



Hon. Dr. Francisco Duque III
Secretary of Health
Department of Health (DOH)
Compound San Lazaro St.,
Santa Cruz, Manila, Metro Manila
ftduque@doh.gov.ph; osec.doh@gmail.com

Manila, October 4, 2021

Re: Call to implement the Kids and Diabetes in Schools (KiDS) project in Philippines

Hon. Secretary of Health,

On the occasion of [World Teacher's Day](#) on October 5, the [International Diabetes Federation](#) (IDF), the [International Society for Pediatric and Adolescent Diabetes](#) (ISPAD) and [Diabetes Philippines](#) are calling on you and your fellow Ministers of Education and Minister of Health around the world to implement the [Kids and Diabetes in Schools](#) (KiDS) project in your respective countries. As mentioned in our previous correspondence on occasion of the International Education Day last January, the implementation of this project is particularly important at a time when school attendance has been disrupted in many countries because of the Covid-19 pandemic, and when education on healthy food choices and physical activity is essential.

According to IDF estimates, **type 1 diabetes affects over 1.1 million children, adolescents and young adults under the age of 20 – including an estimated 3,000 in your country.** People of all ages with type 1 diabetes need to inject insulin to survive. Managing diabetes requires constant attention and adjustments to food intake, exercise and medication. This can be a source of stigma – especially in the school environment. The general lack of awareness and understanding about the condition often leads to discrimination, which can be particularly difficult for children and adolescents with type 1 diabetes. In addition to the challenges posed by type 1 diabetes, type 2 diabetes – a condition which is often preventable and was until recently diagnosed mainly in adults – is on the rise among children and adolescents due to increasingly sedentary lifestyles. There is also confusion among the general public, who often cannot differentiate between types of diabetes. Clarification is required to reduce stigma.

IDF and ISPAD created the KiDS project in 2013 to respond to the need to improve diabetes understanding in schools. The ultimate objectives of this project are to improve the school experience of children living with and managing type 1 diabetes, fight diabetes-related stigma and promote healthy lifestyles to tackle type 2 diabetes.

We are proud to inform you that, to date, the KiDS project has reached almost a quarter of a million students and 20,000 teachers in at least ten countries¹. We have seen that the implementation of KiDS results in an

¹ Argentina, Brazil, Egypt, Hungary, India, Japan, Pakistan, Philippines, Poland and UAE.



improved knowledge about diabetes management among teachers and parents, leads to healthier food choices and encourages increased physical activity in the school environment²³.

IDF, ISPAD and Diabetes Philippines are requesting Ministries of Education and of Health to implement the KiDS project at the national level to:

- Improve the knowledge of diabetes in the school environment among students and school staff;
- Clarify the differences between types 1 and 2 diabetes;
- Improve understanding about the needs of students living with type 1 diabetes, in order to foster a safe and supportive school environment, and encourage learning and a happy school experience;
- Protect children and adolescents living with type 1 diabetes from stigma;
- Support efforts to prevent type 2 diabetes by including education on healthy food choices and lifestyles in national school curricula.

We encourage you to visit the [KiDS project website](#) to learn more and access our recently updated resources, including the Information pack, the NutriQuiz and the Nutritional guide.

We count on your commitment and that of the government of Phillipines to support children and adolescents with type 1 diabetes and address the growing issue of type 2 diabetes.

IDF, ISPAD and Diabetes Philippines stand ready to work with you and your team to ensure the health of future generations and support the sustainable development of our societies.

Yours sincerely,

Prof. Andrew Boulton
IDF President

Prof. Carine de Beaufort
ISPAD President

Dr. Francis I. Pasaporte
Diabetes Philippines President

² Improving the school experience of children with diabetes: Evaluation of the KiDS project. Chinnici et al., Journal of Clinical & Translational Endocrinology 15 (2019) 70–75.

³ "KiDS and Diabetes in Schools" project: Experience with an international educational intervention among parents and school professionals. Bechara GM, et al. Pediatr Diabetes. 2018 Jun;19(4):756-760.



Hon. Leonor Magtolis Briones
Secretary of Education
Department Of Education
2nd Floor Department Of Education Building,
Deped Meralco Avenue, Pasig, 1605 Metro Manila
brioneslm@yahoo.com; sec@deped.gov.ph; leonor.briones@deped.gov.ph

Manila, October 4, 2021

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IDF, ISPAD and Diabetes Philippines stand ready to work with you and your team to ensure the health of future generations and support the sustainable development of our societies.

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**International
Diabetes
Federation**



Dr. Lirio M. Palencia
Medical Officer/ Head School Health Section
Department of Education – Division of Camarines Norte
F. Pimentel Ave., Daet,
Camarines Norte 4600
lirio.palencia001@deped.gov.ph

Manila, October 4, 2021

Re: Call to implement the Kids and Diabetes in Schools (KiDS) project in Philippines

Dear Dr. Palencia,

On the occasion of [World Teacher's Day](#) on October 5, the [International Diabetes Federation](#) (IDF), the [International Society for Pediatric and Adolescent Diabetes](#) (ISPAD) and [Diabetes Philippines](#) are calling on you and your fellow Ministers of Education and Minister of Health around the world to implement the [Kids and Diabetes in Schools](#) (KiDS) project in your respective countries. As mentioned in our previous correspondence on occasion of the International Education Day last January, the implementation of this project is particularly important at a time when school attendance has been disrupted in many countries because of the Covid-19 pandemic, and when education on healthy food choices and physical activity is essential.

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Ms. Nympha D. Guemo
School Division Superintendent DepEd – Division of Camarines Norte
F. Pimentel Ave., Daet, Camarines Norte 4600
camarines.norte@deped.gov.ph

Manila, October 4, 2021

Re: Call to implement the Kids and Diabetes in Schools (KiDS) project in Philippines

Dear Ms. Guemo,

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We are proud to inform you that, to date, the KiDS project has reached almost a quarter of a million students and 20,000 teachers in at least ten countries¹. We have seen that the implementation of KiDS results in an improved knowledge about diabetes management among teachers and parents, leads to healthier food choices and encourages increased physical activity in the school environment^{2,3}.

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IDF President



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ISPAD President



Dr. Francis I. Pasaporte
Diabetes Philippines President



Dr. Alex Sta. María
City Health, Mandaluyong
3/F Right Wing Executive Bldg.
City Government Complex, Maysilo Circle, Plainview
Mandaluyong City, Philippines 1550
health@mandaluyong.gov.ph; citymayor@mandaluyong.gov.ph

Manila, October 4, 2021

Re: Call to implement the Kids and Diabetes in Schools (KiDS) project in Phillippines

Dear Dr Sta. María,

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Dr. Romela M. Cruz, Cesa
Head Department of Education – City of Mandaluyong
Calbayog St., Brgy. Highway Hills, Mandaluyong City 1550
Philippines
sdo.mandaluyong@deped.gov.ph

Manila, October 4, 2021

Re: Call to implement the Kids and Diabetes in Schools (KiDS) project in Phillipines

Dear Dr. M. Cruz,

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