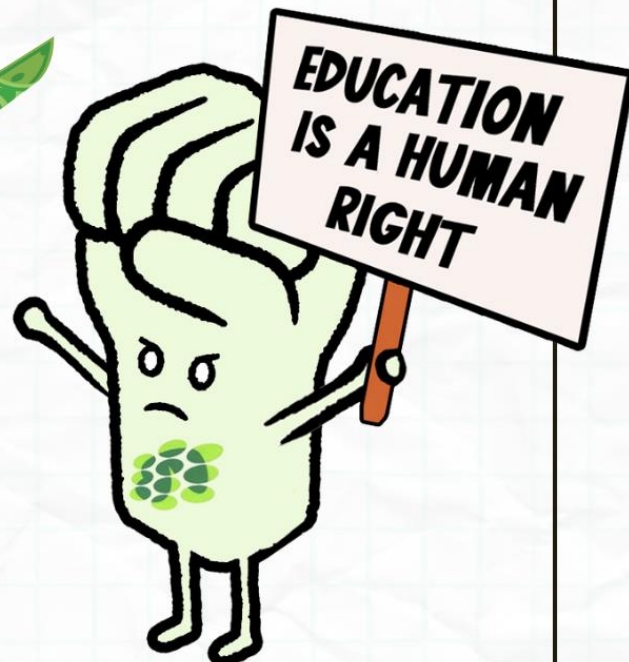




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E-Net Philippines

ALTERNATIVE BUDGET INITIATIVE (ABI) EDUCATION CONSULTATION



February 20, 2024



10:00 AM

OPENING MESSAGE

Ms. Carla Santos (President, E-Net Philippines), welcomed the participants and expressed her joy in seeing more sector representation in the session. She asked all the participants to actively engage in the discussion and wish everyone a productive day ahead.

The moderator, Ms. Charito Pinalas, welcomed and encouraged the participants to actively participate in the discussion as they are the one who can really identify their organizations needs and work on realizing their respective plans and programs. She relates how former Senator Lacson helped E-Net Philippines push budget advocacy for child protection and positive discipline. He has enjoined everyone to get involved in the budget discussions, actual budget lobbying, implementation and monitoring. Ms. Pinalas, expressed her gladness on how E-Net has contributed so far and asked the group to continue to push and advocate for it. She introduced Daryl Cruz to present the gains, challenges of the 2024 Budget as a benchmark in the 2025 budget preparation.

SHARING OF GAINS, MISSES FROM ABI-EDUC FY 2024

Daryl Cruz (Research and Communication, E-Net Philippines) presented the ABI-EDUC (Alternative Budget Initiative - Education Cluster) F.Y. 2024 and gains in the General Appropriations Act and highlights gaps, what is not moving and areas needing improvement. Below are the highlights of his presentation;

- ✓ The Department of Education budget experienced a **5.7% increase**, rising from 676, 141, 555,000 in the GAA for 2023 to 715, 294, 186,000 in the 2024 GAA. **This allocation represents 12.40 % of the national budget.**
- ✓ **Increased Budgets for Inclusive Education Programs**- As a relentless network pushing for increased funding annually in education at both the agency and legislative levels thru the ABI-EDUC, the rise in annual budgets for inclusive education programs can be viewed as significant budgetary progress.
- ✓ The Alternative Learning System (ALS) budget also increased from 562,000,000 (2023) to 632, 483,000 (2024). However, **this increase falls short of the proposed 5 billion for the ALS**, which aims to reach out to Out-of-school-youth and adults (OSYA) who missed out on basic education. An allocation of 56,000,000 has been designated for the construction of ALS Community Centers. ABI - EDUC proposal for **Community Learning Centers (CLCs) for 2024 amounts to 86 million, with a priority focus on 20 marginalized communities.**
- ✓ The **positive shift** from the annual proposal of 5 billion for last mile school has approved 3 billion budgets for 2024 (compared to 2023 1.5 billion) is in the right direction.
- ✓ **Earmarked budget for Inclusive education School Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) Facilities** - While falling significantly short of the proposed budget of 2.794 billion for Inclusive School Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene Facilities, the earmarked allocation of 500,000,000 for priority school health facilities is a positive development. This allocation is separate from the WASH allocations, which are either integrated or fall under the Repair - All approach, where WASH facilities are integrated into the construction or repair of school buildings.

- ✓ Budget Boost for School-Based Feeding Program – The School-Based Feeding Program witnessed a **substantial budget boost**, surging from 5, 688, 567,000 in 2023 to 11, 147,000 in the GAA for 2024. Notably, this budget closely aligns with the 12 billion proposal advocated by ABI-EDUC in collaboration with DepEd and the legislative. The increased allocation encompasses the expansion of coverage for underfed school children, augmented actual food budget (35/child) considering adjustments to inflation, and an extension of the number of feeding days from 120- 200 days per school year.
- ✓ ABI-EDUC has proposed a budget of 1.990 billion for the Child Protection Program, with a focus on various aspects, including program development, implementation of the child protection policy, capacity building activities for learners, teachers, child protection focal persons/ specialists, parents and members of Child protection Committees, monitoring system development, research, data management, consultations, workshops, and support for the strengthening of Child Protection Committees in schools. **The budget for the program has increased from 58, 067,000 in 2023 to 82, 599,000 for 2024**

AREAS NOT / SLOWLY MOVING OR NEEDING IMPROVEMENT

- **ALS budget needs to be beefed up for the proper implementation of RA 11510** - reaching out to more learners and putting up of CLCs where they are needed (far-flung areas, marginalized communities)
- Indigenous Peoples Education (IPED) and Madrasah **only slightly increased**
- **Budget for implementation of RA11650** - conversion of Special Education (SPED) and establishment of Inclusive Learning Resource Centers (ILRCs), hiring of ILRCs personnel, Special Needs Education (SNED) teachers, training of all teachers, budgets for ILRCs services.
- Budget for Child protection and Positive Discipline in Everyday Teaching (PDET) trainings
- Teachers Welfare

IDENTIFICATION OF PRIORITY AREAS FOR BUDGETING

Mr. Adie Unsi, (MinCILL/ National Executive Board (NEB), E-Net Philippines) presented the NEB suggested priority areas for budgeting guidance. This is based on the board analysis and experiences in budget advocacy, which is anchored on the ideas of comprehensive, integrated, and lifelong learning.

1. Teachers welfare and teacher quality teacher training including PDET training in In-Service Training (INSET).
2. Inclusive Education (ALS, Madrasah, IPED, SNED/ SPED, ILRCs) including learning materials, training implementation of laws E-Net advocates for.
3. School-based feeding program- Early Childhood Care and Development (ECCD), School, Health and Nutrition (SHN)
4. Climate change education module in the curriculum [aligned with SDG 4.7 and beyond Education in Emergencies (EiE)]

Not as major ABI items but for monitoring and discussion with appropriate DepEd units regarding financing and implementation i.e. target/ priority schools.

- Last Miles Schools
- Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH)
- Removal of administrative tasks from teachers [(as emphasized in the Basic Education Report (BER))]
- Child protection and social behavior change learning materials.

For members working at local areas, call to engage in local budget advocacy;

- Look into engaging in the LUC budget
- Local school board - Special Education Fund (SE), Local Government Unit (LGU) to fund for ECCD, teacher's welfare and training among others
- School-based organizations can look into engaging in school/ university budgets.

Moving forward expanding budget advocacy, start looking into possible budget advocacy engagements.

- Technical Education And Skills Development Authority (TESDA) and / or other agencies providing trainings
- Unified Student Financial Assistance System for Tertiary Education (UniFAST)
- Commission on Higher Education (CHED) and Department of Science and Technology (DOST) scholarships
- Resource/ capacity analysis among members - survey

OPEN FORUM

Ms. Chat Pinalas facilitated the sharing of participants from the plenary and chat box;

QUESTIONS / STATEMENTS	ANSWERS
<p>Addie Unsi/ MinCILL: <i>Suggestion to look at the National Expenditure Program (NEP) in addition to the previous GAA. Also look into the national expenditure program proposed by DepEd as our basis for ABI.</i></p>	<p>Alce Quitelig Social Watch PH: <i>In agreement to the suggestion of Mr. Unsi to look as well the NEP budget in addition to the previous GAA, maybe if we can check on the difference of the GAA proposed budget and the NEP budget perhaps we can see our budget gains which we successfully make in the legislative , both in the congress and senate. There is a monitoring document that we can share according to Ms. Alve. Aside from the budget allocation we would also like to propose in the 2025 budget the special provisions. If we formulate special provisions, that's basically the instructions of the programs we proposed.</i></p>
<p>Olie Lucas/ Unang Hakbang Foundation: <i>Suggest you use increase/decrease instead of variance.</i></p>	

<p>Clarissa Fetesio: <i>Not/slowly moving.....Issues about sexuality reproductive health - school students/ youth.</i></p>	
<p>Olie Lucas / Unang Hakbang Foundation: <i>Support suggestion of Flora. We should start discussion with DepEd on the budget now so that we can influence their Tier 2 budget.</i></p>	
<p>ICON-SP/ Jessmar Campo: <i>Where we can include Digital Media Information Literacy and Cyber Resiliency Program?</i></p>	
<p>Jean, PFI-Ormoc: <i>Training for teachers on how to detect violence with children.</i></p>	
<p>Sarilaya Emmie: <i>Can we include disaster risk management in school level in relation to climate change?</i></p>	
<p>Flora Arellano/ Teachers Inc., /NEB E-Net Philippines: <i>All of us are engaging to other units, it could be in DepEd, DSWD, TESDA and other organizations. In our budgeting maybe, we can look into the overlaps, if we can focus our budget proposals in DepEd would be better. With the numerous budget allocations/ proposals that we have, we can probably review it for streamlining and priorities which can form part of our agenda. For those that we can negotiate in, DWSD can be a venue where we can bring in some of our budget items/ proposals to increase support budget for our learners and needs of our marginalized sectors. I can also see the need to strengthen our engagements with other units to augment the budget. For localization it is very important to translate our learning to local budget advocacy. There is a budget in the LGU that we can tap to support teachers and learners especially to the far-flung areas, including the utilization of school boards , SEF and existing LUCs. We can also leverage on friendly LGU partnerships in promoting our advocacy related to literacy.</i></p>	

<p><i>For my last point , the Magna Carta for Teachers is now on the table for discussion in the congress and senate to separate the magna carta for basic education. This can have some implication in our Magna Carta for Public school Teachers advocacy that comprises the basic education, SUCs / Local Universities and Colleges (LUCs) and TESDA teachers. There are also some moves to deduct the State Universities and Colleges (SUCs)/ LUCs subsidy. That's why we should really strengthen our ABI advocacies.</i></p>	
<p><i>Olie Lucas / Unang Hakbang Foundation: Suggest we focus on budget for items that are not in stated priorities of DepEd. For example, we can monitor last mile schools but not focus on pushing for the additional budget for this. By narrowing the items, we will advocate for, we can be more targeted with regard to the legislative members we talk to.</i></p>	
<p><i>Jillian: Is there an inclusion in our previous budget advocating the increase in teaching and non-teaching plantilla position?</i></p>	<p><i>Mr. Adie responded that this issue will be included in the details of the proposal.</i></p>
<p><i>Alce Quitalig/ Social Watch PH: it's possible that the budget for the plantilla positions for this is lodged to the BARMM block grant amounting to PhP70.513B. We have to clarify with DepEd OSEC or the Ministry of Basic, Higher and Technical Education of BARMM</i></p>	
<p><i>Participant: I wonder why we are not able to participate now in DepEd Reg 4-A budget deliberation? E-net used to join back in 2010-2012. Can we visit them and see who are our members in 4A? (Ms. Flora said the E-Net has partnered with 4A before on crafting regional budgets. E-Net can renew the partnership and participation again.)</i></p>	
<p><i>Chat Pinalas: We in E-Net should also level-up our advocacy and focus on monitoring the budget process.</i></p>	

<p>Harriet Escarcha/ KPACIO: <i>Parents capacity building/learning sessions.</i></p>	
<p>Olie Lucas / Unang Hakbang Foundation: <i>I would like to clarify the third NEB identified priority areas, the school-based feeding program for ECCD which is currently run by DSWD. Are we going to include it in the DepEd budget? Can we aim to create a unit within DepEd to handle ECCD? I also suggest that we propose to have a subsidy for school canteens to cater regular children aside from those undernourished children under the existing feeding program. This way regular children can buy meals in the school canteen at a subsidized price. Schools can work with farmers for local and fresh produce. Currently, the Kindergarten feeding program covers all children.</i></p>	
<p>Flora Arellano/Teachers Inc., /NEB E-Net Philippines: <i>responded that the ECCD program is actually under DepEd and DSWD to generate more budget for the feeding program. There is also a concern on general education practitioners, teaching in ECCD without the training in handling and management of curriculum content, and ECCD pedagogy. Perhaps we can include ECCD teachers training in the proposal.</i></p>	
<p>Olie Lucas / Unang Hakbang Foundation: <i>proposed to amend the School-based Feeding Program to School Meals. This would include all children under the feeding program and the canteen meals.</i></p>	
<p>Shiela Apas: <i>Only those malnourished children benefit from the feeding program, and some children cannot afford to buy food in the canteen, so why not make it available to all children regardless of nutritional status.</i></p>	

<p>Flora Arellano/ Teachers Inc., /NEB E-Net Philippines: <i>Most of the school canteen is run by cooperatives and teachers' organizations , this might complicate it if we would advocate a subsidy for school meals.</i></p>	
<p>Olie Lucas/ Unang Hakbang Foundation: <i>The government can pay the cooperative then. It's a policy that we need to advocate for and a budget in order to advocate that policy.</i></p>	
<p>Flora Arellano/ Teachers Inc., /NEB E-Net Philippines: <i>Maybe that should be one of our points of policy advocacy as it's conflicting at the moment to the existing practices in school. Let's unite the school administrators and teachers cooperatively first.</i></p>	
<p>Chat Pinalas: <i>To clarify further, what we have discussed in the school based- feeding program was that it should be for all school children, additional budget, and the assurance of quality food served. For now, the school canteens are managed by teachers' cooperatives that still need to be reconciled.</i></p>	
<p>Flora Arellano/ Teachers Inc., /NEB E-Net Philippines: <i>Our policy issue there is feeding programs for all not just for malnourished children.</i></p>	<p>Olie Lucas/ Unang Hakbang Foundation: <i>The problem with that is that if we propose feeding programs for all, it will take up a big chunk in the DepEd budget. Also, the quality of food that the canteen serves might be compromised , they might resort to selling junk food instead. There was actually a move to slash the feeding program budget and lodge it to another budget item but fortunately it was retained.</i></p>
<p>Adi Unsi/ MinCILL: <i>I got confused, I remember Senator Lacson, he liked our budget proposal for the feeding program so much, I don't know what happened then. there was a law passed, and DepEd had a national</i></p>	<p>Olie Lucas/ Unang Hakbang Foundation: <i>There are 25 million school children as of now in the school system. If we only talk about the 15 million grade</i></p>

<p><i>program. Maybe we can review the law and program , how the DepEd and day care centers implementation goes. It's for malnourished children but for a time they include all children. I agree that this could be a budget and policy advocacy.</i></p>	<p><i>school that would already require about half a billion.</i></p>
<p><i>Chat Pinalas: It looks like we need more time to discuss the school-based feeding program based on our comments/ reflections . For a while may I know, if the other three priority areas presented are accepted by the body? This is a working document and the discussion is still open.</i></p>	<p>The body accepted the priority areas as a general concept.</p>
<p><i>Olie Lucas/ Unang Hakbang Foundation: Some areas should still be discussed more in detail and we can also add measurement and evaluation budgets.</i></p>	
<p><i>Flora Arellano/ Teachers Inc., /NEB E-Net Philippines - for the next steps, we need to have more discussions to present all the details as the basis of our proposals.</i></p>	

NEXT STEP/ MOVING FORWARD

Ms. Alve Berdan (National Coordinator, E-Net Philippines) shared E-Net's position on *Masustansyang Pagkain* or the National Feeding Program Act that was submitted last year. According to her, aside from the budget policy it is also necessary to look into the status of the policy later on. This can be used as a basis of review for the ABI items that will be pushed, specifically for the school meals program or school feeding program. In the school feeding program item it was clearly stated that nutritious meals should be served for children. She added that it is important to be more aggressive in monitoring its implementation. She then provided a rundown of items discussed;

PRIORITIES

1. Teachers welfare and teacher quality-teacher training , including PDET trainings in INSET, include teachers in ECCD
 - Plantilla position (teaching and non-teaching position i.e. ILRC personnel, Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (BARMM)
 - Teacher training including those in ECCD, PDET training
2. Inclusive Education (ALS, Madrasah, IPED, SNED/ SPED, ILRCs) including learning materials, training-implementation of laws E-Net advocates for.

3. School-based feeding program- ECCD (SHN)
 - ECCD and Basic Education (School, Health and Nutrition) school-based monitoring program
 - School canteens meals subsidy- this will cover all students
4. Climate change education module in the curriculum (aligned with SDG 4.7 and beyond EiE)

Ms. Alve recalled the Sexual and Reproductive Health (SRH) item that was included in Strategic Planning 2019, and asked if they can include it to the priority areas or held it for further discussion. She would coordinate with the TWG on Women and Gender regarding this for any advice.

MONITORING AND IMPLEMENTATION REVIEW ENGAGEMENT/ POLICY ENGAGEMENT

1. Last Miles Schools
2. WASH
3. Removal of administrative tasks from as emphasized in the BER)
4. Child protection and social behavior change learning materials.
5. Republic Act 11037-An act Institutionalizing national Feeding program for Undernourished Children in Public Day Care, Kindergarten and Elementary School to Combat Hunger and Undernutrition Among Filipino Children and appropriating Funds Therefore

TIMELINE (INTERNAL)

Cluster dialogue with DepEd offices (USec, Asec)-per issue cluster	Draft ABI proposal by cluster / issue of e-Net	March 1 st -3 rd week
Dialogue with DepEd -all items	Draft ABI proposal of E-Net	March 3 rd week
Formal submission of proposal and agreements to DepEd	List of agreements/ commitments of DepEd	March 3 rd week before holy week
Review of NEP	NEP vs DepEd proposal	June
Press release -budget	NEP	June-July
Legislative lobby/ campaign-dialogue with budget allies-policy champions, house/ senate assigned in education budget deliberation	List of unsupported budget proposals	July-October
Budget Serye	Proposal to Swatch	August
Monitor budget gains	NEP-GAA	June, December

OTHER ACTIVITIES

For members working at local areas, call to engage in local budget advocacy;

1. Look into engaging in the LUC budget
2. Local school board-SEF, LGU to fund for ECCD, teacher's welfare and training among others
3. School-based organizations can look into engaging in school/ university budgets.

BUDGET PREPARATION CALENDAR 2025

Mr. Alce Quitilig presented the budget preparation calendar for 2025;

- ✓ Issuance of the National Budget Memorandum (NBM) for the Budget Call, budget forum was done in January 2024.
- ✓ The Department of Budget and Management (DBM) Regional offices (ROs) / Agency ROs Budget Forum and consultations with Regional Development Group (RDG), Agency Central Offices (ACOs) / Agency Regional Offices (AROs), Civil Society Organizations (CSOs), students/ Faculty Associations and Philippine Association of State Universities and Colleges (PASUC) was set last February 2024.
- ✓ From January to April this year, encoding and submission of Past Years Actual Obligations (B.P. Form Nos. 201 A, B, C, D and FY 2023-2027 Revenue Program (B.P. Form Nos. 100, 100-A, B, C) are set to be finished.
- ✓ By April 2024, issuance of NEM for Budget priorities Framework is targeted. Encoding and submission of all BP Forms for the FY 2025 Budget Proposals thru CITIZENS' PARTICIPATION IN THE BUDGET PROCESS CSB PSI, details of Tier 1 and Tier 2 and conduct of technical Budget hearing for Tier 2 (new spending) proposals including PCE will be from March 25 to April 30, 2024.
- ✓ From May 13- June 4, there will be a Conduct of executive Review Board hearings. Confirmation letter to agencies of the total budget levels (Tiers 1 and 2) will be sent out by June 10, 2024.
- ✓ Presentation to the president and the Cabinet of the FY 2025 Proposed Budget levels of Department/ Agencies / Special purpose Funds is set on June 21-24, 2024.
- ✓ The National Expenditure Program (NEP), Budget of Expenditures and Sources of Financing (BESF), Tables, Staffing Summary, President's Budget Message will happen from June 24- July 1, 2024.
- ✓ Printing of the Budget Documents will be made in July 2024.
- ✓ After that Budget Documents will be submitted to the President on July 19, 2024.
- ✓ Then by July 22, 2024 the President will submit the Budget Documents to the Congress.

OTHER SHARING/ COMMENTS

Ms. Alve: The secretariat will discuss how we will package our proposal and we will update everyone on the March dialogue. We can have the draft ABI proposal before the third week of March dialogue so that you can also comment. We will also share the document, the Analytical Network Process (ANP) and AG analysis of E-Net, PPT. We will separately be consulting the Working Group on women and gender.

Ms. Jillian: *Please add the monitoring of the Reproductive Health Education and Gender responsive policy budget and implementation.*

Ms. Alve: *We have realized the need to partner with other organizations that can help us build our capacity on monitoring, budget and implementation, hope we can pursue this year.*

Mr. Alce will share the Budget Serye earlier by August.

Ms. Flora: *For reproductive health and gender advocacy maybe we can be active in monitoring the GAD budget utilization by different agencies.*

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Annex I: Program

TOPIC	RESOURCE PERSONS/S
Registration / Preliminaries	Dessa Montemar/Daryl Cruz
Welcoming Message / Objective	Carla Santos President, E-Net Philippines
Sharing of gains, Misses, 2024 Budget	Daryl Cruz
Presentation and Discussion of NEB Recommendations	Addie Unsi Vice President, E-Net Philippines
Plenum / Q&A	Moderator
Present Agreements / Additional Priority Items	Daryl Cruz
Moving forward, Proposal Development, Timeline, and Next Steps	Alve Berdan
Closing Remarks, Photo Op, Thank you notes	Moderator

Annex II: Photos

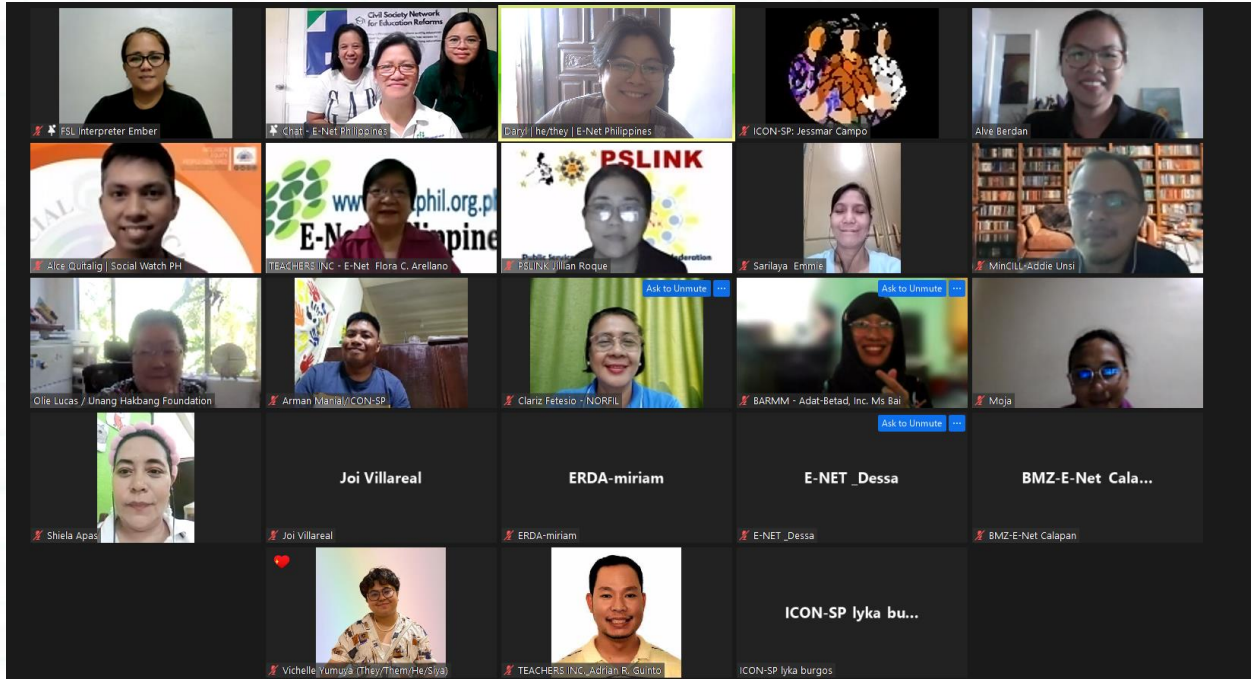


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Meeting ID: 872 8743 2510
Passcode: 161972



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