BOYS AND GIRLS AT RISK
National Baseline Study on Violence Against Children
(NBS-VAC)

RESEARCH FORUM

Manila, Philippines
31 March to 01 April 2016
Executive Summary
1. Introduction

1.1. Background

In 2006, the UN Secretary General’s Study on Violence Against Children (VAC) was presented to the General Assembly, led by independent expert Professor Paulo Sergio Pinheiro in collaboration with the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), the United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF), and the World Health Organization (WHO). It is the second landmark report on violence against children, and the first comprehensive global report on the scale of all forms of violence against children and its impact. The report approaches the problem from the combined perspectives of human rights, public health and child protection, focused on five settings where violence occurs: home and family, schools and educational settings, institutions (care and judicial), the workplace and the community.

This study brought to light the invisible nature of violence against children, which was found to be legal, state-authorized, and socially approved in almost every region. In addition, for most of the world’s children, although varying in severity and context, violence was proven to be a daily occurrence and often negatively impacts their health and well-being in the short and long term. The science and evidence that emerged from this critical research have subsequently supported
the development and expansion of effective violence prevention strategies and therapeutic interventions. Finally, it affirms that no violence against children is justified and that all violence against children is preventable³.

The Philippines has been an active advocate for children’s rights in the region, particularly in the last two decades. Upon the ratification of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child in 1990, the Philippine Plan of Action of Children (PPAC 1990-2002), and the Philippine National Strategic Framework for Plan Development for Children (2002-2025) more commonly known as Child 21 were introduced. Translating the vision of Child 21 into a clear, actionable, time-bound plan, the National Plan of Action for Children (NPAC 2005-2010) was developed, which was succeeded by the Second National Plan of Action for Children (Second NPAC 2011-2016)⁴.

Following the introduction of the National Strategic Framework for Action to End Violence Against Children in 2008 and its corresponding 3-year Plan of Action (2010-2012), ending violence against children was formally recognized as a goal in the Second NPAC, and one of its set priorities was a clear understanding of the scale and nature of the threat posed by violence to children in the Philippines⁵.

In 2009, the Government of the Philippines accepted the challenge to work on a country level evidence-based study on violence against children as a way to fulfill its commitment to children and its obligations as a state party to the Convention on the Rights of Children (CRC). It identified the Council for the Welfare of Children (CWC) as the lead implementing agency since it was the national focal agency for children and VAC in the Philippines. For the National Baseline Survey on Violence Against Children (NBS-VAC), CWC acknowledged its existing structure on violence against children known as the National Network to End Violence Against Children (NNEVAC) composed of select government agencies and non-government organizations, which developed the National Strategic Framework for Action to End Violence Against Children and Action plan⁶.

On the 9th of September 2010, the Council Board approved the conduct of the NBS-VAC, with NNEVAC as the National Steering Committee (NSC) extending its membership to involve international organizations, statistical and ethical agencies and those from the academe: UNICEF, United States Centers for Disease Control (US-CDC), University of the Philippines Manila, Child Protection Network Foundation, Inc., Consuelo Foundation, Plan Philippines, Save the Children, World Vision Development Foundation, Inc., Department of Social Welfare and Development Social Technology Bureau (DSWD-STB), and DSWD Standards Bureau (DSWD-SB)⁷.

The NBS-VAC, completed in 2015, was the first ever national study on violence against children in the Philippines. It was a community-based research using back-to-back mixed design that aimed to gather national epidemiological data on VAC in a range of situations and locations. It also included a stakeholders’ qualitative analysis that sought to identify factors that facilitate or impede a more effective implementation of VAC programs in the local level and under a devolved setting⁸. To further support and compliment the NBS-VAC, a Systematic Literature Review (SLR) on the drivers of violence was also completed in 2016. Additional related research was done in 2015 to address the emerging problem of the online abuse and exploitation of children, through a capacity gap analysis and a systematic literature review⁹.
1.2. Research Forum: Boys and Girls at Risk

Organized by the National Steering Committee on the NBS-VAC, led by the Council for the Welfare of Children and UNICEF Philippines, the Research Forum entitled “Boys and Girls at Risk” was held on March 31 to April 1, 2016 at the Manila Hotel. The two-day forum drew participation from more than 200 researchers, academics, advocates, professionals and experts working towards ending violence against children. These included delegates from Philippine government agencies, local and international NGOs, the academe, national professional associations, representatives from the Indonesian Ministry of Women and Child Protection and ministries for Human Development and National Development Planning, and child protection experts and advocates from East Asia and the Pacific Region.

Gathering experts from various fields to collectively draw out lessons and insights, the Research Forum achieved and went beyond its objectives, which were:

1. To establish an understanding about Violence Against Children and take part to commit and support essential undertakings,
2. To identify VAC priority issues and strategies for action in the Philippines,
3. To create high level government and partner commitment to support the essential follow up for VAC prevention and response as identified;
4. To demonstrate critical linkages between the VAC Agenda and tackling exploitation and abuse of children online.

Acknowledging the collective efforts of those who made the event possible, CWC Executive Director Patricia Luna highlighted the fact that the scientific data represented important milestones but translating these into actions for violence prevention and response will have a greater impact in the country, which was a priority for 2016. Adding that this study was a significant step in making the vision of a child-friendly and child-sensitive society where every child fully enjoys his or her rights a reality.

1.3. Key Messages

Honorable Corazon “Dinky” Juliano-Soliman, former CWC Chairperson and DSWD Secretary expressed that the meeting was not only about improving policies and strengthening the commitment to protect the rights of the children but about shaping and nurturing a society and reaffirming a sense of community as exemplified by the adage, “It takes a village to raise a child.” The National Baseline Survey on Violence Against Children is key in order to understand and get to the bottom of where violence comes from, and to take consistent and concrete actions to stop the violence especially in the home, which is where it is most prevalent.

UNICEF Country Representative Lotta Sylwander inspired and challenged the audience by speaking about the underlying and conflicting realities that exist in Philippine society.
Vulnerabilities that run deep in societies such as abuse against children erodes the fundamental trust children place in their families and adult supervisors or superiors. What it really does is it deteriorates the social fabric of society and if it is not mended, the Philippines will start to crumble from underneath because this is vital to a stable, and enriched society. Filipino children, who should be the happiest and most innocent are instead unaware, unsuspecting and become victims of the most heinous crimes and abuses by those they do trust the most. It is unfathomable in a society that claims to be highly religious and have high regard for values of the religious kind. Where does this behavior come from? How can this be addressed and changed? How can the children be protected?

This is a wake-up call for everyone. What it shows is that children in the Philippines are not safe. Something has to be done now and there is an enormous task ahead for all. Although this seems overwhelming and looking at the study makes one feel powerless, no one else can change it. Face up to the facts, be armed with the knowledge and evidence, and create a stronger ground to stand on and move forward. Each and every one is responsible. Violence against children must stop, and it must stop now.

Sending her message from New York City USA, Global Partnership Director Susan Bissell talked about the new Global Partnership and its work, expounded on the global phenomenon of violence against children and pointed out the role of the Philippines as a Pathfinder country.

Violence in childhood is a stark and definitive impediment to the economic and social progress the country is making. It is also actually a moral average. On the 4th of January 2016, the new global goals entered into force, and included the protection of children from violence, abuse, exploitation and torture as an integral part of that agenda. In target 16.2, under goal 16 and in other targets extending on goal 16, the rallying cry is clear: “We need and want to create a world where it is safe to be a child.”

At the global level, the partnership will focus on building the political will to end violence against children and to make violence preventable a national priority. The real movement building will take place in communities all over the world, ideally with young people active and engaged. Civil society will be a key part of the movement, solution and prevention-focused in the zero-draft strategy.

Part of the zero-draft strategy is the concept of the Pathfinder countries. These are countries where there is strong commitment to accelerate efforts to make children safe, they will receive technical support to a whole government approach to violence prevention. Pathfinders will be demonstrating that violence can be prevented, innovating and scaling up interventions.

Ending with one of the key messages from the consultations with children from the Philippines: “All countries should unite, have better communication with each other and together they can be stronger in solving problems and ending violence against children.”
Honorable Indra Gunawan, Assistant Deputy for Children with Special Needs from the Ministry of Women Empowerment and Child Protection from the Republic of Indonesia presented the situation of children in their country and the initiatives the government is undertaking to address violence against children, and stressed that the Philippine and Indonesian government can and should work together as neighboring countries.

_Ending violence against children cannot be achieved by one country or one government alone. The Philippines and Indonesia as two middle-income nations with the potential to be Pathfinders for other ASEAN countries or in Asia achieving the aim of the SDG 16.2. The similarities of the two countries – archipelagic, large population and decentralization challenges for their governments – can also mean that information and resource exchange process are relevant in gathering regional power and eliminating violence against children._

_Indonesia highly appreciates the commitment of the Philippines as a Pathfinder nation and the efforts in implementing and publishing the first national survey regarding violence against children. This is very relevant for Indonesia, to learn from this experience as the government is intending to do the same initiative in 2018; also the community-based child protection system that is being developed and implemented by the Philippines._

_On the other hand, Indonesia can offer experiences and insights too on the community-based child protection mechanism, which is being rolled out in 34 provinces. From this point onwards, the government of Indonesia is hoping that a bridge for exchanging information and learning between the two nations in the field of child protection can be built, and a discussion in building a bilateral cooperation to protect the countries’ children from any kind of violence._

Lastly, Mr. Stephen Blight, the Child Protection Advisor from UNICEF East Asia and the Pacific Region provided a background on the conduct of national studies, differentiating Stand-alone Thematic Surveys, Violence Against Children within International Survey Programmes, and National Violence Against Children (VAC) surveys. He ended by encouraging the advocates and government agencies to participate in upcoming VAC-related conferences in the region such as the Asia VACS data meeting in Beijing (April 26 to 27), and Monitoring Key SDG Indicators around Violence and a Knowledge Exchange on Effective Strategies for Violence Prevention (Third High Level Meeting on South-South Cooperation for Child Rights, Kuala Lumpur, November 2016).

After introductions, the results of both the NBS-VAC and the Systematic Review of Literature to support the findings of the VAC study were presented. Comments were gathered to further improve the study; comprehensive discussion on various VAC related topics ensued.

The discussion on the two studies were not included in this Executive Summary, given that both will be published with the updated and consolidated inputs. This report focused on the presentations of experts, researchers and practitioners, which delved into perspectives on violence, interventions, mechanisms for monitoring and evaluation, and policies and programs that address or attempt to address violence against children.

The following is a summary of the key points that emerged from the presentations and discussions.
2. Highlights

2.1. Corporal punishment is concretely linked to negative child outcomes. Harsh physical and verbal discipline predicts negative child outcomes such as aggression, anti-social and delinquent behavior, and poor psychological adjustment. Shaming, yelling, threatening to punish, and scaring into behaving predict externalizing (aggression) and internalizing (anxiety) child behaviors. It weakens adult-child attachment. Non-harsh and inductive ways to teach discipline result in higher behavioral and emotional self-regulation among children. It builds more competent behaviors and positive social relationships.

2.2. Children and adults differ in their understanding of abuse. Children consider the context of a parent’s or a family member’s actions before calling an act abusive or not (intentional, excessive, reason). Children also differentiate between external or physical pain and inner or emotional pain, stressing that emotional pain is harder to overcome. Adults or parents, on the other hand, believe that an act or situation becomes abusive to a child if this degrades the child as a person, exploits a child’s weakness, and destroys a child’s future. They also consider what should be or should not be based on cultural expectations and norms, making it evident that parents often have difficulty in differentiating discipline from abuse. Adult power is reinforced and perpetuated, not only by culturally acceptable child rearing practices that are harmful to children, but also by laws and actions of the state.
2.3. **Culture of disempowerment and compensation, hyper masculinity, and cognitive dissonance reinforce abusive behavior.** Over the centuries, the Filipino warrior culture has morphed from borrowed power to a culture of disempowerment and compensation, wherein the security of the self is compensated through displays of transferred power. This can be linked to the cycle of bullying from an authority figure bullying the husband who then goes home to bully his wife, driver, domestic helpers and his children. Perverse variations include fathers beating their sons to teach them strength, or to ensure their gay sons grow up to be a ‘man’; young lesbian girls on the other hand are raped to become ‘true women’. Men use violence when their masculinity is threatened and their power or authority is challenged. In this hyper-masculinized society, the culture of disempowerment becomes much more frail and cognitive dissonance increases as men expect to be powerful and the challenges of the time make it even more difficult for them to be so.

2.4. **Everyone is responsible for setting the norms, what is acceptable and unacceptable.** Using the example of the impact of migration, with the majority of Filipino workers are women and men are left behind. Documented cases of successful families in which the fathers were able to take on or embrace the gender role reversal, becoming nurturers, accepting their new roles and without feeling disempowered. This is not just an issue about men and men being disempowered and violent but about the whole society setting the norms for what is permitted or accepted. Chiding men for being “under the saya” or henpecked for taking care of their children, in very implicit ways reinforce disempowerment.

2.5. **Information and communications technology have changed the opportunity, scale, form and impact of exploitation and violence.** Over the years there have been evolving manifestations of sexual exploitation and abuse online; and these include sexual abuse images of children, sexual grooming, ‘sexting’ or self-produced content, sextortion, and the live-stream shows of child sexual abuse. Perpetrators have tapped into this increasing access to technology, giving them more opportunities to reach children. It also gives them false sense of anonymity, an opportunity to form their own community online to share and distribute child abuse images, and validate their own deviant behaviors. The exploitation and abuse of children online has become a major threat to children’s well-being, growth and development, and must be treated as a critical component of a broader and comprehensive strategy to prevent and respond to Violence Against Children (VAC).

2.6. **Challenges in law enforcement and legislation continue to hinder timely and appropriate response to victims of violence and abuse.** In the Philippines and across Asia there are challenges in every investigation and rescue operation: some countries do not have dedicated resources or lack the technical capability, a lack of understanding of the gravity of the crime, long administrative processes in carrying out or securing a warrant, or that there are certain laws that hinder the work of police (i.e., anti-wiretapping laws, laws on homosexuality). There is also a lack of confidence on the part of the police. Lack of understanding on liabilities of officers, for example with the anti-trafficking act the liability from an officer is removed, but police officers still fear being sued upon entering premises and there is no evidence of violence.

2.7. **The Philippines has the youngest age of sexual consent in Asia.** The indicative survey of age of sexual consent in Asia showed that the Philippines has one of the youngest at 12 years old while Bahrain the oldest at 21 years old; other countries in the region fluctuate between 14 to 18
years old. In the Philippines, there really is no minimum age of sexual consent. However, the law on statutory rape (12 years old), the anti-rape law on marriageable age (18 years old) are considered setting such age, as reported by the Philippines in its first two country implementation reports on the Convention of the Rights of the Child (CRC). For that, it is recommended that the Philippines should seriously consider to raise the limit of sexual content¹¹. One of the major challenges to this advocacy was the lack of traction from previous lobbying efforts, that it began in the 12th Congress but still critical to continue to work using a multidisciplinary approach and consider other cultural practices and laws such as Sharia Law.

2.8. Migration has a negative impact on children and families. Migrant orphans deal with the impact of migration, with its “side-effects” such as the break-up of the family structure, effects of parental absence, socio-psychological impact and long-term separation as early trauma of childhood. Often, adults perceive migration as a means of economic empowerment for the family but what most fail to see is the impact on the children, which usually depends on the developmental stage when the parent or parents left in tandem with other socio-cultural factors. In general, the younger the child, the more difficult and deeper the effects, and with adolescents the effects are more visible. Adjusting to the changes brought about by parental migration, children become susceptible to bullying (bullied by or bully others), poorer social adjustment, constant wish to be with parent and longing for parent’s love, enmeshment and reversal of roles with older children becoming caregivers to their siblings, changing roles of parents (mother as father, father as mother), migration perceived as the passport to a better life without thinking of psychological costs, creating a generation that equates money and gifts to show care and love, and increased risk for abuse.

2.9. Mindful Parenting as a strategy to veer away from corporal punishment. The Family Systems Approach looks at the abused child, abusive parent, non-abusive parent and siblings, and aim to change Filipino family myths or beliefs that reinforce harsh forms of discipline. For parents to practice mindfulness, it is important to learn how to communicate mindfully, looking at how one talks to the child, how often and the content of the conversation. In communication, mindful listening means being present and really understanding what the child is wanting or needing from the parent. Parents are taught how to discipline children with dignity, differentiating discipline from abuse, using the 5Cs: Conviction, Clarity, Consistency, Consequence and Communication. The core values that parents need to have are Respect and Honesty, setting a good example to children.

2.10. Investing in Prevention and Evidence-based Interventions Make a Difference. There are three key factors to the prevention of child maltreatment: first is the message that “violence is preventable”, second is the prioritization of prevention by allocating resources to address risk factors, and third is the importance of using evidence-based interventions. In the Philippines, there are many programs implemented by various government agencies and NGOs, which can serve as primary prevention program for child maltreatment although these were not the main intentions of these programs. Upon evaluation, the preventive interventions prior to occurrence were the Home Visitation Program (Healthy Start), Conditional Cash Transfer (Pantawid Pamilyang Pilipino Program) and Parenting Support (Parent Effectiveness Seminars or Family Development Sessions). The Multi-Sectoral Services are directed at those who have experienced violence and address possible recurrence and impairment.
3. RECOMMENDATIONS

3.1. Develop new beliefs, attitudes and skills in parenting strategies. With the evidence on hand, there is a need for a cultural and cognitive shift from believing that harsh forms of discipline are necessary to rear children towards parenting strategies that recognize the child’s competencies and rights.

3.2. Revisit perceptions on the Value of the Child and Childhood. Children are not vulnerable because they are children but because of the ways the child is defined. Society needs to be supportive instead of detrimental to children’s growth and well-being. What does it take to grow up in this society? What are the things that bind children and families together? Then work on those binders, those emotional attachments that children have. That’s where positive cultural practices or positive cultural traditions will help. Revisit these practices and traditions, and then document and promote them.

3.3. Facilitate Children’s Participation. Ensure continuous support for community-based actions initiated by children and sustain efforts to build their capacities to participate in any venue. There should be mechanisms for their involvement in lobbying and engaging with policy makers and legislators. There is a current structure that supports the participation of children from the national,
regional, municipal to city level. The Local Council for the Protection of Children (LCPC) and the Barangay Council for the Protection of Children (BCPC) are in place but needs to be reviewed and revitalized to guarantee that these function and children are able to participate in decision-making processes that affect them.

3.4. Peers play a role in Changing the Norms and Value Systems, particularly around Bullying in the school environment. The youth has a huge role to play because they are often the bystanders, bullying is something that they witness in schools. It is good to emphasize that children can help themselves first, and help one another. Children and youth still need support and guidance from adults but it would be good to enhance self-help skills and mutual support among children. It would also be beneficial that in questioning the norms, young people themselves can look at these norms and come up with solutions from their experiences and perspectives.

3.5. Identify and Promote Positive Parenting Practices. The key is to develop skills and to practice these skills. There are existing interventions but most of these focus on changing perception, educating the mind. What has to be identified are positive parenting practices from indigenous or traditional communities, or from best practices in other countries that are applicable to the Filipino context. Afterwards, creating modules that help develop parental skills and enhance parent-child interaction. One example presented was the using mindfulness-based practices.

3.6. The traditional view of masculinity must be questioned and challenged to prevent violence. Promoting a partnership norm for Filipino masculinity can help disentangle men from violence. Teach young boys in schools on how to be a human being who respects others regardless of gender. Mobilize men who challenge traditional masculinity to reach out to all-men groups and promote egalitarian views. Collaborate with women in this advocacy because they too must change their perceptions and expectations of men.

3.7. Evidence Building. It is necessary to develop mechanisms for sharing of information and learning from research and program implementation. Continue documenting good practices and models for program implementation and share these with partners. The information gathered have to be packaged for use in legislative advocacy and public awareness campaigns.

3.8. Tackling Online Violence against and sexual abuse of children will require a Multi-sectoral and Collaborative response. This can be done through raising awareness and empowerment of communities, improved legislation and policies, better and more sensitive reporting, research and evidence-based planning, a more pro-active investigation and prosecution, cross-border and cross-sector cooperation, and corporate responsibility. The comprehensive response involves policy and governance, criminal justice, society, industry, media and communications and the victims. At the societal level, two outcomes must be achieved: (1) children and young people are informed and empowered to protect themselves from child sexual abuse and exploitation, and (2) parents, carers, teachers, and childcare professionals are better prepared to keep children safe from child sexual abuse and exploitation, including addressing taboos surrounding sexual violence.

3.9. Strengthen the Support Base. It is important to mobilize allies in communities (adults and children), continue network building and strengthening so that we can continue to lobby for relevant
policy and additional funding support to the government. More innovative public awareness raising campaigns that effectively engage people and change attitudes are needed.

3.10 Develop a National Comprehensive Communication Strategy. This communication strategy must go hand-in-hand with the prevention and response plan or strategy. The goal is to increase awareness of people at all levels, but most especially, the community, regarding all forms of violence against and particularly the growing threat of child online sexual abuse or child pornography.

3.11. Identify champions. Similar to the work that has been done with the issue of trafficking, the call to end violence against children will need good champions who can help move the agenda. Specifically, high profile persons who can rally behind increasing the age of sexual consent, banning corporal punishment, addressing child online pornography and take these forward in the same way as trafficking. It really is about visibility, getting that understanding and people accepting these as important issues and having persons of respect and authority to lend their voices in support of these advocacies.

3.12. Establish and strengthen coordination mechanisms. It is a common problem that agencies with similar advocacies and programs do not coordinate with one another. Establishing and expanding platforms for information-sharing to reach out to other people beyond existing networks can help in coordination, but the mechanisms need to be looked into and developed.
3.13. **Promote Peace Education.**
Promoting a Culture of Peace in response to the Culture of Violence that is prevalent not just in Philippine communities but in the global community. However, Peace is a nebulous concept and it is very difficult: how can one teach peace? In order to do that, was to really understand conflict. What is conflict? Probably something that creates the culture of violence. In understanding conflict, responding means doing so in non-violent ways, which leads to talking about peace. Addressing the issue of violence in the home, school and community is learning how to deal with conflict in non-violent ways. Learning how to deal with conflict in non-violent ways is a mark of good parenting and a long term solution to the problem of violence against children.

3.14. **Training and Continuing Education for Professionals involved in VAC Interventions.** Specifically for service providers, technical knowledge in responding to violence against children has to be understood, the fundamentals nested within child protection, then sexual abuse and child online pornography, through the support of an online specialist.

3.15. **Provide adequate social and mental health services especially for migrant workers and their families.** Education about consequences of long term separation and how to prevent psychological problems, i.e. a parenting course in addition to pre-departure orientation (from legalities, rights, trafficking, child development, self-awareness), a comprehensive course supported and funded by the government; and be given an opportunity to weigh pros and cons. This review briefing and comprehensive orientation program about migration is made available not just for those who are leaving but as part of community project/awareness, i.e. program for nutrition, health program, PPP (Public-Private Partnership).

3.16. **Research and Knowledge Development.** The NBS-VAC is a significant study that contributes to the wealth of understanding about violence against children in the Philippines. However, it also inspires further research to dig deeper into the different phenomena associated with violence, culture, gender and perceptions on the value of children. At the same time, studies that help find appropriate strategies to approach the problems cited. One of those mentioned, in relation to child online pornography and online child sexual abuse, was a research on behavior particularly on how technology is affecting and changing the sense of boundaries of both private and public. It is a whole area that has not been researched enough in this region, for further investigation.
4. Conclusion

It was emphasized in closing remarks that the results of the study are extremely helpful, to allow us to understand the complex problem of VAC. After a long time, the desire to have one standardized data on the prevalence of VAC has finally come to fruition, recognizing how this data can now support the work everyone is doing. The study confirmed the many theoretical foundations of our program.

Overall the forum and the study are reminders of the importance of raising our children in homes that are loving, nurturing, violence-free, safe, and full of support and protection. We are reminded of the need to be mindful; that everything we say or do has an influence on the way kids who are under our care socialize and become adults. Our words shape the kind of values and beliefs that they will have as adults. Everyone was left with the invitation to reflect and ask: what do the results of the NBS VAC mean to each one of you, and how can this really be applied?

Gratitude and thanks were expressed to all the resource persons as every session of the Research Forum has been rich, informative and there was so much to learn from the speakers, academics, practitioners who shared their knowledge, time and expertise.

Sincerest thanks and congratulations to the movers and shakers behind the highly successful NBS VAC Study and two-day forum, especially to DSWD-SDS, Director Pat Luna and predecessor former Director Brenda Vigo, Country Representative Lotta Sylwander of UNICEF and Sarah Norton-Staal, Child Protection Chief as well as Dr. Bernie Madrid of Child Protection Network, and Dr. Laurie Ramiro of UP Manila for being the shepherd of this entire study. Thanks were also expressed to key partners, DepEd, DoH, Plan International, Save the Children, Child Fund, WHO, and to everyone who are here.
5. Endnotes


8 National Baselines Survey on Violence Against Children. Draft Executive Summary provided by the National Steering Committee.

9 Information provided by Sarah Norton-Staal, UNICEF Philippines.

