

# THE PHILIPPINES AT A GLANCE

## BACKGROUND

A comprehensive picture of the child labour situation in the Philippines can be sketched using the wealth of information contained in the Survey on Children (SOC) administered by the National Statistics Office (NSO) first in 1994-1995, and followed in 2000-2001. According to the 2001 SOC, there are about 4 million working children (between the ages of 5-17) in the country, about 2.4 million of whom are engaged in hazardous forms of labour. It also shows that 50 percent of the total number of working children is between 5 and 14 years of age; and the median age is 10 years (i.e., 50 percent of the working children are aged 10 years and below).

## INSTITUTIONAL FRAMEWORK

### NATIONAL

IPEC-Philippines formally started with the signing of the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between the Government of the Philippines and the ILO on 22 June 1994. The MoU was first extended on 23 December 1996; and the second one on 28 January 2002, with effectivity until 31 December 2006.

The Policy and Program frameworks in place in the Philippines for the elimination of the worst forms of child labour (WFCL) are the following:

- In line with the 2015 Millennium Development Goals, the National Child Labour Committee (NCLC) has made a commitment to work toward a 75 percent reduction of the WFCL by 2015.
- The Government of the Philippines has integrated child labour as a priority concern in the Medium-Term Philippine Development Plan (2001-2004).
- The National Program Against Child Labour (NPACL) is an overall time-bound framework for action, which has been adopted by the country in pursuing its goal of eliminating child labour, particularly its worst forms. The NPACL serves as a blueprint for establishing priorities, for allocating resources and for guiding local, national and international efforts to eliminate the most inhuman and intolerable forms of child labour.
- To institute immediate measures to eliminate the WFCL, the Philippine Time-Bound Programme (PTBP) was launched on 28 June 2002, which forms a major component of the NPACL. The ILO -IPEC Project in support of the PTBP is the first and most significant contribution toward the elimination of the WFCL. It will be implemented in tandem with the U.S. Department of Labor-funded Education Initiative. It has been designed to leverage resources as well, and to link up with national and international programs for the benefit of the Filipino children.

## BASIC FACTS ABOUT THE PHILIPPINES <sup>1</sup>

Population (million)	77,2 (2001)
Population under age 15 (as % of total)	37,1 (2001)
Life Expectancy at birth (years)	69,5 (2001)
Youth literacy rate (% age 15 - 24)	98,8 (2001)
Combined primary, secondary and tertiary gross enrolment ratio (%)	80 (2000-01)
GDP per capita (PPP US\$)	3,840 (2001)
Human development index (HDI) <sup>2</sup>	0,751 (2001)
<sup>2</sup> The HDI is a summary of human development (long and healthy life, knowledge, decent standard of living)	
Public Health Expenditure (as % of GDP)	1,5 (2000)
Public Expenditure on education (as % of GDP)	4,2 (1998-2000)
ODA received (as % of GDP)	0,8 (2001)

## RATIFICATION OF CONVENTIONS AND ENACTMENT OF LAWS

The Philippines has a long history of ratifying Conventions and enacting legislation aimed at protecting the rights and welfare of children:

Title of Convention	Notable Features	Date of Ratification
1. ILO Convention No. 90 (Revised 1948)	Disallows children below 18 years of age to be employed during the night in any public or private industrial undertaking or in any branch thereof, except as provided for.	29 December 1953
2. ILO Convention No. 77 (1944)	Children under 18 years of age shall not be admitted to employment unless they have been found fit for the work for which they are to be employed by a thorough medical examination.	17 November 1960

<sup>1</sup> Source: UNDP HDR 2003

Title of Convention	Notable Features	Date of Ratification
3. <b>ILO Convention No. 138</b> (1973) <i>Minimum age specified: 15 years</i>	Covers all economic sectors and all employment or work, whether or not such are performed under a contract of employment.	4 June 1998
4. <b>ILO Convention No. 182</b> (1999)	The primary instrument on which the time-bound approach, as an implementation mechanism, is based.	28 November 2000
5. <b>UN Convention of the Rights of the Child</b> (UN CRC)	Articulates the right of children to be protected from work that threatens their health, education or development, and the State's obligation to set minimum ages for employment and to regulate working conditions.	26 January 1990

Title of Law	Notable Features	Date of Enactment
1. <b>The Labour Code of the Philippines</b> <i>(Presidential Decree No. 442)</i>	Set the minimum age of employment at 15 years and prohibits the employment of persons below 18 years in hazardous undertakings.	1 May 1974
2. <b>Child and Youth Welfare Code</b> <i>(Presidential Decree No. 603)</i>	Allows employment of children below 16 years of age only if they perform light work, which is not harmful to their safety, health or normal development, and which is not prejudicial to their studies. Strict guidelines were laid down on their rates of pay, hours of work and other conditions of employment. An employment permit also has to be secured from the Department of Labour and Employment.	10 December 1974
3. <b>Republic Act No. 7610</b> <i>(Special Protection of Children Against Abuse, Exploitation and Discrimination Act)</i>	Provides protection of children against abuse, commercial sexual exploitation, trafficking, and employment in illicit activities.	17 June 1992
4. <b>Republic Act No. 7658</b>	Prohibits the employment of children below 15 years of age in public and private undertakings, except when a child works directly under the sole responsibility of his or her parents or legal guardian, and where only the members of the employer's family are employed. Amends Section 12, Article 8 of Republic Act No. 7610.	12 May 1994
5. <b>Executive Order No. 275</b> <i>(Signed by President Fidel V. Ramos)</i>	Creating a special committee for the special protection of children from all forms of neglect, abuse, cruelty, exploitation, discrimination and other conditions prejudicial to their development.	14 September 1995
6. <b>Memorandum Order No. 71</b> <i>(Signed by President Gloria Macapagal - Arroyo)</i>	Directs the Labour Secretary to take immediate and effective measures to ensure the prohibition and elimination of the WFCL through the TBP in the spirit of ILO Convention No. 182.	2 September 2002
7. <b>Department of Labour and Employment Order No. 4</b>	Provides a list of prohibited work and activities to persons below 18 years of age, consistent with ILO Convention No. 182.	21 September 1999
8. <b>Republic Act No. 9208</b> <i>(Anti-Trafficking in Persons Act)</i>	Institutes policies to eliminate trafficking in persons, especially women and children, establishing the necessary institutional mechanisms for the protection and support of trafficked persons.	26 May 2003
9. <b>Republic Act No. 9231</b> <i>(An Act Providing for the Elimination of the WFCL and Affording Stronger Protection for the Working Child)</i>	Amends R.A. No. 7610 by embodying the State policy to provide special protection to children from all forms of abuse, neglect, cruelty, exploitation and discrimination, and conditions prejudicial to their development, including child labour and its worst forms. It also provides stiffer penalties for their commission. It spells out the WFCL, consistent with Convention No. 182; the hours of work of working children; and ownership, usage and administration of the working child's income. Further, it ensures working children's access to education and training, and immediate legal, medical and psychosocial services.	19 December 2003

## KEY INSTITUTIONS

**National Child Labour Committee (NCLC)/ Regional Child Labour Committee (RCLC)/ Provincial Child Labour Committee (PCLC):** At the National and Regional Levels, Chaired by the Department of Labour and Employment (DOLE); at the Provincial Level, Chaired by Local Government Units (LGUs); Members include Governmental and Non-Governmental Organizations; Function: To oversee the implementation and monitor the progress of the National Program Against Child Labour (NPACL) and the Philippine Time-Bound Programme (PTBP) on the Elimination of the WFCL.

**Government:** Department of Labour and Employment (DoLE), Department of Education (DepEd), Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD), Council for the Welfare of Children (CWC), Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG)-Local Government Units, Department of Justice (DoJ), Philippine National Police (PNP), National Bureau of Investigation (NBI), National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA), Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), Department of Health (DoH), Philippine Information Agency (PIA)

**Employers' Organizations:** Employers Confederation of the Philippines (ECOP), Local Chambers of Commerce and Industry, Sugar Planters Associations

**Workers' Organizations:** Trade Unions: Trade Union Congress of the Philippines (TUCP), Federation of Free Workers (FFW), National Union of Workers in Hotels, Restaurants and Allied Industries (NUWHRAIN), Workers' Alliance Against Child Labour (WAACL), National Mines and Allied Workers Union (NAMAWU) Teachers' Unions: Association of Concerned Teachers (ACT), Philippine Public School Teachers Association (PPSTA), National Alliance of Teachers and Office Workers (NATOW)

**NGOs and Civil Society Organizations:** Addictus-Philippines Inc., Children's Laboratory for Drama in Education Foundation, Community Organizers-Multiversity, Community Organization of the Philippines Enterprise Foundation Inc. (COPE), End Child Prostitution, Child Pornography and the Trafficking of Children for Sexual Purposes (ECPAT), Educational Research and Development Assistance Foundation Inc. (ERDA), Families and Children for Empowerment and Development (FCED), Kamalayan Development Foundation (KDF), Learnet Consulting, Lungga Mangmang Agong Center Inc. (LMACI), Philippine Rural Reconstruction Movement (PRRM), Punla sa Tao Movement, Senator Manuel Manahan Foundation, Stop Trafficking of Pilipinos Foundation Inc. (STOP), Visayan Forum Foundation Inc.

**Academe:** Ateneo de Manila University (Center for Social Policy and Public Affairs, Human Rights Center, Urban and Community Studies Program), Ateneo de Davao University (Social Research Training and Development Office), Silliman University, University of San Carlos (Social Science Research Center), University of St. La Salle (Business Resource Center), University of the Philippines (College of Social Work and Community Development, College of Public Health)

**Programme coordination:** A Chief Technical Adviser (CTA) is appointed by IPEC to assist in the formulation, implementation and coordination of activities of the ILO-IPEC TBP Support Project.

## ILO-IPEC PROJECTS IN THE PHILIPPINES

**PROJECT TITLE:** Supporting the Time-Bound Programme on the Elimination of the Worst Forms of Child Labour in the Republic of the Philippines

**DURATION:** **Start:** 30 September 2002, **End:** 31 December 2006

**BUDGET:** U.S.\$5,199,198

**DONOR:** U.S. DOL

**GEOGRAPHICAL COVERAGE:** National level and selected provinces in Regions III (Bulacan), V (Camarines Norte), VI (Iloilo and Negros Occidental), VII (Negros Oriental and Cebu), XI (Davao), and the National Capital Region (Metro Manila)

**OBJECTIVES:** At the end of the Project: (1) there is an enhanced knowledge base for policy development and implementation in the Philippines; (2) there is an enhanced and better enforced legislative framework; (3) national development and social policies include child labour concerns; (4), enhanced education and training policies can effectively respond to the needs of girls and boys in child labour and to children at risk (5) attitudes towards child labour have changed among partner agencies; (6) the capacity of local government and civil society to monitor and manage action against the WFCL will be strengthened; (7) families affected by WFCL will have been provided with new opportunities for enhanced income and access to social safety nets; (8) children at risk and in the WFCL will have access to primary, vocational or non-formal education, including alternative and flexible learning systems; and (9) all major local-level actors and institutions have become aware of the problem of the WFCL and are mobilized in the battle against it.

**NOTABLE FEATURE:** The Project covers 6 WFCL sectors (child domestic work; children in prostitution; deep sea fishing; sugar cane plantations; pyrotechnics; and mining and quarrying) in 8 geographical areas. It will be implemented in tandem with the U.S. Department of Labor-funded Education Initiative (EI). The project has been instrumental in the enactment of Republic Act No. 9231, which concretizes and puts into effect the national policy to immediately address the WFCL in the country.

## SUB-REGIONAL ILO-IPEC PROJECTS IN THE PHILIPPINES

**PROJECT TITLE:** Programme to Combat Child Labour in the Fishing Sector in Indonesia and the Philippines

**DURATION:** Start: 1 October 1999, End: 30 June 2004 (Revised)

*(Note: The Philippine Programme ended October 2002)*

**BUDGET:** US \$ 1,208,833

**DONOR:** US DOL

**OBJECTIVES:** At the end of the Programme: (1) 1,700 children working in the fishing sector in selected areas of Indonesia and the Philippines will have been systematically removed from hazardous and exploitative work, and additional 800 younger siblings will have been prevented from starting work, and some 1,100 adult members, particularly women, will have improved income earning capacity through mechanisms established for workplace monitoring and social protection; and (Revised) (2) The capacity of national partners in Indonesia and the Philippines will have been strengthened to plan, initiate, implement and evaluate action to prevent and progressively eliminate child labour.

**PROJECT TITLE:** Programme to Combat Child Labour in the Footwear Sector in South-East Asia (Phase I)

**DURATION:** Start: 1 October 1999, End: 30 June 2004 (Revised)

*(Note: The Philippine Programme ended December 2002)*

**BUDGET:** US \$ 1,736,171

**DONOR:** US DOL

**GEOGRAPHICAL COVERAGE:** Indonesia, Philippines and Thailand

**OBJECTIVES :** At the end of the Programme: (1) 1,800 children working in the footwear sector in selected areas of Indonesia and the Philippines will have been systematically removed from child labour, and another 2,000 siblings will have been prevented from starting work, and 900 adult members will have been trained in income-generating activities or given access to credit/loan/saving facilities through mechanisms established for workplace monitoring and social protection; and (Revised) (2) The capacity of national partners in Indonesia and the Philippines will have been strengthened to plan, initiate, implement and evaluate action to prevent and progressively eliminate child labour.

**PROJECT TITLE:** Assessing the Situation of Children in the Production, Sales, and Trafficking of Drugs in Indonesia, the Philippines and Thailand

**DURATION:** Start: 30 September 2002, End: 30 September 2004

**BUDGET:** US \$ 497,532

**DONOR:** US DOL

**GEOGRAPHICAL COVERAGE:** Indonesia, Philippines and Thailand

**OBJECTIVES :** The Programme aims to develop and demonstrate an action-oriented research methodology that provides better understanding and information on the use of children in the production, sales and distribution of illegal drugs. In the course of conducting the research, the project will reach children at risk (as well as those involved in drugs) through awareness raising and youth mobilization in communities, schools and work-related environment (i.e., on the streets).

**PROJECT TITLE:** Prevention and Reintegration of Children Involved in Armed Conflict: An Inter-Regional Project – The Philippine Component

**DURATION:** Start: 30 November 2003, End: 31 December 2006

**BUDGET:** US \$ 390,000

**DONOR:** US DOL

**GEOGRAPHICAL COVERAGE:** Mindanao Island; Autonomous Region of Muslim Mindanao

**OBJECTIVES:** At the end of the Programme: (1) The enabling environment for ensuring that children are not affected by armed conflict will have been strengthened; (2) The entry of children into armed conflict will have been prevented; and (3) Children withdrawn from and traumatized by armed conflict will have been reintegrated into the mainstream of society.

## PUBLICATIONS CONCERNING CHILD LABOUR IN THE PHILIPPINES

### PUBLISHED LITERATURE

- *Opening Doors: A Presentation of Laws and Protecting Filipino Child Workers*, ILO and Ateneo Human Rights Center, 1996 and 2002.
- *The Kasambahay – Child Domestic Work in the Philippines: A Living Experience*, ILO and Visayan Forum Foundation Inc., ISBN 92-2-112697-8, 2001.
- *The Muted Cry: Stories of Working Children*, ILO, ISBN 92-2-112696-X, 2001.
- *In the Heat of the Night: Combating Child Labour in the Tourism Industry*, ILO and National Union of Workers in the Hotel, Restaurant and Allied Industries, October 2001.
- *Documentation of Experiences and Impact of the Sub-Regional Programme to Combat Child Labour in the Footwear Sector-Philippines*, ILO-IPEC and Asia Development Consultants Inc., ISBN 92-2-113548-9, 2002.
- *Final Report: 2001 Survey on Children 5-17 Years Old*, ILO-IPEC and National Statistics Office, ISBN 92-2-114043-1, May 2003.
- *Improving Safety, Health and the Working Environment in the Informal Footwear Sector*, ILO-IPEC, ISBN 92-2-113521-7, 2003.

### RESEARCHES (MANUSCRIPTS)

- *Prevention and Reintegration of Children Involved in Armed Conflict: The Philippine Experience*, Agnes Zenaida V. Camacho, June 2003.
- *Child Soldiers in Western and Central Mindanao: A Rapid Assessment*, Rufa Cagoco-Guiam, February 2002.
- *A National Policy Study on Child Labour and Development in the Philippines*, Fernando Aldaba, Leonardo Lanzona and Ronald Tamangan, May 2003.
- *An Assessment of Education and the Worst Forms of Child Labour: How Do Education Policies and Programs Work (or Not Work) for Children*, Emma Porio, Maria Luisa L. Fernan and Christine S. Crisol, July 2002.
- *Eliminating Child Labour in the Philippines*, Ruperto P. Alonzo and Rosemarie G. Edillon, December 2001.
- *An Analysis of the Causes and Consequences of Child Labor in the Philippines*, Emmanuel F. Esguerra, December 2001.
- *The Filipino Children in Prostitution*, Nick M. Arcilla, December 2001.
- *Towards a Time-Bound National Action on Child Domestic Workers in the Philippines*, Roland Romeo R. Pacis, May 2002.
- *Children in Pa-aling and Kubkub Fishing Expeditions (An Assessment Report for the Deep-Sea and Fishing Sector Studies)*, January 2002.
- *A Cursory Assessment Study on the Situation of Child Labour in the Pyrotechnics Industry*, Daisy Elena F. Año, February 2002.
- *A Cursory Assessment Study on the Situation of Child Labour in the Quarrying Industry*, Daisy Elena F. Año, February 2002.
- *Child Labour in the Sugar Plantations: A Cursory Assessment*, Alejandro Apit, January 2002.
- *An In-Depth Study on the Situation of Child Labour in the Agricultural Sector*, Mildred G. Rollolazo and Luisa C. Logan, 2002.
- *An In-Depth Study for a Time-Bound Program Targeting Child Domestic Workers in the Philippines*, Roland Romeo R. Pacis, December 2002.
- *In-Depth Study on the Worst Forms of Child Labour in the Mining and Quarrying Industries in the Philippines*, Kennedy B. Tuazon, September 2002.
- *In-Depth Study on the Situation of Children in Prostitution*, Divina Edralin, September 2002.
- *In-Depth Study on the Situation of Child Labour in the Pyrotechnics Industry*, Divina Edralin, September 2002.
- *The Philippine Time-Bound Programme*, James S. Mante and Loree Cruz-Mante, November 2002.

### VIDEOS

- *Media Report of 3 Rescues of Illegally Trafficked Children* IPEC-Frontier Productions, 1995 (VHS Format).
- *Batang-Bata Ka Pa/ Sa Panaginip/ Pagdating ng Panahon* (3 Television Plugs), IPEC-McCann Erickson, 1996 (VHS Format).
- *Child Labor MTV/ Global March* (Television Plugs), IPEC McCann Erickson, 1996 (VHS Format).
- *Combating Child Labour: The Global Cause*, IPEC-Occupational Safety and Health Center, 1996 (VHS-PAL Format).
- *No Time for Play*, IPEC-Philippine Center for Investigative Journalism, 1996 (VHS Format).
- *Child Labour Television Commercials* IPEC-Philippine Information Agency, 1996 (VHS Format).
- *Mga Batang Anak -Pawis* (10 Short Films on Child Workers), IPEC-Philippine Children's Television Foundation, 1997 (VHS Format).
- *Pit of Dreams*, IPEC-Philippine Rural Reconstruction Movement, 1998 (VHS Format).
- *Working Together Against Child Labour: The Philippine Campaign*, IPEC-Stryk, 1998 (CD Format).
- *Children Only Once* (English Version of *Minsan Lang Sila Bata*), IPEC-Buxani, 1998 (VHS Format).
- *Light in the Shaft*, IPEC-Camarines Norte Mining Project, 2000 (VHS Format).

- *Child Labor* (A Documentary of "The Correspondents"), IPEC-ABS-CBN, 2000 (VHS Format).
- *Hope for the Children of Biñan*, IPEC-Biñan Footwear Project, 2002 (VHS Format).
- *Let Us Give Time for Children to be Children* IPEC-COPE Foundation, 2002 (VHS Format).
- *Moonlight Children*, IPEC -Camarines Norte Mining Project, 2003 (VHS Format).
- *Building a Better Future for Children in the Small-Scale Mining Communities of Camarines Norte*, IPEC -Camarines Norte Mining Project, 2003 (VHS Format).
- *The Real Price of Gold* (A video on child labour in small-scale mining), IPEC -Camarines Norte Mining Project/ Philippine Rural Reconstruction Movement, 2003 (VHS Format).

## CONTACTS

### IPEC PHILIPPINES

#### *Chief Technical Adviser*

19/F Yuchengco Tower, RCBC Plaza

Ayala and Gil Puyat Avenues

Makati City, Philippines

Tel. +632 580 9900

Fax. +632 580 9999

Email. [lavador@ilomnl.org.ph](mailto:lavador@ilomnl.org.ph)

### IPEC BANGKOK

#### *Child Labour Specialist*

11/F United Nations Building

Rajdamnern Nok Avenue

Bangkok, Thailand

Tel. +66 2 288 1744

Fax. +66 2 288 1069

Email. [boonpala@ilo.org](mailto:boonpala@ilo.org)

### IPEC GENEVA

#### *IPEC Secretariat*

4, route des Morillons

CH-1211 Geneva

Switzerland

Tel. +41 22 799 8181

Fax. +41 22 799 8771

Email. [ipec@ilo.org](mailto:ipec@ilo.org)