FBOs, officials from local government units (LGUs), direct service providers, and representatives from the Local Councils for the Protection of Children (LCPCs) in areas where VAC prevalence is high. Of the total number of participants, 283 were staff members from various agencies and LGUs, 75 were children, and 65 were parents or relatives from the country's 17 regions. The National Planning Workshop was attended by 84 participants from 43 government agencies, local and international NGOs, FBOs, CSOs, and the academe.

Government agencies represented at the national planning and regional consultation workshops were: Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD); Department of Health (DOH); Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG); Department of Education (DepEd); Philippine National Police (PNP); Commission on Human Rights (CHR); Department of Justice (DOJ); National Bureau of Investigation (NBI); National Economic Development Authority (NEDA); Regional Juvenile Justice and Welfare Committee (RJJWC); National Youth Commission (NYC); Pag-Asa Youth Association of the Philippines (PYAP); Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE); Department of Agriculture (DA); and LGUs.

All of the workshops were highly participative and results-oriented. Inter-active processes were used to engage the participants meaningfully – developing a sense of ownership of the PPAEVAC and generating a commitment towards the full, sustained and meaningful implementation of the Plan.

The participants collectively reflected on their vision for children in relation to the findings of the *National Baseline Study on Violence against Children and A Systematic Review of the Drivers of Violence Affecting Children: Philippines*. Based on the principles of Theory of Change and Results-Based Management, the participants brainstormed specific interventions and strategies that could contribute to establishing pre-conditions and key result areas to strategically address the identified drivers and causes of violence in different settings. The results of the regional consultation workshops were used as the main reference for the national planning exercise.

Organization of PPAEVAC

The Philippines Plan of Action to End Violence against Children, 2017-2022, is divided into nine sections.

Section 1 explains what PPAEVAC is all about, what it does in relation to the goal of reducing VAC in the Philippines, what purpose it serves, and for whose benefit it was developed.

Section 2 describes the historical background of the global and national operation and campaign against VAC. It relates the Plan to the summary results of the Global and National study on VAC that prompted the urgent, systematic and collective action that is happening in many countries. This section links the PPAEVAC to relevant goals and targets in the Sustainable Development Goals and the global partnerships to end VAC.

Section 3 presents the summary of the two most recent national studies on VAC in the Philippines: the 2015 “National Baseline Study on the Violence against Children”; and the “Systematic Review of the Drivers of Violence affecting Children”, also from 2015. Recommendations from both studies were considered in the development of PPAEVAC.

Section 4 illustrates the ideal environment where children are free and protected from violence in different settings: at home, school, the community, and cyberspace. These were drawn from a series of regional workshops attended by agency workers, parents and children.

Section 5 explains the PPAEVAC framework to reduce VAC over the next 6 years. It explains the key strategic approaches recommended by the two VAC studies using two pyramidal intervention models addressing physical and sexual violence.

Section 6 describes the Theory of Change that was used as a planning tool in translating the recommended key strategic approaches to prevent and reduce. It depicts the 'pathways to change' or 'results chain' that show how VAC can be reduced VAC. This is illustrated by a Theory of Change diagram and narrative statement showing the logical connection between and among goals, outcomes, outputs and activities in a logical sequence.

Section 7 outlines the six key strategies that will provide comprehensive and integrated guidance to the National Network on VAC (NNEVAC) in terms of addressing each of the six key result areas that are necessary to achieve the goal of reducing VAC in the Philippines by 2022. It also shows the responsible agencies and performance indicators.

Section 8 outlines the strategies for implementing PPAEVAC in terms of accountability and institutional arrangement.

Section 9 explains how PPAEVAC will be monitored and implemented through the development of an integrated monitoring and evaluation mechanism (IMEM) with a 5 year-plan.

Section 10 presents the national declaration of commitment to reduce VAC by 2022.



Background

The 2006 UN World Report on Violence against Children revealed that about 1 billion children had experienced severe sexual violence, emotional violence, sexual violence or bullying, or had witnessed violence during the previous year. Of these, almost three quarters were in Asia. In the Philippines, the preliminary results of the 2015 National Baseline Study on Violence against Children (NBS-VAC), which was supported by UNICEF showed that:

- 3 in 5 children were reported as having experienced any form of physical violence in various settings.
- 3 in 5 children were reported to have experienced some form of psychological violence in any setting.
- 1 in 5 children reportedly suffered from some form of sexual violence in any setting.

The completion of the NBS-VAC motivated the NNEVAC, a multi-sectoral body, to translate the findings of the study into specific action and results. This considered the resources invested to the study as well as the scale of VAC.

As the Government's mandated agency for the protection of children's well-being, CWC was identified as the national focal agency on VAC. CWC is supported by NNEVAC, which was tasked with following up on the commitments made by the Philippines in regional consultations on VAC. Meanwhile, a core group of agencies – the National Steering Committee on VAC – was tasked with serving as the clearing house and policy making body for VAC concerns.

PPAEVAC 2017-2022, serves as the Philippines' collective response to specific NBS-VAC recommendations from 2015, and the Systematic Review of the Drivers of Violence Affecting Children undertaken by the Child Protection Network (CPN) of the same year. The Plan is in line with the existing National Strategic Framework for Action to End Violence against Children, consistent with the vision, goals and strategies of Child 21 and the National Plan of Action for Children, and in accordance with the Comprehensive Program for the Protection of Children. The PPAEVAC is also guided by the ASEAN Guidelines for a Non-Violent Approach to Nurture, Care and Development of Children in All Settings and the ASEAN Regional Plan of Action on the Elimination of Violence against Children.

VAC and the Sustainable Development Goals

In September 2015, world leaders attending the World Summit in New York adopted 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) for 2030 that took effect on 1 January 2016. The SDGs are a new, universal set of goals, targets and indicators that countries are expected to use in framing their development agendas and policies over the next 15 years. The 17 SDGs of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development clearly articulate and recognize children's rights within the Goals. Several of the 169 targets address violence directly, while others cover some of the most important underlying causes of violence.

A World Health Organization Policy Brief on "Scaling Up Interpersonal Violence Prevention" indicated that three SDG targets address violence directly (one under Goal 5 on achieving gender equality and empowering women and girls, and two under Goal 16 on promoting just, peaceful and inclusive societies). The three targets are:

- Target 16.2: End abuse, exploitation, trafficking and all forms of violence against and torture of children.
- Target 5.2: Eliminate all forms of violence against all women and girls in the public and private spheres, including trafficking and sexual and other types of exploitation.
- Target 16.1: Significantly reduce all forms of violence and related death rates everywhere.

The policy brief added that these SDG targets put violence prevention policy makers in a strong position to call for a "violence prevention in all policies" approach that foregrounds prevention through SDG-based strategies, which, at least in principal, will be implemented as part of the 2030 Agenda.



Global and Regional Partnership to End Violence against Children

Through partnership and collaboration, the issue of VAC now has a common global agenda, with the consolidated political support and engagement of all partners – governments, UN agencies, NGOs, Civil Society, and Researchers. The Global Partnership to End Violence against Children and its associated fund were created to help achieve this ambitious undertaking to protect the world’s most precious asset – its children.

PPAEVAC 2017-2022 also serves as an expression of the Philippine Government’s commitment and contribution to the attainment of the ASEAN Regional Plan of Action on the Elimination of Violence against Children, 2015-2025. The Regional Plan covers the following areas of intervention, which are compatible with the Philippines’ National Plan of Action: prevention, protection, response and support services; legal framework; data collection, coordination, monitoring and evaluation; and partnership.



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Two Recent National Studies on Violence against Children

Two complementary studies on VAC served as the basis for the development of PPAEVAC. One was the 2015 NBS-VAC, conducted by the CWC in collaboration with UNICEF, the Institute of Health Policy and Development Studies of the University of the Philippines - Manila, DOH, the Consuelo Zobel Alger Foundation, and Child Protection Network Foundation Inc. The other, A Systematic Review of the Drivers of Violence affecting Children: Philippines, was conducted by the University of the Philippines -Manila, University of Edinburgh, and the Child Protection Network Foundation, Inc. This section provides a summary of the two studies.

3.1 National Baseline Study on Violence against Children, 2015

The 2015 NBS-VAC which covered 3,866 children and youth (13-24 years old), are becoming victims of various forms of abuse, particularly physical, psychological and sexual abuse. More Filipino children are also becoming victims of other forms of violence such as peer violence and cyber violence.

Physical violence

A high level of physical violence was noted, three in five (65.1% of 3,866 children) reported experiencing any form of physical violence in various settings. Notably, it found out that more than half of these cases occurred at home. A number of cases were also reported at school, in the community and when dating. The study also noted a prevalence among younger adolescents (13 to 17 years old) of 66%, while prevalence among older adolescents (18 - 24 years old) was 63.8%, showing that younger adolescents are more likely to experience physical violence than older adolescents. Males are also more likely to experience physical violence than females, with prevalence rates of 66.9% and 63.2%, respectively.

According to the study, the most common types of physical violence inflicted on the children were: 1) spanked with the hands or rolled magazine or small stick, pulled hair, pinched or twisted ears; 2) slapped in the face, kicked, spanked or beaten with belt, hard wood, or any hard thing; 3) smothered until could hardly breathe, forced to put chili in the mouth, locked in a small space, tied or chained, forced to stand with heavy weights and stand on mongo seeds or pebbles, forced to do heavy exercise, drowned, burned or scalded, hurt with knife or gun; and 4) harmed in a way that required hospitalization. For both males and females, the top perpetrators of these types of physical violence are the mother/stepmother, father/stepfather, brother/stepbrother, sister/stepsister and grandmother. Perpetrators in some cases also included cousins, grandfathers, uncles, aunts and even house helpers.

The study reported that dysfunctional households (for example, with household members who are alcoholic, drug users, suicidal or mentally ill) put children at a greater possibility of experiencing severe physical violence. It has also been reported that adopted children are at risk of experiencing physical violence.

Psychological Violence

There is also a high level of psychological violence. In the Philippines, three-in-five children (61.5%) were reported to have experienced any form of psychological violence in any setting. Data shows that cases related to this form of violence more frequently occur at home, and that a significant number of cases occur in school, in the community and when dating.

Psychological violence, according to the study, is more prevalent among females than males, with respective prevalence rates of 63.8% and 59.2%. Prevalence is lower among younger adolescents (aged 13 to 17 years old) than older adolescents (aged 18 to 24 years old), at 58.7% and 65.7%, respectively. It is also higher for those in the middle class.

As the study posited, the likelihood of psychological violence is increased by some conditions at home, such as parents not being present (for example, when they work overseas).

Sexual Violence

The study produced data showing that one-in-four children (24.9%) reportedly suffered from any form of sexual violence in any setting. Children were reported to have been sexually abused in all settings: at home, at school, and in the community. Data showed that prevalence of sexual abuse is higher among older adolescents, at 28%, than younger adolescents, at 22%. Prevalence is also higher among males, at 28.7%, than females with 20.1%. These data altogether imply that prevalence of sexual abuse in the Philippines is higher among males and older adolescents.

At home, the majority of reported cases of overall sexual violence are perpetuated by the brother/stepbrother, sister/stepmother, cousin, father/stepfather, and others (spouse partner). While the top perpetrators of sexual violence against females are brothers/stepbrothers and cousins, the top perpetrators against males are cousins and fathers/stepfathers.

Other Forms of Violence

There is growing concern over Filipino children experiencing peer violence in the form of bullying. Females are more likely to experience bullying than males, at 66.8% and 59.5%, respectively. Bullying is equally as prevalent among the younger and older adolescents, at 41%. The children most likely to experience bullying are from dysfunctional households (including alcoholic or drug-using households), those who live with other people (not relatives), and those who are smokers or heavy users of the internet.

Internet violence or cyber violence is also a growing area of concern in the Philippines. As shown by the National Baseline Study, an alarming number (one-in-two) children (48.5%) experience cyber violence. About 33.7% were verbally abused over the internet or cell phone, while about 25.4% have been shown sex videos and photos of sex organs or the sexual activities of other people, about 29.4% were sent sexual messages, and 3% have had their nude body or own sexual activities shown on the Internet or a cell phone. Males are more likely to be subjected to cyber violence than females, at 50.4% and 46.7% prevalence, respectively. Older adolescents (57.1% prevalence) are more likely to experience cyber violence than the younger adolescents (42.7% prevalence).

The high prevalence of violence of all forms against lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender children and youth

The proportion of child violence was highest (75%) against lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBTs), compared to heterosexual males (65.9%) and females (61.8%). The systematic literature review (SLR) on VAC (2016) states that “Grey literature has also highlighted that LGBT youth may be particularly at risk of sexual violence at school – often from peers.” The SLR also emphasized that LGBT children are at higher risk of physical and psychological bullying at school, and that there has been limited research on LGBT children and their experiences (University of the Philippines Manila, The University of Edinburgh, Child Protection Network Foundation & UNICEF Philippines, 2016).

3.2 Summary of the Systematic Review of the Drivers of Violence affecting Children

This report views VAC not merely as an issue of personal behavior, but as a socio-ecological phenomenon in which inter-personal violence is situated within a number of larger contextual factors that influence individual behaviour. The contextual factors may be located largely within the individual, interpersonal, or community spheres (for example, in the quality interpersonal relationships within families, the family’s social connections to others in the community, the family’s level of financial security and education, and community social norms).

Demographically, family structure in the Philippines is changing. Factors having an adverse impact on families include: the increasing number of women in the labor force and reliance on their income; single-parent homes; the emergence of overseas migration for both parents and children; increasing rates of the human immunodeficiency virus (HIV); and other influences of globalization and urbanization. Social norms on authoritarian parenting, the use of violent discipline, and rigid gender roles drive VAC in the home. Migration is another significant driver of absentee parenting, which impacts on children’s risk of exposure to violence in a variety of settings.

VAC starts in the home and leads to other forms of violence by partners, peers and people in the community. For example, witnessing violence between parents is one of the most consistent correlates of experiencing violence in later life. This is shown by the Cebu Longitudinal study, which found that 45% of females and 50% of males reported having witnessed their parents or caretakers physically hurt one another during childhood. Analysis shows that witnessing inter-parental violence significantly predicted intimate partner victimization and reciprocal violence (Fehringer & Hindin, 2009).

A school-based study of sixth graders and high school students found that witnessing violence as a child was significantly related to self-reported aggression as an adolescent, for both boys and girls (Maxwell & Maxwell, 2003). Data from the Cebu longitudinal study also shows, for the first time, that witnessing

parental violence also impacts on young adults' subsequent use and experience of family intimidation and physical abuse in their own homes (Mandal & Hindin, 2015).

The most frequently cited and perhaps most robust risk factor predicting intimate partner violence is alcohol misuse within the home. In a seminal 1997 study analysing 1,000 instances of domestic violence, alcohol misuse was cited in one-in-four cases (WID IAC & UNICEF, 1997). Since this time, alcohol misuse has been cited as a risk factor of intimate partner violence in every study that has measured the two variables.

Violence and adolescent sexual and reproductive health are closely related in the Philippines, with violence driving high rates of HIV, teenage pregnancy and risky sexual behaviour, which in turn increase the risk of further violence for adolescents.

VAC online is a fast-growing element of exploitation in the Philippines and is driven by a mixture of factors related to the country's history, economic situation, legal norms and migration.

It is important to consider factors at the institutional and structural levels when analysing what makes children more vulnerable to violence, and what protects them from it. For example, the quality of formal institutions such as social services, the police, and the judiciary also influence the level of violence experienced by children, as do the economic and political situation of a country, and the commitment of its policymakers to protecting children.

The LCPCs are the primary local structure that formulate policies and implement child protection programmes in cities, municipalities and barangays. However, many LGUs have either no LCPC or have non-functional LCPCs. The organization of LCPCs at all levels depends mainly on the initiative and support of the local executive (mayor, barangay chairperson).

There have been few proactive child protection programmes in municipalities and cities. Some LGUs provide VAC prevention lectures to school children, and parenting seminars are conducted only in few LGUs. Moreover, LGUs have only acted when there have been cases of VAC in the community. Only areas vying for the Child-Friendly Municipality/City have provided special funds for child protection, or have conducted innovative programmes for child welfare and safety.

The local governments have been generally compliant in terms of appropriating the 1% Internal Revenue Allotment budget aligned to providing programmes and services for children. More programmatic work and financial plans should be undertaken by LCPCs for the sustained implementation of child protection programmes.

The presence of NGOs and People's Organizations has changed the way responses and assistance are provided to children in need of special protection. Unfortunately, these helping institutions operate mainly in urban centers and only a handful work in geographically isolated and disadvantaged communities. The majority of child protection service providers need continuing training to enhance their skills.



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Ideal Settings Where Children are Free and Protected from Violence

The regional consultation workshops in August 2016 provided a venue for children, parents, caregivers and service providers to collectively shape a common vision for a society free from VAC. They defined clearly what kind of homes, schools, communities and cyberspaces are ideal to ensure that children can grow without fear, and how individuals and agencies should behave in relation to children. They outlined the knowledge and skills that children should possess to stay safe and free from harm and abuse.

This vision resonates well with 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development target 16.2, to “end abuse, exploitation, trafficking and all forms of violence and torture against children”, and it reflects the Government’s obligation to protect children’s right to protection from violence, exploitation and abuse as a state signatory to the CRC.

4.1. An ideal home setting is where...

Parents	Siblings, other Family Members...	House Rules...
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Understand and respect the rights of a child • Practice positive discipline • Listen as children explain their mistakes • Do not practice corporal punishment • Treat children equally, showing no favouritism • Raise lesbian, gay bisexual and transgender children or children with disabilities well • Have no vices (drinking, alcohol, gambling) • Have stable job and income 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Act as guardians in the absence of parents • Understand and respect the rights of a child • Have no vices • Practice positive discipline and avoid hurting their siblings • Fight for their siblings (<i>tagapagtanggol</i>) • Are good listeners 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Are formulated involving the children • Are followed by all household members • Are applied consistently and fairly • Allow for no physical punishment or humiliation • Are gender and culturally sensitive • Encourage positive reinforcement and discipline

4.2 An ideal school setting is where ...

Teachers...	Non-teaching Staff...	The Parent, Teachers and Community Association (PTCA)	Barangays...
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promote and uphold the rights of children • Do not inflict physical punishment to learners such as twisting and pinching ears • Practice positive and non-violent discipline • Implement the anti-bullying rule 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promote and protect the rights of children • Practice positive discipline towards learners • Are gender-sensitive • Do not use improper language when reprimanding students • Can identify, report, and refer victims of VAC 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Serves as the voice of the parents and children • Helps promote the rights of children • Actively promotes a school free from violence • Participates in a Child Protection Committee • Discusses VAC issues in its meetings 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support promoting schools where every child feels protected, loved and nurtured • Are involved in planning for a violence-free school • Have good relationships with schools

Teachers...	Non-teaching Staff...	The Parent, Teachers and Community Association (PTCA)	Barangays...
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Are trained on handling disclosures of child abuse • Are gender and culturally sensitive • Can identify, report, and refer victims of VAC 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Involves children • Conducts parenting sessions 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Have functional Violence against Women and Children desks for referral • Are first responders in cases of VAC in school • Deploy Barangay tanods in schools

4.3 An ideal community setting is where ...

The Streets...	Public Transport System...	Market/Mall...	Playgrounds...
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Are well-lit • Are clean and clear with no obstructions • Have <i>barangay tanod</i> present • Have first aid services at strategic points • Have no '<i>tambay</i>' or bystanders 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Drivers and conductors are child-friendly • Buses show no violent movies • Police are visible • Has separate coaches for women/children on trains • Follows the seating capacity rules for public vehicles • Vehicles are duly registered 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Children and adolescents who need to work are free from extortion and abuses from <i>tanods</i> and security guards • Guards are child-friendly • Have a child protection policy • Police are visible 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Are designed by children • Are well-lit • Do not tolerate bullying • Are located in a strategic and safe place • Have a friendly adult present when children are playing • Include the presence of security personnel

4.4 An ideal Cyber Space is where...

The use of the internet is...

- Free from all forms of violence, abuse, harassment and sexual solicitation
- Free from pornography sites and any explicit content
- Free from cyber bullying (postings and comments)
- Protected by a mechanism for blocking sites that can expose children to pornography sites or any sites with explicit content

4.5 What children need to know and do to protect themselves from violence and abuse

During the regional consultations, parents and children identified what knowledge, skills and attitudes children need to protect themselves from possible violence and abuse:

- Know and understand their rights and responsibilities as children
- Actively participate in activities promoting child rights
- Know where to seek help when their rights are violated or threatened
- Know the hotlines to call in case of violence or abuse
- Know what to do when confronted with potential violence and abuse
- Know the safe ways to go home, and avoid places where violence might happen
- Know the proper use of the Internet to get information
- Know how to avoid cyber bullying and online sexual abuse



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Conceptual Framework

The 2015 NBS-VAC and the 2015 Systematic Literature Review of Violence against Children indicated the extent and scope of the problem, as well as the challenges and demands to be addressed in order to reduce the prevalence of VAC. Both studies provided clear and concrete recommendations towards a more holistic, comprehensive and strategic collective response to generate more measurable results, and to achieve the common vision of a society free from VAC.

The Philippine Plan of Action to End Violence against Children, 2017-2022, takes its cue from these two studies on VAC, which clearly show that a great deal of work is required to substantively reduce VAC, particularly in terms of promoting a child-friendly and safe environment, and enhancing primary prevention programmes for families and youth.

The diagrammatic intervention model recommended by NBS-VAC (below) serves as the PPAEVAC's conceptual framework for: building a system to coordinate and strengthen existing interventions, which aims to reduce VAC; and to close the gaps in terms of unserved geographic areas and unreached groups of disadvantaged children and families. The models illustrate the link between SDGs that represent actions needed to address the underlying causes of VAC.

Figure 1: Impact pyramid for interventions for sexual violence



Impact pyramid for interventions for sexual violence

Figure 2: Impact Pyramid for Interventions for Child Maltreatment



Impact Pyramid for Interventions for Child Maltreatment

Diagram 1 serves as a guide to the interventions for addressing the abuse of children. Diagram 2 serves as a guide to the interventions for addressing sexual violence against children. Both diagrams classify the interventions into levels. The levels reflect the scope of the impact of VAC on the population, and are structured so that the primary, secondary and tertiary levels of intervention are well delineated. These models are adaptations of *Thomas Frieden's Health Impact Pyramid, 2010*.

The base of the pyramid represents actions that address the socio-economic risk factors and drivers that are considered underlying causes of VAC, and which are all related directly or indirectly to some SDGs. These actions will target the general population. Interventions at the second level are still population-based, but this time more directly connected to VAC. The third level represents the primary prevention programmes and services that target recognized risk factors of sexual violence, or enhance protective factors. At the fourth level are services for children and families where sexual violence has already occurred, and these relate to preventing recurrence and limiting the impact of the consequences. At the last level are campaigns to change social norms that lead to sexual violence, and actions that protect children against the occurrence of sexual violence. Evidence shows that the proposed programmes and policies can prevent the occurrence or recurrence of physical, sexual and emotional VAC. While some of these programmes have already been piloted or already exist, there has not yet been any evaluation of their scale, quality of implementation or effectiveness. The prevalence of VAC in all its forms remains very high.

The pyramids illustrate the need for an array of strategies at all levels to help end VAC. Single solutions cannot solve a multi-factorial issue such as child abuse and exploitation; neither can solutions be lodged in just one department. Reducing VAC will take not only collaboration but also a comprehensive and integrated response. Different departments and all sectors of society need to work with a common agenda towards a common goal. This collaboration calls for extraordinary leadership skills and for the political will of the whole government, since it needs the existing fiscal resources and human capital that the government holds. There should be a national level priority-setting body with the capacity to allocate the resources necessary to develop a sustainable and accountable infrastructure to achieve the goal of significantly reducing VAC by 2030.

This conceptual framework, and using Theory of Change as planning tool, will guide the action that will effectively address the factors causing physical, psychological and sexual violence, based on the findings and recommendations of the National Baseline Study and the Systematic Literature Review.



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Using Theory of Change to Reduce Violence against Children

Guided by the conceptual framework detailed above, PPAEVAC uses the Theory of Change to direct the development of 'pathways to change' (or the 'results-chain') towards the goal of reducing VAC. The Theory of Change outlines the pre-conditions required to direct the course of interventions towards the goal. These pre-conditions refer to immediate and intermediate programmatic and policy-related results necessary to strategically keep children safe and protected from violence.

The diagram below depicts the six pre-conditions, outcomes and key result areas (KRAs) agreed by NNEVAC in the Philippines, which were validated in a series of regional consultations around the country. The pre-conditions or outcomes will be referred to in this document as 'KRAs'. The six identified KRAs are not mutually exclusive but should be seen as interdependent and interrelated factors. The KRAs collectively

make up an enabling set of pre-conditions necessary to bring about the goal of reducing VAC in the country.

The Philippines has already made headway in addressing the factors that cause VAC. There are already relevant national and local policies, laws, structures, resources, lessons and capacities entrenched in the system. PPAEVAC combines these downstream and upstream interventions that specifically address the determining factors on the demand side, supply side and enabling environment side. KRAs 1 and 2 are outcomes related to factors on the demand side; KRAs 3, 4 and 5 are outcomes related to factors on the supply side; and KRA 6 is an outcome related to factors on the enabling side. ‘Demand side’ refers to the beneficiaries who need help and access to services, such as the children, parents, families, and caregivers. As persons who may be considered sources of VAC, teachers may also be included on the demand side. ‘Supply side’ includes those who are responsible for the delivery of services. Lastly, ‘enabling side’ includes laws, policies, budget, and management and supervision.

The key strategies outlined in Section 7 show how each of the KRAs will be realized systematically.

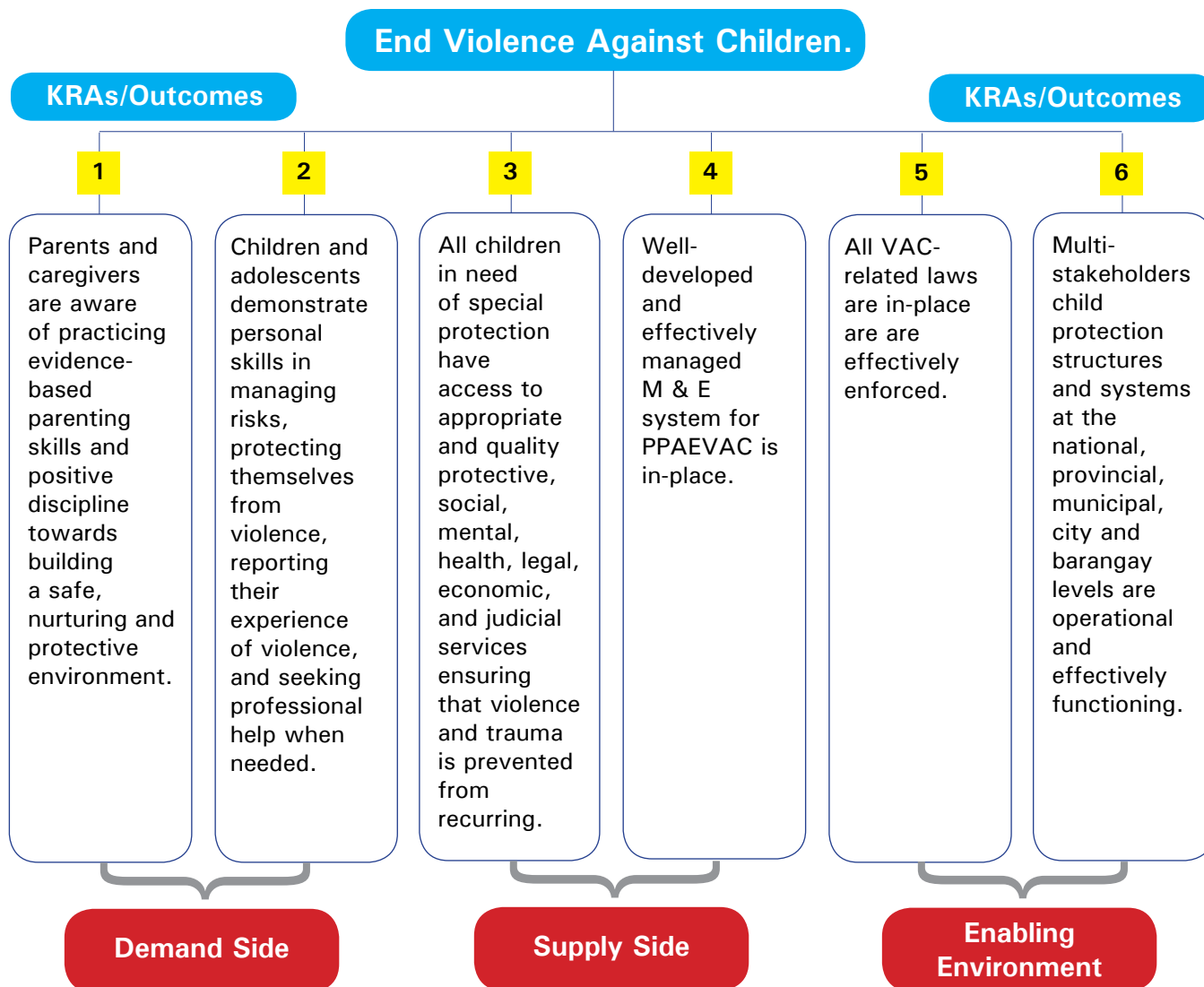
The six key result areas and outcome results that serve as pre-conditions for reducing VAC by 2022:

1. Parents and caregivers are aware of and practicing evidence-based parenting skills and positive discipline towards building a safe, nurturing and protective environment.
2. Children and adolescents demonstrate personal skills in managing risks, protecting themselves from violence, reporting their experience of violence, and seeking professional help when needed.
3. All children in need of special protection have access to appropriate and quality protective, social, mental, health, legal, economic, and judicial services ensuring that violence and trauma are prevented from recurring.
4. Well-developed and effectively managed Monitoring and Evaluation system for PPAEVAC is in-place.
5. All VAC-related laws are in-place and are effectively enforced.
6. Multi-stakeholder child protection structures and systems at the national, provincial, municipal, city and barangay levels are operational and effectively functioning.

The Theory of Change statement for the goal of reducing VAC by 2022 states:

*“IF all the six key result areas (KRAs) or outcome results are achieved, **THEN** the goal of reducing violence against children by 2022 will be attained.”*

This means that the six KRAs or outcome results taken together are necessary pre-conditions to achieve the goal of reducing VAC in the Philippines. This is represented diagrammatically below.



The output results or key strategies necessary to bring about each of the six KRAs or outcome results are shown in section 7 below. The key performance indicators will serve as outputs or direct results of key strategies.

The Theory of Change statement at this level should therefore read:

*“IF the expected outputs are effectively produced from the implementation of key strategies, **THEN** the corresponding KRAs/Outcomes will be achieved.”*

This means that all the expected outputs produced by the key strategies, taken together, are necessary pre-conditions for the realization of each of the six KRAs/outcomes, which in turn, taken together, are expected to end VAC in the Philippines.



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Key Strategies

PPAEVAC will use key programme strategies that will provide comprehensive and integrated guidance to address each of the six key result areas necessary to break the cycle of violence and achieve the vision of ending VAC in the Philippines. These key strategies were identified and agreed by the members of the NNEVAC, and by the Technical Management Group of the CWC following the recommendation of the CWC Board.

The key strategies, described in detail in the planning matrix, are:

1. **Promotion of Evidence-Based Parenting Programme and Life Skills and Personal Safety Lessons** – This is a key preventive strategy that will guide: improving parents’ and caregivers’ knowledge and skills in evidence-based parenting, providing proper care and protection for children and adolescents, and using positive discipline; the integration of evidence-based, age appropriate, and gender-responsive parenting programme and positive discipline in curriculum for teachers and social workers; and develop children’s and adolescents’ skills in protecting themselves from violence, reporting their experience of violence, seeking help when needed, and managing their own anger and impulsivity. These procedures should be evidence-based and age-appropriate. Evidence-based parenting programmes have been proven to work effectively in breaking the cycle of VAC based on evaluation.

2. **Capability building** – This is another key preventive strategy designed to strengthen the knowledge and skills of service providers in implementing and monitoring the above programmes. The service providers referred to here are social workers, social work assistants, child development workers, teachers, health workers, daycare workers, community organizers, barangay workers, police officers, church workers, and staff of child caring institutions. These are the service providers from government, NGOs, FBOs, community-based organizations and communities that have direct contact with parents, caregivers, children and adolescents.
3. **Comprehensive Communication for Behaviour Change (C4BC) Strategy** – This is a preventive communication strategy targeting the whole population using various communication channels, multi-media campaigns and advocacy materials. The aim is to promote non-violent social norms and behaviour that protect children and adolescents from violence, including evidence-based programming and positive discipline for parents and caregivers, and life-skills education and personal safety lessons for children and adolescents.
4. **Children and Adolescent Participation/Mobilisation** – This strategy provides opportunities for children’s and adolescents’ associations in communities, schools, institutions, and work places, to participate in promoting social norms and behaviour that protect children and adolescents from violence, and to provide peer counselling.
5. **Direct Service Delivery** – This involves the provision of appropriate and quality protective, social, mental, health, legal, economic and judicial services to child and adolescent victims of violence, ensuring that they are rehabilitated and reintegrated, and that violence and trauma are prevented from recurring.
6. **Monitoring, Evaluation and Research** – This is the key strategy that will provide for tracking the implementation of the key strategies towards the establishment of the identified key result areas, and for evaluating the relevance, efficiency, effectiveness, impact and sustainability of the Government’s collective interventions to end VAC. Through research, it also provides for the documentation of lessons learned and good practices for wider replication.
7. **Policy Advocacy** – This is one of the two key strategies for establishing an enabling environment for the prevention of violence against children and adolescents, and for the provision of protective services for the victims of violence. This strategy involves pro-active and collective undertakings to create or amend laws, policies, ordinances and regulations relevant to the prevention of violence and protection of child and adolescent victims of abuse. It also involves monitoring the effective and consistent implementation of these laws, policies, ordinances and regulations at different levels. It is generally directed at policy makers, including politicians, government officials, public servants, media practitioners, church leaders, development agencies and NGOs.
8. **Institution Building** – This is the other key strategy involved in establishing an enabling environment to end VAC, particularly in terms of establishing relevant structures and systems. It aims to strengthen the national and sub-national structures and systems responsible for implementing the key strategies and interventions that will: improve parenting skills; enhance children and adolescents’ capacity to protect themselves; and ensure the provision of protective services for victims of violence.

KEY RESULT AREA 1: Parents and caregivers are aware of and are practicing evidence-based parenting skills, and positive discipline towards building a safe, nurturing and protective environment

Lead Agency: DSWD

Supporting agencies: DepEd; DOH; PIA; Plan International; Save the Children; World Vision; ChildFund; ECPAT; CWC; ACCAP; National Council on Disability Affairs; CPTCSA; PCMN; Overseas Workers Welfare Administration; Stairway Foundation; BTSNN; CHED; UP Manila; Philippine Association of Social Workers, Inc.; NASWEI; Association of Philippine Medical Colleges, Professional Regulatory Commission; Professional Societies; PAPA; ABC; and PHILJA.

KEY STRATEGIES	KEY PERFORMANCE INDICATORS	RESPONSIBLE AGENCY		ESTIMATED BUDGET (PhP)
		Lead	Support	
<p>1. Promotion of evidence-based, age-appropriate, and gender-responsive Parenting Programme to improve parents' and caregivers' knowledge and skills in providing proper care and protection for children and adolescents, and in using positive discipline.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Report on the evaluation of existing parenting programmes, indicating which strategies work and which do not. ▪ Evidence-based, age-appropriate, and gender-responsive Parenting Programme and Positive Discipline based on the above evaluation developed and implemented, at provincial, municipal, and barangay level from 2018 to 2022. ▪ Number of agencies that have adopted and implemented the Programme from 2018 to 2022. 	<p>DSWD, DILG</p>	<p>CWC, DOH, DILG, international non-governmental organizations, NGOs, FBOs, universities and professional organizations with parenting programmes</p>	<p>2,000,000</p> <p>50,000,000</p>

KEY STRATEGIES	KEY PERFORMANCE INDICATORS	RESPONSIBLE AGENCY		ESTIMATED BUDGET (PhP)
		Lead	Support	
2. Capacity building of social workers, social work assistants, child development workers, teachers, health workers, daycare workers, staff of child caring institutions, community organizers, barangay workers, police officers, and church workers on the implementation on evidence-based age-appropriate Parenting Programme and Positive Discipline.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Number of trainers trained on the implementation of evidence-based age-appropriate Parenting Programme and Positive Discipline from 2018 to 2022. Number of parents and caregivers who have attended Sessions on this Programme from 2018 to 2022. 	DSWD	DepEd, DOH, DILG (PNP), NASWEI,CBCP, PCMN, NCCP, Plan, Save the Children, PAPA, Stairway, ABC, Schools with Social Work and Family Outreach Programmes	12,000,000 50,000,000
3. Comprehensive Communication for Behaviour Change (C4BC) Strategy to vigorously promote non-violent social norms and behaviour that protect children and adolescents from violence, including evidence-based parenting skills and positive discipline.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> C4BC Strategy Paper on non-violent social norms and behaviour that protect children and adolescents from violence (2017). Number of relevant C4BC materials (manuals, information, education and information, etc.) produced, disseminated, and used from 2018 to 2022. Number of C4BC multi-media campaigns implemented from 2018 to 2022. 	CWC	PCO, PIA, DSWD, SMS, corporate groups through corporate social responsibility, labour groups	1,000,000 15,000,000 20,000,000
4. Integration of evidence-based, age-appropriate, and gender-responsive Parenting Programme and Positive Discipline in curriculum for teachers and social workers.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Curriculum on evidence-based, age-appropriate, and gender-responsive Parenting Programme and Positive Discipline. Evidence-based, age-appropriate, and gender-responsive Parenting Programme and Positive Discipline integrated in school curriculum and in training programmes of teachers and social workers. 	NASWEI, DepEd	DepEd, DSWD,	6,000,000

KEY RESULT AREA 2: Children and adolescents demonstrate personal skills in managing risks in managing risks, protecting themselves from violence, reporting their experience of violence, and seeking professional help when needed

Lead Agency: DepEd

Supporting Agencies: DSWD; CWC; CHR; PIA; DILG; POPCOM; NCPWD; NCCP; NCIP; National Commission on Indigenous Filipinos; NAPC-CBS; NCCYP; NYC; Save the Children; World Vision; Plan International; ChildFund; ECPAT; ACCAP; CPTCSA; PCMN; Stairway Foundation; BTSNN; and UP Manila.

KEY STRATEGIES	KEY PERFORMANCE INDICATORS	RESPONSIBLE AGENCY		ESTIMATED BUDGET (Php)
		Lead	Support	
<p>1. Integration of age-appropriate life skills and personal safety lessons in the pre-school, elementary and high school curriculums in public and private schools that will develop children's and adolescents' skills in: protecting themselves from violence; reporting experience of violence; seeking help when needed; and managing their own anger and impulsivity.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Manual on life skills education and personal safety lessons. ▪ Age-appropriate, user-friendly daily lesson logs on life skills and personal safety lessons for pre-school, elementary, and high school students developed, reproduced and distributed in public and private schools from 2018 to 2019. ▪ Number of public and private schools that have adopted and are using the daily lesson logs on life skills education and personal safety lessons for pre-school, elementary and high school students. ▪ Age-appropriate life skills education and personal safety lessons integrated into the curriculum for training of teachers, daycare workers, child development workers, social workers, and community development workers. 	DepEd	<p>DSWD, Federation of Associations of Private Schools and administrators (FAPSA), CPN, UP Manila, ABC, University of Philippines College of Education, FAPSA</p> <p>NASWEI, DSWD</p>	<p>Activities/ Budget to be determined during annual planning, considering magnitude and scope.</p>

KEY STRATEGIES	KEY PERFORMANCE INDICATORS	RESPONSIBLE AGENCY		ESTIMATED BUDGET (PhP)
		Lead	Support	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Number of C4BC multi-media campaigns implemented from 2017 to 2022. 		Support	15,000,000
5. Mobilization of children's and adolescents' associations in communities or in children's clubs in schools, in institutions, and in work places for the life skills education and personal safety lessons.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Number of children's and adolescents' associations mobilized and engaged in the advocacy work on life skills education and personal safety lessons. 	CWC	LCPCs/BCPCs/NGOs, DepEd, NCIP, NYC, National Catholic Partnership on Disability	10,000,000

KEY RESULT AREA 3: All children and adolescents in need of special protection have access to appropriate and quality protective, social, mental, health, legal, economic and judicial services, ensuring and that they are rehabilitated and reintegrated and that violence and trauma are prevented from recurring

Lead Agency: DSWD and DOJ

Supporting Agencies: DILG; DepEd; DSWD; CHR; CWC; PIA; Childfund; IBP; PAO; Save the Children; ERDA; BTS National Network; IACAT; the Judiciary; ACCAP; PCMN; CSPC; PLCPD; World Vision; IACACP; UP Manila; and CRN

KEY STRATEGIES	KEY PERFORMANCE INDICATORS	RESPONSIBLE AGENCIES		ESTIMATED COST (PhP)
		Lead	Support	
<p>1. Development of a comprehensive, multi-sectoral, protective, mental, health, legal, economic and judicial response plan on VAC, and a structure for its implementation.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ A comprehensive, multi-sectoral, protective, mental, health, legal, economic, and judicial response plan on VAC developed. ▪ An OWC officially created via Executive Order embedded at the DOJ to lead and monitor the sustainability of the localization of "Protocol on Case Management of Child Victim of Abuse, Violence, and Exploitation". ▪ Number of provinces with functional one-stop shop and child-friendly Children's and Women's Protection Units that will serve as implementation arm of the VAC response plan. 	DOJ	DSWD, DoH, PNP, NBI, LNB, LSWDOs, CPN	2,000,000

KEY STRATEGIES	KEY PERFORMANCE INDICATORS	RESPONSIBLE AGENCIES		ESTIMATED COST (PhP)
		Lead	Support	
2. Nationwide capacity building of multi-disciplinary teams of social workers, lawyers, judges, physicians, barangay leaders, law enforcers, and prosecutors for the effective implementation of the "Protocol on Case Management of Child Victim of Abuse, Violence, and Exploitation".	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Number of provinces with trained/ functioning multi-disciplinary team on the "Protocol on Case Management of Child Victim of Abuse, Violence, and Exploitation". Number of regions with trained trainers on the "Protocol on Case Management of Child Victims of Violence, Abuse and Exploitation". 	DOJ	CSPC, CPN	24,000,000
		DOJ	CSPC, CPN	1,400,000
3. Development and effective management of a child-sensitive, dedicated, and popularized HELPLINE for children as an avenue for reporting and counselling all forms of violence and exploitation of children.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> An effectively managed child- sensitive, dedicated, and popularized helpline for all forms of violence and exploitation of children established and is accessible in all areas in the country including areas under emergency. Number of legitimate reports of VAC accessed, received, and proportion of VAC reports appropriately addressed. 	DOJ	CSPC, CPN, Bantay Bata	200,000,000

KEY STRATEGIES	KEY PERFORMANCE INDICATORS	RESPONSIBLE AGENCIES		ESTIMATED COST (PhP)
		Lead	Support	
<p>4. Effective and efficient delivery of appropriate and gender-sensitive, and free legal counselling and advice, and legal aid for child victims of abuse, exploitation and neglect, including case management support for those who choose to file a case in court.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Number of prosecutors, PAO legal officers, and CHR lawyers and investigators trained on handling/managing cases of VAC. ▪ Number of case managers oriented on how to access government support from the Board of Claims, CHR, LSWDOs and DSWD Field Offices for child and adolescent victims of violence. ▪ Comprehensive medical or forensic services developed and delivered for child and adolescent victims of violence. ▪ Family Court Law including its Implementing Rules and Regulation within the Supreme Court implemented. ▪ Proportion of abuse cases of children and adolescents with effective and expedient prosecution leading to convictions. ▪ Proportion and number of cases of desistance. ▪ Percentage of child and adolescent victims of violence in all settings that have accessed and received appropriate government services including financial assistance. 	<p>DOJ/ DSWD</p> <p>DOJ</p>	<p>CSPC, CPN, CHR, IBP, FLAG, Federasyon Interationale de Abogadas , Davao Lady Lawyers, Cebu Legal Bureau, and other legal organization, Zonta, International Justice Mission, PhilJa</p>	<p>5,000,000</p> <p>300,000</p>

KEY STRATEGIES	KEY PERFORMANCE INDICATORS	RESPONSIBLE AGENCIES		ESTIMATED COST (PhP)
		Lead	Support	
<p>5. Effective and efficient delivery of appropriate and gender-sensitive psychosocial support, health and medical services, rehabilitation, re-integration services, and other after-care support for all boy and girl victims of violence, including child and adolescent victims of violence during emergencies .</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Proportion and number of provinces that have conducted training of health professionals on delivery of appropriate and gender-sensitive psychosocial support, health and medical services, and other after-care support for all child victims of violence. ▪ Proportion and number of DSWD Regional Offices providing support to LSWDOs in rendering services to boy and girl victims of violence. ▪ Proportion and number of provinces that have at least one Woman and Child Protection Unit in the government hospital. ▪ Proportion and number of provinces that offer PhilHealth Benefit package for women and children survivors of abuse/violence. ▪ Proportion and number of provinces with available mental health services for survivors of violence. ▪ Proportion and number of provinces with rehabilitation services for alcohol and drugs. 	<p>DOH</p>	<p>CSPC, CPN</p>	<p>5,000,000</p>

KEY STRATEGIES	KEY PERFORMANCE INDICATORS	RESPONSIBLE AGENCIES		ESTIMATED COST (PhP)
		Lead	Support	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ DOH Guidelines on sanctions to medical specialists who refuse to report CA cases and refuse to participate in investigations and legal proceedings involving VAC, issued. ▪ Percentage of reported child and adolescent victims of violence that have accessed psychosocial assistance, health and medical services, and other after-care support from government hospitals. ▪ Number of Government Agencies and LGUs that are using Gender and Development budget for VAC related activities. 		CSPC, CPN	5,000,000
6. Development of a strategy for unified child and adolescent protection information management system – covering all reports including VAC cases reported, VAC cases filed and its corresponding updates, case management, services accessed, trainings provided and received, etc. (Note: Emphasized here but to be integrated in KRA 4)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ A strategy paper on child and adolescent protection information management system developed covering all reports. ▪ Common child protection indicators adopted and regularly monitored by all member-agencies. 	DOJ	NJIS, CSPC, CPN, DOH, CWC, PNP, DILG, DSWD, PCW, Convergence, UNICEF	350,000

KEY RESULT AREA 4: Well-developed and effectively managed monitoring and evaluation system for PPAEVAC is in place

Lead Agency: CWC

Supporting Agencies: PSA; PIA; DSWD; DOST; UP NIH; PCO; CPN; UNICEF; Consuelo; and Save the Children.

KEY STRATEGIES	KEY PERFORMANCE INDICATORS	RESPONSIBLE AGENCIES		ESTIMATED COSTS (PhP)
		Lead	Support	
<p>1. Development of an Integrated Results-Based Monitoring and Evaluation Mechanism and Plan for the implementation of the PPAEVAC.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Results-Based Monitoring and Evaluation Mechanism and Structure set up for the implementation and monitoring of the PPAEVAC by 2017. ▪ A functional National Mechanism for data collection, analysis, sharing, and dissemination from 2018 to 2022. ▪ Integrated and well-disaggregated database on VAC indicators including a comprehensive database disaggregated by sex, age, ethnicity, disability and religion. ▪ VAC indicators integrated in the census or other surveys conducted by data-generating agencies of the Government. ▪ Number of agencies that have harmonized the VAC indicators into their existing monitoring and evaluation system. 	CWC	PSA, PSRTI, DOST, DOH, Line agencies	20,000,000

KEY STRATEGIES	KEY PERFORMANCE INDICATORS	RESPONSIBLE AGENCIES		ESTIMATED COSTS (PhP)
		Lead	Support	
2. Conduct of and utilization of relevant researches, documentation, and studies on VAC in all settings.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Research agenda on VAC in all settings approved and adopted by CWC Board, other research organizations/bodies. • Number of researches and studies on VAC conducted, utilized, and disseminated. • Number of documentations of best/good practices and lessons learned on VAC written, utilized, and disseminated. • Repeat Survey on VAC similar to the NBS-VAC conducted by 2020 	CWC	DILG PIA/PCO	2,000,000
		CWC	Concerned agencies	10,000,000
		CWC	DSWD, UP NIH, CPN, UNICEF, Consuelo, Save the Children, Plan Phil, World Vision	5,000,000
				20,000,000
3. Joint Periodic Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation of the PPAEVAC.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Annual Work and Financial Plan developed and implemented from 2017 to 2022. ▪ Annual Programme Implementation Review conducted from 2017 to 2022, share/disseminate to stakeholders and relevant partners. ▪ Mid-Term Review Report completed in 2019, share/disseminate to stakeholders and relevant partners. ▪ End Term Evaluation Report completed in 2022, share/disseminate to stakeholders and relevant partners. 	CWC	NNEVAC	12,000,000

KEY RESULTS AREA 5: All VAC-related laws are in place and effectively enforced

Lead Agency: CWC

Implementing Agencies: DILG; DepEd; DSWD; CHR; CWC; PIA; Childfund; IBP; PAO; Save the Children; ERDA Foundation; BTSNN; IACAT; the Judiciary; ACCAP; PCMN; CSPC; PLCPD; World Vision; IACACP; DDB; and CRN.

KEY STRATEGIES	KEY PERFORMANCE INDICATORS	RESPONSIBLE AGENCIES		ESTIMATED COST (PHP)
		Lead	Support	
1. Codification of national laws and policies related to VAC.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Results of Gap Analysis of existing VAC-related laws and policies. 	DOJ, CWC	All partner agencies, PLCPD	250,000
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Code of national laws and policies related to VAC packaged and distributed to stakeholders and other relevant partners. 	DOJ,CWC		200,000
2. Advocacy for the passage of laws and policies relevant to VAC.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Prioritized Policy Agenda commonly agreed on by the National Network to End VAC. 	CWC/DOJ	All partner agencies	20,000,000
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Law on Positive Discipline passed. 			
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Amendment of Revised Penal Code to increase the age of sexual consent passed. 			
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lowering of Minimum Age of Criminal Responsibility dropped. 			
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Boys and girls enjoy equal legal protection through amendment of laws on sexual violence. 			
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Number of government and non-government agencies that have officially adopted a child protection or child safeguarding policy. 			

KEY STRATEGIES	KEY PERFORMANCE INDICATORS	RESPONSIBLE AGENCIES		ESTIMATED COST (PHP)
		Lead	Support	
<p>3. Setting up of a Monitoring Mechanism for the implementation of VAC laws at the National, Regional and Provincial, and Municipal/City levels.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Anti-discrimination based on SOGI law passed ▪ Monitoring Mechanism for the implementation of VAC laws set up at the National, Regional and Provincial, and Municipal/ City levels. ▪ Number of provinces/ municipalities/cities where a monitoring mechanism has been set up. ▪ Number of partner organizations that have undergone intensive training on child protection laws and on monitoring the implementation of these laws. ▪ Number of provinces/ municipalities/cities that have submitted monitoring reports. ▪ Percentage of reported cases of violation of laws that received appropriate and timely response. 	<p>DILG, DOJ, DSWD, and CWC</p>	<p>All partner agencies</p>	<p>5,000,000</p>
<p>4. Advocacy for the localization and effective enforcement of national laws on VAC.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Number and percentage of provinces, municipalities and cities that have localized national laws on VAC and that have adopted measures for the effective implementation of these laws. 	<p>DILG, PNP, DOJ/CSPC, DSWD, and CWC</p>	<p>NGOs with relevant programmes at LGU level.</p>	

KEY RESULTS AREA 6: Multi-stakeholder child protection structures and systems at the national, provincial, municipal, city and barangay level are operational and effectively functioning

Lead Agency: DILG and CWC

Implementing Agencies: DILG; DepEd; DSWD; CHR; CWC; CIA; Childfund; IBP; PAO; Save the Children; ERDA Foundation; BTS National Network; IACAT; the Judiciary; ACCAP; PCMN; CSPC; PLCPD; World Vision; IACACP; and CRN.

KEY STRATEGIES	KEY PERFORMANCE INDICATORS	RESPONSIBLE AGENCIES		ESTIMATED COST (PHP)
		Lead	Support	
<p>1. Strengthening the functionality of NNEVAC to plan, monitor and evaluate the implementation of PPAEVAC and other VAC-related concerns.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Multi-Stakeholders National Network on VAC formalized by 2017 with clear terms of reference, organizational structure, and a memorandum of agreement signed by all stakeholders. ▪ National VAC policy, research, and evaluation agenda formulated by NNEVAC by 2017. ▪ Semi-annual and annual progress reports on the implementation of PPAEVAC from 2017 to 2022. ▪ Number of VAC-related issues and concerns discussed and appropriately responded to in timely manner from 2017 to 2022. 	CWC	All partners	400,000

KEY STRATEGIES	KEY PERFORMANCE INDICATORS	RESPONSIBLE AGENCIES		ESTIMATED COST (PHP)
		Lead	Support	
2. Mobilization of and collaboration with FBOs, private and business sector, and the media sector.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Number of new institutional members of the NNEVAC from FBOs, private and business sectors, and the media sector. ▪ Number of FBOs that have adopted and are utilizing the parenting and life skills education and personal safety lessons in their programmes and preaching from 2018 to 2022. ▪ Number of business and private corporations, media institutions and FBOs that have adopted and are implementing child protection and protection policies in the workplace from 2018 to 2022. 	CWC	CBCP, Philippine Council of Evangelical Churches, PCMN, NCCP, Muslim groups and other IP groups, Business Chamber of Commerce, Business Groups, Movie and Television Review and Classification Board, and KBP	480,000 200,000
3. Mobilization and training of advocates and champions from different sectors who can influence decision and muster support for the national campaign on ending VAC.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Number of champions/ advocates mobilized and trained from 2018 to 2022. ▪ Number of quality and relevant events organized where champions and advocates were engaged from 2018 to 2022 	CWC	All partners	500,000 600,000

KEY STRATEGIES	KEY PERFORMANCE INDICATORS	RESPONSIBLE AGENCIES		ESTIMATED COST (PHP)
		Lead	Support	
2. Mobilization of and collaboration with FBOs, private and business sector, and the media sector.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Number of new institutional members of the NNEVAC from FBOs, private and business sectors, and the media sector. ▪ Number of FBOs that have adopted and are utilizing the parenting and life skills education and personal safety lessons in their programmes and preaching from 2018 to 2022. ▪ Number of business and private corporations, media institutions and FBOs that have adopted and are implementing child protection and protection policies in the workplace from 2018 to 2022. 	CWC	CBCP, Philippine Council of Evangelical Churches, PCMN, NCCP, Muslim groups and other IP groups, Business Chamber of Commerce, Business Groups, Movie and Television Review and Classification Board, and KBP	480,000 200,000
3. Mobilization and training of advocates and champions from different sectors who can influence decision and muster support for the national campaign on ending VAC.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Number of champions/ advocates mobilized and trained from 2018 to 2022. ▪ Number of quality and relevant events organized where champions and advocates were engaged from 2018 to 2022 	CWC	All partners	500,000 600,000
4. Strengthening the capacity of LCPCs in mainstreaming child protection in Local Development Plans, including the Comprehensive Local Intervention Juvenile Programme, Local Disaster Risk Reduction and Management (LDRRM) plans and emergency programme.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Number of DSWD and DILG Regional Offices that have received mentoring and support in providing capacity building to LGUs in the implementation of DILG MC 2012-120, and in mainstreaming child protection in LDRRM and emergency programmes. 	DILG, DSWD, and JJWC	NGOs working with LGUs	9,000,000

KEY STRATEGIES	KEY PERFORMANCE INDICATORS	RESPONSIBLE AGENCIES		ESTIMATED COST (PHP)
		Lead	Support	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Number and percentage of Municipalities, Cities and Barangays that have included VAC concerns in the Local Development and Investment Plan. ▪ Number and percentage of Municipalities, Cities and Barangays that have integrated child protection in their LDRRM Plan and emergency programme. ▪ Number and percentage of Municipalities, Cities and Barangays that have included VAC concerns in the Comprehensive Local Intervention Juvenile Programme. 			
5. Mainstreaming of and coordination with community-based, school-based and institution-based child protection mechanisms.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Number of existing community-based child protection mechanisms mainstreamed in the LCPC for better coordination. ▪ Number and percentage of schools with child protection mechanism mainstreamed in the LCPC for better coordination. ▪ Number of care/adolescent care institutions with child protection mechanism mainstreamed in the LCPC for better coordination. 	DILG, DepED	CWC, NGOs working with LGUs	3,000,000



Structure for Implementing PPAEVAC

The management approach for implementing PPAEVAC will emphasize inter-agency, multi-sectoral and multi-stakeholder processes, in a way that will provide the agency members of the structure for VAC an opportunity to work collectively with each other towards a common goal, while at the same time maintaining their autonomy, based on their individual agency mandates. This approach will facilitate participatory planning, implementation and monitoring and evaluation of PPAEVAC between the Government and its partners.

The PPAEVAC management system will be in accordance with the Government's structure where coordination and other key programming activities are initiated at the national level and where direct implementation happens at sub-national level (regional, provincial, municipal, city and barangay level). The members of the structure for VAC will continue to coordinate with the LGUs according to their respective mandates, and with the only operational multi-level child protection system in the Philippines – the Local Council for the Protection of Children. The LCPCs are mandated to create a caring and protective environment for children. Meanwhile, the national structure for VAC will look at the Barangay Council for the Protection of Children (BCPC) as the main body that can effectively address the issue of VAC.

Institutional Arrangement for the PPAEVAC

As the national focal agency for children's concern in the Philippines, CWC will take the lead in the development, implementation and monitoring and evaluation of PPAEVAC. CWC will be responsible for strengthening the capacity of NNEVAC to plan, monitor and evaluate the implementation of PPAEVAC and other VAC-related concerns.

While CWC assumes oversight responsibility for the overall operationalization of PPAEVAC, six committees will be organized to facilitate and coordinate the attainment of each of the outputs for each of the six KRAs. The committees will be responsible for the implementation and monitoring of the activities under each of the outputs for the KRAs assigned to them. The members of each of the six will choose a government agency that will head the group. For each of the six committees, there will be a CWC staff member who will serve as its focal person or secretariat. Effort will be exerted to strengthen their implementation through capacity building and sharing technical and human resources. The implementation structure of PPAEVAC will be further refined and formalized after the approval of the plan.

To facilitate the measurement of PPAEVAC's effectiveness, impact and sustainability on the goal of reducing VAC, the CWC and the national structure for VAC will discuss the possibility of working together in a number of focused municipalities or cities across the regions where all the KRAs will be applied, and where all necessary agencies will converge. The joint programmatic mechanism, coordination structure and other details of this scheme will be established. This strategy will require further discussion.



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Integrated Monitoring, Evaluation and Reporting Mechanism

The PPAEVAC monitoring and evaluation mechanism will be guided by the Theory of Change from which the plan was developed. In monitoring progress towards the eradication of VAC, the focus will be on addressing the determining factors that drive VAC at home and school, and in the community and cyberspace, at the demand side, supply side, and the enabling environment. Measurement will focus on selected key outputs from each of the six PPAEVAC KRAs.

To the extent possible, monitoring indicators will be kept to a minimum at the output level to reduce the burden of data collection and reporting. Moreover, some key programme activities will be monitored through joint field monitoring visits. The outcome indicators will be the focus of mid- and end-term evaluations through surveys, focus group discussions, in-depth interviews and document review, as necessary. An Integrated Monitoring and Evaluation Mechanism (IMEM) will be developed in 2017 to provide more

details of the operationalization of the above description. The IMEM will lead to a 5-year Monitoring and Evaluation Plan (MEP) and operations manual to guide its implementation. A national workshop will be conducted to determine how PPAEVAC will be effectively monitored and evaluated in a participatory manner, and in a way that will tell NNEVAC if implementation is moving in the right direction, allowing timely adjustments to be made. The MEP will define all priority monitoring, research and evaluation activities to be implemented for the duration of PPAEVAC.

It is hoped that the IMEM will contribute to the Government's reporting on the progress of implementation of the SDGs, particularly the three SDG targets directly addressing violence (one under Goal 5 on achieving gender equality and empowering women and girls, and two under Goal 16 on promoting just, peaceful and inclusive societies).

The annual mid- and end-year programme implementation reviews will be held jointly with the National VAC Structure to systematically track progress against output and outcome results and their selected key monitoring indicators. The reviews will also piggyback on existing monitoring and evaluation activities of the individual participating agencies. The reviews will consolidate inputs from agencies on key selected monitoring indicators for periodic reporting to the CWC structures, including the Technical Management Group and the Council Board. Data from the reviews will be analysed and used to improve or adjust planning and implementation, as appropriate, and to scale up certain activities or interventions when necessary.

The evaluations will be conducted to determine the effectiveness, cost efficiency, relevance, impact and sustainability of PPAEVAC. The results of these exercises will be used to inform programme, resource and policy adjustments for the next round of planning. It is hoped that the IMEM will establish the 'evaluability' of PPAEVAC. Other major participatory evaluative activities will be planned to support learning, replication and scaling up of good practices.



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Declaration of Commitment to End Violence against Children

We, duty-bearers from various government agencies in the Philippines, local and international non-government organizations, civil society organizations, faith-based groups, and academic institutions, commit to protecting all children from all forms of violence.

We are disturbed by and concerned about the reported high prevalence of physical, psychological and sexual violence against children in the Philippines. We believe that all children, everywhere in the country, should live free from all forms of abuse at home, in schools and communities, and in cyberspace at all times.

Together as partners, we will continue to promote, protect and fulfil children's rights enshrined in the Convention on the Rights of the Child, and support the achievement of Sustainable Development Goal target 16.1 – to significantly reduce all forms of violence and related death rates everywhere – and all other relevant Sustainable Development Goals.

We will strengthen our collaboration and determination to build a safe, caring, protective and preventive environment for children at home and outdoors. Towards this end, we will:

- Vigorously promote the adoption of social norms and behavioural practices that condemn violence and prevent the occurrence and recurrence of child abuse.
- Expand the task of building the capacity of parents, teachers, caregivers, community leaders and service providers to prevent, identify, report and refer incidents of VAC.
- Reach out to the most disadvantaged children and build their capacity to adopt personal safety lessons and life skills that will protect them from violence.
- Accelerate collective action to provide comprehensive, coordinated and multi-sectoral services to prevent and respond to violence against children.
- Reinforce the capacity of the child protective services and mechanisms to ensure that child victims of violence receive quality support services in accordance with international standards and practices.
- Strengthen legislation and enforcement of relevant laws to protect children from all forms of violence.
- Encourage all sectors to be involved in this goal to end violence and provide children with opportunities to have a meaningful participation role.

We will continue to actively participate in all joint activities of the National Network to End Violence against Children. We will submit progress reports and relevant quality data on commonly agreed indicators on VAC regularly to the responsible agency for monitoring, evaluation and reporting purposes.

(This Declaration of Commitment was signed by National Agencies, UN Organizations, International and Local NGOs, FBOs, CSOs, civic groups, parents, children, and professionals who participated in the Launch of the National Baseline Study on Violence Against Children, held on 6 December 2016 at the Manila Hotel, City of Manila, Philippines.)

