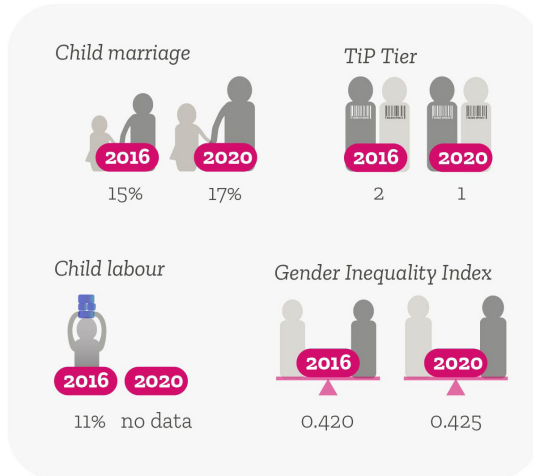


Philippines

KEY NATIONAL INDICATORS IN 2016-2020



From 2016 to date, poverty has been an important issue in the Philippines. While the national economy of the Philippines improved, around eight percent of the population still lives below the international poverty line of US\$1.90 per day.

The main concern that places the Philippines on the watchlist of Civius, a global Alliance of Civil Society Organisations dedicated to strengthening civil society, is the ongoing killings in the governments' ongoing war on drugs that has become widespread and systematic. In addition, the Anti-Terrorism Law (signed in July 2020) negatively impacts the human rights situation and the rule of law in the Philippines as it could be used to curtail the rights to freedom of opinion and expression as well as to peaceful assembly and association.

FOCUS OF OUR WORK

Due to human rights violations and restrictions for NGOs in the Down to Zero (DtZ) implementing areas, child participation facilitation was hampered in Cebu and Bohol provinces. The restrictions also led to redirecting programme activities from Boracay to Siquijor.

Budget 2016-2020

€ 1,667,224

MAIN RESULTS ON CHILDREN/YOUTH EMPOWERMENT

During the first three years (2016-2018), the Alliance made children aware of their sexual reproductive health and rights (SRHR) including the risks of sexual exploitation. These children have become peer educators on children's rights and protection from sexual exploitation. Youth and children advocates – including survivors – have acted as resource persons for children at risk during awareness-raising activities and peer learning. They have also advocated against SEC with relevant stakeholders such as social workers, conducted street/community education in several villages, organised focal group discussions with children at risk and raised awareness on SEC in schools.

The DtZ Alliance has provided extensive support specifically to survivors, with awareness-raising on reproductive health and hygiene, school and home visitation, organising children's monthly meetings and parent-child encounters. These services were key in enabling survivors of sexual exploitation opting out from

the abusive situation and reintegrating back into the education system. Awareness raising on SEC within DtZ communities and training how and where to report cases have led to children and community members reporting cases and red-flagging areas in several cities throughout the programme.

From 2019 onwards, children's agency increased as agents of change in their families and communities and by contributing to decision-making. For example, a boy survivor acting as a representative of children in Gun-ob Barangay Council for the Protection of Children. Another example includes peer support group members from Cebu and child's rights advocates from Argao and Balamban organising activities to speak out against sexual exploitation and to promote their work and plans.