



Republic of the Philippines
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT
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GUIDELINES ON THE LOCALIZATION OF THE COMPREHENSIVE EMERGENCY PROGRAM FOR CHILDREN (CEPC) OF RA 10821, CHILDREN'S EMERGENCY RELIEF AND PROTECTION ACT

Memorandum Circular No. 2018-196

Date: November 9, 2018

1. PREFATORY STATEMENT

The Philippines is prone to disasters and calamities, and other emergency situations that cause massive destruction to and/or loss of lives, properties, infrastructure, and crops, among others, leaving millions of Filipinos critically affected. During these emergency situations, children are the most vulnerable and at higher risk to diseases and deaths, and, worst affected by food insecurity, disrupted schooling, homelessness, and separation from families.

While it is the primary responsibility of parents to ensure the safety and protection of their children, as provided for in the Civil Code and Family Code, the State has the obligation, under the 1987 Constitution to defend the rights of children to assistance, including the proper care and nutrition, special protection from all forms of neglect, abuse, cruelty and exploitation, and other conditions prejudicial to their development.

Pursuant to Republic Act (RA) 7160, otherwise known as the Local Government Code of 1991, Local Government Units (LGUs) are mandated to ensure the general welfare of their constituents and to provide basic social services, among others, for the care of abandoned minors, abused children, juvenile delinquents, drug dependents, and other needy and disadvantaged persons, particularly children and youth below eighteen (18) years of age

Given the vulnerability of children to natural and human-induced emergency situations, Republic Act No. 10821, otherwise known as the Children's Emergency Relief and Protection Act was enacted to protect the fundamental rights of children before, during, and after disasters and other emergency situations when children are gravely threatened or endangered by circumstances that affect their survival and normal development.

RA 10821 is the State's affirmation of its commitment to the United Nations (UN) Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC), the Children's Charter for Disaster Risk and Reduction, the minimum standards for children in humanitarian action, to the UN Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) and the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CPRD).

RA 10821 mandates the national and local governments to formulate Comprehensive Emergency Programs for Children (CEPC) that abide with humanitarian standards in handling disasters and other emergency situations for the protection of children, pregnant and lactating mothers. The standards and protocols provided for in CEPC shall be implemented immediately after the declaration of a national or local state of calamity or occurrence of any other emergency situation.

The Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG), mandated to assist the President in the general supervision of local governments, shall principally advocate, among others, for the localization of the CEPC by Local Government Units, as mandated by law.

2. PURPOSE

Pursuant to Section 4 of RA 10821, this Circular is issued to:

- a. enjoin Local Government Units (LGUs) and provide them guidance in the localization of their CEPCs and its integration into their Comprehensive/Local Development Plans (C/LDP), Annual Investment Programs (AIPs), Local Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Plans (LDRRMP) and Local Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Funds (LDRRMF), and contingency plans; and,
- b. ensure the widest dissemination of information on the provisions of the law for LGU compliance.

3. COVERAGE/INTENDED USER

This Circular shall cover all Provincial Governors, City and Municipal Mayors, Punong Barangays, ARMM Regional Governor, DILG ARMM Regional Secretary, DILG Regional Directors/Field Officers, Local Disaster Risk Reduction Management Councils, Local Councils for the Protection of Children and others concerned.

4. POLICY CONTENT

The policy guidelines and development process in the localization of the CEPC, as provided in this Circular, are described in detail and expounded in a separate guidebook.

4.1. CEPC COMPONENTS

The National CEPC provides the policy and strategic framework for a localized CEPC and adopts the eight (8) components stipulated in Section 4 of RA 10821.

These components shall be adopted and contextualized in the Local CEPC:

- 4.1.1. Establishment of evacuation centers that are safe, inclusive, child-friendly, gender sensitive and responsive to the needs of children in emergency situations;
- 4.1.2. Establishment of children- and women-friendly transitional shelters, and a referral mechanism for orphaned, unaccompanied, and separated children;
- 4.1.3. Assurance for immediate delivery of basic necessities and services to affected children;
- 4.1.4. Stronger measures to ensure the safety and security of affected children;
- 4.1.5. Delivery of health services, medical care, and nutritional services;
- 4.1.6. Plan of action for prompt resumption of educational services for children;
- 4.1.7. Establishment of child-friendly spaces; and,
- 4.1.8. Promotion of children's rights.

Detailed descriptions of each component and the respective roles and responsibilities of different stakeholders are articulated in the National Comprehensive Emergency Program for Children (CEPC) - Eight Components, based on Section 4 of RA 10821.

4.2. INSTITUTIONAL ARRANGEMENTS FOR PROGRAM DEVELOPMENT OF THE LOCAL CEPC

4.2.1. National Government Agencies

- 4.2.1.1. The Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD), as the lead agency for program formulation, developed the Comprehensive Emergency Program for Children. The DSWD is responsible further for engaging all relevant government agencies and stakeholders in the implementation of CEPC.
- 4.2.1.2. The Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG) shall enjoin LGUs in the localization of the CEPC.
- 4.2.1.3. Other key national government agencies and stakeholders accountable for the implementation of the CEPC are as follows: Office of Civil Defense of the Department of National Defense, as Secretariat to the National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council; Council for the Welfare of Children; Department of Education; Department of Health; Department of Environment and Natural Resources; Department of Public Works and Highways; Department of Science and Technology; Armed Forces of the Philippines; Commission on Higher Education;; National Housing Authority;

National Nutrition Council; Philippine National Police; Philippine Statistical Authority; Technical Education and Skills Development Authority; and, Inter-Agency Council Against Trafficking.

4.2.2. Local Government Units

- 4.2.2.1. Local Chief Executives (LCEs) at provincial, city and municipal levels shall be enjoined to localize the CEPC to ensure that children and those of them with special needs, pregnant women and lactating mothers, are safe, protected and have access to services before, during and after disasters and emergency situations.
- 4.2.2.2. The LCE may designate respective representatives of the Local Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council (LDRRMC) and the Local Council for the Protection of Children (LCPC) as co-chairs in the development of the Local CEPC.
- 4.2.2.3. The Local Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council (LDRRMC) shall be responsible for the integration of the CEPC in the LGU comprehensive development plan, contingency plan, and LDRRM Plan (LDRRMP) and LDRRM Fund (LDRRMF), as stipulated in Section 2 (b), Rule IV of the Implementing Rules and Regulations of RA 10821.
- 4.2.2.4. The LDRRM Office (LDRRMO) may serve as the lead office in the planning, implementation, monitoring and reporting of the Local CEPC, in coordination with the Local Planning and Development Office and the Local Social Welfare and Development Office.
- 4.2.2.5. The Local Council for the Protection of Children shall provide the child rights perspective critical to Local CEPC components especially on compliance to the criteria of child-friendly spaces and the promotion of child rights, among others.
- 4.2.2.6. At the barangay level, DILG Memorandum Circular 2016-115 emphasized the role of Barangay Officials, as custodians of children's rights within their barangays.
- 4.2.2.7. The leagues of local governments, particularly the League of Provinces of the Philippines, League of Cities of the Philippines, and League of Municipalities of the Philippines, can be tapped to advocate support for the localization of the CEPC.
- 4.2.2.8. Civil society organizations (CSOs) and children shall be involved in the localization process, from plan formulation to implementation and monitoring and evaluation of the Local CEPC.

4.3. DEVELOPMENT PHASES OF THE LOCAL CEPC

The development of the Local CEPC may entail three (3) consecutive phases. Consultation processes can be made participatory, inclusive and gender sensitive through all the phases.

4.3.1. Organizational Phase

4.3.1.1. The Local Chief Executive (LCE), through an Executive Order, may create an Ad Hoc Committee, as necessary, to serve as the Technical Working Group in the development of the Local CEPC.

4.3.1.2. The Ad Hoc Committee may be co-chaired by the LDRRMO or the duly designated representative of the LDRRMC, and by a duly designated member of the LCPC. It can be composed of, but not limited to, the following: key members of the LDRRMC and LCPC, representatives from civil society organizations (CSOs) and children's groups.

4.3.1.3. The Ad Hoc Committee, together with members of the LDRRMC and LCPC, shall be oriented on the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child, Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women, Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, RA 10821, the national CEPC, and other relevant topics. The orientation may be organized by the LDRRMO, in coordination with other government and non-government agencies.

4.3.1.4. The Ad Hoc Committee shall develop its work schedule/timeline for the development of its Local CEPC.

4.3.2. Assessment and Analysis Phase

4.3.2.1. An analysis of the general situation of children in the LGU (Situation Analysis) prior to program formulation can be prepared by the Local Council for the Protection of Children, pursuant to Section B.1, DILG MC 2005-07 on guidelines for monitoring LCPC functionality. LGUs with existing stand-alone Situation Analysis, or, may already have them in the context of their Local Plans of Action for Children, need not develop a new one but may update them, as necessary.

4.3.2.2. A hazards and vulnerability assessment may be developed or updated and enhanced, as necessary, by the LDRRMO, to emphasize the vulnerability of children, pregnant and lactating mothers, especially during emergency situations.

4.3.2.3. The process of developing, updating and enhancement of the Situation Analysis and hazards and vulnerability assessment shall be made participatory and inclusive.

4.3.3. Local CEPC Drafting and Adoption Phase

- 4.3.3.1. The Ad Hoc Committee may convene a series of consultation workshops to formulate the draft Local CEPC.
- 4.3.3.2. The Ad Hoc Committee may present and submit the draft Local CEPC to the LCE for approval.
- 4.3.3.3. The LCE shall endorse the Local CEPC to the Sanggunian for policy adoption, budget allocation, and integration to the local plans and such other appropriate actions necessary for its implementation.

4.4. INTEGRATION OF THE LOCAL CEPC TO LGU PLANS AND BUDGETS

- 4.4.1. The LDRRMC, in cooperation with relevant offices, shall be responsible for the Local CEPC integration to C/LDPs, AIPs, LDRRMPs, LDRRMFs, and other contingency plans of the LGU.
- 4.4.2. The integration of the Local CEPC to the LDRRM Plan and LDRRM Fund shall be guided by suggested Programs, Projects and Activities (PPAs) of the CEPC eight components/action points organized according to the four (4) DRRM thematic areas: (i) Disaster Prevention and Mitigation; (ii) Disaster Preparedness; (iii) Disaster Response; and, (iv) Recovery and Rehabilitation. Other components are added for integration: (i) Capacity-Building; (ii) Implementation and Management; (iii) Reporting, Monitoring and Evaluation; and (iv) Time Frame and Budget Requirements.
- 4.4.3. Budget allocation for the Local CEPC can be drawn from a share or portion of funds from any or among the following and other sources based on existing guidelines for utilization:
 - 4.4.3.1. Local Government Funds
 - 4.4.3.1.1. LDRRM Fund
 - 4.4.3.1.2. Local Development Fund
 - 4.4.3.1.3. Gender and Development fund
 - 4.4.3.1.4. Special Education Fund
 - 4.4.3.1.5. Other Local Government Sources
 - 4.4.3.2. National Government Agency Budgets
 - 4.4.3.3. National and International Funding Agencies/Donors
 - 4.4.3.4. Other Sources

4.4.4. The following minimum content of the Local CEPC is provided for guidance in program development:

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| 1. | Policy basis – RA 10821 and local ordinances |
| 2. | Mandatory eight (8) components of the CEPC with description, expected outcomes or results, roles and responsibilities |
| 3. | Capacity-building |
| 4. | Implementation and management |
| 5. | Reporting, monitoring and evaluation |
| 6. | Time frame and budgetary requirements |

4.5. REPORTING, MONITORING AND EVALUATION OF THE LOCAL CEPC

4.5.1. Reporting Mechanism

4.5.1.1. The LGU shall prepare two (2) reports: (a) 15 days after the occurrence of an emergency situation; and, (b) annual report.

4.5.1.2. The Local Planning and Development Office shall be responsible for preparing and consolidating the Local CEPC report and for its submission to the LCE for approval.

4.5.1.3. The LGU shall submit the approved compliance report to the DSWD Field Office. The DSWD will submit consolidated annual report to the Congress and the Office of the President.

4.5.2. In the event that a national or local state of calamity/emergency is declared, the Local CEPC and its related standards and protocols shall be immediately activated.

4.5.3. Monitoring and Evaluation System

4.5.3.1. The existing program monitoring and evaluation (M&E) system of the LGUs can be adopted for the Local CEPC. M&E shall be performed by the Local Planning and Development Office.

4.5.3.2. The Local CEPC monitoring and evaluation indicators shall be identified based on the existing minimum standards issued by the DSWD and must be reflected in the LGU project monitoring and evaluation system.

5. REFERENCES

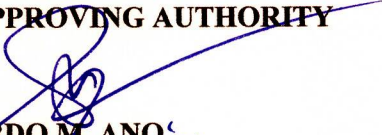
- 5.1. Republic Act No. 10121 Philippine Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Act
- 5.2. Republic Act No. 7160 Local Government Code

- 5.3. Republic Act No.10821 Children's Emergency Relief and Protection Act and its Implementing Rules and Regulations
- 5.4. National Comprehensive Emergency Program for Children
- 5.5. MC 2009-170 Mainstreaming Child Rights in the Rationalized Planning System
- 5.6. DILG MC 2005-07 Guidelines in the Monitoring of the Functionality of Local Councils for the Protection of Children (LCPC) at All Levels
- 5.7. DILG MC 2016-115 Role of Barangay Officials as Custodian of Children's Rights
- 5.8. And all other related laws, executive orders, circulars, and other issuances.

6. EFFECTIVITY

This Memorandum Circular shall take effect immediately.

7. APPROVING AUTHORITY


EDUARDO M. ANO
Secretary

