

2026 Advocacy snapshot: Philippines

Overview of findings:



(global average: 52.6/100)

Point of recognition: The Philippines ranks 3rd among 18 lower-middle-income countries and 5th among 11 countries in the East Asia and the Pacific region. It is the only country in the Index to receive a full score for laws against online childhood sexual violence.

Explore the Philippines' full results in the 2026 Out of the Shadows Index at: outoftheshadows.global/philippines

“Meaningful progress requires stronger implementation, survivor-centered policies, and sustained investment in prevention, justice, and healing. Listening to survivors and including our voices in decision-making is essential to creating a future where every child can live free from sexual violence and exploitation.”

- Barbie, Survivor leader

Calls to action

**brave
movement**

- **Establish a government-supported National Survivor Council** to leverage the lived experience and expertise of survivors and strengthen policy development. Read more about why, and how, your government should institute a National Survivor Council at bravemovement.org/campaigns/national-survivor-councils.
- **Eliminate Statutes of Limitations for childhood sexual violence.** Many children never tell someone about an experience of sexual violence, or only report abuse when they are much older. Perpetrators must be held accountable regardless of timelines.
- **Strengthen legal protections**, including by criminalizing the sexual exploitation of children, setting the age of consent at 18 with a close-in-age exemption, and setting the minimum age of marriage at 18 with no exceptions.
- **Mandate background checks** for all adults who work in direct contact with children, and **expand parent and caregiver support**.

Governance and accountability

51.1/100 (8th in the region)

Area of progress: The Philippines received full credit for **national data collection** on sexual violence against children.

Opportunity for change:

The Philippine Plan of Action to Eliminate Violence Against Children (PPAEVAC) expired in 2022. The Philippines should develop a new, comprehensive **national action plan** on violence against children, with clearly defined prevention and response activities for sexual violence against children, lead agency responsibilities, and costs.

Prevention

46.7/100 (Tied for 6th in the region)

Area of progress: The Philippines received full credit for its **child helpline**.

Opportunity for change:

The Philippines' national curriculum does include **life-skills-based sexuality and reproductive health education** for lower-secondary students. However, the curriculum does not cover online safety, including addressing the risks of sexual abuse/exploitation through digital technologies.

Explore our digital advocacy tools to support your advocacy efforts at outoftheshadows.global/en/advocacy-tools

Healing

60/100 (6th in the region)

Area of progress: The Philippines received full points for having **health sector guidelines** for the clinical and forensic evaluation of children who experience sexual violence and for having **government-funded victim compensation**.

Opportunity for change: In the Philippines, children who experience sexual violence are not yet entitled to **legal aid**. **Medical care**¹ for victims and survivors and **integrated victim and survivor services**² exist, but access and quality are uneven.

Justice

69.2/100 (4th in the region)

Area of progress: The Philippines is one of only six countries in the Index to receive full credit for laws criminalizing **online grooming** of children for sexual purposes.

Opportunity for change:

In the Philippines, laws against childhood sexual violence could be strengthened by clearly **criminalizing selling and purchasing sexual exploitation** of children and setting the **age of consent at 18** with a close-in-age exemption.

Tip: Your country made pledges at the First Global Ministerial to End Violence Against Children in 2024. Use the Index findings to show your government where more action is needed to deliver on those pledges. Explore pledges at endviolenceagainstchildrenconference.org

About the Out of the Shadows Index:

The Out of the Shadows Index is the global benchmark of national governments' efforts to prevent and respond to sexual violence against children and adolescents. The Index is researched and developed by Economist Enterprise, with advocacy and engagement efforts led by Together for Girls. Learn more at outoftheshadows.global.

¹ outoftheshadows.global/en/indicators/access-to-medical-care

² outoftheshadows.global/en/indicators/3-2-integrated-victim-and-survivor-services