The Philippine National Report on Follow-up to the World Summit for Children
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Introduction and Background

1. The Philippines has long been committed to ensuring the rights of children, particularly their rights to survival, protection, development and participation. The 1987 Constitution, in particular, took cognizance of the important role of child development in national development by mandating highest budgetary priority to education. As early as 1974, the Philippines had already enacted the Child and Youth Welfare Code, which defines the rights and responsibilities of the child. After the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child was approved by the United Nations on 20 November 1989, the Government of the Philippines (GOP) immediately took measures to pave the way for its ratification. Thus, on 26 July 1990, the Philippines became the 31st State to ratify the Convention by virtue of Senate Resolution 109. The Philippine Government formulated the framework of the National Plan for Children in the 1990s, a corresponding plan of action initially for 1990 to 1992.

2. On 29-30 September 1990, the Philippines joined the World Summit for Children, which resulted in the adoption of the World Declaration on the Survival, Protection and Development of Children and a corresponding Plan of Action for its implementation. To match the goals set during the World Summit, the Philippine Government updated the previous National Plan of Action to come up with the long-term “Philippine Plan of Action for Children (PPAC): the Filipino Children 2000 and Beyond.”

3. Article 44 of the UN CRC requires State Parties to submit periodic reports to the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child every five years following the submission of the initial report on the implementation of the UN CRC. In compliance with this, the Philippine Government submitted a report to the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child in 1993. The Council for the Welfare of Children (CWC) is currently finalizing the second report that focuses on the efforts of the government to fulfill its commitment to protect and promote the rights of all Filipino children for the period 1995-1997.

4. To achieve a more extensive and in-depth approach to information gathering in preparing these reports, several consultations and data-gathering activities were held at the provincial and regional levels and in selected municipalities. Staff members of the Secretariat of the CWC, the government inter-agency body tasked to prepare the report conducted these consultations and field visits. Two sets of consultations and field visits were held from 1996 to 1997. The first round of consultations and data-gathering activities were conducted in connection with monitoring the Philippine Plan of Action for Children (PPAC). The second round of visits to provinces and municipalities in five major regions were specifically designed to seek additional information on the implementation of the Convention. In all these consultations, representatives of government agencies and non-government organizations (NGOs) were involved. At the national level, all government agencies, intergovernmental agencies, and child-focused NGOs were consulted. However, the government respects and welcomes the autonomous monitoring and reporting processes and mechanisms initiated by child-focused NGOs.

5. A mid-term review of mid-decade goals (also known as the 1995 Hanoi Report) indicated that there had been some progress in the achievement of PPAC goals since 1990. By 1995, some advances had been made in the areas of immunization, reduction of deaths from measles, polio eradication, and attainment of near universal access to primary education, among other things. However, despite these modest accomplishments, there was still much that remained to be done until the end of the decade in reducing the disparities across geographical areas in the country.

6. Government efforts to ensure progress towards attainment of the goals for children are manifested in the continued improvement in the indicators relating to the goals. However, the financial crisis that swept through the Asian region in 1997 affected the country's ability to respond to all the needs of the population. The mounting fiscal deficit, brought on by lower tax revenues coupled with rising debt-service payments, necessitated some cutbacks in government spending. This situation has been exacerbated by the fact that the reduced incomes of some segments of the population relied more on publicly provided social services. This had a negative impact on the country's progress towards the achievement of the goals for children.

7. This report presents the achievements of the Philippines vis-à-vis the revised national targets in the areas of child survival, development, protection, and participation in the past decade.
Process Established for the End-Decade Review

8. The Council for the Welfare of Children (CWC) was tasked by the Philippine Government to take the lead in the preparation of the national report. In turn, the CWC convened meetings participated in by government agencies, child-focused non-governmental agencies and the academic community. Representatives from the basic sectors, particularly children, were also represented in this group. This group formed five clusters to look at specific areas: (1) education, (2) health and nutrition, (3) child protection, (4) statistics, and (5) research and best practices. The first three clusters examined the performance in their areas and identified issues. The fourth cluster provided data to be able to assess the performance. The fifth cluster looked into best practices.

9. In addition, a smaller group consisting of some members of the clusters met regularly to consolidate inputs from the clusters. Concerned government agencies were requested to report their programs related to child survival, development, protection, and participation. Surveys conducted by the national statistical agencies and administrative reports of the various government agencies were utilized to gather data on the different areas of concern. Consultations with children were conducted before and during the First National Summit on Children in October 2000. The results of the consultations were included in this report. A National Organizing Committee, composed of representatives from the legislative and executive government agencies and an NGO coalition, was formed to further refine the report.

10. The First National Summit on Children was held from October 26-27, 2000 as part of the preparations for the Philippine’s participation to the UN General Assembly Special Session on Children in 2001. It was participated in by over a thousand children, about 250 of them official delegates to the Summit. Prior to the culmination of the event, island-wide consultations with children were held in Luzon, Visayas, Mindanao and Metro Manila. The issues raised during these consultation meetings were consolidated during the pre-summit on 26 October and presented to the President on 27 October.

11. The Summit was spearheaded by the Office of the Presidential Adviser for Children’s Affairs, with the CWC, Department of Social Welfare and Development, National Economic and Development Authority, National Anti-Poverty Commission’s Children Basic Sector, UNICEF and NGOs. The highlights of the meeting included the presentation of Children’s Challenges to national leaders, presentation of Child 21 to the President, and the President’s first State of Filipino Children Report 2000.

Action at the National and International Levels

Action at the National Level

Policy and Legislative Framework

12. The Philippine Plan of Action for Children (PPAC): The Filipino Children 2000 and Beyond reconciles the previous national plan of action for children with the articles of the Convention. The CWC initiated the process of expanding the goals and targets of PPAC beyond the 14 goals and targets corresponding to the following five areas of children’s rights: civil rights and freedoms; family environment and alternative care; basic health and welfare; education, leisure and cultural activities; and special protection measures in order to ensure that the PPAC will be fully reconciled with the Convention.

13. The framework for the Philippine Plan of Action for Children: the Filipino Children 2000 and Beyond contained the Government goals for the 1990’s, as well as additional goals on family care and parental arrangement (responsible parenthood, reduction in the number of abandoned children, reintegration of children in the family, services for solo parents, improvement of child placement services, livelihood for families in crisis, maintenance of family care). It also included additional goals on access to early childhood care and development services, and recreation. A global goal of improving the conditions for children in especially difficult circumstances was also operationalized through national goals, such as provision of substitute parental care, adoption, placement of abandoned children, rehabilitation of abused children, banning of children in hazardous occupations, provision of basic services for children in armed conflict, psycho-social recovery and reintegration, and children’s participation. This document has become the point of reference for subsequent policies, programs and activities related to children. Since then, sectoral plans have been developed and corresponding new targets have been identified.
14. The GOP ratified the UN Convention in July 1990, but even before this, the basic legislative framework for the implementation of the UN CRC was in place. Further efforts were exerted to review and subsequently amend some of the pertinent laws immediately following the entry into force of the UN CRC. Additional laws and executive orders were enacted in order to address these gaps. A total of 22 child-friendly laws have been passed in the last ten years (refer to Annex 3). The Philippine Senate also ratified ILO Convention 138 in October 1997 and the Hague Convention on Inter-Country Adoption in June 1996.

15. The Philippine Congress passed RA 7610 entitled, “An Act Providing for Stronger Deterrence and Special Protection Against Child Abuse, Exploitation and Discrimination, Providing Penalties for its Violations and for Other Purposes”. This act provides stronger legislation and public policy for the care and protection of Children in Need of Special Protection (CNSP). More recently, RA 8369 was passed in October 1997 which restored the child and family courts abolished during the martial law period. The law has been, in part, a response of the government to the recommendation from the Committee on the Rights of the Child for the Philippines to undertake a comprehensive reform of the juvenile justice system. It is anticipated that with Republic Act 7610 and the restoration of the child and family courts, children who come into conflict with the law, as well as children who are victims of abuse, exploitation and violence, will receive appropriate and fair treatment and genuine justice that they deserve.

16. Two landmark laws have been passed to provide every neglected and abandoned child with opportunities for growth and development. Republic Act 8043, the Inter-Country Adoption Law, created the Inter-Country Adoption Board to ensure that Filipino children are protected from abuse, exploitation, sale, trafficking and any other practice in connection with adoption that is harmful, detrimental or prejudicial to the child. Republic Act 8552, the Domestic Adoption Act, establishes the rules and policies as to domestic adoption of Filipino children.

17. The recent laws passed include the Solo Parents Act (RA 8972) and the Early Childhood Care and Development (ECCD) Act (RA 8980). The Solo Parents Act, enacted on 15 November 2000, mandates the DSWD and other agencies to draw up a comprehensive package of benefits for solo parents and their children that includes tax breaks, housing benefits, health and education. The ECCD Act, signed into law on 5 December 2000, provides for the institutionalization of a national system for early childhood care and development from conception to age six years.

18. Other policy initiatives undertaken during the past five years have reinforced the social climate for child rights promotion and child protection. The Commission on Human Rights (CHR) created a Child Rights Center (CRC) in April 1994 with the mandate of monitoring child rights violations, as well as providing legal and financial assistance to victims of human and child rights violations. The Commission also entered into a memorandum of agreement with the Department of Interior and Local Government (DILG) in October 1994 to train barangay (village) human rights action officers (BHRAO) and set up barangay human rights action centers (BHRAC) in the 41,936 barangays nationwide.

19. As part of the Social Reform Agenda or the poverty alleviation program, special attention has been given to the rights and well-being of children. Executive Order (EO) 421 series of 1997 formalized the inclusion of children as a separate sector under the Social Reform Council. EO 421 is a concrete move towards institutionalizing representation and participation of children in the implementation of the government’s poverty alleviation and disparity reduction program. This is a significant step considering that addressing the situation of CNSP is directly linked to reducing poverty and promoting social equity.

20. The Child and Youth Welfare Code passed in 1974 (Presidential Decree 603) likewise continues to serve as framework for the promotion and protection of the welfare of Filipino children and young people. The code defines the rights of children, the rights and liabilities of parents, and the roles of other institutions (community, religious groups, schools, etc.) in promoting the welfare of Filipino children. It provided for the creation of the Council for the Welfare of Children (CWC) with the primary functions of coordinating and monitoring the implementation of all laws, policies and programs for children. It also provided for the creation of the Barangay Council for the Protection of Children.

21. The Philippine National Strategic Framework for Plan Development for Children or Child 21 was signed by the President into an Executive Order on 3 November 2000 (EO 310). Child 21 is a strategic framework for planning programs and interventions that promote and safeguard the rights of Filipino children. It paints in broad strokes a vision for the quality of life of Filipino children by 2025 and a road map to achieve the vision. It provides a
framework for the national government as well as for local government units, private initiatives, and non-governmental organizations in setting priorities for action and in allocating and utilizing resources to promote the rights of Filipino children.

22. The Government acknowledged the need to address the gap between the enactment of laws and the enforcement of these laws. Aside from the need to set-up functional and efficient monitoring systems, the need to educate the public and the government officials and public/civil servants about these child-focused laws and policies was also seen as critical. It was evident that the lack of public awareness and understanding within the justice system about national laws which were specifically intended to provide special protection measures for children in the spirit of the Convention contributed to this lack of commitment to enforcing these laws. Thus, efforts were intensified to conduct public information campaigns and professional development activities for members of the justice system on these laws, including RA 7610 (Special Protection of Children Against Child Abuse, Exploitation and Discrimination Act, 1992) and RA 7658 (Special Protection of Filipino Children: An Act prohibiting the employment of children below 15 years of age in public and private undertakings, amending for this purpose section 12, Article VIII of RA 7610, 1995).

23. On 26 August 2000 the President signed EO 294 Creating the Office of the Presidential Adviser for Children’s Affairs (OPACA). Its mission is to give voice to the Filipino children by providing them with a link to the highest office in the land. It aims to make the Philippines a child-friendly country. OPACA shall advise the President on issues affecting children and recommend such measures or programs that will complement the Administration’s pro-poor agenda. It will also review all legislation for children and see if there is a need to introduce or amend legislation for the protection and welfare of children, and facilitate the funding of programs and projects, both with foreign and domestic fund sources. Projects of the Office include Healthy Body, Healthy Mind (nutrition awareness campaign, supplemental feeding program), Kids for Peace (peace advocacy among children), educational support, support to children victims of the Mindanao conflict (debriefing), advocacy and networking.

Mechanisms for Ensuring Implementation of the UN CRC

24. The Government recognizes the need to address the setting up and strengthening of all mechanisms for ensuring the full implementation of the UN CRC. A multi-pronged strategy is required involving: 1) strengthening the capacity of all government employees at the national, regional, local (provincial, city, municipal and barangay (village) levels) so that they will be able to implement programs and policies that have a direct impact on the quality of life of all Filipino children; (2) intensifying advocacy and social mobilization efforts to ensure that the resources available from the public and private sectors will be made available and utilized fully for the maximum benefit of Filipino children; and 3) strengthening and expanding partnerships between government and civil society at all levels of work for the promotion and protection of children’s rights and the implementation of the UN CRC.

25. Following consultations with non-governmental organizations and based on the recommendations of the National Coalition of NGOs for Monitoring the Implementation of the UN CRC, there have been collaborative efforts to activate Local Councils for the Protection of Children and to establish new Councils in selected villages. Regional sub-committees have also been organized in each of the 15 regions of the country. Provincial Sub-Committees for the Welfare of Children have also been organized. NGO participation is encouraged at this level. As of the end of 1996, provincial subcommittees were organized in 10 percent of the 78 provinces. There are 1,253 Local Councils for the Protection of Children organized. Of these, 445 are active and functional. There are a total of 1,608 cities and municipalities nationwide. Much more work has to be done so that there will be at least one functional council in each city or municipality. This has been a joint effort of the DILG, DSWD, CWC, and NGOs active in each of the regions.

26. A Special Committee for the Protection of Children was constituted on 14 September 1995 by virtue of EO 275. The Secretary of the Department of Justice (DOJ) and the Secretary of Social Welfare and Development jointly chair the committee. Three NGO representatives have been appointed members of the Special Committee, and CWC serves as the secretariat. The committee has been tasked to: (i) address specific issues on child abuse and exploitation; (ii) direct other agencies to immediately respond to problems brought to its attention; and (iii) assess, monitor and implement the state policy to defend the right of children to assistance, including special protection from all forms of neglect, abuse, cruelty, exploitation and discrimination and other conditions prejudicial to their development as provided under RA 7610.
The participation of children in shaping the social development agenda has been a focus of attention in recent years. Within the Social Reform Agenda and through the joint efforts of government agencies and non-governmental organizations tasked to lead the implementation of poverty alleviation programs, there has been a successful initiative to define Children and Youth as separate sectors and to ensure representation in various consultations at the local, regional and national levels so that the national social development plan to fight poverty will truly involve them as partners. This is seen as part of the fulfillment of children’s rights to participate in local governance with a special focus on poverty alleviation and their access to special protection measures. EO 421 issued on 20 June 1997 by then President Fidel V. Ramos created a separate sector for children which is different from the youth and students sector. It encouraged representation of children below 15 years old in relevant political, social and cultural structures and activities in government. RA 8425 otherwise known as the Social Reform and Poverty Alleviation Act passed on 27 July 1998 specified the representation of children in governance, recognizing the children sector as one of the 14 disadvantaged sectors within the National Anti-Poverty Commission (NAPC). Pursuant to this law, the DSWD-Comprehensive and Integrated Delivery of Social Services embarked into the process of selecting children representatives to the Children Sector in September 1998.

The full implementation of the UN CRC also requires expanding and refining the existing monitoring mechanisms and systems for PPAC. If PPAC and the UN CRC monitoring systems are unified, this would provide a firm foundation for a sustained and ultimately more effective monitoring system that is based at the grassroots level. More systematic data gathering, documentation, reporting mechanisms and systems also need to be established at the national level.

Financing of social programs

An important aspect of implementing the Convention involves ensuring the availability of resources from the public funds and getting the support of the private sector. To this end, the government agencies involved in implementing programs for children such as the Department of Education Culture and Sports (DECS), DOH, DSWD, DOJ and the DOLE have taken the initiative to prepare their national plans and budgets for specific programs and services.

To ensure steady, certain and sufficient levels of financing for basic social needs of every human being, the 1995 World Summit for Social Development encouraged the 20/20 initiative. The initiative exhorts national governments and international donors to allocate 20 percent of their budgets on human priority expenditures in order to help nations achieve decent levels of human development.

Central government expenditure on basic education, basic health and nutrition support, social welfare, and low-cost water supply and sanitation as a proportion of total central government expenditures net of transfers has been increasing. In 1997, the share was 16.53 percent, up from the 14.92 percent share in 1996. In 1998, the share went up slightly to 16.54 percent, due to efforts to protect the social sector in the wake of the financial crisis and the ensuing fiscal deficit.

The developments in central government spending on 20/20 are also reflected in the movements in LGU spending. The share of basic social services to total LGU spending has gone up from 15.5 percent in 1996 to 16.5 percent in 1998.

While the shares have generally been on an upward trend, real per capita central government expenditures on basic social services has been on the decline. It dropped by 3.4 percent in 1998, from PhP 418 to PhP 403. The reduction is largely traceable to the erosion of central government expenditures on basic health services.

On the other hand, international donors have allocated less than 5 percent of total Official Development Assistance to basic health services, low-cost water supply and sanitation, and basic education. In 1996, the share was 4 percent; it went down to 2.5 percent in 1997 and went up to 4.4 percent in 1998. These shares are way below the desired 20 percent.

Role of Civil Society

Until the early 1980s, most of the local or people’s organizations operate in isolation from the government agencies. Collaboration, if there was, has been very limited. However, since the 1980s, collaboration among NGOs, international NGOs and POs has increased. Moreover, after the People’s Revolution in 1986, NGOs and civil society
participation was encouraged and pursued by the government. Foreign assistance to the country also increased and some large foreign donors required NGO involvement solely or in partnership with government.

36. Coalition building among NGOs also flourished. Among the many coalitions, the National Coalition of NGOs for monitoring the implementation of the UN-CRC, and the National Coalition for Children’s Participation emerged. It was only in the mid 1990s that children’s participation right was given emphasis or attention by some local and international NGOs. Child-focused NGOs pooled resources and facilitated children’s fora/congresses at local and national levels as venues for children to exercise their right to express their opinions and freedom to organize. Capability building programs were also provided to the children by the different NGOs.

37. Such efforts to get children to participate in matters affecting their lives and in governance were sustained and expanded as attention on children in national and international arenas is increasingly called for, especially by children, international and local NGOs, and GOs themselves. This was also supported by the issuance of EO 421 in 1997 by President Ramos recognizing children as a separate sector.

38. The National Anti-Poverty Commission accepted the nomination of ten child-focused NGOs (local and international such as PLAN International, World Vision Development Foundation, Christian Children’s Fund, Save the Children, ERDA, KABIBA, LPI, ECPAT and Children in AIDS Network (CHAIN) to act as the preparatory Committee for the conduct of the children’s national assembly where the children were to select/nominate the members of the Children’s Sectoral Council. This was held in January 1999. It paved the way for the confirmation by President Joseph Estrada in March 1999 of the Child Commissioner. This enhanced the country’s implementation of the fourth right of the child, which is participation. However, there is still a lot to be done to scale up children’s participation at all levels, in various constitutional contexts, in programming, policymaking and governance, according to their evolving capacity.

**Action at the International Level**


40. During the UN Millennium Summit in September 2000 in New York, President Joseph Ejercito Estrada signed the Optional Protocol to the CRC on the Involvement of Children in Armed Conflicts and the Optional Protocol to the CRC on the Sale of Children, Child Prostitution, and Child Pornography to manifest the commitment of the Philippines at the highest level to child rights and child welfare. Earlier, the Philippines supported the adoption of these texts on 25 May 2000 during the 56th Session of the United Nations Commission on Human Rights in Geneva.

41. The Philippines participated in the final stages of negotiations on the Supplementary Protocol to the UN Convention against Transnational Organized Crime to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children from 2-27 October 2000 during the 11th session of the Ad Hoc Committee on the Elaboration against Transnational Organized Crime with the view to concluding the work by the year 2000. The completed instrument has been submitted to the General Assembly of the United Nations for adoption in November 2000 prior to the high level signing conference on 12-15 December 2000 in Palermo, Italy. Thus, the Philippines supports the initiative to create a consensus on measures to control transnational organized crime trafficking activities and the protection of victims especially women and children from retaliation and re-victimization. The Philippines has been designated as the site for a UN Pilot Project on establishing coalition against trafficking of human beings, including women and children.

42. The Philippine Government is also in partnership with the Asia-Europe Meeting (ASEM) which tackles among others, children’s concerns. This body aims to: (a) promote cooperation between countries on child welfare by the exchange of experiences on good practice; (b) encourage the further development of models of cooperation and wider use of good practices; and (c) institute better mechanisms for cooperation at the international level. The Philippines has shared information on children and has also joined in activities that promote the rights of children and specifically tackle issues affecting them. One accomplishment of this group is the setting-up of the ASEM Website hosted by the CWC where data on sexual abuse and commercial sexual exploitation of children are regularly included.
43. As part of the Memorandum of Understanding between the GOP and the Government of Australia to Combat Sexual Abuse and Exploitation of Children, a three-week training program on the Current Practices on Child Sexual Abuse Prevention Program was provided to 18 professional social workers in Adelaide, Australia in April 1999. The trainers have trained social workers and other service providers including the children on protective behavior as a preventive strategy against child abuse.

44. The National Family Violence Prevention Program is a bilateral project with the New Zealand Government which started in August 1998 and is being pilot tested in 5 regions with two barangays per region where there are high incidence of family violence cases. The program provides training to social workers, community leaders and volunteers in the handling of cases of family violence.

45. In February 1995, the Philippine Government through DSWD and the Government of Sweden through Swedish Save the Children forged an agreement to implement the project “Child at Risk: Protection, Provision and Participation for the Implementation of the Rights of the Child”. As a result, 25 Philippine professionals, 21 social workers, a judge, a state prosecutor, a law enforcer and a human rights lawyer were trained in Sweden for one month. On 29 August 1996, a second agreement was forged regarding the establishment of three therapy centers for abused and exploited children. The therapy center serves as a venue for training of social workers and other service providers, research and supervision.

46. In 1997, the UN-ESCAP implemented Commission Resolution 53/4 on the Elimination of Sexual Abuse and Exploitation of Children in Asia and the Pacific which was sponsored by the Philippines. ESCAP developed a three-year project on Strengthening National Human Resource Development Capabilities on Social and Health Personnel to combat sexual abuse and exploitation of children and youth.

47. The Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights forged an agreement with the Philippine Government specific to providing assistance to children in conflict with the law. This effort is in response to the request for assistance of the GOP as well as the recommendation of the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child. The two-year project entitled “Protecting the Rights of Children in Conflict with the Law” will help strengthen both the mechanisms and structures dealing with the concerns of children in conflict with the law.

48. The ASEAN ECCD Project was originally proposed by Singapore at the 1995 Workshop on the Establishment of an ASEAN Regional Centre/Network for Family and Child Development. The Project, which includes four regional seminars, aims to establish and strengthen existing linkages among child care personnel, policy makers and administrators, trainers and training agencies, educators and academicians in order to exchange information on the policies and practices in the field. The Philippines hosted the first Regional Seminar in October 2000 and was attended by 24 delegates from nine ASEAN member countries.

49. The Philippines has a joint program of cooperation with UNICEF for the benefit of children called CPC V (Fifth Philippine Country Program for Children) for the period 1999-2003. The aims of the program are to: (i) strengthen national and local governments capability to implement the CRC; and (ii) contribute to the massive mobilization in support of a Child-Friendly Movement at all administrative levels, local communities and within the family. CPC V focuses its assistance in 25 areas (20 provinces and 5 cities) through multisectoral programs with emphasis on communication, health, nutrition, education and child protection services. The experiences in these 25 priority areas will serve as models for the 58 provinces and 80 cities where local policy and institutional development will be pursued.

50. In keeping with the country’s commitment to the Stockholm Agenda Against the Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children, the CWC with assistance from UNICEF spearheaded the formulation of the Framework for Action Against Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children. This is a medium term plan covering the period of 2000-2004. It views the phenomenon of commercial sexual exploitation of children within a systems perspective. This Framework depicts the gamut of structures and processes, policies/programs and services, and stakeholders involved and how all these elements interface with each other to bring about the desired change for the future of children victims and those at risk of commercial sexual exploitation.

51. The ILO-IPEC Action Programme on Child Labour has been implemented in the Philippines since 1994 and is extended until 2001. IPEC works toward the progressive elimination of child labor by strengthening national
The concerted actions of the various ILO-IPEC partners have been critical for the ratification of ILO Convention 138. They undertook projects such as joint advocacy, awareness-raising, training of members and volunteers, support programs for children and care givers, referral services for child laborers, and mobilization efforts for the Manila kick-off of the Global March Against Child Labor in January 1998. The ILO-IPEC has contributed significantly to systematic research and analyses leading to a better understanding of the complex issues of child labor. To further protect child labor, the Philippines in 2000 ratified ILO Convention 182: Eliminating All Worst Forms of Child Labor.

53. Other international NGOs support children’s programs within the framework of the Convention and focus on the survival, development, protection and participation rights through their own programs or by providing funding and technical assistance for local NGOs. Among these are Caritas, Christian Children’s Fund, members of the International Save the Children Alliance, Terre des Hommes, and Plan International.

Specific Actions for Child Survival, Development, Protection and Participation

54. This section presents the progress achieved in the areas of child survival, development, protection and participation vis-à-vis the national and international goals that the Philippines has committed to.

55. Some of the efforts to ensure that children are afforded all the four rights were thwarted by recent developments in the Philippines and in the region. The Asian financial crisis which started in 1997 has broken the growth momentum of the Philippine economy and has caused adverse social impacts, some of them long-term. For instance, the long-term impacts of the regional financial crisis to the delivery of basic education are two-fold. At the household level, employable household members were pulled out from schools to look for employment. This resulted to a slight increase in drop out rates, particularly among high school male students, during the past two school years. Furthermore, the financial crisis increased the cost of basic education in private schools. Together with the decrease in the value of household income, families sought economic refuge in public school systems. This resulted to undue pressure, i.e. manpower and resources, exerted to the already resource strapped public school systems.

56. The armed conflict in Mindanao has also affected the delivery of basic services. Mindanao is host to 24 percent of total enrolment. With the onset of conflict, classes were disrupted and school facilities were destroyed in two of the six regions in the island. Several communities were displaced making delivery of basic education difficult. For the school year 1999 an increase in enrolment population beyond the projected enrolment in regions and provinces adjacent to the conflict affected areas was noted.

57. Despite these setbacks, significant progress has been achieved in the areas of health, nutrition, education and access to basic facilities during the past decade. The end-decade goals for infant mortality rate and under-five mortality rate have been met. In the other areas, while progress has been achieved, the pace of improvement has been inadequate for the country to meet its year 2000 goals. Malnutrition prevalence is still higher than the target while access to safe drinking water and sanitary toilet facilities are still lower than the desired proportions. While primary school participation rate is high at 97 percent, secondary school participation rate is lower. Moreover, the quality of education needs to be improved.

Child Survival

Child Health

58. Government efforts have paid off in reducing the infant mortality rate from 57 in 1990 to 35 in 1998, exceeding the year 2000 goal of 50 per 1,000 live births. Under five mortality rate was significantly reduced from 80 in 1990 to 48 in 1998, exceeding the year 2000 goal of 70 per 1,000 children aged less than five years old.
The decline in the mortality rates were due to the expanded program in immunization (EPI), improvement in breastfeeding practices, vitamin A supplementation every six months, and the improvement of case management at home and at health facilities. The EPI aims to reduce infant and child mortality due to the six immunizable diseases (tuberculosis, diphtheria, tetanus, pertusis, poliomyelitis and measles). In 1995, only 1 in 10 infants was not fully immunized. The country has been certified as polio-free within the Western-Pacific region during the Kyoto Meeting on 29 October 2000. The program relied on the following strategies: (a) provision of 100 percent of the vaccines, needles/syringes, and other supplies required for immunization; (b) strengthening social mobilization and information dissemination for EPI; (c) provision of technical assistance through training, conferences and technical papers; (d) strengthening the monitoring of EPI supplies; (e) formulation and updating of EPI policies and guidelines to meet the growing needs and to keep up with new technologies and the changing epidemiology of childhood diseases. With devolution, however, sustaining high EPI coverage has been a challenge.

While significant progress has been achieved in the area of child health, future strategies must focus on addressing the high levels of underlying malnutrition, sustaining high levels of EPI coverage (with special focus on measles elimination), and integrated management of childhood illness (IMCI).

Maternal Health

The maternal mortality rate (MMR) declined from 209 per 100,000 live births in 1993 to 172 per 100,000 live births in 1998. Given the pace of improvement, the year 2000 goal of 105 per 100,000 live births may not be met. Moreover, the disparities across provinces remain large. In 1995, the MMR in Sulu Province was almost three times the rate in Cavite Province. In areas where maternal access to primary health care is limited by geography or political conflict, mothers have doubled the risk of dying during childbirth as compared to mothers in areas where health care is more available.

Teen-age pregnancy is a contributing factor to high MMR. Most teen-age pregnancies occur between the ages of 15 and 17 years old. One in 25 adolescent females has a child before age 18. Adolescent pregnancy increases maternal and fetal complications. Fetal mortality rate for teen-age pregnancies is 1.2 to 1.6 times higher than those of mothers 24-34 years old. Finally, there is greater risk of premature births, low birth weight, in-born defects, mental retardation, and blindness.

Maternal malnutrition is a major factor affecting the unborn child’s chances for survival and normal fetal development. With the increasing recognition of the magnitude and urgency of the problem, the Philippines has given priority to women’s health and safe motherhood in recent years. Some of the initiatives that have been undertaken are: improving the access to maternal care through the deployment of midwives in the hard-to-reach and underserved areas in the country, and providing primary level health facilities with basic supplies and equipment and essential drugs including micronutrients. The institutional capacities of the Department of Health were strengthened and partnerships with LGUs, NGOs and the communities were forged to increase awareness, promote participation and mobilize resources for women's health and maternal care.

Although focus and resources are being put into women's health and safe motherhood programs, especially at the national level, the goal of reducing maternal mortality remains challenging. Given the high disparities across provinces, it is recognized that the reduction of MMR in some provinces to the level of the end-decade target will not be possible. In majority of the provinces, the challenge is to develop political will and commitment at the highest levels to recognize the problem and to institute focused and sustained initiatives to effect the desired reduction.

Nutrition

The Philippine Plan of Action for Nutrition (PPAN), which is integral and a companion plan of both the Philippine Development Plan and the PPAC, embodies the country’s efforts toward achieving the nutrition goals of the World Summit for Children as adopted in the Philippines.

The PPAN’s impact programs of Home, School, and Community Food Production, Micronutrient Supplementation, Food Fortification, Nutrition Education, and Food Assistance are envisioned to be implemented with local government units (LGUs) at the forefront. National government agencies, non-governmental organizations, and
international organizations extend technical assistance and limited logistics support to LGUs. The 1990s covered three PPAN planning cycles, i.e. 1987-1992, 1993-98, and 1999-2004.

67. Taking cognizance of the severe consequences of micronutrient deficiencies and the more immediate and visible effects of interventions that address micronutrient malnutrition, the nutrition community agreed to concentrate its efforts on the prevention and control of micronutrient deficiencies starting in 1993.

68. The strategy adopted to address micronutrient malnutrition involved heavy investments in short-term and relatively more expensive universal supplementation, specifically for vitamin A and iodine from 1993-96. After this period, more food-based strategies, i.e. food fortification, nutrition education to effect changes in dietary behavior, and food production were emphasized. Food fortification was private/business sector-led and focused on staple foods like rice, sugar, cooking oil, wheat flour, salt and drinking water. Nutrition education aimed at changing dietary behaviors consistent with the country's nutritional guidelines, specifically, increasing consumption of foods rich in vitamin A, iodine, and iron, prolonged breastfeeding, and proper introduction of complementary foods to contribute to the prevention of both protein-energy malnutrition (PEM) and micronutrient deficiencies.

69. Key developments were attributed to continued efforts to deliver nutrition interventions, side by side with policy interventions to achieve targeted changes in the nutrition situation. In addition, advocacy efforts continued along the integration of nutrition considerations in overall development as well as sectoral plans at the national and local levels. Key developments were as follows:

70. **Protein-Energy Malnutrition.** Protein-energy malnutrition (PEM) remains a major threat to the Filipino child’s survival even as the prevalence of moderately and severely underweight (indicative of either stunting or wasting or both) preschool children 0-5 years old decreased from 10.5 percent in 1989-90 to 8.8 percent in 1996. It went up to 9.2 percent in 1998. Stunting, indicative of prolonged deprivation of food and frequent infections, decreased from 7.0 percent in 1989-90 to 5.4 percent in 1998, but wasting, indicative of a lack of food or infection in the immediate past, increased from 5.7 percent to 7.2 percent over the same period. These are prevalence rates based on Philippine reference standards for weight and height.

71. However, using International Reference Standards, prevalence rates for underweight and stunted children in 1998 were much higher at 31.8 percent and 32.0 percent, respectively; while wasting was at about the same level (6.6 percent). This finding suggests that Filipino children are, in general, underweight for their age because they are relatively shorter than their counterparts who grew up in an environment that allowed the full or near-full expression of growth potentials.

72. Addressing PEM involved the implementation of a mix of programs with the Food Assistance Program being a service received directly by children. From 1993-98, an annual average of about 800,000 preschool children received food supplements through various supplementary feeding programs organized and managed by local government units (LGUs) or nongovernmental organizations (NGOs). Other programs implemented to address the PEM included the establishment of home, school, and community kitchen gardens, credit assistance for livelihood, and nutrition education. These programs were implemented largely through the efforts of local government units through local nutrition committees.

73. However, the implementation of these programs and other development programs could not ward off the negative effects on nutrition of the Asian financial crisis and the El Nino and La Nina phenomena, and other natural and man-made calamities.

74. Given the trends in prevalence of protein-energy malnutrition among children, achieving the 50 percent reduction in 1990 levels of malnutrition by 2000, is unlikely. In fact, country targets for the reduction of PEM have been already aligned to those set during the 1996 World Food Summit, i.e. by the year 2015, a 50 percent reduction in PEM levels of 1996.

75. Future strategies for malnutrition reduction must and will focus on improving caring practices for young children, complemented with improvements in health services, and food security. At the same time, related efforts to address poverty, improve levels of education, and other concerns of development, but with a nutrition perspective must be pursued.
76. **Vitamin A Deficiency.** Vitamin A deficiency (VAD) causes nightblindness that may lead to xerophthalmia and eventually to total blindness. In 1998, about 4 million preschool age children were at risk of going blind due to VAD. About 8.2 percent of children, 6 months to 5 years old were found to have deficient serum vitamin A levels, while about 38 percent were found to have low to deficient serum vitamin A. These prevalence rates indicate a problem of public health significance having exceeded the WHO cut-off points of 5 percent and 15 percent, respectively. The 1998 prevalence of children with low to deficient serum vitamin A was about 8 percent higher than reported levels in 1993. However, the 1998 prevalence of children with deficient serum vitamin A was 21 percent lower than the 1993 level.

77. Data on the prevalence of vitamin A-deficient pregnant and lactating women suggest a shift of the public health problem among lactating women in 1993 to pregnant women in 1998. The prevalence of pregnant women with deficient and low to deficient vitamin A status increased between these two survey periods, while that for lactating women showed a decrease.

78. The observed trends in Vitamin A status is due to the provision of high-dose Vitamin A capsules to all preschool children and women within the first month after delivery. From 1993 to 1998, the former was done twice a year, the first time coinciding with the National Immunization Day, and the second time during the National Micronutrient Day or the *Araw ng Sangkap Pinoy (ASAP)* campaign. From 1999-2000, preschool children received high-dose vitamin A capsules through twice-a-year conduct of the *Garantisadong Pambata* (literally means guaranteed for children) or GP or Preschooler’s Health Week. Through these efforts, more than 80 percent of preschool children aged 12-59 months have received high-dose vitamin A capsules twice a year. Furthermore, 98 percent of the provinces and cities in the country have attained at least 74 percent coverage of preschoolers for vitamin A supplementation. In fact, almost half (43 percent) of the country’s provinces and cities covered all targeted preschool children for VAD supplementation.

79. In addition to supplementation, nutrition education on the value of vitamin A, and on measures to prevent and cure the deficiency was also intensified. This was done in conjunction with the ASAP and GP and specific campaigns on increasing the consumption of fruits and vegetables, among others.

80. Furthermore, advocacy with the private sector started paying off as more food manufacturers started fortifying their products. At present, almost all of the 33 food products carrying the Department of Health seal of assurance of proper fortification contain either vitamin A or beta carotene and other micronutrients. Furthermore, RA 8679, or the Food Fortification Act of 2000 mandates the fortification of rice, sugar, flour and cooking oil with vitamin A within the next four years, among others.

81. Given the trends in Vitamin A status, eliminating subclinical vitamin A deficiency by the year 2000 may not be possible. Sustaining the initiatives of the 1990s, i.e. universal supplementation, food fortification, nutrition education together with development efforts that would allow the population to afford a better diet could push levels of vitamin A deficiency below levels of public health significance.

82. **Iodine deficiency.** The prevalence of iodine deficiency disorders (IDD) as manifested by goiter, doubled from 3.5 percent in 1987 to 6.7 percent in 1993, with the prevalence markedly higher among the female than the male population, specifically the pregnant and lactating women. However, later trends in goiter prevalence could not be determined since the 1998 national nutrition survey shifted to the use of urinary iodine excretion as indicator of subclinical iodine deficiency.

83. The 1998 national nutrition survey reported a median urinary iodine excretion (UIE) level of 71 ug/l among children 7-12 years old. Using the WHO/UNICEF/ICCIDD criteria, iodine deficiency in the country is of mild severity. However, by percent distribution, 35.8 percent of children 7-12 years old have moderate to severe iodine deficiency, indicating a moderate level of the problem. Fifteen of the provinces of the country were found to have a moderate to severe level of the problem.

84. Massive supplementation with iodized oil capsules was done from 1993 to 1995, covering all women of child-bearing age all over the country as part of the ASAP campaign. Since 1996, supplementation was limited to areas that are hyperendemic to goiter, based on goiter prevalence among school children. The coverage of supplementation over the
past five years may be relatively low (at around 60 percent of targets), but is still significantly higher than reported levels in the 1970s and 1980s.

85. Republic Act No. 8172 of 1995 or the Act for Salt Iodization Nationwide (ASIN Law) mandates the iodization of salt. Prior to its enactment, UNICEF and the Department of Health distributed 47 salt iodization machines with a production capacity of 142,460 metric tons or about 59.4 percent of the population’s total salt consumption. Surveys indicate a 67.3 percent level of awareness on iodized salt, and a 22.4 percent level of usage of iodized salt. Government continues to dialogue with salt manufacturers to encourage them to iodize the salt they produce, trade and distribute. Government also continues to spearhead a communication campaign to encourage the population to use iodized salt. At the same time, government is taking the necessary steps to start applying the appropriate sanctions to violators of the law. Achieving the global goal of eliminating iodine deficiency by the year 2000 is unlikely given the high prevalence of subclinical iodine deficiency and the slack implementation of the ASIN Law.

86. Iron deficiency. Among the nutritional deficiencies, iron deficiency anemia (IDA) is the most prevalent, affecting about one-third (30.6 percent) of the population based on the 1998 national nutrition survey. The highest prevalence of 56.6 percent is observed among infants, 6 months to less than 1 year, followed by pregnant (50.7 percent) and lactating women (45.7 percent). Furthermore, 1998 level of iron deficiency anemia is an increase over the 1993 level of 28.9 percent.

87. While the data on iron deficiency anemia from 1987 to 1998 suggest that a 20 percent reduction may be attained by the end of the decade, a closer look to explain the see-saw trend in its prevalence is needed to evolve more purposive action to achieve and maintain its continuing decline.

**Safe Water and Sanitation**

88. *Access to safe drinking water.* In 1998, about 78 percent of households have access to safe drinking water. This was an improvement from the 73.7 percent access recorded in 1990. Given this trend, it is not likely that the end-decade goal of 90 percent access will be met.

89. The water supply coverage has steadily increased since 1988, when the government launched the country’s Water Supply, Sewerage and Sanitation Sector Master Plan, covering the period up to the year 2000. However, progress in the provision of water supply facilities is relatively slower in rural areas compared to urban areas.

90. To achieve the national target, a Rural Water, Sewerage and Sanitation Development Program to construct an additional 61,500 Level I systems was launched nationwide. This is complemented by a DOH sanitation program to provide water facility disinfection and water control and surveillance, and to construct public and household latrines.

91. *Access to sanitation.* Access to sanitary toilet facilities rose from 71.6 percent in 1990 to 80.4 percent in 1998. The pace of improvement in this area suggests that the target of 86 percent of households by the year 2000 will not be attained. The minimal progress could be attributed to the smaller budget usually allocated for sanitation activities compared to the provision of safe water program. Other factors which inhibited the achievement of the goals are the rapid population growth, especially in the urban areas, inadequate capability of LGUs to manage and implement Water and Sanitation projects, weak monitoring schemes, uncertainty of LGU budget allocation for WATSAN, and low priority given to sanitation at all levels.

92. Despite these, the government is serious in trying to improve the situation and is addressing the problem together with the water supply problem as discussed above.

**Child Development**

*Access to Early Childhood Care and Development Services*

93. The period from birth to age five is defined as early childhood and has been established as the most critical in a child's life since what happens to the child in these years set the stage for life-long health, learning and behavior. Providing early childhood care and development (ECCD) services means addressing the need of the whole child for survival, growth and development. Thus, ECCD services entail providing in an integrated manner health, nutrition and
psychosocial interventions for children aged 0-5 years. The ECCD goals set by the GOP in its Education For All National Plan of Action and PPAC was 90 percent coverage for all children aged 0-5 for 1999, with the total ECCD aged population (0-4 only) projected to be around 9,570,336.

94. Initial studies showed a low level of children intake for preschool program. Pre-school program are largely urban biased. The Philippine Education For All 2000 Assessment Report noted that the participation rate of the ECCD-age population is 55.7 percent or 2,086,047 (out of 3,746,016) who attend ECCD programs. Of this, 40.8 percent and 14.9 percent are in public day care centers and preschool programs, respectively. The quality of the ECCD services tends to be poor and varies across geographic areas and programs. However, a survey made by the same study revealed that 70 percent of Grade I entrants has ECCD experience. This indicate the growing awareness and importance of early childhood care and development experience for prospective Grade I entrants.

95. Pursuant to RA 6972, “An Act Establishing a Day Care Center in Every Barangay”, there has been a continuing increase in the number of Day Care Centers (DCC) nationwide. To date, there is a total of 36,025 DCCs but only 30,420 barangays out of the 41,940 barangays have been covered. This accounts for only 72.5 percent coverage. As to the number of children served, a total of 2,161,500 are being served in the different DCCs which do not include those being operated by private and church-based organizations. This is relatively low due to the inadequacy of available structures to accommodate children needing early childhood stimulation.

96. With the devolution of basic social services to the local government units, operation and maintenance of DCCs has become their responsibility. However, national agencies are still involved in selected special projects relative to the promotion of early childhood education. One of these projects is the Early Childhood Development Project, undertaken by the DSWD, DECS and DOH with loan assistance from ADB and WB.

Access to Basic Education

97. The Department of Education, Culture and Sports continues to implement policies, programs and projects aimed at improving the quality of Philippine education, making it accessible to all Filipinos and more responsive to the development challenges of the country. These initiatives sustained efforts to achieve the twin goals of global competitiveness and people empowerment embodied under the Medium Term Philippine Development Plan (1993-1998) called Philippines 2000.

98. Enrolment in elementary public and private schools increased from 10.7 million during the school year 1992-1993 to 12.7 million in school year 1999-2000. The elementary participation rate increased significantly from 85.2 percent to 97 percent over the same period while the cohort survival rate improved from 68.4 percent to 69.3 percent.

99. Access to basic education was expanded through the twin strategies of establishing schools in school-less villages and completing “incomplete” schools through multi-grade classes. Between 1995 and 2000, the number of rural barangays without elementary schools was reduced from 6,019 to 4,710 out of 41,940 barangays. The number of incomplete elementary schools decreased from 11,420 in 1993 to 9,166 in 1999.

100. Given the trends in resource allocation, population growth and reliance on formal educational delivery system, the end-decade goals of 98 percent participation rate and 80 percent cohort survival rate will not be achieved. Achieving these goals will require innovative approaches that go beyond “business as usual” and traditional delivery systems, and will require reaching hardest to reach children who have remained outside the fold of the education system – children who are working; living on the streets; suffering from disabilities, neglect or abuse; and are in conflict with the law. To reach these children who are most educationally deprived would require policies, programs and strategies that may not necessarily be school-based nor formal in approach.

101. Enhancing access to basic education is guided by the various policy reforms: (i) prioritize undeserved or marginalized groups of areas; (ii) broaden and deepen stakeholders involvement and participation (establish partnership with other government agencies, LGUs, NGOs, businesses, parents and community groups) in establishing school/community based planning and adopting effective fund mobilization scheme; and (iii) explore and maximize the utilization of the educational resources. In line with these, various programs were implemented, including Dropout Intervention Program, Multi-Grade Program in Philippine Education (MPPE), Adopt-a-School-Program, Projects EASE (Easy and Affordable Secondary Education), Distance Learning Educational Program, Balik-Paaralan for Out-of-School Adults
Program, Government Assistance to Students and Teachers in Private Education, Third Elementary Education Program, and the Secondary Education Development and Improvement Project, and the School Feeding Program.

102. Other initiatives undertaken by NGOs and other private institutions to enhance access to basic education are the implementation of the Children in Need of Special Protection (CNSP) responses through Educational Assistance, and the Scholarship Grants to poor but deserving student’s sponsorship program.

Quality of Education

103. The National Elementary Assessment Test (NEAT) is a national examination which aims to measure learning outcomes at the elementary level to enhance quality education as recommended by the Congressional Commission on Education. It is designed to assess the abilities of Grade VI pupils from all public and private elementary schools in the areas of Science, Mathematics, English, Filipino, and HEKASI. In 1999, a total of 1,599,728 pupils took the NEAT exam out of the total 1,677,012 Grade VI enrolled.

104. On the other hand, the National Secondary Assessment Test (NSAT) aims to assess the abilities and skills of Fourth Year high school students from all public and private high schools in Science, Mathematics, English, Filipino, and Araling Panlilipunan. A total of 1,038,290 fourth year students out of the total 1,038,728 took part in the nationally administered NSAT in 1999.

105. The results of the NEAT indicate a rise in the mean percentage score (MPS) of Grade VI pupils from 41.76 percent in 1993 to 49.19 percent in 1999, but is lower than the 52.58 percent national target for 1999 set by the Medium Term Philippine Development Plan (Angat Pinoy 2004). On the other hand, the NSAT results revealed an enhanced performance of fourth year high school students from 38.94 MPS in 1994 to 54.34 MPS in 1999, surpassing the 1999 Angat Pinoy 2004 target of 48.62 MPS.

106. Disparities in the mean percentage grades are evident across regions, with regions in the Luzon Island performing better than those in Mindanao and some parts of the Visayas. Furthermore, the test results show the wide variation between public and private schools with the latter consistently performing better than the former.

107. The Philippine target of 75 percent achievement level by the year 2000 is based on the average score of all pupils who took the test. In 1998, the national achievement level was reported at 50.1 percent, up from the 1993 level of 41.8 percent. Given the above trends, the end-decade goal is unlikely to be met.

108. In order to optimize resource utilization and maximize impact of intervention, the Department embarked on continuous intervention to enhance the quality of learning environment through teachers training and provision of adequate relevant learning materials and equipment.

Literacy

109. With the expansion of access to basic education, the literacy situation has improved. The simple literacy rate rose from 89.9 percent in 1989 to 93.9 percent in 1994 without marked differences for men and women. The functional literacy rate also showed a significant improvement from 75.2 percent in 1989 to 83.8 percent in 1994, with no significant gender bias. These high literacy rates at the national level, however, mask the disparities across regions and across gender in regions with low literacy rates. Also, the national aggregate data render invisible the pockets of illiteracy in areas populated by highly marginalized population such as indigenous people and cultural minorities. Given the trends in the last five years, the literacy end-decade goals are unlikely to be achieved.

110. The Philippine Non-formal Education Project (PNFEP) aims to improve the literacy and numeracy of the poor and enhance their capacity to engage in self-help and community development activities. Part of the strategy is to engage the NGOs as active partners in community based literacy programs. The project (1994-2000) is assisted by a loan from ADB and a grant from the Norwegian Government. The program’s major contribution is the institutionalization of the NFE Accreditation and Equivalency System.

111. The DECS has implemented various local and foreign funded programs to reduce illiteracy. Among the literacy programs and activities conducted are the provision of literacy services, and the establishment of an Accreditation and
Equivalency System. The latter is an alternative means of certification of learning for persons aged 15 years old and above, who are unable to avail of the formal school system, or who have dropped out of formal elementary school or secondary education.

Child Protection

112. The Philippine Government’s response to the increasing number of children in need of special protection (CNSP) is demonstrated in the strong attention given to CNSP in the Philippine Plan of Action for Children (PPAC) for the Year 2000 and Beyond. The following child protection issues have been recognized as needing priority attention: (a) exploitative and hazardous child labor; (b) sexual abuse and commercial sexual exploitation; (c) juvenile justice; (d) youth health and development promotion including prevention of substance abuse, STD and HIV/AIDS; (e) various circumstances of childhood disability; and (f) displacements due to armed conflict, natural disasters, demolitions and development projects.

Child Protection Goals

113. The initial child protection goals included in PPAC have recently been revised to give emphasis to the priority child protection issues that needed to be addressed in the first half of 2000’s and beyond. These goals, which have already been integrated into the Government-UNICEF Master Plan of Operations for CPC V for the period 1999-2003, include the following:

a) Immediate protection and rescue of children from prostitution, pornography and sexual abuse as well as substance abuse;

b) Full enforcement of laws banning children from exploitative and hazardous labor and immediate removal from the most intolerable and unacceptable forms of child labor;

c) Prevention of children from becoming street and working children and protection of those at risk;

d) Improved system of early detection of impairments and interventions for children with disabilities;

e) Provision of education and livelihood services as well as psychosocial recovery and reintegration assistance for CNSP;

f) Establishment of a comprehensive system of justice for children through law reform, law enforcement, and training of the five pillars of justice;

g) Development of education policies and programs that address the needs and circumstances of CNSP;

h) Development of institutional mechanisms for child protection at various levels and for monitoring compliance with the CRC particularly at the barangay (village) level; and

i) Expansion of partnerships with mass media, NGOs, religious groups, private sector, labor groups, academe, professional associations and people’s organizations around child protection concerns.

Criminal Justice System for Children

114. The criminal justice system for children in the Philippines operates through the five pillars of the criminal justice system namely; law enforcement, prosecution, courts, correction and community. Towards promoting the welfare of children and protecting their rights, the five pillars have undertaken various programs. In the area of law enforcement, the Technical Committee on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice was constituted in the National Police Commission. This Committee is composed of members from the five pillars in order to coordinate with and collaborate in the area of juvenile justice administration. Under RA 8551, women and children’s desks were established in every police station. In the National Bureau of Investigation (NBI) the Violence Against Women and Children’s Division was created to handle cases involving women and children. The Netherlands Government provided funds for the installation of child-friendly studios in the NBI Office, as a place for interviewing child victims. The Department of Tourism has a surveillance team that conducts surveillance on child sex in tourism. The Bureau of Immigration keeps a watchlist for “pedophiles”, in addressing the problem of trafficking in children.

115. The Department of Justice created a Task Force on Women and Children, composed of prosecutors assigned to handle cases involving women and children. RA 8369 restored the Juvenile and Domestic Relations Courts now known as Family Courts. The Supreme Court has designated 73 Regional Trial Courts as Family Courts during the transition period in 1999-2000. The Family Courts Judges have undergone training as well as other court personnel such as the
Family Court Social Workers to ensure that they have the knowledge, attitudes and skills in handling child, women and family cases. The Rule on the Examination of a Child Witness took effect on 15 December 2000.

116. Efforts to separate children offenders from adult offenders and creation of separate detention cells are under way. The DSWD operates 10 Regional Rehabilitation Centers for youth on suspended sentence. These centers are open institutions where the youthful offenders are provided opportunities for their rehabilitation through educational and skills development; individual, group and family counseling; medical and psychological evaluation and treatment, among others, in preparation for their reintegration to their families and communities or for independent living. A few youthful offenders are under the custody of their parents under the DSWD’s supervision. Regular reports on the child’s behavior is submitted to the committing Courts. Community Volunteers are also mobilized to assist the youth in the community.

117. Advocacy for children’s rights and crime prevention strategies are included as thrusts of the Local Councils for the Protection of Children at the barangay, municipal and city levels. The civil society particularly NGOs, church groups, civic associations and POs are active partners leading to increased reporting of cases of child abuse and exploitation. Further, they provide support services to the victims and their families. The DSWD’s National Family Violence Program also uses the family group conference as a method of conflict resolution in collaboration with the barangay officials.

118. The Department of Justice as Chair of the Special Committee for the Protection of Children pursuant to EO 275 has conducted training for guidance counselors, barangay captains and prosecutors assigned to the Family Courts to familiarize them with RA 7610. The Committee has also finalized a comprehensive program on child protection to be implemented by the various government agencies and has formulated “Guidelines for Media Practitioners on the Reporting and Coverage of Cases involving Children”.

119. As mentioned in Section 3.1.1 of this report, several policy and legislative initiatives on child protection have been adopted. Moreover, several bills are pending before Congress. Challenges still remain in terms of translating these into concrete and doable actions that will address the underlying and root causes that bring about the phenomenon of CNSP. Developing a stronger and comprehensive platform for action on child protection in light of the existing opportunities and limitations is an imperative task.

120. Sections 4.3.1 to 4.3.13 discuss the situation of children in need of special protection and present actions that have been taken to address the problems.

Child Labor

121. A 1995 National Statistics Survey, commissioned by the ILO-IPEC, estimated that out of 22.4 million Filipino children aged 5-17 years old, 3.7 million are working children. Sixty percent of those surveyed, representing about 2.2 million working children, claimed exposure to hazardous working environments consisting of physical difficulties and chemical exposures. Working children consist largely of boys (65 percent) rather than girls. Two-thirds or 67.1 percent of working children are in the rural areas, while 70 percent work to augment family income and help in family-owned enterprises. In terms of occupational group, 56 percent are in farming, 16 percent are in wholesale and retail trade, 6.8 percent are in personal services, and 6.8 percent are in fishing. About 409,850 of these children are living away from home. Some of the worst forms of child labor include deep-sea fishing, trafficking, pyrotechnics, mining/quarrying, commercial plantation, and prostitution or commercial sexual exploitation.

122. Despite state policy prohibiting child labor, still children are pushed to work at a tender age because of poverty. Government initiative to respond to this problem is either through special projects set up to address specific needs, or in the form of interventions integrated into the regular line agencies’ programs. Current government efforts include putting in place policies and mechanisms to ensure compliance with international commitments under ILO Convention 138 (Concerning Minimum Age for Admission to Employment) and the more recent Convention 182 (Concerning the Prohibition and Immediate Action for the Elimination of the Worst Forms of Child Labor). Focus is on the complementing strategies of workplace monitoring and inspection of undertakings and establishments that employ children.
123. The National Program Against Child Labor (NPACL), a concerted effort of the government, trade unions and employers with international institutions and NGOs, aims to eliminate exploitative and worst forms of child labor, remove children below 18 years of age from hazardous work, and protect and rehabilitate abused and exploited working children.

**Neglected and Abandoned Children**

124. In a 1993 survey of households, some 16 percent of households surveyed have children below 12 years old who are left unattended with no supervising adult in the house. In the cities, neglected and abandoned children find themselves in the streets fending for themselves and vulnerable to the various evils of the urban jungle drug addiction, crimes, and commercial sexual exploitation. Children who are neglected or abandoned are easy prey not only to accidents but to illicit transfer, commercial sexual orientation, drugs, crime, and unwanted pregnancies.

125. Adoption, both domestic and intercountry, has been strengthened with the passage of the two adoption laws. Although residential care is still the major response to abandoned and neglected children, foster family care and legal guardianship are alternative parental care which need to be strengthened to prevent the institutionalization. In 1999, a total of 1,229 children were provided with alternative parental care by the DSWD.

**Street Children**

126. The growing number of street children found in urban areas has long been a concern of government. It is estimated that there are around 44,000 highly visible street children in the country based on a survey done in 2000.

127. There are now 350 government and non-government agencies that are responding to street children and their families. The present administration has given special focus on helping street children through the *Ahon Bata sa Lansangan* (Rise Up, Street Child) in cooperation with NGOs. Services provided include health and nutrition, educational assistance, effective parenting sessions, livelihood and skills training, residential care, foster and adoption. NGOs continue to reach out to these children and have empowered them through alternative education and easier access to services. Street educators facilitate center referrals, provision of food and health services and distribution of supplies and used clothing among the children. Some of the children are trained as Junior Health Workers to administer first aid, facilitate health services, and advocate healthy practices among their peers. Furthermore, the local government units are working with the AusAID for projects in support of efforts to alleviate the plight of street children. Their programs include food for work, establishment of multi-purpose centers, and centers to house street children.

128. Poverty, degradation of family situation, and peer influence contribute to the increasing number of children going to the streets. Thus, there is a need to devise or strengthen existing prevention programs targeting the family. These should focus on empowerment, family income generation, small-scale entrepreneurship, health education, values formation/education, and self-awareness.

129. Moreover, there is difficulty in mainstreaming street children into formal schooling due to many different factors: a) formal schooling requires full-time attention when street children still need to earn a living; b) street children are not used to a rigid schedule and their attention span is shorter; their mobile lifestyle makes for a more difficult adjustment phase; and c) most teachers are not contented with the psychodynamics of street children. A system needs to be developed to facilitate mainstreaming of street children. This should also address the psycho-social and mental adjustments to be made by the child, e.g. from non-formal to formal education. The system should also make way for the training of teachers on facilitating education among street children.

**Girl Children**

130. The 1995 Census data indicates a total child population of 31.7 million, nearly half of whom are females. Studies done on family violence and reports from several sectors show that most child abuse victims are girls.

131. The study on family and household violence undertaken by the UP Center for Women’s Studies in 1996 revealed that 96.5 percent of its child abuse victims were young girls. The Child Protection Unit based at UP PGH also reports that almost all victims of abuse that are referred to them are girls. Another study on police reported rape incidents between 1985-1994 in Metro Manila corroborated observations that the girl child is most prone to sexual abuse because of her
age and gender. DOH reports on HIV-AIDS cases also reflect more girl children affected. Their January 1998 report shows 4 out of 5 HIV-positive patients are female.

132. Other issues that confront the girl child include gender stereotyping in education, child labor, prostitution, cultural biases and socialization practices in the family, poor health and nutrition, etc. It also seems that the majority of the general public are not yet aware that many child issues affect boys and girls differently. Studies done on the girl child indicate the need to strengthen advocacy for this particular sector in order to lessen the biases against them and especially to prevent further abuses against girl children.

133. There is a need to expedite the completion of a National Plan of Action for the girl child and to implement it by 2001.

Victims of Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children

134. In 1997, estimates on the number of children victims ranged from 60,000 to 100,000. Many had suffered from incest and child sexual abuse before their entry into prostitution. One study shows that 95 percent of CSEC victims are out-of-school children. Some 7 in 10 of CSEC victims expressed a desire to return to school. Some 6 in 10 said they need education. According to the victims, they were led to the sex trade due to the absence of parental supervision and peer pressure.

135. EO 56, issued in 1986, provides for the DSWD to take protective custody of child prostitutes and sexually exploited children. Further, the implementing rules and regulations of RA 7610, the Child Abuse Act authorizes the DSWD to remove a child from his/her home and place the child under their protective custody in cases of child abuse including physical injury or sexual abuse and exploitation.

136. The Philippines adopted the Framework of Action against the Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children in November 2000 where a more focused planning and programming will be pursued over the next five years. Joining the inter-agency body of addressing the problem of CSEC, is the Department of Tourism which has outlined a series of advocacy fora in eight major tourist destinations. The fora, aimed at raising the awareness level of critical stakeholders, have already been implemented in 3 areas and were participated in by tourist travel operators, tour and guide as well as hotel and restaurant operators.

Victims of Child Abuse

137. Incidents of child abuse are still rising. In 1999, the DSWD responded to 11,845 reported cases of child abuse. The annual average during the previous period of 1994-1998 was 2,200. Also on the rise are reports of physical abuse and maltreatment of children, from 311 in 1994 to 1,021 in 1998. The rise in reported cases is seen as an indication of the growing awareness and advocacy of government, NGOs and the media in the fight against child abuse.

138. RA 7610 seeks to protect children against all forms of abuse, exploitation, discrimination and other conditions prejudicial to their development. In addition, the child victim may also avail of the Witness Protection Act, pursuant to RA 6981. The PNP has forged a working partnership with other concerned government agencies, particularly DSWD and DOJ as well as NGOs to raise the consciousness of the police force about the rights of women and children and the necessary police intervention for the protection of these rights, especially from exploitation, harm and danger. RA 8551, otherwise known as the PNP Reform and Reorganization Act of 1998, amplified the institutionalization of the Women and Children’s Desk in all police stations with the mandate to administer and handle cases involving women and children victims of gender-based crimes, particularly all forms of abuse and violence. To date, there are 1,597 Women and Children’s Desks, covering 98 percent of all police stations nationwide.

139. Current efforts are focused on information dissemination at the barangay levels. Further efforts should focus on the prevention of child abuse through raising awareness in the family, school and community of the evils of child abuse. A more systematic effort is required at helping victims deal with the psychological trauma and scars of child abuse through proper psychological counseling programs that target both the abused child and the family.

140. The Therapy Centers for abused children in Metro Manila, Cebu, and Davao are being implemented by the DSWD in cooperation with Radda Barnen (Save the Children – Sweden). A total of 278 children were served in 1999.
Specifically, the center provides therapeutic session for sexually abused children using different therapeutic interventions with the goal of helping the victims overcome the negative effects of the abusive experiences.

141. There is an inter-agency and interdisciplinary intervention organized by DSWD nationwide aimed to effectively respond to the needs of the victims of sexual abuse. Volunteers are mobilized such as the organization of volunteer groups composed of professionals and para-professionals to include lawyers, psychologists and psychiatrists to assist the victim or litigation and case management. A total of 815 volunteers were organized and trained.

Children in Situations of Armed Conflict

142. The armed conflict in Mindanao has displaced a large number of children and their families. It is estimated that a total of 142,802 families with 756,099 persons have been affected. This suggests that close to half a million children are affected. Most affected families are from Region XII and ARMM, with some families in Regions XI and IX have also been affected.

143. Moreover, the increasing number of children being recruited by armed groups causes grave concern. The Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) estimates the number of children involved in armed conflicts at 13 percent of the total rebel population.

144. The government came up with a Comprehensive Program for Children Involved in Armed Conflict. It has three components, namely: prevention, advocacy, and rescue, recovery and reintegration. The CWC is tasked to coordinate and monitor the implementation of this program. The AFP and the DSWD developed Guidelines on the Handling of Cases of Children in Situations of Armed Conflict (CSAC).

145. The interventions directed to CSAC can be classified into the following: (a) improving access to basic services; (b) providing psychosocial recovery and reintegration assistance; and (c) advocacy and monitoring of child rights and peace education.

146. While delivery of basic services has been hampered by unstable peace and order conditions, the national and local governments, with the assistance of NGOs, have served about 96 percent of the affected families. Aside from the dangers of death and injury, many of these children suffer from psychological trauma, are weakened by illnesses and malnutrition, and are deprived of their right to education.

Children and HIV/AIDS

147. While the number of children affected by HIV/AIDS remains relatively low, the government and NGOs have launched ongoing public awareness campaign and prevention education activities targeting highly vulnerable populations including women, children and young people. Street children, sexually exploited children and substance abusers (particularly injecting drug users) are highly vulnerable to HIV/AIDS.

148. The focus on children had recently been given impetus through the formation of CHAIN-Philippines, an inter-agency body composed mainly of NGOs but which includes relevant government agencies like the DOH, DWSID, DECS, and CWC. CHAIN, as part of its advocacy and awareness raising efforts, organized and sponsored the First Satellite Symposium on Children, Youth and AIDS in October 1997 as pre-congress activity of the 4\textsuperscript{th} International Congress on AIDS in Asia and the Pacific held in Manila.

Children In Conflict with the Law

149. The number of children in conflict with the law is likewise increasing. In 1996 alone, the Bureau of Jail Management and Penology (BJMP) reported 1,380 sentenced and detained child and youth offenders. Reports from the Bureau of Child and Youth Welfare of the DSWD show even higher figures: 7,057 in 1996 and 3,181 for the first quarter of 1997. In 1999, the DSWD served a total number of 8,998 youth offenders, 7,893 received community-based rehabilitation and services while 1,105 were served in the Regional Rehabilitation Centers for Youth.

150. There are efforts to establish child-friendly justice system in actual operation in court provinces and cities for juveniles. In violation of international policies, minor offenders are detained together with adult detainees. Street
children are still often harassed by some law-enforcement officers especially new ones. Advocacy efforts should be continued for the creation of a Juvenile Justice System and a separate facility for minors. There is a need to continue to orient, train and advocate among law enforcers on the rights of the child, the psychodynamics of street children, children in conflict with the law, the sexually abused and exploited, and the street children substance abusers.

**Children with Disabilities**

151. Based on the 1995 Census of Population, children and young people with disabilities totaled 158,302 with hearing and speech difficulties as the most prevalent type.

152. Developed in 1999, *Tuloy Aral Walang Sagabal* (TAWAG) Project is a community-based project which is designed to provide the needed rehabilitation services that will develop/enhance the physical, social, mental and psychological functioning of children with disabilities in preparation for their integration into day care, regular/special education and into the community life. In 1999, the project was initially demonstrated in 5 regions where a roving day care worker for each region was tested as a strategy. For the year 2000, TAWAG has expanded to 6 other regions. To date, a total of forty-five day care workers and field office staff have been trained at Cupertino Center for Special Children in the Management of Children with Disabilities.

153. Despite ongoing initiatives by the DSWD and NGOs under the co-ordination of the National Commission Concerning Disable Persons Welfare, attempts to establish community-based rehabilitation programs for children with disabilities need further push. Aside from the preventive interventions such as immunization and nutrition education, community-based efforts in early detection of impairments and early interventions have not received enough attention. The reporting and classification of various forms of disabilities likewise need to be standardized.

**Children and Substance Abuse**

154. A survey of the Social Weather Stations (SWS) for the National Youth Commission (NYC) in 1998, indicated that children and young people trapped into substance abuse numbered about 3 million. Government and NGO rehabilitation programs for children and youth who are trapped in substance abuse are still inadequate to respond to the increasing numbers of substance abusers. Aside from the need to improve existing rehabilitation programs, prevention education programmes involving young people require further development – using approaches like life skills education and youth health and development promotion. The potentials of the Sangguniang Kabataan (Youth Council) which exists in every barangay have remained untapped in terms of youth health and development promotion, including substance abuse prevention.

155. Even more vital than rehabilitation programs is the observed absence and lack of effective monitoring, protection and control at the barangay level, due to lack of trained LCPCs, but also more importantly, the need for more commitment and integrity among the law enforcement and narcotics agencies to implement the law.

**Children of Indigenous Peoples**

156. Children of indigenous peoples (IPs) still suffer from discrimination in several ways. Because of their location, they have ineffective access to basic services such as health, nutrition, water and sanitation and education. Since their communities are oftentimes also areas of armed conflict, agro-industrial development, and mining industries, they are being subjected to occasional displacements, which not only disrupt or hamper provision of basic services but also cause some forms of psychosocial trauma.

157. To help address the issues of the Philippine indigenous cultural communities regarding their economic, social, political and cultural development, the Government through the Office of Northern Cultural Communities (ONCC) and the Office of Southern Cultural Communities (OSCC) mandated and established these offices as primary agencies to formulate plans, programs and projects for the indigenous cultural communities. They had been extending livelihood, health and social services, legal assistance, scholarships, peace initiatives, cultural activities and organization of tribal councils. Substantial resources were utilized to alleviate these communities through the ONCC, OSCC, international donors and partners and through other major government line agencies but still, Government failed to address their real and actual needs and problems since they still remain or even became more marginalized and deprived of their socio-economic and cultural development.
158. The enactment into law of the Indigenous Peoples Rights Act of 1997 (RA 8371) should have been a clear indicator of the sincerity of Government as this focused basically on their rights to ancestral domain, cultural integrity, their rights to self-determination and empowerment, social justice and human rights. However, with the three-year period since its effectiveness, the IPRA has yet to be implemented fully and programs are yet to be seen, felt and appreciated by these still remaining marginalized indigenous peoples.

Children of Overseas Filipino Workers

159. According to the Office of Workers Welfare Administration, there are more than 4 million Filipinos working abroad in 130 countries. It is estimated that children of Overseas Filipino Workers (OFWs) number over a million and most of them need support. The social costs of overseas employment especially in the children of OFWs include growing up in a single parent family, albeit a temporary one, victims of rape/incest, drugs and alcoholism, and degradation of norms/moral values considering that majority of the OFWs are women where they play key roles in child rearing and value formation. It is observed that some children rebel because of lack of role model and parental guidance leading to low academic performances.

160. There are programs and services for children of OFWs being undertaken by some GOs and NGOs. For instance, the Migrante-Anak-Pamilya (MAP), an NGO whose clients are based in Hong Kong, focuses on the children of OFWs. One major activity being pursued by MAP is a research on the situation of children and family of OFWs. The agency has outlined a series of children/youth workshops under the theme, “Celebrating Family Togetherness” and has commenced the series in Baguio City in October 2000. The participants came from the provinces of Kalinga Apayao, Abra and La Union.

161. The Overseas Workers Welfare Administration (OWWA) started the Skills-for-Employment- Scholarship Program (SESP) in 1982 to provide OFWs or their dependents/beneficiaries the opportunity to acquire vocational, technical or specialized skills. The program provides free tuition fee and allowance for the trainees. OWWA has disbursed a total of PhP 11.4 million from 1996 to September 2000 benefitting 1,613, mostly children of OFWs. In 1991, OWWA started SESP II for baccalaureate course. Ten children of OFWs were qualified to the program, four of whom have already graduated.

162. The Tulong sa Pamilya ng OFWs, another scholarship program started in 1999, has benefited 152 elementary and high school students as of October 2000. Of this total, 12 scholars finished elementary and 5 completed high school, 8 did not pursue high school, and 3 dropped out.

163. The Congressional Migrant Workers Scholarship Fund, created under RA 8042 for OFWs not more than 45 years old and their dependents below 21 years old, aims to (a) provide free training/education to deserving migrant workers and/or their dependents who wish to pursue courses or training in the priority fields in Science and Technology; (b) assist OFWs in getting gainful employment and in improving their economic life, and (c) optimize the potential of OFWs and their immediate families as contributions to national development. With OWWA as the secretariat, 50 scholars were accepted in 199, all of them children of OFWs. In 2000, 149 new scholars have been accepted, 12 of whom are OFWs while 137 are dependents. The Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office released PhP 13.5 million out of PhP 120 million allocation.

Child Participation

164. Since the World Summit, participation has been identified as an equally important right of children, together with survival, development and protection. In the Philippines, efforts are directed to ensure that all these four rights are accorded children.

165. Participation of children in development efforts is gradually being recognized and accepted in the Philippine setting, although defined in various ways and at different levels. The major principle of involving children, not only as beneficiaries of plans and programs, but as actors or stakeholders in their own development, has now gained the support of various sectors.
Children’s representation and participation in governance has been mainly done through the inclusion of children as a basic sector of the National Anti-Poverty Commission, the flagship program of the Philippine government on poverty alleviation. Under this, 15 members sit in the sector where one is elected as Child Commissioner with equal roles, authority and remuneration as the other basic sector commissioners. A child representative also sits as an ex-officio member of the Council for the Welfare of Children (CWC) governing Board. A National Coalition of Children’s Association was formed in 1999 as organized by NGOs providing assistance and support to children from various areas in the country.

The thrust towards child participation is to sustain advocacy efforts with the help of adults and other significant sectors of the community. The challenge on child participation is to arrive at its true concept and eventually set up the parameters or standards to define the age, structures and levels at which a child can genuinely participate.

Expanding children’s participation in social reform has been actively encouraged in the Philippines. In fact, this has been identified as one of the best practices in ensuring full implementation of the UN CRC. The details of this practice are presented in next section.

Best Practices and Lessons Learnt

The lessons learned from numerous program experiences provide for significant insights on law, policy and program reforms. The Cluster on Research and Best Practices has identified five programs/projects that could be considered best practices, or practices worth sustaining. The criteria used are: (i) it has been going on for some time; (ii) it is a program, not just an activity; (iii) can be replicated, or has been replicated or scaled up; (iv) it has an impact; and (v) it has been monitored, evaluated and documented.

Expanding Children’s Participation in Social Reform

Children’s participation in social reform started in 1997 and has been going on with the support from the National Coalition for Children’s Participation (NCCP) composed of child focused NGOs, such as Plan International, WVDF, CCF, and ERDA. There is a plan to expand its membership to other NGOs, POs and GOs. Children’s participation was through children’s associations from barangay to national levels through the formation of the National Coalition of Children’s Associations in the Philippines with a membership or representation from 700 children’s associations.

Over the last three years, significant outputs have resulted from children’s participation. The children have played a key role in advocacy efforts at the local and national levels. Local ordinances related to children’s rights increased. Children’s issues have surfaced from children. Support groups have expanded their knowledge and skills in promoting children’s rights. There has also been increased awareness of children’s potential to participate in local governance and decision making. Moreover, children’s participation has been institutionalized through the formation of children’s associations, representation of children in Local Councils for the Protection of Children (LCPCs) and Barangay Development Councils (BDCs), coalition building among children’s associations, and child focused ordinances and programs.

Children’s participation has also affected the support groups/system. Families and communities have become more sensitive to child rights. Children have been recognized as a distinct sector for local governance and this has facilitated the representation of children in LGU structures. Child-focused programs have been integrated in a few local development plans and budget. Local ordinances geared towards child protection and recognition of children’s rights have been implemented. Finally, community action related to child abuse, vices, health and environment have been taken.

So far, these activities are building capacities for children for local governance. They have changed the attitudes of parents, local officials and service providers regarding child rights and participation. They have also led to the setting up of structures conducive to children’s participation. Finally, there has been a reorientation of the service delivery framework in working with children into a children’s participation and empowerment perspective.
Regional Sub-Committee for the Welfare of Children

174. As part of the Council’s network expansion, CWC initiated the creation of the Regional Sub-Committees for the Welfare of Children (RSCWC) to ensure the integration of efforts to address children’s concerns at the regional level. To date, all 16 regions have established RSCWCs. The first one was established in 1988 and the last, being the National Capital Region (NCR) was established in September 2000. Additionally, a total of 256 local subcommittees for the protection of children have been organized at the provincial, city and municipal levels.

Search for the Child-Friendly Municipalities/ Cities

175. The child-friendly movement is a growing nationwide effort to operationalize the CRC. It involves children themselves, families, communities, church groups, and the government. It aims to place children at the center of development efforts to effect sensitization of society toward child-friendliness. Launched in November 1998 by the CWC, the Search for Child-Friendly Municipalities and Cities aims to support the aforementioned movement. The Search is also in recognition of the role of the local government units (LGUs) in promoting and protecting children’s rights to survival, development, protection and participation. It is now established as an annual presidential award per issuance of Executive Order NO. 184, series of 1999.

176. The general objective of the Search is to institutionalize a child-friendly environment in the promotion of the rights of children to survival, development, protection and participation. Specifically, it aims to give national recognition to cities and municipalities that are considered as child-friendly, to encourage LGUs to prioritize and address issues and concerns affecting the full realization of the rights of children, to heighten the awareness of LGUs on the rights of children, and monitor and evaluate the allocation of resources and implementation of policies, programs and services for children. To date, six municipalities and cities have been given distinct recognition as child-friendly.

Davao City’s Child Welfare Code

177. The government of Davao City has given strong emphasis on the rights and genuine development of children. In 1994, it passed Ordinance Number 2491, also known as “Children’s Welfare Code”. This was the first in the country. The passage of this ordinance paved the way for the programs and projects for children to be institutionalized.

178. Davao City is the first local government unit to enact a local code for children in 1994. The realization of the code was made possible through the high level of commitment, shared understanding and coordination and partnership among all sectors on children. The salient features of the code included, among others, the setting up of a structure to serve as primary arm in implementing the provision of the code, installing a mechanism for children’s participation in policy and program formulation and the appropriation of five percent of the gross income of the local government along with additional 1.5 percent from additional funds to be specifically allotted to children.

179. The Davao City effort became and continues to serve as model to other local government units. In fact, General Santos City also enacted its own Local Code for Children, and others are following suit.

Sagip Batang Manggagawa

180. The flagship component of the National Program Against Child Labor is the “Sagip Batang Manggagawa” (SBM), or literally, “rescue-the-child laborer”. The SBM is an inter-agency quick action mechanism that responds to cases of child laborers in extremely abject conditions. It employs an inter-agency quick action team for detecting, monitoring, and rescuing child laborers in hazardous and exploitative working conditions.

181. From the time of its creation in 1993 to October 2000, SBM has conducted a total of 248 rescue operations nationwide. Close to 860 children were rescued from commercial sexual exploitation, slave or bonded labor or employment in hazardous work and activities. In most of these instances, the Department of Social Welfare and Development provided temporary shelter to the victims, the Department of Labor and Employment instituted administrative cases and the Department of Justice filed criminal cases against the perpetrators and employers. As of October 2000, a total amount of PHP 751 thousand has been restituted to some of the rescued child labor. Of the criminal cases filed, three resulted in the conviction of the accused.
Bantay Bata

182. Bantay Bata 163 (Child Watch) is a child abuse intervention program that operates a 24-hour hotline to provide access to efficient and immediate response to Filipino children in crisis. Its unique media resource has become a catalyst in increasing awareness on the enormous problem of child abuse cases in the Philippines. Various child abuse cases such as abandonment, molestation and trafficking are handled by trained counselors as well as a team of rescue workers who are on standby to respond to crisis situations. These children are given refuge at the Crisis Center or in other affiliated agencies where they undergo counseling and therapy.

183. Bantay Bata 163 also produces a daily television segment within regular news program that delivers messages to strengthen the family. It has infomercials that uphold children’s rights, conducts home visits and community outreach missions, provides telephone counseling and legal assistance, mobilizes resources for the education of rescued children, facilitates medical treatment for sick children from poor families. It provides livelihood for families of child abuse victims and conducts in-depth community research to develop modules for its family strengthening program.

184. Based on their published report, Bantay Bata 163, from February 1997 to December 1999, the program has rescued 580 children in crisis, handled 6,569 child abuse cases, conducted outreach missions in 41 barangays benefitting 24,273 parents and children, facilitated medication and treatment for 2,384 sick children and counseled parents in 2,017 homes with reported child abuse incidents. In addition to providing direct interventions to children in crisis, Bantay Bata 163 has raised the awareness of the populace to the problem of child abuse in the Philippines.

Future Action

185. During the past decade, the Philippines has made great strides towards improving the well-being of children. Infant, child and maternal mortality rates have been reduced. The prevalence of malnutrition has declined. Moreover, access to safe water and sanitation facilities have increased. Literacy rates, elementary participation rates, and cohort survival rates have also risen. An increasing number of children in need of special protection are receiving services by national and local governments, NGOs, and civil society. The Philippines, however, continues to face challenges in its drive toward promoting the rights and well-being of children. For instance, the pace of improvement in many areas has not been fast enough for the Philippines to meet its targets for the year 2000. To meet the challenges, concerted efforts at the national and international arena have to be undertaken.

National Agenda

186. The Philippine National Strategic Framework for Plan Development for Children, 2000-2025 (Child 21) pursues the same goals and targets set forth in the country’s Medium-Term Philippine Development Plan (1999-2004) and will continue beyond 2004 to pursue a long-term vision of Filipino children through 2025. Child 21 states that the goal for 2025 is to ensure that every Filipino child will exercise her/his rights to survival, protection, development and participation throughout the life cycle. In this light, general strategies have to be undertaken to move towards ensuring the rights of every Filipino child.

187. Among the general strategies seen as critical in creating the enabling conditions for the child-friendly society are the following: a) strengthening capability of families to nurture children and provide them with full support for their well-being and development; b) advocacy towards a paradigm shift to put children first in the use of resources of the family and community; c) budgetary reforms to allocate a bigger share of the local and national budget for children; d) institutional transformations to include an education system responsive to the learning needs of children including alternative learning systems appropriate for differently-abled children and children of indigenous peoples, a health care system including health insurance responsive to the unique health needs of children at every stage of the life cycle with prevention of diseases and illnesses as a priority, a justice system sensitive to the conditions of the child at every stage of the juvenile justice system, and a legislative system that puts children first and promotes child rights; e) transforming values and practices in the labor market that would protect children from abuse and exploitation; provide opportunities for their employees to be able to integrate work and family life by providing nursery and day togetherness; f) complete devolution of basic services to LGUs to enable them to better respond to the needs and threats to children; g) convergence of services through linkages and cooperation between and among the different sectors for more effective and holistic response to the needs of children; h) development and maintaining of a national
data bank and repository of all information regarding children and their situation to enable planners to develop appropriate interventions.

188. The adoption and operationalization of CHILD 21, by virtue of Executive Order 310, the country’s framework for planning programs and interventions for Filipino children will continue to be a major challenge for the government. The real and big challenge lies in the extent by which stakeholders will appropriate, share and work towards the achievement of the vision enshrined in the Framework.

Regional Agenda

189. Greater efforts and resources are needed to ensure that the concluding observations and recommendations made by the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child, particularly those that cut across countries in the East Asia-Pacific Region, are consistently followed up and acted upon by governments as well as civil society organizations. In this context, there is a need to support the ASEAN Plan of Action for Children adopted during the Sixth ASEAN Summit held in Hanoi in 1998.

190. The impact of the financial crisis in the region has not only reversed some gains in child survival (infant and child mortality) and child development (elementary participation rate and cohort survival rate) but also has given rise to new challenges in promoting children’s rights and well-being. The least developed countries are faced with critical issues of malnutrition, infant mortality, and poor access and quality of education. In addition, the HIV/AIDS pandemic poses a continuing challenge for all countries in the region, although a few countries like the Philippines still have low prevalence rate at this time. Even in a situation of low prevalence, the need for HIV/AIDS prevention education and early interventions is critical.

191. In terms of child protection, while there have been improvements in policies and legislation across countries, there are serious gaps in enforcement and monitoring. ASEAN member countries including the Philippines need to address effectively the following key child protection issues: (a) exploitative and hazardous child labor; (b) sexual abuse and commercial sexual exploitation; (c) children in situation of armed conflict; (d) drug abuse; (e) children in conflict with the law and juvenile justice; and (f) discrimination against children of ethnic minorities and indigenous peoples.

192. Greater efforts are needed to ensure that laws recommended by the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child such as the raising of the minimum age of criminal responsibility and the minimum age of sexual consent, the overhaul of the system of administration of juvenile justice, and the elimination of discrimination against illegitimate children, are enacted.

193. Inter-country cooperation should be arranged to address malnutrition, early childhood care and development, the spread of HIV/AIDS, trafficking and sale of children, commercial sexual exploitation, child labor exploitation, drug abuse, and justice for children, among others. Inter-country cooperation could be between two countries or among several countries faced with similar issues and challenges. These inter-country initiatives could be coordinated under the auspices of ASEAN.

194. Under the ASEAN Plan of Action for Children, each member country should appoint a Desk Officer to help implement the plan and coordinate with counterparts in other countries. The Desk Officers should meet more regularly to facilitate the creation of a regional technical support network across countries and push further the implementation of the plan. The UNICEF Regional Office can support this regular exchange among ASEAN Desk Officers as well as the setting up of a regional technical support network. In addition, it has been recommended that a sub-committee on children should be established within the ASEAN Secretariat to strengthen its role as overall coordinator of child-related programs and activities under ASEAN.

195. Beyond the ASEAN context, inter-country collaboration becomes necessary given the international nature of some instances of child rights violations such as in the sale and trafficking of children, child sexual exploitation, and even pornography on the internet. Such mechanisms like the ASEM Initiative on Child Welfare should be fully tapped and maximized for technical cooperation across countries. For instance, there are now countries which have laws on extradition arrangements with the Philippines concerning sexual abuse and exploitation such as Australia, Germany, the Netherlands, etc. An on-going concrete initiative under ASEM is a technical cooperation agreement between the
Philippines and the United Kingdom on surveillance and monitoring of cases of children trapped in commercial sexual exploitation as an effort to move forward the 1996 Stockholm Agenda against commercial exploitation of children.

196. An effective way to promote enjoyment of children’s rights is not only through the provision of direct services to them, but by providing favorable world and national economic environments where their parents or older siblings could be empowered to help meet the children’s needs. The promotion of regional and international economic complementation would be essential, especially in addressing labor market issues.

197. ODA allocation for basic social services is less than five percent, much lower than what is being prescribed in the 20:20 commitment. There is a need to advocate for greater resources for social services, particularly child-related programs, among the international donor community.

###
Annex 1

List of Agencies Involved in the Preparation of the End-Decade Report

**Government Agencies**

Commission on Human Rights  
Council for the Welfare of Children  
Department of Agriculture  
Department of Education, Culture and Sports  
Department of Foreign Affairs  
Department of Health  
Department of Interior and Local Government  
Department of Justice  
Department of Labor and Employment  
Department of Social Welfare and Development  
Food and Nutrition Research Institute  
National Commission on Indigenous Peoples  
National Economic and Development Authority  
National Nutrition Council  
National Statistics Office  
National Statistical and Coordination Board  
National Youth Commission  
Office of Muslim Affairs  
Philippine Institute for Development Studies  
Philippine National Police  
Presidential Adviser for Children’s Affairs

**NGOs/Private Agencies**

ABS-CBN Foundation  
APROTECH  
Ateneo Human Rights Centre  
CHILDHOPE – Asia Phils.  
Christian Children’s Fund  
Citizen’s Disaster and Coordinating Centre  
Community Learners Foundation  
ECPAT  
Educational Research and Development Assistance  
Health Action Information Network  
Learning Partners School, Inc.  
Linangan ng Kababaihan  
Lunduyan Foundation  
National Council for Social Development  
Philippine Children’s Television Foundation  
Plan International, Philippines  
Women’s Health Care Foundation  
World Vision Development Foundation
Academic Institutions

Ateneo University
De La Salle University
Miriam College
Philippine Women’s University
University of the Philippines

Others

United Nations Children’s Fund
Annex 2

INDICATORS

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<th>Goal</th>
<th>1990 (or year nearest to 1990)</th>
<th>2000 (or year nearest to 2000)</th>
<th>Source of Data</th>
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<td>Under five mortality rate</td>
<td>80</td>
<td>48 (^{n})</td>
<td>NSCB</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Infant mortality rate</td>
<td>56.7</td>
<td>36 (^{n})</td>
<td>NSCB</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Maternal mortality rate</td>
<td>209</td>
<td>172 (^{n})</td>
<td>NSCB</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Between 1990 and the year 2000, reduction of severe and moderate malnutrition among under-five children by half</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Underweight prevalence (International)</td>
<td>33.9 (^{a})</td>
<td>31.8 (^{n})</td>
<td>FNRI</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Underweight prevalence (National)</td>
<td>10.5</td>
<td>9.2 (^{n})</td>
<td>FNRI</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stunting prevalence (International)</td>
<td>35.8 (^{a})</td>
<td>32 (^{n})</td>
<td>FNRI</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stunting prevalence (National)</td>
<td></td>
<td>5.4 (^{n})</td>
<td>FNRI</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wasting prevalence (International)</td>
<td></td>
<td>6.6 (^{n})</td>
<td>FNRI</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wasting prevalence (National)</td>
<td></td>
<td>7.2 (^{n})</td>
<td>FNRI</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Universal access to safe drinking water</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Use of improved drinking water sources</td>
<td>73.7(^{a})</td>
<td>79.2(^{l})</td>
<td>NSO</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Universal access to sanitary means of excreta disposal</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Use of improved sanitation facilities</td>
<td>71.6(^{a})</td>
<td>82.34(^{l})</td>
<td>NSO</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Universal access to basic education, and achievement of primary education by at least 80 percent of primary school-age children through formal schooling</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
or non-formal education of comparable learning standard, with emphasis on reducing the current disparities between boys and girls

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Indicator</th>
<th>Boys (%)</th>
<th>Girls (%)</th>
<th>Source</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cohort Survival Rate</td>
<td>63.38%</td>
<td>69.29%</td>
<td>DECS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Participation Rate, Elementary Level</td>
<td>84.6%</td>
<td>97.00%</td>
<td>DECS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gross primary enrolment ratio</td>
<td>99.01%</td>
<td>101.2%</td>
<td>DECS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Net primary school attendance rate</td>
<td></td>
<td>82.8%</td>
<td>NDHS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gross primary school enrolment rate</td>
<td></td>
<td>117%</td>
<td>UNESCO</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Learning achievement</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NEAT</td>
<td>41.76%</td>
<td>49.19%</td>
<td>DECS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NSAT</td>
<td>38.94%</td>
<td>46.12%</td>
<td>DECS</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Reduction of the adult illiteracy rate to at least half its 1990 level, with emphasis on female literacy

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Indicator</th>
<th>Boys (%)</th>
<th>Girls (%)</th>
<th>Source</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Adult literacy rate</td>
<td>93.50%</td>
<td>93.6%</td>
<td>DECS &amp; NSO</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Female adult literacy rate</td>
<td>89.8 (1989)</td>
<td>93.2%</td>
<td>DECS &amp; NSO</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Special attention to the health and nutrition of the female child and to pregnant and lactating women

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Indicator</th>
<th>Boys (%)</th>
<th>Girls (%)</th>
<th>Source</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Under-five mortality rate: female/male (per 1,000 live births)</td>
<td>56.8/69.9</td>
<td></td>
<td>NSO</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Underweight prevalence: female/male</td>
<td>8.4%</td>
<td>9.2%</td>
<td>FNRI</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Antenatal care</td>
<td></td>
<td>90.0%</td>
<td>MICS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Iron-deficiency anaemia</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pregnant</td>
<td>43.60%</td>
<td></td>
<td>FNRI &amp; DOH</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lactating</td>
<td>43.00%</td>
<td></td>
<td>DOH</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Access by all couples to information and services to prevent pregnancies that are too early, too closely spaced, too late or too many

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Indicator</th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th>Source</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Contraceptive prevalence</td>
<td></td>
<td>46.50%</td>
<td>NDHS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total fertility rate (Projected)</td>
<td>4.09%</td>
<td>3.38%</td>
<td>NSO</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Access by all pregnant women to pre-natal care, trained attendants during childbirth and referral facilities for high-risk

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Indicator</th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th>Source</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Prenatal care by professional health worker</td>
<td></td>
<td>84.2%</td>
<td>MICS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>--------------------------------</td>
<td>------------------</td>
<td>--------------</td>
<td>----------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Skilled attendant at birth</td>
<td>54.8(1987)</td>
<td>56.40%</td>
<td>NSCB</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reduction of the low birth weight (less than 2.5 kg) rate to less than 10 per cent</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Low birthweight</td>
<td>18.40</td>
<td>9.60%</td>
<td>NSCB &amp; ADB</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Virtual elimination of iodine deficiency disorders</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Iodized salt consumption</td>
<td>22.4%</td>
<td></td>
<td>MICS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Virtual elimination of vitamin A deficiency and its consequences, including blindness</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Children receiving vitamin A supplementation</td>
<td>0.40%</td>
<td>95%</td>
<td>FNRI &amp; DOH</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(6 months to 6 years old)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Women &amp; Mothers receiving vitamin A supplements</td>
<td>33%</td>
<td></td>
<td>MICS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pregnant</td>
<td>0.5%</td>
<td></td>
<td>FNRI &amp; DOH</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lactating</td>
<td>1.0%</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Optional:</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Children with night blindness</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>FNRI</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6 Months- 6 Years</td>
<td>0.4%</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7 - 14 Years</td>
<td>1.3%</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Empowerment of all women to breastfeed their children exclusively for four to six months and to continue breastfeeding, with complementary food, well into the second year</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Exclusive breastfeeding rate</td>
<td>40%</td>
<td></td>
<td>FNRI &amp; DOH</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Up to 4 month</td>
<td>86%</td>
<td></td>
<td>DOH</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Timely complementary feeding rate</td>
<td>52%</td>
<td></td>
<td>NDHS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Continued breastfeeding rate (20-223 mos.)</td>
<td>23.2%</td>
<td></td>
<td>NDHS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of baby-friendly facilities</td>
<td>1047</td>
<td></td>
<td>BFHI</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Elimination of neonatal tetanus by 1995</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Neonatal tetanus cases</td>
<td>288</td>
<td></td>
<td>DOH</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reduction by 95 per cent in measles deaths and reduction by 90 per cent of measles</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
cases compared to pre-immunization levels by 1995, as a major step to the global eradication of measles in the longer run

<p>| | | |</p>
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Under-five deaths from measles</td>
<td>161&quot;</td>
<td>DOH</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Under-five measles cases</td>
<td>3913&quot;</td>
<td>DOH</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Maintenance of a high level of immunization coverage (at least 90 per cent of children under one year of age by the year 2000) against diphtheria, pertussis, tetanus, measles, poliomyelitis, tuberculosis, and against tetanus for women of childbearing age

<p>| | | |</p>
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>DPT immunization coverage</td>
<td>79.0</td>
<td>90.1&quot; 1998 NDHS, NSO</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Measles immunization coverage</td>
<td>70.9&quot;</td>
<td>1998 NDHS, NSO</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Polio immunization coverage</td>
<td>91.5&quot;</td>
<td>1998 NDHS, NSO</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TB immunization coverage</td>
<td>90.6&quot;</td>
<td>1998 NDHS, NSO</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Reduction by 50 per cent in the deaths due to diarrhea in children under the age of five years and 25 per cent reduction in the diarrhea incidence rate

<p>| | | |</p>
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Use of ORT</td>
<td>64.1&quot;</td>
<td>NDHS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Home management of diarrhea</td>
<td>16.9</td>
<td>MICS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Notifiable diseases</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Diarrhea (rate/100,000 pop)</td>
<td>2006.1&quot;</td>
<td>DOH</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Reduction by one third in the deaths due to acute respiratory infections in children under five years

<p>| | | |</p>
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Under-five deaths from acute respiratory infections (ARI) except bronchitis and bronchilitis</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Under 1 year</td>
<td>0.4%&quot;</td>
<td>DOH</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1-4 years</td>
<td>0.10%&quot;</td>
<td>DOH</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Care seeking for acute respiratory infections</td>
<td>64.0&quot;</td>
<td>MICS</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Expansion of early childhood development activities, including appropriate low-cost family- and community-based interventions

<p>| | | |</p>
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Preschool enrolment</td>
<td>15%</td>
<td>MICS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Additional indicators for monitoring children’s rights</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------</td>
<td>---</td>
<td>------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Birth registration</td>
<td>26.3%</td>
<td>84.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Children's living arrangements</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Living with both parents</td>
<td>83.9</td>
<td>MICS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Living with mother only</td>
<td>6.3</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Living with father only</td>
<td>2.1</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Not Living with both parents</td>
<td>8.4</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Additional indicators for monitoring IMCI initiative and malaria</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Malaria treatment (given treatment)</td>
<td>50.80%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Additional indicators for monitoring HIV/AIDS</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Knowledge of preventing HIV/AIDS</td>
<td>78.7</td>
<td>MICS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Knowledge of misconceptions of HIV/AIDS</td>
<td>43.8</td>
<td>MICS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Knowledge of mother-to-child transmission of HIV</td>
<td>77.5</td>
<td>MICS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Attitude to people with HIV/AIDS</td>
<td>79.5</td>
<td>MICS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Women who know where to be tested for HIV</td>
<td>54.6%</td>
<td>MICS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Knowledge that condom use can prevent HIV/AIDS</td>
<td>55.4</td>
<td>MICS</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Notes:
- a – 1991
- b – 1992
- c – 1993
- d – 1994
- e – 1995
- f – 1996
- g – 1997
- h – 1998
- i – 1999
- j - Data for 1990 refers to proportion of live births registered to total live births while data for 1999 refers to proportion of children 0-6 years old whose birth registered.
- k - Refers to children 0-17 years old.

ADB - Asian Development Bank
DOH - Department of Health
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Acronym</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>FNRI</td>
<td>Food Nutrition and Research Institute</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MICS</td>
<td>Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NDHS</td>
<td>National Demographic and Health Survey</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NSCB</td>
<td>National Statistic Coordination Board</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NSO</td>
<td>National Statistics Office</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Annex 3

List of Pertinent Laws Passed After the Ratification of the Convention on the Rights of the Child

1. Republic Act 6972 or the Barangay Level Development and Protection of Children Act mandates the establishment of a day care center in every barangay to provide children with an early start in the development of cognitive, motor and psycho-social development.

2. Republic Act 7277, the Magna Carta of Disabled Persons of 1993 guarantees the right of every Filipino citizen including children with disabilities to access services on health and rehabilitation, education, training, and preparation for employment opportunities.

3. Republic Act 7323, which helps poor but deserving students pursue their education by encouraging their employment.

4. Republic Act 7600, or the Rooming-In and Breast Feeding Act of 1992 requires both private and public health institutions to create an environment where physical and psychological needs of mothers and infants are satisfied.

5. Republic Act 7610, or the Special Protection of Children Against Abuse, Exploitation and Discrimination Act seeks to protect children against all forms of abuse, exploitation, discrimination and other conditions prejudicial to their development.

6. Republic Act 7624 of 1992 mandates the integration of drug prevention and comprehension in the curriculum of primary and secondary levels as well as in non-formal, informal and indigenous learning systems.

7. Republic Act 7658, An Act Prohibiting the Employment of Children Below Fifteen Years of Age in Public and Private Undertakings prohibits employment of children below fifteen years old unless under the direct supervision of their parents and in non-hazardous occupations.

8. Republic Act 7659 imposed the Death Penalty on Certain Heinous Crimes in instances of Kidnapping or Rape. The Revised Penal Code of the Philippines penalizes kidnapping and failure to return a minor; inducing a minor to abandon his/her home; corruption of minors; white slave trade prostitution; rape; and acts of lasciviousness.

9. Republic Act 7731, which abolished the National College Entrance Examination (NCEE).


11. Republic Act 7946, which requires compulsory immunization services for infants and children below eight years old.

12. Republic Act 8043, the Inter-Country Adoption Act, created the Inter-Country Adoption Board to ensure that Filipino children are protected from abuse. Exploitation, sale and trafficking or any other practice in connection with the adoption that is harmful, detrimental or prejudicial to the child.


15. Republic Act 8369, Family Courts Act of 1997 established family courts in provinces and cities and gives them exclusive jurisdiction over child and family cases.

16. Republic Act 8370, Children’s Television Act of 1997 addresses the rights of children to access appropriate information and also creates a Council for Children’s Television to develop a comprehensive media plan for children and promote high quality local programs.

17. Republic Act 8371, the Indigenous Peoples’ Rights Act of 1997 recognizes the vital role of children of indigenous peoples in nation-building and supports mechanisms to protect their rights. It addresses the emerging problem of child-recruitment in rebel-infested areas of the Philippines.

18. Republic Act 8425, Social Reform and Poverty Alleviation Act, passed on July 27, 1998 specified the representation of children in governance, recognizing the children sector as one of the 14 disadvantaged sectors within the National Anti-Poverty Commission and having a child commissioner sit in the governing board.
19. Republic Act 8505, the Rape Victim Assistance and Protection Act of 1998 provides for the establishment of Rape Crisis Centers for rape victims/survivors.

20. Republic Act 8552, The Domestic Adoption Act approved on February 25, 1998 establishes the rules and policies as to domestic adoption of Filipino Children.


22. Republic Act 8980: Early Childhood Care and Development, enacted on December 5, 2000, provides for the institutionalization of a national system for childhood care and development from conception to age six.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ACRONYMS</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ASAP</td>
<td><em>Araw ng Sangkap Pinoy</em> (Micronurient Day)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CHAIN</td>
<td>Children in AIDS Network</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CIDSS</td>
<td>Comprehensive and Integrated Delivery of Social Services</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CRC</td>
<td>Convention on the Rights of the Child</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CWC</td>
<td>Council for the Welfare of Children</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DECS</td>
<td>Department of Education, Culture and Sports</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DFA</td>
<td>Department of Foreign Affairs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DILG</td>
<td>Department of Interior and Local Government</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DOH</td>
<td>Department of Health</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DOJ</td>
<td>Department of Justice</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DOLE</td>
<td>Department of Labor and Employment</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DSWD</td>
<td>Department of Social Welfare and Development</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ECPAT</td>
<td>End Child Prostitution in Asian Tourism</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EO</td>
<td>Executive Order</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ERDA</td>
<td>Educational Research and Development Assistance</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FNRI</td>
<td>Food and Nutrition Research Institute</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GOP</td>
<td>Government of the Philippines</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ILO</td>
<td>International Labour Organization</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IPEC</td>
<td>International Programme on the Elimination of Child Labour</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LGU</td>
<td>Local Government Unit</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LPI</td>
<td><em>Lingap Pangkabataan, Inc.</em> (Children’s Welfare, Inc.)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NAPC</td>
<td>National Anti-Poverty Commission</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NBI</td>
<td>National Bureau of Investigation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NEDA</td>
<td>National Economic and Development Authority</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NG</td>
<td>National Government</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NGO</td>
<td>Non-Governmental Organization</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NNC</td>
<td>National Nutrition Council</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NSCB</td>
<td>National Statistical Coordination Board</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NSO</td>
<td>National Statistics Office</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PO</td>
<td>People’s Organization</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PPAC</td>
<td>Philippine Plan of Action</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PNP</td>
<td>Philippine National Police</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RA</td>
<td>Republic Act</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UNICEF</td>
<td>United Nations Children’s Fund</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>VAD</td>
<td>Vitamin A deficiency</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>