



## Philippines

### Government focal points

**Aimee Neri**

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**Rexlon Gatchalian**

Mayor of Valenzuela



**Government  
Contacts and  
References**

### Recent developments: National Action Plans, Laws, and Budget

**1992**

*The Special Protection of Children Against Abuse, Exploitation and Discrimination Act was passed.*

**2004**

*The Anti-Violence Against Women and Their Children Act was passed.*

**2012**

*During its Universal Periodic Review (UPR), the Philippines accepted a recommendation to prohibit all corporal punishment and the Secretary of Social Welfare and Development was appointed focal point for ending VAC in the country.*

**2013**

*The Philippines made a public commitment to the ASEAN Declaration on the Elimination of Violence against Women and Violence against Children, which recognizes the need to prevent violence against children and protect survivors of violence.*

**2017**

*The Council for the Welfare of Children (the national agency for children's issues) finalized the Philippine Plan of Action to End Violence against Children.*

**2018**

*The Positive Discipline Act, which prohibits corporal punishment in all settings, passed its third reading in Parliament. In 2019, the Positive Discipline bill was vetoed.*



**Multi-stakeholder  
Collaboration and  
Consultation  
with Children**

- The Council for the Welfare of Children (CWC) is the lead inter-agency body for child protection. The Inter-Agency Council Against Child Pornography (IACACP) is the body primarily tasked to coordinate, monitor and oversee the implementation of the Anti-Child Pornography Act of 2009.
- To address concerns about duplication, in 2012 A Summit for Children created the Convergence of Councils and Committees on Children (Four Cs) to adopt a system of collaboration and coordination in addressing the issues and concerns of children. The Four Cs includes the Inter-Agency Council Against Child Pornography (IACACP); Inter-Agency Council on Violence Against Women and Their Children (IAC - VAWC); Inter-Agency Council Against Trafficking (IACAT); Juvenile Justice and Welfare Council (JJWC); Early Childhood Care and Development Council (ECCDC); Committee for the Special Protection of Children (CSPC); National Committee on Child Labor (NPCLC); National Council on Children's Television (NCCT); National Council on Disability Affairs (NCDA); and the Council for the Welfare of Children.
- An alliance of civil society organizations (CSOs) led by Save the Children has been campaigning for the prohibition of corporal punishment since 2003. They work to influence partner networks and different sectors including faith, professional and women's groups, in terms of adopting child participation standards, child protection policy and positive discipline approaches. The alliance ensures child and community participation and support of child-led organizations in their work.

### Investments from the End Violence Fund

- **International Justice Mission** is working in partnership with law enforcement and social service providers in Cebu, Philippines to tackle the live streaming of child sexual abuse through investigations to identify, rescue and rehabilitate child victims and bring perpetrators to justice.
- **Plan International UK** is working at the community level in Manila and Quezon City, Philippines to educate children and communities about OCSE, support victim-focused investigation and recovery support services, promote reporting, and engage with telecommunications companies, including Internet café operators, to develop and comply with codes of practice, laws and regulations.
- **ICMEC and Child Helpline International** are working to do research and legislative reviews, strengthen helpline, execute law enforcement training, and develop Stakeholder Action Plans on child online safety in the Philippines.
- The Philippines is one of the 14 countries where the large-scale data collection and research project supported by the Fund, **Disrupting Harm**, will assess the scale, nature and context of online child sexual exploitation and abuse in 14 countries across Southern and Eastern Africa and Southeast Asia.

- In 2015, the Philippines completed its first ever national prevalence study on violence against children led by the CWC in cooperation with UNICEF, Department of Health, University of the Philippines Manila, Consuelo Alger-Zobel Foundation, and the Child Protection Network. Results were launched in December 2016.
- In 2016, UNICEF Philippines launched a *Systematic Review of the Drivers of Violence Affecting Children in the Philippines* with local academic partners, the University of the Philippines Manila and the Child Protection Network Foundation. This report identified 149 research studies and 59 academic journal articles to explore the risk and protective factors, and how they interact to create drivers of violence.
- In 2016, the National Baseline Study on Violence Against Children (NBS-VAC) took place.
- In relation to children's online behavior, UNICEF and the Inter-Agency Council Against Child Pornography (IACACP) have commissioned the University of the Philippines Manila – National Institute of Health to implement the Philippine Kids Online Survey, which aims to ultimately provide an overview of children's online access, use, risk, coping and safety awareness in pilot areas as well as the National Study on OSAEC. UNICEF is also supporting the Philippines in undertaking a comprehensive study on the scope and trends of online child abuse and exploitation.



## Data Collection and Situation Analysis

- The Philippine Plan of Action to End VAC, the country's multi-sectoral response to the results of the VAC prevalence survey, focuses on breaking the cycle of violence by addressing its root causes. It was launched in May 2018. The plan identified six key results that serve as preconditions for reducing violence against children, including evidence-based parenting skills, children's personal skills in protecting themselves from S and reporting violence, access to appropriate and quality services, a well-developed monitoring and evaluation system, implementation and enforcement of laws, and multi-stakeholder child protection systems at different levels. A National Response for Online Sexual Abuse and Exploitation of Children (OSAEC) (2016-2022) has also been established. Child protection laws include the Anti-Trafficking in Persons Acts (2002, 2012), the Anti-Child Pornography Act (2009), the Children Emergency Relief and Protection Action (2016), and the Special Protection for Children in Situations of Armed Conflict (2019).
- The Civil Society Coalition on the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC Coalition), an alliance of 22 local and international child rights organizations, in collaboration with Social Watch Philippines, conducted a baseline study in 2018 of public investment in child protection systems in two local governmental units. The study identified good practices and gaps in child protection budgets to advocate for increased public investment in children and child-responsive budgeting processes. The Alliance of CSOs works with the Department of Social Welfare and Development and Department for Education to integrate positive discipline into existing parenting training modules, including the Parenting Effectiveness Seminar, Family Development Sessions (for Conditional Cash Transfer beneficiaries), Empowerment of Paternal Abilities (ERPAT), and into teacher trainings.



## Collective Action and INSPIRE

### Reporting into CRCs and SDGs



Submitted CRC report in 2019.  
Underwent UPR in 2017.



Reported to the High-Level Political Forum (HLPF) in 2016.



Will report to HLPF in 2019.



## Opportunities for 2019 where End Violence will engage

### Build political will/global movement

1. Assist with documentation and reporting for the voluntary national review on SDG 16, and in particular target 16.2, at the High-Level Political Forum in July 2019.
2. Appoint a government focal point in the mayoral office of Valenzuela.

### Resource mobilization

3. Organize a donor roundtable to establish funding for city model.

### Equip practitioners

4. Engage government and civil society partners in mental health-based interventions (CBT).
5. Commission a national assessment of online child sexual exploitation according to context, prevalence and children's perspectives.
6. Engage government and civil society partners in Parenting for Lifelong Health interventions.