

Statement of Support for the Implementation of the Alternative Learning Systems Act

UNICEF Philippines sincerely congratulates the Department of Education (DepEd) for the signing into law of Republic Act No. 11510, known as the Alternative Learning Systems (ALS) Act.

The passage of this law institutionalizing ALS will provide many Filipinos who do not have access to formal education with a practical option to completing basic education. This could not have come at a more opportune time as we face a learning crisis, aggravated by the COVID-19 pandemic, which has placed the most vulnerable children and youth at a severe disadvantage. Those from the poorest households and living in rural areas are by far the most likely to miss out on learning opportunities and some of them might need a flexible option to complete their education.

Thus, UNICEF is committed to providing technical assistance to DepEd in order to strengthen the implementation of ALS so that it benefits the most marginalized families, especially now that data shows there has been a marked decrease in the rates of ALS enrollment due to the challenges resulting from the ongoing health emergency.

UNICEF will continue to work on evidence-based policy formulation, build the capacity of ALS implementers, and introduce field-level innovations in collaboration with our partners.

We welcome this law as its implementation will create the necessary linkages between local government units (LGUs) and DepEd to support the full implementation of the program. LGUs will be able to reach more ALS learners, provide them with an environment that promotes individualized learning, and allocate resources for ALS programs.

Finally, UNICEF encourages all those seeking the chance to complete their education, especially out-of-school adolescents and youth, to take advantage of the learning opportunities provided by ALS. We believe that by helping improve the delivery of ALS, we can ensure that all Filipino children are able to enjoy their right to equitable, quality, and accessible education.