

# Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19)

## SITUATION REPORT IN THE PHILIPPINES



ISSUE NO. 077 24 MAY 2021

DATE REPORTED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH ON 24 MAY 2021



**1,184,706**

CASES



**1,115,806**

RECOVERIES



**19,983**

DEATHS



**3,209,683**

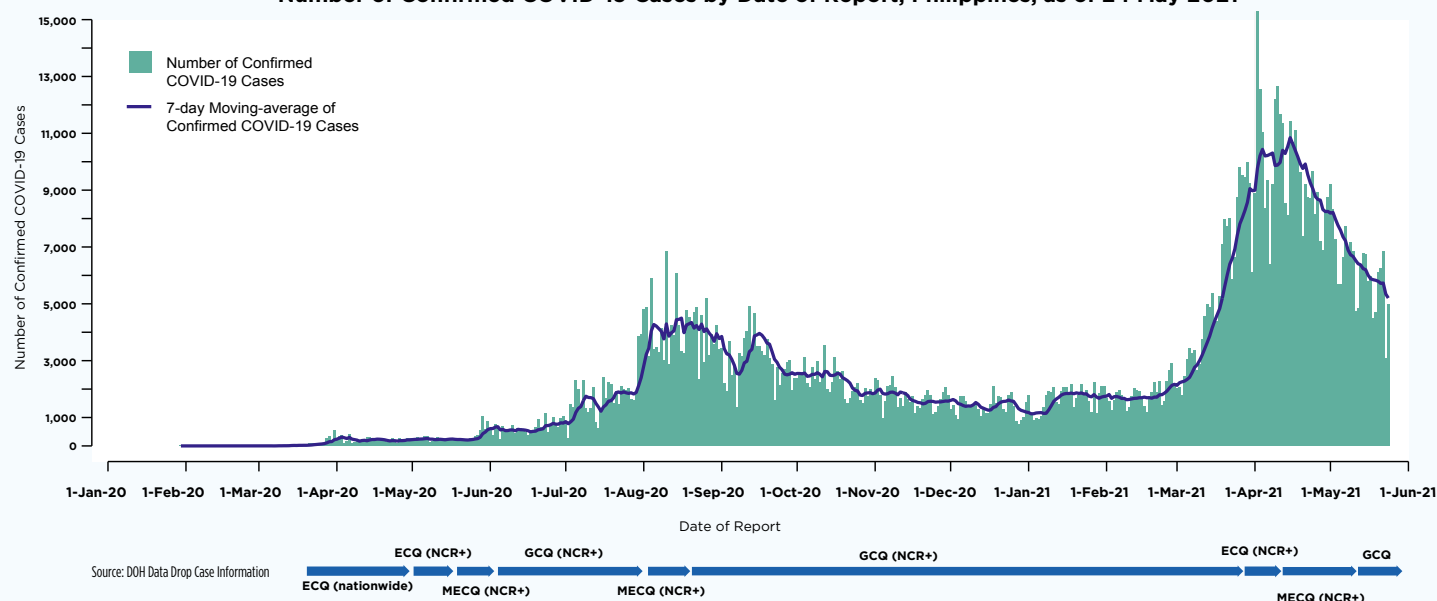
VACCINATED

## SITUATION SUMMARY

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

- Out of a total 1,184,706 confirmed cases reported in the Philippines as of 24 May 2021, 52.1 % are male, with the most affected age group 25-34 years (27.6%).
- 41.8% of the total number of cases are from the National Capital Region (NCR), followed by CALABARZON (17.7%), Central Luzon (8.7%), Central Visayas (5.3%), Western Visayas (3.9%).
- Out of the total 19,983 confirmed deaths, 58.9% are male, with the most affected age group 65-74 (28.3%) followed by the age group 60-64 years (13.4%) and the age group 80+ (12.9%).
- 35.9% of the total number of deaths reported are from the NCR, followed by CALABARZON (13.1%), Central Luzon (12.2%), Central Visayas (10.1%), Western Visayas (4.9%).
- Currently, there are 220 laboratories performing tests for COVID-19 using RT-PCR or GenXpert. On average, over 51,000 tests were conducted per day in the last two weeks.
- Bed occupancy nationwide is at 47.6%, NCR (42.7%), CALABARZON (58.9%), Central Luzon (52.2%), Central Visayas (30.3%), CAR (58.4%).
- 3,209,683 individuals have received their 1st dose of COVID-19 vaccine. 1,310,188 (84.4 % of Priority Group A1) frontline HCW have received their first dose of vaccine and 541,869 (34.9% of Priority Group A1) HCW have received the 2nd dose.
- Variant of concern (VOC) B.1.617.2 has been detected in ten additional overseas workers returning to the Philippines. This brings the total number of B.1.617.2 cases detected in the Philippines to 12.

**Number of Confirmed COVID-19 Cases by Date of Report, Philippines, as of 24 May 2021**



1 Data as of 24 May 2021 can be found in the following [DOH's BEAT COVID-19 report](#).

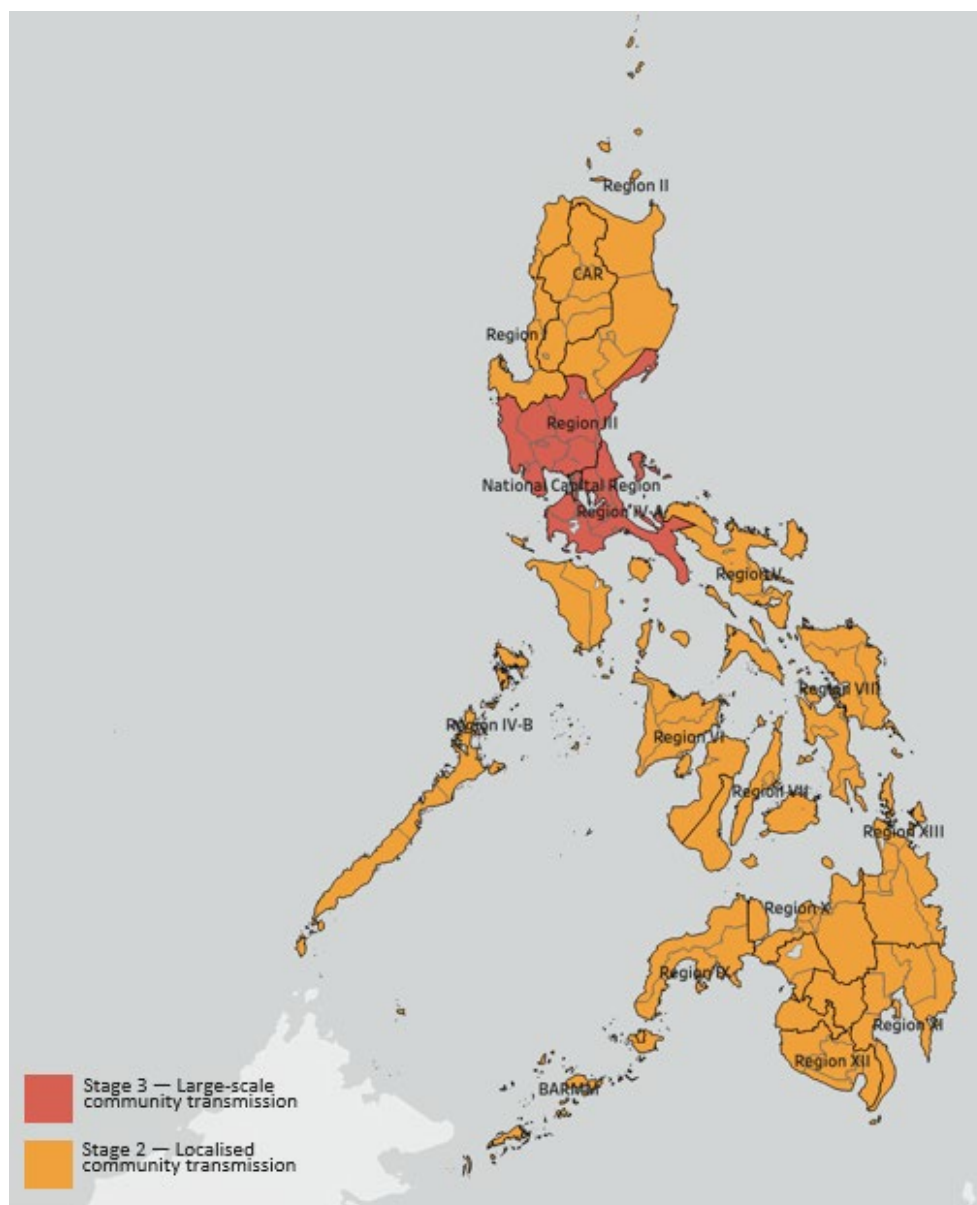
## Transmission stage assessment (As of Week 20, 17 - 23 May 2021)

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

### REGIONAL ASSESSMENTS

Regional assessments for Region IV-B Mimaropa and Region IX Zamboanga Peninsula have shown an increasing trend in the number of cases and in health care utilization for Puerto Princesa City and Zamboanga City.

Increasing trends in number of cases are also seen in CARAGA Region, the Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (BARMM) and Region XII SOCCSKSARGEN. Monitoring of these regions along with Regions IV-B and IX are ongoing in coordination with DOH Center for Health Development (CHD) offices.



In terms of the overall situation of the Philippines, there were 33,200 new cases (30 cases per 100,000 population) reported in week 20, lower than the previous week (37,205 new cases, 34 cases per 100,000 population). The 7-day positivity rate (number of individuals that tested positive/number of individuals tested) was 12.9% (40,002/309,567) for week 20, and 12.7% (41,015/323,560) in the previous week. There was

a decrease in the daily number (7-day average) of COVID-19 dedicated ICU beds occupied (1,747 beds this week compared to 1,775 beds last week)<sup>4</sup> as well as a decrease in the daily number (7-day average) of COVID-19 dedicated ventilators occupied compared to last week (1,034 ventilators vs 1,071 ventilators).

Footnote: Information on COVID-19 cases, testing aggregates and dedicated COVID-19 ICU beds and mechanical ventilators were extracted on 24 May 2021 from the DOH COVID-19 Case Tracker. 2021 population projection for PHL: 110,198,654.

## Updates from the last 14 days

### EPIDEMIOLOGICAL UPDATES

As of 24 May 2021, a total of 1,184,706 confirmed COVID-19 cases and 19,983 deaths have been reported in the Philippines. The case fatality ratio is 1.7%.

Epi Update COVID-19	TESTS	CASES	DEATHS	ICU OCCUPANCY
	<b>668,802</b> Tests past 14 days	<b>75,880</b> Cases past 14 days	<b>1421</b> Deaths past 14 days	<b>59.14%</b>
	<b>12,288,631</b> Cumulative unique individuals tested	<b>1,184,706</b> Cumulative cases	<b>19,983</b> Cumulative deaths	<b>3,047</b> ICU beds for COVID-19 cases
	<b>10.4%</b> Cumul. Positivity rate			
Health service provision COVID-19	<b>18,533</b> Healthcare worker cases as of 24 May (cumulative)	<b>1,271</b> Hospitals admitting COVID-19 patients	<b>31,012</b> Non-ICU beds for COVID-19 patients	<b>133,453</b> TTMF beds for COVID-19 cases
	<b>18,288</b> HCW cases as of 17 May (cumulative)			

## Strategic approach to COVID-19 Prevention, Detection and Control

### HEALTH SERVICE DELIVERY

- With the decreasing trend in hospital occupancy in NCR Plus, WHO Philippines (WHO) continues to provide its technical assistance in monitoring the COVID-19 bed allocation and hospital and isolation facility occupancy as healthcare utilization continues to increase in other regions in Visayas and Mindanao. Given the limited healthcare capacity in Mindanao, adherence to the healthcare pathways resulting in appropriate referral and back referral systems as well as efficient and rational utilization of these facilities is critical in the preparedness and response.
- The WHO Country Office continues to support the One Hospital Command Center (OHCC) through Information and Technology (IT) and policy development to institutionalize it as the National Patient Navigation and Referral System in the country. The OHCC is expanding its operations to optimize and ensure the adequacy of healthcare services in both hospitals and intermediate care facilities to address both COVID-19 and emergency non-COVID-19 concerns by providing a strong communication line and proper coordination between health facilities in the referral and patient navigation.
- The WHO Country Office is providing technical assistance in the development of the DOH Home Care Program for eligible mild and asymptomatic cases, especially in areas where facility isolation is unavailable or limited (e.g. when capacity is insufficient to meet the demand for health-care services).



Visit to a modular field hospital on 19 May 2021 that was constructed as part of the governmental expansion plans on healthcare capacity in NCR Plus, Zamboanga (Region IX) and Davao (Region XI). WHO Incident Manager Heather Papowitz and Undersecretary DOH Dr Leopoldo Vega.

## LABORATORY AND TESTING

- There are 220 laboratories using RT-PCR and GeneXpert platforms and performing COVID-19 testing across the country. Over the past two weeks the laboratory network was able to sustain an average of over 51,000 tests per day.
- To support the testing capacity in parts of Mindanao, WHO donated automated extraction machines to Butuan Medical Center in CARAGA Region and Amai Pakpak Medical Center in BARMM.
- As of May 15, 2021, an additional 10 cases of B.1.617.2 variant were detected, summing up to a total of 12 cases. Variant B.1.351 continues to be the variant of concern with the highest number in the country with 1,109 cases, followed by variant B.1.1.7 with 967 cases. A total of 158 cases of P.3 variant and two cases of P.1 variant were also detected. To date, the Philippines has submitted over 3,100 genomic sequencing to GISAID.
- The WHO Country Office continues to support the DOH Epidemiology Bureau in the sampling plan. Moreover, WHO is finalizing technical recommendations to increase the capacity of RITM and PGC in genomic sequencing, after thorough assessment of facilities and procedures.

## SURVEILLANCE AND CONTRACT TRACING

### Surveillance

- A case investigation was performed for two cases that tested positive for the COVID-19 variant B.1.617.2 on whole genome sequencing. One case was from region XII and the other from region V.

- The WHO Country Office is monitoring the implementation of guidelines of Non-Pharmaceutical Interventions (NPI) due to the shift to General Community Quarantine in NCR and the provinces of Cavite, Laguna, Rizal and Bulacan.

### Contact Tracing

- The WHO Country Office provided support for the full rollout of digital solution for contact tracing/TKC platform in all districts of Quezon City.
- WHO and Bureau of Quarantine (BOQ) conducted a coordination meeting on the status of returning overseas Filipinos (ROFs), particularly seafarers who tested positive for Covid-19 variant B.1.617, and on contact tracing activities that were put in place.
- All 85,000 copies of the Contact Tracing handbook were delivered to the Department of Interior and Local Government (DILG) for dissemination to regional offices.
- The WHO Country Office supports efforts to enhance workplace safety systems to curb the spread of COVID-19 in the Philippines. In partnership with the Department of Health (DOH) Center for Health Development Metro Manila and in collaboration with the Occupational Safety and Health Center (OSHC) of the Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE), the WHO conducted a session on 'COVID-19 Response in the Workplace' for safety officers of local government units (LGUs) on 30 April 2021. A web story on the session can be found [here](#).



## RISK COMMUNICATION AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

- On 20 May 2021, Lingap Pangkabataan, Inc. (LPI) a non-government, faith-based organization organized a nationwide virtual learning session on COVID-19 with the WHO Country Office in the Philippines. The session had over 100 LPI network members, religious leaders and workers and reviewed risk communication and community engagement strategies, health care pathways, contact tracing and how to strengthen COVID-19 prevention and response measures in their respective churches and religious activities. The session was a joint activity with the Health Service Delivery Pillar.
- As part of its technical support for the deployment of COVID-19 vaccines in the Philippines, the WHO Country Office in the Philippines, in partnership with the DOH, has conducted a series of spokesperson trainings to a variety of experts. On 21 May 2021, a 4-hour training was provided to 14 experts, who communicate about public health and vaccines, including communication around possible side effects and adverse events following immunization (AEFIs).
- The WHO Country Office in the Philippines continued to provide technical assistance to the CHD-NCR Health Promotion Office (HEPO). Through WHO's leadership and support, the NCR HEPO team has strengthened collaboration with a network of faith-based organizations to maximize the use of radio and online platforms to amplify COVID-19 prevention messages and awareness campaigns.

## VACCINES

### Vaccination coverage

- As of 23 May 2021, 3,209,683 Filipinos have been vaccinated with their first dose against COVID-19 and 960,222 Filipinos have completed their 2nd dose.

**Wear a mask**

World Health Organization Philippines  
Published by Jun Ryan Orbina · May 12 at 5:00 AM ·

**Yes, a mask is a must!** 🙄🙄🙄

Masks, along with other measures such as cleaning your hands, physical distancing, keeping rooms well ventilated, avoiding crowds, slow the spread of #COVID19 and save lives.

WHO Philippines staff share why they wear masks. Share your own reasons in the comments below!

For WHO's mask g... See More

**I wear a mask**

0:06 / 0:57

9,523,988 People Reached    224,997 Engagements    Boost Post

3.6K    140 Comments    1K Shares

**Charlie**  
Office Driver  
I wear a mask to protect myself and my passenger.

**Ias**  
Technical Officer for Mental Health  
I wear a mask because I want to protect

**Heather**  
Incident Manager  
I wear a mask to protect the people around me

**Nico**  
Regional Operations Coordinator  
the spread of COVID-19 in my community.

**Mareike**  
Partnerships Coordinator  
my friends and family safe and healthy

**Troy**  
Epidemiologist  
I wear a mask so we can take care of each other.

**Lee Ann**  
Administrative Assistant  
and essential workers safe

**Wear a mask**

Masks, along with other measures such as cleaning your hands, physical distancing, keeping rooms well ventilated, avoiding crowds, slow the spread of #COVID19 and save lives. Link to video>> <https://fb.watch/5117fp7bpx/>

- The 1st dose coverage of priority group A1 has increased by 0.4% (6,773 vaccinated) as of 23 May. 1,310,188 frontline healthcare workers (HCW) in the Philippines, or 84.4% of the 1,552,662 masterlisted eligible Priority Group A1 population, have received their first dose. Furthermore, 541,869 HCW, or 34.9% priority Group A1, have completed their 2nd dose during the said date.

Coverage Rate % (A1) 1ST & 2ND DOSE					
REGION	Masterlisted (Priority Group A1)	Total Vaccinated COMPLETED FIRST DOSE	Over-all Coverage FIRST DOSE	Total Vaccinated COMPLETED 2 DOSES	Over-all Coverage COMPLETED 2 DOSES
NCR	263,662	255,448	96.9%	129,398	49.1%
CAR	45,322	36,267	80.0%	19,573	43.2%
1	75,614	70,416	93.1%	35,582	47.1%
2	68,847	52,345	76.0%	16,062	23.3%
3	146,200	117,262	80.2%	36,977	25.3%
4A	136,169	121,467	89.2%	28,054	20.6%
Mimaropa	45,859	41,627	90.8%	14,831	32.3%
5	71,510	48,897	68.4%	14,442	20.2%
6	129,696	78,011	60.1%	37,465	28.9%
7	131,781	96,075	72.9%	50,272	38.1%
8	82,047	72,322	88.1%	30,544	37.2%
9	53,294	43,608	81.8%	22,205	41.7%
10	84,733	69,525	82.1%	29,060	34.3%
11	84,692	98,275	116.0%	39,116	46.2%
12	60,333	50,988	84.5%	13,296	22.0%
CARAGA	53,802	43,907	81.6%	20,436	38.0%
BARMM	19,101	13,748	72.0%	4,556	23.9%
PHIL	1,552,662	1,310,188	84.4%	541,869	34.9%

- 1,062,356 senior citizens (Priority Group A2) and 827,350 individuals with comorbidity (Priority Group A3) have received their first 1st dose. 175,019 senior citizens and 242,966 individuals with comorbidity in the country have already completed their 2-dose.

Coverage Rate % (A2) 1ST & 2ND DOSE					
REGION	Masterlisted (Priority Group A2)	Total Vaccinated COMPLETED FIRST DOSE	Over-all Coverage FIRST DOSE	Total Vaccinated COMPLETED 2 DOSES	Over-all Coverage COMPLETED 2 DOSES
NCR	1,396,018	339,634	24.3%	107,239	7.7%
CAR	83,078	25,483	30.7%	1,509	1.8%
1	547,788	43,879	8.0%	3,336	0.6%
2	355,960	44,947	12.6%	1,153	0.3%
3	1,144,806	141,263	12.3%	19,951	1.7%
4A	939,282	126,649	13.5%	22,048	2.3%
Mimaropa	266,877	12,543	4.7%	2,548	1.0%
5	226,894	22,421	9.9%	582	0.3%
6	788,431	52,438	6.7%	2,613	0.3%
7	567,229	39,041	6.9%	5,079	0.9%
8	300,197	35,721	11.9%	0	0.0%
9	220,196	21,080	9.6%	1,088	0.5%
10	264,837	54,523	20.6%	0	0.0%
11	458,573	40,059	8.7%	0	0.0%
12	212,116	27,397	12.9%	7,737	3.6%
CARAGA	209,520	32,615	15.6%	0	0.0%
BARMM	24,594	2,663	10.8%	136	0.6%
PHIL	8,006,396	1,062,356	13.3%	175,019	2.2%

- To date, there are 8,438 or 27.9% previous refusals and 27,911 or 21.3% deferrals who are now vaccinated.
- On day 56 of the second dose of Sinovac the drop-out rate for PriorityA1 was 13.75%, or a difference of 77,952, compared with day 1-56 of the first dose of the same priority group.
- On day 23 of the second dose of Sinovac the drop-out rate for PriorityA2 was 19.74%, or a difference of 41,959, compared with day 1-23 of the first dose of the same priority group.



### WHO Country Office support

- The WHO Country Office provides continued support to the National Vaccine Operation Center in analyzing data, identifying gaps, challenges and bottle necks as well as recommending concrete solutions, particularly for vaccination coverage of the priority population (health workers and senior citizens), logistical distribution at the subnational level and communications to generate demand and AEFI.
- The WHO Country Office works closely with the Epidemiology Bureau to improve safety surveillance and response. The system has been optimized over the last few months, but there are critical challenges at the subnational level. The Country Office is now focusing on providing tailored support for acute management of AEFI cases, timely and complete case investigations, evidence synthesis for timely causality assessment, and others.
- The WHO Country Office provided technical assistance to the National Vaccine Operation Centre (NOVC) in training end-users on proper handling and storage of Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccines.
- A donation of one million masks of WHO to DOH is underway.

### PARTNER COORDINATION

- On 20 May 2021, the monthly Humanitarian Country Team (HCT) meeting took place. WHO Country Office Representative, Dr. Rabindra Abeyasinghe, briefed the team on the COVID-19 situation, highlighting in particular humanitarian challenges that could be exacerbated by the increase in cases in regions where access to health care may be limited. Apart from the situation update, UN OCHA presented to the team the outcomes of the After Action Review of the HCT COVID-19 Humanitarian Response Plan (HRP), which will be included in a final report that is being prepared. Although the HRP expired, the HCT continues to be engaged in the COVID-19 response.

### OPERATIONS SUPPORT LOGISTICS

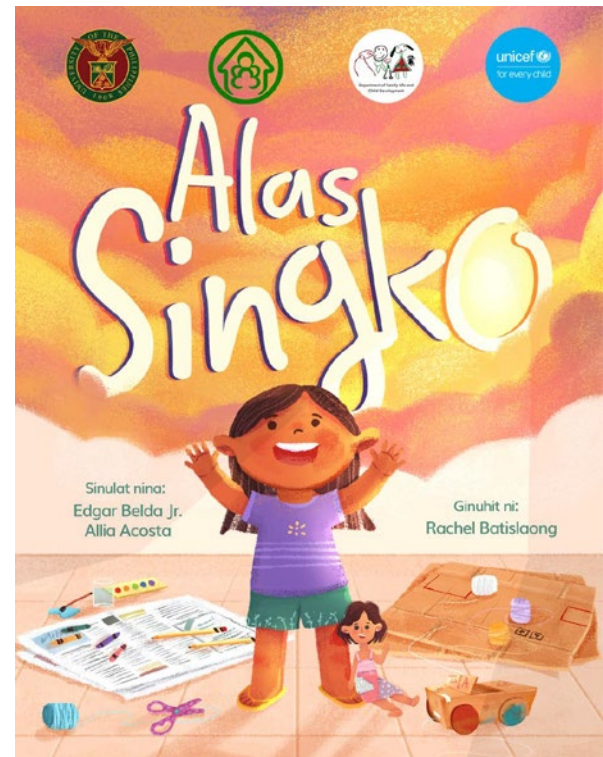
- An informative video demonstration and user manual of YH-830 Bilevel Positive Airway Pressure (BiPAP) machines were provided to the DOH COVID-19 Donations Team for their training needs.



## Updates from UNICEF

### COMMUNITY SUPPORT

- UNICEF is currently providing technical assistance to the ECCD Council in preparing for the phased implementation of in-person ECE learning in low risk areas. Specifically, this includes the formulation of Standard Operating Procedure, Results Framework and Costed Work Plan. To continuously support parents and families in the conduct of home-based development and learning activities for young children, the composition of the Family ECCD Kit is now in the final stage of review. The Kit contains manipulative/educational toys, art materials, storybooks, and hygiene materials for children 3-5 y/o children.
- There have been 2,695 visits to the publication page of the digital storybook "Alas Singko" released last 9th of May on the UNICEF Philippines website. There were also 747 downloads of the digitally released books, broken down into 253 Filipino full color storybook, 247 English full color storybook, 129 English coloring book version, 118 Filipino coloring book version. This book is meant to support early childhood education guide amongst young children and also guide them on how to process their experiences in this pandemic. "Alas Singko" can be downloaded here: [https://www.unicef.org/philippines/reports/alas-singko?fbclid=IwAR3yq7Jypagp7C-jeb\\_8j6Cq2a9NplU3B6Oy\\_P2Sf-LsSKWxkjeGBVokD30](https://www.unicef.org/philippines/reports/alas-singko?fbclid=IwAR3yq7Jypagp7C-jeb_8j6Cq2a9NplU3B6Oy_P2Sf-LsSKWxkjeGBVokD30).
- UNICEF, with UN Women and the Department of Health, co-hosted "Usapang Bakuna," an online discussion on COVID-19 vaccines and the national vaccination plan. The webinar reached 7 million people, and generated 30,000 engagements with over 200 shares. A recording of the webinar can be accessed here: <https://fb.watch/5D680uUilf/>.



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