Share An Opportunity
PHILIPPINES

ANNUAL REPORT
2020–2021

ABOUT THE COVER

The pursuit of success in development work is tough. It is a journey not recommended for the faint of heart. The road is long and daunting. It is fraught with dangers, which lurk in every corner and every conceivable place of hiding, ready to pounce on the unsuspecting traveller at the blink of an eye.

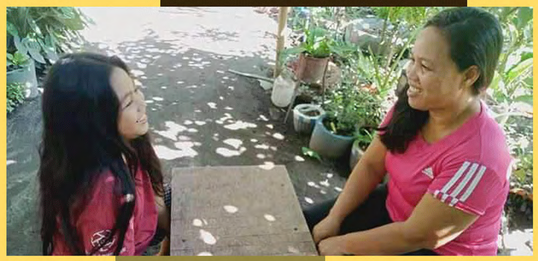
In order to survive the voyage, a development worker must possess the patience of Job, the wisdom of Solomon, the nimbleness of Elijah, and the management and organizational skills of Nehemiah. Indeed, the qualifications required are of biblical proportions!

In spite of the frightening and often demoralizing prospects of plunging into development work, some individuals and organizations persevere to do it. One such institution is the Share an Opportunity (SAO) Philippines, a non-governmental organization with an avowed mission to bring a better life to underprivileged children, families, and communities. It does its job with joy, in spite of trials and tribulations.

The challenges of last year, 2020, cannot be overstated. As if the job was not hard, the world was thrown into chaos as it battles an invisible enemy, the coronavirus. For months, nations were at a loss as millions are infected with the dreaded Covid-19, from which too many perished. Economies went into disarray, businesses toppled like pieces of domino, travels were discontinued, neighborhoods were locked down, life as we know it screeched to a halt.

The communities that SAO Philippines serve were not spared from this tragedy. The plans SAO set months before were thrown out of the window. New ones must be drawn, yet the staff must be ready to come up with new ones at a moment's notice. The ability to adapt became the most desirable item in a development worker's skills set. Hence, we call this annual report "Agile," a description that is depicted in the cover.

God continues to give SAO Philippines and its stakeholders the strength, the resourcefulness, and the nimbleness that allow it to navigate through the perilous route to survival. Indeed, the Lord still wants us to continue nurturing children, strengthening families, and transforming communities this coming year and for more years to come.



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MESSAGE *from the CEO*

> ***An agile person is capable of shifting his or her thinking and behavior when the conditions call for such adjustments.***

People might be asking: "Why did SAO Philippines chose 'Agile' as its theme for fiscal year 2020-2021?"

The answer is quite simple—because we are convinced that this word best describes the mindset of the Share an Opportunity (SAO) Philippines, the organization, and its stakeholders choose to make as its own during this critical time when it is experiencing a sharp decrease in funding.

An agile person is capable of shifting his or her thinking and behavior when the conditions call for such adjustments. An agile organization, too, has the intuition to immediately pivot its operation and everything else in order to adapt to evolving situations.

Indeed, things have been evolving in a dizzying pace, hence, we must keep up. That is why we did immediately set up weekly update sessions (we call it "Agil-O," meaning, 'agile orientation') to keep everyone abreast of the many changes taking place within the organization.

We learned during our discussions that we should be willing to let go of any "baggage"—even those to which we are emotionally attached—and to learn new lessons and skills. At the same time, we need to be open to collaborations, to embrace passionately one's "why," and to trust and respect one another.

What do we have?

The one thing going for SAO PH is its network of trained community volunteers in project areas that enables us to constantly be in touch with our partners in communities. With the help of these volunteers, SAO was able to ensure that children are safe and that families are properly supported.

Aided by mobile phones and good connectivity, for example, volunteers were able implement Viva Network's Phone Mentoring Project. Read on and you will read stories about how SAO's programs, such as CAPIN and Project Champs, change people's lives.

What do we need to let go?

Although letting go is part of the natural rhythm of life, it is still difficult. And exhausting. We found out that there are a lot of things we need to let go. Much energy was spent in literally moving cabinets, thinking through guidelines, and reaching out to appropriate government offices. These movements of "rightsizing" offices and personnel, among other changes, are in the report.

The most difficult part, hands down, is saying goodbye to the staff. But looking at the bright side of things, we welcome the new expression of relationships forged through many years and challenges.

What do we need to do?

Since the MAKABATA Program is winding down in all five project areas, it is an apt time to reflect long and hard on our experiences and to articulate afresh our "why?" This time, we will share it to as many people as possible.

The SAO PH Board of Trustees decided that we will adopt a "twin-goal mindset": Pursue our passion to implement programs on the one hand and mobilizing resources on the other.

This mindset, it is hoped, will propel SAO PH toward reaching its strategic objectives. The initial articulation of these strategic thrusts are shared in this report.

Agile Together

In sports, athletes perform agility drills that improve the players' ability to change direction instantly and accelerate while in motion.

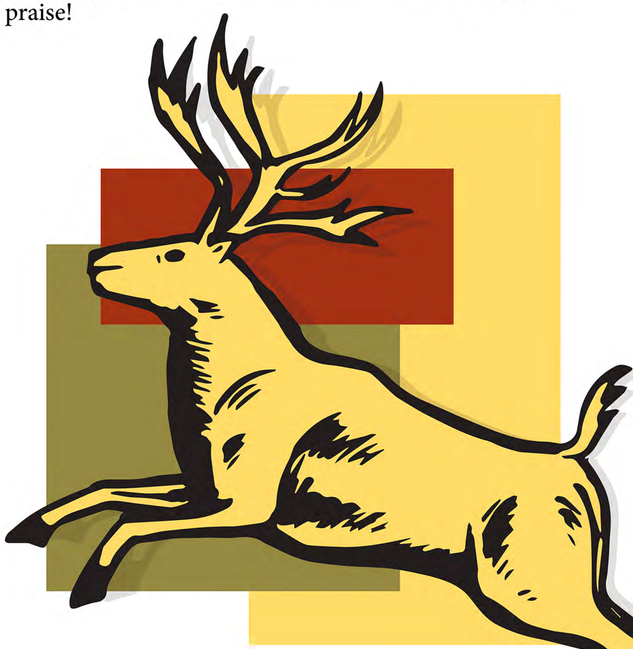
The ability to change direction while in motion is very important in many sports, particularly in team and dual sports. Each member of the team should be as agile as the next one, otherwise, the whole team will still lose to its competitor. If only one player of a team is agile and the others are not, the player's agility will be cancelled off by the slowness of his or her teammates.

For an organization like SAO to be agile, every single staff will have to practice the agility drill. The effectiveness of an agile player is measured by the level of his commitment to do a certain move in order to score. This always involves risk but everyone in the team must make a "choice"—a deliberate decision—to commit to something.

This something may be a person or process that has not earned your trust… but trust you must.

After all, we have lived by faith all along. Is it not amazing to look back and realize how the Lord enabled us to do quite a bit given the circumstances and despite ourselves?

O what grace, indeed! Unto God be all the glory and praise!



MESSAGE FROM *the BOT Chairperson*

God is Good All the Time!

Zaldy V. Barotil

After more than fifteen (15) years of over-the-top implementation of the MAKABATA Program, the latter has finally come to a close. The major donor of SAO Philippines – the Transform Aid International – has decided to terminate funding to the Philippines so it can help poorer countries in Asia and Africa.

It means the loss of jobs for more than twenty (20) staff members of SAO Philippines, most of whom are the primary breadwinners of their respective families. It means saying goodbye to friends and community partners and colleagues.

All these are happening in the midst of a raging COVID-19 pandemic that seems to be getting worse each week. The vaccination roll-outs and routine lockdowns seem unable to stem the tide of the pandemic. We see more and more of our friends and relatives losing their jobs and livelihood, and even their lives due to COVID-19 infections.

In this situation, it is so easy to be discouraged, to feel despondent and depressed, and to rant against God. It is so easy to focus on the negativities of life and people all around us. Social media like Facebook tend to exacerbate the air of hopelessness and sense of fatigue among us. Listening to daily news aired on TV or Bombo Radyo tends to desensitize us, making us numb to the painful realities of life.

Now is the best time to remind ourselves every day that "God is good all the time!" God's Word through the prophet Habakkuk is most appropriate for our challenging times. He said:

"Though the fig tree does not bud and
there are no grapes on the vines,
though the olive crop fails, and
the fields produce no food,
though there are no sheep in the pen
and no cattle in the stalls,
Yet I will rejoice in the LORD,
I will be joyful in God my Savior.
The Sovereign LORD is my strength;
He makes my feet like the feet of a deer,
He enables me to go on the heights"
(Habakkuk 3.17-19)

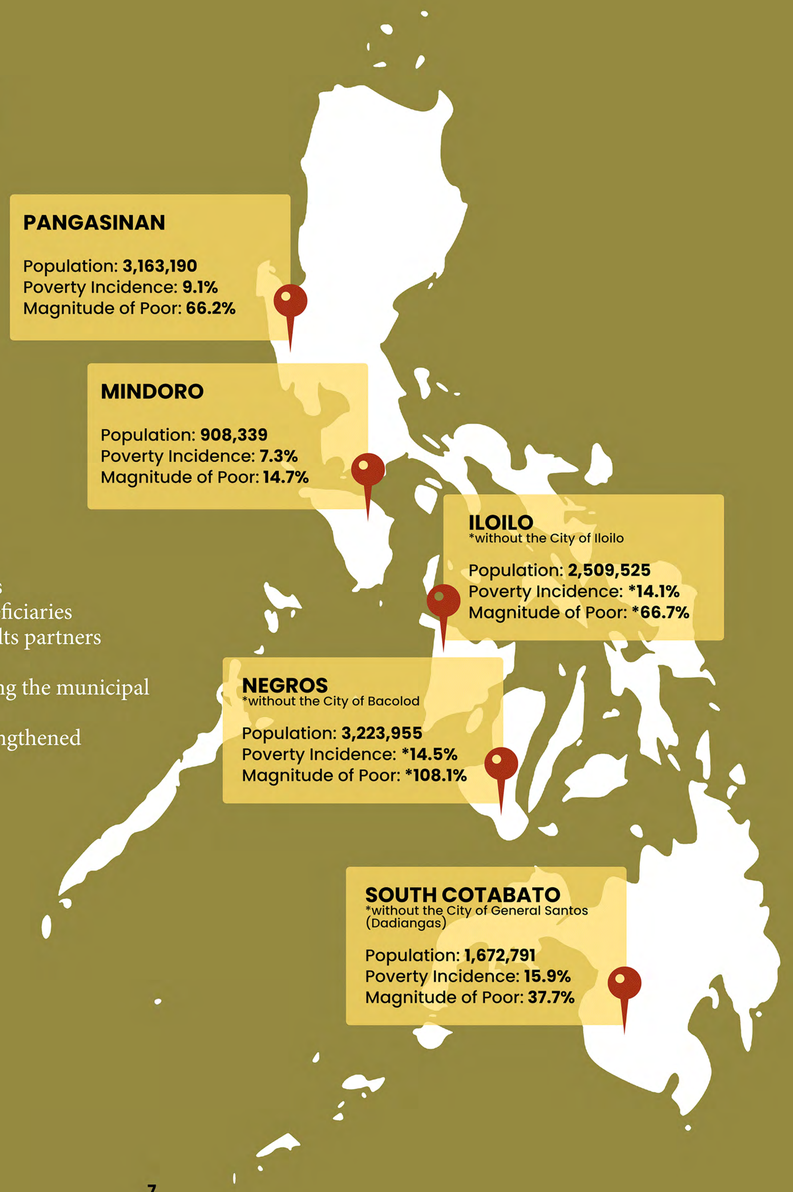
Truly, God is much bigger than all the problems, difficulties, and hardships besetting all of us today. He is sovereign and completely in control of our lives and that of our families, communities, and country.

Indeed, God is our strength and enabler! Because of His unfailing love and amazing grace for us, we can put our hope in Him!

So, we declare that God is using the "setback" we are experiencing now for a bigger "comeback" in the months to come! And we say "all is well" because Abba Father delights in us and promised to continue to bless us.

Yes! God is good all the time!

AREAS OF OPERATION



AS OF JUNE 2021 HAS REACHED

6330 Total number of children beneficiaries
4985 Total number of of direct child partners
7257 Total number of parents and adult beneficiaries
2234 Total number of direct parents and adults partners
29 Barangays currently engaged
87 Barangays indirectly serving and training the municipal level MSWDO & WCPD
11 CBOs organized & currently being strengthened
25 Youth advocate groups
143 Community volunteers

SOURCE: 2020 CENSUS, PHILIPPINE STATISTICS AUTHORITY

2021 IMPACT NUMBERS

As the entire humanitarian world continues to face the challenges of a global pandemic due to COVID, program implementation as we know it remains to be a difficult task to overcome.

Despite these changes, SAO Philippines together with her partners came up with different ways to navigate in this new normal. If not for our partners and volunteers in the communities, these numbers would have not been possible.

We are grateful that our partners and supporters are with us as we continue to do our mandate -- children enjoying their rights, assured in their God-defined identity and empowered in participating in kingdom and nation-building activities.

Children are healthy

1924 Children practice good hygiene habits

625 Families eat nutritious food

Children are drivers of change

5 Functional AKTIB

10 AKTIB members represent the children in barangay-based institutions

Children are educated & are responsible

260 Families make it a priority for children's potential to be actualized

514 Parents increased their understanding of children's rights, capacity, and potential conducted

206 Children are part of interest groups based on a talent or newly acquired skill

Children are safe

959 Families that manage their vulnerabilities

250 Adults participating in mangrove rehabilitation program

18 Hectares of mangrove restored

6000 Mangrove trees planted

95 Percent survival of mangrove trees planted

Children are supported by adults

11 CBOs championing children's welfare

22 Group enterprise established where member-families have increased income to provide for children's need

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

BCCR COVID RESPONSE

It is a wonder how such a miniscule entity—the microscopic "coronavirus" that causes the highly infectious and fatal Covid-19—could hugely affect global affairs and, in various ways, all of us.

With the pandemic being prolonged by the natural mutation of the virus, particularly the delta variant, things are happening so quickly. We need to adjust and adapt to the so-called "new normal," which keeps shifting.

We are forced to think differently and change our approach on how we do mission, especially since we need to take into consideration the safety of our implementers, beneficiaries, and other stakeholders.

Despite challenges and life-threatening illnesses, we soldier on knowing that our communities need us more than ever. The only question is, "how do we help them without harming them as gatherings are still prohibited?"

Thankfully, SAO Philippines is doing what it does best—improvise and learn new lessons as it navigates first-hand the new, albeit, changing contexts.

Psychosocial debriefing activities are being done to help ease the anxieties and difficulties our partners are experiencing. We initiated these efforts to address adults' (frontliners and other vulnerable individuals) and children's difficulties.

The churches provided biblical insights during the debriefing while the schools provided volunteers/teachers who helped in facilitating resilience activities for children to help them deal with the impact of crises, such as the current pandemic.

On the other hand, Community Based Organizations (CBOs) in areas assisted in packing hygiene kits and distributed them house-to-house, making sure that health protocols required by LGUs are not compromised.

Some 800 families in five communities were given hygiene kits, which allowed them to observe and maintain good and proper hygiene even while locked down.

The LGU assisted in transporting the items for distribution, which expedited the process and lessened the risk of the volunteers.

BUILDING COASTAL COMMUNITY RESILIENCE PROGRAM

End of Project Evaluation

In December 2020, the Building Coastal Community Resilience (BCCR) project in typhoon Yolanda-affected municipalities of Iloilo Province funded by the Norwegian Mission Alliance (MA) that was implemented by Share an Opportunity (SAO) Philippines was concluded.

The goal of the project was to build the resiliency of the communities along the coastal area and bring awareness against the other possible disasters brought about by climate change. A project evaluation was conducted last year to determine if this purpose and expected outcomes were achieved.

The final evaluation of the five-year project—which started in March 2016 and involved five barangays of the two municipalities of Banate and Anilao—used mixed research designs. Individual interviews and focus group discussions were done and gathered through face-to-face (following strict minimum health protocols) and online via Zoom.

Using the criteria set as specified in the BCCR Framework, the project was evaluated based on relevance, effectiveness, efficiency, impact, and sustainability. Here are a few responses and findings that came out of the evaluation:

Relevance

When interviewed, the children-participants said the project is relevant because it helps protect the environment and it offers trainings that equip them on the know-how of survival calamities.

The barangay captain of Barangay San Salvador chimed in that the project not made them alert and aware on how to protect themselves during disasters but also made them appreciate the need for savings and micro-finance facilities, especially now that everyone is affected by the Covid-19 pandemic. He said the program made them resilient because it directly addressed the needs of their community.

Effectiveness

The children told the interviewers that they could do nothing but cry since they felt helpless during calamities. That was, however, before their involvement with the BCCR Project. Now that they have undergone disaster stimulation trainings, they have gained confidence and readiness to face disasters.

Asked how the they rate the project with 1 being the lowest/not satisfied and 5 being the highest/very satisfied, the results are:

- Mangrove 4 (Satisfied)
- Earthquake 4 (Satisfied)
- Typhoon 5 (Very Satisfied)

When interviewed, the village councilors (barangay kagawads) heaped praises for the project and its implementer, SAO Philippines. They rated the trainings and SAO, in general, with a 5, which means they are very satisfied with the upskilling conducted. They even described the trainings as "super." According to them, they most appreciated the sharing of new knowledge and the simulation exercises done by the whole community.

Efficiency

One of the identified outputs of the project was a working collaboration between the community and the local government units (LGUs) for policy adoption and plan implementation. This was achieved because everyone can see the excellent efficiency of collaboration and partnership among SAO Philippines, the LGU, and community.

While SAO provided facilities such as ambulance, first aid, and other needs during training along with certified experts on DRRM, the venue and other local needs were provided by the barangay. The community's active participation in the training and actual simulation resulted in the success and efficiency of implementing the project.

Impact

In impact of the training of the BCCR project was apparent. It enabled the participants to be responsible not only to themselves and their respective families but also to their community and its members, as well.

They recollection included the feeling and sense of panic whenever there a possible disaster was forthcoming. Now, this feeling is gone. They have become prepared and capable of protecting themselves. They also learned the value of preserving their environment. The most noticeable results of the project are: the change of attitude towards disaster, collaboration of the community and the LGUs, and the resiliency both from disasters and the financial effects of disaster with the help of micro-finance programs.

Sustainability

Community members mentioned the challenges and risks in sustaining the project that SAO started. They feel that SAO trainings has equipped them enough, but the limited budget might constrain them in managing the project successfully. They expressed hope that SAO would continue to guide and support them. They also said they would appreciate the help of other government agencies and non-government organizations in continuing their projects for the future generations.

Despite all of these, they are confident that the initiative will continue, as they expressed their commitment to pass on what they learned to their children.

The evaluation concluded that the trainings, drills, and simulations that are disaster-related are all relevant and that the initiative to start a micro-finance helped the family and the community's need during this tough time. The BCCR project was able to attain its goals and outcomes since the children are now confident and alert even in times of disaster.

The project was implemented efficiently and the partnership forged between the community and the LGU has become strong. The paradigm shift of children and adults about disasters was a remarkable achievement of SAO and was the true measure of the project's impact on the community.

Should the LGU and other government groups or non-government organizations decide to partner with the community, the project will surely survive. As of now, the establishment of the BCCR project will continue to progress through the volunteerism of community members.

The future looks bright for these communities. SAO Philippines is thankful to be a part and a witness to how these five barangays built their resiliency and collaboration with their members and LGU.

CHILD ABUSE PREVENTION & INTERVENTION NETWORK PROGRAM

"Child abuse prevention is everybody's business." This is the remark of a participant in a recent Child Sexual Abuse Prevention and Online Safety training that sums up the advocacy of the Child Abuse Prevention and Intervention Network (CAPIN).

She continued by saying: "As teachers, we have the greater responsibility with regard to the safety of our pupils in schools."

Aside from this training, some of another accomplishment of CAPIN this fiscal year is the CAPIN 2020 Planning and Assessment, Trauma Informed Care Training, and CSAP Online Safety Trainings for Education.

CAPIN 2020 Planning and Assessment

A total of 30 members from three CAPIN networks in three municipalities of Lemery, Concepcion, and San Dionisio were represented in a planning session held in 2020.

The three CAPIN network developed a plan for 2021 implementation of activities in their respective areas.

Trauma Informed Care

Last November 23-25, 35 service providers from Lemery, San Dionisio, and Concepcion attended a three-day trauma-informed care activities.

These social service providers are stakeholders engaged in child protection advocacy of CAPIN in their areas.

The training provided them better understanding of the dynamics, circumstances, and triggers of trauma that pose behavioral challenges to the "survivors of the abuse."

With this training, the participants should be able to communicate and work effectively with survivors who experienced trauma.

Child Sexual Abuse Prevention (CSAP) and Online Safety

Sixty-six teachers from 12 high schools and 54 elementary schools attended the CSAP training on online safety for educators. Majority of them were designated guidance counsellors in their respective schools.

The training's aim was to give the participants a deeper understanding of how important it is to make sure that our children are safe online and from abuse. The CSAP training was also meant to provide and reinforce proper protocol of handling cases of abuse, something that institutions usually overlook.

With these in mind, the educators committed to re-echo the CSAP training to their respective grade/year levels.

CAPIN's COVID response

Due to the pandemic, some identified and planned activities could not be done due to LGU restrictions. Because of this, the budget was re-aligned and re-purposed for Covid-19 humanitarian response.

Through this, CAPIN was able to reach out to 21 schools as beneficiaries of:

Hygiene kits (for students) to make sure they are observing proper hygiene

Info cards that are meant to equip and safeguard children and their families against all kinds or forms of potential abuse during the pandemic and;

School's supplies (internet modem, printer, bond paper, etc.) to support children's rights to have access to education despite the limitations brought by the pandemic.

PROJECT CHAMPS

STRONGER PARTNERSHIP FOR A NEW PROGRAM

Thanks to an alliance forged between the Mission Alliance (MA) and Share an Opportunity (SAO) Philippines, the latter is able to continue what it has been doing for the past 25 years—championing the welfare of children.

In January 2021, a new project, which is called Championing Community Resilience Through Children/Youth and Civil Society Engagement and Participation with Government in Typhoon Haiyan-Affected Communities of Banate, Iloilo, a.k.a., "Project CHAMPS," came into being.

This project aims to raise a network of community stakeholders who will "champion" the appropriate inclusion of children in emergency preparedness and response.

Project CHAMPS hopes to enable youth and adult groups handle emergencies, mitigate vulnerabilities, and mobilize the barangay councils so that community members can access their resources.

In spite of the challenges posed by this pandemic, SAO PH's team in Iloilo managed to accomplish their planned activities for the quarter.

They were able to finish the courtesy calls and program orientation in five target areas for Project CHAMPS, namely, Barangays Belen, Libertad, Carmelo, Zona Sur, and Alacaygan. Each barangay sent 10 participants, therefore, the SAO team was able to orient a total of 50 people. These orientations were done following the LGU protocols, making sure that we do no harm as we meet our partners.

The team was also able to enlist 260 children as CHAMPS child-partners. In addition, they also finished conducting a consultation with 74 children in Barangay Belen, as well as different trainings about children's rights and understanding God's heart for children.

Such achievements only show how relentless the commitment of our team based in Iloilo is. It was able to provide the best service to partners even in trying times.

SAO PH expressed its gratitude for having an opportunity to partner with Mission Alliance as it continues to build an inclusive approach in community development that will benefit children, youth, adults, civil society organizations (CSOs), local government units (LGUs), and other stakeholders in making sure that our children are protected.

PROJECT CHAMP:
STORIES OF CHANGE

HON. CIRIACO BOTERO

Hon. Ciriaco Botero is the Punong Barangay of Barangay Libertad, Banate, Iloilo. He has been participating in various Disaster Risks Reduction Management (DRRM) related activities in the municipal level coordinated by the Banate LGU through Municipal Disaster Risk Reduction Management Office where SAO staff was the main activity facilitator.

Upon learning that his community is one of the project areas being selected for the implementation of the Champ, he was so happy and excited about the project. For him, the project is an opportunity for them to be equipped as a community leader. "I attended many trainings and seminars in DRRM and Climate Change Adaptation(CCA) initiated by our government but it seems there has no impact to our community because we don't give much priority, but I realized that DRRM and CCA program is important after our community was hardly hit by flooding in two instances. We were caught off guard when that event happened," said PB Botero. He look forward that this project might impact significantly to the community especially in the area of DRRM and CCA. He also added that the advocacy is very relevant to his community in order to mitigate harmful effect of disaster that might come one day. With this realization, he resolved to prioritize DRRM and Child Protection Programs and provide budget allocation out of their funds accordingly.

He is also thankful that SAO has chosen his community for the Project Champ and expressed his " all out" support for the implementation of the project.

MRS. MARCHIE SALAMANGCA

Mrs. Marchie Salamangca is serving as Barangay Service Point Officer (BSPO) in Barangay Carmelo, Banate, Iloilo. Prior to her engagement with Project Champ, she participated in the Municipal-wide Evacuation Management Simulation Exercises, a collaboration activity of the Province of Iloilo, Office of PDRRMC, Banate LGU and SAO through the project BCCR.

When her community was selected for the Project Champ, she was so happy and excited to get involve to the project's activities and when asked if she want to become a community volunteer for the project, without any hesitation she accepted the task.

Having attended and participated in several youth and children focused activities, Ms. Marchie has learned the proper way to deal with children and youth and has committed to observe child protection policy and guideline. She realized that youth and children's rights need to be respected and protected frrom any form of harm at all times.

MAKABATA
Maunlad na Komunidad Angkop sa mga Bata

The Maunlad na Komunidad Angkop sa mga Bata or MAKABATA Program, the flagship program of Share an Opportunity (SAO) Philippines, started way back July 2010. SAO partnered with Transform Aid International (TAI) to come up with this program but, unfortunately, it is now on its last phase and will end in December 2021.

Then the Covid-19 pandemic came at the tailend of the first quarter of 2020. None of us, including our partners, were prepared with the arrival of the "new normal." Everyone struggled. Adding to this are the different stressors like limited movement of all members of all sectors of the society because of the imposition of minimum health protocols and the anxiety that community partners felt.

SAO had to rethink how project implementation would look like without risking and harming our community partners.

Despite these challenges, we praise the Lord for SAO staff's agility. After designing the adaptation activities and shifting our strategies, the flexible SAO staff members were able to adapt. They were quick on their feet in maximizing the use of technology, the partner volunteers, and the partners' families' structure to actualize MAKABATA's goals.

Identifying that most families are held together by the present circumstances, SAO thought of strengthening this basic community structure and design family-based learning sessions where fathers and mothers can facilitate and together learn with their children.

As this global phenomenon is not only difficult for us physically and economically, SAO Philippines offered our partners helpline that they can call to reach out should they need someone who will cater their emotional and psychological needs.

The Phone Mentoring and Monitoring also acts as an opportunity for SAO's staff to communicate and foster trust to our partners in this time and season.

Along with these challenges, SAO also experienced a stretching of faith as a need for the right-sizing of the organization came up. We continue to trust and rely on God's control over these things.

With that transition, it has become necessary for our team in Pangasinan to be the first area to start the MAKABATA handover to our partners in the area for sustainability of the project.

(See more of the MAKABATA Handover in Central North Luzon (CNL) spread.)

AREA MILESTONES
COME
BE WORSHIP GOD
IN SPIRIT AND IN TRUTH
JESUS CHRIST THE SAME YESTERDAY AND TO DAY AND FOR EVER. HEBREWS 13:8
03/20/2021 14:51
18
19

CENTRAL & NORTHERN LUZON (CNL)

MAKABATA'S INITIATIVE CONTINUES IN PANGASINAN

SAO Philippines is committed to make sure that children are healthy, educated, safe, participating in driving change in the community, and supported by adults to live in a safe and enabling environment. SAO believes that in order to sustain this goal even after the life of the project, working together with institutions like the LGU is a must.

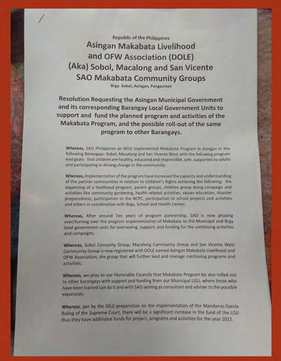
Part of the MAKABATA phase over plan is to lobby to the barangay and municipal level a resolution that ensures the support of the LGU to MAKABATA initiatives after the end of its project life. That is what our team in Pangasinan along with our partners in the community just did. Our community partners along with SAO Philippines' CNL Team submitted a resolution to the Asingan Municipal Government along with its corresponding Barangay Local Government Units. They are requesting these LGUs to support and fund the planned activities of the MAKABATA program and welcome the possibility of rolling these activities to other barangays as well.

When SAO CNL's Area Manager, Junel Chavez, shared this with Hon. Carlos Lopez, Jr., the Mayor of Asingan, Pangasinan, the latter mentioned that he is amenable to the idea of supporting MAKABATA even after its program life. Immediately after that, Mr. Chavez started working and drafting the resolution.

When our community partners presented the resolution last August, the body accepted the resolution.

What an achievement to cap off the 10 years of MAKABATA program in Pangasinan!

We celebrate with the CNL team and along with our community partners as they continue to do what SAO MAKABATA has started in their area. We can wait to hear more stories of life changed in your area!



Republic of the Philippines
Asingan Makabata Livelihood
and OFW Association (DOLE)
(Aka) Sobol, Macalong and San Vicente
SAO Makabata Community Groups
Brgy. Sobol, Asingan, Pangasinan

Resolution Requesting the Asingan Municipal Government and its corresponding Barangay Local Government Units to support and fund the planned program and activities of the Makabata Program, and the possible roll-out of the same program to other Barangays.

Whereas, SAO Philippines as NGO implemented Makabata Program in Asingan in the following Barangays: Sobol, Macalong and San Vicente West with the following program end goals: that children are healthy, educated and responsible, safe, supported by adults and participating in driving change in the community;

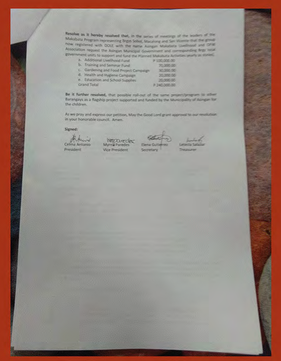
Whereas, implementation of the program have increased the capacity and understanding of the partner communities in relation to Children's Rights achieving the following: the organizing of a livelihood program, parent groups, children group doing campaign and activities on children's rights, Child Rights Forum, Disaster preparedness and disaster preparedness, participation to the BCPC, participation to school projects and activities and others in coordination with Brgy. School and Health Center;

Whereas, After around Ten years of program partnership, SAO is now phasing out/ending its program in the partner communities and hoping that the Municipal and Brgy local government units for overseeing, support, and funding for the continuing activities and campaigns;

Whereas, Sobol Comunity Group, Macalong Community Group and San Vicente West Community Group is now registered with DOLE named Asingan Makabata Livelihood and OFW Association, the group that will further lead and manage continuing programs and activities;

Whereas, we pray to our Honorable Councils that Makabata Program be also rolled out to other barangays with support and funding from our Municipal LGU, where those who have been trained can do it and with SAO serving as consultant and adviser to the possible expansion;

Whereas, per by the DILG preparation on the implementation of the Mandanas-Garcia Ruling of the Supreme Court, there will be a significant increase in the fund of the LGU thus they have additional funds for project, programs and activities for the year 2022.



Resolve as it hereby resolved that, in the series of meetings of the leaders of the Asingan Makabata Livelihood and OFW Association (DOLE) and the Sobol Community Group have registered with DOLE with the Aktao Asingan Makabata Livelihood and OFW Association request the Asingan Municipal Government and corresponding Brgy. local government units for the support and funding of the Planned Activities as stated;

a. Additional Livelihood Fund — 50,000.00
b. Training and Seminar Fund — 70,000.00
c. Gardening and Food Project Campaign — 50,000.00
d. Health and Hygiene Campaign — 25,000.00
e. Brgy. Sobol School Supplies — 25,000.00
Grand Total — ₱ 340,000.00

Be it further resolved, that possible roll-out of the same project/program to other barangays in a flagship project supported and funded by the Municipality of Asingan for the children.

As we pray and approve our petition, May the Good Lord grant approval to our resolution in your honorable council. Amen.

Signed:

Carlos Arnaldo — President
Myrna Paredes — Vice President
Gloria Sandoval — Secretary
Lolita Galdon — Treasurer

MAKABATA HANDOVER AND CHILD PARTNERS' GRADUATION IN CNL

"I am sad that the MAKABATA program comes to an end especially, [that] it [has] became a part of my life for so long. I will never forget the many benefits I have experienced in the program. I will especially treasure the lessons about strengthening our faith in God and praying that we can continue what we have already started."
– Myrna Paredes

Myrna is one of our partners in the area and she is not the only one who is sad of the program ending. MAKABATA started July of 2010 and is expected to end this December 2021 culminating the 10-year development program of SAO to its five (5) areas. That explains how emotionally difficult this is not only for the community but also for the staff who have worked with them throughout those years.

Just like any SAO activity, the MAKABATA handover has been an opportunity to highlight the collaboration of our partners, the church, and the LGU as they work together in making sure that the hand over will be a success.

Due to the pandemic and the LGU restrictions, challenges arise as to how the graduation and handover will be both celebrated meaningfully and safely. Good thing is that all of our partners from Community Based Organizations (CBOs), Aktibong Kabataan Tungo sa Ikauunlad ng Bayan (AKTIB), Samahan ng mga Bata (SB) volunteers, SAO scholars, church, barangay members, etc. all contributed their time, talent, and skills to ensure that everything will run smoothly. All hands are on deck! This goes to show that the community have a solid working relationship towards one goal.

Despite the program is ending, the projects that SAO initiated is now bearing fruit.

Some examples of this are:
- The Community Garden where they now also earn from.
- SB triad - a children's group where they monitor each others' proper hygiene.
- Literally, fruit-bearing trees that SAO has distributed back in 2015 among others.

All these is only possible because of your support for us. Thank you for partnering with us transform communities.

MOST SIGNIFICANT CHANGE STORY:

Evangeline Ubando

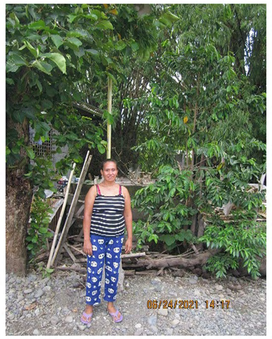
SB Parent and Parent Saving member Evangeline is an actively involved in herbal and gardening.

Her husband is a farm laborer and a carpenter who is active in helping children and parents' activities especially in preparing and cleaning the venue after the activity in their zone and encourages his children to continue attending MAKABATA's activities.

Before she became a member of the Parent Group of MAKABATA she is shy is only focus on housework. She does not know how to save and do not know the rights of her children.

Since joining the program, she learned how to save. She shared, "With my savings, I started to build a small sari-sari store that helps the needs of my children and to my husband."

Their small sari-sari store also sells ornamental and herbal plants. The small business that they have helped them cover their basic needs and has been a source of their income during this pandemic.



Evangeline shares that they are happy they got involved in the MAKABATA program. She said that, "My husband and I was able to understand our children more. My children are child partners and they are actively involved in the children's group. One of my daughter became a youth leader. Through the program, my children became respectful and obedient. The parenting activities and the marriage enrichment keeps us stronger together."

The Ubaldo family dreams that all their children finish their studies. She hopes that her children will have a safe, healthy, and good future. They also hope that the families of their community also have a good life and their own businesses and have a barangay council and community that help each other. Just like any other community, they hope that their barangay be COVID free.

MOST SIGNIFICANT CHANGE STORY:

Paolo Nares

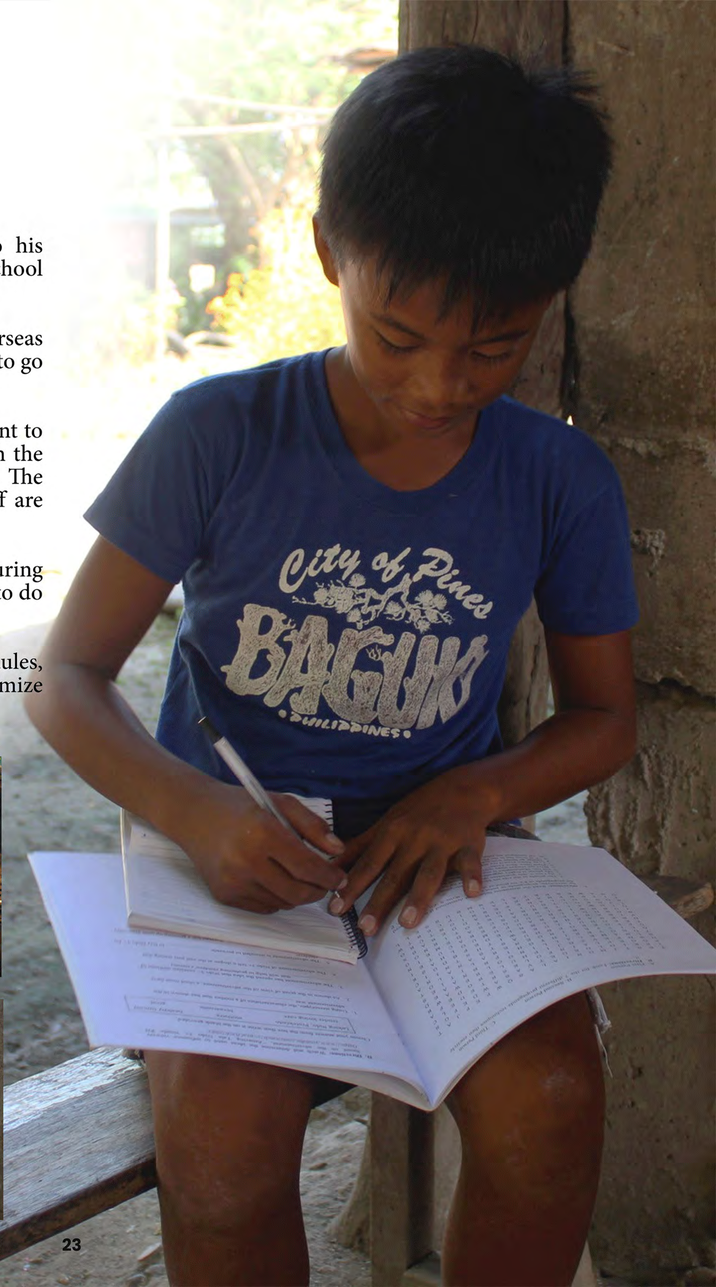
Grade five pupil Paolo Nares is very dedicated to his schooling. He usually joined curricular activities in school like dancing.

His father used to work abroad as an OFW (Overseas Filipino Worker) but due to the pandemic, he decided to go back here in the Philippines and take care of them.

Paolo used to be a timid and shy child and doesn't want to play with other children but after being involved with the program, he said that, "I now have many friends. The MAKABATA program is my second family. The staff are very friendly and they treat us as their siblings."

Despite of what the world is currently experiencing during this pandemic, Paolo remains centered and continues to do his daily routine.

In the photos, you can see Paolo working on his modules, helping in the household chores and ultimately maximize the opportunity to bond with his father.



SOUTHERN LUZON AND MINDORO (SLM)

MOST SIGNIFICANT CHANGE STORY:

Genievie Mangilog

Genievie was only six years old when she started participating in the MAKABATA Program of the Share an Opportunity (SAO) Philippines. She is now a Grade 8 Junior High School student.

She has been under the care of her grandmother since her mother went abroad to work as an overseas Filipino worker (OFW). Genievie and her guardian rely on her mother's remittance for their day-to-day sustenance.

The young girl's life became more exciting when she became an active participant of MAKABATA activities in her community.

"Before, I was not interested in recreational activities of the barangay," Genievie recalled. "But when I started joining MAKABATA activities, I realized the importance of the program in my personal development."

She said it was instrumental in becoming a Godly person, a polite child, and a loyal friend to her peers. Because of her exposure to MAKABATA, she began to nurture a dream to see her community children to becoming studious, responsible, kind, and loving to others.

MOST SIGNIFICANT CHANGE STORY:

Shaddy Mae Daguno

Shaddy Mae and her brother live with their grandparents, who have been acting as their guardians since both of their parents work far from home.

Her grandmother, Roselda, is a member of San Mariano's Community-Based Organization (CBO), while her aunt, Crystal, is involved with SAO Philippines as a staff member.

Before becoming a part of the MAKABATA program, Shaddy was a shy girl. She was so introverted that it was apparent she feared socializing with other children.

But all that changed after joining the MAKABATA Program.

“When I became a part of the program, I started to become responsible, kind, trustworthy, and loving. I also learned to be friendly,” she said.

Shaddy has expressed gratitude to the MAKABATA Program. Because of it, she said, she was able to develop herself. She learned many positive things, became resilient in the face of life’s challenges, and, most importantly, has transformed into a better person.

NEGROS PROVINCE (NEG)

MOST SIGNIFICANT CHANGE STORY:

Princess Paula Belicena

Princess loves participating in activities of her community, especially if they are about the children and youth. Her interest in the latter was such that she is very active in the affairs of Aktibong Kabataan Tungo sa Ikauunlad ng Bayan (AKTIB) of their barangay as its chairperson.

As the head of AKTIB, she initiates activities like tutorials and community clean-up drives. She also facilitates activities for small children.

Princess’s parents support her involvement with AKTIB one hundred percent because they noticed that such is doing amazing things to her. They are only too glad to watch her develop holistically right before their eyes.

Princess' family—there are four of them in it—lives simply, yet earn enough to be able to get by from day to day nicely. Her father drives a tricycle and her mother stays at home to take care of her and her only sibling.

The young girl appreciates having a united family where members help each other with joy in their hearts. She’s proud to say that her family is her great inspiration in her studies. She hopes to earn a college degree someday so she can secure a well-paying job and give her family a better future.

When asked how her life was before participating in the MAKABATA program, she narrated: “Before I became part of the program, I was shy and I lacked confidence. I could not even imagine that a youth like me can have an influence to effect change in my community. In fact, as I didn’t even care what was happening in my own community.”

“I always thought that community activities are only for adults,” she added.

Of course, the turn-around came when Princess started joining the program. She could feel the difference. She really believes the experiences the program gave her made her better. She learned a lot of things. Her perspective in life improved.

Indeed, the MAKABATA program made her resilient. She is now confident that she can face life's challenges head-on and, at the same time, be a role model to her peers.

Princess dreams of a change in the society's stereotypes. She hopes for a more livable, united, and peaceful community. She looks forward to a time when the youth would have all the opportunities to speak up and be heard, especially on topics that concern them.

Also, Princess would love to see all children in their community excelling in areas where they are most interested in. She could not wait to see them unleash their fullest potential. Eventually, she hopes, the accomplishments of these youth would lead to a change in their community.

“My transformation because of MAKABATA gives me a deep sense of belongingness,” Princes admitted. “I am grateful to the program because it transformed me into the person that I am now. I am so happy that they organized us here in our place and really made an effort to make us realize our value as individuals.”

Princess consider becoming a part of the MAKABATA program as a precious, once-in-a-lifetime gift.

“The impact of the changes I've experienced will forever remain in me,” she said.

MOST SIGNIFICANT CHANGE STORY:

Charlyn Estampa

Charlyn and her husband Elmer are both actively involved in the MAKABATA Program of the Share an Opportunity (SAO) Philippines. Actually, the whole family was eventually drawn to it. The family's participation extends to their son, Ezekiel, who enjoys joining in activities like dancing, poster-making, and especially the Paglinang Camp.

"Because of our active involvement in the program, we developed spiritually," Charlyn said. "The Lord has transformed us and strengthened our faith."

Since joining MAKABATA, the whole family has been active in their church and community activities. Last year, Charlyn was also a facilitator of the Couples' Enrichment Training.

This is a far cry from how Charlyn's life before she became involved with SAO. Life then was simple and ordinary, according to her.

It was the habit of the family to sit down at the end of the day to talk about significant events that happened to each of them in the past 12 hours. Usually, they could share very little or none.

Slowly, they began to feel that something was missing in their lives. It seemed life had no true meaning and purpose. But that changed when they got involved with the MAKABATA project.

"Before, our day just came and went uneventfully, but since joining the program, our previously weak faith has gained much strength," Charlyn pointed out.

She mentioned that they now have developed a new family habit, which is having a daily prayer time. They have now given emphasis to this activity recognizing the importance of keeping in touch with the Lord.

Before, Charlyn's sole focus was taking care of her family's needs. Now, she has gained enough confidence and finally has overcome her shyness. She is now active in caring for her community by doing volunteer work.

A much more meaningful life—that's what Charlyn gained from joining MAKABATA Program of SAO. She said she will forever be grateful to the organization because it enabled her to bring positive impact to the community, where she now feels comfortable living in.

Charlyn hopes that someday, all residents of the community will be united in one purpose, where everyone has the opportunity to speak their minds, and all knows and accepts Jesus as his or her personal Savior.

PANAY, ROMBLON AND GUIMARAS (PRG)

MOST SIGNIFICANT CHANGE STORY:

Mavel Desamero

Mavel never expected that she would experience a dramatic transformation from being a plain housewife to an active and influential volunteer worker in her community.

After all, she had her hands full with the pressures of earning for her family and doing household chores on a day-to-day basis. Her husband, Joefrey, is a differently abled person who does not exactly enjoy plentiful opportunities to make a living for his family.

So, she needed to step up to the plate and assume the responsibility of being the breadwinner. She did odd jobs such as being employed as a household helper and a laundry woman for some of her neighbors in the municipality of Concepcion, Iloilo Province.

"Busy" is an understatement to describe her usual activities in order to keep the family intact. Aside from caring for Joefrey, there are also their two wonderful kids, the eldest of whom is a member of the Samahan ng mga Bata (SB) and a child-partner. as well.

In spite of her demanding domestic schedule, she was still able to find time to volunteer in community affairs. That is why her transformation can be described as no less than amazing. Mavel personifies the adage that there is nothing one cannot do if one puts his or her mind to it.

The turning point was when she joined the MAKABATA program, where she learned many things that stoked her passion to volunteer and contribute in the development of her community. She has learned a lot of important social issues that affect the children, including hers, and how the latter can be protected from various threats.

"I am hoping to continue my volunteer work and I hope we can have more activities that increase the children's resiliency from the lurking dangers," Mavel said.

She is also nurturing this hope that more children will have the opportunity to finish their studies and become working professionals.

"Of course, I am earnestly praying that my children will be included," she added.

Mavel's situation may be difficult, but she has the compassion and the heart to offer her precious time to serve her community.

MINDANAO (MNA)

MOST SIGNIFICANT CHANGE STORY:

Arghem Claire Gilva

Being locked up at home during the period of quarantine due to the Covid-19 did not prevent Arghem from making good use of her time.

While her parents were out of the house earning a living, their daughter cooks “merienda” (snacks) that her siblings peddle around the neighborhood. And their clients apparently joy Arghem home-cooked treats.

“This way, we are able to use our time productively and, at the same time, we get the opportunity to learn new things, reach out to our neighbors, and help augment the family income,” Arghem said.

The senior high school student has not always been this responsible and confident. Before joining MAKABATA, where she is now the project manager, Arghem rarely participated in activities in her community in Polomolok.

It was only after joining the youth group that she had the opportunity to enhance the qualities she is presently demonstrating. It was a good thing that Arghem’s parents supported fully her decision to join the MAKABATA activities.

She admitted that her exposure to MAKABATA-sponsored events, particularly the meetings of children, have made positive effects on her personality.

"I gained confidence because everyone was encouraged to share his or her thoughts,” said Arghem. She added that learning about the rights as children was crucial because this allowed the shift in his paradigms.

“I am thankful that I learned that we, the children, are important, too,” she declared. “Though we cannot do anything big like what adults can do, knowing that our opinions have values and that many opportunities await us gives me confidence. It empowers me.”

As a child-partner, Arghem is passionate about making positive changes in her community, particularly on curbing “the rising number of cases of teenage pregnancies.”

Her other advocacy is to make the parents in her community appreciate the importance of supporting their children's education.

MOST SIGNIFICANT CHANGE STORY:

Sarah Guinoo

For a young wife, juggling between responsibilities of a mother and house manager on one hand and helping her husband earn for the family by peddling goods on the streets on the other was not a walk in the park at all.

That was the predicament of Sarah Guinoo, a wife to Silverio, a company driver who works long hours on the road.

That was the situation that all members of the family tried to settle into. Theirs was a typical household: The father is gone from home for long stretches to earn a living somewhere else, while the mother does most of the household chores while trying to help her husband make both ends meet by selling whatever she can cook around the neighborhood.

The children, especially Dexter, the eldest, does his share by preparing the dinner table as his special assignment.

Sarah’s routine, however, changed when she took part in a MAKABATA Project. The first participation was followed by another, then another. She started to become aware of the need to be a part of the community where she and her family exist.

Now, Sarah Guinoo is the treasurer of their Community Based Organization in Polomolok and a volunteer of the MAKABATA Project. Aside from these involvements, she sees to it that she attends to her responsibilities as a catechist and church choir president.

The MAKABATA Project made her look beyond her family's basic needs she and other like-minded participants learned to explore possibilities.

“We started our micro-finance business with the assistance of SAO Philippines. I was appointed its treasurer,” Sarah related. “I am happy that I can apply what I have learned from the project and how to manage our finances.”

She receives honoraria regularly for her hard work as the treasurer. With the amount she receives she was able to help her husband, Silverio, “meet our family's needs.”

Sarah admitted that joining MAKABATA changed her.

“There's a big change in my mindset about parenting. I became aware of what should be done and what should not (be done). I learned about the rights of the child.”

The learnings have trickled down to her household.

“I learned about positive discipline, which was very far from what I had been doing with my children. Since learning that, I stopped spanking them and started talking to them about their disobedience,” she said.

Now, she said glowingly, her children have become closer to her and more open about their feelings and problems. For her, having her children confide to her is the program’s greatest achievement.

SAO PH MOVING FORWARD 2:

PREPARE, PRESENT, POSITION

Last June 18 to 19 of this year, the Board of Trustees of SAO Philippines met for a visioning workshop to collectively discern SAO Philippine's direction for the next (five) 5 years.

During the said workshop, they have successfully articulated the strategic direction SAO Philippines will have in these five (5) specific objectives, as follows:

1. **Safe and Resilient Children and Youth**
   Protect children and youth in high-risk areas from poverty, hunger and harm by empowering their families and communities.

2. **Cutting-edge Transformational Program**
   Design and implement strategic and cutting-edge transformation programs responsive to the needs of emerging sectors (e.g BPO workers, OFW families etc.) aimed at improving their well-being and family life.

3. **Transformative Partner & Public Engagement**
   Build mutually beneficial relationship with SAO Alumni, partner-communities churches and other like-minded groups to generate resources to achieve community transformation

4. **Responsive Governance**
   Develop Board involvement to increase capacity of SAO Philippines to create responsive governance, public engagement and donor partnership to be a viable, self-sustaining organization.

5. **Lifelong Learning Organization**
   Nurture life-long learning among our staff to be effective, responsive and committed to evolving program opportunities

To implement the new strategic thrust, in a special meeting the Board has resolved that SAO Philippines has to transition to a new decentralized, localized structure.

BR001_2021_JUNE. The Board resolved to adopt a decentralized structure for SAO Philippines to implement the new strategic direction. Resolved further that the new structure's operationalization is subject to the result of the area consultations.

Despite possible "divergence" to be expected in different context area of SAO Philippines, the Board strongly reiterated that the "SAO Group of Ministries" would continue to adhere in the shared vision and mission of the organization.

SAO Philippines' Moving Forward will happen in three (3) phase: Prepare, Present, and Position.

Prepare: Consultations and Conversations
The Board recognizes the importance of consultations to help shape SAO Philippines' brand of decentralization. This allows the area teams to share their inputs from their respective contexts.

Present: The Blueprint
Craft a 'road map' to make sure that the stakeholders are well guided in this decentralization journey.

Position: Transition Structure
As all old contracts of SAO Philippines's staff will end by 2021, there is a need to manage the existing projects while in transition. The Board identified the needed competences to holdover SAO Philippines and usher it to the new structure.

In the National office there will be five (5) positions that will be retained:

- Executive Director
- Finance & Admin Officer
- Program Development & Management Officer
- Admin Specialist
- Resource Mobilization & Communications Specialist

The Transition Structure

In the new aspired structure, the National Coordinating Office (NCO) will become the 'mother organization' also known as the National Office, which will have three (3) basic functions:

(1) To be the vision keeper and continue to pursue programs and services that are aligned to its mandate

(2) Establish a strong fundraising unit and;

(3) Journey with the areas in its formation as an organization as well as the development and sustainability of the new structure.

Starting January 2022, all projects will be directly managed by the National Office. They will continue to craft and submit project proposals for the areas and when granted, its management will be with the national office until the area has formally established itself as a legal entity in the area.

Each area is envisioned to have a volunteer fundraising team as soon as possible. The Twin Goal mindset wherein teammates are focused both on project implementation and resource mobilization. It is ideal to have the team in place before January 2022, as the formation of it is the first step towards the new decentralized structure.

SETTING THE HOUSE IN ORDER:

NEW ORGANIZATIONAL POLICIES

As SAO Philippines moves forward, it is essential to have her steps secured and make sure that things are in place; especially that we are starting our journey towards decentralization.

For this year, SAO was able to craft three (3) policies.

Prevention of Sexual Exploitation Abuse and Harassment (PSEAH) Policy

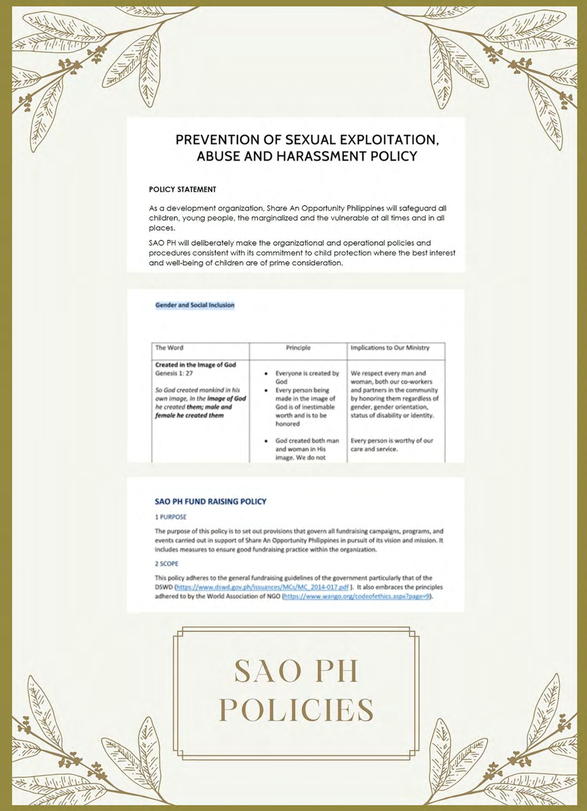
This policy was made as SAO is committed to safeguard all children, young people, the marginalized and the vulnerable at all times and in all places. SAO deliberately makes the organizational and operational policies consistent with its commitment to child protection where the best interest and well-being of children is the prime consideration.

Gender and Social Inclusion

SAO Philippines believes that every person is created in the image of God and because of that every person is of inestimable worth and should be honored. This policy shows SAO Philippines' commitment to honor and respect every man and woman - regardless of gender, gender orientation, status of disability or identity. SAO Philippines believes that every person is worthy of our care and service.

SAO PH Fundraising Policy

The purpose of this policy is to set out provisions that govern all fundraising campaigns, programs, and events to be carried out in support of SAO Philippines in pursuit of its vision and mission. This policy also includes measures to ensure good fundraising practice within the organization.



FAMILY STRENGTHENING DEVOTIONAL GUIDE

Dealing with children, families, and communities, over the years, SAO Philippines have observed that many of the problems families face today can be minimized or even solved if members: trust each other, communicate honestly and clearly with each other or just simply enjoy each other's presence.

Due to busyness and all the distractions the world has offered, many families tend to only have transactional relationships where most conversations between parents and children are about talking to each other only when they are asking for something to be done or to be bought, etc. Most families have stopped communicating not only with words but in actions - like a warm hug or just simply being available for each other.

Because of this poor communication between families, trust is not nurtured and the situation becomes a breeding place for all sorts of problems – unresolved feelings of offense, inability to share difficulties, or just having a wrong understanding of parents' decisions.

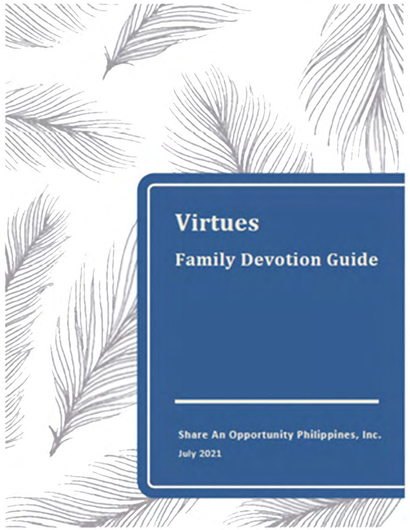
Often families do not know how to nurture this relationship and think that this is beyond their responsibility and capability.

Thus, SAO Philippines thinks that it is important that we help them create that venue where they can talk, share their thoughts, discuss family challenges, crack jokes, play games or pray and read the Word. Thus the concept of helping them have a Family Hour, a focused, sacred hour for the family to come together, was conceived. Apart from a workshop and some practice time together, a guide needs to be written to help them remember what they could do during this sacred time. A guide was then crafted to help sustain the family hour. To reinforce the Family Guide produced earlier, A Family Strengthening Devotional Guide was conceptualized.

The tentative title for this devotional guide is, the Family Strengthening Devotional Guide. It is a virtue-based weekly devotional guide for one (1) year with a total of fifty-two (52) devotional entries. It is intentionally designed for the father to lead the devotions and for parents to declare blessings upon their children. Each weekly guide can be completed in thirty (30) minutes or less.

This devotional guide is a sequel to an earlier guide (Family Hour guide) that was produced to give the families additional tools to sustain that sacred time together.

SAO hopes that these tools will make the time of each family more affirming, meaningful, and uplifting.



STAFF DEVELOPMENT

SEED ACADEMY'S REDEMPTIVE DESIGN LAB

Let me tell you a story of a delightful chance that blossomed into a much-needed opportunity!

In a casual sharing of John Hickey, CEO of Transform Aid International (TAI) and SAO Philippines' Executive Director, Armi Martinez about SAO's need for enterprise development support led John to recommend SAO to IP Director Dan Skehan then, he decided that TAI would link SAO to Seed Academy.

Seed Academy is an organization that is dedicated to creating social and cultural change through innovation. They have a course called Redemptive Design Process that would coach us in the process of building an enterprise.

This process allows the participants to go through the process of discovery, design, and growing an enterprise.

The course started in October and it will take three to six months (3 to 6) to finish it depending on the pace of those involved. The group meets every week with their mentor for two (2) hours.

This course is beneficial to SAO Philippines as we wanted to be equipped in the area of enterprise development so that we can walk alongside our community partners in their aspiration to not only have an honest to goodness enterprise but a sustainable one.

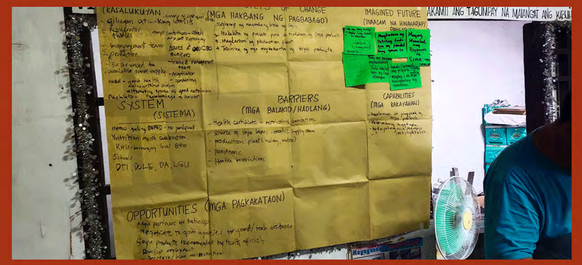
As a result of the lab work, there are two (2) emerging viable CBO enterprises that SAO could support by walking them through the same process that the staff underwent in this course.

The first 'lab' is the roadside eatery of Bagumbayan Service to Progress Association (BASEPROA) in Valladolid, Negros Occidental along with Valladolid Agri-Natural Farmers Association (VANFA) as they will provide the vegetables for the eatery and the other 'lab' is the production of San Mariano Share Group Association or SMSGA's soya goods in Oriental Mindoro.

These 'labs' can now be turned into proposals crafted and submitted to agencies who are funding livelihood or enterprise development.

Currently, there are seven (7) staff enrolled in the Seed Academy Australia through TAI's sponsorship.

As Community Based Organizations (CBOs) in Negros (NEG) and Southern Luzon and Mindanao (SLM) wanted to level up, they are chosen to participate in the course along with Ma'am Armi and SAO's Program Manager, Juniper Bibiolata so they can see the process and apply it to SAO Philippines as we are considering developing an enterprise to support SAO's mandate.



UPDATE ON SAO PH'S

FARM IN MINDANAO

The SAO Philippines' farm is located in Silway 7, Polomolok, South Cotabato. For the past years, especially these years we have had the pandemic, the farm rarely produces an income. Also because of the stricter lockdowns, we can only visit the farm seldomly and just receive regular updates from the caretaker.

The farm caretaker does not receive any compensation from the organization in keeping the farm, but it was agreed that, in return, he can plant vegetables in the vacant areas of the farm for their personal consumption and sell some so they can generate some income.

Our former staff, Ptr. Jeryl Andraje, also volunteers his service in visiting the farm especially during harvest season.

For fiscal year 2020 to 2021, we were not able to renew the agreement with our former contractor with regard to the mango trees due to the sudden changes of health protocols because of the COVID pandemic. Our former contractors are from Region XI and had difficulties in monitoring and visiting the farm because of stricter border lockdowns.

Last year, the farm produced an income from citrus harvest amounting to **Php. 3,865.00**. This income was deposited in Farm Bank Account

Lastly, in January 2021, SAO PH paid for the annual real property tax of the farm.

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

ZALDY V. BAROTIL
PRESIDENT AND CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD.
BACHELOR OF SCIENCE IN AGRICULTURAL ENGINEERING.
MASTER IN DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT.

Zaldy is the President and Chief Executive Officer of the Transforming Asia Pacific Inc., a Christian and Filipino research and consulting firm based in Cavite. He also manages the Wholeness Family Medical Center. Zaldy was Regional Director of the Medical Ambassadors International in Central Asia and also served as the International Program Director and Executive Director of the Asian School of Development and Cross-Cultural Studies (ASDECS) from 2004 to 2013.

JONIEL HOWARD H. GICO
VICE PRESIDENT OF THE BOARD.
BACHELOR OF SCIENCE IN MECHANICAL ENGINEERING.
MASTER OF DIVINITY. MASTER OF THEOLOGY

Reverend Joniel was in the pastoral ministry for 12 years before moving on to theological education as the President of the Convention Baptist Bible College in Bacolod City from 1998 to 2005. He was Vice-President for Administration of the Central Philippine University (CPU) in Iloilo City from 2005 to 2014, then as Vice-President for Student Affairs until his retirement on May 31, 2019. Reverend Joniel serves as Chairman of the Construction Committee of Iloilo Mission Hospital and Chairman of the Arbitration Committee of the Convention of Philippine Baptist Churches, Inc. (CPBC).

DILSY ARBUTANTE
SECRETARY OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES.
REGISTERED SOCIAL WORKER. MASTERS IN SOCIAL WORK.
MASTERS IN INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT.

Dilsy is passionate about community organizing, community mobilization, and community empowerment. She has a vast child focused NGO experience and expertise in governance and project/program development & evaluation. She's previously engaged with International program management and quality assurance experience in various types of inclusive community development programming with NGOs and civil societies in Asia, Pacific (including Mongolia), Africa, Middle East and Europe. She was Country Director for leadership and management in the Pacific (covering Papua New Guinea, Vanuatu, Solomon Island and Fiji) with World Vision International and in the Philippines with Norwegian Mission Alliance Philippines, Inc. She has experience in working with program management, project design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation including bilateral and multilateral funded projects in Asia including Mongolia, Pacific, Africa, Middle East, and Europe.

ADONIS ADLAON
TREASURER OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES.
BACHELOR OF SCIENCE IN ELECTRICAL ENGINEERING.

Adon is an inspirational and motivational speaker and a sought-after counselor and life coach. His passion is connecting with people and works as a freelance facilitator and trainer for government institutions, such as the Philippine National Police (PNP). He was SAO Philippines' former Admin and Finance Officer from 2003-2012.

JORDAN H. REYES
MEMBER OF THE BOARD.
BACHELOR OF ARTS. BACHELOR OF LAWS.

Judge Jordan was in private law practice before he was elected mayor of the municipality of Polomolok, South Cotabato in the Southern Philippines. He served in that capacity for four terms or a total of 13 years. He was appointed Regional Trial Court Judge in 2009 and currently serves in that capacity. He is the current President of New Hope TV Christian Ministries Philippines, Inc., National President of National Alliance of Men Philippines and Member of the Board of Trustees of the Christian and Missionary Alliance Churches of the Philippines, Inc. (CAMACOP).

RODERICK D. JACINTO
MEMBER OF THE BOARD.
BACHELOR OF ARTS IN POLITICAL SCIENCE.
BACHELOR OF ARTS IN THEOLOGY. MASTER OF ARTS IN MINISTRY

Pastor Rick is the Mission and Community Outreach Pastor of the International Baptist Church of Manila in Makati City, a position he held since January 1, 2010. He leads in the development and implementation of the church's missions and outreach ministries and supervises missionaries and church planters assigned across the country and in other parts of Asia. He also sits in the Boards of Two-Thirds World Network, Inc., Asia Pacific Mission Institute, Inc., and Southern Baptist School of Theology, Inc.

RAY ELEVAZO
MEMBER OF THE BOARD.
CIVIL SERVANT AND A RESERVE OFFICER.

Ray is the Executive Director of Cooperative Development Authority. He is a Public Administration Practitioner and has a long experience in implementing the cooperative development and regulatory program of the government. His knowledge, skills, aptitude and attitude were honed along this line and recently enhanced by strategic development and security mindset.

UPDATES ON BOARD IMPROVEMENT

As SAO Philippines is serious in putting the 'house' in order, a lot of processes and systems were put in place to make sure that in the future, SAO continues to be efficient and that should transitions come, it would be seamless and easier for all.

Here are the latest improvements in SAO PH's process specifically under Board's improvement:

Onboarding or Board Orientation

Previously there was no clear and organized process for Board Orientation. Last fiscal year, only one was able to come thus we had to insert the BOT orientation in their regular quarterly meeting.

This year, SAO was actually able to hold an orientation separate from their regular quarterly meeting. There, they were oriented on their roles and responsibilities as SAO Philippines' Board of Trustees and the recent Board resolutions. They were also provided an e-copy of the orientation handbook.

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Board Nomination Process

It was reiterated that the Board nominees should be a member of the General Assembly and should have some familiarity with what SAO does by having worked or volunteered with SAO PH.

Prospective nominees will be asked to complete the application form and then will be scheduled for an interview by the Nominations Committee of the Board.

Then, the Committee finalizes the list of nominees to be presented to the Board for approval. The General Assembly then elects from that list.

Selection Process

Part of discerning the best Board complement for SAO PH is using the Board Matrix.

It is a tool that will help SAO PH identify the Board complement that is ideal for the organization, then using this tool, plot the current Board against it in order to see what the gap is. In order to achieve the best board composition, SAO PH will look for potential Board nominees who can fill that gap.

The Board Self-Assessment

This is a periodic self-assessment tool that a Board member can use to gauge oneself in relation to the roles and responsibilities of a Board member as well as some expectations upon them given the organization's values and distinctives.

MOVEMENT:

OFFICE TRANSFER (PRG TEAM)

PANAY, ROMBLON, GUIMARAS (PRG) Area – with the aim to cut the cost of administrative expenses the PRG Team has transferred to their new office in Blk 27, Lot 4, Village 1, Providence Subd., Brgy. Balabag, Pavia, Iloilo last December 1, 2020.

Each staff member has contributed in making sure that their transfer to their new office is smooth.

Together, they were able to transfer the furniture and other office equipment in no time.

WITH US

NATIONAL STAFF CONFERENCE 2021

National Staff Conference (NSC) is the annual highlight of SAO Philippines' staff.

One year strong in the middle of this global pandemic, more and more that the SAO staff craves to meet and have fellowship with each other and most especially hug and share pasalubong to each other.

Though we all daydream on when can we celebrate the National Staff Conference again together in flesh, we make up for it by enjoying each others' presence virtually!

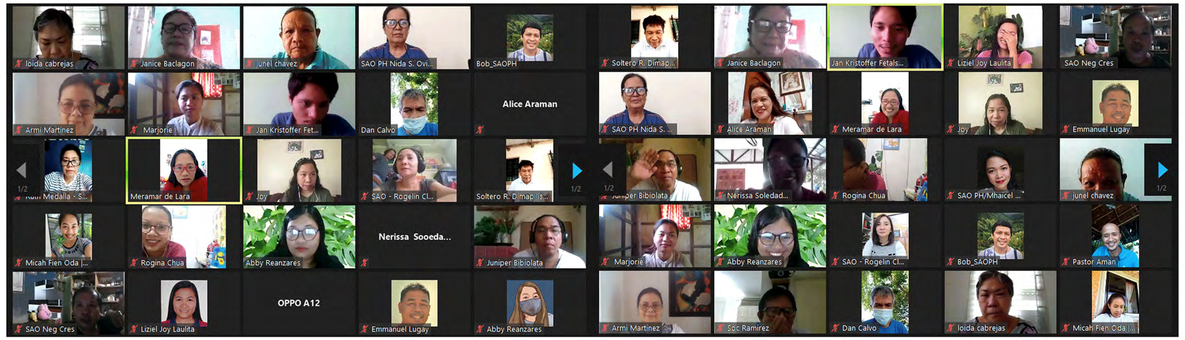
The staff conference for this year is a little bit different than the other years that have passed as we tried to maximize the Agil-O meetings held last May 21, May 28, and June 4, that's every Friday at 8am to 9am and culminated the conference in a 2 full day sessions last June 9 and 10.

TAI International Program Director Rebekah Cochrane, members of the Board of Trustees (BOT) and former BOT officers also graced the event called as "With Us". The scripture theme was taken from Psalm 33:22 - May Your unfailing love be with us Lord.

This NSC is also special because in this conference we were able to celebrate the lives of each staff who tirelessly serve the organization with all that they have.

Looking back at the journey that SAO, had along with our shared stories of challenges, failures, and victories -- it just feels amazing to think that at one point in time, we are a part of that wonderful story.

For all former and current SAO staff, may we always find joy in the fact that no matter what our hands find to do; God's unfailing love will be with us.



SAO'S
JOURNEY
THROUGH
THE YEARS
CELEBRATING
"ONWARD TO HIGHER
and Retreat
Arise!
JEHOVAH
THE GREAT I AM
YAHWEH
ancient of days
ABBA
FATHER
CHIEF CORNERSTONE
Abegail Bean...
Cecille Ignacio
Nida Oviedo
Ruth Medalla
Evelyn Toribio
And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good,
for those who are called according to his purpose.
Romans 8:28
42
43

STAFF TRAFFIC
OUTGOING STAFF

CENTRAL & NORTHERN LUZON

Junel Chavez

Marjorie Dela Cruz

Nida Oviedo

SOUTHERN LUZON & MINDORO

Crystal Grace Dientre

Maureen Ruedas-Alva

Mhaicel Abo

NEGROS PROVINCE

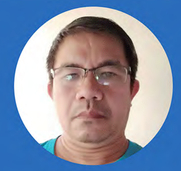
Janice Baclagon

Rolin Palpara

Cresanto Villasor

PANAY, ROMBLON & GUIMARAS

Dan L. Calvo


Felix Forteza

Gaudencio S. Boko, Jr.

Jose Ramel Fernandez

Joyce Barranco

MINDANAO AREA

Alvin Jay Sarino

Lyndee Senining

NCO

Emmanuel Lugay

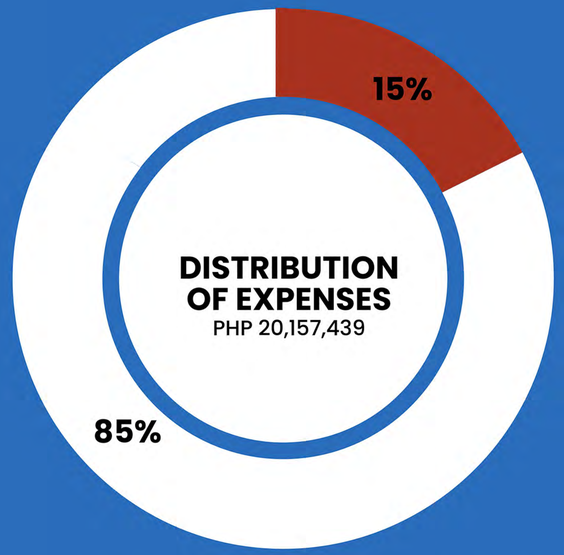
Ma. Elizabeth Leyva

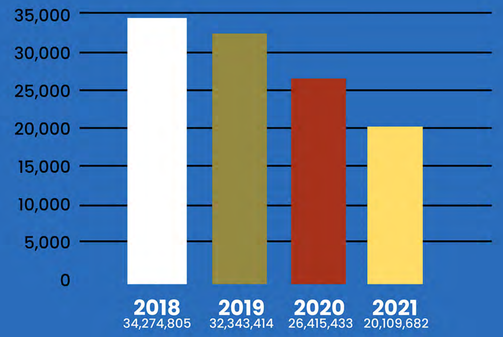
Michelle Sarate-Bayani

FINANCIAL STATEMENT

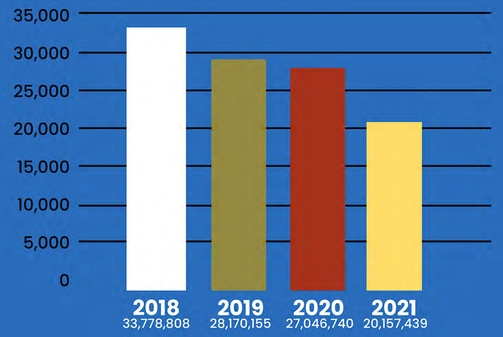
All figures in 2021 are based on the Tentative Financial Statement to be submitted to the Bureau of Internal Revenue (BIR).

Amended Financial Statement will be available upon request.





COMPARATIVE RECEIPTS



COMPARATIVE EXPENSES

ACCREDITATION

DSWD

Department of Social Welfare and Development

AFFILIATIONS

micah global

Micah Global

Philippine Children's Ministries Network

ACDA

Alliance of Christian Development Agencies

PARTNERS

Transform Aid INTERNATIONAL

Transform Aid International

mission alliance The Norwegian Mission Alliance

Mission Alliance

CONSUELO ZOBEL ALGER FOUNDATION

Consuelo Foundation

Share An Opportunity
PHILIPPINES

VISION STATEMENT

Generations of Filipino children nurtured to their God-given potential to serve.

MISSION STATEMENT

We depend on God as we lead, equip, network, mobilize the Church, families, communities and partners to be responsive to the needs of children at risk.