



STRATEGIC PLAN
ON
VIOLENCE AGAINST
WOMEN AND
THEIR CHILDREN
2017-2022

*Journey to a gender-free
and violence-free
community*



**Inter-Agency Council on
Violence Against
Women and Their Children**



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1. INTRODUCTION

2017-2022

IACVAWC STRATEGIC PLAN

This 2017-2022 Strategic Plan of the Inter-Agency Council on Violence Against Women and their Children (IACVAWC) succeeds the Strategic Plan 2014-2016 as IACVAWC's guide in pursuing its mandate under Republic Act 9262 or the Anti-Violence Against Women and their Children Act passed in 2004.

The formulation of the plan followed a rigorous process of consultation conducted among VAWC service providers and victims, review meetings with IACVAWC working committees, and analysis of inputs and insights gained through these consultations. The said consultative processes aim to capture the gains and strengths of the program as well as surface areas in the implementation of RA 9262 – specifically improving service delivery to victim-survivors of violence against women and their children – that need priority action.

In detail, the analysis of progress and remaining issues were based on the following:

- a. Agency reports on implementation of the 2nd strategic plan of IACVAWC for 2014 and 2015
- b. Research on the implementation of RA 9262 conducted by the Women's Legal Education, Advocacy and Defense (WOMENLEAD) Foundation, Inc. in 2012
- c. Highlights from relevant workshops and consultations conducted during the period 2013 to 2016, namely ASEAN Regional Plan of Action on the Elimination of Violence Against Women (RPA EVAW), Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) General Recommendation #19 made by the Committee on the Elimination

of Discrimination against Women, Barangay Violence Against Women (VAW) Desk Assembly (NCR), Workshop on VAW Referral System held in 2016, etc.

- d) Other relevant data collected through the Philippine National Police (PNP) and National Demographic and Health Survey (NDHS)
- e) Consultations with service providers from barangay to regional levels in Aklan for Visayas, Sarangani for Mindanao, and Albay for Luzon
- f) Focus group discussions conducted with women victims of violence in Sarangani, in DSWD-run centers in Alabang and Tarlac City, and
- g) Technical committee meeting of IACVAWC conducted on January 18, 2017

The review and analysis of progress provided valuable inputs in crafting of the strategic plan matrix which guided the conduct and directions pursued during strategic planning workshop conducted last 7-9 February 2017. The strategic matrix outlined in this document contains the vision, goal, priority issues, objectives, indicators, targets and key strategies outlined according to three key result areas (KRAs): Primary Prevention, Response System and Cross-Cutting Structures and Actions.

The IACVAWC Strategic Planning Workshop

Guided by the strategic plan matrix, the council members went into a 3-day strategic planning workshop to further review the indicators, set the future targets and come up with individual agency plans to implement the strategic plan over the following 6-year period. The strategic planning was conducted on 7-9 February in Subic, Zambales with 65 participants from member agencies, other government agencies, NGOs, and RIACAT-VAWC participants from Region III and Region IV-B.

2. ASSESSMENT OF GAINS AND CHALLENGES

The assessment of progress in implementation serves as a critical springboard to identify the strengths and gaps that need to be prioritized in the next strategic plan. Ideally, assessments are carried out by looking at how program outcomes were achieved – extent by which attitudes have changed, rate that VAWC incidence is reduced or the level of satisfaction of victim survivors to the services they received changed. Deliberate measurement of outcome requires the use of outcome indicators, outputs and baseline data. Unfortunately, because baseline information were not established during the period in which the second strategic plan was being implemented, this assessment will only cover the strengths of the programs, the gaps in terms of fulfilling the law and the recommendations for forward action.

Basis for the assessment

The present assessment is based on review of previous assessments conducted on the implementation of RA 9262, IACVAWC workshops and consultations, and accomplishment reports submitted by member agencies on the second strategic plan. Additional validation activities were also conducted to supplement the agency accomplish reports, through:

- Review of other consultative reports;
- Consultative dialogues among service providers in Aklan, Sarangani and Albay; and
- Focus group discussions with women-victims in Haven in Alabang and Pampanga and with IP women in Sarangani.

Assessment of RA 9262

In 2012, the Philippine Commission on Women (PCW) commissioned a research to assess the implementation of RA 9262. The assessment research was carried out by the Women's Legal Education, Advocacy and Defense (WOMENLEAD) Foundation, Inc., a “feminist legal resource institution for women involved in providing legal services directly to women victim-survivors, research, policy advocacy and legal education and capacity building”. WOMENLEAD assessed the implementation of the law including the progress in achieved the targets of the IACVAWC's first strategic plan, 2007-2010. The assessment covered a representative group of stakeholders who were asked to provide feedback on the law and extent of by which the second strategic plan was implemented in relation to the five KRAs on public information and advocacy, capacity building and service delivery, research and policy development, sustained linkages and partnerships and resource generation and mobilization.

The research yielded substantial information about the strengths and gaps of the law, delivery of VAWC programs and services by designated government agencies through the various mechanisms created to harmonize government efforts, including important feedback from victim-survivors, from communities, prosecutors and judges, NGOs and service providers.

Enriched by the experience of the researchers themselves in working with VAW survivors, the analysis and recommendations contained in this research remain valid and very useful for the next planning period of the IACVAWC. Results of this research revolve around IACVAWC as the monitoring interagency body and on improving victims' access to justice.

On the IACVAWC as a body and its programming:

1) IACVAWC has succeeded in conducting massive advocacy campaign and raising the awareness of the public to a wide extent, particularly as a result of the annual 18-Day Campaign to End Violence Against Women and the Women's Month celebrations. However, IACVAWC could consider a **more programmatic, consistent and sustained information campaign throughout the year**. The team suggests a **more organized distribution of information materials** and improving the capacities of LGUs to spread information about VAWC and the law since the research indicate that women in the communities were not aware of RA 9262.

2) IACVAWC has also devoted tremendous attention to improving the capacities of service providers and creating response mechanisms for victims. Stronger focus on **victim empowerment and a sharper gender analysis** should be considered in enhancing the training program so that front-liners will have better appreciation of existing gender dynamics that need to be reflected in interventions and services they provide to their clients. For instance, researchers observed the tendency among service providers to conflate gender issues with children's issues and that programs were undertaken from that viewpoint.

3) **Stronger partnership with NGOs** and CSOs should be established in order to maximize the resources for services provision. This entails bringing together the material resources of government and the experience and expertise of NGO service providers. The research noted that it may be more cost-effective for government to support NGOs rather than set up new programs and hire and train people to serve victim survivors.

4) IACVAWC still needs to develop a **research agenda** to support a more evidence-based anti-VAWC programming. Although DSWD and CSC have conducted some studies and documentation, more studies need to be conducted to fill in the gaps in evidence and data. Suggested research areas were examining the rate and manner of disposition of cases by the prosecutors, measuring gender sensitivity of service providers and determining functionality of service delivery mechanisms such as police women's desks, VAW desks, one stop shop, etc. The study also noted the importance of continuing efforts to **systematize documentation of VAW cases**.

5) **Programs for perpetrators of violence** was raised as an area that needed greater attention. Existing efforts of DSWD, PCW and POPCOM to create partnership with male advocates have generated tremendous support for the campaign but these have yet to move up to the level of actually dealing with male perpetrators. The research noted the need for a more focused program of dealing with perpetrators to strengthen their accountability to their crime through the justice system and counseling program.

6) IACVAWC needed to **work more as a collegial body** rather than a mere venue for members to share and report their accomplishments.

7) The researchers suggested targets, indicators and **outcomes be established** in the next IACVAWC strategic planning referring to the second strategic plan which followed in 2014) in order to emphasize **accountability** of member agencies .

On access to justice of VAWC victim survivors:

1) Lack of support services has contributed to high attrition rates in the justice chain. IACVAWC and other concerned agencies should include the **provision of accessible and quality support services** in their future plans.

2) **Change in mindset** among service providers had not kept pace with the change in the legal framework on VAW. Training of service providers are needed to **deepen their understanding on the fundamental principles of RA 9262**, concepts of gender and development, historical discrimination of women, substantive equality, due diligence and state responsibility and how the service provider can translate these knowledge and skills when dealing with victim-survivors.

The second strategic plan (2014-2016) considered many of these recommendations, but the same issues have persisted and remain very relevant for the third strategic plan.

Assessment and reporting on the second strategic plan

In June 2015, PCW organized a workshop to assess and discuss issues emerging from the implementation of the second strategic plan. At the same time, the workshop was also used as a platform to review and align the ASEAN Regional Plan of Action on the Elimination of Violence Against Women (ASEAN RPA on EVAW) with the IACVAWC Strategic Plan. The workshop, attended by both government and nongovernment partners dealing with VAW, also aimed to gather inputs for the development of the VAW Referral System. The workshop recognized that the plan was only a little over a year in implementation. Nevertheless, the participants considered the agencies' ongoing programs as valuable inputs in crystallizing the gains, gaps and issues in implementation as well as recommended actions, along the KRAs of the plan.

In addition to the workshop to assess the second strategic plan, agency accomplishment reports for 2014 and 2015 were submitted to IACVAWC and summarized by the Council Secretariat and also reviewed for the third strategic plan.

Consultation series on violence against women

To validate information gathered from the reports and consultations, PCW conducted three consultations with duty bearers in Albay for Luzon, Aklan for Visayas and Sarangani for Mindanao during the period of November to December 2016. Separate discussions were also conducted with three groups of victim-survivors from Sarangani to capture some data from IP and Muslim women survivors, and from two groups of women from DSWD centers in Alabang and Tarlac City. Results from these consultations provided insights and information on the good practices or strengths of the programs for VAW victims, and the remaining gaps and recommendations.

The summary of progress, issues and recommendations per KRA – primary prevention, response system, and cross cutting structures and actions – are presented in the following section.

KRA1: PRIMARY PREVENTION: Strengths, Issues, and Recommendations

What has been done

Primary prevention aims to stop violence before it begins. This requires changing mindsets and looking at factors that perpetuate inequalities such as laws and policies, educational materials, media and other institutions of socialization. In implementing its primary prevention and advocacy program, the government has established good practices to reach its audience. The presence of policies, such as national laws and local GAD Codes, and a clear mandate of agencies and LGUs to address VAW provide very strong basis for information campaign and allocation of resources to support response.

Through strong policy mechanisms, VAW as a human rights issue is now more widely recognized. Engaging men as advocates to prevent VAW proved to be an effective strategy in changing cultural and social norms that allow it to persist. Since then more men's groups are seen actively supporting the campaign. Partnerships with NGOs at national and local level were also key in strengthening advocacy campaigns and in pushing for policies and programs to support VAW victims-survivors

However, the extent that the campaign has reached targeted groups cannot be established because of the absence of a population-targeted design for the campaign over the said period. There were also no outcome indicators to be achieved. Furthermore, since reports persist that information do not reach the communities such that women who become victims did not know where to go for help, thus, there is a need for more focused planning of the advocacy program.

Implementing a Three-Year ADVOCOM Plan

The plan's goal for primary prevention is to systematically address social and cultural norms that perpetuate VAWC achieved through two objectives: 1) to implement a 3-year integrated Advocacy & Communication (ADVOCOM) Plan on VAWC that addresses discriminatory norms related to VAWC, including those based on sexual orientation, and 2) to deepen sensitization among local officials on VAWC as a human rights issue.

The ADVOCOM plan aimed to systematize the campaign through a purposive advocacy campaign that is conducted in schools, through media and men's groups along with integration of VAWC messages in information, education and communication (IEC) materials produced by member agencies. The plan's implementation period was cut short after two years, although a workshop was already conducted in the second year.

In the absence of an ADVOCOM plan, member agencies continued with their own campaigns against VAW. IACVAWC meanwhile, has been leading activities for the annual observance of the 18-Day Campaign to End VAW using creative strategies such as film festivals, fora, "Orange Your Icon" initiatives, organizing a congress among VAW Desk officers and dissemination of information materials. It also collaborated with advertising agency Doyle Dane Bernbach (DDB) to release an innovative out-of-home ad campaign that used the 2015 boxing match of Paquiao and Mayweather to raise public awareness on VAW. The Civil Service Commission (CSC) also conducted orientation activities in State Universities and Colleges (SUCs), and a few government agencies. The Philippine National Police (PNP) also conducted orientation activities in schools. While the Department of Interior and Local Government (DILG) distributed materials on Local Committee Against Trafficking and Violence Against Women and their Children (LCAT-VAWC) and on the establishment of a VAW Desk. Service agencies, led by DSWD, DILG, PNP, DOJ, CSC and Department of Health continued capacity building of service providers.

Targeting the private sector

For the workers in the private sector, the Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE) developed information materials and continued its orientation on the laws in several regions, giving particular attention on informing workers on how women can avail of the 10-day VAW leave. DOLE has reached several regions, DOLE officers and members of workers' organizations. Reaching out to the private sector to explain the VAW leave is very important in terms of promoting implementation of the law. However, without a set of target outcomes, such as improved knowledge and awareness among women that will drive them to avail of the 10-day VAW leave when needed, or an increase in the number of women who report their case, the impact of the advocacy campaign could not be established. A feedback and monitoring mechanism to capture critical information to improve programming and compliance has yet to be established and agreed upon.

Integration of VAW core messages in IEC materials and in school curricula

One strategy to address social and cultural norms that perpetuate violence is to integrate VAWC messages in IEC materials and communication plans of IACVAWC member-agencies. According to the agency reports, DOLE has incorporated the anti-VAWC law in its 2014 Handbook of Workers' Monetary Benefits and the VAWC leave in labor standards indicators under the law assessment checklist. The law assessment checklist is the tool used to measure the compliance of private companies to the labor law. And while DOLE has already included the provision of information on sexual harassment law and VAWC leave to employees in the labor law compliance report, **no information on what sanctions do non-compliance face was provided.** This provision is important in monitoring private sector compliance with RA 9262.

The integration of age-appropriate VAW core messages in basic and higher education is most crucial in changing mindsets that falls under DepEd's strategic responsibility. Evaluation studies cited reveal that information on dating violence, particularly among adolescents, have been proven effective in preventing intimate partner violence. In the same way, media awareness about VAW has been proven as another strategy that works.

Advocacy among men and boys

Advocacy among men and boys has been continued as another strategy to raise awareness on VAW, through such groups MOVE (Men Opposed to Violence Everywhere), KATROPA (Kalalakihang Tapat sa Responsibilidad at Obligasyon sa Pamilya), ERPAT (Empowerment and Reaffirmation of Parental Abilities) and Mr. GAD (Men's Responsibility on Gender and Development). It is important to note that these movements have reached local level through the establishment of MOVE chapters in municipalities and in strategic government agencies such as PNP and AFP. Because engaging men in advocacy has been emerging as an effective strategy for primary prevention, current efforts of DSWD, PCW, and POPCOM in creating partnership with male advocates need to be strengthened and sustained.

Deepened sensitization among local officials on VAWC as a human rights issue

Ensuring local officials' increased understanding and gender sensitivity has been a much recommended intervention. As the first responders to the women at the barangay level, it is very important for them to receive gender sensitive response and correct information on their options from local officials. The target of this component for primary prevention is to train 100% of

target barangay officials on RA 9262 particularly on how to manage the VAW Desk. The plan did not clearly indicate the number of target barangays, did not have a baseline or a target outcome, such as women's level of satisfaction on the services of local officials because of their increased sensitivity. Nevertheless, agencies conducted forum on women's rights for barangay officials in different parts of the country while still others also produced and disseminated information materials.

Remaining gaps in primary prevention

One of the critical issues faced in the area of primary prevention pertains to laws and policies that reinforce discrimination against women, such as the law on prostitution, and certain provisions of the Revised Penal Code and the Family Code. Review and reform of these laws have been included in the women's priority legislative agenda being lobbied in Congress since the past several years.

In addition, due to the seasonality of the advocacy campaigns on VAW (i.e. 18-Day campaign), some critical sectors of women have not been reached, such as remote rural women, young girls, IP women, Muslim women, persons with disabilities, elderly women, etc. As vulnerable sectors of women remain unreached, IACVAWC needs to consider a more systematic and year round approach in informing the public about VAW and the social and cultural norms that perpetuate it. The consultations conducted among stakeholders showed that advocacy efforts to reach the communities were faced with lack of user-friendly materials, lack of resources, personnel to do the advocacy and in some LGUs, reluctance of constituents to participate in advocacy activities.

The advocacy strategy should consider these operational challenges as well as address the following:

Poverty, women's economic dependence and VAW. Poverty and lack of education puts women at a greater risk to experience violent relationship. In most cases, poor women are forced to stay in a violent relationship because of their economic dependence on their partner.

The persistence of sexism, patriarchy and cultural biases that continue to put women at risk of VAW or prevent them from asserting rights that are guaranteed to them. Among them are the portrayal of women as weak and vulnerable, martyrs who should sacrifice for the sake of family harmony and reputation; culture of silence reinforced through customary values and acceptance of violence that put premium on family's welfare and solidarity over everything else; Furthermore, certain cultural/religious practices such as the kasfala (elder council's settlement of VAW cases) which tend to limit women's right to go to formal court. However, even in the formal sector, patriarchal attitudes and sex stereotypes are still evident particularly among service providers, police officers, lawyers and judges.

Since the media continues to play an influential role in either reinforcing stereotypes or steering positive gender values means that there remains a need to engage with them more constructively in advocacy and primary prevention.

The need to educate them while still young and more closely engage the schools in developing age-appropriate (life stage) core messages and integrating these in basic education and higher education curriculum. Likewise better appreciation for risks associated with specific life stages of boys and girls, women and men and the strategies that best address the associated risks also need to be taken into consideration

Informing the women. Many women still prefer to suffer in silence resulting to low level of reporting and help-seeking behavior among victims. Many victims are still afraid to report because of fear for themselves, fear of ruining their family reputation, fear of political bias or reprisal from concerned officials and lack of confidence in getting assistance. For those who opt to seek help, family is the preferred source, and therefore emphasize the importance of family-based advocacy efforts. Victims reported that family members advised that they just suffer the violence (pagtisan na lang) because it has been happening to other members as well. Only a small percentage go to the police or social worker, possibly because they are not aware of services available or lack confidence that they will be assisted. VAWC clients refuse to file their case and instead end up 'going back' to the perpetrator because of dependence.

Informing and targeting the duty bearers. Many barangay officials still lack sufficient understanding of the law and skill in handling cases that are brought to them. Furthermore, government programs also provide opportunities to either reinforce stereotype or address it by incorporating appropriate training and capacity building for beneficiaries.

Reaching vulnerable or at risk groups through specific advocacy strategies targeting specific groups that are vulnerable to VAW, such as among indigenous peoples, among persons with disabilities, LGBTs and even among Muslim communities and migrant workers.

Strategies to engage men in advocacy against VAW need to be strengthened and institutionalized at national and local level, and in social institutions such as in government, school, church, workplaces, and media.

Monitoring impact or outcome of advocacy initiatives has to be set in place alongside targeting specific segments of the audience.

Note on effective primary prevention strategies

A 2010 publication of the World Health Organization Preventing Intimate Partner and Sexual Violence Against Women: Taking action and generating evidenceⁱ evaluated strategies on a life course perspective – infancy, early childhood and adolescence, adolescence and early childhood, adulthood and life stages. The study recommended looking closely at the risk factors associated with each life stage considering the different environments of the individual in the ecological model (see figure on next page), when designing primary prevention programs.ⁱⁱ Such primary prevention programs should also addressing such risk factors faced by women at different life stages. The Social Ecological Model identifies four levels to better understand and prevent violence – individual, relationship, community and societal.

The same study reports that of the life course strategies, school-based programs to prevent dating violence were found effective in preventing intimate partner violence. In addition, “emerging effectiveness” was also found in some programs as they showed positive change in knowledge, attitudes and beliefs related to intimate partner or sexual violence. For childhood and early adolescence, appropriate interventions for children and adolescents subjected to child maltreatment and/or exposed to intimate partner violence, and school-based training to help children recognize and avoid potentially sexually abusive situations were found to be effective. During adulthood, empowerment and participatory approaches for addressing gender inequality and microfinance integrated with gender-equality training were found to be effective. Other strategies that demonstrated “emerging effectiveness” for addressing intimate partner violence were changing social cultural gender norms through media awareness and through working with men and boys.

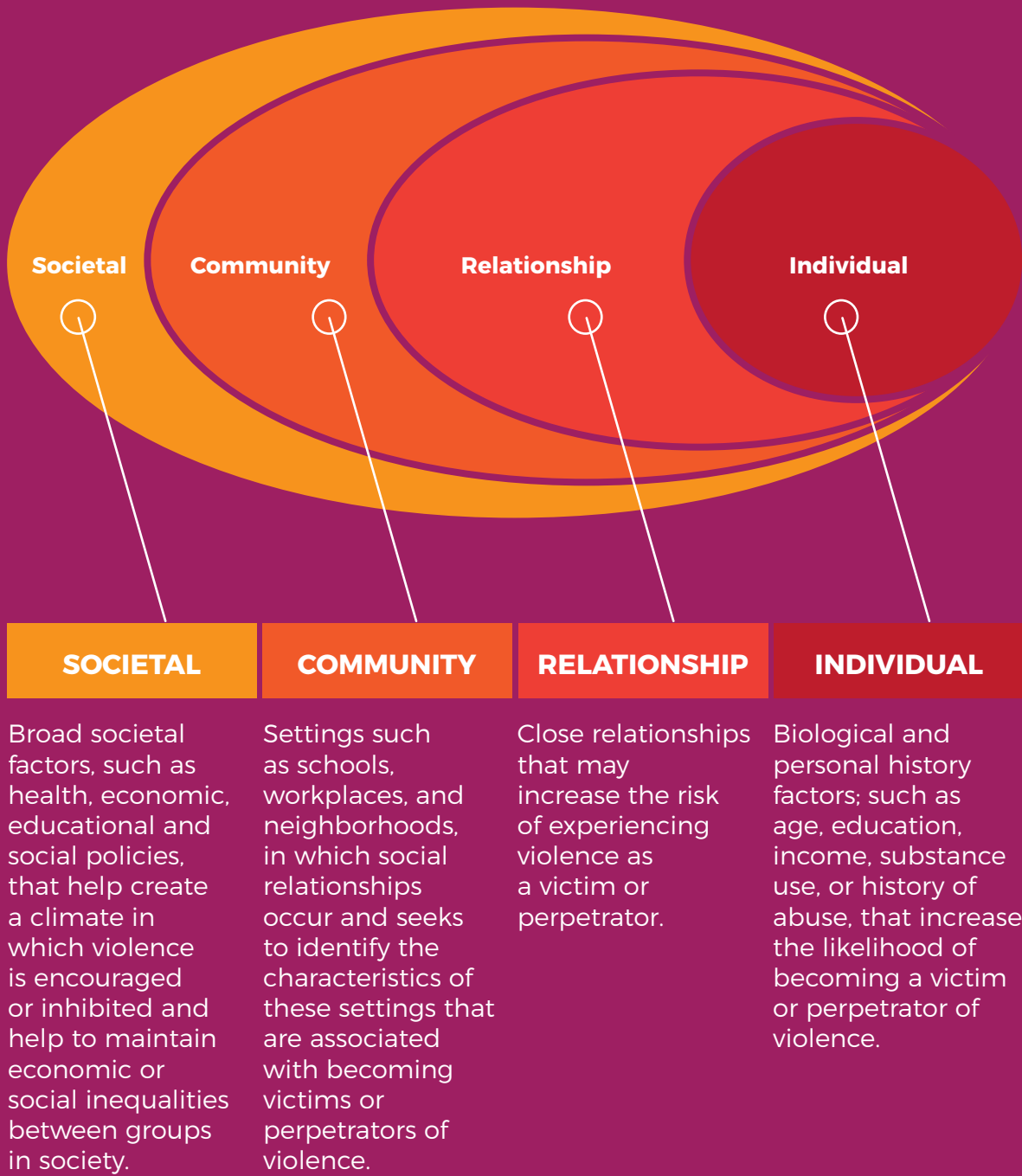
These findings support current strategies being used by IACVAWC but which need to be strengthened, namely:

- Engaging the media advocacy to influence changing social norms
- Engaging males in VAW advocacy and young people about VAW, in schools, among out of school youth.
- Raising awareness on VAW through age-appropriate core messages integrated in basic education curriculum for children and young adults

ⁱfile:///C:/Users/user/Documents/IACVAWC/references/WHO%20Preventing%20Violence.pdf

ⁱⁱNote that the NDHS looked into some of these risks and the findings showed the correlation between intimate partner violence and alcohol abuse and history of violence

Figure 1: Social Ecological Model (SEM) for Primary Prevention
(source: USA Dept. of Health and Human Services)



Recommendations

To address the issues on primary prevention and advocacy, the following were recommended for consideration in the next strategic plan:

1. Prepare and implement an Advocacy and Communication (ADVOCOM) Plan that is meant to be implemented as year-round program. Nevertheless it should continue to build on established good practices in advocacy such as the 18-day Campaign to End VAW.

The ADVOCOM plan should consider the following:

a. Segmenting the audience according to their vulnerabilities and risk factors they face:

- For the general public so they may eliminate cultural biases or stereotypes that tolerate VAW
- Women in general and those in different risk situations: school-age children, IPs, PWDs, poor women, Muslim women, rural women, working women, migrant women, etc.
- Boys and girls in school
- Media, schools, government and private sector and other institutions that potentially reinforce sexism or become agents of change
- Duty bearers or service providers who assist victims
- Men as allies and as potential offenders

Appropriate strategies for each segment should be considered, such eliminating cultural biases or stereotypes that tolerate VAW for general public audience

b. Developing standard core messages and IEC materials customized according to audience's needs and characteristics.

c. Developing age- and audience-appropriate and user-friendly information materials (in local language) for more organized dissemination to target audiences down to community level. Integrate age-appropriate core messages on VAW in school curriculum

Content of information materials may include, among others:

- Laws and policies on VAW, CEDAW
- Programs and services, contact information for victims and roles of service providers
- Practical information on safety
- Challenging the myths surrounding VAW and educating the public on its impact and costs
- Risks of violence that different groups may be predisposed to such as alcohol and drugs, relevant family background and history of violence, and other risk factors for perpetrators and victims

d. Engaging the media in advocacy, and using existing mechanisms such as Media and Gender Equality Committee (MGEC) Presidential Communications Operations Office (PCOO).

e. Ensuring that barangay officials have the capacity to provide clear and appropriate information on VAW to women-victims, particularly on rights of women-victims, the programs and services available for them and referral facilities. Integrating VAW in DILG training program for barangays.

f. Strengthening partnership on VAW with male advocates and with Civil Society Organizations and NGOs including labor groups and union and other industrial associations.

g. Using empowerment and participatory approaches in microfinance and community-based trainings, and influencing relevant government capacity building programs so they may integrate core messages on VAW, where and when appropriate. Include men in capacity building on gender sensitivity and women's human rights, in communication and family orientations

h. Considering house-to-house visits as a critical channel to provide information and education especially for women who are particularly at risk to address the needs of women who have poor motivation to attend community lectures

2. Define the role of government agencies and other stakeholders in planning and implementing specific strategies and activities for the concerned target audience. Ensure that these are included and reflected in their agency program work plans and budgets, including in their GAD plans.

3. Institutionalize a mechanism to regularly gather feedback from women victims and the public on the effectiveness of IEC materials and the advocacy program as a whole. The plan should include outcome level indicators, baseline and targets to measure change in awareness, attitudes and behavior.

KRA 2: Response System

The plan's goal for the response system is to improve the effectiveness and efficiency of the various services of IACVAWC member agencies, through increased access of VAWC victims to comprehensive and quality support services and improved access to justice. Comprehensive and quality support services mean that services are available (and functional), easily accessible and rendered on time by competent, compassionate and gender sensitive service providers.

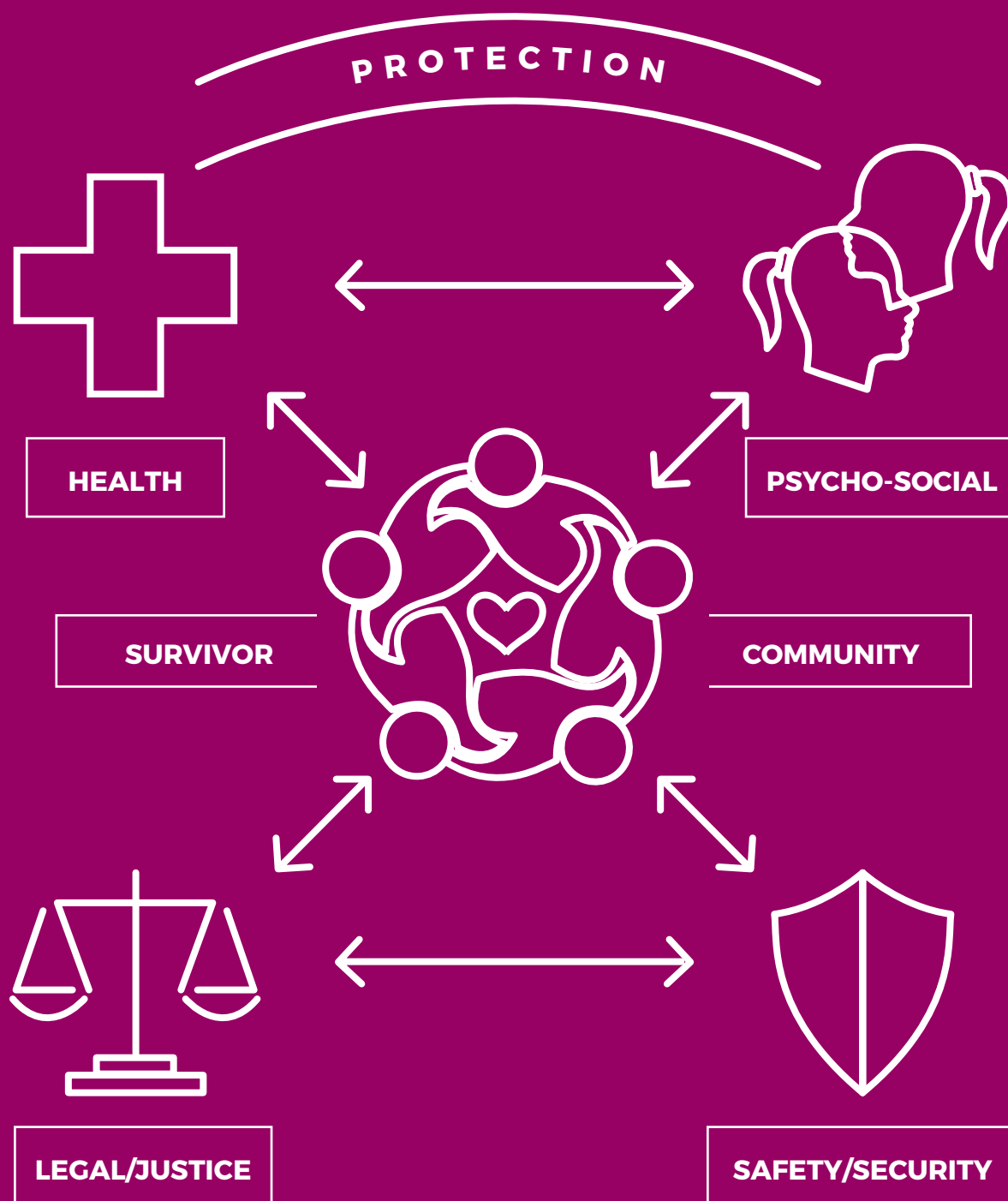
The present response system for VAW consists of:

- The Barangay **VAW Desk** as a first responder to a VAW complainant. The VAW desk officer is expected to inform the victim about the law, options available to her and information on other services that she may avail. The officer can link her directly to the other services, such as to police, social worker or a medical professional if she has injuries. As needed, the officer may assist the victim in filing for a Barangay Protection Order (BPO) to prevent further violence from the offender.
- The police, for protective and security services, through the **Women and Children Protection Desk (WCPD)**, handled by women police officers trained on gender sensitivity and in handling VAW cases.
- The social worker, for **psychosocial and reintegration services**, rendered through residential and community-based facilities of DSWD and local government units. Social workers often times become the case managers as they keep record of the victim's case and its progress.
- **Women and Children Protection Unit (WCPU)**, for physical-medical examination of a victim and treatment of injuries, and to ensure preservation of evidence of violence. WCPUs are managed by trained health professionals and are present in DOH-retained hospitals and in some local government hospitals.

- Legal, for access to justice, through the **Department of Justice, National Bureau of Investigation, Public Attorney's Office**, and the courts, for cases that are brought to the court. Assigned lawyers and judges are expected to be gender sensitive and have comprehensive understanding of RA 9262 and other relevant laws.
- Also included in the network of providers are the **NGOs** that provide various support services to victims such as shelter, psychosocial counseling and legal services.

For more holistic, comprehensive and organized service delivery, these services are expected to function together under a referral system, lodged at the local level, where agency/LGU service providers are part of a referral network. The members are expected to have a formal agreement and protocol in handling cases and to do case conferencing to evaluate progress and address gaps in the service. Guidelines for the creation and management of a referral system have been formulated by IACVAWC.

Figure 2: Multi-sectoral response to VAWⁱⁱⁱ



To increase access to quality support services, the second strategic plan aimed for more functional and strengthened VAW desks, increased health facilities, more women- and child- friendly spaces and better LGU policies supportive of VAW efforts.

ⁱⁱⁱModified slide from UNFPA

What has been done

Increasing access of VAWC victims to comprehensive and quality support services

After more than ten years of implementing RA 9262, the response system for VAW victims has been set in place. Concerned agencies and LGUs have defined their programs to support victims. Coordination in service delivery has been happening, with mechanisms, particularly the referral system at the local level are already in place. Although challenging to many, resources for programs have been defined and included as part of regular agency programming. Equally important, capacities of service providers have also been developed, to a large extent, and training modules and performance standards for capacity building and service delivery are already available.

Psychosocial care and reintegration services are mostly rendered by DSWD for VAW victims and other women in difficult circumstances and are available in center-based and community-based facilities. DSWD's Comprehensive Intervention Against Gender-Based Violence (CIAGBV) is in place to improve the conditions of women and girls through prevention, assistance and reintegration of survivors of VAW cases, with features like community-based gender awareness training, paralegal training and case-handling for barangay officials. Similarly, police officers, health professionals and lawyers have accumulated vast experience and lessons in handling cases through their respective protective, medical and legal services.

Making VAW desks functional

To bring the service closer to the women and their children, IACVAWC prioritized the creation and strengthening of VAW Desks in barangays. A VAW Desk is defined as “physical facility that addresses VAW cases in a manner that is gender sensitive.”^{iv} VAW Desks should be present in each barangay since they are the first responders to a call for help by a victim. As of November 2017, DILG reports that 88.6 per cent of the 42,036 barangays have already created their VAW Desks. The plan targeted that at least 65 per cent of identified VAW desks are functional by end of 2016.

Aklan Province, which has created a VAW desk in all its barangays (100%) conducts an annual Search for Best VAW Desk as a strategy to keep the VAW desks active and functional. It is also a good way to inform people, especially women, of its presence. However, Aklan also still needs to ensure functionality of all its VAW desks.

^{iv}VAW Desk Handbook, 2012

^vDeveloped by PCW in partnership with IACVAWC in 2012

With most of the structures created, the plan's focus for the period was to set the criteria for functionality and to strengthen existing VAW desks. Functionality is determined according to the extent by which the desk fulfills the requirements according to the performance standards outlined in the "Barangay VAW Desk Handbook"^v (or adjusted based on the tool prepared to assess functionality). For the period, IACVAWC defined the criteria for functionality, drafted a monitoring tool and pre-tested it in partnership with the National Anti-Poverty Commission in a few areas before it would be used nationally to evaluate the functionality of all the VAW desks in the 33,600 (80 per cent) barangays. An important element of functionality is making sure that barangay officials in charge of the desk are capacitated to gender sensitively handle a case, refer a victim for assistance and issue a BPO as needed which the plan have also targeted. Toward this end, DILG trained 332 barangay officers in 169 barangays (no data on total number to be trained and number of barangays targeted) and set up a partnership with local resource institutions to train other barangays. In the meantime, PCW organized a congress of barangay VAW desk officers in Metro Manila attended by 500 participants.

Remaining gaps

Persistent issues regarding the functionality of VAW desks are attributed to the weak capacity, low interest and commitment and low level of gender sensitivity of VAW desk officers in assisting victims. Reports show that some are not familiar with the law and process of properly issuing a BPO.

Reports from the ground also noted that since some of the women victims who were interviewed lived with the family of the offending partner were either relatives or friends of barangay officials, they mostly feared possible reprisal from partner or have their complaints disregarded the barangay because of the officers' bias.

Another issue raised on the VAW desk (in Aklan) is the term of duty of VAW desk officers which expires at the end of each election (if they were not reelected) affecting continuity of service and investment on capacity building.

Equally important is the creation of a VAW desk in areas where it has not been created, that is, in the remaining 20 per cent of barangays nationwide.

Recommendations

The remaining activities of the second plan are likely to be carried over to the next plan to respond to these issues. Thus, to improve the functionality of VAW desks, the following are recommended:

1. Continue the ongoing assessment of functionality of existing VAW desks. The assessment should also look into the present level of capacity of VAW desk officers (i.e. conduct of a training needs analysis). The assessment of capacities should serve as basis in developing a capacity building programs that will be implemented by LGUs. Among others, capacity building should include:

- The relevant laws and policies and their role as VAW desk officers
- Gender sensitivity and human rights of women
- Proper procedure in issuance of BPOs
- Correct and updated information on programs that they can share with victims to more properly guide them in their decision
- Updated information on names and contact information of service providers
- Collecting and processing data on cases and reporting

Related to capacity building, IACVAWC was also urged to issue a policy on mandatory regular training of barangay VAW desk officers. This is in light of feedback received from some stakeholders who reported that some barangay VAW desk officers have refused to attend trainings and need to train new VAW desk officers installed after the barangay elections.

2. Existing VAW desk guidelines need to be more widely disseminated and preferably translated in local language.
3. Information materials on services to victims and contact information of service providers should be available in the desks for easy reference.
4. For IACVAWC to mandate the development and administration of a feedback form to identify strengths and weaknesses of VAW desk and its officer/s in order to improve the delivery of services accordingly.
5. To create a VAW desk in the remaining 20 per cent of barangays in the next 6 years.

Increasing health facilities assisting VAWC victims and capacitating service providers

What has been done

Part of ensuring comprehensive services is the presence of WCPUs in hospitals where victims needing medical attention could be treated by trained and gender sensitive health professionals. The plan targeted that at least 50 per cent of LGUs in the Philippines will have a WCPU or at least have the capability to serve the medical needs of the victims in a gender sensitive manner. Together with the physical health facility, the plan also targeted building the capacity of health service providers on gender sensitive provision of services to VAW victims.

The plan did not set specific targets on the number of provinces that should have a WCPU but the report indicated that as of 2015, there were 39 WCPUs in 4 cities and 24 provinces. For its part, DOH has 67 functional WCPUs in 70 of its retained hospitals, located in 21 cities and 27 provinces, with the three others having a Women and Children Protection Coordinator.

In terms of capacity of service providers, DOH reported that all of DOH hospitals were trained as trainers on the 4Rs (recognizing, reporting, recording and referral) of women and children abuse cases. Among DOH hospitals, 37 percent (26 hospitals) have trained women and children protection specialists. By 2015, DOH reported training of health workers in 40 percent of target provinces, which is close to the 50% target (no information on base of 50 percent or how many provinces were actually targeted).

In terms of social workers, the plan targeted to train 50 per cent of LGU- and center-based social workers on the gender responsive case management model (GRCM) and increase client satisfaction from victim survivors served. The base of 50 per cent was not indicated in the report but DSWD reported that it has trained more than 700 social workers from Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao. The first client satisfaction survey, expected in 2016 has not been conducted.

Establishment of Women and Children Friendly Spaces (WCFS) as facility to serve VAWC victims in evacuation camps, outside the camps and temporary shelters

Considering the frequent occurrence of natural disasters and the persistence of human-induced conflicts and calamities, the plan sought the creation of Women and Children Friendly Spaces (WCFS). These spaces are to be established in evacuation centers during crisis situations as safe venues to gain knowledge and access to services that women may avail such as psychosocial, medical, life skills, legal or recreational and economic. WCFS are also expected to safeguard women and children against threats of gender-based violence (GBV).

DSWD and the Council for the Welfare of Children issued guidelines on the establishment, operation and institutionalization of these spaces particularly in high risk areas. In 2014 and 2015, DSWD established 23 women-friendly spaces (WFS) in Regions 6, 7 and 8 which served 36,579 women victims of trafficking, sexual, physical and emotional abuse and women in detention. LGUs referred 71 VAW survivors to these WFS.

To manage these spaces, DSWD trained 238 WCFS facilitators on gender sensitivity, handling GBV cases and management and operation of the facilities. Additional training sessions, including trainers' training and cluster meetings among social workers and other service providers were conducted to sharpen skills in managing WFS. The trained WFS were able to reach more than 77,000 displaced persons through services and orientation sessions.

To broaden the options of VAW victims for services, the plan promoted the issuance of policies to create crisis centers or temporary shelters through a DILG issuance to the LGUs. DILG also successfully pushed for the inclusion of VAW-related criteria (e.g. functional VAW referral system) in the Seal of Good Local Governance. Monitoring compliance with this criteria is key in ensuring the functionality of the referral system.

The plan also articulated its concern about policemen involved in domestic violence. To this end, it sought to conduct a research which will serve as basis for drafting policies that address on case management and evaluation of existing response processes for PNP personnel involved in domestic violence and other GBV cases. The proposed strategy was for a rehabilitative response based on restorative justice, a way of responding to crime and conflict where the victim and offender communicate and participate in resolving the conflict by finding a positive way forward, as contrasted to retributive justice which is focused on the punitive aspects of the law. In 2014, there were 840 cases of violation of RA 9262 filed against police officers, more than 90 per cent of the cases handled by National Police Commission (NAPOLCOM) under its Memo Circular 2007-01 on Uniform Rules of Procedure before the Administrative Disciplinary Authorities and the Internal Affairs Service of the Philippine National Police.

There was no update on the progress of the research on restorative justice. The research has not been done by the time of the review. IACVAWC may decide to include this in the next strategic plan and assign it to one or two member agencies (DOJ and PNP) for implementation.

Remaining gaps

Victim survivors interviewed who were assisted were generally satisfied and appreciative of the support that they received particularly from the social workers, police officers, doctors and lawyers. The service providers were sympathetic and understanding of the women-victim's situation, properly briefed the women of their case and their options, and discussed the steps that had to be taken.

There were some cases, however, when women-victims were ill-advised by some police officers by insisting that they went to the barangay first before they reported to them, or advising the women to “just suffer and bear” or “just leave the husband.” One victim of prostitution shared that some police demanded sexual favors from them to avoid arrest. Most of the women were not aware of the assistance they could access before they were victimized or immediately after.

Some of the issues below were shared by service providers themselves who recognized their own limitation in providing the service they know they have to render. It was evident from the reports and the sharing that most of them are strongly committed and serious in doing their work but are unfortunately hampered by these constraints.

1. Lack of comprehensive (quality) package of services for victims of VAW and inadequate resources for these

While services for VAW victims already exist, quality and comprehensiveness still need to be achieved. One of the reasons is lack of funds which are expected to come from agency and LGU allocations from their regular program and from their gender and development (GAD) budget; and for some agencies, from multilateral or bilateral donors. Service providers reported that there were not enough funds for victims' psychosocial care and evaluation, rescue and protection, legal assistance and reintegration. This is especially true for indigent victims who had no money for transportation and other basic needs.

The GAD budget has been difficult to access for support programs because of the competing allocations GAD related programs. Monitoring of inclusion of its use for VAW programs at national and local level remains weak.

Quality of service is also affected by work overload due to limited number of service providers. For instance, social work positions at the local level, are very limited, if any, but social workers are expected to handle all cases of LGU constituents in difficult and crisis situations, such as victims of VAW, disasters, persons with disabilities, etc. Access to justice is similarly affected by lack of trained lawyers.

Closely related to the inadequate services is the need to continuously develop and strengthen capacities of service providers in providing gender sensitive services to clients.

Unclear procedures and protocols and communication among service providers have also affected service delivery. For instance, there was a report that an LGU health facility did not conduct medico-legal examination on a weekend which caused delay in processing a victim case that led to the worsening of her condition. To make matters worse, there was a police officer who insisted that the victim went to the barangay first before entertaining her. There was another report that some RHU physicians refused to conduct medico-legal examination because they did not want to testify in courts.

Finally, lack of feedback mechanisms or standard measure to determine and monitor quality of response as basis for continuing improvement (effectiveness, gender sensitivity, access, affordability, etc.) continue to affect the quality of services provided to women-victims.

2. Inadequate measures to deal with perpetrators and the risks they pose to victims.

While DSWD reported to have conducted capacity building activities to guide barangay and police officials on handling of perpetrators of VAW, results of how such intervention affected handling of offenders remain uncertain. The strategic plan proposed restorative justice as an approach to handling cases but there were also no further information on the extent that this was implemented.

Recommendations

On increasing access to comprehensive services

1. Conduct research/mapping out of programs and services that are available in each municipality and include this in information dissemination. The list could also be a basis for referral, such as for psychiatrists, NGO service providers, trained WCPU providers, etc.
2. Ensure availability of clear and user-friendly information and guidelines on services available in communities in user-friendly format and language.
3. Review models of one-stop shop for service delivery and propose replication in LGUs to increase access of victims. Exploring a 'one-time interview' scheme where the victim is interviewed by all service providers may be considered in

order to facilitate quicker action, minimize repeat interviews and going back-and-forth of victims.

4. Create/establish additional facilities to ensure accessibility to victims (e.g. WCPUs, residential facilities, WFS) and build capacities of service providers.
5. Ensure availability of service providers who are trained in handling cases of VAW.
6. Issue clear guidelines on budget allocation for VAW programs for national and local government. In relation to this, ensure closer monitoring of GAD plans and budgets specifically on their allocation of budget for VAW programs. Urge local chief executives (LCE) and local sanggunians to include budget items for VAW in their annual work and financial plan and to allocate their GAD budget for care facilities, legal assistance, counseling or psychological evaluation and operation of VAW desks.
7. Regularly assess adequacy and quality of service of facilities based on performance standards for VAW
8. Strengthen interagency coordination for referral and partnership with CSOs/ NGOs for service delivery

On enhancing capacities of service providers

1. To ensure that all service providers are trained, the next plan could conduct training needs analysis and use this to design or enhance existing capacity development programs. Suggested enhancement of content include gender-sensitive service delivery and victim empowerment, deeper understanding of the law, gender analysis and handling cases of people with disabilities (PWDs) including provision of assistive facilities (e.g. sign language interpreter).
2. Develop standard protocols (including communication protocols) and modules for service delivery for the service providers, including handling PWDs. Review the performance standards for reference and updating.
3. Promote joint training of service providers (police, social workers, prosecutors, doctors, barangay officials) to clarify roles and protocols that will allow for more systematic/coordinated provision and delivery of services.
4. Ensure availability of service providers and create multidisciplinary case management team in LGUs.

5. Integrate gender sensitivity in curriculum for police training, medical training and in law schools.
6. Document good practices or models for sharing in service delivery.
7. Devise a client satisfaction survey for services provided to determine capacity and service gaps from the perspective of clients.

Improved VAWC victims' access to justice in accordance with human rights standards

What has been done

The plan's strategy to improve women's access to justice was through more effective standards and procedures for handling VAWC cases across all justice sector agencies and by increasing rate of disposition of VAWC cases within the prescribed period. To make this happen, the plan also aimed to enhance the investigative capability of WCPC officers, investigators and prosecutors to make sure that they are gender-sensitive and HR-compliant.

During the period, NBI reported more organized handling of cases by its different divisions-investigative, medico-legal and behavioral science divisions. DOJ trained more than 600 prosecutors and staff on human rights and gender-sensitive handling of cases. PNP also conducted several batches of specialized training for WCPDs and police offices in handling of VAWC cases. DILG also reported training 80 per cent of its target WCPC officers, NBI investigators and prosecutors by end of 2015, targeting the rest in 2016.

Even the Supreme Court through the Philippine Judicial Academy has been involved in developing gender sensitivity among lawyers and judges. From 2012 to 2016, the supreme court has trained around 1,000 lawyers and judges and has also issued a memorandum allowing the hiring of sign language interpreters to assist deaf complainants or witnesses in case proceedings with their compensation determined in accordance with existing circulars of the Office of the Court Administrator (OCA). OCA is reportedly disseminating a master list of sign language institutions and associations all over the country. Some 39 sign language interpreters were reported to have been engaged from 2008 to 2016 by first level courts.

One measure of improved capacity building outcome is the disposition rate of VAWC cases, based on the prescribed period. In 2014 and 2015, DOJ reported the following data on the rate of disposition of VAWC cases, showing substantial aging of cases.

Table 2. DOJ Disposition rate of cases in 2014

Case type	Cases handled	Disposition		% of cases resolved in 120 days (aging cases)
		Resolved	Rate	
VAW	19,298	15,031	78%	51%
Rape	10,789	8,466	78%	48%
Trafficking	924	784	85%	69%

Table 2. DOJ Disposition rate of cases in 2015

Case type	No. of cases	Disposition rate
VAW	19,127	77.23%
Rape	10,484	79.86%
Trafficking	850	74.47%

Remaining issues on access to justice

Some of the issues raised related to poor access to justice and high attrition of cases.

1. Low rate of disposition of cases
2. Lack of resources of victims to pursue their case as many could not afford lawyers' fees, the resetting of cases and the cost in transportation and loss of income. LGUs could not adequately provide financial support to them. While many also lacked information on available legal assistance.
3. Victim fatigue due to prolonged trials, resulting to dismissal or execution of affidavit of desistance on the part of the complainant.

4. Lack of gender sensitivity of some lawyers and judges; some lawyers and judges have different interpretation of the law
5. Inadequate number of lawyers providing legal services (few plantilla positions in DOJ, PAO and in district offices)
6. Refusal or reluctance of some municipal health officers (MHO) to conduct medico-legal examination either due their lack of skill or hesitation to testify in court
7. An emerging concern in access to justice is the lack of trained lawyers to assist victims who are PWDs.

Recommendations to improve access to justice

1. Government should provide more resources for legal assistance and clearer guidelines and policies on access, including use of GAD funds. LGUs should support victims' pursuit of their case through provision of legal assistance and financial support for transportation using regular or GAD funds
2. Enhance mechanisms for support for GBV in DOJ and PAO. Ensure availability of sign language interpreters for PWDs
3. Ensure continuing education of judges and lawyers through training and the integration of gender sensitivity in curriculum of police training and law schools.
4. Enhance gender-sensitive and HR-compliant investigative capability of WCPC officers, NBI investigators and prosecutors/ fiscals handling VAWC cases, including developing capacities of lawyers for handling victims who are PWDs
5. Develop more effective standards and procedures for handling VAWC cases across justice sector agencies
6. Investigate and take action on reports of MHOs' refusal or reluctance to conduct medico-legal examination of victims
7. Engage CSOs in handling cases including for PWD victims
8. Regularly obtain client feedback on access to justice

KRA 3: Cross-Cutting Structures and Actions

The third KRA tackles the importance of coordination among all concerned agencies to ensure more effective and efficient support to victims of VAWC. It is focused on existing structures and mechanisms designed to foster coordination and harmonization of efforts both at the horizontal and vertical levels. It stresses the role of the IACVAWC as the lead structure in planning, policy development, documentation and monitoring of impact. Next to the IACVAWC are the member agencies that are expected to deliver the services through their national and subnational mechanisms. Also important are the NGOs who complement services to the extent that their resources allow them.

As the lead coordinating and monitoring body, the goal of the plan was to improve the performance of IACVAWC by:

- a. evaluating, enhancing and replicating the VAW referral system
- b. creating subcommittees within the IACVAWC to carry out specialized functions
- c. putting in place a government data base and system for the collection and analysis of VAW data, and
- e. ensuring the participation of women NGOs in the Council.

What has been done

IACVAWC as coordinating and monitoring body is already functional with vertical and horizontal institutional mechanisms are in place. To strengthen it further and for it to work more closely, the IACVAWC Secretariat in 2015 drafted a Terms of Reference reiterating the role of the IACVAWC, the chair and its members.

Among others, the Chair is expected to lead coordination, direct the formulation of policies and ensure action on complaints against service providers, and making IACVAWC a venue for discussing progress and resolving issues. The role of member agencies in responding to complaints was also reiterated, as well as their monitoring and evaluation of activities of IACVAWC, including submission of reports on the implementation of RA 9262 and the strategic plan.

Part of cross-cutting structures are the Regional Inter-Agency Council Against Trafficking and Violence Against Women and their Children (RIACAT-VAWC) and the Local Council Against Trafficking and Violence Against Women and Children (LCAT-VAWCs), which are mechanisms closer to the communities and serve as IACVAWC's vertical link in the service delivery chain. RIACAT-VAWCs are present in all regions. They link the national and local government and facilitate regional level coordination of efforts, including those of NGOs. They respond to complaints and report on regional level progress, including identification and resolution of issues in service delivery at their level.

On the other hand, the LCAT-VAWCs are the local counterparts of RIACAT-VAWCs and main service delivery point in the referral system. They are tasked to monitor the establishment and management of VAW referral system in LGUs as per DILG MC 2012-01 and IACVAWC resolution No. 4 of 2009. LCAT-VAWCs are expected to respond to complaints, oversee the Barangay VAW Desk operations and ensure the capacities of the VAW Desk persons are up to par.

Creating subcommittees within the IACVAWC

The plan targeted the creation of subcommittees (or working committees) within the IACVAWC to “aid the effective and efficient implementation of VAWC activities and anti-VAWC efforts.” Three working committees were created corresponding to each of the three KRAs namely, Committee on Primary Prevention, Committee on Response System and Committee on Cross-Cutting Structures and Actions.

The committees were given general and specific functions. Among the general functions were to draw up a work plan in support of the strategic plan and implement and monitor this plan, define their own means of coordination and communication, and assigning their respective chair and co-chair.

The members and specific functions of each committee are as follows:

Committee on Primary Prevention (DepEd, DILG, DOLE, CWC, PCW and CSC)

- Develop, implement and update the three-year integrated ADVOCOM Plan on VAWC in partnership with media organizations, schools, universities, men and boys organizations, firms and labor unions, faith-based organizations, IACVAWC member agencies, among others;
- Ensure conduct of lectures and awareness-raising activities on VAW and gender sensitivity training/orientation for LGUs and concerned agencies in partnership with individuals and organizations who are experts on GAD;
- Develop, enhance and package knowledge products on VAW in coordination with the IACVAWC Secretariat.

Committee on Response System (DSWD, PNP, NBI, DOH, DOJ and DILG)

- Review and assess existing services of law enforcement agencies, WCPUs, LGUs, social welfare service providers and prosecutors using the VAW Performance Standards Toolkit
- Gather client feedback on the provision of legal, medical, social welfare, prosecution and other services to improve service delivery
- Monitor the status of mechanisms such as VAW Desks, Barangay Human Action officers, WCPUs, Women's and Children's Friendly Spaces among others;
- Ensure that research priorities of the IACVAWC Strategic Plan 2014-2016 are progressing and report the status of implementing the Council's research agenda; and
- Assist in designing training programs to ensure gender-sensitive and HR-compliant investigative capability of the WCPC officers, NBI investigators and prosecutors/fiscals handling VAWC cases.

Committee on Cross-cutting Structures and Actions (CSC, CHR, PCW and CWC)

- Review and recommend measures to enhance existing VAW Referral Systems among service providers in the IACVAWC
- Monitor the implementation of the National VAW Documentation System;
- Design Strategy for capacity development programs;
- Ensure the participation of NGOs and other civil society groups in the work of the IACVAWC; and
- Monitor the establishment of sub-committees within IACVAWC on specific areas.

The IACVAWC Secretariat

Another important structure under the IACVAWC is the Secretariat. It is tasked to render administrative and technical responsibilities in support of the IACVAWC and the committees. Presently, the Secretariat is lodged with the PCW, with three technical and one administrative support staff, all on service contract arrangements. It also functions as a referral mechanism for walk-in, phoned-in or emailed queries. One huge gap in its referral work is the lack of monitoring and follow-through of the cases that it referred to other agencies. A feedback and follow through mechanism is important to be set up to determine the progress of the cases.

Evaluating, enhancing and replicating the VAW Referral System

At the center of service delivery is the VAW Referral System which is an “integrated and coordinated community response to victims of violence against women (VAW)... that provides a multidisciplinary and gender-sensitive response to ensure the safety of the women and children victims of violence and the accountability of the perpetrators.”^{vi} The development of the integrated referral system is one of the functions of the IACVAWC.

IACVAWC has issued the guidelines for the establishment and management of the referral system. The guidelines strongly recommended that it be established at the municipal or city level, with participation of provincial or regional agencies with services that could be tapped by the network.

A well-coordinated service delivery under the referral system results to the following:

- Access to needed services is expedited;
- Confidentiality is maintained;
- Referrals between the agencies/organizations of the network are tracked
- Referrals and their outcomes are documented;
- A feedback loop informs the agencies/organization initiating the referring agency/organization that the requested service has been delivered and has met the needs of the client; and
- Gaps in services can be identified and steps taken by the agencies/organizations in the network to bridge them.

^{vi}PCW and IACVAWC, Guidelines in the Establishment and Management of a Referral System on Violence against Women at the Local Government Unit Level

The plan aimed to assess and enhance existing VAW referral system in view of replicating them in other agencies and LGUs. The assessment of the referral system was undertaken through a consultative dialogue with implementing agencies and NGO practitioners. The consultations sought to surface issues that hampered the smooth functioning of existing referral systems, and generate corresponding recommendations to improve the different services for victims. The recommendations validated point that were raised in previous consultations and reports. Due to lack of time, there was no time to implement the recommendations and so instead the recommendations were submitted for consideration in the third strategic plan of the IACVAWC.

To establish the referral system in government, CSC issued memo circulars for the replication of the CSC central office referral system in its other regional offices, and conducted training for focal persons assigned to handle the system. For the LGUs, DILG issued a memo circular in 2012 adopting the Guidelines mentioned above. However, it is uncertain whether DILG managed to monitor the creation and functionality of the system in LGUs where the referral systems were established.

The next strategic plan could still focus on assessment, strengthening and replication of the VAW referral system in LGUs. As the structure closest to the people next to the VAW Desk, the IACVAWC needs to ensure that the referral system at the LGU level is the strongest mechanism in the service delivery chain and realize its mandate – a functional referral system run by people with capacity and required resources to ensure adequate services for victims.

Recommendations to improve the VAW Referral System

1. Disseminate the guidelines on the establishment and implementation of the VAW Referral System. Review and revisit the existing protocols/guidelines to standardize services across the country.
2. Pursue the assessment, enhancement and replication of the VAW referral system in LGUs
3. Urge members of the referral network to enter and sign a memorandum of agreement (MOA) in order to clarify roles and responsibilities in supporting victim, and promote opportunities for networking and sharing information on good practices among member agencies
4. Monitor and ensure availability and accessibility of services under the referral system by developing a feedback mechanism for continuous improvement
5. Clarify budget guidelines for services for VAW programs

Establishing a government data base and system for the collection and analysis of VAW data

In terms of documentation of cases, agencies have their own system of collecting and reporting.

With the support of United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) and Spanish Agency for International Development Cooperation (AECID), IACVAWC developed and pilot-tested a VAW Documentation System (VAWDocs) to harmonize documentation of cases. The primary objective of this documentation system is to avoid multiple counting and track the progress of each case, and address gaps in monitoring the implementation of the law.

For the plan period, the target was to **institutionalize the system** and enable it to generate data for monitoring. The pilot test pointed to additional functionalities for data generation and decision making before it could be institutionalized, in particular enabling it to generate reports that suit the needs of LGUs since the system was originally designed for national government agencies. This documentation system has to be harmonized with other systems or work with other systems to standardize data collection systems, e.g. National VAW Documentation System (NVAWDOCS) and NBI data base; DOJ case management system; and CWC protocol on monitoring, reporting and response system for grave child rights violations.

Apart from the issues mentioned above, a decision on custodianship of VAWDocs, on where it will be lodged and who will maintain it, needs to be determined. Together with the decision

on the Secretariat of the IACVAWC, the home of VAWDocs of the IACVAWC needs to be settled as early as possible so that the home agency's current systems and means for possible harmonization are considered in the finalization of the system.

NGOs and their contributions

One of the mandates of the IACVAWC is to create mechanisms to ensure the participation of NGOs, academe, the private sector, civic and religious groups in the implementation and monitoring of VAWC cases. The plan's target during the period was to have a CSO representative in the Council with a clear terms of reference.

IACVAWC's inclusion of NGOs in the council is a recognition of the significant contribution of non-government players in addressing the needs of victims, many of who are already working as de facto partners. Civil society provide much needed psychosocial, medical, legal support services, not to mention their very strong advocacies, to supplement or complement existing government services. However, given the limited resources of CSOs and NGOs, many are often beset with diminishing donor support to sustain their services and advocacies.

Examples include the Women's Crisis Center which provides psychosocial counseling; the WOMENLEAD and Women's Legal and Human Right Bureau which support legal cases; and Bantay Familia in Naga City which provides actual psychosocial and legal assistance to victims and promotes multisectoral and community approach to violence by empowering women and mainstreaming gender issues in government programs. Others are the Bantay Banay and Lihok Pilipina in Cebu, Gender Watch Against Violence and Exploitation (GWAVE) in Dumaguete City that provides a range of assistance to victims and also engages in advocacy, capacity building and monitoring VAW desks.

The next strategic plan should outline how IACVAWC could engage NGOs more intensively not only in advocacy but more importantly, in the provision of services to victims. Along this line, IACVAWC may also need to consider how it could extend resource support to enable them to meet the gaps in the services provided by government.

Development of a research agenda for more evidence-based anti-VAW programming

RA 9262 mandates IACVAWC to conduct research on an integrated approach to eliminate VAWC and determine its nature and root causes as well as unpack the phenomenon of battered woman syndrome, violence within lesbian relationships, and particular violence faced by marginalized women. Likewise more formative research need to be conducted in the areas of rehabilitation of perpetrators and documentation of good practices for policy formulation and program development. The next IACVAWC strategic plan should identify the research agenda while upholding the said mandate.

3. STRATEGIC PLAN FRAMEWORK AND GUIDING PRINCIPLES

In line with its mandate, the IACVAWC Strategic Plan is focused on the implementation of Republic Act 9262 entitled Anti-Violence Against Women and their Children Act of 2004. However, cognizant of the fact that intimate partner violence is within the purview of women's human rights where various forms of violations are strongly influenced by and closely connected to other forms of VAW, the Council has decided to consider other forms of VAW and to strengthen its coordination with related mechanisms such as with the Inter-Agency Council Against Trafficking (IACAT), the Inter-Agency Council Against Child Pornography (IACACP) and with other human rights mechanisms at national and sub-national levels.

In crafting this strategy, the plan builds on the gains of the Council in addressing violence against women and their children over the past several years. It recognizes the efforts and contributions of the various agencies, NGOs, development partners and other stakeholders and considers the lessons learned in addressing VAW in its various forms.

Central to addressing VAW is prevention and quality response to victims driven by an efficient coordination mechanism at national and local level. Thus, the main goal of the plan is an “improved strategy towards a violence-free community through more systematic primary prevention, accessible and effective response system and strengthened functional mechanisms for coordination, planning, implementation, monitoring, evaluation and reporting.”

Accordingly, the plan is presented along the three key result areas (KRA) of **primary prevention, response system and cross-cutting structures and actions**, to put emphasis on the distinct but mutually reinforcing aspects of VAW prevention and response. Each KRA focuses on priority issues and a key objective for the strategies that are expected to address the issues.

Underlying implementation along these three KRAs is collaboration and coordination to be spearheaded by the different committees and mechanisms composed of various agencies responsible for different but coordinated programs on prevention and response. Similarly, the plan emphasizes the role of local government units (LGUs) who provide the first line of defense for women victims of violence.

Towards being more inclusive, the Plan also clarifies its engagement with NGOs and the private sector as mandated by RA 9262, as well as the role of other development partners. And while recognizing its autonomy, it endeavors to work with ARMM in recognition of the situation of violence against Muslim women and Muslim IP women.

The Plan recognizes the intersecting forms of violence particularly suffered by women who are marginalized and vulnerable, such as poor women, indigenous women, women with disabilities and women who are less educated and are living in remote areas hardly reached by information and services. To track the Plan's responsiveness in these groups, the outcome indicators require data disaggregation for poor and marginalized women, persons with disabilities (PWDs), IP women and other sectors. Thus, the Plan stresses the role of empowerment at all levels, beginning with women's empowerment, through better information, more responsive services and more consultative processes of planning and monitoring of programs. Building the capacities of service providers, heavily stressed in the response strategy is expected to contribute to quality and more empowering delivery of services.

Vital to building the capacities of service providers is a deeper understanding of the law and its focus on intimate partner violence as a gender-based violence, committed against women because they are women and persistence of society's patriarchal view of women as weaker and more inferior to men. Intimate partner violence constitutes more than 80 per cent of all forms of violence committed against women reported by the police every year.

Feedback and monitoring the effectiveness and responsiveness of the strategy will be an important aspect of plan implementation. With clear outcome indicators and targets defined by the Plan, agencies are expected to constantly monitor and ensure that their programs, projects and activities contribute to realizing these objectives and targets.

As the driving force in the successful implementation of the plan, the IACVAWC is challenged to improve its leadership and coordination with the various agencies and mechanisms involved in the different aspects of prevention and response. The Plan includes recommendations and proposals to strengthen its work in steering the strategy towards its vision and goal. The Secretariat, an important technical and administrative support to the Council, will also be strengthened.

4. STRATEGIC DIRECTIONS AND PLAN MATRIX

Based on the situation of violence against women in the country, results gathered from assessment of programs made and remaining challenges that need to be addressed, the IACVAWC formulated its Third Strategic Plan for 2017-2022.

For the plan period 2017-2022, IACVAWC will pursue the following vision and goal:

VISION

“A gender-fair and violence-free community where women and their children are empowered.”

GOAL

“Improved strategy towards a violence-free community through more systematic primary prevention, accessible and effective response system, and strengthened functional mechanisms for coordination, planning, implementation, monitoring, evaluation, and reporting.”

The same Key Result Areas (KRAs) from the previous plan, 2014-2016, namely: Primary Prevention, Response System, and Cross-Cutting Structures and Actions were adopted for the Third Strategic Plan.

This plan outlines the identified issues, objectives, and targets, including key strategies, programs, projects, and activities by KRA for the period of 2017-2022. In cooperation with other stakeholders from GOs, NGOs/CSOs, and Faith-Based Organizations, these will be pursued during the term of President Rodrigo R. Duterte.

KRA 1: PRIMARY PREVENTION

Under this KRA, all strategies and programs are directed at preventing violence against women from happening. This covers information and awareness campaigns to inform women and the general public that VAW is a violation of women’s human rights and therefore should not be tolerated in both public and domestic spheres. Hopefully, with sustained and consistent advocacy efforts, the occurrence of VAW will be reduced significantly and eventually influence the individuals’ pattern of behavior towards women. Another important component under primary prevention is the integration of VAW core messages in school curricula and learning materials at all levels.

Priority Issues:

1. Advocacy on VAW is seasonal or periodic
2. Lack of target-specific advocacy activities for high-risk population segments
3. Limited reach and delivery of advocacy programs
4. IEC materials on VAW are generic and not customized to a particular sector or group

Objective:

To promote a culture of prevention through increased understanding and recognition of violence against women and its impact.

Matrix of Indicators, Baseline, and Targets

Indicator	Present value (baseline)	Target		MOV / Data Source
		2020	2022	
1. Percent change in reporting in areas covered by IACVAWC advocacy campaigns (use PNP administrative data in the meantime)	National level (PNP data) 31,580 (2016) Data from other service agencies (to be provided)	Increase in reporting by 10% (from previous year’s data of the target area)	Increase in reporting by 10% (from previous year’s data of the target area)	PNP and other agencies’ data (national and regional)
2. Percent change in help-seeking behavior	30% (NDHS 2013; next reports are in 2018 and 2022)	No target	50% in 2023	NDHS result

Indicator	Present value (baseline)	Target		MOV / Data Source
		2020	2022	
<p>3. Level of understanding of VAW and support available for VAW victims among audiences targeted by advocacy activities (Survey tool)</p> <p>(sex and age disaggregated and by sector eg IPs, PWDs, Elderly)</p>	<p>No baseline</p> <p>- Tool to be developed by 2018; baseline data on level of understanding on VAW to be set by 2019</p>	-	Percentage increase based on the 2019 baseline	Result of tool administration
<p><i>For final decision:</i></p> <p>4. Level of satisfaction on advocacy activities/ programs, by target groups (aggregate of output indicator data on level of satisfaction)</p>	<p>No baseline</p> <p>- Tool to be developed by 2017; baseline to be set end of 2018</p>	-		Result of tool administration

Strategies/Programs/Activities	Lead	Partners
<p><u>2017-2018</u></p> <p>1. Preparation and implementation of an ADVOCOM Plan that builds on good practices in advocacy</p> <p><u>2017</u></p> <p>1.1 Gathering of success stories and good practices of NGAs, LGUs, NGOs and CSOs as preparatory work for the workshop</p> <p>1.2 Gathering of reports of the 18-Day Campaign To End VAW since 2002 and other advocacy activities implemented by other agencies outside the Campaign</p> <p><u>2017-2018</u></p> <p>1.3 Conduct of workshop for the development of the ADVOCOM Plan (to include assessment of previous advocacy activities and good practices)</p> <p><i>Note:</i> 1) <i>Identify high-risk areas to be prioritized;</i> 2) <i>Develop core messages;</i> 3) <i>Consider age, sector, vulnerabilities in developing the ADVOCOM</i></p> <p>1.4 Presentation of the ADVOCOM Plan for approval and adoption of IACVAWC</p> <p><u>2018-2022</u></p> <p>1.5 Implementation of the ADVOCOM Plan</p> <p>1.6 Roll-out of ADVOCOM Plan to RIACAT-VAWC</p> <p>1.7 Monitoring and Evaluation of the implementation of the ADVOCOM Plan by IACVAWC</p>	<p>PCW</p>	<p>Council Members</p> <p>Development and Implementation, PCOO, KBP, OPAPP, NGOs (FORWARD Women, Lihok Pilipina, MOVE, GABRIELA, Bantay Familia)</p> <p>Implementation: PCW Local Learning Hubs, RIACAT-VAWCP, Regional GAD Mechanism, MGEC agencies</p>

Strategies/Programs/Activities	Lead	Partners
<p><u>2018-2022</u></p> <p>2. Development of age and audience appropriate and user-friendly information materials (translated into local language) for more organized dissemination to target audiences down to community level</p> <p>2.1 Gathering and review of existing materials</p> <p>2.2 Conduct of workshop to conceptualize information materials</p> <p>2.3 Pre-testing of information materials to intended users</p> <p>2.4 Presentation of information materials to IACVAWC</p> <p>2.5 Production and dissemination of information materials</p> <p><i>Note: IACVAWC to develop generic IEC materials; all agencies may develop IEC materials consistent with their mandate/function</i></p>	DOH	IACVAWC
<p><u>2018-2022</u></p> <p>3. Engaging the media in advocacy, and using existing mechanism as MGEC</p> <p>3.1 Development and adoption of IACVAWC Terms of Engagement with Media</p> <p>3.2 Preparation of Media Kits to include reconciled data on VAW, infographics, briefers</p> <p>3.3 Conduct of media forum</p> <p>3.4 Identify media personalities</p>	PCW	IACVAWC

Strategies/Programs/Activities	Lead	Partners
<p><u>2018-2020</u></p> <p>4. Integrating core messages in school curriculum</p> <p>4.1 Conduct of consultation workshops for the integration of VAW core messages per year level</p> <p>4.2 Learning materials development</p> <p>4.3 Pilot testing of learning materials</p> <p>4.4 Training of teachers</p>	DepEd	CHED, TESDA, CWC, NYC, PCW
<p><u>2018-2022</u></p> <p>5. Building capacities of barangay officials to improve delivery of information and services to victims and the community</p> <p>5.1 Training of trainers</p> <p>5.2 Dissemination of existing training modules to other agencies</p>	DILG	CHR, LGA, LGUs
<p><u>2017-2022</u></p> <p>6. Strengthening and engaging new partnerships with male advocates, CSOs and NGOs, private sector</p>	PCW	MOVE, IACVAWC
<p><u>2017-2022</u></p> <p>7. Institutionalizing a feedback and monitoring mechanism on advocacy programs</p>	DSWD	IACVAWC
<p><u>2017-2022</u></p> <p>8. Using empowerment and participatory approach in micro-finance and community-based training and influencing relevant government capacity development programs to integrate messages on VAW</p>	DSWD, DOLE	DILG, LGUs

KRA 2: Response System

Strategies and programs to ensure the availability and accessibility of required services for VAW victim-survivors are covered under response system. These essential services comprise health care, social service, police, and legal/justice.

Priority Issues:

1. Need to increase access to comprehensive and quality support services, i.e.
 - Improve functionality of VAW desks in terms of capacity of service providers
 - Presence of appropriate facilities and information for victims and the public
 - Increased availability of facilities, i.e., WCPUs in LGUs, psychosocial care facilities
 - Women- and children-friendly spaces
2. Need to continuously improve capacity and gender sensitivity of service providers
3. Inadequate resources for VAW programs (and assistance to victims)
4. Need to improve access to justice
5. Inadequate measures to deal with perpetrators
6. Need to improve reporting and investigation and access to justice of women in the marginalized sector

Objective:

To increase confidence in government response through effective and consistent service to victims

Matrix of Indicators, Baseline, and Targets				
Indicator	Present value (baseline)	Target		MOV / Data Source
		2020	2022	
1. Percent change in reporting (disaggregated by marginalized sector) Assumption 1: Under response system, increase in reporting will be interpreted to mean greater confidence in quality and responsiveness	35,897 cases (PNP)	Increase reporting rate by 10% from baseline	Increase reporting rate by 20%	Agency annual report
	- Social Services (DSWD)			NDHS data
	- Health Services (DOH)	Increase by 10% from baseline or 4 out of 10	Increase by 20% from baseline or 6 out of 10	Council annual report
	- Investigation (PNP, NBI, Barangays, CSC)			
	- Prosecution (DOJ, Courts)			

Indicator	Present value (baseline)	Target		MOV / Data Source
		2020	2022	
<p>of service, thus encouraging victims to report.</p> <p>Assumption 2: Reporting is directly related to help-seeking behavior</p>	(disaggregated by marginalized sector as required by CEDAW reporting)			
2. Percent change in help-seeking behavior	30% (2013 NDHS)	10% or 4 out of 10	20% or 5 out of 10	NDHS
<p>3. Access of victim-survivors to services (defined by proximity, availability, affordability)</p> <p>3.1 Increase in the number of barangays with functional VAW desks</p>	<p>- number of barangays with established VAW desks: 88% (DILG, 2016)</p> <p>For data collection in 2017: Percent of the 88% that are functional</p>	100% of barangays with VAW desks with at least basic level of functionality*	50% of barangays with VAW desks with mature level of functionality	<p>Result of assessment of functionality</p> <p><i>Note: Level of functionality is defined per draft JMC on monitoring of functionality of VAW desks*</i></p>
4. Level of satisfaction on quality and consistency of service	<p>Each agency to provide baseline:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Social Services (DSWD) - Health Services (DOH) - Investigation (PNP, NBI, Barangays, CSC) - Prosecution (DOJ, Courts) 	Client satisfaction rating is at least 75%	Client satisfaction rating is at least 95%	Client satisfaction survey results

*Functionality levels of VAW desks (based on draft JMC for monitoring the functionality of VAW Desks to be issued by DILG)

1. Basic level of functionality: rating of 20 per cent and below in the assessment tool on presence of a policy issuance creating the Desk; appointing the desk officer; attendance in training of the officer; located within the barangay; separate room; and some resources like furniture, equipment, monitoring tools, references, budget, programs and activities
2. Progressive: 21-50 per cent rating in the assessment tool
3. Mature level: rating of 51-80 per cent in the assessment tool; able to satisfy requirements for establishment, resources, policies, plans, budget, accomplishments
4. Ideal: rating of 81-100 per cent satisfies almost all if not all indicators

Strategies/Programs/Activities	Lead	Partners
1. Ensure availability and enhance the functionality of VAW desks		
1.1. Issue guidelines on the monitoring of functionality of VAW desks	DILG	LGUs, CHR
1.2. Issue advisory to LGUs which do not have VAW desks reiterating MC No. 2012-02	DILG	LGUs
1.3. Assess or evaluate availability and functionality of VAW desks (starting 2018)	DILG	LSWDO, DOJ, DSWD, PNP, RIACAT-VAWC, PCAT-VAWC
1.4. Capacitate VAW desk persons and barangay officials	DILG	DSWD, PNP, PCW, DOH, RCBW (ARMM), Lihok Pilipina, DAWN Foundation
1.5. Organize/strengthen women's organizations including groups of women with disability/support groups/communities in assisting women victim-survivors	IACVAWC	DILG, DSWD, PCW, NAPC, CSOs, CHR, RCBW
1.6. Develop information materials on services	IACVAWC	DILG, DSWD, PCW, PNP, NAPC, CSOs, CHR, RCBW
1.7. Document and replicate good practices	IACVAWC	DILG, DSWD, PCW, NAPC, CSOs, CHR, RCBW
1.8. Monitor and evaluate functionality of VAW desks	DILG	LGUs, IACVAWC, Local VAW Mechanisms

Strategies/Programs/Activities	Lead	Partners
<p>2. Ensure availability of protection, legal, health and psychosocial services and adequate resources</p> <p>2.1. Map out available programs and services in each locality</p> <p>2.2. Review performance standards and assessment tools for services in addressing VAW</p> <p>2.3. Develop performance standards for services provided to marginalized and vulnerable women and children in all situations (peace, crisis and conflict situations)</p> <p>2.4. Develop programs or mechanism to ensure access to VAW services of marginalized and vulnerable sectors including those in crisis situations</p> <p>2.5. Establish VAW desks mechanisms in government agencies (CODI for CSC, Help desk for DOJ, PAO, NBI, WFS and WCC of DSWD)</p>	<p>IACVAWC</p> <p>IACVAWC TWC on Response System and Cross- Cutting Concerns and Actions</p> <p>IACVAWC</p> <p>IACVAWC</p> <p>IACVAWC</p>	<p>PCAT/LCAT-VAWC, NAPC-WSC, Women NGOs, LGUs</p> <p>Council members and other relevant agencies</p> <p>NCIP, NCDA, NCMF, CHR, NAPC</p> <p>LGU, DSWD</p> <p>CSC, DOJ, PAO, NBI, DOLE, CHR</p>
<p>3. Build the capacities of service providers on gender-sensitive delivery of services</p> <p>3.1. Develop and enhance a standard module for service providers</p> <p>3.2. Document good practices in service delivery</p> <p>3.3. Conduct multidisciplinary and specialized training for service providers</p>	<p>IACVAWC</p> <p>IACVAWC</p> <p>IACVAWC</p>	<p>DOH, DOJ, DSWD, DILG, PNP</p> <p>DOH, DOJ, DSWD, DILG, PNP, RCBW, NCMF, DAWN Foundation, WCC, LIHOK Pilipina, NCDA</p>

Strategies/Programs/Activities	Lead	Partners
<p>4. Enhance measures to deal with perpetrators</p> <p>4.1. Review researches conducted on restorative justice</p> <p>4.2. Develop a gender-sensitive rehabilitation program for perpetrators</p>	<p>IACVAWC</p> <p>DSWD</p>	<p>DOJ, DSWD, DILG</p> <p>IACVAWC</p>
<p>5. Strengthen implementation of programs on economic empowerment of women-survivors</p> <p>5.1. Assess economic/ financial support program and services for victim- survivors</p> <p>5.2. Implement and enhance programs and mechanisms to facilitate economic empowerment of women survivors including marginalized and vulnerable sectors</p> <p>5.3. Strengthen Monitoring and Evaluation system for service delivery and ensure data disaggregation by marginalized and vulnerable sector</p>	<p>IACVAWC</p> <p>DSWD, DOLE, TESDA</p> <p>DOJ, PNP, CHR,</p>	<p>DOLE, TESDA, LGU</p> <p>IACVAWC, DOST</p>

KRA 3: Cross-Cutting Structures and Actions

Strengthening of mechanisms for planning, monitoring, coordination and interagency collaboration is crucial in implementing programs to address violence against women. As of now, there are existing VAW mechanisms at the national, sub-national and local levels. These are the following: RCAT-VAWC for the region, PCAT-VAWC for the province, MC/CAT-VAWC for municipality and city level, and VAW Desks at the barangay level. In addition, the PNP has established Women and Children Protection Desk (WCPD) in police stations all over the country. There are also other committees and mechanisms like the GAD Focal Point System (GFPS) created in national government agencies and local government units (LGUs).

Priority Issues:

1. Weak IACVAWC coordination mechanism and monitoring and reporting system
2. Weak functionality of the cross-cutting mechanisms (i.e. R/P/M/C IACAT-VAWCs, technical working committees, Secretariat, VAW Referral System, VAW Documentation System)
3. Limited participation of CSOs/NGOs in the IACVAWC
4. Absence of IACVAWC agenda (research, policy, and evaluation) for more evidence based anti-VAW programming

Objective:

Functionality of IACVAWC as planning, monitoring, and coordinating body at all levels strengthened.

Matrix of Indicators, Baseline, and Targets				
Indicator	Present value (baseline)	Target		MOV / Data Source
		2020	2022	
KRA 3.1: Convergence				
Participation rate of stakeholders	No baseline	Set baseline	80%	<p>Approved and issued resolution on Convergence Plan with Framework and Communication Plan, Research and Policy Agenda</p> <p>Survey result of Participation Rate of Stakeholders</p> <p>National mapping of VAWC services in all 17 Regions</p>

Indicator	Present value (baseline)	Target		MOV / Data Source
		2020	2022	
KRA 3.2: Complementa-tion				
Satisfaction rate of stakeholders	No baseline		80%	Memorandum of Understanding or Agreements
Engagement rate of stakeholders	No baseline		80%	Survey results from Satisfaction and Engagement Rate of Stakeholders Approved communication plan
KRA 3.3: Functionality of structures and systems at all levels				
Levels of functionality of national and local CATVAWC	No Baseline	Baseline to be set in 2018/2019	80% functional	Results from Levels of functionality of National and Local CATVAWC Survey <u>Result:</u> Functionality tool of Barangay VAW Desks Reports generated from database and referral system in management of VAWC cases Approved and issued resolution on Evaluation Agenda Approved and appropriations of plantilla positions Learning Development Interventions Report

KRA 3.1: Convergence

Strategies/Programs/Activities	Lead	Partners
<p>1. Establishment of convergence strategic plan to include framework and communication plan</p> <p>1.1. Convergence program</p> <p>2017</p> <p>a. National mapping of VAWC services in all 17 Regions</p> <p>b. Development of TOR & Survey Tools (working draft IACVAWC level)</p> <p>1.2. Implementation, monitoring and reporting of convergence program (2019-2022)</p>	<p>IACVAWC</p> <p>IACVAWC, PCW</p>	<p>Technical working committees (TWCs) and Secretariat</p>
<p>2. Development of IACVAWC research and policy agenda</p> <p>2.1. Research agenda and policy agenda</p> <p>2017</p> <p>a. Drafting of 5-year research policy, and evaluation agenda (IACVAWC level)</p> <p>2.2. Review legislative provisions on VAWC</p> <p>2017</p> <p>a. Review legislative provision on VAW</p> <p>2018</p> <p>b. Drafting of Bill OR include provision in the amendment of RA 9262 VAWC desk officers position should be elected instead of appointed to guarantee continuity despite of change in leadership (2018)</p> <p>c. Hiring of consultants</p> <p>d. Development of survey tools (working draft)</p> <p>e. National and/or regional consultation workshop and write-shop</p> <p>f. Issuance of resolution for the adoption of Convergence Strategic Plan, Research, Policy and Evaluation Agenda</p>	<p>CSC, PCW</p>	<p>CWC, CHR</p>

Strategies/Programs/Activities	Lead	Partners
<p>2019 g. Pilot-testing of Participation Rate of Stakeholders Survey Tool</p> <p>2020 h. Participation Rate of Stakeholders Survey Result (Baseline)</p> <p>2022 i. Participation Rate of Stakeholders Survey</p>		

KRA 3.2: Complementations

Strategies/Programs/Activities	Lead	Partners
<p>3. Broadening partnership in the management of VAWC issues</p> <p>3.1. Partnership building program</p> <p>2017 a. Option 1: Engagement of consultants re: Development of survey tools (working draft)</p> <p>2018 b. Development of survey tools for Satisfaction and Engagement Rate of Stakeholders (working draft IACVAWC level)</p> <p>2019 c. Option 1: Satisfaction and Engagement Rate Survey Result (Baseline) / Option 2: Hiring of Consultants to development survey tools (working draft) for Satisfaction and Engagement Rate Survey</p> <p>2020 d. Option 2: Pilot-testing of Satisfaction and Engagement Rate of Stakeholders Survey Tools</p> <p>2021 e. Option 2: Satisfaction and Engagement Rate Survey Result (Baseline)</p> <p>3.2. Formulation of a communication plan</p>		

KRA 3.3: Functionality of Systems and Structures at All Levels

Strategies/Programs/Activities	Lead	Partners
<p>4. Strengthening of monitoring and evaluation mechanisms</p> <p>4.1. Database and referral system in the management of VAWC cases used at the local level</p> <p>4.2. Development and implementation of functionality tools for local and national level</p> <p>4.3. Development of monitoring and evaluation (M&E) plan and reporting system</p>	IACVAWC	DILG
<p>5. Strengthening IACVAWC structures and secretariat</p> <p>5.1. Development of an evaluation agenda</p> <p>5.2. Creation of plantilla positions</p> <p>5.3. Capacity building program for secretariat and council members</p> <p>Activities:</p> <p>2017</p> <p>a. Issuance of resolution adopting the Guidelines in Monitoring the Functionality Tool of Barangay VAW Desks</p> <p>b. Consultation dialogue with the LCEs</p> <p>c. Administration of the Functionality Tool for Barangay VAW Desks</p> <p>d. Development of Functionality Tool for IACVAWC and LCAT-VAWC</p> <p>e. Development of M&E plan and reporting system</p> <p>f. Inclusion re: creation of plantilla position under Tier 2 for 2018 Budget Proposal i.e. ToR for the Technical Secretariat</p> <p>g. Creation of Qualification Standards for each position title</p>	<p>PCW</p> <p>DILG IACVAWC</p>	<p>IACVAWC</p> <p>RCAT-VAWC PCAT-VAWC</p>

Strategies/Programs/Activities	Lead	Partners
<p>2018</p> <p>a. Identifying/setting the baseline on the level of functionality of Barangay VAW Desks</p> <p>b. Interfacing of existing information system (web-based) for the referral system in management of VAWC cases</p> <p>c. Implementation of M&E plan and reporting system</p> <p>2019</p> <p>a. Identifying/setting the baseline on the level of functionality of LCAT-VAWC</p> <p>b. Annual reporting on the functionality of Barangay VAW Desks</p> <p>c. Strategic Review Workshop to report updates on the Strategic Plan 2017 to 2022</p> <p>d. Implementation of M&E Plan and reporting system</p> <p>2020</p> <p>a. Identifying/setting the baseline on the level of functionality of the IACVAWC</p> <p>b. Annual reporting on the functionality of Barangay VAW Desks</p> <p>c. Implementation of M&E plan and reporting system</p> <p>2021</p> <p>a. Annual reporting on the functionality of Barangay VAW Desks</p> <p>b. Implementation of M&E plan and reporting system</p> <p>2022</p> <p>a. Annual reporting on the functionality of LCAT-VAWC</p> <p>b. Annual reporting on the functionality of Barangay VAW Desks</p> <p>c. Planning Workshop to develop Strategic Plan 2023 to 2028</p> <p>d. Implementation of M&E Plan and Reporting System</p>		

5. PLAN IMPLEMENTATION AND MONITORING

Once the plan is adopted and approved, the Council will issue the necessary guidelines for the implementation of the plan, including resources required to implement the various programs and activities, such as the use of the GAD budget. The said guidelines will include the submission of agency plans (annual and 6-year period) in support of the targets and strategies of the plan.

If needed, the Council will lobby for bridging funds and/or additional funds to jumpstart plan implementation since the 2017 budgets have already been allocated and 2018 budgets are already being deliberated. Where possible, partnership with NGOs and development partners will be explored to augment resources for plan implementation or for cost-sharing arrangements for some programs.

Convergence among stakeholders underlie plan implementation, monitoring and evaluation, with the Chair at the helm, together with the heads of the technical working committees and with the support of the Secretariat.

In this regard:

1. The plan will be cascaded and advocated for implementation at the RIACAT-VAWC and LGU levels;
2. Where relevant and possible, the plan will be shared with related mechanisms that are in the process of preparing their respective strategic plans, for possible convergence and collaboration;
3. Inter-intra linkages among agencies and partners will be reviewed and strengthened as needed;
4. NGOs, the private sector and other development partners will be more actively engaged in plan implementation, monitoring and evaluation. Where needed and where possible, government support for NGOs providing services to victims will be explored;
5. Respectful of its autonomy and cultural and religious identity, but mindful of the situation of VAW among Muslims, ARMM will be engaged by the Council upon proper coordination with ARMM leadership and with concerned agencies at the ARMM level;

6. The media and other relevant media organizations will be engaged in relevant strategies such as in advocacy and primary prevention programs;
7. Other agencies that are not members of the Council at the national level will be engaged as needed, particularly if their mandates impact on women's human rights, or if they are members of relevant regional and local councils addressing VAW;
8. Member agencies and other agencies that have committed to support the plan will integrate this plan in their annual and term plans in support of its implementation.

Roles and Accountabilities of Agencies in Plan Implementation, Monitoring, and Reporting

Monitoring and feedback mechanisms will be established to determine progress in implementation. The Council will undertake the following:

1. Direct the development of tools and the administration of these tools for monitoring and feedback. The TWCs could take the lead in the development of the tools in coordination with the Secretariat;
2. Direct the gathering of relevant data and information from agencies and from data producing agencies to support the monitoring and assessment of plan implementation and the achievement of results;
3. Expect concerned agencies to deliver on the programs and targets that they committed under the plan; hence, periodic reporting on progress will be required from the members;
4. Committees and mechanisms will be created to facilitate monitoring and reporting on plan implementation;
5. The Secretariat shall draft reporting formats for approval of the Council including the process of obtaining reports from the local through the regional and national level. The Secretariat shall convene review meetings to assess progress in implementation based on the submitted reports. The assessment will focus on progress in the attainment of targets based on the outcome indicators and the attendant gaps and issues that affect implementation.

6. NEXT STEPS FOR PLAN IMPLEMENTATION

For the strategic plan to take off the ground, the Secretariat needs to push for the immediate planning and implementation of the following activities to be spearheaded by member agencies.

Area / KRA	Description	Lead / Remarks
1. Issuance of mandate for implementation and resource allocation	<p>Principals need also to be briefed on their respective agency responsibilities in implementing the plan. This is expected to facilitate the review and approval of the plan and the issuance of the mandate for implementation.</p> <p>After approval, IACVAWC needs to issue a memo enjoining all concerned agencies and LGUs to implement and/or support plan implementation.</p>	Secretariat to draft the memo and package the strategic plan and circulate it to members and other stakeholders
2. Submission of agency plans in support of the strategic plan	The agency plans will show the extent by which they support the strategic plan and will, in a way, project the extent the objectives and targets will be achieved. The agency plan will also be the basis in monitoring progress in implementation.	<p>Secretariat needs to continue following up agencies who have not submitted their plan, and a report on the status of submissions to the Council.</p> <p>Secretariat will use the work plans as basis in monitoring implementation.</p>

Area / KRA	Description	Lead / Remarks
3. Cascading the Plan	<p>Support and ownership for implementation of this plan implementation is most crucial at the lower level or at the frontlines of service delivery. While representatives of this group were consulted and included in the planning process and their inputs duly considered, it is important to ensure that the plan's objectives and strategies are integrated in lower level plans for VAWC, and included allocation of resources for implementation.</p> <p>Key targets to which the plan needs to be cascaded will be undertaken by the RIACAT-VAWCs who serve as the Council's link to the local governments and which are the first responders for women victims.</p> <p>With the timely communication and directive from the Council the RIACAT-VAWCs and LGUs currently reviewing and revising their own plan, would have the opportunity to integrate the strategic plan.</p>	<p>IACVAWC Secretariat has started sharing the plan with a few RIACAT-VAWCS.</p> <p>The Secretariat could request for an immediate directive or memo from the IACVAWC to the RIACAT-VAWCs for this purpose.</p> <p>DSWD as the Chair of the Council and coordinating agency for these local councils is recommended to take the lead with support from the Secretariat.</p>
4. Convening of the TWC for CCSA	<p>The purpose of convening this TWC is for it to spearhead the development of feedback and monitoring tools. As the concerned committee, it could provide initial instructions to the Secretariat on the process and content of tool development.</p> <p>The Committee could also identify responsibilities in the finalization of the tool, such as in piloting, as well as the mechanism or process of tool administration, data gathering, processing and roll up of results from local to national level for measurement of impact.</p>	<p>The Secretariat could initially draft the tools as identified below before convening the TWC so that it will have something to start with. It can also propose the process and content of tool development for discussion and finalization of the committee.</p>

KRA 1: Primary Prevention

Area / KRA	Description	Lead / Remarks
1. Setting baseline data for the indicators and development of feedback and monitoring tools	<p>a. Percent change in reporting of VA cases.</p> <p>Data from service agencies are needed to complete or complement PNP data with their own data.</p> <p>Data on women-victims who reported and availed of their assistance during the same period need to be collected from the following agencies - DSWD, DOH, PNP, NBI, CSC, DOJ.</p>	Secretariat will need to follow up service agencies for the data for the indicators.
	<p>b. Survey tool to measure level of understanding of VAW and support for VAW victims among audiences targeted by advocacy activities.</p> <p>A survey tool to determine level of understanding of VAW and support for victims needs to be developed. It should capture disaggregated data by sector of women especially marginalized women (IPs, PWDs, elderly, poor women, etc.) This tool is targeted for 2018 so that baseline data could be set in 2019. However, it could be considered during the development of other tools such as #2 below.</p>	The Secretariat could start drafting the tool and immediately convene the TWC on Cross-Cutting Structures and Actions (CCSA) to review and finalize it for piloting.
	<p>c. Institutionalizing a feedback and monitoring system on advocacy programs and coming up with a tool to determine level of satisfaction on advocacy activities/ programs by target groups.</p> <p>This tool could be developed alongside the ADVOCOM plan. This tool is expected to be developed in 2017 so that a baseline could be set for 2018. It will be an aggregation or overall result of the administration of a tool on level of satisfaction on each and all advocacy activities on VAWC which should be administered at all levels. The tool will be part of the feedback and monitoring system to be developed.</p>	<p>PCW may want to work this out with DSWD and with the TWC on CCSA so that it could be considered alongside other tools and mechanisms for monitoring and coordination.</p> <p>Since there are existing tools used in government, the TWC may initiate a new tool or it can review existing tools on level of satisfaction and enhance it for use by all service providers.</p>

Area / KRA	Description	Lead / Remarks
2. Development of the ADVOCOM Plan	<p>The development of the ADVOCOM Plan has to be started in 2017 with the gathering of reports and good experiences as source of lessons learned in advocacy and primary prevention as initial activities. The workshops to gather inputs and develop the plan are also programmed for 2017.</p> <p>Budgets will have to be identified to prepare the reference documents and convene the workshops. Tier 2 budgets could include these activities.</p>	<p>PCW was identified as the lead agency for this. The ED will need to direct the appropriate division to provide the technical direction in the initial activities and the budget source. Secretariat could organize the activities.</p>

KRA 2: Response System

Area / KRA	Description	Lead / Remarks
1. Setting baseline data for the indicators and development of feedback and monitoring tools	<p>a. Percent change in reporting of VAWC cases (same as in primary prevention as this indicator is used for both key result areas)</p> <p>b. Access of victim survivors to services</p> <p><u>Support indicator:</u></p> <p>b.1. Increase in the number of barangays with functional VAW desks</p> <p>Data element required: Percent of the 88 per cent barangays with established VAW Desks that are at basic and functional levels (towards targeting 100 per cent basic level of functionality in 2020 and 50 per cent mature level of functionality in 2022)</p> <p>The issuance of the joint memorandum circular is needed so that official adoption of the functionality proposed by DILG so that it could be used in the assessment.</p>	<p>DILG is the lead in determining level of VAW desks according to the measures of functionality.</p> <p>The Secretariat will need to coordinate with DILG and NAPC for the continuing assessment of the level of functionality of VAW desks.</p>

Area / KRA	Description	Lead / Remarks
	<p>c. Level of satisfaction on quality and consistency of service</p> <p>The target is to measure a client satisfaction rating of 75 per cent midline and 95 per cent endline.</p>	<p>The tool on level of satisfaction should be discussed by the TWC on CCSA so that it could decide whether to develop a new tool or adopt and enhance an existing tool being used by government agencies/LGUs.</p>
2. Mapping of available program and services for VAWC victims in each municipality	<p>This is an important activity to establish access of women victims to services. Mapping could be undertaken alongside other related activities such as the assessment of VAW desk functionality.</p> <p>A tool for mapping needs to be developed to standardize information on services and programs.</p>	<p>The IACVAWC, with the LCATVAWCs were identified as lead in mapping services in each municipality, in coordination with NAPC-WSC.</p> <p>The TWCs and the secretariat could work together in planning the mapping (with LCATVAWCs) and in developing the tool.</p> <p>IACVAWC needs to identify the resources needed and the source, for the mapping.</p>

KRA 3: Cross-Cutting Structures and Actions

Area / KRA	Description	Lead / Remarks
1. Setting baseline data for the indicators and development of feedback and monitoring tools	<p>a. Determining levels of functionality of national and local CATVAWCs</p> <p>The baseline for this indicator will be set on 2018, which means that the tool for determining level of functionality needs to be developed and tested in 2017.</p> <p>b. Development of the M&E plan and reporting system</p>	<p>IACVAWC needs to prioritize the M&E plan and reporting system so that it could track progress.</p> <p>This task could be spearheaded by the TWCs and if IACVAWC decides, it could engage a consultant to develop the system.</p>

ANNEX. IACVWAC RESOLUTION NO. 02



Republic of the Philippines
INTER-AGENCY COUNCIL ON VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN
AND THEIR CHILDREN (IACVAWC)

RESOLUTION NO. 02 Series of 2018

FUNDING COMMITMENT FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION AND MONITORING OF RA 9262 AS OPERATIONALIZED IN THE IACVAWC STRATEGIC PLAN, 2017-2022

WHEREAS, RA 9262 or the Anti-Violence Against Women and Their Children Act of 2004 was enacted in accordance with the State policy that values the dignity of women and children and guarantees full respect for human rights and recognizes the need to protect the family and its members, particularly women and children, from violence and threats to their personal safety and security;

WHEREAS, Rule VIII of the Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR) of RA 9262, outlines the specific duties and responsibilities of government agencies, local government units (LGUs), and concerned government officials and employees as regard the implementation of the law which includes prosecutors, court personnel, barangay officials, and health care personnel;

WHEREAS, the establishment of an Inter-agency Council on Violence Against Women and Their Children (IACVAWC) was provided for under Rule IX of the IRR, the national mechanism mandated to ensure the effective implementation of the law and serve as the lead coordinator and monitoring body on VAWC initiatives;

WHEREAS, the IACVAWC is composed of 12 member agencies: DSWD, CSC, CHR, NCRFW, now PCW, CWC, DOJ, DILG, PNP, DOH, DepEd, DOLE, and NBI are tasked to develop and implement programs and projects to eliminate violence against women which includes, but not limited to the promotion of Anti-VAWC Act, capability building of stakeholders, comprehensive program for VAWC victim-survivors, networking with other stakeholders, monitoring of the implementation of the Act, and research on the integrated approach to eliminate VAWC and nature and root causes of VAWC;

WHEREAS, to operationalize the provisions of RA 9262, the IACVAWC developed its third Strategic Plan for 2017-2022 which is based on the assessment of previous strategic plans, results of regional consultations, and the specific programs and activities provided for in the IRR;

WHEREAS, there is a need for member-agencies and heads of other concerned departments and agencies to include in their annual agency appropriations beginning 2019 onwards the funding necessary to implement programs and services identified in the Plan;

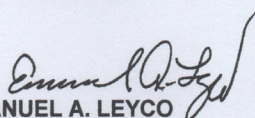
WHEREAS, this funding requirement is in line with Section 64 which further provides that all concerned departments including their attached agencies, offices, state colleges and universities, government-owned and/or controlled corporations and LGUs shall prioritize the use of their GAD Budget for services and programs for VAWC victim-survivors as well as in its prevention;

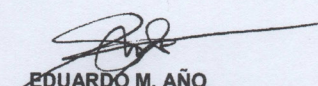
WHEREAS, the Strategic Plan will not take off the ground without specific budget allocation from council members and other concerned agencies including LGUs;



WHEREAS, considering that agency budgets for 2018, including their respective GAD Budgets, have already been approved in Congress, **bridging funds** will have to be provided by council members for the implementation of common IACVAWC activities identified in the Strategic Plan, such as setting baseline data for the indicators and development of feedback and monitoring tools, cascading the Plan at the regional and local levels, and national mapping of available programs and services for VAW victim-survivors, among others;

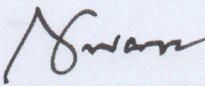
NOW, THEREFORE, for and in consideration of the foregoing premises, the IACVAWC, as a collegial body, hereby commits funding support for the implementation and monitoring of the Strategic Action Plan, 2017-2022 and other VAWC initiatives to address emerging and other priority concerns by including such in their annual agency appropriations beginning 2019 and onwards.

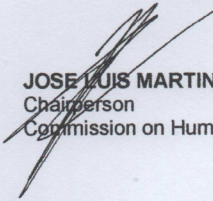
DONE this ___ day of _____ in the year of the Lord, Two Thousand Eighteen, in Manila, Philippines.

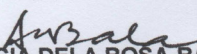

EMMANUEL A. LEYCO
Officer-in-Charge / Chair
Department of Social Welfare
and Development

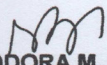

EDUARDO M. AÑO
Officer-in-Charge / Co-Chair
Department of the Interior and Local
Government

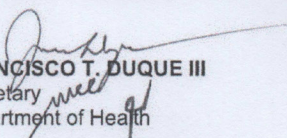
 
DILG-DBEC 07012018-10551



MENARDO I. GUEVARRA
Secretary
Department of Justice

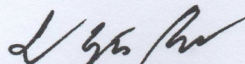

JOSE LUIS MARTIN C. GASCON
Chairperson
Commission on Human Rights



ALICIA DELA ROSA-BALA
Chairperson
Civil Service Commission


RHODORA M. BUCOY
Chairperson
Philippine Commission on Women


FRANCISCO T. DUQUE III
Secretary
Department of Health

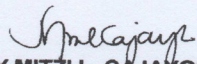

OSCAR D. ALBAYALDE
Director-General
Philippine National Police


LEONOR M. BRIONES
Secretary
Department of Education


DANTE A. GIERRAN
Director
National Bureau of Investigation


SILVESTRE H. BELLO III
Secretary
Department of Labor and Employment
Dept. of Labor & Employment
Office of the Secretary

026635


MARY MITZI L. CAJAYON-UY
Executive Director
Council for the Welfare of Children



**Inter-Agency Council on
Violence Against
Women and Their Children**

**Philippine
Commission
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