



Request for Support: Endorsement and Issuance of Regional Memorandum for OKY Project Implementation

2 messages

Desiree Soreda <Desiree.Soreda@plan-international.org>

To: "Evelyn R. Fataalvero" <region8@deped.gov.ph>

Cc: "Angelica Rodriguez001@deped.gov.ph" <angelica.rodriguez001@deped.gov.ph>, Janelle Ang <venjanelle@gmail.com>, Philina Pia Tizon <PhilinaPia.Tizon@plan-international.org>, Twyla Anne David <Twyla.David@plan-international.org>

To Whom It May Concern:

Warm greetings from Plan International Pilipinas.

We would like to express our appreciation for the continued collaboration with the Department of Education Region VIII in advancing adolescent health and learner wellbeing. In alignment with UNICEF Philippines' partnership with DepEd under the TUSIP Proj communication letter on the proposed implementation of the Oky Philippines initiative in Region VIII.

The OKY project, implemented by Plan International Pilipinas with support from UNICEF, contributes to strengthening menstrual health education, learner wellbeing, and linkages between education and health systems. The attached document presents the ba activities and SDO-recommended pilot schools.

In this regard, we would like to respectfully request the support of the Regional Office in reviewing the attached document and facilitating the issuance of a Regional Memorandum to endorse and guide the implementation of these activities in coordination with We remain fully committed to ensuring that all activities are aligned with DepEd priorities and processes, as well as UNICEF-supported programming under TUSIP.

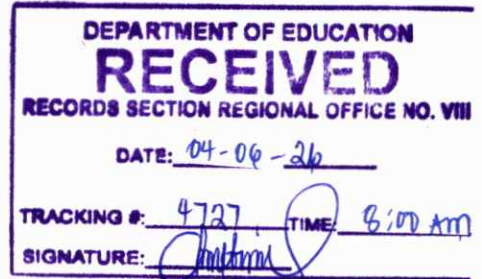
We sincerely appreciate your continued leadership and partnership, and we look forward to your support in advancing this initiative for the benefit of learners and school communities in Region VIII.

Thank you very much, and we look forward to coordinating further as needed.

Warm regards,

Desiree Soreda

Project Coordinator, Oky Project
Plan International Pilipinas



English Campaign Tag

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ANGELICA RODRIGUEZ <angelica.rodriguez001@deped.gov.ph>

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Mon, Mar 30, 2026 at 2:46 PM

Acknowledged, Thank you.

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March 24, 2026

DR. SALUSTIANO T. JIMENEZ, CESO III

Regional Director
Department of Education Region VIII
Candahug, Palo, Leyte

ATTENTION:

DR. GERTRUDES C. MABUTIN

Chief, Curriculum & Learning Management Division DR.

ANGELICA RODRIGUEZ

Medical Officer IV, Chief School Health & Nutrition

Dear **Dr. Jimenez**,

Warm greetings from Plan International Pilipinas!

We would like to express our sincere appreciation to the Department of Education Region VIII for the continued partnership in advancing adolescent health, wellbeing, and gender-responsive education in schools across Eastern Visayas.

This letter pertains to the ongoing coordination with DepEd Region VIII regarding the implementation of the Oky Philippines initiative in Catbalogan City, Samar. The Oky Philippines initiative is implemented by Plan International Pilipinas with support from UNICEF Philippines and the Australian Government, and forms part of UNICEF's regional work plan with the Department of Education and other government agencies under the Towards Universal Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights in the Indo-Pacific Programme (TUSIP).

Within this broader programme, the Oky initiative contributes to strengthening adolescent health, wellbeing, and menstrual health education through both digital and school based learning approaches. The project is currently being implemented from November 2025 – April 2027 in selected pilot areas including Catbalogan City in Samar and Maguindanao del Sur in BARMM. In Eastern Visayas, implementation is being undertaken in coordination with DepEd Region VIII and the Schools Division Office of Catbalogan.

Building on the initial implementation phase of the initiative (2023–2024), the current phase focuses on strengthening menstrual health education within school learning environments, supporting teachers with supplementary learning tools, and promoting responsible access to the Oky Philippines Period Tracker App among adolescents. The project also aims to strengthen linkages between school-based education initiatives and adolescent-friendly health services.

In this regard, we respectfully request the support of DepEd Region VIII in issuing a Regional Memorandum endorsing the implementation of the Oky Philippines strengthening activities in Catbalogan City and encouraging the participation of concerned schools and personnel in the planned consultations, development workshops, pilot implementation, and orientation activities. Such guidance from the Regional Office will help ensure coordinated implementation with the Schools Division Office of Catbalogan and alignment with DepEd policies and priorities related to learner wellbeing, school health, and Reproductive Health Education (RHE). For your reference, the sections below provide a brief overview of the initiative, including its background, lessons from the initial phase of implementation, and the proposed strengthening activities in Region VIII.

I. Background of the Oky Philippines Initiative

The Oky Philippines Period Tracker App is a digital menstrual health and puberty education tool designed with and for adolescent girls. The application enables users to track their menstrual cycles while providing accurate, youth-friendly information on puberty, menstrual health and hygiene (MHH), reproductive health, and adolescent wellbeing. The initiative supports national



efforts to strengthen menstrual health literacy, gender equality, and adolescent wellbeing, and complements existing school health and wellbeing programmes. The application is non-commercial, free of advertisements, compliant with data privacy standards, and accessible both online and offline, making it suitable for use in both school and community learning environments. Phase 1 Implementation (2023–2024) The first phase of the Okky initiative in the Philippines focused on localizing the Okky application for the Philippine context and introducing the tool in collaboration with national and regional education and health partners.

Key accomplishments include:

- Over 100,000 downloads of the Okky Philippines App nationwide • Approximately 82,000 users aged 10–19 years old
- Consultations conducted with over 400 adolescents, educators, and stakeholders
- Establishment of a youth campaigners network promoting menstrual health awareness
- Strengthened partnerships with national agencies and regional education offices These results demonstrated strong interest among adolescents and schools in accessing reliable menstrual health information through digital platforms.

Phase 2: Strengthening Education and Adolescent Support Systems

Implementation Period: November 2025 – April 2027

Building on Phase 1, the second phase focuses on strengthening menstrual health education and adolescent support systems through four key components:

1. Development of Okky Learning Tools Co-creation and piloting of supplementary learning materials for use in schools and community learning environments.
2. Enhancement of the Okky Philippines App Improving accessibility and inclusivity through simplified content, voice features, culturally relevant materials, and inclusive representations.
3. Strengthening Access to Adolescent-Friendly Health Services Mapping adolescent-friendly health facilities and strengthening referral pathways between schools and local health systems.
4. Integration with Local Education and Health Systems Strengthening coordination between education authorities, health services, and local government partners to support adolescent wellbeing.

II. Alignment with DepEd Priorities

The initiative supports several priorities of the Department of Education, including:

MATATAG Curriculum Reform

The MATATAG curriculum emphasizes holistic learner development, wellbeing, and life skills education.

Reproductive Health Education (RHE)

Okky learning materials may support discussions on puberty and menstrual health through existing learning areas such as MAPEH, Science and Values Education / EsP

Learner Wellbeing and School Health Programs

Menstrual health literacy contributes to improved learner wellbeing, dignity, and school participation, particularly among adolescent girls. The initiative also complements existing programmes such as Water, Sanitation and Hygiene in Schools (WinS).

III. Proposed Strengthening Activities in DepEd Region VIII

Subject to the guidance of DepEd Region VIII and the Schools Division Office of Catbalogan, the following strengthening activities are proposed:

Development and Pilot of Supplementary Learning Resources

Activity	Description	Target Participants	Proposed Timeline
Curriculum Mapping and Consultations	Review and mapping of the Oky Philippines App content against existing DepEd competencies to identify appropriate entry points for curriculum integration within existing learning areas. This process will focus on alignment and contextualization only, and will not involve any modification of the approved curriculum.	DepEd representatives and teachers	May 4-5, 2026
Technical Writeshops	Development of supplementary learning materials (e.g., lesson exemplars, teaching guides, and learning activities) aligned with identified competencies and based on the results of the curriculum mapping process. The development will be limited to selected learning areas and grade levels, as agreed during the mapping, to support pilot implementation and ensure the materials are relevant, feasible, and responsive to classroom context. All materials will be strictly derived from the existing content of the Oky Philippines App and will remain within the bounds of approved curriculum standards and DepEd policies.	Technical working group and teachers	May 6-8, 2026
Pilot Implementation	Testing and refinement of materials in selected schools	Pilot schools	June–August 2026
Teacher Capacity Building	Training on the use of Oky learning materials	Teachers and facilitators	June–August 2026

School and Community Orientation Activities

Activity	Description	Target Participants	Proposed Timeline
School-Based Orientations	Introduction of the Oky App and menstrual health education	Learners, teachers, school heads	August–Dec 2026
Awareness Activities	Youth-led and school-based awareness initiatives	Learners, parents, community stakeholders	Starting July 2026

IV. Proposed Participating Schools

Based on consultation with the Schools Division Office of Catbalogan, the following schools are respectfully recommended as pilot schools for the implementation of the Oky Philippines initiative:

1. Catbalogan I Central Elementary School
2. Catbalogan III Central Elementary School
3. Samar National School
4. Eastern Visayas Regional Science High School
5. Guinsorongan National High School
6. Pangdan National High School
7. Catbalogan National Comprehensive High School
8. Silanga National High School
9. Salug Elementary School
10. Catbalogan City Agro-Industrial School

The identified participating schools will be engaged across the different phases of implementation, including pilot testing, capacity-building, and subsequent rollout activities.



V. Additional Implementation Consideration

We will ensure that all activities are conducted in close coordination with the Regional and Division Offices and in full compliance with existing DepEd policies and guidelines.

In support of the effective conduct of the above-mentioned activities, and consistent with applicable government policies, all allowable and reasonable expenses related to the participation of DepEd personnel shall be covered by the Oky Project. These include, but are not limited to, provision of meals and snacks during authorized activities, accommodation for participants when necessary, and transportation expenses in accordance with approved travel arrangements and guidelines.

Further, expenses related to the conduct of technical workshops, consultations, orientations, and capacity-building activities—such as venue, training materials, and other authorized incidental costs—shall likewise be supported by the project.

We look forward to the continued collaboration with DepEd Region VIII and the Schools Division Office of Catbalogan City in strengthening adolescent health education and learner wellbeing in schools.

Thank you very much for your continued leadership and support.

Respectfully yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Desiree'.

Desiree Michelle B. Soreda
Project Coordinator-OKY Project
Plan International Pilipinas