



AUGUST 12, 2023 - INTERNATIONAL YOUTH DAY

The Philippines finds itself at a heightened risk of natural disasters due to its location within the Pacific Ring of Fire and along the typhoon belt. Climate change is one of the biggest threats to education. UNICEF highlights that “climate change exacerbates the many threats to children’s wellbeing, survival and access to services in the Philippines, including education, water and sanitation, nutrition and health”.¹

Today, the world celebrates the International Youth Day under the theme, "Green Skills for Youth: Towards a Sustainable World" In this context, E-Net Philippines underscores the pressing importance of engaging young people in raising awareness about environmental concerns and driving transformative actions toward a sustainable future. The shift to a more environmentally friendly world is essential for addressing the global climate problem as well as for ensuring access to and continuity in education.

We earnestly urge the government to embrace its commitment to safeguard the environment, foster sustainable development, and prioritize the well-being of its citizens. Our all-encompassing objective should center on the sustainable resilience of the education system, particularly in disaster-prone areas. Establishing ongoing and targeted rights-based educational initiatives for displaced children and youth, within the framework of disaster risk reduction in education, is indispensable. Implementing a Comprehensive School Safety Framework stands as a pivotal measure in guaranteeing educational access and continuity for those affected by disasters. Amidst the current climate crisis, it is imperative that Education for Sustainable Development (ESD) should be at the core of the education system and be embedded in the educational curriculum. It promotes the development of the knowledge, skills, understanding, values and actions required to create a sustainable world, which ensures environmental protection and conservation, promotes social equity and encourages economic sustainability.

We call on the young people to be the agents of changes today and leaders of tomorrow. ASSUME THE VANGUARD in influencing, advocating, and demanding for responsible climate behavior and stronger political will from governments and the private sector.

We call on every Filipino citizen to rally around the Filipino youth, recognizing their potential as the nation's beacon of hope. United, we will call upon the government to reaffirm its commitment to creating a nurturing and inclusive learning environment, where young people can thrive and make a meaningful impact on society, all the while enjoying equitable and continuous access to educational opportunities and lifelong learning.

Education is the key to addressing the climate change crisis for a brighter, more sustainable Philippines.

¹Ortega, J. and Klauth, C.(2017, July). Climate Landscape Analysis for Children in the Philippines. UNICEF Philippines.