MISYON NG PILIPINAS SA MGA NAGKAKAISANG BANSA

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PHILIPPINE MISSION TO THE UNITED NATIONS

Note No. 000358 - 2020

The Permanent Mission of the Republic of the Philippines to the United Nations presents its compliments to the United Nations Office of Legal Affairs, and, with reference to the latter's Note Verbale LA/COD/2/1 dated 03 March 2020, has the honor to submit the enclosed inputs on the implementation of the Government of the Republic of the Philippines of the General Assembly resolution 73/204 on "Status of the Protocols Additional to the Geneva Conventions of 1949 and relating to the protection of victims of armed conflicts".

Following are the highlights of the inputs:

- The Philippines complies with the Additional Protocols through the following: for Protocol II, Republic Act No.11188 on Special Protection of Children in Situations of Armed Conflict Act (2019) and Republic Act No. 10821 or "Children's Emergency Relief and Protection Act" (2016); and for Protocol III, Republic Act No. 10530 "Red Cross and Other Emblems Act" (2013).
- 2. Some of the key government measures to strengthen the implementation of international humanitarian law are:
 - Developing a Process Flow Chart in connection to Republic Act No.11188 on rescued children;
 - Monitoring, Reporting and Response System for Grave Child Rights Violation (MRRSGCRV) in Situations of Armed Conflict;
 - Administrative Order 84., s. 2002 on Procedures in the Handling and Treatment of Children Involved in Armed Conflict (for revision to be aligned with Republic Act No.11188);
 - Development of Flow Chart in relation to Republic Act No. 9344 "Juvenile
 Justice and Welfare Act of 2006" as amended and Republic Act No. 11188,

- particularly on children who are involved in armed conflict and have committed acts that will make them criminally liable under local laws;
- The Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) and the Office
 of the Presidential Adviser on the Peace Process' (OPAPP) PAyapa at
 MAsaganang pamayaNAn (PAMANA), which in 2019 provided assistance
 (sustainable livelihood, protective services for individuals and families,
 home visitation and counseling, cash and food-for-work) to 1,747 former
 rebels;
- The Department of Interior and Local Government (DILG) and the Council
 for the Welfare of Children's (CWC) Joint Memorandum Circular 2020-001
 on Reiteration of Protocols on Reaching Out to Children including those in
 Street Situations, in Need of Special Protection, Children at Risk, and
 Children in Conflict with the Law During the Enhanced Community
 Quarantine (ECQ) during the COVID-19 pandemic;
- 3. The Human Rights Office of the Philippine Navy, which is mandated to promote and institutionalize human rights and international humanitarian law, conducts advocacy lectures on international humanitarian law in partnership with the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) and the Commission on Human Rights (CHR).
- 4. The Philippine Public Safety College includes human rights with emphasis on international humanitarian law as a mandatory subject in the course curriculum being offered to public safety officers. This is to ensure the protection of humanity in the conduct of law enforcement operations.

The Permanent Mission of the Republic of the Philippines to the United Nations avails itself of this opportunity to renew to the United Nations Office of Legal Affairs the assurances of its highest consideration.

New York, 01 June 2020

United Nations Office of Legal Affairs

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Department of Social Welfare and Development on status of

Geneva Convention and Additional Protocols relating

to the protection of victims of armed conflict

Policy Development and Planning Bureau

Rationale

Sixty years ago, the formation of Geneva Convention sought for operative and global punishment for a set of war crimes known as grave breaches through establishing universal jurisdiction to prosecute perpetuators of war crimes. Crimes such as willful killing, torture of captives, inhumane treatment, and unjustified deportation and confinement should be punished when committed in armed conflicts. As the Commentary to the Geneva Conventions stated, 'the universality of jurisdiction for grave breaches is some basis for the hope that they will not remain unpunished and the obligation to extradite ensures the universality of punishment.' Geneva Convention was a succession of international diplomatic meetings that produced numerous agreements, in particular the Humanitarian Law of Armed Conflicts, a group of international laws for the humane treatment of wounded or captured military personnel, medical personnel and non-military civilians during war. The entirety of Geneva Convention consists of critical laws that aim to limit the barbarity of war for prisoners of war (POWs), collateral damages and medical personnel.

The first and second convention for land and maritime warfare have only partially lived up to its promise of ending impunity and ensuring universality of punishment and security. It has often been noted that prosecutions for grave breaches are scarce, and that impunity still appears to be the norm. Thus, the third convention aimed to broaden the categories concerning people entitled to POWs status in accordance with protocol I and II. It replaced the 'Prisoners of War Convention of 1929' and established the implementation of immediate return and repatriation without delay after the cessation of active hostilities. Conditions and places of captivity were defined, particularly with regard to the labor of POWs. Convention before 1949 were concerned with combatants only, events of World War II demonstrated destructive prowess of war to civilians. Thereafter, occupying power was established for humanitarian relief and protection for civilians. With the adoption of Additional Protocols, the grave breaches regime was expanded with a view to improving the effectiveness of the system. In 2012, the Philippines has signed and ratified more treaties relating to international humanitarian law than any other country in South-East Asia.

¹ J.S. Pictet (ed.), Commentary, The Geneva Conventions of 12 August 1949, Vol. IV (Geneva: International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), 1958), at 587.

It acceded to the Geneva Conventions in 1952, signed both Additional Protocol I and Additional Protocol II (applicable in non-international armed conflict) in 1977, and ratified Protocol II in 1986. In 2010, it passed the Republic Act 9851 (or Philippine Act on Crimes against International Humanitarian Law, Genocide and Other Crimes against Humanity), incorporating many of the obligations of international humanitarian law into domestic law. On January 10, 2019 President Duterte signed the "Special Protection of Children in Situations of Armed Conflict Act" or Republic Act. No. 11188. The law declares children as 'Zones of Peace' and mandates the government to provide them protection. Being at the forefront for social protection and aid-giving the Department of Social Welfare and Development mitigates damages posed by armed conflicts especially on children and women brought by violence, forced displacement or loss of properties and lives. DSWD records show that at the height of the armed conflict in Central Mindanao in CY 2000, a total of 318,246 citizens were affected and internally displaced. The displacement normally causes mental and physical stress; hence the affected party must be protected to enable them to adjust and cope with their situation and to help them recover from their traumatic ordeal. In 2016, DSWD assisted a total of 355,133 cases of Women in Especially Difficult Circumstances (WEDCs). Women-Friendly Spaces were also set-up in LGU evacuation to ensure systematic and gender-responsive ways of delivering services to victims of natural/man-made calamities.

DSWD Accomplishments along RA 11188 and 9851^2

Legal Provisions	DSWD Programs and Services	2019 Accomplishments	
Section 2 (a) of RA 11188 Fully implement the protection guaranteed under the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC), its Optional Protocol on the involvement of children in armed conflict and all other core human rights treaties, particularly, the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights ad the Convention Against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment	No. 12 s. 2004 entitled as Guidelines on	In 2019, 42 Child and Women Friendly Spaces established inside the Evacuation Centers in conflict affected areas. About 901,509 Internally Displaced Person (IDP) provided with psychosocial services inside the Evacuation Center.	
Section 2 (c) of RA 11188 Take into account the United Nations Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement, the United Nations Security Council Resolutions related to children affected by armed conflict, United Nations Security Resolution (UNSCR) No.	PAyapa at MAsaganang pamayaNAn (PAMANA) The flagship peace and development program of the national government on peace-building, rehabilitation, reconstruction and development I conflict-affected and-vulnerable areas	 In 2019, OPAPP has identified 2,751 conflict-affected barangays as recipients of PAMANA Programs implemented by DSWD. Hence, DSWD provided assistance to 1,747 former rebels through the following programs: Assistance to Individuals in Crisis Situation (AICS) Sustainable Livelihood Protective Services for Individuals and Families Home Visitation and Counseling 	

² References: DSWD 2019 Annual Technical Report and DSWD Report on National Action Plan on Women, Peace and Security

as women and children.

Legal Provisions	DSWD Programs and Services	2019 Accomplishments
1820, Women, Peace, and Security, and other pertinent international	The Office of the Presidential Adviser	Cash and Food-for-Work
<u>=</u>	on the Peace Process (OPAPP)	Since 2011, 13,194 projects were implemented through the PAMANA; 4,729 infrastructure projects and 8,465 livelihood projects utilizing P1,278,987,000 and P1,285,706,000 respectively.
Section (g) of RA 11188 – Continue to recognize its primary role in providing effective protection and relief of children in situations of armed conflict		Majority of the projects were focused on water system, road construction and improvement, electrification, post-harvest facilities, barangay health facilities, school building construction of Day Care Centers, Tribal Halls, Community Peace Centers, housing assistance, solar dryers, concreting of
Section 2 of RA 9851 – Principles The state values the dignity of every human person and guarantees full respect for human lights, including the rights of		road pavement, residential facility for children affected by conflict among others. While some of the livelihood projects includes provision of skills training, starter kits, employment facilitation, seed capital fund.
indigenous cultural communities and other vulnerable groups, such		The DSWD Secretary was designated as the Cabinet Officer for Regional Development and Security of the Zamboanga

Peninsula Region (CORDS IX). As such, the DSWD provided guidance to the Regional Task Force to End Local

Legal Provisions	DSWD Programs and Services	2019 Accomplishments
		Moreover, the DSWD assisted 727 profiled KAPATIRAN (Kapatiran para sa Progresibong Panlipunan) members and their families from the province of Aklan, Antique, Iloilo, Negros Island, Bukidnon, and Davao City.
		For FY 2020, a total of PhP960,916,982 for the Peace and Development Track is appropriated in the General Appropriations Act (GAA). This is to implement 4,259 projects.
	DSWD supports the Executive Order No. 70 s. 2018 that intends to end local communist armed conflict. DSWD issued Administrative Order No. 14 s. 2019 to implement programs and services to vulnerable individuals and communities to prevent them from getting enticed by the rebel cause, and assisting Former Rebels and their families to return to the folds of the law	 Under the EO 70 Implementation – two tracks will be provided: Provision of assistance to Former Rebels such as but not limited to temporary shelter for FR women and children, Assistance to Individuals in Crisis Situations, Protective Services for Individual and Families, Modified Conditional Cash Transfer, Sustainable Livelihood Program, Cash for Work, Recovery and Reintegration Program for Trafficked Persons, Supplementary Feeding Program, Auxiliary Services for the Elderly and Persons with Disability and Social Pension. Community Resiliency Program such as PAMANA, Kalahi-CIDSS NCDDP, Sustainable Livelihood Program, Protective Services for Individuals and Families, Disaster Risk Response and Rehabilitation among others.

T and Duradial and	DCWD D	2010 A
Legal Provisions DSWD Programs and Services		2019 Accomplishments
		For FY 2020, about 9,580 Former Rebels in all 17 Regions of the country will be provided with the said programs.
Section 2 (c) of RA 11188 - Take into account the United Nations Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement, the United Nations Security Council Resolutions related to children affected by armed conflict, United Nations	Disaster Response and Management Program	In 2019, about 2,059,938 hygiene kits were provided to affected individuals. Variety of items ranging from sleeping and kitchen kits, laminated sacks, raw and indirect materials for family food pack productions, to women and child-friendly spaces kits were provided through 16 DSWD Field Offices.
Security Resolution (UNSCR) No. 1820, Women, Peace, and Security, and other pertinent international instruments in the implementation of its treaty obligations and of this Act.	Assistance to Individuals in Crisis Situation (AICS)	In 2019, about 7,126 individuals from conflict affected areas provided with AICS. However, the DSWD also provided assistance to 21 families of soldiers Killed and Wounded in Action (K/WIA) About 2,396 former rebels provided with financial assistance.
Section (d) of RA 11188 stipulated as "Consider as paramount the best interests of children and treat all children involved in, affected by or displaced by armed conflict as victims The Bangsamoro Umpungan sa Nutrisyon (BangUN) Project is a comprehensive community-based and culturally-responsive convergence of services addressing the high incidence of hunger and malnutrition among children in the Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (BARMM), through a		In 2019, 15,890 children aged 0-6 years old and 4,825 pregnant and lactating women were served from 124 barangays and 28 cities/municipalities of BARMM.

Legal Provisions	DSWD Programs and Services	2019 Accomplishments
	collaborative approach that engages parents, communities, local government units, national government agencies and civil society organizations. The project aims to: alleviate the condition of children in BARMM who are vulnerable and malnourished, as a result of extreme poverty and ongoing armed conflict; improve the nutritional status of children identified as underweight; empower parents or guardians to achieve food security and good health for their families; and, build resilient communities by facilitating access to nutrition-support programs of the government	
	Technical Assistance and Resource Augmentation to the Local Government Units (LGUs)	The DSWD provided resource augmentation to 331 LGUs. Resource augmentation consisted of the following: provision of family food packs, hygiene kits and sleeping kits for victims of armed conflict; provision of medical and burial assistance for families who lost their loved ones during the armed conflict; and, provision of financial assistance to families affected by fire incidents.

Legal Provisions	DSWD Programs and Services	2019 Accomplishments		
Section (e) of RA 11188 stipulated as "Take all feasible measures to prevent the recruitment and use of children in armed conflict and shall take all necessary measure to ensure the effective implementation and enforcement of the provisions of this Act	Pantawid Pamilyang Pilipino Program (4Ps)	About 20 peace education were conducted through the 4Ps Family Development Session in conflict affected areas		
sexual violence also constituting a grave breach of the Geneva Conventions or a serious violation of common Article 3 to the Geneva Conventions; (24) Conscripting, enlisting or	productivity (through skills training),	In 2019, about 9,307 clients served (Male: 4,621 and Female: 4,686) by the 64 residential care programs in 16 regions. While, about 1,203 clients served (Male: 524 and Female: 679) by 7 non-residential care programs.		
recruiting children into an armed force or group other than the national armed forces; and Using				

Legal Provisions	DSWD Programs and Services	2019 Accomplishments
children under to participate actively in hostilities.		
Crimes Against Humanity For	The Recovery and Reintegration Program for Trafficked Persons (RRPTP) offers a comprehensive package of services that ensures adequate recovery and reintegration of victims of trafficking. Services under the RRPTP include the following: Case Management, which involves analyzing problems and needs, implementing interventions and evaluating the progress of trafficked persons;	The cases of trafficking in persons include forced labor, sexual exploitation, prostitution, slavery, adoption, pornography, removal/sale of organs, illegal recruitment, child trafficking, repatriation, involuntary servitude, drug trafficking, intercepted and others. In 2019, 2,041 trafficked persons were assisted through the RRPTP (Male: 476 and Female: 1,565)
"Enslavement" means the exercise of any or all of the powers attaching to the right of ownership over a person and includes the exercise of such power in the course of trafficking in persons, in particular women and children.	Direct Service Assistance, which includes provision of basic hygiene kit and food, financial assistance while awaiting employment or undergoing training, capital assistance, educational assistance, medical assistance and referral to potential employers or business partners;	

Legal Provisions	DSWD Programs and Services	2019 Accomplishments
	Training, which covers basic computer literacy course for interested trafficked persons to enhance knowledge and skills and facilitate employment;	
	Support for Victims and Witnesses of Trafficking, which includes auxiliary services for trafficked persons with ongoing cases (i.e., board and lodging, documentation and other incidental expenses); and,	
	Shelter for Victims of Trafficking, which is provided through existing centers for victims in search of temporary shelter in order to cope with traumatic experience and for those with ongoing court cases.	
	On the other hand, the International Social Welfare Services for Filipino Nationals (ISWSFN), the DSWD provides comprehensive social welfare and social protection services to vulnerable and disadvantaged Filipinos in other countries to promote their well-being and best interest. Social Welfare Attachés and Social Work Interns are thereby deployed in countries with high number of	In 2019, 32,557 (Male: 11,275 and Female: 21,282) distressed and/or undocumented Filipinos were provided assistance under the ISWSFN.

Legal Provisions

DSWD Programs and Services

distressed and irregular or undocumented overseas Filipinos. Thus far, the ISWSFN is available in the following locations: Malaysia; Hong Kong; Riyadh and Jeddah, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia; Dubai and Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates; Kuwait; and, Doha, Oatar.

The ISWSFN is established to provide timely and responsive or appropriate social welfare and social protection services to overseas Filipinos, as follows: Psychosocial Services

(i.e., counseling, psychosocial processing, critical incident stress debriefing and values orientation): Assistance to Individuals in Crisis Situation (i.e., food, transportation, medical and educational assistance); Marriage Counseling Services (i.e., pre-marriage counseling, marriage enrichment counseling and marital crisis counseling); Orientation on Alternative Parental Care (i.e., adoption, foster care, residential care and legal guardianship); Capability Building and Repatriation and Skills Training; Reintegration Services; and, Referral Services.

2019 Accomplishments

Table 48: ISWSFN Distressed and/or Undocumented	Filipinos Served by C	Clientele Category as	of December 2019
Clientele Category	Male	Female	Total
Trafficked Persons	22	2,502	2,524
Victims of Illegal Recruitment	9	255	264
Victims of Abuse/Maltreatment	23	1,587	1,610
Victims of Unfair Labor Practice/Mistreatment	871	2,590	3,461
Victims of Natural Disaster	17	12	29
Victims of Human Induced Disaster	9	83	92
Clients with Domestic/Family Problems	278	1,176	1,454
Clients with Medical/Health Problems	165	677	842
Accused/Suspected/With Criminal Charges/ Sentenced	5,510	5,213	10,723
Clients with Documentation-Related Problems	1,323	1,629	2,952
Children in Need of Special Protection	120	220	340
Other Overseas Filipinos Needing DSWD Services	2,928	5,338	8,266
Total	11,275	21,282	32,557

Table 49: ISWSFN Distressed and/or Undocumented Filipinos Served by Age Category as of December 2019

Age Category	Male	Female	Total
Children (0 to below 18 years old)	2,692	3,047	5,739
Youth (18 to below 25 years old)	1,470	1,908	3,378
Adults (25 to below 60 years old)	6,861	15,574	22,435
Senior Citizens (60 years old and above)	252	753	1,005
Total	11,275	21,282	32,557

Table. Established Measures on IHL

	Dunta nel I	Duntanal II	Duntanal III	T
	Protocol I	Protocol II	Protocol III	IHL
	Protocol Additional to the Geneva Conventions of 12 August 1949, and relating to the Protection of Victims of International Armed Conflicts (Protocol I), 8 June 1977.	Protocol Additional to the Geneva Conventions of 12 August 1949, and relating to the Protection of Victims of Non-International Armed Conflicts (Protocol II), 8 June 1977.	Protocol Additional to the Geneva Conventions of 12 August 1949, and relating to the Adoption of an Additional Distinctive Emblem (Protocol III), 8 December 2005.	Other Measures taken by the Philippines to strengthen international humanitarian law (IHL), including dissemination and full implementation at the national level
Date of Philippine Accession	30 March 2012	11 December 1986	22 August 2006	-
INPUT FROM DFA	1. RA 9851 (IHL)		1. RA 9851 (IHL)	
INPUT FROM DSWD		1. RA 11188, (Children in Situations of Armed Conflict Law)	1. RA 10530, (The Red Cross and Other Emblem Act)	1. Process Flow in connection to RA 11188-rescued children 2. Monitoring, Reporting and Response System for Grave Child Rights Violation in Situations of Armed Conflict 3. Agency Specific Protocols in Handling Children in Situations of Armed Conflict. For the DSWD: AO 84., series of 2002 (for revision to be aligned with the provisions of RA 11188)
		2. Children's		1. Crafted the
		Emergency Relief		Comprehensive

		I	Γ
	and Protection Act,		Emergency
	RA 10821 and its		Program for
	Implementing Rules		Children (CEPC)
	and Regulations		
			2. DILG-CWC
			JMC 2020_001
			Dated 06 April
			2020.
			Reiteration of
			Protocols on
			Reaching Out to
			Children
			including those
			in Street
			Situations, in
			Need of Special
			Protection,
			Children at
			Risk, and
			Children in
			Conflict with
			the Law During
			ECQ
INPUT FROM JJWC			1. Process Flow
			Chart is currently
			being developed
			in relation to RA
			9344 as
			amended and RA
			11188.
			Particularly the
			convergence of
			the two laws for
			children who are
			involved in
			armed conflict and have
			committed acts
			that will make
			them criminally
			liable under our
			laws. The
			flowchart will
			ensure that they
			the rights and
			benefits
			guaranteed
			under both laws
			are protected

		and availed by
		the child.

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	I 18	T	-
	and Protection Act,		Emergency
	RA 10821 and its		Program for
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			Need of Special
			Protection,
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			Chart is currently
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			Particularly the
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			children who are
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			are protected
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		and availed by
		the child.