



# development academy of the philippines

## Center for Governance

(Center)

### [2018] PROJECT ACCOMPLISHMENT REPORT

#### I. Project Information

Project Code : CLFZO  
Project Title : Study on the Situation of Children with Disabilities in the Philippines  
Project Start : 17 July 2017  
Project End : 30 April 2018  
Project Price : PHP 4,881,670  
Client Organization : United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF)

#### II. Project Team

Project Manager : Jannis T. Montañez  
Team Members : Ashley May Alison M. Monsanto, Ma. Narcielyn P. Rizal, Marie Jay Kamille S. Dayhon, Quennie Anne L. Santos, Patricia Angelyn A. Varias, John A. Mercurio, Jeannine L. Tan, Kristine Ann C. Sindac, Bernadette D. Rodriguez, Recto M. Mantiza Jr., Clesa V. Corona, Armand Tristan R. Suratos, Melonie J. Tejol, Rea L. Geraldino, Diane Paola M. Bool  
Supervising Fellow : Imelda C. Caluen  
Consultants/ Resource Persons : Eduardo T. Gonzalez, Lina B. Laigo, Marie Therese Angeline P. Bustos, Maureen Ava G. Mata, Ramona Lissa E. Villegas, Filmor A. Malnegro, Leah B. Apuli, and Hergil Roni V. Abat

#### III. Project Details

##### Project Description :

The United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) affirms the importance of protecting child rights at all times, as also emphasized in its four guiding principles: non-discrimination, adherence to the best interests of the child; the right to life, survival and development; and the right to participate. Article 2 states that the Convention applies to all children and that no child should be treated unfairly on any basis.

It is unfortunate to note, though, that children with disabilities are one of the most socially excluded groups that face daily discrimination against their rights to healthcare, education, and survival.

In the Philippines, there is little information on the prevalence of disabilities among children. While there have been attempts at establishing these, the numbers are not absolute and most often rely on estimates.

According to the World Health Organization (WHO), around 15% of the world's children and young people have sensory, developmental, intellectual or mental health impairment. The reported incidence and prevalence of disability in a population varies significantly from one country to another and are often not comparable since countries frequently use different classifications, definitions and thresholds. Specialists, however, agree on a working approximation giving a minimum benchmark of 2.5 per cent of children aged 0-14 with self-evident moderate to severe levels of sensory, physical and intellectual impairments.

The 2010 National Statistics Office (NSO) Philippine Census of Population and Housing estimated a 1.57% prevalence rate for persons with disabilities. Of these 18.9% are children with disabilities aged 0-14, or roughly 0.67% of the population.

Given the issue of under-reporting, the number could be higher. Also, because of the high degree of



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## Center for Governance

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stigma associated with disability, parents and other family members may be reluctant to report that their child has a disability. Often, these children have not even had their birth registered, with the result that they are not known to health, social services or schools. In addition, the lack of reliable data on the prevalence and magnitude of disabilities in children affects inclusive programming and provision and access to quality relevant services.

In addition to the UNCRC, the Philippines is also a signatory to the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. It has passed several laws for persons with disabilities and has established the National Council for Disability Affairs to coordinate programs and services for persons with disabilities and to lead on policy formulation, monitoring and evaluation.

With such commitment and concrete efforts done to protect the rights of children and of persons with disabilities, it is imperative to know the real situation of children with disabilities in the Philippines, what rights are not being fulfilled, and what are the facilitating factors as well as barriers to their social inclusion.

The Development Academy of the Philippines, having been engaged in a number of projects on child rights and child-friendly governance, was selected by the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) to conduct the study on the situation of children in the Philippines under a commercial contract. This project is part of a joint collaboration among the Government of the Philippines, UNICEF and the Australia Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT), with the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) as the lead government partner.

#### **Project Objective :**

The general objective of this study is to assess the situation of children with disabilities from the key sites in the Philippines, using the life cycle lens, bio-psycho-social model of disability and the inclusive development approaches. More specifically, the study is intended to:

- Increase knowledge and awareness about the situation and rights of children with disabilities
- Analyze the extent rights of children with disabilities are being exercised or violated
- Identify existing bottlenecks and barriers, including at societal, economic institutional, and individual levels
- Identify existing policy and programmatic responses to address those bottlenecks and barriers in the exercise of their rights
- Identify what children themselves and their families see as the most pressing needs
- Clarify the governance structure around children with disabilities, the roles and responsibilities of implementing and coordinating agencies, both at the national, inter-agency and local government unit levels.

**Focus Area :** Policy Reform Agenda development, policy review, policy advocacy

**Project Type :** Research

**Project Beneficiary :** Children with Disabilities and key government agencies

**Regional Coverage :** Nationwide



### IV. Project Accomplishments

#### Key Activities Implemented :

##### Stage 1: Assessment - Desk Review

The team gathered and reviewed documents, reports and materials from online sources, including official websites of selected government agencies, as well as soft and printed copies of their official documents and data from July to September 2017.

Materials were grouped accordingly to determine the following:

- Commitment of the Philippines in protecting the rights of children with disabilities based on the standards set by international instruments and framework such as the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC), Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD), Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW), Incheon Framework, Biwako Framework and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG)
- The Philippines' response to its commitments through legislation, specific plans of action, programs, and services. This includes looking at national laws on children and on persons with disabilities (PWDs), the National Plans of Action, as well as the initiatives of government agencies in fulfillment of their mandates and functions and their adherence to national standards and goals.
- Positive results and shortfalls in protecting the rights of children with disabilities based on global standards, and on available data and other documentary evidence provided by and/or released by government agencies and civil society organizations, including official (government) and parallel (civil society) reports and other published reports and studies

Materials, documents and data included in this desk review were those published from year 2006 which is the same year when the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disability was adopted.

Government agencies who were requested to participate in this initial stage of the study include the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD), Council for the Welfare of Children (CWC), National Council on Disability Affairs (NCDA), Department of Health (DOH), Department of Education (DepEd), Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG), Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH), Department of Transportation (DOTr), National Anti-Poverty Commission (NAPC), National Council on Indigenous People (NCIP) and the Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA) which is formerly called the National Statistics Office (NSO). Most of them responded positively to the request and were able to help the research team come up with an initial assessment of what the Philippines has accomplished in terms of protecting the rights of children with disabilities.

##### Stage 2: Analysis – Field Visit, Key Interviews and Focus Group Discussion

##### LGU visit

Three local government units (LGUs), namely: the municipalities of Carmona, Cavite; San Remigio, Cebu; and Upi, Maguindanao were visited by the DAP research team on September 18 to 22, 2017 to get information and insights on the situation of children with disabilities and their families and the LGU response based on actual experience of various stakeholders at the local level. The visit was also helpful in understanding how national programs, plans, and policies are translated to local efforts, given the different needs of children with disabilities brought by the vulnerable situation and possible risks in the locality.



# development academy of the philippines

## Center for Governance

(Center)

### [2018 ] PROJECT ACCOMPLISHMENT REPORT

It should be noted that while these three LGUs may not represent the rest of the LGUs in the country, they are from the three main islands and have specific conditions that can make children with disabilities more or less vulnerable to exclusion.

The following were the research activities conducted:

- FGD with the Persons with Disability Affairs Office (PDAO) and the Local Council for the Protection of Children (LCPC)
- FGD with parents and guardians of children with disabilities
- FGD with local NGOs / DPOs and POs
- Interviews with parents and direct service providers / project coordinators
- Facility Visit (Day Care Center, Barangay Health Center, School, Evacuation Center)

Fifteen (15) parents and caregivers of children with disabilities were also interviewed for this study, in addition to the FGD participants that were conducted in the four localities (Mandaluyong, Carmona, San Remigio, Upi) to know their views and insights on issues experienced by their children and their families, as well as the challenges and adjustments they have to make to ensure that the rights of their children are protected at all times. This included parents whose children have yet to be properly diagnosed by a medical expert but have certain physical impairment or developmental delay.

An important part of this study was getting the views and insights of rights holders themselves. While this study had certain limitations and did not interview children with disabilities, six (6) young adults in their 20s (chronological age) and who have certain impairment during their childhood, were interviewed to know their feelings and insights as well as their needs, concerns and challenges, the support that they get (or did not get) to cope with their impairment as they grow up.

These interviewees among parents and youth with disabilities are from Metro Manila and Region IV-A which have the most number of persons with disabilities based on the 2010 Census. They were identified through the research team's personal contacts to ensure non-biased selection and responses.

The research team also conducted visits to LGU facilities to check the provision of child-friendly space, especially for children with disabilities. The environment should be non-discriminatory and without barriers for these children to participate in activities and to access services even in emergency situations.

Barriers here do not only refer to physical accessibility but may also include policies and systems that limit or hinder the participation of children with disabilities as well as the capacity of facilitators or personnel to attend to the needs of these children. The team also interviewed the center coordinator and / or key personnel that manage these facilities for children.

The field visit tools were simulated through an actual field visit and FGD in Mandaluyong City on September 13 to 14, 2017.

### **FGD and Key Informant Interviews**

Interviews were conducted with the following key government agencies and offices from September to December 2017 to get different perspectives and relevant information as duty bearers working for the rights of children and persons with disabilities. Interviewees were key officials or personnel from their office or unit that handles concerns of persons / children with disabilities or are involved in programs or projects that are relevant to the sector.

- Department of Social Welfare and Development
- National Council on Disability Affairs
- Council for the Welfare of Children
- Department of Health



# development academy of the philippines

## Center for Governance

(Center)

### [2018 ] PROJECT ACCOMPLISHMENT REPORT

- National Nutrition Council
- Department of Education
- Early Childhood Care and Development Council
- Department of Justice
- Philippine National Police
- Department of Public Works and Highways
- Department of Transportation
- Department of the Interior and Local Government
- Philippine Statistics Authority
- Family Court of Las Piñas

The interviews centered on knowing their knowledge and views about children with disability; and the roles and functions, their coordination and collaboration with state and non-state partners, and the actual programs, projects, and activities that they implement and are relevant to children with disabilities.

A focus group discussion was also conducted with the following non-government organizations (NGOs) on November 09, 2017 at Astoria Plaza in Ortigas. They have implemented programs and projects for children and / or children with disabilities and were represented by their key officers or personnel in this FGD.

- Handicap International
- Physicians for Peace
- Save the Children
- Leonard Cheshire Disability Philippines Foundation, Inc.
- Women with Disabilities Leap to Social and Economic Progress (WOW-LEAP)

### **Stage 3: Validation – Workshop with stakeholders**

Thirty (39) stakeholders from key government agencies, NGOs, and LGUs as well as parents and youth with disabilities team attended a validation workshop which was organized and conducted by the DAP research team on February 20, 2018 at Astoria Plaza Ortigas.

It primarily looked at the findings, and the conclusions and recommendations of the study that should also guide stakeholders on issue prioritization, policy and programmatic actions, among others, to help address the identified barriers and bottlenecks that affect the realization of these children's rights.

Project Manager Jannis T. Montañez presented the key findings and recommendations before the participants were divided into four thematic groups: social protection, governance, education, and health to generate their comments and inputs according to their assigned teams. These were documented and were considered by the DAP research team in the report revision.

### **Major Outputs**

The following outputs were produced by the DAP team with technical inputs from the key experts (Dr. Eduardo T. Gonzalez, Dr. Marie Therese Angeline P. Bustos, and Dr. Lina B. Laigo). The draft copies were submitted to UNICEF who would then share them with the members of the Advisory Reference Group chaired by the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD).

- a. Desk Review Report – draft submitted to UNICEF on August 22, 2017; revised report submitted on September 22, 2017
- b. First Draft Situation Analysis – submitted to UNICEF on January 18, 2018
- c. Second Draft Situation Analysis – submitted to UNICEF on April 11, 2018



# development academy of the philippines

## Center for Governance

(Center)

### [2018] PROJECT ACCOMPLISHMENT REPORT

#### d. Revised and Final Situation Analysis – submitted to UNICEF on April 30, 2018

Based on the approved work plan, the ARG members were supposed to give their feedback within one week upon receipt of output. However, the project had to allot another week for the ARG review, given the usual protocol before each agency can review and can officially submit their comments to DSWD or UNICEF. This adjustment was reflected in the revised work plan.

Despite such adjustment, though, the ARG comments were still not submitted on time. It should also be noted that not all the members of the ARG were able to give their comments though they were provided a copy. One example was the Department of Education. On the other hand, Abner Manlapaz, a PWD champion and head of Life Haven, shared his comments as requested by UNICEF.

### Project Impact

- The study was able to prove that nothing has changed in the Philippines insofar as providing the needs and protecting the rights of children with disabilities.
- The study has surfaced the reality that there is still no unifying voice among and between the PWD sector.
- The study served as a wake-up call for government agencies as they were prompted to do something for children with disabilities and to include the sector in their next strategic planning.
- The recommendations from this study, including the need to come up with a service delivery framework, would be considered by the Australia Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT) for their next programs.
- The project was a learning experience for the DAP team as it worked on the output and did not rely on its pool of experts in producing the draft.

### Lessons Learned

- For a research project such as this, it is important to anticipate special requirements such as the need for assistive devices and sign language interpreters and even interviewing skills for sensitive topics and / or respondents. This should be considered when estimating project costs.
- This kind of research project requires more time, given its scope and objective. A more realistic timeline is essential so as not to compromise the quality of the output.
- Assigning more writers to produce a research report may result in inconsistent writing style which might also be noticed by the client or anyone who reviews or reads the report.

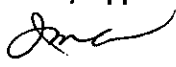
### V. Attachments

- Certificate of Project Deliverable Accepted (for desk review report, for draft Situation Analysis, and for the revised / final Situation Analysis)
- Certificate of Project Closure

Prepared by:

**Jannis T. Montañez**  
Project Manager

Noted / Approved by:

  
**Imelda C. Caluen**  
Center Head

## ONE-POINT LESSON

Project	Study on the Situation of Children with Disabilities in the Philippines
Prepared by	Jannis T. Montañez
Noted by	Imelda C. Caluen
Center	Center for Governance
Date Prepared:	07 June 2018
File number	OPL-2018-

**Subject/Activity:** Conducting key interviews and focus group discussion

**Actual Date:** September 18-22, 2018 (field work period)

<b>What happened?</b> (State the problem and what was done)	<b>What should have been done?</b> (Recommended corrective and preventive action)
<p>The team had prior coordination with the focal person for the field visits and interviews. However, the team was not informed that a deaf person will be interviewed.</p> <p>A staff was also caught off guard when a parent interviewee got emotional during the discussion. Other respondents were also assigned to an interviewer who does not speak nor understand Visayan dialect.</p>	<p>In such case when the interviewee or the research topic is quite sensitive, it will be better to anticipate and prepare for some specific requirements even if they are not explicitly stated or requested. These requirements should likewise be considered in project conceptualization and budgeting to ensure that they will be provided during project implementation.</p> <p>In this particular study on children with disabilities and in other similar studies, the following are the requirements to be considered:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The need for sign language interpreters and assistive devices for respondents, interviewees or participants with disabilities</li> <li>- The need for an expert interviewee or facilitator in conducting an interview or focus group discussion</li> <li>- PWD-friendly space if the event or activity involves persons with disabilities.</li> </ul>

**Instructions:**

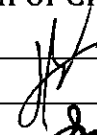
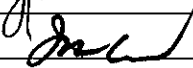
Fill-out all items briefly and completely. Please refer to guidelines for further information.

Limit to 1 to 5 sentences. Illustrations can be used.

One template = One Lesson

Submit One-Point Lesson to osvpp@dap.edu.ph

## ONE-POINT LESSON

Project	Study on the Situation of Children with Disabilities in the Philippines
Prepared by	Jannis T. Montañez 
Noted by	Imelda C. Caluen 
Center	Center for Governance
Date Prepared:	07 June 2018
File number	OPL-2018-

**Subject/Activity:** Refusal of Philhealth to participate in the study  
without ethical clearance

**Actual Date:** October 30, 2017

<b>What happened?</b> (State the problem and what was done)	<b>What should have been done?</b> (Recommended corrective and preventive action)
Philhealth refused to proceed with the interview without the ethical clearance requirement.	<p>DAP should check RA 10532 and its IRR, and the 2017 National Ethical Guidelines for Health and Health-Related Research for the specific requirements to know what and how the Academy should comply.</p> <p>The Academy may also need to look into the possibility of creating its own Institutional Review Board (IRB) for its research undertaking similar to what other academic institutions have.</p>

**Instructions:**

Fill-out all items briefly and completely. Please refer to guidelines for further information.

Limit to 1 to 5 sentences. Illustrations can be used.

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# ONE-POINT LESSON

Project	Study on the Situation of Children with Disabilities in the Philippines
Prepared by	Jannis T. Montañez
Noted by	Imelda C. Caluen
Center	Center for Governance
Date Prepared:	07 June 2018
File number	OPL-2018-

**Subject/Activity:** Lead time for report preparation and review

**Actual Date:** October 2017 to April 30, 2018 (report preparation, review and revision)

What happened? (State the problem and what was done)	What should have been done? (Recommended corrective and preventive action)
The writers (2 including the Project Manager) lacked time to work on the report and the required revision while the consultants / experts also did not have sufficient time to review the report	<p>Negotiate for a more realistic time frame with the client (at least one year for this kind of study/ situation analysis) at the early stage of the project (project negotiation phase).</p> <p>Engage another writer who can help the DAP technical staff to do the major writing task so that the Project Manager can focus more on ensuring the quality of the output, apart from other technical and administrative requirements of the project.</p>

## Instructions:

Fill-out all items briefly and completely. Please refer to guidelines for further information.

Limit to 1 to 5 sentences. Illustrations can be used.

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ISO 9001:2015 Certified  
CtP/4045/08/06/579

## CERTIFICATE OF PROJECT DELIVERABLE ACCEPTED

Date : 22 Sept. 2017

Center : Center for Governance Project Code : CLFZO  
Project Title : Study on the Situation of Children with Disabilities  
in the Philippines  
Client : United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF)  
Project Manager : Jannis T. Montañez

### Deliverable Information/ Report

Project Phase : Project Implementation  
Deliverable : Inception Report and Desk Review Report

### Acceptance Information/Report



Approved



Deferred

INSTRUCTIONS: On a scale of 1 to 5, rate the project in each of the relevant indices below. The ends of the scale are 1 - Poor and 5 - Excellent. Encircle the number which best indicates your rating of the project deliverable in that item.

- |   |   |   |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1. Project deliverable was submitted within agreed timeframe.     | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| 2. Project deliverable was acceptable as agreed upon.             | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| 3. Project deliverable was made within the standards agreed upon. | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |

Comments:  
(if any)

*Due to time constraints, additional comments not integrated / addressed in the revised desk report will be reflected in the first draft.*

Authorized Representative/s:

*[Signature]*  
ROSELA AGCAOILI

Oct 16, 2017

Signature over printed name

SOCIAL POLICY SPECIALIST

Position / Designation



development academy of the philippines

ISO 9001:2015 Certified  
CIP/4045/08/06/579

## CERTIFICATE OF PROJECT DELIVERABLE ACCEPTED

Date : 30-Apr-18

Center : Center for Governance Project Code : CLFZO  
Project Title : Study on the Situation of Children with Disabilities  
in the Philippines  
Client : United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF)  
Project Manager : Jannis T. Montañez

### Deliverable Information/ Report

Project Phase : Project Implementation  
Deliverable : Final Report and Power Point Presentation

### Acceptance Information/Report



Approved



Deferred

INSTRUCTIONS: On a scale of 1 to 5, rate the project in each of the relevant indices below. The ends of the scale are 1 - Poor and 5 - Excellent. Encircle the number which best indicates your rating of the project deliverable in that item.

- |   |   |   |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1. Project deliverable was submitted within agreed timeframe.     | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| 2. Project deliverable was acceptable as agreed upon.             | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| 3. Project deliverable was made within the standards agreed upon. | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |

Comments:  
(if any)

Authorized Representative/s:

ROSELA AGCAOILI

Signature over printed name

SOCIAL POLICY SPECIALIST

Position / Designation



# development academy of the philippines

## CERTIFICATE OF PROJECT CLOSURE

Date: 5/30/18

Project Title : Study on the Situation of Children with Disabilities in the Philippines  
Project Manager : Jannis T. Montañez  
Center : Center for Governance  
Project Duration : July 17, 2017 – April 30, 2018  
Project Code : CLFZO  
Client : United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF)

This is to certify that the above-cited project is declared officially closed. It further certifies that all project outputs have been delivered and satisfactorily conform to our agreements and our office's standards.

FEEDBACK (please indicate here your comments and/or suggestions for further improving our services.)

All project related outputs and deliverables  
have been complied with.

Authorized Representative of Client Agency:

ROSELA ASCADILU

Signature over printed name

Social Policy Specialist

Position/Designation