

## Mapping Child Protection in the Philippines: A Scoping Review of Implementation, Best Practices and Challenges

Eduardo J. Andaya<sup>1\*</sup> and Ronhel S. Patricio<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1,2</sup>Lecturer from College of Public Administration and Governance Pamantasan ng Lungsod ng  
University Valenzuela, Valenzuela

\*Corresponding Author Email: [eduardoandaya@plv.edu.ph](mailto:eduardoandaya@plv.edu.ph)

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### Abstract

This scoping review delivers an in-depth analysis of child protection practices in the Philippines, highlighting the implementation of policies, effective strategies, and the significant challenges encountered. A clear understanding of these critical elements is essential for developing effective policies and practices that will significantly improve child welfare outcomes. Conducted in accordance with PRISMA-Scoping Review guidelines, the review analyzed nineteen (19) publications, including seventeen (17) research articles, one report, and one website document. It addresses three key research questions: What evidence exists regarding the implementation of child protection policies? What best practices have been identified in implementing these policies? What key challenges and recommendations emerge in the implementation of child protection policies? The findings revealed a wide range of implementation efforts across schools, local governments, hospitals, and community-based programs. Effective strategies recognized as best practices include multidisciplinary approaches, community engagement, and strong leadership from Local Government Units. However, several persistent challenges remain, including resource constraints, capacity gaps, coordination issues, and socio-cultural barriers. The review concludes with recommendations aimed at strengthening child protection efforts, emphasizing the need for increased investment, capacity building, enhanced coordination, and a focus on preventive measures. This review offers valuable insights that can inform policy and practice improvements, ultimately ensuring a brighter future for children in the Philippines.

**Keywords:** Child Protection, Best Practices, Community-Based Program

### Introduction

The protection of children is a pressing challenge that necessitates a strategic and comprehensive approach. In the Philippines, there is an increasing emphasis on evidence-based practices to ensure the well-being of vulnerable children (Pacific, 2023). The effectiveness of child protection initiatives depends on

translating research findings into actionable policies and programs (Engle et al., 2011). However, obstacles such as limited resources, inadequate practitioner support, and insufficient collaboration between researchers and policymakers often hinder implementation. A thorough understanding of the current child protection landscape is essential, including existing policies and the challenges that impede evidence-based service delivery (Chaffin & Friedrich, 2004). Research highlights the importance of collaboration among researchers, policymakers, and practitioners to transform insights into effective practices (Chaffin & Friedrich, 2004). By enhancing this collaboration, we can create a more effective child protection system that prioritizes the safety and welfare of every child. Research has highlighted the importance of monitoring and standardizing care practices in child protection institutions, as well as the crucial role of state accountability in ensuring the rights and well-being of children (Jeganathan, 2014). The Philippines is a signatory to key international conventions on child protection, including the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) of 1989 and the International Labor Organization Convention No. 182 on the Worst Forms of Child Labor of 1999. These conventions establish a global framework for safeguarding children's rights and promoting 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 identified 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. The research problem being addressed is the need for a comprehensive understanding of evidence-based child protection in the Philippines. The objectives include mapping and synthesizing evidence related to the implementation of policies, identifying best practices, and recognizing challenges. The focus is on child protection policies and programs within the Philippine context. 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.

### **The purposes**

1. To map and synthesize evidence regarding the implementation of child protection policies in the Philippines.
2. To identify best practices that have been recognized in the implementation of these child protection policies.
3. To recognize the key challenges encountered and identify recommendations that emerge in the implementation of child protection policies in the Philippines.

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## Literature Review

Child protection is a multidisciplinary field that includes a wide range of interventions and policies designed to safeguard children's well-being from various forms of harm, including abuse, neglect, exploitation, and violence (Hackett, 2015). It recognizes children as both a mandate and a precious resource, prioritizing their rights to live, grow, develop, and fully participate in society while being protected from violence and discrimination (Kurniawan & Arsil, 2019). Implementing child protection programs within elementary schools is crucial for creating a secure and supportive environment that fosters children's optimal growth and development. These programs are often grounded in public policies established by local or national governments, providing a legal framework that protects children from violence, exploitation, and discrimination in educational settings (Wahyudin et al., 2024). Child protection policies serve as a cornerstone for organizations, defining their commitment to child safety and outlining the responsibilities of adults in upholding children's rights and well-being. These policies must be developed with sensitivity to shape the organizational approach to child safeguarding effectively. Understanding children's rights and child protection systems requires a multifaceted approach that includes legal frameworks, social services, educational institutions, and community-based programs. All these elements must work together to create a safety net for vulnerable children (Munir, 1993). Understanding the context of child protection in the Philippines requires a careful examination of the historical, cultural, and socio-economic factors at play. Poverty has long been recognized as a critical issue affecting families and communities, particularly in discussions about child protection and welfare. State interventions often focus on individual cases of child neglect while neglecting the underlying structural issues that lead families to engage with these systems. This highlights the need to address systemic problems rather than just the symptoms of neglect. The interaction of these various factors significantly impacts the vulnerabilities that children face and the effectiveness of current protection measures.

Furthermore, implementing effective child protection strategies requires strong collaboration among different agencies. This means fostering coordinated and comprehensive responses to the complex needs of at-risk children. To achieve this, it is essential to break down barriers between sectors and promote open communication and cooperation among government agencies, non-governmental organizations, community-based groups, and other stakeholders involved in child welfare. In the Philippines, establishing a comprehensive child protection system is crucial, particularly given the lasting impact of historical factors, including colonialism and feudalism, on the welfare of children and youth (Blanco & Pano, 2019). The legal and policy framework for child protection in the country is rooted in the 1987 Constitution, which acknowledges children's rights to special protection and mandates the State to uphold these rights (Niekerk & Matthias, 2019). Various legislative acts, including the Child and Youth Welfare Code, the Special Protection of Children Against Abuse, Exploitation, and Discrimination Act, and the Anti-Trafficking in Persons Act further support this constitutional directive.

Together, these laws create a legal framework to safeguard children from harm (Esponda et al., 2015). Effective reporting and management systems for cases of child abuse and neglect are crucial to implementing these protections. Primary schools need to establish structured procedures and mechanisms to identify, report, and address incidents of violence or exploitation (Wahyudin et al., 2024). Despite the existence of laws and policies aimed at protecting children, significant challenges remain in their effective implementation and enforcement. For example, it has been noted that the welfare and rights of children, particularly juvenile offenders, require more serious attention from the government to prevent unnecessary restrictions on their freedom (Juwahyudhi, 2013). A critical analysis of the juvenile justice system reveals gaps in its application and a disconnect between its intended objectives and actual outcomes (DK, 2017).

Additionally, the Philippines faces challenges related to implementing legal protections for working children. Existing laws do not fully address the legal needs associated with child labor, and weak monitoring and data collection systems, inadequate facilities and infrastructure, and social factors such as the acceptance of child labor within communities further complicate the situation. The rising number of Filipino children in conflict with the law is also alarming (Dullas et al., 2021).

Furthermore, the Philippine Congress is considering amending Republic Act 9344, also known as the Juvenile Justice and Welfare Act of 2006, to lower the minimum age of criminal liability from 15 to 9 years old. However, children's rights advocates argue that the law needs stricter enforcement rather than revision (Egenhofer et al., 1994; Luna et al., 2020). The Philippines' commitment to international conventions, such as the Convention on the Rights of the Child, reinforces its obligation to protect and promote the well-being of children. Despite the legal declaration that corporal punishment is unlawful, many adults, including parents and teachers who were victims of physical abuse in their childhoods, tend to perpetuate this cycle of violence. This highlights the pressing need to establish safe school environments that promote positive contributions to society (Shah et al., 2018). The international conventions ratified by the Philippines highlight the nation's dedication to upholding global standards for child protection and human rights.

## Methodology

**1. Protocol:** To ensure a systematic and transparent scoping review process (Tricco et al., 2018), this scoping review followed a predefined research protocol. This protocol guided every stage of the scoping review, from formulating research questions to analyzing the findings. Any necessary deviations from the original plan were carefully documented to maintain transparency and rigor. The review process also adhered to the PRISMA-ScR guidelines, which serve as a standard for comprehensive reporting in scoping reviews. By following a structured protocol and established procedures, the reliability and validity of the review's findings are enhanced (Lee & Gambiza, 2022).

**2. Search Eligibility Criteria:** This scoping review focuses on studies published in English between 2015 and 2025 that examine evidence-based child protection in the Philippines. To ensure a thorough analysis, the review also incorporates relevant grey literature, including government reports and policy documents. The review is structured using the "population, concept, and context" (PCC) framework, which guides the selection and organization of studies for more effective analysis. The data analyzed in this review consists of secondary sources, including peer-reviewed journal articles, government reports, policy documents, and reports from non-governmental organizations (NGOs). The inclusion criteria specifically target studies related to child protection policies, their implementation, best practices, and the challenges faced in the Philippines.

**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). They conducted searches across multiple electronic databases, including Scopus, Google Scholar, ResearchGate, as well as pertinent government websites such as the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) and the Department of Justice (DOJ). Additionally, they examined the websites of non-governmental organizations (NGOs), including UNICEF Philippines and Save the Children Philippines, to ensure comprehensive coverage of academic literature. Furthermore, they reviewed government resources, including the Official Gazette of the Philippines and the DSWD website, for policy documents, reports, and other publications related to child protection initiatives.

The search process employed a variety of keywords and search terms in different combinations to capture various aspects of child protection. These keywords included phrases such as "child protection," "child abuse," "child exploitation," "child trafficking," "policy implementation," "best practices," "challenges," and "Philippines." Examples of the search strings used in the databases were also provided. The search was limited to research published within a specific timeframe to ensure the inclusion of the most recent and significant studies. The researchers made sure that the included studies were published in either English or Filipino to enhance accessibility and understanding of the findings. To further improve the comprehensiveness of the search, reference list checking and citation browsing were conducted to identify additional relevant publications. This multi-faceted search strategy aimed to thoroughly identify all pertinent literature on child protection policies in the Philippines for inclusion in the scoping review.

**4. Data Extraction:** The data extraction process was guided by the research objectives and the key themes identified in the literature on child protection policies in the Philippines. Before the formal review, preliminary searches helped the researchers develop a framework for data extraction, focusing on three main areas:

4.1 Data from the reviewed documents related to the implementation of child protection policies includes information on specific policies addressed, such as the Republic Act 7610 and anti-trafficking laws. This also involves outlining the strategies employed to implement these policies, including capacity building and community engagement. Additionally, it identifies the stakeholders involved, which may include government

agencies, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), and local communities. The documents report on the successes and challenges encountered during implementation, as well as the overall impact on child protection outcomes.

4.2 Data from reviewed publications regarding best practices in child protection This involved gathering information on effective interventions or programs recognized as best practices, the key components contributing to their success (e.g., strong leadership, community involvement, sufficient resources), and suggestions for replicating or expanding upon these best practices.

4.3 Data on the challenges and recommendations encountered in implementing child protection policies This involved gathering information on specific challenges faced, such as limited resources, a lack of coordination, and cultural barriers. It also examined the impact of these challenges on policy implementation and child protection outcomes, along with recommendations to address them.

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 careful data extraction process ensured that the review captured comprehensive and pertinent information from the included studies.

## Results

**1. Search and Selection Results:** The final search was conducted on March 9, 2025. Initially, a total of 100 records were obtained from selected databases and government websites. After applying filters based on language, subject area, and period, the number of records was reduced to 42. The titles and abstracts of these records were then evaluated for their relevance to the research questions, resulting in the removal of 33 records that were deemed irrelevant. Full texts were retrieved for the remaining 19 records; however, after a detailed assessment of their eligibility, an additional 33 records were disqualified. This process left a final sample of 19 studies included in the scoping review. The search and selection procedure is illustrated schematically in the PRISMA flow diagram (Figure 1).

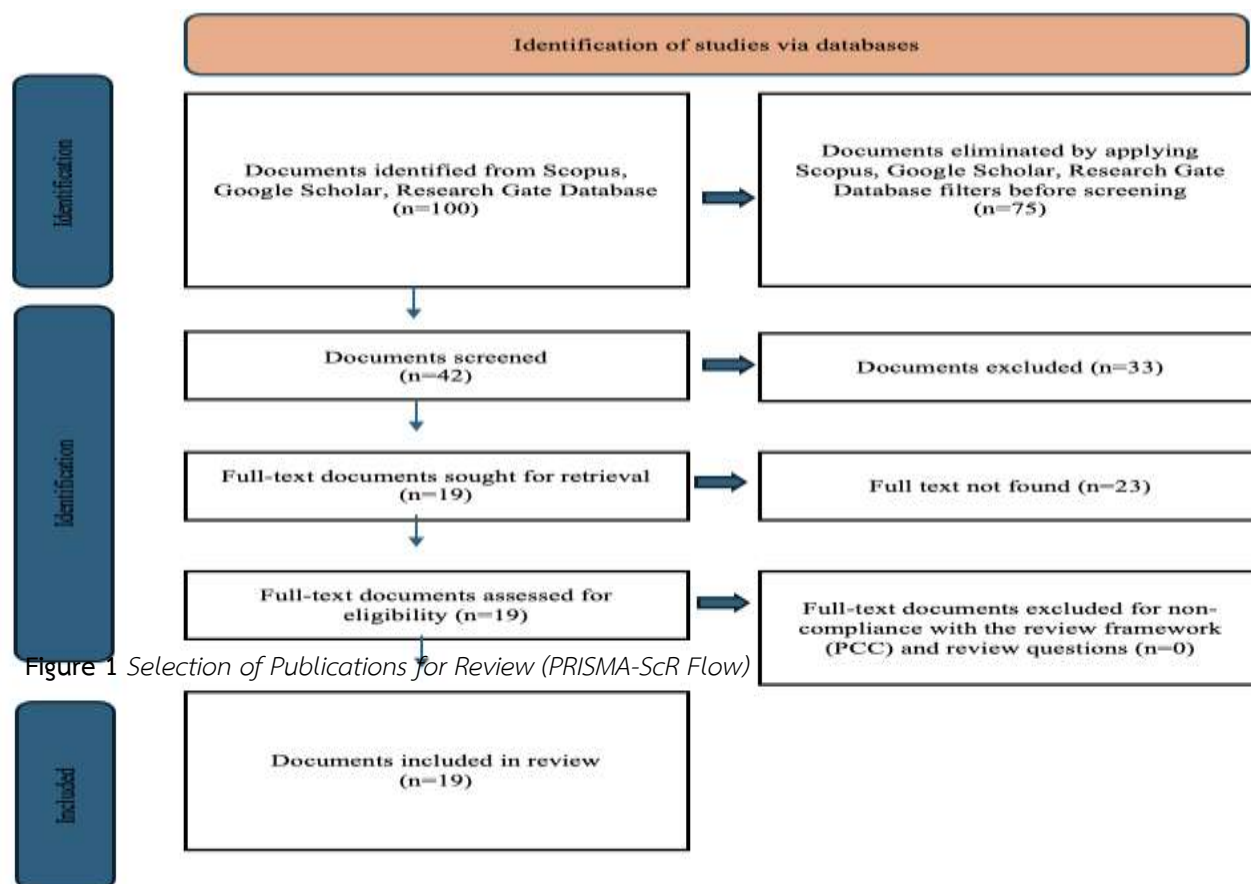


Figure 1 Selection of Publications for Review (PRISMA-ScR Flow)

Figure 1 The search and selection procedure is illustrated schematically in the PRISMA flow diagram

Table 1: Documents included in the review

Reference	Publication Title
	<b>Research Article/s</b>
(Gamongan & Moyao, 2025)	Empowering Recovery: Evaluating the Reintegration Strategies for Survivors of Child Sexual Abuse in Baguio
(Pablo & Dalugdog, 2025)	Barangay Desk Officers Capability in Handling Violence against Women and Children Incidents
(Alda et al., 2024)	Child Protection Policy in Narra District, Palawan, Philippines
(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
(Recibe, 2024)	Public Elementary Schools' Extent of Implementation and Compliance to Philippine DepEd Order No. 40 S. 2012 "Child Protection Policy"
(Antiza & Labitad, 2024)	Child protection Policy Awareness and Schools' Responsiveness: Basis for An Intervention Plan
(Castino, 2023)	Child Protection Policy and Behavioral Management Practices at a Public Elementary School in Rizal, Philippines
(Gonzales et al., 2023)	Evaluation and Enhancement of Existing Intervention Programs for Juvenile Delinquency
(Tendero, 2023)	Child trafficking prevention and risk management in Zamboanga Peninsula (Region IX), Philippines
(Tang, 2023)	Policy Analysis of the Administration of Child Protection Services in Zamboanga City, Philippines
(Atianzar, 2022)	Intervention Programs for Child-in-Conflict with the Law (CICL): The Challenges Encountered with Its Implementation
(Villamartin, 2022)	Intervention and Mechanism to Sexually Abuse Children
(Britanico, 2022)	Barangay Police Efficiency in Responding to Child Abuse Cases
(Mobo, 2021)	Strengthening the Child's Protection Program in the Philippines
(Natanawan & Dausan, 2021)	Child Abuse Intervention in Dasmariñas, Cavite
(Zamora, 2021)	Experiences on the Implementation of Child Protection Policies



(Ruelo et al., 2020)	Knowledge and Extent of Welfare and Safety Provisions of Child Protection Law in Philippines- A Case Study
	Report/s
(Menart, 2023)	A Model for Safety and Justice Filipino Youth Experiences and Outcomes in a Children's Rights Organization-Run Residential Center
	Document/s from website
(Simon & Cruz, 2025)	UP Open University and UNICEF Philippines Visit Valenzuela City Child Protection Center for Study Tour

**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).

**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. 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.

#### **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 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 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-Baguios 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 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).

### 5. Document Types

The distribution of document types in the scoping review reveals a strong emphasis on research articles, which comprise most 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 provide 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 2:** Table of Document Types

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

### Conclusion and Discussion

This scoping review offers a comprehensive analysis of child protection in the Philippines, highlighting both the progress made and the ongoing challenges. While significant efforts have been made to implement policies and establish best practices, considerable obstacles remain in ensuring the safety and well-being of all Filipino children.

**1. The objective of this review is to map and synthesize evidence regarding the implementation of child protection policies in the Philippines.**

**Discussion:** The review identified widespread implementation of child protection policies across various sectors, including schools, local governments, hospitals, and community-based programs. This reflects a growing awareness and integration of child protection measures in diverse settings. However, challenges remain in

effectively translating these policies into concrete actions on the ground. Research by 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), and Zamora (2021) highlights these implementation efforts and the related challenges.

**Conclusion:** Child protection policies are being implemented in diverse settings, including schools, hospitals, local government units, and community-based programs. Nonetheless, inconsistencies and difficulties persist in ensuring effective implementation across all levels.

## **2. The goal is to identify best practices recognized in the implementation of child protection policies.**

**Discussion:** Several promising best practices have emerged, providing valuable insights for enhancing child protection efforts. Effective strategies include the multidisciplinary approach employed by the Philippine General Hospital's Child Protection Unit, community-based programs in Zamboanga City and Bahay Tuluyan, as well as comprehensive intervention initiatives for juvenile delinquency in Cabuyao City. These examples highlight the success of integrated services, community engagement, and holistic approaches. Additionally, Valenzuela City's award-winning policies, which emphasize safe spaces and strengthened community-based protection, serve as a model for local government unit (LGU) leadership. These practices offer strong examples for broader replication.

**Conclusion:** Identified best practices include multidisciplinary approaches, community engagement, and a focus on both preventive and responsive measures. These practices provide valuable lessons for replicating and scaling up child protection initiatives.

## **3. To identify the key challenges faced and formulate recommendations for the implementation of child protection policies in the Philippines.**

**Discussion:** The effective implementation of child protection policies is hindered by significant obstacles. Common barriers include resource constraints such as insufficient funding, inadequate equipment, and staffing shortages, as highlighted in multiple studies (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). There are also significant capacity gaps among personnel, including a lack of specialized training and inadequate understanding of the policies (Pablo & Dalugdog, 2025; Alda et al., 2024; Lorenzana et al., 2024; Recibe, 2024; Antiza & Labitad, 2024; Atianzar & Labitad, 2024; Villamartin, 2022). Additionally, coordination issues among agencies and stakeholders persist (Alda et al., 2024; Tang, 2023; Villamartin, 2022). Socio-cultural factors further complicate efforts to protect children.

**Conclusion:** Child protection initiatives encounter various challenges, including resource constraints, capacity gaps, coordination issues, and socio-cultural barriers. To address these challenges, recommendations include increased investment, capacity building, improved coordination, and a shift towards more preventive and community-driven strategies.

#### Discoveries or new knowledge

This scoping review contributes valuable knowledge by:

- 1. Addressing Gaps in Existing Literature:** It provides a comprehensive overview of the current state of child protection in the Philippines, which has been previously understated.
- 2. Synthesizing Diverse Findings:** The review consolidates information from various sources, including research articles, reports, and online documents, to identify key areas that require intervention.
- 3. Offering New Insights into Complexities:** It sheds light on the multifaceted nature of child protection in the Philippines by highlighting the balance between progress achieved and the ongoing challenges that remain.
- 4. Emphasizing Interconnected Issues:** The review highlights the interconnected and complex issues that continue to obstruct adequate child protection. These include ongoing resource constraints, significant capacity gaps among personnel, persistent problems with inter-agency coordination, and influential socio-cultural factors. By addressing these together, the review emphasizes the systemic nature of the barriers to adequate child protection.

#### 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, which can be achieved through robust monitoring and evaluation frameworks and precise accountability mechanisms. Furthermore, enhancing interagency coordination and collaboration is crucial for creating a cohesive and responsive child protection system. This involves fostering partnerships among government agencies, NGOs, and other stakeholders, thereby establishing clear referral pathways and promoting the sharing of information.

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.

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