

# PROTECTING FILIPINO CHILDREN FROM ABUSE, EXPLOITATION AND VIOLENCE

A COMPREHENSIVE PROGRAM ON CHILD PROTECTION, 2012-2016  
Building a Protective and Caring Environment for Children

Committee for the Special Protection of Children  
Department of Justice, Padre Faura, Manila  
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## Foreword

Our children's right to protection has been clearly laid out in the 1987 Philippine Constitution and in the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) adopted by the UN General Assembly on 20 November 1989. Our government ratified the CRC in July 1990. In 2002, we also ratified two optional protocols to the CRC, namely (a) involvement of children in armed conflict and (b) sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography. By ratifying the CRC and its optional protocols, we have committed as a nation to translate the principles, provisions and standards of the Convention into concrete actions that will make a difference in the lives of our children.

As an expression of that commitment, our Legislature enacted in 1992 Republic Act No. 7610, "An Act Providing Stronger Deterrence and Special Protection Against Child Abuse, Exploitation and Discrimination". Thereafter, the Committee for the Special Protection of Children (CSPC) was created in 1995 through Executive Order No. 275 to monitor enforcement of RA 7610. The Committee has been further strengthened through the issuance in 2011 of Executive Order No. 53 by President Benigno Simeon Aquino III by adding more key and relevant member agencies and sharpening its focus on the legal and judicial protection of children. The CSPC – which is chaired by the Department of Justice (DOJ) and co-chaired by the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) – is tasked to initiate and coordinate the formulation and implementation of a Comprehensive Program on Child Protection (CPCP).

The 1st and 2nd Comprehensive Program on Child Protection were implemented during the period 2001-2005 and 2006-2011 respectively. The current program, which is the 3rd CPCP, covers the period 2012-2016 which coincides with the implementation period for the 2nd National Plan of Action for Children (NPAC, 2012-2016). The NPAC is the broader program on child rights promotion being coordinated by the Council for the Welfare of Children (CWC) while the CPCP focuses on the special protection provisions of the CRC. Therefore, the CPCP is a companion document to the NPAC and is an elaboration of its child protection component. The NPAC is linked to the Philippine Development Plan (PDP, 2011-2016) agenda for achieving the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) by 2015, many of which are child-related goals.

During the 3rd CPCP, the major emphasis is to build and strengthen a multi-level child protection system which is caring and protective of children who are at risk, disadvantaged and vulnerable to abuse, neglect, exploitation and violence. This is in response to the 2009 concluding observations and recommendations from the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child (UN-CRC) based on the 3rd and 4th periodic report of the Philippine Government on CRC implementation submitted to the UN Committee in 2007. The recommendations call for a rights-based and systems-based approach to child protection – as opposed to the issue-based and fragmented approach – with the end in view of addressing the underlying and root causes of abuse, violence and exploitation.

Following a rights-based and systems-based approach to child protection, the 3rd CPCP will contribute to achieving Goal 2 of NPAC: “Children are protected from abuse, neglect, violence and exploitation”. A related goal is the reduction of children victims of abuse, neglect, violence and exploitation. These goals follow essentially the MDG Summit Declaration to protect all vulnerable populations worldwide including children and women. To achieve these goals, the 3rd CPCP targets five key result areas (KRAs) by the end of 2016:

1. An improved and comprehensive child protection data base and monitoring system is in place at national and local levels to inform policies and programs.
2. All existing child protection laws are effectively and consistently enforced at national and local levels and current gaps in legislation are addressed.
3. Child protection structures and systems are operational and effectively functioning at all levels – with emphasis on the local councils for the protection of children.
4. Appropriate and quality basic and protective services are provided to all children in need of special protection without discrimination.
5. A counterculture of care and protection permeates through the major social institutions (family, school, church, government, economy) and the larger society and replaces the prevailing culture of abuse, violence and exploitation.

Achieving the above key results by 2016 will require a broad-based national response and active engagement not only by government agencies but also non-government organizations (NGOs), faith-based organizations (FBOs), and other civil society organizations (CSOs) including families and local communities. We therefore call on all sectors of our society to get involved in the challenging task of protecting our children from various forms of abuse, violence and exploitation and in ensuring the fulfillment of their basic rights to survival, development, protection and participation as enshrined in the CRC. By achieving the above key results, we will have played a significant and historic role in building a “Child-Friendly Philippines – A Caring and Protective Society for Children”.

#### LEILA DE LIMA

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## Acknowledgments

The Committee for the Special Protection of Children (CSPC) wishes to acknowledge the active and committed participation of all its member agencies in the revision and update of the Comprehensive Program on Child Protection (CPCP). Now on its 3rd cycle covering the period 2012-2016, the CPCP provides the overall thrusts, directions, goals, strategies and interventions in the care and protection of Filipino children who are at risk, disadvantaged and vulnerable to various forms of abuse, neglect, violence and exploitation.

The CSPC likewise acknowledges our regional and local partners in Luzon, Metro Manila, Visayas and Mindanao who, during a series of island-wide consultations, gave valuable insights and concrete recommendations to enrich the CPCP. More specifically, we deeply appreciate their critical analysis and experiential observations on the situation of children in need of special protection (CNSP) and their suggestions on the more appropriate and effective ways of addressing key child protection issues in the country today. All these contributed to a more solid and comprehensive program document – the 3rd Comprehensive Program on Child Protection for the period 2012-2016.

We are grateful to Mr. Leopoldo M. Moselina, former Chief of the Child Protection Section at UNICEF Manila and the Founder and Chairman of the Board of the Foundation for Grassroots Studies and Social Action (FGSSA, also known as Sabay Tayo Foundation), who facilitated the island-wide consultations and prepared the revised and updated CPCP for and on behalf of the CSPC. Mr. Moselina has also served as a continuing resource person and support to the CSPC since his retirement from UNICEF in 2005.

With this revised and updated CPCP, we anticipate the active and committed participation of all concerned agencies and organizations at national, sub-national and local levels in preventing and responding to various forms of child abuse, neglect, violence and exploitation. More particularly, we recognize the critical role of our local chief executives (LCEs) who are in a strategic position to become defenders of children in their respective jurisdictions. We likewise acknowledge the role and contribution of religious leaders and local faith communities in the care and protection of children in the context of their mission and pastoral agenda.

**LEAH TANODRA-ARMAMENTO**

Undersecretary, Department of Justice  
Acting Chair, Committee for the  
Special Protection of Children

## List of Acronyms

AIDS	Acute Immune Deficiency Syndrome
BCPC	Barangay Council for the Protection of Children
BEC	Basic Ecclesial Communities
BI	Bureau of Immigration
CBCP	Catholic Bishops Conference of the Philippines
CBO	Community-Based Organization
CCT	Conditional Cash Transfer
CFP	Child-Friendly Philippines
CHR	Commission on Human Rights
CICL	Children in Conflict with the Law
CNSP	Children in Need of Special Protection
CPCP	Comprehensive Program on Child Protection
CP-IAC	Child Protection Interagency Committee
CPMIS	Child Protection Management Information System
CPSC	Caring and Protective Society for Children
CPU	Child Protection Unit
CPU-Net	Child Protection Unit Network
CRA	Child Rights Advocate
CRC	Convention on the Rights of the Child
CSPC	Committee for the Special Protection of Children
CWC	Council for the Welfare of Children
DAP	Development Academy of the Philippines
DepEd	Department of Education
DILG	Department of the Interior and Local Government
DOH	Department of Health
DOJ	Department of Justice
DOLE	Department of Labour and Employment
DSWD	Department of Social Welfare and Development
EBICF	Ecumenical Bishops Initiative on Children and Families
EPCAT	End Child Prostitution, Child Pornography and Trafficking of Children
ERPAT	Empowerment and Reaffirmation of Paternal Abilities
FBO	Faith-Based Organization
FGD	Focus Group Discussion
GAD	Gender and Development
HIV	Human Immunodeficiency Virus
IAC	Interagency Committee
ILO	International Labour Organization
IPC	Institute of Philippine Culture
JJWC	Juvenile Justice and Welfare Council
KII	Key Informant Interview

KRA	Key Result Area
LCE	Local Chief Executive
LCPC	Local Council for the Welfare of Children
LGU	Local Government Unit
MDG	Millennium Development Goal
MILF	Moro Islamic Liberation Front
MOA	Memorandum of Agreement
MTPDP	Medium-Term Philippine Development Plan
NASSA	National Secretariat for Social Action
NBI	National Bureau of Investigation
NCCP	National Council of Churches of the Philippines
NCR	National Capital Region
NCWDP	National Council for the Welfare of Disabled Persons
NEDA	National Economic and Development Authority
NGA	National Government Agency
NGO	Non-Government Organization
NPAC	National Plan of Action for Children
NPS	National Prosecution Service
NSCB	National Statistical Coordination Board
NSO	National Statistical Office
OCRG	Office of the Civil Registrar General
OFW	Overseas Filipino Worker
PCEC	Philippine Council of Evangelical Churches
PCMN	Philippine Children's Ministries Network
PES	Parent Effectiveness Service
PGH	Philippine General Hospital
PHILINC	Philippine Inter-Faith Network for Children
PNP	Philippine National Police
RDC	Regional Development Council
RSWC	Regional Sub-Committee for the Welfare of Children
SAPIME	Situation Analysis, Planning, Implementation, Monitoring and Evaluation
SBMS	Subaybay Bata Monitoring System
SPCC	Salvatorian Pastoral Care for Children
STD	Sexually Transmitted Disease
TMG	Technical Management Group
TOR	Terms of Reference
TOT	Training of Trainers
UBAS	Ugnayan ng mga Barangay at mga Simbahan
ULAP	Union of Local Authorities of the Philippines
UNGASS	United Nations General Assembly Special Session
UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund
UN-CRC	United Nations Committee on the Rights of the Child
WFFC	World Fit for Children
WCPD	Women and Children Protection Desk
WCPU	Women and Children Protection Unit

# Introduction

## Background and rationale

1. Children's rights to protection from any form of abuse, exploitation and violence are clearly laid out in the provisions of the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) which was adopted by the UN General Assembly in November 1989 and which took effect as an international human rights treaty in September 1990. The Philippine Government ratified the CRC in July 1990. As a state party to the CRC, the Philippine Government enacted in 1992 Republic Act No. 7610, "An Act Providing Stronger Deterrence and Special Protection Against Child Abuse, Exploitation and Discrimination", as a concrete expression of its compliance to the principles, provisions and standards of the CRC. Ten years later, in 2002, the Philippines also ratified the two optional protocols to the CRC: (a) the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography; and (b) the involvement of children in armed conflict.
2. To monitor effective enforcement of RA 7610, the Committee for the Special Protection of Children (CSPC) was created in 1995 through Executive Order No. 275. In 2011, the CSPC has been strengthened through Executive Order No. 53 issued by President Benigno Simeon Aquino III by adding key relevant government agencies and NGOs as regular members of the Committee and providing guidelines for better integration and coordination of existing child protection initiatives, with emphasis on legal and judicial protection. Headed by the Department of Justice (DOJ) and the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD), the Committee is tasked to initiate and coordinate the preparation of a Comprehensive Program on Child Protection (CPCP). Two CPCP documents had already been prepared by the Committee for two programming cycles, namely, CPCP 1, 2001-2005 and CPCP 2, 2006-2010. Both CPCP 1 and 2 were not viewed as stand-alone program documents but as components of the National Plans of Action for Children (NPAC) for the corresponding periods. CPCP 2 implementation was extended to 2011 in order to synchronize it with the NPAC planning cycle.
3. While data remain inadequate, there have been increasing numbers of Filipino children who are vulnerable to and have become victims of various forms of abuse, exploitation and violence as seen in reports of both government agencies and non-government organizations (NGOs). The UN Committee on the Rights of the Child (UN-CRC) based in Geneva also underscored the growing complexity of child protection issues and challenges in the Philippines through its 2005 and 2009 Concluding Observations on the Philippine Government

report on CRC implementation. The CPCP therefore needs to be reviewed and updated periodically to ensure its relevance and responsiveness in addressing these issues. But the greater challenge lies in the effective implementation of the CPCP, both at national, sub-national and local levels – particularly at the level of local government units (LGUs) and local communities where preventive actions and early interventions against any form of child abuse, violence and exploitation are critical.

4. A quick review of the CPCP, 2006-2010 was conducted between July to August 2011 using participatory and qualitative methods such as focus group discussions (FGD), key informant interviews (KII), and document reviews (DR). The results of the quick review were further validated through regional and island-wide consultations with major duty bearers and stakeholders involved in the field of child protection organized by the Committee for the Special Protection of Children (CSPC). The assessment results are presented in Chapter 3 of this document. The findings guided the revision and update of the CPCP for the period 2012-2016.
5. Building on experiences and key lessons learned from the implementation of the two previous CPCP (CPCP 1, 2001-2005 and CPCP 2, 2006-2010/11), the third CPCP covering the period 2012-2016 will emphasize the need for building and strengthening structures and systems for child protection at national, sub-national and local levels particularly the local councils for the protection of children. There will be a stronger emphasis on institutional capacity building – in terms of the social welfare system as well as the legal and judicial system – rather than just building individual capacities. The focus of CPCP 2 on an integrated child protection program, as opposed to issue-based responses and interventions, will be intensified during CPCP 3 in order to address the underlying and structural factors that bring about child abuse, exploitation and violence. The integrated child protection program will be pursued under the framework of creating a protective and caring environment for children (PCEC). The key elements of a protective and caring environment for children are described in Chapter 4.

## Legal and policy framework

6. **Global legal and policy framework.** Aside from the special protection provisions of the CRC (Articles 19-23, 32-40), the Millennium Declaration (2000) and the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) also explicitly address child protection. A closer look at the MDGs shows that not a single goal can be achieved without including child protection strategies. Failing to protect children from abuse, exploitation and violence in schools, at home, in the community and in other institutional settings will end up squandering society's most precious resource. Reaching all children who are most vulnerable, disadvantaged, and in need

of special protection will help ensure the survival, health, development and well-being of all children — and this is indispensable to achieve the MDGs. In addition, the UN General Assembly Special Session (UNGASS) on Children held in May 2002 issued an outcome document entitled, “A World Fit for Children”, which describes the priority goals and results for children that member nations of the UN agreed to achieve by 2015. One of the major goals of “A World Fit for Children” is the protection of all children from abuse, exploitation and violence.

7. **National legal and policy framework.** In light of the CRC, the MDGs and the UNGASS outcome document, “A World Fit for Children”, the Philippine Government has formulated a “National Strategic Framework for Plan Development for Children”. Popularly known as Child 21 and spanning 25 years up to 2025, its goal is to build a “child-sensitive and child-friendly society” as the country’s promise to Filipino children in 21st century. Child 21 places strong emphasis on the rights and unique needs and circumstances of vulnerable and disadvantaged children and provides a sharper focus on the rights of all children to special protection. The vision of Child 21 has been concretized through the formulation of the National Plan of Action for Children (NPAC 1) for the period 2005-2010 and the Second National Plan of Action for Children (NPAC 2, 2012-2016) will soon be adopted by the Board of the Council for the Welfare of Children. The CPCP is an elaboration of the child protection component of NPAC.
8. **National laws on child protection.** Article 15, Section 3 of the Philippine Constitution states that the Government must ensure “the right of children to assistance, including proper care and nutrition, and special protection from all forms of neglect, abuse, cruelty, exploitation and other conditions prejudicial to their development”. Together with the CRC, this state policy recognizing children’s right to special protection has been translated into various legislative enactments protecting children including, but not limited to the following: (a) RA 7610 or the Child Protection Act of 1992, (b) RA 9208 or the Anti-Trafficking in Persons Act of 2003, (c) RA 9231 or an Act Providing for the Elimination of the Worst Forms of Child Labour, (d) RA 9262 or the Anti-Violence Against Women and their Children Act of 2004, (e) RA 9344 or the Comprehensive Juvenile Justice and Welfare Act of 2006, and (f) RA 9775 or the Anti-Child Pornography Act of 2009.
9. As can be seen in the above enactments, the Philippines has a fairly strong legal basis for child protection. The UN Committee on the Rights of the Child (UN-CRC) made the same comment in its 2005 and 2009 Concluding Observations on the Philippine Periodic Reports on CRC implementation. The main challenge for the Philippines, however, is the consistent and effective enforcement of all these laws. Moreover, legal and judicial remedies alone are not enough to effectively address the underlying and root causes of child abuse, exploitation and violence.

## Key issues on child protection

### The situation of children in need of special protection (CNSP)

10. The country's economic growth over the past decades has been unbalanced and non-inclusive resulting to growing poverty and widening inequality (Habito, 2009). The estimated number of poor Filipinos reached 27.6 million in 2006, which is sixteen percent more than the 23.8 million poor people in 2003 (NSCB Poverty Statistics, 2008). Population growth remains at 2.04 percent annually. The country's population was estimated at 88.7 million as of 2007 and projected to reach over 100 million in 2010 (NSO Population Statistics).
11. The Philippines has a relatively young population. Close to half are children – 43.3 percent or 38.2 million. A 2009 NSCB study of poverty and well-being of children in the Philippines estimated that 40.8 percent or 14.9 million Filipino children live in poverty. The same study reports that poverty is highest among children of fisher-folks, farmers, migrants, informal sector workers, and informal settlers, among others. Children living in extreme poverty suffer from hunger, malnutrition, and ill-health as well as drop out early from school.
12. Over and above poverty, hunger, malnutrition, and disease, growing numbers of children are vulnerable to and have become victims of various forms of abuse, violence and exploitation and therefore need special protection. These children are, among others: (a) children without parental care or at risk of losing parental care; (b) children in situations of exploitation such as child labour, trafficking, commercial sexual exploitation, and drug abuse; (c) children in situations of emergency including children in situations of armed conflict and children victims of natural disasters; (d) children living and working on the streets; (e) children in conflict with the law; (f) children in situations of abuse and neglect including physical abuse, sexual abuse, corporal punishment and other forms of cruelty; (g) children belonging to minorities and indigenous peoples; and (h) marginalized and disadvantaged children such as children with disabilities, unregistered children, and others who experience other forms of discrimination.
13. **Children without parental care and at risk of losing parental care.** Neglected and abandoned children are among those who are deprived of a caring family environment. These children may be given up for adoption or are placed in residential care facilities. In 2010, DSWD placed a total of 1,339 children in alternative care such as adoption, foster care and legal guardianship. Increasing numbers of children of overseas Filipino workers (OFW) are at risk of losing

parental care. NGOs like Scalabrini and Anak Migrante-Pamilya have estimated that roughly 4-6 million children of OFWs are left behind and are therefore at risk of losing parental care. Children living in extreme forms of poverty, estimated at 14.9 million as of 2009, are highly vulnerable to family separation, neglect and abandonment.

14. **Child labour.** A national survey on children conducted by the National Statistics Office (NSO) and the International Labour Organization (ILO) in 2011 estimated that there were 5.5 million working children ages 5-17 years which showed 35% increase from 4.1 million in 2001. Of the 5.5 million working children, almost 3 million were engaged in hazardous child labour which showed 25% increase from 2.4 million in 2001. Under the law, child labour is defined as any form of work or economic activity performed by a child that subjects him or her to exploitation, or is harmful to health and safety, physical and mental or psychosocial development. ILO further defines child labour as work that deprives children of their childhood, their potential and their dignity. Over sixty percent (62.4%) of working children were found in agriculture and 30% were found in the service sector. More boys were engaged in agriculture while more girls were involved in services. In terms of geographic location, the highest number of child labour was found in Central Luzon (10.6%), Bicol Region (10.2%), Western Visayas (8.5%), Northern Mindanao (8.2%), and Central Visayas (7.3%).
15. **Child trafficking.** Although the exact numbers of trafficked children are not yet known, an ECPAT study showed that children who become victims of trafficking are predominantly girls whose ages range from 14 to 17 years old. They are usually lured by offers of jobs in households, restaurants, factories, and entertainment agencies only to end up as sex slaves. As reported by ECPAT, "there were cases of children who were trafficked both for sexual purposes and for labour – storekeepers at daytime and sexual slaves at night time". Cross-border trafficking is also a growing phenomenon involving children. Many of the children being recruited from different parts of the Philippines are transported to other countries. Japan, Malaysia, Korea and Saudi Arabia, among others, have been identified as offshore destinations of child trafficking victims from the Philippines.
16. **Child prostitution.** Data on children in prostitution remain inadequate; estimates range from 60,000 to 100,000 nationwide. In most instances, children are lured into prostitution because of poverty. Various case studies reveal that most of the victims and survivors of child prostitution are children of blue-collar workers and unemployed parents; although not all poverty-stricken children end up in prostitution. Unstable family relationships and peer pressure have also pushed children into prostitution. Mostly females aged 13-18 years old, children in prostitution assume the burden of augmenting the family income. More often than not, they have also dropped out of school early. They are subjected to various forms of abuse, trapped into drugs and alcohol, and are highly vulnerable

to sexually transmitted diseases (STDs) including HIV/AIDS.

17. **Child pornography.** The extent of child pornography in the Philippines is not exactly known. Data are difficult to gather considering that child pornography is a clandestine and illegal activity. A 2002 report by Alecks Pabico indicated that child pornographic websites called Paradise, Lolita, and Lollipop were shut down by Philippine law enforcement agencies because they featured Asian children, including Filipinos, in nude poses and sexual acts. In 2004, a case of organized child pornography in the country involved 70 children who had fallen victims to a suspected syndicate of pornographers composed of a Japanese national and his Filipino cohorts who served as procurers. The children were hired to perform for pornographic videos and model for pornographic images. The suspected pornographers were successfully arrested by the NBI following an entrapment operation set up against them. Sadly, the effects of pornography on children are still not fully recognized. But a UP study conducted for UNICEF in 2004 reported that the effects of pornography on a child victim are "far-reaching and may actually last a lifetime because these images are lasting testaments of a child's exploitation".
  
18. **Physical and sexual abuse and violence against children.** Child physical and sexual abuse, maltreatment and other forms of violence are on the rise and continue to afflict children at home, in schools, and in communities. Corporal punishment, in the guise of discipline, remains tolerated and seemingly accepted. Reported cases of child abuse served by the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) reached a total of 7,606 in 2006 and 7,182 in 2007. Many perpetrators of physical and sexual abuse are often family members, in many cases the father. A 2005 study of the Child Protection Unit (CPU) at the Philippine General Hospital (PGH) showed that about five (5) to eight (8) percent of total child abuse cases referred to the hospital was perpetrated by teachers. In the school setting, teachers constitute 50 percent of the perpetrators of child abuse; a small number of cases involved janitors, bus drivers and other school personnel. Children also suffer in the hands of their peers as victims of bullying and by being caught in gang wars or conflicts among fraternities both in school and out of school.
  
19. **Street children.** The number of children who live and work on the streets is estimated at 246,000 or roughly three (3) percent of the 0-17 year old population. These children usually come from large families, are out of school, and more likely to be engaged in high risk behaviours such as drug use and substance abuse, early and unprotected sex, vagrancy and other anti-social activities. Their survival strategies include begging; selling newspapers, cigarettes, flowers and chewing gums; washing and watching cars; shining shoes; carrying baggage for grocery and market goers; scavenging for recyclable materials; and even pick pocketing, snatching, and involvement in drug pushing and prostitution. Majority or roughly 70 to 75 percent of street children still have families and

go home regularly, about 15 to 20 percent have families but do not go home regularly and stay most of the time on the streets, and only five (5) percent are abandoned or without families.

20. **Children in drugs.** Children involved in drug sale and trafficking are difficult to trace and identify given the hidden and illegal nature of the trade. In July 2004, the Philippine National Police (PNP) estimated that there were 3.4 million drug users. The Young Adult Fertility Survey III reported that incidence of drug use almost doubled from 10.9 percent in 1994 to 19.7 percent in 2002. Drug prevalence among females almost tripled from one percent in 1974 to 3.2 percent in 2002. Most of the children and young people involved in drugs are male, have dropped out of school, and come from families undergoing tensions and problems. Children are initiated and/or recruited by people close to them like friends, peers or *barkada*, family members, relatives and neighbours who are engaged in drug use, sale and trafficking (ILO-IPEC Report: The Use of Children in the Production, Sale and Trafficking of Drugs, 2005).
  
21. **Children in conflict with the law.** According to the Juvenile Justice and Welfare Council (JJWC), the number of reported crimes committed by children during the period 2006 to 2011 reached a total of 18,277 (note that RA 9344 or the Juvenile Justice and Welfare Act was passed in 2006). Reported crimes committed by children during this period averages only 2.1% of total crime index. This dispels the perception that crimes committed by children increased after the passage of RA 9344. For the same period, the highest number of reported crimes by children (5,202) was committed by children belonging to the age bracket 16-17 years old, which is above the minimum age of criminal responsibility. Moreover, the reported crime mostly committed by children is still theft, which is a crime against property. Theft comprises 43.7% of all reported crimes committed by children. Property-related crimes, especially theft, are strongly linked to poverty which is the usual condition faced by children in conflict with the law. This reinforces the view that theft is more of a survival strategy of children living in extreme poverty. In this sense, so-called children in conflict with the law are primarily victims of poverty and injustice who are forced to commit anti-social acts in order to survive.
  
22. **Children in situations of armed conflict and displacement.** According to Amnesty International, at least 50 percent of people displaced by armed conflict are children. Since 2001, more than 50,000 children have been displaced by armed conflict. Based on a study prepared for ILO in 2002, there have been increasing numbers of children involved in armed conflict particularly in Central and Western Mindanao where 10 to 30 percent of children in any given community, which is influenced by either the NPA or MILF, are taken as child soldiers. The same study calculated that if there are at least 2,000 people in each of the 10 MILF-influenced communities in Maguindanao, there would be a least 2,000 to 6,000 children involved in armed conflict.

23. A situation study conducted by the Development Academy of the Philippines (DAP) for CWC, NEDA and UNICEF revealed the following consequences of children's involvement in armed conflict: (a) arrest, torture and detention; (b) rape, particularly of girls, and its attendant effects including sexually transmitted diseases; (c) physical injuries as a result of bloody bombings, torture after being caught, and accidents while performing their duties; and (d) psychological effects manifested in generalized fear of their immediate environment, excessive anxiety at the sight of a stranger, sleeping problems, hopelessness and apathy, and other behavioural changes such as withdrawal, aggression, destructiveness and overdependence on adults.
24. Displacement of children and their families also happens as a result of government development programs and entry of big multinational companies engaged in mining and other industries. Children belonging to minorities and indigenous peoples occupying geographic areas which are rich in natural resources find themselves in this situation. In the urban context, children of the urban poor living in slum communities and informal settlements are also being displaced due to evictions or demolitions. With rapid urbanization, the situation of urban poor children deserves urgent attention. A study conducted for UNICEF by the Institute of Philippine Culture (IPC) of the Ateneo de Manila University in 2005 estimated that about 8.4 million poor Filipinos live in informal settlements in Metro Manila, Metro Cebu and Metro Davao.
25. **Children with disabilities.** Based on the NSO Census 2000 report, the number of children with disabilities was estimated at 191,680 or about 20 percent of people with disabilities. Of this number, 54 percent were males and 46 percent were females and about 70 percent were found in remote and rural areas. The prevalence of disability among children increased at 4.2 percent among 0-4 age group, 6.2 percent among 5-9 age group and 7 percent among 10-14 age group. Prevalence of disability among boys is slightly higher than girls. According to the National Council for the Welfare of Disabled Persons (NCWDP), hearing, visual impairment and difficulty in moving are the most prevalent forms of disability among children. More than 50 percent of disabilities among children are acquired and therefore highly preventable; but there are not yet enough appropriate interventions for prevention and early detection of disabilities.
26. **Unregistered children.** The National Statistics Office (NSO) estimated that between 18 to 20 percent of Filipino children are not registered at birth or about 2.6 million as of 2005. Majority of unregistered children come from communities of Muslims and indigenous peoples. Without timely birth registration, children are being deprived of their fundamental right to a name, identity and nationality. They are not counted in social planning for education, health and other basic services. They are also more vulnerable to abuse, violence and exploitation particularly in cases of labour exploitation, trafficking, and prostitution, among

others. The NSO and the Office of the Civil Registrar General (OCRG), in partnership with NGOs such as Plan Philippines and the Association of Local Civil Registrars, have already undertaken various initiatives to arrive at 100 percent registration of children.

27. **Children belonging to minorities and indigenous peoples.** The exact number of children belonging to minorities and indigenous peoples (IP) is difficult to get since many of them are not registered at birth. Assuming a total IP population of 12 to 15 million, the population of IP children can be estimated at 5 to 7 million or approximately 43 percent of the total IP population. Most IP children live in far-flung communities usually accessible only by foot. These communities usually have inadequate basic social services. Unregistered births, high malnutrition and mortality rates, low school participation and cohort survival rates, and poor environmental sanitation prevail among IP children. Moreover, many IP communities are armed conflict areas; therefore their children are often caught in armed encounters between the government forces and insurgent groups. Likewise, the entry of development projects and investments of big multinational corporations in IP communities has caused physical and economic dislocation of IP children and families.
28. **Other children in need of special protection.** Other groups of children who may find themselves in situations of disadvantage and are therefore in need of special protection include children victims of natural disasters, children in cybersex exploitation, children and young people with experience of early sex and early pregnancies, and children affected by HIV/AIDS, among others. However, under the UN-CRC general reporting guidelines, the phenomenon of children affected by HIV/AIDS is treated primarily as a health issue. But children affected by HIV/AIDS may also suffer from social stigma and discrimination and therefore need special care and protection.
29. **Priority child protection issues by islands.** Based on a series of island-wide consultations in Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao from January to March 2012, six priority child protection issues are common across the major islands and regions. These are: (a) commercial sexual exploitation of children, (b) child labour, (c) physical and sexual abuse, (d) street children, (e) children in conflict with the law, and (f) children trapped in drugs and substance abuse. The phenomenon of children victims of natural disasters was highlighted mainly in Luzon while the issue of children in situation of armed conflict is considered to be predominant in Mindanao. As the available data indicate, child protection remains as a major human rights challenge for the Philippines in the years to come.
30. **Problems concerning child protection data.** Many of the CNSP data presented above are relatively old and not updated. Disaggregation by age, gender, rural-urban, ethnic groupings, and other status also remains a big challenge. Moreover, some discrepancies in data occur in the reports of key government

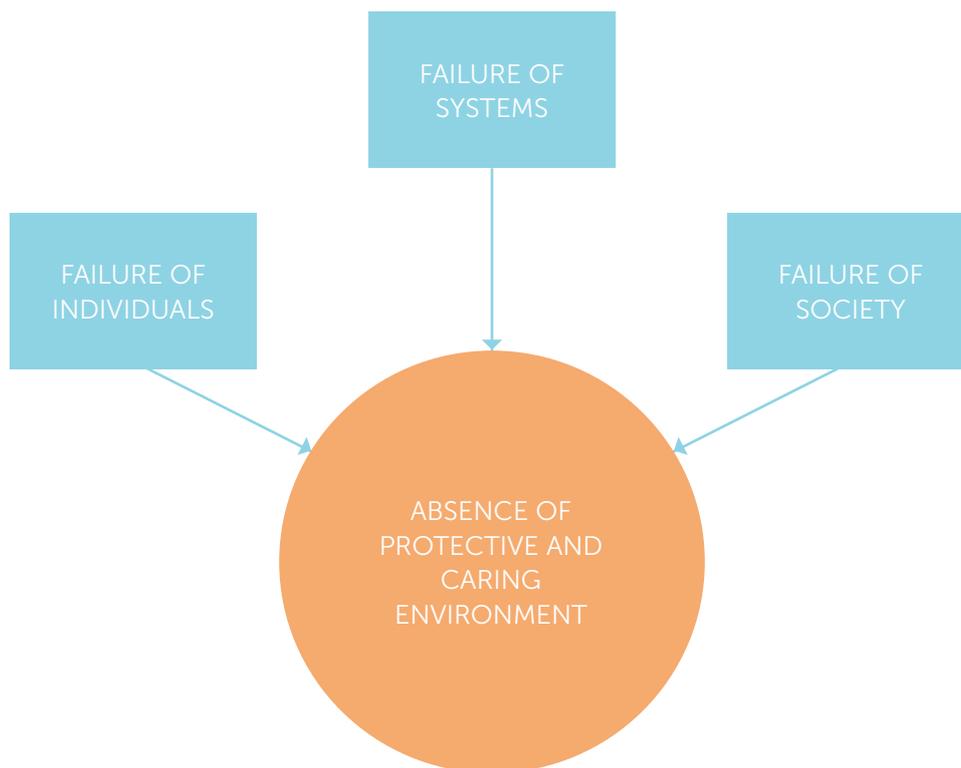
agencies and NGOs. Reporting has yet to be made more regular and timely. In cases of trafficking, prostitution, pornography, and drugs, the exact numbers are difficult to obtain considering that these issues are not only culturally and politically sensitive but are the results of illegal and clandestine operations of organized syndicates that make business out of children and young people locally, nationally and globally.

**Table 1: A summary table showing magnitude of Filipino children in need of special protection**

Categories of CNSP	Estimate
Children without parental care and at risk of losing parental care	4-6 million
Working children	5.5 million
Trafficked children	
Prostituted children	60,000 to 100,000
Children in pornography	
Child victims of violence, physical, and sexual abuse	8,000
Children living or working on the streets	246,000
Children and young people in drugs and substance abuse	3.4 million
Children in conflict with the law	18,277 (2006 to 2011)
Children in situations of emergency	
Armed conflict	50,000 displaced annually
Natural disasters	190,000 annually
Children with disabilities	192,000
Unregistered children	2.6 million
Children belonging to minorities and indigenous peoples	5-7 million

## Understanding child protection issues

31. The growing numbers of Filipino children becoming vulnerable to abuse, exploitation and violence can be explained by our failure to ensure a protective and caring environment for children (PCEC) anchored on the special protection provisions of the CRC (Articles 19-23 and Articles 32-40). A protective and caring environment addresses the underlying and root causes of abuse, violence and exploitation and promotes a systems-based approach to child protection versus the issue-based approach (i.e., piecemeal and fragmented interventions).
32. The lack or absence of a protective and caring environment is brought about by serious failures in three levels, namely: (a) at the level of individuals, (b) at the level of systems, and (c) at the level of the larger society. The interplay of factors at micro, meso and macro levels must be analyzed to arrive at a deeper understanding of child protection issues. Analysis of the interrelationships of these factors at various levels will also help determine appropriate strategies and core interventions to address the issues. This is visualized in Figure 1.



**Figure 1: A diagram showing the lack of a protective and caring environment brought about by failures of individuals, systems, and the larger society.**

33. **Failures at the level of individuals.** Gaps and inadequacies at the level of individuals include the following: (a) children’s inadequate knowledge and life skills; (b) lack of effective access of children to education, health and other basic social services; (c) lack of knowledge and skills on effective parenting among parents from disadvantaged families which contribute to their failure to care for and protect their own children; (d) gaps in capacities of service providers and care givers, including lack of appropriate child protection tool box; and (e) individual values, beliefs and attitudes that lead or contribute to abuse, violence and exploitation. But these failures at the level of individuals should not be taken apart from the failures at the level of systems and the larger society.
34. **Failures at the level of systems.** Failures at systems level include: (a) weak and inconsistent enforcement of child protection laws and national and local levels; (b) the judicial process still remains slow and lacks sensitivity to the psychosocial dynamics of children; (c) non-functional structures or mechanisms for child protection at various levels, e.g., local councils for the protection of children particularly the barangay council for the protection of children (BCPC); (d) inadequate services and resources for child protection due to weak social welfare system particularly at the LGU level; and (e) inadequate child protection database and weak monitoring system, both at national and local levels.
35. **Failures at the level of the larger society.** The macro-structural and root causes of abuse, violence and exploitation have yet to be effectively addressed in advocacy and programming for child protection. These macro economic, political and socio-cultural factors include the following: (a) materialistic and consumerist culture and the situation of socio-economic insecurity have created conditions that tolerate the use of children in exploitative labour, prostitution, drug pushing and other organized crimes, trafficking, and pornography, among others; (b) the inequitable distribution of resources and opportunities has pushed children and their families to situations of poverty, deprivation, marginalization and disadvantage; (c) current programmes aimed at poverty reduction and social equity promotion (e.g., 4Ps or CCT) have yet to address the growing numbers of poor and vulnerable families; and (d) unabated corruption and bad governance at various levels have hindered inclusive and poverty-reducing economic growth.
36. The above framework stresses the importance of understanding child protection issues in a comprehensive and holistic manner. Moreover, it emphasizes the shift from issue-based analysis to a systems-based analysis using the CRC lens. A CRC-based analysis includes: (a) causality analysis which looks at the immediate, underlying, and root causes of abuse, violence and exploitation – thus determining failures at the level of individuals, systems, and the larger society; (b) capacity analysis which looks into the adequateness in terms of knowledge, skills, competencies, and resources not only of individuals but also of institutions; and (c) role analysis which looks at the major roles and

responsibilities of key duty bearers (government agencies, NGOs, FBOs and other civil society organizations) as well as the roles and responsibilities of rights-holders or the children themselves.

37. **Circle of abuse, violence and exploitation.** The interplay of factors at various levels – individual, systems, and the larger society – creates a circle of abuse, violence and exploitation. In the Philippine context, the following factors are critical to understanding the continuing cycle of child abuse, violence and exploitation:
- a. Values, attitudes, and practices that lead or contribute to abuse, violence and exploitation, e.g., materialistic and consumerist culture leading to the “commoditization” of children and various forms of abuse, violence and exploitation;
  - b. Inadequate services and resources for children at the level of national government agencies and local government units;
  - c. Gaps in institutional capacities (e.g., social welfare system, child justice system, etc.) as well as individual capacities of programme managers, service providers and caregivers in recognizing and responding to abuse, violence and exploitation;
  - d. Non-functional structures and systems for child protection, e.g., weak or non-functional local councils for the protection of children (province, municipality, city and barangay), and weak management and implementation mechanisms at various levels, particularly at LGU level;
  - e. Children’s inadequate knowledge and life skills and lack of effective participation in decisions that affect them;
  - f. Failure of families, particularly the marginalized and disadvantaged, to care for and protect their own children as manifested in their lack of knowledge and skills in responsible and positive parenting;
  - g. Weak and inconsistent enforcement of child protection laws and ordinances at national and local levels; and
  - h. Inadequate database and weak monitoring system on child protection.



**Figure 2: Circle of abuse, violence and exploitation**

38. Addressing the challenges in child protection in the Philippine context requires a critical analysis and understanding of the above interrelated factors that lead to abuse, violence and exploitation – viewed in the context of prevailing economic, political, social and cultural realities in the country. Combining a rights-based and a systems-based approach to situation analysis, planning, implementation, monitoring and evaluation (SAPIME) will help tackle more effectively the underlying and root causes of child abuse, neglect, violence and exploitation.

## Major accomplishments and lessons learned

39. The implementation of the 2nd Comprehensive Program on Child Protection (CPCP 2) for the period 2006-2010 was extended for one year up to the end of 2011 in order to synchronize the CPCP with the planning cycle for the Second National Plan of Action for Children (NPAC 2) and the Philippine Development Plan (PDP) for the period 2012-2016. The major gains and lessons learned during CPCP 2 implementation are presented in the following sections.
40. The **media guidelines for the coverage and reporting of child abuse cases** were revised in 2009 under the initiative of the Committee for the Special Protection of Children (CSPC) using a participatory process involving media professionals and practitioners as well as program managers and service providers. Anchored on the principles, provisions and standards of the CRC, the revised media guidelines have contributed to a more sensitive and responsible coverage and reporting of children's cases in both print and broadcast media.
41. In 2005, the CSPC started **developing a database on child offenders** with funding and technical support from the British Embassy and CPU-Net. Lodged at DOJ, the database covers cases at the level of law enforcement (PNP, NBI) and prosecution. The offenders database has already been utilized in the selection of priority areas for the CPCP localization. However, the database has yet to be disaggregated and made more up to date and functional. There is also need to renew active participation of the PNP, NBI and other law enforcement bodies in the reporting of data. City and provincial prosecutors also need to observe more regularity and timeliness in the submission of data.
42. The CSPC has demonstrated its **readiness to respond to child abuse cases** brought to its attention (e.g., Jala-Jala case, Echiverre case, etc). Cases like these have presented greater challenges to the CSPC in terms of **improving its legal and judicial monitoring function**. Despite the attention given by the CSPC to these cases, the process of adjudication has been quite slow. To remedy the situation, the DOJ recently issued an Administrative Order reactivating its Task Force for Children which is responsible in facilitating proper and speedy trial and disposition of child abuse cases.
43. As part of improving the Committee's monitoring function, the CSPC members reviewed its terms of reference (TOR) in light of RA 7610 and other more recent laws on child protection. A revised TOR which **expands the CSPC membership and sharpens its focus on legal and judicial protection** was translated into an Executive Order (EO No. 53, series of 2011) which was recently signed by President Benigno Simeon Aquino III.

44. For the period 2006-2011, the CSPC exerted efforts to improve policies, guidelines and procedures particularly on legal and judicial protection of child victims. Some of these are the following:
- a. **Child-friendly investigation and interviewing procedures and facilities** have been instituted particularly among law enforcers (police and NBI), prosecutors (DOJ-NPS) and social workers (DSWD, LGU social workers, NGOs such as CPU-Net, etc). Related to this, the DOJ and the CSPC members developed a Manual for Prosecutors in consultation with the other pillars of the justice system.
  - b. In addition, the **DOJ issued memorandum circulars** concerning proper handling of affidavit of desistance in child abuse cases, conduct of autopsy without consent, and non-prosecution of social workers taking protective custody, among others. These are some of the bottlenecks in the speedy and successful disposition of cases brought before the justice system. It is therefore important that these memorandum circulars should be consistently enforced.
  - c. A draft **comprehensive protocol on case management of child victims** has been developed under the auspices of the CSPC. A series of consultation workshops and write shops were done to ensure widest possible participation of all major duty bearers particularly the pillars of the justice system. Finalization of the comprehensive protocol will hopefully address remaining bottlenecks towards improved legal and judicial protection measures.
  - d. DepEd formulated its own child protection policy as an institutional response to various forms of abuse and violence taking place in the school setting. However, an operational strategy for localizing said child protection policy at the school level is yet to be developed.
  - e. For its part, CWC has consistently and efficiently performed its role as secretariat to the CSPC. But beyond its role as secretariat to the CSPC, the CWC has advocated for the adoption of the concept of a "Child-Friendly Philippines – A Caring and Protective Society For and By Children" as an overall framework for all advocacy and programming efforts of the different interagency councils or committees for children. Such advocacy is in keeping with CWC's mandate as the government lead coordinating and policy-making body for children.

45. In terms of training and capacity building, the CSPC and its member agencies reached hundreds of service providers including the pillars of the justice system for upgrading of knowledge, competencies and skills in responding to child abuse, violence and exploitation.
- a. CPU-Net has been a key partner of the CSPC in training and capacity building particularly of law enforcers and prosecutors.
  - b. DSWD has trained social workers on psychosocial case management, referral system for trafficked children, handling CICL under RA 9344, handling children affected by HIV/AIDS, PES, and ERPAT, among others.
  - c. DOLE has conducted training of labour inspectors on child protection laws and on the use of the manual on inspection, rescue and enforcement.
  - d. DOJ has regularly conducted training and orientation of prosecutors, retooling on writing child-sensitive and women-sensitive resolutions, TOT on GAD focus on the component on the girl child.
  - e. DOH has entered into MOA with CPU-Net to establish women and child protection units (WCPU) in strategically located hospitals. DOH advocates for a change in mindset to look at child abuse as a public health issue.
  - f. DILG conducts training on child-friendly local governance and on the barangay performance rating system.
  - g. ECPAT conducts community education on trafficking, child pornography, and child sex tourism.
  - h. PNP has an integrated training package for police men and women assigned to the Women and Children Protection Division (WCPD).
  - i. CHR conducts training and orientation on human rights and children's rights, popularizing CRC.
  - j. NBI conducts training on child-sensitive investigation procedures.
  - k. BI holds training on child-sensitive interviewing as part of trafficking module.
  - l. Faith-based organizations under the umbrella of the Philippine

Inter-Faith Network for Children (PHILINC) such as the Salvatorian Pastoral Care for Children (SPCC) have implemented parish-based child protection programs in selected parishes in the Diocese of Novaliches and the Archdiocese of Cebu. SPCC trains parish-based child rights advocates (CRAs). To date, one parish – St. Peter Parish in Commonwealth, Quezon City – has already formulated its own child protection policy.

### Localizing the CPCP in selected cities and municipalities

46. An important strategy in the CPCP 2 implementation is localization – getting local government units (LGUs) to translate the CPCP into local plans of action particularly at city, municipal and barangay levels. The assumption is that LGUs have critical roles to play in child protection in light of devolution of social services and in view of the fact that LGUs are much closer to the people at the grassroots. Moreover, local chief executives (LCEs) have the potentials of becoming lead champions for and defenders of children in their respective jurisdictions.
47. Thus far, the CPCP localization process has been in progress in Puerto Princesa in Palawan, Malay (Boracay) in Aklan, Sibalom in Antique, and Panglao and Tagbilaran in Bohol. In each LGU, the local council for the protection of children (LCPC) has been organized and strengthened and has taken the lead in strategy formulation and program development for the care and protection of children in selected priority barangays.
48. Despite some progress, the FGD revealed that the process of CPCP localization in selected cities and municipalities has been rather slow due to the following:
  - a. The primary strategy of modelling CPCP localization by the CSPC as a team was inherently a slow process, considering the lack of a full-time action person to do follow up actions.
  - b. The inter-agency composition of the CPCP localization team caused problems and delays in schedule of visits, orientation sessions, and planning meetings in selected localization areas like Puerto Princesa, Panglao, Tagbilaran, Boracay and Antique.
  - c. The LGUs involved in CPCP localization have their respective calendar of activities which did not always allow CSPC requests for visits, meetings, and workshops.
  - d. Some LGU officials still continue to deny the reality of child abuse in

their jurisdictions, or if ever they acknowledge existence of child abuse cases, they reason out that the children affected are not from their city or municipality.

- e. The role and participation of the RSCWCs and of the DSWD field offices in CPCP localization have not been consistently tapped – considering that the RSCWCs and DSWD field offices are closer to the localization areas than the CSPC.
  - f. The CSPC localization team missed out on the opportunity of riding on the process of NPAC localization – it should be recalled that the CPCP is an elaboration of the child protection component of NPAC. Synchronizing work plan and schedules with the CWC-NPAC localization team will facilitate faster CPCP localization process.
49. Despite all the bottlenecks and difficulties encountered, localizing the CPCP should remain a primary concern of the CSPC. The localization process, however, needs serious re-thinking if the CSPC expects the majority of the LGUs to adopt the next CPCP and translate it into local programs on child protection. As far as the CSPC is concerned, extensive and effective localization will largely influence the success of the program. Some suggestions for a better localization strategy include the following:
- a. Involve more strategically the Regional Sub-Committee for the Welfare of Children (RSCWC) in the localization process. Likewise, it may be useful to explore the possibility of engaging the Union of Local Authorities of the Philippines (ULAP) in the CPCP localization.
  - b. Integrate CPCP localization into the regular LGU planning and budgeting processes. This requires inclusion of CPCP localization strategy into the DILG overall planning guidelines for local government units.
  - c. Enlist resources and technical support services of NGOs with track record in local development planning and community organizing. The NGO Coalition on CRC Monitoring could be tapped in CPCP localization.
  - d. Explore with faith-based organizations possibilities of localizing the CPCP in the context of parishes or local church communities. PHILINC, as a member agency of the CSPC, should strengthen its advocacy for child protection among the various faith communities.

## Localizing the CPCP in Selected Cities and Municipalities

50. All the member agencies consider the issuance of Executive Order No. 53 as an initial step towards the strengthening of the Committee for the Special Protection of Children (CSPC). The CSPC must maximize its comparative advantages in relation to the other IACs on child protection. Having a broad mandate based on RA 7610, the CSPC can take the lead in pushing for an integrated and comprehensive capacity building program for all the pillars of justice, service providers, and caregivers. All those who interact with children – social workers, teachers, religious leaders, law enforcers, prosecutors, judges, parents, and community volunteers – must know how to recognize and respond to various forms of abuse, violence and exploitation. Only an integrated and comprehensive training and capacity building process will be able to address this critical need.
51. For more effective monitoring of child abuse cases brought before the justice system and timely follow-up of CSPC activities such as the CPCP localization, the CSPC may need to have a full-time action person to work with the DOJ and CWC technical secretariat. Follow-through actions had largely been delayed in the past simply because the technical secretariat was busy with other equally important activities. Delayed implementation of the CSPC annual work plans was also due to the lack of effective and timely follow-up actions that needed to be done in between the Committee's quarterly meetings.
52. The CSPC should focus more on systems building, formulating guidelines, and developing procedures rather than focusing on very specific cases (the CSPC should avoid doing case build up as it had done in the past). The Committee should draw out lessons from specific cases and use these to formulate better policies and improved guidelines and procedures. The protocol on case management of child victims of abuse, violence and exploitation – which is currently under finalization – is a concrete initiative in improving coordination, cooperation and collaboration among all duty bearers in child protection.
53. The CSPC also needs to assess its linkages and working relationships with all the other IACs on child protection with the end in view of minimizing duplication of efforts and maximizing scarce resources in the collective task of protecting children. Practical and more effective ways of working together must be explored and collectively agreed upon.
54. The CSPC should have at least one meeting each year where the two Department Secretaries – DOJ and DSWD – are present. In addition, the CSPC and all the other IACs should meet together at least once a year to discuss common issues and challenges, chart common strategies, and agree on more effective ways of working together. As much as possible, during this once a year meeting of all the IACs, the department secretaries will also participate.

## Assessing the CSPC member agencies

55. Most of the CSPC member agencies have yet to formulate their respective child protection policies – except CPU-Net and ECPAT. The CWC, as secretariat to the Committee for the Special Protection of Children, also has its written child protection policy. To address this need, the CSPC included in its 2011 work plan the conduct of a seminar-workshop on the process of formulating an agency child protection policy. However, the activity is yet to be implemented.
56. Member agencies of the CSPC have arrived at a collective agreement to take the lead in formulating their respective child protection policies so as to show good example to other agencies of the national and local government and the NGO community. A written child protection policy will provide guidance and code of conduct to all agency officers and personnel in handling and relating to children. This is viewed as a concrete step towards building a protective and caring environment for children at all levels and sectors of society.
57. All member agencies are one in saying that regular attendance and active participation in CSPC meetings and key activities are basic prerequisites for membership in the Committee. In addition, each member agency must provide regular updates and share relevant information on the work with children to the CSPC. It is likewise important that each member agency has a permanent representative and an alternate representative to ensure continuity of involvement. Moreover, it is expected that the agency representatives provide constant feedback on the CSPC activities to their respective agency heads.
58. The CSPC member agencies should take more conscious and deliberate efforts to integrate in their annual investment plans the priority thrusts and directions of the CPCP and the CSPC. An increased budget allocation by all CSPC member agencies for child protection programs remains a constant challenge. Except for child-focused NGOs such as CPU-Net and ECPAT (approximately Php 6 million yearly budget), member agencies find it difficult to show exactly how much budget and other resources they have allocated for child protection. However, DOJ which heads the CSPC has separate budget for the CSPC annual plan of action amounting to approximately one million pesos; DOLE reportedly allocates 5% of WINAP funds for child labour initiatives; and CHR maintains a Child Rights Center with a budget of Php 700,000 a year. The rest have lumped their allocations with broader programs as in the case of DOH, DILG, PNP and DSWD (although the department reported an allocation of Php 15 million in 2010 for center-based programs which include services for children in need of special protection).
59. The member agencies should strive to upgrade competencies and skills of their staff particularly those directly involved in the care and protection of children. These competencies and skills may include (a) rights-based approach to planning

and programming for children, (b) results-based management, (c) systems building approach to child protection, (d) protective and caring environment framework, (e) policy advocacy and knowledge management, among others.

## Summary of Lessons Learned

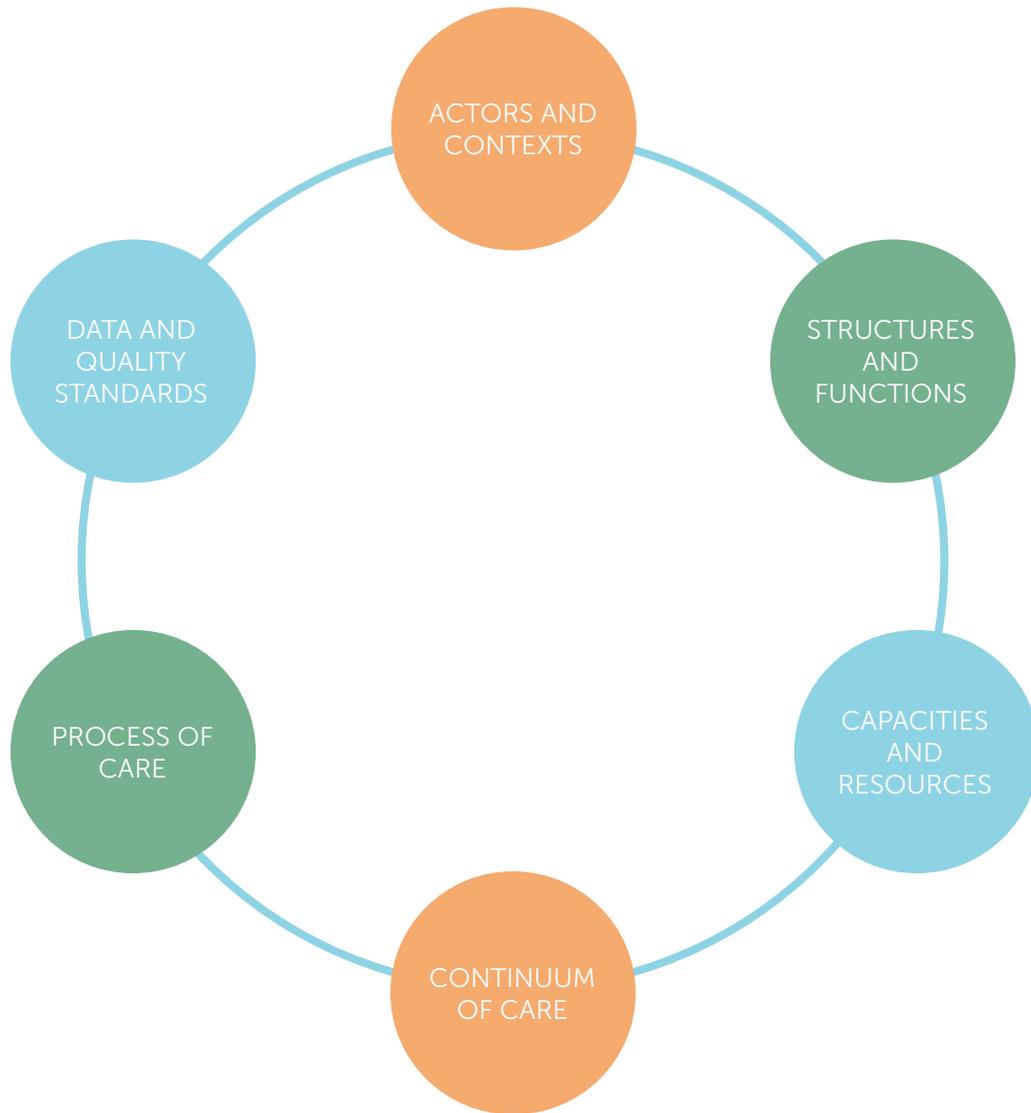
60. The results of focus group discussions, key informant interviews and review of documents show the following key lessons learned from past CPCP implementation. Overall, despite the gains already achieved, these remain inadequate to address the growing numbers of children in need of special protection. Among these lessons are:
- a. Evidence-based policies, programs, guidelines and procedures for child protection are only possible with the existence of accurate, updated and disaggregated database and information system. There is therefore a need to improve the existing DOJ-managed database and ensure its efficient utilization. It will also be useful to link the DOJ-managed database with other relevant databases and develop a comprehensive child protection database and information system.
  - b. The slow process of CPCP localization points to a need to re-think the localization strategy. There should be more consistent and deliberate efforts to tap and engage the RSCWCs and other appropriate sub-national bodies in the process since these are closer to the LGU level. The need for follow-up actions on key agreements between LGUs and the CSPC requires full-time attention; therefore the continuing presence of an action person within the CSPC secretariat is critical. A guide for localizing and mainstreaming the CPCP into local development plans needs to be prepared.
  - c. Adjudication of child abuse cases has remained slow. There are existing bottlenecks in case management involving all the pillars of the justice system – from reporting to investigation, trial, adjudication, and after care. These can be remedied by the finalization and adoption of the comprehensive protocol on case management of child victims of abuse, neglect and exploitation.
  - d. Activating, strengthening and sustaining local councils for the protection of children, particularly the BCPC, has remained a perennial challenge. A serious study needs to be done collectively by all concerned duty bearers and stakeholders. The following questions have to be answered: (a) who is really responsible?, (b) why do BCPCs fail?, (c) what will make BCPCs work?. The opportunity to do this is now since the Council for the Welfare of Children (CWC) is preparing

the 2012 State of the Filipino Children Report (SFCR) which focuses on strengthening the local councils for the protection of children. Doing this is also in line with a major recommendation of the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child (UN-CRC) for the Philippines to strengthen CWC and the local councils for the protection of children.

- e. There is a need for more deliberate efforts on the part of CSPC member agencies to integrate child protection program thrusts and priorities into their respective annual investment plans indicating clearly their agencies' budgetary allocations for child protection.
- f. The need for a written child protection policy in each of the CSPC member agencies remains a major task that has to be done in the immediate future. Accomplishing this task is advocacy by action. The CSPC member agencies must take the lead and show a good example.

### Major challenge for the next CPCP, 2012-2016

61. **Building a national child protection system.** Based on the foregoing child protection issues and lessons learned, the 3rd Comprehensive Program on Child Protection (CPCP, 2012-2016) will focus on building a national child protection system that will ensure a safe, protective, and caring environment for children, particularly those who are at risk, vulnerable, and disadvantaged – as opposed to the current issue-based and fragmented approach to child protection. The national child protection system will address all the risk factors in the lives of children and their families and will respond to their unique needs and circumstances holistically and comprehensively.
62. Figure 3 shows the key components of a national child protection system that have to be built, strengthened and sustained: (a) actors and contexts, (b) structures and functions, (c) capacities and resources, (d) continuum of care, (e) process of care, and (f) data, research, knowledge management and quality standards. A hallmark of the systems approach to child protection is placing emphasis on a holistic view of the child, his family, and community as influenced by the larger economic, political, social and cultural contexts. This implies that the child protection system operates in relation to other systems such as health, education, and social welfare in general.



**Figure 3: Key components of a national child protection system**

63. **Actors and contexts.** This component of the national child protection system locates the key actors and contexts for action, namely: at the level of the child, the family, the community or barangay, city or municipality, the province, the nation, and the global context. This means that the child's situation is not only affected by his own family condition but also by the social realities in the community, the country and the global community.
64. **Structures and functions.** Structures include both formal (government agencies and NGOs) and informal mechanisms (neighbourhood associations, watch groups) at various levels that serve to protect children. Currently existing child protection structures in the Philippine context refer to social welfare and development agencies such as DSWD, DepEd, DOH, DOLE, and the justice

system, among others, as well as interagency bodies like CWC and the other child protection IACs including NGOs and FBOs represented in the various IACs. At regional and local levels are the local councils for the protection of children. The key functions of these various structures that need to be strengthened include governance, management and coordination, and implementation or enforcement.

65. **Capacities and resources.** These include human resources, funding, and physical infrastructure. Do programme managers, service providers and care givers possess the necessary knowledge, competencies and skills? Are funds for child protection adequately and regularly allocated? Are the needed infrastructures available and adequate?
66. **Continuum of care.** The continuum of care ranges from primary prevention, secondary and tertiary prevention to rescue, recovery, healing and reintegration as well as legal and judicial protection measures. Which intervention or interventions need to be prioritized?
67. **Process of care.** The processes include identification, reporting, referral, investigation, assessment, treatment and follow-up. If cases are brought to the formal justice system, relevant processes apply to include trial and appropriate disposition of cases. Will the process of care and protection be improved with the CSPC issuance of the protocols on case management of child victims?
68. **Data, knowledge management, and quality standards.** An important component of the national child protection system is an accountability mechanism that incorporates data collection, research, knowledge and information management, and quality standards of care and protection. Quality standards are important to ensure effective and efficient functioning of the whole child protection system – thus contributing to better outcomes for children in need of special protection.

## Vision for the future and desired outcomes

### Building a protective and caring environment for children

69. In Chapter 2, it was pointed out that the failure to create a protective and caring environment for children (PCEC) at the level of individuals, systems, and the larger society has largely contributed to the growing numbers of Filipino children in need of special protection. The major challenge then is to build a PCEC to ensure that children are free from harm and protected from abuse, violence and exploitation. The PCEC provides the overall framework for advocacy and programming for the realization of children's rights to be protected from abuse, neglect, exploitation and violence.
70. A protective and caring environment for children must permeate all societal levels and institutional settings – family, school, church, government, economy, mass media, justice system, local community or barangay, city or municipality, and the larger society. A protective and caring environment for children includes the following elements:
  - a. The government, national and local, is truly committed to child rights promotion and child protection.
  - b. Laws are in place and are consistently enforced.
  - c. Attitudes, customs and practices, including gender discrimination, that facilitate to lead to abuse, exploitation and violence are challenged and changed.
  - d. Child protection issues are openly discussed in the mass media and among civil society partners. Responsible reporting of cases of child abuse, violence and exploitation is promoted.
  - e. Children are equipped with knowledge and life skills to protect themselves from abuse, violence and exploitation.
  - f. All those who interact with children – parents, teachers, religious leaders, social workers, health workers, law enforcers, prosecutors, judges, etc. – know how to recognize and respond to abuse, violence and exploitation.

- g. Preventive actions and early interventions as well as specialized services for rescue, recovery, healing and reintegration are available and accessible for all children without discrimination.
  - h. Monitoring systems are designed to identify, count and track children who are at risk and victims of abuse, exploitation and violence.
71. All the elements of the protective and caring environment are interlinked. For instance, government commitment may dictate whether basic social services as well as specialized interventions for victims of abuse, violence and exploitation are provided; or whether investment is made in setting up effective monitoring and reporting systems. Similarly, vigilant and active involvement of mass media and civil society organizations can be a critical factor in challenging and changing values, attitudes and social norms concerning children. Building a protective and caring environment is an important aspect of CWC's overall advocacy framework for children: "Child-Friendly Philippines – A Caring and Protective Society for Children". The figure on the next page shows the essential elements of the circle of care and protection which can ensure that children are safe from harm and are free from abuse, neglect, exploitation and violence. All together, these elements are essential in building a national child protection system and should be viewed as part of an overall strategy in breaking the cycle of abuse, violence and exploitation.
72. For the period 2012-2016, increased numbers of Filipino children are prevented from becoming victims of abuse, neglect, violence, and exploitation through the creation of a protective and caring environment. Conversely, there will be reduced numbers of children in need of special protection (CNSP) particularly those in situations of armed conflict, worst forms of child labour, trafficking, commercial sexual exploitation, and pornography, among others. The targets set in the National Plan of Action for Children (NPAC) for the period 2012-2016 will apply. With the above overarching goal in mind, five key result areas (KRAs) or outcomes will be pursued.
- a. KRA 1: By 2016, an improved and comprehensive child protection data base and monitoring system is in place at national and local levels to inform policies and programmes.
  - b. KRA 2: By 2016, all existing child protection laws are effectively and consistently enforced at national and local levels and current gaps in legislation are addressed.
  - c. By 2016, child protection structures and systems are operational and effectively functioning at various levels.



**Figure 4: Circle of care and protection**

- d. By 2016, appropriate and quality basic and protective services are provided to all children in need of special protection without discrimination.
- e. By 2016, a counterculture of care and protection permeates through the major social institutions (family, church, school, government) and the larger society – against the prevailing culture of abuse, violence and exploitation.

73. For each KRA, there are preconditions that must exist to achieve the final outcome. In turn, for each precondition, core interventions will be formulated, implemented, and monitored annually at the level of each implementing agency, both at the level of national government agencies (NGAs) and local government units (LGUs) as well as the relevant non-government organizations (NGOs) and faith-based organizations (FBOs) or faith communities. The core interventions may take the form of major activities or action steps to fulfill the preconditions. The following are preconditions for each of the five KRAs:
74. **KRA 1: By 2016, an improved and comprehensive child protection data base, monitoring and information management system is in place at national and local levels to inform policy formulation and programme development.**
- \* Macro monitoring system involving all relevant national government agencies (NGAs) will be set up and strengthened under the coordination of the Council for the Welfare of Children (CWC) as the government lead agency for children (e.g., Subaybay Bata Monitoring System).
  - \* Micro monitoring system in selected cities and municipalities will be established.
  - \* Good examples and best practices are documented and widely disseminated.
  - \* Data are efficiently utilized as evidences for policy and programme adjustments.
75. **KRA 2: By 2016, all existing child protection laws are effectively and consistently enforced at national and local levels and current gaps in legislation are addressed.**
- \* All child protection laws are popularized and widely disseminated to all duty bearers, stakeholders and the general public.
  - \* Law enforcement agencies such as the PNP and the NBI have their continuing orientation and training on child-sensitive law enforcement procedures.
  - \* Enforcement of child protection laws is regularly monitored by CWC and other relevant Child Protection Inter-Agency Committees (CP-IACs) such as the Committee for the Special Protection of Children (CSPC).

- \* Current gaps in legislation are addressed through the passage of laws on the minimum age of sexual consent, corporal punishment, and protection for children born out of wedlock.

76. **KRA 3: By 2016, child protection structures and systems are operational and effectively functioning at various levels.**

- \* The Council for the Welfare of Children (CWC), the CSPC, and the various child protection interagency committees (CP-IACs) as well as the local councils for the protection of children (LCPCs) particularly the barangay councils for the protection of children (BCPCs) will be strengthened and sustained.
- \* The child justice system will be made more child-sensitive and gender-responsive through the use of appropriate rules and procedures as well as strengthened to be able to adjudicate children's cases expeditiously.
- \* The protocols on case management of child victims of abuse, neglect, violence and exploitation are finalized and consistently used by the pillars of the justice system and all other service providers.
- \* The Women and Children Protection Desks (WCPDs) in all major police stations are in place and functional.
- \* The social welfare system, particularly at the LGU level, will be strengthened and made more responsive to the unique needs and circumstances of children in need of special protection.

77. **KRA 4: By 2016, appropriate and quality basic and protective services are provided to all children in need of special protection without discrimination.**

- \* Children are equipped with knowledge and life skills for their own protection and meaningful participation.
- \* Families are empowered as primary agencies for care and protection and parents are equipped with positive parenting skills.
- \* Competencies and skills of service providers and care givers are continuously upgraded.
- \* Adequate budget and other resources are allocated at the level of NGAs and LGUs.

- \* Strategic partnerships and collaborative relationships for child protection are established, strengthened and sustained.

78. **KRA 5: By 2016, a counterculture of care and protection permeates through the major social institutions (family, church, school, government) and the larger society – against the prevailing culture of abuse, violence and exploitation.**

- \* Parents and families adopt and live out the values, principles, and standards of the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC).
- \* CRC education is consistently integrated in elementary and secondary schools; and schools practice child-sensitive and child-friendly procedures.
- \* Local faith communities integrate in their pastoral ministries sustained advocacy and action for the care and protection of children.
- \* Heightened public awareness on issues of child abuse, violence and exploitation in light of CRC provisions is continuously generated.
- \* Open discussion and responsible reporting on child abuse, violence and exploitation by concerned government agencies, mass media and civil society organizations are institutionalized.

Table 2: Matrix showing key result areas, preconditions, and responsible agencies

KRAs (final outcomes by 2016)	Preconditions	Responsible agencies
<p>KRA 1: By 2016, an improved and comprehensive child protection data base and monitoring system is in place at national and local levels to guide policy formulation and programme development.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>* Macro monitoring system involving all relevant national government agencies (NGAs) will be set up and strengthened under the coordination of the Council for the Welfare of Children (CWC) as the government lead agency for children (e.g., Subaybay Bata Monitoring System).</li> <li>* Micro monitoring system in selected cities and municipalities will be established.</li> <li>* Good examples and best practices are documented and widely disseminated.</li> <li>* Data are efficiently utilized as evidences for policy and programme adjustments.</li> </ul>	<p>CWC, NGAs</p> <p>Selected LGUs</p> <p>CWC, CP-IACs</p> <p>CWC, CP-IACs, NGAs, LGUs</p>
<p>KRA 2: By 2016, all existing child protection laws are effectively and consistently enforced at national and local levels and current gaps in legislation are addressed.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>* All child protection laws are popularized and widely disseminated to all duty bearers, stakeholders and the general public.</li> <li>* Law enforcement agencies such as the PNP and the NBI have their continuing orientation and training on child-sensitive law enforcement procedures.</li> <li>* Enforcement of child protection laws is regularly monitored by CWC and other relevant Child Protection Inter-Agency Committees (CP-IACs) such as the Committee for the Special Protection of Children (CSPC).</li> </ul>	<p>CWC, CP-IACs</p> <p>PNP, NBI, other LEAs</p> <p>CWC, CSPC, other CP-IACs</p>

KRAs (final outcomes by 2016)	Preconditions	Responsible agencies
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>* Current gaps in legislation are addressed through the passage of laws on the minimum age of sexual consent, corporal punishment, and protection for children born out of wedlock.</li> </ul>	CWC, Congress, NGO Coalition on CRC Monitoring
<p>KRA 3: By 2016, child protection structures and systems are operational and effectively functioning at various levels.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>* The Council for the Welfare of Children (CWC), the Regional Sub-Committees for the Welfare of Children (RSCWCs) plus the various child protection interagency committees (CP-IACs) and the local councils for the protection of children (LCPCs) particularly the barangay councils for the protection of children (BCPCs) will be strengthened and sustained.</li> <li>* The child justice system will be made more child-sensitive and gender-responsive through the use of appropriate rules and procedures as well as strengthened to be able to adjudicate children's cases expeditiously.</li> <li>* The protocols on case management of child victims of abuse, neglect, violence and exploitation are finalized and consistently used by the pillars of the justice system and all other service providers.</li> <li>* The Women and Children Protection Desks (WCPDs) in all major police stations are in place and functional.</li> <li>* The social welfare system, particularly at the LGU level, will be strengthened and made more responsive to the unique needs and circumstances of children in need of special protection.</li> </ul>	<p>CWC, CP-IACs, DILG, LGUs</p> <p>CSPC, DOJ, PhilJA, Courts</p> <p>CSPC, Pillars of Justice</p> <p>PNP</p> <p>LGUs with technical support from DSWD</p>

KRAs (final outcomes by 2016)	Preconditions	Responsible agencies
<p>KRA 4: By 2016, appropriate and quality basic and protective services are provided to all children in need of special protection without discrimination.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>* Children are equipped with knowledge and life skills for their own protection and meaningful participation.</li> <li>* Families are empowered as primary agencies for care and protection and parents are equipped with positive parenting skills.</li> <li>* Competencies and skills of service providers and care givers are continuously upgraded.</li> <li>* Adequate budget and other resources are allocated at the level of NGAs and LGUs.</li> <li>* Strategic partnerships and collaborative relationships for child protection are established, strengthened and sustained.</li> </ul>	<p>All implementing agencies</p> <p>All implementing agencies</p> <p>CSPC member agencies, CWC</p> <p>NGAs and LGUs</p> <p>CWC, CSPC, All CP-IACs</p>
<p>KRA 5: By 2016, a counterculture of care and protection permeates through the major social institutions (family, church, school, government) and the larger society – against the prevailing culture of abuse, violence and exploitation.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>* Parents and families adopt and live out the values, principles, and standards of the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC).</li> <li>* CRC education is consistently integrated in elementary and secondary schools; and schools practice child-sensitive and child-friendly procedures.</li> <li>* Local faith communities integrate in their pastoral ministries advocacy and action for the care and protection of children.</li> <li>* Heightened public awareness on issues of child abuse, violence and exploitation in light of CRC provisions is continuously generated.</li> </ul>	<p>All CP-IACs and implementing agencies</p> <p>DepEd</p> <p>PHILINC</p> <p>CWC, All CP-IACs</p>

KRAs (final outcomes by 2016)	Preconditions	Responsible agencies
	<p>* Open discussion and responsible reporting on child abuse, violence and exploitation by concerned government agencies, mass media and civil society organizations (CSOs) are institutionalized.</p>	<p>All CP-IACs, PIA, Media Organizations, CSOs</p>

79. In sum, achieving the above KRAs or outcomes will largely contribute to the building and strengthening of a rights-based national child protection system. A well-functioning national child protection system will bring about a social environment that is truly caring and protective for children, particularly those who are in need of special protection. The system must provide comprehensive approaches covering the entire continuum of care and protection to ensure that children's rights to be protected from abuse, neglect, exploitation and violence are fully realized.

### Building a protective and caring environment for children

80. Child protection indicators can be developed under three categories: (a) protection environment indicators including risk factors, (b) protection situation indicators, and (c) protection responses and results indicators. Protection environment indicators relate to the macro and structural factors affecting child protection issues. Risk indicators point to situations of disadvantaged children finds themselves in which also make them vulnerable to abuse, exploitation and violence. Protection situation indicators identify the children who are already trapped in various forms of abuse, exploitation and violence. Protection responses and results indicators identify the critical actions and interventions necessary to bring about the desired results or outcomes for a given period.
81. With reference to the five key result areas (KRA) expected for the period 2012-2016, the table below summarizes key indicators for monitoring and evaluation. As more preconditions are identified per KRA during the annual work planning of the CSPC and its member agencies, additional indicators will be formulated. The table on the succeeding page gives a summary of indicators.

Table 3: Summary of outcomes, preconditions, and indicators

KRAs (final outcomes by 2016)	Preconditions/Interventions	Indicators
<p>KRA 1: By 2016, an improved and comprehensive child protection data base and monitoring system is in place at national and local levels to guide policy formulation and programme development.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>* Macro monitoring system involving all relevant national government agencies (NGAs) will be set up and strengthened under the coordination of the Council for the Welfare of Children (CWC) as the government lead agency for children (e.g., Subaybay Bata Monitoring System).</li> <li>* Micro monitoring system in selected cities and municipalities will be established.</li> <li>* Good examples and best practices are documented and widely disseminated.</li> <li>* Data are efficiently utilized as evidences for policy and programme adjustments.</li> </ul>	<p>Existence of a functional macro monitoring system</p> <p>Number of LGUs with CP monitoring system</p> <p>Compendium of good examples</p> <p>Number of new CP policies and programmes</p>
<p>KRA 2: By 2016, all existing child protection laws are effectively and consistently enforced at national and local levels and current gaps in legislation are addressed.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>* All child protection laws are popularized and widely disseminated to all duty bearers, stakeholders and the general public.</li> <li>* Law enforcement agencies such as the PNP and the NBI have their continuing orientation and training on child-sensitive law enforcement procedures.</li> <li>* Enforcement of child protection laws is regularly monitored by CWC and other relevant Child Protection Inter-Agency Committees (CP-IACs) such as the Committee for the Special Protection of Children (CSPC).</li> </ul>	<p>Communication materials developed</p> <p>Number of LEOs trained</p> <p>Law enforcement monitoring checklist</p>

KRAs (final outcomes by 2016)	Preconditions/Interventions	Indicators
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>* Current gaps in legislation are addressed through the passage of laws on the minimum age of sexual consent, corporal punishment, and protection for children born out of wedlock.</li> </ul>	<p>Number and category of new CP laws passed</p>
<p>KRA 3: By 2016, child protection structures and systems are operational and effectively functioning at various levels.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>* The Council for the Welfare of Children (CWC), the Regional Sub-Committees for the Welfare of Children (RSCWCs) plus the various child protection interagency committees (CP-IACs) and the local councils for the protection of children (LCPCs) particularly the barangay councils for the protection of children (BCPCs) will be strengthened and sustained.</li> <li>* The child justice system will be made more child-sensitive and gender-responsive through the use of appropriate rules and procedures as well as strengthened to be able to adjudicate children's cases expeditiously.</li> <li>* The protocols on case management of child victims of abuse, neglect, violence and exploitation are finalized and consistently used by the pillars of the justice system and all other service providers.</li> <li>* The Women and Children Protection Desks (WCPDs) in all major police stations are in place and functional.</li> </ul>	<p>Increase in budget and manpower; number of functional LCPCs and BCPCs</p> <p>New judicial rules and procedures formulated; number of children's cases resolved</p> <p>Number of copies of protocol distributed; number of pillars and service providers trained</p> <p>Number of functional WCPDs</p>

KRAs (final outcomes by 2016)	Preconditions/Interventions	Indicators
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>* The social welfare system, particularly at the LGU level, will be strengthened and made more responsive to the unique needs and circumstances of children in need of special protection.</li> </ul>	<p>Increase in budget and personnel, particularly registered social workers, at LGU level</p>
<p>KRA 4: By 2016, appropriate and quality basic and protective services are provided to all children in need of special protection without discrimination.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>* Children are equipped with knowledge and life skills for their own protection and meaningful participation.</li> <li>* Families are empowered as primary agencies for care and protection and parents are equipped with positive parenting skills.</li> <li>* Competencies and skills of service providers and care givers are continuously upgraded.</li> <li>* Competencies and skills of service providers and care givers are continuously upgraded.</li> <li>* Strategic partnerships and collaborative relationships for child protection are established, strengthened and sustained.</li> </ul>	<p>Number of children trained on LSE and leadership</p> <p>Number of families practicing positive parenting</p> <p>Number of service providers and care givers trained</p> <p>Increase in regular budget allocation of NGAs and LGUs</p> <p>Number of partners from private sector, NGOs, FBOs</p>

KRAs (final outcomes by 2016)	Preconditions/Interventions	Indicators
<p>KRA 5: By 2016, a counterculture of care and protection permeates through the major social institutions (family, church, school, government) and the larger society – against the prevailing culture of abuse, violence and exploitation.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>* Parents and families adopt and live out the values, principles, and standards of the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC).</li>   <li>* CRC education is consistently integrated in elementary and secondary schools; and schools practice child-sensitive and child-friendly procedures.</li>   <li>* Local faith communities integrate in their pastoral ministries advocacy and action for the care and protection of children.</li>   <li>* Heightened public awareness on issues of child abuse, violence and exploitation in light of CRC provisions is continuously generated.</li>   <li>* Open discussion and responsible reporting on child abuse, violence and exploitation by concerned government agencies, mass media and civil society organizations (CSOs) are institutionalized.</li> </ul>	<p>Number of parents and families who protect &amp; fulfill children's rights</p> <p>Number of CRC modules developed; number of students who attended CRC classes</p> <p>Number of parishes, BECs with CP programs</p> <p>Type and number of CRC advocacy and communication materials developed</p> <p>Number of child abuse cases reported and responded to by all concerned agencies</p>

## Major strategies and core interventions

82. The major programme strategies and core interventions outlined in this section follow essentially the continuum of care and protection, namely: (a) preventive actions and early interventions; (b) rescue, recovery, healing and reintegration services; and (c) legal and judicial protection measures. These strategies cut across all categories of children in need of special protection. These are presented here in addition and in relation to the core interventions that will be formulated by each implementing agency for each of the preconditions and KRAs or outcomes mentioned above. The figure below shows the range of interventions to prevent and respond to abuse, neglect, exploitation and violence.



Figure 5: Continuum of child protection interventions

### Preventive actions and early interventions

83. Primary emphasis will be given to family-based and community-based actions to prevent child abuse, neglect, exploitation and violence. Ensuring effective access of all children and their families to basic social services such as health, nutrition, education, housing, credit and employment opportunities linked to broader national development efforts aimed at poverty reduction and social equity promotion are preconditions to prevent children from becoming victims of abuse, neglect, exploitation and violence. These preconditions are necessary

to address the root causes of continuing abuse, neglect, exploitation and violence against children. For children who come from poor and vulnerable families, early intervention programmes and services will be provided without discrimination.

84. Preventive actions and early interventions may include the following: (a) continuous awareness-raising among families, communities, and LGUs on the CRC particularly the special protection provisions; (b) facilitating effective access of children at risk to relevant basic education and vocational training; (c) equipping children with information, knowledge and skills to protect themselves; (d) promoting responsible and positive parenting education for families of CNSP; (e) supporting livelihood activities and facilitating access to credit and employment opportunities for parents of CNSP; (f) establishing community level mechanisms for early detection of, and immediate response to, early signs of abuse, violence and exploitation; and (g) organizing, strengthening and sustaining local councils for the care and protection of children, with emphasis on the barangay council for the protection of children (BCPC).
85. Primary prevention of abuse, exploitation and violence is a long-term goal which requires radical changes in the economic, political, social and cultural systems of society. Such structural changes are largely beyond the scope of the current CPCP and are in fact the major thrusts and directions of the Philippine Development Plan (PDP, 2011-2016) and, to a large extent, the key elements of the President's Social Contract. In the medium-term, the CPCP 2012-2016 focuses on the above preventive actions and early interventions intended to address poor and vulnerable families so that their children may be prevented from falling into situations of abuse, exploitation and violence.

### Rescue, recovery, healing and reintegration services

86. For children who are already victims of various forms of abuse, neglect, exploitation and violence, appropriate measures to promote their physical, emotional and psychological recovery as well as social reintegration into normal family and community networks should be undertaken. Such rescue, recovery, healing and reintegration shall take place in a social environment which fosters health, self-respect and dignity of the child.
87. Core interventions for rescue, recovery, healing and reintegration include the following: (a) strengthening monitoring and rescue mechanisms; (b) improving technical quality and expanding coverage of psychosocial recovery, healing and reintegration services for child victims; (c) empowering families and communities to facilitate community-based psychosocial care; (d) upgrading competencies and skills of social workers and service providers including the pillars of justice in helping children; and (e) promoting appropriate forms of alternative family care for children deprived of a family environment.

88. Improved psychosocial recovery, healing and social reintegration services will require the following actions:
- \* Provide support services for children and their families to include educational, medical, psychosocial, legal-judicial, and livelihood services;
  - \* Organize and train support groups for children and their families both at the center and in the community;
  - \* Develop specialized healing and recovery programmes for children and their families including a court-ordered multidisciplinary treatment programme;
  - \* Establish child-sensitive and child-friendly interview rooms to appropriately address the unique needs and circumstances of the child victim;
  - \* Conduct regular consultations and dialogue among service providers to improve the psychosocial case management process;
  - \* Develop a program for the rehabilitation of perpetrators in order to prevent further commission of abuse, exploitation and violence.
89. Most of the existing good examples of psychosocial recovery and social reintegration programs have been operating largely in center-based facilities at the national and regional levels. The coverage of these programs remains limited, yet the number of child victims in need of psychosocial care has been increasing. The challenge is to make these programs and services locally available and accessible to all children in need of special protection. The CSPC must facilitate documentation of good examples of existing center-based and community-based psychosocial care programs for wider dissemination and replication at the local level.

## Legal and judicial protection measures

90. Legal and judicial protection measures for children require that all the pillars of the justice system – community, law enforcement, prosecution, court and correction – work together in order to respond more effectively to all victims of abuse, neglect, exploitation and violence. More efforts are still needed to strengthen effective coordination among the pillars in order to facilitate speedier disposition of child abuse cases. The rules and procedures used by the justice pillars should be gender-responsive and sensitive to the psychosocial make-up of children. Increasing the human resource capacity in the justice system

should likewise be a priority action.

91. While the legal and regulatory framework for child protection in the country is relatively advanced and is largely consistent with the principles, provisions and standards of the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC), the following core activities still need to be implemented:
- \* Widespread dissemination and popularization of all existing child protection laws not only among the justice pillars and service providers but also to the general public, particularly at LGU and community levels;
  - \* Continuing training and capacity building for the pillars of justice, particularly on child-sensitive legal and judicial rules and procedures;
  - \* Consistent utilization by all the pillars of justice of the protocol on case management of child victims;
  - \* Establish child-sensitive and child-friendly interview rooms to appropriately address the unique needs and circumstances of the child victim;
  - \* Regular monitoring of the enforcement of all child protection laws, noting the major gaps and constraints; and
  - \* Developing a research agenda for law review, law reform, and enforcement of child protection laws.
92. While noting the progress made by the Philippines, the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child highlighted in its Concluding Observations (2009) the following challenges in the area of legal and judicial protection of children: (a) consistent and effective enforcement of laws protecting children; (b) the imperative of making the justice system truly gender-responsive, child-sensitive and child-friendly; and (c) the need to address other legal gaps with regard to child protection issues such as the passage of laws on foster care, corporal punishment, minimum age of sexual consent, and the status of children born out of wedlock.

## Cross-cutting strategies and interventions

93. Lessons learned from past CPCP implementation show the need for an integrated and comprehensive child protection program which will address the

different levels of causes – immediate, underlying and root causes – of child abuse, neglect, exploitation and violence. Instead of just addressing a specific CNSP category as a stand-alone initiative (such as child labour, street children, sexually abused and exploited children, children in armed conflict, children in conflict with the law, etc.), the CPCP will focus on cross-cutting strategies and interventions (as described above) that will address all CNSP categories.

94. The following table summarizes the suggested core interventions under each of the three cross-cutting strategies. The cross-cutting strategies and interventions should be institutionalized into existing structures at various levels and institutional settings: family, school, church, mass media, justice system, local community or barangay, city, municipality, province, regional and national bodies – thus enhancing the caring and protective environment for children.

**Table 4: Summary of major strategies and core inventions**

Major Strategies	Preconditions/Interventions
Preventive actions and early interventions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>* Awareness-raising among families, communities and LGUs on the CRC particularly the special protection provisions.</li> <li>* Facilitating effective access of children at risk to relevant basic education and vocational training.</li> <li>* Equipping children with accurate information, knowledge and life skills to protect themselves.</li> <li>* Promoting positive parenting and responsible family life education among CNSP families.</li> <li>* Supporting livelihood activities and facilitating access to credit and employment opportunities for parents of CNSP.</li> <li>* Establishing community level mechanism for early detection of, and immediate response to, early signs of abuse, exploitation and violence.</li> <li>* Organizing, strengthening and sustaining local councils for the care and protection of children, with emphasis on the barangay council for the protection of children (BCPC).</li> </ul>

Major Strategies	Preconditions/Interventions
Rescue, recovery, healing and reintegration	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>* Strengthening monitoring and rescue mechanisms, particularly at local levels.</li> <li>* Improving technical quality and expanding coverage of psychosocial recovery, healing, and social reintegration services for child victims.</li> <li>* Empowering families and communities to facilitate community-based psychosocial care.</li> <li>* Upgrading competencies and skills of social workers and service providers including the pillars of justice in case management of child victims.</li> <li>* Promoting appropriate alternative family care for children deprived of a family environment.</li> </ul>
Legal and judicial protection measures	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>* Improving access of children to appropriate and child-sensitive legal and judicial protection services.</li> <li>* Widespread dissemination and popularization of all existing child protection laws, not only among the justice pillars and service providers but also to the general public, particularly at LGU and community levels.</li> <li>* Continuing training and capacity building for the pillars of justice, particularly on child-sensitive legal and judicial rules and procedures.</li> <li>* Consistent utilization by all the pillars of justice of the protocol on case management of child victims.</li> <li>* Regular monitoring of the enforcement of all child protection laws, noting the major gaps and constraints.</li> <li>* Building jurisprudence on RA 7610 and all other child protection laws.</li> <li>* Developing a research agenda for law review, law reform, and enforcement of child protection laws</li> </ul>

95. The above major strategies and core interventions are premised on a renewed shift from a needs-based to a rights-based and systems-based approach to advocacy and programming. Consequent to CRC ratification, the government, NGOs and other civil society organizations, families and communities have the obligation to respect, protect, facilitate and fulfill the rights of children. In terms of child protection, it is no longer enough to address the immediate causes and risk factors that make children vulnerable to abuse, exploitation and violence. It also requires actions that will tackle the root causes that have given rise, and will continue to give rise, to the especially difficult circumstances that lead to serious violations and non-fulfillment of children's rights. Tackling root causes implies that child protection strategies and interventions should be linked to the broader national development plan particularly aimed at poverty reduction and social equity promotion. Reducing poverty and promoting social equity must begin with children – meaning that investment for children's health, nutrition, education, and special protection must be given top priority in the national development agenda. In sum, the CPCP espouses vigorous advocacy and public consciousness-raising, capacity building, alliance building, family and community participation and empowerment, children's participation, and civil society mobilization and resource generation towards a broad-based response.

## Child protection structures and systems

### Towards a strengthened CSPC and well-coordinated CP-IACs

96. Pursuant to Executive Order No. 53, the CSPC has expanded its membership and sharpened its focus on legal and judicial protection of children. An expanded and a stronger CSPC will redound to improved legal and judicial protection of children. A CSPC full-time action officer must remain in place to ensure a more effective monitoring of child abuse cases. The action officer reports directly to the CSPC Chairperson and, in close coordination with the CSPC secretariat, will be responsible for the following: (a) execute follow-up actions based on decisions and recommendations of the CSPC such as the annual CSPC work plan; (b) facilitate CPCP localization in selected provinces, municipalities and cities; (c) facilitate and coordinate training and capacity building activities as planned by the CSPC; (d) liaise with all CSPC member agencies on all follow-up activities, reports and submissions as required.
97. The CSPC must continue to regularize its periodic meetings (3rd Tuesday of each month) and require all member agencies to have permanent representatives and alternates who will attend meetings and other functions of the Committee. This will ensure continuous and smooth involvement of each member agency in all CSPC tasks. Rotating the hosting of CSPC regular meetings will not only encourage a more active engagement of the member agencies but will also provide opportunities for each member agency to share programme experiences and resources on child protection.
98. The CSPC must maximize its comparative advantages in relation to the other IACs on child protection. Having a broad mandate based on RA 7610, the CSPC can take the lead in pushing for an integrated and comprehensive capacity building program for all the pillars of justice, service providers, and caregivers. All those who interact with children – social workers, teachers, religious leaders, law enforcers, prosecutors, judges, parents, and community volunteers – must know how to recognize and respond to various forms of abuse, violence and exploitation. Only an integrated and comprehensive training and capacity building process will be able to address this critical need.
99. The CSPC should focus more on systems building, formulating policies and guidelines, and developing procedures rather than focusing on very specific cases (the CSPC should avoid doing case build up as it had done in the past). The Committee should draw out lessons from specific cases and use these to formulate better policies and improved guidelines and procedures. As overall

framework for advocacy and programming, the CSPC and other child protection interagency committees (CP-IACs) will be guided by the vision of “Child-Friendly Philippines – A Caring and Protective Society for Children” being espoused by CWC as the government lead advocate and monitor for children’s rights.

100. The CSPC should have at least one meeting each year where the two Department Secretaries – DOJ and DSWD – are present. In addition, the CSPC and all the other CP-IACs should meet together at least once a year to discuss common issues and challenges, chart common strategies, and agree on more effective ways of working together. As much as possible, during this once a year meeting of all the IACs, the department secretaries will also participate. The CSPC also needs to assess its linkages and working relationships with all the other IACs on child protection with the end in view of minimizing duplication of efforts and maximizing scarce resources in the collective task of protecting children. Practical and more effective ways of working together must be explored and collectively agreed upon. The continuing challenges on child protection require a system of improved coordination and collaboration between and among all the CP-IACs. The 2nd National Summit on Children held on 13-24 July 2012 strongly recommended that systems of coordination and collaboration between and among the different IACs on children be established and/or strengthened under the overall coordination and leadership of CWC.

### **An operational multi-level child protection system, focus on the BCPC**

101. Unlike in health where we can speak of the health system or in education where we can speak of the school system to address the health and education rights respectively of Filipino children, we have yet to put in place an operational multi-level child protection system which will address various cases of abuse, violence and exploitation committed against children. But we are not starting from scratch since there are already existing structures at various levels which when linked together can operationally function as a multi-level child protection system.
102. An operational multi-level child protection system – from barangay to city, municipal, provincial, regional and national level – coordinated by the CWC will be primarily responsible for the following: (a) establishing an improved database, monitoring and reporting system on child protection; (b) initiating collective awareness-raising and advocacy campaigns among various publics on issues of abuse, violence and exploitation; (c) coordinating technical support networks to assist the work of implementing agencies at various levels; and (d) developing policies and standards on the care and protection of children particularly those in situations of abuse, exploitation and violence.

103. **Barangay Council for the Protection of Children.** The Barangay Councils for the Protection of Children (BCPC) is the primary body at the grassroots level that can address issues of child abuse, violence and exploitation. It is important, however, that BCPCs are properly trained and organized, adequately funded, provided with technical support and regularly monitored. The critical actions that must be done at the BCPC level include the following: (a) master-list and database on children, (b) situation assessment and analysis on children, (c) action plan for children with corresponding budget, (d) local ordinances on children, (e) referral system and network for services and technical support, (f) monitoring and reporting system on children, (g) annual state of the barangay children report, and (h) children's organizations actively involved in BCPC activities.
104. Constituting the base of and the first layer in the multi-level child protection system, active and functional BCPCs in the more than 42,000 barangays nationwide will spell a big difference in all child rights promotion and child protection efforts. Based on previous case studies done, the following elements contribute to making BCPCs work: (a) presence of committed champions for children, (b) sustained community organizing process, (c) proactive local government units, and (e) organized and meaningful participation of children.
105. **City, Municipal and Provincial Councils for the Protection of Children.** The city, municipal and provincial councils for the protection of children constitute the second layer in the multi-level child protection system. They are the main sources of support to the BCPCs in terms of financial, material, human and technical assistance. They can spearhead activities such as: advocacy and social mobilization, situation analysis, program development, modelling of innovative strategies, partnering and alliance building, monitoring and impact assessment of interventions, and annual reporting on the situation and progress of children at city, municipal and provincial levels.
106. Under the leadership of local chief executives, and with the technical management and coordination of LGU social welfare officers, the city, municipal and provincial councils for the protection of children should push for a faster process of organizing, strengthening, and sustaining the BCPCs in all barangays under their jurisdiction. As part of the process, they can launch a search for the most child-friendly barangays based on criteria developed by CWC and the CSPC.
107. **Regional Sub-Committee for the Welfare of Children.** The third layer in the multi-level child protection system, the Regional Sub-Committee for the Welfare of Children (RSCWC) is a sub-committee of the Regional Development Council (RDC). The RSCWC will assist the city, municipal, and provincial councils for the protection of children in all advocacy and programming efforts on child rights promotion and child protection. The existing functions of the RSCWC, which go beyond child protection concerns, make them strategically critical in regional advocacy, resource mobilization, capacity building and technical

support, partnership building and networking, and coordination and monitoring of child protection initiatives.

108. **Council for the Welfare of Children and other CP-IACs.** The apex of the multi-level child protection system, the Council for the Welfare of Children (CWC) is the government body mandated by law to coordinate and monitor implementation of the Convention on the Rights of the Child, Child 21, National Plan of Action for Children (NPAC), and the Comprehensive Program on Child Protection (CPCP). The CWC Board provides policy guidance on all children's concerns including child protection. As mentioned earlier, the overall vision being espoused by CWC is "Child-Friendly Philippines – A Caring and Protective Society for Children" (CFP-CPSC). Such vision will guide all advocacy and programming efforts of all CP-IACs and their member agencies as well as NGOs, FBOs and other civil society organizations (CSOs).
109. Next to the Board is the Technical Management Group (TMG) composed of bureau directors and service heads of concerned government agencies and heads of identified NGOs. The TMG assesses, prioritizes, and recommends plans, policies, and program approaches for children for approval of the Board. Sectoral Committees and Sub-Committees assist the TMG in studying more specific areas of children's concerns, formulate and recommend policies and strategies, and monitor and evaluate programs and projects as needed. One of these sectoral committees is the Children in Need of Special Protection (CNSP) Committee which has direct bearing on the CPCP.
110. There is a need to strengthen the vertical linkages between and among CWC (national), RCWC (regional) and the local councils for the protection of children (provincial, municipal, city, and barangay). The flow of communication, the system of coordination and collaboration, and the system of monitoring and reporting across levels need improvement. Strengthening the multi-level system of child protection will not only mean better care and protection for Filipino children but will also be viewed as a concrete response of the Philippines to one of several major recommendations of the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child.

111. As the figure indicates, the base of the multi-level child protection system is the local council for the protection of children (LCPC) – provincial, municipal, city and barangay. The strength and effectiveness of the national child protection system lie in the presence of organized and functional LCPCs in all local government units, particularly the barangay councils for the protection of children (BCPC). These local councils are linked to the national Council for the Welfare of Children (CWC) and the other child protection interagency committees (CP-IACs) through the Regional Committee for the Welfare of Children (RCWC). Adequate budget as well as technically competent and dedicated staff at all levels are needed to make the multi-level child protection system operational.



Figure 6: Operationalizing a multi-level child protection system

## Other community level mechanisms for child protection

112. To augment efforts of the local councils for the protection of children, particularly the BCPC, other viable community level mechanisms for child protection should be explored. Existing people's organizations (PO), community-based organizations (CBO), and faith-based organizations that have continuing

grassroots presence and are pro-children in orientation can become reliable partners in the care and protection of children. Since these are already organized and have strong presence in the communities, they have the mechanisms for coordinated and sustained actions for child care and protection.

113. Take for example, the basic ecclesial communities (BECs) that can be found in most parishes around the country. If the figures from the National Secretariat for Social Action (NASSA) are correct, there are over 60,000 BECs across approximately 2,500 parishes in 85 ecclesial jurisdictions of the Catholic Church in the country today. The BECs have yet to be tapped as strategic partners at the grassroots level for the care and protection of children. The BECs have to be challenged to integrate child rights promotion and child protection into their pastoral agenda. After all, there is congruence between the core messages of the Bible and social teachings of the Church on the dignity and rights of children and the principles, provisions and standards of the Convention on the Rights of the Child. Therefore, the care and protection of children should be a central part of the life and mission of local church communities.
114. Other Christians and faith communities also have their networks at the grassroots level. The Philippine Council of Evangelical Churches (PCEC) has a National Commission on Children at Risk which has an action arm called the Philippine Children's Ministries Network (PCMN) operating in various parts of the country. In like manner, the Protestant Bishops have formed the Ecumenical Bishops Initiative for Children and Families (EBICF) and have advocated for the creation of child-friendly local church communities.
115. More concretely, the Salvatorian Pastoral Care for Children (SPCC), a social apostolate of the Sisters of the Divine Saviour founded in 2001, has partnered with several parishes and BECs in the care and protection of children and women. Through the SPCC-initiated child protection program, at least five parishes have established a system of collaboration and coordination with five corresponding barangays in District 2 of Quezon City in the area of child protection. A further consequence of the program is the formation of UBAS (Ugnayan ng mga Barangay at mga Simbahan) in the Dioceses of Caloocan, Cubao and Novaliches. These are community level networks that can be tapped for child rights promotion and child protection.

## The pillars of justice and the protocols on case management

116. Effective coordination among the pillars of the justice system will ensure the provision of care and protection for all children, particularly those in need of special protection. One concrete way for improving coordination among the pillars of justice is through the consistent implementation of and compliance to the [Protocols for Case Management of Child Victims of Abuse, Neglect](#)

**and Exploitation.** The protocols highlight the key roles and responsibilities of the different justice pillars and agencies throughout the entire process of care starting from identification, reporting, referral, investigation, assessment, treatment and follow-up.

117. The protocols need to be popularized and widely disseminated to all concerned agencies and pillars. In addition, the CSPC should conduct a series of training on the utilization of the protocols nationwide, giving priority to areas with high magnitude of cases of child abuse, violence and exploitation. A system of monitoring and feedback on the use of the protocols should likewise be devised by the CSPC.
118. With the consistent implementation of the protocols, it is expected that the process of care, including legal and judicial disposition of child abuse cases, will be made not only more child-sensitive and appropriate but also more prompt and speedy. An important feature of the protocols is that it is applicable to all child protection interagency committees (CP-IACs) with some adjustments to more specific cases of CNSP. All the other CP-IACs should therefore adopt the protocols and modify some steps and processes to suit their purposes.
119. Improved capacity and better coordination among the pillars of justice in responding to all cases of child abuse are preconditions to effective legal and judicial protection efforts of the CSPC and all other CP-IACs. It should be reiterated that Executive Order No. 53, Series of 2011 has enjoined the CSPC to strengthen its focus on legal and judicial protection measures for and on behalf of Filipino children in need of special protection.

## Strategic partnerships for child protection

### The role of mass media in child protection

120. The role of mass media is very critical in terms of responsible reporting and open discussion on issues of child abuse, violence and exploitation. Through consistent and child-sensitive reporting, the media can become a powerful ally for generating broad public awareness on child protection issues. Such broad public awareness, sooner or later, will have consequences in terms of prompt and appropriate actions from relevant agencies, groups and institutions intended to protect and care for children.
121. Media organizations should regard violations of the rights of children and issues of abuse, exploitation and violence as important questions for investigation and open discussion and debate. The media must be guided by the principles, provisions and standards of the Convention on the Rights of the Child as well as existing national legislation on children. More specifically, media organizations should adhere to the principles and guidelines on reporting and coverage of cases involving children issued in 2008 by the Committee for the Special Protection of Children.
122. The CWC, CSPC and the other CP-IACs should be more proactive in establishing a meaningful partnership with the media, particularly in the area of child protection. The agreements made at the media forum conducted last year should be followed up. A periodic forum between media and the network of the CWC, CSPC and the other CP-IACs should be conducted in order to sustain vigorous advocacy and awareness-raising on child protection issues and challenges.
123. The CWC, CSPC and other CP-IACs should also explore and develop the potential of internet-based forms of social networking to advance the care and protection of children. Facebook, Twitter and other social networks can facilitate advocacy, awareness-raising and public response to issues of abuse, violence and exploitation.

### The private sector and child protection

124. There is now a growing convergence between corporate social responsibility and human rights activism and this can be directed to developing partnership

with the private sector on the care and protection of children. The following are some areas which should be explored by the CWC, CSPC and other CP-IACs with the private sector:

- \* Integrate child protection, including sexual exploitation, into existing corporate social responsibility policies of companies;
- \* Integrate child protection, including sexual exploitation, into human resource policies of companies and in their code of conduct for staff and employees;
- \* Advocate for zero tolerance for child labour in commercial plantations, heavy industries and manufacturing firms;
- \* Advocate for child-friendly companies; and
- \* Invest percentage of profits or donate long-term assistance to sustainable and effective child protection programmes.

125. Currently, a code of conduct for the protection of children from sexual exploitation in travel and tourism is in place. Despite this good initiative, a strategy for broader partnership with the private sector still needs further thought from CWC, CSPC and the other CP-IACs.

## CSO networks and resources for child protection – child-focused NGOs and faith-based organizations

126. Non-government organizations (NGO), faith-based organizations (FBO), and other civil society organizations (CSO) are strategic partners in child protection. Their strengths lie in the following: (a) presence and credibility at the grassroots level; (b) skills in rights-based situation analysis, planning, implementation, monitoring and evaluation, resource mobilization, advocacy and lobbying, research and documentation, and community organizing; (c) flexibility and openness to innovative approaches to child rights advocacy and programming; and (d) broad-based networks and alliances for children and other social concerns.

127. The NGO Coalition on CRC Monitoring is a major umbrella organization of child-focused international, national and community-based NGOs which plays a major role in promoting, protecting and fulfilling the rights of Filipino children. It has been responsible in generating data and information on CRC implementation from the perspectives of children and local communities as well as preparing alternative report on CRC implementation. The NGO Coalition has also been

participating in pre-sessional meetings organized by the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child.

128. The FBOs, particularly those under the umbrella of the Catholic Bishops Conference of the Philippines (CBCP), the National Council of Churches in the Philippines (NCCP), and the Philippine Council of Evangelical Churches (PCEC) and other faith communities, had organized their own national network called the Philippine Inter-Faith Network for Children (PHILINC). Now a member of the CSPC, PHILINC has committed to the building of child-friendly local faith communities – thus, integrating the care and protection of children in the life and mission of parishes and local church communities.

### Partnership with academic institutions and professional associations

129. The CSPC should build and strengthen partnership with universities and colleges and research institutions including professional associations. These institutions can be tapped for research studies, training and capacity building, model building, monitoring and evaluation, and documentation of best practices. In addition, several colleges and universities have their respective community outreach programmes which can be directed towards child protection concerns.
130. Professional associations of social scientists – Philippine Sociological Society, Philippine Anthropological Society or UGAT, etc. – are potential partners in expanding children’s opportunities to reach their full potentials as well as in enhancing the effectiveness and sustainability of child protection interventions. These partnerships may include the following: (a) programmatic partnerships to achieve better outcomes for children based on quality standards of care, (b) partnerships in policy development addressing issues that are politically and culturally sensitive such as sexual abuse, trafficking and commercial sexual exploitation, and child soldiers, among others, (c) partnerships in resource mobilization and programme sustainability, and (d) partnerships in advocacy for child rights promotion and child protection.

## Monitoring progress and outcome

131. The indicators for monitoring and evaluation of the CPCP 3 have been presented in Chapter IV (refer to table 3 which summarizes the KRAs, preconditions and indicators. As more preconditions are formulated during annual work planning of the CSPC and its member agencies, additional indicators will likewise be formulated. Aside from the CPCP 3 KRAs and desired outcomes, the CRC, Child 21, and the NPAC goals for the period 2012-2016 will provide the framework and parameters for monitoring progress and outcomes. To the extent possible, the child protection indicators will be integrated into the overall NPAC monitoring system.
  
132. All existing data base and monitoring systems on child protection of both government and non-government organizations should be linked and coordinated to come up with a comprehensive child protection monitoring and information system (CPMIS). Some of these existing data bases include those of the NSO, CWC, DOJ-CSPC, DSWD, DOLE, DILG and NGOs like ECPAT, and CPU-Net, among others. In the case of CWC, a Subaybay Bata Monitoring (SBMS) has been in place and has two components, i.e., the macro monitoring system and the micro monitoring system. The SBMS is meant to be the main repository of child-related data and information and serves as basis for preparing the CRC periodic reports. However, its micro monitoring component has yet to be operationalized. As the government lead advocate and monitoring body for children's rights, CWC should take the lead in establishing linkage and coordination among the different database and monitoring systems. Note that this is a major recommendation of the different IACs on children made during the 2nd National Summit on Children on 13-14 July 2012.
  
133. The flow in the provision of feedback and reporting in the course of the CPCP 3 implementation is described below:
  - \* All CSPC member agencies and other relevant national government agencies should integrate into their annual investment plan the critical CPCP strategies and interventions. Regular feedback and update will be provided through the regular CSPC meetings.
  
  - \* The KRAs, key strategies and core interventions of the CPCP should be localized at barangay, city, municipal and provincial levels in the context of concrete realities in their areas. Guidelines for localization

will be developed by the CSPC and the CWC-CNSP Committee. The guidelines will be disseminated to the LGUs and the Local Councils for the Protection of Children through the RSCWC. The LGUs and the LCPCs will then formulate their own action plan for child protection for the period 2012-2016. The localization process for the CPCP should dovetail with that of NPAC.

- \* There will be quarterly reviews of implementation to be conducted by the LCPCs. The quarterly reviews will look into the following: (a) assess progress of implementation, (b) address implementation gaps and constraints, (c) make appropriate adjustments in programmes and activities, and (d) track changes in the lives of children. Quarterly reports will be prepared and submitted by the LCPCs to the RSCWC.
- \* The RSCWC will analyze reports from the LCPCs and will submit a consolidated and analytical report to the national CWC and the CSPC. The RSCWC will address implementation issues and constraints that can be resolved at the regional level. Policy issues that have national significance and implication will be elevated to the CSPC and the CWC Board for proper deliberation and decision.
- \* The national CWC and the CSPC shall draw lessons learned from field implementation to inform policy-making and standard-setting on critical and sensitive child protection issues. Both the national CWC and the CSPC will regularly share policy and technical updates to the RSCWCs and the LCPCs.

134. In CPCP 3, it is important that both processes and outcomes are monitored. Monitoring processes relate to the systems-building thrust of the CPCP (e.g. building a national child protection or operationalizing a multi-level child protection system); while monitoring outcomes and impact relate to the CPCP goal of reducing the number of children in need of special protection (e.g. reduction in the number of child labourers, trafficked children, sexually exploited children, children in situations of armed conflict, and children in conflict with the law, among others). The reduction goals in child protection under NPAC 2 will be monitored in the course of implementation and evaluated by the end of 2016 (refer to Annex 2 for child-level results on protection targeted under NPAC 2). For a summary of the process indicators, refer to Table 3 on pages 36-38.

## Annexes

### Annex 1: List of existing child protection interagency committees

Aside from the Committee for the Special Protection of Children (CSPC), there are several other child protection interagency committees (CP-IACs) addressing various categories of children in need of special protection (CNSP). These CP-IACs are enumerated below indicating the particular focus of each interagency committee and the relevant law or executive issuance surrounding its creation. There is, however, no attempt at analyzing the interrelationships between and among the CP-IACs since there is an ongoing study by the Council for the Welfare of Children on this matter. Nevertheless, there is an urgent need for all the CP-IACs to coordinate with and collaborate among each other to minimize duplication of efforts and to maximize the use of scarce resources in preventing and responding to child abuse, neglect, violence and exploitation.

Interagency Council or Committee	Focus	Relevant Law
Council for the Welfare of Children (CWC)	Children in general – focus on four categories of child rights	PD 603 as amended
Council for the Welfare of Children – Children in Need of Special Protection (CWC-CNSP) Committee and sub-committees <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>* SASEC</li> <li>* CIAC</li> <li>* NNSC</li> <li>* Children and HIV/AIDS</li> <li>* Children with Disabilities</li> </ul>	Children in need of special protection: sexual abuse, sexual exploitation, armed conflict, street children, children affected by HIV/AIDS, children with disabilities, among others	PD 603 as amended RA 7610 apply to most cases of CNSP
CWC Committee on the Family and Alternative Parental Care (ComFAPC)	Children without parental care and children at risk of losing parental care	Family Code, RA 8043

Interagency Council or Committee	Focus	Relevant Law
Committee for the Special Protection of Children (CSPC)	Child abuse, neglect, abandonment and exploitation	RA 7610 ( first child protection law enacted after CRC ratification)
Interagency Committee Against Trafficking (IACAT)	Human trafficking, focus on women and children	RA 9208
Interagency Committee on Violence Against Women and their Children (IAC-VAWC)	Violence against women and their children	RA 9262
Juvenile Justice and Welfare Council (JJWC)	Children in conflict with the law	RA 9344
Interagency Committee Against Child Pornography (IAC-CP)	Child pornography	RA 9775
DOLE-National Child Labour Committee	Working children and worst forms of child labour	RA 7610, RA 7658, RA 9231

## Annex 2. Summary of NPAC child-level results on protection

Below is a list of selected and relevant NPAC child-level results and indicators on protection. The list is not exhaustive; for a complete listing, please refer to the NPAC Results Matrix. Monitoring and evaluation of these child-level results require close working relationship between and among CWC, CSPC and the other CP-IACs mentioned above.

Child-level results on protection	Indicators
Children are born with a name and registered in the official civil registry	Proportion of children registered
Children without parents or primary caregivers live and grow up in a home environment and nurtured with appropriate parental care	Percentage decrease in the number of institutionalized children
Potential disabilities in children are detected early and/or prevented	Percentage of disabilities among children 0-4 years of age
Children with disabilities are provided with access to quality habilitation, rehabilitative, and empowerment programs and services	Number and percentage of children with disabilities provided rehabilitation services
Children who are economically active are not engaged in hazardous activities which endanger their lives, growth and development	Number of working children exposed to hazardous work environment
Children are protected from violence in their own homes and in the communities where they live	Number of reported cases of violence against children in their homes
Child abuse cases perpetrated by teachers and other school personnel are stopped	Number of schools with child protection policies; percentage of schools conducting PSLs
Children are not sold and trafficked	Number of trafficked children
Children are not sexually abused and exploited for commercial sex	Number of sexually abused children (rape, incest, etc.); number of children victims of prostitution, paedophilia and pornography

Child-level results on protection	Indicators
Children are not at risk to be in conflict with the law	Number of children in conflict with the law
Children and their families are not living and working on the streets	Number of children on the streets
Street children are provided with temporary shelters and care services including educational opportunities	Number and percentage of street children provided with temporary shelter and care services
IP and Muslim children are treated equally and not discriminated upon	Number of IP and Muslim children
CIAC are protected from grave child rights violations and provided care	Number of displaced CIAC situations
Children are resilient to and protected from natural disasters	Number of children affected by disasters

## Annex 3. Data gathering instruments

### FGD guide for the CSPS as Committee

1. What do you consider as the most significant achievements of the CSPC/CPCP for the period 2006-2010? [Refer to CPCP expected key results in answering this question, page 24 of CPCP programme document]. What were the facilitating factors?
2. What key results and planned activities were (a) only partially achieved and (b) not achieved at all? What were the hindering factors?
3. Analyze the CSPC budget expenditures. What activities were most funded? What activities were least funded? What activities were not funded at all? Overall, what is the SCPC budget utilization rate?
4. How do you assess the pace of CPCP localization? How can the CPCP localization be done better?
5. How do you assess the monitoring function of the CSPC? What should be the major focus of SCPC monitoring and what does this entail? Should there be other focus for CSPC monitoring?
6. What do you see as the priority thrusts and directions of the CSPC/CPCP for the next five years (2012-2016)? What major outcomes do you want to achieve at the end of five years?
7. What strategy mix will best achieve the identified priority thrusts and directions?
8. How can the CSPC be further strengthened? What are its comparative advantages in relation to other child protection inter-agency bodies? How can these comparative strengths be maximized?

## KII guide for CSPC individual member agencies

1. What do you consider as the most significant contribution of your agency to the work of the SCPC for the period 2006-2010? Under what component of the CPCP have you achieved the most results? What were the facilitating factors? Under what component have you achieved very little or none at all? What were the hindering factors? [Refer to CPCP expected key results in answering these questions, page 24 of CPCP programme document].
2. How much resources has your agency invested in support of the SCPC and in the CPCP implementation?
3. What major lessons has your agency gained in the course of the CPCP implementation? What innovative child protection strategies have been successfully demonstrated by your agency?
4. As far as your agency is concerned, what priority child protection issues should the SCPC and the CPCP focus on for the period 2012-2016? Do you have data and information to back up your recommendations? How will these priority child protection issues be best addressed?
5. Does your agency have a written child protection policy? How do you assess its implementation?
6. How can your agency perform better as a member of the SCPC?
7. What are your agency's suggestions to strengthen the SCPC?

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