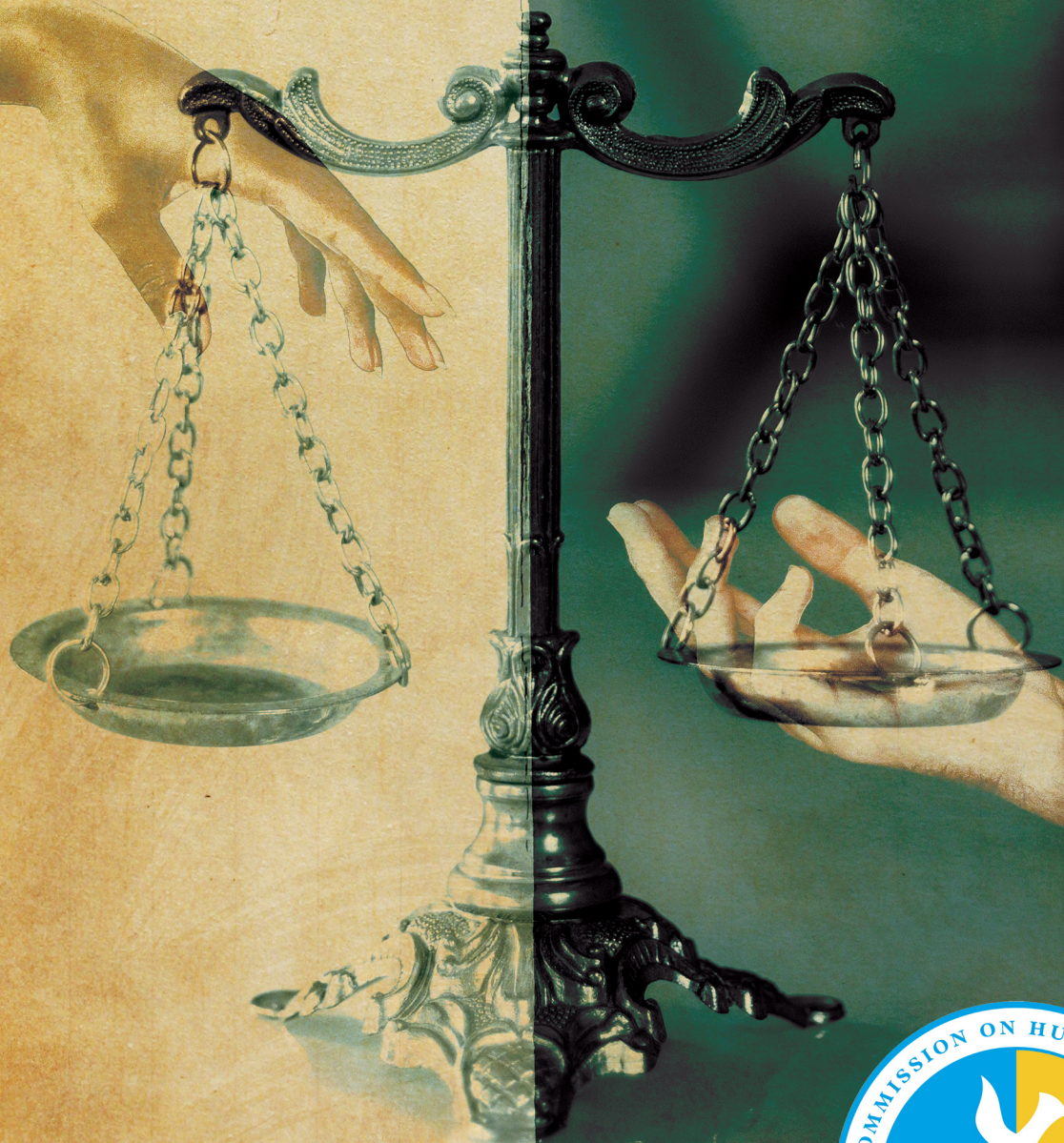


Addressing Inequality During the Pandemic



**The 2021 National Human Rights
Situation Report**



Front cover credits

Photo by EKATERINA BOLOVTSOVA

<https://www.pexels.com/photo/people-art-abstract-blur-6077519/>

Photo by Matheus Viana

<https://www.pexels.com/photo/human-hands-illustrations-3354675/>

Addressing Inequality During the Pandemic

The 2021 National Human Rights
Situation Report



Typeset in DTL Nobel and Bembo.

Front cover photo, book design, and layout by Ronald B. Escanlar.

© 2022 Commission on Human Rights of the Philippines (CHR).
Published in the Philippines.

Addressing Inequality During the Pandemic

The 2021 National Human Rights Situation Report

Commission on Human Rights
Republic of the Philippines
www.chr.gov.ph

Table of Contents

Executive Summary.....	i
Introduction.....	1
A. Civil and Political Rights	3
Right to Security of Persons.....	3
Extra-Judicial Killings.....	3
Torture	11
Enforced Disappearances	12
Arbitrary Arrest.....	13
Civil Liberties.....	14
Speech.....	14
Expression	15
Assembly	15
Press Freedom	16
B. Economic, Social, and Cultural Rights	21
Right to Health.....	21
COVID-19 Response.....	21
Mental Health	27
People Living with HIV	31
Right to Food	32
Right to Decent Work	34
Right to Water	38
Right to Housing	42
Right to Education.....	45
Right to Social Security	50

Right to Vote	56
C. Thematic Concerns	58
Women.....	58
Children.....	67
Migrant Workers	76
Indigenous Peoples	77
Internally Displaced Persons	82
Infrastructure	82
Natural Calamity	83
Armed Conflict.....	84
Persons with Disabilities	87
Persons Deprived of Liberty	91
LGBTQIA+	98
Older Persons	103
Human Rights Defenders.....	105
Conclusions	133
Recommendations	135
To the Office of the President.....	135
To the Congress of the Philippines	135
To the Department of Health	136
To the Department of the Interior and Local Government.....	136
To the Bureau of Jail Management and Penology	137
To the Ombudsman	139
To the Department of Justice	139
To the Philippine National Police.....	139
To the Commission on Higher Education	141

To the Department of Education	141
To the Department of Social Welfare and Development.....	141
To the Philippine Commission on Women	142
To the National Council on Disability Affairs	142
To the National Commission on Indigenous Peoples.....	142
To the National Youth Commission.....	143
To the Civil Society Organizations	143
To the National Task Force to End Local Communist Armed Conflict.....	143
To the Department of Foreign Affairs	144
To the Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency	145
To the Dangerous Drugs Board.....	145
To the Supreme Court.....	145
To the International Organizations.....	146
To the National Government Agencies and Local Government Units.....	146
To the Executive:	152
To the Legislature:.....	152
To the Judiciary and Constitutional Commissions:.....	152
To SSS:.....	152
To Philhealth:.....	153
Annexes.....	154
CHR PRESS STATEMENTS OF 2021	155
I. EJKs and CAMPAIGN AGAINST ILLEGAL DRUGS.....	155
II. CHR and Statements in Local and International Celebrations	156
III. Human Rights Defenders.....	157
IV. ACCESS TO JUSTICE.....	158
V. VULNERABLE SECTORS	159

VI. PERSONS DEPRIVED OF LIBERTY	160
VII. QUARANTINE VIOLATORS	161
VIII. LAW ENFORCEMENT	161
IX. POOR AND MARGINALIZED	162
X. INDIGENOUS PEOPLE.....	163
XI. ENVIRONMENT	163
XII. FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION AND VIOLENCE AGAINST THE MEDIA.....	163
XIII. HEALTH	164
XIV. EDUCATION	165
XV. GENDER AND DEVELOPMENT	165
XVI. RIGHTS OF THE CHILD	166
XVII. RE-IMPOSITION OF DEATH PENALTY	167
XVIII. ARMED CONFLICT	167
2021 CHR Human Rights Advisories and Policy Papers.....	168
Published 2021 Policy Advisory Cards.....	169

Executive summary

Since 2018, the Commission on Human Rights has issued reports on the national situation with regard to human rights in general and on thematic issues, such as the *Rights of Women with Disabilities* (2018), the *Haran Report on the Human Rights Violations against the Lumads of Mindanao* (2019), and *Human Rights Defenders in the Philippines* (2020).

The 2021 edition of the National Human Rights Report highlights the continuing challenges faced by human rights stakeholders as we enter into the second full year of the Coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic. Utilizing a structural-process and outcomes framework, the Report analyzes key human rights trends that have been observed in the Philippines as a result of the interaction of State duty bearers and rights-holders.

The Report is comprised of six major sections a) Observations on Civil and Political Rights practises; b) Challenges and Efforts to progressively realise Economic, Social and Cultural Rights; c) Thematic Concerns of Vulnerable and Marginalised Sectors; d) State efforts to address the continuing challenges that impact human rights in the Philippines; e) Activities of the Commission on Human Rights in relation to the highlighted human rights concerns and finally f) Recommendations to key State institutions for adapting a human rights based approach in their respective programs.

The Civil and Political Rights Section is composed of two main discussion tracks. Cases of violations of the right to security of persons are presented in both statistical and narrative forms. Emblematic cases of extrajudicial killings, torture, enforced disappearances, and arbitrary arrests are highlighted in this section of the report. Despite the on-going pandemic and heightened police presence in many localities to impose quarantine related restrictions, cases of extra-judicial killings continue to be monitored by the CHR field offices and civil-society human rights advocates.

The section on ESCR gives special emphasis on the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic particularly in the government's initiative to address the right to health issues that are at the heart of this issue. The government's programs and initiatives are depicted from the vantage point of internationally accepted standards for evaluating the fulfilment of right to health such as Availability, Accessibility, Acceptability and Quality or what is commonly known in human rights parlance as the AAAQ framework.

The ESCR section also provides an in-depth presentation of the government's efforts to ensure that the right to social security is guaranteed especially at this time when millions of people have been economically dislocated by the lingering effects of the pandemic on the private sector which is usually the primary source of livelihood for Filipinos. As with all other ESCR rights in consideration, the government's effort on the right to security is also viewed in this report using the AAAQ framework.

The Right to Food issues are also highlighted in this report. Rising prices and job loss are twin factors that have weakened the ability of ordinary Filipinos to provide adequately for their needs. Movement restrictions due to the wildfire-like spread of the COVID-19 Delta Variant necessitated the reimposition of the highest levels of lockdown restrictions displacing hundreds of thousands of workers.

The Right to Education discussion highlights the continuing problems that beset the Philippine education sector as the result of the strict lockdowns imposed on the section of the Philippine population that they primarily cater to. The Philippines remains as one of the handful of countries that have yet to reopen face to face classes for non-medicine related courses owing to the slow vaccination roll out. The absence of face to face classes have put tremendous pressure on education stakeholders to cope with the digital divide that has characterised the current education situation in the Philippines.

The Report also provides for a lengthy discussion of thematic concerns that the CHR had taken cognizance of. These include rights issues that affect a) Women; b) Children; c) Migrant Workers; d) Indigenous Peoples; e) Internally Displaced Persons; f) Persons with Disabilities; g) Persons Deprived of Liberty; h) LGBTQIA+; i) Older Persons; j) Human Rights Defenders.

Incidence of violence against women and children have been documented by both the CHR and State authorities. Particularly gruesome are physical violations ranging from killings and cases of sexual violations that have been reflected in many media reports in the country.

Migrant workers continue to be affected by the pandemic. The government has continued its repatriation program for distressed Overseas Filipino Workers (OFWs). Problems of deployment were also noted as a result of vaccine discrimination on the use of unapproved vaccines. As a result, the Philippine government has reallocated the limited supply of Pfizer, Moderna, and Astrazeneca to be given to OFWs so that they will not further lose economic opportunities due to entry restrictions imposed by receiving States.

Indigenous Peoples (IPs) have been saddled by both CPR and ESCR concerns throughout 2021. A tug of war involving youth IPs, State authorities, and IP communities has been documented. Access to education, water, health and protection of ancestral lands remain enduring concerns for IP communities in the Philippines during this pandemic.

There have also been documented cases of Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs). Natural calamities have forced the evacuation of people from hazard zones in the country. Armed conflicts also account for the displacement of hundreds of individuals, particularly in Mindanao.

Persons with disabilities have also been adversely and disproportionately affected by the ongoing pandemic. Limitations in their movement have worsened due to limited access to public transportation. There is a lack of consultation regarding their need for assistance in terms of mobility and limited sensory function. The COVID-19 pandemic is also deepening pre-existing inequalities which amplifies the impacts of the pandemic. Gender-based violence is increasing exponentially as the economic and social stress, combined with restricted movement and social isolation measures, brought about by the COVID-19 pandemic intensifies. Persons with disabilities also continue to suffer from discrimination, ridicule, harassment, sexual abuse, rape, and other forms of violence. They also continue to struggle with greater inequalities in employment, education, and access to healthcare.

Persons Deprived of Liberty (PDLs) continue to experience below standard facilities due to over-congestion of jails. Provisions for technology aided visits have been made available to ensure continued access for PDLs to their respective families. Vaccination against COVID-19 has also been slow paced but the government is anticipated to ramp up vaccination for this sector towards the end of the year. The COVID-19 pandemic pushed the Bureau of Jail Management and Penology (BJMP) to decongest jails. The Supreme Court order to transfer PDLs to different jail facilities was suspended to prevent the spread of the virus. There was also speedy disposition of drug cases because of plea deals. PDLs who showed good conduct were released earlier.

LGBTQIA+ continue to suffer from discrimination, public ridicule, harassment, physical and sexual abuse, and other forms of violence in the Philippines during the pandemic. A positive development that could help address these concerns is the passage of several local ordinances that provide for anti-discrimination provisions.

The discussion on Human Rights Defenders (HRDs) highlights the alarming attacks that have been documented against HRDs in the Philippines. Killings, harassment, and systematic targeting of HRDs have been observed by the Commission on Human Rights. Even high ranking officials of the National Human Rights Institution (NHRI) have not been spared by the systematic attacks by State authorities in their attempts to delegitimize the concerns and advocacies raised by HRDs. State mechanisms to ensure accountability have not been able to keep up with the pace of the violations versus HRDs during the current calendar year.

The State has also attempted to address these aforementioned human rights concerns. Part of it was done through legislative measures to address ESCR issues in particular. Programs to address CPR issues continue to be found wanting especially when benchmarked against human rights outcomes on the ground.

The Report also includes an in-depth discussion of the actions taken by the CHR Central Office and Regional Offices located in sixteen (16) regions in the country. Motu proprio investigations of rights violations, provision of financial assistance and legal advice were undertaken by the different CHR field offices to immediately provide redress for human rights victims.

Lastly, the Report provides a list of recommendations to State authorities that, if properly implemented, should result in verifiable improvements on the ground. CPR rights, particularly those that involve issue of killings need to be addressed, especially now that the world has trained its sights on the Philippine human rights situation following the twin developments of having a UN-imposed joint program on human rights and the initiation of a formal investigation by the International Criminal Court (ICC) for crimes against humanity as a result of the bloody drug war conducted by the Duterte administration.

CHR REGIONAL OFFICES



CHR: Dignity of all

Introduction

The Commission on Human Rights of the Philippines (CHR), as the country's national rights institution (NHRI) mandated by the 1987 Philippine Constitution to monitor the Philippine government's compliance with human rights obligations, submits this 2021 annual report on the human rights situation in the Philippines entitled, *Continuing Rights Challenges in a Pandemic*.

This human rights national situation report discusses the Philippine Human Rights National Situation 2021 by (1) laying down the Civil and Political Rights (CPRs) conditions, which focus on the freedom against discrimination, rights of persons deprived of liberty, Extra-Judicial Killings (EJKs), Anti-Terrorism Law, enforced disappearances, arbitrary arrests and detention, right to security, and right to information; (2) providing the Economic, Social, Cultural Rights situations, which primarily tackles the right to health, right to education, right to social security, labor and migrant rights, and rights of indigenous people; and (3) presenting the Collective and Sectoral Rights statuses, which concentrate on the rights of women, children, older persons, persons with disabilities, internally displaced persons, human rights defenders, and LGBTQIA+.

Some rights are cross-cutting and therefore do not fit to a particular categorization, but this report still puts specific rights into a category in which its issues and concerns primarily revolve. The order of presentation does not prescribe any priority over the other categories or impose that one category is superior to the other. The State, as the primary duty-bearer, shall protect and promote these rights. Lastly, this Report offers recommendations to the government in addressing the various human rights and issues and concerns to improve the country's human rights situation.

The report utilizes a variety of data gathering methods to surface key human rights trends that have transpired during the current calendar. Field data from the different CHR regional offices were processed and collated into regional human rights reports of which certain parts are referenced in this consolidated national report. Thematic concerns particularly those involving vulnerable and marginalized groups are also discussed in the succeeding sections of this report.

This report also includes information derived from regional human rights monitoring activities from 01 July to 31 December 2020. Owing to internal procedures, such reports are submitted to the CHR Central Office every 31st of January of the calendar year. Updates to such cases are also provided whenever such information becomes available during the present observation period. In addition, the data from the first semester regional situation reports covering the period of January to June 2021 are likewise analysed and included in this report to provide additional primary data on the human rights situation on the ground for the current year.

Information from government websites responsible for particular rights are analyzed for relevant data. This is to ensure that triangulation of data sets sourced from state duty bearers are integrated in the analysis contained in this report.

Secondary sources such as reports from verified media outlets have been regularly collected and monitored and later are subjected to content analysis. As part of analytical protocols, the information derived from this source are then catalogued in an internal database that classifies the type of right that is covered within a particular new story. Multiple coders are employed to check the classification of stories to ensure data integrity.

Political and security context with an impact on the protection of human rights

- 1 Authoritarian populism and liberal democratic pushback represent the two major contending forces that played out in the political landscape of the Philippines in 2021. On one hand, the continuing pressures against democratic institutions have been observed

as a result of policy decisions of the present administration. On the other hand, there are noticeable developments on the part of both State and non-State actors to be more active in their performance as check and balance mechanisms in the Philippines. Consequently, both factors are seen as having important implications for the human rights situation in the country.

- 2 Several developments can be considered as key indicators of the continued relevance of the authoritarian populist project in the Philippines. The Commission on Human Rights has rung the alarm bells on the shrinking of civic spaces. The shrinking of such spaces has been precipitated by unilateral actions of State authorities. From the arbitrary operationalization of the highly controversial Anti-Terror Law of 2020 to the red-tagging of not only human rights defenders but anyone who might have expressed contrary views to the policies of the current administration. These have not only contributed to the reduction of opportunities for meaningful engagement; moreover, such policies may have fomented acts of violence against activists and ordinary citizens alike.
- 3 Limiting civil and political rights is also part of the playbook of any authoritarian populist regime. Efforts utilizing “lawfare” to marginalize civil-society organizations are fully underway with the issuance of memorandum circulars by the Department of the Interior and Local Government. In a vacuum, accreditation and institutionalization of people’s councils would be considered as positive developments towards ensuring greater citizen participation in governance that should augur well for our democratic consolidation project. However, given the prevailing political environment where red-tagging is not only tolerated but encouraged and done even at the highest echelons of government, the fear that such mechanisms would be used to weaken, deny or even target critical voices are certainly not without basis.
- 4 The latter half of the year have shown indications that authoritarian populism may have reached its peak. One of the key trends that support this assertion is the erosion of the current administration’s political support base. Consecutive quarterly surveys show diminishing support for the President as well as those identified to be possible candidates of the administration in the 2022 elections. Quite significant is the recent survey result which confirms that an overwhelming majority believe the inappropriateness of a possible vice-presidential run for President Duterte in the upcoming elections as this is construed to be a circumvention of the 1987 Constitution.
- 5 The lingering and devastating effects of the COVID-19 pandemic have begun to take its toll on the popularity of President Duterte. Allegations of corruption have also been looming in the public consciousness as a result of the senate hearings on the government’s pandemic response as part of its oversight function. Timely reports from the Commission on Audit have also contributed to the public’s knowledge about the apparent deficiencies related to the government’s COVID response.
- 6 The prospects of a full-blown investigation and eventual trial for crimes against humanity against members and allies of the Duterte administration have also raised hopes that justice can finally be rendered for the thousands that have been killed during the bloody “War on Drugs”. Lately as a result of increasing external pressures, there have been efforts on the part of the State through the Department of Justice to properly investigate a fraction of the killings that have occurred during anti-drug operations by the police and anti-narcotics agents.

- 7 Human rights situation, include the most important human rights trends and developments, both positive and negative, while highlighting, as a minimum, the most acute, widespread and/or urgent issues currently faced in the Philippines

A. Civil and Political Rights

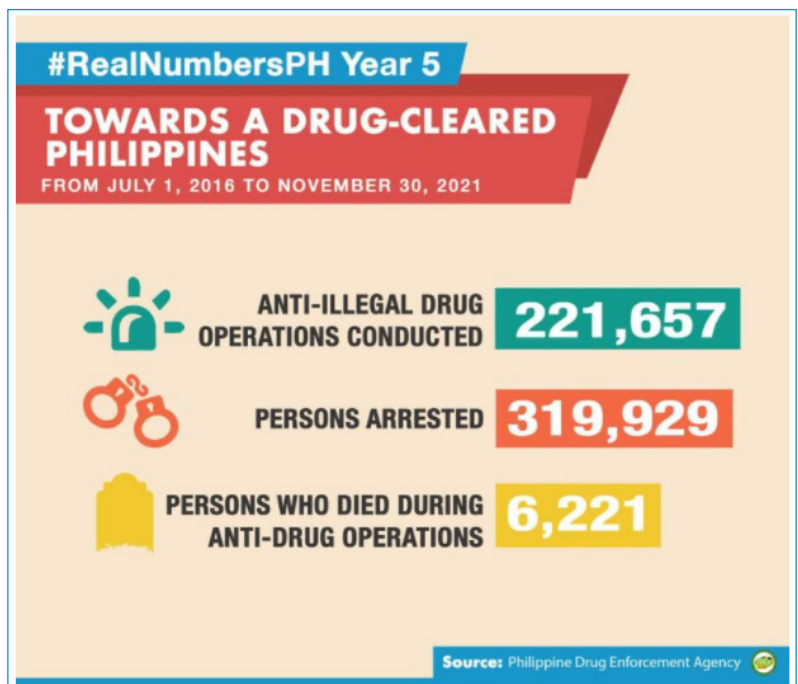
Right to Security of Persons

Breakdown of the Number of HRV Cases Investigated or being Investigated By the CHR										
Regional Office	January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	September	TOTAL
1 Ilocos		2	18	10	9		5	1		45
2 Cagayan	2	12	18	10	9	13	12	8	4	88
3 Central Luzon	18	9	24	4	10	19	17	21	14	136
4 CALABARZON	54	46	74	42	68	55	31	47	42	459
4 MIMAROPA	10	12	8	7	7	21	4		4	73
5 Bicol	4	8	3	10	10	4	11	7	8	65
6 Western Visayas	4	23	13	6	6	3	3	7	7	72
7 Central Visayas	3	5	5	8	5	2	2	6	1	37
8 Eastern Visayas	10	3	5	1	3	5	10	4	4	45
9 Zamboanga Peninsula	6	7	15	17	4	14	6	6	6	81
10 Northern Mindanao	9	4	10	2	2	3	3		3	36
11 Davao	3	5	8	2	8		8	2		36
12 SOCCSKSARGEN	7	5	6	5	3	5	19	3		53
CARAGA	3	2	8	2	2		5			22
NCR	2	5	17	3	2	6	9	5	5	54
CAR	3	8	2	4	8	5	4	1	2	37
Investigation Office		7			1	6	3	1	6	24
TOTAL	138	163	234	133	157	161	152	119	106	1363

- 8 As of 26 October 2021, a total of 1,363 human rights violations cases were investigated or are being investigated by the Commission from January to September 2021.

Extra-Judicial Killings

- 9 From 01 July 2016 to 30 November 2021, there were 221,657 anti-illegal drug operations conducted, with 319,929 persons arrested, and 6,221 persons who died during anti-drug operations.
- 10 In the Philippine setting, Extra-Judicial Killing (EJK) is defined as: "...all acts and omissions of State actors that constitute violation of the general recognition of the right to life embodied in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the United Nations Covenant on Civil



and Political Rights, the UNCRC and similar other human rights treaties to which the Philippines is a State party;”

- 11 The Commission on Human Rights (CHR), in CHR Resolution No. (IV) A2010-085, defined EJKs as: “...killings committed outside of the legal and judicial process by or with the consent or acquiescence of the State or public officials, and which are considered illegal under relevant national and international laws, other than necessary measures of law enforcement to protect life or as acts of armed conflict carried out in conformity with the rules of international humanitarian law.”
- 12 Extra Judicial Killings (EJKs) have been a continuing black mark in the track record of the Duterte Administration. For 2021, the CHR has investigated a total of 68 cases: 74 victims of which were male, 62 were killed during law enforcement operations, while 6 were killed by unidentified assailants.
- 13 The CHR Regional Office III conducted a motu proprio investigation on the shooting of Sonya Gregorio and her son Frank Anthony Gregorio by an off-duty police officer, Jonel Nuezca last 20 December 2020. The shooting was captured on video and has gone viral on social media.
- 14 The confrontation began when Nuezca complained about allegedly hearing an improvised cannon (boga) by the Gregorio family. The victims and the suspect had a grudge stemming from a land dispute regarding the right of way. In the video, the family could be heard trying to stop the fight between the son and the police officer. However, the policeman’s daughter came closer and shouted to them, “My father is a policeman!”
- 15 Sonya Gregorio shouted back, “I don’t care.” The police officer then drew his issued firearm, a Beretta 9 mm with serial number M17813Z, and shot the mother, Sonya, point-blank in the head, and did the same to her son, Frank. As the mother struggled to get up, police officer Nuezca shot her a second time before fleeing.
- 16 With regard to the right of way dispute between the victims and suspect, Barangay Kagawad Arcadio Rirao and Barangay Secretary Amelia Antonio informed this Office that there has been a series of dialogue in the barangay between the Gregorios and Nuezca, however, said dialogues did not push through due to the unwillingness of Nuezca to come to terms with the Gregorios.
- 17 The State must also look after the best interest of the children who witnessed the gruesome crime. A proper psychological and post-traumatic debriefing session and intervention for other minors who witnessed the incident is recommended, depending on Paniqui’s Municipal Social Welfare and Development Office (MSWDO) assessment.¹
- 18 Human rights lawyer Atty. Karlo Guillen survived an attack on his life last 03 March 2021 in Iloilo City by pretending to be dead. Two men tried to kill him with a screwdriver, stabbing Guillen in the head and leaving the said screwdriver embedded in his left temple when paramedics found him bleeding on a street. The two men fled on two motorcycles with two accomplices. The assailants took Guillen’s backpack with his personal belongings and a shoulder bag containing his laptop, external disk for backup files, and case documents.²

1 Commission on Human Rights Regional Office III. (2021, January). Human Rights Regional Situationer Report Region III – Central Luzon January to December 2020.

2 Burgos, N. (2021). Rights lawyer survives attack by playing dead, loses all case files. Retrieved from <https://newsinfo.inquirer.net/1403604/rights-lawyer-survives-attack-by-playing-dead-loses-all-case-files>

- 19** The Sangguniang Kabataan (SK) Federation Chairperson of Lumban, Laguna was shot and killed by at least two gunmen who barged into his house on 13 April 2021. Renzo Matienzo was shot in front of his pregnant partner and his 4-year old child.³ Investigators found 10 empty shells from a .45-caliber gun at the scene. Police Capt. Jose Mari Peña said that politics and personal grudge may be motives in the attack, not disregarding illegal drugs due to narcotics trade happening in the town.⁴
- 20** In the last quarter of 2020, Harjan Pacyao Lagman was forcefully brought inside a red SUV along Irisan on 11 November 2020 was recorded by CHR Cordillera Administrative Region. His decapitated body was found the next day along Sitio Gulon, Ambassador, Tublay. As of 26 May 2021, Linda Lagman, the mother of the victim, has stated that months after the incident, they never managed to locate Harjan's head.⁵ Two of the perpetrators were identified to be police officers from the Regional Drug Enforcement Unit of PROCOR.⁶
- 21** According to the data the CHR Regional Office III collected, a vast majority of the victims were males and all were killed during a buy-bust operation that turned into an armed encounter. Victims are classified in various ways such as a person in the drug watchlist, an alleged drug user or dealer, or a person who previously surrendered in drug operations. Almost all the victims who died of gunshot wounds were linked to police operations. The majority of the cases are pending and still under investigation while the rest were resolved and terminated. The majority of the respondents were identified as police officers from various cities in Region III, but some victims were killed by unidentified assailants.⁷
- 22** A complaint was filed before CHR CARAGA alleging the desecration of the remains of a woman who died in an encounter between the AFP and forces of the New People's Army (NPA). The woman who was killed was allegedly a member of the NPA. Photos of military members standing by the body of the woman and some items seized were posted in the social media accounts of Government news agencies. The complaint alleged that there was a desecration of the remains of the woman, that her body was being presented like a "trophy", in violation of rules and the law. The case has been docketed, and investigated by this Office.⁸
- 23** The CHR has observed that the killings in relation to the anti-illegal drug campaign have been widespread, spanning across almost all administrative regions of the country. The CHR recorded the highest number of these killings in NCR, Region III, and Region IV-A. These regions have a combined total of 1,323 case dockets on drug-related killings as of 15 February 2020, covering 1,847 victims or 55% of all the reported victims nationwide. Seventy-six (76) percent of the total number of these case dockets from NCR, Region III,

3 Rappler. (2021, April). Youth leader gunned down in Laguna. <https://www.rappler.com/nation/sangguniang-kabataan-leader-renzo-matienzo-killed-lumban-laguna/>

4 Mallari, D. (2021). Youth leader shot dead in Laguna. Retrieved from <https://newsinfo.inquirer.net/1419727/youth-leader-shot-dead-in-laguna-2>

5 Alimondo, L. (2021). In Loving Memory. Retrieved from <https://news.abs-cbn.com/spotlight/multimedia/slideshow/05/26/21/in-loving-memory>

6 Commission on Human Rights Cordillera Administrative Region. (2021, January). Regional Human Rights Situation Report July to December 2020.

7 Commission on Human Rights Regional Office III. (2021, July). Human Rights Regional Situation Report Region III – Central Luzon.

8 Commission on Human Rights CARAGA. (2021, July). The Situation of Human Rights in the CARAGA Region.

and Region IV-A are still under investigation. Twelve (12) percent have been resolved and three (3) percent have final investigation reports.⁹

- 24** According to the Report on Investigations Related to the Anti-Illegal Drug Campaign (with Analysis on Regions NCR, III and IV-A), a total of 579 incidents from NCR, Region III, and Region IV-A were analyzed. These incidents involve 870 victims, at least 71 of whom are women, and at least 24 were minors. From the 579 incidents analyzed, 451 were alleged operations by law enforcers, 104 were committed by unidentified perpetrators, while the remaining 24 did not have sufficient information as to the circumstances.¹⁰
- 25** In the 451 operations conducted by law enforcers, a total of 705 victims were recorded. Out of these victims, 538 were killed. The other 167 victims had either survived or their conditions are unknown. It was observed that police accounts claim that 466 (out of 705) victims initiated aggression or resisted arrest during such operations. Police records showed that only 2% percent or 11 persons survived the officers' alleged attempt to quell such aggression or resistance. Police protocols prescribe the employment of necessary and reasonable force only in order to subdue resistance put up by an aggressor. Excessive use of force, especially when law enforcement outnumbers a lone aggressor, could indicate possible abuse of strength and intent to kill.¹¹
- 26** Across the three regions, only 48% of the case records contained police documents. The denial of access to police documents severely limits the ability of the CHR to determine whether such killings are being investigated and prosecuted by the State. Across the three regions, drug-related killings committed by unidentified perpetrators are also being reported and investigated. The brutal way by which the killings are carried out and the means adopted to foster anonymity contribute to the climate of criminality in the regions. The observable pattern from this class of killings is their brazen method, possibly encouraging repetitions of emboldened attacks.¹²
- 27** The report was based on records and reports of the Investigation Office and the Regional Offices collated as of August 2019; and master list of cases from the Investigation Office dated 15 February 2020.¹³
- 28** The killings analyzed in the report were considered to be drug-related if the victim or the incident had links to illegal drugs or to the Anti-Illegal Drug Campaign. Out of the 870 total victims in NCR, Region III, and Region IV-A, 743 allegedly had links to the illegal drugs prior to the incident. This makes up more than 85% of the total number of victims. These victims may have more than one type of link to illegal drugs or the illegal drug trade according to the police records. The remaining victims comprising about 15% of the total do not have prior links to illegal drugs or illegal drug trade. However, they

⁹ Commission on Human Rights. (2021, September). REPORT ON INVESTIGATIONS RELATED TO THE ANTI-ILLEGAL DRUG CAMPAIGN (with Analysis on Regions NCR, III, and IV-A).

¹⁰ Commission on Human Rights. (2021, September). REPORT ON INVESTIGATIONS RELATED TO THE ANTI-ILLEGAL DRUG CAMPAIGN (with Analysis on Regions NCR, III, and IV-A).

¹¹ Commission on Human Rights. (2021, September). REPORT ON INVESTIGATIONS RELATED TO THE ANTI-ILLEGAL DRUG CAMPAIGN (with Analysis on Regions NCR, III, and IV-A).

¹² Commission on Human Rights. (2021, September). REPORT ON INVESTIGATIONS RELATED TO THE ANTI-ILLEGAL DRUG CAMPAIGN (with Analysis on Regions NCR, III, and IV-A).

¹³ Commission on Human Rights. (2021, September). REPORT ON INVESTIGATIONS RELATED TO THE ANTI-ILLEGAL DRUG CAMPAIGN (with Analysis on Regions NCR, III, and IV-A).

VICTIM LINK TO ILLEGAL DRUGS

NCR



**Alleged
Pushers**



**Allegedly in
possession of
drugs**



**Associated with
someone linked
to illegal drugs**

Region III



**Alleged
Pushers**



**Allegedly in
possession of
drugs**



**Included in
Drug List**

Region IV-A



**Alleged
Pushers**



**Included in
Drug List**



**Alleged
Users**

	Buy-Bust Operation	Warrantless Arrest	<i>Tokhang</i>	Others
NCR	46	20	6	26
Region III	173	15	1	26
Region IV-A	90	3	2	38

were involved in incidents that are connected to the government's campaign against illegal drugs.¹⁴

- 29** Of the 451 incidents, it is observed in some incidents that multiple law enforcement operations were alleged to be conducted in a single accident. Buy-bust operations are the most common across the three regions, followed by warrantless arrests. Other types of alleged law enforcement operation observed in the three regions are Tokhang, checkpoints, patrols, detention, and custodial investigations. Furthermore, a number of police operations were vaguely described in the records as “anti-drug operation” “anti-criminality campaign” and “follow-up operation” among others.¹⁵
- 30** In incidents of alleged operations by law enforcement officers, 466 victims allegedly initiated aggression or resisted arrest according to police records. Of these purported “nanlaban” victims, only 11 persons survived. Notable is the case of Francisco Maneja Jr. in NCR. Maneja allegedly fought back against police officers who conducted a buy-bust operation. Maneja denied that he was selling illegal drugs. He escaped death by pretending to be dead after he was shot by the police.¹⁶
- 31** The following are patterns of discrepancies in alleged law enforcement operations, based on the comparison of witness statements and police documents:
 - a** Witness accounts cast doubt on whether alleged buy-bust operations were actually conducted.
 - b** Alleged “nanlaban” victims could not have initiated a shootout.
 - c** Some victims were already under police custody before they were killed.
 - d** Unjustified violence was prevalent in the conduct of alleged law enforcement operations.
 - e** Planting of evidence was observed by witnesses in a number of cases.
 - f** Victims killed might not have been the intended target of the alleged operations.¹⁷
- 32** The denial of access to police information is often attributed to Executive Order (E.O.) No. 02 or “Operationalizing in the Executive Branch of the People’s Constitutional Right to Information and the State Policies to Full Public Disclosure and Transparency in the Public Service and Providing Guidelines” which was signed by President Duterte on 23 July 2016. E.O No. 02 mandated government offices under the Executive branch to adopt their own People’s Freedom of Information (FOI) Manual. It also ordered an inventory of all the exceptions enshrined in the Constitution, laws and jurisprudence by the Department of Justice and Office of the Solicitor General.¹⁸

14 Commission on Human Rights. (2021, September). REPORT ON INVESTIGATIONS RELATED TO THE ANTI-ILLEGAL DRUG CAMPAIGN (with Analysis on Regions NCR, III, and IV-A).

15 Commission on Human Rights. (2021, September). REPORT ON INVESTIGATIONS RELATED TO THE ANTI-ILLEGAL DRUG CAMPAIGN (with Analysis on Regions NCR, III, and IV-A).

16 Commission on Human Rights. (2021, September). REPORT ON INVESTIGATIONS RELATED TO THE ANTI-ILLEGAL DRUG CAMPAIGN (with Analysis on Regions NCR, III, and IV-A).

17 Commission on Human Rights. (2021, September). REPORT ON INVESTIGATIONS RELATED TO THE ANTI-ILLEGAL DRUG CAMPAIGN (with Analysis on Regions NCR, III, and IV-A).

18 Commission on Human Rights. (2021, September). REPORT ON INVESTIGATIONS RELATED TO THE ANTI-ILLEGAL DRUG CAMPAIGN (with Analysis on Regions NCR, III, and IV-A).

- 33** The inventory of “Exceptions to Right of Access to Information” was released on 24 November 2016. Among the exceptions were “information concerning law enforcement and protection of public and personal safety” and “information deemed confidential for the protection of the privacy of persons and certain individuals such as minors, victims of crimes, or the accused.”¹⁹
- 34** Across the three regions, 152 victims were recorded in the context of non-law enforcement operations – 26 body dumps, 38 incidents of riding-in-tandem, and 24 incidents with placards found. These incidents were mostly carried out by unidentified perpetrators. The nature and mode of the attacks suggest brutality in their commission.²⁰
- 35** Twenty-six (26) killings committed by unidentified perpetrators have victims whose bodies were subsequently found after the attacks. Some places of discovery were in uninhabited spaces. It can be reasonably surmised that the disposal of bodies in such places were done to conceal or to prevent their immediate discovery. On the other hand, killings carried out in public places indicate the flagrant resolve of the assailants to commit the crime.²¹
- 36** With respect to the condition of the bodies that were discovered, nine were found with their heads or limbs wrapped with wire, rope, or packing adhesive material. The condition by which these bodies were found is indicative of the cruelty or ignominy attending the commission of the crime. The fact of binding the limbs or wrapping the head is a circumstance that further debases the dignity of the victims.²²
- 37** Twenty four (24) incidents involved discoveries of victims with a placard or a written sign implicating them in illegal activities, mostly relating to illegal drugs. The tenor of the writings are of a similar nature—that is, the victim suffered his or her fate due to involvement in illegal activities and should serve as a warning to others (“huwag tularan”). These attacks perpetrated by unknown assailants, on their face, seemingly seek to advance an anti-illegal drug message while also producing a chilling effect.²³
- 38** “Riding-in-tandem” was also seen as a mode of attack in 38 incidents. Riding-in-tandem involves the perpetrators’ use of a motorcycle as a means of transport and escape. The usual method in riding-in-tandem attacks is through a drive-by killing. In this method, one of the perpetrators would operate the motorcycle, while the back rider pulls the trigger and delivers the fatal shots while passing by the victim.²⁴
- 39** The Commission notes an increase in the number of drug-related killings shortly after pronouncements of the President supporting the anti-illegal drug campaign and the institutionalization of Project Double Barrel. The Government’s campaign against illegal drugs, particularly on the investigation and prosecution of drug-related cases, does not

19 Commission on Human Rights. (2021, September). REPORT ON INVESTIGATIONS RELATED TO THE ANTI-ILLEGAL DRUG CAMPAIGN (with Analysis on Regions NCR, III, and IV-A).

20 Commission on Human Rights. (2021, September). REPORT ON INVESTIGATIONS RELATED TO THE ANTI-ILLEGAL DRUG CAMPAIGN (with Analysis on Regions NCR, III, and IV-A).

21 Commission on Human Rights. (2021, September). REPORT ON INVESTIGATIONS RELATED TO THE ANTI-ILLEGAL DRUG CAMPAIGN (with Analysis on Regions NCR, III, and IV-A).

22 Commission on Human Rights. (2021, September). REPORT ON INVESTIGATIONS RELATED TO THE ANTI-ILLEGAL DRUG CAMPAIGN (with Analysis on Regions NCR, III, and IV-A).

23 Commission on Human Rights. (2021, September). REPORT ON INVESTIGATIONS RELATED TO THE ANTI-ILLEGAL DRUG CAMPAIGN (with Analysis on Regions NCR, III, and IV-A).

24 Commission on Human Rights. (2021, September). REPORT ON INVESTIGATIONS RELATED TO THE ANTI-ILLEGAL DRUG CAMPAIGN (with Analysis on Regions NCR, III, and IV-A).

measure up to the international standards set by the United Nations in the Minnesota Protocol.²⁵

- 40** The Minnesota Protocol outlines States' legal obligations as well as common standards and guidelines relating to the investigation of potentially unlawful deaths, which may have been caused by any of the following:
- a** Acts or omissions of the State, its organs or agents, or may otherwise be attributable to the State, in violation of its duty to respect the right to life;
 - b** Deaths in custody or detention;
 - c** Where a State fails to exercise due diligence to protect an individual from foreseeable external threats or violence by non-State actors such as vigilante-style killings;
 - d** Failure of the State to investigate any suspicious death, even where it is not alleged or suspected that the State caused the death or unlawfully failed to prevent it.²⁶
- 41** Due to COVID-19 restrictions, walk-in clients of the CHR CAR decreased. Other legal services were sought and provided through electronic means such as mobile text messaging, phone calls, e-mails, and through the office social media accounts. Regular cases were received through walk-in clients, referrals and motu proprio investigations. These motu proprio investigation cases were gathered through news articles, particularly those uploaded in social media.²⁷
- 42** One non-drug related EJK case involves the killing of a Deputy City Prosecutor of Ilagan, Isabela. The victim sustained several bullet wounds on his body. He was killed by riding-in-tandem gunmen who waited for him near his residence. Police investigators are looking at the angle that the killing was likely job-related.²⁸
- 43** The alleged three drug related killings docketed in the CHR CAR are drug surrenders or those implicated in a drug case where a drug substance was found in their body. As to circumstances of commission, the victims' dead bodies were dumped in a secluded area where the victims might be discovered only by chance. Also, the victims went missing for one to several days and then were found dead. One of the victims was shot to death and the other two suffered puncture wounds to their bodies and strangulation marks to their neck similar to the previous drug related killings investigated by this office. In all these cases, it was reported that the victims did not die in the place where they were found but someplace else since the amount of blood found at the scene did not match the injuries sustained by the victims, nor were there any signs of struggle in the place where the bodies were found.²⁹

25 Commission on Human Rights. (2021, September). REPORT ON INVESTIGATIONS RELATED TO THE ANTI-ILLEGAL DRUG CAMPAIGN (with Analysis on Regions NCR, III, and IV-A).

26 Commission on Human Rights. (2021, September). REPORT ON INVESTIGATIONS RELATED TO THE ANTI-ILLEGAL DRUG CAMPAIGN (with Analysis on Regions NCR, III, and IV-A).

27 Commission on Human Rights Cordillera Administrative Region. (2021, August). HUMAN RIGHTS SITUATION REPORT ON THE MONITORING OF COVID-19 VACCINATION PROGRAM CORDILLERA ADMINISTRATIVE REGION.

28 Commission on Human Rights Cordillera Administrative Region. (2021, August). HUMAN RIGHTS SITUATION REPORT ON THE MONITORING OF COVID-19 VACCINATION PROGRAM CORDILLERA ADMINISTRATIVE REGION.

29 Commission on Human Rights Cordillera Administrative Region. (2021, August). HUMAN RIGHTS SITUATION REPORT ON THE MONITORING OF COVID-19 VACCINATION PROGRAM CORDILLERA ADMINISTRATIVE REGION.

- 44** On 06 March 2021, a victim left his workplace to go somewhere. On 07 March 2021, he was found dead along Sitio Peday, Loacan, Itogon, Benguet. Police found one sachet of white crystalline substance suspected as shabu in his bag. He had marks of strangulation in the neck, a stab wound in the chest and signs of being beaten up.³⁰
- 45** The victim was found along Labey-Lacamen Road, Ambuklao, Bokod, Benguet. From the police report, it was found that there was a small heated-plastic containing white crystalline substance suspected to be shabu. It also appears that the victim was strangled since there were strangulation marks on his neck and puncture wounds in the chest.³¹
- 46** The killing of drug suspects and personalities are being carried with impunity. This is more alarming than questionable deaths during police operations since accountability for these violations are much more elusive.³²
- 47** Malabanan was shot dead in the vicinity of their home in Samar. According to his wife, he was shot inside their small store while watching television when she heard a gunshot. She did not see the gunman but a shot in the head killed Jes instantly. Malabanan is a member of the Pampanga Press Club, he was also a correspondent of the Manila Standard Today. He was a long-time stringer of the news organization Reuters. He has worked with them on their stories on the drug war, which won a Pulitzer Prize in 2018.³³

Torture

- 48** A group of minors who violated curfew hours imposed by the government in Barangay Gatid, Sta. Cruz, Laguna were placed in a dog cage as punishment by the Barangay Chairperson last 15 March 2021. The apprehension was in line with the barangay's "Oplan Bantay, Lock and Load" or "Oplan Aso". The Commission on Human Rights immediately issued a statement emphasizing that "while the CHR is not oblivious of the prevailing public health emergency that sustains the imposition of curfew, not only in Barangay Gatid, but in most barangays across the country, this fact alone does not and cannot excuse anyone from infringing human rights. Cramping alleged offenders in an improvised cage intended for canines as punishment, whether in part or in whole, for violating an ordinance is definitely cruel, inhumane and degrading treatment". The arrested minors were released and a complaint for child abuse is now being heard in court.³⁴
- 49** The private prosecutor on the grave coercion case has filed a Motion for Reconsideration arguing that the accused punong barangay should have been charged with Serious Illegal Detention. The resolution on the motion is still pending.³⁵

30 Commission on Human Rights Cordillera Administrative Region. (2021, August). HUMAN RIGHTS SITUATION REPORT ON THE MONITORING OF COVID-19 VACCINATION PROGRAM CORDILLERA ADMINISTRATIVE REGION.

31 Commission on Human Rights Cordillera Administrative Region. (2021, August). HUMAN RIGHTS SITUATION REPORT ON THE MONITORING OF COVID-19 VACCINATION PROGRAM CORDILLERA ADMINISTRATIVE REGION.

32 Commission on Human Rights Cordillera Administrative Region. (2021, August). HUMAN RIGHTS SITUATION REPORT ON THE MONITORING OF COVID-19 VACCINATION PROGRAM CORDILLERA ADMINISTRATIVE REGION.

33 Bolledo, J. (2021, December 8). Journalist Jess Malabanan shot dead in Samar. RAPPLER. Retrieved December 9, 2021, from <https://www.rappler.com/nation/journalist-jess-malabanan-shot-dead-samar/>

34 CHR Regional Office IV-A (CALABARZON). (2021, January). 2020 Report on the Human Rights Situation of Disadvantaged, Marginalized and Vulnerable Sectors in Region IV-A (CALABARZON).

35 Commission on Human Rights Regional Office IV-CALABARZON. (2021, July). Report on the Human Rights Situation of Disadvantaged, Marginalized and Vulnerable Sectors in CALABARZON (January to June 2021).

- 50** Another case of apprehended minors for curfew violations was filed before CHR Regional Office IV – CALABARZON. Two minors were allegedly placed inside a coffin, one after the other, for an hour for violating curfew and quarantine rules last 26 March 2020 at Barangay Bagong Karsada, Naic, Cavite. It was confirmed through the news that the minors were already released.³⁶
- 51** Darren Peñaredondo was detained on 01 April 2021 after going out to buy water in General Trias, Cavite. Together with other curfew violators, they were made to do 300 rounds of squats. Peñaredondo, who has an underlying heart condition, could barely walk home and was in a lot of pain on his way home. The next day he was reported dead due to a stroke that might have been triggered by the gruelling knee-bender exercise.³⁷
- 52** On 21 October 2020, a 14-year-old former Child in Conflict with the Law (CICL) was brought to a police station to identify suspects in the recent robbery incidents. Men in civilian clothing interrogated her and told her that if she does not tell the truth, something bad will happen to her.
- 53** When she did not answer, she was electrocuted in her palms using a taser gun. Due to fear, she mentioned random names of her relatives and friends hoping the interrogation and electrocution would stop. She was electrocuted in her abdomen for failing to name the third person. She was then brought to the beach to identify where the suspects live.
- 54** She was brought home where uniformed policemen and tanods gathered around their house and inspected her belongings for stolen valuables. A bag and a cellphone were confiscated from their house.
- 55** She was then brought back to the computer laboratory of the police station to check her Facebook's friends list and was threatened to be electrocuted again. She was then taken to the Women and Children Protection Desk. She is currently undergoing psychosocial intervention. This case is pending investigation.³⁸
- 56** For July to December 2020, there was only one case docketed by the CHR CAR which involved a pregnant woman who was arrested by virtue of a warrant and when under custody of the PNP personnel, she was allegedly tortured.³⁹

Enforced Disappearances

- 57** On 18 January 2021, the CHR Regional Office IV-CALABARZON received a memorandum from CHAD dated 15 January 2021 endorsing the case of four (4) persons, including three (3) members of the LGBT community who were reported to be abducted sometime in December in Bacoar City, Cavite and later on found dead in a remote area in Talisay Batangas on January 13, 2021. Apparently, the abduction involved police officials hence, on January 18, 2021, this Office issued subpoenas addressed to PLt.Col. Juan P. Oruga Jr, COP of Tagaytay CPS for the submission of documents relative to the case. On that date, a subpoena was sent to the Head of Office, Local Civil Registrar of Tagaytay

³⁶ CHR Regional Office IV-A (CALABARZON). (2021, January). 2020 Report on the Human Rights Situation of Disadvantaged, Marginalized and Vulnerable Sectors in Region IV-A (CALABARZON).

³⁷ CNN. (2021, April). Philippines man dies after being forced to do 300 squats for breaking Covid-19 curfew. <https://edition.cnn.com/2021/04/07/asia/philippines-police-crackdown-intl-hnk/index.html>

³⁸ Commission on Human Rights Regional Office 11. (2021, January). Regional Human Rights Situation Report.

³⁹ Commission on Human Rights Cordillera Administrative Region. (2021, January). Regional Human Rights Situation Report July to December 2020.

City, Cavite for the submission of death certificates of the victims. The case remains under investigation.⁴⁰

Arbitrary Arrest

- 58 Simultaneous raids were carried out by the PNP together with the AFP to serve search warrants for loose firearms and illegal possession of explosives. Nine activists were killed, most of them in their own homes, six in Rizal province, two in Batangas, and one in Cavite; and at least four others were arrested. Karapatan identified five of the fatalities as Emmanuel “Manny” Asuncion, Mark Lee Bacasno, Melvin Dasigao, Ariel Evangelista, and Chai Lemita Evangelista. The ten year old son of the Evangelistas survived the raid by hiding under the bed.⁴¹
- 59 The CHR Regional Office IV-CALABARZON has conducted a *motu proprio* investigation on the alleged unlawful arrest of Sandy Delos Santos, a person with disability, at Barangay Daniw, Victoria, Laguna. This incident was posted on Facebook dated 21 April 2021.⁴²
- 60 The IOC has already inquired about the actions taken by the Victoria Municipal Police Station (VMPS), Barangay Daniw, and the MSWD of Victoria, Laguna. The CHR Regional Office IV-CALABARZON, however, has yet to receive any response from the said Offices.⁴³
- 61 The first known anti-terror law case was filed against Aetas Jasper Gurung and Junior Ramos. It was junked by the Olongapo Regional Trial Court, as it was a case of mistaken identities. Based on a decision made by RTC Branch 97 Judge Melani Fay Tadili dated July 15, “After a careful examination of the records, the Court holds that the prosecution failed to discharge the burden of proving the identities of the accused as perpetrators of the crime of violation of Section 4 of Republic Act No. 11479. Thus, the case for violation of this law against the accused must be dismissed”. This was followed by the order of release of Gurung and Ramos who have been detained since August 2020 in Olongapo City Jail.⁴⁴
- 62 They were accused of being members of the New Peoples’ Army (NPA), who shot at soldiers, killing one, and in effect spread a message of fear. It was pointed out that there were inconsistencies in what the soldier witnesses say on the stand and their sworn statements. They said that they were shown pictures of Gurung and Ramos before the operation and both were also seen during the gunfight, but these were not included in their sworn statements.⁴⁵

40 Commission on Human Rights Regional Office IV-CALABARZON. (2021, July). Report on the Human Rights Situation of Disadvantaged, Marginalized and Vulnerable Sectors in CALABARZON (January to June 2021).

41 Andrade, J., Subingsubing, K., & Ramos, M. (2021). *PNP defends Calabarzon raids, says activists fought back*. Retrieved from <https://newsinfo.inquirer.net/1404602/pnp-defends-raids-says-activists-fought-back>

42 Commission on Human Rights Regional Office IV-CALABARZON. (2021, July). Report on the Human Rights Situation of Disadvantaged, Marginalized and Vulnerable Sectors in CALABARZON (January to June 2021).

43 Commission on Human Rights Regional Office IV-CALABARZON. (2021, July). Report on the Human Rights Situation of Disadvantaged, Marginalized and Vulnerable Sectors in CALABARZON (January to June 2021).

44 Buan, L. (2021, July 19). Mistaken identity: Aetas acquitted in first known anti-terror law case. RAPPLER. Retrieved December 9, 2021, from <https://www.rappler.com/nation/olongapo-trial-court-decision-aetas-charged-anti-terror-law-case/>

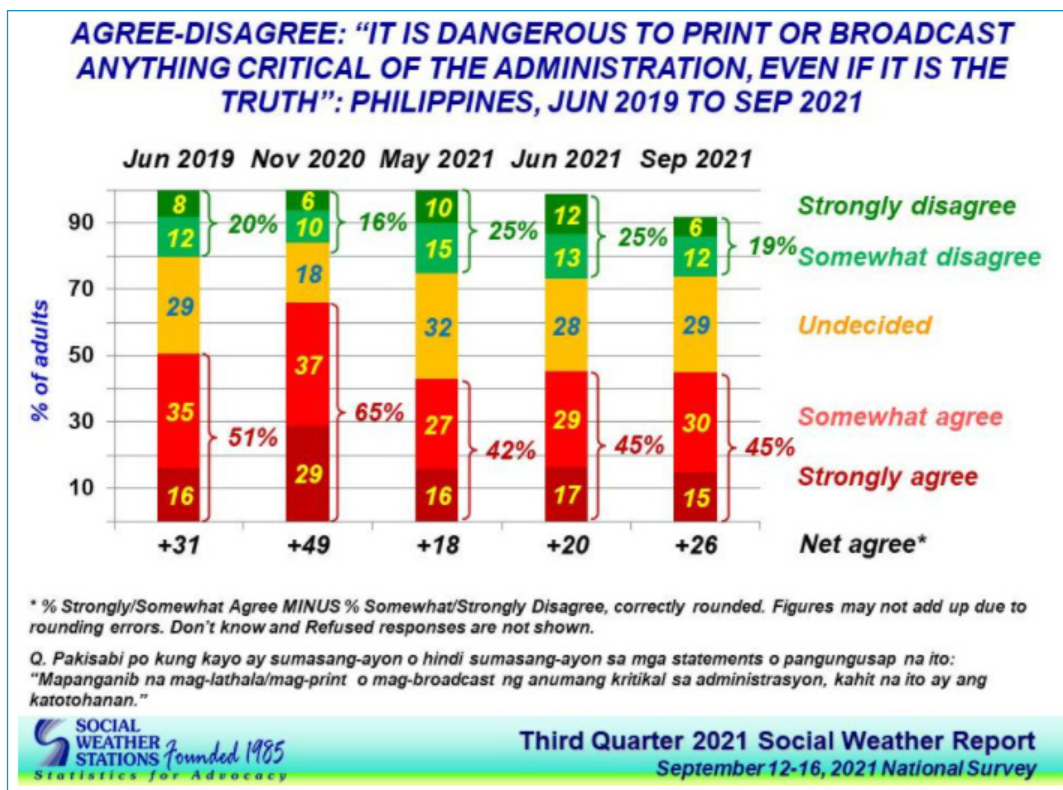
45 Buan, L. (2021, July 19). Mistaken identity: Aetas acquitted in first known anti-terror law case. RAPPLER. Retrieved December 9, 2021, from <https://www.rappler.com/nation/olongapo-trial-court-decision-aetas-charged-anti-terror-law-case/>

- 63 Senator Risa Hontiveros posted bail of Php 36,000 last December 28, 2021 at the Metropolitan Trial Court, following the release of the arrest order against her on December 27, 2021. The case is a wiretapping complaint filed against her by former Justice Secretary Vitaliano Aguirre, due to the publicized photo of Aguirre texting at the Senate during its probe on the killing of Kian delos Santos. The zoomed in photo shows Aguirre texting Jacinto “Jing” Paras of Volunteers Against Crime and Corruption (VACC) to expedite cases against Hontiveros.⁴⁶

Civil Liberties

Speech

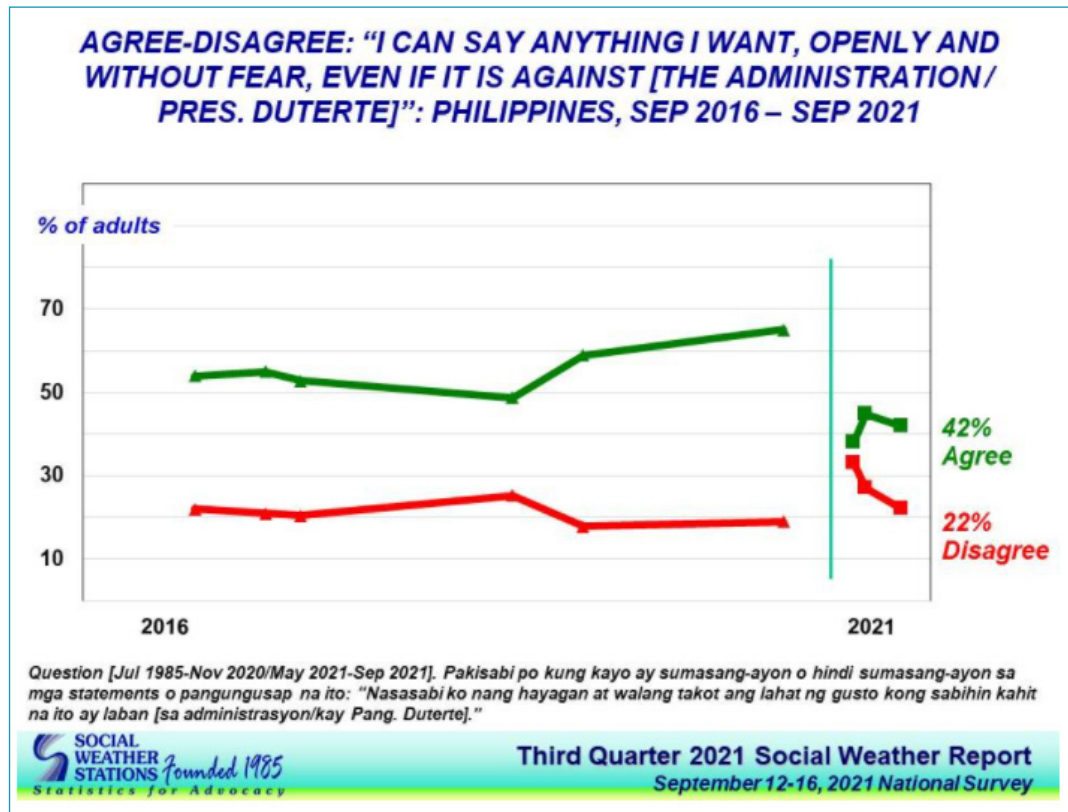
- 64 The “I will give 50 million reward kung sino makakapatay kay Duterte #NotoABSCBNShutdown” tweet led to the arrest of Teacher Ronnel Mas by National Bureau of Investigation (NBI) agents on 11 May 2020. On 18 May 2020, probers of this Office met with the family of Teacher Mas during the filing of the bail bond and visited Sta. Cruz, Zambales to personally meet with the victim, Teacher Mas. In an Order dated 24 June 2020, the Olongapo City Regional Trial Court Branch 72 Judge Richard Paradeza dismissed the charge by granting the Motion to Quash the Information filed by Teacher Mas. Judge Paradeza refuted the findings of the Department of Justice (DOJ) that Mas’ confession “cured” an invalid warrantless arrest and ruled that “There is no rule which provides that an extrajudicial admission cures the illegality of an arrest, in fact, inadmissible evidence.”⁴⁷



46 Talabong, R. (2021, December). Hontiveros posts bail in Aguirre wiretapping case. Rappler. <https://www.rappler.com/nation/senator-risa-hontiveros-posts-bail-aguirre-wiretapping-case/>

47 Commission on Human Rights Regional Office III. (2021, January). *Human Rights Regional Situationer Report Region III – Central Luzon January to December 2020*.

- 65 Based on the National Social Weather survey last 12–16 September 2021, 45% of adult Filipinos agreeing (15% strongly agree, 30% somewhat agree, correctly rounded), 29% undecided, and 19% disagreeing (12% somewhat disagree, 6% strongly disagree) with the statement, “It is dangerous to print or broadcast anything critical of the administration, even if it is the truth.”⁴⁸



At the same time, the survey found 42% agreeing and 22% disagreeing with the statement, “I can say anything I want, openly and without fear, even if it is against the administration.”⁴⁹

Expression

- 67 Senate Resolution No. 768 was filed to conduct an Inquiry on the alleged use of public funds to spend for the operation of online troll farms. There were twelve senators who supported this resolution, namely: Senate President Vicente Sotto III, Senate President Pro Tempore Ralph Recto, Senate Minority Leader Franklin Drilon, and Senators Francis Pangilinan, Nancy Binay, Leila de Lima, Richard Gordon, Risa Hontiveros, Panfilo Lacson, Manny Pacquiao, Grace Poe, and Joel Villanueva.⁵⁰

Assembly

48 Social Weather Stations. (2021, October). Third Quarter 2021 Social Weather Survey: 45% say it is dangerous to publish things critical of the administration; only 19% disagree. Retrieved from https://www.sws.org.ph/swsmain/artcldispage/?artcsyscode=ART-202.110.14060019&mc_cid=81e3df54cc&mc_eid=31b9d30a85

49 Social Weather Stations. (2021, October). Third Quarter 2021 Social Weather Survey: 45% say it is dangerous to publish things critical of the administration; only 19% disagree. Retrieved from https://www.sws.org.ph/swsmain/artcldispage/?artcsyscode=ART-202.110.14060019&mc_cid=81e3df54cc&mc_eid=31b9d30a85

50 Baizas, J. (2021). *Investigating troll farms: What to look out for*. Retrieved from <https://www.rappler.com/newsbreak/iq/investigating-troll-farms-what-to-look-out-for>

- 68** The Philippines' House of Representatives has unanimously adopted a bill ensuring that state security personnel will not be able to visit any of the University of the Philippines (UP) campuses without prior notice, clearing a major roadblock on the measure's way to becoming law. It forbids the use of both police and military forces, and codifies a previous agreement between UP and the Department of National Defense into the university's charter.⁵¹
- 69** On 21 September 2021, the 49th anniversary of Martial Law, the Manila Police dispersed a rally on Mendiola bridge where Human rights groups, grassroots activists, and civil society organizations such as In Defense of Human Rights and Dignity Movement (iDEFEND), Karapatan, and Bagong Alyansang Makabayan (BAYAN), Sanlakas, Philippine Alliance of Human Rights Advocates (PAHRA), Partido Lakas ng Masa (PLM), and Bukluran ng Manggagawang Pilipino (BMP) participated.⁵²
- 70** According to Freedom House's 2021 report on the Philippines, the Philippines score declined from 3 to 2 due to selective and sometimes excessive enforcement of COVID-19 assembly restrictions. Citizen activism and public discussion are robust, and demonstrations are common. Permits, however, are required for rallies, and the police sometimes use violence to disperse anti-government protests. As a preventive measure to stem the spread of the coronavirus during most of 2020, mass gatherings were not allowed. Complaints of insufficient government aid amid the strict lockdown spurred protests that led to dozens of detentions and arrests, even as President Duterte defended and later promoted a top police official who was photographed having a large birthday party. Additionally, arrests occurred in the midsts of protests led by progressive organizations against the Anti-Terrorism Act signed into law in July; protesters were charged with violating both pandemic-related restrictions and public assembly laws.⁵³

Press Freedom

- 71** In one of the most alarming developments, the Office of the Ombudsman (OMB) has lobbied Congress for the enactment of a law that will penalize comments on the Statement of Assets, Liabilities and Networth (SALN) of public officials made particularly in the press. This is widely seen as having dire implications for press freedom in the country.⁵⁴
- 72** House Deputy Majority Leader and Quezon City 4th District Rep. Jesus "Bong" Suntay slammed this proposal and stated that "How a public official generates his wealth is a matter of public concern, thus, information regarding his or her SALN should not be withheld. " Rep. Suntay also stressed that the SALN is a public document and should be made available to the public. He also said that the media should not be restricted from commenting on the published SALN of any government official.⁵⁵

51 Ramirez-Cohn, E. (2021). *Bill to ban security forces from campus passes key hurdle*. Retrieved from <https://www.universityworldnews.com/post.php?story=202109.28181507944>

52 Maghanoy, C. (2021). Manila police disperse anti-Martial Law rally in Mendiola. Retrieved from <https://www.manilatimes.net/2021/09/21/news/manila-police-disperse-anti-martial-law-rally-in-mendiola/1815547>

53 Freedom House. (2021). Freedom in the World 2021. Retrieved from <https://freedomhouse.org/country/philippines/freedom-world/2021>

54 Corrales, N., Ramos, M. & Subingsubing K. (2021). *Ombudsman pushes own bill to penalize SALN comments*. Retrieved from https://newsinfo.inquirer.net/1504070/ombudsman-pushes-own-bill-to-penalize-saln-comments?utm_medium=Social&utm_source=Facebook#Echobox=163.468.1950

55 Rosario, B. (2021). Lower House official slams Ombudman's draft bill to amend SALN law. Retrieved from <https://mb.com.ph/2021/10/21/lower-house-official-slams-ombudmans-draft-bill-to-amend-saln-law/>

- 73** Human rights lawyer Atty. Chel Diokno likewise said that the SALN is a public document and that instead of going after corrupt officials, the Ombudsman wants to penalize Filipinos for seeking transparency. Diokno also said “The Ombudsman’s mandate is to aid in giving more teeth to the campaign against corruption, not defang existing laws against it.”⁵⁶
- 74** A new law for the granting of the franchise for media network ABS-CBN has not been filed under the present Congress of the Philippines.
- 75** On 10 December 2020, Lady Ann Salem, a journalist from Manila Today and a member of the National Union of Journalists of the Philippines (NUJP), was arrested in her home in Mandaluyong. She was arrested in the operations conducted by the Philippine National Police.⁵⁷
- 76** The Mandaluyong Regional Trial Court Branch 209 dismissed the case against Lady Ann Salem on 05 February 2021. Presiding Judge Monique Quisumbing-Ignacio decided on 05 March 2021 to order the release of Salem after finding the prosecution’s motion for reconsideration “bereft of merit.”⁵⁸
- 77** According to a Rappler report last 22 April 2021, the Philippines is now ranked 138th out of 180 nations in the Reporters Without Borders’ (RSF) World Press Freedom Index for 2021. This is the fourth consecutive year that the Philippines has dropped in ranking.
- 78** RSF cited that after President Rodrigo Duterte and his administration targeted the Philippine Daily Inquirer, they embarked on a grotesque judicial harassment campaign against Rappler and its CEO Maria Ressa. The Philippine Congress, majority of which supports the President, denied the renewal of the country’s largest broadcasting network ABS-CBN, depriving millions of Filipinos of essential public interest reporting during the pandemic.
- 79** “The persecution of the media has been accompanied by online harassment campaigns orchestrated by pro-Duterte troll armies, which also launched cyber-attacks on alternative news websites and the site of the National Union of Journalists of the Philippines, in order to block them. “Red-tagging” also returned in force in 2020,” RSF said.⁵⁹ The RSF classified the Philippines as having a “bad” environment for journalism.⁶⁰
- 80** CHR Spokesperson Atty Jacqueline Ann de Guia said on 22 April 2021 that the RSF report “sends a firm message that the current political climate exacerbates the danger and fears over the erosion of democratic and press freedom during these uncertain times.” The CHR urged the government to provide legal protection to journalists as they perform their duties and to hasten the investigation of media-related killings and attacks. The CHR said it has repeatedly raised concerns on the wave of persecutions directed towards journalists and media institutions, as a recurring theme in the current administration’s actions and pronouncements. The CHR also expressed alarm over the Cybercrime Prevention Law

56 ABS-CBN News. (2021). Senate bets flag Ombudsman-led push to ‘defang’ SALN law. Retrieved from <https://news.abs-cbn.com/news/10/22/21/senate-bets-flag-ombudsman-led-push-to-defang-saln-law>

57 Lalu, G. (2020). Journo Lady Ann Salem from red-tagged site arrested on Human Rights Day. Retrieved from <https://newsinfo.inquirer.net/1370345/journo-from-red-tagged-site-arrested-nujp-other-orgs-confirm#ixzz7AaNceWmC>

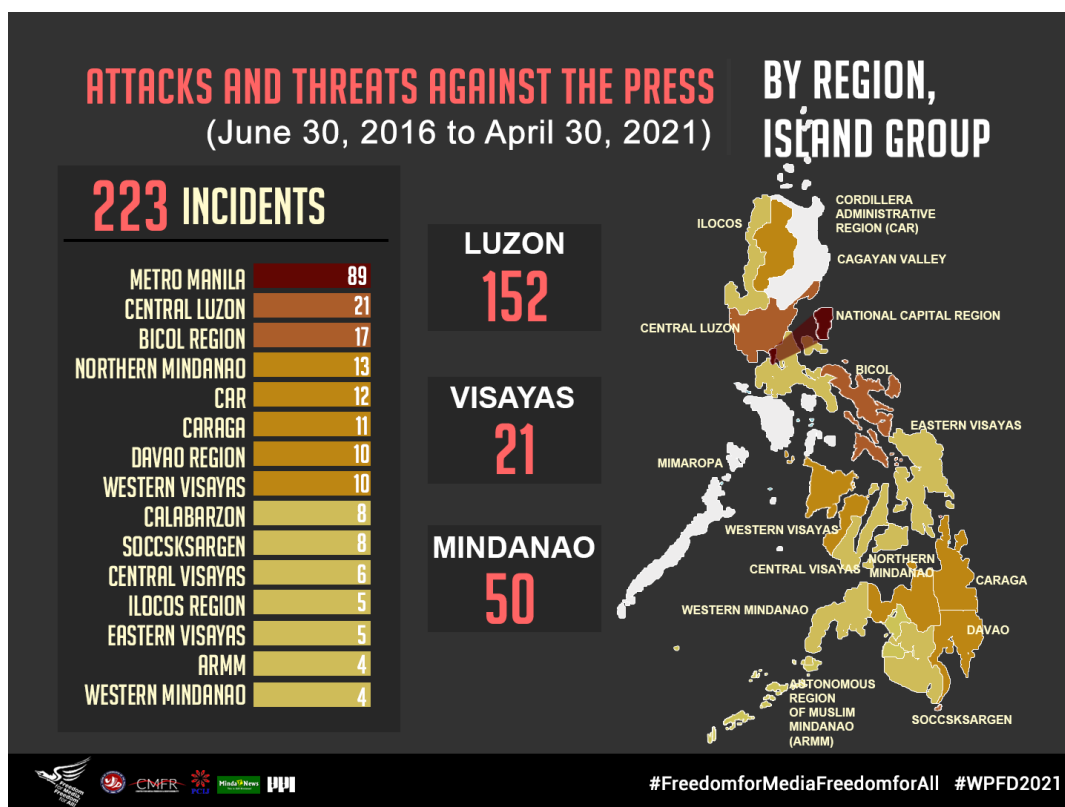
58 Gregorio, X. (2021). Court orders release of journalist a month after case junked. Retrieved from <https://www.philstar.com/headlines/2021/03/05/2082210/court-orders-release-journalist-month-after-case-junked>

59 Elemia, C. (2021). PH slips further in World Press Freedom index. Retrieved from <https://www.rappler.com/nation/philippines-rankings-world-press-freedom-index-2021>

60 Mangosing, F. (2021). CHR: PH facing ‘a worse state of press freedom’. Retrieved from <https://newsinfo.inquirer.net/1422295/chr-ph-facing-a-worse-state-of-press-freedom#ixzz7AZ6agjz2>

and the Anti-Terrorism Act, which posed legitimate threats to freedoms of speech and expression, particularly in articulating political sentiments or dissent. This is an overt way of silencing criticisms toward government actions, or rather, inaction, in matters affecting public interest.⁶¹

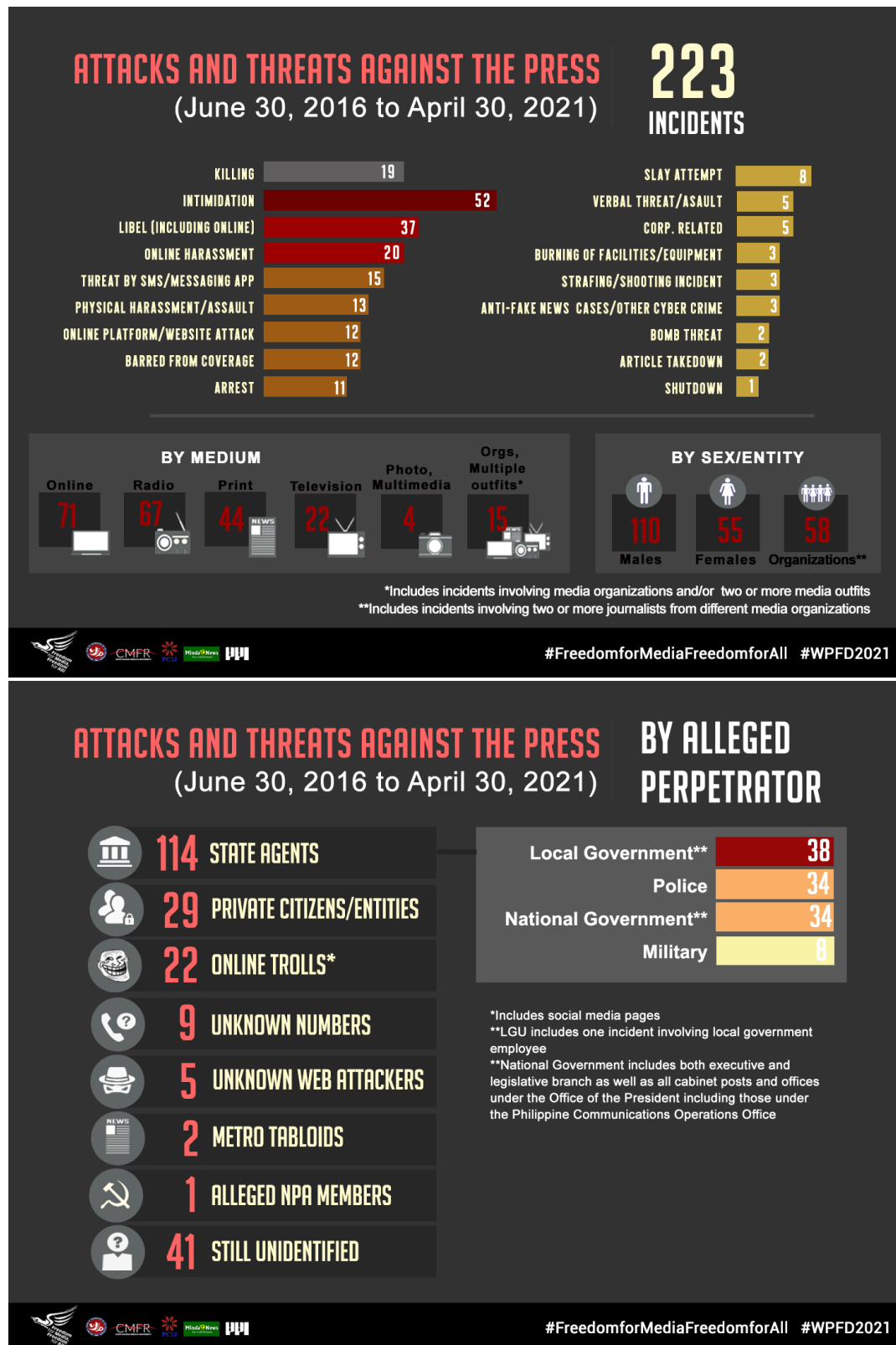
- 81** Renante Cortes, a Cebu radio commentator, was shot and killed in front of the radio station where he worked on 22 July 2021. Cortes was shot by an unidentified person aboard a motorcycle after leaving DyRB station at around 9 A.M. and the Mambaling Police Station commander Major Dindo Alaras said they are looking into Cortes' job as a commentator and his past personal conflicts as possible motives for the killing.⁶² CHR spokesperson, Atty. Jacqueline Ann de Guia, said in a statement dated 27 July 2021 that their counterpart in Central Visayas, the CHR-7, has started probing Cortes' case.⁶³
- 82** In a news article published by the Philippine Center for Investigative Journalism (PCIJ) dated 03 May 2021, State agents were linked to more than half of the total 223 cases of attacks and threats against members of the Philippine media since President Rodrigo Duterte assumed office in 2016. Based on the consolidated data from the Center for Media Freedom and Responsibility (CMFR) and the National Union of Journalists of the Philippines (NUJP), State agents were the alleged perpetrators in 114 cases. The police and the military were linked to a combined 42 cases. Local government officials were linked to 38 cases, while national government officials were linked to 34 cases.



61 Commission on Human Rights. (2021). Statement of CHR Spokesperson, Atty Jacqueline Ann de Guia, on the worsening state of press freedom in the country. Retrieved from <https://chr.gov.ph/statement-of-chr-spokesperson-atty-jacqueline-ann-de-guia-on-the-worsening-state-of-press-freedom-in-the-country/>

62 Ecarma, L. (2021). Cebu radio commentator shot dead after airing show. Retrieved from <https://www.rappler.com/nation/visayas/cebu-radio-commentator-shot-after-airing-show>

63 Commission on Human Rights. (2021). Statement of CHR Spokesperson, Atty Jacqueline Ann de Guia, on the recent slay of a Radio Commentator in Cebu. <https://chr.gov.ph/statement-of-chr-spokesperson-atty-jacqueline-ann-de-guia-on-the-recent-slay-of-a-radio-commentator-in-cebu/>



83 From 23 June 2016 to 30 April 2021, of the outside attacks and threats perpetrated by State agents, at least 29 cases were linked to private individuals and 22 other cases were attributed to online trolls. The NUJP also recorded at least 37 libel cases filed against journalists under the Duterte administration.⁶⁴

⁶⁴ Philippine Center for Investigative Journalism. (2021). State agents linked to over 100 attacks, threats against PH media under Duterte admin. Retrieved from <https://pcij.org/blog/1105/state-agents-linked-to-over-100-attacks-threats-against-ph-media-under-duterte-admin>

- 84** The second cyber libel case against Rappler CEO Maria Ressa was dismissed on 01 June 2021 after businessman Wilfredo Keng withdrew the case.⁶⁵ Businessman Wilfredo Keng filed his second cyber libel complaint against Ressa in February 2020. The complaint was due to Ressa's 15 February 2019 tweet, which posted screenshots of a 2002 Philippine Star article linking the property developer to the murder of a former councilor.⁶⁶
- 85** On 10 August 2021, the Regional Trial Court of Manila, Branch 24, dismissed the cyber libel case against Ressa and reporter Rambo Talabong after complainant Mr. Ariel Pineda, who was involved in the disputed thesis-for-sale story, dropped the case.⁶⁷ The cyber libel complaint was filed in October 2020 by Benilde faculty member Ariel Pineda, whom a student accused of accepting payments in exchange for passing students in their thesis subjects under him. The Court ordered the arrest of Maria Ressa and Rambo Talabong in January 2021.⁶⁸
- 86** On 08 October 2021, the Norwegian Nobel Committee awarded the Nobel Peace Prize for 2021 to Maria Ressa and Dmitry Muratov for their efforts to safeguard the freedom of expression, which is a precondition for democracy and lasting peace.⁶⁹
- 87** CNN Philippines reported on 24 September 2021 that a unit under the Department of Information & Communications Technology has confirmed that the cyber-attacks on the websites of ComBulatlat and Altermidya, two alternative media outfits, were linked to the Philippine Army. Bulatlat and Altermidya, in a joint statement dated 23 September 2021, said the Computer Emergency Response Team (CERT-PH) reported that the attacks originated from the internet protocol (IP) address assigned to the Philippine Army.⁷⁰
- 88** The House Committee on Good Government and Public Accountability Chairman Michael Aglipay unceremoniously removed Rappler journalist Rambo Talabong from a Viber group with various reporters on 27 September 2021. Aglipay kicked out Talabong after the journalist wrote a story on the DIWA representative's latest defence of the Duterte administration. Aglipay's comment was about the Senate hearing's revelation that the production stickers on the face masks procured by the government from Pharmally Pharmaceutical Corporation were tampered. The tampering of the production stickers effectively also changed the expiry dates.⁷¹

65 Buan, L. (2021). Wilfredo Keng withdraws 2nd cyber libel suit vs Maria Ressa. Retrieved from <https://www.rappler.com/nation/wilfredo-keng-withdraws-second-cyber-libel-suit-vs-maria-ressa>

66 Navallo, M. (2020). Businessman Wilfredo Keng files 2nd cyber libel complaint vs journalist Maria Ressa. <https://news.abs-cbn.com/news/06/19/20/businessman-wilfredo-keng-files-2nd-libel-complaint-vs-journalist-maria-ressa>

67 Buan, L. (2021). Manila court drops cyber libel case vs Maria Ressa, Rambo Talabong. Retrieved from <https://www.rappler.com/nation/manila-court-dismisses-cyber-libel-case-rappler-ressa-talabong>

68 Buan, L. (2021) Court orders arrest of Maria Ressa, Rambo Talabong over Benilde thesis story. <https://www.rappler.com/nation/court-orders-arrest-of-maria-ressa-reporter-rambo-talabong-over-benilde-thesis-story>

69 The Nobel Peace Prize. (2021). Retrieved from <https://www.nobelprize.org/prizes/peace/2021/press-release>

70 CNN Philippines Staff. (2021). PH Army behind cyber-attacks on two alternative media outlets, DICT unit confirms. Retrieved from <https://cnnphilippines.com/news/2021/9/24/Philippine-Army-cyber-attack-media-Bulatlat-Altermidya.html>

71 Rappler. (2021). Lawmaker restricts access of Rappler reporter after story on Pharmally face shields. Retrieved from <https://www.rappler.com/nation/lawmaker-restricts-access-reporter-after-story-pharmally-face-shields-september-27-2021>

B. Economic, Social, and Cultural Rights

Right to Health

COVID-19 Response

- 89** The Declaration of Alma-Ata has reaffirmed that health is not “merely the absence of disease or infirmity” but “a state of complete physical, mental and social well being” and “a fundamental human right that the attainment of the highest possible level of health is a most important world-wide social goal whose realization requires the action of many other social and economic sectors in addition to the health sector.” Looking at the social determinants of health foregrounds how much non-medical factors (such as the daily living conditions of people and structures and systems) influence health outcomes.⁷²
- 90** General Comment No. 14 also provides that health is a “fundamental human right indispensable for the exercise of other human rights” and that “every human being is entitled to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of health conducive to living a life in dignity.”⁷³
- 91** Both the Declaration of Alma-Ata and General Comment No. 14 point out that it is imperative to address the social determinants of health to address health inequities.⁷⁴
- 92** The realization of the right to the highest attainable standard of health contains four essential elements, conditions, and standards: availability, accessibility, acceptability, and quality:
- a** Health availability refers to a sufficient quantity of functioning public health and health care facilities, goods, services, and programs, and underlying determinants of health.
 - b** Health accessibility refers to health facilities, goods, and services accessible to everyone within the State party’s jurisdiction. It has four overlapping dimensions: non-discrimination, physical accessibility (within safe physical reach), economic accessibility (affordability), and information accessibility.
 - c** Health acceptability maintains that all health facilities, goods, and services must be respectful of medical ethics, culturally appropriate, sensitive to gender and life-cycle requirements, and designed to respect confidentiality and improve health status.
 - d** Health quality means that health facilities, goods, and services must be scientifically and medically appropriate and of good quality.

⁷² HUMAN RIGHTS CENTERS MANAGEMENT OFFICE ECONOMIC, SOCIAL AND CULTURAL RIGHTS CENTER. (2021). Vaccination for All: Monitoring of the January to June 2021 COVID-19 Vaccination Rollout. Commission on Human Rights.

⁷³ HUMAN RIGHTS CENTERS MANAGEMENT OFFICE ECONOMIC, SOCIAL AND CULTURAL RIGHTS CENTER. (2021). Vaccination for All: Monitoring of the January to June 2021 COVID-19 Vaccination Rollout. Commission on Human Rights.

⁷⁴ HUMAN RIGHTS CENTERS MANAGEMENT OFFICE ECONOMIC, SOCIAL AND CULTURAL RIGHTS CENTER. (2021). Vaccination for All: Monitoring of the January to June 2021 COVID-19 Vaccination Rollout. Commission on Human Rights.

- 93** Senator Richard Gordon filed a bill last 18 January 2021 seeking to expand the country's pool of vaccinators for the implementation of the government's national program for immunization in times of epidemics, pandemics, and national health emergencies.⁷⁵
- 94** Section 1 of Senate Bill (SB) No. 1987 filed states that non-medical practitioners that will be part of the said training will be allowed provided that they will be given the appropriate training, certification and authority by the DOH, and that they will perform their duties under the supervision of a duly registered physician and for a limited period only contingent upon the existence of the national health emergency for which it is called.⁷⁶
- 95** National Policy Against COVID-19 chief implementer and vaccine czar, Secretary Carlito Galvez, Jr. said that the government will be conducting a series of "time and motion" simulations on the deployment of the COVID-19 vaccines, in preparation of its arrival in the country. The steps include "from arrival of the vaccines to the airport's point of entry, going to the warehouse and to the point of distribution."⁷⁷
- 96** On 11 February 2021, The House Committee on Appropriations approved to pass House Bill 8648, in consolidation with House Bill 8649, which seeks to fast-track vaccine purchase by allowing local government units to directly buy doses from pharmaceutical firms.⁷⁸ LGUs may enter into a tripartite agreement to secure vaccines from AstraZeneca, Moderna and Novavax.⁷⁹
- 97** The medical professionals from the Visayas are paying it forward in the fight against COVID-19. At least 66 doctors, nurses, and medical technologists (50 from Regions 7 and 16 from Region 8) have flown to NCR Plus to help colleagues and hospitals overwhelmed by a resurgence of cases. Fifty of them were sent off on Wednesday, 07 April 2021. The volunteers were assigned at the National Kidney Transplant Institute, Jose Reyes Memorial Medical Center, Lung Center of the Philippines, Rizal Medical Center, and Tondo Medical Center for three months.⁸⁰
- 98** Additional nurses from Central Visayas were sent to Metro Manila to augment hospital workforce. Twenty were deployed to the National Center for Mental Health while ten were assigned to the Las Piñas General Hospital, said Dr. Mary Jean Loreche, spokesperson of the Department of Health (DOH) in the region. The volunteer health workers will each receive incentives totaling Php 70,000 from the Office of the Presidential Assistant for the Visayas (Opav).⁸¹
- 99** Healthcare workers will continue to receive the benefits granted under the Bayanihan to Recover as One Act or the "Bayanihan 2" even after the law expires so long as the state

75 *Philippine News Agency (2021). Gordon files bill expanding pool of vaccinators. Retrieved February 04, 2021 from <https://www.pna.gov.ph/articles/1127947>*

76 *Philippine News Agency (2021). Gordon files bill expanding pool of vaccinators. Retrieved February 04, 2021 from <https://www.pna.gov.ph/articles/1127947>*

77 *Kabagani, L. J. (2021). Gov't to hold 'time, motion' simulations on vaccine deployment. Retrieved February 15, 2021 from <https://www.pna.gov.ph/articles/1129816>*

78 *ECCP (2021). House panel OKs bill allowing LGUs to directly purchase COVID-19 vaccines. Retrieved from <https://www.eccp.com/articles/2364>*

79 *Aguilar, K. (2021). LGUs may have COVID vaccine deals with Moderna, Novavax. Retrieved from <https://newsinfo.inquirer.net/1383566/lgs-may-have-covid-vaccine-deals-with-moderna-novavax>*

80 *Saavedra, J. R. (2021, April 7). 66 Visayas medical front-liners to help beat COVID-19 in NCR+. Philippine News Agency. <https://www.pna.gov.ph/articles/1136010>*

81 *Philippine Daily Inquirer (2021). More Central Visayas nurses sent to Metro Manila. Retrieved from <https://newsinfo.inquirer.net/1420132/more-central-visayas-nurses-sent-to-metro-manila>*

of national emergency is in effect, according to Senator Sonny Angara. This includes compensation of Php 15,000 for healthcare workers who experienced mild cases of COVID-19 while in the line of duty, and Php 100,000 for severe cases.⁸²

- 100 The Supreme Court's (SC) request to include about 30,000 employees of the judiciary in the priority list of individuals to be inoculated with the vaccines against COVID-19 has been approved by the National Task Force Against COVID-19 (NTF), according to acting Chief Justice Estela Perlas-Bernabe. Bernabe pointed out that the courts and its employees are part of "an essential institution" in helping the executive department to "effectively perform its task of maintaining peace and order and safeguarding public welfare in accordance with the rule of law."⁸³
- 101 The Office of the Vice President has opened an online channel offering medical consultation assistance, which is not limited to COVID-19 concerns, through the Facebook page Bayanihan E-Konsulta. The target audience are those who cannot afford to pay the fees or have no internet access. The service can also help those who are in need of emergency care to access the referral network set up by the Department of Health called the One Hospital Command Center.⁸⁴ Barely a week into its launch, the e-consultation service faced thousands of backlogs of requests and concerns – both a sign of support and a reminder of dire conditions within hospitals.⁸⁵
- 102 According to the Vaccine Expert Panel (VEP) Chairperson Dr. Nina Gloriani, they began studying the possibility of allowing a person to be vaccinated with two different brands for the first and second doses, due to low supply and uncertainty of the next deliveries.⁸⁶
- 103 As of 20 April 2021, a total of 1,279,233 Filipinos have received COVID-19 vaccines since the vaccination rollout started last March, according to vaccine czar Calito Galvez, Jr. It was reported that 965,960 healthcare workers, 132,948 senior citizens and 180,315 people with comorbidities were inoculated with their first dose. Meanwhile, 198,534 healthcare workers received their second dose of vaccine.⁸⁷
- 104 A 336-bed capacity COVID-19 field hospital started construction at Luneta Park on 20 April 2021. This is to lessen incidents of deaths from COVID-19 patients due to the difficulty in finding hospitals with available space. The field hospital may still be expanded to 100 beds when necessary.⁸⁸
- 105 The presence of B.1.1.7 and B.1.351 variants, detected from the United Kingdom and South Africa, respectively, in the Philippines has raised concern to health officials, said Dr.

82 Ramos, C. M. (2021). Healthcare workers' benefits under 'Bayanihan 2' stay — Angara. Retrieved from <https://newsinfo.inquirer.net/1415397/benefits-to-healthcare-workers-under-bayanihan-2-remain-even-after-law-expires-angara>

83 Ramos, M. (2021). 30,000 court workers included in vaccine priority list. Retrieved from <https://newsinfo.inquirer.net/1415216/30000-court-workers-included-in-jab-priority-list>

84 Valenzuela, N. (2021). OVP's 'E-Konsulta' allow for safe, convenient medical queries, hospital search. Retrieved from <https://newsinfo.inquirer.net/1417345/vp-opens-e-konsulta-for-med-queries-hospital-search>

85 Subingsubing, K. (2021). OVP's Bayanihan e-Konsulta faces thousands of backlogs. Retrieved from <https://newsinfo.inquirer.net/1418714/ovps-bayanihan-e-konsulta-faces-thousands-of-backlogs>

86 Cinco, M. & Chiu, P. D. (2021). Panel studies if different COVID-19 vaccine brands OK for 1st, 2nd doses. Retrieved from <https://newsinfo.inquirer.net/1418733/panel-studies-if-different-vaccine-brands-ok-for-1st-2nd-doses>

87 CNN Philippines Staff (2021). Over 1.2 million Filipinos vaccinated vs. COVID-19 so far— Galvez. Retrieved from <https://cnnphilippines.com/news/2021/4/20/over-1.2-million-Filipinos-already-vaccinated-vs-covid.html>

88 CNN Philippines Staff (2021). City of Manila begins construction of COVID-19 field hospital at Luneta Park. Retrieved from <https://www.cnnphilippines.com/news/2021/4/21/Manila-starts-construction-of-Luneta-medical-facility.html>

- Rabindra Abeyasinghe, WHO country representative. According to the DOH, there are 266 more cases of the b.1.1.7 variant and 351 cases of the B.1.351 variant in the country.⁸⁹
- 106** The FDA granted a compassionate special permit for a hospital to use the drug ivermectin for COVID-19 patients. A compassionate special permit is granted for the use of drugs that are not registered or are still in the process of registration in the country.⁹⁰
- 107** The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) was directed to take the lead in determining the course of action against the illegal trade and dispensing of ivermectin, according to Presidential spokesperson Harry Roque. Two hospitals were granted special compassionate permits for its use for COVID-19 patients, despite the warnings of its unproven efficacy. Oral ivermectin products are also used on animals to treat parasitic infections.⁹¹
- 108** The availability of COVID-19 vaccines remains the most critical concern as it determines if the Philippines can reach herd immunity. Vaccine procurement remains dependent on the vaccines procured by the National Government, Local Government Units (LGU), and donations from the COVAX Facility. They emphasized that “coverage of all Filipinos ultimately [depend] on the vaccines procured by the national government [but] LGUs and private companies may also contribute to reaching full coverage by using their resources.”⁹²
- 109** As of March 2021, the DOH issued a press release stating that “private companies and Local Government Units are authorized to procure COVID-19 vaccines which have been given Emergency Use Authorization (EUA) by the Food and Drug Administration, in cooperation with the DOH and the National Task Force (NTF) through a tripartite agreement.” The rationale for the tripartite agreement was that “the manufacturers required that indemnification be covered by the national government before finalizing procurement deals.” The national government will shoulder the cost of adverse effects, and because vaccines are only provided through EUA and thus not sold commercially; it is aligned with the prioritization framework of the national government.⁹³
- 110** There, however, appeared to be delays in the signing of tripartite vaccine deals or multi-party agreements (MPAs), with at least 42 agreements left unsigned and not acted upon, “leading to the delays in delivery of at least 10 million vaccines ordered by LGUs and private firms.” Both the Senate (Senate Resolution No. 858) and the House of Representatives (House Res. No. 2154) filed resolutions to look into the concerns and pending requests of local governments and the private sector regarding the procurement of COVID-19 vaccines through tripartite agreements. Both resolutions call for “transparency and more

89 CNN Philippines Staff (2021). *WHO raises concern over spread of COVID-19 variants in parts of PH, sees ‘transmission within communities’*. Retrieved from <https://cnnphilippines.com/news/2021/4/23/WHO-concerned-COVID-variant97s-Philippines-community-transmission.html>

90 Cabalza, D. & Salaverria, L. (2021). *FDA lets hospital use ivermectin for COVID-19*. Retrieved from <https://newsinfo.inquirer.net/1416655/fda-lets-hospital-use-ivermectin-for-COVID-19>

91 CNN Philippines. (2021, April 22). *Palace directs FDA to lead crackdown on illegal ivermectin*. <https://www.cnn.ph/news/2021/4/22/fda-lead-crackdown-vs-illegal-ivermectin.html>

92 HUMAN RIGHTS CENTERS MANAGEMENT OFFICE ECONOMIC, SOCIAL AND CULTURAL RIGHTS CENTER. (2021). *Vaccination for All: Monitoring of the January to June 2021 COVID-19 Vaccination Rollout*. Commission on Human Rights.

93 HUMAN RIGHTS CENTERS MANAGEMENT OFFICE ECONOMIC, SOCIAL AND CULTURAL RIGHTS CENTER. (2021). *Vaccination for All: Monitoring of the January to June 2021 COVID-19 Vaccination Rollout*. Commission on Human Rights.

government information as to the allocation and coverage of the COVID-19 vaccination roll-out, particularly in the provinces and in rural areas.”⁹⁴

- 111** Due to the limited vaccine supply, the national government followed the “prioritization framework for COVID-19 based on the World Health Organization (WHO) Strategic Advisory Group of Experts (SAGE) on Immunization, together with the recommendations of independent bodies of experts including the Interim National Immunization Technical Advisory Group (iNITAG) and the Technical Advisory Group (TAG).”⁹⁵

Priority Eligible A	Priority Eligible B	Priority Eligible C
A1. Workers in Frontline Health Services	B1. Teachers, Social Workers	C. Rest of the Filipino population not otherwise included in the above groups
A2. All Senior Citizens	B2. Other Government Workers	
A3. Persons with Comorbidities	B3. Other Essential Workers	
A4. Frontline personnel in essential sectors, including uniformed personnel	B4. Socio-demographic groups at significantly higher risk other than senior citizens and poor population based on the NHTS-PR	
A5. Indigent Population	B5. Overseas Filipino Workers	
	B6. Other Remaining Workforce	

- 112** In order to address the potential accessibility issues in the rollout of the COVID-19 vaccination program, LGUs have set up vaccine centers in various areas such as: hospitals, medical centers, schools, malls, covered courts, subdivisions/villages, multi-purpose halls, parking lots, and public spaces (e.g., sports arena, concert venues). To have a physically accessible vaccine center is to ensure that it is within safe physical reach. Prior to the implementation of their COVID-19 vaccination program, LGUs have been “urged to prepare a local vaccination plan as provided in the DOH guidelines on the National Vaccination Program [and that they] coordinate closely with their respective DOH-Centers for Health Development in preparing this plan.” The local vaccination plan includes the mapping and accreditation of vaccination sites.⁹⁶
- 113** Considering that older persons and persons with comorbidities are part of the priority eligible population (A2 and A3), LGUs must consider populations who are physically unable to go to vaccine centers. Additionally, vaccine centers must undergo corresponding access audits to know the level of accessibility for older persons and persons with disabilities.⁹⁷
- 114** Some LGUs like Navotas City implemented a “mobile vaccination scheme for the bedridden,” a Mobile Vaccine Clinic, and a mobile vaccination bus with the Philippine National Red Cross. Most LGUs/barangays in Davao provide transportation for persons to be vaccinated. The City of Tagum also stated that wheelchairs are available in all of

⁹⁴ HUMAN RIGHTS CENTERS MANAGEMENT OFFICE ECONOMIC, SOCIAL AND CULTURAL RIGHTS CENTER. (2021). Vaccination for All: Monitoring of the January to June 2021 COVID-19 Vaccination Rollout. Commission on Human Rights.

⁹⁵ HUMAN RIGHTS CENTERS MANAGEMENT OFFICE ECONOMIC, SOCIAL AND CULTURAL RIGHTS CENTER. (2021). Vaccination for All: Monitoring of the January to June 2021 COVID-19 Vaccination Rollout. Commission on Human Rights.

⁹⁶ HUMAN RIGHTS CENTERS MANAGEMENT OFFICE ECONOMIC, SOCIAL AND CULTURAL RIGHTS CENTER. (2021). Vaccination for All: Monitoring of the January to June 2021 COVID-19 Vaccination Rollout. Commission on Human Rights.

⁹⁷ HUMAN RIGHTS CENTERS MANAGEMENT OFFICE ECONOMIC, SOCIAL AND CULTURAL RIGHTS CENTER. (2021). Vaccination for All: Monitoring of the January to June 2021 COVID-19 Vaccination Rollout. Commission on Human Rights.

their vaccination sites; while the Municipality of Sta. Maria stated that priority lanes are available for persons with disabilities.⁹⁸

115 Other LGUs have taken cognizance of potential economic costs and losses from vaccine inoculation; in response, they provide free rides by using tricycles for older persons and persons with disabilities on the way to vaccination sites and implemented “Bakuna nights” or night vaccinations.⁹⁹

116 Access to registration has been raised as an issue, especially for the country’s indigent population, a priority eligible population who may not have access to the internet or have gadgets to register online. As reported by CHR NCR, LGUs have employed different modes of registration and rules:¹⁰⁰

a Online

- Online registration (website)
- Through text
- Use of QR Code

b Offline/On-site

- Barangay assisted registration / On-site assisted registration via Barangay
- Group scheduling of industries, companies, and businesses
- Barangay/Health Center
- Walk-in for priority groups
- No walk-in vaccination
- House to house vaccination for bedridden individuals or senior citizen

117 LGUs have undertaken steps to address access to information regarding COVID-19 vaccines, specifically vaccine hesitancy. Reports from regional offices have taken cognizance of the communication campaigns launched by different LGUs. These campaigns and information drives utilized both traditional (such as print advertising, press releases, brochures, newsletters, and radio) and digital media (such as search engine optimization, viral campaigns, [online] audience participation, FAQs, sectoral virtual meetings, and online learning sessions and webinars). Various LGUs have turned to social media to post infographics and step-by-step guides for both online and on-site registration, schedules, and

98 HUMAN RIGHTS CENTERS MANAGEMENT OFFICE ECONOMIC, SOCIAL AND CULTURAL RIGHTS CENTER. (2021). Vaccination for All: Monitoring of the January to June 2021 COVID-19 Vaccination Rollout. Commission on Human Rights.

99 HUMAN RIGHTS CENTERS MANAGEMENT OFFICE ECONOMIC, SOCIAL AND CULTURAL RIGHTS CENTER. (2021). Vaccination for All: Monitoring of the January to June 2021 COVID-19 Vaccination Rollout. Commission on Human Rights.

100 HUMAN RIGHTS CENTERS MANAGEMENT OFFICE ECONOMIC, SOCIAL AND CULTURAL RIGHTS CENTER. (2021). Vaccination for All: Monitoring of the January to June 2021 COVID-19 Vaccination Rollout. Commission on Human Rights.

the location of vaccination centers. Some LGUs implemented barangay-level information dissemination campaigns alongside COVID-19 vaccine registration.¹⁰¹

- 118** The Department of the Interior and Local Government's (DILG) directive, following the recommendation of the DOH, to not announce the brand of vaccines to be used for inoculation beforehand has implications on the access to information. DILG Secretary Eduardo Año however emphasized that, "the individual's right to information is fully respected but they are just taking this move in order to prevent a repeat of mass gatherings and long lines that occurred when brands are announced beforehand."¹⁰²
- 119** CHR V, however, reminds LGUs to ensure the accuracy and relevance of promotional materials, given the spread of fake news and misinformation in social media. Just before the 6 to 20 August 2021 lockdown or enhanced community quarantine, thousands of Filipinos crowded vaccination sites due to various factors such as: the "fake news outbreak" that unvaccinated persons would not be given cash aid, President Duterte's pronouncement that the "unvaccinated would not be allowed to go out", and that some employers implemented a "no jab, no work" policy; which the Department of Labor and Employment has clarified to be illegal.¹⁰³

Mental Health

- 120** The CHR expressed concern that the portrayal of mental health illness in the "Tililing" movie poster is stereotypical and discriminatory. Many Filipinos already struggle in seeking help due to the stigma surrounding mental health. The public should be more sensitive in addressing such issues, especially in mass media.¹⁰⁴
- 121** In a news article published by ABS CBN News on 19 May 2021, Frances Prescilla Cuevas, chief health program officer of the DOH's Disease Prevention and Control Bureau, said that at least 3.6 million Filipinos are battling mental health issues in the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic. About 1.14 million Filipinos have depression, 847,000 are battling alcohol-use disorders, and 520,000 were diagnosed with bipolar disorder. Cuevas said that the figures are an understatement because it only tackles a few of the conditions.¹⁰⁵
- 122** The ABS-CBN News reported on 25 June 2021 that the Philippine Health Insurance Corporation (PhilHealth) plans to include mental health services in its primary care package. Shirley Domingo, PhilHealth Vice President for Corporate Affairs, said PhilHealth is working with the DOH for mental health to be included in the Konsulta

101 HUMAN RIGHTS CENTERS MANAGEMENT OFFICE ECONOMIC, SOCIAL AND CULTURAL RIGHTS CENTER. (2021). Vaccination for All: Monitoring of the January to June 2021 COVID-19 Vaccination Rollout. Commission on Human Rights.

102 HUMAN RIGHTS CENTERS MANAGEMENT OFFICE ECONOMIC, SOCIAL AND CULTURAL RIGHTS CENTER. (2021). Vaccination for All: Monitoring of the January to June 2021 COVID-19 Vaccination Rollout. Commission on Human Rights.

103 HUMAN RIGHTS CENTERS MANAGEMENT OFFICE ECONOMIC, SOCIAL AND CULTURAL RIGHTS CENTER. (2021). Vaccination for All: Monitoring of the January to June 2021 COVID-19 Vaccination Rollout. Commission on Human Rights.

104 Mercado, N. A. (2021). 'Stereotypical, discriminating': CHR slams 'Tililing' movie poster. Retrieved from <https://newsinfo.inquirer.net/1395658/stereotypical-discriminating-chr-slams-tililing-movie-poster>

105 Domingo, K. (2021). At least 3.6 million Filipinos battling mental health issues amid pandemic: DOH. Retrieved from <https://news.abs-cbn.com/spotlight/05/19/21/at-least-36-million-filipinos-battling-mental-health-issues-amid-pandemic-doh>

Prevalence and Treatment Coverage

Conditions**	Prevalence	Total	Gender Ratio		Treatment Coverage***
			Females	Males	
Depressive disorder	1.10%	1,145,871	1.2%	1.1%	0.80%
Bipolar disorder	0.20%	520,614	0.2%	0.5%	5.00%
Schizophrenia	0.20%	213,422	0.2%	0.2%	18.50%
Alcohol use disorders	0.90%	874,145	0.6%	1.2%	0.60%
Drug use disorders	0.70%	520,614	0.4%	1.1%	1.20%
Epilepsy	0.30%	349,058	0.3%	0.3%	1.20%
Suicide deaths per year	5.4*	5,570	2.5*	8.2*	--

*Rate per 100,000; **GBD 2017; ***DOH Regional Resource Mapping 2019-2020



Department of Health, Philippines



package, the government's financing mechanism for the delivery of primary care services and commodities.¹⁰⁶

- 123** In its statement dated 30 June 2021, the Commission on Human Rights “lauds and supports PhilHealth plan to include mental health services in its primary care package for Filipinos through its Konsulta package.”¹⁰⁷
- 124** The National Center for Mental Health's (NCMH) said its crisis hotline received 11,017 calls in 2020, 12% or 1,282 of which were suicide-related. The NCMH official also noted the rise in suicide-related calls in 2021. As of 30 June 2021, out of 8,949 calls received, about 28% or 2,743 were suicide-related.¹⁰⁸
- 125** In the 05 July 2021 press release of the Philippines Statistics Authority (PSA), cases of death due to intentional self-harm had increased by 57.3% in 2020 as compared to the previous year, making it the 25th leading cause of death in 2020, from rank 31 in 2019. The cases had spiked from 2,810 registered deaths in 2019 to 4,420 deaths in 2020.¹⁰⁹
- 126** In a news article published by Business World on 12 August 2021, a study by mental health firm MindNation which was released in June 2021, found that 53% of Filipino workers experienced mental health challenges during the global pandemic. These include: fears about contracting the coronavirus, financial pressures, personal problems, work pressure, and trying to juggle work and family matters.
- 127** MindNation, which conducted the study from September 2020 to April 2021, found that workers lacked focus and concentration, and felt they no longer enjoyed things that made them happy in the past. Workers also had low self-confidence and had a hard time sleeping. The study also showed that 13% of workers took a leave of absence due to mental health problems, while 35% had productivity issues, losing an average of two hours daily. A quarter of those polled said they were thinking about quitting their jobs. It also said these

106 Domingo, K. (2021). PhilHealth to include mental health services in primary health care package. Retrieved from <https://news.abs-cbn.com/news/06/25/21/philhealth-includes-mental-health-primary-care>

107 Statement of CHR Spokesperson, Atty Jacqueline Ann de Guia, supporting government's move to include mental health services in primary health care package. June 30, 2021. Retrieved from <https://chr.gov.ph/statement-of-chr-spokesperson-atty-jacqueline-ann-de-guia-supporting-governments-move-to-include-mental-health-services-in-primary-health-care-package/>

108 CNN Philippines. (2021). PSA: Suicide rate leaps by 57% in 2020 amid COVID-19 pandemic. Retrieved from <https://cnnphilippines.com/news/2021/7/9/suicide-rate-leaps-57-percent-2020.html>

109 Philippine Statistics Authority (2021). Causes of Deaths in the Philippines (Preliminary): January to December 2020. Retrieved from <https://psa.gov.ph/content/causes-deaths-philippines-preliminary-january-december-2020-0>

Table 1. Number of Registered Deaths, Percent Share, and Ranks by 50 Leading Cause of Death, Philippines: 2019-2020^(P) (as of 17 June 2021)

Cause of Death (Mortality Tabulation List 1)	2020 ^P			2019			Percent Change
	Number	Share (%)	Rank	Number	Share (%)	Rank	
Total	613,035	100.0		620,414	100.0		1.2
1-067 Ischaemic heart diseases	105,114	17.1	1	97,475	15.7	1	7.8
1-026 Neoplasms	66,179	10.8	2	68,657	11.1	2	-3.6
1-069 Cerebrovascular diseases	64,104	10.5	3	63,548	10.2	3	0.9
1-052 Diabetes Mellitus	39,723	6.5	4	34,570	5.6	5	14.9
1-074 Pneumonia	34,251	5.6	5	62,719	10.1	4	-45.4
1-066 Hypertensive diseases	31,610	5.2	6	27,764	4.5	6	13.9
COVID-19 Virus not identified U07.2	20,840	3.4	7				
1-068 Other heart diseases	20,575	3.4	8	20,416	3.3	9	0.8
1-076 Chronic lower respiratory infections	20,553	3.4	9	26,576	4.3	7	-22.7
1-086 Remainder of diseases of the genitourinary system	18,483	3.0	10	17,215	2.8	10	7.4
1-005 Respiratory tuberculosis	18,410	3.0	11	22,668	3.6	8	-18.4
1-080 Diseases of the liver	9,810	1.6	12	10,359	1.7	14	-5.3
1-092 Certain conditions originating in the perinatal period	9,535	1.6	13	11,260	1.8	12	-15.3
COVID-19 Virus identified U07.1	9,300	1.5	14				
1-103 All other external causes	9,276	1.5	15	10,997	1.8	13	-15.6
1-081 Remainder of diseases of the digestive system	9,186	1.5	16	9,369	1.5	15	-2.0
1-096 Transport accidents	8,699	1.4	17	12,799	2.1	11	-32.0
1-054 Remainder of endocrine, nutritional and metabolic diseases	7,626	1.2	18	7,052	1.1	18	8.1
1-102 Assault	6,775	1.1	19	8,831	1.4	16	-23.3
1-061 Remainder of diseases of the nervous system	6,703	1.1	20	8,232	1.3	17	-18.6
1-079 Gastric and duodenal ulcer	5,537	0.9	21	5,437	0.9	22	1.8
1-077 Remainder of diseases of the respiratory system	5,214	0.9	22	6,459	1.0	19	-19.3
1-012 Septicaemia	4,761	0.8	23	6,173	1.0	20	-22.9
1-093 Congenital malformations, deformations and chromosomal abnormalities	4,718	0.8	24	5,912	1.0	21	-20.2
1-101 Intentional self-harm	4,418	0.7	25	2,808	0.5	31	57.3
1-083 Diseases of the musculoskeletal system and connective tissue	4,398	0.7	26	4,358	0.7	23	0.9
1-053 Malnutrition	4,213	0.7	27	3,827	0.6	24	10.1
1-082 Diseases of the skin and subcutaneous tissue	3,625	0.6	28	3,718	0.6	25	-2.5
1-097 Falls	3,473	0.6	29	3,144	0.5	30	10.5
1-049 Anaemias	3,277	0.5	30	3,344	0.5	27	-2.0
1-085 Glomerular and renal tubulo-interstitial diseases	3,101	0.5	31	3,388	0.5	26	-6.5
1-098 Accidental drowning and submersion	2,753	0.4	32	3,295	0.5	29	-16.4
1-003 Diarrhoea and gastroenteritis of presumed infectious origin	2,699	0.4	33	3,335	0.5	28	-19.1
1-065 Acute rheumatic fever and chronic rheumatic heart diseases	1,802	0.3	34	2,272	0.4	33	-20.7
1-071 Remainder of diseases of the circulatory system	1,652	0.3	35	1,904	0.3	35	-13.2
1-025 Remainder of certain infectious and parasitic diseases	1,558	0.3	36	2,049	0.3	34	-24.0
1-089 Other direct obstetric deaths	1,501	0.2	37	1,122	0.2	37	33.8
1-006 Other tuberculosis	1,020	0.2	38	1,309	0.2	36	-22.1
1-017 Other arthropod-borne viral fevers and viral haemorrhagic fevers	1,016	0.2	39	2,778	0.4	32	-63.4
1-057 Remainder of mental and behavioral disorders	960	0.2	40	719	0.1	44	33.5
1-020 Human Immunodeficiency virus [HIV]	916	0.1	41	878	0.1	41	4.3
1-050 Remainder of diseases of the blood and blood-forming organs and certain disorders involving the immune mechanism	907	0.1	42	995	0.2	40	-8.8
1-019 Viral hepatitis	898	0.1	43	1,061	0.2	39	-15.4
1-060 Alzheimer's disease	893	0.1	44	855	0.1	42	4.4
1-059 Meningitis	686	0.1	45	1,094	0.2	38	-37.3
1-100 Accidental poisoning by and exposure to noxious substances	622	0.1	46	640	0.1	45	-2.8
1-008 Tetanus	495	0.1	47	516	0.1	46	-4.1
1-004 Other intestinal infectious diseases	413	0.1	48	432	0.1	48	-4.4
1-056 Mental and behavioral disorder due to psychoactive substance use	352	0.1	49	367	0.1	50	-4.1
1-070 Atherosclerosis	339	0.1	50	246	0.0	52	37.8
Other causes of death	28,066	4.6		25,572	4.1		9.8

Source: Philippine Statistics Authority (Data on deaths are those registered at the Office of the City/Municipal Registrars throughout the country and submitted to the Office of the Civil Registrar General; Certificate of Death- Municipal Form 103)

(P) - Preliminary

006

mental health and well-being challenges cost companies Php 7 million a year for 10,000 employees.¹¹⁰

- 128** In September 2021, the Philippine Disaster Resilience Foundation (PDRF)'s Project K3 (Kalinga Para sa Kalusugan ng Komunidad), in partnership with the New Zealand Foreign Affairs and Trade Aid Programme, organized a virtual roundtable discussion (RTD) entitled "Mental Health Matters." The RTD tackled mental health issues of medical frontliners during the pandemic and discussed pandemic-induced mental health challenges

110

Business World. (2021). Coronavirus takes its toll on mental health as Filipinos battle stress, anxiety. Retrieved from <https://www.bworldonline.com/coronavirus-takes-its-toll-on-mental-health-as-filipinos-battle-stress-anxiety/>

experienced by medical frontliners such as exceptional stress, extreme workloads, difficult decisions, risks of becoming infected and spreading infection to families and communities, and witnessing deaths of patients. Over 1,000 participants from local government units, hospitals, and various sectors from all around the country attended.¹¹¹

- 129** PDRF President Butch Meily said “Mental health is one of the major problems of this prolonged emergency. This is especially true of our healthcare frontliners who face danger, despair, stress, and difficulties. What we can do is continue to support our medical personnel, nurses, and doctors. Social cohesion, a sense of solidarity, and being able to cope are key to getting us through the pandemic.” Experts from universities from different regions and the Commission on Human Rights explored possible solutions and shared their best practices to mitigate common mental health challenges for healthcare workers.¹¹²
- 130** In celebration of National Mental Health Week (11 to 16 October 2021), the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) and the Philippine Department of Health (DOH) launched Lusog-Isip, the country’s first mobile application for mental health and self-care. Lusog-Isip was developed by USAID and DOH in response to the growing need for mental healthcare during the COVID-19 pandemic.
- 131** Lusog-Isip screens individuals to get a better sense of their overall well-being and how they usually cope with stress before recommending ways they can help themselves through workbooks, exercises, audio guides, journaling, mood tracking, or even just simple self-care reminders. It also provides a list of mental health and psychosocial support service providers online or nearby. USAID is committed to supporting the promotion of this mobile app in schools, workplaces, and communities.¹¹³
- 132** On 13 October 2021, the Philippines was the first country to launch a joint UN investment case on mental health, a collaboration between the DOH, UNDP and WHO under the coordination of the UN Interagency Task Force on NCDs (UNIATF). More than a thousand participants attended the launch, a clear sign of the growing prominence of mental health in policy discussions in the Philippines.¹¹⁴
- 133** Key sectors of government, UN agencies and civil society called for increased action, citing the main findings of the investment case that investing in evidence-based, cost-effective, WHO-recommended mental health interventions could save more than 26,000 lives and return 3 million healthy life years to Filipinos over 20 years, and yield returns over 20 years as high as US \$15 for every \$1 invested now.¹¹⁵
- 134** The report outlines not only the health but also the economic rationale for investing in evidence-based, WHO-recommended interventions that are in line with community-

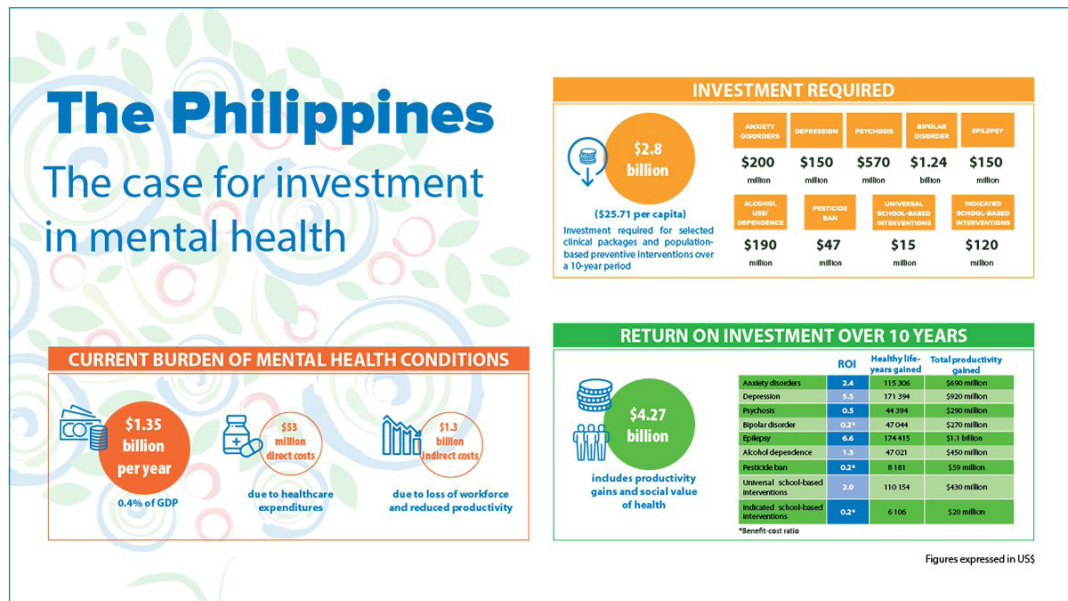
111 Philippine Disaster Resilience Foundation. (2021). Press Release: PDRF, experts address mental health issues of frontliners during pandemic. Retrieved from <https://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/PRESS%20RELEASE%20-30September2021-PDRF%2C%20experts%20address%20mental%20health%20issues%20of%20frontliners%20during%20pandemic.pdf>

112 Philippine Disaster Resilience Foundation. (2021). Press Release: PDRF, experts address mental health issues of frontliners during pandemic. Retrieved from <https://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/PRESS%20RELEASE%20-30September2021-PDRF%2C%20experts%20address%20mental%20health%20issues%20of%20frontliners%20during%20pandemic.pdf>

113 U.S. Embassy Manila. (2021). USAID and DOH Launch Philippines’ First Mobile App for Mental Health. <https://ph.usembassy.gov/usaaid-and-doh-launch-philippines-first-mobile-app-for-mental-health/>

114 Grafton, D., Vicedo, K., & Rashid, M. (2021). The economic case for investing in mental health. Retrieved from <https://www.asia-pacific.undp.org/content/rbap/en/home/blog/2021/the-economic-case-for-investing-in-mental-health.html>

115 Grafton, D., Vicedo, K., & Rashid, M. (2021). The economic case for investing in mental health. Retrieved from <https://www.asia-pacific.undp.org/content/rbap/en/home/blog/2021/the-economic-case-for-investing-in-mental-health.html>



based, integrated approaches. The case provides robust evidence that increased investments in mental health not only advance the right to health but also make economic sense.¹¹⁶

People Living with HIV

- 135** Based on the Report submitted by the DOH Region I, there had been an increase in their screening and testing activities resulting in an increased number of newly diagnosed HIV cases. This contributed to a negative accomplishment, however not reflective of program efforts to reduce incidence.¹¹⁷
- 136** Monitoring of the different health centers in Zamboanga yielded information that there is an increase in the number of teenage pregnancies and children afflicted with HIV. This situation also showed that the causes for this increase in the number of teenage pregnancies are even more alarming, to wit, high number of incestuous rape and sexual abuse cases, lack of sex and health education and high rate of experimentation among peers which may be brought about by unmonitored or unguarded exposure to social media.¹¹⁸
- 137** The delivery of programs and services of DOH-CHD-CAR for HIV/AIDS for the second semester was greatly affected by the global COVID-19 pandemic. Acknowledging the needs of Persons Living with HIV (PLHIV), the agency adjusted to deliver their services to the PLHIV community despite many limitations. Most of the programs were implemented on different platforms of social media. There were 35 HIV/AIDS Cases in the region; Baguio City has the highest number while Apayao has the least.¹¹⁹
- 138** The number of newly-discovered HIV/AIDS cases in CARAGA has decreased this year. Based on the current data, only 38 are affected across the region compared to the increasing number of cases last year. While HIV has no effective cure, it can be controlled with proper care and treatment, i.e., antiretroviral therapy (ART). Most of the encounters are aged 15

116 Grafton, D., Vicedo, K., & Rashid, M. (2021). The economic case for investing in mental health. Retrieved from <https://www.asia-pacific.undp.org/content/rbap/en/home/blog/2021/the-economic-case-for-investing-in-mental-health.html>

117 (2021). *Regional HR Situation Report July to December 2020*. San Fernando City: CHR Regional Office I.

118 Commission on Human Rights Regional Office 9. (2021, January). 2020 CHR 9 Human Rights Situation Report.

119 Commission on Human Rights Cordillera Administrative Region. (2021, January). Regional Human Rights Situation Report July to December 2020.

to 35 years old. The leading cause of HIV/AIDS infection or transmission is unprotected sex of men who have sex with men.¹²⁰

Right to Food

- 139** At least 50 meat retailers in Balanga, Bataan stopped selling pork at the city's public market on 05 March 2021, as a one-day protest against the price cap imposed by the government. The farm-gate price of pork was already at Php255 a kilo and they were required to sell it for only Php270 a kilo.¹²¹
- 140** Marikina Rep. Stella Luz Quimbo is pushing for a congressional probe of NEDA's recommendations to address persistently high prices of pork by easing import restrictions. She also urges her colleagues to find out what happened to the Agriculture Competitive Enhancement Fund (ACEF), which receives all duties collected from the importation of agricultural products, except rice, in accordance with Republic Act No. 8178, or the Agricultural Tariffication Act.¹²²
- 141** The Department of Agriculture (DA) will start its swine repopulation program with Php600 million allocated for the project. Out of which, Php400 million will be used to distribute "sentinel" piglets to beneficiaries and would include the provision of feeds, veterinary drugs and antiviral agents to assist raisers during the six-month fattening period. The remaining Php200 million would be used to ensure that there would be a continuous source of piglets for the subsequent expansion of the repopulation program.¹²³
- 142** With the COVID-19 pandemic, all businesses have been impacted to different degrees. Vegetable farming was not affected in terms of production but in terms of distribution. The volume of purchases from food establishments that rely on Benguet's vegetable produce for their daily operations drastically went down.¹²⁴
- 143** Because of the perceived oversupply of vegetables caused by this significant reduction in the volume of purchases, the provincial government was compelled to remedy the situation by clustering the marketing of vegetables through the different trading centers in La Trinidad to make sure there is a stable volume of vegetable supply. While at the same time, ensuring that the buying prices do not vary much so farmers can earn a decent income even during the community quarantine period.
- 144** The successful implementation of the clustering scheme prompted Nestor Fongwan, Jr., President of the Philippine Councilors League, Provincial Federation President in Benguet Province and Councilor at La Trinidad, Benguet, to work out the institutionalization of the said program to jumpstart needed reforms to improve the state of the local vegetable industry. This will be the initial wave of programs to be introduced to vegetable farmers

120 Commission on Human Rights CARAGA Region. (2021, January). What Kind of Year Has It Been: A Report on the Human Rights Situation in CARAGA Region During the 2020 COVID-19 Pandemic.

121 *Philippine Daily Inquirer* (2021). Meat traders in Bataan stage pork holiday. Retrieved from <https://newsinfo.inquirer.net/1403581/meat-traders-in-bataan-stage-pork-holiday#:~:text=BALANGA%20CITY%E2%80%94At%20least%2050,ceilings%20on%20pork%20and%20chicken>.

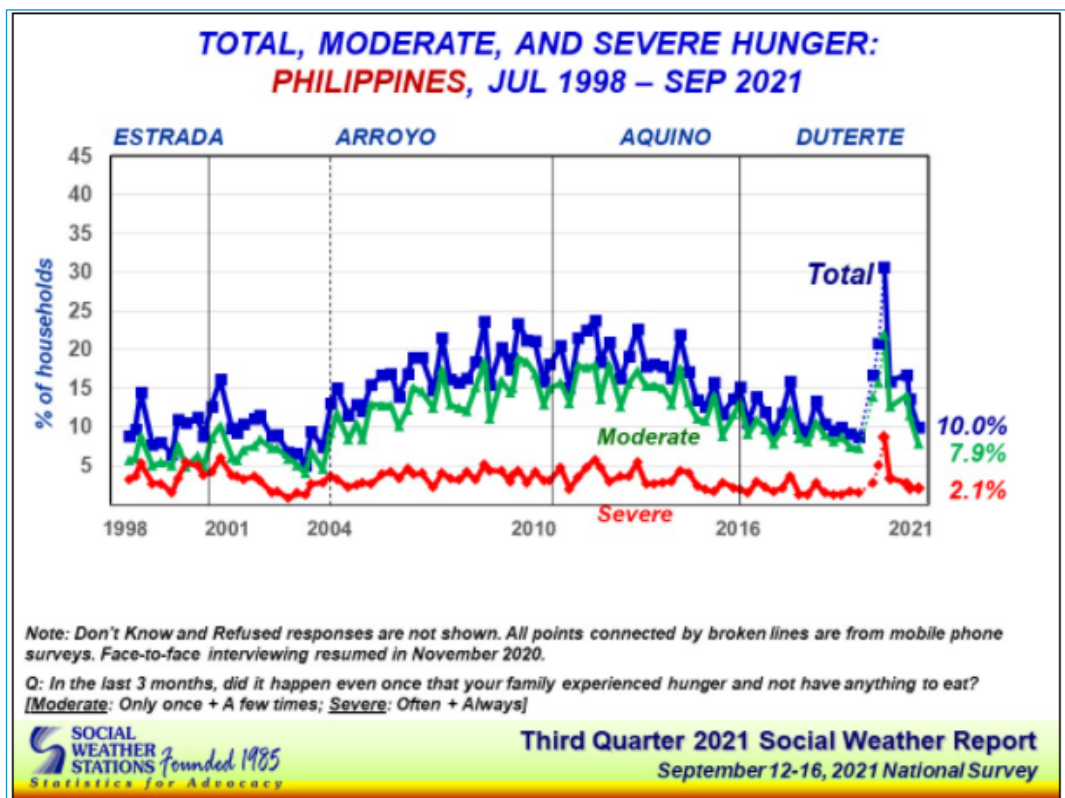
122 Aurelio, J. (2021). House probe of proposed pork tariff cut sought. Retrieved from <https://newsinfo.inquirer.net/1406637/house-probe-of-proposed-pork-tariff-cut-sought>

123 Ocampo, K. (2021). Gov't starts swine repopulation program. Retrieved from <https://business.inquirer.net/320591/govt-starts-swine-repopulation-program>

124 Commission on Human Rights Cordillera Administrative Region. (2021, January). Regional Human Rights Situation Report July to December 2020.

to sustain the industry by being familiar with the situation and making them at par with their counterparts in other countries in the global village.¹²⁵

- 145** A total of 700kg of assorted vegetables and two (2) metric tons of chicken meat arrived at the Agricultural Training Institute in Quezon City last 25 January 2021. The produce which came from various provinces in the CALABARZON region is part of the initial shipments of agricultural products to be delivered in Metro Manila through a collaboration of the national government and farmers' cooperatives and organizations.¹²⁶
- 146** Assisted by the DA, Bulacan farmers started their regular shipment of affordable produce to Metro Manila markets with a delivery of 90 metric tons of assorted vegetables at Juliana Market in Balintawak on 26 January 2021. Agriculture Secretary William Dar said this is only the beginning as more products from nearby provinces in Luzon will be mobilized to Metro Manila and distributed in different markets to stabilize prices of basic food commodities.¹²⁷

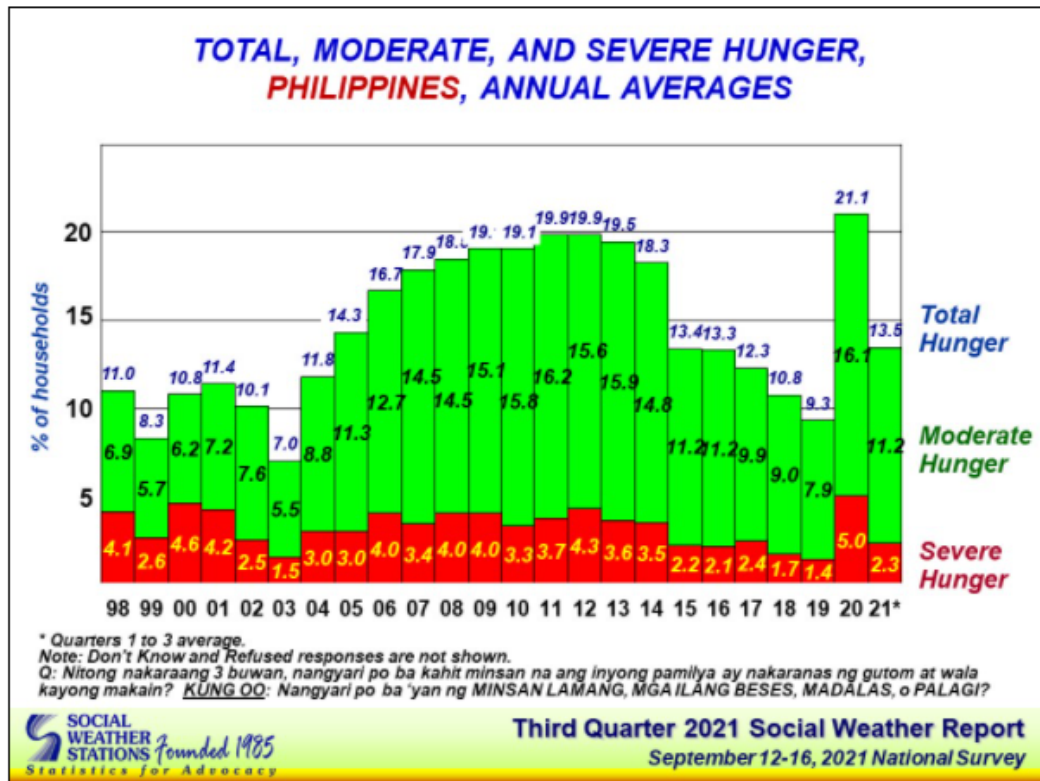


- 147** The National Social Weather Survey (SWS) of September 12-16, 2021 found that 10.0% or an estimated 2.5 million families experienced involuntary hunger – hunger due to lack of food to eat – at least once in the past three months. The September 2021 Hunger rate is 3.6 points below the 13.6% (estimated 3.4 million families) in June 2021. It is 11.1 points

¹²⁵ Commission on Human Rights Cordillera Administrative Region. (2021, January). *Regional Human Rights Situation Report July to December 2020*.

¹²⁶ DA Communications Group (2021). *Arrival of Food Supplies from CALABARZON in Metro Manila at ATI (Jan. 25, 2021)*. Retrieved February 04, 2021 from <https://www.da.gov.ph/gallery/arrival-of-food-supply-in-metro-manila-at-ati-jan-25-2021/>

¹²⁷ DA Communications Group (2021). *Delivery of Assorted Vegetables in Balintawak, Quezon City (Jan. 26, 2021)*. Retrieved February 04, 2021 from <https://www.da.gov.ph/gallery/delivery-of-assorted-vegetables-in-balintawak-quezon-city-jan-26-2021/>



below the 2020 annual average of 21.1%, but 0.7 points above the 2019 annual average of 9.3%. Hunger declines in all areas except in Metro Manila.¹²⁸

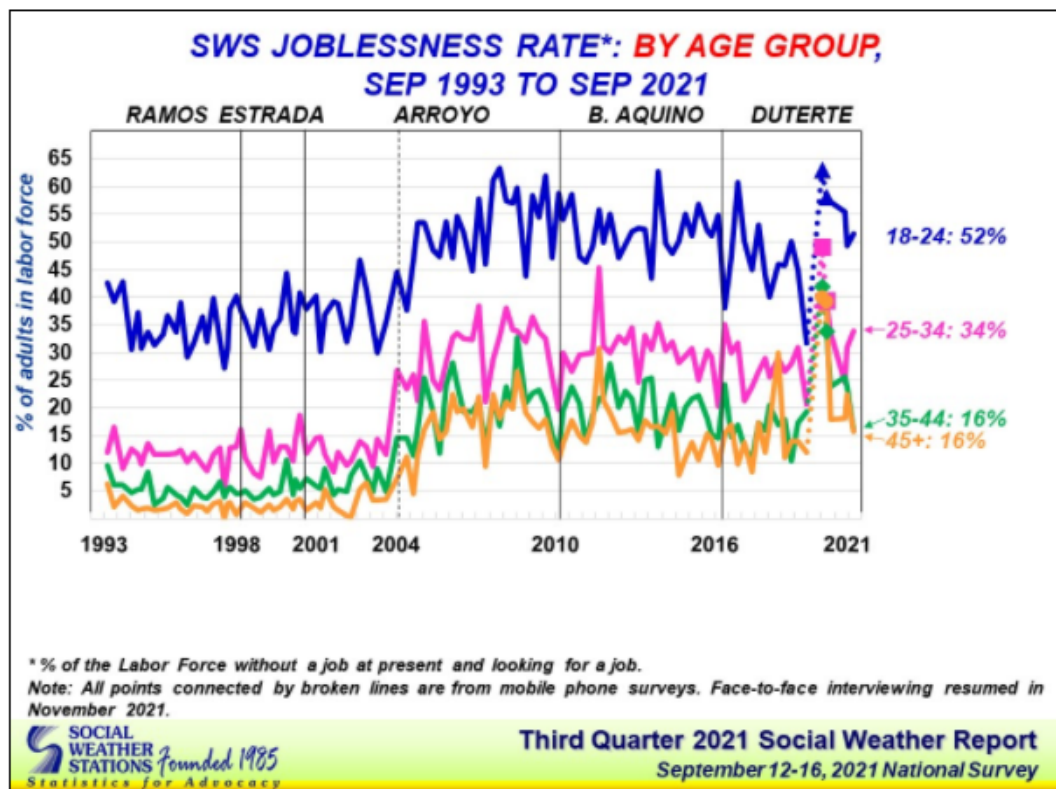
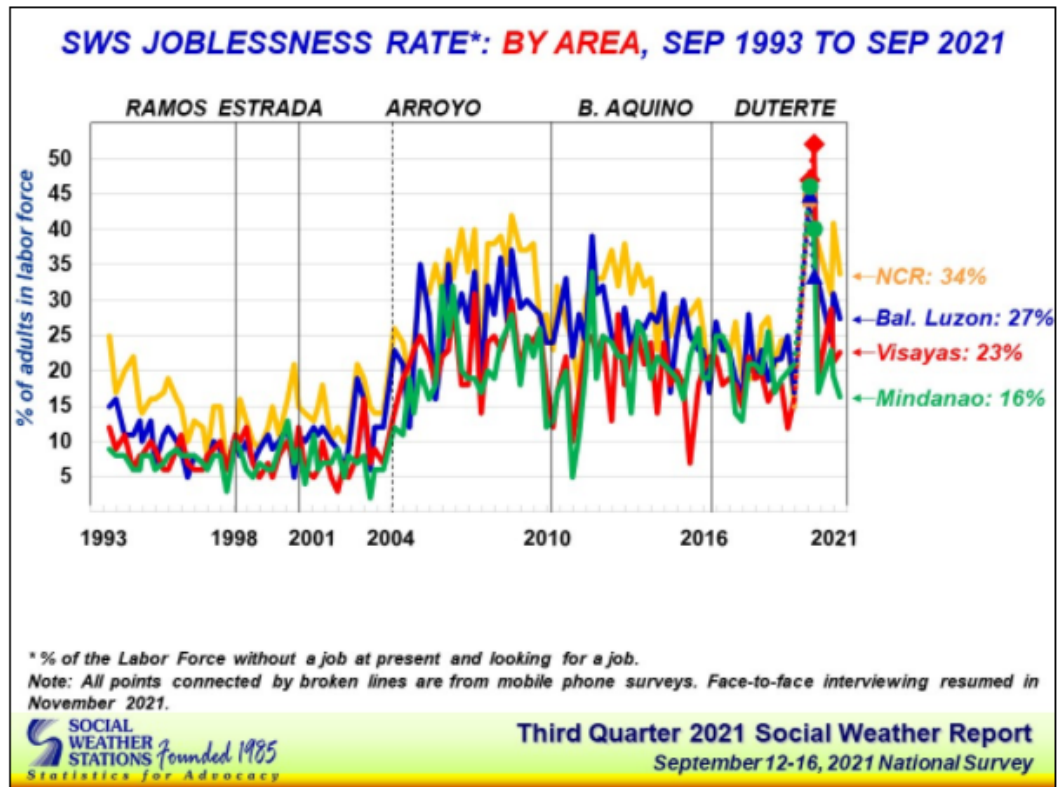
Right to Decent Work (Rights of artisanal and small-scale fisherfolk)

- 148** Based on a survey conducted by the Social Weather Station (SWS), joblessness declined to 24.8% in the third quarter of 2021 compared to 27.6% in the second quarter of 2021. Joblessness fell in Metro Manila from 40.9% in June 2021 to 33.6% in September 2021. It fell in Balance Luzon from 30.9% in June 2021 to 27.5% in September 2021. It also fell in Mindanao from 19.2% in June 2021 to 16.4% in September 2021. However, it rose in the Visayas from 21.3% in June 2021 to 22.6% in September 2021.¹²⁹
- 149** Joblessness falls among the 35-year-olds-and-above but rises among those under 35. Compared to June 2021, joblessness fell among the 35 – to 44-year-olds from 23.8% to 16.0%. It also fell among those 45 years old and above from 22.4% to 15.6%. However, it rose among the 18 – to 24-year-olds from 49.3% to 51.5%. It also rose among the 25 – to 34-year-olds from 31.0% to 33.9%. As in past surveys, the joblessness rate remains highest among the 18 – to 24-year-olds among all age groups¹³⁰

128 Social Weather Stations. (2021a, December). Third Quarter 2021 Social Weather Survey: Hunger falls to 10.0% of families in September 2021. <https://www.sws.org.ph/swsmain/artcldisppage/?artcsyscode=ART-202.112.06105401>

129 Social Weather Stations. (2021b, September). Third Quarter 2021 Social Weather Survey: Joblessness falls slightly to 24.8%. <https://www.sws.org.ph/swsmain/artcldisppage/?artcsyscode=ART-202.112.13102147>

130 Social Weather Stations. (2021b, September). Third Quarter 2021 Social Weather Survey: Joblessness falls slightly to 24.8%. <https://www.sws.org.ph/swsmain/artcldisppage/?artcsyscode=ART-202.112.13102147>



- 150 Farmer-leaders are pushing the inclusion of farmers and agricultural workers in the COVID-19 vaccination priority list who kept Filipinos fed throughout the height of the pandemic.¹³¹

131 Ocampo, K. (2021). Gov't urged to include farmers in vaccine priority. Retrieved from <https://business.inquirer.net/318755/govt-urged-to-include-farmers-in-vaccine-priority>

- 151** Presidential Spokesperson Harry Roque received backlash after saying that President Rodrigo Duterte declared three (3) usual holidays as “special working days” because of the need to revive the economy after Filipinos’ “yearlong vacation” due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The comment is insensitive to millions of Filipinos suffering from the pandemic.¹³²
- 152** The surge of COVID-19 cases may delay the implementation of infrastructure projects. To prevent the spread of COVID-19 while building more infrastructure, existing protocols need to be fully enforced according to Acting Socio-economic Planning Secretary Karl Kendrick Chua of National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA).¹³³
- 153** Members of the Makabayan bloc have filed House Resolution No. 1662, calling on the Philippine House Committee on Labor and Employment to conduct an inquiry on the Department of Education’s TV project with private production company Ei2Tech amid claims of delayed pay and unfair labor practices involving some producers and other workers hired for the program.¹³⁴
- 154** The Department of Transportation (DOTr) will be providing free transportation for healthcare workers through fielded passenger jeepneys under the Land Transportation Franchising and Regulatory Board (LTFRB) while NCR plus remains under the enhanced community quarantine (ECQ). In addition, the Metropolitan Manila Development Authority (MMDA) has three (3) military trucks on standby as backup transport, according to Chairperson Benhur Abalos.¹³⁵
- 155** The NEDA Acting Secretary Karl Chua stated that they estimate a total of ₱83.3 billion in unearned wages as workers stay at home due to the implementation of strict community restrictions; for every one week of enhanced community quarantine (ECQ), ₱19.6 billion in worker’s income is lost, while ₱14.7 billion is lost for a week’s implementation of a modified ECQ. Chua said that the 8.7 million jobs lost in April 2020 were recovered by the creation of 9.3 million jobs as of February 2021. However, unemployment is still high at 8.8% in February 2021 compared to 8.7% in January 2021.
- 156** The estimated unemployment rate was recorded at 6.9 percent last July 2021 Labor Force Survey. This is the lowest since the pandemic in April 2020. In terms of magnitude, this is about 3.1 million unemployed persons 15 years old and above. The employment rate on the other hand was at 93.1 percent, the highest since April 2020. This is equivalent to 41.7 million employed persons. Of the 41.7 million, 8.7 million or 20.9 percent were underemployed, the highest since the pandemic started.¹³⁶

132 Aurelio, J. (2021). ‘Jobless, quarantined Pinoys not vacationing’ – Brosas. Retrieved from <https://newsinfo.inquirer.net/1402762/jobless-quarantined-pinoys-not-vacationing>

133 de Vera, B. (2021). Virus surge to delay infra projects. Retrieved from <https://business.inquirer.net/319831/virus-surge-to-delay-infra-projects>

134 Aurelio, J. (2021). House probe sought into DepEd TV producers’ complaints. Retrieved from <https://newsinfo.inquirer.net/1410583/house-probe-sought-into-deped-tv-producers-complaints>

135 Ramos, M. (2021). DOTr gives free rides to health workers. Retrieved from <https://newsinfo.inquirer.net/1413570/dotr-gives-free-rides-to-health-workers>

136 Philippine Statistics Authority. (2021b, September). Unemployment Rate in July 2021 is Estimated at 6.9 Percent. Retrieved from <https://psa.gov.ph/content/unemployment-rate-july-2021-estimated-69-percent>

- 157** The largest share of employed persons are from the services sector with 57.9 percent, followed by agriculture sector with 22.1 percent, and the industry sector with the least employed persons at 20.0 percent.¹³⁷
- 158** Labor force participation among men was higher at 72.4 percent compared to women at 47.1 percent. Employment rate was also higher among men at 93.7, than 92.3 percent among women. Unemployment rate among women was higher at 7.7 percent while it was 6.3 percent among men.¹³⁸
- 159** Six (6) regions registered higher rates than the estimated 6.9 percent. The following regions are:¹³⁹
- a** National Capital Region – 9.0%
 - b** Region VII – Central Visayas – 8.8%
 - c** Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (BARMM) – 8.2%
 - d** Region V – Bicol Region – 7.9%
 - e** Region IV-A CALABARZON – 7.7%
 - f** Region IV-B MIMAROPA – 7.1%
- 160** Four regions have more than 25% underemployment rates, namely: ¹⁴⁰
- a** Region IV-B MIMAROPA – 31.2%
 - b** Region V – Bicol Region – 30.4%
 - c** Region VIII – Eastern Visayas – 27.6%
 - d** Region II – Cagayan Valley – 25.3%
- 161** Youth labor force participation decreased from 38.9 percent in July 2020 to 33.3 percent in July 2021. Employment rate increased to 84.6 percent from 77.6 percent. There was also an increase in underemployment to 19.0 percent from 15.7 percent.¹⁴¹
- 162** The Alliance of Concerned Teachers (ACT) mentioned in their letter to the Education Secretary Leonor Briones last 13 April 2021 to grant public school teachers a 25 percent

137 Philippine Statistics Authority. (2021b, September). Unemployment Rate in July 2021 is Estimated at 6.9 Percent. <https://psa.gov.ph/content/unemployment-rate-july-2021-estimated-69-percent>

138 Philippine Statistics Authority. (2021b, September). Unemployment Rate in July 2021 is Estimated at 6.9 Percent. <https://psa.gov.ph/content/unemployment-rate-july-2021-estimated-69-percent>

139 Philippine Statistics Authority. (2021b, September). Unemployment Rate in July 2021 is Estimated at 6.9 Percent. <https://psa.gov.ph/content/unemployment-rate-july-2021-estimated-69-percent>

140 Philippine Statistics Authority. (2021b, September). *Unemployment Rate in July 2021 is Estimated at 6.9 Percent*. <https://psa.gov.ph/content/unemployment-rate-july-2021-estimated-69-percent>

141 Philippine Statistics Authority. (2021b, September). *Unemployment Rate in July 2021 is Estimated at 6.9 Percent*. <https://psa.gov.ph/content/unemployment-rate-july-2021-estimated-69-percent>

overtime pay for the extra 77 days that they were required to work during an extended school year.¹⁴²

- 163** The CHR Regional Office II received several complaints from women who have entered into compromise agreements for the support of their children. According to them, during the pandemic, their husbands/partners have failed to fully comply with their obligations for the reason that they stopped working due to the closure of establishments not considered essential during the ECQ or MECQ period.¹⁴³
- 164** Businesses in the Cordilleras have been struck hard by the pandemic and are at the brink of shutting down due to financial losses. In fact, many of them have already closed either temporarily or permanently. Nevertheless, some are keeping their businesses afloat despite heavy losses. To cope with the adverse effects of the pandemic, business owners have availed themselves of basic support services from the government agencies. Their employees have benefited from the free COVID-19 vaccines offered by the government. The active roll-out of the vaccines have helped Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) slowly recover amidst the present crisis as they gradually resume business operations.¹⁴⁴
- 165** The business environment was also adversely affected by the pandemic. To maintain the people's right to a healthy life, economic rights cannot take a back seat if we are to ensure that people continuously enjoy freedom from poverty. The program of DTI-CAR aimed at helping Micro, Small and Medium enterprises (MSMEs) should help sustain the economy and labor force in the region.¹⁴⁵

Right to Water

- 166** The top three regions with the highest percentage of families with basic service sanitation facilities were Cagayan Valley (87.5%), CALABARZON (87.4%), and Region III-Central Luzon (87.2%). On the other hand, the three regions with the lowest percentage were BARMM (39.3%), Region XI-Davao (72.0%), and SOCCSKSARGEN (72.5%). In addition, BARMM had the highest percentage of families with unimproved service level facilities (24.4%) and families practicing open defecation with no toilet facility (19.6%)¹⁴⁶
- 167** Urban (80.9%) and rural (79.9%) areas had almost similar proportions of families with access to basic sanitation facilities. Urban area coverage with 15.7% of families using limited sanitation facilities was higher than that in rural areas at 11.2%. On the contrary, the number of rural families practicing open defecation (5.6%) was higher than that of urban families (1.6%)¹⁴⁷

¹⁴² Adonis, M. (2021). *Teachers demand OT pay in pandemic-hit school year*. Retrieved from <https://newsinfo.inquirer.net/1419262/teachers-demand-ot-pay-in-pandemic-hit-school-year>

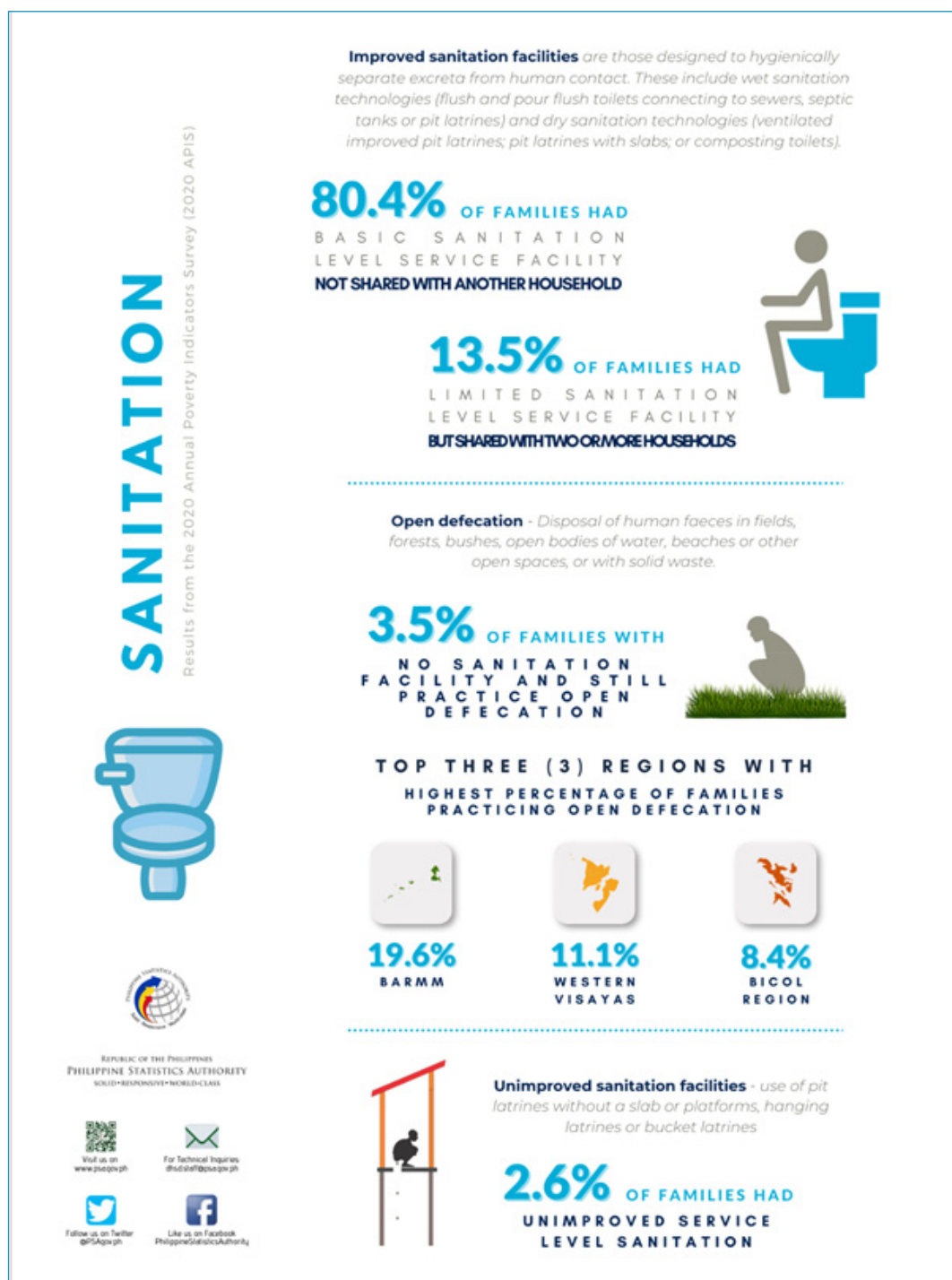
¹⁴³ Commission on Human Rights Regional Office II. (2021, August). Human Rights Situationer Report January to June 2021.

¹⁴⁴ Commission on Human Rights Cordillera Administrative Region. (2021, August). HUMAN RIGHTS SITUATION REPORT ON THE MONITORING OF COVID-19 VACCINATION PROGRAM CORDILLERA ADMINISTRATIVE REGION.

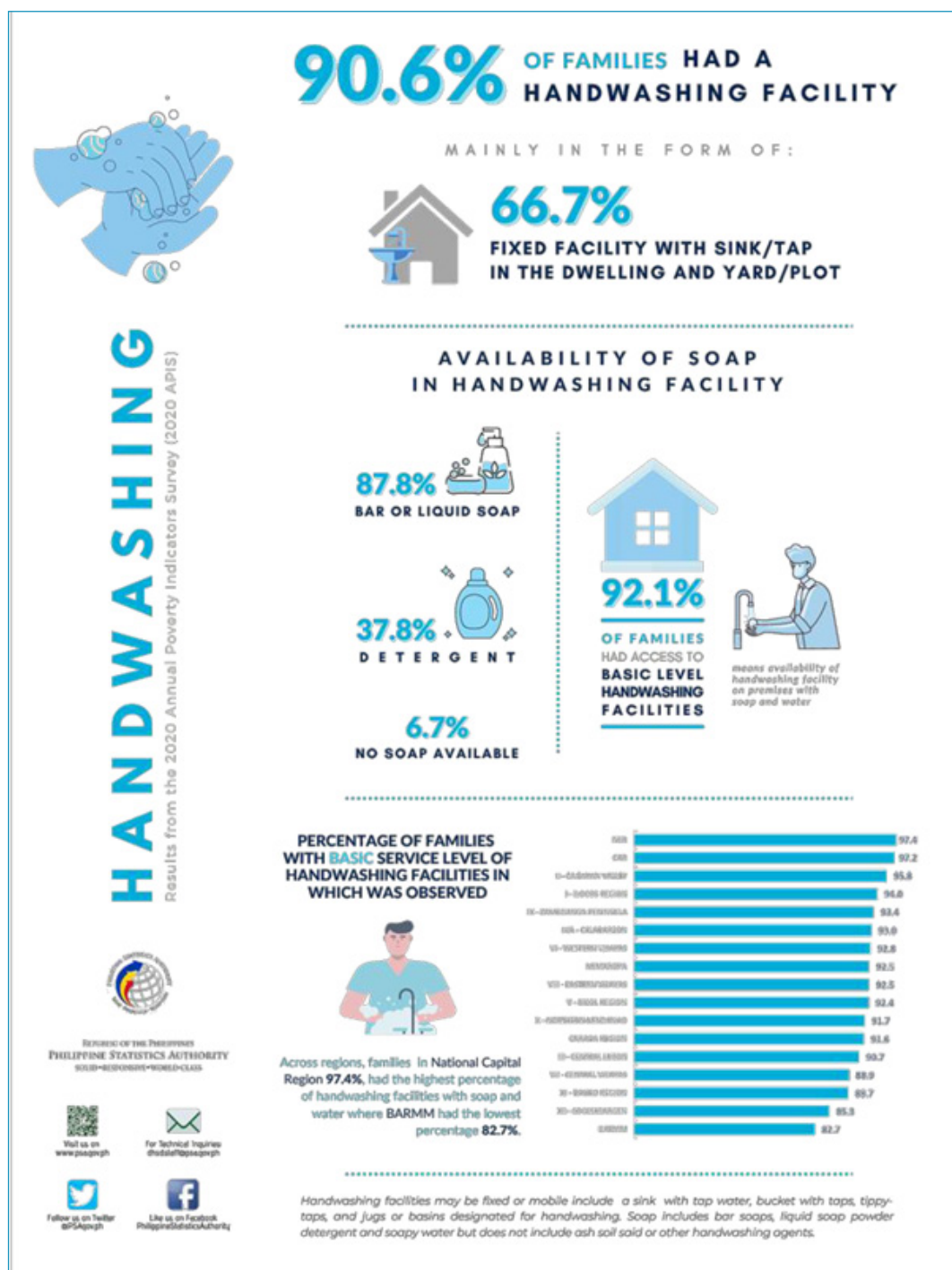
¹⁴⁵ Commission on Human Rights Cordillera Administrative Region. (2021, August). HUMAN RIGHTS SITUATION REPORT ON THE MONITORING OF COVID-19 VACCINATION PROGRAM CORDILLERA ADMINISTRATIVE REGION.

¹⁴⁶ Philippine Statistics Authority. (2021, June). 2020 Annual Poverty Indicators Survey.

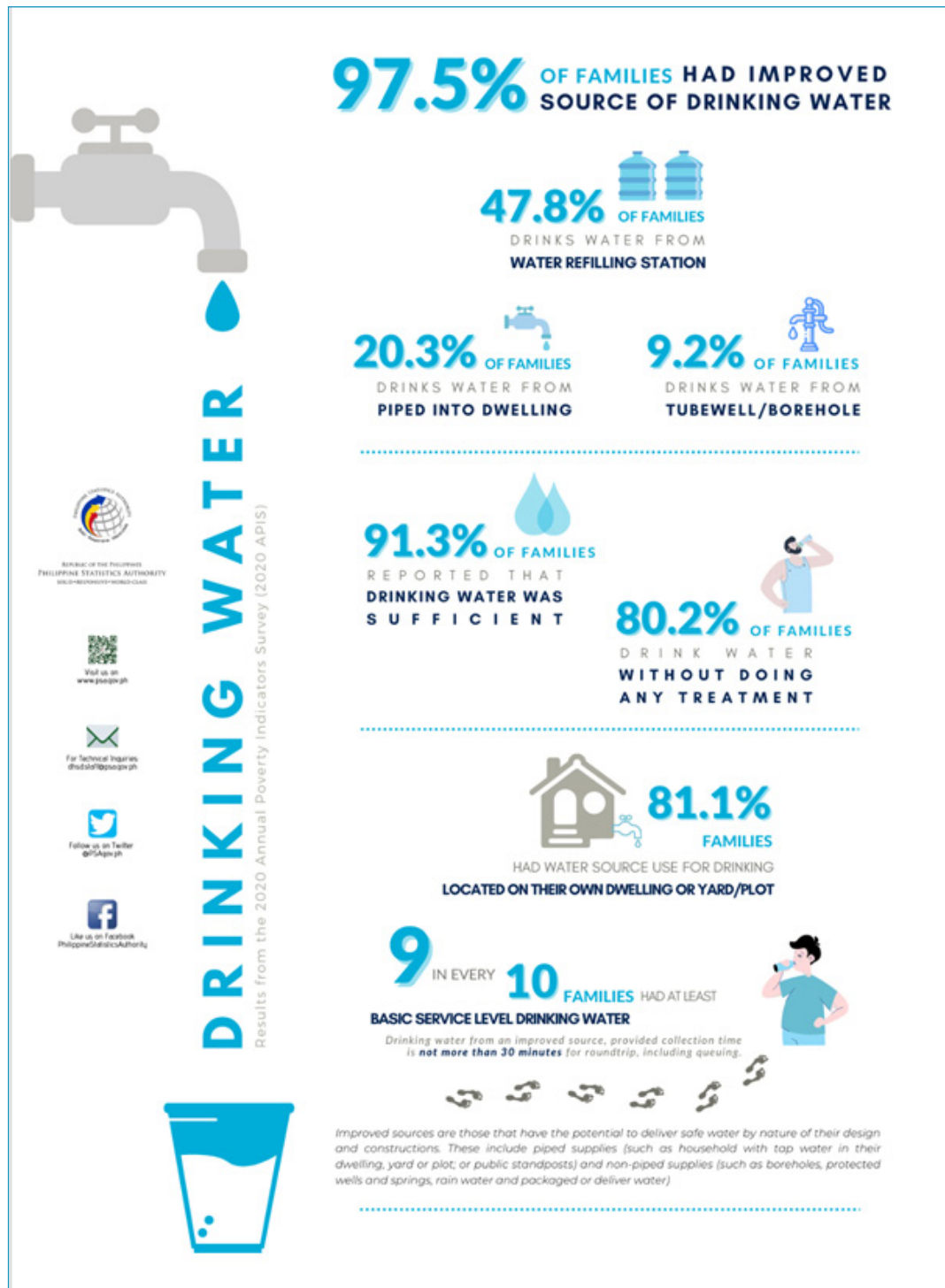
¹⁴⁷ Philippine Statistics Authority. (2021, June). 2020 Annual Poverty Indicators Survey.



- 168** By type of handwashing service level, most families (92.1%) had access to basic hand washing facilities or hand washing facilities on premises with soap and water. Across regions, NCR (97.4%) had the highest percentage of families with access to basic service handwashing facilities, followed by CAR (97.2%), and Region II–Cagayan Valley. Regions with the lowest percentage of families with access to basic handwashing were Region XI–Davao (88.7%), SOCCSKSARGEN (85.3%), and BARMM (82.7%).¹⁴⁸

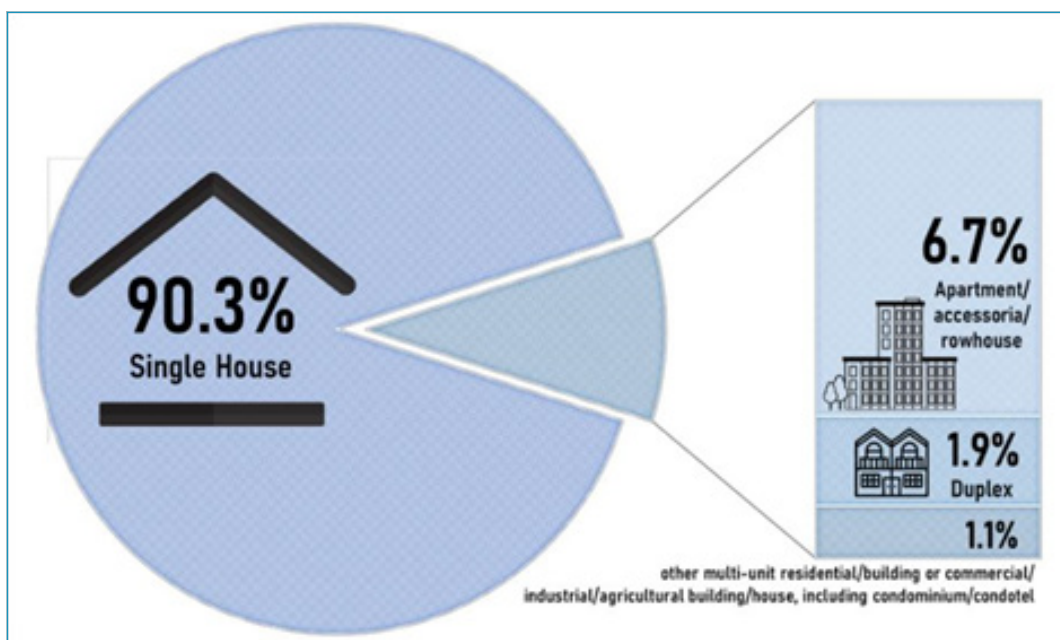


- 169** With regard to sufficiency of drinking water, the majority of families reported that drinking water was sufficient (91.3%). However, four in every five families (80.2%) did not practice any method or treatment in ensuring that drinking water is safe to drink.¹⁴⁹
- 170** Across regions, NCR (99.4%) had the highest percentage of families which had access to basic service level of drinking water, followed by Region I-Ilocos (98.4%), and Region III-Central Luzon (97.4%). Regions with lesser access to basic service level were BARMM (73.3%), Region IX-Zamboanga Peninsula (86.0%), and Region VII-Central Visayas (88.8%). Consequently, BARMM had the highest percentage of families with access to

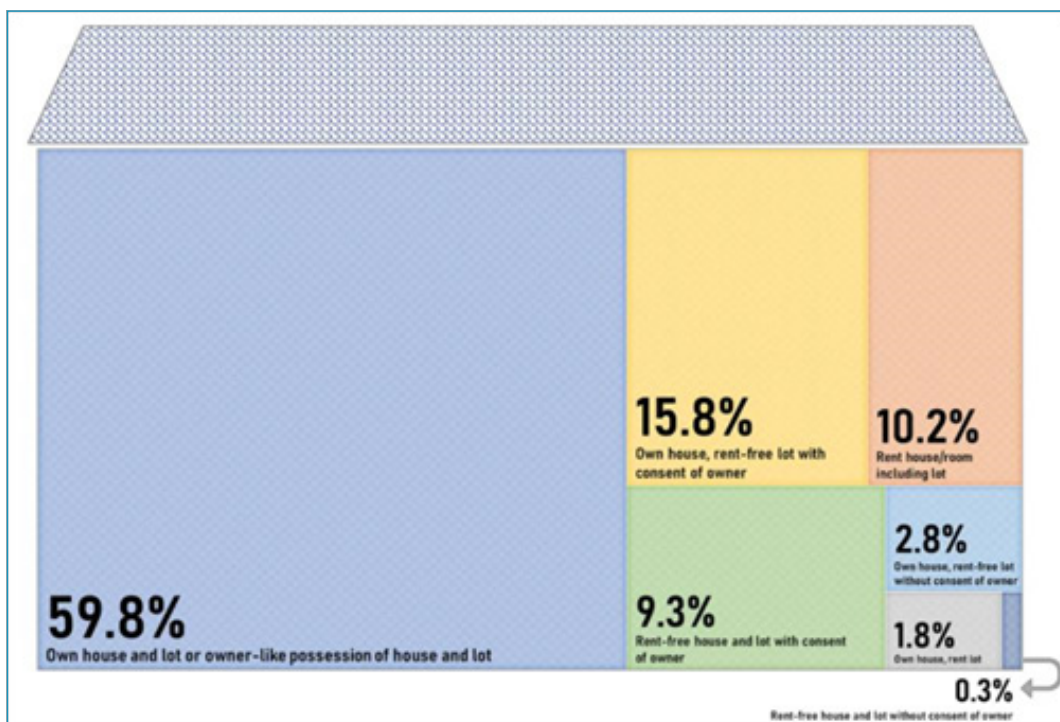


non-basic service level of drinking water, namely, limited-service level (8.3%), unimproved service level (15.2%), and surface water (3.2%).¹⁵⁰

Right to Housing



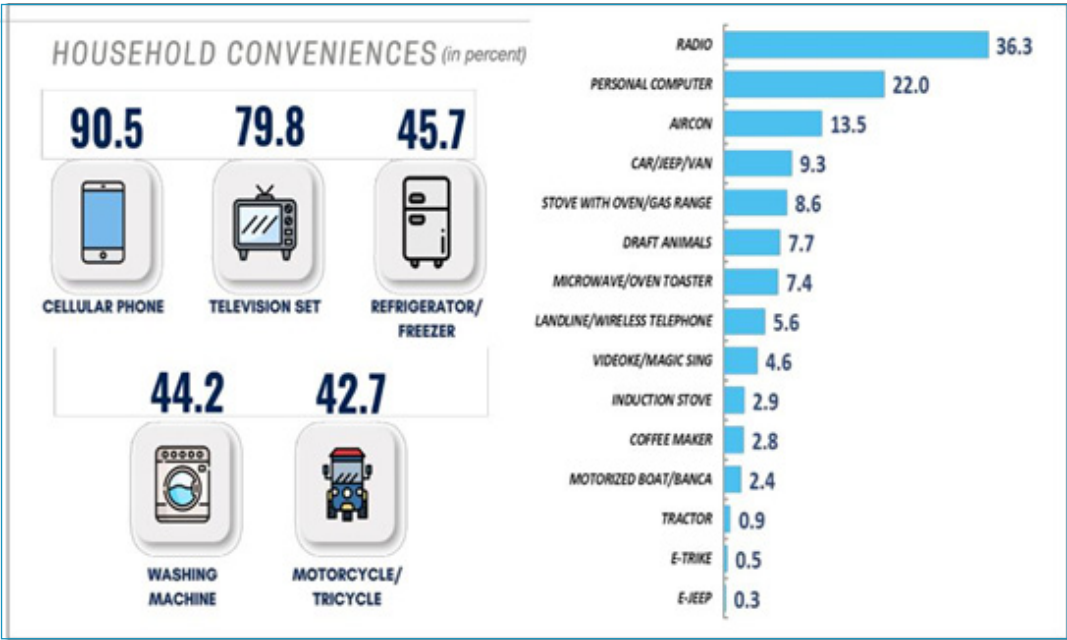
- 171** Based on the 2020 Annual Poverty Indicators Survey, majority of the families resided in a single type of building/housing unit (90.3%). The rest of the families dwelt in apartment/ accessoria/rowhouse (6.7%), duplex houses (1.9%), and other multi-unit residential building or commercial/industrial/ agricultural building/house, including condominium/condotel (1.1%)¹⁵¹



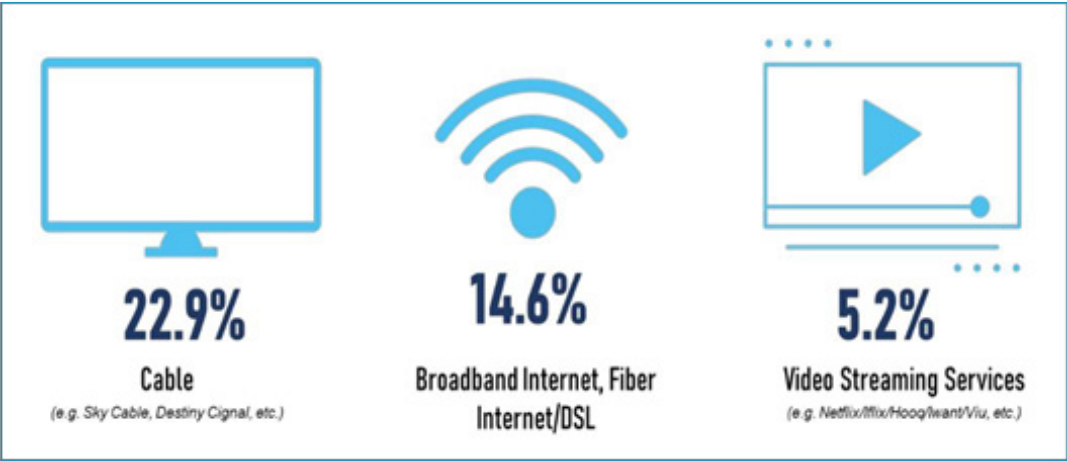
- 172** In 2020, about three (3) in every five families (59.8%) owned the house and lot they occupied. About 15.8 percent of families occupied a house they owned in a rent-free lot with consent of the owner, 10.2 percent rented the house/room including the lot, and 9.3 percent occupied a rent-free house and lot with consent of the owner. The rest either

¹⁵¹ Philippine Statistics Authority. (2021, June). 2020 Annual Poverty Indicators Survey.

owned the house but the lot was rent-free without consent of the owner (2.8%), owned the house but the lot was rented (1.8%), or with rent-free house and lot without consent of owner (0.3%).¹⁵²

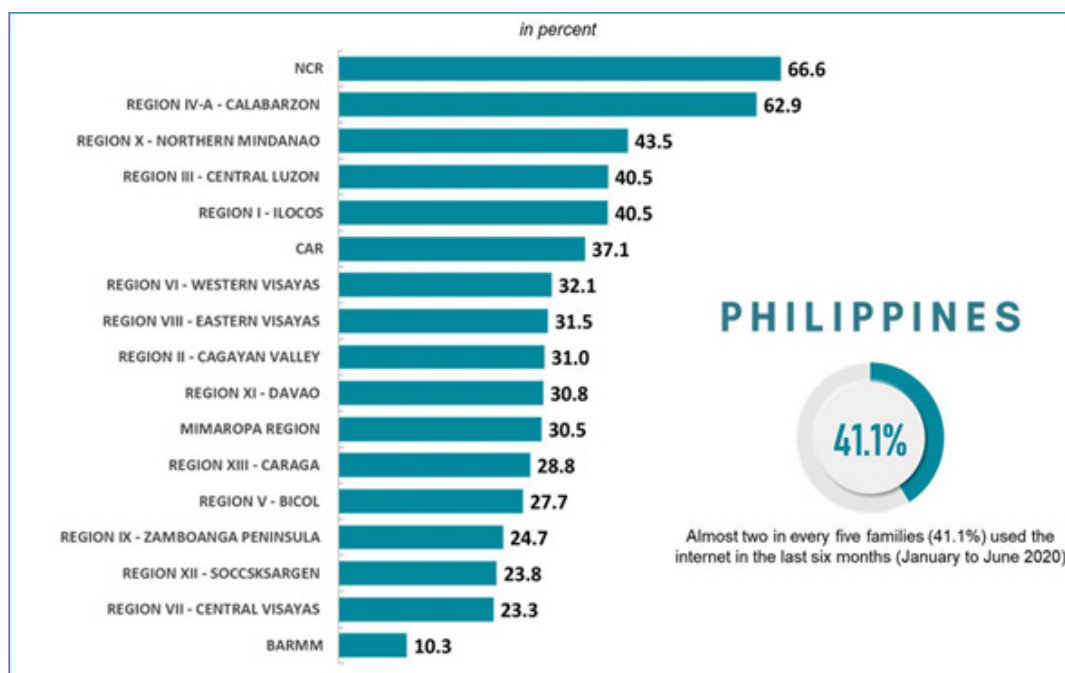


173 In the 2020 Annual Poverty Indicators Survey, households were asked for the presence of household conveniences/devices used by household members. Cellular phone was the most common household convenience/device as reported by nine (9) out of 10 (90.5%) Filipino homes, followed by Television set (79.8%), refrigerator/freezer (45.7%), washing machine (44.2%), and motorcycle/tricycle (42.7%) ¹⁵³



174 About 22.9 percent of families had subscription to cable network (e.g., Sky Cable, Destiny, Cignal, etc.), while 14.6 percent of families had subscription to broadband internet, fiber internet/DSL, and 5.2 percent of families had subscription to video streaming services (e.g., Netflix, iflix, Hooq, iWantv, etc.) ¹⁵⁴

152 Philippine Statistics Authority. (2021, June). 2020 Annual Poverty Indicators Survey.
153 Philippine Statistics Authority. (2021, June). 2020 Annual Poverty Indicators Survey.
154 Philippine Statistics Authority. (2021, June). 2020 Annual Poverty Indicators Survey.



- 175** About two (2) in every five (5) families (41.1%) used the internet in the last six (6) months (January to June 2020). NCR (66.6 %) had the highest percentage of families who used the internet, followed by CALABARZON (62.9%). On the other hand, BARM (10.3 %) posted the lowest percentage of families using the internet ¹⁵⁵
- 176** Instances of illegal demolition have been reported by Region III. One case involves the impending demolition of the shelter of fisherfolk communities living in or nearby the site of the proposed New Manila International Airport.^{156]} The regional office, in the conduct of community-based dialogue with the affected communities, noted that the latter manifested that they will voluntarily demolish their houses upon receipt of the Php 250,000.00 which the contractor, San Miguel Corporation, assured them. But the sole concern of the residents was proper relocation. Another case of illegal demolition was docketed in the same office and it is pending investigation.¹⁵⁷
- 177** One notable issuance last semester with respect to the right to security of tenure was the issuance of the Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG) Memorandum Circular No. 2020-0683. The Memorandum directed all local government units to postpone all demolition and eviction activities and to ensure that all homeless citizens within their respective jurisdictions are properly accommodated. The Memorandum states that it shall be automatically rescinded after the State of Calamity has been lifted by the President of the Philippines.¹⁵⁸ However, in Region 11, the validity of court demolitions vis-a-vis Memorandum Circular 2020-0683 was challenged. Based on the legal opinion of the Davao City Legal Office presented by the sheriffs, court demolitions are not covered by DILG Memorandum 2020-068 which suspended the conduct of administrative demolitions while the country is under a State of Calamity due to COVID-19.¹⁵⁹

155 Philippine Statistics Authority. (2021, June). 2020 Annual Poverty Indicators Survey.

156 CHR Region III (2021). Human Rights Regional Situationer Report Region III – Central Luzon January to December 2020, pp. 21, 24.

157 CHR Region III (2021). Human Rights Regional Situationer Report Region III – Central Luzon January to December 2020, pp. 5.

158 CHR Region XI (2021, Jan 28). Regional Human Rights Situation Report July 2020 to December 2020, pp. 11

159 Ibid.

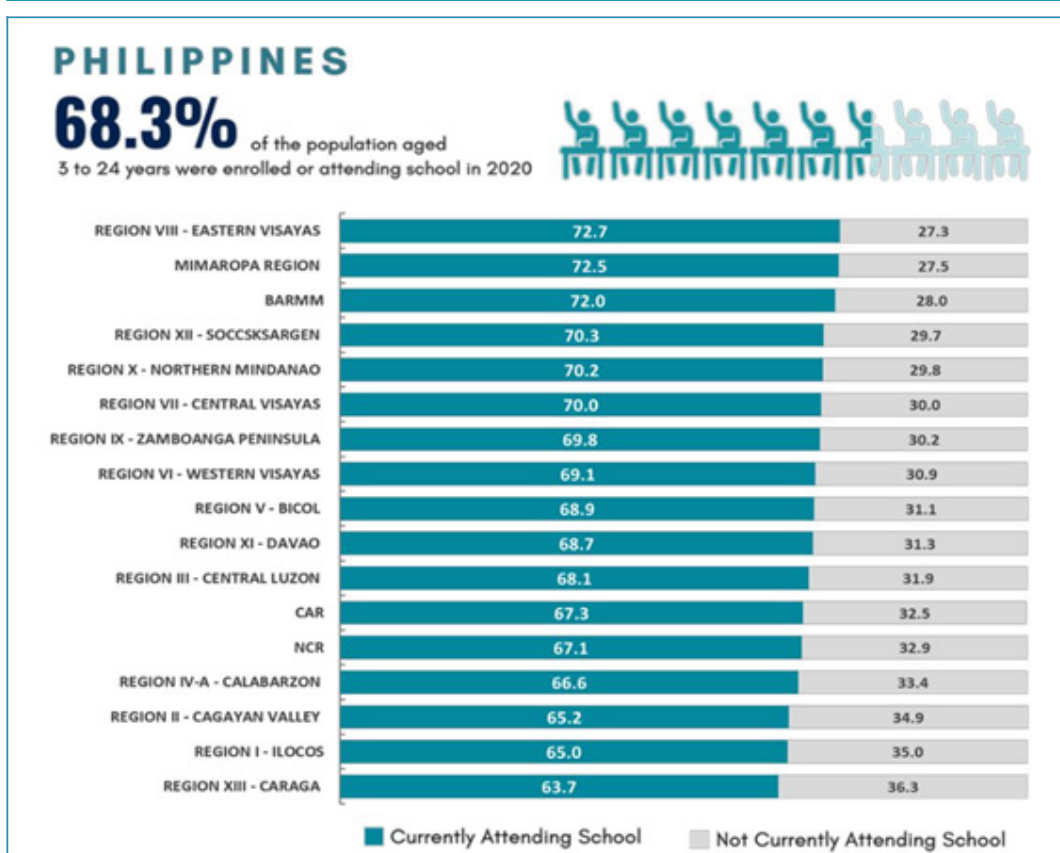
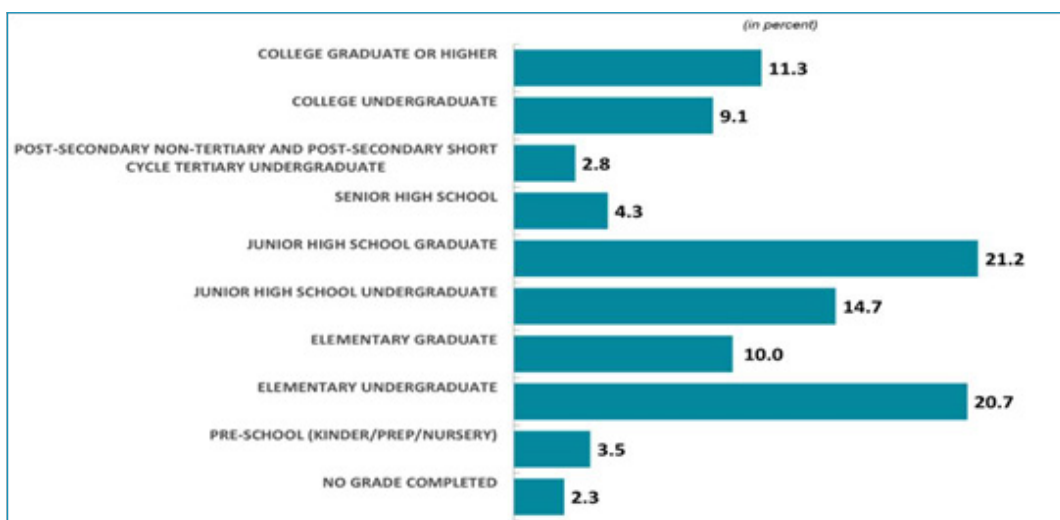
- 178** The ESCR Center endorsed to CHR NCR a request to investigate and facilitate a multi-sectoral dialogue on the plight of urban poor families (whose composition was 10 percent older persons and 60 percent youth and children) who were forcibly evicted in Paranaque City to give way to a government development project. It was alleged that while affected families were allowed by the Parañaque City Government to temporarily stay at [a gym], they were eventually displaced due to their high exposure to COVID-19. Alternative housing and relocation were not provided thereafter, constraining the families to build living spaces fronting the gym with no adequate access to water, sanitation, and hygiene.
- 179** The Department of Interior and Local Government (DILG) issued on 02 April 2020 Memorandum Circular No. 2020-068 postponing all demolition and eviction activities and directing local government units to ensure that all homeless citizens within their respective jurisdictions are properly accommodated. Said memorandum was lifted only on 11 March 2021 through DILG Memorandum No. 2021-031. Verily, at the time of the purported demolition, Memorandum Circular No. 2020-068 was still in force. No demolition and eviction should have been carried out and the families evicted should be protected by virtue of the said memorandum. If the eviction was legally enforced, there should be provisions on alternative housing and relocation, as well as provisions on adequate water and sanitation systems to minimize the risk and exposure of the affected families to COVID-19. CHR NCR was requested to consider the conduct of an investigation to determine among others whether or not the demolition has a legal basis; and if concerned government officials and offices could be criminally or administratively liable.
- 180** The Urban Mission Areas Development Office of the City of Parañaque replied to the letter sent by CHR NCR, stating that the allegations were not true and members were “asked to self-dismantle their structure for they are DISQUALIFIED from being beneficiary of the relocation program provided to those affected by the said project because some of them are either new dwellers based on the censused date by National Housing Authority and/or returnees which already have relocation;” that relief goods and financial assistance were provided after the said summary demolition” and that “they will be provided of goods this quarantine period;” and that “their request to be relocated will be tackled at the Parañaque City Housing Board once it is convened and there is already an initial agreement with the Department of Public Works and Highways for additional assistance.”¹⁶⁰

Right to Education

- 181** In 2020, about 11.3 percent of the population aged 5 years old and over had a college degree or higher. Females tend to have higher completion of a college degree or higher (13.6%) compared to males (9.0%). About one out of five (21.2%) had completed junior high school, followed by 20.7 percent who were elementary undergraduates, and the least had no grade completed (2.3 %). Across regions, NCR had the highest proportion of college graduates, or higher at 17.5 percent, followed by CAR (15.7%) and Region II-Cagayan Valley (15.4%).¹⁶¹
- 182** About two in every three (68.3%) persons aged 3 to 24 years old were enrolled or attending school in SY 2020–2021. Top three (3) regions with higher proportion of school attendance were observed in Region VIII–Eastern Visayas (72.7%), MIMAROPA (72.5%), and

¹⁶⁰ Commission on Human Rights Human Rights Centers Management Office Economic, Social and Cultural Rights Center. (2021). Economic, Social and Cultural Rights Situation Report from January to June 2021

¹⁶¹ Philippine Statistics Authority. (2021, June). 2020 Annual Poverty Indicators Survey.

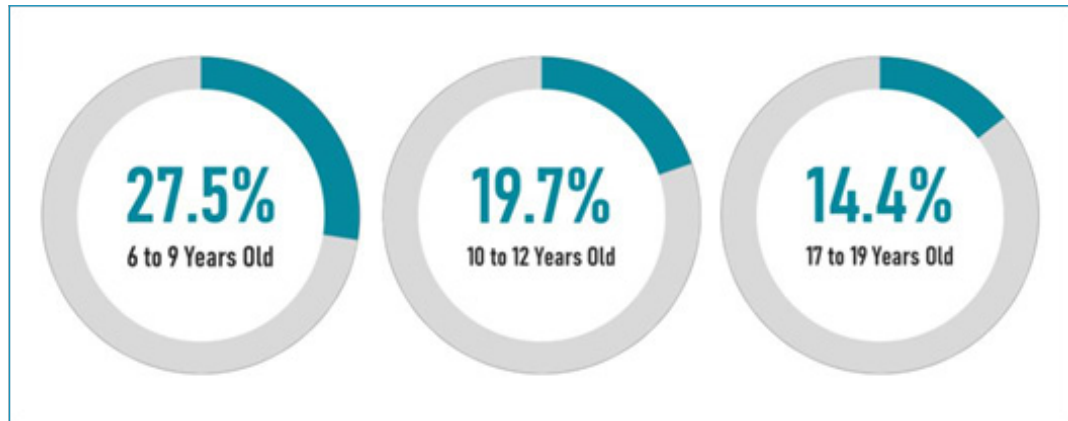


CARAGA (72.0%). Conversely, BARMM (63.7%), Region I-Ilocos (65.0%), and Region II-Cagayan Valley (65.2%) had the lowest proportion of school attendance.¹⁶²

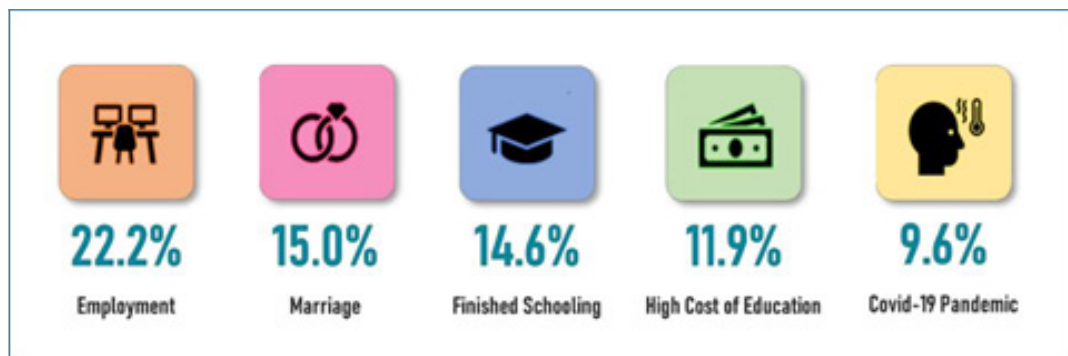
- 183** As to residence, rural areas (69.2%) had a higher proportion of population aged 3 to 24 years old who were enrolled or attending school as compared to urban areas (67.4%). This is consistent with the strict imposition of restrictions in social gatherings and meetings brought by COVID-19 more often in urban areas than in rural areas. By sex, there were slightly more males (34.5%) than females (33.8%) who were enrolled or currently attending school.¹⁶³

162 Philippine Statistics Authority. (2021, June). 2020 Annual Poverty Indicators Survey.

163 Philippine Statistics Authority. (2021, June). 2020 Annual Poverty Indicators Survey.



- 184** Among the population aged 3 to 24 years old who were attending school, students aged 6 to 9 (27.5%) posted the higher percentage, followed by aged 10 to 12 (19.7%), and 17 to 19 (14.4%).¹⁶⁴



- 185** About one in every four (24.2%) persons aged 6 to 24 years old was not attending school. The top reasons mentioned were employment (22.2%), marriage (15.0%), finished schooling or finished post-secondary/college (14.6%), high cost of education/financial concern (11.9%), and reasons due to COVID-19 pandemic (9.6%).¹⁶⁵
- 186** Education Secretary Leonor Magtolis-Briones cited the concerted effort of local government units (LGUs) and external partners in supporting the Department of Education (DepEd) to provide for digital learning assistance this school year. To date, over 475 partner LGUs, as well as a number of NGOs, and external partners partnered with School Division Offices (SDOs) to provide learning materials to learners, parents, guardians, and teachers and personnel. Based on the report of the Regional offices, around 1,202 donation activities of LGUs or external partners have been conducted, consisting of printing supplies, electronic gadgets, and items concerning the implementation of safety and health protocols in the region.¹⁶⁶
- 187** “Sa Manila, Php 1.2-billion worth of cellphones, and digital equipment pati load ang pinamigay sa ating kabataan,” she added. Pasig likewise spent Php 1.2-billion for cellphones for learners and teachers. Quezon City spent Php 2.9-billion for gadgets for its learners. Valenzuela City is currently distributing 23,500 units of 7-inch smartphones.

¹⁶⁴ Philippine Statistics Authority. (2021, June). 2020 Annual Poverty Indicators Survey.

¹⁶⁵ Philippine Statistics Authority. (2021, June). 2020 Annual Poverty Indicators Survey.

¹⁶⁶ Department of Education (2021). LGUs, external partners strengthen DepEd’s blended learning amid COVID-19 pandemic. Retrieved February 08, 2021 from <https://www.deped.gov.ph/2021/01/05/lgus-external-partners-strengthen-depeds-blended-learning-amid-COVID-19-pandemic/>

- 188** Department of National Defense (DND) Secretary Delfin Lorenzana said the decades-long accord with the University of the Philippines (UP) that prevented state forces from entering its campuses without notifying the school administration was “terminated”.
- 189** Secretary Lorenzana justified ending the accord by citing reported in-campus recruitment activities of the Communist Party of the Philippines and the New People’s Army – which the Duterte government declared as a terrorist organization as it cracks down on activists and critics. The UP campuses have been a refuge for student activism since the 1980s. This was a result of a long history of student disappearances and killings that took place within the vicinity of the campuses during the time. With the termination, the Duterte government further shrinks the space for protest, which rights defenders have repeatedly flagged as under siege with the President’s strongman rule.¹⁶⁷
- 190** The House of Representatives has unanimously approved the final reading of House Bill No. 10171, or the Act Institutionalizing the 1989 University of the Philippines–Department of National Defense Accord. Police and military forces will not be permitted to enter any UP campus without prior notice. They are also prohibited in interfering with peaceful protests held by individuals or groups in any UP campus. This bill will ensure the right to procedural due process to any members of the university; protecting the UP campuses from intervention of law enforcement, harassment and intimidation.¹⁶⁸
- 191** The Commission on Higher Education (CHED) signed an agreement with the Union of Local Authorities of the Philippines to expand the national government’s capacity to vaccinate more Filipinos by repurposing 17 universities and colleges as vaccination sites. The National Union of Students of the Philippines (NUSP) pointed out that the government and CHED should focus on fulfilling the requisites for the gradual and safe resumption of in-person classes instead.
- 192** The Department of Education issued DepEd Order No. 012, s. 2020 while the Commission on Higher Education issued CHED Memorandum Order 04 Series of 2020 emphasizing the provision of learning opportunities to students through flexible or blended learning modalities, among which is the use of digital technology like the internet. Thus, some schools adopted online learning so as not to disrupt the delivery of education services.¹⁶⁹
- 193** In Bukidnon, there are indigenous schools run by the Mindanao Interfaith Service Foundation, Inc. (MISFI) which caters to students living in the hinterland. These schools were alleged to be linked with the NPA where students are taught left-leaning ideologies and are being recruited to the left-leaning group.¹⁷⁰
- 194** On 01 October 2015, the Fr. Fausto Tentorio Memorial School which was owned and operated by MISFI at Sitio Dao, White Culaman, Kitaotao, Bukidnon, was ordered closed by the Barangay Captain Felipe Cabugnason. Barangay Captain Cabugnason alleged that the school was an NPA school. The Department of Education (DepEd) has stopped Barangay Captain Cabugnason from closing the said school and reminded him that he has

¹⁶⁷ Talabong, Rambo, January 18, 2021. Duterte government ends 1989 deal barring troops from UP, Rappler. Accessed last January 19, 2021 at <https://www.rappler.com/nation/duterte-government-ends-department-national-defense-university-philippines-accord-january-2021>

¹⁶⁸ CNN Philippines. (2021, October). House OKs bill institutionalizing UP-DND accord. <https://cnnphilippines.com/news/2021/9/21/House-passes-UP-DND-accord-bill.html>

¹⁶⁹ Commission on Human Rights Regional Office VIII. (2021, August). Regional Human Rights Situation Report January to June 2021.

¹⁷⁰ Commission on Human Rights Regional Office X. (2021, July). Regional Situation Report 1st Semester 2021 Commission on Human Rights 10.

no such power. An administrative case was filed against Barangay Captain Cabugnason before the Sangguniang Bayan of Kitaotao, Bukidnon.¹⁷¹

- 195** On 26 August 2020, another MISFI-run elementary school in Sitio Laburon, Barangay Mapute, San Fernando, Bukidnon was attacked. This time, instead of a closure, the school was demolished by a group of armed men. The incident was allegedly perpetrated by the members of the paramilitary group named “Bagani.” According to the community, Bagani is under the command of the 89th Infantry Battalion, Bravo Company. In an investigation conducted by CHR Regional Office X, it was gathered from the investigation made by the NCIP-Bukidnon that the tribal leaders unanimously decided to demolish the school and retake the land it occupied as it is part of their ancestral domain of the Matigsalug tribe. With regard to Bagani, the NCIP Bukidnon believed that the military was not involved as it had no control over a Bagani group. Accordingly, Bagani is directly under the control of a tribal chieftain in a certain tribe where Bagani members operated.¹⁷²
- 196** According to the DepEd Division Office of Bukidnon, the MISFI Laburon Academy in Sitio Laburon, Barangay Matupe, San Fernando, Bukidnon has a permit to operate as a school. However, it was temporarily closed due to the peace and order situation in the area. It was noted that the DepEd elementary school has already been constructed in the area.¹⁷³
- 197** On 06 June 2021, another indigenous school run by MISFI which was situated in Purok 2, Barangay Sagundanon, Kitaotao, Bukidnon was demolished by the barangay councils of Sagundanon and New Cabalantian in Kitaotao, Bukidnon due to suspected links with the NPA. The Barangay Captains of Cabalantian and Sagundanon, together with their Sangguniang Barangay and Tribal Council, issued a resolution on 05 June 2021 to demolish the MISFI school over “false teachings and ideologies by the NPA.” The 10th Infantry Division (10ID) said that it is conducting “intensive monitoring” of some 82 private-run schools in Bukidnon suspected to be “recruitment fronts” of the Communist Party of the Philippines–New People’s Army (CPP–NPA). According to Maj. Jerry Lamosao, 10ID spokesperson, intensified their collaboration with the community and other government agencies and local government units, after the MISFI school in Sagundanon was demolished because of its alleged links to the CPP–NPA. Maj. Lamosao said the 82 schools on their list are Salugpungan, Mindanao Interfaith Services Foundation Inc. (MISFI), Community Technical College of Southern Mindanao, “Clans,” Father Faustino Tentorio Memorial School, Assumption Interfaith Academy Foundation Incorporated, and other schools operated by Rural Missionaries of the Philippines, among others.¹⁷⁴
- 198** These incidents of attack on schools were investigated by the CHR Regional Office X. The recent attacks on schools in Sitio Laburon, Barangay Mapute in San Fernando and in Barangay Sagundanon in Kitaotao, both in the Province of Bukidnon were reported in the CTFMR, thru the CRC and the CTFMR TWG Mindanao, for the monitoring and response mechanism of GCRVs.¹⁷⁵

171 Commission on Human Rights Regional Office X. (2021, July). Regional Situation Report 1st Semester 2021 Commission on Human Rights 10.

172 Commission on Human Rights Regional Office X. (2021, July). Regional Situation Report 1st Semester 2021 Commission on Human Rights 10.

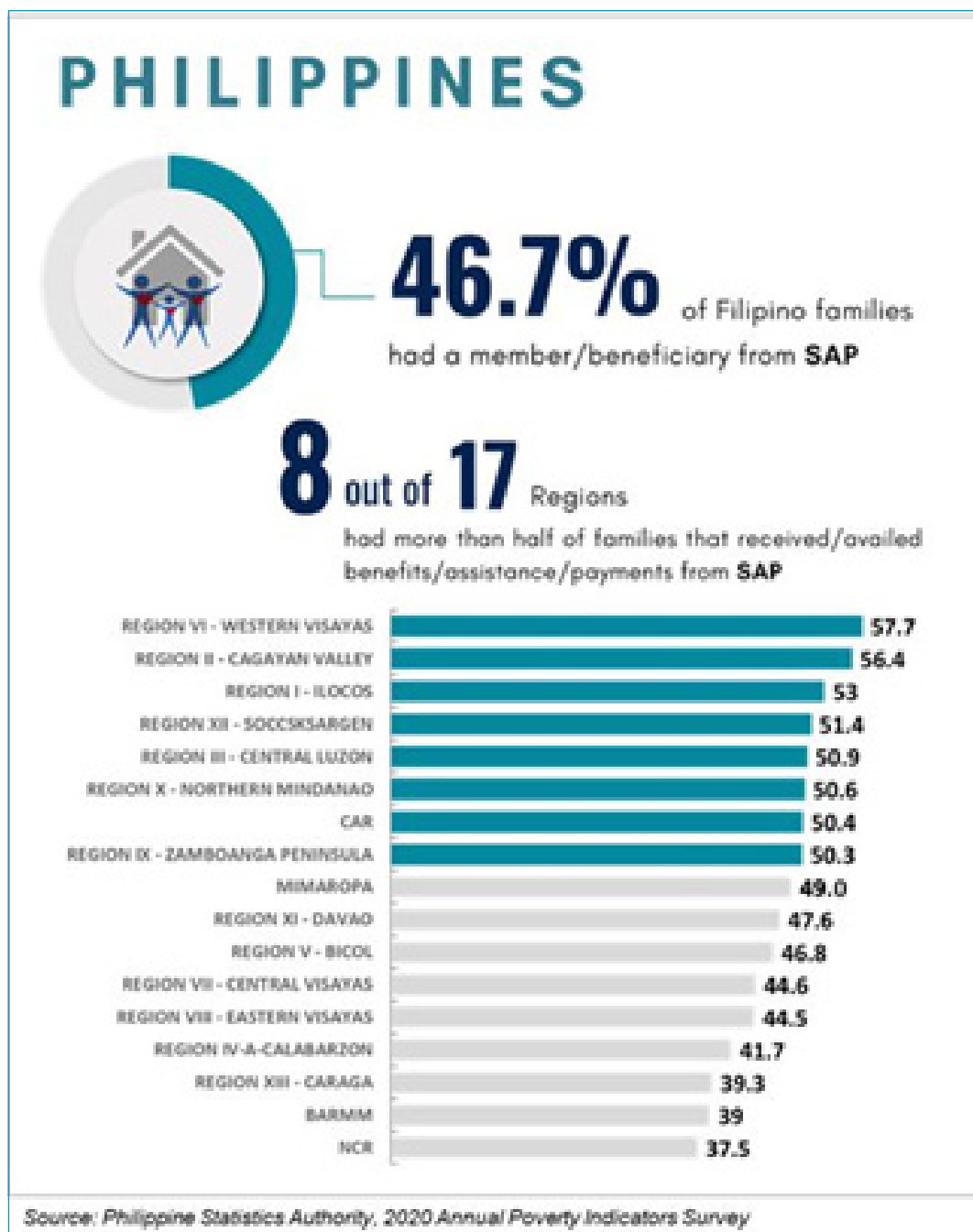
173 Commission on Human Rights Regional Office X. (2021, July). Regional Situation Report 1st Semester 2021 Commission on Human Rights 10.

174 Commission on Human Rights Regional Office X. (2021, July). Regional Situation Report 1st Semester 2021 Commission on Human Rights 10.

175 Commission on Human Rights Regional Office X. (2021, July). Regional Situation Report 1st Semester 2021 Commission on Human Rights 10.

Right to Social Security

(Right to social security of workers in the informal economy/sector)



- 199** Nationwide, almost half (46.7%) of the 25.8 million Filipino families received benefits/assistance from the Social Amelioration Program (SAP) during the period April to June 2020. Across regions, eight out 17 regions had more than half of the families who received benefits from SAP, namely: Region VI – Western Visayas (57.7%), Region II – (in percent) Cagayan Valley (56.4%), Region I-Ilocos (53.0%), SOCCSKSARGEN (51.4%) Region III-Central Luzon (50.9%), Region X-NorthernMindanao (50.6%), CAR (50.4%), and Region IX-Zamboanga Peninsula (50.3%). On the contrary, NCR (37.5%) had the lowest percentage of families who received benefits from SAP. Rural areas (50.8%) had a higher percentage of families who received benefits from SAP compared with urban areas (42.8%).¹⁷⁶



- 200** Families also received assistance from the Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE) from January to June 2020. Nationwide, about 1.5 percent of families received assistance from DOLE Tulong Panghanapbuhay sa Ating Disadvantaged/ Displaced Workers (Tupad) “Barangay ko, Buhay ko” or COVID-19 Adjustment Measures Program or DOLE AKAP.¹⁷⁷
- 201** Further, about 2.9 percent were beneficiaries of the Department of Agriculture (DA) farmers financial assistance program. The top three regions with higher percentage of families who received benefits of this program were in Region I-Ilocos (14.9%), Region II-Cagayan Valley (8.6%), and MIMAROPA Region (6.8%).¹⁷⁸
- 202** Relief assistance is the very common help that can be provided to the families during calamity, disaster, or pandemic. In the past 6 months preceding the survey (January to June 2020), majority (90.8%) of families received relief assistance from government agencies and about 24.3 percent from private institutions or individuals or other than government agencies.¹⁷⁹
- 203** Among families with PhilHealth, about 3.0 percent of families availed/received PhilHealth assistance. The top three PhilHealth services availed/received by families were non-communicable diseases services (36.8%), maternal services (33.1%), and infectious diseases service (22.0%).¹⁸⁰
- 204** The Committee on Health approved House Bill No. 8316, or an act granting the President the power to suspend scheduled contribution increases of Philippine Health Insurance Corporation, amending section 10 of the Republic Act No. 11223, or the Universal Health Care Law.¹⁸¹

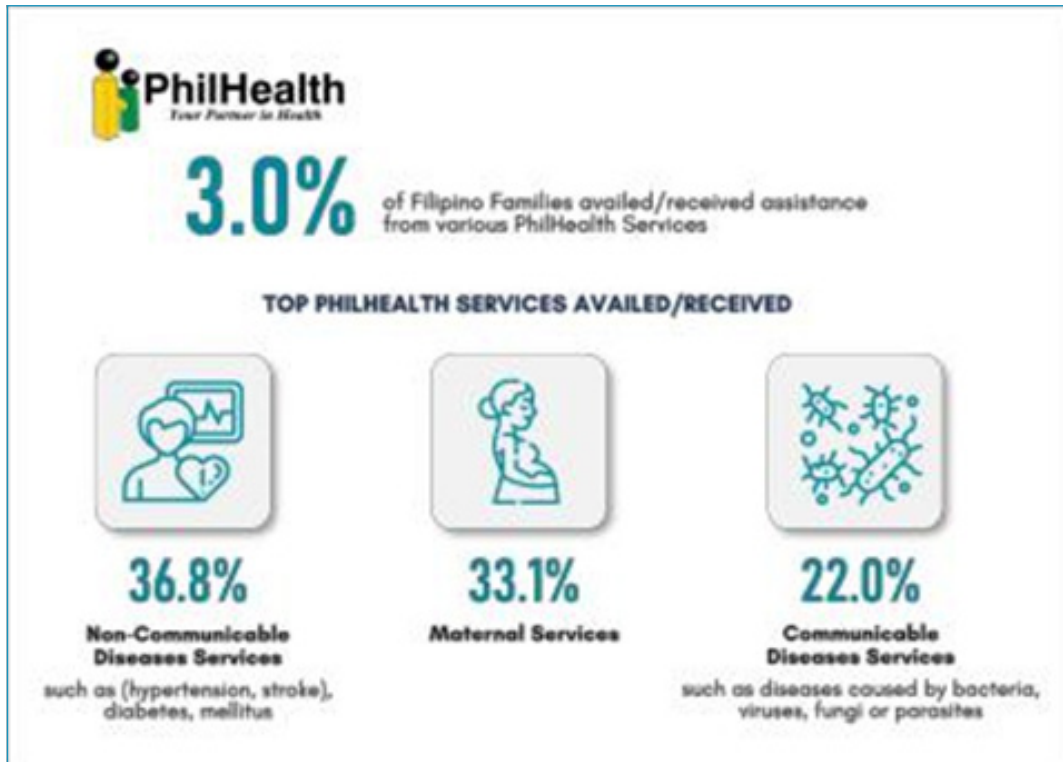
177 Philippine Statistics Authority. (2021, June). 2020 Annual Poverty Indicators Survey.

178 Philippine Statistics Authority. (2021, June). 2020 Annual Poverty Indicators Survey.

179 Philippine Statistics Authority. (2021, June). 2020 Annual Poverty Indicators Survey.

180 Philippine Statistics Authority. (2021, June). 2020 Annual Poverty Indicators Survey.

181 CNN Philippines Staff (2021). House panels approve bills authorizing President to suspend PhilHealth, SSS rate hike. Retrieved February 04, 2021 from <https://www.cnn.ph/news/2021/1/21/house-panel-approve-bills-suspending-philhealth-sss-rate-hike.html>



- 205** The extension of the “no-disconnection policy” for low income households that are unable to pay their electricity bills amid the COVID-19 pandemic have been approved.¹⁸²
- 206** Surigao del Sur Representative Johnny Pimentel filed House Bill No. 8594, wherein displaced workers can claim unemployment benefits equal to 50 percent of their monthly salary for a maximum of six months granted through a one-time payment. The bill seeks to amend Republic Act 11199, or the Social Security Act of 2018.¹⁸³
- 207** According to the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas, personal remittances sent home by expatriate Filipinos reached \$2.9 billion in January 2021. This is 1.7 percent lower than the \$2.94 billion in January 2020. The marginal decline in personal remittances during the month was attributed to the 2.4-percent drop in remittances from land-based workers with work contracts of a year or more to \$2.22 billion from \$2.27 billion in January 2020.
- 208** Remittances from sea-based workers and land-based workers with work contracts of less than a year increased by 1 percent to \$609 million in January 2021 from \$603 million one year ago. Central bank records showed usually robust January remittance growth, having risen 9.8 percent in 2014, 3.3 percent in 2015, 3.6 percent in 2016, 8.6 percent in 2017, 9.7 percent in 2018, 4.4 percent in 2019 and 6.6 percent in 2020, just a few weeks before the global pandemic was declared.¹⁸⁴
- 209** The Government Service Insurance System (GSIS) will accept new applications from active members and pensioners alike for its COVID-19 emergency loan plan starting 22 March to 21 June 2021. Those who have previously availed of the COVID-19 emergency

182 Aguilar, Krissy, February 4, 2021, Duterte okays extension of ‘no-disconnection policy’ for low-income families. Accord, inquirer.net. Accessed last February 4, 2021 from <https://newsinfo.inquirer.net/1391964/duterte-oks-extension-of-no-disconnection-policy-for-low-income-families#ixzz6lUKyBB5f>

183 Philippine News Agency (2021). Bill filed to triple unemployment insurance for laid off workers. Retrieved February 15, 2021 from <https://www.pna.gov.ph/articles/1129896>

184 Lucas, D. (2021). Remittances down in January on pandemic job losses. Retrieved from <https://business.inquirer.net/319569/remittances-down-in-january-on-pandemic-job-losses>

loan are no longer qualified. The GSIS said qualified borrowers with existing emergency loans could borrow up to P40,000.¹⁸⁵

- 210** For faster distribution of aid to low-income families, the DSWD will provide a list of beneficiaries of the Emergency Subsidy program to local governments under enhanced community quarantine (ECQ).¹⁸⁶
- 211** Senators urged the government to scrap “unnecessary items” in the 2021 budget such as the Php9.5B confidential and intelligence funds and the Php19.1B anti-insurgency fund; instead the money should be diverted to additional aid for poor residents.¹⁸⁷
- 212** Reports on a questionable list of beneficiaries in the Php22.9B cash aid flow were received by the Office of Puwersa ng Bayaning Atleta Rep. Jericho Nograles. The list includes minors, Filipinos based abroad and even dead persons. They urged the DSWD, the DILG, and the Commission on Audit (COA) to investigate the matter. Only 31 percent or Php3.4B of the Php22.9B were distributed to low income earners in Metro Manila.¹⁸⁸
- 213** President Rodrigo Duterte signed an administrative order that will grant a one-time Php20,000 financial aid to pensioners of the Employees’ Compensation (EC) program. The EC program was designed to provide compensation to private and public workers, as well as their dependents for work-related sickness, injury, or death. Around 31,000 pensioners of the Social Security System (SSS) and GSIS will benefit from the financial assistance under Administrative Order 39.¹⁸⁹
- 214** In a Focus Group Discussion (FGD) conducted by CHR on the right to social protection of the Workers in the Informal Economy/Sector (WIES) in the NCR in June 2021, Ms. Judith Gondra, Chief Economic Development Specialist of NEDA, discussed the strategies for workers in the informal sector in the latest Philippine Development Plan (PDP) 2017–2022 to provide the context on the government’s initiative for the sector. The PDP’s strategies for workers in the informal sector are mainly lodged under the “Pagbabago” Transforming Towards Equity and Resiliency pillar. In this pillar, economic and social opportunities will be ensured for all in order to transform society and achieve equity and resiliency in particular towards the digital economy. Hence, this will include the digital transformation of the agriculture industry, and services sectors, as well as increase the provision of training on digital skills for the workforce. Relevant outcome goals for workers in the informal economy include expanding economic opportunities, transforming human capital development towards greater agility, ensuring food resiliency, and reducing vulnerabilities of the Philippines.¹⁹⁰
- 215** In the same FGD conducted by CHR on the right to social protection of the workers in the informal economy/sector (WIES) in the NCR, Ms. Maria Lourdes Gonzales, Chief

185 Philippine Daily Inquirer (2021). GSIS offers COVID-19 emergency loans. Retrieved from <https://newsinfo.inquirer.net/1409423/gsis-offers-COVID-19-emergency-loans>

186 Valenzuela, N. (2021). DSWD list to help speed up aid distribution. Retrieved from <https://newsinfo.inquirer.net/1413566/help-hasten-aid-distribution-dswd-asks-local-govts>

187 Yap, D. (2021). Use intel, anti-communist funds for cash aid, senators urge gov’t. Retrieved from <https://newsinfo.inquirer.net/1417692/use-intel-anti-red-funds-for-cash-aid>

188 Aurelio, J. & Salaverria, L. (2021). Minors, dead, Filipinos abroad in cash aid list. Retrieved from <https://newsinfo.inquirer.net/1420163/minors-dead-pinoy-abroad-in-cash-aid-list>

189 Yumol, D. T. & CNN Philippines (2021). Duterte signs order granting ₱20,000 aid to pensioners. Retrieved from <https://cnnphilippines.com/news/2021/4/19/Duterte-signs-order-granting-20-000-aid-to-pensioners.html>

190 Commission on Human Rights. (2021). A Human Rights Situation Report: The Right to Social Security of the Workers in the Informal Economy / Sector.

of the Workers in the Informal Economy Development Division shared that the DOLE Integrated Livelihood and Emergency Employment Program (DILEEP) is a flagship program of the DOLE that provides grant assistance for capacity-building on livelihood and entrepreneurial ventures for vulnerable and marginalized workers. The program seeks to contribute to poverty reduction and reduce the vulnerability to risks of the working poor, vulnerable and marginalized workers either through emergency employment, and promotion of entrepreneurship and community enterprises. Livelihood projects may be undertaken by individuals or groups under this program. It is composed of three (3) components, namely: Kabuhayan Formation, Kabuhayan Enhancement, and Kabuhayan Restoration.¹⁹¹

- 216** Ms. Gonzales also shared that DOLE released a total of PhP 983, 554, 970 grants and they have established a total of 31, 292 projects. The table below “Kabuhayan or DOLE Integrated Livelihood Program (DILP)” shows DOLE’s accomplishment in terms of the assistance provided to the informal workers for 2020 and as of the 1st quarter of 2021.¹⁹²

DILP Accomplishment, Y2020 to 1 st Qtr, Y2021				
REGION	NO. OF PROJECTS ESTABLISHED	TOTAL NO. OF BENEFICIARIES ASSISTED		TOTAL GRANT RELEASED
		TOTAL	FEMALE	
TOTAL	31,292	71,972	36,903	983,554,970
NCR	1,643	1,692	715	26,092,445
CAR	710	3,697	2,061	43,976,616
I	732	4,325	1,837	39,696,760
II	1,954	2,181	785	52,087,458
III	3,535	5,880	3,306	69,921,600
IV-A	715	3,084	1,826	47,683,004
IV-B	1,027	2,701	1,432	37,453,800
V	3,301	3,658	2,036	64,385,256
VI	4,983	7,936	4,179	142,698,169
VII	1,497	6,529	4,069	102,522,908
VIII	2,779	5,613	2,991	94,448,407
IX	1,180	2,066	910	31,656,095
X	1,960	8,779	4,562	69,741,100
XI	533	6,679	2,993	55,289,238
XII	4,362	4,564	2,626	72,573,169
CARAGA	381	2,588	575	33,328,945

- 217** Under the program of the SSS, Mr. Carlo Villacorta, Acting Head of the Professional Sector Department and Concurrent Acting Head of the Cooperatives and Informal Sector Department, reported that there are 8.3 million WIES covered by SSS, and eligible to at least one (1) benefit without financial claim yet and have not yet filed for a final claim with SSS. He asserted that “many informal sector workers are continuing payment of their SSS contributions as voluntary members.”¹⁹³
- 218** The government allocated a budget for emergency cash subsidy to provide support to the marginalized sectors for the provision of their basic necessities during the lockdown. However, 2.27 percent of the participants did not receive cash assistance. Some of them received food and non-food items from their respective local government units while the jeepney drivers received in-kind assistance. All of the participants also shared that their

191 DOLE Integrated Livelihood Program and Emergency Employment Programs (DILEEP), available at <https://bwsc.dole.gov.ph/programs-and-projects-submenu1/dileep.html>, last accessed August 3, 2021.

192 Commission on Human Rights. (2021). A Human Rights Situation Report: The Right to Social Security of the Workers in the Informal Economy / Sector.

193 CHR Consultation with the representatives of the national government agencies, supra note 40.

local government units distributed food packages during the lockdown. The senior citizens said that they also received their cash assistance. The members of the Nagkakaisang Tinig at Hakbang ng Kababaihan sa Caloocan, Inc. (NTHKC) were also given provisions by the organization. Some participants likewise received food packages from private institutions and other non-government organizations.¹⁹⁴

- 219** Immediately after the lockdown until June 2021, it appeared that the average income of the WIES consulted was PhP 302.02. However, some participants did not receive any income at all, while the highest income received during this period per day is PhP 800. Three (3) of the participants said that they engaged in sewing sandals, selling cooked food, and vehicle rental service so they could have additional income while 88.64 percent of them expressed that they did not have secondary sources of income.¹⁹⁵
- 220** People or families who have low socioeconomic status but not below the poverty line are vulnerable to falling into poverty. The poverty threshold set by PSA and NEDA is putting distress on those who belong to the low socioeconomic status. Unlike those who live in poverty such as the 4Ps recipients, people or families in the low socioeconomic status do not enjoy sufficient social security coverage.¹⁹⁶
- 221** The CHR ESCR Center conducted focus group discussions (FGDs) with representatives of the WIES from the NCR on 14, 15, and 17 June 2021 via zoom. A total of 48 participants attended the FGD. The majority of the participants were jeepney drivers and more than 50 percent of them were also operators. The FGDS revealed that:
- a** Workers who participated in the FGDs recognize that employee benefits are valuable particularly those that relate to healthcare, retirement, and paid time off, among others. Notwithstanding the recognition of the tangible and apparent impacts of these benefits for workers, the insufficiency of their earnings evidently shows the structural barriers in accessing social security—they could not afford to spare a single centavo for the contributions to the insurance-based social security scheme, such as the one available at SSS. This resulted in the low availment or consumption of social security packages by the WIES.
 - b** Government agencies managed to utilize television, radio, and social media platforms in disseminating information about social security programs. However, none of the participants mentioned that they got information from the official website of the government. This shows that the information from the government website is not easily accessible.
 - c** None of the participants expressed that they have availed or have knowledge of any of the programs offered by DTI, including the Pangkabuhayan sa Pagbangon at Ginhawa program.
 - d** Advocacy campaigns failed to generate high leads for the availment of the social security programs. Less than half of the participants availed of the insurance-based program of SSS even before the 2020 lockdown.
 - e** Offices and branches of the government offices offering social services are accessible by public transportation, except when the mobility of persons was restricted due

¹⁹⁴ CHR Consultation with the workers in the informal economy/sector. June 2021.

¹⁹⁵ CHR Consultation with the workers in the informal economy/sector. June 2021.

¹⁹⁶ CHR Consultation with the workers in the informal economy/sector. June 2021.

to the imposition of the hard lockdown. It was not specified, however, whether the buildings and offices have the appropriate accessibility features for persons with disabilities.

- f** Concerning the processing time of the claims, more than half of the participants claimed that it took them more than five (5) working days before their applications were processed.
- g** The DSWD estimated that 18 million households nationwide were entitled to receive emergency cash subsidies ranging from PhP 5,000 to 8,000 based on respective regional wage rates for two months starting April 2021 and the participants affirmed that they received the 1st and 2nd tranche of the cash subsidy. Unfortunately, the assistance was not sufficient to cover the basic necessities of a family of five (5). The WIES are spending PhP 8,666.70 monthly for food alone and PhP 20,397.30 for other basic necessities. Assuming they received the two (2) tranches, PhP 16,000 is still not enough to cover the monthly expenditure of the family of five (5) for two (2) months especially for the WIES who suddenly lost their livelihoods. Additionally, the release of the 2nd tranche of the cash subsidy was delayed and started its payout only in July 2021. This has even caused challenges for them as they have to stretch out the first cash assistance to more than a month until they receive the second payout.
- h** For the workers in the informal economy consulted, they find non-bank and informal financial institutions relatively easy to access because of the absence of the tedious and strict process of verification and qualification of formal financial institutions. These informal financial and credit facilities such as “5-6”, moneylenders and pawnbrokers, rotating savings and credit association, among others, fill the gap of accessing financial services which overcome the lack of collateral requirements, bureaucratic loan application, disbursement procedures, the time and resources needed to visit the banks and discriminatory banking culture.
- i** A significant number of the participants have not been consulted by the government on policies relating to the right to social security.¹⁹⁷

Right to Vote

- 222** In 2017, the Palawan Provincial Board unanimously passed a resolution to divide the province of Palawan into three (3) provinces, which will be composed of Palawan Del Sur, Palawan Del Norte and Palawan Oriental.¹⁹⁸
- 223** On 05 April 2019, Republic Act No. 11259 was signed by the President into law dividing Palawan into three (3) provinces. The act will only take effect should the citizens/registered voters in the province ratify or vote in favor of the law in a Plebiscite.¹⁹⁹
- 224** Eventually, on 16 March 2021, the Commission on Elections Provincial Plebiscite Board of Canvassers proclaimed that “NO/ HINDI” won in the Plebiscite that asked “PUMAPAYAG KA BA NA HATIIN ANG PROBINSYA NG PALAWAN SA TATLONG (3) PROBINSYA NA PAPANGALANANG: PALAWAN DEL NORTE,

197 CHR Consultation with the workers in the informal economy/sector. June 2021.

198 Commission on Human Rights Regional Office IV-MIMAROPA. (2021, July). Regional Human Rights Situation Report for January to June 2021.

199 Commission on Human Rights Regional Office IV-MIMAROPA. (2021, July). Regional Human Rights Situation Report for January to June 2021.

PALAWAN ORIENTAL AT PALAWAN DEL SUR ALINSUNOD SA BATAS REPUBLIKA BILANG 11259.” Thus, Palawan remains as one province.²⁰⁰

- 225** President Rodrigo Duterte has vetoed the establishment of the Human Rights Institute by the Commission on Human Rights, as well as provisions for the Department of Transportation’s gender-responsive restroom program and motor vehicle inspection system, Department of Agriculture’s agricultural credit facility, and the exclusion of lands owned and occupied by state universities and colleges (SUCs) from the Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Program (CARP) from the Php 5.02 trillion national budget.²⁰¹
- 226** President Duterte’s veto message reads “The creation of an institute, just like other offices, should be subject to a comprehensive review of the mandate, mission, objectives and functions, systems and procedures, and programs, activities and projects, as well as the corresponding structural, functional, and operational adjustments in an organization, including the necessary staffing and funding requirements.”²⁰²

200 Commission on Human Rights Regional Office IV-MIMAROPA. (2021, July). Regional Human Rights Situation Report for January to June 2021.

201 de Vera, B. (2022, January). Duterte vetoes establishment of CHR’s Human Rights Institute from 2022 budget. Inquirer. Net. https://newsinfo.inquirer.net/1535525/duterte-vetoes-establishment-of-chrs-human-rights-institute-from-2022-budget?utm_medium=Social&utm_source=Facebook#Echobox=164.121.0594

202 de Vera, B. (2022, January). Duterte vetoes establishment of CHR’s Human Rights Institute from 2022 budget. Inquirer. Net. https://newsinfo.inquirer.net/1535525/duterte-vetoes-establishment-of-chrs-human-rights-institute-from-2022-budget?utm_medium=Social&utm_source=Facebook#Echobox=164.121.0594

C. Thematic Concerns

Women

- 227** An alleged violation of the Right to Life committed against Fabel Pineda, a 15-year-old resident of Barangay Daclapan, Cabugao, Ilocos Sur, was allegedly committed by police officers. The victim was shot to death last 02 July 2020 by two assailants. Respondents are identified as PCapt. Ramil LLarenas, PSSg. Merly Joy Pascua and Ricardo Quilala. The cases filed against the respondents were closed/ terminated with human rights violations.²⁰³
- 228** CHR Regional Office I docketed a case on the alleged violation of Right to Life against Renalyn Aquino, who was allegedly killed by PAT. Tranquilino Germono. The victim was pregnant with their child.²⁰⁴
- 229** On 27 November 2020, the CHR Regional Office IV-B received a complaint from various Civil Society Organizations namely: the Sentro ng Nagkakaisa at Progresibong Manggagawa (SENTRO), Coalition Against Trafficking in Women (CATW-AP); Pattido Manggagawa (PM); Women Health Philippines (WHP), Pambansang Kongreso ng Kababaihan sa Kanayunan (PKKK), and Center for Migrant Advocacy (CMA), regarding alleged violations of Republic Act No. 9710, otherwise known as the “Magna Carta of Women”, and Republic Act No. 6713, also known as the “Code of Conduct and Ethical Standards for Public Officials and Employees”, against MIMAROPA Region’s PhilHealth Vice President Paolo Johann Perez. The alleged complaint stemmed from the video of a lap dance during the celebration of Perez’s birthday party.
- 230** As an initial action, a letter was sent to the respondent, Mr. Perez, requesting for a Comment on the said complaint on 21 December 2020. This Office recently received the letter-reply from respondent’s counsel essentially denying the allegations. This case is for further investigation.²⁰⁵
- 231** In a case docketed by CHR Regional Office I, a complaint was filed by Bernadeth Saniatan, an 18 year old resident of Cabugao, Ilocos Sur, against PSSg Randy Ramos for an alleged Violation of the Right to Protection of Honor and Reputation. Through investigation, it was resolved that the victim is entitled for a grant of twenty thousand pesos (Php 20,000.00) as provided for under CHR Resolution No. AM2019-024, the PAA IM on the grant of Financial Assistance.²⁰⁶
- 232** Olympic medalist Hidilyn Diaz is urging the sports community to sustain its backing of female Filipino athletes who brought home medals from various tournaments in recent years. Diaz and her fellow women athletes will be given a special tribute by the Philippine Sports Commission (PSC) for their achievements and contributions in the agency’s virtual programs this month.²⁰⁷
- 233** A motu-proprio investigation that pertains to a video that went viral on the alleged physical abuse committed by a Metro Manila Development Authority (MMDA) personnel Roel

203 Commission on Human Rights Regional Office I. (2021, July). Regional HR Situation Report (January to June 2021).

204 Romero, A. (2021). Regional Women’s Human Rights and LGBTI Profile. La Union: CHR Regional Office I.

205 CHR Regional Office IV-A (CALABARZON). (2021, January). 2020 Report on the Human Rights Situation of Disadvantaged, Marginalized and Vulnerable Sectors in Region IV-A (CALABARZON)

206 Romero, A. (2021). Regional Women’s Human Rights and LGBTI Profile. La Union: CHR Regional Office I.

207 Navarro, J. (2021). Diaz tells sports community: keep backing female PH athletes. Retrieved from <https://sports.inquirer.net/417548/diaz-tells-sports-community-keep-backing-female-ph-athletes>

Gatus to his live-in partner Irene Grace Hermida y Dela Vega and her 10-year-old stepson, Josiah Brent Hermida, was investigated by CHR Regional Office 3.

- 234** In an interview with Irene, she affirmed the physical abuse committed by Roel. She narrated that Roel Gatus would physically abuse her whenever he was drunk. On 26 April 2020, at around 11:40 in the evening, Roel arrived at their home drunk and was looking for the cover of their aquarium. When Grace and her son answered that they did not know where it was, Roel punched her and whipped their son with wood on different parts of their son's body. Grace and Josiah went afterwards to the district hospital to seek medical treatment. As established by facts and pieces of evidence gathered, Irene and Josiah were physically abused by Roel, which constitutes a clear human rights violation. A criminal complaint about a breach of RA 9262 was already filed against Roel before the Office of the Provincial Prosecutor of San Jose Del Monte (SJDM), Bulacan while being detained at SJDM Police station. This Office recommends that a total of forty-five thousand pesos (Php 45,000.00) financial assistance be granted to Grace Hermida and her minor son Josiah Brent Hermida.²⁰⁸
- 235** Naga City's anti-GBV program, Naga City Bantay Familia, Inc. is an inter-agency network of local government units (LGUs), non-government organizations (NGOs) and sectoral groups who have been working to uphold the value of family in the community and advocating women's and children's rights, gender equality, peace and justice inside the homes and communities.²⁰⁹
- 236** Due to the pandemic restrictions, adjustments were made by the PNP-WCPD since it was difficult for the victims to go to the station. Thus, leading to the creation of the E-Reklamo FB Page where victims can contact the station and a police officer will answer their queries or give online counseling.²¹⁰
- 237** The CHR Regional Office IX record shows that women and children continue to be vulnerable to all forms of abuse: physical, psychological, sexual and economic abuse. Domestic violence still exists until the time being. This may have been aggravated by reasons such as the women's dependency on their partners for financial support due to lack of livelihood or insufficient means of support and stigma that may be brought about by the idea of a broken family. The COVID-19 pandemic posed an even greater threat and problem to this issue. The restriction in movement during the time of quarantine not only limited their means to look for livelihood, but forced them to stay with their abusive partners as well. Teenage pregnancy has also been a problem even before the pandemic but the number still increased even during the pandemic. The number of rape cases committed against minors is also alarming especially considering the fact that perpetrators often live with the victim under one dwelling. Mental health issues remain a problem and became even more apparent during the pandemic as reflected in the number of suicides in the region. Lack of psychologists and child psychologists in the region is also a problem.²¹¹
- 238** #FEUHSDoBetter has trended on Twitter after multiple allegations of sexual harassment has been shared by current and former students. The school was also criticized for falling short in protecting the students even after the victims have come forward. The Far Eastern

208 Commission on Human Rights Regional Office III. (2021, January). Human Rights Regional Situationer Report Region III – Central Luzon January to December 2020.

209 CHR Regional Office V. (2021, January). VAW in Naga City in Times of COVID-19 Pandemic.

210 CHR Regional Office V. (2021, January). VAW in Naga City in Times of COVID-19 Pandemic.

211 Commission on Human Rights Regional Office 9. (2021, January). 2020 CHR 9 Human Rights Situation Report.

University High School (FEUHS) ensured that identities of all parties involved shall be kept strictly confidential, and that this issue is taken very seriously.²¹²

- 239** Army personnel AAA filed a rape complaint against Major BBB, who allegedly abused his authority and took advantage of AAA's vulnerability when he sexually abused her sometime in February 2019 inside the battalion.
- 240** In March 2019, AAA was dismissed from service after being involved in a theft incident. Major BBB was then leading the investigation in relation thereto. AAA insisted that although she already completed the imposed hard labor punishment and after settlement with the complainant, she was purposely and intentionally dismissed by Major BBB after learning that she will be filing a rape complaint with the Provost Marshal.
- 241** Before filing this present complaint in the CHR Regional Office XI, AAA filed a complaint before the Provost Marshal; however, the same was dismissed for lack of evidence. AAA averred that she was not provided with the ample legal assistance and had not talked to a lawyer when she filed the same with the Provost Marshal. This case is now pending investigation.²¹³
- 242** Records of the WCPD-PROI in Region I shows that there is a decrease in the number of reported GBV cases. The problem lies with the fact that since there are barriers and mobility constraints during the lockdown, there is a possibility that some of the victims failed to report, thus the decrease.
- 243** The decrease in the reported cases on violence against women may be due to the fact that during this period, some parts of the region 2 had been placed either in ECQ or MECQ status from January to June. Travel restrictions and lack of transportation available may have prevented clients from going to the office to report their cases more readily.²¹⁴
- 244** Domestic violence still exists until the time being and even during the pandemic. This may have been aggravated by reasons such as women's dependency on their partners for financial support due to lack of livelihood or insufficient means of support and stigma that may be brought about by the idea of a broken family. The COVID-19 pandemic even posed greater threat and problem to this issue. The restriction in movement during the time of quarantine not only limited their means to look for livelihood, but forced them to stay with their abusive partners as well.²¹⁵
- 245** In cases of economic abuse in relation to support, the majority of the women only sought for redress such that they and their children would be provided with a reasonable amount of financial support for their sustenance. As such, resorts were made to amicably settle the matter and for the execution of memorandum of support. Thereafter, complainants will in due course submit their desistance. Nonetheless, in some cases, the parties obliged to support, notwithstanding the said memorandum, still failed to comply; as such prompting the women to return to the CHR Regional Office IX and refile the case. To make things more difficult, in some of these cases, when forwarded to the proper forum, the same were

212 CNN Philippines Staff (2021). FEU high school urges members to report sexual abuse incidents after social media outcry. Retrieved from <https://cnnphilippines.com/news/2021/4/19/FEU-sexual-abuse-allegations.html>

213 Commission on Human Rights Regional Office 11. (2021, January). Regional Human Rights Situation Report

214 Commission on Human Rights Regional Office II. (2021, August). Human Rights Situationer Report January to June 2021.

215 Commission on Human Rights Regional Office IX. (2021, July). 2021 CHR 9 Human Rights Situation Report.

eventually dismissed on the basis of the complainants prior desistance or insufficiency of evidence.²¹⁶

- 246** In case of psychological abuse, there were also some issues raised on the protocols in the conduct of the said assessment. While the same is being given free of charge by government psychologists, the certificate containing the findings thereof is not being issued unless there is a court order, as a matter of the hospital procedure. This places the case at risk of dismissal considering that the abuse as alleged cannot be substantiated while at the Commission or the Prosecutor Office's level.²¹⁷
- 247** In cases of physical abuse, it has likewise been previously raised that there are concerns regarding the protocols on how complainants can avail of the services in government hospitals for medico-legal examination. Certain complaints had been reported to CHR Regional Office IX that they are being required to blotter the incident. As a matter of procedure, the said report will be presented to the hospital for the necessary examination. This particularly becomes problematic in cases the respondents are police officers and detailed in the particular office where the women are to blotter the incident.²¹⁸
- 248** Lockdowns also made it more difficult to find help. Formal support services were sometimes closed or operating at reduced capacity. Family, friends and neighbours were often more remote and less likely to spot signs of abuse.²¹⁹
- 249** Therefore, women and girls are disproportionately affected during pandemic. In particular, women and girls who face multiple forms of inequalities due to disability, sexual orientation, gender identity, age and ethnic minority even became more vulnerable.²²⁰
- 250** Based on the data provided by PNP-Police Regional Office Cordillera (PROCOR), the most common forms of GBV reported to the police in the region for the first semester of 2021 are rape with 79 cases, followed by VAWC under R.A. 9262 with 70 cases, Violation of R.A. 7610 with 45 cases and acts of lasciviousness with 24 cases.²²¹
- 251** The most prevalent human rights violations in the region are Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG). The high number of reported rape cases in the Cordillera committed against girls is very alarming. Concerned agencies and LGUs should join hands together and devise programs, projects, and activities that would help mitigate its widespread commission and at the same time empower girls to protect and fight for their rights. Concerted efforts should also be made so that proper intervention and immediate assistance be given to the victim-survivors.²²²

216 Commission on Human Rights Regional Office IX. (2021, July). 2021 CHR 9 Human Rights Situation Report.

217 Commission on Human Rights Regional Office IX. (2021, July). 2021 CHR 9 Human Rights Situation Report.

218 Commission on Human Rights Regional Office IX. (2021, July). 2021 CHR 9 Human Rights Situation Report.

219 Commission on Human Rights Regional Office XII. (2021, July). Regional Human Rights Situation Report January to June 2021.

220 Commission on Human Rights Regional Office XII. (2021, July). Regional Human Rights Situation Report January to June 2021.

221 Commission on Human Rights Cordillera Administrative Region. (2021, August). HUMAN RIGHTS SITUATION REPORT ON THE MONITORING OF COVID-19 VACCINATION PROGRAM CORDILLERA ADMINISTRATIVE REGION.

222 Commission on Human Rights Cordillera Administrative Region. (2021, August). HUMAN RIGHTS SITUATION REPORT ON THE MONITORING OF COVID-19 VACCINATION PROGRAM CORDILLERA ADMINISTRATIVE REGION.

- 252** The United Nations (2020) pointed out that gender-based violence is increasing exponentially as the economic and social stress, combined with restricted movement and social isolation measures, brought about by the COVID-19 pandemic intensifies. Many women are locked down at home with their abusers. At the same time, support services to survivors are disrupted or not accessible.²²³
- 253** In the CHR's 2020 report, the disproportionate impact of the pandemic on women, girls and other marginalized sectors was emphasized. It was stressed that the pandemic has exacerbated pre-existing inequalities and stigma, and made the impact of these inequalities life threatening and dangerous. This has not changed in 2021.²²⁴
- 254** A 2021 Social Weather Station (SWS) survey provides a snapshot of the continuing devastation brought about by the pandemic, even well into 2021. Of the women surveyed in the last quarter of 2020, 63.02% reported that their quality of life worsened, 36.4% reported being in the poverty line, while 47.58% reported being poor.²²⁵
- 255** Self-report survey from SWS also show that 47.88% of women were reported losing their jobs. With constant repatriation, the number of women migrant workers has also decreased from 1.9M in 2020 to 1.23M in 2021.²²⁶
- 256** As the crisis brought about by the pandemic continued in 2021, ensuring access to sexual and reproductive health and rights and the need to ensure maternal health remains a continuing concern. As it is, the disruption of access to family planning commodities and services is already expected to increase the number of unintended pregnancies. In a study conducted by the University of the Philippines Population Institute and the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), unintended pregnancies among females ages 15 to 49 is expected to increase by more than 40% to 2.5 million.²²⁷
- 257** Food insecurity and hunger has worsened. With government aid in the form of the Social Amelioration Program largely concentrated during the first few months of the crisis, support during subsequent lockdowns have been wanting. SWS survey at the end of 2020 support this, with 15.86% of women reporting hunger—almost doubling the percentage of 8.8% in December of 2019.²²⁸

223 United Nations. (2020). Policy Brief: The Impact of COVID-19 on Women. Retrieved from <https://www.unwomen.org/-/media/headquarters/attachments/sections/library/publications/2020/policy-brief-the-impact-of-COVID-19-on-women-en.pdf?la=en&vs=1406>

224 Commission on Human Rights Gender Equality and Women's Human Rights Center. (2021). Gender Ombud Report: January to June 2021.

225 SWS. Fourth Quarter of 2020 Social Weather Survey. [https://www.sws.org.ph/downloads/media_release/pr20201214%20-%20SWR%202020-IV%20Self-Rated%20Poverty%20and%20Self-Rated%20Food%20Poverty%20\(media%20release\).pdf](https://www.sws.org.ph/downloads/media_release/pr20201214%20-%20SWR%202020-IV%20Self-Rated%20Poverty%20and%20Self-Rated%20Food%20Poverty%20(media%20release).pdf) (accessed last 28 August 2021)

226 Philippine Statistics Authority. (2021). PSA Issues Updates on Women and Men in the Philippines. <https://psa.gov.ph/gender-stat>

227 Pierson and See. (2021). The pandemic is fueling a baby boom in the Philippines. For some, that's bad news. Los Angeles Times. <https://www.latimes.com/world-nation/story/2021-01-06/the-philippines-girds-for-a-baby-boom-after-years-of-declining-birth-rates> (accessed 31 August 2021)

228 Social Weather Station. Fourth Quarter of 2020 Social Weather Survey. [https://www.sws.org.ph/downloads/media_release/pr20201214%20-%20SWR%202020-IV%20Self-Rated%20Poverty%20and%20Self-Rated%20Food%20Poverty%20\(media%20release\).pdf](https://www.sws.org.ph/downloads/media_release/pr20201214%20-%20SWR%202020-IV%20Self-Rated%20Poverty%20and%20Self-Rated%20Food%20Poverty%20(media%20release).pdf) (accessed last 28 August 2021)

- 258** During the Purple Action Day Webinar,²²⁹ a representative from Lilak Purple Action for Indigenous Women's Rights²³⁰ highlighted heightened levels of food insecurity due to the pandemic. Lilak shared how indigenous women suffered hunger due to the pandemic and the resulting loss of employment. This was echoed by a representative of Amihan²³¹ who shared how farmers bewailed the high cost of food, how this severely impacted farmers who, while food producers, are also consumers. They also complained how continued land conversion by developers even during the pandemic further contributed to hunger and food insecurity. Women with disabilities were also not spared, a woman with disability leader²³² from Mindanao shared how community-based peer monitoring documented food insecurity due to loss of employment. The worsening food insecurity has led many to rely on community pantries, food banks, and community/CSO-led efforts to bridge the gap.²³³
- 259** A year into the crisis, women continue to bear the burden of unpaid care work at home.²³⁴ Employment and current educational arrangements remained remote—straddling women with the burden of taking care of the family, attending to paid employment remotely, and assisting children with their modules or taking care of the ill or the elderly. The situation is even more difficult for indigenous women and/or women in Geographically Isolated and Disadvantaged Areas (GIDA) areas who also had to deal with their own difficulties in accessing needed government support, educational materials/modules for children, as well as the reality of the digital divide. During the Commissions' women's month celebration, several webinars highlighted the continuing multiple burden of women.²³⁵
- 260** The 2021 National Household Care Survey commissioned by Oxfam affirms this continuing multiple burden and unpaid care work of women. In said survey, Oxfam found that women spent up to 13 hours a day on unpaid care work compared to only 8 hours of men. While it is observed that men's unpaid care work increased from 5 hours in 2017 to 8 hours during the pandemic, it is clear that the burden of care continues to fall primarily on women. Of the 13 hours women spend on care work, more than half or 7 hours are spent multi-tasking or juggling tasks at the same time. Same survey further showed that 1 out of 3 Filipinas experienced injury, illness, disability or other harms through their care work in the past six months.²³⁶
- 261** Women are overly represented in the health sector, and as the pandemic rolls into its second year, the impact of the pandemic on women medical frontliners is among the key women's human rights issues needing urgent attention. Another continuing issue from last year is women's access to sexual and reproductive health services, especially concerns pertaining to maternal and neonatal health during a pandemic.

229 Purple Action Day is the annual kick off for Women's Month hosted annually by the Commission in partnership with Sarilaya. The Purple Action Day webinar may be viewed here: <https://fb.watch/9NdAcBCNOq/>

230 Kat Magtoto, Lilak Purple Action for Indigenous Women's Rights

231 Catherine Estavillo, Amihan

232 Milagros Maquiling, Women with Disability Leader from Mindanao

233 Wright and Coles. COVID made the Philippines' hunger crisis worse. So why does hardly anyone want a vaccine?. CNN. 25 May 2021. <https://edition.cnn.com/2021/05/24/asia/philippines-covid-hunger-intl-hnk-dst/index.html> (accessed 31 August 2021)

234 Ramos, L. Pandemic is tough for all but Filipino women are carrying an even heavier burden. PhilStar. 18 March 2021. <https://www.philstar.com/news-commentary/2021/03/18/2085223/pandemic-tough-all-filipino-women-are-carrying-even-heavier-burden> (accessed 31 August 2021)

235 Commission on Human Rights Gender Equality and Women's Human Rights Center. (2021). Gender Ombud Report: January to June 2021.

236 Oxfam. Filipino men log more care work hours due to pandemic but bulk of tasks still fall on women – survey, <https://philippines.oxfam.org/latest/stories/filipino-men-log-more-care-work-hours-due-pandemic-bulk-tasks-still-fall-women-%E2%80%9494> (Last accessed 28 August 2021)

- 262** Women are at the forefront of the battle against the pandemic as they make up almost 70% of the healthcare workforce, exposing them to greater risk of infection, while they are under-represented in leadership and decision-making processes in the health care sector.²³⁷ In the Philippines, the health profession is dominated by women (75%) and the young. Even before the pandemic, the human resources for health already faced long-standing issues related to low pay, high turnover rate of trained personnel, and out-migration of the country's experienced health professionals. This has been further highlighted in the pandemic.²³⁸
- 263** Access to SRHR including maternal health services continues to be an issue. On 18 March 2021, it was reported that a stranded woman gave birth on the streets in Pasay City with the help of her husband. The report states that the couple were from Iligan City in Lanao del Norte and were stranded in Metro Manila during the lockdown. They were temporarily staying in front of the World Trade Center when the wife gave birth.²³⁹ In another report a woman gave birth inside a tricycle while on her way to get the results of her swab test, a requirement for hospital admission. While the woman in this case was successfully assisted by her first responders despite complications, it highlights the continuing risks posed by the current crisis exacerbated by the admission requirements.²⁴⁰
- 264** Being pregnant and giving birth during a pandemic is also more expensive, more difficult and challenging. Pre-natal check ups are disrupted or have to be adjusted to online or tele-consultations. Finding a hospital is also challenging when giving birth. Some pregnant women who gave birth during the pandemic said that costs are higher as RT-PCR tests costing PhP3,000 to 5,000 are required prior to admission. Hospitals also charge for personal protective equipment (PPEs) used by the patient. With these additional costs, pregnant women who belong to the marginalized sectors are expected to be the most affected, and most unable to access the needed care.²⁴¹
- 265** In case of maternal mortality, POP Com's Executive Director has admitted that pregnant women could be part of the "collateral damage" of the health crisis. More specifically, he shared how pregnant women have been turned away by hospitals and instead encouraged to go to lying in clinics. He was further quoted as saying 'these are still scattered reports from areas where there was high incidence of COVID-19. So there is collateral effect of COVID in terms of mothers not getting the higher level of care at the right time.' The Executive Director also stressed that while women are not COVID-19 patients, some needed high level care, and failure to access such care render them at risk and vulnerable.²⁴²
- 266** From January to June of 2021, the GBV reporting portal has received 35 reports including those from CHAD, of this 5 involved members of the PNP as perpetrators, and 8 from other

237 OECD. Women at the Core of the Fight Against COVID – 19 pandemic. OECD. 20 April 2020. <https://www.oecd.org/coronavirus/policy-responses/women-at-the-core-of-the-fight-against-covid-19-crisis-553a8269/>. (accessed 31 August 2021)

238 PIDS. Human Resource for Health in the Time of the COVID-19 Pandemic: Does the Philippines Have Enough?. PIDS. 18 August 2020. <https://www.uppi.upd.edu.ph/research/covid-19/rb8> (accessed 31 August 2021)

239 Mendoza, E. Woman stranded in Pasay gives birth to healthy baby on street; paramedic tells story. Inquirer. Net. 18 May 2021. <https://newsinfo.inquirer.net/1433496/stranded-woman-in-pasay-gave-birth-on-street-paramedic-tells-full-story-2> (accessed 31 August 2021)

240 GMA News. Woman about to get swab test result give birth in tricycle. GMA News. 1 July 2021. <https://www.gmanetwork.com/news/news/metro/793728/woman-about-to-get-swab-test-result-gives-birth-in-tricycle/story/> (accessed 31 August 2021)

241 Commission on Human Rights Gender Equality and Women's Human Rights Center. (2021). Gender Ombud Report: January to June 2021

242 Jaymalin, M. POP COM sees higher mortality rate. Philstar. 5 May 2021. <https://www.philstar.com/headlines/2021/05/05/2095970/popcom-sees-higher-maternal-mortality> (accessed 31 August 2021)

government employees/elected officials. Intimate partner violence (RA 9262) remains the highest number of complaints, followed by rape/attempted rape, with the third highest complaint pertaining to threats. In all these, many of the violations were committed in online spaces. Violations of the Safe Spaces Act particularly online sexual harassment have been reported in several Facebook groups including groups on online selling, bike groups, and even in deaf community groups where rape videos were disseminated. This semester, the portal received and facilitated the legal assistance and support of two deaf survivors of violence. There were also continuing reports of insensitivity of service providers – discouraging reporting as in the case of a VAWC case reported in Tanay and another case of insensitive handling of a rape case in Iloilo. These highlight the need to continue ensuring and monitoring of the delivery of survivor centered service on the ground and to strengthen accountability mechanisms.²⁴³

- 267** The E-lawyering project of the Protection cluster has rendered services to 21 women and girls, most cases pertaining to violations of RA 9262, followed by cases of violence committed in online spaces.²⁴⁴
- 268** Although data from the PNP has not yet come in, the GEWHRC identified three worrying trends in GBV in the first half of 2021: 1) cases where members of the PNP are perpetrator and the question of security and impunity; 2) complaints regarding insensitivity, including lack of provisions for accessibility, and/or failure to respond to the case by the duty bearer; and 3) the continuing rise of GBV committed in online spaces.²⁴⁵
- 269** Deeply concerning to the Commission is the particular case of Ritchie Nepomuceno, one of the three women who filed criminal, administrative, and human rights cases against members of PNP Cebu for the rape and torture they committed during detention. According to Ritchie, she was one of the two victims who were tortured by at least 11 cops inside a secret room at the Pasil Police Station 6 (Sawang Calero Police station) in Cebu City. Ritchie filed the criminal and administrative case on 22 March 2021 before the Integrity Monitoring and Enhancement Group Visayas Field Unit (IMEG-VFU). On 19 April 2021, Ritchie was shot dead by unidentified assailants. In these cases, immediate investigations were conducted by the PNP. The cops were also administratively dismissed while cases were investigated. In a further development, the cop who allegedly raped Ritchie committed suicide two hours after she was shot down.²⁴⁶
- 270** In response, the Commission issued a statement denouncing the persistence of violence against women, especially those perpetrated by state actors. The Commission stressed that women victims, as key witnesses, should be granted full protection from any form of retaliation or attacks to ensure that they may exercise their right to participate in investigations and legal proceedings. Conduct of speedy investigation was enjoined as there are other complaints who remain vulnerable to such violence.²⁴⁷
- 271** For the Commission, it was clear that the case of Ritchie highlighted protection gap for women survivors of GBV. This case highlight not only the importance of responding

243 Commission on Human Rights Gender Equality and Women's Human Rights Center. (2021). Gender Ombud Report: January to June 2021

244 Inquiries involved sextortion committed in online spaces; violation of Anti-photo and video voyeurism act

245 Commission on Human Rights Gender Equality and Women's Human Rights Center. (2021). Gender Ombud Report: January to June 2021

246 Two women claim being tortured in Cebu City Police Station. Rappler. 5 April 2021. <https://www.rappler.com/nation/women-say-were-tortured-secret-room-cebu-city-police-station> (Accessed 31 August 2021)

247 Commission on Human Rights Gender Equality and Women's Human Rights Center. (2021). Gender Ombud Report: January to June 2021

immediately to complaints of GBV, but also of ensuring protection for survivors. Navigating the legal system, securing legal and other support services for survivors of GBV is already a challenge, this is more so in cases where alleged perpetrators are members of the law enforcement and with capability of retaliation. There is an urgent need to review the protection gaps from within the referral mechanisms in these cases and to address them thereby ensuring a safe and enabling environment for women to pursue justice.²⁴⁸

- 272** With regards to the continuing complaints of insensitivity, lack of accessibility and failure to follow a survivor-centered approach in cases of GBV, the GEWHRC seeks to highlight this as a continuing issue as of the 35 complaints it received. Five (5) of them pertained to members of the law enforcement and seven (7) from other government officials as perpetrators. One of these complaints included a complaint against law enforcement as a perpetrator in a case of rape, and others pertained to insensitive handling of cases. Accounts of victim blaming were reported to have been exhibited by desk officers of PNP Women's Desks and in the barangay. In one instance, the women's desk officers repeatedly and asked seemingly threatening questions regarding the rape survivor's account, doubted the veracity of the survivor's account, and was perceived to be discouraging the survivor from filing the case. In another, a case of VAWC was recommended to be settled by the Barangay and even by the prosecutors' office.²⁴⁹
- 273** In the Commission's cases involving a deaf survivor, GEWHRC continued to note the absence of sign language interpreters in government office—from one stop shops for GBV, in police stations, in hospitals, and in the prosecutor's office. This absence of sign language interpreters for deaf complainants disproportionately place the burden on survivors—to pay for and procure their own sign language interpreters, to seek for advocacy groups to help them, or to seek assistance with the Commission. With the adoption of the Filipino Sign Language Law, this has to change.²⁵⁰
- 274** Accessibility of interpreters should be mainstreamed in government offices, and processes should be adopted to ensure accessible complaint mechanisms for women with different kinds of disability, and other groups of marginalized women and individuals. Additionally, the burden of filing complaints in the context of a pandemic should be taken into consideration, and support therefore be provided—including supporting presence of SLIs, providing transportation support, ensuring shelters are open, and psychosocial and other services available remotely.²⁵¹
- 275** The GEWHRC also stressed the continuing concern over the rising number of GBV committed in online spaces. In the series of webinars on Safe Spaces organized by GEWHRC in April, May and August 2021, and in the results of their Regional Mapping of GBV referral mechanisms—it is evident that cases of GBV committed in online spaces remain very high. With work shifting primarily to digital and online spaces, online sexual exploitation, committed mostly against children, young girls, and against women, remains

248 Commission on Human Rights Gender Equality and Women's Human Rights Center. (2021). Gender Ombud Report: January to June 2021

249 Commission on Human Rights Gender Equality and Women's Human Rights Center. (2021). Gender Ombud Report: January to June 2021

250 Commission on Human Rights Gender Equality and Women's Human Rights Center. (2021). Gender Ombud Report: January to June 2021

251 Commission on Human Rights Gender Equality and Women's Human Rights Center. (2021). Gender Ombud Report: January to June 2021

high. Online GBV proliferates because of the nature of cyberspace—the anonymity it offers, the intractability of perpetrators, and the many barriers in accessing remedies.²⁵²

- 276** In the Safe Spaces webinars, cases raised include unauthorized distribution of private sexually explicit content, among students and also adults. In one case from the GBV portal on rape, the rape video was posted and reposted online. Even with the intervention of the Commission and with letter requests to Facebook, taking down took long, with several reposting in many other sites. All these highlight the continuing challenges in addressing GBV committed in online spaces and of the need to further strengthen referral mechanisms and response.²⁵³
- 277** Another issue pertaining to women’s equal protection before the law is the attempt to disqualify Gabriela Partylist. The issue has been brought to the attention of the Commission, particularly invoking women’s right to participation and representation. During the Commission’s Purple Action Day Webinar last March 2021, speakers from Gabriela including its Secretary General Joms Salvador and Gabriela representative Congresswoman Arlene Brosas detailed how the organization has been the subject of different attacks. In the case of Joms and other officers of Gabriela, criminal cases were filed by the National Task Force to End Local Communist Armed Conflict (NTF-ELCAC). A petition for disqualification on the other hand, was filed against the partylist.²⁵⁴
- 278** For Gabriela, these are clear acts of silencing and repression. They have filed petitions for writ of amparo and habeas corpus before the Supreme Court and have questioned as well the constitutionality of the Anti-terror Law. Gabriela stresses that all these actions, like the Anti-terror law are meant to silence dissent, they are an affront not only to Gabriela as an organization that has advance women’s human rights for 36 years, but also to all women and women human rights defenders.²⁵⁵

Children

- 279** A motu proprio investigation on an alleged sexual assault and physical violence committed against a 9-year-old Jhenice Ednalan Punzalan by Christopher Abella transpired on 11 November 2020 at Barangay Locloc, Palauig, Zambales. Jhenice was found buried alive at Barangay Pangolingán and died after eight days.
- 280** Based on the investigation and information gathered by CHR Regional Office III, the respondent was seen comforting the victim during a commotion in front of the victim’s residence. The victim then went missing, and upon checking the barangay outpost CCTV camera, the victim was seen with Christopher. Some allegedly saw the respondent carrying the victim.
- 281** While the victim’s search continues, the victim’s relatives went to a vacant lot around 200 meters from the victim’s house. One of them stepped on the foot of the victim covered with grass. She was half-naked, and her struggle can be seen all over her young body.

²⁵² Commission on Human Rights Gender Equality and Women’s Human Rights Center. (2021). Gender Ombud Report: January to June 2021

²⁵³ Commission on Human Rights Gender Equality and Women’s Human Rights Center. (2021). Gender Ombud Report: January to June 2021

²⁵⁴ Commission on Human Rights Gender Equality and Women’s Human Rights Center. (2021). Gender Ombud Report: January to June 2021

²⁵⁵ Commission on Human Rights Gender Equality and Women’s Human Rights Center. (2021). Gender Ombud Report: January to June 2021

Jhenice's family brought her to a hospital where she was in a coma for one day, and the next few days were critical for her.

- 282** A relative of the victim described that her granddaughter underwent an operation on her private part because of what happened. Jhenice died eight days after the family found her body.²⁵⁶
- 283** The Commission on Population and Development (Popcom) and the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) are crafting a new social protection program to support teenage mothers and their children. Popcom Executive Director and Undersecretary of Population and Development Juan Antonio Perez III said that the program will be rolled out toward the end of the year.
- 284** The decision to create the program stemmed from the increasing trend in teenage pregnancies nationwide. The latest data from the Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA) indicated the trend continues. PSA data showed that births among girls ages 15 years old and below increased 7 percent compared to 2018. Popcom said in a statement that this is the ninth consecutive trend of increase since 2011.²⁵⁷
- 285** The records of the case handled by CHR Regional Office II show that minor victims, CN and CN2, were lured by the respondent that there is a lucrative job awaiting them at Ilocos Norte and because of this misrepresentation by the respondent, the minor victims acceded and boarded a bus with the respondent going to Ilocos Norte. Upon arrival there, the two minors were made to serve as entertainers in a Kambingan restaurant. Meanwhile the parents after searching for their children were able to find out that they were in Ilocos Norte, they reported immediately to the Ballesteros Cagayan Police Station which in turn coordinated with the Bacarra Ilocos PNP that resulted in the rescue of the two minors and the arrest of the respondent.²⁵⁸
- 286** For the 2nd semester of 2020, physical monitoring of Bahay Pag-asa and other Youth Care Facilities were suspended in compliance to the "Guidance for Bahay Pag-asa and other Youth Care and Rehabilitation Facilities handling CAR and CICL During the COVID-19 Pandemic Situation" of the Juvenile Justice and Welfare Council (JJWC). Nonetheless, monitoring was still undertaken through letters and attaching a copy of the Liham Mula Kay Tantan for the children and CHR Monitoring BPA Form-COVID 19 for the Center Head.²⁵⁹
- 287** Most of the provinces in Region I opted for Modified General Community Quarantine, (MGCQ). But still, implementation of border protocols remains strict. They would require Swab Results or even AntiGen which come with a price. This has become a great burden to the parents of the children in Bahay Pag-asa in addition to the JJWC Guidelines prohibiting face-to-face visits to the Center. The result of the Liham Mula Kay Tantan would reveal that many of the children are worried or sad. Some of the reasons mentioned are: "Due to the threat of COVID-19 Pandemic and they worry for the safety of their families; For not seeing their families for how many months; No visit from family; Hearing of their cases is taking too long; and Unsure when they will be able to go home." We can infer

256 Commission on Human Rights Regional Office III. (2021, January). Human Rights Regional Situationer Report Region III – Central Luzon January to December 2020.

257 Ordinario, C. (2021). Popcom to launch activities to protect teenage mothers. Retrieved February 08, 2021 from <https://businessmirror.com.ph/2021/02/08/popcom-to-launch-activities-to-protect-teenage-mothers/>

258 (2021). Regional Human Rights Situationer Report – CHR Region 02 July – December 2020. Tuguegarao City: CHR Regional Office II

259 (2021). Regional HR Situation Report July to December 2020. San Fernando City: CHR Regional Office I

from such answers that the pandemic has a great impact on the mental and psychological well-being of every child. The ‘e-dalaw’ may be the safest and most convenient way for communication at present but still it is not sufficient for the children.²⁶⁰

- 288** From the foregoing data, the major issues that surfaced are increasing number of sexual abuse cases; the impact of COVID-19 to the cases of children pending in court and to their mental or psychological well-being; and the impact of COVID-19 to the monitoring process.
- 289** The United Nations International Children’s Emergency Fund (UNICEF) Philippines has balked at the recent decision of Metro Manila mayors to prohibit minors from going outside for two weeks to curb the spread of coronavirus, as it can be considered an infringement of children’s rights. The UNICEF said that the resolution should specify that “children of all age groups can be allowed to play and conduct sport and physical exercise in outdoor areas, as long as the required public health measures ... are strictly complied with.”²⁶¹
- 290** During the Commemoration of the World Children’s Day on 20 November 2020, the UNICEF Philippines stated that “the COVID-19 pandemic, combined with a threatening typhoon season have upended thousands of children’s lives and has left many more children uncertain about their future.” This was brought about by disruptions to essential services such as education, health care, nutrition and child protection interventions; severe global economic recession; and compounding deep pre-existing inequalities and exclusion. Children’s mental health also suffered during these difficult times.²⁶²
- 291** AAA, fifteen (15) years old, and a Grade 5 student was walking along the streets of Agdao when she was apprehended by a tricycle driver and was brought to the barangay hall for violation of the imposed curfew. She felt dizzy because of the drinking session she attended earlier that night. AAA then alleged that while at the barangay hall, she was forcibly given an alcoholic drink (Red Horse) by barangay volunteer BBB, causing her to feel more dizzy. She was then brought to the second floor of the barangay hall. Therein, BBB maliciously kissed her from the shoulder to her neck and forced the latter to kiss him on the lips. AAA pushed BBB away which prompted the latter to leave. Morning of the following day, barangay tanod CCC took AAA and brought her to his residence. Arriving at his house, CCC instructed AAA to take a bath. Thereafter, CCC took advantage of her and sexually molested her. Further, AAA alleged that CCC tied her hands and feet with a cloth and placed a towel into her mouth preventing her from shouting.
- 292** A complaint of rape in relation to RA 7610 has been filed before the Office of the City Prosecutor against CCC, while a separate case was filed against BBB for Unjust Vexation in relation to RA 7610. It was learned that the victim is now under the care and custody of the Quick Response Team for Children’s Concern (QRTCC-CSSDO) and is undergoing psycho-social interventions. This case is now pending investigation.²⁶³
- 293** During the monitoring, issues/concerns experienced/raised by the children during the COVID-19 Pandemic included feeling sad due to the following:²⁶⁴

260 (2021). Regional HR Situation Report July to December 2020. San Fernando City: CHR Regional Office I

261 Ramos, M. (2021). Preventing minors from going outside violates their rights – Unicef. Retrieved from <https://newsinfo.inquirer.net/1409410/unicef-ban-on-minors-violates-their-rights>

262 Commission on Human Rights National Capital Region. (2021, February). Human Rights Situation Report on Children from July to December 2020.

263 Commission on Human Rights Regional Office 11. (2021, January). Regional Human Rights Situation Report

264 Commission on Human Rights Regional Office 11. (2021, January). Regional Human Rights Situation Report

- a** Family visits were restricted. In some BPAs, no visitation policies were even implemented;
 - b** Cancellation of the Summer Camp and Sports Fest 2020 and other outdoor activities;
 - c** Feeling worried of the present situation for their families outside; and
 - d** Postponement of court hearings, consequently delaying their cases and extending their stay in the BPAs.
 - e** It is also noted that most of the reactions of the children were rooted in their separation from their respective families and their desire to go home.
- 294** As compared to the 1st half of 2020 (January to June) with twenty (20) cases, the number of cases involving children received by this office for the latter half of 2020 decreased by seventy-five percent (75%). The drop in reported cases during this period however is worrisome as it could point out to victims having harder time or opportunity reporting crimes to proper authorities due to stricter protocols or measures because of the coronavirus.²⁶⁵
- 295** The CHR Regional Office I has not received any complaint and has not recorded incidents of Grave Child Rights Violations (GCRVs) for the first semester of 2021 in situations of armed conflict which includes a) Killing and Maiming of Children; b) Recruitment or use of children in armed forces and groups; c) Attack on schools or hospitals; d) Rape and other grave sexual violence against children; e) Abduction of children; and f) Denial of humanitarian access to children.²⁶⁶
- 296** From the foregoing data, the major issues that surfaced in Region I are the following:²⁶⁷
- a** Sexual abuse cases in the region remains high;
 - b** Prolonged stay of CICLs in police stations; and
 - c** The impact of COVID-19 and its new variants to the monitoring process.
- 297** Although there were no CICLs placed in the BJMP, the Office had been informed that there were minors who were placed in police stations. It took some time before they were actually transferred to the RRCY or Bahay Pag-asa. During the 2nd Quarter Meeting of the RJJWC1, it was noted that one CICL stayed in the police station for 4 months and 7 days. Some cases were with Commitment Orders from the court. These are in violation of the Juvenile Justice and Welfare Act as amended.²⁶⁸
- 298** However, the problem all boils down to the COVID-19 situation. The possibility of contracting the virus, conduct of RT-PCR Test (reverse transcriptase-polymerase chain reaction) or SWAB on the CICLs as well as the personnel who have them in their custody, the waiting of the test results, the mandatory observance of quarantine period, and very

265 Commission on Human Rights Cordillera Administrative Region. (2021, January). Regional Human Rights Situation Report July to December 2020.

266 Commission on Human Rights Regional Office I. (2021, July). Regional HR Situation Report (January to June 2021).

267 Commission on Human Rights Regional Office I. (2021, July). Regional HR Situation Report (January to June 2021).

268 Commission on Human Rights Regional Office I. (2021, July). Regional HR Situation Report (January to June 2021).

strict border protocols imposed by LGUs all of which hinder the immediate transfer of the CICLs to youth facilities.²⁶⁹

- 299** The following are data gathered from virtual visits to Bahay Pag-asa of the Regional Juvenile Justice and Welfare Council (RJJWC) which includes CHR Regional Office IV-CALABARZON:²⁷⁰
- a** Basic needs of the residents were provided by the facility/center. Also, the parents of the CICLs are allowed to give them (CICLs) food.
 - b** Visitation: CICLs are only allowed to talk to their parents at a distance. Parents/relatives usually stayed in the designated gate/fence area while talking to the CICLs inside the center/ facility. Majority of the facilities interviewed have scheduled phone/ video calls to the families of their residents except for the center in Binangonan Rizal which do not have phone/ video calls since there was no assigned phone for the resident CICLs.
 - c** Education: Most of the other facilities interviewed have either ALS or regular schooling thru modular scheme, except two:
 - Bahay Kalinga Imus have no regular education for CICLs but they already coordinated with DepEd on its ALS program for the resident CICLs. In the meantime, their house parents teach them during their free time.
 - Binangonan Youth Care also has no program yet for education of the CICLs.
 - d** Hearing: Due to the pandemic, most of the court hearings are conducted virtually thru video conference. Unfortunately, the hearings of the CICL are often postponed. One of their problems with the virtual hearing is the slow internet connection which results in the resetting of the hearing.
 - e** Admission to the facility: LGU facilities are stricter in the admission of CICLs. A swab test/ rapid test is usually required in most of these facilities to ensure that other residents of the center will not acquire COVID 19. Most of the time, PNP-WCPD would take the custody of the CICL while waiting for the result of the rapid test.
- 300** Based on the visits conducted by CHR Regional Office IV-CALABARZON, the number of CICLs have decreased because of the strict compliance with the IATF guidelines. However, there are LGUs whose Children At Risk (CAR) have increased because of violation of the IATF guidelines.²⁷¹
- 301** During the eDalaw conducted by RJJWC on 16-18 June 2021 of which the CHR Regional Office V took part as member, it appears that it takes some time before the minor is transferred to a youth facility which imposes that he stays in jail facilities for a period of time in spite of the law stating that no minor shall be put in prison.²⁷²
- 302** While the expansion and accessibility of the internet provide information and learning opportunities for children, this likewise poses protection threats to children online. The

²⁶⁹ Commission on Human Rights Regional Office I. (2021, July). Regional HR Situation Report (January to June 2021).

²⁷⁰ Commission on Human Rights Regional Office IV-CALABARZON. (2021, July). Report on the Human Rights Situation of Disadvantaged, Marginalized and Vulnerable Sectors in CALABARZON (January to June 2021).

²⁷¹ Commission on Human Rights Regional Office IV-CALABARZON. (2021, July). Report on the Human Rights Situation of Disadvantaged, Marginalized and Vulnerable Sectors in CALABARZON (January to June 2021).

²⁷² Commission on Human Rights Regional Office V. (2021, July). Human Rights Situationer of PDL (with Special Focus on CAR and CICL).

increased unsupervised online internet use has magnified issues on sexual exploitation of children.²⁷³

- 303** Information shows that there is still a great number of teenage pregnancies in the region. This situation also showed that the causes for this increase in the number of teenage pregnancies are even more alarming, to wit, high number of incestuous rape and sexual abuse cases, lack of sex and health education and high rate of experimentation among peers which may be brought about by unmonitored or unguarded exposure to social media. Children inflicted with HIV are also noted. The CHR Regional Office IX is continuously monitoring this situation including the implementation of the Responsible Parenthood and Reproductive Health Law.²⁷⁴
- 304** The CHR Regional Office X has monitored and reported to the CTFMR TWG Mindanao and the CHR Child Rights Center (CRC), alleged grave child rights violations in Region 10 which include attack on schools and majority involves recruitment and use of children. Most of the data were gathered from the social media post (Facebook) and reports of the different Infantry Battalions (8IB, 88IB, 58IB, 65IB, 10IB, and 1st SF) of the Philippine Army having area of responsibility in Region 10, as well as local media. These children who were recruited and used by the armed group voluntarily surrendered to the government through the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP). Having experienced all the hardship and always on the run from the government troops, they decided to surrender and avail of the program offered by the government. Those who surrendered were enrolled in the Enhanced Comprehensive Local Integration Program (E-CLIP) of the government.²⁷⁵
- 305** On 30 January 2021, a commander and his 18-year old partner who is 6-months pregnant, both alleged members of the NPA, voluntarily surrendered to the 8th Infantry Battalion (8IB) in Barangay Poblacion, Impasug-ong, Bukidnon. Both surrendered with firearms and ammunition. They said that they decided to surrender after they were enlightened that the armed struggle will only ruin and destroy their lives and their family. They escaped after they got a chance to abandon the useless struggle because they wanted to live a normal and peaceful life together with their son and incoming child.²⁷⁶
- 306** On 27 February 2021, three (3) regular fighters of New People's Army (NPA) and one (1) Militia ng Bayan (MB) member surrendered to the 58th Infantry "Dimalulupig" Battalion thru a negotiation effort done by 58IB. One of the three NPA member alleged that she was recruited by the NPA when she was 17 years old and was promised with a job that pays highly. She surrendered when she is already 20 years old. She said that she decided to surrender after realizing that if she continued to join the armed struggle, there would be no future for her and her newly born child. According to her, at 5 months of pregnancy, she still carries a firearm around her and was directed to join in their operations, which is extremely dangerous for a pregnant woman like herself. She surrendered the high powered firearm in her possession.²⁷⁷

273 Commission on Human Rights Regional Office VIII. (2021, August). Regional Human Rights Situation Report January to June 2021.

274 Commission on Human Rights Regional Office IX. (2021, July). 2021 CHR 9 Human Rights Situation Report.

275 Commission on Human Rights Regional Office X. (2021, July). Regional Situation Report 1st Semester 2021 Commission on Human Rights 10.

276 Commission on Human Rights Regional Office X. (2021, July). Regional Situation Report 1st Semester 2021 Commission on Human Rights 10.

277 Commission on Human Rights Regional Office X. (2021, July). Regional Situation Report 1st Semester 2021 Commission on Human Rights 10.

- 307** In Lanao del Norte, a 13-year old boy from Barangay Ramin, Munai, surrendered to the Women and Children Protection Desk (WCPD) of Piagapo, Lanao del Sur and admitted that he was recruited by the Dawla Islamiya on 22 February 2021. The boy is now reintegrated with his guardians after he was turned over to the PSWD. Based on the joint verification mission conducted by UNICEF and CHR X, the boy merely ran away from home. From his hometown in Munai, he went to Tapong, then to Udalo at Piagapo Lanao del Norte, then to Saguwaran of Piagapo Lanao del Norte, where a barangay captain noticed him as a lost boy and brought him to the PNP of Piagapo, who then brought him back to Munai. The initial assessment of the CHR X investigator noted that the boy was somewhat retardate. Accordingly, whenever the boy gets rebuked or reprimanded he would just leave the house for a day or two.²⁷⁸
- 308** The cases on GCRVs gathered in Region 10 for the first semester of 2021 were already reported to the CHR Child Rights Center (CRC) and UN CTFRM TWG Mindanao for the update of the monitoring and reporting mechanism (MRM).²⁷⁹
- 309** Mid-June 2021, CHR CARAGA took cognizance of a case involving the killing of three members of the Manobo tribe by soldiers of the Philippine military. The incident happened in Lianga, Surigao del Sur. One of the victims killed was a 12-year old girl. The narrative being peddled by state forces is that her death was a result of an armed encounter between the military and the New People's Army (NPA) of which, according to the military, the 12-year old girl was a part of.²⁸⁰
- 310** Based also on the report of the Office's IDP Monitoring, displacement of families, including children is a recurring issue as well. At any rate, the issues raised on the Rights and Welfare of Displaced Children apply to both. These are some of the concerns: ²⁸¹
- a** Safety – the child-participants of the discussion pointed how their lives are in danger due to the presence of armed groups, be they the military or the rebel groups. They lament the presence of the military in communities particularly because this would trigger armed encounters within their communities, putting their families and sources of livelihood at risk;
 - b** Access to education – as a result of evacuation, students end up skipping classes. Basic education is constantly interrupted by the displacement and not all evacuation centers have volunteer teachers who conduct classes in the centers; and
 - c** Health and sanitation – the area where the evacuees transferred to were not built to be evacuation centers. Hence, these do not have the necessary infrastructure or equipment that would service basic health and sanitation issues of the group. As a consequence, families suffer from medical issues.
- 311** CHR CARAGA takes note of the following issues in relation to juvenile justice:²⁸²
- a** Detention of minors in detention cells and even in BJMP-managed facilities

²⁷⁸ Commission on Human Rights Regional Office X. (2021, July). Regional Situation Report 1st Semester 2021 Commission on Human Rights 10.

²⁷⁹ Commission on Human Rights Regional Office X. (2021, July). Regional Situation Report 1st Semester 2021 Commission on Human Rights 10.

²⁸⁰ Commission on Human Rights CARAGA. (2021, July). The Situation of Human Rights in the CARAGA Region.

²⁸¹ Commission on Human Rights CARAGA. (2021, July). The Situation of Human Rights in the CARAGA Region.

²⁸² Commission on Human Rights CARAGA. (2021, July). The Situation of Human Rights in the CARAGA Region.

- b** Delay in the issuance of case study reports
- c** Non-compliance on the rule of presumption of minority
- d** Dispensing of intervention and diversion programs

312 Based on the community-based dialogue conducted by CHR CARAGA with the youth last 30 June 2021, the following are issues the Youth would like to be placed in the forefront this 2022:

- a** Local Issues
 - 1** Governance
 - i** Youth Participation and Leadership – leaders who are not responsible, not responsive to needs of constituents
 - ii** Role of the SK, Dissolution of the SK due to Corruption Allegations
 - iii** Access to Services / Programs and Opportunities
 - iv** Empowerment
 - v** Nepotism and the Backer System of Opportunities
 - vi** Determination of Existing “barriers”
 - vii** Graft and corruption
 - 2** Education
 - i** Free Access
 - ii** Education for the IPs
 - iii** Out of School Youth
 - iv** Lack of Quality Education
 - 3** Employment
 - i** Employment for fresh graduates
 - ii** (Un)employment
 - iii** Livelihood programs
 - iv** Lack of skills / skills training
 - 4** Violence, Abuse, and Crime
 - i** Domestic Violence
 - ii** Human Trafficking
 - iii** Child Abuse
 - iv** Harassment, Bullying (esp of LGBTQIA+)
 - v** Extra Judicial Killings
 - 5** Indigenous Peoples
 - i** Education
 - ii** Security and Protection
 - iii** Youth and Children
 - iv** Exploitation
 - 6** Others
 - i** Youth discrimination, opportunities for the youth
 - ii** Healthcare, better facilities
 - iii** Effective, efficient public transport, EO 05
 - iv** COVID Vaccine, pandemic response
 - v** Solo parents

- vi** Anti Terror Law
- vii** Housing problem in mining areas
- viii** Free speech, oppression
- ix** Nutrition
- x** Gender Equality
- xi** Drug and alcohol addition
- xii** Community service / Bayanihan

b National Issues

1 Education

- i** Access to Tertiary Education for poor families
- ii** Relevance of K to 12
- iii** Out of school youth
- iv** Illiteracy
- v** Free access to education
- vi** Online Classes

2 Governance

- i** Youth and community participation
- ii** Inefficient delivery of social services
- iii** Legitimacy
- iv** Dissolve LGUs
- v** Graft and corruption

3 Violence, Abuse, and Crime

- i** Trafficking in Persons
- ii** Harassment
- iii** EJKs / Tokhang
- iv** Domestic violence / VAWC
- v** Neglect of children
- vi** Bullying

4 Civil, political and democratic rights

- i** Free speech
- ii** Red-tagging
- iii** Youth activism
- iv** Unauthorized and unjust arrests

5 Reproductive Health

- i** Teenage pregnancy
- ii** Sex education

313 CHR-CAR recorded 5 cases of Violation of the Rights of the Child. The victims in the three cases of sexual abuse (rape and acts of lasciviousness) are all girls. One is an incestuous rape wherein the offender is the biological father of the girl and this happened multiple times before it was reported. As observed, the offender in the cases of sexual abuse is usually someone familiar to the victim and the crime is usually perpetrated in residential spaces. Meanwhile, on the alleged recruitment as child soldiers, the victims are two boys.²⁸³

²⁸³ Commission on Human Rights Cordillera Administrative Region. (2021, August). HUMAN RIGHTS SITUATION REPORT ON THE MONITORING OF COVID-19 VACCINATION PROGRAM CORDILLERA ADMINISTRATIVE REGION.

- 314** The data from PNP-Police Regional Office Cordillera (PROCOR) shows that the most prevalent form of VAC reported to WCPD-PRO-COR is Violation of R.A. 7610 or the Anti-Child Abuse Law with 63 (45%) cases. Of this number, 41 victims were girls while 22 were boys. The crime of rape comes next with 60 cases and all the victims are girls. The third highest in number is another form of sexual abuse, acts of lasciviousness which has 14 cases and all victims are girls. These three types of VAC when added together form 97% (137) of the 141 cases reported to the WCPD-PROCOR for the first semester of 2021. Sufficient to say, that the most common forms of VAC committed in the region are child-abuse under R.A.7610, rape and acts of lasciviousness.²⁸⁴

Migrant Workers

- 315** The CHR Regional Office 3 recommended financial assistance of Php 25,000.00 to Maria Jinggy Elejeno who was hired and sold to several employers while working in Saudi Arabia. She was subject to both verbal and physical abuse. Up to this date, her salaries for the unexpired portion of her contract and her salaries from other employers remain unpaid. Moreso, she cannot even apply for another job due to the fractures she sustained. Currently, Maria Jinggy lodged a complaint against Rufeon International Human Resources Company at the National Labor Relations Commission (NLRC).²⁸⁵
- 316** The Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA) advised the almost 1,300 Filipinos in Myanmar to avoid places of protest following reports that 38 people were killed as the military quelled protests in several towns and cities.²⁸⁶
- 317** The Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE) is investigating an allegation against labor attache, Jainal Rasul Jr., who is currently posted in Jordan, after a video of his wife was shared on Facebook beating OFW Honey Lyn Baquiran, as she was suspected of having an affair with the diplomat.²⁸⁷
- 318** Increase in migrant workers in Zamboanga City may be attributed to the net migration rate and rapid urbanization which brought about positive and negative results particularly on service delivery, resource mobilization and social concerns.
- 319** “Halaws”, or Filipino undocumented workers deported from Malaysia and other migrant workers come from low socio-economic status. It has also been observed that the foremost motivating factor of the Halaws in going to Malaysia is financial. Most claimed that their families were desperate and the prospects of a better life there proved very attractive. Zamboanga City’s proximity and accessibility to Malaysia has also permeated international migration which included labor migration.
- 320** Reports from the DSWD and CHR monitoring team revealed that they were mostly employed in low paying jobs. To add to this, most are not informed of the required documentation requirements for their legal stay there. As such, they could not avail of

284 Commission on Human Rights Cordillera Administrative Region. (2021, August). HUMAN RIGHTS SITUATION REPORT ON THE MONITORING OF COVID-19 VACCINATION PROGRAM CORDILLERA ADMINISTRATIVE REGION.

285 Commission on Human Rights Regional Office III. (2021, January). Human Rights Regional Situationer Report Region III – Central Luzon January to December 2020.

286 Santos, T. (2021). DFA urges Pinoys in Myanmar to avoid protests. Retrieved from <https://globalnation.inquirer.net/194188/dfa-urges-pinoys-in-myanmar-to-avoid-protests>

287 Pazzibugan, D. (2021). Labor attaché rapped over OFW beating. Retrieved from <https://globalnation.inquirer.net/194295/labor-attache-rapped-over-ofw-beating#:~:text=The%20Department%20of%20Labor%20and,an%20affair%20with%20the%20diplomat.>

health services which resulted in various health problems. Their situation even worsened upon detention. The City Health Office also manifested concern over health problems especially contagious diseases acquired outside and particularly those involving commercial sex workers. With the creation of the AIDS Council, the situation is now being monitored. Running away from the employer is also one common reason why workers turned into undocumented labor migrants in Malaysia.

- 321** The DSWD acts as the “universal registrant” of all deportees/ returnees in coordination with the Bureau of Immigration and Deportation. Per record, majority of them belonged to the reproductive age group, 18–59 years old and approximately 30% are below 18 years old. The situation also reflects the forced migration of families instead of individuals and it is well to note that only a few of them opted not to go back to Sabah. Hence, to safeguard their rights, DOLE consistently encourages them to comply with proper documentation requirements to be able to return to work there without threat of arrest and deportation.²⁸⁸

Indigenous Peoples

(Rights of indigenous peoples in the context of the COVID-19 Pandemic)

(Non-Moro Indigenous Peoples' Rights)

(The Four Bundles of Rights of indigenous peoples (Progress Monitoring of the 2017 National Inquiry on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples))

- 322** Based on the Indigenous Peoples Rights Act (IPRA), indigenous peoples/communities (IPs/ICC) have four-fold rights, and the pressing issues and concerns related to these rights are as follows:²⁸⁹

a Right to Ancestral Domain

- 1** Delineation Process of Certificate of AD Title (CADT) application
- 2** Ancestral Domain Sustainable Development and protection Plan (ADSDPP)

b Right to Self-Governance and Empowerment

- 1** Indigenous Peoples Mandatory Representatives (IPMRs) installation in local legislative bodies
- 2** Indigenous Political Structure (IPS) documentation and Indigenous Peoples Organization (IPO)
- 3** Free, Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC) – Issuance of Certificate of Precondition (CP)
- 4** Issued Certificates of Confirmation (COC)
- 5** Socio-Economic and Ecology Development
- 6** Educational Assistance Program (EAP)

²⁸⁸ Commission on Human Rights Regional Office 9. (2021, January). 2020 CHR 9 Human Rights Situation Report.

²⁸⁹ Commission on Human Rights Cordillera Administrative Region. (2021, August). HUMAN RIGHTS SITUATION REPORT ON THE MONITORING OF COVID-19 VACCINATION PROGRAM CORDILLERA ADMINISTRATIVE REGION.

c Right to Social Justice and Human Rights

1 Legal Services

d Right to Cultural Integrity

- 323** “Hello Money” is a mobile banking application of Asia United Bank (AUB) that “aims to promote not only transparency and accountability in royalty share distribution to IP family beneficiaries, but also to promote fast, modern, and convenient way of banking whereby the beneficiaries of the IP royalty will directly receive their royalty share through their bank accounts without any hassle. [...] The Hello Money account is paired with an ATM card”.²⁹⁰
- 324** NCIP Surigao del Norte and the AUB facilitated an orientation on the application and was introduced to the Mamanwa of the ICC of Brgy. Ombong, Alegria, Surigao del Norte. “The office aims to replicate this activity to all other IP communities receiving royalty from mining companies. Through this method, monitoring by our office of the IP royalty utilization will be much faster and easier”.²⁹¹
- 325** CHR CAR took cognizance of multiple issues in the delineation process or Certificate of Ancestral Domain Title (CADT) application. The following issues and concerns were noted: unresolved boundary conflict between ICCs/IPs sparked by CADT applications; tri-boundary disputes over a gray area arising from the Cadastral survey of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources [DENR] or conversion from Certificate of Ancestral Domain Claim (CADC) to CADT; suspension of ancestral domain title due to conflict resolution; boundary conflict which prevented the completion of the delineation of an ancestral domain; overlapping approved Certificate of Ancestral Land Titles (CALT) and land claims, and non-recognition of duly issued CALTs and CADTs of different government agency/ies.
- 326** The scarcity of budget in ancestral land delineation was also raised, with only a maximum of one (1) delineation project funded per year seen as a limitation.
- 327** CHR CAR likewise noted that the “Joint Administrative Order No. 1 s.2012 of the DENR, [Land Registration Authority] LRA, [Department of Agrarian Reform] DAR and NCIP [which requires] segregation of lands covered by previously issued individual titles before the CADT is registered [...] is not possible because of a technical problem. The ADs were surveyed under the new system (PRS92) while the lands covered by previously issued individual titles to be segregated from the survey plan were surveyed under the old system. For segregation to materialize, the old system must be converted into the new system which is the task of the DENR. It is NCIP’s stand, that there should be no segregation as it dismembers the AD thereby destroying the concept that an AD covers not only the physical but the total environment including the spiritual and cultural bonds to the areas the ICCs/IPs occupy and use.”²⁹²
- 328** CHR Caraga lauded NCIP’s efforts to continue the processing of ancestral domain applications from indigenous peoples, noting that the pandemic did not deter the NCIP from processing such and implementing information, education and campaign (IEC) activities, to wit: In January, the application of the Higaonon Indigenous Cultural Communities

290 CHR CARAGA (2021). The Situation of Human Rights in the CARAGA Region.

291 CHR CARAGA (2021). The Situation of Human Rights in the CARAGA Region.

292 CAR (2021). Regional Human Rights Situationer Report: January to June 2021.

(ICCs) from the area of Las Nieves-Buenavista-Nasipit-Carmen (LASBUENASCAR) was approved for the first and final reading. [...] In the following month, an information, education, and campaign on RA 8371 or the Indigenous Peoples Rights Act (IPRA) was given to the community, with emphasis on the IPs Four Bundle of Rights.

- 329** NCIP Caraga also hung a “streamer inside the domain to apprise all individuals, including those IPs within [the CADT number] from transacting the lands or properties found within” with non-members of the same ICCs/IPs.
- 330** Also approved is the CADT application of Mamanwa ICCs/IPs of Dinarawan, Bunga and Bolo-bolo, within the municipality of Jabonga, province of Agusan del Norte. The deliberation for this application started way back September 2019. It was then approved for 1st and 2nd reading by the NCIP Commission En Banc.²⁹³
- 331** On 15 February 2021, 19 lumad students who were seeking refuge at the University of San Carlos Cebu City were rescued by the police as indicated in their reports. However, the media footage and raw video footage taken by the people inside the room when the alleged rescue operation happened showed that the lumad students were screaming, crying and showing fear over the police officers’ presence.²⁹⁴
- 332** The Asosasyon ng Katutubong Mahawang (AKMA) allegedly received a letter from the Bases Conversion and Development Authority (BCDA) telling them to leave their community in Barangay Aranguren and to coordinate with the BCDA to do the same. The area is needed to construct an access road from the NCC to the Clark International Airport. The Republic Act No. 8371 or The Indigenous Peoples’ Rights Act of 1997, states that the State shall recognize and promote Indigenous Cultural Communities/Indigenous Peoples (ICCs/IPs), which include implementing measures to protect their rights to their ancestral domains. Conversations about environmentalism and sustainable development should always put into the limelight simultaneous discussions on human rights, especially those of the marginalized and the oppressed, particularly the indigenous communities.²⁹⁵
- 333** The plight of the indigenous people across the Zamboanga region had been continuously challenged by internal displacement whether caused by natural or man-made disaster. The ill effects of the 2013 seige still leaves a difficult situation for some Badjao families. During this COVID 19 Pandemic, their community has been challenged with several issues and human rights concerns. Being precluded from doing their usual activities as means to earn an income or seek a livelihood, the IPPS/IPS experienced the scarcity of food and other necessities.²⁹⁶
- 334** During the consultations, the following issues were raised by the IP communities, to wit:²⁹⁷
- a** IPs alleged that both private and government agencies do not observe the Free Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC) process when implementing projects in their ancestral domains.
 - b** There is a delineation of royalties among IP communities.

293

294 Lau, G. P. (2021, February 15). Groups slam ‘forced’ rescue of lumad students in Cebu City . Retrieved from Inquirer. Net: <https://newsinfo.inquirer.net/1396126/groups-slam-forced-rescue-of-lumad-students-in-cebu-city>

295 Commission on Human Rights Regional Office III. (2021, January). Human Rights Regional Situationer Report Region III – Central Luzon January to December 2020.

296 Commission on Human Rights Regional Office 9. (2021, January). 2020 CHR 9 Human Rights Situation Report.

297 Commission on Human Rights Regional Office 11. (2021, January). Regional Human Rights Situation Report.

- c** There are LGUs who refuse to recognize IP Mandatory Representatives. Concerns over the delivery of basic government service to the IPs were also raised with emphasis on the health, education and livelihood programs for IPs.
 - d** Concerns over their security, with the continued presence and recruitment of the New Peoples' Army. They pointed out the need to regulate Indigenous Peoples' Organizations and Peoples' Organizations entering their ancestral domain
 - e** They finally raised the issue of strengthening their ancestral domain defense system and the revival of the Bagani system.
- 335** On 06 November 2020, Lodema Doroteo ("Lodema") sent an SMS message to this Office as regards the alleged harassment of the respondents. One Pia Alonte from the 80th Infantry Battalion of the Philippine Army, along with two (2) police officers and an army personnel visited their village. According to the complainant, the respondents allegedly found a sack filled with firearms in the house of her father, herein victim, to which the latter had no knowledge of. She averred that the confiscated items were left by a group of individuals who temporarily resided within their community sometime in April 2020.²⁹⁸
- 336** On 30 October 2020, the respondents returned to their village and informed the victim that they would no longer press charges against him under the Anti-Terrorism Act provided that the latter admit that he is a member of the Communist Party of the Philippines — New People's Army (CPP-NPA). They were given ten (10) days to admit the assertion otherwise, a criminal case against them would be filed.²⁹⁹
- 337** Worried about her father, Lodema sought the assistance of the National Commission on Indigenous Peoples (NCIP), Tanay, Rizal. Immediately, the NCIP allegedly set a dialogue the following day or on November 07, 2020, with the respondents to discuss the matter. The parties convened as scheduled where the 80th Infantry Battalion of the PA committed to coordinate with the Task Force to End Local Communist Armed Conflict.³⁰⁰
- 338** A letter to the NCIP was sent on 23 November 2020 to request for updates on the said dialogue but remains unheeded to date. On 25 November 2020, this Office was apprised by Lodema through SMS, that a letter from NTF-ELCAC was received by them inviting her father and some of their relatives who were alleged members of the communist group in a meeting. From then on, this Office no longer heard from Lodema as regards the case of her father until 13 April 2021 when Lodema, through an SMS, relayed that her father's case had already been closed.³⁰¹
- 339** The traditional livelihood of the IPs has been disrupted by the pandemic because they are unable to continue gathering non-timber products and illegal loggers have taken advantage of their resources. The global crisis increased their precarious living conditions and surfaced many issues particularly accessibility to certain programs and assistance. Many IPs live in rural areas where these programs are almost non-existent. Their inferior baseline health and limited access to health care and sanitation also made them vulnerable and at higher

298 Commission on Human Rights Regional Office IV-CALABARZON. (2021, July). Report on the Human Rights Situation of Disadvantaged, Marginalized and Vulnerable Sectors in CALABARZON (January to June 2021).

299 Commission on Human Rights Regional Office IV-CALABARZON. (2021, July). Report on the Human Rights Situation of Disadvantaged, Marginalized and Vulnerable Sectors in CALABARZON (January to June 2021).

300 Commission on Human Rights Regional Office IV-CALABARZON. (2021, July). Report on the Human Rights Situation of Disadvantaged, Marginalized and Vulnerable Sectors in CALABARZON (January to June 2021).

301 Commission on Human Rights Regional Office IV-CALABARZON. (2021, July). Report on the Human Rights Situation of Disadvantaged, Marginalized and Vulnerable Sectors in CALABARZON (January to June 2021).

risk of infection. Some of their seasonal workers and those who rely on ecotourism also lost their livelihood due to the pandemic and the travel restrictions.³⁰²

- 340** The pandemic also has a negative influence on the elderly. It bears emphasis that in IP communities, the elders play major roles in passing on traditional knowledge which could have serious ramifications for the survival of the communities' social and cultural activities. IP students also face challenges in the new normal set-up which may lead to less educational and career prospects. Access to vaccination also poses a problem due to the method of registration. While online set up is laudable in minimizing risk of infection, the same does not cater to the IPs as most of them do not have access to technology or the internet.³⁰³
- 341** The CHR Regional Office XI attended the Pakighinabi: State of Lumad in Mindanao hosted by the Ateneo Public Interest and Legal Advocacy on 30 June 2021. The said activity was attended by the National Commission on Indigenous Peoples (NCIP) and various tribal representatives and tribal leaders from Mindanao.³⁰⁴
- 342** A few issues raised by the Indigenous Peoples included the use of the word Lumad to mean the collective Indigenous Peoples of Mindanao. The word Lumad has been banned by the NCIP as its emergence and continued use is marred by its association with the Communist Party of the Philippines (CPP), National Democratic Front (NDF) and New Peoples' Army (NPA) whose ideologies are not consistent with the cultures, practices and beliefs of ICCs/IPs. There are tribal leaders who agree with the NCIP and prefer to be called or referred to by their respective tribe.³⁰⁵
- 343** The second issue raised is the selling of Ancestral Domains. Some of the participants accused the NCIP and Tribal Leaders of dealing away the ancestral domain like business men. Participants accused tribal leaders of selling their ancestral domain and when they complained of such activity to the NCIP, they accused the NCIP of failing to act on their complaint.³⁰⁶
- 344** The pandemic did not deter the NCIP from processing the ancestral domain applications from the indigenous peoples. For the month of January, the application of the Higaonon Indigenous Cultural Communities (ICCs) from the area of Las Nieves Buenavista-Nasipit-Carmen (LASBUENASCAR) was approved for the first and final reading. This ancestral domain is known as CADT No. R13-BUE-0121-252 (CADT 252). In the following month, an information, education, and campaign on RA 8371 or the Indigenous Peoples Rights Act (IPRA) was given to the community, with emphasis on the IPs four bundle of rights.³⁰⁷
- 345** The League of CARAGA Indigenous Peoples Mandatory Representatives (LCIPMR), in its Resolution No. 4 series of 2021 issued on January 29 in Surigao del Sur, declared Cullamat as 'persona non grata' in the ancestral domains of the Manobo, Mamanwa, Mandaya, Higaonon, and Banwaon Indigenous Cultural Communities/ Indigenous Peoples (ICCs/IPs) of CARAGA Region. The declaration stemmed from the protest rally

302 Commission on Human Rights Regional Office IX. (2021, July). 2021 CHR 9 Human Rights Situation Report.

303 Commission on Human Rights Regional Office IX. (2021, July). 2021 CHR 9 Human Rights Situation Report.

304 Commission on Human Rights Regional Office XI. (2021, July). Human Rights Situation Report Jan-Jun 2021.

305 Commission on Human Rights Regional Office XI. (2021, July). Human Rights Situation Report Jan-Jun 2021.

306 Commission on Human Rights Regional Office XI. (2021, July). Human Rights Situation Report Jan-Jun 2021.

307 Commission on Human Rights CARAGA. (2021, July). The Situation of Human Rights in the CARAGA Region.

led by Representative Cullamat and the Makabayan block in front of the Office of the NCIP in Quezon City sometime in January 2021.³⁰⁸

- 346** As a response, Representative Cullamat said “I strongly condemn the senseless declaration that I am a persona non grata who allegedly came from my fellow natives in my own native land. The allegations against me are baseless and fabricated; this is typical acts of defamation by the military and police”.³⁰⁹
- 347** Last March 2021, the NCIP issued Resolution no. 08-009-2021 which encouraged all government offices to refrain from using the term “lumad” in their official documents and communications, and the general public as well when referring to IPs. It said that the term lumad should not be used in reference to the indigenous peoples because it is the product of the effort of the CPP-NPA-NDF during the 1980 Cotabato Congress to appropriate the indigeneity and authenticity of the Indigenous Peoples historical struggle into the communist propaganda narrative affording them legitimacy and authority, in the meanwhile subsuming and homogenizing the Indigenous Peoples identities and denying them of the right to self-determination and self-ascription.³¹⁰
- 348** It then said: “Call them by the honors ascribed to them by their forefathers, one that stood the test of time, one that pre-exist any government, one that predates the Spanish colonization, one that describes them as People. To do otherwise is to erase their history, to distort their identity.”
- 349** The Resolution said ‘Lumad’ is not an indigenous term. Its emergence and continued use (are) marred by its association with the CPP, NDF, and NPA (Communist Party of the Philippines – National Democratic Front – New People’s Army) whose ideologies are inconsistent with the cultures, practices, and beliefs of ICCs/IPs.”. It further stated that “lumad” is associated with national minorities who are opposed to IPs, and thus weakens the true identities of ethnic communities.³¹¹
- 350** The NCIP then urged the public to use the respective ethno linguistic group or Indigenous Cultural Communities, Indigenous People, Katutubong Pamayanang Kultural or Katutubong Pamayanan when referring to IPs collectively.³¹²

Internally Displaced Persons

Infrastructure

- 351** According to the report posted by the Philippine Star last June 2020, the COVID-19 pandemic lockdown has left some residents of Barangay Taliptip, Bulakan, Bulacan, the site of the proposed New Manila International Airport, with no choice but to demolish their own homes. The *Save Taliptip Movement* disclosed that the residents were allegedly offered Php 250,000 in exchange for demolishing their own homes. Those who accepted

308 Commission on Human Rights CARAGA. (2021, July). The Situation of Human Rights in the CARAGA Region.

309 Commission on Human Rights CARAGA. (2021, July). The Situation of Human Rights in the CARAGA Region.

310 Commission on Human Rights CARAGA. (2021, July). The Situation of Human Rights in the CARAGA Region.

311 Commission on Human Rights CARAGA. (2021, July). The Situation of Human Rights in the CARAGA Region.

312 Commission on Human Rights CARAGA. (2021, July). The Situation of Human Rights in the CARAGA Region.

the money were given one day to self-demolish and vacate the area since it is where the Airport Project of San Miguel Corporation is projected to rise.³¹³

- 352** Out of the roughly thirty (30) households in Sitio Kinse, only six (6) remain standing due to the acts of the 48th Infantry Battalion of the Philippine Army and San Miguel Corporation personnel. A was informed by Akap Ka Manila Bay Foundation of the incident. It reiterated that such was committed by the members of said battalion stationed at the said barangay and personnel of San Miguel Corporation. Based on the initial investigation and gathered information, San Miguel Corporation paid the affected families before the implementation of the Enhanced Community Quarantine. Epifania M. Samonte, Barangay Taliptip Secretary, confirmed that no resident objected to the Airport project.³¹⁴
- 353** Around one hundred forty (140) informal settlers from barangays J.P. Laurel and Sto. Niño in Panabo, Davao del Norte participated in a pre-signing orientation at Panabo City Hall last 3 October 2020. Some of the participating informal settlers were situated in hazard-prone areas and others were affected by development and drainage projects. They will be relocated to Relampagos Village. The LGU is committed to improving the village by constructing a multi-purpose building, a housing program community center, a mini-park, and a basketball court.³¹⁵

Natural Calamity

- 354** On 14 February 2021, flooding and landslides were reported in Talaingod and Sto. Tomas, Davao del Norte due to heavy rains caused by localized thunderstorms. Five roads were blocked due to such events. A total of 6,261 families (31,222 people) were affected with 200 of such families (1,424 people) displaced in two evacuation centers.³¹⁶
- 355** The CHR Regional Office VIII implements the IDP Monitoring Project which handles the continued supervision, monitoring, and updating of the Yolanda Rehabilitation and Recovery Programs. As of January to June 2021, the current status is as follows:³¹⁷
- a** The Yolanda permanent housing program while entering its 8th year of implementation has not yet been fully completed;
 - b** The list of qualified beneficiaries is still being continuously validated and revalidated for the awarding of housing units and titles (in Tacloban City, Lawaan, Culaba, Caibiran, Dagami, and Babatngon);
 - c** The masterlist of beneficiaries has not yet been provided to other LGUs (such as Tabon-Tabon);
 - d** Distribution of land titles to beneficiaries, have begun in Tacloban City spearheaded

³¹³ Commission on Human Rights Regional Office III. (2021, January). Human Rights Regional Situationer Report Region III – Central Luzon January to December 2020.

³¹⁴ Commission on Human Rights Regional Office III. (2021, January). Human Rights Regional Situationer Report Region III – Central Luzon January to December 2020.

³¹⁵ Commission on Human Rights Regional Office 11. (2021, January). Regional Human Rights Situation Report.

³¹⁶ Reliefweb – United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (2021). Philippines, Flooding and Landslide in Region XI (22:54 Feb 14 2021). Retrieved from <https://reliefweb.int/report/philippines/philippines-flooding-and-landslide-region-xi-2254-feb-14-2021>

³¹⁷ Commission on Human Rights Regional Office VIII. (2021, August). Regional Human Rights Situation Report January to June 2021.

by their LGU and the National Housing Authority (NHA), have begun in Tacloban City;

- e Water access in Tacloban North has been recognized and acted upon by the initial and ongoing construction of individual water connections for each unit in the area; and
- f The construction and turn-over of all YPHP to LGUs is targeted to be completed by the end of this year.

356 On 28 May 2021, fifty-six (56) families were forced to flee their homes in Barangay Malaya, Banga, South Cotabato due to massive flash floods. They evacuated to the barangay gym. Some of the residents return to their homes during the day to tend to their livestock.³¹⁸

357 Tropical storm ‘Auring’ hit the CARAGA region last 21 February 2021 leading to the displacement of 16,521 families or 60,675 individuals. They were evacuated as a precautionary measure to the provinces of Surigao del Norte, Surigao del Sur, Agusan del Norte, **Dinagat Islands, and Butuan City. A total of 1,879 evacuation centers were opened and used.**³¹⁹

Armed Conflict

358 More bodies of suspects belonging to a local armed group have been found during the clearing operations following a five-hour encounter with the police in the Maguindanao town of Sultan Kudarat on a Saturday. Maj. Ismael Madin, Chief of the Criminal Investigation and Detection Group in Maguindanao, said three (3) of the twelve (12) suspects were identified as Datu Abdullah Kato Talusan, Pendatun Kato Talusan, and Datu Bembi Talusan.³²⁰

359 “All were killed during the firefight.” said Madin, adding that a police officer, Staff Sgt. Elenel Pido, was also killed during the encounter which started at around 3 a.m. Mandi said members of the lawless Talusan group are wanted for a string of murder, illegal drug trading, carnapping, robbery, and extortion cases that took place in the municipality and nearby Cotabato City.³²¹

360 A *motu proprio* investigation by CHR Regional Office III was conducted regarding an armed encounter between the Scout Platoon of 91st Infantry Battalion, 7th Infantry Division of the Philippine Army, and Kilusang Larangan ng Gerilya (KLG)-Sierra Madre that resulted in the death of Private First-Class Jackson M. Mallari and Private First-Class Ken Lester I. Sasapan as well as the wounding of 2nd Lieutenant Jevie J. Sagragao, Corporal Rondy D. Polancos and Private First Class Clarence N. Urpilla on April 21, 2020, at Brgy. Diaat, Maria Aurora, Aurora. Hon. Gerardo Noveras, Governor of Aurora Province, Hon. Amado Geneta, Mayor Maria Aurora of Aurora, and the Provincial DSWD asked for assistance from the 91st Infantry Battalion, 7th Infantry Division of the Philippine Army in

318 Commission on Human Rights Regional Office XII. (2021, July). Regional Human Rights Situation Report January to June 2021.

319 Commission on Human Rights CARAGA. (2021, July). The Situation of Human Rights in the CARAGA Region.

320 Punzalan, N. & Fernandez, E. (2021). Bodies of suspects found in Maguindanao clash site. Retrieved February 04, 2021 from <https://www.pna.gov.ph/articles/1128319>

321 Punzalan, N. & Fernandez, E. (2021). Bodies of suspects found in Maguindanao clash site. Retrieved February 04, 2021 from <https://www.pna.gov.ph/articles/1128319>

the distributions pursuant to the Social Amelioration Program (SAP) of the Government to the whole province of Aurora when the unfortunate incident occurred.³²²

- 361** Information gathered by the CHR Regional Office IV-MIMAROPA shows that the ambulance of Palawan Rescue 165 was ambushed on 1 August 2020 at around 3:00 in the afternoon along the National Highway at Sitio Salvador, Barangay Dumarao, Roxas Palawan. There were four personnel onboard when the incident occurred. The ambush resulted in the death of Aljerome P. Bernardo. Also injured during the said incident was Christopher J. Tamolin. Two of their companions were unharmed, namely, Alex M. Dela Pena and Armando Q. Carbajosa.³²³
- 362** The New People's Army (NPA) was implicated in the said ambush incident of Palawan Rescue 165. In response, the NPA-Southern Tagalog, in an open letter vehemently denied the accusation and stated they will never involve a medical practitioner and a civilian in their battle with the military.³²⁴
- 363** There was an ambush incident that happened on 28 September 2020 at Sitio Mabaho, Barangay Cabalwa, Mansalay, Oriental Mindoro perpetrated by suspected members of the New People's Army (NPA). This was brought to the attention of CHR Regional Office IV-MIMAROPA.³²⁵
- 364** The incident happened between 11:30 am – 12:00 noon when the patrol vehicle of the 403rd B MC RMFB reached the zigzag road at Sitio Mabaho, Barangay Cabalwa, Mansalay, Oriental Mindoro. Members of the PNP on board heard successive gun fire from their patrol car. A firefight ensued until the team found out that three of their police companions were wounded. The team of policemen traversed down the hill while exchanging shots with the perpetrators from the other side of the mountain until they were able to leave the ambush site. They later found out that their patrol car was burned down by the NPA.³²⁶
- 365** Clashes between government troops and Islamic-linked groups, as well as clan wars have led to the displacement of thousands of residents in Maguindanao. The towns of Shariff Saydona Mustapha, Mamasapano, Datu Saudi Amatuan and Talitay are now in a state of calamity. Records show that Datu Saudi Ampatuan declared there are 12,215 evacuees, while the conflict has displaced 1,717 families (8,585 people) in Shariff Saydona Mustapha and 2,729 families (13,645 people) in Mamasapano.³²⁷
- 366** The Comprehensive Local Integration Program (CLIP) for former CPP-NPA-NDF members was expanded by President Duterte and was renamed Enhanced CLIP or E-CLIP. Previously, CLIP only consisted of financial benefits, while E-CLIP includes additional programs such as education, livelihood and employment, medical, psycho-social and legal assistance and housing. The program seeks to reintegrate former members of the CPP-

322 Commission on Human Rights Regional Office III. (2021, January). Human Rights Regional Situationer Report Region III – Central Luzon January to December 2020.

323 CHR Regional Office IV-B (MIMAROPA). (2021, January). Regional Human Rights Situation Report for July to December 2020.

324 CHR Regional Office IV-B (MIMAROPA). (2021, January). Regional Human Rights Situation Report for July to December 2020.

325 CHR Regional Office IV-B (MIMAROPA). (2021, January). Regional Human Rights Situation Report for July to December 2020.

326 CHR Regional Office IV-B (MIMAROPA). (2021, January). Regional Human Rights Situation Report for July to December 2020.

327 Fernandez, E. (2021). Maguindanao clashes displace thousands. Retrieved from <https://newsinfo.inquirer.net/1416132/maguindanao-clashes-displace-thousands>

NPA-NDF and the Militia ng Bayan into mainstream society. There are three housing projects allotted for former rebels so far, namely, Freedom Residences in Tagum City, Pineville in Bukidnon, and the Peace and Prosperity Village in Leyte.³²⁸

- 367** Members of the Army's 4th Light Reaction Company clashed with terrorists last 16 April 2021 in Ipanan Village of Patikul town. An Egyptian bomb maker, identified as a certain Yusop, two members of the Abu Sayyaf group identified as Abu Khattab Jundullah, also known as Saddam, and a certain Akram were killed in the clash according to Lieutenant General Corleto Vinluan Jr., chief of the military's Western Mindanao Command.³²⁹
- 368** IDPs have long suffered in the aftermath of the armed conflict that erupted between the MNLF and government forces on 9 September 2013. Up until the present, the IDPs suffered issues relative to lack of water supply, shelter and health, lack of information and assistance, and vulnerability to certain structural risks. The IDPs usually get their water through host extension in the neighboring community. Walls and roofing of single detached units are mostly damaged. Latrines and bathing areas mostly practiced inside their house as a result of open defecation. Poor hygiene and sanitation also pose a major problem as the same leads to serious health concerns. During the pandemic, IDPs also fear going out and seeking medical consultations. Due to the restrictions brought about by health protocols, they also suffer from lack of access to assistance and livelihood. In trying to address these concerns, CHR-IX through its IDP monitor, is in constant communication with the local government and local agencies and actively participates in LIAC meetings and in relief distribution.³³⁰
- 369** In October 2020, a shooting incident occurred in the vicinity of Brgy. Pakwan, Lanuza, Surigao del Sur. During the investigation, it was revealed that Private First – Class Eric, a member of the Philippine Army, was killed. The investigation was able to uncover that at about 5:00 o'clock in the afternoon on said date, the victim and six (6) other companions were on their way back to the Patrol Base when they were flagged down by a group of individuals armed with AK-47s. The group fired at them hitting PFC Eric. He sustained multiple gunshot wounds on different parts of his body that resulted in his instantaneous death. According to a tribal leader and relative of the victim, the victim's face was severely flattened and his eyes were taken out.³³¹
- 370** A local news organization in CARAGA Region reported in October 2020 that Peter, a school principal in Tandag, Surigao del Sur, was shot at by alleged members of the New People's Army on his way to the school to give modules and lesson materials to his students. Upon verification, it was learned that the news item was not entirely accurate. The Department of Education in Tandag City clarified that Principal Peter was neither delivering lesson modules nor was he shot while en route to said school. The more accurate account of the story reveals that (1) Peter was at the school, as opposed to being on his way to the school, when he was shot at, (2) he was conducting a school-based feeding program,

328 Del Rosario, E. (2021). Gov't housing grants offer fresh start to ex-rebels. Retrieved from <https://business.inquirer.net/320883/govt-housing-grants-offer-fresh-start-to-ex-rebels>

329 Maitem, J. & Alipala, J. (2021). Egyptian bombmaker, 2 Sayyaf bandits killed in clash with soldiers in Sulu. Retrieved from <https://newsinfo.inquirer.net/1420256/egyptian-bomb-maker-2-sayyaf-bandits-killed-in-clash-with-soldiers-in-sulu>

330 Commission on Human Rights Regional Office 9. (2021, January). 2020 CHR 9 Human Rights Situation Report.

331 Commission on Human Rights CARAGA Region. (2021, January). What Kind of Year Has It Been: A Report on the Human Rights Situation in CARAGA Region During the 2020 COVID-19 Pandemic.

not delivering modules, and (3) he was shot in the face while outside of a classroom as he was taking a short break after having eaten his lunch.³³²

- 371** On 01 March 2021, an encounter ensued between the military forces and suspected rebels at Sitio Kibontod, Matangale, Misamis Oriental which resulted in the displacement of sixty (60) families or 218 individuals in Balingoan, Misamis Oriental (Sitio Kibongtod Brgy Matangale).³³³
- 372** On 15 March 2021, an encounter occurred between the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) and NPA in Sitio Old Tigubawan, Barangay Kawayan, San Fernando Bukidnon that resulted in displacement. According to Datu Ugyaban Lapac (IPMR), he heard a firefight. Later, he saw his tribe members approaching Barangay Kawayan assisted by Sitio Tribal Leader Abalid Macadingding for their safety. The displaced families were temporarily sheltered at Barangay Kawayan Day Care Center with 32 families and 155 individuals belonging to Tigwahanon Tribes.³³⁴
- 373** On 22 June 2021, a total of 117 families were forcibly displaced due to a firefight between BIFF and AFP. This resulted in a series of mortar shells being fired by the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) towards Sitio Masalay, Barangay Salman, Ampatuan Municipality. According to the report, a pregnant woman died and two of her children were injured due to the mortar shells, however, latest reports showed that the blast was from an IED. As residents fear for their safety, neighboring barangays, fled and sought refuge at Barangay Tuayan Mother's designated evacuation center.³³⁵

Persons with Disabilities

- 374** The vulnerability of Persons with Disabilities during the COVID-19 pandemic have remained a paramount concern. Persons with disabilities (PWDs) remain at high risk if not doubled depending on their disability.³³⁶
- 375** CHR II reported one (1) case of violation RA No. 9442,³³⁷ where the respondent is a civilian.³³⁸
- 376** CHR IV-A reported five (5) docketed cases involving persons with disabilities, involving rape, unlawful arrest, rights of minor PWDs.³³⁹

332 Commission on Human Rights CARAGA Region. (2021, January). What Kind of Year Has It Been: A Report on the Human Rights Situation in CARAGA Region During the 2020 COVID-19 Pandemic.

333 Commission on Human Rights Regional Office X. (2021, July). Regional Situation Report 1st Semester 2021 Commission on Human Rights 10.

334 Commission on Human Rights Regional Office X. (2021, July). Regional Situation Report 1st Semester 2021 Commission on Human Rights 10.

335 Commission on Human Rights Regional Office XII. (2021, July). Regional Human Rights Situation Report January to June 2021.

336 CHR I (2021). Regional HR Situation Report (January to June 2021)

337 CHR II (2021). Regional Human Rights Situationer Report – CHR Region 02 (January – June 2021).

338 CHR II (2021). Regional Human Rights Situationer Report – CHR Region 02 (January – June 2021).

339 CHR IV-A (2021). Report on the Human Rights Situation of Disadvantaged, Marginalized and Vulnerable Sectors in CALABARZON (January – June 2021), p. 18.

- 377** CHR IX noted reports from blind persons that they were not consulted in the formulation of health protocols, especially concerning their needs for assistance in terms of mobility and their limited sensory function which is necessary in maintaining social distancing.³⁴⁰
- 378** There also persists discriminatory acts wherein they are called by their disability instead of their names. To address their concerns, CHR IX usually sits and participates in Regional Inter-Agency Committee (RIAC) meetings, an appropriate avenue where these issues are being raised and resolved. They also continuously monitor compliance with RA 9442. CHR also reiterates the need for the active advocacy for the enactment of local legislation to address the concern of disabled persons.³⁴¹
- 379** CHR XI has docketed one (1) case of human rights violation [on sexual harassment] against a 10-year-old girl with mental and speech impairment, which was investigated in the first semester of 2021. A Resolution was issued finding the respondent guilty of a human rights violation. Financial assistance for the prosecution of the criminal case filed against the perpetrator and for the victim's medical needs was also awarded.³⁴²
- 380** Focal persons in Caraga conveyed that there are LGUs which do not have ordinances on the establishment of Persons with Disability Affairs Office (PDAO) in their municipalities. In this instance, CHR representatives requested the list from the secretariat of those LGUs which are not yet compliant with RA 9442 (The Magna Carta For Disabled Persons, As Amended, And For Other Purposes) for monitoring purposes. Some focal persons also expressed their disappointment on the qualification standards in filling up the vacant positions of PDAO.
- 381** The CHR representative tried to suggest to the regional prosecutor's representative, that for the meantime, instead of giving FSL training to prosecutors, they should train a permanent employee who will focus on the FSL training so that she will be the first person to be tapped or to assist the prosecutor in handling a person with verbal disability. The prosecutor's representative responded that she takes note of the CHR's suggestion.
- 382** It is suggested to make a human rights advisory and disseminate it in the inter agency meeting and local government units to remind those LGUs who are required under RA 10070.³⁴³
- 383** On 24 November 2020, Madino C. Codasi, a flower vendor who is a person with visual impairment was allegedly apprehended by Baguio City POSD personnel for alleged jaywalking along Magsaysay, Baguio City. The incident went viral on social media which resulted in public condemnation. The case is currently pending investigation.³⁴⁴
- 384** A case involving child rights violation was endorsed by the Tagkawayan Municipal Police Station (TMPS) to this Office. Initial investigation disclosed that the victim, "JBB", a person with disability, was allegedly sexually abused by her neighbor Nestor Balingasa (respondent) on 13 September 2020 at her house located at Barangay Sabang, Tagkawayan,

340 CHR IX (2021). 2021 CHR 9 HUMAN RIGHTS SITUATION REPORT, p. 7.

341 CHR IX (2021). 2021 CHR 9 HUMAN RIGHTS SITUATION REPORT, p. 8.

342 CHR XI (2021). Human Rights Situation Report Jan-Jun 2021

343 CHR CARAGA (2021). The Situation of Human Rights in the CARAGA Region

344 Commission on Human Rights Cordillera Administrative Region. (2021, January). Regional Human Rights Situation Report July to December 2020.

Quezon. A subpoena has been issued against the respondent to compel the submission of his Counter-affidavit and all other pieces of evidence in support thereof.³⁴⁵

- 385** A case involving the alleged rape of Rac, a 24-year-old person with intellectual disability, committed by Ariel “Ayie” Guiling is being monitored by CHR Regional Office IV-CALABARZON. The evidence on record has substantially established that the respondent violated the rights of Rac. In fact, there is sufficient evidence that would show that the victim was raped by the respondent. It cannot be denied that the respondent raped and had carnal knowledge with RAC, which in fact resulted to Rac’s pregnancy. After being raped on several occasions by the respondent, the victim did not immediately report her ordeal because of fear since the former had threatened to kill her.³⁴⁶
- 386** A criminal complaint against the respondent had been filed before the Office of the City Prosecutor of Lucena City is being monitored by this Office. Financial assistance was also granted in favor of the victim.³⁴⁷
- 387** In an article published by the Philippine Star on 25 May 2021, 18-year-old Edwin Arnigo, who was diagnosed with intellectual disability as a comorbidity to his autism spectrum disorder, was shot dead when police raided an illegal cockfighting game in Valenzuela City. The police said Arnigo was a suspect in the operation but Edwin Arnigo’s family said he just happened to be in the area. They added that Edwin was afraid of police officers, while the police asserted that Edwin suddenly grew violent.³⁴⁸ CHR launched a *motu proprio* investigation into the death of Arnigo. NBI and PNP have also launched their own investigations.³⁴⁹
- 388** Inquirer.net reported on 01 September 2021 that the PNP’s Internal Affairs Service (IAS) had recommended that Police Senior Master Sergeant Christopher Salcedo, one of the four policemen responsible for the death of Edwin Arnigo, meted a 40-day suspension as punishment. PNP Chief General Guillermo Eleazar said the case against Salcedo still needs to go through two reviews—under the Discipline, Law and Order Division or DLOD of the DPRM (Directorate for Personnel and Records Management) and under the Office of the Chief PNP—to determine if there are solid legal grounds to justify the recommendations made.³⁵⁰
- 389** The Commission on Human Rights (CHR), through its CHR Region IV-MIMAROPA office in Palawan, is investigating the case of Carlo Layaog, 23, who was accused of theft and later died after allegedly experiencing torture from a barangay kagawad and another civilian in Coron, Palawan. Layaog died on 28 June 2021. What is more concerning is that, even before the victim reached the police station, videos show that Layaog appeared

345 Commission on Human Rights Regional Office IV-CALABARZON. (2021, July). Report on the Human Rights Situation of Disadvantaged, Marginalized and Vulnerable Sectors in CALABARZON (January to June 2021).

346 Commission on Human Rights Regional Office IV-CALABARZON. (2021, July). Report on the Human Rights Situation of Disadvantaged, Marginalized and Vulnerable Sectors in CALABARZON (January to June 2021).

347 Commission on Human Rights Regional Office IV-CALABARZON. (2021, July). Report on the Human Rights Situation of Disadvantaged, Marginalized and Vulnerable Sectors in CALABARZON (January to June 2021).

348 Luna, Fr. (2021). PWD group condemns shooting of 18-year-old with special needs. Retrieved from <https://www.philstar.com/headlines/2021/05/25/2100771/pwd-group-condemns-shooting-18-year-old-special-needs>

349 GMA News. (2021). CHR to probe cop’s killing of teenager with special needs. Retrieved from <https://www.gmanetwork.com/news/metro/788954/to-probe-cop-s-killing-of-teenager-with-special-needs/story/>

350 Mendoza, J. (2021). 40-day suspension for cop in slay of teen with special needs still ‘under review’ — Eleazar. Retrieved from <https://newsinfo.inquirer.net/1482080/40-day-suspension-on-cop-who-shot-18-year-old-with-special-needs-in-valenzuela-still-under-review-eleazar#ixzz7AZOYI0cR>

to have already experienced cruel and degrading treatment from the said individuals. He was also said to have a mental disability.³⁵¹

- 390** In an article published by Rappler on 18 October 2021, Filipinos with visual impairment struggle with greater inequalities in employment, education, and access to healthcare caused by the COVID-19 pandemic. The DOH reported in 2017 that an estimated 332,150 Filipinos were bilaterally blind, and 2,179,733 had low vision, with cataracts still being the leading cause of blindness. The 2018 Philippine National Blindness Survey and Eye Disease Study conducted by the PERI said vision impairment and blindness has a 1.98% prevalence rate and were among the major concerns in the Philippines.
- 391** Delivery of eye services has been limited because of the pandemic. This means many people who are blind and visually impaired stopped or delayed their consultations with their eye doctors.³⁵²
- 392** According to the United Nations (2020), the pandemic has worsened the exclusion of persons with disabilities from education. Problems faced by students with disabilities include lack of support, access to the internet, accessible software and learning materials. Disruption to skills and training programs are likely to have long-term effects on youth with disabilities who face many barriers to entering the labor force.³⁵³ In a study published by UNICEF Philippines in August 2020, access to education services and learning resources of children with disabilities was the top major concern during the COVID-19 pandemic (52%) followed by child development services (51%), habilitation and rehabilitation services (49%), and general health services (43%).³⁵⁴
- 393** According to Rotas and Cahapay (2021), the specific factors that make persons with disabilities more vulnerable amidst the COVID-19 crisis and affect their mental health are inadequate information on the types of disability, negative social perceptions toward them, and inaccessible health services particular to persons with disabilities. There is no national data on the extent of mental health of Filipinos in general and of persons with disabilities in the Philippines especially during the COVID-19 pandemic. In the 2010 census of the Philippine Statistics Authority, there are 1.4 million Filipinos with disabilities. The exact number of persons with disabilities, like intellectual disability and developmental disability for example, is unknown. A major problem in the Philippines also is the identification of the types of disability.³⁵⁵
- 394** The United Nations (2020), recognizing the importance of mental health, called for the need for action on mental health. The UN pointed out that specific population groups such as persons with disabilities are showing high levels of psychological distress related to the COVID-19 pandemic. The UN stated that national decision-makers will help

351 Commission on Human Rights. (2021). Statement of CHR Deputy Spokesperson, Marc Louis Siapno, on the death and alleged torture of a person with mental disability in Coron, Palawan.

Retrieved from <https://chr.gov.ph/statement-of-chr-deputy-spokesperson-marc-louis-siapno-on-the-death-and-alleged-torture-of-a-person-with-mental-disability-in-coron-palawan/>

352 David, L. (2021). COVID-19's disproportionate impact on Filipinos with visual impairments. Retrieved from <https://www.rappler.com/nation/disproportionate-impact-COVID-19-filipinos-visual-impairments>

353 United Nations. (2020). Policy Brief: A Disability-Inclusive Response to COVID-19. Retrieved from https://www.un.org/sites/un2.un.org/files/sg_policy_brief_on_persons_with_disabilities_final.pdf

354 UNICEF. (2020). Situation of Children with Disabilities in the Context of COVID19: Results of a Rapid Online Survey in the Philippines. Retrieved from <https://www.unicef.org/philippines/media/2476/file/Situation%20of%20Children%20with%20Disabilities%20in%20the%20Context%20of%20COVID-19.pdf>

355 Rotas, E. E. and Cahapay, M. (2021). Managing the Mental Health of Persons with Disabilities amid the COVID-19 Pandemic in the Philippines: Specific Factors and Key Actions. *European Journal of Environment and Public Health*, 5(2), em0077. <https://doi.org/10.21601/ejeph/10954>

lessen and address the mental health consequences brought about by the pandemic by implementing these recommended actions: a) mental health and social care for people with severe mental health conditions and psychosocial disabilities must be part of the definition of essential services in all countries; and b) priority attention needs to be given to protecting and promoting the human rights of people with severe mental health conditions and psychosocial disabilities.³⁵⁶

- 395** According to Reyes et al. (2011), there are very few institutional care facilities for persons with disabilities in the Philippines. Most persons with disabilities live in homes.³⁵⁷ The United Nations (2020) pointed out that persons with disabilities living in institutions are more likely to contract the virus and have higher rates of mortality. People in institutional settings also face significant barriers in implementing basic hygiene measures and maintaining physical distance, and have limited access to COVID-19-related information, testing and healthcare.³⁵⁸
- 396** According to the United Nations (2020), the COVID-19 pandemic is deepening pre-existing inequalities. People with disabilities, one billion people worldwide, are one of the most excluded groups in society and among the hardest hit in this pandemic in terms of fatalities. Even before the pandemic, persons with disabilities are less likely to access health care, education, employment and to participate in the community. Persons with disabilities are more likely to live in poverty, experience higher rates of violence, neglect and abuse, and are among the most marginalized in any crisis-affected community. The COVID-19 pandemic compounded this situation and is disproportionately impacting persons with disabilities.³⁵⁹

Persons Deprived of Liberty

- 397** In the audit of the BJMP conducted by COA, the congestion rate of detention cells dropped from 438% to 403% from 2019 to 2020. A total of 115,336 PDLs are occupying the facilities which is way beyond the 34,893 ideal population. According to COA, it is due to the inadequate planning of BJMP that delayed 29 construction projects to decongest the jails further.³⁶⁰
- 398** COA said the decrease in the total population in BJMP jails was due to the suspension of commitment orders (OCA Circular No. 149-2020) for the transfer of newly arrested PDLs to the local BJMP and of convicted PDLs to the BuCor due to the COVID-19 pandemic; speedy disposition of drug cases in relation to the adoption of OCA Circular No. 90-2018 Plea-Bargaining Framework in Drug Cases; application of R.A. No. 10592 or Good Conduct Time Allowance which allows PDL's sentences to be reduced depending on how

356 United Nations. (2020). Policy Brief: COVID-19 and the Need for Action on Mental Health. <https://unsdg.un.org/sites/default/files/2020-05/UN-Policy-Brief-COVID-19-and-mental-health.pdf>

357 Reyes, C. M., Tabuga, A. D., Mina, C. D., Asis, R. D. and Datu, M. B. G. (2011). Persons with Disability (PWD) in rural Philippines: Results from the 2010 field survey in Rosario, Batangas. *Philippine Institute for Development Studies*. Available at: <https://dirp3.pids.gov.ph/ris/dps/pidsdps1106.pdf>

358 United Nations (2020). Policy Brief: A Disability-Inclusive Response to COVID-19. Retrieved from https://www.un.org/sites/un2.un.org/files/sg_policy_brief_on_persons_with_disabilities_final.pdf

359 United Nations (2020). Policy Brief: A Disability-Inclusive Response to COVID-19. Retrieved from https://www.un.org/sites/un2.un.org/files/sg_policy_brief_on_persons_with_disabilities_final.pdf

360 Buan, L. (2021, August 28). Plea deals, pandemic decongest jails but “still way beyond accepted standards” – COA. Rappler. <https://www.rappler.com/nation/coa-report-plea-deals-pandemic-decongest-jails-but-still-way-beyond-accepted-standards>

well they abide by rules and regulations inside any penal institution, rehabilitation, or detention center or any other local jail; and continuous paralegal interventions.³⁶¹

- 399** Following a COVID-19 outbreak in these overcrowded jails in 2020, the Supreme Court enacted various policies. The rules include allowing people who have just been arrested to remain at police stations and instructing courts to follow a seven-year-old regulation requiring judges to release inmates who have been imprisoned for longer than their minimum sentence and those whose cases are stalled due to lack of witnesses.³⁶²
- 400** The plea bargaining framework for drug prosecutions, on the other hand, increased the government's conviction rate to 82 percent, or more than 24,000 people imprisoned. Drug suspects were released as a result of plea bargains.³⁶³
- 401** Unlike BJMP managed detention facilities, Police Lock-up cells are open to face to face interviews with PDLs subject to some health protocols like wearing masks and face shields. Lawyers likewise rendered legal assistance through the E-Lawyering platform to women PDLs at the BJMP District Jail in Santiago City. The female inmates, all of whom were charged with Violations of RA 9165, expressed their concerns regarding delays and postponements in hearing their cases and sought advice on plea bargaining and demurrer to evidence.³⁶⁴
- 402** One basic human rights concern of women, in particular, female PDLs or female inmates touches on their right to conjugal visits. Under Memorandum Circular No. 69 of the Revised Rules on Conjugal visits issued by the BJMP PRO2, said memorandum now allows women inmates to avail of the privilege of conjugal visits. However, under said Memorandum Circular, this privilege can only be availed of by a married female inmate if she consents to receive an "implant" or Depo Medroxyprogesterone acetate (DMPA) to prevent her from getting pregnant while in jail.³⁶⁵
- 403** To address this concern, this office issued CHR-II-2020-0002 pointing out the discriminatory condition since no such thing is imposed on male inmates before they can avail of said privilege. Not only is the condition discriminatory to women, it is also an infringement on their sexual and reproductive rights.³⁶⁶
- 404** A post from the Brigada News FM 92.7 Pampanga was monitored by the Commission on Human Rights Regional Office III on the alleged rape of Angelica L. Maniquis, 24 years old, detained at San Miguel Municipal Police Station, Bulacan, by Police Lieutenant Jimmy Fegcan of the said station. The victim was arrested for violation of the curfew ordinance. According to the information, the victim was sexually molested by the respondent inside

361 Buan, L. (2021, August 28). Plea deals, pandemic decongest jails but "still way beyond accepted standards" – COA. Rappler. <https://www.rappler.com/nation/coa-report-plea-deals-pandemic-decongest-jails-but-still-way-beyond-accepted-standards>

362 Buan, L. (2021, August 28). Plea deals, pandemic decongest jails but "still way beyond accepted standards" – COA. Rappler. <https://www.rappler.com/nation/coa-report-plea-deals-pandemic-decongest-jails-but-still-way-beyond-accepted-standards>

363 Buan, L. (2021, August 28). Plea deals, pandemic decongest jails but "still way beyond accepted standards" – COA. Rappler. <https://www.rappler.com/nation/coa-report-plea-deals-pandemic-decongest-jails-but-still-way-beyond-accepted-standards>

364 (2021). Regional Human Rights Situationer Report – CHR Region 02 July – December 2020. Tuguegarao City: CHR Regional Office II

365 (2021). Regional Human Rights Situationer Report – CHR Region 02 July – December 2020. Tuguegarao City: CHR Regional Office II

366 (2021). Regional Human Rights Situationer Report – CHR Region 02 July – December 2020. Tuguegarao City: CHR Regional Office II

his barracks early in the morning of 28 October 2020. A criminal complaint against the respondent police officer has already been filed before the Office of the Provincial Prosecutors' Office of Bulacan. He was relieved from his position at the said station and detained at the Personnel Holding Center and Accounting Unit (PPHAU) of the Bulacan Police Provincial Office.³⁶⁷

- 405** Most of the PDLs concerned are the e-dalaw visits which is hard to implement due to poor internet connection in the areas. Another concern is the lack of food provision and bed bunks, mostly at the lock up cells of municipal police stations.³⁶⁸
- 406** It has been noted that jails across the Zamboanga region suffer from congestion which may have been brought about by lack of facilities to cater to the massive war against drugs. The implementation of the plea bargaining for detainees charged for Violation of R.A. 9165 appeared to be a solution. Nonetheless, the delay in the conduct of the Drug Dependency Test also contributed to the problem. In the previous years, it was noted that food was also scarce as the budget for the same was insufficient. This sector also appeared to be most affected by the pandemic during the early ECQ period as both PDLs and jail personnel tested positive for the virus, prompting jail lockdown.³⁶⁹
- 407** With the high congestion rate of the jail facilities throughout the Northern Mindanao Region, criminal justice actors are working to ease the situation. According to the BJMP Region X Paralegal service, the recent completion of two buildings in Gingoong City Jail and the Initao District Jail, another six ongoing construction projects throughout the region, cooped with jail decongestion initiatives of the criminal justice actors, region is projected to further reduce its jail congestion rate to 70% at the end of 2021. The BJMP Region Paralegal Service likewise reported that 70% of the PDLs in their facilities have drug-related cases.³⁷⁰
- 408** As the visitation privileges of the PDLs were suspended, telephone calls and video calling were provided instead, allowing only a certain amount of time per PDL. To lessen exposure of the PDLs, the judiciary, through the Supreme Court, issued Supreme Court Administrative Circular No. 37-2020 wherein online hearing of cases of PDLs will be implemented via videoconferencing.³⁷¹
- 409** Congestion rate is steadily rising throughout BJMP Facilities in the region. The current pandemic has resulted in slow turnovers of detainees from BJMP Facilities to the Davao Prison and Penal Farm (DPPF). To ease congestion in Davao City Jail, a new Facility located in Wangan, Davao City, is currently being constructed, and is about 80% complete.³⁷²
- 410** The DPPF has implemented a system in which transfer of prisoners is done only once per semester to prevent the entry of the COVID-19 virus in their facility. Prisoners spend fourteen (14) days in quarantine at the Reception and Diagnostic Center and undergo six

367 Commission on Human Rights Regional Office III. (2021, January). Human Rights Regional Situationer Report Region III – Central Luzon January to December 2020.

368 CHR Regional Office VIII. (2021, January). Regional Human Rights Situation Report July to December 2020.

369 Commission on Human Rights Regional Office 9. (2021, January). 2020 CHR 9 Human Rights Situation Report.

370 Commission on Human Rights Regional Office 10. (2021, January). 2020 Persons Deprived of Liberty (PDL) Situation Report.

371 Commission on Human Rights Regional Office 10. (2021, January). 2020 Persons Deprived of Liberty (PDL) Situation Report.

372 Commission on Human Rights Regional Office 11. (2021, January). Regional Human Rights Situation Report

- (6) months evaluation, after which they are assigned to their respective dorms. Only then will the DPPF receive new prisoners.³⁷³
- 411** Good Conduct Time Allowance (GCTA) grantees who returned to Davao Prison and Penal Farm and are still awaiting the recalculation of their GCTA and have now been allotted a budget for meals. However, most of these returnees wish that the recalculation be done faster.³⁷⁴
- 412** In 14 September 2020, the CHR Regional Office 11 received information on the alleged congestion of Persons Deprived of Liberty (PDLs) in Sta. Ana Police Station in Davao City from a certain lawyer. A Quick Response Operation was then conducted.³⁷⁵
- 413** According to PMaj Carol Habagat of Sta. Ana Police, the suspension of all trial court judges from ordering the transfer of convicted persons from the detention cells of the Bureau of Jail Management and Penology (BJMP) to the jail facilities of the Bureau of Corrections was a factor in causing congestion of Persons Under Police Custody (PUPC).³⁷⁶
- 414** To address the congestion, Sta. Ana Police Station coordinated with the PNP Regional Office for the opening of their Agdao Outpost to be used as a temporary facility for their PUPCs. They also isolated PUPCs with pending order of transfer and coordinated with the City Health Office for swab testing in preparation for the transfer or remand once permitted. Additionally, PUPCs with existing health conditions were placed in a separate area.³⁷⁷
- 415** However, due to the pandemic, it interrupted the processing of the commitment of PUPCs since they will have to comply with the health protocols such as swab testing and quarantine for twenty-one (21) days which is required by the Court. As of now, the issuance of the commitment order was delayed because of the lockdown of the court.³⁷⁸
- 416** While it was reported that Sta. Ana Police Station was placed under lockdown after eleven (11) of its personnel tested positive with COVID-19, the said personnel and PUPCs, even all asymptomatic, were immediately brought to respective isolation facilities, and the police station was temporarily closed for disinfection. In spite of the incident, police operations continued following the health protocols. They also monitored the conditions and welfare of the PUPCs and strictly ordered them to wear the provided protective masks at all possible times. PCpl Cubio added that they will continue to respect and promote the rights of the PUPCs in all circumstances. This case is still under monitoring.³⁷⁹
- 417** Since the COVID-19 outbreak, almost all detention facilities managed by the BJMP is COVID-free except in Baguio City Jail where twenty (20) PDLs in the Male Dormitory and five (5) PDLs in the Female Dormitory got infected with COVID – 19. Said infected PDLs fully recovered.³⁸⁰

373 Commission on Human Rights Regional Office 11. (2021, January). Regional Human Rights Situation Report

374 Commission on Human Rights Regional Office 11. (2021, January). Regional Human Rights Situation Report

375 Commission on Human Rights Regional Office 11. (2021, January). Regional Human Rights Situation Report

376 Commission on Human Rights Regional Office 11. (2021, January). Regional Human Rights Situation Report

377 Commission on Human Rights Regional Office 11. (2021, January). Regional Human Rights Situation Report

378 Commission on Human Rights Regional Office 11. (2021, January). Regional Human Rights Situation Report

379 Commission on Human Rights Regional Office 11. (2021, January). Regional Human Rights Situation Report

380 Commission on Human Rights Cordillera Administrative Region. (2021, January). Regional Human Rights Situation Report July to December 2020.

- 418** E-dalaw / virtual visitation is being practiced in all jails. Families and lawyers of PDLs may get in touch with each other through phone calls or video conferences.³⁸¹
- 419** Trial proceedings of PDLs' cases are conducted face-to-face in almost all areas except for Baguio City and La Trinidad, Benguet where virtual court hearings are strictly conducted. In some cases, PDLs are physically brought to court only when physical appearance is necessary.³⁸²
- 420** During the course of jail visits, the following were the different issues and concerns that were encountered by the CHR Regional Office I during the first semester of 2021:³⁸³
- a** PNP detention cell detainees could not be transferred to the BJMP Jails for health reasons, e.g., all inmates must be swabbed before they can be admitted by BJMP district jails;
 - b** Slow processing of the swab test of inmates by the respective health facilities;
 - c** Congestion in the jails because of violation of quarantine laws and illegal gambling; and
 - d** Alleged planting of evidence by arresting PNP officers;
- 421** With the COVID-19 pandemic, inmates' and detainees' rehabilitation and reformation were only focused on individualized activity in strict observance of health protocol and mandatory social distancing to keep the inmates busy, fit, and mentally sane. All other activities inside the jail facilities were not totally suspended during the duration of the pandemic, but on a limited basis. Bringing in of basic needs for the PDLs by their respective relatives and friends is allowed with the strict observance of health protocols (they are first placed in a control point for sanitation/disinfection) to ensure that the PDLs as well as the jail/detention cell personnel will not be infected with the virus.³⁸⁴
- 422** Congestion in jail facilities remains one of the most pressing issues even before the appearance of the pandemic. The Commission on Audit also disclosed in a recent audit that Region III ranks 2nd for being the most congested facilities, lagging behind Region IV-A. Region III registered a 619% congestion rate.³⁸⁵
- 423** Almost all of the facilities visited in the 1st semester were operating their facilities way above their ideal capacities. This was mainly attributed to the pandemic delaying the processing of PDLs. Some jails are refusing to admit any PDLs without negative results from a rapid test, and others are congested because of delays of commitment orders.³⁸⁶

381 Commission on Human Rights Cordillera Administrative Region. (2021, January). Regional Human Rights Situation Report July to December 2020.

382 Commission on Human Rights Cordillera Administrative Region. (2021, January). Regional Human Rights Situation Report July to December 2020.

383 Commission on Human Rights Regional Office I. (2021, July). Regional HR Situation Report (January to June 2021).

384 Commission on Human Rights Regional Office I. (2021, July). Regional HR Situation Report (January to June 2021).

385 Commission on Human Rights Regional Office III. (2021, July). Human Rights Regional Situationer Report Region III – Central Luzon.

386 Commission on Human Rights Regional Office III. (2021, July). Human Rights Regional Situationer Report Region III – Central Luzon.

- 424** Rule 15 of the Nelson Mandela Rules provides that “[t]he sanitary installations shall be adequate to enable every prisoner to comply with the needs of nature when necessary and in a clean and decent manner.”³⁸⁷
- 425** Additionally, Rule 16 provides that “[a]dequate bathing and shower installations shall be provided so that every prisoner can, and may be required to, have a bath or shower, at a temperature suitable to the climate, as frequently as necessary for general hygiene according to season and geographical region, but at least once a week in a temperate climate.”³⁸⁸
- 426** Almost all of the problems that were observed in PODs stem from COVID-19. Delays in transfers due to other facilities not accepting PDLs without a negative result in rapid tests as well as the lack of swab tests to identify those who are positive only proliferate the problems in the PODs. The lack of swab tests results in risks of catching the virus, delays in transfers cause congestion in most of the facilities, this leads to lack of proper accommodation to the PDLs and their discomfort.³⁸⁹
- 427** While conjugal visit is now allowed for female PDLs under BJMP Memorandum Circular No. BJMP-LSO-MC-56 dated 19 February 2019, most of the BJMP Female Dormitories that were visited online by the CHR Regional Office IV-CALABARZON Jail Visitation Team lack a conjugal room. This, however, according to the wardens, is understandable considering the shortage of BJMP jail facilities.³⁹⁰
- 428** There is no need for the newly committed PDLs to undergo a swab test before his/her admission to the BJMP custody. The newly committed PDL instead will be placed in a quarantine facility for twenty-one (21) days. If after the 21-day quarantine period, the said PDL did not manifest any COVID-19 related symptoms, he/she shall be incorporated to the general PDL population and be assigned to a designated cell or dorm.³⁹¹
- 429** During the Jail Visitations conducted by CHR Regional Office XI the following issues were brought to light:³⁹²
- a** The congestion of lock-up facilities has shown that most PNP facilities have no congestion/decongestion contingency plan.
 - b** PNP lock-up cells are heavily congested due to slow turnover of detainees to BJMP facilities. One reason for the slow turnover is the requirement that before transfer a negative RT-PCR result is needed before they are accepted by BJMP facilities. The lockdown of Courts due to COVID-19 positive staff also resulted in a very slow turnover rate.
 - c** Also noted is that PDLs do not undergo swab testing before they are placed in the lock-up cells, giving way to the spread of the virus not only to PDLs inside the lock-

387 Commission on Human Rights Regional Office III. (2021, July). Human Rights Regional Situationer Report Region III – Central Luzon.

388 Commission on Human Rights Regional Office III. (2021, July). Human Rights Regional Situationer Report Region III – Central Luzon.

389 Commission on Human Rights Regional Office III. (2021, July). Human Rights Regional Situationer Report Region III – Central Luzon.

390 Commission on Human Rights Regional Office IV-CALABARZON. (2021, July). Report on the Human Rights Situation of Disadvantaged, Marginalized and Vulnerable Sectors in CALABARZON (January to June 2021).

391 Commission on Human Rights Regional Office IV-CALABARZON. (2021, July). Report on the Human Rights Situation of Disadvantaged, Marginalized and Vulnerable Sectors in CALABARZON (January to June 2021).

392 Commission on Human Rights Regional Office XI. (2021, July). Human Rights Situation Report Jan-Jun 2021.

up but also to personnel in police stations. PDLs only undergo testing before they are remanded to BJMP facilities.

d Police Stations also have no separate holding facilities for CICLs.

430 The CHR CARAGA Jail Visit Team met some challenges with the recent pronouncement of the Executive Department, through the DILG, and the PNP regarding the “No Surprise Visit Policy.”³⁹³

431 A Memorandum of Undertaking (MOU) was entered into between the national offices of the CHR and the PNP on 23 June 2009. The MOU’s relevant provision on the CHR’s visitorial power is quoted hereunder:³⁹⁴

“The CHR shall exercise its visitorial power over detention facilities operated by the PNP in police camps, stations, detachments, and in other places in the country. Provided that, in cases of on the spot visits or inspections by officials or personnel of the CHR, immediate coordination shall be made with PNP official/s concerned upon reaching the police camp, station or facility. The said CHR officials/personnel shall present to the PNP officer(s) concerned their mission order bearing the official seal of the Commission and proper identifications. This is to facilitate a smoother inspection of lock-up cells/areas, prevent entry of unauthorized persons and infiltration of lawless elements, and ensure the protection of the life and limbs of members of the police force, including persons in detention and visitors therein, as well as the protection / preservation of property from any loss or destruction. The CHR shall provide the PNP with a copy of the CHR Guidelines/ Rules on Visitorial Power.”

432 Guided by the MOA, the two parties reached a consensus to observe “time on target” coordination which means that upon reaching the area subject of the inspection, the CHR personnel shall coordinate with the concerned police station and inform the latter of the visitation that is about to be conducted. Both parties were amenable to the agreement. The visitation of the jails and custodial facilities is a platform for the detainees to avail of the legal assistance services provided by the CHR team on their cases.³⁹⁵

433 On 25 April 2021, CHR CARAGA Jail Visitation Team went to Taganaan Municipal Police Station in Taganaan, Surigao del Norte. The Jail Visitation Team interviewed a minor detainee who was charged with rape. The victim is likewise a minor, 12-years-old. The CICL was apprehended last 23 January 2021 and a Commitment Order was already issued last February 2021. There was a delay in processing of his case because, as per the WCPD Officer, there was a delay in the case study report of the MSWDO as well as scheduling of the Regional Rehabilitation Center for the Youth (RRCY).³⁹⁶

434 There was a time, during the pandemic, when RRCY, allegedly, refused to accept minors to prevent the spread of the COVID-19 virus. Accordingly, the RRCY lifted this rule and they are now accepting minors for commitment. The PMPS personnel were ready to escort the minor to RRCY but due to their respective webinar schedules, the minor’s transfer was put on hold. The minor was mixed with adult suspects in the police custodial facility. Later that month, the minor was already committed to the RRCY facility.³⁹⁷

393 Commission on Human Rights CARAGA. (2021, July). The Situation of Human Rights in the CARAGA Region.

394 Commission on Human Rights CARAGA. (2021, July). The Situation of Human Rights in the CARAGA Region.

395 Commission on Human Rights CARAGA. (2021, July). The Situation of Human Rights in the CARAGA Region.

396 Commission on Human Rights CARAGA. (2021, July). The Situation of Human Rights in the CARAGA Region.

397 Commission on Human Rights CARAGA. (2021, July). The Situation of Human Rights in the CARAGA Region.

- 435** In a news article published by Inquirer on 26 September 2021, the Department of the Interior and Local Government reported that 42,493 persons deprived of liberty in the Bureau of Jail and Management Penology (BJMP) jails were vaccinated against COVID-19. This accounts for 35% of the 122,498 PDLs in various jail facilities managed by the BJMP across the country.³⁹⁸
- 436** For the period January to June 2021, the CHR, through its Visitorial Division prepared the Annual Jail Visitation Plan to be implemented by the regional offices. For CHR-CAR, twenty-three (23) detention facilities were identified as the minimum target to be visited. The assistance provided by the CHR CAR consisted of legal advice (i.e., trial proceedings, computation of service of sentence, probation process, effect of execution of affidavit of desistance by the private complainant) and case follow-ups.³⁹⁹

LGBTQIA+

- 437** The CHR Regional Office III reported that there were eight (8) curfew violators caught by members of TAU Gamma Fraternity and other barangay volunteers. They were brought to the barangay hall of Pandacaqui, Mexico, Pampanga. Out of the eight curfew violators, three (3) are members of the LGBT community, and one minor, a fifteen-year-old. The LGBTs were identified as Jessica C. Mallari, 22 years old; Shanel Salazar, 20 years old; and Elms Almanzor, 27 years old.⁴⁰⁰
- 438** Jessica and Shanel went out of their house at 8 o'clock in the evening to buy biscuits for their grandmother from a nearby store when they were caught during the curfew under ECQ. Barangay Captain Punzalan ordered the three (3) LGBT to kiss each other at the barangay hall and do a sexy dance in front of the minor, who is one of the curfew violators. But before doing the kissing, they were ordered to do a TIK TOK, but they did not follow due to the humiliation. Punzalan asked Jessica and Shanel to kiss lips-to-lips if they wanted to go home, but they refused. Instead, they were ordered to do twenty (20) push-ups. Other violators received other types of punishments. The said order was documented in a Facebook live video of Brgy. Captain Christopher Bombing Punzalan.⁴⁰¹
- 439** On 07 January 2020, complainant/victim, Eduard Mike Bucad, of legal age and a member of the LGBTQI+ community, appeared before this Office and filed on behalf of himself and his sister, a complaint against their biological father, Ericson B. Bucad for alleged Violation of RA 9262 for economic abuse.⁴⁰²
- 440** He alleged that for the past ten (10) years, his father Ericson Bucad, failed to provide them (he and sister Emmarie Jhoy) financial support. His parents separated ten years ago and they were left to the care of their grandparents. Through CHR Regional Office IV –

398 Fernandez, D. (2021). 42,493 persons deprived of liberty vaccinated vs COVID-19 — DILG. Retrieved from <https://newsinfo.inquirer.net/1493173/42493-persons-deprived-of-liberty-vaccinated-vs-COVID-19-dilg>

399 Commission on Human Rights Cordillera Administrative Region. (2021, August). HUMAN RIGHTS SITUATION REPORT ON THE MONITORING OF COVID-19 VACCINATION PROGRAM CORDILLERA ADMINISTRATIVE REGION.

400 Commission on Human Rights Regional Office III. (2021, January). Human Rights Regional Situationer Report Region III – Central Luzon January to December 2020.

401 Commission on Human Rights Regional Office III. (2021, January). Human Rights Regional Situationer Report Region III – Central Luzon January to December 2020.

402 CHR Regional Office IV-A (CALABARZON). (2021, January). 2020 Report on the Human Rights Situation of Disadvantaged, Marginalized and Vulnerable Sectors in Region IV-A (CALABARZON).

CALABARZON's assistance, the parties were able to convene and amicably settle their differences through an agreement executed on 20 February 2020.⁴⁰³

- 441** In a news article by Rappler published on 13 May 2021, Shannon Remotigue Gonzaga, a transgender woman, was blocked from using the women's bathroom during her stay at the Isla Reta Beach Resort in Samal Island, Davao Del Norte. According to Gonzaga, one of the resort's employees asked for proof of sex reassignment surgery before she was to use the bathroom of her choice. Gonzaga's Facebook post has since gone viral, with over 11,000 reactions and 12,000 shares as of writing. The resort management said that it had no facility for [transgender guests] to avoid issues of discrimination, and explained that other female guests previously mentioned that they were not comfortable sharing shower rooms with trans women. Miss Trans Global 2020 Mela Franco Habijan said the mere refusal to accommodate transgender guests is in itself an act of discrimination.⁴⁰⁴
- 442** The Department of Tourism (DOT) has since announced that they will conduct an investigation on the incident and reiterated its stand against discrimination: "DOT promotes gender equality and mainstreaming, and does not tolerate gender discrimination in its systems, structures, policies, programs and processes. We enjoin the entire tourism industry to abide by our national laws on Gender and Development."⁴⁰⁵
- 443** In Celebration of International Day Against Homophobia, Biphobia, Intersexism, and Transphobia (IDAHOBIT) 2021, the CHR Gender Equality and Women's Human Rights Center together with Lagablab LGBT Network, held the Kwentuhan sa CHR Series entitled "Kumustahin ang Proteksyon laban Homophobia, Transphobia, Biphobia – CADB, SOGIE Equality at Safe Spaces Act (RA 11313)" on 20 May 2021. Gonzaga was one of the guest speakers.⁴⁰⁶
- 444** Transman Norriebe Tria, also known as Ebeng Mayor, 21, was found dead on 20 May 2021 in an empty lot at Sitio Bakal, Barangay Bagong Silangan, Quezon City, after going missing for three days. His skull was crushed and a piece of wood had been thrust into his genitals. A childhood friend (Zander Dela Cruz) eventually confessed to the crime and identified his accomplices (Joel Loyola and Richard Elvin Araza). The three suspects are charged with rape with homicide and robbery. According to LGBTQ advocacy group Bahaghari, all the evidence in the case "pointed to a hate crime."⁴⁰⁷
- 445** The CHR shall be conducting an independent investigation and shall work closely with the authorities in pursuing justice for Ebeng and their family.⁴⁰⁸
- 446** In a news article published by GMA News on 10 June 2021, a community in Ampatuan, Maguindanao publicly shaved the heads of six women between the ages of sixteen (16) and twenty (20) for being lesbians. The residents said that the women were being punished,

403 CHR Regional Office IV-A (CALABARZON). (2021, January). 2020 Report on the Human Rights Situation of Disadvantaged, Marginalized and Vulnerable Sectors in Region IV-A (CALABARZON).

404 Baizas, G. (2021). Davao del Norte resort sparks online outrage over discrimination vs transgender guests. Retrieved from <https://www.rappler.com/nation/netizens-reaction-isla-reta-resort-sparks-outrage-discrimination-transgender-guests>

405 Tocmo, H., Canoy, J. & Villaruel, J. (2021). Resort accused of discrimination vs transgender woman; DOT to investigate. Retrieved from <https://news.abs-cbn.com/news/05/12/21/samal-resort-discrimination-transgender>

406 CHR Gender Equality and Women's Human Rights. (2021). Retrieved from https://www.facebook.com/watch/live/?ref=watch_permalink&v=291.640.016015992

407 Subingsubing, K. (2021). Trans man found dead in QC; childhood friend, 2 others charged. Retrieved from <https://newsinfo.inquirer.net/1435675/trans-man-found-dead-in-qc-childhood-friend-2-others-charged#ixzz7AHsaaDYH>

408 Commission on Human Rights. (2021). Statement of CHR Spokesperson, Atty Jacqueline Ann de Guia, on the killing of transgender man Ebeng Mayor. Retrieved from <https://chr.gov.ph/statement-of-chr-spokesperson-atty-jacqueline-ann-de-guia-on-the-killing-of-transgender-man-ebeng-mayor/>

claiming that being part of the LGBTQIA+ community is not allowed in Islam. One of the women's relatives said that the public punishment stemmed from a parent's complaint. Maguindanao 2nd District Board Member King Mangudadatu said that the residents should not have done it because there is a law that prohibits discrimination, especially in the Philippines.⁴⁰⁹

- 447** LGBT rights group Ladlad Party List President Danton Remoto said that Ladlad respects the Islam religion and reminded the parents and ustads in Mindanao that there is no state religion in the Philippines. Therefore, children, youth, Filipinos have civil and political rights. Shaming the youth, in Ladlad's point of view, was legally wrong.⁴¹⁰
- 448** CHR spokesperson Jacqueline de Guia stated that it would launch an investigation into the incident: "We stress that not even a religious belief can justify a human rights violation. Religious freedom, while it includes the absolute right to believe in a dogma, cannot transgress on the rights of others nor be used to justify harm and violence."⁴¹¹
- 449** In a news article published on www.gmanetwork.com on 30 June 2020, Jang Lucero, of legal age, lesbian, was found dead inside her car along the Bucal Bypass Road in Calamba City, Laguna.
- 450** Letters were sent to the Calamba City Police Station and the Local Civil Registrar to request for case files including the death certificate of the victim. Unfortunately, the requests from both offices were declined. The police cited the exception under the Data Privacy Act while the Civil Registrar reasoned its Data Sharing Agreement with the Philippine Statistics Agency thereby stalling the evaluation of the victim's heirs' entitlement to financial assistance. The said case remains subject to investigation.⁴¹²
- 451** As to LGBTQIA+ persons, no cases of discrimination was reported and/or recorded by the CHR Regional Office I from July to December 2020. The Province of La Union also passed their Anti-Discrimination Ordinance which is a possible factor why there are no recorded incidents of discrimination against persons of diverse SOGIE in the region for the second semester of 2020.⁴¹³
- 452** In a news article published by Rappler, a viral video on social media showed eight young men—seven of which are minors, aged 15 to 17—attacking a gay man without any provocation on Toribio Street, Barangay Tetuan in Zamboanga City on 15 August 2021. Authorities said the unsuspecting victim was merely walking down on a well-lit street at around 5 am when one of eight young men ran toward him, leaped, and delivered a flying kick to the back of his head. The group then sneered and chased the horrified victim. They

409 Casilao, J. (2021). Maguindanao community shaves women's heads to 'punish' them for being lesbians. Retrieved from <https://www.gmanetwork.com/ncaa/news/regions/791070/maguindanao-community-shaves-women-s-heads-to-punish-them-for-being-lesbians/story/>

410 Casilao, J. (2021). Maguindanao community shaves women's heads to 'punish' them for being lesbians. Retrieved from <https://www.gmanetwork.com/ncaa/news/regions/791070/maguindanao-community-shaves-women-s-heads-to-punish-them-for-being-lesbians/story/>

411 Luna, F. (2021). Forced shaving of LGBTQ+ women's heads in Maguindanao alarms rights groups. Retrieved from <https://www.philstar.com/headlines/2021/06/14/2105428/forced-shaving-lgbtq-womens-heads-maguindanao-alarms-rights-groups>

412 CHR Regional Office IV-A (CALABARZON). (2021, January). 2020 Report on the Human Rights Situation of Disadvantaged, Marginalized and Vulnerable Sectors in Region IV-A (CALABARZON).

413 Romero, A. (2021). Regional Women's Human Rights and LGBTI Profile. La Union: CHR Regional Office I.

admitted to investigators that they attacked the gay man without any acceptable reason. “Tripping lang,” police quoted them as saying.⁴¹⁴

- 453** Alvin Toni Fernandez, President of The Lesbian, Gay, Bisexuals and Transgenders Federation of Zamboanga (LGBTFZ), said they have documented several attacks on transgender women in the city, including one that was allegedly perpetrated by police officers, and another involving a robbery and murder case. Fernandez called for a stop to what he described as violent “homophobic acts” against the LGBTQ+ community in Zamboanga and for increased advocacy, public education, and acceptance of members of the LGBTQ+ community. The Zamboanga city government also condemned the violent act and other assaults against members of the local LGBTQ+ community.⁴¹⁵
- 454** Camino Nuevo barangay chairman Norberto Monopolio said the parents of the young men were summoned to the barangay hall but did not show up. The victim also did not show up to file a complaint within 72 hours so the perpetrators had to be released. Monopolio said six of the young men were told to do community service under the supervision of barangay officials.⁴¹⁶
- 455** Lawyer Judelyn Macapili, CHR director for the Zamboanga Peninsula, told Rappler on 19 August 2021, that the Commission was also monitoring acts of violence committed against LGBTQ+ members in Zamboanga and elsewhere in Region 9. “Our LGBTQIA community has long been victims of abuse and discrimination,” Macapili said. She cited the murder of a member of the LGBTQ+ community in Pagadian City where the CHR started a *motu proprio* investigation.⁴¹⁷
- 456** On 18 September 2021, one person was killed and seven wounded when a homemade bomb went off during a volleyball tournament in Datu Piang in Maguindanao. Lt. Col. John Paul Baldomar, spokesman of the Army’s 6th Infantry Battalion, said several motives are being considered, among them that the blast was a diversionary tactic by the Bangsamoro Islamic Freedom Fighters and the Dawlah Islamiya, and that it could be election-related, noting that Datu Piang was an election hot spot. Another reason mentioned by the 6th ID was that it could be a personal grudge against the LGBTQ community, as most of the victims were supposedly members of the community and had previously received death threats.
- 457** Philippine National Police chief Gen. Guillermo Eleazar ordered the Police Regional Office Bangsamoro Autonomous Region (PRO BAR) to investigate the blast on 19 September 2021. Eleazar ordered the regional police office to coordinate with local military forces to conduct a manhunt for the perpetrators and to intensify security in Maguindanao “as well as other areas where this kind of hostility could happen.”⁴¹⁸
- 458** CHR CARAGA identified the following issues on their Regional Situation Report:⁴¹⁹

- 414 Carreon, F. (2021). Attacks on LGBTQ+ people disturb officials, advocates in Zamboanga. Retrieved from <https://www.rappler.com/nation/attacks-lgbtq-people-disturb-officials-advocates-zamboanga>
- 415 Carreon, F. (2021). Attacks on LGBTQ+ people disturb officials, advocates in Zamboanga. Retrieved from <https://www.rappler.com/nation/attacks-lgbtq-people-disturb-officials-advocates-zamboanga>
- 416 Carreon, F. (2021). Attacks on LGBTQ+ people disturb officials, advocates in Zamboanga. Retrieved from <https://www.rappler.com/nation/attacks-lgbtq-people-disturb-officials-advocates-zamboanga>
- 417 Carreon, F. (2021). Attacks on LGBTQ+ people disturb officials, advocates in Zamboanga. Retrieved from <https://www.rappler.com/nation/attacks-lgbtq-people-disturb-officials-advocates-zamboanga>
- 418 CNN Philippines Staff. (2021). One dead in Maguindanao explosion. Retrieved from <https://www.cnnphilippines.com/regional/2021/9/19/datu-piang-explosion-pnp-wesmincom.html>
- 419 Commission on Human Rights CARAGA. (2021, July). The Situation of Human Rights in the CARAGA Region.

- a** Absence of a law that defines hate crimes;
- b** Local media use of slang or derogatory language to refer to LGBTQIA+ people even if it is not relevant in their stories;
- c** Usage of choice pronouns in the police blotter – it is suggested that the preferred name and pronoun should be used in police reports, but the representatives from the PNP said that it is essential that they use the name and sex as assigned in the birth certificate as this is crucial in the legal aspects of the case, especially for identifying the parties involved;
- d** PNP does not have a disaggregated data on crimes in relation to SOGIE;
- e** Reluctance of the LGBTQI+ community to seek police help to report the crimes committed against them;
- f** Availability of medicines for the therapy of PLHIVs – CARAGAnon I-Care, a support group for PLHIVs, lamented a lot of issues with respect to the distribution and availability of HIV medicines. First, there is a delay in the arrival of the medicines from the DOH, allegedly due to the procurement process and the delivery. Interestingly, this was not an issue the treatment hubs experienced during the original process of requesting for medicines. In the beginning, the treatment hubs were able to request directly to the Central Office of the Department of Health, but for some reason, this was changed, and the rule now is that any request for medicine shall be coursed through the regional offices. Since then, the treatment hubs have experienced delays. Some medicines are even nearing their expiry date. Second, there was an instance where there was unequal distribution of medicine to the treatment hubs. To wit, treatment hubs serving a small number of PLHIVs are getting more medicines than those hubs where more patients are served;
- g** The police still place persons in the custodial facility consistent with their sex at birth, not with their identified gender identity. This could be a problem for transgender people deprived of liberty;
- h** School uniform and haircut policy – the education departments of the country have not prescribed one type of haircut or uniform for all students. This is a matter that was left to the discretion of the individual schools for as long as the following minimum requirements are met:
 - 1** Student's basic right is paramount importance;
 - 2** Student's attire should reflect respect for the school as an institution for learning;
 - 3** Student's attire should not become a cause for discrimination particularly for students belonging to a lower social economic status; and
 - 4** Promoting physical hygiene and proper school decorum is part of teaching learning processes;
- i** Violence on LGBT;
- j** Gender-neutral comfort room; and

k Change of name and sex.

- 459** There was one complaint received by CHR CAR from a homosexual man on the discriminatory treatment he had been receiving from their barangay secretary. The case was put to Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) and the parties were able to settle their conflict.⁴²⁰

Older Persons

- 460** A complaint of slight physical injuries was reported by the CHR Regional Office 3, involving Lolita M. Culala or “Lola Lita”, an elderly of Mabalacat, Pampanga, against Ceserlito Munoz Culala, who was residing at the same address. Soon enough, the social worker of the barangay reported the incident to the Barangay VAWC Desk Officer.
- 461** The social worker rescued the victim and brought her to the Barangay Annex of Atlu Bola and was later turned over to the Social Welfare and Development Office of Mabalacat. According to Jona Mercado, the social worker handling the victim, Lola Lita is currently under the custody of Bahay Pag-ibig at barangay Telabastagan, City of San Fernando, Pampanga.
- 462** Lola Lita was taking a bath outside the house and within the full view of the people in the area. This happened to be captured by a concerned citizen and even uploaded on social media, which is considered an act of insult, serious disrespect, and plain disregard for the honor and dignity of our elders.⁴²¹
- 463** The health and well-being of senior citizens are a major concern. Thus, it is important to ensure access and availability of quality and appropriate health care services for them. Apart from this, it is also noted that some seniors have not prepared for their retirement and as a result, are suffering from a lack of social security. The pandemic even amplified this problem of health and security. Furthermore, their entry to pharmacies and groceries to purchase and or to obtain essential items, goods and services were at times denied. It is also noted that some elderly being housed in DSWD shelters have tested positive for the coronavirus necessitating the transfer of those who tested negative to another shelter.⁴²²
- 464** On 17 August 2020, CHR CAR received a complaint from an elderly person, Benita B. Bas-ilan, 62 years old, married and a resident of Tawang, La Trinidad, Benguet. The case pertains to an alleged violation of the Right to Property. She alleged that the Bureau of Plant Industry (BPI), Department of Agriculture, and the Municipal Assessor of Buguias, Benguet violated her right to property. The BPI employees destroyed the remaining forested portions of her land and converted it to vegetable gardens. The BPI had also allowed entry of informal settlers over the area and employed other farmers at a 60/40 sharing through a verbal agreement. The case is pending investigation in the office.⁴²³

⁴²⁰ Commission on Human Rights Cordillera Administrative Region. (2021, August). HUMAN RIGHTS SITUATION REPORT ON THE MONITORING OF COVID-19 VACCINATION PROGRAM CORDILLERA ADMINISTRATIVE REGION.

⁴²¹ Commission on Human Rights Regional Office III. (2021, January). Human Rights Regional Situationer Report Region III – Central Luzon January to December 2020.

⁴²² Commission on Human Rights Regional Office 9. (2021, January). 2020 CHR 9 Human Rights Situation Report.

⁴²³ Commission on Human Rights Cordillera Administrative Region. (2021, January). Regional Human Rights Situation Report July to December 2020.

- 465** Docketed cases and concerns of older persons for this semester included preparation and notarization of documents, land-related conflict, and financial support from their local government.⁴²⁴ This is especially true for workers in the informal economy/sector who are not able to pay defined-contribution plans. The pandemic has exacerbated this even further, with concerns regarding their health and economic security threatened by the COVID-19 virus. There was also a noticeable infringement on older persons freedom of movement (brought about by health protocols limiting the movement of priority groups). There were reports that older persons' entry to pharmacies and groceries to purchase essential items, goods and services were at times denied.⁴²⁵
- 466** For its part, CHR IX actively participates in the Regional Inter-Agency Committee (RIAC) meetings where such issues are discussed. Further, support was given to the social pension program of the DSWD, the cash payout which falls under the Expanded Senior Citizens Act, as this is an added support to older persons especially during the pandemic.⁴²⁶
- 467** Republic Act No. 11350 or known as the National Commission of Senior Citizens Act was established as policy of the State to adopt measures whereby our senior citizens are assisted and appreciated by the community as a whole, provide services and activities beneficial to senior citizens, their families and the communities they serve, and establish community-based health and rehabilitation, educational, and socioeconomic programs for all senior citizens.⁴²⁷
- 468** The Commission shall perform the following functions:⁴²⁸
- a** Ensure the full implementation of laws, policies, and programs of the government pertaining to senior citizens; review and conduct studies on the same: and recommend appropriate actions thereon to Congress and the President;
 - b** Formulate policies for the promotion and protection of the rights and well-being of senior citizens;
 - c** Conduct information, education, and communication campaigns to raise awareness on the rights of senior citizens;
 - d** Establish and maintain cooperation and consultations with local government units and national government agencies on all matters pertaining to the general welfare of senior citizens;
 - e** Represent the Philippines in international functions, fora, or conferences on senior citizens and establish and maintain linkages with the international senior citizen

424 Commission on Human Rights Cordillera Administrative Region. (2021, January). Regional Human Rights Situation Report July to December 2020.

425 Commission on Human Rights Cordillera Administrative Region. (2021, January). Regional Human Rights Situation Report July to December 2020.

426 CHR IX (2021). 2021 CHR 9 HUMAN RIGHTS SITUATION REPORT.

427 Seventeenth Congress. (2019, July). REPUBLIC ACT No. 11350 An Act Creating the National Commission of Senior Citizens, Providing for its Functions, Abolishing the National Coordinating Council and Monitoring Board, Amending for the Purpose Republic Act No. 7432, as Amended, and Appropriating Funds Therefor. The LAWPHil Project. https://lawphil.net/statutes/repacts/ra2019/ra_11350_2019.html

428 Seventeenth Congress. (2019, July). REPUBLIC ACT No. 11350 An Act Creating the National Commission of Senior Citizens, Providing for its Functions, Abolishing the National Coordinating Council and Monitoring Board, Amending for the Purpose Republic Act No. 7432, as Amended, and Appropriating Funds Therefor. The LAWPHil Project. https://lawphil.net/statutes/repacts/ra2019/ra_11350_2019.html

or senior citizen-serving institutions or organizations and counterpart government agencies of other states;

- f** Constitute and convene when necessary, an advisory body to be composed of such representatives from the government, non government organizations, civil society, and the private sector, as the Commission may deem appropriate, to assist in the performance of its functions;
- g** Develop appropriate mechanisms and procedures for the selection and nomination of the members of the Commission for appointment by the President; and
- h** Perform such other actions and functions for the promotion of the welfare of senior citizens, as may be directed by the President.

Human Rights Defenders

- 469** Ms. Echanis was taken into custody after the search yielded some alleged unlicensed firearms. Considering that Ms. Echanis had just given birth at the time of her arrest, she was transported with her 1-month old baby to the CIDG Tuguegarao and detained at the CIDG's newly constructed custodial facility for women. She requested to have her case immediately taken cognizance by the court for the issuance of a commitment order to transfer her to another facility conducive to her condition.⁴²⁹
- 470** A Makabayan lawmaker denounced the PNP for asking courts to submit the names of lawyers for "personalities" belonging to "communist terrorist groups," the terms used by security forces for suspected members of the Communist Party of the Philippines (CPP) and the New People's Army (NPA).⁴³⁰
- 471** The National Union of People's Lawyers asked the UN special rapporteur on the independence of judges and lawyers, Diego García-Sayán, through a letter to immediately form a team that will conduct an investigative mission in the Philippines, to inquire intensively into the attacks against Filipino lawyers, to uncover the perpetrators and prosecute them, and to recommend measures to prevent their further occurrence. According to NUPL and FLAG, 61 lawyers, prosecutors and judges have been killed during the almost five years that President Rodrigo Duterte has been in office.⁴³¹
- 472** Lawmakers denounced threats against Judge Monique Quisumbing-Ignacio of the Mandaluyong City Regional Trial Court (RTC), who had been red-tagged for dismissing illegal firearms and explosives possession charges against a journalist and a trade unionist and for ordering their release from detention. A poster with a message from the Communist Party of the Philippines (CPP), the New People's Army (NPA) and the National Democratic Front of the Philippines (NDFP) was seen in a pedestrian walkway along Mandaluyong City thanking Judge Ignacio for freeing the journalist.⁴³²

429 (2021). Regional Human Rights Situation Report – CHR Region 02 July – December 2020. Tuguegarao City: CHR Regional Office II

430 Aurelio, J. (2021). PNP listing lawyers for 'red terrorists'. Retrieved from <https://newsinfo.inquirer.net/1406369/pnp-listing-lawyers-for-red-terrorists>

431 Santos, T. (2021). NUPL seeks UN help as more PH lawyers killed. Retrieved from <https://newsinfo.inquirer.net/1407423/nupl-seeks-un-help-as-more-ph-lawyers-killed>

432 Corrales, N. (2021). Lawmakers urge SC to look into red-tagging of Mandaluyong RTC judge. Retrieved from <https://newsinfo.inquirer.net/1408313/sc-asked-to-look-into-red-tagging-of-judge>

- 473** A jeepney, boarded by six persons carrying fifty packs of relief goods to be distributed at Norzagaray, Bulacan, was flagged down in an Enhanced Community Quarantine Checkpoint. The relief goods contained pamphlets/reading materials against the government and a tarpaulin which read, “Sagip Kanayunan, Tulong Anakpawis.” The passengers were brought to Norzagaray Police Station for questioning and documentation. Ariel Casilao, who identified himself as an Anakpawis Representative, appeared before the station and had a dialogue with PNP Norzagaray’s Chief of Police, Police Lieutenant Colonel Jaime Quiocho, Jr.⁴³³
- 474** Police Staff Sergeant Erickson Dacanay revealed that Ariel Casilao and six others were subjected to inquest proceedings through teleconferencing. Ariel Casilao was charged with violation of Article 177 of the Revised Penal Code and violation of Republic Act 11332. While the other six were charged with violation of Section 9 of RA 11332, Articles 151 and 142 of the Revised Penal Code and Section 4 of EO 922. They were assisted by their counsel, Atty. Pinki Bartolome Bernabe. Casilao and the six others disclosed that during the inquest proceedings, they refused to avail the preliminary investigation and requested for immediate resolution of the said case. They also emphasized that the assistance they wanted from this Office is to closely monitor the developments of their cases.⁴³⁴
- 475** Alfonsus Van Zijl, a Dutch national who is a lay minister and a member of Bahay Talakayan para sa Rekonstruksiyon at Ikakaunlad ng Sambayanan (BATARIS), emailed a letter of complaint to the Office of Commissioner Karen Gomez-Dumpit alleging that a tarpaulin was posted with his photo tagging him as an ally, recruiter, and organizer of the New People’s Army (NPA) at Baler, Aurora. This Office went to Aurora and met with Mr. Zijl, who believed that KABALIKAT CL was responsible for producing the tarpaulin. During the investigation, this Office also visited the Baler Municipal Police Station and San Luis Municipal Police Station. Both averred that they have not received any complaint nor noticed the posting of the tarpaulin.⁴³⁵
- 476** The case of the five (5) Human Rights Defenders (dubbed as “Tacloban-5”) who were arrested in an early dawn raid at a boarding house and at the Headquarters of a militant organization in Tacloban City are still pending in court.⁴³⁶
- 477** Alexander Philip Abinguna, Frenchie Mae Cumpio, and Mariel Dumiquil are still detained since they are accused of the violating Sec. 3 of RA 1866 as amended by RA 9516 (Illegal Possession of Explosives), a non-bailable offense. On the other hand, Mira Dalla Distura Legion and Marissa Cabaljaio (the mother with a one-year-old child) who were charged with Illegal Possession of Firearms and Ammunition are out on bail.⁴³⁷
- 478** On 13 March 2020, a follow-up interview with Alexander Philip Abinguna was conducted at the Tacloban City Jail where he is detained. He confided to the CHR investigator that they will file cases against the raiding and arresting officers as soon as the cases against them are dismissed upon the filing of their motion to quash.⁴³⁸

433 Commission on Human Rights Regional Office III. (2021, January). Human Rights Regional Situationer Report Region III – Central Luzon January to December 2020.

434 Commission on Human Rights Regional Office III. (2021, January). Human Rights Regional Situationer Report Region III – Central Luzon January to December 2020.

435 Commission on Human Rights Regional Office III. (2021, January). Human Rights Regional Situationer Report Region III – Central Luzon January to December 2020.

436 CHR Regional Office VIII. (2021, January). Regional Human Rights Situation Report July to December 2020.

437 CHR Regional Office VIII. (2021, January). Regional Human Rights Situation Report July to December 2020.

438 CHR Regional Office VIII. (2021, January). Regional Human Rights Situation Report July to December 2020.

- 479** In an update from the Court dated 13 October 2020, the cases against the Human Rights Defenders are already in the trial stage and it is still the prosecutor's turn to present evidence.⁴³⁹
- 480** Senado, the Senate employees union, urged the senators to demand from the National Intelligence Coordinating Agency Director-General Alex Paul Monteagudo and Communications Undersecretary Lorraine Badoy an apology for putting the institution in indignity and the leader's security in peril based on purely unfounded allegations. Monteagudo stated on a Facebook post that Senado was manned by the activist group Courage and acted as the "eyes and ears" of the Communist Party of the Philippines (CPP), its armed wing, the New People's Army (NPA), and the Marxist umbrella, the National Democratic Front of the Philippines (NDFP), "to hijack government plans and programs."⁴⁴⁰
- 481** In the US Department of State Annual Report on the State of Human Rights in the Country, concerns about impunity, including unsolved deaths of activists, judicial officials, government leaders and journalists have been raised. Several international human rights bodies have called on to condemn and to hold the administration accountable for the worsening human rights situation.⁴⁴¹
- 482** Faces of personalities from different rights organizations were seen on posters branding them as terrorist recruiters. On 22 July 2020, the posters were seen by Karapatan along the streets of Barangay Maa, Matina Crossing, Cabaguio, and along Buhangin to Panacan road. On 13 August 2020, another set of posted materials were spotted by their community-based paralegal volunteers. The said materials were posted outside the Sta. Ana Church, in Cabaguio, in Agdao Public Market, in Dumanlas, and along J.P. Laurel Street, Davao City. Interviews with the personalities allegedly tagged as terrorists were conducted and requests for copies of CCTV footage were made. The case is pending investigation.⁴⁴²
- 483** There were no reported cases regarding human rights defenders received by CHR CAR for the 2nd semester of 2020 (July to December). Accordingly, investigation on the 8 (eight) cases of red-tagging received and docketed by this office for the 1st semester of 2020 (January to June) persisted throughout the second semester of 2020. The people tagged were allegedly part of organizations that advocated civil and political rights. The organizations allegedly connected with the CPP, NPA, and NDF are critical to the Duterte Administration's crackdown on illegal drugs and are advocating for transparency on the government expenses, especially during the COVID19 pandemic.⁴⁴³
- 484** The CHR Regional Office IV-CALABARZON took cognizance of the case of Ms. Lodema Doroteo, 29 years of age, a Kindergarten teacher by profession and working at the Kinabuan Elementary School Annex, situated in Brgy. Sta. Ines, Tanay, Rizal. She alleged in her letter dated April 20, 2021 that she is a member of the Dumagat Tribe. She further alleged that after she assisted the surviving spouses of Puroy Dela Cruz and Randy Dela Cruz, the victims of the so-called "Bloody Sunday" which happened on 07 March 2021, in claiming the cadavers of both victims, she had been "red-tagged". She is now requesting

439 CHR Regional Office VIII. (2021, January). Regional Human Rights Situation Report July to December 2020.

440 The Inquirer Staff (2021, April). Red-tagging spreads to judiciary, Senate staff. Retrieved from <https://newsinfo.inquirer.net/1416988/red-tagging-spreads-to-judiciary-senate-staff>

441 Subingsubing, K. (2021, April 7). US raises red flag over PH human rights violations. Retrieved from <https://newsinfo.inquirer.net/1415653/us-raises-red-flag-over-ph-human-rights-violations>

442 Commission on Human Rights Regional Office 11. (2021, January). Regional Human Rights Situation Report

443 Commission on Human Rights Cordillera Administrative Region. (2021, January). Regional Human Rights Situation Report July to December 2020.

assistance to clear her name. Letters will be sent to the AFP, PNP, NCIP Office, and NTF-ELCAC to request for a dialogue with the victim as regards the allegations of her being red-tagged.⁴⁴⁴

- 485** On 20 September 2021, Kabataan Party-list, led by Representative Sarah Elago, filed before the Commission on Elections a 33-page answer to dismiss the petition filed by the National Task Force to End Local Communist Armed Conflict (NTF-ELCAC) to cancel its registration.⁴⁴⁵
- 486** Three of the cases docketed by CHR CARAGA involved actions, legal or otherwise, that were committed against a person for their perceived political affiliations and leanings. The actions committed against the victims include (1) filing of cases, (2) arrests, and (3) posting of tarpaulins bearing their name and face with the “NPA” or “berdugo” labeled on it. One of the victims is a human rights advocate involved in human rights protection and defense campaigns in the region. The two other victims are members of an organization that perennially suffers from being red-tagged by state forces. One of the victims who was charged in Court for attempted murder was arrested and then released from detention when the charge against her was dropped.⁴⁴⁶
- 487** Red-tagging is a violation of the right to be presumed innocent, it likewise violates a person’s right to associate, freedom of expression, and even their right to political thought. It criminalizes one’s membership in an organization that has not been outlawed by our legal and judicial system. It is a burden imposed upon a person for believing in a particular political ideology or philosophy even in the absence of the commission of overt or external acts that are expressly prohibited by law. It not only violates a person’s sense of security in life, but it also endangers the enjoyment of their liberty. They become targets of ridicule, malice, attacks, and trumped-up charges.⁴⁴⁷
- 488** Red-tagging is a steadily recurring human rights issue in the region. The number of persons being identified as members, supporters, and recruiters of the CPP, NPA, and the number of organizations tagged as front organizations continue to rise. The right to freedom of expression and to form an association, as well as the right to petition the government for a redress of grievances, is a constitutionally guaranteed right. Despite the human rights standards and policies in place, and institutional efforts to inculcate human rights and the rule of law to duty bearers, some are still susceptible of committing human rights violations.⁴⁴⁸
- 489** There were 9 cases involving human rights defenders that were filed before CHR-CAR for the period of January to June 2021. All of these cases involve victims who are part of organizations that advocate civil, political, and economic rights. Three (3) of the cases involve personnel connected to Tongtongan Tl Umili-CPA, an organization advocating for indigenous people’s concerns in Metro Baguio and an arm of CPA. Two (2) of the cases involve personnel from Children Women’s Education Action Research Center

444 Commission on Human Rights Regional Office IV-CALABARZON. (2021, July). Report on the Human Rights Situation of Disadvantaged, Marginalized and Vulnerable Sectors in CALABARZON (January to June 2021).

445 de Leon, D. (2021, September 20). Kabataan to Comelec: Junk NTF-ELCAC petition seeking to cancel our registration. Retrieved from <https://www.rappler.com/nation/elections/kabataan-party-list-group-calls-comelec-junk-ntf-elcac-petition-cancel-registration>

446 Commission on Human Rights CARAGA. (2021, July). The Situation of Human Rights in the CARAGA Region.

447 Commission on Human Rights CARAGA. (2021, July). The Situation of Human Rights in the CARAGA Region.

448 Commission on Human Rights Cordillera Administrative Region. (2021, August). HUMAN RIGHTS SITUATION REPORT ON THE MONITORING OF COVID-19 VACCINATION PROGRAM CORDILLERA ADMINISTRATIVE REGION.

(CWEARC), an organization involved in advocating rights of women and children. Two (2) cases also involve personnel from Cordillera Peoples Alliance (CPA), a multi-sectoral organization advocating for Indigenous Peoples rights. Two (2) cases involve youth leaders and youth organizations being tagged as Communist Front and NPA recruiters in the campus.⁴⁴⁹

- 490** As was observed, these organizations which are allegedly connected with the CPP-NPA-NDF have expressed dissent to the Duterte Administration's war on illegal drugs, and are advocating for transparency on government expenses, civic movement, and people's involvement in the government activities and processes.⁴⁵⁰
- 491** Noticeably, red-tagging related cases took the lead in the complaints received by CHR-CAR for the first semester of 2021. The spike in the number of cases received that were related to red-tagging started in the first semester of 2021. According to the complainants, the commission of red-tagging cases heightened when the Regional Law Enforcement Coordinating Committee (RLECC)-CAR Resolution No. 4 s. 2021 "A Resolution Enjoining The Members of Law Enforcement Agencies Together With Representatives Of LGUs To Conduct 'Tokhang' To known Left-leaning Personalities In The Government, Media And Other Entities" was issued.⁴⁵¹
- 492** Judge Thelma Bunyi-Medina ended the 14 year handling of the case of travelling skeletons by a regional trial court in Manila by dismissing the murder charges against NDFP peace consultants Benito Tiamzon, Wilma Austria, Adelberto Silva, Vicente Ladlad, former lawmaker Satur Ocampo, and farmer activists Norberto Murillo, Dario Tomada, and Oscar Belleza last 16 December 2021.⁴⁵²
- 493** The decision was based on the prosecution failing to present documentary or forensic evidence of the alleged death of 15 victims. Lapses in the handling and chain of custody of the skeletal remains further cast lingering doubts on their origin and identities. The court also found that the witnesses were tainted with bias and ill motive.⁴⁵³

449 Commission on Human Rights Cordillera Administrative Region. (2021, August). HUMAN RIGHTS SITUATION REPORT ON THE MONITORING OF COVID-19 VACCINATION PROGRAM CORDILLERA ADMINISTRATIVE REGION.

450 Commission on Human Rights Cordillera Administrative Region. (2021, August). HUMAN RIGHTS SITUATION REPORT ON THE MONITORING OF COVID-19 VACCINATION PROGRAM CORDILLERA ADMINISTRATIVE REGION.

451 Commission on Human Rights Cordillera Administrative Region. (2021, August). HUMAN RIGHTS SITUATION REPORT ON THE MONITORING OF COVID-19 VACCINATION PROGRAM CORDILLERA ADMINISTRATIVE REGION.

452 Bulatlat. (2021, December). Manila court dismisses multiple murder charges vs. peace consultants, activists. <https://www.bulatlat.com/2021/12/17/manila-court-dismisses-multiple-murder-charges-vs-peace-consultants-activists/?fbclid=IwAR1ZFavPRHlieCD7XbKBuz161b471Iosu7FD-b2wTRpYYNNjhsJ23CFQSA>

453 Bulatlat. (2021, December). Manila court dismisses multiple murder charges vs. peace consultants, activists. <https://www.bulatlat.com/2021/12/17/manila-court-dismisses-multiple-murder-charges-vs-peace-consultants-activists/?fbclid=IwAR1ZFavPRHlieCD7XbKBuz161b471Iosu7FD-b2wTRpYYNNjhsJ23CFQSA>

Measures taken by the Government and other stakeholders nationally and locally

Progress of Implementation of the UN Joint Programme for Human Rights

Legend			
Status	Action Needed From		
	Alarming Developments or For Monitoring		Executive Department
	No Movement		Legislative Department
	Progress		Judicial Department
	No update or No information from the government		Commission on Human Rights
			Civil Society
			Diplomatic Community

Outcomes and Indicators	Action Needed From	Status
Outcome 1: Duty bearers increasingly apply a human rights-based approach and commit fewer violations as a result of increased awareness and compliance with human rights.		
Indicator 1A – Reduction in the number of deaths resulting from police operations, disaggregated by geography, gender, and other relevant characteristic.		
Indicator 1B – Alleged violations in the context of anti-terrorism legislation are promptly investigated and referred for disciplinary measure and/or criminal prosecution.		
Output 1.1: Strengthened engagement with international human rights mechanisms and implementation of recommendations in law and policy.		

Outcomes and Indicators	Action Needed From	Status
Indicator 1.1.A – At least one visit at the invitation of the government during the UN Joint Programme period as deemed mutually beneficial for the advance of human rights.		
Indicator 1.1.B – Percentage/number of accepted UPR recommendations that the government is taking steps to implement.		
Indicator 1.1.C. – Strengthening of the National Mechanism for Reporting and Follow-Up		
Indicator 1.2.B – Number of national policies and normative frameworks on countering terrorism revised towards increased compliance with human rights.	 	
Output 1.3: Strengthened capacity to implement a human rights-based approach to drug control.		
Indicator 1.3.A – Percent of current PWUDs who have access to voluntary and evidence-based community-based treatment and care services appropriate to their risk.		
Indicator 1.3.B – Percentage of current PWUDs whose family complete evidence-based family-centered prevention programmes.		
Indicator 1.3.D – Number/percent of detainees who are able to avail of modes of early release, with special attention given to women and elderly prisoners.	 	
Indicator 1.3.E. – Percent of unsentenced detainees as a proportion of overall prison population	 	
Indicator 1.3.F – Percent of over-capacity of pre-trial detention facilities	 	
Outcome 2: Domestic accountability mechanisms to address human rights violations and abuses are strengthened, leading to increased accountability, and justice and redress for victims.	 	
Indicator 2.A – in police operations where deaths of civilians occurred: a) investigations conducted; b) administrative cases filed; and c) criminal cases filed, as appropriate, disaggregated by age, gender, geography, or other relevant characteristic.	 	

Outcomes and Indicators	Action Needed From	Status
Output 2.1: Increased capacity and improved functioning of AO35 Indicator 2.1.A – Number of preliminary investigations completed by the Department of Justice; and percentage of these that lead to prosecution in compliance with international human rights standards. Indicator 2.1.B – Percentage of requests for information sharing by the CHRP positively responded to in accordance with the Data Sharing Agreement	   	  
Output 2.2.A: A National Human Rights Referral Pathway is established and functioning. Outcome 3: Rights holders, including victims of human rights violations and abuses and their families, are better able to claim their rights. Output 3.1: Victims, witnesses, and civil society actors have increased access to justice, restitution, and protection.	         	 
Indicator 3.1.A – A comprehensive and victim-centric victim and witness protection system is in place.	 	
Output 3.2 – A National Preventive Mechanism is established. Output 3.3: Freedom of expression is protected, and journalists and human rights defenders can conduct their activities safely.	       	 

Outcomes and Indicators	Action Needed From	Status
Indicator 3.3.B – Date of entry into force of legislation recognizing and protecting Human Rights Defenders		
Indicator 3.4.A . Engagement of civil society in accountability processes, disaggregated by gender and other relevant characteristics.		

494 Of the 72 laws signed by President Rodrigo Duterte as of October 2021, no new law directly corresponds to the list of current priority legislative agenda of the Commission on Human Rights. However, there are 4 new laws that might have some human rights implications:

- a** [REPUBLIC ACT NO. 11589] AN ACT STRENGTHENING AND MODERNIZING THE BUREAU OF FIRE PROTECTION AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR
- b** [REPUBLIC ACT NO. 11521] AN ACT FURTHER STRENGTHENING THE ANTI-MONEY LAUNDERING LAW, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE REPUBLIC ACT NO. 9160, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE “ANTI-MONEY LAUNDERING ACT OF 2001”, AS AMENDED
- c** [REPUBLIC ACT NO. 11519] AN ACT EXTENDING THE AVAILABILITY OF APPROPRIATIONS UNDER REPUBLIC ACT NO. 11494, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE “BAYANIHAN TO RECOVER AS ONE ACT”
- d** [REPUBLIC ACT NO. 11549] AN ACT LOWERING THE MINIMUM HEIGHT REQUIREMENT FOR APPLICANTS OF THE PHILIPPINE NATIONAL POLICE (PNP), BUREAU OF FIRE PROTECTION (BFP), BUREAU OF JAIL MANAGEMENT AND PENOLOGY (BJMP), AND BUREAU OF CORRECTIONS (BUCOR), AMENDING REPUBLIC ACT NO. 6975, AS AMENDED, REPUBLIC ACT NO. 9263, AND REPUBLIC ACT NO. 10575

495 The Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) has urged the UN body to immediately investigate the deaths at the hands of the security forces. “We are appalled by the apparently arbitrary killing of nine activists in simultaneous police-military operations in Batangas, Cavite, Laguna and Rizal provinces surrounding Metro Manila in the Philippines in the early hours of Sunday morning,” OHCHR spokesperson Ravina Shamdasani said in a statement.⁴⁵⁴

496 The Department of Justice (DOJ) has conducted a review of an initial batch of 52 cases of killings by the police in the drug war and found that there were serious lapses in the conduct of police anti-drug operations.⁴⁵⁵

⁴⁵⁴ Enano, J. (2021 March 11). ‘Arbitrary killing’ of PH activists appalls UN body. Retrieved from <https://newsinfo.inquirer.net/1405498/arbitrary-killing-of-ph-activists-appalls-un-body>

⁴⁵⁵ Pazzibungan, D. & Subingsubing, K. (2021 October 21). DOJ drug war review: Killer cops had it easy. Retrieved from <https://newsinfo.inquirer.net/1504546/doj-drug-war-review-killer-cops-had-it-easy>

- 497** The DOJ noted that many of those killed were found to have tested negative in their paraffin test. This delivers a serious blow to the usual claim of “*nanlaban*” (the suspects fought back) being used by the PNP to defend their actions.⁴⁵⁶
- 498** The Paniqui Regional Trial Court convicted Jonel Nuezca for the murder of Sonia and Frank Gregorio, a mother and son, last 26 August 2021. He was sentenced to reclusion perpetua or up to 40 years imprisonment for each count of murder. Nuezca was also ordered to pay the amount of P476,000 each to the heirs of the victims.⁴⁵⁷
- 499** The CHR Regional Office XI in close partnership with HOPE KABABAIHAN conducted an Orientation on Human Rights and Kasambahay Law to 20 organized women groups of HOPE KABABAIHAN to build an understanding and appreciation for human rights and strengthen partnership with the organization. The Commission also took the opportunity to plan activities for the year 2021.⁴⁵⁸
- 500** The Presidential Proclamation No. 731 series of 1996 declares the 2nd week of February of every year as the National Awareness Week for the Prevention of Child Sexual Abuse and Exploitation. The CHR Regional Office XI participated in the nationwide campaign to prevent child sexual abuse and exploitation. In close partnership with BALAY DANGUPAN, CHR Regional Office XI conducted a Virtual Orientation on Human Rights, RA 7610, and the Problem of Child Abuse and Exploitation, to Social Workers and House Parents of the Center. At the end of the session, the participants had a better appreciation for human rights and understanding of the RA 7610 Law.⁴⁵⁹
- 501** The CHR Regional Office XI conducted three seminars focusing on the topics of Human Rights, CHRP Mandate, Rights and Laws of Women and other related topics on indigenous people. The activity aims to orient the participants on the pressing and current human rights issues and on the mandate of the Commission on Human Rights. It also serves as an awareness campaign about the international and local framework on the protection and promotion of women’s rights in celebration of the National Women’s Month.⁴⁶⁰
- 502** Each year, the CHR Regional Office XI has brought to light important issues so that older persons’ rights are safeguarded. Human Rights is still at the core of all efforts in this regard. The Region continues to strengthen its commitment in promoting human rights by conducting a Lecture on Human Rights and Rights of Older Persons to caregivers of Camillian Sisters Home for the Aged in Digos City, Davao del Sur.⁴⁶¹
- 503** The Commission on Election (COMELEC) Digos City Office launched the citywide campaign on persons with disabilities Voters Registration on 30 March 2021 with the campaign theme “PWD: PWeDe ka makaBOTO.” In line with this the CHR Regional Office XI, in partnership with Digos City PWD Advocates and Workers with Disabilities Association (DCPAWDA) and Digos City Special Programs & Management Office-

456 Rola, A. & CNN Philippines Staff. (2021 October 20). Lack of records, negative gunpowder tests: DOJ releases drug war report. Retrieved from <https://cnnphilippines.com/news/2021/10/20/DOJ-drug-war-review-report-52-cases.html>

457 CNN Philippines Staff. (2021 August 26). Tarlac court convicts cop Nuezca for murder of mother and son. Retrieved from <https://www.cnnphilippines.com/news/2021/8/26/Jonel-Nuezca-Gregorio-murder-guilty-police.html>

458 Commission on Human Rights Regional Office XI. (2021, July). Human Rights Situation Report Jan-Jun 2021.

459 Commission on Human Rights Regional Office XI. (2021, July). Human Rights Situation Report Jan-Jun 2021.

460 Commission on Human Rights Regional Office XI. (2021, July). Human Rights Situation Report Jan-Jun 2021.

461 Commission on Human Rights Regional Office XI. (2021, July). Human Rights Situation Report Jan-Jun 2021

Persons with Disability (CSPMO-PWD Program), conducted a lecture on Human Rights and PWD Rights of Suffrage to partake on the campaign.⁴⁶²

- 504** The programs of SSS for the Informal Economy/Sector (WIES) include the KaltaSSS Collect Program, Accreditation Program for Cooperatives, AlkanSSSy for Informal Sector Groups, and Contribution Subsidy Provider Program.
- 505** The KaltaSSS Collect Program is a “tie-up with either government entity or a private entity that engages self-employed workers to collect SSS contributions from such workers through a salary deduction scheme.” As of the end of 2020, SSS has 81 cooperative partners, enabling SSS to register 466,023 members. As of the end of 2020, SSS has 1,922 partners in such programs, enabling SSS to register 294,702 members.
- 506** The Accreditation Program for Cooperatives, on the other hand, is a “tie-up program with cooperatives for SSS coverage of their members.” As of the end of 2020, SSS has 81 cooperatives partners, enabling SSS to register 466,023 members.⁴⁶³
- 507** The AlkanSSSy for Informal Sector Groups is “characterized by the installation of an actual thrift box or alkansya.” This program was designed to fit the informal sector workers’ way of life and to make saving for monthly SSS premiums affordable. The AlkanSSSy is akin to a huge filing cabinet with around 160 individual boxes or coin slots that can be locked and in which the informal sector workers drop daily amounts in their designated slots. As of the end of 2020, SSS has 1,305 partners under the AlkanSSSy program, enabling them to register 78,834 members.⁴⁶⁴
- 508** DTI’s programs for the informal sector include: Negosyo Center, Youth Entrepreneurship Program, Global MSME Academy, Reboot Package for Online Enterprises, Shared Service Facilities (SSF), Negosyo Serbisyo sa Barangay, Pangkabuhayan sa Pagbangon at Ginhawa, One Town, One Product (OTOP) Philippines, Diskwento Caravan, Buy Local! Go Lokal!, Bagsakan Special Project, Virtual National Trade Fair, and Libreng Mask para sa Masa.⁴⁶⁵
- 509** As a follow up to the survey on the informal sector that was conducted in 2008, the Philippine Statistics Office (PSA) is doing initial work on the conceptual and statistical framework for the informal sector.⁴⁶⁶
- 510** The Cooperative Development Authority (CDA) provides services and programs that would benefit the informal sectors such as jeepney operations, jeepney drivers, bus operators, pedicab drivers, massage therapists, and other ambulant vendors. CDA’s services and programs include ease in the COOP registration, provision of technical assistance to cooperatives, CDA Accreditation program for cooperative training providers, cooperative external auditors, and cooperative mediators/conciliators.⁴⁶⁷

462 Commission on Human Rights Regional Office XI. (2021, July). Human Rights Situation Report Jan-Jun 2021.

463 CHR consultation with the representatives of the national government agencies, supra note 40. June 2021.

464 Development Academy of the Philippines, AlkanSSSy Program: Moving Towards Inclusive Growth, available at <https://coe-psp.dap.edu.ph/compedium-innovation/alkansssy-program-moving-towards-inclusive-growth-2/> (last accessed August 24, 2021).

465 CHR Consultation with the representatives of the national government agencies. June 2021.

466 CHR Consultation with the representatives of the national government agencies. June 2021.

467 CHR Consultation with the representatives of the national government agencies. June 2021.

- 511** Pasig City LGU's initiatives for those in the informal economy/sector as well as for unemployed or under employed individuals include the "Tulong at Pampuhunang Ayuda sa Taga-Pasig" (TAPAT) Loan Program, an economic stimulus program aimed at not just giving financial assistance but also empowering and creating new entrepreneurs. It is geared towards increasing the capital of existing small business owners or assisting those who have been displaced during the pandemic. The program can be accessed through pasig.accessleap.com which also shows their medium-sized loan program for MSMEs partnering with UnionBank. According to Atty. Santiago, Assistant City Administrator and Head of the Local Economic Development Office, as of June 2021, the program has 6,688 batch loanees.
- 512** The Pasig City LGU actively participated in the TUPAD program centering on urban gardening and clean and green activities. The city was able to help around 6,750 successfully hired beneficiaries of TUPAD.
- 513** As assistance to displaced tricycle drivers, the Pasig City LGU also initiated their Tricycle Operations Support. They took care of the franchise fees including supervisory fees of drivers via a city ordinance. They also gave financial assistance to displaced drivers amounting to PhP 4,000 via a Sangguniang Panlungsod Resolution. PandaTODA, similar to what was institutionalized in the City of Manila, was also initiated in Pasig through a memorandum of agreement (MOA) with FoodPanda. Displaced drivers were given training by FoodPanda and were utilized for deliveries during ECQ last year. It is up to the driver if they want to stay in the platform even after the ECQ was lifted.
- 514** Atty. Santiago also detailed their other initiatives and livelihood programs like PPE making in their Pangkabuhayan Centers, and the TODA to go program which endeavors displaced tricycle drivers to have opportunities as delivery services. They also have a MOA with the Philippine Competition Commission (PCC) to ensure that their policies are pro-competition and anti-monopoly, to give MSMEs in Pasig a chance to compete with big businesses. Another initiative is their business streamlining activities under their E-Boss program which is an electronic application for ease of doing business renewal. Under this program, they have also revised their fees as they were previously seen as exorbitant and as nuisance fees. They endeavored to make all fees justifiable so some, like the garbage fee, were lessened in order to ensure ease of doing business. A business and entrepreneur program is also in the works, which aims to strengthen their MSME and local business development.⁴⁶⁸

Activities of the Commission on Human Rights and other Human Rights Defenders to address the human rights issues described above

- 515** A referred case by the Commission on Human Rights Central Office thru the Citizen's Help and Assistance Division (CHAD) on the alleged profiling and red-tagging of Association of Concerned Teachers (ACT) officers in Bataan by the Philippine National Police. Special Investigators met with John Dean and said that he was harassed and intimidated. This caused him trauma and fear for his life and that of his family. He never thought that being a member of a legal and legit organization like ACT would cause him to be red-tagged or accused of being a member of the Communist Terrorist Group. However, upon request for him to execute a Sworn Statement, he appealed for more time to think about what to do next and whether he will file charges against the perpetrators.

- 516** From July to December 2020, two (2) Virtual Meetings and one (1) Specie TWG Meeting were conducted, CHR Regional Office I being the Chairperson of the Regional Gender and Development Committee (RGADC), a support Committee of the Regional Development Council.
- 517** Particularly, the conduct of the 1st RGADC-1 Virtual Meeting was on 24 August 2020 and the following took place: (a) Approval 1st Semester RGADC-1 accomplishment and proposed 2nd Semester 2020 Work Plan; and (b) Updating of the Region 1 GFPS profiling.
- 518** On 10 November 2020, the Special TWG Meeting was conducted which have resulted in the following: (a) Updating of the Ilocos RDP Plan for 2017-2022; (b) Discussion of the Proposed conduct of an RGADC-1 Webinar in line with the 18-Day Campaign to END-VAW; and (c) discussed the possible agenda items on the next RGADC-1 Virtual Meeting.
- 519** On 16 November 2020, the second RGADC-1 Virtual Meeting was conducted which resulted in the endorsement of the Result of the Evaluation of the Enhanced Ilocos RDP 2017-2022 Midterm Update using the HGDG on Development Planning; endorsement of the Guidelines for Mainstreaming GAD in the Regional Development and Annual Investment Programs; and the passage of Two (2) RGADC-1 Resolutions for FY 2020.
- 520** In addition, as the Gender Ombud in the Region, this Regional Office of the Commission on Human Rights also conducted Monitoring of compliance of the provisions of the Magna Carta of Women by the State Universities (SUC) and RLAs in the Region. Monitoring Letters were sent out to four (4) SUCs namely, University of Northern Philippines (UNP), Vigan City, Ilocos Sur; Pangasinan State University (PSU), Lingayen, Pangasinan; Mariano Marcos State University (MMSU), Batac City, Ilocos Norte; and Don Mariano Marcos Memorial State University (DMMMSU), San Fernando City, La Union. The Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) Field Office I also sent their reply with respect to the number of beneficiaries of their different programs, projects, and activities.
- 521** Based on the responses that were sent to this Regional Office, there was already compliance by some SUCs with respect to the different provisions of the Magna Carta of Women (R.A. 9710). For example, in the UNP, the policy on non-expulsion of students due to pregnancy is already included as one of the policies on Curriculum/ Instruction as approved by the Board of Regents. In MMSU, they have also adopted the Equal Opportunity Policy (EOP) wherein one of its General Provisions states that “Unmarried pregnant employees/ students shall not be terminated / nor subject for expulsion but shall be given appropriate counselling and assistance. For PSU, they also formulated several GAD-related Policies and was approved by the PSU Board of Regents through Board Resolution No. 12, series of 2016. One of them is the Policy also of Non-Expulsion of Students and Faculty due to pregnancy. Based on the Monitoring, it was also observed that the SUCs already have an established Committee on Decorum and Investigation (CODI) that handles/ investigates gender-based violence or sexual harassment cases. This Regional Office needs to continue its Monitoring functions so as to see to it that these SUCs will sustain all their efforts in promoting and protecting Gender Equality and Gender Equity in their respective institutions.⁴⁶⁹
- 522** In one of the reports from the E-report portal, Mrs. Nikka Melissa Anne Bola-Ferrer, a 27-year-old resident of Quezon City, conveyed that she was a survivor of psychological and verbal violence from her husband and was forced to reside and depend on her in-laws for support. She sought assistance from the Commission for her and her son’s safe transport to her side of the family in Los Banos, Laguna. The plan was for a team from the central

office to assist her transport from Quezon City to meet the regional office's team in Cavite, and safely assist their transport to Laguna.⁴⁷⁰

- 523** Atty. Rexford D. Guevarra, issued a Mission Order (M.O. No. CHR4a-2020 –) dated 14 May 2020 deploying a team composed of the undersigned lawyer and special investigators (the “team”) to provide assistance on 15 May 2020 for the safe transport of Mrs. Ferrer and her son travelled from Cavite to Los Banos, Laguna in coordination with the GEHWRC and concerned government agencies.
- 524** On 15 May 2020, through the assistance of this Office, Mrs. Ferrer was transported from Quezon City to Los Banos, Laguna where the victim was safely reunited with her family.⁴⁷¹
- 525** Another case referred to the CHR Regional Office IV-A is the complaint filed by Raiza Lamiel, of legal age, a resident of City of General Trias, Cavite. Raiza alleged that she was physically abused by her father. She requested to be rescued from her home in Cavite and be brought to a shelter for victim-survivors of abuse.
- 526** Through this Office's assistance, Raiza was rescued from and was brought to Quezon City, at a temporary shelter set-up for victims of GBV, by the team headed by Atty. Twyla Rubin of the Gender and Equality Women's Human Rights' Center (GEWHRC) on 15 May 2020.⁴⁷²
- 527** The CHR Regional Office 2, being the prime protector of human rights guided by the principle of Best Interest of the Child and as a member of Regional Juvenile Justice Welfare Council (RJJCWC), has continuously been monitoring the situations of the various Children in Conflict with the Law (CICL) in jails and in Bahay Pag-asa in the Region. Through its independent monitoring, the Office visited twice the two (2) Bahay Pag-asa for the second semester namely: Balay Namnama – Youth Home for Boys and Bahay Pag-asa – Transition and Rehabilitation Home for Disadvantaged Children and once (1) the Regional Rehabilitation Center for Youth located at Roma, Enrile, Cagayan.⁴⁷³
- 528** On 12 May 2020, this Office received the complaint of Mrs. Cecil Mojica, of legal age and a resident of Nasugbu, Batangas through the referral of GEHWRC as one of the complaints received through the Eportal. In her complaint, she averred that the Nasugbu Municipal Police Station (NMPS) refused to properly assist them regarding the alleged rape of her minor child “JM”. According to her, the NMPS advised them during the filing of the complaint of her daughter that the said case would be acted upon only after the end of the imposed quarantine. Aggrieved, Mrs. Mojica requested for this Office's assistance.
- 529** On 13 May 2020, this Office coordinated with the Women and Children's Protection Desk (WCPD) of the NMPS to verify the said complaint. On the same day, the WCPD assisted Mrs. Mojica in the execution of the complaint affidavit. And on 18 May 2020, Atty. Diana B. Samaniego-Gamo, assisted the client in filing the rape case before the Office of the Provincial Prosecutor in Batangas City, Batangas.

470 CHR Regional Office IV-A (CALABARZON). (2021, January). 2020 Report on the Human Rights Situation of Disadvantaged, Marginalized and Vulnerable Sectors in Region IV-A (CALABARZON).

471 CHR Regional Office IV-A (CALABARZON). (2021, January). 2020 Report on the Human Rights Situation of Disadvantaged, Marginalized and Vulnerable Sectors in Region IV-A (CALABARZON).

472 CHR Regional Office IV-A (CALABARZON). (2021, January). 2020 Report on the Human Rights Situation of Disadvantaged, Marginalized and Vulnerable Sectors in Region IV-A (CALABARZON).

473 CHR Regional Office II: Tuguegarao City. (2021). *Regional Human Rights Situationer Report – CHR Region 02 July – December 2020*.

- 530** On 10 August 2020, Atty. Mila Punzalan-Sobrevinas assisted the client in drafting a reply-affidavit. The same was submitted to the Prosecutor's Office on 11 August 2020. To verify the status of the case, a letter was sent to the Prosecutor's Office on 19 October 2020. At present, the case remains pending for determination whether the victim is entitled for financial assistance.⁴⁷⁴
- 531** Brought to the CHR Regional Office IV-CALABARZON's attention is the death of "MCV", an 11-year old minor. She was found dead near a creek in Barangay San Roque, Bauan, Batangas on 24 December 2019. It was suspected, based on the investigation, that the victim could have been raped prior to her killing.
- 532** As an affirmative response, this Office sent a subpoena to the Chief of Police of Bauan Municipal Police Station (BMPS) on 02 January 2020 to ask for documents necessary for the grant of financial assistance. The letter remains unheeded to date.⁴⁷⁵
- 533** Based on the investigation of cases relating to the War on Drugs in the CHR Regional Office 11, most subjects killed in operations are those living in impoverished urban areas. Also, the War on Drugs impacted not only the loss of life but damage to the livelihood, education, and mental health of surviving family members. It should be noted that the number of cases received by the regional office pertaining to the War on Drugs have lessened when the region was subjected to various levels of community quarantine because of the COVID-19 pandemic. It should also be noted that the increasing number of infected persons in the region hampered the mobility of CHR investigations on EJK cases.⁴⁷⁶
- 534** The CHR Regional Office IX was also alarmed by the number of suicides, which even involved minors, prompting the office to draft and issue a policy advisory on suicide prevention.⁴⁷⁷
- 535** The CHR-NCR distributed hygiene kits and care packs to Bahay Pag-Asa (BPA) Youth Development Center, Molave Youth Homes, and Pasay City Youth Home as part of its yearly activity, and obtained reports about the current situation children deprived of liberty in youth rehabilitation facilities albeit restriction on physical visits.⁴⁷⁸
- 536** As reported by CHR Regional Office XI, on 16 July 2020 the Philippine Army was able to rescue a child involved in armed conflict. The child, a boy and aged fifteen (15) years old, was rescued by the government forces during a combat operation against the New People's Army in Lupon, Davao Oriental. The reports also stated that the boy was placed in custody at the Philippine Army camp. This case is pending investigation.⁴⁷⁹
- 537** The office usually performs regular visits to Bahay Pag-asa and Youth Detention Facilities in the Region but due to the suspension of visitation of said detention facilities, online or virtual monitoring was conducted instead to continuously monitor the situations of the Children in Conflict with the Laws (CICLs). As per record, the offices visited forty-six (46) CICLs in 5 Youth Facilities and one (1) Jail. These children were provided legal assistance,

474 CHR Regional Office IV-A (CALABARZON). (2021, January). 2020 Report on the Human Rights Situation of Disadvantaged, Marginalized and Vulnerable Sectors in Region IV-A (CALABARZON).

475 CHR Regional Office IV-A (CALABARZON). (2021, January). 2020 Report on the Human Rights Situation of Disadvantaged, Marginalized and Vulnerable Sectors in Region IV-A (CALABARZON).

476 Commission on Human Rights Regional Office 11. (2021, January). Regional Human Rights Situation Report.

477 Commission on Human Rights Regional Office 9. (2021, January). 2020 CHR 9 Human Rights Situation Report.

478 Commission on Human Rights National Capital Region. (2021, February). Human Rights Situation Report on Children from July to December 2020.

479 Commission on Human Rights Regional Office 11. (2021, January). Regional Human Rights Situation Report

and their conditions were also monitored during the online and actual visitation. Likewise, care packs were sent to chosen BPAs with the highest number of CICLs. Situation of the 3 CICLs lodged at the Mountain Province District Jail was brought to the attention of the warden, their lawyers, social workers and to RJJWC. Pending transfer to BPA or Youth Detention Facility in Benguet, said CICLs were placed in a separate room inside the Jail.⁴⁸⁰

- 538** It was stated that in Region 1, due to the implementation of community quarantines and travel bans, many OFWs and Seafarers bound to leave the country were not allowed due to the pandemic. With this situation, efforts of the Regional Line Agencies such as Department of Labor Relations and Employment (DOLE), Overseas Workers Welfare Administration (OWWA) among others are still in effect. The services extended to these migrant workers include DOLE AKAP and OFW Tulong sa Pag-unlad. For July to December 2020, the newest program launched by the Department of Science and Technology (DOST) is called iFWDPH. It is geared to assist displaced migrant workers or their families to venture on small businesses to create alternative sources of income. This program will assist and capacitate OFW and their family to engage into business, by providing capacity building activities and needed funding.⁴⁸¹
- 539** Compared to other learners in mainstream society, the IP children face even greater challenges in this new learning system. Their main problem in the past, which was minimal access to education, has been compounded by their inability and lack of capacity to acquire the needed technology and connectivity for continuous learning. These limitations only deepen the indigenous people's vulnerability and deprivation, especially of the basic services, such as health and sanitation, which are of primordial concern at this time. In addressing these concerns, CHR Regional Office IX continuously monitors their situation and in doing so reiterates that the government through its duly authorized agencies should undertake concrete steps and programs to ensure the preservation of the culture and existence of these indigenous peoples, especially during these trying times.⁴⁸²
- 540** There are no reports of cases involving Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) because there is still no recorded strong typhoon, earthquake, flood or other type of calamity that struck the region. Concerned agencies like the Office of the Civil Defense (OCD) as the lead, Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH), PAGASA and the CHR Regional Office I continue to educate people on disaster preparedness and on IDP rights.⁴⁸³
- 541** Families displaced by the siege in 2013 are still claiming for their right to permanent shelters. Corollary thereto, they are asking for proper provisions of water and electricity. These concerns have been continuously raised in inter-agency meetings including other protection issues encountered by these families. The CHR Regional Office IX through the IDP team and the IDP monitor is continuously monitoring this situation.⁴⁸⁴
- 542** Persons with disabilities are often victims of discrimination and ridicule by reason of their disability. The public's lack of awareness on the laws protecting the persons with disabilities also contributed to the problem. The pandemic even magnified the situation. CHR Regional Office IX, in its effort to combat discrimination and to address their

480 Commission on Human Rights Cordillera Administrative Region. (2021, January). Regional Human Rights Situation Report July to December 2020.

481 Commission on Human Rights Regional Office I: San Fernando City. (2021). Regional HR Situation Report July to December 2020.

482 Commission on Human Rights Regional Office 9. (2021, January). 2020 CHR 9 Human Rights Situation Report.

483 Commission on Human Rights Regional Office I: San Fernando City. (2021). *Regional HR Situation Report July to December 2020*.

484 Commission on Human Rights Regional Office 9. (2021, January). 2020 CHR 9 Human Rights Situation Report.

concerns, usually sits and participates in RIAC meetings, an appropriate avenue where these issues are being raised and resolved. We also reiterate the need for the active advocacy for the enactment of local legislation to address the concern of persons with disabilities.⁴⁸⁵

- 543** Pursuant to its mandate, CHR has established mechanisms to promote, protect, and monitor the realization of the rights of persons with disabilities. One of these mechanisms is the conduct of quarterly meetings with the organizations of persons with disabilities on various issues and concerns raised by the sector. Government agencies and local government units are also invited to share about their programs and initiatives. This ensures their active and meaningful participation in making decisions that affect them, their rights, and their dignity and allows the rights holders to directly communicate their issues and concerns to the duty-bearers. The first quarter meeting focused on the socio-economic conditions of persons with disabilities during the COVID-19 pandemic, particularly employment and livelihood.
- 544** Issues raised by this sector during the first quarter meeting were: socio-economic conditions worsened due to the pandemic, i.e., job losses and inability to work because of mobility restrictions and social distancing measures; continuous stigma and discrimination faced by persons with disabilities; need of the blind for personal attendants; issues on access to information, especially those related to the pandemic, e.g. absence of sign language interpretation and closed captioning, incompatible formats for screen readers or voiceover technology; use of unclear and complex information; difficulties to work in the new normal; no or lack of government programs designed for persons with disabilities; lack of information dissemination on the services provided by different government agencies; inaccessibility of transportation and difficulty in mobility.⁴⁸⁶
- 545** The second quarter meeting centered on the mandatory Philippine Health Insurance Corporation (PhilHealth) coverage for all persons with disabilities. Issues raised during the second quarter meeting were: unavailability of the Philippine Registry of Persons with Disabilities (PRPWD) in their local government units; lack of knowledge and awareness of LGU some personnel about the Philhealth enrollment process; lack of knowledge of personnel in some Philhealth offices about the Republic Act 11228.38; difficulty on the part of LGU personnel in accessing the registry resulting in failure to upload necessary data to the registry; LGUs located in rural areas are not able to upload data on PRPWD due to lack of internet access, weak connectivity, and accessibility to the server of the DOH; issues on access to information, especially those related to the pandemic (e.g. absence of sign language interpretation and closed captioning; incompatible formats for screen readers or voiceover technology; use of unclear and complex information); there is no data system for the masterlist of persons with disabilities as per NCDA; issue of accuracy of the Philippine Registry for Persons with Disability data when matched with the Philhealth database. Some LGUs are also not uploading their data; and system enhancement of the registry was halted due to pandemic.⁴⁸⁷
- 546** As part of CHR's efforts in monitoring the human rights of persons with disabilities, the Philippine Observatory on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (PhORPD) was launched on 16 July 2021 as the fifth observatory under the 5th Commission's Human Rights Observatory. This effort is propelled by the need for a more independent, efficient,

485 Commission on Human Rights Regional Office 9. (2021, January). 2020 CHR 9 Human Rights Situation Report.

486 Commission on Human Rights of the Philippines, Economic, Social, and Cultural Rights Center Documentation Report. Retrieved from <https://chr-observatories.uwazi.io/entity/ws7lo0tl6ma?file=162.534.8480225zu0uyjdms0.pdf>

487 An Act Providing For The Mandatory Philhealth Coverage For All Persons With Disability (PWDs), Amending For The Purpose Republic Act No. 7277, As Amended, Otherwise Known As The "Magna Carta For Persons With Disability"

inclusive, and responsive data sharing system, in the context of streamlining Philippine Observatory on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (PhORPD).

- 547** CHR will be convening several partnership mechanisms through the observatory, i.e. inter-agency within government, civil society, business sector, academe, and organizations of persons with disabilities partnerships. The current effort is geared towards presenting and analyzing information that are useful in highlighting persons with disabilities' collective priorities and aspirations in order to live a life of dignity. Such data would serve as bases in crafting more appropriate and responsive State policies, programs, projects and activities whereby the persons with disabilities themselves have a direct hand in decision-making via the PhORPD. In this sense, it is a system that endeavors to empower persons with disabilities.⁴⁸⁸
- 548** The CHR Regional Office II was able to monitor 40 detention facilities in the Region. The Office remedied the restrictions in conducting jail visitation face to face by launching the E-Dalaw program. The inmates were interviewed virtually to assess their situation and their concerns while in jail. Legal assistance was also extended to 40 inmates virtually through the E-lawyering program of the Office.⁴⁸⁹
- 549** The CHR Regional Office II was able to conduct jail visitation and monitoring in Forty (40) detention facilities. The challenge in the accomplishment of our target along this activity is the access into these facilities. There are facilities specially BJMP that do not allow entry for the conduct of face-to-face interviews with PDLs. However, with E-Dalaw, while this restriction was remedied, there remains a problem in this new mechanism which is the inability to conduct physical inspection of the indoor facilities of the institutions.⁴⁹⁰
- 550** From July to December 2020, CHR Regional Office I conducted a total of 126 jail visits within the different parts of the region. In the course of the jail visitations conducted, 183 combined inmates/detainees (18 females & 165 males) were given legal assistance. Due to the pandemic, this Regional Office of the Commission on Human Rights has temporarily suspended its Jail Visitation activities in partnership with the Commission and Population and Development (PopCom-Region I) in promoting Sexual and Reproductive Health Rights and Basic Human Rights to female detainees.⁴⁹¹
- 551** In addressing the same, CHR Regional Office IX implemented other measures to monitor their situation including via emails and phone calls. The focal persons also participated in a "Virtual Monitoring of Jails, Youth Care Facilities and Police Lock up Cells", along with RJJWC. During the said undertaking, representatives of the different detention facilities were made to report through zoom as to the conditions of their detention center, their inmates and the protocols which they are implementing to prevent the spread of Covid 19. Virtual tour within their facility was also done giving the members of the council to personally see the detention center premises.⁴⁹²
- 552** Consistent with its mandate to conduct jail visitation in all detention facilities, CHR CAR has visited the following facilities pursuant to its jail visitation plan. However, due to the

488 CHR Human Rights Centers Management Office Economic, Social and Cultural Rights Center. (2021). Economic, Social and Cultural Rights Situation Report from January to June 2021.

489 (2021). Regional Human Rights Situationer Report – CHR Region 02 July – December 2020. Tuguegarao City: CHR Regional Office II

490 (2021). Regional Human Rights Situationer Report – CHR Region 02 July – December 2020. Tuguegarao City: CHR Regional Office II

491 *Romero, A. (2021). Regional Women's Human Rights and LGBTI Profile. La Union: CHR Regional Office I.*

492 Commission on Human Rights Regional Office 9. (2021, January). 2020 CHR 9 Human Rights Situation Report.

health concerns brought about by COVID-19, jail visitation activities were suspended pursuant to a memorandum dated 11 March 2020 issued by CHR Visitorial Division-Prevention Cluster. Moreover, BJMP likewise suspended jail visitations since the outbreak of COVID-19 until the present. Thus, detention facility monitoring was conducted virtually, either by videoconferencing or telephone call.⁴⁹³

- 553** Accordingly, ten out of 10 Sangguniang Panlalawigan (SP) Members who were present during the session voted for the passage of Draft Ordinance No. 184-2019 entitled “Prohibiting Acts and Conducts of Discrimination on the Basis of Sex, Actual or Perceived Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity and Expression, Disability, Age, Ethnic Origin, Civil/Marital Status, and Religious and Political Affiliation or Beliefs” during the 34th Regular Session of the 22nd SP on February 18, 2020 at the SP Session Hall, City of San Fernando, La Union.⁴⁹⁴
- 554** La Union’s Anti-Discrimination Ordinance, principally authored by SPM Nancy Corazon M. Bacurnay, aims to eliminate all forms of discrimination and to value the dignity of every person, guarantee full respect for human rights, and give the highest priority to measures that protect and enhance the right of all people in the province.⁴⁹⁵
- 555** The enacted ordinance will penalize discriminatory acts such as, but not limited to, discrimination in employment in the workplace, discrimination in education and educational or training institutions, discrimination in the issuance of licenses, clearances, certifications, and other similar documents, and discrimination in the delivery of goods or services on the basis of sex, age, and others as provided in the ordinance.⁴⁹⁶
- 556** Section 6 of the above-mentioned ordinance is the creation of the La Union Anti – Discrimination Council composed of the Provincial Governor as the Chairperson and other officials and representatives of the various sectors. Further, violators of the ordinance would be penalized with not less than 45 days but not more than one year of imprisonment and/or a fine not less than P2,000.00 but not to exceed P5,000.00 or both at the discretion of the court. Lastly, the passage of this ordinance aims to ensure that human rights of all people, regardless of who they are and where they come from, are protected and promoted.⁴⁹⁷
- 557** The CHR Regional Office IX, in addressing issues concerning older persons, actively participates in the RIAC meetings where these were discussed. Further, we also support the social pension program of the DSWD, the cash payout which falls under the Expanded Senior Citizens Act, as this is an added support to the seniors especially during the pandemic. Moreover, we also welcome the DILG Memorandum Circular No. 2020-110 dated 17 August 2020 allowing older persons to go out of their residences and enter commercial establishments for purposes of obtaining essential goods and services and for work (in permitted industries including those in the informal setting) in all areas under the ECQ, MECQ, GCQ and MGCQ.⁴⁹⁸

493 Commission on Human Rights Cordillera Administrative Region. (2021, January). Regional Human Rights Situation Report July to December 2020.

494 Romero, A. (2021). Regional Women’s Human Rights and LGBTI Profile. La Union: CHR Regional Office I.

495 Romero, A. (2021). Regional Women’s Human Rights and LGBTI Profile. La Union: CHR Regional Office I.

496 Romero, A. (2021). Regional Women’s Human Rights and LGBTI Profile. La Union: CHR Regional Office I.

497 Romero, A. (2021). Regional Women’s Human Rights and LGBTI Profile. La Union: CHR Regional Office I.

498 Commission on Human Rights Regional Office 9. (2021, January). 2020 CHR 9 Human Rights Situation Report.

- 558** A proposed e-Konek Gateway geared to provide seamless connectivity of OFW serving agencies in the Region by creating a Gateway. Moreover, in connection to the vaccination program of the government, OFWs who are scheduled for deployment were given priority to be vaccinated in their respective Rural Health Unit. Finally, despite our current situation, services for OFWs were made available, improved and enhanced to timely cater to the needs of OFWs from hiring until reintegration to their respective communities.⁴⁹⁹
- 559** Concerned agencies like the Office of the Civil Defense (OCD) as the lead, Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH), PAGASA and CHR Regional Office I continue to educate people on disaster preparedness and on IDP rights.⁵⁰⁰
- 560** The CHR Regional Office II signed a Memorandum of Agreement with JCI Ybanag in celebration of Pride Month last June 25, 2021 via Zoom and Facebook live. The activity was followed by a webinar that highlights SOGIE Bill and Creating Safe Space and Coming Out.⁵⁰¹
- 561** The Commission on Human Rights Regional Office III has conducted jail visitations to ensure that the rights of PDLs are observed within the confines of their prisons.⁵⁰²
- 562** The CHR Regional Office IV-CALABARZON received a referral case from the e-report portal regarding Marie Ann Bariring on behalf of her mother, Maricris Bariring. She alleged that her father, Dennis Bariring, had been abusing her mother physically, verbally and psychologically. Her father had left them but has recently been harassing her mother.⁵⁰³
- 563** To ensure the safety of Mrs. Bariring and to avoid any further harm on her and her children, this regional office requested for assistance in issuing a Barangay Protection Order (BPO) pursuant to Section 13 of R.A. No. 9262, ordering Mr. Bariring to desist from committing or threatening physical and psychological harm against the Barangay Chairperson of Barangay Gulod, City of Cabuyao, Laguna on 04 May 2021. This Office has yet to receive an update on the said request.⁵⁰⁴
- 564** On 02 March 2021, the CHR Regional Office IV-CALABARZON entered into a MOA with the Regional Haven for Women and Girls (RHWG) and the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) IV-A in Rosario, Batangas. This initiative was conceptualized as a result of the Focus-Group Discussion conducted by this Office in relation to the Regional Mapping of Legal Referral Mechanisms on Gender-Based Violence (GBV) During the COVID-19 Pandemic and New Normal held on 06 November 2020.⁵⁰⁵
- 565** The Promotions and Advocacy Division (PAD) of the CHR Regional Office IV – CALABARZON conducted a Virtual Lecture on Basic Human Rights to Youth Organization with the Diocesan Human Rights Desk (DHRD), Diocese of San Pablo, San

499 Commission on Human Rights Regional Office I. (2021, July). Regional HR Situation Report (January to June 2021).

500 Commission on Human Rights Regional Office I. (2021, July). Regional HR Situation Report (January to June 2021).

501 Commission on Human Rights Regional Office II. (2021, August). Human Rights Situationer Report January to June 2021.

502 Commission on Human Rights Regional Office III. (2021, July). Human Rights Regional Situationer Report Region III – Central Luzon.

503 Commission on Human Rights Regional Office IV-CALABARZON. (2021, July). Report on the Human Rights Situation of Disadvantaged, Marginalized and Vulnerable Sectors in CALABARZON (January to June 2021).

504 Commission on Human Rights Regional Office IV-CALABARZON. (2021, July). Report on the Human Rights Situation of Disadvantaged, Marginalized and Vulnerable Sectors in CALABARZON (January to June 2021).

505 Commission on Human Rights Regional Office IV-CALABARZON. (2021, July). Report on the Human Rights Situation of Disadvantaged, Marginalized and Vulnerable Sectors in CALABARZON (January to June 2021).

Pablo City, Laguna. The participants are a mix of children, youth leaders/ representatives and adults. The objective of the said activity is to identify the youth organization within the Region and tap them whenever this Office will be conducting youth activities. During the said activities, the basic concepts, principles and State obligations as well as the CHR mandate were discussed.⁵⁰⁶

- 566** The Focal Persons for Children of CHR Regional Office IV-CALABARZON also attended the online quarterly meetings of the Regional Sub-Committee for the Welfare of Children (RSCWC) and Regional Juvenile Justice Welfare Council (RJJWC) via Zoom on 23 March 2021 and 15 June 2021.⁵⁰⁷
- 567** At the first meeting, the RJJWC discussed Resolution No. 2021-002, series of 2021 mandating all duty bearers from LGUs and Local PNP to use Children-at-Risk (CAR) and Children in Conflict with the Law (CICL) on-line Registry or National Juvenile Justice and Welfare Information System (NJJWMIS).⁵⁰⁸
- 568** At the second meeting, RJJWC tackled the feedback on the RSCWC and RJJWC IV-A special meeting, status of the Comprehensive Regional Juvenile Intervention Program (CRJIP), and the statistical report of CAR and CICL served by LGUs, result of Virtual Jail Visit/Report of Minors on Jail, presentation of RJJWC Risk and Opportunities Action Plan, among others.⁵⁰⁹
- 569** The CHR Regional Office IV-CALABARZON advised BJMP units that there is a need to have paralegal officers to constantly monitor the cases of the PDLs especially those who availed of the plea-bargaining program to help decongestion of detention facilities.⁵¹⁰
- 570** Aside from E-dalaw and E-tawag, some of the BJMP units have also adopted the creation of the Facebook/Messenger group as an additional means of communication. In this system of communication, relatives of PDLs are invited to be part of the FB/messenger group, where they can send their messages to their PDL-relatives. These messages will then be relayed to the subject PDL.⁵¹¹
- 571** Last 30 June 2021, CHR Regional Office VIII issued a Human Rights Advisory titled, “Medical Services for all amidst COVID-19 Pandemic” in consonance to Republic Act No. 8344 otherwise known as “An Act Prohibiting the Demand of Deposits or Advance Payments for the Confinement or Treatment of Patients in Hospitals and Medical Clinics in certain Cases” in relation to the rising COVID-19 cases in the region needing medical intervention.⁵¹²

506 Commission on Human Rights Regional Office IV-CALABARZON. (2021, July). Report on the Human Rights Situation of Disadvantaged, Marginalized and Vulnerable Sectors in CALABARZON (January to June 2021).

507 Commission on Human Rights Regional Office IV-CALABARZON. (2021, July). Report on the Human Rights Situation of Disadvantaged, Marginalized and Vulnerable Sectors in CALABARZON (January to June 2021).

508 Commission on Human Rights Regional Office IV-CALABARZON. (2021, July). Report on the Human Rights Situation of Disadvantaged, Marginalized and Vulnerable Sectors in CALABARZON (January to June 2021).

509 Commission on Human Rights Regional Office IV-CALABARZON. (2021, July). Report on the Human Rights Situation of Disadvantaged, Marginalized and Vulnerable Sectors in CALABARZON (January to June 2021).

510 Commission on Human Rights Regional Office IV-CALABARZON. (2021, July). Report on the Human Rights Situation of Disadvantaged, Marginalized and Vulnerable Sectors in CALABARZON (January to June 2021).

511 Commission on Human Rights Regional Office IV-CALABARZON. (2021, July). Report on the Human Rights Situation of Disadvantaged, Marginalized and Vulnerable Sectors in CALABARZON (January to June 2021).

512 Commission on Human Rights Regional Office VIII. (2021, August). Regional Human Rights Situation Report January to June 2021.

- 572** The CHR Regional Office VIII likewise issued an advisory titled, “Advisory on the Different Roles and Responsibilities of Government Agencies under the Mental Health Act” (CHR-V111-ADV-2021-28F21-002) as a response to the alarming suicide incident reports in the region.⁵¹³
- 573** A Consultation on the Situation of Women in the Informal Sector was conducted by CHR Regional Office VIII via Zoom last 11 May 2021. Three groups of women in the informal sector, namely: a) home-based businesses or sari-sari store owners; b) home-based subcontracting (including those in the production work in garments, handicrafts (such as weaving, sewing), shoes, and toy manufacturing, food processing, metal craft, leathercraft, and furniture making; and c) street/ambulant vendors (may pwesto o naglalako). Representatives from organizations working with women in the informal sector were also invited. The consultation discussed the existing legal framework and gaps as well as the issues and challenges experienced by women in the informal sector especially during this time of pandemic.⁵¹⁴
- 574** The COVID-19 pandemic had a massive impact on economies and employment worldwide. In Region 9, national agencies and LGUs have been working hand-in-hand to assist the affected individuals and came up with various programs to help alleviate the worsening condition. OWWA likewise assists individuals who arrive in Zamboanga City and provides transport to those bound to Zamboanga del Norte, Zamboanga Sibugay or Zamboanga del Sur and BASULTA. Trainings such as Small Business Management Training, Financial Awareness Seminar, Food Processing and IT Trainings, among others, were also conducted in partnership with National Reintegration Center for OFWs and TESDA 9 which can help them jump start their own business. Education assistance through OWWA’s EASE program, were also provided to OFWs affected by the pandemic. DOLE through TUPAD program also aimed to provide assistance such as livelihood, daily wage and insurance coverage.⁵¹⁵
- 575** The CHR Regional Office IX also sits with the RIACAT-VAW and continuously monitors the regional situation for trafficking cases and aims to provide assistance to the victim-survivors.⁵¹⁶
- 576** The CHR Regional Office IX is in full support in the passage of the Comprehensive Anti-Discrimination Ordinance in Zamboanga City and participated in the deliberation of the GAD code.⁵¹⁷
- 577** The CHR Regional Office IX supports the social pension program of the DSWD – the cash payout which falls under the Expanded Senior Citizens Act as this is an added support to the seniors especially during the pandemic.⁵¹⁸
- 578** The Armed Forces of the Philippines held a ceremonial signing of its Strategic Plan together with the representatives of the UN Country Task Force Monitoring and Reporting (UN CTFMR). The principal signatories for ceremonial signing were AFP Chief of Staff Gen.

513 Commission on Human Rights Regional Office VIII. (2021, August). Regional Human Rights Situation Report January to June 2021.

514 Commission on Human Rights Regional Office VIII. (2021, August). Regional Human Rights Situation Report January to June 2021.

515 Commission on Human Rights Regional Office IX. (2021, July). 2021 CHR 9 Human Rights Situation Report.

516 Commission on Human Rights Regional Office IX. (2021, July). 2021 CHR 9 Human Rights Situation Report.

517 Commission on Human Rights Regional Office IX. (2021, July). 2021 CHR 9 Human Rights Situation Report.

518 Commission on Human Rights Regional Office IX. (2021, July). 2021 CHR 9 Human Rights Situation Report.

Cirilito Sobejana, PA, UNICEF Representative to the Philippines Ms. Oyunsakhan Dendevnorov, and UN Resident Coordinator to the Philippines and co-chair of UN CTFMR Mr. Gustavo Gonzales.⁵¹⁹

- 579** The Strategic Plan aims to prevent and respond to grave child rights violations (GCRVs), protect children in situations of armed conflict (CSAC), and enhance accountability for grave violations against children and oversight of state mechanisms for prevention and response. The plan contained undertakings, commitments, benchmarks, and activities for the AFP to perform and fully comply with its obligations under international human rights law and international humanitarian law. The activities and commitments laid out in the strategic plan will be implemented for a 24-month period and can be extended based on a joint review by the AFP and CTFMR. Both the AFP and CTFMR in the Philippines will conduct a regular consultation to ensure the plan's implementation.⁵²⁰
- 580** There are places in the Davao region that provide refills for Antiretroviral Therapy namely: Davao del Sur Provincial Hospital, IGACOS General Hospital, Mati City Health Office, and Selected District Health Offices in Davao City.⁵²¹
- 581** On the part of the Commission on Human Rights, statements from the Commission and letters to the DILG, the Philippine National Police, and the Inter-agency Council on Violence Against Women emphasized the need for a gender responsive and intersectional response. A Joint Memorandum with DILG was subsequently adopted titled "Ensuring Gender-Responsive Interventions to COVID-19 and the New Normal Including Ensuring Prompt, Effective, and Survival-Centered Response to All Forms of GBV." These somehow strengthened domestic health, law enforcement, social services, and justice services. But the lack of guidelines in place to deal with the risk of increased of gender-based violence during a pandemic, specific to the gendered nature of the COVID-19 crisis and its impact which are not mainstreamed into interventions and strategies, combined with persistent lack of funding support services, generally put the support systems for gender based-violence in shake.⁵²²
- 582** The CHR Regional Office XII, through the Gender Focal as part of the month-long celebration of National Women's Month, the Philippine Statistics Authority XII initiated a Webinar on Ensuring Gender-Responsive Interventions to COVID-19 and the New Normal including Ensuring Prompt, Effective, and Survivor-Centered Response to all forms of Gender-Based Violence or the Joint Memo Circular DILG-CHR No. 2020-01.⁵²³
- 583** The JMC DILG-CHR No. 2020-01 aims to make concrete directives and recommendations towards gender-responsive and intersectional interventions during COVID-19 crisis, during transition, and even during the recovery period, including responses to the new normal. To ensure that the said JMC is properly executed/implemented, LGUs are required to provide updates through the regional DILG and CHR Offices for feedback.⁵²⁴

519 Commission on Human Rights Regional Office X. (2021, July). Regional Situation Report 1st Semester 2021 Commission on Human Rights 10.

520 Commission on Human Rights Regional Office X. (2021, July). Regional Situation Report 1st Semester 2021 Commission on Human Rights 10.

521 Commission on Human Rights Regional Office XI. (2021, July). Human Rights Situation Report Jan-Jun 2021.

522 Commission on Human Rights Regional Office XII. (2021, July). Regional Human Rights Situation Report January to June 2021.

523 Commission on Human Rights Regional Office XII. (2021, July). Regional Human Rights Situation Report January to June 2021.

524 Commission on Human Rights Regional Office XII. (2021, July). Regional Human Rights Situation Report January to June 2021.

- 584** Hello Money is a mobile banking application of Asia United Bank (AUB) introduced to the Mamanwa of the ICC of Brgy. Ombong, Alegria, Surigao del Norte. The banking application aims to promote not only transparency and accountability in royalty share distribution to IP family beneficiaries, but also to promote fast, modern, and convenient ways of banking whereby the beneficiaries of the IP royalty will directly receive their royalty share through their bank accounts without any hassle. NCIP Surigao del Norte and the AUB facilitated the orientation. The office aims to replicate this activity to all other IP communities receiving royalty from mining companies. Through this method, monitoring by our office of the IP royalty utilization will be much faster and easier.⁵²⁵
- 585** On 25–26 May 2021 the Regional Committee on Disability Affairs and Regional Inter-Agency Committee on Senior Citizen (RCDA & RIAC-SC) conducted a 2-day Capability Building and Strategic Planning Activity and 2nd Quarterly Meeting at Nasipit, Agusan del Norte. It was raised that some local government units need Filipino Sign Language interpreters in dealing with clients who have verbal disability or who are deaf /mute or hard of hearing. It was also discussed during the said meeting, that the Regional Prosecutor's Office is planning to train their prosecutors on Filipino Sign Language. CHR CARAGA is planning to initiate a Memorandum of Agreement between Cabadbaran City and Department of Education Special Education for Filipino Sign Language Interpreter as a pilot program in trying to address the need of sign language interpreters especially for frontline services.⁵²⁶
- 586** The CHR CARAGA through the GEWHRC in partnership with the Pambansang Koalisyon ng Kababaihan sa Kanayunan (PKKK), a virtual consultation was conducted and participated by women in the informal sector. Selected women from CARAGA participated in the said activity. These women represent the different groups forming the informal sector, particularly sari-sari owners, home-based subcontracting, and street/ ambulant vendors, to ensure even geographic and group representation.⁵²⁷
- 587** On 25 June 2021, ten (10) IP women from CARAGA participated in the online discussion by the regional office regarding the following vaccination issues and concerns:⁵²⁸
- a** The importance of vaccination and vaccine hesitancy among IWG; and
 - b** Availability, accessibility, and adequacy of vaccine information and services
- 588** On 29 June 2021, these IP women from CARAGA again participated in the online discussion regarding their electoral participation for the upcoming 2022 elections. The online webinar offered an exhaustive discussion on women's role in the elections. It also provided a venue for the participants to discuss the challenges faced by IP women in participating in the elections and discuss ways to ensure political participation of IW in time for the 2022 National Elections.⁵²⁹

525 Commission on Human Rights CARAGA. (2021, July). The Situation of Human Rights in the CARAGA Region.

526 Commission on Human Rights CARAGA. (2021, July). The Situation of Human Rights in the CARAGA Region.

527 Commission on Human Rights CARAGA. (2021, July). The Situation of Human Rights in the CARAGA Region.

528 Commission on Human Rights CARAGA. (2021, July). The Situation of Human Rights in the CARAGA Region.

529 Commission on Human Rights CARAGA. (2021, July). The Situation of Human Rights in the CARAGA Region.

- 589** The Department of Health (DOH) leads the National Mental Health Program. The programs, projects and activities for mental health implemented by DOHCAR for the 1st semester of 2021 are categorized as follows.⁵³⁰
- a** Individual Counselling;
 - b** Mental Health and Stress Management Group Activities conducted through virtual and in-person with distancing; and
 - c** Provision of Mental Health and Psychosocial Support to persons admitted at the COVID-19 Quarantine Facilities;
- 590** The delivery of programs and services of DOH-CHD-CAR for HIV/AIDS for the first semester was implemented despite the continuing challenges of COVID-19. Acknowledging the need of Persons Living with HIV (PLHIV), the agency adopted ways to deliver their services to the PLHIV community despite many limitations. Programs implemented were policy issuances, capability-building activities, procurement and delivery of commodities, and service deliveries.⁵³¹
- 591** On 10 June 2021, CHR-CAR, in partnership with Kaisaka and Young Women Initiatives, conducted a Forum on Labor Issues with informal workers in the region to include representatives from the persons with disability sector, vendors, home-based industries, young workers and transport groups. The objective of the activity was to document the condition of the informal sector before and during the COVID-19 pandemic and also their recommendations to improve their condition. Some of the participants have a hard time looking for jobs, while the others, if employed, are troubled with delayed benefits and are overworked.⁵³²
- 592** The Commission on Human Rights (CHR) initiated the development of the Philippine Observatory on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (PhORPD) in response to the uncertainty brought about by the COVID-19 Pandemic to the lives of persons with disabilities. This effort is propelled by the need for a more independent, efficient, inclusive, and responsive data sharing system, in the context of streamlining coordination for the common advocacy of the full realization of the rights of persons with disabilities.⁵³³
- 593** CHR-CAR participated in the online inquiry conducted by the Economic, Social, and Cultural Rights Center (ESCRC) inquiring on the circumstances of the organizations including the extent of its work to protect and promote the rights of persons with disabilities in the Philippines. Among the stakeholders in CAR that responded to the survey were the

530 Commission on Human Rights Cordillera Administrative Region. (2021, August). HUMAN RIGHTS SITUATION REPORT ON THE MONITORING OF COVID-19 VACCINATION PROGRAM CORDILLERA ADMINISTRATIVE REGION.

531 Commission on Human Rights Cordillera Administrative Region. (2021, August). HUMAN RIGHTS SITUATION REPORT ON THE MONITORING OF COVID-19 VACCINATION PROGRAM CORDILLERA ADMINISTRATIVE REGION.

532 Commission on Human Rights Cordillera Administrative Region. (2021, August). HUMAN RIGHTS SITUATION REPORT ON THE MONITORING OF COVID-19 VACCINATION PROGRAM CORDILLERA ADMINISTRATIVE REGION.

533 Commission on Human Rights Cordillera Administrative Region. (2021, August). HUMAN RIGHTS SITUATION REPORT ON THE MONITORING OF COVID-19 VACCINATION PROGRAM CORDILLERA ADMINISTRATIVE REGION.

Department of Social Welfare and Development, Department of Health, and Saint Louis University-Institute for Inclusive Education, Inc.⁵³⁴

- 594** In view of the incoming 2022 elections, the Commission, through GEWHRC launched a voters education campaign focusing on women in the marginalized sectors. Through partnership with different organizations, webinars were organized discussing electoral processes and sectoral agenda with 6 key sectors: (1) Indigenous and rural women, (2) women with disabilities; (3) urban poor women; (4) the youth; (5) older women; (6) women migrant workers. The *Lila ang kulay ng boto ko* webinars also served as a venue to discuss pressing issues and priorities of sectors. It also identified concerns regarding the ongoing registration process and on the 2022 elections.⁵³⁵
- 595** In 2021, more initiatives were developed to ensure access to services and support by women, girls and marginalized sectors, especially on the part of the government. On 05 May 2021, the Department of Social Welfare and Development launched the Wi Support App and web page, the platform provides online mental, psychosocial support programs.⁵³⁶ The Philippine National Police adopted hotlines in order to provide a platform to complain against members of the PNP through the E-sumbong platform of the PNP.⁵³⁷ Through the consultations conducted by the Commission on the implementation of the Safe Spaces Act, the Commission noted the adoption by the PNP Cybercrime unit of its own online reporting portal in cases of cybercrimes. The e-complaint desk⁵³⁸ may be accessed through the PNP Cybercrime Group.⁵³⁹
- 596** Other noteworthy good practices on the part of the government during this period is the strengthening of shelters as in the case of Quezon City, the execution of memorandum of agreement among members of the inter-agency mechanisms to address VAW. For instance, in March of this year, the Commission's Regional IV-A office executed a memorandum of agreement with the Region IV-A Haven for women. In the said MOU, the Commission's regional office committed to provide legal assistance to GBV survivors housed in Haven, to answer their legal queries, help them prepare legal documents and also monitor their cases. The MOU also includes provision of capacity building lectures for Haven and its residents. This best practice is worth emulating, and to strengthen further referrals, the Commission is also coordinating with other Gender Ombud partner institutions including academic institution based legal aid, IBP, and other CSOs providing legal aid. Through this effort, the Commission seeks to fulfill the mandate of the Magna Carta of Women on strengthening legal assistance for survivors of violence and in strengthening referral mechanisms.⁵⁴⁰
- 597** For CSO initiatives for 2021, the legal aid and assistance services developed by IDEALS Inc., Tisya Hustisya, is a good practice in as much as it bridges women to much needed

534 Commission on Human Rights Cordillera Administrative Region. (2021, August). HUMAN RIGHTS SITUATION REPORT ON THE MONITORING OF COVID-19 VACCINATION PROGRAM CORDILLERA ADMINISTRATIVE REGION.

535 Commission on Human Rights Gender Equality and Human Rights Center. (2021). 2021 Gender Ombud Report, January to June 2021.

536 Luci-Atienza, We Listen, We Care: DSWD Launches online mental, psychosocial, support program. <https://mb.com.ph/2021/05/05/we-listen-we-care-dswd-launches-online-mental-psychosocial-support-program/> (last accessed 31 August 2021)

537 See here: <https://pnpts.pnp.gov.ph/index.php/10-school-announcement/68-e-sumbong>

538 See here: <https://acg.pnp.gov.ph/eComplaint/>

539 <https://acg.pnp.gov.ph/main/>

540 Commission on Human Rights Gender Equality and Human Rights Center. (2021). 2021 Gender Ombud Report, January to June 2021.

legal advice not necessarily limited to cases of GBV. Tisya Hustisya, ran by IDEALS Inc., provides legal advice and counselling and may be reached through their FB pages and hotline numbers.⁵⁴¹

- 598** The Commission's protection work in relation to gender-based violence, policy advisory and human rights advocacy to protect women and girls from GBV continue in the Commission's Central and Regional Offices.⁵⁴²
- 599** The Gender-Based Violence Observatory continues to house relevant data and research on GBV while the Commission consistently issued advisories and positions papers for pending legislations in the Central and Regional Office level. A supplemental position paper on the SOGIE Equality Bill was submitted to Congress this year, as well as position papers supporting the passage of the Gender Responsive and Inclusive Pandemic management response bill,⁵⁴³ and the proposed bill prohibiting child marriages.⁵⁴⁴
- 600** A positive development in the first half of 2021 is the movement and approval at the House of Representatives Committee level of a proposed legislation that seeks to ensure a gender responsive pandemic and crisis response. The proposed legislation seeks to ensure that gender is mainstreamed in government responses to crisis, to ensure participation of women, the provision of gendered needs and services, including protection from GBV and ensuring sexual and reproductive health and rights, among others.⁵⁴⁵
- 601** The Office of the Civil Defense (OCD) is mandated to administer a comprehensive national civil defense and disaster risk reduction and management program by providing leadership in the continuous development of strategic and systematic approaches as well as measures to reduce the vulnerabilities and risks to hazards and manage the consequences of disasters.⁵⁴⁶
- 602** The manifestations of climate change are now evident and felt by the majority of Cordillerans, most especially by upland farmers whose agricultural production is vulnerable to the gradual increase of the weather conditions' unpredictability. Although the local communities in the Cordillera region have been able to maintain a sustainable relationship with the resources through their indigenous knowledge and practices, climate change has severely affected the region's agricultural sector.⁵⁴⁷
- 603** As the head agency mandated to address such issues on climate change and its mitigation particularly in the Cordillera Administrative Region (CAR), the Department of Environment and Natural Resources – CAR (DENR-CAR) has presented its 10-point

541 <https://www.facebook.com/tisyahustisya/>

542 Commission on Human Rights Gender Equality and Human Rights Center. (2021). 2021 Gender Ombud Report, January to June 2021.

543 CHR. Position paper on the proposed measures protecting children by prohibiting and declaring child marriages as illegal. 15 June 2021

544 CHR. Position paper on the gender responsive and inclusive pandemic management. 21 June 2021

545 Cervantes, House OKs bill on gender responsive protocols amidst pandemic. PIA. 1 July 2021. <https://www.pna.gov.ph/articles/1145630> (accessed on 31 August 2021)

546 Commission on Human Rights Cordillera Administrative Region. (2021, August). HUMAN RIGHTS SITUATION REPORT ON THE MONITORING OF COVID-19 VACCINATION PROGRAM CORDILLERA ADMINISTRATIVE REGION.

547 Commission on Human Rights Cordillera Administrative Region. (2021, August). HUMAN RIGHTS SITUATION REPORT ON THE MONITORING OF COVID-19 VACCINATION PROGRAM CORDILLERA ADMINISTRATIVE REGION.

priority agenda which covered its programs, projects, and activities for CY 2021 ; and its implemented foreign-assisted projects.⁵⁴⁸

- a** Clean Air Program
- b** Clean Water Program
- c** Solid Waste Management Program
- d** Geo-Hazard, Groundwater Assessment and responsible Mining
- e** Enhances National Greening Program
- f** Intensified Forest Protection and Anti-Illegal Logging
- g** Enhanced Biodiversity Conservation
- h** Scaling-Up of Coastal and Marine Ecosystem
- i** Improved Land Administration and Management
- j** Manila Bay Clean-Up

604 DTI-CAR continues to provide programs and services in relation to businesses and upholding human rights particularly in the protection of consumers and the promotion of businesses and their beneficiaries by building stable conditions for sustained and inclusive economic growth.⁵⁴⁹

- a** Consumer Protection and Empowerment
- b** DTI Social Amelioration Program
- c** Livelihood Assistance to identified beneficiaries in areas considered as priorities by the National Government

548 Commission on Human Rights Cordillera Administrative Region. (2021, August). HUMAN RIGHTS SITUATION REPORT ON THE MONITORING OF COVID-19 VACCINATION PROGRAM CORDILLERA ADMINISTRATIVE REGION.

549 Commission on Human Rights Cordillera Administrative Region. (2021, August). HUMAN RIGHTS SITUATION REPORT ON THE MONITORING OF COVID-19 VACCINATION PROGRAM CORDILLERA ADMINISTRATIVE REGION.

Conclusions and recommendations, including the main findings:

Conclusions

- 605** Given the human rights situation in the Philippines, while it may be easy to point fingers at certain state actors, the issue goes beyond particular perpetrators and goes into systemic issues in human rights enforcement. The nexus of these human rights violations stem from an underlying culture of impunity that has long been pervasive in the governmental structure. While the current administration has played a pivotal role in aggravating this problem with its acts that have encouraged and essentially emboldened authorities to disregard the rule of law in favor of questionable approaches; the problem has long existed before them. Instead of just questioning why these acts happen and why nothing is being done about it, the better questions to ask are:
- a** Why does the government structure so easily allow for a culture of impunity rather than accountability?
 - b** What is it about the system that easily allows those in power to violate people's rights so blatantly?
- 606** On the matter of Civil and Political Rights: In this new normal, our understanding and approach to justice has been forcefully shifted. Due to the lockdowns and restrictions, access to justice has become even more limited than before, and as such, victims and authorities alike have had to find unconventional ways to access and to provide justice respectively.
- 607** On the side of victims, social media has become an important tool in preserving and keeping record of the human rights violations committed to them, especially in certain situations where there is a lack of information from the police and military. As seen in several of the cases presented, social media has become a weapon for people to be able to combat these violations and access justice in their own way. With video clips of violence and atrocities going viral on social media, the brutalities experienced by these victims are thus thrust into the public's consciousness. This act pushes back on the state sanctioned violence, especially in cases of EJKs and the freedom of speech and expression.
- 608** On the side of authorities, there have been steps taken to transition processes, ways of reporting violations, and other matters to online means. While there are definitely still gaps to fill to make these online platforms fully effective, the shifts being made are welcome changes to ensure that there are accesses to justice even in the midst of the pandemic. It's important to note as well that monitoring social media for any potential human rights violations have proven to be a useful effort, as this Office has conducted investigations and taken cognizance of violations due to certain incidents becoming viral on social media, such as the Nuezca case.
- 609** This past year the government has taken more bold steps in suppressing not just press freedom, but also the freedom of speech and expression; in particular, critical voices and dissent during this time suffer from the fear of red-tagging and arrests. The acts of the current administration, especially with the frequent red-tagging, ABS CBN shutdown, and the Anti-Terrorism Law, have thus created a chilling effect. As a democratic society, dissent and criticism should be seen, not as weapons against the state, but as necessary tools for progress. Our rights as enshrined by the constitution should be protected, and not stifled by the government.

- 610** On the matter of economic, social and cultural rights: Accessibility, or the lack thereof, has been an underlying factor within most, if not all of the issues surrounding it. The pandemic has restricted the accessibility of matters such as: mental health programs and psychosocial help, education, employment, and healthcare, among others. Despite having already entered the second year of this pandemic, the government has yet to improve on its delivery of public services, especially to the marginalized sectors. As such, accessibility has become a growing problem as of late. It must be noted that accessibility in this case must always be thought of alongside sustainability. It is not just about what people need at the moment, there must also be forward thinking solutions that can create long term change.
- 611** In connection with the civil and political rights, the issue of red-tagging cannot be taken in isolation, as its effects permeate, and are intrinsically connected to the people's enjoyment of their economic, social and cultural rights. This is especially true in the case of Indigenous Peoples (IP) Communities, as they have been the target of NPA and red-tagging accusations which have had adverse effects on IP children's right to live a healthy life, right to non-discrimination and right to education. The act of red-tagging is essentially putting a target on someone's back, and in extreme cases, it can even be a death sentence.
- 612** One of the most alarming aspects of the pandemic is the overall deteriorating mental health of Filipinos. As the Philippines continues to have the longest lockdown in the world, isolation from loved ones, and being locked up in potentially violent or abusive homes, have taken an obvious toll on society. This can be seen in statistics that have shown an increase in the incidence of suicides in the country. The government needs to properly address these issues on mental health to be able to maintain a working society.
- 613** Education at the time of the pandemic has proven to be not only a financial burden, but a burden on the well-being of all students as well. Because students have been studying in isolation and away from physical schools, issues have arisen regarding the accessibility of education during this time. As of now, students are essentially locked into school 24/7 due to the online method of teaching. Not all students have the privilege to be able to comfortably study, as some are forced to balance both home and school life, and access to the internet is non-existent in farther areas; which just highlights the inequalities of this new online mode of learning.
- 614** As a silver lining among the issues plaguing economic, social, and cultural rights, it is commendable to see the active participation of local government units in catering to its constituents, whether it be in the form of procuring vaccines, providing necessary and basic services, or financial aid. The pandemic has highlighted the importance of LGUs and their role in responding quickly to the new normal. Consequently, it shows that even in the midst of the national government's slow actions or inaction, positive changes can still be made and LGUs do not necessarily have to be dependent on the national government.
- 615** On the matter of Thematic Concerns, while it is clear that the pandemic has negatively affected all sectors of society, it is alarming how the already vulnerable groups and sectors continue to become more prone to human rights issues and violations. The pandemic has cast a long shadow on these marginalized groups of people. This was shown through the aggravated domestic and sexual violence experienced by women during the pandemic as lockdown restrictions prevent women from being able to leave their homes to report crimes or to escape their abusers. With regards to children, there has been a recent spike in online sexual abuse and exploitation of children (OSAEC) as children have had no choice but to resort to these means to provide for their families. IP communities have suffered through land grabbing, as well as the destruction of Lumad schools. Persons with disabilities on

the other hand have been largely left in the shadows of this pandemic, with their concerns left unheard. It is unfortunate that with regard to these marginalized groups, their plight has become even more dire. Lack of government action for these groups have also further aggravated the situation.

- 616** As a final note, intersectionality and inclusivity are key factors in providing better access to justice and in solving some of the inequalities experienced by these marginalized groups and sectors. Solutions must be thought of from a holistic standpoint, keeping in mind the various commonalities and intersections within these marginalized groups and the struggles that they face. It is impossible to simply think of solutions for these marginalized groups in a vacuum. Such a thing would end up being ineffective and inefficient. In the fight for human rights, it cannot be emphasized enough that until all sectors are free, no one is free.

Recommendations

To the Office of the President

- 617** Revise or remove the exceptions stated in Executive Order No. 2 which has been used as a basis for the denial of CHR subpoenas requesting for documents. Based on the CHR findings, this “presidential directive” has resulted in limited access to police documents relating to the drug-related killings, thus curtailing its investigations.
- 618** Desist from making pronouncements that tend to: encourage or endorse the killing of drug personalities, distort public perception of due process and human rights, and abdicate state responsibility and accountability.
- 619** Spearhead the eradication of a “culture of impunity” by directing the concerned agencies to conduct full and transparent investigations into drug-related extrajudicial killings and identify the perpetrators against whom proper charges may be filed.
- 620** In its exercise of supervision and control over local government units and executive departments, direct the latter to fully cooperate with independent investigations conducted by the Commission and other foreign-led bodies. This will show the current administration’s impartiality and commitment to international human rights standards and the rule of law.
- 621** Through its programs and issuances, institute a culture of respect for human rights through continuous mandatory training and seminars on international human rights instruments and relevant domestic laws for all law enforcement authorities, government officers and employees.

To the Congress of the Philippines

- 622** Pass a bill defending and protecting human rights defenders and advocates. This bill should include a provision that defines and criminalizes red-tagging by private individuals or members of the public sector.
- 623** Pass a law on internal displacement. The primary objective of the law is to provide standards on what internal displacements are, and what justifiable causes for displacement

may be considered especially in response, assistance and after care. This would address the vacuum experienced by service providers, and this would deter any further politicization of displacement.

- 624** Propose that hate crimes be defined and included in any proposal to pass a SOGIE – based anti-discrimination bill.
- 625** Enact a bill that defines and punishes extrajudicial killing, reiterates the Philippines' commitment to adhere to international human rights laws and standards, provides for reparations to the victim's family, and impartial, effective, and efficient investigations of extra-judicial killings.

To the Department of Health

- 626** Ensure adequate supply of vaccines for all vulnerable populations.
- 627** Expedite the vaccination of children to ensure the safe opening of classes at the soonest possible time.
- 628** Investigate allegedly anomalous transactions related to the government's pandemic response to ensure proper utilization of scarce government resources.
- 629** Expedite the release of hazard pay and other entitlement to frontline health workers who have steadfastly rendered service during this pandemic.
- 630** Provide access to birth control, contraceptives, and hygiene kits including sanitary pads, and other sexual and reproductive health services.
- 631** Ensure the continuation of projects that foster and care for people's mental health, and include WHO-recommended interventions that are in line with community-based, integrated approaches.
- 632** Collaborate with the relevant government agencies and bodies to bring in increased mental health and psychosocial support to PDLs and CICLs.

To the Department of the Interior and Local Government

- 633** Reevaluate the controversial memorandum circular on accrediting civil society organizations to ensure that it will not become a tool to marginalize critical voices in society.
- 634** Aid in the investigation conducted by the Department of Justice in its ongoing review of cases involving deaths during police anti-drug operations.
- 635** File cases against police officers involved in killings during police drug operations and ensure that they are held accountable for their actions.
- 636** Fast track the implementation of the body-camera requirement for all anti-drug operations to ensure transparency and prevent violations of official police protocols as indicated in the Philippine National Police Manual of Operations.

- 637** Ensure that Persons Deprived of Liberty under the Bureau of Jail Management and Penology are fully vaccinated against COVID-19.
- 638** Improve jail facilities, Bahay Pag-asa and Youth Rehabilitation Centers, as well as compliance with CHR Policy Advisories, to ensure the implementation of these in the LGUs.
- 639** The LGUs are encouraged to enhance the VAW Desk Officers' awareness of their duties and functions to conduct proactive monitoring of VAWC cases in their respective areas and to observe, protect, and promote women's rights.
- 640** In line with the above recommendation, LGUs are likewise encouraged to make use of social media and other online or digital means to be able to open access to women who may not be able to physically go to these VAW desks.
- 641** To capacitate all LGUs about its issuances, and protocols on child care, and to monitor compliance therewith. The parents are encouraged to be proactive in these campaign drives.
- 642** National authorities have the primary duty and responsibility to provide protection and humanitarian assistance to internally displaced persons within their jurisdiction.
- 643** Further government intervention in providing livelihood assistance to those in IDP sites.
- 644** Review Memorandum Circular No. 2015-63, dated 16 June 2015 on the revitalization of the Barangay Anti-Drug Council (BADAC) and their particular role in preparing and maintaining a confidential list of suspected users, financiers, and/or protectors of illegal drug trade found in their respective area of jurisdiction. There should be measures for vetting and fact-checking to ensure the accuracy of the information in the said list. Further, a clear mechanism in delisting the name of a suspected pusher, user, financier and/or protector, which was erroneously included in the drug watchlist, should be put in place.

To the Bureau of Jail Management and Penology

- 645** For the BJMP, BUCOR and PNP to come to an agreement by fast tracking the transfer of detainees/prisoners to avoid delays and thereby decongesting the BJMP facilities. It would also be helpful to fast track the calculation of Good Conduct Time Allowance.
- 646** The establishment of additional government rehabilitation centers and the accreditation of private rehabilitation centers are likewise recommended.
- 647** The government should ramp up its effort to avoid the further ballooning of the number of CAR and CICL. Increase in infrastructure, while it may provide temporary relief, does not effectively address the issue of where CAR and CICLs should be placed. It is more important for the government to review its criminal justice system. Proper implementation of already existing laws would be a more effective solution as opposed to the creation of more new laws.
- 648** For the administration of the concerned places of detention, the personnel should be provided with the appropriate non-pharmaceutical interventions against COVID-19, i.e., face masks, face shields, alcohol, etc. The personnel of the Philippine National Police (PNP) have high rates of exposure considering that they not only conduct regular law enforcement

functions, but they also conduct border control checkpoints, monitor compliance with health protocols and issue travel-related documents. As such, their physical and mental health should also be prioritized in these trying times.

- 649** For the administration of the Provincial Detention and Rehabilitation Centers (PDRC) or Provincial Jails, to also facilitate the regular communication between the PDLs and their loved ones through phone or online means.
- 650** Allocate sufficient funds both at the national and local government supporting the establishment and/or maintenance of nursing rooms for breastfeeding mothers and child-friendly spaces for the visitation program of their children. These child-friendly spaces shall be separate from the cells of PDLs and shall be spaces allocated for mother-and-child interaction.
- 651** Ensure access to pediatric services and learning opportunities for infants and children staying with their mothers in detention facilities.
- 652** Ensure that infants, up to a certain age, should not be separated from their mothers so that the children will be given proper nutrition through breastfeeding, and maternal care.
- 653** Ensure child-friendly visitation programs, which can be supplemented using audio-video interactions, when access to these programs are hindered by distance and cost of expenses for travel. In addition, incarcerated mothers should be allowed to communicate, through phone calls, letters, or audio-video interaction with their children, husband, or any relative in custody of their children, to check on their welfare, especially for infants or children with special needs. This serves as a means to strengthen family ties among the incarcerated mother and her children and to prevent the breakdown of families.
- 654** The BJMP should also work with relevant government agencies such as the Department of Social Welfare and Development in having routine check-ins on the child and their guardian, as a means of ensuring the welfare of the child while the mother is still incarcerated.
- 655** Provision of free pre-and post-natal care to PDLs who are pregnant. This should include counselling and psychosocial services for postpartum depression. The pre-and post-natal care for women PDLs should coincide with faster and timely issuance/release of Court Order allowing for the said health intervention.
- 656** Allow for regular check-ups for infants who are born while the mother is incarcerated.
- 657** Ensure provision of affordable reproductive health services to pregnant PDLs, especially minors.
- 658** It is recommended that PDLs undergo RT-PCR Testing upon arrest to ensure that those who are found positive with COVID-19 will not be mixed with PDLs already in custody.
- 659** It is recommended that the PNP and BJMP and BUCOR come to an agreement as to how the transfer of detainees/prisoners will be conducted to avoid delays and decongest PNP lock-up facilities as well as BJMP facilities.
- 660** For the BJMP authorities to continue their strict practice of health protocols in jail premises to avoid the spread of COVID-19 in jails

To the Ombudsman

- 661** Evaluate processes in assessing cases involving human rights violations so that accountability mechanisms can fully function.
- 662** Reconsider the proposed draft bill on SALN access that attempts to impose penal provisions on individuals commenting on such public documents as this is tantamount to censorship; and constitutes as an abridgement of the freedom of speech and expression.
- 663** Fulfil its duty to investigate and prosecute on its own or on complaint by any person, any act or omission of any public officer or employee, office or agency, when such act or omission appears to be illegal, unjust, improper or inefficient. Administrative proceedings, at the very least, should be initiated against law enforcers who employed unnecessary and unjustified force resulting in the death of the victims.
- 664** Undergo continuous training and education about human rights and fundamental freedoms to ensure that duty-bearers or state actors are held accountable for human rights violations committed.
- 665** Expedite resolution of cases involving drug-related extrajudicial killings that were filed before them.

To the Department of Justice

- 666** Expand the review of cases involving anti-drug operations to cover all those that resulted in killings.
- 667** Expedite the resolution of cases involving drug-related extrajudicial killings.
- 668** Ensure full implementation of the UN Joint Program on Human Rights.
- 669** Initiate data sharing of drug-related cases under investigation to show government's transparency and commitment in ensuring accountability.
- 670** Immediately file cases for the initial batch of reviewed cases that indicated violations of police protocols during anti-drug operations.
- 671** Furnish the Commission with case records/files on drug-related extra-judicial killings after promising a judicious review of the 5,655 anti-illegal drug operations where deaths occurred, pursuant to a Memorandum of Agreement signed on 16 April 2012.
- 672** The DOJ and the Office of the Solicitor General *motu proprio* review and recommend the revision of the Inventory of Exceptions to Executive Order No. 02, s.2016.

To the Philippine National Police

- 673** Investigate cases of anti-drug operations to ensure accountability.
- 674** Evaluate recruitment policies to prevent the entry of potentially unfit individuals into the police service.

- 675** Examine internal protocols for assigning police officers to prevent members from engaging in active duty while they have pending cases that equate to human rights violations.
- 676** Cooperate with the CHR investigation units by sharing police reports of incidents.
- 677** That the policy advisories issued be taken into consideration by the State to effectively address the issues and concerns of children formerly involved in armed conflict, and children residing in Bahay Pag-Asa facilities.
- 678** The creation of a Rainbow Desk for the Philippine National Police which could be a new mechanism or to be subsumed under the functions of the existing Women and Children Protection Desk. Ultimately, the Desk is expected to address cases related to SOGIE in order to reduce harassment and increase confidence in the police by people of diverse SOGIE.
- 679** Ensure that impartiality and adequate access to justice are afforded to victims, especially women and children, who seek help from the PNP due to violations caused by fellow police officers or members of the PNP. This is to create a safe environment for victims to freely report any violations or crimes without fear.
- 680** Conduct full, immediate, thorough, and impartial investigations of drug-related extrajudicial killings particularly deaths during anti-drug operations, and deaths while in custody/detention. Particularly, the PNP should review its internal investigation processes to guarantee accountability for transgressions of existing laws and standard operating protocols on arrest and the use of force. If warranted, initiation of administrative, civil, or criminal proceedings against police officers must be prompt and effective.
- 681** Strengthen the implementation of laws and policies, including the 2013 PNP Operational Procedures, in holding police officers accountable for any irregularities. Superior officials, in the exercise of their command responsibility, should automatically review the anti-drug operations that necessitated the use of force or firearms. A full and detailed report of the incident should be provided. Pursuant to Executive Order No. 226, s. 1995, which institutionalized the doctrine of “command responsibility” in all government offices, superior officials at the PNP should be held responsible for the actions of their subordinates if the former knew or should have known of abuses but failed to take concrete action.
- 682** That the PNP promptly implement and faithfully comply with the Supreme Court’s rules on the use of body-worn cameras during arrests and searches.
- 683** That the PNP Internal Affairs Service ensure transparency and impartiality in resolving administrative cases pending before them. It must be underscored that respondent police officers have the burden of proof to justify self-defense and regularity in the performance of official duties. They must prove that the use of force to subdue resistance on the part of the aggressor was necessary, reasonable and proportionate.
- 684** Repeal or revise Command Memorandum Circular No. 16-2016 on Project: Double Barrel. The double barrel approach Project: Tokhang, which involves the conduct of house to house visitations to persuade suspected illegal drug personalities to stop their illegal drug activities as this is a violation of human rights.

To the Commission on Higher Education

- 685** To strengthen partnership with academe for the establishment of the Center of Human Rights Education.
- 686** To ensure that proper teaching of Martial Law history is done in tertiary institutions to prevent historical revisionism that leads to the failure of implementing transitional justice.
- 687** To ensure that all members of the academic community are adequately vaccinated against COVID 19.
- 688** To mandate educational institutions to provide adequate mental and psychosocial support to teachers and students through projects, academic breaks, and counselling or therapy sessions.

To the Department of Education

- 689** Provide adequate support for teachers to enable them to properly conduct online classes during the pandemic.
- 690** Ensure that all members of the academic community at the elementary and secondary levels are fully vaccinated.
- 691** Ensure that, at the soonest possible time, face-to-face classes are resumed, provided that schools are adequately equipped with the proper COVID-19 protocols and infrastructure to be able to safely conduct classes.
- 692** Ensure the proper teaching of Martial Law history in elementary and high school levels to prevent the spread of inaccurate information that prevents the proper implementation of transitional justice mechanisms.
- 693** Review performance of teaching personnel who actively spread erroneous information about Martial Law history and render appropriate sanctions.
- 694** Ensure access to quality education by improving internet connection and signals in the localities and rural areas, and exploring other means of distance learning.
- 695** Urge DepEd and CHED to come up with rules that will require schools to respect the gender identity of students, especially with respect to their haircuts and their uniforms.

To the Department of Social Welfare and Development

- 696** To periodically conduct information dissemination campaigns, webinars and lectures on women's rights to inform and empower women.
- 697** To provide health insurance and medical assistance to the elderly through DSWD Programs.
- 698** To ensure availability and access of senior citizens lanes.

- 699** To ensure organization and functionality of OSCAs in all LGUs.
- 700** To formulate plans indicating the concerns of the Senior Citizens.

To the Philippine Commission on Women

- 701** Information Dissemination/Seminars and Lectures on the Rights of Women must be conducted periodically to apprise women of their rights and to advocate for women's empowerment.
- 702** Provide information about gender-based, domestic and online violence and access to safe reporting, grievance, and justice mechanisms for the victims.
- 703** Continuous monitoring of the implementation of the MCW and other gender related laws
- 704** Conduct information campaigns on the rights of women and children, with aims to include men, partners and fathers in this information campaign which may be coursed through online means.
- 705** Monitor grievance and justice mechanisms especially during this time of the pandemic. Ensure women's access to justice wherein women can report crimes and protect their rights without having to worry about COVID-19.

To the National Council on Disability Affairs

- 706** To ensure availability and accessibility of PWD lanes.
- 707** To ensure sectoral representation, particularly in this time of the pandemic where the voice of PWDs are overshadowed.
- 708** To ensure provision of health insurance and medical assistance to persons with disabilities, which includes easier access to vaccines as well as the procurement of their necessary medication.
- 709** To monitor government agencies and private sector in the implementation of R.A.s 7277 and 9442 and BP 344.
- 710** To strengthen the capacities of direct service providers and agencies, especially those catering to the needs of persons with disabilities with hearing and speech impairment.

To the National Commission on Indigenous Peoples

- 711** Strengthening policy advocacy on IDPs rights, particularly on the right to rehabilitation/ reparation.
- 712** Developing or strengthening coordination mechanisms as well as monitoring and reporting strategies.
- 713** Ensure the proper enforcement of IP communities' Free Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC).

- 714** Prevent the destruction of Lumad schools and the red-tagging of IPs, hold a stronger stand in solidarity with IP communities.
- 715** Coordinate with the relevant government agencies to increase the access to basic social services, healthcare, and vaccines to far-flung IP communities.

To the National Youth Commission

- 716** Conduct an in-depth look into the human rights concerns of the youth sector or at the very least to widen participation and/or institutionalize conversations, formal or informal, with marginalized sectors.

To the Civil Society Organizations

- 717** Strengthen and have a continuing partnership with other stakeholders/duty bearers and civil society organizations (CSOs) in protecting and promoting women and children's rights especially the disadvantaged, vulnerable, and marginalized.
- 718** Develop and/or strengthen programs that identify and provide psycho-socio-economic support to the families of EJK victims.
- 719** Foster initiatives that will enable comprehensive documentation of EJK cases and allow for successful prosecution in the future, in cooperation with the Department of Justice and the CHR.
- 720** Broaden their civic space by developing and sharing good practices and recognizing gaps in preventing and prosecuting drug-related extrajudicial killings.

To the National Task Force to End Local Communist Armed Conflict

- 721** As attacks against human rights defenders have been linked to the actions done by certain representatives of the NTF-ELCAC, the CHR reiterates its previous recommendations to the said inter-agency body. They are as follows:
 - a** Desist from red-tagging and labelling HRDs as terrorists or enemies of the State, and other similar acts, based solely on the fact that such individuals and organizations are HRDs;
 - b** Publicly acknowledge the legitimacy of the work of HRDs and seek to actively protect and promote the 'right to defend rights';
 - c** Adopt the principles and rights defined in the Declaration on Human Rights Defenders, the Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance, and other similar international human rights instruments as part of national policy;
 - d** Combat impunity by preventing abuses against HRDs, investigating all allegations of extrajudicial killings of HRDs, and prosecuting and punishing all those guilty of such criminal acts;

- e** Prohibit violations against HRDs including vilifying, surveilling, red-tagging, threatening with reprisals, and other practices that restrict the right to defend;
- f** Work for the immediate release of all HRDs arbitrarily detained; conduct a transparent investigation on the circumstances surrounding illegal detentions; and identify the perpetrators against whom proper charges may be filed;
- g** Effectively guarantee and protect the freedoms of expression, association, and peaceful assembly by:
 - 1** Recognizing the role that civic organizations, journalists and media outfits play in monitoring human rights and the role of HRDs;
 - 2** Preventing the use of “overly subjective administrative regulations,” including licensing and taxation to censure or prevent the operation of media outlets;
 - 3** Granting journalists and members of the press full access to information on the promotion of human rights and activities of HRDs;
 - 4** Work for the dismissal of libel and slander cases that the task force filed against journalists and reporters in connection with the exercise of their duty to report human rights violations, and avoiding the instigation of other criminal and civil suits as a tool for censorship;
 - 5** Drafting a code of behavior for the security sector, including guidelines on the conduct of law enforcement officers relative to those exercising their rights to join peaceful assemblies and protests, and on the use of force and firearms to effectively protect those legitimately exercising their basic rights;
 - 6** Forming an oversight and reform body tasked with investigating and holding accountable law enforcement officers who, in the course of their operations, commit human rights violations against HRDs;

To the Department of Foreign Affairs

- 722** Ensure that the rights of migrant workers are protected. Existing laws and policies against human trafficking and illegal recruitment should be regularly reviewed, and penalties should be stringently imposed against violators who thrive in taking advantage of the vulnerable state of Filipinos who desperately strive for a better life for their families by working abroad.
- 723** As many OFWs fall victim to suicide, it is recommended that national mechanisms to protect their mental health are also implemented.
- 724** The State should push for receiving countries to introduce mechanisms to identify and protect victims of maltreatment on a global scale, and for these countries to provide OFWs access to medical and legal aid, as are provided to other members of their own labor force; and more importantly, the State should advocate receiving countries to impose stricter sanctions to its abusive employers and citizens.
- 725** The state should strengthen its support to local businesses and investors for the generation of more job opportunities to Filipinos within the Philippines.

To the Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency

- 726** Inculcate to its personnel the policy of full respect and protection of human rights of all persons in the fulfillment of their duties as provided in the PDEA Code of Professional Conduct and Ethical Standards.
- 727** Provide regular training and seminars to its personnel on international human rights instruments and relevant domestic laws which emphasize their responsibility, as state agents, to uphold and respect the human rights of all persons.
- 728** Conduct regular evaluation and analysis of drug operations conducted by their agents or other law enforcement agencies with their participation. It is also suggested that the agency should provide an in-depth report on its observations of these operations and provide recommendations to further improve the conduct of such operations.
- 729** Combat impunity by preventing abuses in law enforcement drug operations, investigating all allegations of misconduct in drug operations, and assisting in the prosecution and punishment of all erring PDEA personnel.

To the Dangerous Drugs Board

- 730** Review and revise Board Regulation No. 1, s.2016 on Guidelines in the Implementation of Operation Lawmen. The monetary award should not be given pending resolution of any criminal and/or administrative complaint arising from the anti-illegal drug operation. Further, decisions of the Operation Lawmen Committees should be subject to review by the Inter-Agency Committee on Anti-Illegal Drugs (ICAD) pursuant to its functions provided under Section 2 of Executive Order No. 15.

To the Supreme Court

- 731** In dispensing justice in relation to the anti-illegal drug campaign of the current administration, the courts should continue to uphold its duty to guarantee equality before the law; the presumption of innocence unless proven guilty; the right to a fair and public trial by a competent and impartial tribunal; and to be tried without undue delay.
- 732** “Develop a body of jurisprudence that adheres to the principle of stare decisis to prevent the courts from flip-flopping in their decisions. A consistent body of jurisprudence with a strong adherence to the guaranteed Bill of Rights in the Constitution will protect the integrity and independence of the courts.”
- 733** “Implement Rules of Procedure for Human Rights Violations Cases that provide for:
 - a** Expedited procedural processes that facilitate the immediate disposition of human rights cases;
 - b** Immediate issuance of protective orders;
 - c** Limited appeals and allowable motions;
 - d** A prohibition on delayed promulgation of judgments; and
 - e** An effective mechanism for the execution of judgments.”

- 734** “Continuous training and education programs for judges, court attorneys, court officers, and law practitioners about human rights and fundamental freedoms.”

To the International Organizations

- 735** That the UN Human Rights Council, through the UN Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) continuously remind the Philippine Government to fully and consistently comply with its international human rights obligations.
- 736** For international organizations to continue independent probes and investigations into the War on Drugs as well as the recent proliferation of red-tagging that have caused the deaths of many within the country.

To the National Government Agencies and Local Government Units

- 737** Continue to ensure that gender is mainstreamed in the government’s continuing response to the COVID-19 pandemic. For government programs and services to continue to ensure intersectional approaches and the adoption of affirmative actions to reach out to those who are invisible or most left behind. This include programs related to continuing social protection and support services as well as those related to vaccination;
- 738** To ensure that gender-based violence, the prevention of sexual exploitation and abuse forms part of all programs and strategies developed to respond to the continuing crisis brought about by the pandemic. Measures should be adopted to ensure access amidst the pandemic—to include adoption of remote reporting and response options. Measures should also take into account multiple vulnerabilities— ensuring access to sign language interpreters for the Deaf, language translators as may be needed, and providing access to transportation and shelter etc.
- 739** Ensure the continued participation of women and members of the LGBTQI community and other marginalized groups in the planning and programming for the continued response to the pandemic. Participation should be ensured taking into account accessibility.
- 740** Strengthen the adoption of community-based approaches and engagements to ensure access to information, support services, and medical services by the most vulnerable and marginalized. This include community-based efforts to disseminate vaccine-related information and related services.
- 741** In view of the vaccine roll out—to ensure that gender specific issues are addressed –that unpaid care work is accounted for in scheduling, that women’ specific contexts—as living in GIDA, as IDP, as street dwellers and homeless persons, and deprived of liberty and other vulnerabilities be duly addressed and taken into consideration.
- 742** Execute and concretize the provisions under the Philippine Development Plan 2017–2022 on Human Capital Development, specifically on “enhancing labor mobility and income security – enhance income support and emergency employment,” “food resiliency and reducing vulnerabilities,” and “mitigating the risks faced by vulnerable groups.” There are existing efforts on developing and enhancing the programs of SSS on the system of the temporary need of workers as well as risk protection programs, however, taking into consideration the pandemic, it becomes now an urgent matter to institutionalize not only

the financial assistance programs but the social security protection programs which are both non-contributory and targeted social assistance schemes) for the displaced formal and informal working sectors.

- a** Establish and implement the social protection floor framework to ensure that there is a nationally defined set of basic social security guarantees which secure protection aimed at preventing or alleviating poverty, vulnerability, and social exclusion.

743 Consider the “Guidelines concerning a statistical definition of informal employment” endorsed during the 17th ICLS in adopting a definition and indicators of employment in the informal sector and informal employment to provide more clarity on the complex issue of generating statistics and to be more inclusive.

- a** Ensure that the PSA periodically updates the registry of the employment in the informal sector and informal employment to deliver timely, responsive, and appropriate social protection services.

744 Review the minimum wage prescribed by the NWPC as well as the existing poverty and food threshold, taking into account the vulnerability and risks factors of the individual and/or families, especially the geographical characteristics of the country. This is to capture the real situation on the ground and identify the actual minimum level of income deemed adequate to meet the basic food and non-food requirements.

745 Develop a non-contributory social security scheme, other than for health care, to provide benefits in the event of the social risks and contingencies mentioned in the normative contents i.e. old age, unemployment, disability, among others. This scheme should include part-time workers, casual workers, seasonal workers, and the self-employed, and those working in atypical forms of work in the informal economy. Benefits should be provided to cover periods of loss of earnings by persons who are requested not to report for work during public health or other emergencies.

746 Intensify the information drive by ensuring that the information shared to the public is within the level of their understanding and the language used is the one that the locality speaks. The message must likewise reflect the importance and value of social security in their life and one that would make the constituents feel that it is not merely a preference but one that is indispensable for them and their families.

- a** Utilize all possible methodologies in disseminating information about the social security program of the government. For TV and radio, there should be considerable airtime to discuss the programs of the government in plain and simple language. The language spoken by the locality should likewise be adopted in the materials disseminated on TV and radio. In addition, to widen their reach, the government should explore other means for publicizing the information such as leaflet advertising, posters, and newspapers to ensure that the low-income households particularly those living in GIDAs who do not have access to TV, radio, or the internet will have access to the information. Social media platforms and other electronic means must also be utilized.
- b** The IEC materials that have been produced and to be produced should be accessible to persons with disabilities. Accessibility features must be integrated into the electronic materials to allow persons with disabilities to easily access the information.

- 747** Strengthen awareness-raising and education that includes any learning, capacity-building, training, or information efforts on the right to social security for the rights-holders aimed at building and promoting understanding of the right to social security, promoting a human rights culture by developing or reinforcing attitudes, values, and beliefs that uphold the said right, and changing behaviors to empower the rights-holders to demand and take action to defend the right to social security. Education efforts should likewise include building and/or strengthening the capacity of government officials and institutions to meet their obligation to respect, protect and fulfill the right to social security.
- a** Look into how the right to social security could be integrated and discussed in the academic curriculum of high school students so that at a young age, Filipinos will understand the value of having social security.
- 748** Ensure that the government's online or mobile application fully satisfies the end-user's needs and the features assist the users quickly and effectively. It must be user-friendly, easy to navigate, and straightforward. The application should also provide offline functions such as access to features and content offline while ensuring the security of the data available.
- 749** Ensure that the guidelines are clear, specific, simple, and coherent during health emergencies or other humanitarian emergencies, including policies on the distribution of emergency subsidies. This is to make sure that the benefits and entitlements of citizens during the crisis get to the right beneficiaries promptly.
- a** Remedial mechanisms must be put in place to check and impose corrective measures against erring officials. These mechanisms should be accessible, effective, and responsive.
 - b** Urge service providers to have a standard processing time of applications for benefits, loans, and other social security services to set member's expectations and hold those accountable in case of unreasonable delays.
- 750** Educate the public on the technological process as to how online applications to the social security programs should be done. But since not all populations are tech-savvy, have the necessary equipment to avail the services online, government services should still be accessible physically, either via walk-in or phone calls.
- 751** Create a more enabling environment where women can participate in the labor market at par with other members of society. Women's unpaid care and domestic work, which is critical to all economic activity, should be recognized and duly compensated through the social security programs of the government.
- a** a. Develop non-contributory social security schemes or targeted social assistance schemes to cover the loss or lack of earnings of women due to their inability to obtain or maintain decent employment on the ground of the unequal burden of household and care work of women. This should include paid maternity leave, perinatal, childbirth and postnatal care, care in the hospital, where necessary and old-age benefits.
- 752** Provide active labor market programs for WIES who want to enter into formal employment. They should be provided access to education, skills training, and professional development to expand their opportunities for employability and productivity to enhance their labor mobility and income security, particularly for those who might prefer work over livelihood.

- a As recommended by ILO, strengthen legislation, policies, and compliance mechanisms that facilitate the transition of the WIES to formality, including those most vulnerable to decent work deficits, according to national circumstances. Likewise, “increase action by employers’ and workers’ organizations and representative organizations of those in the informal economy to assist workers and economic units in the informal economy and facilitate the transition to the formal economy.”⁵⁵⁰
- 753** Look into developing mechanisms providing WIES, including micro, small, and medium enterprises access to credit and financial services, ensuring the wide reach of the population including the low-income, and removing the structural barriers that traditional banking procedures have.
- 754** The best practices of the Pasig LGU may be replicated in other local government units “not just [to give] financial assistance but also [empower] and [create] new entrepreneurs.
- 755** Ensure public consultation and participation on matters of public concern. It is the active involvement of the public in the formulation of policies, legislative measures, and programs as well as in monitoring the implementation that safeguards the rights of the people and ensures an efficient, transparent, and accountable government. Also, with public participation, the insights of affected groups are taken into account and the voices of the most vulnerable are amplified.
- 756** Conduct a further review of the situation of WIES at a national level to reflect the actual and full-scale condition on the ground.
- 757** Execute and concretize the provisions under the Philippine Development Plan 2017–2022 on Human Capital Development, specifically on “enhancing labor mobility and income security – enhance income support and emergency employment,” “food resiliency and reducing vulnerabilities,” and “mitigating the risks faced by vulnerable groups. There are existing efforts on developing and enhancing the programs of SSS on the system of the temporary need of workers as well as risk protection programs, however, taking into consideration the pandemic, it becomes now an urgent matter to institutionalize not only the financial assistance programs but the social security protection programs which are both non-contributory and targeted social assistance schemes) for the displaced formal and informal working sectors.
 - a. Establish and implement the social protection floor framework to ensure that there is a nationally defined set of basic social security guarantees which secure protection aimed at preventing or alleviating poverty, vulnerability, and social exclusion.
- 758** Consider the “Guidelines concerning a statistical definition of informal employment” endorsed during the 17th ICLS in adopting a definition and indicators of employment in the informal sector and informal employment to provide more clarity on the complex issue of generating statistics and to be more inclusive.
 - a Ensure that the PSA periodically updates the registry of the employment in the informal sector and informal employment to deliver timely, responsive, and appropriate social protection services.
- 759** Review the minimum wage prescribed by the NWPC as well as the existing poverty and food threshold, taking into account the vulnerability and risks factors of the individual and/or families, especially the geographical characteristics of the country. This is to capture

⁵⁵⁰ 162 Policy Outcomes 6: Formalization of the informal economy, International Labor Organization, available at https://www.ilo.org/global/topics/dw4sd/theme-by-policy-outcomes/WCMS_558311/lang-en/index.htm, (last accessed September 21, 2021).

the real situation on the ground and identify the actual minimum level of income deemed adequate to meet the basic food and non-food requirements.

- 760** Develop a non-contributory social security scheme, other than for health care, to provide benefits in the event of the social risks and contingencies mentioned in the normative contents, i.e., old age, unemployment, disability, among others. This scheme should include part-time workers, casual workers, seasonal workers, and the self-employed, and those working in atypical forms of work in the informal economy. Benefits should be provided to cover periods of loss of earnings by persons who are requested not to report for work during public health or other emergencies.
- 761** Intensify the information drive by ensuring that the information shared to the public is within the level of their understanding and the language used is the one that the locality speaks. The message must likewise reflect the importance and value of social security in their life and one that would make the constituents feel that it is not merely a preference but one that is indispensable for them and their families.
- a** Utilize all possible methodologies in disseminating information about the social security program of the government. For TV and radio, there should be considerable airtime to discuss the programs of the government in plain and simple language. The language spoken by the locality should likewise be adopted in the materials disseminated on TV and radio. In addition, to widen their reach, the government should explore other means for publicizing the information such as leaflet advertising, posters, and newspapers to ensure that the low-income households particularly those living in GIDAs who do not have access to TV, radio, or the internet will have access to the information. Social media platforms and other electronic means must also be utilized.
 - b** The IEC materials that have been and will be produced should be accessible to persons with disabilities. Accessibility features must be integrated into the electronic materials to allow persons with disabilities to easily access the information.
- 762** Strengthen awareness-raising and education that includes any learning, capacity-building, training, or information efforts on the right to social security for the rights-holders aimed at building and promoting understanding of the right to social security, promoting a human rights culture by developing or reinforcing attitudes, values, and beliefs that uphold the said right, and changing behaviors to empower the rights-holders to demand and take action to defend the right to social security. Education efforts should likewise include building and/or strengthening the capacity of government officials and institutions to meet their obligation to respect, protect and fulfill the right to social security.
- 763** Look into how the right to social security could be integrated and discussed in the academic curriculum of high school students so that at a young age, Filipinos will understand the value of having social security coverage.
- 764** Ensure that the government's online or mobile application fully satisfies the end-user's needs and the features assist the users quickly and effectively. It must be user-friendly, easy to navigate, and straightforward. The application should also provide offline functions such as access to features and content offline while ensuring the security of the data available.
- 765** Ensure that the guidelines are clear, specific, simple, and coherent during health emergencies or other humanitarian emergencies, including policies on the distribution of emergency

subsidies. This is to make sure that the benefits and entitlements of citizens during the crisis get to the right beneficiaries timely.

- a** Remedial mechanisms must be put in place to check and impose corrective measures against erring officials. These mechanisms should be accessible, effective, and responsive.
- b** Urge service providers to have a standard processing time of applications for benefits, loans, and other social security services to set member's expectations and hold those accountable in case of unreasonable delays.

- 766** Educate the public on the technological process as to how online applications to the social security programs should be done. But since not all populations are tech-savvy, have the necessary equipment to avail the services online, government services should still be accessible physically, either via walk-in or phone calls.
- 767** Create a more enabling environment where women can participate in the labor market at par with other members of society. Women's unpaid care and domestic work, which is critical to all economic activity, should be recognized and duly compensated through the social security programs of the government.
- 768** Develop non-contributory social security schemes or targeted social assistance schemes to cover the loss or lack of earnings of women due to their inability to obtain or maintain decent employment on the ground of the unequal burden of household and care work of women. This should include paid maternity leave, perinatal, childbirth and postnatal care, care in the hospital, where necessary and old-age benefits.
- 769** Provide active labor market programs for WIES who want to enter into formal employment. They should be provided access to education, skills training, and professional development to expand their opportunities for employability and productivity to enhance their labor mobility and income security, particularly for those who might prefer work over livelihood.
- a** As recommended by ILO162, strengthen legislation, policies, and compliance mechanisms that facilitate the transition of the WIES to formality, including for those most vulnerable to decent work deficits, according to national circumstances. Likewise, "increase action by employers' and workers' organizations and representative organizations of those in the informal economy to assist workers and economic units in the informal economy and facilitate the transition to the formal economy."⁵⁵¹
- 770** Look into developing mechanisms providing WIES, including micro, small, and medium enterprises access to credit and financial services, ensuring the wide reach of the population including the low-income, and removing the structural barriers that traditional banking procedures have.
- 771** The best practices of the Pasig LGU may be replicated in other local government units "not just [to give] financial assistance but also [empower] and [create] new entrepreneurs.
- 772** Ensure public consultation and participation on matters of public concern. It is the active involvement of the public in the formulation of policies, legislative measures, and programs as well as in monitoring the implementation that safeguards the rights of the people

⁵⁵¹ Policy Outcomes 6: Formalization of the informal economy, International Labor Organization, available at https://www.ilo.org/global/topics/dw4sd/theme-by-policy-outcomes/WCMS_558311/lang-en/index.htm, (last accessed September 21, 2021).

and ensures an efficient, transparent, and accountable government. Also, with public participation, the insights of affected groups are taken into account and the voices of the most vulnerable are amplified.

- 773** Conduct a further review of the situation of WIES at a national level to reflect the actual and full-scale condition on the ground.

To the Executive:

- 774** Address impunity and ensure accountability of members of the PNP with administrative and disciplinary cases related to gender-based violence and the sexual exploitation of women;
- 775** Address impact of the pandemic on those worse hit—women workers in the informal sectors, women fisherfolks, rural women, internally displaced women, women in street situations;
- 776** Enhance connectivity of government offices, especially those that provide services for marginalized women; Enhance connectivity and access in community areas to encourage participation of marginalized women

To the Legislature:

- 777** Pass as urgent pending legislation on gender responsive pandemic response;
- 778** Pass as urgent the proposed legislation addressing teenage pregnancy, the bill seeking to lower the age of sexual consent, the SOGIE Equality bill, and the Comprehensive Anti-Discrimination Bill (CADB);
- 779** Ensure participation of women and WHR organizations in the deliberation of the Magna Carta of Women in the Informal Sector as well as in discussions on the Fisheries Code;

To the Judiciary and Constitutional Commissions:

- 780** COA to adopt and modify government rules on the provision of communication allowance and to allow agencies to create an enabling environment for stakeholders from the marginalized sectors to participate. This includes a relaxation in the rules providing for communication and food allowances for community women participating in various capacity-building activities. The continuing digital divide will continue to exclude women and marginalized groups if the government does not provide affirmative action that ensures and facilitates participation by women and marginalized groups.

To SSS:

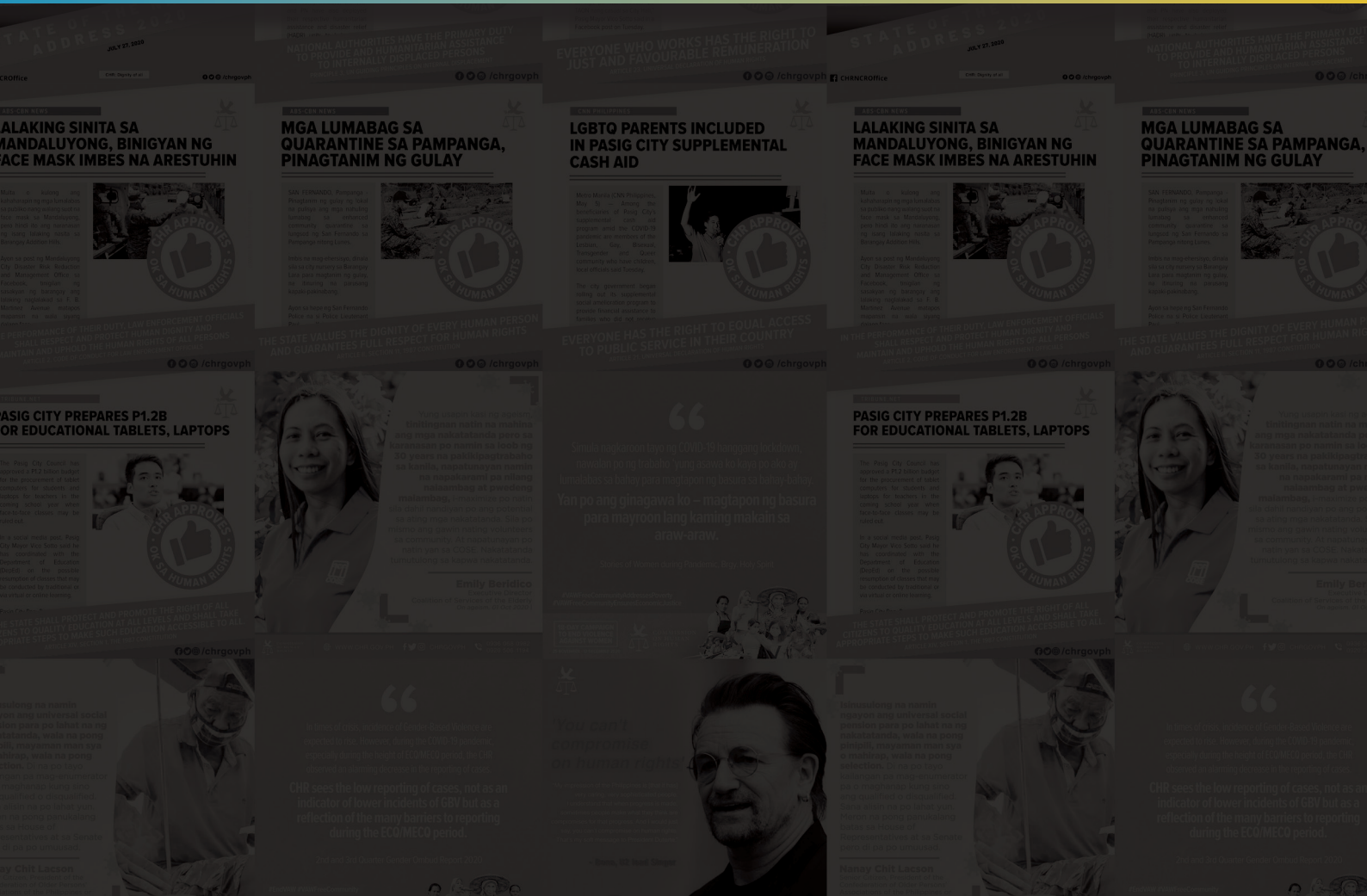
- 781** Broaden SSS coverage and benefits availability to manage economic risks of informal workers. SSS aims to help workers, especially those in the informal sectors, bring coverage by ensuring simple registration, payment, and benefits application processes through physical and online platforms. With the increase of income opportunit[ies] through online platforms, the government shall ensure that those who are engaging in these platforms will have access to health and emergency assistance and SSS benefits including old-age pension.

To Philhealth:

- 782** Ensure financial risk protection of vulnerable groups through improved PhilHealth coverage and benefits packages. In the passage of [the] Universal Health Care Act, all Filipinos are automatically covered and can now access healthcare services. PhilHealth is currently enhancing the existing health benefits packages which will benefit the vulnerable sector including informal sector workers.



Annexes



CHR PRESS STATEMENTS OF 2021

I. EJKs and CAMPAIGN AGAINST ILLEGAL DRUGS

Title	Date of Release
Statement of CHR Commissioner Karen Gomez-Dumpit on the announcement of the Justice Secretary regarding the release of the first partial report of the review of the deaths resulting from the conduct of anti-illegal drug operations	11 January 2021
Pahayag ni CHR Spokesperson, Atty Jacqueline Ann de Guia, ukol sa pagpaslang sa alkalde ng Libungan, Cotabato at kaniyang drayber	12 January 2021
Statement of the Commission on Human Rights on the statement of the Secretary of Justice of the Philippines at the 46th Regular Session of the Human Rights Council	25 February 2021
Statement of CHR Spokesperson, Atty Jacqueline Ann de Guia, on the final reading of the House Bill No. 7814	03 March 2021
Statement of Commissioner Karen Gomez-Dumpit on the Passage of House Bill No. 7814, providing for the 'Presumption of Guilt' and Reintroduction of the Death Penalties amendments to the Comprehensive Dangerous Drugs Act of 2002	04 March 2021
Statement of CHR Spokesperson, Atty. Jacqueline Ann de Guia, on the PNP-PDEA misencounter and the need for body cameras	04 March 2021
Statement of CHR Commissioner Gwen Pimentel Gana, on the brazen and brutal drug-related killings and the need for genuine government investigations	10 March 2021
Statement of CHR spokesperson, Atty Jacqueline Ann de Guia, on the Department of Justice's openness to work with the Commission on Human Rights	15 March 2021
Statement of CHR Spokesperson, Atty Jacqueline Ann de Guia, on the death of a former female detainee in Cebu City who was allegedly raped by police officers	21 April 2021
Statement of CHR Spokesperson, Atty Jacqueline Ann de Guia, on the agreement of the Philippine National Police to open its records on 61 police operations allegedly resulting in deaths of drug suspects	26 May 2021
Statement of the CHR Spokesperson, Atty Jacqueline Ann de Guia, on the announcement of the PNP Chief to open around 7,000 cases involving alleged deaths during drug operations	27 May 2021
Statement of CHR Spokesperson, Atty Jacqueline Ann de Guia, on the government's regression of commitment to fully open cases of alleged extrajudicial killings linked to the drug campaign to investigations	02 June 2021
Statement of CHR Spokesperson, Atty Jacqueline Ann de Guia, on the ambush of Former Camarines Sur Rep. Rolando Andaya Jr.	03 June 2021
Statement of the CHR Spokesperson, Atty. Jacqueline Ann de Guia, on the decision of the International Criminal Court to move the Philippine case to preliminary investigation	15 June 2021
Statement of CHR Spokesperson, Atty Jacqueline Ann de Guia, on the death of a 16-year old boy during an anti-drug operations in Laguna	18 June 2021
Statement of CHR Spokesperson, Atty Jacqueline Ann de Guia, on the update of the Secretary of Justice on the Review Panel and the United Nations Joint Program on Human Rights	18 June 2021

Title	Date of Release
Statement of CHR Spokesperson, Atty Jacqueline Ann de Guia, on the 4th death anniversary of Kian delos Santos	16 August 2021
Statement of CHR spokesperson, Atty. Jacqueline Ann de Guia, on the killing of lawyer Juan Macababba	17 September 2021
Statement of CHR Spokesperson, Atty Jacqueline Ann de Guia, on the release of information concerning 52 drug war-related deaths	20 October 2021
Statement of Commissioner Gwendolyn Pimentel-Gana on the findings of the Commission on Human Rights report on drug-related extrajudicial killings in the country	02 November 2021

II. CHR and Statements in Local and International Celebrations

Title	Date of Release
Statement of CHR Spokesperson, Atty Jacqueline Ann de Guia, on the 34th Anniversary Commemoration of Mendiola Massacre	22 January 2021
Statement of CHR Spokesperson, Atty Jacqueline Ann de Guia, on the International Day of Education	24 January 2021
Statement of CHR Spokesperson, Atty Jacqueline Ann de Guia, on the National Awareness Week for the Prevention of Child Sexual Abuse and Exploitation	08 February 2021
Statement of CHR Spokesperson, Atty Jacqueline Ann de Guia, in celebration of the International Day against the Use of Child Soldiers 2021	12 February 2021
Pahayag ni CHR Spokesperson, Atty Jacqueline Ann de Guia, sa ika-35 Anibersaryo ng EDSA People Power Revolution	25 February 2021
Statement of Commissioner Karen Gomez-Dumpit, Focal Commissioner for Gender and Women's Rights, on the celebration of International Women's Day	08 March 2021
Pahayag ng CHR spokesperson, Atty Jacqueline Ann de Guia, sa paggunita ng Araw ng Paggawa	01 May 2021
Statement of CHR Spokesperson, Atty. Jacqueline Ann De Guia, on the celebration of World Press Freedom Day	03 May 2021
Statement of CHR Commissioner Karen Gomez Dumpit, Focal Commissioner on Gender Equality and Women's Human Rights in commemoration of the International Day of Action for Women's Health	31 May 2021
Statement of CHR Spokesperson, Atty Jacqueline Ann de Guia, on the observation of the Commission on Audit on the need to improve processing of aid to victims of human rights violations	01 June 2021
Statement of the Commission on Human Rights on the passing of former President Benigno Aquino III	24 June 2021
Statement of CHR Commissioner Karen Gomez Dumpit on the Commemoration of the 15th Anniversary of the Abolition of the Death Penalty	24 June 2021
Statement of CHR Deputy Spokesperson, Marc Louis Siapno, on the appeal to CHR to withhold clearance for General Parlade's retirement	09 July 2021
Statement of CHR Spokesperson, Atty Jacqueline Ann de Guia, on the President's 2021 State of the Nation Address	27 July 2021

Title	Date of Release
Pahayag ni CHR Spokesperson, Atty Jacqueline Ann de Guia, sa ika-49 taong anibersaryo ng deklarasyon ng Batas Militar	21 September 2021
Statement of Commissioner Karen S. Gomez-Dumpit, Focal Commissioner on Ageing and the Rights of Older Persons, on the International Day of Older Persons and Elderly Filipino Week	01 October 2021
Statement of CHR Spokesperson, Atty. Jacqueline Ann de Guia, on the celebration of National Mental Health Week 2021	04 October 2021
Statement of CHR Commissioner, Gwendolyn Ll. Pimentel-Gana, on the celebration of World Mental Health Day 2021	08 October 2021
Statement of CHR spokesperson, Atty. Jacqueline Ann de Guia, on the passing of CHR Chairperson Chito Gascon	10 October 2021
Statement of CHR Commissioner Karen S. Gomez-Dumpit, Focal Commissioner on Anti-Death Penalty, on the 19th World Day Against Death Penalty	11 October 2021
Statement of CHR Spokesperson, Atty. Jacqueline Ann de Guia, on the passing of CHR Chairperson Jose Luis Martin C. Gascon	11 October 2021
Statement of CHR Commissioner, Gwendolyn Ll. Pimentel-Gana, Focal Commission on Indigenous People's Rights, on the National Indigenous Peoples Month and 24th IPRA commemoration	15 October 2021
Statement of CHR Commissioner Karen Gomez-Dumpit, Focal Commissioner on Women's Rights, on the launch of the "Safe Spaces Now: Right the Ride Campaign"	26 November 2021
Statement of CHR Commissioner Gwen Pimentel Gana, on the commemoration of the World AIDS Day 2021	01 December 2021
CHR, gov't agencies open the 2021 National Human Rights Consciousness Week with call for equality amid the pandemic	01 December 2021
Statement of the Commission on Human Rights on International Migrants Day 2021	18 December 2021

III. Human Rights Defenders

Title	Date of Release
Statement of CHR spokesperson, Atty Jacqueline Ann de Guia, on the erroneous list published by the Armed Forces of the Philippines naming alleged UP alumni who 'joined' the New People's Army	25 January 2021
Statement of CHR spokesperson, Atty Jacqueline Ann de Guia, on the murder charge and 'shoot to kill' order for Windel Bolinget	06 February 2021
Statement of CHR Spokesperson, Atty Jacqueline Ann de Guia, on Senator Leila de Lima's 4th year in detention	27 February 2021
Statement of CHR spokesperson, Atty. Jacqueline de Guia, on the stabbing of an Iloilo-based human rights lawyer	04 March 2021
Statement of CHR spokesperson, Atty. Jacqueline de Guia, on the reported deaths and arrests in Southern Tagalog	08 March 2021
Statement of CHR Spokesperson, Atty Jacqueline Ann de Guia, on the expression of international concern following the arrests and deaths of activists in Calabarzon	11 March 2021

Title	Date of Release
Statement of CHR Spokesperson, Atty Jacqueline Ann de Guia, on the request of the Calbayog intel chief seeking the names of lawyers representing alleged communists	15 March 2021
Statement of CHR spokesperson, Atty. Jacqueline de Guia, calling for the urgent passage of the bill that seeks to protect human rights defenders	22 March 2021
Statement of CHR spokesperson, Atty. Jacqueline de Guia, on attacks and harassments against union leaders and members	26 March 2021
Statement of CHR spokesperson, Atty. Jacqueline de Guia, on the killing of a labor leader in Calamba, Laguna	29 March 2021
Statement of CHR Spokesperson, Atty. Jacqueline Ann de Guia, on the arrest of a Naga youth leader	14 May 2021
Statement of CHR Commissioner Karen Gomez-Dumpit, Focal Commissioner on Women's Rights, on the arrest of Maria Salome "Sally" Crisostomo-Ujano	16 November 2021
Statement of CHR Spokesperson, Atty Jacqueline Ann de Guia, on the decision of the Supreme Court on the constitutionality of the Anti-Terrorism Act	12 December 2021

IV. ACCESS TO JUSTICE

Title	Date of Release
Statement of CHR spokesperson, Atty Jacqueline Ann de Guia, on the death of a construction worker who was shot by a cop after being mistaken for a robber	04 January 2021
Statement of CHR Spokesperson, Atty. Jacqueline Ann de Guia, on the death of Christine Dacera	05 January 2021
Statement of CHR Spokesperson, Atty Jacqueline Ann de Guia, on the recent string of killings in the country	15 January 2021
Statement of CHR Spokesperson, Atty Jacqueline Ann de Guia, on the red-tagging of a Mandaluyong City judge	17 March 2021
Statement of CHR spokesperson, Atty Jacqueline Ann de Guia, on the Supreme Court's courses of action in addressing cases of killings and harassment of lawyers and judges	24 March 2021
Statement of the Commission on Human Rights of the Philippines on the Human Rights situation in Myanmar and the role of the Myanmar National Human Rights Commission	04 April 2021
Statement of Commission on Human Rights on the Ombudsman's junking of the cases against police officers over the secret jail in Manila Police District Station 1	27 April 2021
Statement of CHR Spokesperson, Atty Jacqueline Ann de Guia, on the allegation of fake mass rebel surrenderees in Bulacan	14 May 2021
Statement of CHR Spokesperson, Atty Jacqueline Ann de Guia, on the death a 52-year-old woman after being shot by a police in Quezon City	01 June 2021
Statement of CHR Spokesperson, Atty Jacqueline Ann de Guia, on the grenade throwing incident at the house of Deputy Speaker Rufus Rodriguez in Cagayan de Oro	29 September 2021

Title	Date of Release
Statement of CHR spokesperson, Atty Jacqueline Ann de Guia, on the guilty verdict against RAM members for the death of labor leader Rolando “Ka Lando” Olalia and unionist Leonor Alay-ay	13 October 2021
Statement of CHR Spokesperson, Atty. Jacqueline Ann de Guia, on the worsening rule of law in the country	17 October 2021
Statement of CHR Center for Gender Equality and Women’s Human Rights on the decision of the Court of Appeals declaring Mandaluyong City’s riding-in-tandem ordinances unconstitutional	29 October 2021
Statement of CHR Spokesperson Atty. Jacqueline Ann de Guia, on the brutal killing of 5 family members over family land dispute in Camarines Sur	08 November 2021
Statement of CHR spokesperson, Atty. Jacqueline Ann de Guia, on the killing of an election officer in Northern Samar	23 November 2021
Statement of CHR spokesperson, Atty. Jacqueline Ann de Guia, welcoming the NPC’s initial actions against the proliferation of SMS spams	25 November 2021
Statement of CHR spokesperson, Atty. Jacqueline Ann de Guia, welcoming the DOJ’s move to file murder complaint against law enforcers involved in the death of a labor leader	03 December 2021
Statement of CHR Spokesperson Atty. Jacqueline Ann de Guia, on the brutal killing of Siblings in Cotobato City	16 December 2021

V. VULNERABLE SECTORS

Title	Date of Release
Statement of CHR spokesperson, Atty. Jacqueline de Guia, expressing support for the proposed bills seeking for greater accessibility and mobility for Persons with Disabilities (PWDs)	08 February 2021
Statement of CHR Spokesperson, Atty Jacqueline Ann de Guia, on the death of a Filipino-American with mental health illness after a police de-escalation incident	25 February 2021
Statement of CHR Spokesperson, Atty Jacqueline Ann de Guia, on the human right of Filipinos to water and sanitation during the Covid-19 pandemic	25 March 2021
Statement of Commissioner Karen Gomez-Dumpit, Focal Commissioner on Ageing and the Rights of Older Persons 11 th Session of the Open-Ended Working Group on Ageing 29 – 31 March 2021	31 March 2021
Statement of CHR Spokesperson, Atty Jacqueline Ann de Guia, on the evacuation of OFWs within Israel	23 May 2021
Statement of CHR Spokesperson, Atty Jacqueline Ann de Guia, on Congress’s approval of funding for the bill that proposes early voting for qualified senior citizens and Persons with Disabilities	02 June 2021
Statement of Commissioner Karen Gomez Dumpit (Focal Commissioner on Ageing and the Rights of Older Persons) on the Loosening of Quarantine Restrictions for Fully Vaccinated Senior Citizens	12 June 2021
Statement of CHR Spokesperson, Atty. Jacqueline Ann de Guia, on COMELEC efforts to encourage voter registration	17 June 2021

Title	Date of Release
Statement of CHR Focal Commissioner on Migrant Rights, Gwendolyn L.L. Pimentel-Gana, on the ban on the return of Overseas Filipino Workers (OFWs) and on the raising of standards of compensation for Health Care Workers (HCWs)	26 June 2021
Statement of CHR Spokesperson, Atty Jacqueline Ann de Guia, lauding the commitment of the government to end teenage pregnancies in the country	01 July 2021
Statement of CHR Deputy Spokesperson, Marc Louis Siapno, highlighting the human rights-based approach to disaster response in communities affected by the Taal volcano unrest 06 July 2021	06 July 2021
Pahayag ni CHR Deputy Spokesperson, Marc Louis Siapno, sa pagbagsak ng military plane sa Sulu	06 July 2021
Statement of CHR Spokesperson, Atty Jacqueline Ann de Guia, on the death of a PMMA cadet	12 July 2021
Statement of CHR Spokesperson, Atty. Jacqueline Ann de Guia, calling for urgent protection and aid for homeless street families and individuals during the pandemic	07 August 2021
Statement of CHR Spokesperson, Atty Jacqueline Ann de Guia, lauding the bill including civil society organisations in national budget processes	14 August 2021
Statement of CHR Spokesperson, Atty Jacqueline Ann de Guia, on the ambush of lawyer Rex Fernandez	27 August 2021
Statement of CHR Spokesperson, Atty. Jacqueline Ann de Guia, supporting the immediate passage of the Marawi Compensation Bill	01 September 2021
Statement of CHR Spokesperson, Atty Jacqueline Ann de Guia, supporting the passage of a law that pushes for financial consumers' protection	15 September 2021
Statement of CHR Spokesperson, Atty Jacqueline Ann de Guia, lauding the Philippine government's commitment to extend humanitarian aid to displaced Afghan nationals	16 September 2021
Statement of CHR Spokesperson, Atty Jacqueline Ann de Guia, supporting the call to extend voter registration deadline for the 2022 national election	17 September 2021
Statement of CHR Spokesperson Atty. Jacqueline Ann de Guia, in support of the Chief Executive's call for the abolishment of the Kafala System	24 September 2021

VI. PERSONS DEPRIVED OF LIBERTY

Title	Date of Release
Pahayag ni CHR Spokesperson, Atty Jacqueline Ann de Guia, patungkol sa isang jail officer na umano'y nanggahasa sa isa niyang boarder	20 January 2021
Statement of CHR Spokesperson, Atty Jacqueline Ann de Guia, on the Covid-19 outbreak in a juvenile detention facility in Davao City	25 February 2021
Statement of CHR Spokesperson, Atty Jacqueline Ann de Guia, on the alleged secret detention facility in Cebu City	08 April 2021

Title	Date of Release
Statement of CHR Spokesperson, Atty Jacqueline Ann de Guia, calling for the inclusion of persons deprived of liberty in the priority list for Covid-19 vaccination	15 April 2021
Statement of CHR Spokesperson, Atty Jacqueline Ann de Guia, to uphold the right to health of persons deprived of liberty through Covid-19 vaccinations	30 August 2021
Statement of CHR Spokesperson Atty. Jacqueline Ann de Guia, on the commitment to increase vaccination amongst Persons Deprived of Liberty and on the National Correctional Consciousness Week	29 October 2021
Statement of CHR Spokesperson Atty. Jacqueline Ann de Guia, welcoming the no-contact Christmas jail visitations	07 December 2021
Statement of CHR Spokesperson Atty. Jacqueline Ann de Guia, lauding the construction of a school facility inside the Manila City Jail	14 December 2021
Statement of CHR Spokesperson, Atty. Jacqueline Ann de Guia, in support of the bill mandating reporting of prison deaths	18 December 2021

VII. QUARANTINE VIOLATORS

Title	Date of Release
Statement of CHR spokesperson, Atty. Jacqueline de Guia, on the violent apprehension of a small vendor in Parañaque City	25 January 2021
Statement of CHR spokesperson, Atty Jacqueline Ann de Guia, on the video of quarantine violators being paraded on the street of Silay City	06 February 2021
Statement of CHR Spokesperson, Atty Jacqueline Ann de Guia, on the death of Darren Peñaredondo and the call for community service for quarantine violators	07 April 2021
Statement of CHR spokesperson, Atty. Jacqueline Ann de Guia, on the death of a curfew violator in Calamba, Laguna	12 April 2021
Statement of CHR spokesperson, Atty. Jacqueline Ann de Guia, on the death of a 12-year-old boy after being chased by barangay tanods	21 April 2021
Statement of CHR Spokesperson, Atty Jacqueline Ann de Guia on the order to detain persons not wearing face masks in public	06 May 2021
Statement of CHR spokesperson, Atty. Jacqueline Ann de Guia, on the shooting of a curfew violator with mental illness by a barangay tanod	10 August 2021
Statement of CHR Spokesperson, Atty Jacqueline Ann de Guia, on the alleged rape of a female quarantine violator by a police in Mariveles, Bataan	30 August 2021

VIII. LAW ENFORCEMENT

Title	Date of Release
Pahayag ni CHR Spokesperson, Atty Jacqueline Ann de Guia, ukol sa kumakalat na misleading social media infographic ng City of Batac Police Station tungkol sa kung sino ang mga maituturing na terorista	25 January 2021
Statement of CHR Spokesperson, Atty. Jacqueline Ann de Guia, on the community pantry initiative and profiling of its volunteers	20 April 2021

Title	Date of Release
Statement of CHR Spokesperson, Atty Jacqueline Ann de Guia, on the recent police operation in Valenzuela resulting in the death of a special needs teenager	26 May 2021
Statement of CHR spokesperson, Atty. Jacqueline Ann de Guia, recognizing the PNP's online mechanism to swiftly address complaints from communities	02 June 2021
Statement of CHR Spokesperson, Atty Jacqueline Ann de Guia, on the proposal of arming civilian anti-crime volunteers	26 June 2021
Statement of CHR Deputy Spokesperson, Marc Louis Siapno, on the death and alleged torture of a person with mental disability in Coron, Palawan	09 July 2021
Statement of CHR Spokesperson, Atty Jacqueline Ann de Guia, regarding the Supreme Court Rules on the Use of Body-Worn Cameras in the Execution of Warrants	12 July 2021
Statement of CHR Spokesperson, Atty Jacqueline Ann de Guia, on the Philippine National Police's move to ban the 'hatid-sundo' scheme for Authorized Persons Outside of Residence	04 August 2021
Statement of CHR Spokesperson, Atty Jacqueline Ann de Guia, on the kidnap-slay of an female Muslim online seller in Nueva Ecija	11 August 2021
Statement of CHR Spokesperson, Atty. Jacqueline Ann de Guia, on the provision in the BFP Modernization Bill authorizing firefighters to carry guns	13 August 2021
Statement of CHR Spokesperson, Atty Jacqueline Ann de Guia, on the indiscriminate firing incident in Pampanga resulting in the death of a teenager	26 November 2021

IX. POOR AND MARGINALIZED

Title	Date of Release
Kaugnay sa Pagpaslang sa Magsasaka sa Bulacan	9 February 2021
Statement of CHR Spokesperson, Atty Jacqueline Ann de Guia, on the proposed Senate bill imposing a moratorium on rental payments and evictions during emergencies and calamities	19 February 2021
Statement of Atty Jacqueline Ann de Guia, on the Senate proposal to provide cash grant to farmers and fishermen amid Covid-19 pandemic	19 March 2021
Statement of CHR Spokesperson, Atty Jacqueline Ann de Guia, commending DSWD's efforts to provide livelihood support for women amid the pandemic	03 June 2021
Statement of CHR Spokesperson, Atty Jacqueline Ann de Guia, on the institutionalisation of a government system that will accelerate and harmonise the distribution of aid and humanitarian operations during disasters and emergencies	16 June 2021
Statement of CHR Spokesperson, Atty Jacqueline Ann de Guia, on DAR's renewed push for distribution of Certificates of Land Ownership Award among farmers	23 June 21

Title	Date of Release
Statement of CHR Spokesperson, Atty Jacqueline Ann de Guia, commending the Department of Science and Technology's development of a ready-to-eat food for disaster-affected populations	29 June 2021
Statement of CHR spokesperson, Atty. Jacqueline Ann de Guia, lauding the DSWD's convergence programs that seek to improve the plight of poor families	04 November 2021
Statement of CHR Spokesperson Atty. Jacqueline Ann de Guia, welcoming the approval of P1-billion fuel subsidy for public utility jeepney drivers	09 November 2021

X. INDIGENOUS PEOPLE

Title	Date of Release
Statement of Commissioner Gwendolyn Pimentel-Gana, CHR Focal Commissioner for the Protection Cluster, on the recent deaths linked to serving search warrants to indigenous peoples in Panay	05 January 2021
Statement of CHR Spokesperson, Atty Jacqueline Ann de Guia, on the NCIP investigation of ancestral land selling in Davao Region	09 June 2021

XI. ENVIRONMENT

Title	Date of Release
Statement of CHR Spokesperson, Atty Jacqueline Ann de Guia, on the government's move to lift the moratorium on new mining agreements	17 April 2021
Statement of CHR Spokesperson, Atty Jacqueline Ann de Guia, on the push of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources for better enforcement of environmental laws	22 June 2021
Statement of CHR Spokesperson, Atty Jacqueline Ann de Guia, supporting the Department of Environment and Natural Resources' call to certify the Environmental Protection and Enforcement Bureau Bill urgent	23 July 2021
Statement of CHR Spokesperson, Atty Jacqueline Ann de Guia, supporting the Department of Environment and Natural Resources' call to legislate wetland protection	03 September 2021

XII. FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION AND VIOLENCE AGAINST THE MEDIA

Title	Date of Release
Statement of CHR spokesperson, Atty Jacqueline Ann de Guia, on the recent threat to sue a reporter over a report of an alleged torture of Aetas	08 February 2021
Statement of CHR Spokesperson, Atty Jacqueline Ann de Guia, on the worsening state of press freedom in the country	22 April 2021
Statement of CHR Spokesperson, Atty Jacqueline Ann de Guia, on the killing of radio host couple in Davao City	16 July 2021
Statement of CHR Spokesperson, Atty Jacqueline Ann de Guia, on the recent slay of Radio Commentator in Cebu	27 July 2021

Title	Date of Release
Statement of CHR Spokesperson, Atty. Jacqueline Ann de Guia, on the death of a block time host in Davao del Sur and the International Day to End Impunity Against Journalist	02 November 2021
Statement of CHR Spokesperson, Atty. Jacqueline Ann de Guia, on the killing of a journalist in Samar	09 December 2021

XIII. HEALTH

Title	Date of Release
Statement of CHR Commissioner Gwendolyn Pimentel-Gana calling to thwart inequalities in Covid-19 vaccine access and distribution among Filipinos	16 January 2021
Statement of the CHR Spokesperson, Atty. Jacqueline Ann de Guia, on the current health situation and allegations of non-frontliners jumping Covid-19 vaccination queue	25 March 2021
Statement of CHR Spokesperson, Atty. Jacqueline Ann de Guia, on the use of caution tapes to mark households with Covid-19 patients and close contacts in Ozamiz City	14 May 2021
Statement of CHR Spokesperson, Atty. Jacqueline Ann de Guia, on DOH's affirmation of the importance of informed consent during Covid-19 vaccination	22 May 2021
Statement of CHR Spokesperson, Atty. Jacqueline Ann de Guia, commending the Department of Health's commitment to continue the provision of HIV treatment amid the Covid-19 pandemic	27 May 2021
Statement of the CHR Spokesperson, Atty. Jacqueline Ann de Guia, on local government efforts to speed up vaccination	05 June 2021
Statement of CHR Spokesperson, Atty. Jacqueline de Guia, on the End of the Polio Outbreak in the Philippines	14 June 2021
Statement of CHR spokesperson, Atty. Jacqueline Ann de Guia, recognizing the DSWD's online mental and psychosocial program for vulnerable sectors	14 June 2021
Statement of CHR Spokesperson, Atty. Jacqueline Ann de Guia, on the government's extension of granting special risk allowance to pandemic frontliners	16 June 2021
Statement of CHR Spokesperson, Atty. Jacqueline Ann de Guia, on the latest vaccination numbers and the policy of non-segregation	23 June 21
Statement CHR spokesperson, Atty. Jacqueline Ann de Guia, on the remark of a radio host on the alleged HIV status of the late President Benigno Aquino III	29 June 2021
Statement of CHR Spokesperson, Atty. Jacqueline Ann de Guia, supporting government's move to include mental health services in primary health care package	30 June 2021
Statement of CHR Spokesperson, Atty. Jacqueline Ann de Guia, commending the commitment of Central Visayas LGUs to amplify its health and nutrition programs	15 July 21
Statement of CHR Spokesperson, Atty. Jacqueline Ann de Guia, on the proposal to bar unvaccinated people from leaving their houses	30 July 2021

Title	Date of Release
Statement of CHR Spokesperson, Atty Jacqueline Ann de Guia, calling on the government to revisit vaccination protocols	05 August 2021
Statement of CHR Spokesperson, Atty Jacqueline Ann de Guia, on the new proposal to segregate vaccinated and unvaccinated Filipinos to boost the economy	31 August 2021
Statement of CHR Spokesperson, Atty. Jacqueline Ann de Guia, in support of Vaccine czar Carlito Galvez Jr. statement on the priority allocation in the administration of a third dose of vaccine	20 September 2021
Statement of CHR spokesperson, Atty. Jacqueline Ann de Guia, on the proposal to implement mandatory Covid-19 vaccination	08 November 2021
Statement of CHR Spokesperson, Atty. Jacqueline Ann de Guia, in support of mental health services bill for state universities, colleges	15 November 2021
Statement of CHR Spokesperson Atty. Jacqueline Ann de Guia, welcoming the national Covid-19 3-day vaccination drive	16 November 2021
Statement of CHR Spokesperson, Atty Jacqueline Ann de Guia, on the push to make Covid-19 vaccination mandatory and its implications on people's human rights	03 December 2021

XIV. EDUCATION

Title	Date of Release
Statement of the Commission on Human Rights on the unilateral termination of the Department of National Defense (DND) of its accord with the University of the Philippines (UP)	20 January 2021
Statement of CHR Spokesperson, Atty Jacqueline Ann de Guia, on the passage of Senate Bill No. 1907 or the Inclusive Education Bill on second reading	06 June 2021
Statement of CHR spokesperson, Atty. Jacqueline Ann de Guia, on the DepEd and DBM's issuance increasing the Special Hardship Allowance for teachers	22 June 2021
Statement of CHR Spokesperson, Atty Jacqueline Ann de Guia, welcoming the approval on the third and final reading of House Bill 10171 that institutionalizes the UP-DND Accord	23 September 2021
Statement of CHR spokesperson, Atty. Jacqueline Ann de Guia, on the death of a cadet in the PNPA	27 September 2021
Statement of CHR Spokesperson, Atty. Jacqueline Ann de Guia, supporting the call to expedite the passage of the Inclusive Education Bill	18 November 2021

XV. GENDER AND DEVELOPMENT

Title	Date of Release
Statement of Commissioner Karen S. Gomez-Dumpit, Focal Commissioner on Women and LGBTQI+ Issues, on Victim-blaming and Gender Stereotyping Amid the Investigations in the Christine Dacera Case	12 January 2021

Title	Date of Release
CHR recognizes role of women in addressing the pandemic, in defending human rights	02 March 2021
Statement of CHR Commissioner Karen Gomez Dumpit, Focal Commissioner for Women's and Gender Rights, on the dire situation of women fisherfolks in the time of Covid-19 pandemic	27 March 2021
Statement of CHR Commissioner Karen Gomez-Dumpit, Focal Commissioner on Gender and Women's Rights, on President Duterte's and his allies' acts demeaning to women	05 April 2021
Statement of CHR Spokesperson, Atty Jacqueline Ann de Guia, on the killing of transgender man Ebeng Mayor	22 May 2021
Statement of CHR spokesperson, Atty Jacqueline Ann de Guia, on the alleged forced shaving of heads of LGBTQI community members in Ampatuan, Maguindanao	12 June 2021
Statement of CHR Spokesperson, Atty. Jacqueline Ann de Guia, on the killing of transgender woman Cindy Jones Torres	06 August 2021
Statement of CHR Spokesperson, Atty. Jacqueline Ann de Guia, in support of a gender-responsive legislation protecting women and girls during pandemics and disasters	21 September 2021
Statement of CHR spokesperson, Atty. Jacqueline Ann de Guia, supporting the initiative of the PCW and AFP to mainstream gender and development in the peace and security sector	22 September 2021
Statement of CHR Spokesperson Atty. Jacqueline Ann de Guia, on the launch of E911	16 December 2021

XVI. RIGHTS OF THE CHILD

Title	Date of Release
Statement of CHR Spokesperson, Atty Jacqueline Ann de Guia, on the slow prosecution of Fabel Pineda's rape and murder case	18 January 2021
On the Death of Two Missing Teenagers, Possible Tortured	February 2021
Statement of CHR spokesperson, Atty Jacqueline Ann de Guia, on the alleged rescue of Lumad children in Cebu	17 February 2021
Statement of CHR Spokesperson, Atty Jacqueline Ann de Guia, on the death of a detainee's newborn in Negros Oriental	22 February 2021
Statement of CHR spokesperson, Atty. Jacqueline de Guia, on the alleged killing of police officers and use of teenage soldiers by the New People's Army	24 March 2021
Statement of CHR spokesperson, Atty. Jacqueline Ann de Guia, on the death of a youth leader in Lumban, Laguna	16 April 2021
Statement of CHR Spokesperson, Atty Jacqueline Ann de Guia, On the Recent Case of Student Suicide	28 April 2021
Statement of CHR Spokesperson, Atty Jacqueline Ann de Guia, supporting the bill strengthening protection against online sexual abuse and exploitation of children	25 May 2021
Statement of CHR spokesperson, Atty. Jacqueline Ann de Guia, welcoming the IATF's decision to allow children age 5 and above to visit outdoor areas	14 July 2021

Title	Date of Release
Statement of CHR Spokesperson, Atty Jacqueline Ann de Guia, on the brutal killing of a 12-year old girl in Nabua, Iriga City	12 August 2021
Statement of the CHR Spokesperson, Atty. Jacqueline de Guia, welcoming the passage of the Congressional bill that prohibits the practice of child marriage in the country	08 September 2021
Statement of CHR Spokesperson, Atty. Jacqueline Ann de Guia, on the death of a grade 10 student allegedly due to hazing	14 September 2021
Statement of CHR Spokesperson, Atty Jacqueline Ann de Guia, supporting the passage on second reading of Senate Bill No. 2332 that raises the age for determining statutory rape in the Philippines	24 September 2021
Statement of CHR spokesperson, Atty Jacqueline Ann de Guia, on the alleged reports of cruel and degrading punishment meted to minors in Trece Martires, Cavite	01 October 2021
Statement of CHR Spokesperson Atty. Jacqueline Ann de Guia, on the rape and killing of a 15-year-old in Batangas	11 November 2021

XVII. RE-IMPOSITION OF DEATH PENALTY

Title	Date of Release
Statement of CHR Spokesperson, Atty Jacqueline Ann de Guia, on PNP Chief's threat to 'hunt down' suspects in Christine Dacera's death and on the call for reimposition of death penalty	07 January 2021
Statement of Commissioner Karen S. Gomez-Dumpit, Focal Commissioner on Anti-Death Penalty, on Senator Panfilo Lacson and Senator Vicente Sotto III's Withdrawal of Support for Death Penalty	05 November 2021

XVIII. ARMED CONFLICT

Title	Date of Release
Statement of CHR spokesperson, Atty Jacqueline Ann de Guia, urging State and non-State parties to respect international humanitarian law	15 January 2021
Statement of CHR Spokesperson, Atty Jacqueline Ann de Guia, on the ambush that killed three soldiers in Legazpi City	20 January 2021
Pahayag ni CHR Spokesperson Atty Jacqueline Ann de Guia ukol sa 'di-umano'y panga-ambush ng mga miyembro ng CPP-NPA sa Cauayan, Negros Occidental noong 03 Abril 2021	08 April 2021
Statement of CHR spokesperson, Atty. Jacqueline Ann de Guia, on the death of two individuals in Masbate due to a landmine blast and torching of a bus in North Cotabato	07 June 2021
Statement of the Commission on Human Rights on the CPP-NPA owning full accountability for the mine blast and death of two civilians in Masbate	11 June 2021
Pahayag ni CHR Spokesperson, Atty Jacqueline Ann de Guia, ukol sa pagpaslang sa sa mag-asawang rebel returnees at isang miyembro ng CAGU sa Calubian, Leyte	18 June 2021
Statement of CHR Spokesperson, Atty Jacqueline Ann de Guia, on the alleged military killing of three Lumad in Lianga, Surigao del Sur	18 June 2021

Title	Date of Release
Statement of CHR Deputy Spokesperson, Marc Louis Siapno, on the brazen attack in Eastern Samar by suspected members of the New People's Army	09 July 2021
Pahayag ng CHR Spokesperson, Atty Jacqueline Ann de Guia, ukol sa panununog ng mga heavy equipment sa Surigao del Norte	23 July 21
Statement of CHR Spokesperson, Atty Jacqueline Ann de Guia, on the killing of Army Corporal Frederick Villasis	14 August 2021
Statement of CHR spokesperson, Atty. Jacqueline Ann de Guia, on alleged excessive military operations in remote peasant communities in Northern Samar	30 September 2021
Statement of CHR Spokesperson Atty. Jacqueline Ann de Guia, on the ambush allegedly committed by NPAs in Surigao Del Sur	16 December 2021

2021 CHR Human Rights Advisories and Policy Papers

On the suicide of a 10-year old Grade 4 student of Barangay Biong, Gigmoto, Catanduanes (CHR-V-A2021-003)
Advisory on COVID-19 Vaccines (CHR V A2021-001)
Human Rights Advisory – Reportorial Duties of Duty-Bearers Under the Anti-Torture Act of 2009, Anti-Enforced Or Involuntary Disappearance Act of 2012, and Anti-Terrorism Act of 2020
Advisory on the protection of children of incarcerated parents (CHR (V) A2021-002)
Gaps in Access to Justice: The Overseas Filipino Workers' Experience, an Initial Analysis of Philippine Jurisprudence on Labor Migration
Deterrence and the Death Penalty – CHR (V) A2021-003
On the Increased Vulnerability of Women Migrant Workers on Death Row
On the Rights of Persons Experiencing Homelessness and Destitution during Pandemic – CHR (V) A2021-004
Human Rights Advisory on Mandatory COVID-19 Vaccination – CHR (V) A2021-006

2021 Joint Statement

Potential Ways Forward to Address the Issue of Statelessness in Sabah

Published 2021 Policy Advisory Cards

Commission on Human Rights Human Rights Advisory

Gaps in access to justice: The overseas Filipino workers' experience, an initial analysis of Philippine jurisprudence on labor mitigation



REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS

GAPS IN ACCESS TO JUSTICE: THE OVERSEAS FILIPINO WORKERS' EXPERIENCE, AN INITIAL ANALYSIS OF PHILIPPINE JURISPRUDENCE ON LABOR MIGRATION

“

In order to address the identified shortcomings in the implementation of existing laws against illegal recruitment, the following measures are recommended: Include basic orientation on what illegal recruitment and human trafficking are all about, including legal remedies of migrants in case abuse and recruitment violation are committed, in the pre-employment and pre-departure seminars being given to OFWs.

”

medical examination without risk of exposure, and identification of other functional and existing shelters, legal assistance, and psychosocial services.

While mindful of the current measures in place for the protection against COVID-19, the public is also encouraged to timely report cases of gender-related abuse/violence to any of the following: nearest VAWC desk office, local police, partner agencies (DSWD, local health



COMMISSION
ON HUMAN
RIGHTS



WWW.CHR.GOV.PH



CHRGVPH



0936 068 0982
0920 506 1194

Commission on Human Rights Human Rights Advisory

On deterrence and the death penalty - CHR (V) No. A2021-003



REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS

ADVISORY ON DETERRENCE AND THE DEATH PENALTY

CHR (V) No. A2021-003

“

As such, the deterrence argument is not a valid reason for the reintroduction of the death penalty for any criminal offenses. Such an argument is based on unproven and ambiguous theories. To reiterate, there are a number of concrete steps that the government can pursue that would serve as more effective deterrence than the reinstatement of the death penalty, such as the improvement of the criminal justice system, which would increase the certainty of punishment for a crime, as well as a more comprehensive approach to improving the national economy and the collective standard of living. Both factors have been proven, in other countries, to have brought about quantifiable and substantial decreases in criminality.

”

While mindful of the current measures in place for the protection against COVID-19, the public is also encouraged to timely report cases of gender-related abuse/violence to any of the following: nearest VAWC desk office, local police, partner agencies (DSWD, local health center, CHR) as well as non-government organizations advocating the protection of women.



COMMISSION
ON HUMAN
RIGHTS



WWW.CHR.GOV.PH



CHRGVPH



0936 068 0982
0920 506 1194

Published 2021 Policy Advisory Cards

Commission on Human Rights Human Rights Advisory

On the increased vulnerability of women migrant workers on death row - CHR (V) A2021-005



REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS

ADVISORY ON THE INCREASED VULNERABILITY OF WOMEN MIGRANT WORKERS ON DEATH ROW

CHR (V) A2021-005

“

In general, the Philippines should advocate for gender-sensitive sentencing guidelines in countries that welcome its OFWs. Criminal justice systems need to understand the gender-based challenges migrant women face and comprehensively consider all relevant mitigating factors prior to giving judgements.

”

GBV Referral Mechanisms - including the identification of hospitals or clinics to provide medical examination without risk of exposure, and identification of other functional and existing shelters, legal assistance, and psychosocial services.

While mindful of the current measures in place for the protection against COVID-19, the public is also encouraged to timely report cases of gender-related abuse/violence to any of the following: nearest VAWC desk office, local police, partner agencies (DSWD, local health center, CHR) as well as non-government organizations advancing the protection of women.



COMMISSION
ON HUMAN
RIGHTS



WWW.CHR.GOV.PH



CHRGOPH



0936 068 0982
0920 506 1194

Commission on Human Rights Human Rights Advisory

On the protection of children of incarcerated parents (CHR V A2021-002)



REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS

HUMAN RIGHTS ADVISORY ON THE PROTECTION OF CHILDREN OF INCARCERATED PARENTS

CHR (V) A2021-002

“

Children of incarcerated parents have the same rights as other children. They should not bear the implications of the infraction committed by their parents nor the failure of the State to dispense prompt and just court proceedings. Given their age and vulnerability, they should have been accorded by the Government with much better treatment in the name of compassion and humanitarian grounds.

”

medical examination without risk of exposure, and identification of other functional and existing shelters, legal assistance, and psychosocial services.

While mindful of the current measures in place for the protection against COVID-19, the public is also encouraged to timely report cases of gender-related abuse/violence to any of the following: nearest VAWC desk office, local police, partner agencies (DSWD, local health center, CHR) as well as non-government organizations advancing the protection of women.



COMMISSION
ON HUMAN
RIGHTS



WWW.CHR.GOV.PH



CHRGOPH



0936 068 0982
0920 506 1194

Published 2021 Policy Advisory Cards

Commission on Human Rights Human Rights Advisory

Reportorial Duties of Duty-Bearers under the Anti-torture Act of 2009, Anti-Enforced or Involuntary Disappearance Act of 2012, and Anti-Terrorism Act of 2020



REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS

HUMAN RIGHTS ADVISORY
CHR IV-A-HRA-2021-002

REPORTORIAL DUTIES OF DUTY-BEARERS UNDER THE
ANTI-TORTURE ACT OF 2009, ANTI-ENFORCED OR
INVOLUNTARY DISAPPEARANCE ACT OF 2012, AND ANTI-
TERRORISM ACT OF 2020

“

This office reminds all stakeholders of their obligation as duty-bearers to respect, protect, and fulfill human rights. To be sure, the obligation to respect requires them to refrain from interfering with or curtailing the enjoyment of human rights. The obligation to protect demands them to protect individuals and groups against human rights abuses. Lastly, the obligation to fulfill means that as state-agents, they should take positive action to facilitate the enjoyment of basic human rights.

”

While mindful of the current measures in place for the protection against COVID-19, the public is also encouraged to timely report cases of gender-related abuse/violence to any of the following: nearest VAWC desk office, local police, partner agencies (DSWD, local health center, CHR) as well as non-government organizations advancing the protection of women.



COMMISSION
ON HUMAN
RIGHTS



WWW.CHR.GOV.PH



CHRGVPH



0936 068 0982
0920 506 1194

Commission on Human Rights Human Rights Advisory

Reportorial Duties of Duty-Bearers under the Anti-torture Act of 2009, Anti-Enforced or Involuntary Disappearance Act of 2012, and Anti-Terrorism Act of 2020



REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS

HUMAN RIGHTS ADVISORY
CHR IV-A-HRA-2021-002

REPORTORIAL DUTIES OF DUTY-BEARERS UNDER THE
ANTI-TORTURE ACT OF 2009, ANTI-ENFORCED OR
INVOLUNTARY DISAPPEARANCE ACT OF 2012, AND ANTI-
TERRORISM ACT OF 2020

“

Under these laws, reportorial duties are imposed on duty-bearers, i.e., different State agencies and offices. These reports are required to be submitted to the CHR on a regular basis in order for it to carry out its mandate effectively by protecting rights-holders from possible human rights violations.

”

existing shelters, legal assistance, and psychosocial services.

While mindful of the current measures in place for the protection against COVID-19, the public is also encouraged to timely report cases of gender-related abuse/violence to any of the following: nearest VAWC desk office, local police, partner agencies (DSWD, local health center, CHR) as well as non-government organizations advancing the protection of women.



COMMISSION
ON HUMAN
RIGHTS



WWW.CHR.GOV.PH



CHRGVPH



0936 068 0982
0920 506 1194

Back cover credits

Photo by Markus Spiske

<https://www.pexels.com/photo/climate-sign-outside-blur-2990644/>

Photo by Artem Podrez

<https://www.pexels.com/photo/photo-of-woman-doing-heart-shaped-hand-gestures-5108638/>



www.chr.gov.ph