

2013 CWC Major Accomplishments

The Council for the Welfare of Children being the focal agency for children's concerns has been consistently intensifying its efforts to pursue policy and plan development through the coordination and monitoring and evaluation of enforcement of laws on children through the following:

1. 2013 CWC Board Resolutions

- a. Council Board Resolution no. 1, series of 2013, "A Resolution Approving 2013 as a Moratorium Year for the Presidential Award for Child-Friendly Municipalities and Cities"
 - b. Council Board Resolution no. 2, series of 2013 "A Resolution Adopting the "Seal of Child-Friendly Local Governance"
 - c. Council Board Resolution no. 3, series of 2013, "A Resolution Approving the CWC Legislative Agenda for Children for the 16th Congress"
 - d. Council Board Resolution no. 4, series of 2013, "A Resolution Approving the Protocol on Monitoring, Reporting and Response System (MRRS) on the Grave Child Rights Violations (GCRVS) in Situations of Armed Conflict"
 - e. Council Board Resolution no. 5, series of 2013, "A Resolution Endorsing the Private Individuals to the CWC Board for Appointment by the President"
 - f. Council Board Resolution no. 6, series of 2013, "A Resolution Approving the Communities of Practice (COP) on Child Friendly Local Governance: A Replication Strategy"
 - g. Council Board Resolution no. 7, series of 2013, "A Resolution Approving the Advocacy and Communication (AdvoCom) Plan for the 2nd NPAC"
2. **President Aquino Approved EO 138 s 2013** ("Amending Executive Order No. 56 S. 2001 (Adopting the Comprehensive Program Framework for Children in Armed Conflict, Strengthening the Council for the Welfare of Children (CWC) and for Other Purposes)".

2 August 2013, His Excellency President Benigno S. Aquino III signed the Executive Order 138, s 2013- Emphasizing one of its provisions on Establishing a Monitoring, Reporting and Response System for Grave Child Rights Violations in Situations of Armed Conflict (MRRS-GCRVSAC) to act as the monitoring arm within the CIAC Program Framework with the primary objective of protecting children in situations of armed conflict by preventing the occurrence of grave child rights violations and ensuring timely response. MRRS-GCRVASC shall generate standard data and information that will serve as the primary source on all matters pertaining to such violations.

The Council for the Welfare of Children (CWC) as the focal agency establishes the appropriate coordinative network at the national and local levels. Part of it is the conduct of orientation on the Protocol on Monitoring, Reporting and Response System (MRRS), approved by the Board early 2013, in areas of Luzon and the Visayas particularly in Regions IV-A & B, V, VI, VII, VIII and CAR. 20 provinces with 52 cities/municipalities were able to attend the orientation. Participants are front line workers in identified cities/municipalities like the social workers, teachers, police officers, health workers, etc.

3. Priority Legislative Agenda For Children in the 16th Congress

To guide the Council in its policy advocacy activities, the CWC Board approved the following priority Legislative Agenda for Children for the 16th Congress:

- a. Special Protection of Children in Situations of Armed Conflict (CSAC):
- b. Promoting Positive and Non-Violent Discipline of Children:

- c. Revision of the Local Government Code relative to the inclusion of specific provisions on the following:
 - Increase protection of children with corresponding fund allocation:
 - Ensure appointment of registered social workers as head of the Local Social Welfare and Development Offices
- d. Protection of Children with Disabilities
- e. Increasing the Age of Statutory Rape (to at least 15 years of age)

4. **Policy Forum on Poverty/Disparity Reduction Begins with Children**

The Council for the Welfare of Children (CWC) in partnership with UNICEF and the National Statistical Coordination Board (NSCB) had conducted said policy forum on October 14, 2013 at the Crowne Plaza Manila Galleria, Quezon City. This is part of this year's celebration of the 21st National Children's Month with the theme that focuses on poverty – "Kahirapan Wakasan, Karapatan ng Bata Ipaglaban!" It highlights that poverty reduction starts with children. It achieved the following objectives:

- a. Presented the updated child poverty situation in the Philippines;
- b. Discussed current child-centered poverty reduction programs and existing enabling environments that promote the welfare of children; and
- c. Recognized remaining bottlenecks, policy gaps and what more can be committed towards child-focused poverty and disparity reduction processes.

5. **Convergence of Councils and Committees for Children (4Cs)**

As a result of the Summit of Councils and Committees in 2012, a core group was organized. This core group is composed of representatives from the 10 Councils and Committees for Children.

Two major workshops were conducted for the 4Cs: the development of their child protection policies (CPP) on 18-19 March and the strategic planning on 4-5 April. On the workshop on the CPP, each representative of the council and committees drafted their own CPP with the end in view that they will in turn assist their member agencies in coming up with their own. To date, NCDCA has already finalized its own CPP. The CWC's TMG had a similar workshop to ensure that CWC member agencies are developing their CPPs. DOH, DA, DSWD had drafted their own CPPs. The CWC Secretariat has finalized enrichment of its own.

Moreover, the Memorandum of Agreement among Councils and Committees has been forwarded to concerned groups for their comments and additional inputs. It is targeted that signing of the MOA will be done the first quarter of the year.

6. **Updating of CWC Child Protection Policy**

This policy aims to guarantee at all times the protection and safety of children involved in any activity initiated and/or supported by CWC. Specifically, it promotes a child protective atmosphere in the office and in the homes of the CWC officials and staff; Increase awareness on child rights, specifically protection from abuse and exploitation, and how it can be prevented in the CWC context; and Ensure receptiveness in action to support and protect children from abusive acts or situation.

7. **Revitalizing the Regional Sub-Committees for the Welfare of Children (RSCWCs)**

The seventeen Regional Sub-Committees for the Welfare of Children (RSCWC) established in 1995, serves as the extension of the Council for the Welfare of Children (CWC) that link national government with local government units. This structure performs a steering role in generating and addressing children's issues thus, functioning as an issue network.

As part of the organizational transformation efforts of CWC, capacity building activities for the RSCWCs were conducted through the conduct of strategic planning workshops in 12 RSCWCs. The workshops were attended by focal persons of twenty RSCWC member agencies which includes such critical agencies as DSWD, DILG, DOH, DepEd, DOLE, DOJ, DA, NNC, NEDA, PNP, CHR, NGOs with regional presence and from the Provincial and City Governments.

The outputs of the workshops include the RSCWC performance measures, priority issues on children that need to be addressed within the next three years, three-year RSCWC strategic plan as well as inputs to the development of the RSCWC Operations Manual and the LCPC Toolkit, among others.

8. **Hammering Out Efforts for A National Strategy in Making Local Councils for the Protection of Children Effective in Child-Friendly Local Governance**

The in-depth analysis on the functionality of Local Councils for the Protection of Children (LCPC) commissioned by the Council for the Welfare of Children (with support from UNICEF Philippines) in 2012 forwarded five recommendations where actions must be formulated. These recommendations comprise the elements of a roadmap that has to be undertaken or pursued to make LCPC more effective in child friendly local governance:

- a. Establish a replication strategy for Mainstreaming Child Rights in the Rationalized Local Planning System (RPS)
- b. Make the Presidential Award for Child-Friendly LGUs a mobilizing incentive that is truly attractive to LGUs
- c. Improve the LCPC monitoring system for greater efficiency and improved reporting by and feedback to constituent LCPC
- d. Enact a singular coherent government directive/memorandum circular on the establishment and operations of LCPC
- e. Develop a purposive advocacy and mobilization plan that will place child rights in the agenda of Local Government Executive (LCE) and in public debate at the national and local levels.

The National Strategy

CWC started the ball rolling by initiating a “project mode” approach to implement the recommendations through the following:

- Development of the **Advocacy and Communication Plan** with assistance from the Asian Institute of Journalism and Communication. The Plan outlines the advocacy and communication strategies that will link and direct the actions of Local Chief Executives and all critical players toward achieving a Child-Friendly Philippines: A Caring and Protective Society for, by and with Children. CWC’s acceptance of a Professorial Seat in the Orientation of Newly-Elected Mayors or ONE-M organized by the League of Municipalities of the Philippines was also pursued. 12 batches of orientation nationwide were conducted that gave CWC a wide opportunity for child rights education and advocacy.
- Introduction of the **Seal of Child-Friendly Local Governance (SCFLG)** – This is a huge advance as this sets the platform for child rights to be in the “minds” of the LCEs and LGUs given the mandatory audit on positive results for children and the accompanying rewards that go with the Seal that will define a more reliable and effective way of monitoring the functionality of the LCPCs. CWC will confer/give the Seal to deserving LGUs.
- A comprehensive review of the **Child-Friendly Presidential Award** was undertaken to make it a highly-coveted and truly attractive Award to LGUs. The review will serve as basis for the enhancement of the mechanics and tools which will be used starting 2014.
- Establishment of the **Communities of Practice (CoP) on Child Friendly Local Governance (CoP CFLG)** as the replication strategy utilizing the awardees of the Child-Friendly Presidential Award as learning hubs or networks. For 2013, the CoP-CFLG will be comprised of Hall of Fame and National Awardees of the Child-Friendly Presidential Award namely New Lucena-Iloilo; Tubigon, Bohol; Naga City, Vigan City, Mandaluyong City and Davao City. The

Development Academy of the Philippines was tapped to assist CWC on curriculum development and in running/managing the learning strategy.

For 2013, CWC was able to forged partnership with the Development Academy of the Philippines to be able to implement this replication strategy. Among the accomplishments for the year are:

- **Consultative dialogues and focus group discussion conducted** among the Cop-LGUs (including representatives from the Barangay Councils for the Protection of Children) to seek their opinion and approval of being established as a replication center
 - **Customized Course Design Developed and Pre-tested.** A course module that caters to the training needs of the key LGU officials and personnel on child-friendly local governance. The curriculum is a combination of theories on local governance and practical application or on-site learning encounter between the CoP-LGUs as the replication centers and the LGU-enrolees as the replicating LGUs.
 - **Competency Assessment of the six CoP-LGU** conducted to determine their readiness and preparedness to be a replication center
- As a support initiative, CWC also spearheaded the **Cascading Multi-Level Capacity Building on Strengthening and Sustaining LCPC** and has conducted a one national and five regional training of trainers in 2014. This initiative is also supported by the Juvenile Justice Welfare Council, ABK LEAP Project and World Vision Development Foundation, Inc. A pool of trainers composed of ERDA Development Foundation, DILG, DOLE, DSWD and ULAP were organized and mobilized for the purpose.
 - A consortium of agencies termed as the **LCPC Consortium** was organized to facilitate and oversee the development of the different building blocks of the recommendations of the study and find the resources to implement the actions. The Consortium will include agencies outside of the current CWC membership and is chaired by the DILG-Office of the Undersecretary on Local Government. A proposal to the CWC Board to integrate the LCPC Consortium into the CWC structures, is for approval at the Council Board 4th Quarter Meeting 2013.

9. Development of Advocacy and Communication Plan for the 2nd NPAC

Members of the different inter-agency councils on children or so-called 4Cs (Convergence of Councils and Committees for Children) were involved in the development of this AdvoCom Plan. This is anchored on the 2nd National Plan of Action for Children (2nd NPAC) and guided by the general principles of the UNCRC. It has adopted the vision of a **Child-Friendly Philippines: A Caring and Protective Society for and with Children** (CFP: CPSC) as its strategic framework for advocacy and programming.

The AdvoCom Plan must synchronize with, support and build the overall plan (2nd NPAC) and its priority activities. The communication objectives, therefore, was intrinsically linked to the NPAC goals.

Sharing of resources was agreed upon by the 4Cs in the implementation of such plan.

10. National Children's Month Celebration (please see attached separate report/presentation)

11. 'Ako Para sa Bata The Manila Conference'

ALL RISE para sa Bata! Everyone must all rise to break the intergenerational cycle of violence. We must break the silence and respond to all forms of violence, abuse and exploitation against children and women.

The Council for the Welfare of Children participated in (full force) the Ako Para Sa Bata, the Manila Conference held on December 2-3, 2013 at the SMX Convention Center, Mall of Asia, Pasay City. The event led by the Child Protection Network Foundation (CPN) is an annual professional gathering of various stakeholders with common goal and similar advocacy on protecting and promoting the rights of children and women. The wide array of topics for the 2-day conference highlighted the impact of interpersonal violence, sexual assault and exploitation at every stage of a child life and of the family cycle, dynamics of domestic violence and its effect on the physical and emotional state of the victim and perpetrator, the relevant legal issues related to domestic violence and present interventions and strategies to address violence. The well thought topics, aimed to build the capacity of the different stakeholders in responding to interpersonal violence, sexual assault and exploitation.

The CWC recognized the *AKO PARA PARA SA BATA* conference as great contribution in achieving our vision of creating a culture of CARE AND PROTECTION for children. The big challenge now would be how the knowledge gained during the conference will be disseminated to the people (parents, children, community leaders, etc)who need the information most to increase their level of awareness and aid them in coming up with the decision to "break the silence" and stop the intergenerational pattern of violence and abuse. "***From word to action!***"