



## Evidence-based Child Protection in the Philippines: A Scoping Review

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### **Abstract**

This scoping review provides a comprehensive examination of the current landscape of child protection practices in the Philippines, focusing on the implementation of policies, effective strategies, and encountered challenges. Drawing on 19 publications, including 17 research articles, 1 report, and 1 website document, this review synthesizes evidence from various sectors and contexts to address three key research questions: What evidence exists regarding the implementation of child protection policies? What are the identified best practices in implementing these policies? What key challenges and recommendations are encountered in implementing child protection policies? The findings reveal a diverse range of implementation efforts across schools, local governments, hospitals, and community-based programs. Promising strategies of best practices, includes multidisciplinary approaches, community engagement, and strong leadership from Local Government Units. However, persistent challenges remain, including resource constraints, capacity gaps, coordination issues, and socio-cultural barriers. The review concludes with recommendations for strengthening child protection efforts, emphasizing increased investment, capacity building, enhanced coordination, and a focus on preventive measures. This review contributes valuable knowledge to the field and can inform policy and practice improvements to ensure a brighter future for Filipino children.

**Keywords:** *Child Protection; Best Practices; Community-Based Program; Scoping Review; Juvenile Justice*

### **1. Introduction**

The protection of children is a crucial and complex issue that requires a multifaceted approach. In the Philippines, evidence-based child protection practices have gained increasing attention as a means to ensure the wellbeing and safety of vulnerable children (Pacific, 2023). Effective child protection relies on the translation of research into actionable policies and programs (Engle et al., 2011). However, the

implementation of evidence-based practices in the field of child protection can be challenging with barriers such as limited resources, lack of practitioner buy-in, and insufficient collaboration between researchers and policymakers. To address these challenges, it is essential to understand the current landscape of child protection in the Philippines, including the existing policies, the implementation of best practices, and the barriers that hinder the delivery of evidence-based services (Chaffin & Friedrich, 2004). Previous studies have highlighted the importance of evidence-based approaches in child protection, emphasizing the need for collaborative efforts between researchers, policymakers, and practitioners to ensure the effective translation of research into practice (Chaffin & Friedrich, 2004). Similarly, other research has demonstrated the significance of monitoring and standardizing care practices in child protection institutions, as well as the crucial role of state accountability in safeguarding the rights and well-being of children (Jeganathan, 2014).

The Philippines is also a signatory to key international conventions on child protection, including the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) (1989) and the International Labour Organization Convention No. 182 on the Worst Forms of Child Labor (1999). These conventions provide a global framework for protecting children's rights and ensuring their well-being. Despite this comprehensive legal and policy framework, challenges persist in effectively implementing child protection measures and ensuring the safety and well-being of all Filipino children. Studies have highlighted various issues, including limited resources, inadequate capacity of service providers, lack of coordination among agencies, gaps in awareness and understanding of child protection issues, and cultural factors that may hinder reporting and intervention.

This scoping review aims to synthesize the existing literature on evidence-based child protection in the Philippines, providing a comprehensive understanding of the current state of policy implementation, best practices, and the challenges faced in this critical domain.

## **2. Research Objectives**

This scoping review aims to comprehensively map and synthesize available evidence on the implementation, best practices, and challenges related to child protection policies in the Philippines. It seeks to answer the following research questions:

**RQ#1:** What evidence exists regarding the implementation of child protection policies for children in the Philippines?

**RQ#2:** What are the best practices identified in implementing these policies across different contexts in the Philippines?

**RQ#3:** What key challenges and recommendations are encountered in implementing child protection policies for children in various settings across the Philippines?

## **3. Research Method**

### **3.1. Protocol**

To ensure a systematic and transparent review process (Tricco et al., 2018), this scoping review adhered to a predefined research protocol. This protocol guided all stages of the review, from formulating research questions to analysing the findings. Any necessary deviations from the original plan were meticulously documented, ensuring transparency and rigor. The review process also followed the

PRISMA-ScR guidelines, a standard for comprehensive reporting in scoping reviews. This adherence to a structured protocol and established guidelines strengthens the reliability and validity of the review's findings (Lee & Gambiza, 2022).

### 3.2. Search Eligibility Criteria

This review focused on studies published in English language between 2015 and 2025 that explored Evidence-based Child Protection in the Philippines. To ensure a comprehensive analysis, the review also included relevant grey literature, such as government reports and policy documents. The "population, concept, and context" (PCC) framework guided the selection and organization of the studies, providing a structured approach to analysing the literature. (See Table 1 for details on the PCC framework).

Table 1. Eligibility Criteria

Criterion	Inclusion	Exclusion	Rationale
Population	Studies focusing on children (of all ages, unless specified) in the Philippines who are impacted by or involved in child protection initiatives	Studies not specifically focused on children in the Philippines (e.g., studies on adults, studies in other countries)	To ensure the focus remains on the specific population of interest: children in the Philippines
Concept	Studies exploring child protection policies related to abuse, exploitation, trafficking, child labor, children in conflict with the law, etc.	Studies focusing on other social issues or policies not directly related to child protection	To maintain a focus on the core concepts of child protection
Context	Studies examining child protection policy implementation, best practices, challenges, and recommendations within the specific context of the Philippines including various settings (e.g., urban, rural, schools, communities)	Studies focusing on child protection in other countries without specific reference to the Philippines	To establish applicability of the Philippine situation and avoid generalizations from other settings
Language	Studies published in English or Filipino (with English translation available)	Studies published in other languages without English translation	To ensure accessibility and comprehensibility of research findings
Time span	Studies published between 2015 and 2025	Studies published before 2015	To acquire the most recent and pertinent research on child protection policies in

			the Philippines, reflecting current trends and developments
Types of sources	Peer-reviewed journal articles, government reports, policy documents, NGO reports, grey literature (e.g., theses, dissertations, conference proceedings)	Editorials, opinion pieces, news articles, blog posts	To prioritize credible and reliable sources of information with a focus on research-based evidence and official publications
Geographical location	Studies focusing on child protection initiatives at the national level or within specific regions or localities in the Philippines	Studies with a broader geographical scope that do not provide specific insights into the Philippine context	To ensure relevance to the specific context of child protection in the Philippines
Database	Scopus, Google Scholar, ResearchGate, and relevant government websites (e.g., DSWD, DOJ), NGO websites (e.g., UNICEF Philippines, Save the Children Philippines)	Databases or websites with limited relevance to child protection or the Philippines	To ensure comprehensive coverage of relevant literature from reputable academic databases and official sources
Areas of Research	Social Work, Public Administration, Law, Psychology, Sociology, Education, Public Health, Human Rights	Studies that do not directly address key areas of research related to child protection in the Philippines	To ensure the review captures a broad range of perspectives and issues relevant to the research objectives

### 3.3. Search Strategy

The researchers developed a comprehensive search strategy to identify relevant studies on child protection policies in the Philippines (**Moradpour et al., 2025**). The researchers conducted searches across multiple electronic databases, including Scopus, Google Scholar, ResearchGate, and relevant government websites (e.g., DSWD, DOJ), NGO websites (e.g., UNICEF Philippines, Save the Children Philippines) to ensure a broad coverage of academic literature. Additionally, they browsed relevant government websites such as the Official Gazette of the Philippines and the Department of Social Welfare and Development website for policy documents, reports, and other publications related to child protection initiatives.

The search process utilized a variety of keywords and search terms in various combinations to capture different aspects of child protection. These keywords included terms such as "child protection,"

"child abuse," "child exploitation," "child trafficking," "policy implementation," "best practices," "challenges," and "Philippines". Examples of search strings used in the databases were provided.

The search was confined to research released within a specific timeframe to present the most recent and important studies. The researchers ensured that the included studies were published in English language or Filipino language to facilitate accessibility and comprehensibility of the research findings. To enhance the overall comprehensiveness of the search, the researchers conducted reference list checking and browsing citations to identify additional relevant publications. This multi-faceted search strategy aimed to comprehensively identify all relevant literature on child protection policies in the Philippines for inclusion in the scoping review.

### 3.4. Data Extraction

The data extraction process was informed by the research objectives and the key themes that emerged from the literature on child protection policies in the Philippines. Before the formal review, preliminary searches enabled the researchers to establish a structure for data extraction, centered on three core areas:

- 1. Data from the reviewed documents related to the implementation of child protection policies:** This included extracting information on the specific policies addressed (e.g., RA 7610, anti-trafficking laws), the strategies used to implement these policies (e.g., capacity building, community engagement), the stakeholders involved (e.g., government agencies, NGOs, communities), the reported successes and challenges in implementation, and the overall impact on child protection outcomes.
- 2. Data from reviewed publications regarding best practices in child protection:** This involved extracting information on specific interventions or programs identified as best practices, the key elements contributing to their success (e.g., strong leadership, community participation, adequate resources), and recommendations for replicating or scaling up these best practices.
- 3. Data on the challenges and recommendations encountered in implementing child protection policies:** This included extracting information on specific challenges faced (e.g., limited resources, lack of coordination, cultural barriers), the impact of these challenges on policy implementation and child protection outcomes, and recommendations for addressing these challenges.

To ensure accuracy and consistency, all extracted data underwent a thorough double-checking process by the researchers. The data was then systematically organized and categorized into relevant thematic clusters which are detailed in the Results section. This meticulous data extraction process ensured that the review captured comprehensive and relevant information from the included studies.

## 4. Results

### 4.1. Search and Selection Results

The final search was conducted on March 9, 2025. Initially, a total of 100 records were obtained from the chosen databases and government websites. After applying filters for language, subject area, and time span, the number of records were reduced to 42. Titles and abstracts were then evaluated for applicability wherein 33 records were removed as they were deemed irrelevant to the research questions. Full texts were retrieved for the remaining 19 records, and another 33 were disapproved after a detailed

assessment of their eligibility. This left a final sample of 19 studies included in the scoping review. This search and selection procedure is shown schematically in the PRISMA flow diagram (Figure 1).

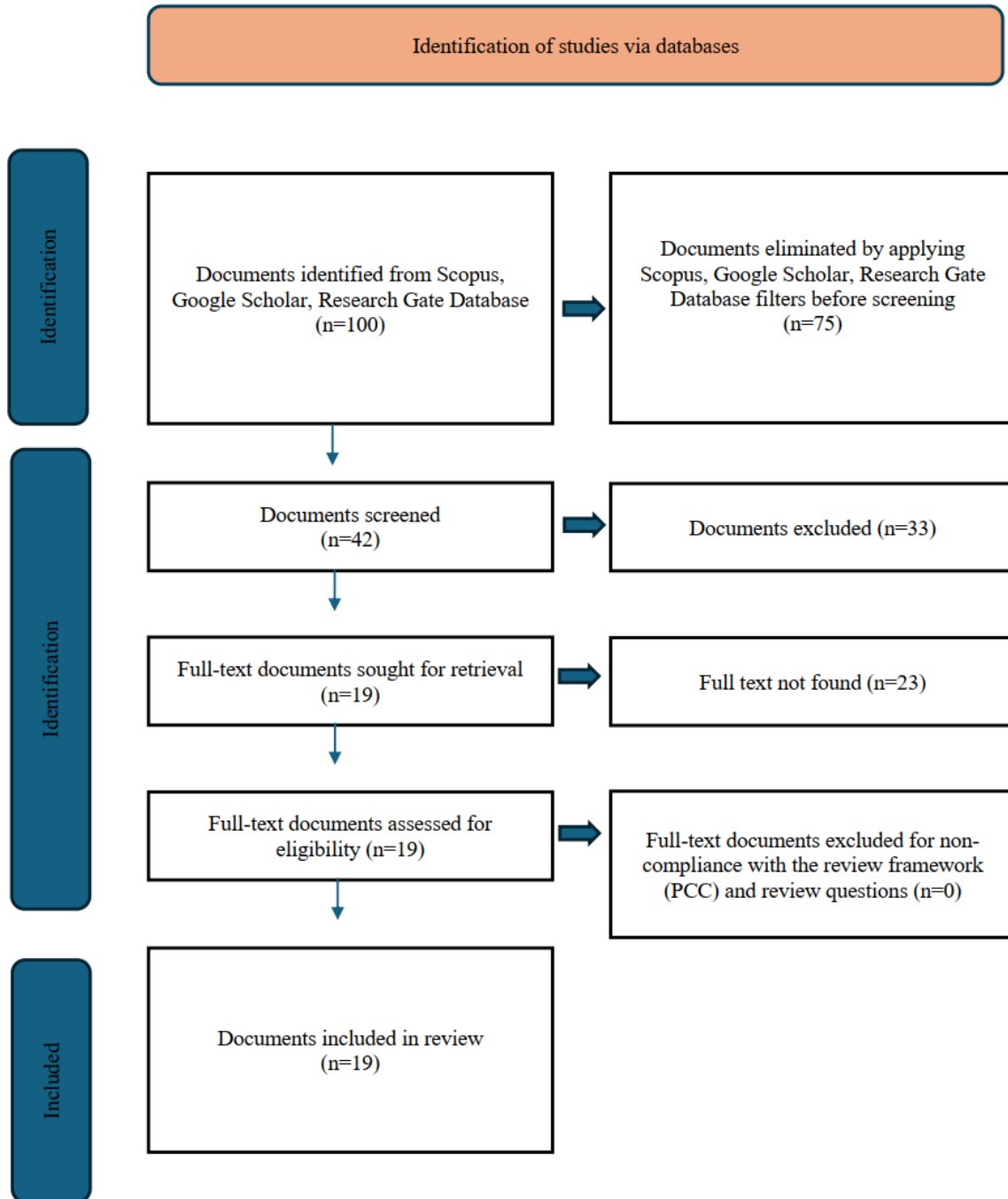


Figure 1. Selection of Publications for Review

#### 4.2 Documents Ultimately Included in the Review

The review yielded 17 Research articles, 1 report, and 1 document from website, thus, meeting the objective and eligibility criteria (Table 2).

Table 2. Documents included in the review

Reference	Publication Title
	<b>Research Article/s</b>
1. (Gamongan & Moyao, 2025)	Empowering Recovery: Evaluating the Reintegration Strategies for Survivors of Child Sexual Abuse in Baguio
2. (Pablo & Dalugdog, 2025)	Barangay Desk Officers Capability in Handling Violence against Women and Children Incidents
3. (Alda et al., 2024)	Child Protection Policy in Narra District, Palawan, Philippines
4. (Lorenzana et al., 2024)	Legal and Secondary Biopsychosocial Outcomes of Child Sexual Abuse: Experience from a Hospital-based Multidisciplinary Child Protection Unit in An Urban Lower-Middle Income Country Setting
5. (Recibe, 2024)	Public Elementary Schools' Extent of Implementation and Compliance to Philippine DepEd Order No. 40 S. 2012 "Child Protection Policy"
6. (Antiza & Labitad, 2024)	Child protection Policy Awareness and Schools' Responsiveness: Basis for An Intervention Plan
7. (Castino, 2023)	Child Protection Policy and Behavioral Management Practices at a Public Elementary School in Rizal, Philippines
8. (Gonzales et al., 2023)	Evaluation and Enhancement of Existing Intervention Programs for Juvenile Delinquency
9. (Tendero, 2023)	Child trafficking prevention and risk management in Zamboanga Peninsula (Region IX), Philippines
10. (Tang, 2023)	Policy Analysis of the Administration of Child Protection Services in Zamboanga City, Philippines
11. (Atianzar, 2022)	Intervention Programs for Child-in-Conflict with the Law (CICL): The Challenges Encountered with Its Implementation
12. (Villamartin, 2022)	Intervention and Mechanism to Sexually Abuse Children
13. (Britanico, 2022)	Barangay Police Efficiency in Responding to Child Abuse Cases
14. (Mobo, 2021)	Strengthening the Child's Protection Program in the Philippines
15. (Natanawan & Dausan, 2021)	Child Abuse Intervention in Dasmariñas, Cavite
16. (Zamora, 2021)	Experiences on the Implementation of Child Protection Policies
17. (Ruelo et al., 2020)	Knowledge and Extent of Welfare and Safety Provisions of Child Protection Law in Philippines- A Case Study
	<b>Report/s</b>
18. (Menart, 2023)	A Model for Safety and Justice Filipino Youth Experiences and Outcomes in a Children's Rights Organization-Run Residential Center
	<b>Document/s from website</b>
19. (Simon & Cruz, 2025)	UP Open University and UNICEF Philippines Visit Valenzuela City Child Protection Center for Study Tour



### 4.3. Bibliometric Characteristics of the Research Field

The 19 documents included in the current review were analyzed based on the following categories: annual distribution, document types, authors, countries of origin, and publication journals. Geographically, the reviewed publications were concentrated in Luzon, with 12 research articles, 1 website document, and 1 report, while Visayas and Mindanao contributed 5 research articles. Although 10 (52.63%) out of the 19 publications were classified under Social Sciences/Public Administration, those and the remaining documents were also associated with other domains: Education (5 document or 26.31%), Criminal Justice (3 documents or 15.79%), and Criminal Justice (3 documents or 5.26%).

### 4.4. Hypothetical Thematic Clusters

In the preliminary research phase, the researchers recognized potential thematic areas that they later refined and investigated further during the process of evaluating studies and gathering data. After iterative revisions, the following three thematic clusters were finalized for this scoping review: (1) Implementation of Child Protection Policies, (2) Best Practices in Child Protection, and (3) Challenges and Recommendations to Child Protection. These three clusters comprehensively address the key aspects of child protection in the Philippines, aligning with the three research questions guiding this review. They encompass the primary findings extracted from the studies included in the review, providing a structured and organized framework for analyzing and synthesizing the literature.

Table 3. Hypothetic Thematic Clusters

Thematic Clusters	Cluster Descriptions
Cluster One 1. Implementation of Child Protection Policies	Examines the implementation processes, strategies, and outcomes of child protection policies in the Philippines including variations across different contexts (e.g., urban/rural, regional, institutional).
Cluster Two 2. Best Practices in Child Protection	Focuses on identifying and analysing best practices in child protection interventions and programs in the Philippines, drawing on evidence from successful initiatives.
Cluster Three 3. Challenges and Recommendations to Child Protection	Identifies and analyses the key challenges hindering the effective implementation of child protection policies in the Philippines, exploring factors such as resource constraints, capacity gaps, coordination issues, and socio-cultural barriers.



Table 4. Mapping the publications to the cluster

SN	Authors and Year	Cluster 1 Implementation of Child Protection Policies	Cluster 2 Best Practices in Child Protection	Cluster 3 Challenges and Recommendations to Child Protection
1.	(Gamongan & Moyao, 2025)	✓	✓	✓
2.	(Pablo & Dalugdog, 2025)			✓
3.	(Alda et al., 2024)	✓		✓
4.	(Lorenzana et al., 2024)		✓	✓
5.	(Recibe, 2024)	✓		✓
6.	(Antiza & Labitad, 2024)	✓		✓
7.	(Castino, 2023)	✓		✓
8.	(Gonzales et al., 2023)	✓	✓	✓
9.	(Tendero, 2023)	✓		✓
10.	(Tang, 2023)	✓	✓	✓
11.	(Atianzar, 2022)	✓		✓
12.	(Villamartin, 2022)		✓	✓
13.	(Britanico, 2022)	✓	✓	✓
14.	(Mobo, 2021)	✓		✓
15.	(Natanawan & Dausan, 2021)	✓	✓	✓
16.	(Zamora, 2021)	✓		✓
17.	(Ruelo et al., 2020)			✓
18.	(Menart, 2023)	✓	✓	
19.	(Simon & Cruz, 2025)		✓	✓
Total		14	9	18

### Cluster One: Implementation of Child Protection Policies

The implementation of child protection policies in the Philippines is evident across diverse settings including schools, hospitals, and community-based programs. This demonstrates a growing commitment to integrating child protection into various sectors, however, challenges remain in ensuring consistent and effective implementation across all levels. The raw data on implementation of Child Protection Policies in Philippines extracted from the reviewed publications are stated in table 6. In describing this direction of the study, research boiled down the most prominent features and characteristics articulated in the reviewed publications to the following:

### **School-Based Implementation**

A significant number of studies highlights the adoption of the DepEd Child Protection Policy (DepEd Order No. 40 S. 2012) in various schools (Alda et al., 2024; Recibe, 2024; Antiza & Labitad, 2024; Castino, 2024; Zamora, 2021). This suggests that schools are increasingly recognized as vital spaces for safeguarding children, however, challenges such as limited understanding of the policy, insufficient support and coordination, and a shortage of qualified professionals persist (Alda et al., 2024).

### **Hospital-Based Approach**

Lorenzana et al. (2024) highlighted the establishment of a Child Protection Unit at the Philippine General Hospital, indicating a growing recognition of the need for specialized services within healthcare settings to address the complex needs of abused children.

### **Community-Based Initiatives**

Gamongan & Moyao (2025) emphasized the role of NGOs in assisting with the rehabilitation and community reintegration of child victims of sexual abuse. This highlights the importance of community-based support systems in child protection.

### **Local Government Initiatives**

Tang (2023) revealed Zamboanga City's comprehensive approach towards encompassing city ordinances, national laws, and a dedicated child protection office. This multi-pronged strategy underscores a commitment to comprehensive child protection at the local level. Similarly, Menart (2023) highlights the active role of LGUs in implementing RA 10630 and operating Bahay Pag-Asa facilities, thus, further demonstrating local government engagement in child welfare.

### **Juvenile Justice**

Gonzales et al. (2023) and Atianzar & Labitad (2024) provided evidence of interventions for juvenile delinquency in line with RA 10630. These initiatives reflect an evolving approach to juvenile justice, focusing on rehabilitation and reintegration rather than solely punitive measures. However, challenges such as the behaviors of CICLs and their parents, lack of specialized personnel, and insufficient funds persist (Atianzar & Labitad, 2024).

### **Addressing Child Abuse**

Natanawan & Dausan (2021) showcased the implementation of child abuse interventions in Dasmariñas, Cavite, emphasizing the importance of collaborative efforts between schools, families, and communities to prevent and address child abuse.

### **Child Trafficking Prevention**

Tendero (2023) highlighted the implementation of child trafficking prevention and risk management strategies in Zamboanga Peninsula, indicating efforts to address this critical issue.

### **Cluster Two: Best Practices in Child Protection**

The identification of best practices in child protection reveals a trend towards multi-sectoral collaboration, community engagement, and a focus on both preventive and responsive measures. These

practices offer valuable insights for replication and scaling up to enhance child protection efforts nationwide. The raw data on Best Practices in Child Practices in the Philippines were extracted from reviewed publications are stated in table 6. In describing this direction of study, research boiled down the most prominent features and characteristics articulated in the reviewed publications to the following:

## **Multidisciplinary Approach**

Lorenzana et al. (2024) highlighted the effectiveness of a multidisciplinary approach employed by the Philippine General Hospital's Child Protection Unit. This model emphasizes the importance of integrated services that address the medical, psychological, social, and legal needs of abused children.

## **NGO Facilitation**

Gamongan & Moyao (2025) showcased the best practice of the CFSPI-Baguio Chapter in facilitating the reintegration of child sexual abuse survivors. This underscores the critical role of NGOs in providing specialized support and bridging the gap between institutional care and community reintegration.

## **Community-Based Programs**

Tang (2023) cited the Child Care and Protection Program and the Juvenile Justice and Welfare Act in Zamboanga City as effective initiatives. Menart (2023) highlighted the role of Bahay Tuluyan in providing community-based services and alternative family care.

## **Juvenile Delinquency Intervention**

Gonzales et al. (2023) illustrated the positive impact of comprehensive intervention programs for juvenile delinquency in Cabuyao City. These programs incorporate community service, counselling, sports, and recreational activities, highlighting a holistic approach to rehabilitation.

## **Preventive Measures**

Natanawan & Dausan (2021) identified a range of effective preventive strategies employed in Dasmariñas, Cavite including awareness campaigns, parent education, close monitoring, and collaboration with social welfare services. These proactive measures underscore the importance of early intervention and community-wide efforts to prevent child abuse.

## **LGU Best Practices**

Simon & Cruz (2025) showcased Valenzuela City's Galing Pook 2024 award-winning child protection policies, demonstrating a model for LGU leadership in creating safe spaces, strengthening community-based protection mechanisms, and establishing Child Protection Centers. This highlights the potential for LGUs to drive impactful change in child protection.

## **Community-Based Law Enforcement**

Britanico (2022) showcased the implementation of a community-based law enforcement approach in Barangay Holy Spirit, Quezon City. This approach suggests a shift towards collaborative efforts between law enforcement and communities to address child abuse.

### **Cluster Three: Challenges and Recommendations to Child protection**

Despite the progress made, the findings reveal that child protection efforts in the Philippines are hampered by multifaceted challenges. These challenges require a multi-pronged approach, encompassing increased investment, capacity building, enhanced coordination, and a shift towards more preventive and community-driven strategies. The raw data on Challenges and Recommendations to Child Protection in the Philippines extracted from the reviewed publications are stated in table 6. In describing this direction of study, research boiled down the most prominent features and characteristics articulated in the reviewed publications to the following:

#### **Resource Constraints**

Insufficient funding, inadequate equipment, and staffing shortages were consistently identified as major barriers to effective implementation (Gamongan & Moyao, 2025; Pablo & Dalugdog, 2025; Alda et al., 2024; Lorenzana et al., 2024; Recibe, 2024; Antiza & Labitad, 2024; Tang, 2023; Gonzales et al., 2023; Atianzar & Labitad, 2024; Villamartin, 2022; Natanawan & Dausan, 2021; Zamora, 2021; Simon & Cruz, 2025).

#### **Capacity Gaps**

Studies highlighted the lack of specialized training, limited understanding of policies, and inadequate skills among personnel involved in child protection (Pablo & Dalugdog, 2025; Alda et al., 2024; Lorenzana et al., 2024; Recibe, 2024; Antiza & Labitad, 2024; Atianzar & Labitad, 2024; Villamartin, 2022).

#### **Coordination Issues**

Challenges in interagency coordination and collaboration were also identified (Alda et al., 2024; Tang, 2023; Villamartin, 2022).

#### **Socio-cultural Barriers**

Factors such as lack of community engagement, stigma surrounding abuse, and uncooperative family members were found to hinder child protection efforts (Gamongan & Moyao, 2025; Natanawan & Dausan, 2021).

#### **Policy Implementation Gaps**

Several studies revealed inconsistencies and challenges in translating policies into action on the ground (Recibe, 2024; Antiza & Labitad, 2024; Tang, 2023; Gonzales et al., 2023).

#### **Lack of Awareness**

A concerning lack of awareness regarding child protection laws and children's rights was observed among students (Ruelo et al., 2020).

To address these challenges, the reviewed publications offered a range of recommendations:

### **Increase Investment**

Increase budget allocation for child protection services, including funding for personnel, training, infrastructure, and program implementation. (Tang, 2023; Atianzar & Labitad, 2024; Britanico, 2022).

### **Enhance Capacity**

Provide ongoing professional development and training for all stakeholders on child protection policies, prevention strategies, identification and reporting of abuse, and trauma-informed care. (Lorenzana et al., 2024; Recibe, 2024; Antiza & Labitad, 2024; Atianzar & Labitad, 2024; Britanico, 2022).

### **Strengthen Coordination**

Establish effective communication channels and collaborative mechanisms between agencies and stakeholders (Tang, 2023; Zamora, 2020; Mobo, 2021).

### **Address Socio-cultural Barriers**

Promote community engagement, address stigma surrounding abuse, and involve families in child protection efforts (Gamongan & Moyao, 2025; Castino, 2023).

### **Improve Policy Implementation**

Strengthen monitoring and evaluation systems, ensure accountability, and address implementation gaps (Recibe, 2024; Antiza & Labitad, 2024; Britanico, 2022).

### **Raise Awareness**

Conduct public education campaigns and incorporate child rights education into school curricula (Castino, 2023; Britanico, 2022; Mobo, 2021; Dausan, 2021; Ruelo et al., 2020).

## **4.5. Document Types**

The distribution of the document types in the scoping review demonstrates a strong emphasis on research articles which constitute the majority of the sources. This is not unexpected, as research articles are typically the primary source of evidence in scoping reviews, providing detailed empirical findings and analyses on specific topics. This reliance on research articles suggests that the review is grounded in robust evidence and scholarly literature, contributing to its credibility and rigor.

The inclusion of a report and a website document adds valuable diversity to the sources. Reports often provide comprehensive overviews, policy recommendations, or evaluations of programs and interventions, offering a broader perspective on the issue of child protection. Website documents, conversely, can offer up-to-date information, insights from advocacy groups or organizations, and potentially different perspectives that may not be captured in traditional academic literature.

Overall, the combination of these varied document types suggests a well-rounded approach to the scoping review, incorporating both in-depth research findings and broader perspectives from diverse sources. This can lead to a more comprehensive and nuanced understanding of the complexities of child protection in the Philippines.

Table 5. Table of Document Types

Types of Document	Number	Percentage
Research Article	17	89.5%
Report	1	5.3%
Website	1	5.3%

Table 6. Raw Data

No.	Author & Year	Document Type	Cluster 1: Implementation of Child Protection Policies (RAW DATA)	Cluster 2: Best Practices in Child Protection (RAW DATA)	Cluster 3: Challenges and Recommendations to Child Protection (RAW DATA)
1	Gamongan & Moyao (2025)	Article Research	Established NGO (CFSPI-Baguio Chapter) assists in rehabilitation & community reintegration of child victims of sexual abuse.	Child and Family Service Philippines Inc.-Baguio Chapter facilitates reintegration of child survivors.	Challenges: Lack of LGU/community engagement, community stigma. Recommendations: Provide resources (mental health, education), address unique challenges.
2	Pablo & Dalugdog (2025)	Article Research	-	-	Challenges: Insufficient equipment/training for barangay desk officers, difficulties with VAWC records, lack of RA 9262 familiarity, funding, therapy availability.
3	Alda et al. (2024)	Article Research	Narra District of Palawan implemented Child Protection Policy in Secondary Schools.	-	Challenges: Insufficient support/coordination, limited policy understanding, shortage of professionals, high caseloads.

4	Lorenzana et al. (2024)	Article Research	-	Philippine General Hospital established Child Protection Unit (medical, psychiatric, social, legal support).	Challenges: Inadequate program dissemination, funding, trained personnel, lack of oversight, no national database. Recommendations: Strengthen legal process capacities, training, curriculum updates, monitoring.
5	Recibe (2024)	Article Research	South and East District of Aparri adopted DEPED Order No. 40 S. 2012 (Child Protection Policy).	-	Challenges: Educators encounter obstacles despite training. Recommendations: Seminars/reviews on Child Protection Policy, regular monitoring/assessment, executive committee.
6	Antiza & Labitad (2024)	Article Research	Valencia City public schools adopted DEPED Order No. 40 S. 2012 (Child Protection Policy).	-	Challenges: Lack of support service relationships, need for capacity building. Recommendations: Seminars/training for teachers, capacity building for personnel, monitoring/evaluation tools.
7	Tang (2023)	Article Research	Zamboanga City enforces city ordinances, Philippine laws, RA 7610. City Social Welfare and Development Office implements programs.	Child Care and Protection Program, Juvenile Justice and Welfare Act implemented.	Challenges: Insufficient funding, limited coordination, need for comprehensive policies, resource issues, reactive focus. Recommendations: Enhance collaboration, increase funding, improve policies, prioritize child well-being.



8	Menart (2023)	Report	RA 10630 (Juvenile Justice and Welfare Act) allows LGUs/NGOs (Bahay Tuluyan) to operate Bahay Pag-Asa facilities.	Bahay Tuluyan provides community-based services and Alternative Family Care.	-
9	Tendero (2023)	Article Research	Zamboanga Peninsula's Child Trafficking prevention and risk management.	-	Challenges: Socioeconomic factors, cultural norms, institutional shortcomings, criminal networks. Recommendations: Enhance awareness campaigns.
10	Castino (2024)	Article Research	Rizal Province public schools followed DEPED Order No. 40 S. 2012 (Child Protection Policy).	-	Recommendations: Promote positive behavior, train teachers on best strategies, emphasize care/respect.
11	Gonzales et al. (2023)	Article Research	Intervention programs for juvenile delinquency in Cabuyao, Laguna (RA 10630).	Community service, counseling, sports, religious programs, VAWC referrals.	Challenges: Repeat offenders, limited program impact, programs as punishment. Recommendations: Better guidance, address root causes, enhance programs.
12	Antiza & Labitad (2024)	Article Research	Implementation of Children-in-Conflict with the Law (CICL) programs (RA 10630).	-	Challenges: CICL/parent behaviors, lack of personnel, insufficient funding. Recommendations: Build rapport, emphasize parent role, continuous training, increase budget.
13	Villamartin (2022)	Article Research	-	Municipal Social Welfare and Development Office	Challenges: Insufficient staffing, lack of funding, limited LGU support.

				(MSWDO) implements mechanisms/interventions.	
14	Britanico (2022)	Article Research	Barangay Police's Response to Child Abuse Cases (RA 7610).	Community-based law enforcement approach.	Recommendations: Training for barangay police, sufficient salary/equipment, LGU support for livelihood/awareness/intervention.
15	Mobo (2021)	Article Research	LGU's Child Protection Programs in collaboration with barangays during Covid-19.	-	Recommendations: Cooperation of Barangay officials/residents, strengthen policies, parent orientation.
16	Natanawan & Dausan (2021)	Article Research	Child Abuse Intervention in Dasmariñas, Cavite.	Seminars, awareness campaigns, monitoring, counseling, collaboration with CSWD, education/support for children.	Challenges: Uncooperative families, limited program understanding, insufficient funding.
17	Zamora (2021)	Article Research	Panabo City public schools adopted DEPED Order No. 40 S. 2012 (Child Protection Policy).	-	Challenges: Insufficient resources, unfavorable student attitudes. Recommendations: Engage stakeholders, foster parent relationships, align initiatives with DepEd vision.
18	Ruelo et al. (2020)	Article Research	-	-	Challenges: Lack of student knowledge about child protection act. Recommendations: Students need to be more aware of rights and legal provisions.

19	Simon & Cruz (2025)	Document from Website	-	Galing Pook 2024 award winning Valenzuela City Child Protection Policies (Safe Spaces, Child Protection Centers, First Pathfinding City).	Challenges: Accreditation, training, resources.
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## 5. Discussion

This scoping review provides a comprehensive overview of the current state of child protection in the Philippines, highlighting a complex interplay of progress and persistent challenges. The analysis reveals that while commendable efforts are underway to implement policies and establish best practices, significant hurdles remain in ensuring the safety and well-being of all Filipino children.

A key finding is the widespread implementation of child protection policies across various sectors including schools, local governments, hospitals, and community-based programs (Alda et al., 2024; Antiza & Labitad, 2024; Britanico, 2022; Castino, 2024; Gamongan & Moyao, 2025; Gonzales et al., 2023; Lorenzana et al., 2024; Menart, 2023; Mobo, 2021; Natanawan & Dausan, 2021; Recibe, 2024; Tang, 2023; Tendero, 2023; Zamora, 2021). This demonstrates a growing recognition of the importance of integrating child protection into diverse settings. On the other hand, the review also underscores the persistent challenges in translating policies into effective action on the ground. Resource constraints including insufficient funding, inadequate equipment, and staffing shortages are consistently identified as major barriers to effective implementation (Gamongan & Moyao, 2025; Pablo & Dalugdog, 2025; Alda et al., 2024; Lorenzana et al., 2024; Recibe, 2024; Antiza & Labitad, 2024; Tang, 2023; Gonzales et al., 2023; Atianzar & Labitad, 2024; Villamartin, 2022; Natanawan & Dausan, 2021; Zamora, 2021; Simon & Cruz, 2025). This highlights the need for increased investment in child protection services and a more equitable distribution of resources.

Furthermore, the review reveals significant capacity gaps among personnel involved in child protection including a lack of specialized training, limited understanding of policies, and inadequate skills in handling child abuse cases (Pablo & Dalugdog, 2025; Alda et al., 2024; Lorenzana et al., 2024; Recibe, 2024; Antiza & Labitad, 2024; Atianzar & Labitad, 2024; Villamartin, 2022). This underscores the critical need for ongoing professional development and capacity building initiatives to equip stakeholders with the necessary knowledge and skills to effectively address child protection concerns. Coordination challenges between different agencies and stakeholders also persist (Alda et al., 2024; Tang, 2023; Villamartin, 2022), thus, highlighting the importance of establishing effective communication channels and collaborative mechanisms to ensure a cohesive and coordinated approach to child protection.

Despite these challenges, the review identifies several promising best practices that offer valuable insights for strengthening child protection efforts. The multidisciplinary approach employed by the Philippine General Hospital's Child Protection Unit (Lorenzana et al., 2024), the community-based programs in Zamboanga City and Bahay Tuluyan (Tang, 2023; Menart, 2023), and the comprehensive intervention programs for juvenile delinquency in Cabuyao City (Gonzales et al., 2023) demonstrate the effectiveness of integrated services, community engagement, and holistic approaches to child protection.

Additionally, Valenzuela City's award-winning policies, which focus on creating safe spaces and strengthening community-based protection mechanisms, showcase a model for LGU leadership in child protection (Simon & Cruz, 2025). These best practices offer valuable models for replication and scaling up to enhance child protection outcomes nationwide.

The identification of promising best practices offers valuable insights for enhancing child protection efforts. The multidisciplinary approach employed by the Philippine General Hospital's Child Protection Unit, the community-based initiatives led by NGOs and LGUs, and the comprehensive intervention programs for juvenile delinquency all demonstrate effective strategies that can be replicated and scaled up. However, the relatively limited number of publications focusing on best practices suggests a need for more deliberate efforts to document, analyze, and disseminate successful interventions to guide and inspire others who are working in the field.

The review also underscores the multifaceted challenges that continue to hinder effective child protection which specifies resource constraints, capacity gaps, coordination issues, and socio-cultural.

## **6. Limitations**

This scoping review acknowledges several limitations. First, the literature search was limited to English language publications, potentially omitting relevant research in Filipino or other local languages. This may have resulted in an incomplete understanding of child protection efforts in certain contexts. Second, the focus on published sources, such as research articles, reports, and website documents may have overlooked valuable insights from grey literature including government reports, conference proceedings, and dissertations, which could provide more detailed information on specific interventions or local initiatives. Third, the review primarily documented the implementation, best practices, and challenges of child protection policies without an in-depth evaluation of the effectiveness of specific interventions. Future research could assess the impact of different child protection strategies to offer more evidence-based recommendations for policy and practice. Despite these limitations, this scoping review contributes valuable insights to the understanding of child protection in the Philippines, providing a comprehensive overview of the current landscape and highlighting key areas for future research and action.

## **7. Recommendations**

Based on the findings of this scoping review, several key recommendations emerge to enhance child protection efforts in the Philippines. First and foremost, increased investment in child protection services is crucial, involving the allocation of more resources for personnel, training, infrastructure, and program implementation. Additionally, strengthening policy implementation and monitoring is essential to ensure tangible improvements for children, achievable through robust monitoring and evaluation frameworks and clear accountability mechanisms. Furthermore, enhancing interagency coordination and collaboration is vital to create a cohesive and responsive child protection system, fostering partnerships between government agencies, NGOs, and other stakeholders, thus, establishing clear referral pathways and promoting information sharing.

Another critical recommendation is to prioritize preventive measures and community engagement including investments in parenting education programs, awareness campaigns on child abuse and neglect, and life skills training for children and adolescents. Empowering communities to identify and respond to child protection concerns is also essential. Finally, continuous capacity building for all personnel involved in child protection is vital, hence, encompassing training on child protection policies, prevention

strategies, identification and reporting of abuse, and trauma-informed care. By implementing these recommendations, the Philippines can move towards a more robust and effective child protection system that safeguards the rights and well-being of all children.

## 8. Conclusion

This scoping review underscores the multifarious nature of child protection in the Philippines. While substantial progress has been made in establishing policies and implementing programs across diverse sectors, the findings reveal enduring challenges necessitating ongoing attention and a multifaceted approach. Persistent impediments such as resource constraints, capacity gaps, coordination issues, and sociocultural barriers continue to hinder the full realization of child protection objectives. However, the identification of promising best practices including multidisciplinary approaches, community-based programs, and strong local government leadership offers valuable pathways for strengthening child protection efforts. By learning from both successes and challenges, and by prioritizing increased investment, capacity building, enhanced coordination, and community engagement, the Philippines can cultivate a more robust and effective child protection system that safeguards the rights and well-being of all children. This review contributes valuable knowledge to the field and can inform policy and practice improvements to ensure a brighter future for Filipino children.

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