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## Youth problems in the philippines

Scroll through social media in the Philippines, and you'll get the feeling of how young people have transformed digital spaces into a microcosm of what the Philippines should or shouldn't be. If only his ideas and fervor in cyberspace could translate into compromised participation on the ground, the light at the end of the tunnel would be brighter. And what happens now after the May 2016 election? We asked this question at an event for the Development Knowledge Community (KDC) network a few months before the national and local elections on May 9. The KDC was formed by the World Bank office in Manila in 2002 to promote knowledge sharing on development issues. It is a network of 19 universities, non-governmental organizations and think tanks across the country. We gave way to the largest segment of our network – students – and asked: What do you want from your next leaders? Headed by Visayas-based Silliman University in the Central Philippines, the KDC organized youth discussions in three cities in each of the main island groups: Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao. St. Paul University Philippines handled discussions at Tuguegarao in Luzon, Silliman University for Dumaguete, and Western Mindanao State University for Mindanao-based Zamboanga. The project involved 30 youth representatives in each city: 15 at school and 15 out of school. Its composition was not only sensitive to, but also affirmed, the equal value of out-of-school youth in development processes. Participants and facilitators during the youth discussion session at Silliman University We group questions into four main topics: education, employment, environment and participation. They were asked about their personal views and their hopes for the country; to what extent the government is a partner and considers them one; why the problems that paralyze the country remain widespread; and how to break down barriers that create cynicism and apathy among young people. His responses started with an informed perspective on his sense of development in the country. It revealed issues and concerns that are (alarming) nothing new. They offered practical solutions that are sensitive to regional nuances and respond to social narratives that are a chord with each of us. On education: They recognize government support, but lament poor access to quality education due to a lack of good roads and bridges. They also noted the continuing threat to peace and security, and teachers struggling with low morale due to outdated and inadequate wage difficulties and learning facilities. Those from remote rural communities prefer to stay in because while the cost of tuition is waived, they still have to worry about where to get the money for transportation and food, forcing them to drop out of school. Therefore, they propose that the government work with schools to create where they are able to earn money and study at the same time. About Employment: Young Filipinos are talented and resourceful, but there is little support for them to become entrepreneurs. They recommend greater access to microfinance or credit opportunities to allow young people to start their own businesses and eventually create jobs. A regional career guidance mechanism was also presented to promote courses that are more relevant to the needs of their localities, rather than those that focus on high-income jobs in large cities and abroad. In the environment: Common to participants is the need to promote tree planting and coastal cleaning activities, but they bring to light the lack of monitoring of progress, support and expansion of these efforts. It does not help that local governments have also not enforced environmentally sound ordinances in favour of so-called economic interests. Therefore, young people suggest the development of a public inventory of area-specific environmental problems and the efforts made to address them. And to cope with disconnection on the line, they recommend institutionalizing environmental education to penetrate homes at the village or barangay level. On commitment to citizens: There is mistrust in youth-oriented government agencies. They say that because officials who run these agencies are often appointed politicians or related to political clans, they are vulnerable to undue influence, corruption, and abuse. A more objective composition was sought with less government intervention to achieve better representation in government offices. So what do young Filipinos want beyond the May 2016 election? They want leaders who can see them for what they are. We are committed, optimistic, the next race of changers, and we want to help. The results of the youth consultation in these 3 cities were presented at the Philippine summit of good governance held in the capital, Manila, where some 200 youth leaders also met to convey their priorities and proposed solutions to the country's challenges. Listen to me! What does Filipino youth want from leaders if you are among the youth of the Philippines today, what topics would you like our leaders to address? The Philippines now has the largest generation of young people in its history. 30 million young people between the age of 10 and 24 make up 28 percent of the Philippine population. The development of policies and investments for the future of young people could lead the Philippines to reap the benefits of a demographic dividend, the potential for economic growth that can that households have fewer children and more young people who now have better health, better education, and decent jobs that they can save and invest for their own future. However, young people also face challenges and even disproportionately transported by girls and young women in many regions of the country. For example, child marriage is one of the main reasons for not attending school, according to the FLEMMS 2013 Report: while 28 percent of reported HIV cases between 1984 and 2018 were 15 to 24 years old (Philippine HIV and AIDS Registry, 2018). UNFPA develops and strengthens partnerships to prevent and manage the pressing sexual and reproductive health and rights issues faced by young people, such as teenage pregnancies, HIV, early marriage and gender-based violence affecting young people, including in humanitarian emergencies. UNFPA works with the Department of Education (DepEd) to improve access to information and develop life skills among young people through the full implementation of Integral Sex Education (CSE). UNFPA works with the Department of Health to analyse and address obstacles to family planning, HIV and improving the health sector's response to product violence (DOH). At the national level, UNFPA also works with the National Youth Commission, and at the subnational level works with local government units to strengthen the capacities of Sangguniang Kabataan (local youth councils) to address SRHR issues. We also work with religious and political leaders to develop and model interventions in select communities to reduce early marriage, taking advantage of a Fatwa prepared with UNFPA support. In addition, UNFPA supports HIV prevention programmes for major young populations. Within the United Nations (UN) in the Philippines, UNFPA leads the United Nations Youth Thematic Group. Key projects: 1. Youth Leadership and Governance Program (USD 1,500,000 from 2019 to 2023; of which \$700,000 is not funded). 2. Comprehensive Sexuality Education (USD 1,000,000 2019-2023; of which USD 750,000 is not funded) 3. HIV prevention programs and policies for key young populations (\$1,000,000 from 2019 to 2023; of which \$500,000 is not funded). These are alarming statistics: one in four young Filipinos already have children, 38 percent were unaware of the risks of unsafe sex, and 14 percent have contemplated suicide. These are according to the latest National Youth Assessment Study (NYAS 2015). The results were highlighted during a meeting organized by the National Youth Commission in the city of Baguio, attended by stakeholders in the health of young people in the region. In early August, the National Youth Commission began its series of in various locations in the country in relation to the health of young people. NYC plans to meet with government and non-governmental representatives, including youth representatives, to discuss current issues focused on Filipino youth in reproductive health, employment, and education. The information they will obtain from regional stakeholders will be used in Philippine Youth Development Plan (PYDP) 2017-2022. During the Baguio period of regional consultations, NYC stressed the need for an enabling environment for Young Filipinos. Commissioner Pervical Cendana, New York Commissioner for Luzon, cited NYAS 2015 and its results during the meeting. The study is carried out to get a fair idea of the conditions, perceptions and attitudes of young Filipinos. The results will also serve as guidelines for PYDP 2017-2022. The problems of today's young people revolve mainly around risky sexual behaviors and reproductive health, education, employment and mental health. Of the participants (aged 15 to 24) surveyed in the study, 24.6 per cent already had children, 13.8 per cent were married, 31 per cent were engaged in sexual activities and 48 per cent are unaware of the impact of at-risk sex, such as HIV/AIDS. Other findings include 24.2 percent of participants did not attend school, but 65 percent want to resume education, but cannot. There is also a shortage of better employment opportunities, with 33.8 per cent of part-time work, while 7.4 per cent are engaged in child labour. More worrying is that 14 percent of respondents thought about committing suicide, 26 percent agreed that life is not worth living, while 20 percent said they had gone through extreme emotional distress. In addition, 21 percent of respondents admitted smoking. Commissioner Cendana said solutions to these problems need a multisectoral approach. During a previous consultation in Cebu City, New York division's chief policy officer Robinson Espinosa said the next PYDP will focus on enabling, promoting, and ensuring youth participation in 8 areas to address these issues. These areas include health, education, economics, social inclusion, equity, governance, active citizenship, the environment and global partnerships. MIMS Read More: Rh Law: Improving Health Rather than Controlling the PH Population: Fund Cuts to Worsen Population Problems Addressing the Growing Problem of Teen Pregnancy: Rethinking the Context and Evolving Capabilities References:

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