

“Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels;” (d) the new UNICEF Strategic Plan, 2018–2021 Goal 3: “Every child is protected from violence and exploitation” and UNDAF 2019–2014 People Pillar: “the most marginalized, vulnerable, and at risk groups benefit from inclusive and quality services and live in a supportive environment wherein their nutrition, food security, and health are ensured/protected”; and Peace Pillar: “the establishment of inclusive and responsive governance systems and accelerating sustainable and equitable development for just and lasting peace”(based on December 2017 draft statements).

The implementation of this component will be guided by UNICEF’s Approach to Child Protection Systems and UNICEF’s Child Protection Strategy, both of which underscore the importance of building a safe and protective environment for children in preventing and responding to violence, exploitation and abuse.

To accelerate the achievement of the programme outcome of this goal, UNICEF will build on the gains from the previous CPD, particularly:

- The outcomes/evidence from the NBS-VAC (2015) and the Systematic Literature Review on the Drivers of VAC (2016)
- The results of a Capacity Gap Analysis and a Systematic Literature Review conducted on Child Online Protection, and the development of a National Response Plan to address the Online Sexual Exploitation of Children. The results of the ongoing National Study on Child Online Sexual Exploitation and Abuse and the Philippine Kids Online will inform programming including design of a more effective advocacy to reach targeted children, families and communities.
- Developing and implementing the Philippine Plan of Action to end VAC (PPAeVAC) guided by INSPIRE with key national agencies such as DSWD, DepEd and DOH.
- For programming on diversion and alternatives to detention, to continue being guided by the Universal Evaluation on administration of juvenile justice and welfare, and the findings of the legal audit of 30 per cent of the family courts in the Philippines.
- Evidence from DSWD, CPN and Ateneo de Manila University partnership with UNICEF to pilot test a parenting programme towards reducing violence in the home; and building on the regional and global evidence, tools and resources on parenting support, shared through learning networks.
- Findings and recommendations, including lessons learned from the Child Protection response during Typhoon Haiyan, emphasizing the coordination between national and subnational/LGUs, and the need to continue the advocacy and implementation of Republic Act 10821 or the Children’s Emergency Relief and Protection Act.
- Lessons learned in the implementation and completion of the UN-MILF Action Plan, specifically in the engagement and sustained partnership with non-state entities.
- Lessons learned specified in the evaluation of previous country programmes for children.

3. THEORY OF CHANGE

Long-term desired vision of change:

More children and adolescents, particularly the most vulnerable, benefit from more effective, quality, gender-sensitive, preventive, and responsive child protection system, and live in communities that better protect children from violence.

For this long-term desired vision of change to happen, the following preconditions must be met:

<u>1st Precondition:</u>	The Philippines’ legal, policy, frameworks and institutional practices meet international standards regarding protecting children from violence.
<u>2nd Precondition</u>	Children and families will have improved and equitable access to and use age-appropriate, gender-sensitive, high-quality child protection prevention and response services linking with multisectoral coordination and efforts especially during emergencies.

3 rd Precondition	Children, parents, caregivers and communities encourage, support, and practice behaviours and positive social norms that are not violent.
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To realize the above, three main preconditions towards the long-term vision of change in this component, the following interrelated pathways to change must be achieved.

Pathway to Change for the 1st Precondition: The Philippines’ legal, policy, frameworks and institutional practices meet international standards regarding protecting children from violence.

- IF** the Government develops and enacts a comprehensive national agenda to address VAC;
- IF** there are strengthened child-rights based legal and policy frameworks and procedures;
- IF** institutions and agencies – particularly social welfare and justice institutions – have sufficient human and financial resources and the capacity to and consistently enforce and implement the law and policy frameworks and procedures; and
- IF** the justice sector actors and non-state entities, adhere to both international standards and the Philippines’ strengthened frameworks and procedures;

THEN, the Philippines legal, policy, and institutional frameworks and institutional practices will meet international standards regarding protecting children from violence.

Pathway to Change for the 2nd Precondition:

- IF** age-appropriate, gender-sensitive multisector services to address, prevent, and respond to key child protection needs are available especially during emergencies;
- IF** rehabilitation and reintegration services are available for children, especially those affected by armed conflict;
- IF** there are a sufficient numbers of skilled child protection and child justice service providers available to deliver child protection services; and
- IF** government-led child protection coordination bodies are strengthened and functioning,

THEN, children and families will have improved and equitable access to and use age-appropriate, gender-sensitive, high-quality child protection prevention and response services linking with multisectoral coordination and efforts especially during emergencies.

Pathway to Change for the 3rd Precondition:

- IF** children, parents, caregivers, and community members have knowledge about child rights and recognize the harmful consequences of violence and violent behaviours;
 - IF** parents, caregivers and teachers have knowledge and skills about positive discipline and how to support children’s psychosocial wellbeing;
 - IF** key religious community leaders encourage and support attitudes, practices, and positive social norms and structures that promote a protective environment for children; and
 - IF** children, families, parents, caregivers and communities are engaged in community structures that identify key child protection issues and risks within their community and respond to and mitigate them,
- THEN,** more children in Philippines will be protected from violence.

Assumptions

There are eight major assumptions which are inherent to the change pathway outlined above:

1. The Government will continue to acknowledge the need to strengthen the social welfare and child protection system and agree to work with UNICEF to address issues and challenges at the national and local level.
2. The Government will continue to prioritise addressing and preventing VAC.
3. The Government will remain open to cooperate with the UN, including in the implementation of recommendations from the concluding observations of the CRC and SG reports on children and armed conflict in the Philippines.
4. The UN will continue to enjoy a collegial relationship with DND and AFP, will acknowledge the issues raised in the United Nation's Secretary-General's Reports, and agree to develop proactive measures through a Strategic Plan with the UN.
5. The Government will concur and continue to endorse UN's negotiation with non-state armed groups for the development and implementation of MRM Action Plans.
6. Non-state armed groups will continue to acknowledge the issues raised in the United Nation's Secretary-General's Reports on Children and Armed Conflict in the Philippines, and agree to develop MRM Action Plans with the UN.
7. NGOs will continue to be impartial in verifying grave violations.
8. The Government will continue to collaborate with the UN in implementing support to the communities of disengaged and children at risk of recruitment and use by armed groups.

Risks

Two critical risks have been identified which, if they occur, will block or require significant adjustment of the change pathway:

- Bills detrimental to child protection are passed/not passed such as the bill on lowering the age of minimum criminal responsibility is passed while the bills on the prohibition of corporal punishment and promotion of positive discipline and the increasing the age of statutory rape do not pass into law.
- The Government does not allocate resources to build capacities and increase the number of para-professionals in the social welfare workforce and child protection specialists.
- The form of government changes to federalism which will affect the implementation of child protection laws and policies at the local level.

Refer to Annex 1 for a detailed TOC diagram on the Protective Environment outcome.

3.1. PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGIES

UNICEF's strategic focus for 2019–2023 is to support the strengthening of the legal and regulatory child protection framework. This will include coordination of the child protection system at national and local levels, and across government departments, with a focus on addressing social norms that encourage and condone VAC. It will provide more attention to upstream policy work and strengthening regional and provincial structures. Parenting support interventions will be part of the strategy to address social norms that encourage and condone VAC, and promote VAC prevention and response. Protection of children living in Mindanao will be a priority, considering the multiple deprivations they face, and the weak capacities of local systems, as well as the increased risk/threats posed by armed conflict and natural hazards.

Outcome Statement: By 2023, more children and adolescents, particularly the most vulnerable, benefit from more effective, quality, gender-sensitive, preventive, and responsive child protection system, and live in communities that better protect children from violence.

The Protective Environment outcome will ensure that *children live in a safe and protective environment*, guided by evidence and data collected during the previous country programme (NBS-VAC 2015), in close partnership with the government, supported by the PPAeVAC drafted by the government, with UNICEF technical support.

Core messages and interventions on VAC prevention and response will be integrated within health, education, and WASH sectors to ensure an essential multisectoral response.

The Programme Component will be implemented through the following change strategies:

- a) UNICEF will continue to support *research and evidence generation*, including the on-going National Study on the Online Exploitation of Children, as well as the KidsOnline Survey, to inform and guide upstream policy development agenda to better protect children from violence.
- b) UNICEF will continue to *strengthen partnerships with government, convene and coordinate partners, and to share critical and innovative knowledge, tools and resources* to strengthen capacity and ensure the Philippine's leadership in addressing child online protection, in conjunction with broader efforts to prevent and address child sexual exploitation in offline environments.
- c) Build on current gains and continue to support the development of strategies that strengthens national commitment to multisectoral coordinated plans and actions, linking health, education, social welfare and WASH sectors, cognizant of available global tools and partnerships such as the INSPIRE strategies and status of the Philippines as a pathfinding country.
- d) Further efforts will be undertaken to *build evidence on the effectiveness of existing Parenting Support Interventions, and support the scale-up of tested and proven initiatives*. This will include regional learning and sharing of information and experience, particularly among ASEAN countries.
- e) UNICEF will *work with non-traditional child protection partners* such as the Internet Service Providers and financial and remittance centres, particularly for work on child online protection.
- f) UNICEF will continue to *support legal and policy reforms* to address challenges in law enforcement, including continued support for child friendly justice systems, advocacy around the age of criminal responsibility, and specific attention to the age of sexual consent.
- g) UNICEF will further support *strengthening of gender-sensitive, emergency-resilient, multisectoral Child protection systems with emphasis on regional mechanisms* to better support LGUs, LCPCs and their social welfare and child protection services and linking with health, education and WASH sectors for an integrated approach.
- h) UNICEF will work with partners to *increase access to justice for children* through improving the family courts system, and diversion programmes and tracking of diversion cases.
- i) UNICEF will *promote public discussion and advocacy on the risk and threat of violence against children* to increase knowledge and skills for the care and protection of children.
- j) UNICEF will *engage the participation of children* on behaviour change strategies for the protection and empowerment of their peers in the use of the Internet.
- k) UNICEF will continue to support the training on Social Norms and VAC and social mobilization towards desired behaviour change and positive social and gender norms.
- l) UNICEF is committed to support the *implementation of the Monitoring and Reporting Mechanism on grave violations against children in situations of armed conflict*.
- m) UNICEF will continue to *support normalization and prevention efforts regarding the recruitment of children as part of broader peace building efforts*.

- n) UNICEF will expand its partnership with national social welfare consortiums, and other similar groups to elicit support and commitment in the implementation of LGUs Annual Investment Plan integrating child protection concerns.
- o) UNICEF will utilize the findings and programme the recommendations of the scheduled Evaluation of the Government-UNICEF Child Protection Programme in Year 2 as it is aligned to the identified Outcome of children and adolescents living in protective environment.

Four *Outputs* will contribute towards the achievement of the above stated *Outcome where Output 1 addresses the Enabling Environment for a functional child protection system, Outputs 2 and 3 focus on the gaps in Supply, and Output 4 pertains to the demand side:*

Output 1: The legislative and institutional framework is strengthened to better protect girls and boys vulnerable and exposed to violence, abuse, exploitation, and harmful gender norms.

For this output to be realized, focusing on upstream, national level interventions, UNICEF will support the following major lines of action together with government and key partners:

- Strengthening of legal protection frameworks and policies that prevent and protect children and adolescents from violence offline or online through legislative review, policy gap analysis, and actual conduct of research, studies, programme assessment and evaluations to guide UNICEF’s child protection’s legislative advocacy work
- Working with critical national executive agencies, including law enforcement, and the judiciary to enhance the capacity of family courts to ensure inclusive access of children to justice, whether as complainant-victims, perpetrators who are CICL or as witnesses. This will include improving the competency of family court judges, court personnel, and social workers on child-sensitive processes for handling cases (including that of Online Sexual Exploitation and Abuse) and efficient management of Diversion and Alternatives to Detention.⁶⁴
- Supporting policy to increase the utility of diversion and alternatives to detention and institutionalizing guidelines on diversion at the level of court, including measuring impact on children in conflict with the law and their families
- Providing technical assistance in the implementation of appropriate, gender-sensitive, emergency-resilient, legal protection programmes for children with a focus on ending VAC, online sexual exploitation, juvenile justice, trafficking, increasing quality of implementation of child protection laws and systems, and child-oriented governance
- UNICEF will continue to work with the Philippine Government from different sectors including Social Welfare, Education and Health, in applying INSPIRE: Seven Strategies for Ending Violence against Children with WHO and other international and national partners, to support implementation of the SDGs on violence prevention.
- Supporting Government in operationalizing the PPAeVAC and linking opportunities to being a ‘pathfinding country’ including the formulation of a Monitoring and Evaluation framework to measure the results of the implementation of the national plan.
- Support national government partners and VAC networks in working with LGUs to localise the PPAeVAC. The intent is for national agencies to engage and increase capacity of local governments in the conduct of community mobilization and consultation thereby expanding citizens’ participation to end violence and the space in governance for the community to influence policymaking.
- UNICEF will promote South-South learning through sharing information and relevant resources and encouraging study visits to profile good practice in the Philippines.

⁶⁴ The competency enhancement training (CET) was evaluated and determined to be an effective curriculum that increases capacity of justice actors, with both knowledge and skills. UNICEF has influenced the judiciary to recognize as emerging issues the threat of child online sexual exploitation and the resistance of judges and court personnel to apply diversion and alternatives to detention.

- Through appropriate programming, support the Evaluation Management Response following the scheduled Evaluation of the Government-UNICEF Child Protection Programme.
- Through a planned study on VAC/VAW convergence, the issues around child union and marriage will be explored resulting to an agenda that will address the outcomes of the research.

Output 2: The child welfare system has strengthened capacity to deliver local, multisectoral, gender-sensitive services that prevent and respond to violence against children.

For this output to be realized, UNICEF will support the following major lines of action together with government and key partners:

- Assessment of the current child protection system, mapping of social welfare workforce and key partner agencies, enhancing collaboration, improving the management and implementation of social welfare service delivery; and enhancing the local professional social welfare workforce including the para-professionals and community-volunteers,⁶⁵ including the support for the review of policies and guidelines governing the social welfare workforce and the risk and challenges faced by social workers; and enhancing their capacity to link with the health, education and justice sectors to ensure holistic, multisectoral interventions.
- Enhancing the regional and provincial governance structures, including ARMM and Regional Sub-Committees for the Welfare of Children (RSCWCs), in their mentoring role in strengthening community-based structures on VAC prevention and multisectoral response at local levels, through the Local Councils for the Protection of Children (LCPCs) exercising an expanded mandate to include education, health and justice services as well as ensuring emergency and disaster resilient local CP systems.
- Building the capacity of LGUs in research, modelling strategies, providing technical assistance to LGUs in planning and programming, using monitoring tools, data analysis, and budgeting and others to be supported by the Regional Field Offices.
- Provision of guidance and examples from global and regional tools and resources, and through promoting South-South learning and cooperation where other ASEAN countries are similarly engaged in addressing challenges in social welfare systems.⁶⁶
- Expanding partnerships, particularly with academia and research institutions⁶⁷ and the social welfare consortium, and other social work groups to build knowledge and evidence on child protection issues and concerns and establishing a system of exchange of information on VAC.
- Encouraging high level political will and identifying child protection ‘champions’.
- Implementation of the National Response Plan to Address and Prevent Child Online Sexual Exploitation and Abuse, and related laws on children at risk of HIV and teenage pregnancy linking with work on the Outcomes Children and Adolescents Survive and Thrive and Lifelong Learning
- Localisation of the PPAeVAC and the 3rd National Plan of Action for Children
- Strategic partnerships with CSOs, FBOs, academic institutions, WHO and other UN agencies, and sectoral partners in education and health to promote and enhance parenting support interventions.
- Capacity-building of justice actors at the local levels on integrated Care Management Protocol for Handling the CICL and the Protocol on Case Management for Child Victims of Abuse, Exploitation and Neglect to better serve and protect children in contact with the justice system
- Increase the utility of community-based diversion and alternatives to detention and institutionalizing guidelines on diversion at the level of the community, including documenting and measuring impact on children in conflict with the law and their families.

⁶⁵ Social Workers in the Philippines are graduates of Bachelor of Science in Social Work and are licensed to practice by the Professional Regulations Commission based on Republic Act 4373, the law that regulates the practice of social work. The Magna Carta for Public Social Workers Republic Act 9433 is another law that regulates social work practice in the public sector.

⁶⁶Malaysia has recently introduced a bill to support a strengthened social welfare workforce; Myanmar has supported increased capacity for social welfare case management.

⁶⁷UNICEF has partnered with Parenting for Lifelong Health (PLH) to support research on Parenting Support Interventions that are relevant for the Philippines, as part of ongoing global research and pilot testing in the Philippines.

- Linking with local Education, Health and WASH sectors, as part of its intervention plan, to mainstream VAC-related messages and processes in their systems
- In Mindanao, justice for children programming will be piloted in one province, contingent on political and security conditions.
- Through appropriate programming, support the Evaluation Management Response following the scheduled Evaluation of the Government-UNICEF Child Protection Programme

Output 3: Children and adolescents affected by disasters and in Mindanao affected by armed conflict are increasingly able to access critical social services.

For this output to be realized, UNICEF will support the following major lines of action together with government and key partners:

- Strengthening the MRM on Grave Child Right Rights Violations (GCRVs) in Situations of Conflict including mobilisation and capacity development of civil society organisations for monitoring and reporting. Influencing parties to the conflict to end and prevent grave violations against children, through sustained dialogue with non-state armed groups and the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP).
- Providing technical assistance to CHR and other mandated agencies to support child victims of armed conflict, promote alternative measures to detention, reduce levels of impunity and provide services
- Strengthening the capacity of the CHR and the Regional Human Rights Commission (RHRC) to monitor GCRVs, in providing legal assistance to the victims and support the enactment of Children in Situations of Armed Conflict Bill
- Strengthening capacities of government to have multisectoral coordination and response engaging protection, education, health, nutrition, WASH and other services to all communities in conflict-affected provinces in Mindanao, including in times of emergencies as part of peacebuilding/normalization programming.
- Supporting community dialogues for local populations to engage among themselves and with local government on key issues relating to children’s rights and gaps, and in doing so strengthen social cohesion
- Promoting peace and prevention of violent extremism, including work with communities and religious leaders to promote child protection and peace messages in conflict-affected communities
- Supporting young people networks to promote adolescent and young people’s civic engagement in peacebuilding and development
- Providing technical assistance and policy development to regional, provincial and local systems to strengthen child protection systems
- Maintaining the co-lead role on the National Child Protection Working Group (NCPWG) which involves facilitating the activation and strengthening of all 17 RCPWG structures
- Supporting the promotion and implementation of minimum standards for child protection in humanitarian action through policy advocacy and capacity building on RA 10821 as well as emergency preparedness and responses in line with the CCCs
- Through appropriate programming, supporting the Evaluation Management Response following the scheduled Evaluation of the Government-UNICEF Child Protection Programme.

Output 4: The general public in the Philippines, adolescents in particular, are better informed and act to eliminate all forms of violence.

- Influencing public opinion and promoting a social movement against all forms of VAC and women; this will include identification of champions and political advocates to support campaigns and awareness raising efforts
- Initiating and sustaining public discussion on VAC and related child online protection issues and heightening awareness on the negative and long-lasting impact of violence on children and the need for behavioural and attitudinal changes towards VAC using the multimedia

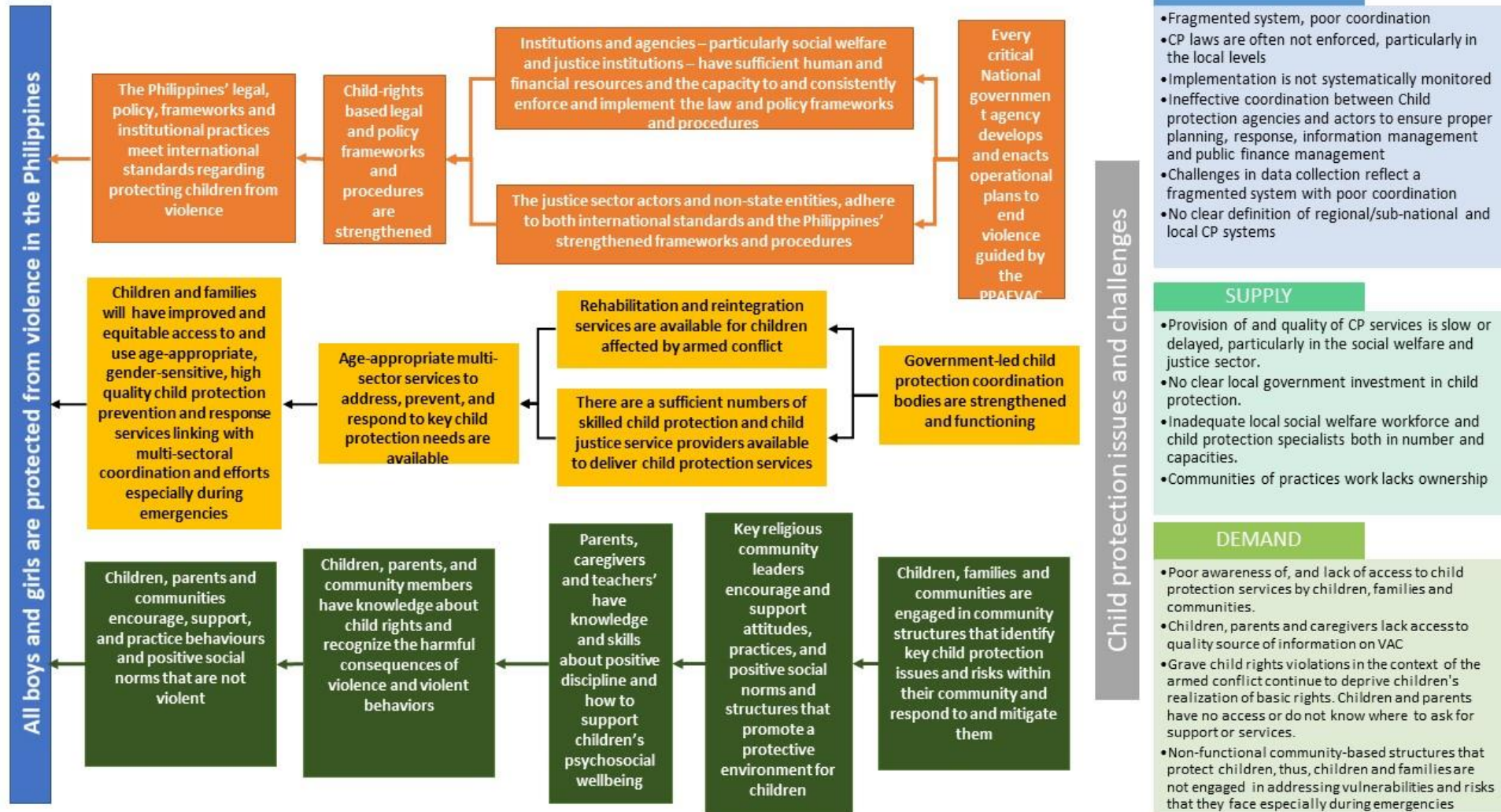
- Supporting the implementation of the PPAeVAC, the Communications Plan of the Inter-Agency Council against Child Pornography and the National Response Plan to Prevent and Address Child Online Sexual Exploitation and Abuse
- Engaging the private sector, particularly the ICT industry (to be linked with Children’s Rights and Business), and relevant partners in child online protection work
- Increasing children’s participation, according to their evolving capacity, on ending VAC and building resilience in navigating the digital environment
- Supporting national and local government partners in developing strategies to mobilize communities to identify and report cases of neglect, abuse and exploitation of children, and ensure victim access to services
- Supporting local governments to increase its capacity to conduct inclusive community mobilization and gender-sensitive consultation expanding citizens’ participation to end violence and the space in governance for the community to influence VAC-related policies
- Through appropriate programming, supporting the Evaluation Management Response following the scheduled Evaluation of the Government-UNICEF Child Protection Programme.

4. RESULTS STRUCTURE AND FRAMEWORK⁶⁸

Key Results
<p>Sustainable Development Goals: SDG 16: Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 16.1 Significantly reduce all forms of violence and related death rates everywhere <p>SDG 5: End all forms of gender inequality, particularly discrimination against women and girls</p>
<p>Philippine Development Plan (2017-2022): Chapter 12: Building Safe and Secure Communities Chapter 17: Attaining Just and Lasting Peace</p>
<p>UNDAF Strategic Priority Area: People Pillar: By 2023, the most marginalized, vulnerable, and at risk groups benefit from inclusive and quality services and live in a supportive environment wherein their nutrition, food security, and health are ensured/protected.</p> <p>Peace Pillar: By 2023, diverse cultural history and identity sufficiently recognized, inclusive and responsive governance established, sustainable development accelerated for just and lasting peace in conflict-affected areas in Mindanao.</p>
<p>UNICEF Strategic Plan 2018-2022: Goal Area 4: Every child lives in a safe and clean environment</p>
<p>UNICEF EAPRO Strategic Focus (Regional Headlines): Early moments matter Adolescents’ potential unleashed Children grow up in a safe and sustainable environment</p>

⁶⁸ Refer to Annex 2 for a visual on the alignment of this Outcome to the following overarching frameworks: Sustainable Development Goals 2030, Philippine Development Plan (2017-2022), UNICEF Global Strategic Plan (2018-2021), UNDAF (2019-2023), and UNICEF EAPRO Regional Headline Results.

Annex 1. TOC Diagram on Protective Environment Outcome



[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Note for the Record

Subject: **Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA)**

As part of the development of the [REDACTED] and in accordance with recommended practice, the UNICEF Country Office [REDACTED] has undertaken an initial screening of all proposed activities within each draft programme component to assess their potential impact on the environment.

The Country Office applied the recommended assessment methodology as described in the PPP Manual, Chapter 6, Section 3 (the Manual's 2011 version), namely Checklist 1 "Initial Screening". The completed checklist attached to this note reflects that the Country Office considers that the programme components contemplated in the draft Country Programme Document, submitted to the UNICEF [REDACTED], should have no impact on the environment.

Sincerely,

[REDACTED]

Attachment 1 – Checklist 1 "*Initial Screening*"

[REDACTED]

Checklist 1- Initial Screening

Does the proposed programme or project contain activities that fall under one or more of the following categories? If the answer is **NO**, and EIA is not required, and the process is complete

- Extraction of water (e.g., groundwater, surface water, and rain water) NO
- Disposal of solid or liquid wastes (e.g., human faeces, animal wastes, used supplies from a health centre or health campaign) NO
- Use of chemical (e.g., pesticides, insecticides, paint and water disinfectant) NO
- Use of energy (e.g., coal, gas, oil, wood and hydro, solar or wind power) NO
- Exploitation of natural resources (e.g., trees, plants, minerals, rocks, soil) NO
- Construction work above household level (e.g., hospital or school) NO
- Changing land use (deforestation, forestation, and developing industrial housing or recreational centres) NO
- Agricultural production (e.g., growing crops, fish farming) NO
- Industrial production (e.g., small scale town/village workshops) NO

