

UNICEF and Indigenous Peoples/ Ethnic Minorities

UNICEF Mandate

- UNICEF is mandated by the United Nations General Assembly to advocate for the protection of children's rights, to help meet their basic needs and to expand their opportunities to reach their full potential.
- UNICEF is guided by the Convention on the Rights of the Child and strives to establish children's rights as enduring ethical principles and international standards of behaviour towards children.
- UNICEF insists that the survival, protection and development of children are universal development imperatives that are integral to human progress.

Mandate cont.

- UNICEF is committed to ensuring special protection for the most disadvantaged children - victims of war, disasters, extreme poverty, all forms of violence and exploitation and those with disabilities.
- UNICEF is non-partisan and its cooperation is free of discrimination. In everything it does, the most disadvantaged children and the countries in greatest need have priority.
- UNICEF aims, through its country programmes, to promote the equal rights of women and girls and to support their full participation in the political, social, and economic development of their communities.

Convention of the Rights of the Child

- In the preamble of the Convention on the Rights of the Child, States parties take *“due account of the importance and cultural values of each people for the protection and harmonious development of the child”*. While all the rights contained in the Convention apply to all children, whether indigenous or not, the Convention on the Rights of the Child was the first core human rights treaty to include specific references to indigenous children in a number of provisions.
- 2. Article 30 of the Convention states that *“In those States in which ethnic, religious, or linguistic minorities or persons of indigenous origin exist, a child belonging to such a minority or who is indigenous shall not be denied the right, in community with other members of his or her group, to enjoy his or her own culture, to profess and practice his or her own religion or to use his or her own language.”*

CRC Committee: reporting

- State party report due September 2017
- Last submitted January 2008

UNICEF in the Philippines

- Focus on 70 LGU's which are all among the least developed and widespread poverty in Visayas and Mindanao
- Overall inequity focus
- Bilingual (often trilingual) education
- Tahaderya's
- Previously: specially designed health programmes in IP areas