



Situation summary

Please see the Philippines Department of Health (DOH) daily [Situation Update](#) for further information.



2,803,213
Cases



2,725,257
Recoveries



44,430
Deaths



29,478,600
Vaccinated

- DOH recorded 33,526¹ active cases as of 7 November 2021, with the breakdown of active cases (based on disposition upon accomplishing case investigation forms) as follows:
 - Asymptomatic: 1,916 (5.7%)
 - Mild: 22,129 (66%)
 - Moderate: 5,165 (15.4%)
 - Severe: 3,031 (9%)
 - Critical: 1,285 (3.8%)

- Top regions by Active Cases:

1	National Capital Region (NCR)	6,484
2	Region IV-A: CALABARZON	3,726
3	Region III: Central Luzon	3,058
4	Region II: Cagayan Valley	2,812
5	Region VI: Western Visayas	1,967
6	Region VII: Central Visayas	1,873
7	Region VIII: Eastern Visayas	1,704
8	Region I: Ilocos Region	1,572
9	Region IX: Zamboanga Peninsula	1,545
10	Region V: Bicol Region	1,533

- Out of the total 44,430 reported COVID-19 deaths, the most affected age group was 60-69 years old (26%) followed by 70-79 years old age group (22%) and 50-59 years old age group (19%). Around 14% of the deaths belong to the age group 80 years old and above.
- Twenty-three percent (23%) of the total number of deaths reported were from NCR, followed by Central Luzon (13%), CALABARZON (12%), Central Visayas (11%), and Western Visayas (7%).
- DOH recorded a total of 27,580 healthcare workers that tested positive for COVID-19 as of 7 November 2021. Of these, 27,318 (99.1%) have recovered, 106 (0.4%) have died and 156 (0.5%) are active cases. Of the 156 active cases 59 (37.8%) were mild cases, 40 (25.6%) were asymptomatic, 21 (13.5%) in moderate condition, 27 (17.3%) in severe condition, and 9 (5.8%) in critical condition.

¹ Data as of 7 November 2021 can be found in [DOH's BEAT COVID-19 report](#).

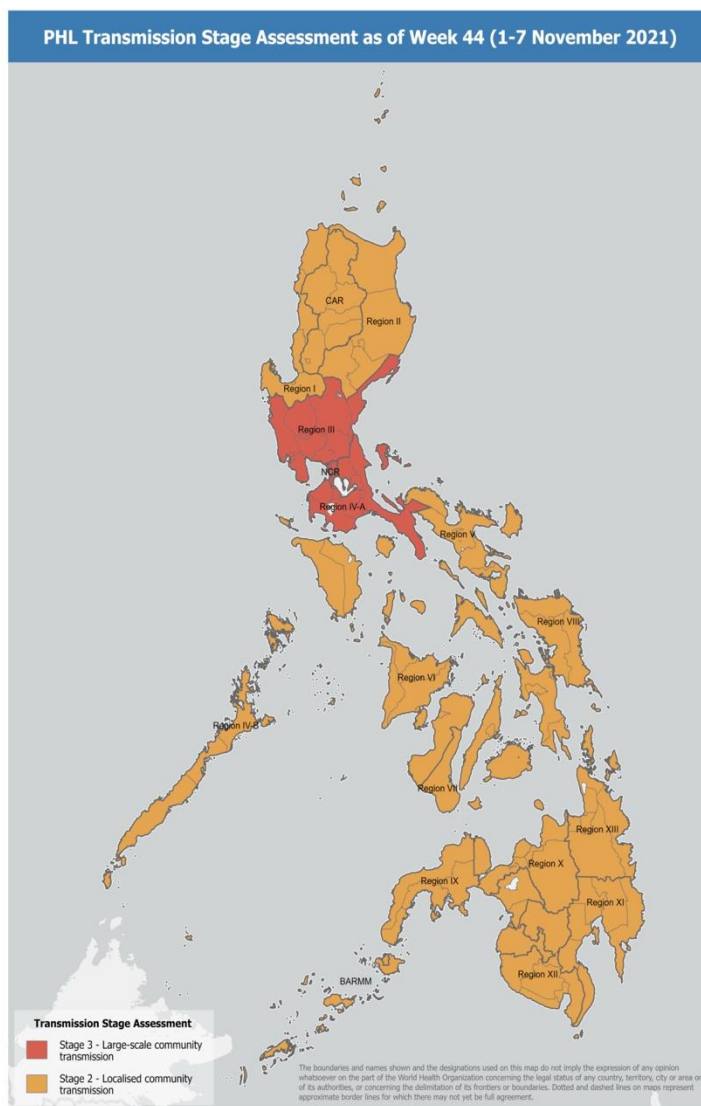


Transmission stage assessment

In terms of the overall situation of the Philippines, there were 16,314 new cases (15 cases per 100,000 population) reported in week 44 (1-7 November 2021), that is 46% lower than the previous week (30,436 new cases, 28 cases per 100,000 population).

A lower 7-day positivity rate (number of individuals that tested positive/number of individuals tested) was reported for week 44 at 5.8% (16,019/277,745), compared to week 43 at 7.8% (25,236/321,594). A decline in the daily number (7-day average) of COVID-19 dedicated ICU beds occupied was observed (1,739 beds this week compared to 2,050 beds last week), and a downtrend in the utilization of COVID-19 dedicated mechanical ventilators (7-day average) for week 43 (898 ventilators compared to 1,063 ventilators last week) was observed.

The Philippines remains at **Stage 2, localised community transmission** with some geographic areas showing higher transmission intensity and indications of widespread community transmission. There is ongoing evidence of higher transmission in **NCR, Region III, and Region IV-A at Stage 3, large-scale community transmission**.



Data for analysis was extracted on 8 November 2021 from DOH COVID-19 Case Tracker wherein ROFs and records with no regions were excluded in the analysis. Projected 2021 population (national, $n=110,198,654$) was used as the denominator.

Epidemiological updates

As of 7 November 2021, a total of **2,803,213** confirmed COVID-19 cases and **44,430** deaths have been reported in the Philippines. The case fatality ratio is 1.6%.



Epi Update COVID-19

Tests	Cases	Deaths	ICU Occupancy
293,732	16,399	118	43%
Tests past 7 days	Cases past 7 days	Deaths past 7 days	
21,933,690	2,803,213	44,430	4,019
Cumulative unique individuals tested	Cumulative cases	Cumulative deaths	ICU beds for COVID-19 cases
13.52%			
Cumulative Positivity Rate			

Health service provision COVID-19

27,580	1,261	38,256	139,610
Healthcare worker cases as of 7 November 2021 (cumulative)	Hospitals admitting COVID-19 patients	Total hospital beds for COVID-19 patients	TTMF beds for COVID-19 cases (as of 7 November)
156		30%	
HCW active cases		hospital beds for COVID-19 occupied	

Strategic approach to COVID-19 Prevention, Detection and Control

Health Service Delivery

- WHO Philippines presented on optimizing home care management especially for mild, low risk patients, and also healthcare pathways including through home based management for Region IX, CAR, Cagayan Valley, Basilan and Isabela City, highlighting the importance of HBM as an integral component of patient management from the beginning and not when healthcare facilities are experiencing increased occupancy.

Surveillance and Subnational Assessment

- The Information and Planning team has presented before the Region II Cagayan Valley IATF-EID the need to monitor all-cause mortality as one of the key components of multi-source surveillance approaches for COVID-19 response. Acceleration of elderly vaccination (A2 priority), continuous strengthening of health care capacity and preparedness (e.g., early access to oxygen), and preparing for the expected increase of returning overseas Filipinos and individuals that will be visiting provinces from major cities during the holidays were highlighted during the presentation.
- In Ilocos, Modified Enhanced Community Quarantine (MECQ) was implemented for Laoag City and nine (9) other municipalities. This includes clustering of persons in barangays in July to access essential goods. There is a downward trend of the confirmed number of cases when MECQ was implemented. There is a 13% decrease of the samples tested from Week 41 to Week 40. Current positivity rate at 9% as of 23 October. Isolation beds and COVID-19 beds occupancy is at 40% compared to critical risk reported in August. Fully vaccinated A2 and A3 is at 54% and 70%, respectively.



- In Basilan and Isabela City, there is an increasing trend of cases observed. COVID-19 cases are concentrated in two (2) cities (Lamitan & Isabela City). In Basilan, it is mostly household transmission with some cases of no known exposure to confirmed cases. Possible sources of infections were observed in weddings and quarantine control points. Between 16 October and 31 October, Basilan is placed under MGCQ and Isabela City is under GCQ. In Isabela City seaports don't require RT-PCR as other municipalities.
- In Mountain Province, uptick in the number of cases observed in mid-August was due to clustering of cases in all municipalities. This could be attributed to continuous conduct of social gatherings (e.g., prolonged wakes, public assemblies) where MPHS is not practiced, high proportion of cases on home isolation with limited monitoring, mis-information coming from the LGU (e.g., wearing of masks and vaccination no longer required), and low vaccination uptake among the elderlies affected by strong belief in traditional medicine and practices. Bontoc General Hospital currently has no ICU beds but with thirty (30) ward beds and eighteen (18) isolation beds. Severe and critical cases are referred to Luis Hora Memorial and Regional Hospital, Benguet General Hospital and Baguio General Hospital and Medical Center. One Hospital Command Center is functional and is manned by the Provincial Health Office.
- In Quezon City, there is a continuous downtrend of cases though there are currently twenty (20) specific areas in barangays under a 14-day special concern lockdowns (SCL). Observations include non-adherence to MPHS in vaccination sites, influx of voters at COMELEC Registration satellite offices nearing the deadline, full capacity in public transportations, conduct of religious services beyond the approved capacity, shopping malls and other establishments flocked by individuals especially during weekends, fluid mobility of people coming from nearby province (i.e. Montalban, Rizal) at Commonwealth Market, opening of a national park, (e.g. Quezon Memorial Circle is open for ages below 17 years old) and overcrowding during distribution of cash payout "ayuda" for beneficiaries at Quezon City Hall, among others. The City's Epidemiology and Surveillance Unit (CESU) closely monitor these events and emphasized the need to continue active case finding with risk-based testing, immediate isolation of cases, and increased contact tracing capacity.
- Negros Oriental is placed under Alert Level 4 from 20 October until 14 November. The increase of cases started in October due to community transmission with clustering of cases in households. Sixty-five percent (65%) of the active cases are in TTMF or in home isolation. As of 3 November, A2 vaccination coverage is 27% for fully vaccinated individuals. As of 4 November, the health care capacity is as follows: total HCUR (64%), ICU beds utilization (70%), COVID ward utilization (78%), isolation bed utilization (46%) and mechanical ventilator utilization (100%). Negros Oriental Provincial Hospital, is a Level 1 COVID Referral Hospital which caters to moderate to critical cases.

Mental Health and Psychosocial Support

- WHO supported the webinar, *Mental Health Care for All: United for Mental Health*. WHO Philippines together with the Australian Embassy in the Philippines and the Philippines Department of Health, led the LIVE conversations with experts and advocates in promoting mental health. [View the webinar here.](#)



**MENTAL HEALTH CARE FOR ALL:
UNITED FOR MENTAL HEALTH**

KEYNOTE MESSAGES

DR. RABINDRA ABEYASINGHE
WHO Representative
to the Philippines

STEVEN ROBINSON AO
Australian Ambassador
to the Philippines

DR. BEVERLY LORRAINE HO
Concurrent Director IV
DOH - HPB & DPCB

LIVING THROUGH A PANDEMIC

DR. LOURDES LADRIDO-IGNACIO
NGO Representative
Philippine Council for Mental Health

TAKING CARE OF YOURSELF AND OTHERS

ANTOINETTE TAUS
Goodwill Ambassador
United Nations
Environment Programme

SOFIA JISON
President
Bukas Puso at Isip
UP-PGH

World Mental Health Month
OCTOBER 2021

OCTOBER 27, 2021 | WEDNESDAY | 1 P.M. - 3 P.M.

WHO contributed to Region III DepEd Pampanga Lecture on Mental Health and COVID-19 for School Personnel (Rizal Lizatin Memorial Highschool) and the Political Science Organization's "Break The Silence" [Mental Health Webinar](#).

World Health Organization
#ProudToBeWHO

WHO | Dr. Jasmine Vergara

A MENTAL HEALTH WEBINAR
Break The Silence

MODERATOR_Danzen Valdez

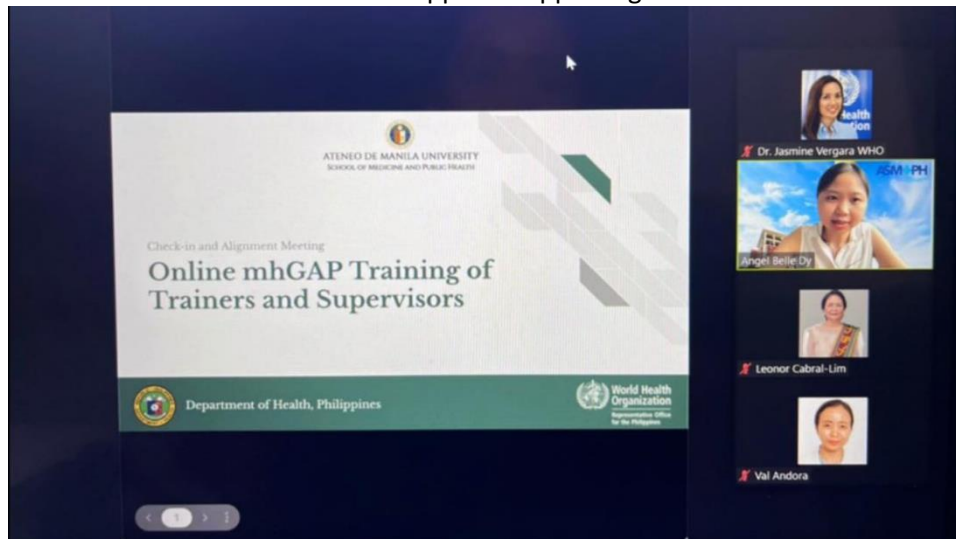
A MENTAL HEALTH WEBINAR
Break The Silence

MODERATOR_Shekinah Joy

zoom



- WHO Philippines with Ateneo School of Medicine and Public Health conducted a virtual capacity building for Trainers and Supervisors on the “mhgap” as one of the key activities under the Special Initiative for mental health Philippines supporting the Mental Health Act.



- WHO Philippines supported the [launch event](#) of #ProjectBRAVE (Building COVID-safe Responses And Voices for Equity), a joint programme to support the physical and mental well-being of vulnerable women, children, and adolescents amid COVID-19. [#ProjectBRAVE](#) will be implemented by World Health Organization Philippines, UNICEF Philippines and UNFPA Philippines, in collaboration with the Department of Health, with funding from Australia in The Philippines.





Steven J. Robinson AO
Australian Ambassador to the Philippines

Australia is supporting the Philippine government through our UN partners to invest in practical solutions, drawing on the best expertise available to address the mental health and wellness of the most vulnerable Filipinos.

Project BRAVE is an excellent example of government and development partners uniting to address an emerging need of the community. This is our mateship and bayanihan in action.



Dr. Rabindra Abeyasinghe
WHO Representative to the Philippines

The COVID-19 pandemic has had a drastic negative impact on the mental health, safety, and security of women, children, and other vulnerable groups.

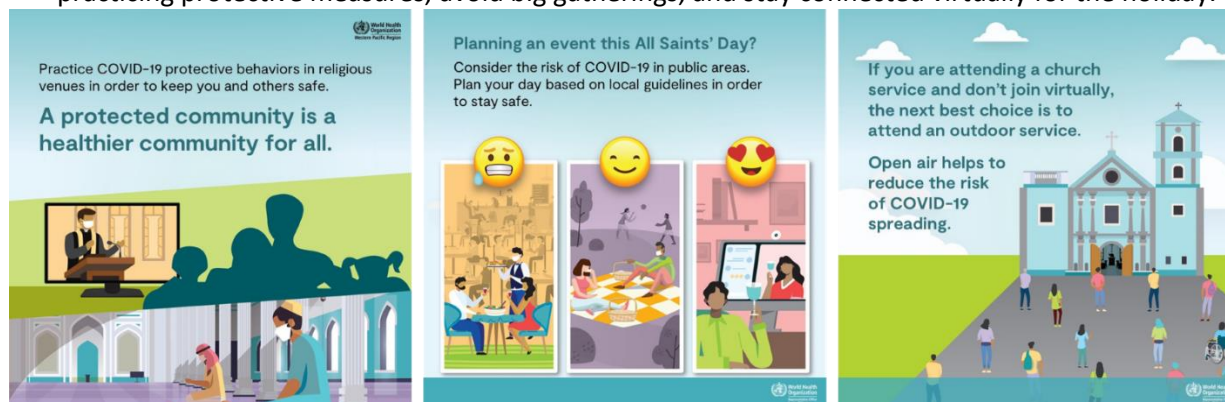
It is important to address the gaps in delivering mental health and psychosocial support – whether it is in the quantity or capacity of mental health professionals or in bringing these lifesaving services closer to people – to ensure genuine recovery in individuals and communities at present and beyond this health crisis.

#ProjectBRAVE



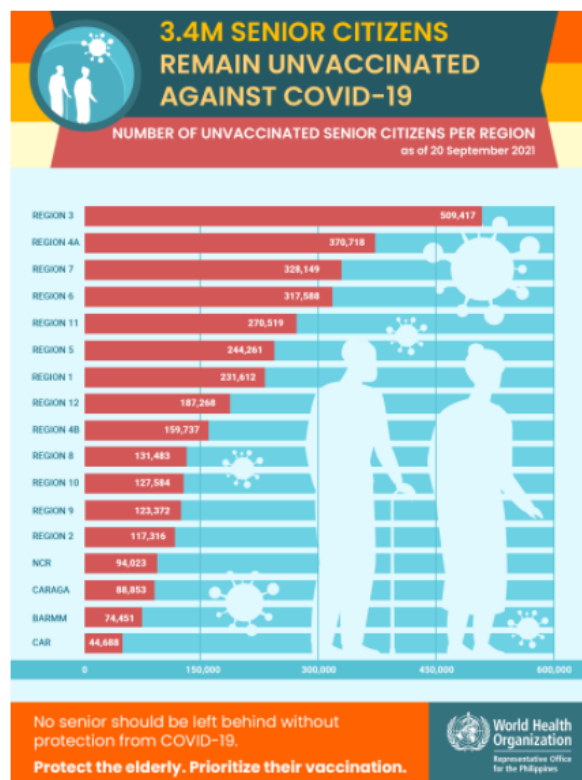
Risk Communication and Community Engagement

- WHO Representative Dr Rabindra Abeyasinghe highlighted in the Laging Handa Press Briefing the low vaccination coverage of priority groups, especially senior citizens and indigent populations, in different regions in the country.
- WHO published a series of messages to remind Filipinos observing All Saints' Day to continue practicing protective measures, avoid big gatherings, and stay connected virtually for the holiday.



- WHO produced an infographic showing A2 vaccination coverage in the regions which was reprinted by [Philstar.com](https://www.philstar.com).

"Our unvaccinated seniors are at most risk of hospitalization and death due to COVID-19. Our challenge: We still have 3.4 million whom we need to urgently reach with life-saving COVID-19 vaccines," read the post.



WHO infographic posted on Oct. 16, 2021 showing the still-sizeable number of Filipino and Philippine residents above the age of 60 who are unvaccinated.



Vaccines

- As of 8 November 2021, a total of 64,947,366 doses of COVID-19 vaccines have been administered. Out of these, 38,756,270 eligible individuals received their 1st dose, and 26,191,096 eligible individuals received their 2nd dose.
- There were 1,580,890 frontline healthcare workers (A1) fully vaccinated and 53,441 partially vaccinated. Collectively, these amount to 99.8% of the master list.

Cumulative Coverage Rate % (A1)					
REGION	Masterlisted (Priority Group A1)	Fully Vaccinated	%	Partially Vaccinated	%
3	151,402	151,962	100.4%	(560)	-0.4%
NCR	301,749	301,749	100.0%	-	0.0%
5	85,506	85,506	100.0%	-	0.0%
11	84,692	84,692	100.0%	-	0.0%
10	84,733	84,573	99.8%	160	0.2%
4A	136,169	135,208	99.3%	961	0.7%
1	87,409	86,734	99.2%	675	0.8%
7	131,781	128,362	97.4%	3,419	2.6%
Mimaropa	46,120	44,118	95.7%	2,002	4.3%
CAR	44,552	42,474	95.3%	2,106	4.7%
2	64,390	61,121	94.9%	2,670	4.1%
8	82,047	77,706	94.7%	4,341	5.3%
BARMM	21,451	20,237	94.3%	1,214	5.7%
12	75,357	70,942	94.1%	3,689	4.9%
9	56,773	53,415	94.1%	2,136	3.8%
CARAGA	55,327	50,035	90.4%	3,225	5.8%
6	129,459	102,056	78.8%	27,403	21.2%
PHIL	1,638,917	1,580,890	96.5%	53,441	3.3%

Vaccination Coverage per region for Priority Group A1 as of 8 November 2021.

- A total of 4,878,994 senior citizens, or 59.1% of the masterlisted eligible A2 population, were fully vaccinated against COVID-19 and a total of 442,864 senior citizens, or 5.4% of the Priority Group A2 population, were partially vaccinated.



Cumulative Coverage Rate % (A2)

REGION	Masterlisted (Priority Group A2)	Fully Vaccinated	%	Partially Vaccinated	%
NCR	1,050,589	964,206	91.8%	15,441	1.5%
4A	1,117,556	807,328	72.2%	90,929	8.1%
CAR	150,507	101,001	67.1%	9,556	6.3%
10	316,557	209,003	66.0%	19,212	6.1%
2	350,464	223,819	63.9%	13,502	3.9%
8	300,197	172,146	57.3%	24,331	8.1%
1	536,376	304,063	56.7%	33,826	6.3%
3	1,145,288	625,456	54.6%	70,280	6.1%
CARAGA	198,874	105,745	53.2%	10,458	5.3%
6	655,860	337,331	51.4%	33,643	5.1%
5	473,075	230,130	48.6%	16,700	3.5%
9	237,311	113,176	47.7%	9,234	3.9%
7	567,177	236,582	41.7%	23,062	4.1%
12	322,224	130,664	40.6%	12,600	3.9%
11	458,573	183,801	40.1%	36,376	7.9%
Mimaropa	261,592	100,557	38.4%	15,355	5.9%
BARMM	112,311	33,986	30.3%	8,359	7.4%
PHIL	8,254,531	4,878,994	59.1%	442,864	5.4%

Vaccination Coverage per region for Priority Group A2 as of 8 November 2021.

Operations Support Logistics

- WHO Philippines supported the 2nd round of 100 oxygen concentrators donation from the Australian government cleared from Customs awaiting inspection.
- PCR testing kits funded by the World Bank were procured through WHO for the Department of Health. The 1st batch of shipments containing 50 RT-PCR machines was cleared from customs and has been stored in the royal cargo warehouse before distribution to various regions. Shipment of testing kits and consumables are expected to arrive in the coming weeks.
- 200 medical oxygen cylinders have been received from local procurement in the Goetz warehouse which is in the process of donation to five regions and nine health facilities.
- WHO provided technical support to the National Vaccines Operations Center on the proper storage and handling of vaccines including cold chain management as well as monitoring near-expiry vaccines.

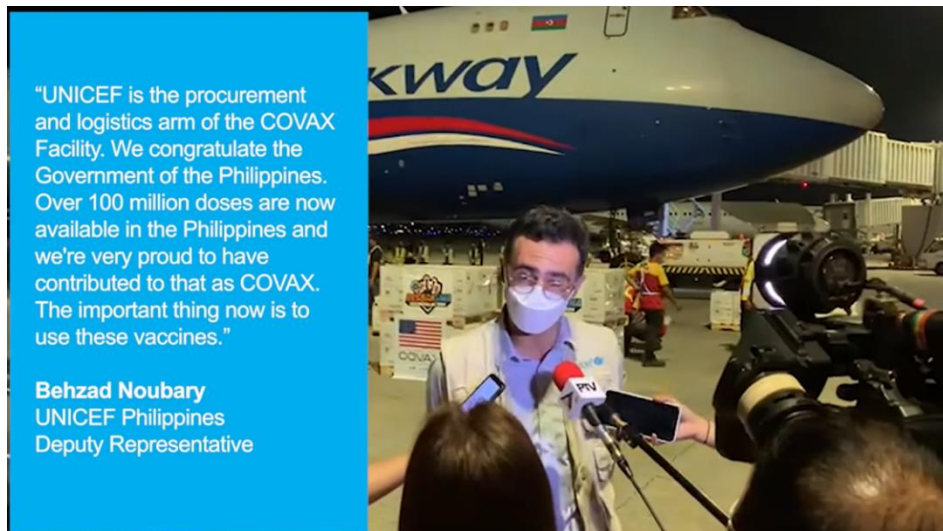


Partner Coordination

Updates from UNICEF

Support to the COVID vaccination roll-out

- UNICEF facilitated the acceptance of over 3.5 million doses of COVID-19 vaccines through COVAX, which arrived in Manila on October 30 and 31, 2021. This delivery brought the total contribution of COVAX to the Philippines to over 27 million doses.
- The coverage of the arrival reached over 3 million users on Facebook. Watch the video [here](#).



Arrival of 1.5 million doses of COVID-19 vaccine from COVAX on October 30, 2021.
©UNICEF/2021

- UNICEF staff and consultants continue to provide technical support in LGU health offices and 15 vaccination sites in Aurora Province, Camarines Sur, Naga City, Davao City, Cotabato City, General Santos City, Sarangani Province and Tawi-Tawi. On-site recommendations were made on strategies to improve vaccination service delivery; vaccine, logistics and cold chain management to maintain supply, vaccine quality and potency; improving demand generation and community engagement for vaccination and in improving data management.



Health staff preparing to administer COVID-19 vaccination at Cotabato City Health Office.
©UNICEF/THilario/2021



A client is vaccinated at Mintal Elem. School, Davao City.
©UNICEF/JFlores/2021



Health staff at Sarangani PHO vaccine room in Alabel, Sarangani Province preparing to use the UNICEF supplied fridge tag. ©UNICEF/THilario/2021



COVID vaccines being monitored by UNICEF at Sarangani PHO vaccine room. ©UNICEF/THilario/2021

- UNICEF continues to provide on-site readiness assessment and progress monitoring for the walk-in cold room installation project supported by the Government of Japan in Regions II and V. The additional cold storage facilities are expected to augment cold storage in the regions and LGUs for additional COVID-19 vaccines and routine vaccines. Technical support was also provided in Region IV-A for cold chain and vaccine management.



*UNICEF Meeting with the Regional Director at DOH-Region V for Walk-in Cold Room installation & support.
©UNICEF/NPastrana/2021*



Site visit and inspection for WICR Installation at DOH-Region V, Legazpi City. ©UNICEF/NPastrana/2021

- UNICEF, with support from the Government of Japan, has received cold chain equipment that will be distributed to LGUs in support of the COVID-19 vaccination roll out and routine immunization. This first batch of equipment includes 45 solar direct drive vaccine refrigerators, 45 ice pack freezers and their corresponding spare parts.



TCW 4000 AC Refs supplied by UNICEF with support from Government of Japan. ©UNICEF/ATaulani/21

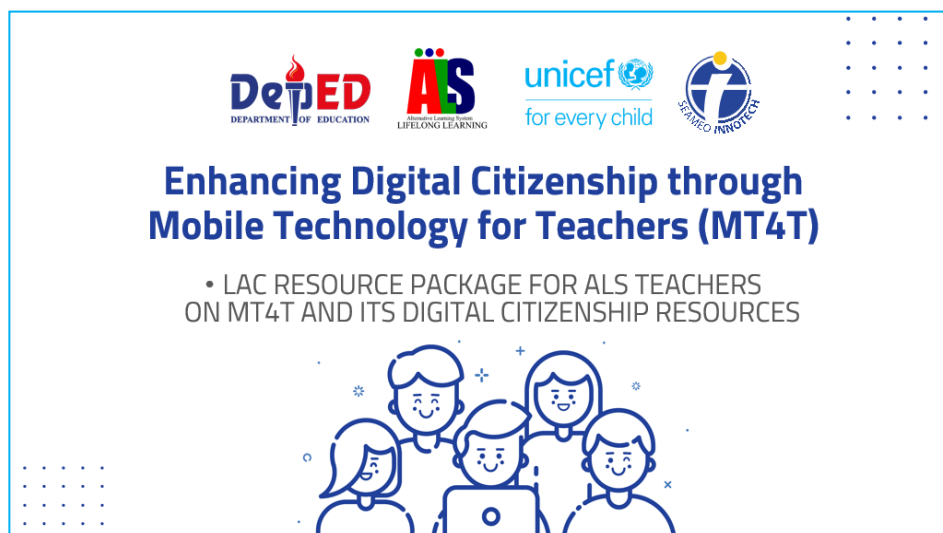


Education

- The need for teachers to navigate and thrive in this new education landscape prompted the DepEd Alternative Learning System (ALS) Task Force, UNICEF, and SEAMEO INNOTECH, to include a capacity building component in the 'Technical Support to DepEd ALS Program 2.0' (TS-ALS 2.0). Webinars on using Mobile Technology for Teaching (MT4T) and a short course on using the e-citizenship learning packets were conducted, reaching at least 4,220 ALS implementers nationwide.



- To facilitate continuous learning and sharing of experiences among ALS implementers on these topics, TS-ALS 2.0 has made available the ALS Learning Action Cell (LAC) Resource Package on MT4T to address some of the pressing challenges of using technology in education. Within the two-month field modeling phase, these MT4T LAC session guides were able to capacitate an additional 1,424 ALS implementers. Pre- and post-LAC competency assessment showed a significant increase in their competencies, with at least 50% of the participants progressing from "Apprentice" level to "Practitioner", especially in the areas of contextualizing e-citizenship learning packets and contributing to professional learning networks via digital platforms.



Child Protection

- The Council for the Welfare of Children (CWC), the government chair of the National Child Protection Working Group continuously strengthens the functionality of the 17 Regional Child Protection Working Groups (RCPWG) as the central coordinating body of all child protection concerns in the context of emergencies and disasters at the subnational level.
- One of CWC's initiatives in 2021 is the procurement of 952 health and sanitation kits. The kit contains bath soap, shampoo, toothpaste, toothbrush, bath towel, face towel, surgical face mask, alcohol and sanitary pads.
- The purchase of these kits will support the availability of prepositioned supplies that will provide immediate relief to children affected by possible emergencies/disasters. The kits will be delivered to the 17 regions and will be stored at the DSWD Field Offices while the distribution and handover to affected children will be facilitated by the 17 RCPWG focal.



CWC has made health and sanitation kits available for immediate distribution to children during emergencies and disasters.

Risk communication and community engagement (RCCE)

- UNICEF, through its implementing partner Relief International, continues to support risk communication and community engagement (RCCE) for COVID-19 prevention and vaccination in local governments in Regions VI (Iloilo and Guimaras), IV-A (Laguna and Quezon), and NCR (Parañaque and Navotas). Through this technical support, nine local governments have updated their demand generation plans; 3,017 health workers and volunteers were trained on COVID-19 RCCE; 1,099 local officials, 185 local leaders, and 36 community-based groups have been engaged to support the COVID-19 campaign; and 5.4 million people were reached with COVID-19 messages through various channels.



UNICEF partner Relief international conducts awareness-raising sessions for senior citizens/pensioners in Barangay Sebaste, Sibunag, Guimaras. ©Relief International/2021



A Relief International social mobilizer conducts a house-to-house visit in Navotas City to check on eligible persons who have been vaccinated and provide assistance to those who have yet to be vaccinated. ©Relief International/2021



Relief International meets with the SK Federation officers in Iloilo. ©Relief International/2021



Relief International conducts training for Barangay Health Workers in Brgy. Bubuy, Nagcarlan, Laguna. ©Relief International/2021



Transportation assistance to vaccinees in Iloilo. ©Relief International/2021

- Through Relief International, UNICEF has distributed 7,880 copies of *Usapang Bakuna* – the COVID-19 communication guide for frontline workers – to health workers and other community frontline workers in Regions IV-A, VI, and NCR.
- UNICEF, in partnership with the Human Development and Empowerment Services Inc. (HDES), has started supporting select local government units (LGUs) in Region IX (Zamboanga Peninsula) on demand generation and RCCE for COVID-19 vaccination and routine immunization. HDES is now conducting a rapid assessment of the situation in the region, and will start deploying social mobilizers and volunteers in the next weeks to support select LGUs in updating and implementing their demand generation plans, capacity building, advocacy, social mobilization, awareness-raising, and social listening.
- UNICEF, in collaboration with the Department of Health-Health Promotion Bureau (DOH-HPB) and USAID, commissioned a rapid qualitative assessment of issues and barriers related to COVID-19 vaccination uptake, specifically among the marginalized and vulnerable populations in Regions IV-A, VI, and NCR, including persons with disabilities, indigenous peoples, religious minorities, those isolated or living in hard-to-reach areas, those in conflict-affected areas, homeless people, mobile populations, and those living in crowded urban communities. The report is now being finalized for dissemination. Preliminary findings show the strong need for more deliberate efforts to develop and implement communication and community engagement interventions that are inclusive and responsive to the unique needs and contexts of marginalized populations.
- UNICEF is supporting DOH-HPB in implementing communication activities for the rollout of pediatric vaccination of 12-17-year-olds with comorbidities. UNICEF supported the conduct of a virtual townhall session for pediatric vaccination which reached 3,472 parents and caregivers across the country.
- UNICEF's #SaferTogether social media campaign reached 6.2 million users on Facebook as of November 3. Promoting the continued practice of COVID-19 preventive actions and vaccine confidence, the latest ad invites vaccinated individuals to share their reason for getting vaccinated and encourage others to do the same. Join the campaign by sharing your stories [here](#).



- In observation of World Polio Day on October 24, UNICEF released a joint statement with the Department of Health, World Health Organization, and Rotary International, to urge parents and caregivers to have their children vaccinated against preventable diseases – particularly polio – especially as the COVID-19 pandemic remains a major challenge to the country's health care system. The press release was published by major news networks and is available [here](#).



Support to BARMM

- UNICEF continues to provide full time communications technical support to the BARMM Bangsamoro Information Office and to the Ministry of Health for COVID-19 vaccination awareness, and to promote vaccine acceptance and counter misinformation.



- UNICEF supported the development and dissemination of key messages and IEC materials on COVID-19 vaccination and lifesaving behaviors through social media platforms and local language radio stations in BARMM, reaching an estimated 2.8 million individuals in October.
- Printed IEC materials with key messages on COVID-19 vaccination and prevention were disseminated in Basilan, Lanao del Sur, Maguindanao, and Tawi-Tawi provinces, reaching 405,744 individuals (282,237 females, 123,507 males). A total of 373 community health workers (332 females, 41 males) in Basilan, Sulu, and Tawi-Tawi provinces were trained on COVID-19 vaccination, COVID-19 microplanning, interpersonal communication, and RCCE.



Health workers actively participate during the COVID-19 RCCE and immunization training in Sulu. ©HOM/2021.

- A total of 26,487 individuals (282,237 females, 6,101 males) were reached by community engagement actions for social and behavioral change through their participation in social mobilization activities, open discussions, and interaction during counselling sessions and *Resbakuna* vaccination sessions which facilitated sharing of information in communities and to local women's groups.
- The COVID-19 vaccination microplan for Lanao del Sur province was updated to increase COVID-19 outreach sessions in villages to boost vaccination coverage in November. The same will be done in the other four provinces in November. UNICEF will provide additional funds to the five BARMM provinces for operating costs of additional vaccination sessions and staffing by rural health units.
- Additional site inspections were conducted in preparation for installation of new walk-in cold rooms for additional vaccine storage space in the five BARMM provinces.

Updates from USAID



- **USAID supports Davao City to bolster COVID-19 risk communication and response.**

To help promote preventive behaviors, USAID collaborated with the City Government of Davao in organizing training courses on risk communication, community engagement, and COVID epidemiology. USAID trained the staff from the City's Information and Health offices and quarantine facilities to develop a communication plan localizing the Department of Health's BIDA+ solusyon (be the solution) messages and strengthening the city's Prevent-Detect-Isolate-Treat-Reintegrate strategy. USAID also organized an eight-module training on epidemiology, policy, contact tracing and data management. The training sessions yielded action plans to enhance the city's COVID-19 response and communication activities that have reached 320,000 Davao City residents in 182 barangays.



- **USAID helps bring COVID-19 vaccines closer to vulnerable and remote communities.**

One of the reasons given by people why they remain unvaccinated is the lack of means, like public transport, to go to the vaccination sites. In response, USAID brought together several stakeholders in Cebu City to set up mobile and home vaccination initiatives for those incapable of going to the vaccination sites, such as the bedridden elderly and those with comorbidities. USAID also helped Cebu City's Vaccination Operations Center set up pop-up vaccination sites in uphill communities by providing computers, furniture and additional healthcare workers to manage registration and vaccination activities. Out of the trial runs of the mobile/home vaccination alone, more than 300 clients have been served and nearly 2,000 people from the uphill communities received the vaccines at the pop-up vaccination sites.





- **USAID helps bolster Ospital ng Maynila Medical Center's service delivery network and referral system to reach family planning clients amid the pandemic.** Through RTI International, USAID assisted the hospital to build its makeshift teleconsultation system. USAID led a process orientation for nurses and doctors from the Obstetrics and Gynecology Department and donated mobile phones, a laptop, sim cards, and Wi-Fi receivers to the hospital. USAID has partnered with several hospitals and service delivery networks across all regions to facilitate development of their teleconsultations systems through process orientations and donation of equipment.



Since September 2020, the project has partnered with over 27 facilities which have provided about 15,000 consultations on family planning and maternal and child health services to clients.