



**PERMANENT MISSION OF THE REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
TO THE UNITED NATIONS AND OTHER INTERNATIONAL
ORGANIZATIONS, GENEVA**

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The Permanent Mission of the Republic of the Philippines to the United Nations and Other International Organizations in Geneva presents its compliments to the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights and, with reference to Note Verbale No. TESPRDD/METS/WPHRE/2022/EI/PT dated 02 February 2022, has the honor to convey the attached mid-term progress report of the Philippines on the implementation of the fourth phase of the World Programme for Human Rights Education (HRE) focused on youth empowerment through human rights education.

The Permanent Mission of the Republic of the Philippines to the United Nations and Other International Organizations in Geneva avails itself of this opportunity to renew to the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights the assurances of its highest consideration.

Geneva, 8 August 2022



OFFICE OF THE UNITED NATIONS HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR HUMAN RIGHTS

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Mid-term Progress Report of the Philippines on the Implementation of the Fourth Phase of the World Programme for Human Rights Education (HRE) on Youth Empowerment Through Human Rights Education

The Philippines gives utmost importance to the promotion, protection, and fulfillment of human rights. No less than the 1987 Philippine Constitution declares that the State values the dignity of every human person and guarantees full respect for human rights.¹

On policies and related implementation measures to ensure inclusion of human rights and HRE in formal education. In ensuring that all children, including out-of-school children, youth, and adults (OSCYA) have access to free, basic education, the Alternative Learning System Act, or ALS², provides adequate support and viable learning opportunities for OSCYA learners for them to develop basic and functional literacy skills.

Under the K to 12 basic education curriculum of the ALS³, HRE is fostered where learners are able to gain knowledge and skills towards the promotion and protection of human rights, e.g., Universal Declaration of Human Rights, effects of denying/violating human rights, agencies tasked with the protection of the civil and political rights.

Furthermore, the Department of Education (DepEd) issued in May 2022 the "Child Find Policy for Learners with Disabilities towards Inclusive Education"⁴, which aims to ensure the inclusion of learners with disabilities in the general basic education school system, increasing their participation and access to quality education without discrimination.

On teaching, learning processes and tools. The Philippine government has initiated several programs, activities, and projects geared towards developing and honing competencies of the youth which include the following:

1. *DepEd Commons*⁵. Serves as an online platform/ distance learning modality for public school teachers for the continuous delivery of basic education, especially during calamities and other crises, such as the pandemic. Moreover, it promotes the use of "open educational resources", widening access to free and quality learning resources.
2. *Digital Education Program of the Department of Information and Communications Technology*⁶. Aims to facilitate digital transformation in the education sector and help address challenges in the delivery of basic education under the K-6 program, during and after the pandemic. Said program is likewise intended to empower the youth in developing digital skills to ensure a cyber-safe culture.
3. *Joint Delivery Voucher Program for Senior High School Technical-Vocational Livelihood (TVL) Specializations for School Year (SY) 2021-2022*. Provides tuition fee assistance to learner - beneficiaries to cross-

¹ Section 11, Article II of the 1987 Philippine Constitution

² Republic Act No. 11510 (s. 2020)

³ K to 12 Basic Education Curriculum for the Alternative Learning System (ALS-K to 12)

⁴ DepEd Order No. 23 (s. 2022)

⁵ DepEd Commons Roadmap

⁶ DICT Circular No. 12-D (s. 2020)

enroll in eligible partner institutions that have the necessary resources, tools, and equipment to administer the TVL program.

4. DepEd Inclusive Education Program. Promotes quality, equitable, culture-based, and complete basic education through the following⁷:
 - a. Multigrade Education Program aims to enhance the competency of teachers and improve learning performance of students in multi-grade schools;
 - b. Special Education Program ensures adequate support mechanisms are being provided to learners with special needs to enhance their access to quality education;
 - c. Madrasah Education Program targets to deliver quality education to Muslim learners while recognizing their cultural context;
 - d. Indigenous People's Education Program intends to provide Indigenous Peoples with educational opportunities and foster their indigenous knowledge, skills, and cultural heritage; and,
 - e. Flexible Learning Options aims to provide opportunity to out-of-school youth and adult to complete elementary and secondary education.

On training of educators. The State continues to conduct training programs to equip, capacitate, and enhance the capacities of teachers, which include becoming effective human rights educators. One of which is the Professional Development Program on Assessment and Emerging Literacies⁸ which was launched by DepEd in October 2021. Said program seeks to improve teachers' assessment strategies, methods, and content- knowledge in certain subjects, and help them align their classroom practices with emerging literacies measured by international assessments.

Finally, on ensuring the protection and realization of human rights, especially the youth, a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU)⁹ between the Armed Forces of the Philippines and Sulong Peace Inc., a non-government agency advocating human rights protection, was entered into in April 2022 to ensure the continuous revitalization of human rights and international humanitarian law towards ensuring peace and security in the country. Joint capacity - building and training activities have been conducted by the AFP together with Sulong Peace Inc., towards protecting human rights and building peace across the country. **END**

⁷ 2020 Programs and Projects of Department of Education. Retrieved from https://www.deped.gov.ph/wp-content/uploads/2021/10/DepEd-Programs-and-Projects-Profile_2020.pdf

⁸ DepEd launches the Professional Development Program on Assessment and Emerging Literacies with focus on PISA. Retrieved from <https://www.deped.gov.ph/2021/10/26/deped-launches-the-professional-development-program-on-assessment-and-emerging-literacies-with-focus-on-pisa/>

⁹ AFP partners with NGO to promote human rights advocacy. Retrieved from <https://www.pna.gov.ph/articles/1171438>.

13AFP partners with NGO to promote human rights advocacy. Retrieved from

[https://www.pna.gov.ph/articles/1171438#:text=MANILA%E2%80%93As%20part%20of%20efforts.NGO\)%20advocating%20human%20rights%20protection.](https://www.pna.gov.ph/articles/1171438#:text=MANILA%E2%80%93As%20part%20of%20efforts.NGO)%20advocating%20human%20rights%20protection.)