

Mid-term and Self-Evaluation Report

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1 Executive Summary

BACKGROUND AND CONTEXT

The project aims to effectively reduce child labour in the rural areas with targeted efforts to be undertaken in Myanmar and the Philippines. The project aims to support national efforts to facilitate reform at the policy and regulatory framework for broad national impact and sustainability. At the same time, it will ensure impact at the individual level by contributing to poverty reduction and addressing inequality, especially in the forms of child labour.

The project's overarching goal is the reduction of the worst forms of child labour in the agricultural/rural communities in selected zones. In order to reach this ultimate goal, the project interventions in Myanmar and the Philippines are designed to broadly cover: (i) child labour reduction through improvements in the education services and opportunities; (ii) economic empowerment and social mobilization of farming communities; and (iii) improvement of the regulatory framework and institutional development for the elimination of child labour. While each country component will adopt a tailored strategy to address country-specific needs and goals, all components fall within the way forward in the fight against child labour as reported by Alliance 8.7. In both countries, emphasis will be on children in the post-conflict zones and agriculture and rural communities, as child labour is prevalent in these environments and circumstances.

Project background and objectives

The project "Achieving reduction of child labour in support of education program to reduce the worst forms of child labour in agriculture" Project started in March 2020 and will last until December 2022 (received a no-cost extension), funded by the Government of Japan, with a budget of USD 2.76 million. It is mainly implemented in Myanmar and the Philippines. The project intends to capitalize on the ILO's expertise and experience in the reduction and elimination of the worst forms of child labour in the agricultural and rural communities in Asia. This will be done by strengthening the education and training systems to be more resilient with provisions to offer better education and training opportunities to children, especially those in the post-conflict zones and crisis environments, and to promote economic empowerment opportunities to the vulnerable and disadvantaged youth, including their families. The project has three outcomes as follows.

Immediate Objective 1: A reduction of the worst forms of child labour in the agricultural communities in the Mon and Shan states in Myanmar

Immediate Objective 2: A reduction of the worst forms of child labour in the agricultural communities in BARMM in the Philippines

Immediate Objective 3: Regional constituents and partners contribute to the reduction and elimination of the worst forms of child labour

Status

The Myanmar component of the project started in September 2020 with support from the ILO's Myanmar Programme on the Elimination of Child Labour (My-PEC). The first session with the Technical Working Group on Child Labour (TWGCL) discussed on the ILO support on the rights children, mechanisms against child labour, and the implementation of National Action Plan (NAP). The TWGCL comprises of government, workers and employers' organizations, civil society organizations (CSOs), INGOs, UNICEF and ILO. The implementation of the Myanmar component was hard hit by these two

major events: the COVID-19 pandemic and the political turmoil since the coup in 2021. The national officer (NO-A) was recruited in February 2021 and work is on-going based on adjusted plans given the restrictions in connection to the COVID-19 and the current political situation in Myanmar.

Similarly, the Philippines component of the project also had a later start with the recruitment of a national officer and national administrative assistant including the office set up in Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (BARMM). The Philippines component's implementation was also delayed by the COVID-19.

Evaluation background

The mid-term evaluation is self-evaluation and will be used primarily by the project team and partners to guide the further implementation of project activities to best achieve the target results. The mid-term evaluation will promote accountability and strengthen learning among the ILO and key stakeholders.

The mid-term evaluation focus is on the implementation period of the project from the start in May 2020 to 30 April 2022. The evaluation is assessing the results and key outputs produced since the start of the project.

The evaluation seeks to review progress implementation against the workplan, identify potential constraints/challenges and make suggestions/recommendations for actions to address those constraints/challenges. The mid-term review shares some lessons learnt. Generally, the evaluation assesses the results and key outputs produced since the start of the project. Methods used included document and desk review, and consultations with CSOs and workers' organization.

FINDINGS

Myanmar

Following the military coup in Myanmar on 1 February 2021, the country underwent dramatic political changes, and the ILO and the GB expressed grave concern the labour and human rights violation, the escalation of violence against civilians. In terms of how these changes impacted the project, the abrupt changes placed great challenges in the implementation of key project activities, particularly when it comes to the works related to policy formulation and legislative amendments and the compliance to the ratified ILO Conventions (C 138, 182 and 29). The civil disobedience movements happened across country. Violence and uses of forces continue to date. With the new political landscape adding to ongoing dire situation of COVID 19, the situation on the ground is very likely than not, to be aggravated further into deep poverty and reverting to the environment of 'lack of respect of the rule of law'.

The project adjusted its activities and targets to respond more suitably to the current situation with the persistent support to the Workers and Employers' Organization and the Civil Society Organizations in tackling child labour. The below listing of findings is based on the implementation experience thus based on circumstances presented to the project team by the pandemic and national unrest.

Finding 1: Addressing child labor related issues remain highly relevant, even more so in the current context of Myanmar's political unrest and post-COVID-19 recovery.

Finding 2: In the absence of a baseline study, the project successfully leverages its previous experience, existing research and networks to identify the needs of the beneficiaries, especially if these needs complements and synergized with the efforts of the My-PEC project.

Finding 3: The project aims at being coherent by combining four interlinked components; however, the design seems stronger for some components.

Finding 4: Two external risks and programmatic risks were identified in the Project Document. The external risks were, however, not effectively mitigated. Thus, when they occurred, the feasibility of implementing certain activities and in achieving those results was challenged limited opportunities.

Finding 5: The project was effective in terms of awareness-raising on child labour issues. However, without the further engagement of focal points, the effectiveness of the sensitization efforts run the first of being diluted.

Finding 6: Capacity building activities were effective in building the capacity of national institutions' staff. However, capacity building efforts at the institutional level faced roadblocks, hence, limiting the effectiveness.

Finding 7: The project was effective in enhancing coordination with some stakeholders but less with other agencies.

Finding 8: The project activities relating to socio-economic integration of vulnerable children were effective in producing and delivering certified training. However, additional actions are required to attain effectiveness, especially in terms of employment.

Finding 9: Project financial statements do not allow for a cost/efficiency analysis. Several internal and external factors negatively affected time and efficiency.

Finding 10: SCREAM training and its duplication approach contribute to efficiency.

Finding 11: Apart from quotas for training, there is limited evidence that specific actions were adopted to ensure that trainings are gender balances.

Finding 12: Project successfully mainstreamed child labor issued by adopting a two-pronged approach by targeting policies and communities. Mainstreaming at the policy level could involved a larger and more diverse actors.

Finding 13: In the absence of M&E data, assessing the project's contributions to the long-term objectives is not possible.

Philippines

As a result of the ratification of the Bangsamoro Organic Law (BOL) in 2019, the Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (BARMM) was born. As a young government undergoing a critical transition to a new form of government, BARMM's absorptive capacity is low. Its Ministry of Labor and Employment (MOLE) has a limited number of staff with most of them handling multiple responsibilities. Its budget is also one of the lowest among BARMM ministries. The data on child labour in BARMM is very limited, making it difficult to assess the real situation in the region. Also, tripartism is weak in the region. Moreover, the COVID-19 pandemic added to the difficulty in navigating a transitioning regional government. These have made the Project implementation more challenging.

Despite the challenges, the Project team continued to move forward by making some adjustments on the work plan, arrangements and strategies. Activities such as preparation of Terms of References (TORs) for provincial implementation, training manual development for roll out among others have been initiated in preparation for the simultaneous delivery of the project activities.

Finding 1: Addressing child labour issues is highly relevant in the context of BARMM being a region that has long been subjected to constant exposure to armed conflict and violence - a main driver of poverty and existence of child labour in the region.

Finding 2: Fifty per cent of the BARMM population is still underserved (with reference to recent study led by the BARMM government and UN on social protection). This situation has been validated by the project team in several missions to far-flung municipalities in BARMM. The problem of lack of schools in far-flung municipalities exacerbated by challenges of COVID-19 in the communities are still very eminent despite the Ministry of Education having the highest budget allocation in the new autonomous government. Interventions under the Child Labour Project in BARMM is relevant to address the situation particularly on alternative learning system and non-formal education e.g. technical and vocational skills training

Finding 3: The target support of the CL BARMM Project to conduct a regional survey on child labour is very relevant. There is an evident lack of reliable and useful data on child labour in BARMM thus, hampers the achievement of targets laid out in the Bangsamoro Development Plan on extending social safety nets to the poorest families, working children and other vulnerable sectors e.g. PWD. While MOLE has conducted a child labor profiling in select sites in the region, this however does not reflect and represent the picture of child labor phenomenon in BARMM.

The Philippines Statistics Authority (PSA) released only last year the data on working children which shows BARMM ranking third in the most number of child laborers. While this can be a good reference point in the national and regional scale, however, the need for disaggregated data on provincial and even down to municipal would likewise be helpful in targeting and provision of appropriate interventions to identified child laborers and their families.

Finding 4: The Embassy of Japan recognizes the success of the recently implemented ILO Water and Sanitation Project in 11 sites in BARMM. This will be an opportunity for ILO to apply a holistic approach to development cooperation support. The CL Project in BARMM will seize the opportunity to provide additional economic support and educational requisites to same communities and families in BARMM that were already provided with safe and clean water.

Finding 5: The Ministries in BARMM especially MOLE, in its nascent stage of autonomous governance that started in 2019 are very vocal of their dire need for technical support from development partners. This paved the way for a very responsive and collaborative effort demonstrated by their senior management, technical officers, labour inspectorates and field officers and staff. The project team was effective in establishing a strong partnership with MOLE.

Finding 6: The Ministry of Labor and Employment is still in its transition and reorganization phase hence the need for additional manpower and capacity development for it to effectively carry on its mandate. The regional government was only established in 2019 and recruitment of critical people is still ongoing. With the start of the project in October 2020, the project team found out that even the labour inspector, field and technical officers have low awareness on child labour.

Finding 7: Establishment of the Project Advisory and Review Committee (PARC) is an effective model that increases inclusivity and transparency. The

CL Project assisted in expanding the membership of the project's advisory and review committee taking off from the existing committee established by the ILO Water and Sanitation Project. It also helped in the finalization of the terms of reference which now include roles and responsibilities in advancing the child labour agenda in the region. In October 2021, members of PARC initially approved

the final sites for the province of Maguindanao thus hasten the work in four target communities which will be supported by relevant ministries such as MOLE, MBHTE, MAFAR, MILG and MTIT.

Finding 8: The development of the Training Manual on Child Labour which takes into consideration the region's nuances e.g. religion, culture through a field test creates a sense of ownership by the ministry by getting their feedback and impression on the content of the manual and how to best deliver it. It also capacitated the labor inspectors and field officers on child labor laws, policies and programs in the process which be of critical importance as their carry out their mandate e.g. labor inspection in workplaces (formal and informal sector).

Finding 9: Engagements with the employers' and workers organizations has initially started during the period under evaluation yet still weak. This gap is set to be addressed during full rollout of project implementations. The region's business council – Bangsamoro Business Council though is open to work with the CL Project and ILO in general to help them in their strategic plan leading towards a responsible business model in the region.

Finding 10: The risk of political instability was faced by the project specifically the recent unexpected and sudden change in the cabinet appointments issued by the Chief Minister, in particular MOLE. The recent development in the political dynamics in BARMM resulted for the project team to constantly demonstrate non-biasness and independency.

Finding 11: Several factors contributed to effectiveness of management arrangements. There are recognized experts on child labor at country level which provided valuable technical support and backstopping to the Project Team.

Finding 12: Several factors affected time efficiency; (1) learning curve of the project team in determining and contextualizing exact implementation strategies best fit at BARMM context and ground level; (2) multi-pronged review and clearance process (for quality assurance) along the recognized enormous volume of work at various level; (3) new modalities brought by COVID-19 and its limitations to field missions.

Finding 13: Absence of local organizations in the region with mandate and work on child labour that the project can easily connect with. However, most of the NGO that the project team met have a very strong work and experience on child protection and community development. A good indication that they will be able to adopt and mainstream CL program in their existing program on child protection.

Finding 14: MOLE recognizes the need to improve their current model used for CL intervention in particular the Sagip Batang Manggagawa Program, a program patterned from DOLE's CL program in the national level that works on rescue, rehabilitation and case management of child laborers and working children in general. It lacks an effective livelihood model and monitoring system therefore compromises effectiveness and efficient use of resources. The models to be developed and demonstrated under the Integrated Area-Based Approach and Community-Based Child Labour Monitoring System as part of the original design of the project will highly contribute to the improvement of current institutionalized models being implemented by the government.

As the lead ministry, it will also work more on ensuring the engagement of other ministries and social partners to holistically address the phenomenon of child labor in the region.

Relevance and strategic fit

Myanmar

The project's objective is highly relevant to national needs and community needs, especially in areas identified with child labour challenges - the Mon and Shan states. The implementation plan of the project is linked to the National Action Plan of child labour in Myanmar and consultation meetings with CSOs in Mon and Shan state.

Philippines

The project is aligned with the country's Decent Work Country Program and BARMM's development plan and policies particularly on inclusive education and lifelong learning, poverty reduction, social dialogue and access to quality basic services and social protection. It also contributes to the country's program on child labour that calls for a whole of the state approach in the elimination of child labour through cooperation and convergence as aligned to the Philippine Development Plan.

It also aligns with the recently passed BARMM Education Code which puts premium to the establishment of community learning center and support to non-formal education and alternative learning system through teacher's training and enhancement of learning materials.

As the first ever ILO child labour project in the region, the project is very relevant as it also contributed to MOLE's Sagip Batang Mangagawa Program which works on the elimination of child labour in the region. It will bring in the tested and proven ILO's child labour programming taking into consideration the region's nuances such as culture, religion and socio-political context.

Validity of project design

Myanmar

Together with My-PEC and ARC projects, the project could manage to successfully implement awareness raising activities for the World Day Against Child Labour and contributed to a survey on COVID-19 and Child Labour that will enhance the design of its activities and include a response to the pandemic. In addition, the project is currently contributing e-learning module on Child Labour Reduction. For face-to-face trainings, it is adapting with virtual trainings. The project has adjusted its design to provide support to CSOs, CBOs, Workers and Employers' organizations at community level under no-engagement with Military government principle.

Philippines

Through consultation and meetings with MOLE's Child Labour Team as well as with relevant ministries and stakeholders, the Project ensures that proposed interventions match the need of the child labourers and their respective families towards their meaningful integration through progressive withdrawal by transitioning to lifelong learning and livelihood opportunities. The project is also aligning its interventions to support the education, agriculture, labor and trade programs and plans of the region as enunciated in the recently passed education code and the regions priority agenda and plan.

In the midst of the pandemic, the project managed to support MOLE IN the conduct of World Day Against Child Labour in June 2021. Although virtual, it successfully gathered tripartite partners to hear more about various child labour plans and programs as well as ways in addressing child labour phenomenon in the region by engaging DOLE's Bureau of Workers and Special Concerns and ILO's expert on child labour.

The ILO has an available compendium of training tools that is useful for project implementation in the context of BARMM. It will also tap online training course developed by ILO such as Community Based Enterprise Development (CBED) <https://learninghub.ilo.org/program/Community> along with other ILO'S tested and proven online training courses on child labour. Relevant ministries like Ministry of

Trade, Investment and Tourism (MTIT) as well as Ministry of Basic, Higher and Technical Education (MBHTE) have taken an interest with the said online learning platform.

The project also supports the development of the region's labor and employment code which once approved by the parliament will now have a more child labour friendly provisions e.g. minimum age, OSH which is far better than the country's labor code.

Project progress and effectiveness

Myanmar

Despite the delays due to recruitment challenges, the project managed to provide support to the communities successfully, amidst travel restrictions and security issues. The project adapted to these circumstances and delivered a number of online activities. The ILO has done consultations on child labour related issues and deliver training to a significant number of beneficiaries, thanks to the existing tools and the ability to adapt these tools through desk review and virtual consultations.

Due to Covid-19 and the military take-over since 1 Feb 2021, a number of activities did not materialize such as the plan to conduct education needs assessment and youth employment training needs assessment. The result of the needs assessment will help develop informed education and training services for children aged between 5-17 years. And as such, the target to develop Quality and Safe Education Plan could not be delivered. The primary reason is the non-engagement policy with the current military government, followed by travel restrictions and physical distancing measures imposed during COVID-19 pandemic that did not permit in-person training. Subsequently, awareness raising activities and capacity building for government school teachers did not take place. In this regard, project adjustment was undertaken and project intervention related to awareness raising and capacity building has been the focus and conducted with CSOs and workers' organizations.

Project staff approached the potential CSOs in Shan and Mon state and workers' organization for the identification of project areas and possibilities of the project activities in both states. As a result of several consultation meetings, virtual training of trainers for CSOs on child labour were conducted, for example a course for CSOs were conducted on 30-31 August 2021 with 6 Potential CSOs in Shan state with the support of the My-PEC project. A total of 24 participants were trained. The first follow-up meeting with trainers who attended TOT took place on 1 October 2021 and workplans shared and status updated on the sharing of knowledge on child labour issues with their respective communities.

As for the continuation of activities and in keeping the momentum, a child labour trainers network group was established on 1 October 2021. Since then, regular monthly trainer network group meetings are conducted. In order to strengthen the Trainer Network Group, an operational guideline was developed in consultation with the trainers from CSOs in Shan state.

Under awareness raising and capacity building intervention, the second training for CSOs and workers' organisation was conducted on 10-18 February 2022 with 6 CSOs and 1 workers' organisation from Shan state. This TOT training was 9 half days of virtual training on 3R Kit and 23 participants were trained to become trainers.

Joint activities with My-PEC and ARC project on WDACL campaign for the awareness raising were completed in 2021. As for the joint activities, before the military take-over in 2020, the project contributed to Covid 19 and child labour survey led by My-PEC project. Based on the outcome of the survey and the communication strategy, an E-learning module with an online platform on the elimination of child labour is being developed.

Other joint activities which were completed on awareness raising and capacity building for CSOs, worker and employer organizations among 3 projects (e.g. MY-PEC, ARC and Japan) of child labour in Myanmar supported 2 participants from 2CSOs in Shan state on ITC, IYEC e-learning course as well as 2 participants from worker organization on FPRW training.

Philippines

Despite the risks brought about by COVID 19, activities continued by maximizing the use of technology e.g. online training and meeting. Where possible, face to face interactions were done, while strictly observing health protocols. Despite the ongoing BARMM transition and COVID 19 impacts, the project activities continued. It focuses its effort on the capacity development needs of MOLE through Child Labour and occupational safety and health training and consultation with PARC members to aid in the development of appropriate action programmes

The child labour manual which is being finalized to date will be used in the roll out and community-based learning sessions this quarter. The project also managed to secure relevant data from education ministry and brainstormed with technical people of the Curriculum Division in the preparation of the terms of reference for the enhancement of learning materials with CL lens.

In July 2021, it also organized a field test cum training on child labour training manual to MOLE's labour inspectors and field officers. As part of risk management, the activity was conducted in a blended modality – limited face to face and online as the new normal in the delivery of training. Following the result of the training, the manual has now provision for an online training as an alternative if needed.

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Strategies identified for the development of the Bangsamoro Regional Action Plan against Child Labour. Preparatory activities were conducted which includes collaborative meetings with MOLE and their affirmation of support to the undertaking including designation of focal person(s) to work with the project, as well as conduct of region wide sectoral consultations involving tripartite plus partners to promote inclusivity.

Despite good project strategy models laid in the Project Document, the Team faced challenges and delays in identifying pilot municipalities for provincial level implementation due to lack of available data both at the regional and local government unit level of BARMM. It was also difficult to obtain whichever available data from ministries as their knowledge management system is also not yet fully in-place.

The Project Advisory and Review Committee (PARC) has been established and functioning though certain gaps are currently being addressed. Permanent focal person officially designated by each respective member ministries has still to be firmed up.

The implementation at provincial level interventions in two target pilot areas are delayed, as well as interventions for a region-wide training roll out on Child Labour awareness. For its current status, respective Terms of Reference for its implementation have been developed already by the Project Team and at its final stage of review and approval. Simultaneous implementation and delivery is foreseen in the coming months

Adequacy and efficiency of resource use

Myanmar

The project has carried out activities in a cost-effective manner, that is, by synergizing and cost sharing with other two child labour projects (My-PEC and ARC projects). The current delivery rate and the feasible work plan and expenditure plan for the remaining period indicate the project is very likely to ensure delivery within the given timelines.

Philippines

The current delivery rate is very low partly due to COVID 19 which restricts staff movement and in conducting community-based activities. While the ILO processes/internal reviews are robust to ensure quality project implementation; however, the processes hindered timely project delivery. PARC meetings are usually conducted in government's conference room to save cost on venue, internet and LCD monitor rental cost. In one training on community-based OSH, the project cooperated with the Water Project to save costs given that the training participants are the same mostly coming from MOLE.

The revised work and financial plan will see to it that project's deliverables will be accomplished by December 2022.

Effectiveness of management arrangements

Myanmar

Together with My-PEC and ARC projects, the project could manage to successfully implement awareness raising activities for the World Day Against Child Labour and contributed to a survey on COVID-19 and Child Labour that will enhance the design of its activities and include an appropriate response to the pandemic. In addition, the project is currently contributing e-learning module on Child Labour Reduction. For face-to-face trainings, it is adapting with virtual trainings or opting for hybrid events. The project has adjusted its design to provide support to CSOs, CBOs, Workers and Employers' organizations at community level under no-engagement with Military government principle.

For the Myanmar component, due to the delays in the actual start of the project implementation, military takeover and Covid-19 related restrictions, a large amount of budget allocated for 2021 implementation and operations were unutilized. Most of the target activities will be conducted in 2022, a revised workplan submitted and approved.

Philippines

The project enjoys the support of the country's management team based in ILO Country Office in Manila, the Fundamental Principles and Rights at Work Senior Specialist based in Bangkok who provides technical backstopping and financial experts to better implement its activities. Weekly meetings are conducted with the CTA of the ILO/Japan Multi-bilateral Programme based in Bangkok to ensure timely delivery of the project. Regular meeting and updating where also organized with MOLE's CL Team. The established Project and Advisory and Review Committee is the main oversight body that meet regularly to discuss project's progress, challenges and solutions. It has met two (2) meetings so far the recent was on the approval of the pilot sites for the province of Maguindanao.

In 2021 WDACL celebration, ILO CL Specialist and representative of DOLE Bureau of Workers with Special Concerns (BWSC) and other members of the country's council on child labour extended their support for the successful conduct of the event and continuing commitment for the reduction if not elimination of child labour in the region through cooperation and collaboration. DOLE even provided a number of IEC materials e.g. RA 9231 handbook to MOLE through the CL Project.

Due to delays, budget for 2021 were moved to 2022. A revised work and financial plan was already submitted for consideration.

Impact orientation and sustainability

Myanmar

An integrated approach between the three child labour projects in Myanmar contributed to improving the capacity of key stakeholders (civil society organizations and workers' organizations), enabling better access to quality education and a better understanding of youth employment needs in target areas, helping to reduce child labour. The project has created a network of trainers to enhance the knowledge of key stakeholders on the employment and education needs of youth in target areas.

Philippines

The Project will work on most of the communities where the ILO Water Project were successfully implemented to ensure the continuity of the project's gains and also in the process evaluate the impact of the ILO Water Project in years to come.

It will also benefit from the established community-based organizations that the ILO Water Project organized. The trained CBO members and government partners will be of help in the conduct of the community-based child labour monitoring systems given their trainings on community based OSH and community organizing in general.

MAIN RECOMMENDATIONS AND LESSONS LEARNT

Recommendations

Myanmar

For the remaining implementation period, it is recommended the project seeks to have the following.

1. Further cooperation with other ILO projects implemented in Myanmar for synergy effects and cost savings.
2. To invite more CSOs in Mon and Shan state to the project for the education support and youth employment support. Currently CSOs are relatively limited to funding due to the current situation on bank restriction, travel restriction and other security issue. Direct support for the education to the higher risk of child labour students is highly relevant due to the long school closure, higher job loss of parents and internal conflict in the targeted area of Myanmar.
3. Enhancing voluntary child labour monitoring activity is a key factor to reduce child labour situation in Myanmar. It is advisable to develop supportive programme encouraging voluntary monitoring activities in the communities.
4. Capacity building on cooperation among CSOs and workers' organization and/or learning from different states in the area of child labour are encouraged to be held for better sustainability.

To ensure sustainability, some follow-up support activities are desirable in Myanmar. A support for child labour free society might be needed especially in Myanmar.

Philippines

1. For the remaining months of the project, it will seek to work closely with relevant PARC members, UN agencies e.g. FAO, UNICEF and UNDP, business council, academe and civil society organizations for their support in the conduct of both upstream and downstream interventions to benefit the child laborers, their families and their communities

2. It will also lobby with the ministry of interior and local government to help in the institutionalization of child labor committees and child labor profiling to ensure the sustainability of the project's gains.
3. Awareness raising activities to tripartite plus partners in the region. If allowed, it will also try to reach out to neighboring cities and provinces of BARMM where usually child laborers are also present.
4. It will also help push and lobby for the passage of the Bangsamoro Labor and Employment Code (BLEC) which will provide the legal basis for the implementation relevant child labor laws and international conventions e.g. RA 9231, ILO 138, ILO 182 thus ensuring compliance and provision of appropriate support to child laborers and their families. The proposed Code is now pending in the parliament.
5. Continue to work with the region's education ministry for the development of learning materials with lens on child labor and transition, reintegration and education plan for child laborers and their families.
6. Development of appropriated IEC materials that will be used in the pilot sites and tapping quad media as platform for the delivery of the key messages.
7. Implement remaining committed deliverables simultaneously in the two pilot provinces by engaging relevant ministries, NGOs and community-based organization present in the pilot sites.

Lessons Learnt

Myanmar

1. In Myanmar, due to the COVID-19 outbreak and current political situation, the project successfully increased the use of online services and social media for the implementation of activities (webinars, virtual training). This has helped with project delivery.
2. Joining efforts between other child labour projects of the ILO Office in Myanmar helped reduce exposure to unforeseen risks with the current political context and has helped with implementation.
3. Due to the no-engagement principle with the Military government, the intervention of the project focused primarily on community level through working with selected partner CSOs and workers' organization in Mon and Shan state is highly relevant under the current situation.

Philippines

1. The project was designed prior to COVID 19 hence its activities are all premised on face to face meetings, trainings etc. thus the delay in the execution as the project team needs to recalibrate its work to focus on policy and the development of the training manual while waiting for the time for the travel and movement restriction is downgraded. While virtual meeting is also possible, sometimes partners demanded that the meeting will be face to face due to poor and erratic internet signal.
2. The political condition of the region poses challenge to the project in the light of the replacement of the MOLE minister. Working with key and permanent MOLE senior officers is imperative and is now being pursued to ensure a seamless transition.

The project will immensely benefit from other ILO projects in the region through institutional development through capacity building and resource mobilization.

2 Description of the program

The 'Achieving reduction of child labour in support of education: Programme to reduce the worst forms of child labour in agriculture' works to effectively reduce child labour in the rural areas with targeted efforts being undertaken in Myanmar and the Philippines. The project aims to support national efforts to facilitate reform at the policy and regulatory framework for broad national impact and sustainability. At the same time, it will ensure impact at the individual level by contributing to poverty reduction and addressing inequality, especially in the forms of child labour.

The project's overarching goal is the reduction of the worst forms of child labour in the agricultural/rural communities in selected zones. In order to reach this ultimate goal, the project interventions in Myanmar and the Philippines are designed to broadly cover: child labour reduction through improvements in the education services and opportunities; Economic empowerment and social mobilization of farming communities; and Improvement of the regulatory framework and institutional development for the elimination of child labour. The Project is supported by the ILO/Japan Multi-bilateral Programme and will draw on the lessons learned in the previous ILO interventions to consolidate the gains achieved and pursue opportunities to increase the scope and impact of the interventions.

Regional

ILO's IPEC + Global Flagship Program brings together two leading ILO technical cooperation programs – the International Program on the Elimination of Child Labour (IPEC) and the Special Action Program to combat Forced Labour (SAP/FL) – to establish a major force in the fight against child labor, forced labor and human trafficking. It recognizes that these unacceptable forms of work deny workers their basic human rights at work and that, while their overlap concerns 4.5 million children trapped in contemporary forms of slavery, the share root causes of poor governance, discrimination and social exclusion, family and community poverty and lack of access to decent work and to the rights of freedom of association and collective bargaining. The objective is in line with target 8.7 of the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda, to provide ILO leadership in global efforts to eradicate all forms of child labor by 2025 and all forms of contemporary slavery and human trafficking by 2030.^a

The regional component provides a platform for interactive discussions and update on the status in the fight against child labor in the region and to exchange knowledge on mechanisms to address common challenges and gaps. The regional component supports research, comparative compilations and policy notes on child labor issues conducted to raise awareness and understanding among key stakeholders and shed light on ILO perspective and advocacies on the issues, with gender issues appropriate integrated.

Myanmar

The Myanmar component of the project focuses on the reduction of child labour in communities that are predominantly working in the agriculture sector. The project work towards building the capacity of constituents and strengthen the system to reduce child labour in Mon and Shan state, based on the objectives in the NAP through improvements in the education; economic empowerment and social mobilizations; and improving the regulatory framework and institutional development.

^a ILO, www.ilo.org/global/about-the-ilo-works/flagships/ipec-plus/lang--en/index.htm (accessed 1 October 2019).

With the support of ILO's Myanmar Programme on the Elimination of Child Labour (My-PEC) consultations with the Technical Working Group on Child Labour (TWGCL) were held in September 2019 to discuss ILO support to the Government in its fight against child labour including the implementation of the National Action Plan. The project Myanmar component log frame and priorities were discussed and agreed with the member of the TWGCL, that is comprised of Government Ministries, Workers and Employers Organizations, Civil Society representatives, INGOs and ILO and UNICEF. With the COVID-19 pandemic, the recruitment and implementation of the project has been delayed. Movement restrictions due to the pandemic did not allow for implementation at the states level. Furthermore, the recruitment of the national officer (NO-A) has also been delayed during the reporting period. NO-A has onboard in February 2021.

Following the military taking over Myanmar on 1 February 2021, the country underwent dramatic political changes at the core level, whereas the judicial, legislative and executive branches were demolished and all power were centrally controlled by the military (the SAC). The original reform machineries were therefore made to be obsolete. In term of how these changes impacted the project, the abrupt changes put great challenges in the implementation of key project activities, particularly when it comes to the works related to policy formulation and legislative amendments and the compliance to the ratified ILO Conventions (C 138, 182 and 29). The civil disobedience movements happened across country. Violence and uses of forces continues until to date. With the new political landscape adding to ongoing dire situation out of COVID 19, the situation on the ground is very likely than not to be aggravated further into deep poverty and reverting to the environment of lack of respect of rule of law. The project adjusted its activities and targets to respond more suitably to the current situation through the integrated approach and conduct some of their activities together with MY-PEC and Asian Regional Child Labour Programme (ARC) project.

During this reporting period, different consultations meetings have conducted for the selection of project area and potential partners for the project. Project area has been identified based on the higher incidence rate of child labour as well as other relevance factors which causes child labour through desk review and other consultation meetings with CSOs in Mon and Shan state and worker organizations. In this reporting period, the project has contributed to supporting five civil society organizations to implemented activities at community level for the World Day Against Child Labour. (MyPEC/JPN/ARC), supporting two trade unions and five LNGOs to join e-learning course on International Year on the Elimination of Child Labour (IYECL) from ILO ITC. (MyPEC/JPN/ARC), supporting two members of trade unions, two members of employer, six members of LNGOs to learn on Fundamental principles and rights at work at ILO ITC. (MyPEC/JPN/ARC), 24 members of CSOs in Shan state were trained on Training of Trainers on Combating Child labour (JPN), Child labour and COVID 19 report published online in May 2021 (MyPEC/JPN/ARC) and is currently developing e-learning modules on CL for WO, EO, CSOs, UN, INGOs. (MyPEC/JPN/ARC).

Philippines

The project's overarching goal is the reduction of the worst forms of child labour in the agricultural/rural communities in BARMM. In order to reach this ultimate goal, the project interventions are designed to broadly cover the following: child labour reduction through improvements in the education services and opportunities; economic empowerment and social mobilization of farming communities; and improvement of the regulatory framework and institutional development for the elimination of child labour. The Project is supported by the ILO/Japan Multi-bilateral Programme and will draw on the lessons learned in the previous ILO interventions to consolidate the gains achieved and pursue opportunities to increase the scope and impact of the interventions.

The project will be implemented by the ILO CO-Manila (with support from DWT-Bangkok and FUNDAMENTALS) and the government of the BARMM at regional, provincial and community level, with oversight by the NCACL and in coordination with other UN initiatives. The project aims to contribute to the overall PPACL objectives and will have two levels of interventions: upstream and downstream interventions, with full integration into the government-owned frameworks (including PDP, PFSD and Philippines' DWCP).

Strategically, the Philippines' component of the project is designed to work at the regional and provincial levels to strengthen the policy and legislative environment in multiple sectors, with a focus on the worst forms of child labour in communities that are predominantly working in the agriculture sector. The project will demonstrate how child labour can be addressed in a comprehensive and sustainable manner, following a strategy based on gradually transferring responsibilities to local institutions, particularly the local governments and communities. Consultations and workshops will be organized, two years into the project, for instance, in formulating the exit strategy jointly with stakeholders. The two components mutually strengthen and support one another. While the regional level strategies provide guidelines and impetus to the direct interventions in the provinces to take advantage of favourable social and economic policies and action plans; the success of direct interventions will enable the mobilization of resources at the national and international levels to sustain and scale up the interventions.

Specifically, the BARMM level interventions (regional), or upstream interventions, undertaken by this project will create an enabling environment by strengthening the policy and legislative frameworks in the following areas:

- expanding the knowledge base and capacity for policy development and implementation in the agriculture sector
- advocacy and support to extending scope and coverage of legislation on child labour
- enhancing access of child labour to the governments' education and training opportunities
- changing attitudes and building alliances against child labour.

At the provincial level, where both direct action and capacity development are planned to address child labour with a focus on the worst forms (agriculture sector), the project aims to design interventions to be implemented in the following five areas:

- sensitization of local governments for allocation of resources for social development of child labour and children at risk
- local capacity development and knowledge to identify, monitor and reduce child labour
- economic empowerment of families and communities exposed to the worst forms of child labour
- education and training to combat child labour; and
- regional and local advocacy for social mobilization.

Anchoring this project are the national development frameworks, policies and action plans. The project will aim to increasingly rely on existing procedures, structures and infrastructure which have proven to be more sustainable, through relevant national policies, strategies and plans such as the Philippine Development Plan and the Bangsamoro Development Plan (BDP). The project will work through local partners (i.e. local governments) who are legally responsible in providing child labour related services (i.e. education, food security and training). The project will seek to gradually transfer identification, contracting, management and ultimately financial responsibility towards relevant government ministries. The necessity of involving regional and local government have been

augmented with the promulgation of the Bangsamoro Organic Law of 2018 by which the regional and local governments have been granted more autonomy than before.

Experience indicates that success in specific intervention to eliminate child labour can best be achieved if multiple linkages can be built through the active involvement of all stakeholders, and if the interventions are designed within the national framework for action. The project will work to strengthen the processes aimed at securing wider support for addressing child labour through cooperation and coordination with the various stakeholders and mobilizing additional resources for integrating and strengthening child labour concerns in development policies; strengthening child labour monitoring system and empowerment programmes; establishing and strengthening the Child Labour Resource Centre at national and regional levels; improving capacity at community level; and facilitating effective communication and the exchange of information at all levels in improving the knowledge base through child labour surveys, baseline studies and researches. These interventions will help the government in developing an integrated child labour monitoring system that enable the linkage of the various monitoring efforts to feed into the national system, and in devising strategies for resource mobilization in implementing the NP and NAP-CCL, thus, the National Development Frameworks.

The Project Advisory and Review Committee finally approved the pilot sites (Barangays Rifao and Renti, Upi and Looy and Romangaob, South Upi in Maguindanao in October 2021 ensuring the support and commitment of the PARC members in the project implementation through information sharing, technical support and complementation. The series of sectoral consultations conducted in the first quarter of 2022 also provided the project substantial information on the prevalence of child labour not just in the target provinces of Lanao del Sur and Maguindanao but also the island provinces of Basilan, Sulu and Tawi Tawi thereby consolidating the work on CL and durable solutions as proposed by participants to inform the development and finalization of the first ever regional action plan on child labour which is expected to complete on the 3rd quarter of 2022.

Lastly, the training manual on child labour once published will be a good reference material for MOLE as they carry out their mandate and also with other relevant ministries with mandate on the protection of children and youth. Civil society organizations in the region will also benefit the series of awareness raising activities that will be conducted to increase the constituency of child labour advocates and champions in the region.

3 Purpose, scope and clients of evaluation

Objectives

The evaluation will be used primarily by the project team and partners to guide the further implementation of activities to best achieve the target results. The mid-term evaluation will promote accountability and strengthen learning among the ILO and key stakeholders.

The Project's mid-term evaluation seeks to accomplish the following objectives:

- to review the validity of the project design, i.e priorities, outcomes, outputs, activities and budget
- to assess the progress of the project against the approved logical framework and workplan
- to identify gaps and constraints in project implementation, including looking at partners' involvement, and offer recommendations for project improvement to support the achievement of objectives
- identify the contributions of the project to the regional and national plans and policies, the SDGs, the ILO objectives and its synergy with other projects, namely to what extent this project has been making linkages to other interventions for better and more effective results and sustainability
- assess and evaluate the adaptation used in adjusting/adapting the project considering negative effects for implementation due to COVID-19 and appraise value for continuation or termination before the closing date.
- identify lessons and potential good practices for the key stakeholders
- provide strategic recommendations for the different key stakeholders to improve the implementation of the project activities and attainment of project objectives.

Scope, coverage and clients

Myanmar

The mid-term evaluation examines the period of project implementation since project inception in October 2020 until April 2022. It covers activities in Myanmar. The project components are addressed by assessing the key outputs produced since the start of the project: (i) study and research, (ii) capacity building and (iii) awareness raising.

The clients and target audience of the mid-term evaluation include ILO project management based in Myanmar and Bangkok, management of the ILO/Japan Multi-bilateral Programme, the ILO Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific (ROAP), and the partners of the project.

Philippines

The mid-term evaluation examines the period of project implementation since October 2020 until April 2022. It covers activities in BARMM, Philippines. The project components are addressed, i.e., (i) lifelong learning, (ii) economic empowerment and (iii) awareness raising and policy development.

The clients and target audience of the mid-term evaluation include ILO project management based in Manila, management of the ILO/Japan Multi-bilateral Programme, the ILO Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific (ROAP), and the partners of the project.

4 Methodology

The mid-term evaluation is a self-evaluation and assess the project for: relevance; efficiency, effectiveness, sustainability and contribution to broader impact.

For the most part of the project implementation, circumstances stemming from COVID-19 and political unrest in both countries challenged and limited progress. Similar to other projects being implemented during this time, both components developed contingency plans whereby both components utilized tools offered by the digital age which is to through the internet and online platforms.

Myanmar

The mid-term evaluation was carried out through the review and analysis of primary and secondary data. This is based on the review of project documents, including progress reports, workshop and mission reports, research publications, relevant correspondence and other documents that were deemed appropriate.

It will incorporate inputs from meetings and discussions with ILO staff in Myanmar, Bangkok, and key stakeholders, including key implementation partners such as the CSOs in Mon and Shan state and worker organization in Myanmar.

This mid-term evaluation was carried out by the Project Coordinator in collaboration with the Finance Assistant for Myanmar and with inputs from the technical backstopping officer (CTA and MY-PEC team).

Philippines

The mid-term evaluation was carried out through the review and analysis of primary and secondary data. This is based on the review of project documents, including progress reports, workshop and mission reports, research publications, relevant correspondence and other documents that were deemed appropriate.

This mid-term evaluation was carried out by the Project Manager in collaboration with the Project Officer and Program and Administrative Assistant and with inputs from the technical backstopping officer (CTA).

5 Clearly identified findings for each criterion

For this internal mid-term evaluation, the criterion for the findings are based on the secondary data and project document and assessed through relevance, coherence, effectiveness, efficiency, impact, sustainability and gender inclusion.

6 Conclusions

In conclusion, the project made great progress in meeting community needs regarding child labour issues. Its project design is coherent, and target three interlinked components that included research and knowledge sharing, worker organizations and civil society organizations' capacity strengthening and socio-economic integration of vulnerable youth, and awareness-raising. It was observed that the design has evolved through time, demonstrating the desire of the project team to build more constructive and relevant local ownership and participation in the implementation of activities.

Most of the planned activities were delivered successfully. However, due to Covid 19 and political situation and social unrest and internal conflict, the project encountered serious delays. This negatively impacted the effectiveness of some components within the limited time remaining, especially for the components pertaining to the assessment, the socio-economic integration of vulnerable youth and the strengthening of worker organization and civil society organization's capacities. Effectiveness in terms of outputs and the longer-term durability of project results is therefore mixed and can be improved.

Philippines

Most of the efforts in 2021 are geared on creating the foundation- enabling environment by strengthening the needed policy and addressing the capacity gap of MOLE which will help them in the delivery of their mandate on child labour and decent work promotion in general.

The recent pandemic further exacerbated the plight of working children in the region. In the latest profiling conducted by the Ministry of Labor and Employment (MOLE), there are around 1580 child labourers needing assistance and support. While they received livelihood assistance from MOLE through the Sagip Batang Mangagawa Program, the same was already been depleted and some are utilized to help them survive in their daily needs due to previous lockdown and limited movement.

The profiling initiated by MOLE despite its limited funding is laudable given the fact that the national government through DOLE already stricken from the list of regions that they will be supporting in the child labour profiling. This is another dilemma as data on child labour in the region is wanting. MOLE is still waiting for response from Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA) and National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA) from their request of support for the conduct of regional child labour survey.

This is an indication that addressing child labour require a multi-stakeholders' interventions, a comprehensive and time bound action plan and a dedicated office to ensure that services are delivered to the benefit of the working children and their families. For MOLE as an establishment in its nascent stage, this means doubling their efforts in meeting the demands of the workers in general and child labour in particular. A recent assessment made by ILO confirmed this problem in terms of capacity development needs (OSH, child labour laws and regulations etc) and staffing complement- one regular and dedicated labour inspector for the whole of the region.

The other consideration is anchoring the child labour program on the region's development plan and agenda e.g., education, labour and employment and agriculture and trade for its sustainability. Only when the programs and activities are supported by the relevant ministries like the Ministry of Basic, Higher and Technical and Higher Education (MBHTE), Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Agrarian Reform (MAFAR), Ministry of Trade, Investment and Tourism (MTIT) and other tripartite partners, that could bring significant and durable solutions in addressing the phenomenon of child labour in the midst of crisis.

The year ended with the approval of pilot sites by expanded PARC chaired by Minister Romeo Sema of MOLE. This process is critical to get the buy in and support of MOLE and other PARC members with mandate that could aid in addressing the rehabilitation and development need (education, skills and vocational training, economic empowerment, social services and market linkage) of the profiled child labourers, their families and when needed and appropriate their community through the establishment of community-based learning centre cum service-based outlet.

The Project also supported MOLE in the celebration of World Day Against Child Labour and the International Year of Elimination of Child Labour in the region. This is the first event of MOLE which was attended by various tripartite partners and relevant ministries which also gave their commitment in support to the campaign against child labour. DOLE and ILO ROAP also provided relevant inputs and information on child labour to help raise awareness and understanding on child labour data, programs and plans. This is also the first support of DOLE's BWSC to MOLE BARMM and will facilitate future collaboration and synergy to better address holistically the phenomenon of child labour in the region.

To ensure that the progress in the region as reflected in the national report, the Project participate in meetings and consultation organized by DOLE's Bureau of Workers with Special Concern as the secretariat of the country's child labour council. It also participated in a number of meetings organized by UNICEF and Bangsamoro Youth Commission on youth related advocacies in the region ensuring the child labour lens are used in process of assessment and service provision.

The training manual on child labour which will hopefully be ready for use in the awareness raising this 2022. The manual will also be shared with other relevant stakeholders (law enforcement, academe, teachers, media, trade unions, business councils and workers association and civil society organizations. Meanwhile, the trained and certified Safety Officers of MOLE following the Occupational Safety and Health (OSH) training supported by ILO will be there to support the Project in the field-based implementation of OSH in the community as part of the commitment of the good minister.

Lastly, the Project also participated in the development of Bangsamoro Labor and Employment Code which now considers a significant provision on child labor far better than what the country's labor code can offer. Once the code is passed, the Project team will likewise support in the crafting of the implementing rules and regulations especially on matters relating to the child labour provisions and regulations. The ongoing development of the regional action plan on child labour will also benefit immensely once the BLEC is codified as this serves as basis for the relevant ministries on CL programming.

7 Recommendations

Myanmar

Recommendations are addressed to ILO Myanmar and project implementing partners. They all rely on points expressed in the Findings of the Evaluation and are articulated in order to improve the design, effectiveness, efficiency and sustainability for the preparation of further phases of the project or for the development of any similar projects that may emerge. Recommendations are intended to be constructive and future-oriented, facilitating a smooth development and improvement of the project's goals and functions.

- The project places much emphasis on youth, where several of its components specifically targeting youth. Due to the travel restriction and security issue, the planning of the project was done in consultation with partners but without any consultation with youth in the communities, who constitute its most important target population. Therefore, an increased and demonstrated involvement of Youth in the identification of the needs during the planning phase, engagement with youth in the conduct of satisfaction surveys, and post training follow-up consultation would increase the legitimacy, understanding, and ownership of the project.
- Increase the focus on the employability interventions in order to enhance their potential for impact and sustainability.
 - 1) Ensure that the project design has an integrated approach to employability where social work, gender, and linking youth to employers are taken into consideration.
 - 2) Ensure that training programmes provide sufficient time and resources to conduct post training follow-up and coaching and to allow sufficient time for the programme to learn from experiences.
- In terms of measuring outcomes achieved by the project, M&E has been completely missing. This function could be improved to better inform the potential outcomes of a project. M&E is an essential component of project management. However, no tools exist to measure potential outcomes or impacts. A dedicated project function or resource should develop outcome measurement tools.
- Political and Institutional stability is essential for the project to succeed.

Philippines

This section is addressed to the ILO Country Office and implementing partners for the provinces of Maguindanao and Lanao del Sur to maximize time and resources of the project ending December 2022. It will also provide a snapshot the project's gains that later can be utilized should there be a need of extension due to security and the challenges brought about by pandemic and also a reference for the development of proposal for the second phase of the project.

1. For the remaining months of the project, it will seek to work closely with relevant PARC members, UN agencies e.g. FAO, UNICEF and UNDP, business council, academe and civil society organizations for their support in the conduct of both upstream and downstream interventions to benefit the child laborers, their families and their communities
2. It will also lobby with the ministry of interior and local government to help in the institutionalization of child labor committees and child labor profiling to ensure the sustainability of the project's gains.
3. Awareness raising activities to tripartite plus partners in the region. If allowed, it will also try to reach out to neighboring cities and provinces of BARMM where usually child laborers are

also present.

4. It will also help push and lobby for the passage of the Bangsamoro Labor and Employment Code (BLEC) which is now pending in the parliament. Once passed and approved, the code will provide the legal basis for the implementation relevant child labor laws and international conventions e.g. RA 9231, ILO 138, ILO 182 thus ensuring compliance and provision of appropriate support to child laborers and their families.
5. Continue to work with the region's education ministry for the development of learning materials with lens on CL and transition, reintegration and education plan for child laborers and their families.
6. Development of appropriated IEC materials that will be used in the pilot sites and tapping quad media as platform for the delivery of the key messages.
7. Implement remaining committed deliverables simultaneously in the two pilot provinces by engaging relevant ministries, NGOs and community-based organization present in the pilot sites.

8 Lessons learned and good practices

Myanmar

A long-term intervention is necessary in the Myanmar context. Although supportive of inclusive and participatory governance approaches is desirable and commendable, this approach is based on fragile assumptions about politics and social construction. Considering the difficult situation in Myanmar, it would be unrealistic to think that a two-year project will be able to change the course of events completely. This is particularly true since the project seeks to empower key players to combat child labour, which requires a shift in attitude and culture.

Two emerging good practises can be extracted from the findings of this evaluation:

Good practice No 1 The project's approach to adopting integrated approach of multi-level awareness raising such as World Day Against Child Labour (WDACL) campaign and Child labour trainings among three projects of Child Labour in Myanmar to employers' associations and the CSOs is a good practice that has enabled the project to tackle the issue of child labour in the communities.

Good practice No 2 The Project's approach to establish Trainer network groups in Mon and Shan state for sustainability keeping them update with the current child labour situations and provide a safe space to share and get support from each other is a good practise. In the case of this intervention, follow up supports which arise from the regular meetings allowed the project to be in line with the actual needs from the communities for the reduction of child labour.

Philippines

With its main partner in its nascent stage (established only in 2019), the life span of the project is bit short considering the work to capacitate the labour inspectors and field officers on child labour laws and programs. Data on child labour is also wanting as MOLE is yet to develop a comprehensive database on child labour where they can store the data and information on child labourers following their profiling exercise in select sites in the region.

As the project is not originally designed for COVID 19 which now demand a blended approach and limited number of participants due to health protocol this further causes the delay in site assessment and selection in the target provinces of Lanao del Sur and Maguindanao. Security and peace and order in the target provinces also contributed in the delay as UNDSS would not issue a travel approval if there is an ongoing security issue or threat in the area.

The project supported MOLE in the conduct of (WDACL) last June 2021 by inviting Department of Labor and Employment and ROAP CL Specialist to share more about the country's program on CL, ASEAN Road Map and the significance of WDACL. It was attended by tripartite partners and relevant stakeholders. While the event was online, it generated interests from allies and partners on the phenomenon of child labour and how working collaboratively can bring positive and meaningful change to child labourers and their families which is now affected by the recent pandemic.

While the project only covers the two provinces of Lanao del Sur and Maguindanao, the development of the region's action plan on child labour attempted to gather relevant data and information on child labour from both the mainland and island provinces to complete the picture the CL phenomenon in the region. Following the series of sectoral consultations and key informant interviews, the first draft report will be shared mid-June 2022 to PARC members and relevant stakeholders. The plan will aid in the CL programming of the MOLE and other relevant ministries with mandate on children and youth, education and agriculture.

The project is using the IPEC materials and publications e.g. SCREAM kit, CL manual etc that are already been tested in other countries. These will be contextualized and soon will be translated to local dialects to suit the region's nuances e.g. religion, culture and context

The project works closely with other ILO projects to maximize resources, enhance synergy in addressing the complex issue of CL that demands holistic interventions for its successful implementation in the region where crisis and conflict is recurring.

Lastly, by engaging the education ministry in the review and enhancement of the learning materials thought series of brainstorming, consultation and joint development of the terms of reference. The move was greatly appreciated by the senior education officials of the ministry.

9 Country Office management response