



In their homes, schools, or communities, 80% of Filipino children face violence in one way or another. This, we learned from the 2015 National Baseline Survey on Violence against Children (NBS VAC), a landmark study that served as a catalyst for the Philippines to fast-track the development and implementation of the Philippine Plan of Action to End Violence against Children (PPAEVAC).

With the PPAEVAC, the Philippines continues to fulfill its commitment to the ASEAN Regional Plan to eliminate VAC. It has also contributed to the country being recognized as one of the first Pathfinding Countries and Valenzuela City as a Pathfinding City with the Global Partnership to End Violence.

It is an honor for UNICEF to support and work with the Philippine Government in all its endeavors to prevent and respond to violence against children. That's why, UNICEF, together with the Child Protection Network and the Child Abuse, Neglect, and Exploitation Study Group of the University of the Philippines Manila, supported this special issue of Acta Medica Philippina on Child Abuse.

This aims to address some of the research gaps and questions that were raised by the NBS VAC. It documents and evaluates clinical and legal interventions to child abuse. Studies also include looking into the drivers of violence in the Filipino socio-cultural context, new interventions in schools and in clinical setting, and VAC prevalence.

This milestone issue of Acta Medica Philippina contributes to law and policy development, advocacy, scale-up of interventions for victim-survivors and their families and communities, improvement of our health institutions and law enforcement, and access to justice. UNICEF will continue to work with its partners in research critical to child protection in the Philippines. Together, we can eliminate violence against children.

Oyunsaikhan Dendevnorov

*Representative
UNICEF Philippines*