CHILD LABOR

IN THE PHILIPPINES

BUREAU OF WORKERS WITH SPECIAL CONCERNS
DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND EMPLOYMENT
Results of the 2011 Survey on Children conducted by the Philippine Statistics Authority with support from the International Labour Organization showed that an estimated **2.097 million children** 5 to 17 years of age were engaged in child labor, **2.049 million** of whom were in hazardous child labor.

The five (5) areas with highest child labor incidence were:

- Region 3 - Central Luzon (10.5%)
- Region 5 - Bicol Region (10.4%)
- Region 10 - Northern Mindanao (8.5%)
- Region 4-A - CALABARZON (8.3%)
- Region 6 - Western Visayas (8.2%)

More than half of the 2.097 million children engaged in child labor (58.4%) were in the **agriculture industry** which includes crop and animal production, hunting and related service activities, forestry and logging, and fishing and aquaculture. **34.6%** were in the **services sector** which includes, among others, wholesale and retail trade, transportation and storage, accommodation and food service activities and information and communication. The remaining **7%** were engaged in the **industry group** which include mining and quarrying, manufacturing and construction.

The most number of child labor were in the ages 15 to 17 years (1.2 million). Boys outnumbered their female counterparts with a ratio of 198 boys for every 100 girls of the same group.
SITUATIONER
ON CHILD LABOR IN THE PHILIPPINES

Working children were mostly exposed to physical hazards than to chemical or biological hazards. Eight in every 10 children working in hazardous environment were reported working in an environment exposed to physical hazards. Moreover, a significant proportion of the children working in hazardous environment were exposed to more than one type of hazards.

The main reasons why the children worked were:
(a) to help in their own household-operated farm or business; and (b) to earn in order to supplement the income of their family.

LAWS & POLICIES
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LEGISLATIVE ENACTMENTS

Republic Act No. 9231 (An Act Providing for the Elimination of the Worst Forms of Child Labor and Affording Stronger Protection for the Working Child, Amending for this Purpose Republic Act No. 7610, as amended, otherwise known as the "Special Protection of Children Against Child Abuse, Exploitation and Discrimination Act") was signed into law on 19 December 2013. It provides for minimum employable age; hours of work of a working child; prohibition on the engagement of children in worst forms of child labor; and provides administrative and criminal sanctions for violations.
Republic Act No. 9231 and its Implementing Rules and Regulations define child labor as any work or economic activity performed by a child that subjects him/her to any form of exploitation or is harmful to his/her health and safety or physical, mental or psychosocial development.

The following are considered worst forms of child labor:

1. All forms of slavery, as defined under the "Anti-trafficking in Persons Act of 2003", or practices similar to slavery such as sale and trafficking of children, debt bondage and serfdom and forced or compulsory labor, including recruitment of children for use in armed conflict; or

2. The use, procuring, offering or exposing of a child for prostitution, for the production of pornography or for pornographic performances; or

3. The use, procuring or offering of a child for illegal or illicit activities, including the production and trafficking of dangerous drugs and volatile substances prohibited under existing laws; or

4. Work which, by its nature or the circumstances in which it is carried out, is hazardous or likely to be harmful to the health, safety or morals of children, such that it:
   a. Debasers, degrades or demeans the intrinsic worth and dignity of a child as a human being; or
   b. Exposes the child to physical, emotional or sexual abuse, or is found to be highly stressful psychologically or may prejudice morals; or
   c. Is performed underground, underwater or at dangerous heights; or
   d. Involves the use of dangerous machinery, equipment and tools such as power-driven or explosive power-actuated tools; or
   e. Exposes the child to physical danger such as, but not limited to the dangerous feats of balancing, physical strength or contortion, or which requires the manual transport of heavy loads; or
   f. Is performed in an unhealthy environment exposing the child to hazardous working conditions, elements, substances, co-agents or processes involving ionizing, radiation, fire, flammable substances, noxious components and the like, or to extreme temperatures, noise levels, or vibrations; or
   g. Is performed under particularly difficult conditions; or
   h. Exposes the child to biological agents such as bacteria, fungi, viruses, protozoans, nematodes and other parasites; or
   i. Involves the manufacture or handling of explosives and other pyrotechnic products.
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Other child labor-related laws:

**Republic Act No. 11315** *(Community-Based Monitoring System Act)* was signed into law on 17 April 2019. It institutionalized the Community-Based Monitoring System, an organized technology-based system of collecting, processing and validating necessary disaggregated data that may be used for planning, program implementation and impact monitoring at the local level while empowering communities to participate in the process. Under Republic Act No. 11315, a Community-Based Monitoring System is established and instituted in every city and municipality as an economic and social tool towards the formulation and implementation of poverty alleviation and development programs which are specific, targeted and responsive to the basic needs of each sector of the community.

**Republic Act No. 11310** *(Pantawid Pamilyang Pilipino Program Act)* was signed into law on 17 April 2019. It institutionalized the Pantawid Pamilyang Pilipino Program or Conditional Cash Transfer Program which is the national poverty reduction strategy and a human capital investment program that provides conditional cash transfer to poor households for a maximum period of seven (7) years to improve the health, nutrition and education aspect of their lives.

**Republic Act No. 11188** *(Special Protection of Children in Situations of Armed Conflict Act)* was signed into law on 10 January 2019. It provides protection for children in situations of armed conflict including children involved in armed conflict. Under Republic Act No. 11188, the State shall take all feasible measures to prevent the recruitment, re-recruitment, use, displacement of, or grave child rights violations against children involved in armed conflict.

**Republic Act No. 10821** *(Children’s Emergency Relief and Protection Act)* was signed into law on 18 May 2016. It provides that upon the declaration of a national and local state of calamity, the Philippine National Police and the Department of Social Welfare and Development, with the assistance of the Armed Forces of the Philippines operating units in the area and local councils against trafficking and violence against women and their children, in accordance with existing laws, shall immediately heighten comprehensive measures and monitoring to prevent child trafficking, labor, and prostitution, including domestic and sexual violence, in the areas declared under a state of calamity.
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**Republic Act No. 10533 (Enhanced Basic Education Act of 2013)** was signed into law on 13 May 2013. It makes basic education (kindergarten, elementary, secondary and alternative learning system) compulsory.

**Republic Act No. 10364 (Expanded Anti-Trafficking in Persons Act of 2012)** was signed into law on 6 February 2013. The worst forms of child labor defined in Republic Act No. 9231 are considered acts of trafficking under Republic Act No. 10364.

**Republic Act No. 10361 (Domestic Workers Act or Batas Kasambahay)** was signed into law on 18 January 2013. It provides that it is unlawful to employ any person below 15 years of age as a domestic worker. It also provides that employment of domestic workers who are 15 years old and above but below 18 years old shall be subject to the provisions of Republic Act No. 7610, as amended, and they shall be entitled to minimum wage and all benefits provided under the Domestic Workers Act.

**Republic Act No. 9775 (Anti-Child Pornography Act of 2009)** was signed into law on 17 November 2009. The use, procuring, offering or exposing of a child for prostitution, for the production of pornography, or for pornographic performances is one of the worst forms of child labor defined in Republic Act No. 9231.
To further protect children from child labor, the DOLE issued the following policies:

**Department Orders**

**Department Order No. 217, Series of 2020** *(Rules and Regulations Governing Recruitment and Placement of Domestic Workers by Private Employment Agencies for Local Employment)* issued on 27 October 2020 provides that one of the requirements for application for issuance of license to operate of a private employment agency is a Notarized Affidavit of Undertaking stating that the applicant shall denounce and never support nor engage in any or all acts involving illegal recruitment, trafficking in persons, violation of anti-child labor laws or crimes involving moral turpitude or similar activities.

**Department Order No. 216, Series of 2020** *(Rules and Regulations Governing Recruitment and Placement of Industry Workers by Private Employment Agencies for Local Employment)* issued on 27 October 2020 provides that one of the requirements for application for issuance of license to operate of a private employment agency is a Notarized Affidavit of Undertaking stating that the applicant shall denounce and never support nor engage in any or all acts involving illegal recruitment, trafficking in persons, violation of anti-child labor laws or crimes involving moral turpitude or similar activities.

**Department Order No. 183, Series of 2017** *(Revised Rules on the Administration and Enforcement of Labor Laws Pursuant to Article 128 of the Labor Code, as Renumbered)* issued on 3 October 2017 reiterates that among the priority establishments and workplaces in the conduct of routine inspection are those employing children. Routine inspection refers to the process of evaluating compliance with labor laws and social legislations jointly undertaken by the labor inspector and the representatives of the employers and the employees using the prescribed inspection checklist.

**Department Order No. 175, Series of 2017** *(Implementing Rules and Regulations of Republic Act No. 10917 Amending for the Purpose Republic Acts 9547 and 7323, Otherwise Known as the Special Program for Employment of Students)* on 21 March 2017 provides that SPES beneficiaries shall not be engaged in any hazardous work or undertaking and their working hours should be consistent with Republic Act No. 9231.
Department Order No. 173, Series of 2017 (Revised Guidelines in the Implementation of the Department of Labor and Employment Integrated Livelihood and Emergency Employment Programs) issued on 13 February 2017 provides that beneficiaries of livelihood programs of the DOLE should not allow their children to be engaged in child labor.

Department Order No. 159, Series of 2016 (Guidelines for the Employment of Migratory Sugarcane Workers) issued on 22 June 2016 prescribes standards to be followed in hiring migratory sugarcane workers. The Guidelines provides, among others, the requirements for the issuance of authority to hire before employers and/or contractors may be allowed to hire and/or transport these workers. It includes a provision on prohibition against child labor.

Department Order No. 156, Series of 2016 (Rules and Regulations Governing the Working and Living Conditions of Fishers on Board Fishing Vessels Engaged in Commercial Fishing Operation) issued on 25 May 2016 provides that fishing vessel owners engaged in child labor and forced labor shall be penalized pursuant to appropriate provisions of the Revised Penal Code, Republic Act No. 7610, Republic Act No. 7658, Republic Act No. 9208, Republic Act No. 9231 and Republic Act No. 10364.

Department Order No. 149, Series of 2016 (Guidelines in Assessing and Determining Hazardous Work in the Employment of Persons Below 18 Years of Age) issued on 15 February 2016 enumerates the different work and activities declared hazardous for persons below 18 years of age using the industry classification under the Philippine Standard Industrial Classification and the occupational classification under the Philippine Standard Occupational Classification. It provides that social partners such as labor organizations, federations, employers’ organizations and other non-government organizations will be tapped to assist the DOLE in the dissemination and in monitoring the implementation of the Guidelines. Department Order No. 149, Series of 2016 supersedes Department Order No. 4, Series of 1999 (Hazardous Work and Activities to Persons Below 18 Years of Age). Department Order No. 149-A, Series of 2017 amended the Guidelines particularly work and activities under Farmers and Other Plant Growers and Animal Producers occupational classifications.

Department Order No. 65-04 (Rules and Regulations Implementing Republic Act No. 9231 Amending R.A. No 7610, as amended) was issued on 26 July 2004 pursuant to Section 10 of Republic Act No. 9231 to effectively implement the provisions of the law.
Department Circulars

Department Circular No. 2, Series of 2017 *(Guidelines on the Issuance of Work Permit for Children Below 15 Years of Age Engaged in Public Entertainment or Information)* issued on 30 October 2017 aims to guide the DOLE Regional/Provincial/Field Offices on the issuance of Working Child Permit pursuant to Republic Act No. 9231. Said Department Circular was amended by Department Circular No. 2, Series of 2018 to clarify the following: (1) exclusion from the coverage of working child permit the children below 15 years of age who will be featured in a documentary material; (2) inclusion of procedure in case there is a need to re-schedule the performance of the child due to unforeseen events; (3) clarification on who will be issued Group Permit; and (4) who can exercise substitute parental authority over the child and the documentary requirements to be submitted.

Department Circular No. 2, Series of 2012 *(Adopting the Manual of Procedures in Handling Complaints on Trafficking in Persons, Illegal Recruitment and Child Labor)* issued on 10 May 2012 serves as the standard operating procedure to be used by the DOLE Regional/Field Offices in implementing the relevant provisions of the Labor Code, Republic Act No. 9231, Republic Act No. 9208, Republic Act No. 10002 and other related laws to achieve an organized and effective management of cases on trafficking in persons, illegal recruitment and child labor.

Department Circular No. 2, Series of 2010 *(Adopting the Manual on the Conduct of Inspection, Rescue and Enforcement Proceedings in Child Labor Cases)* was issued on 2 July 2010 to provide a clear procedure for the DOLE implementers in the performance of their duties and functions as provided under Republic Act No. 9231.

Child Labor in the Philippines

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**Labor Advisories**

**Labor Advisory No. 24-A, Series of 2020** *(Revised Guidelines on Engagement of Children 15 to below 18 Years of Age in Public Entertainment or Information during Community Quarantine)* issued on 11 September 2020 provides that a child 15 to below 18 years of age may be allowed to participate on-cam in studio or location shoots for public entertainment or information during community quarantine provided that the minimum public health standards are strictly implemented and observed.

**Labor Advisory No. 23, Series of 2020** *(Engagement or Participation of a Child below 15 Years of Age in Public Entertainment or Information Pursuant to the Omnibus Guidelines on the Implementation of Community Quarantine in the Philippines)* issued on 23 June 2020 allows children below 15 years of age to be engaged in public entertainment or information during the community quarantine period subject to the following conditions: (a) the child’s performance of the assigned task, such as photo or audio-video recording, shall be done in the child’s home under the supervision of the child’s adult family members; (b) representatives of the employer or production staff may be allowed to go to the child’s residence, when necessary, to assist the child in performing the assigned task; and (c) the employer must secure a permit from the DOLE prior to engaging the child for work.

**Labor Advisory No. 9, Series of 2017** *(Guidance to Host Establishments in Ensuring Safe Workplaces for Senior High School Students under Work Immersion Program)* issued on 14 July 2017 provides that senior high school students between 15 and 18 years of age shall not be exposed to hazardous materials and environments and shall not be required to undergo work immersion between 10:00 p.m. and 6:00 a.m. of the following day. The Work Immersion Program is a component of the K to 12 Basic Education Program pursuant to Republic Act No. 10533 (Enhanced Basic Education Act) which aims to provide senior high school students with opportunities to become familiar with the workplace, for employment simulation, and to apply their competence in areas of specialization/applied subjects in authentic work environments necessary in preparing them for curriculum exits (i.e. higher education, employment, middle-skills development, and entrepreneurship).
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Administrative Orders

Administrative Order No. 579, Series of 2019 *(Revised Guidelines on the Profiling of Child Laborers and Provision of Services to Remove them from Child Labor)* issued on 27 December 2019 guides the DOLE Regional Offices on the process of withdrawing children from child labor.

Administrative Order No. 551, Series of 2018 *(Creation of DOLE Task Force Against Illegal Recruitment, Recruitment of Minor Workers, and Trafficking in Persons)* guides the Department to have a more focused, concerted, coordinated and effective program of action to stop and eliminate illegal recruitment, trafficking in persons and recruitment of minor workers.

Administrative Order No. 439, Series of 2016 *(Child Protection Policy of the Department of Labor and Employment)* issued on 16 August 2016 provides a framework of principles, standards, guidelines and procedures in relation to creating a “child-safe and child-friendly” organization; awareness-raising and prevention of abuse; personnel recruitment and training; management system; guidelines for appropriate and inappropriate behavior; guidelines for communication regarding children; and recognizing, reporting and responding to allegations of abuse.

Protocol

**Protocol on the Rescue and Rehabilitation of Abused Kasambahay** was issued on 29 October 2015 pursuant to Republic Act No. 10361 *(Domestic Workers Act or Batas Kasambahay)* to provide guidelines to concerned agencies for the immediate rescue and rehabilitation of abused or exploited kasambahay (domestic worker) including child domestic workers. Signatories to this Protocol are heads of the Department of Social Welfare and Development, Department of the Interior and Local Government, Department of Labor and Employment, National Bureau of Investigation and Philippine National Police.
The Philippine Program Against Child Labor (PPACL) envisions a child labor-free Philippines. It works to transform the lives of child laborers, their families, and communities towards their sense of self-worth, empowerment, and development. It works towards the prevention and progressive elimination of child labor through protection, withdrawal, healing, and reintegration of child workers into a caring society, and supports alleviation of extreme poverty which has been the main cause of child labor in the country.

### INTERMEDIATE OUTCOMES OF THE PPACL STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK 2020-2022

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<th>Number</th>
<th>Outcome</th>
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<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Strengthened and localized National Council Against Child Labor towards better coordination of its members and partners at all levels</td>
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<td>2</td>
<td>Improved and inclusive enforcement of anti-child labor laws at the national and local</td>
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<td>3</td>
<td>Expanded access of child laborers and their families to social protection, including health, education, child protection, and decent work</td>
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<td>4</td>
<td>Improved generation, dissemination, and use of knowledge on child labor among stakeholders, policymakers, program implementers, and the general public</td>
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<td>5</td>
<td>National Child Labor Monitoring and Evaluation System established and maintained</td>
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In order to contribute to the global target of ending child labor by 2025 under Goal 8 of the Sustainable Development Goals, the National Child Labor Committee agreed to target one (1) million children withdrawn from child labor by 2025.

One (1) million children is about 50% of the 2.1 million children engaged in child labor based on the 2011 Survey on Children conducted by the Philippine Statistics Authority.

For 2017-2022, the target is to withdraw 30% of the 2.1 million children engaged in child labor based on the 2011 Survey on Children. 30% of the 2.1 million children is roughly 630,000 children. This target is included in the Philippine Development Plan for 2017 to 2022.

During the IV Global Conference on the Sustained Eradication of Child Labour held on 14-16 November 2017 in Argentina, the Philippine delegation led by the DOLE pledged "Within the years 2017-2021, the Philippines should have removed more than half a million (560,000) children from child labor, with the following annual targets: 15,000 for 2017; 100,000 for 2018; 150,000 for 2019; 175,000 for 2020; and 120,000 for 2021. These targets represent commitments of stakeholders as indicated in the Philippine Development Plan 2017-2022".
EXECUTIVE ORDER
NO. 92, SERIES OF 2019
INSTITUTIONALIZING THE NATIONAL COUNCIL AGAINST CHILD LABOR

On 17 September 2019, President Rodrigo Duterte signed Executive Order No. 92, Series of 2019 institutionalizing the National Council Against Child Labor to upscale the implementation of the Philippine Program Against Child Labor.

The following are the salient features of Executive Order No. 92:

a. Creation of a National Council Against Child Labor to be chaired by the Department of Labor and Employment and co-chaired by the Department of Social Welfare and Development

b. Establishment of a joint Council Secretariat to be handled by the DOLE’s Bureau of Workers with Special Concerns and Bureau of Working Conditions

c. Creation of Technical Working Groups anchored on the strategic directions of the Philippine Program Against Child Labor

d. Tapping of existing regional and local councils for the protection of children or related structures to implement the Philippine Program Against Child Labor in all geographic regions of the country

e. Directing all government agencies and instrumentalities and enjoining all local government units to extend active support and assistance to the Council to effectively implement Executive Order No. 92

f. Mandating the member-agencies of the Council to charge the initial funding requirements for the implementation of Executive Order No. 92 against their current appropriations and to include in their respective budget proposals for the succeeding years

g. Submission of semi-annual report to the President
With the issuance of Executive Order No. 92, the National Council Against Child Labor replaced the existing National Child Labor Committee as the coordinating body in the prevention and elimination of child labor in the country. Specifically, the Council is tasked to:

a. Formulate a framework, national action plan, and such other policies, guidelines and programs for the effective enforcement of RA No. 7610, as amended, and other related laws and regulations;

b. Coordinate and oversee the implementation of the PPACL by all concerned agencies and organizations;

c. Coordinate and conduct advocacy campaigns and information dissemination on child labor and existing laws related thereto;

d. Establish child-appropriate mechanisms, including the conduct of capacity-building activities for child laborers, their families and communities, towards their meaningful participation and empowerment;

e. Develop and maintain a knowledge and data management system on child labor that ensures the sharing of relevant information, fosters communication, and improves program monitoring of child labor case referrals;

f. Ensure the conduct of researches, studies, surveys and assessments on child labor, for policy and program development and enhancement;

g. Establish and maintain effective monitoring and evaluation mechanisms, taking into account national action plans and other time-bound measures;

h. Monitor the status of cases filed against individuals, agencies, institutions or establishments that violate the provisions of laws on child labor;

i. Foster cooperation with international development agencies and other competent bodies to provide expert advice on the implementation of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child, International Labor Organization (ILO) Convention 138, ILO Convention 182, RA No. 7610, as amended, and other related laws;

j. Accept donations, contributions, grants or bequests from domestic or foreign sources for the purposes relevant to the Council’s mandates and functions, pursuant to relevant laws and subject to applicable budgetary, accounting and auditing rules and regulations; and

k. Perform such other powers and functions as may be directed by the President.
The structure of the National Council Against Child Labor is:

**Chairperson:** Department of Labor and Employment

**Co-Chairperson:** Department of Social Welfare and Development

**Members:**
- Department of Education
- Department of Health
- Department of the Interior and Local Government
- Department of Justice
- Department of Agriculture
- Department of Environment and Natural Resources
- National Commission on Muslim Filipinos
- National Economic and Development Authority
- Philippine Information Agency
- Technical Education and Skills Development Authority
- Council for the Welfare of Children
- National Youth Commission
- National Commission on Indigenous Peoples
- Philippine Statistics Authority
- Philippine National Police
- National Bureau of Investigation
- National Anti-Poverty Commission - Basic Sector on Children

Two (2) representatives each from the workers sector, employers sector, and non-government organizations with programs on child labor

**Secretariat:**
- Bureau of Workers with Special Concerns
- Bureau of Working Conditions

Regional and Local Structures against Child Labor
Goal 8: Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all

Target 8.7: Take immediate and effective measures to eradicate forced labour, end modern slavery and human trafficking and secure the prohibition and elimination of the worst forms of child labour, including recruitment and use of child soldiers, and by 2025 end child labour in all its forms

INTERNATIONAL INSTRUMENTS

UN Convention on the Rights of the Child
States parties recognize the right of the child to be protected from economic exploitation and from performing any work that is likely to be hazardous or to interfere with the child’s education, or to be harmful to the child’s health or physical, mental, spiritual, moral or social development. (Article 32)

ILO Convention No. 138 (Minimum Age Convention)
The minimum age for admission to any type of employment should not be less than the age of completion of compulsory schooling, and, in any case, shall not be less than 15 years of age.

ILO Convention No. 182 (Worst Forms of Child Labour Convention)
Each member which ratifies this Convention shall take immediate and effective measures to secure the prohibition and elimination of the worst forms of child labour as a matter of urgency.
The Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE), as the focal agency for the prevention and elimination of child labor in the Philippines and Chairperson of the National Council Against Child Labor which serves as coordinating body for the implementation of the Philippine Program Against Child Labor, initiated the profiling of child laborers in 2018 pursuant to Administrative Order No. 142, Series of 2018 in order to locate and identify the children who will be withdrawn from child labor to achieve the target in the Philippine Development Plan 2017-2022 to remove children from child labor. While the 2011 Survey on Children provided the estimates on the number of child laborers in the country and its disaggregation by region, it did not provide information on who and where these child laborers are.

The profiling activity in 2018 was conducted from June to December. The DOLE was able to tap 1,600 Government Internship Program (GIP) beneficiaries to serve as enumerators for the profiling of child laborers. For 2019, the DOLE continued the profiling of child laborers by tapping 2,509 GIP beneficiaries as enumerators. To fast track the referral of profiled child laborers, provision of necessary services, and removal of children from child labor, the DOLE hired 301 project-based community facilitators who were assigned in its 16 Regional Offices and 92 Field Offices. These community facilitators were tasked to supervise the profiling of child laborers, assess the needs of these children and their families, facilitate the provision of necessary services, and track their progress until they are removed from child labor. The profiling activity in 2019 was conducted from July to December, and covered 934 municipalities and cities in 16 regions.
For 2020, the DOLE planned to hire 2,500 GIP enumerators to continue the profiling activity. Due to the declaration of State of National Emergency in the country starting March 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the profiling of child laborers was suspended for the year.

However, the DOLE still hired 101 project-based community facilitators who were assigned at its Regional Offices and Field Offices to continue the assessment of needs of child laborers profiled in 2018 and 2019, and referral of the needs of the child laborers and their families to appropriate agencies and organizations for the provision of necessary services. The project-based community facilitators also followed up the status of the referrals made by the DOLE in 2018 and 2019, and tracked the overall progress of the child laborers and their families.

From 2018 to December 2020, a total of **266,873 child laborers** have already been profiled by the DOLE, 261,132 of whom have been referred for the provision of necessary services. A total of 59,635 child laborers have been provided with necessary services, and 56,276 have been removed from child labor.
Sagip Batang Manggagawa (SBM) is an inter-agency quick action mechanism which aims to respond to cases of child laborers in extremely abject conditions.

SBM employs an inter-agency quick action team, composed of the DOLE, DSWD and law enforcement agencies as core members, for detecting, monitoring and rescuing child laborers in hazardous and exploitative working conditions.

From 1993 to 2020, the SBM Quick Action Teams conducted a total of 981 rescue operations wherein a total of 3,621 child laborers were removed from hazardous and exploitative working conditions.

From 2003 to 2020, a total of 69 establishments engaged in prostitution or obscene or lewd shows such as KTV bars, night clubs, and massage and sauna parlors were permanently closed by the DOLE since Republic Act No. 9231 was enacted into law in 2003.
The DOLE livelihood assistance to parents of child laborers is a strategic response to prevent and eliminate child labor.

The livelihood assistance provided can be in the form of Negokart, starter kits, or materials needed to start a livelihood undertaking.

Under the Guidelines of the DOLE Integrated Livelihood and Emergency Employment Program, beneficiaries of livelihood programs of the DOLE should not allow their children to be engaged in child labor.

From 2008 to 2020, a total of **42,587 parents of child laborers** were provided by the DOLE with livelihood assistance.
Project Angel Tree aims to provide an array of social services that range from food, clothing or school supplies made available by sponsors or benefactors or “angels” to child laborers and their families.

From 2006 to 2020, a total of 81,826 child laborers and children at-risk were provided with school supplies, food packs, toiletries and other items donated by civic organizations and private institutions who acted as “angels” of the project.
Since 2002, the Philippines joins every year in the global celebration of World Day Against Child Labor through the conduct of various advocacy activities to raise awareness on the plight of child laborers.
The United States Department of Labor, in its 2019 report on Findings on the Worst Forms of Child Labor published in September 2020, has cited the Philippines as having achieved MODERATE ADVANCEMENT in its efforts to eliminate the worst forms of child labor.

The Philippines is among the 131 countries and territories profiled in this report and one of the 67 countries to receive an assessment of moderate advancement.