

The Council for the Welfare of Children in collaboration with UNICEF Manila brought together around 85 individuals from the government agencies, national and international non-government organizations and academe in a meeting on 05 November 2015, Holiday Inn & Suites Makati, Ayala Center, Makati City to build stronger partnership towards preventing and responding to violence against children in the country.

The event aimed to ignite the discussions and draw commitments from key stakeholders to respond to VAC concerns following the conduct of the country's first-ever National Baseline Study on Violence against Children (NBS-VAC) and of the Systematic Literature Review (SLR) on VAC - **MOVING RESEARCH to ACTION.**

The meeting provided the venue for sharing global, regional and national initiatives on VAC. It also opened the space for participants representing the sectors health, education, social welfare, justice and communication to reflect on strategic points to respond in terms of how their agency will use the information drawn from the studies and how can preventing and responding to VAC can be integrated/institutionalized in their respective agency systems. Common response that surfaced was data be used as basis for enhancement and/or development of legislations, policies, programs and interventions and as reference for coming up with communication and advocacy strategies and providing technical assistance to Local Government Units.

As the African Proverb says, "If you want to go fast, go ahead. If you want to go far, go together." This expressed our approach to addressing VAC concerns by bringing in stakeholders toward harmonized and strategic actions for VAC.