A blue geometric shape, resembling a stylized arrow or a folded corner, pointing towards the top right.

Joint Press Release

UNOPS - UNICEF - Philippines Department of Health

For immediate release: 13 November 2023

# UNOPS, UNICEF and the Philippines sign agreement to address malnutrition

The Department of Health, along with United Nations (UN) agency partners UNICEF and UNOPS, and World Bank inked a memorandum of understanding formalizing the partnership in addressing malnutrition in the Philippines.

As part of the broader Philippine Multisectoral Nutrition Project , a four-year project spearheaded by the Department of Health and co-led by the Department of Social Welfare and Development, this agreement adopts a bold multi-sectoral approach to achieve nutrition-specific and nutrition-sensitive interventions across 235 local government units in Luzon, Visayas, and Mindanao, as well as 40 municipalities in the Bangsamoro Autonomous Region of Muslim Mindanao.


This project aims to increase the utilization of a package of nutrition-specific and nutrition-sensitive interventions and improve key behaviors and practices known to reduce stunting.

It also enhances the capacity of the Department of Health and will support the delivery of nutrition and health care services at the primary care and community levels in municipalities known to have a high incidence of poverty and malnutrition.

**Speaking about the signature, Ndiame Diop, World Bank Country Director for Brunei, Malaysia, Philippines, and Thailand, said:**

"Improving the nutritional status of children is crucial for achieving the country's goals of enhancing human capital, strengthening economic recovery, and fostering long-term growth".

The partnerships formalized today with UNICEF and UNOPS, as implementing partners, aim to strengthen primary health care and nutrition service delivery. This will be achieved through the provision of healthcare equipment and supplies, basic primary care and nutrition commodities, multisectoral information systems development for localized

A blue graphic element consisting of a stylized arrow pointing to the right, located on the left margin of the page.

decision-making, capacity building for frontline healthcare workers, community health navigation, and health and nutrition leadership and governance for local chief executives.

Additionally, the partnerships will focus on social behavior change and communication, verification of LGU performance and finance systems for the performance-based grants, as well as project measurement and evaluation.

**Oyunsaikhan Dendevnorov, UNICEF representative in the Philippines, said:**

"Good nutrition is a fundamental child's right. The need for healthy diets, multisectoral services, and practices that protect, promote, and support good nutrition has never been greater. By strengthening national and local systems and improving access to essential services in communities, we can help children not only survive but thrive. UNICEF is committed to supporting efforts to end child stunting, ensuring that every child has the opportunity to grow and develop to their full potential".

This is also in association with the community-driven development approach of the Department of Social Welfare and Development Kapit-bisig Laban sa Kahirapan Comprehensive and Integrated Delivery of Social Services (KALAHI-CIDSS), where to date implementing communities have initiated more than 3,000 procurement packages using the community-based procurement system, with over 600 contracts successfully fulfilled.

All these efforts are dedicated to improving access to and utilization of clean water, proper sanitation, enhanced hygiene practices (WASH), and access to Early Childhood Care and Development (ECCD) services.


**Oscar Marengo, UNOPS Country Manager in the Philippines, said:**

"When children have better nutrition, they learn better. They can create opportunities to gradually break the cycles of poverty and hunger. By working together in the Philippine Multisectoral Nutrition Project, UNOPS and its partners will reach those furthest behind and help achieve the SDGs".

The partnership between the Department of Health and the UN will enhance the Department's access to global expertise and resources, thereby expanding its knowledge base and network. Leveraging the UN's global portfolio of programs and initiatives, the Department will gain a wealth of information and best practices, enabling it to enhance and optimize its public health programs and services.


**Teodoro Herbosa, Secretary of the Department of Health of the Philippines, said:**

"The PMNP is a recognition that nutrition is not just a matter of health. The Marcos Administration sets this intervention as part of its foundation for social and economic development by ensuring women and children's access to the first 1,000 days of services as

A blue geometric graphic consisting of several overlapping triangles and polygons, resembling a stylized arrow or a modern architectural element, located on the left side of the page.

a critical investment in our country's human capital. This collaboration between the DOH and the UN is a testament to our shared commitment to building a healthier and better future for the Filipino people, especially women and children".

**ENDS**

A blue graphic element consisting of a series of overlapping triangles pointing to the right, resembling a stylized arrow or a folded piece of paper.

Notes to the editors:

**Press contact details:**

**About UNOPS**

UNOPS mission is to help people build better lives and countries achieve peace and sustainable development. We help the United Nations, governments and other partners to manage projects, and deliver sustainable infrastructure and procurement in an efficient way. Read more: [www.unops.org](http://www.unops.org)

**About any partner mentioned in the press release**

Lorem ipsum dolor sit amet, consectetur adipiscing elit, sed do eiusmod tempor incididunt ut labore et dolore magna aliqua. Ut enim ad minim veniam, quis nostrud exercitation ullamco laboris nisi ut aliquip ex ea commodo consequat. Duis aute irure dolor in reprehenderit in voluptate velit esse cillum dolore eu fugiat nulla pariatur. Excepteur sint occaecat cupidatat non proident, sunt in culpa qui officia deserunt mollit anim id est laborum.