



Share An Opportunity
PHILIPPINES



ABLAZE

ANNUAL REPORT 2023-2024

ABOUT THE THEME: ABLAZE

SAO remains steadfast in its mission, burning brightly despite facing numerous hurdles and organizational challenges. Fueled by a strong sense of commitment and passion, SAO strives to keep the flame of love and hope alive within the hearts of those it serves.

This fiscal year, SAO also affirms its desire to be ablaze, to stay fervent in one's dedication, serving with wholehearted devotion. To keep a hope-filled outlook, to maintain resilience during hard times, and to be persistent in prayer and service.

The projects and initiatives SAO has undertaken this year seemed small and insignificant against the grand scheme of community development work and its enormous and complex needs. But like 'little pieces' of light, persistent, penetrating, dispersing darkness and gloom, SAO's flame and influence continue to warm and illuminate the path for children, families, and communities under her care.

A line from a familiar children song, "*This little light of mine, I'm gonna let it shine,*" echoes SAO's unwavering commitment to keeping its flame burning brightly for years to come as the Lord wills for His honor.

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MESSAGE FROM THE BOT PRESIDENT



“Never be lacking in zeal, but keep your spiritual fervor (be set on fire by the Spirit), serving the Lord. Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer.” Romans 12:11-12

Our work in SAO with children, their families, and communities is never meant to be dull. Three years of COVID and two years after TAI phased out from the Philippines, that challenging season could have robbed us of our spiritual passion (fire) and spiritual zeal (fuel) to keep going. The verse cultivated in us a vibrant service, rejoicing in hope, being patient in trials, and constant in prayer.

SAO will always be grateful for the trust and engagement of all our partners in the country and abroad. The contributions SAO has made through its programs created a safer community where children are protected, cared for, and participated. Efforts were exerted to maximize meager resources to deliver the commitments we made to promote the well-being and rights of children.

The year 2023 will be significantly remembered by staff and partners for its breakthroughs in the capacities of local government units (LGU) to develop sustainable mechanisms and structures to promote the care, protection, and participation of children at home and in the community at all times and during disaster and crisis. SAO persevered in its effort to build its own capacity to enlist new partners, engage the public, and raise resources to fulfill its commitment to build resilient communities and families to care for, protect, and develop children. To those who share this vision, the staff, management, and Board Members of SAO, earnestly implore your compassion and support to realize God’s plan of “fullness of life” for children and their families in poverty-stricken communities. Please be with us in our hopes and prayers that we never be lacking in zeal and spiritual fervor serving the Lord where He calls us to serve the least of His people.

Dilsy B. Arbutante
MS. DILSY ARBUTANTE
BOT President

FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



Hi Family and Friends of SAO Philippines!

It is once again the time of the year when we are “forced” to stop and reflect on the year that has been. This is a pause we willingly take because every year, without exception - even during the covid 19 pandemic, God’s faithfulness rang loud and clear in what He has entrusted us to do. There is always something unexpected that happens that can only be accounted for by God and his grace. Having the time to recognize this is such a blessing for it encourages us to continue and strengthens our capacity to trust Him! It was not all smooth and easy but we count it a privilege to be part of what God is doing in the communities entrusted to our care.

As has been our practice, this fiscal year’s theme is ABLAZE. I remember we were amid the heat wave phenomenon here in the Philippines when we decided on this theme. Feeling the heat, we were reminded of God as the consuming fire that purifies. The Consuming Fire is eager to consume everything that distracts our well-being, our relationship, and our nearness to Him. It purges us and releases us from the things that bind us, refining us to show forth and reflect His nature and character in us.

The theme ‘ablaze’ then reminds us to be mindful that the work of our hands reflects the nature and character of the God we serve. It also describes how we feel in our hearts – our passion, enthusiasm, and commitment to what we do as SAO Philippines. To be ablaze as servants in pursuit of projects that are consistent with the values of His Kingdom and for the glory of God.

As you flip through the pages of this report, may you feel that ‘fire’ in our staff and partners alike who by God’s grace made things happen amidst challenges and odds.

Ablaze Batang Listo (Alert Children) in pursuing their advocacy as opportunities open. Ablaze families, who are enthusiastic to continue the intentions of the project. Ablaze community-based organizations in providing financial support to their members through savings mobilization and lending. Ablaze LGU to take on the challenge of setting up a Child Protection Center to look into child abuse cases without child victims being re-traumatized because of case management processes that are unmindful of the child.

They are energized to build community resilience, not only in terms of emergencies or disasters but also in terms of a more stable source of family income and a safer environment for children to grow.

It has indeed been a privilege to be your partner. May this report encourage you to continue to be part of what God is doing through SAO Philippines.


ARMI A. MARTINEZ

AREAS OF OPERATION

Oriental Mindoro

Population: 908,339

Poverty Incidence: 7.3%

Magnitude Of Poor: 14.7%

Iloilo

Population: 2,509,525

Poverty Incidence: 14.1%

Magnitude Of Poor: 66.7%



IMPACT NUMBERS 2023-2024



Locations

Brgy. Belen,
Brgy. Alacaygan,
Brgy. Zona Zur,
Brgy. Carmelo,
Brgy. Libertad,
Municipality of Banate,
Iloilo Province

Beneficiaries

Children
Youth
Women
Fathers
PWD
Senior Citizen
Solo Parents

Beneficiaries Served

Male - 1772
Female - 2198

Total - 3970 Beneficiaries

Locations

Municipalities of Lemery,
Concepcion & San Dionisio,
Iloilo Province

Beneficiaries

Local Chief Executives,
WCPD, MSWDO,
DepEd Guidance
Counsellors, Municipal
Health Officers

Beneficiaries Served

Male - 5
Female - 25

Total - 30 Beneficiaries



Locations

Sitio Banti,
San Roque,
Bulalacao,
Oriental Mindoro

Beneficiaries Served

Male - 10

Total - 10 Beneficiaries



SIGHTS & SCENES

SAO Philippines' comprehensive work in community development, disaster preparedness, child protection, and sustainable livelihood initiatives throughout the year.

JULY 2023 (NATIONAL DISASTER RESILIENCE MONTH)

- Conducted forum on Climate Change and Solid Waste Management for fisherfolks in Banate, Iloilo
- Project CHAMP led Stakeholder's Participatory Assessment and Reflection (SPAR)
- Organized Basic Family Therapy training for CAPIN members



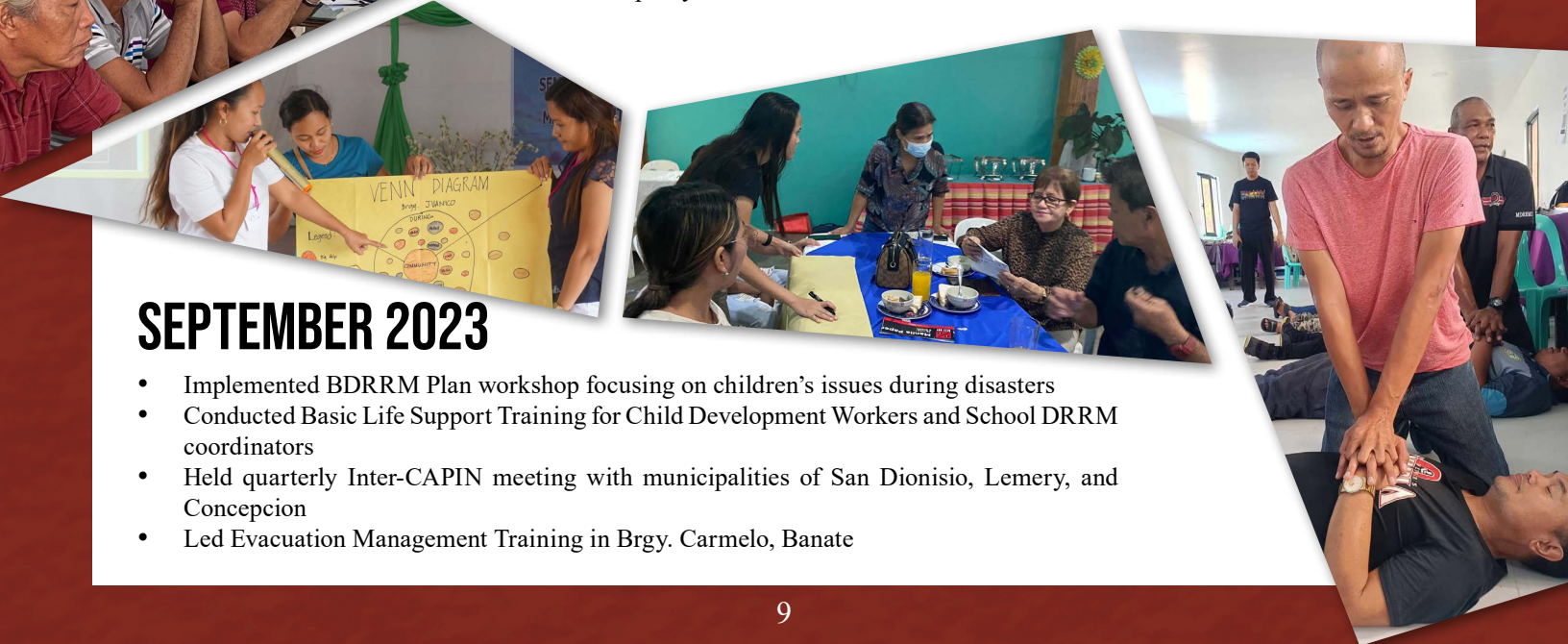
AUGUST 2023

- Conducted 3-day Resilience Camp for youth and children in Banate, Iloilo
- SAO @ 27! Anniversary Celebrations
- Share An Opportunity Philippines' Project CHAMP, Municipal Disaster Risk Reduction Management Office, Barangay Captains, and different sectors in Banate Iloilo together reviewed the Disaster Risk Reduction and plan for the formation of the quick response unit in the Municipality.



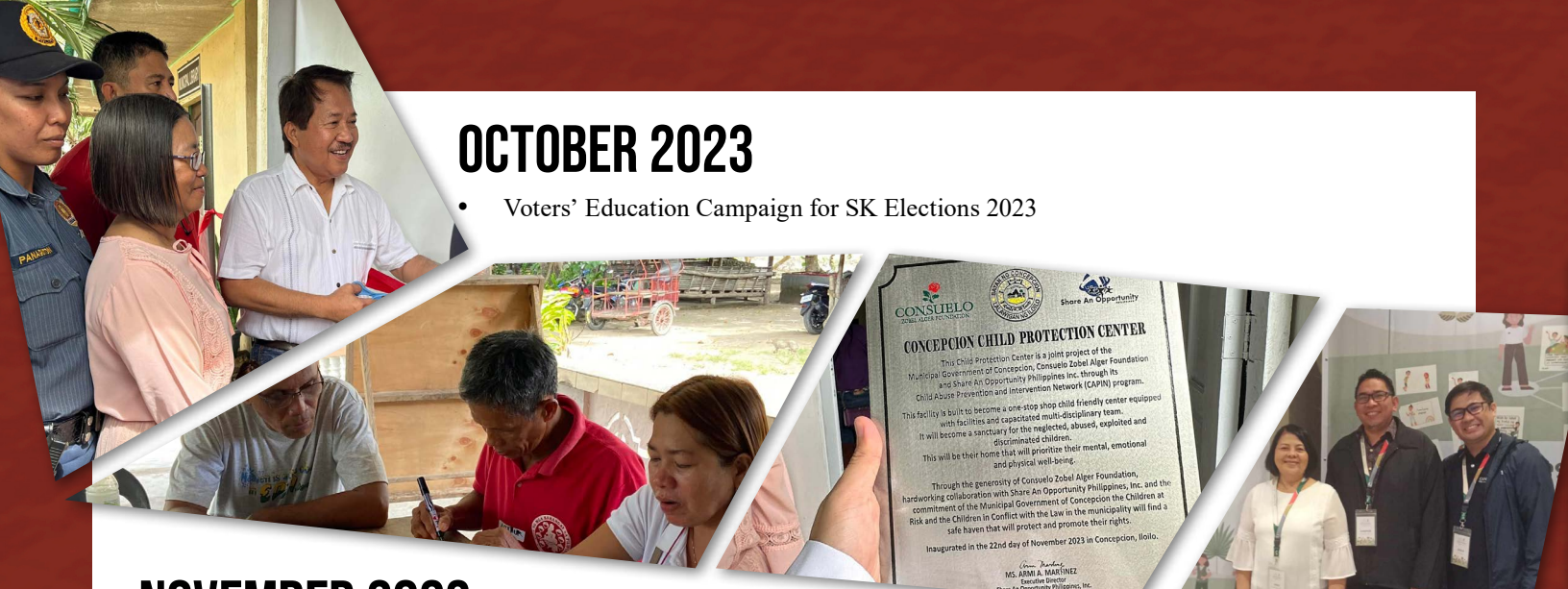
SEPTEMBER 2023

- Implemented BDRRM Plan workshop focusing on children's issues during disasters
- Conducted Basic Life Support Training for Child Development Workers and School DRRM coordinators
- Held quarterly Inter-CAPIN meeting with municipalities of San Dionisio, Lemery, and Concepcion
- Led Evacuation Management Training in Brgy. Carmelo, Banate



OCTOBER 2023

- Voters' Education Campaign for SK Elections 2023



NOVEMBER 2023

- Participated in Consuelo Foundation's Annual Partners Meeting
- Conducted Agenda Building workshop for newly elected barangay officials
- Organized Social Accountability orientation for Sangguniang Kabataan officials
- Launched Child Protection Centers in:
 - San Dionisio
 - Concepcion
 - Lemery
- Conducted team building for Batang Listo members



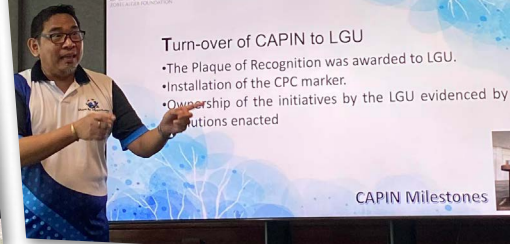
DECEMBER 2023

- Held stakeholders forum and year-end reflection for 2024 planning



JANUARY 2024

- Conducted CAPIN Program debriefing and closure meeting (2020-2023 implementation)



FEBRUARY 2024

- Signed MOA with Parole and Probation Administration
- Initiated PAGTUO community gardening program



MARCH 2024

- Conducted Rapid Savings Mobilization Technique (RSMT) training for 800 KALIPi women
- Organized Community-Based Organization Assessment for savings groups
- Led mangrove nursery management training
- Launched green mussel farm project in Barangay Alacaygan



APRIL 2024

- Conducted Basic Life Support training with DOH Region VI
- Led writeshop for Child Protection Center operations manual
- Organized and Facilitated Family Resiliency Building training with Philippine Children's Ministries Network

MAY 2024

- Collaborated with DLSU on Project MAGKASAPI
- Conducted Staff Conference

JUNE 2024

- Training session for members of various youth groups in the Local Youth Development Council, equipping them to become Psycho-Social First Aiders.

BRGY. ZONA SUR
COMMUNITY STAGE

Project CHAMP
Empowering Community Builders through CHAMPNet and CHAMP Society
Engagement and Participation with the Government
Davao Region

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

CHAMP IN DRRM ACTION: A HANDS-ON PREPAREDNESS TRAINING

Two rings of an alarm, sounded ten times, followed by the raising of an orange triangular flag, signal the need for immediate evacuation. In Banate, this is the distinctive early warning system used to alert communities in high-risk areas of impending typhoons, flash floods, and storm surges.



Every year, the Evacuation Camp Management Training and Simulation Exercise takes place. This event is a partnership between Project Champ and the Local Government of Banate and the Provincial Government through the Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Office. The goal of the training and the simulation is to help key officials, front-line workers, and vulnerable community members living in risky areas improve their readiness in emergencies.

This year, barangay officials and members of Brgy. Carmelo, along with selected families, took part in the training and simulation. In addition, representatives from local agencies such as the Municipal Social Welfare and Development Office, the

Philippine National Police, the Bureau of Fire Protection, Coast Guard personnel, and the Rural Health Unit joined in the activity. This teamwork among various agencies helped strengthen their ability to respond effectively during crises.

This Disaster Risk Reduction and Management (DRRM) activity in Iloilo Province is being documented through comprehensive video footage. The resulting video documentary is being used in several ways: Dr. Jerry Bionat, the former Provincial DRRM Officer, showed this video at various provincial and regional forums and summits. It was also shown at the provincial capitol as part of Iloilo's campaign to inform and educate the public about disaster risk reduction and management.

EL NIÑO EMERGENCY RESPONSE IN BANATE

COMMUNITY FEEDBACK



The El Niño phenomenon brought a “dry spell” to Iloilo Province, negatively impacting many people, especially farmers and fishermen. In response, the Municipality of Banate declared a “State of Calamity” through a Sangguniang Bayan resolution signed by the Local Chief Executive.

Through the joint-efforts and shared resources of Project Champ and the local government unit of Banate, the relief operation was launched.

Local officials held meetings and consultations, mobilizing community volunteers to conduct a Rapid Disaster

Needs Assessment (RDNA). The results were submitted to the Municipal DRRM Office, supporting a proposed emergency response operation.

Once approved, volunteers canvassed rice suppliers while SAO staff coordinated with officials for a relief operation. Other volunteers worked with barangay leaders to select beneficiaries.

On June 13, 96 sacks of rice were distributed to five barangays based on the number of affected families.

The relief operations were held from June 14-18. The number of actual beneficiaries were as follows: Brgy Belen- 241; Brgy Alacaygan- 275; Brgy Zona Sur- 360; Brgy Carmelo- 545 and Brgy Libertad – 672. In total, 2,093 families received rice packs.



“I am so thankful that I was able to take part during the relief operation, it was a heartwarming experience for me. I am also thankful on behalf of our people for the blessings. I know it was God’s blessings especially to people who have a hard time finding ways to provide food for their families.”

- Ruby

“Nalipay gid ako nga naka baton kay naka baton kami sang bulig. Bisan paano maka buhin in isa amon galastohon sa kada adlaw. Kag kanami lang batyagon ng asa tinion sang kabudlayan bangod sang subra nga tag ilinit may mga bulig nga naga palab-ot diri sa amon. Sa SAO kag Mission Alliance, madamu gid nga salamat.” (I am so happy that I received a rice pack. Somehow, it helps in our daily needs. It is nice to feel that in moments of difficulties because of prolonged drought a help was extended to us here in our place. To SAO and Mission Alliance our heartfelt thanks to you.)

- Edelyn Banan, Brgy. Alacaygan

“Dako gid ang akon pagpapasalamat sang sini nga bulig para sa mga pumuloyo sang akon Barangay. Sa amo sini nga paagi napabatyang naton sa ila ng asa tunga sang mabudlay nga kahimtangan bangod sa El Niño may nag pa lab-ot sang bulig. Bilang Kapitan, personally, daw “nagabutan ang akon dughan sang tunok” bangod nabuhinan ang akon problema kon paano mahatagan sang” bulig ang akon pumuloyo. Sa liwat madamu gid nga salamat SAO and sa Mission Alliance.” (It is with great appreciation that help came to my community. Through this we let them feel that in the midst of difficult experiences due to El Niño a blessing came. As a village Chief, personally, it is a great relief on my part {like a feeling that a “thorn from my heart was pulled out”} because it lessens our burden on how to provide relief assistance to our constituents. Again, a big thanks to SAO and Mission Alliance.)

- Efren dela Cruz, Punong Barangay, Brgy. Carmelo

I am happy to be part of the relief operation of SAO and Mission Alliance. It was a heartwarming feeling being the one who gives. Before, we used to be recipients or the receiver of goods, but now I became part of the relief operation team which was a very touching experience seeing people who receive the rice pack with a big smile.”

- Jonnah Dajay, Community Volunteer

GROWING OUR COASTAL DEFENSE: THE PROMISE OF MANGROVE NURSERIES

Mangrove forests cover about 6 hectares of coastal area in Barangay Alacaygan and Zona Sur. Each year, various mangrove varieties produce thousands of seeds that scatter along the shoreline, sprouting into seedlings within weeks.

For years, these seeds, sprouting into seedlings within weeks, went unnoticed - an unutilized bounty. That is, until project CHAMP arrived, planting seeds of a different kind in the minds of the local community.

Through a series of advocacy building, training sessions, and Information and Education Campaigns, CHAMP opened the eyes of community groups to the potential lying at their feet. Suddenly, what was once overlooked became a source of opportunity.

Inspired by this newfound knowledge, five community groups took action, establishing their own mangrove nurseries. One group's initiative has already borne fruit, as they've begun earning income by selling these precious seedlings.

But nature had a challenge in store. The El Niño phenomenon brought a dry spell, its extreme heat threatening the fledgling nurseries. Many seedlings withered under the harsh conditions. Yet, the community's spirit remained unbroken. With determination, they continued collecting newly sprouted seeds, replacing those lost to the heat.



As part of Tourism Week Celebration, Share an Opportunity Philippines and the Local Government Unit of Banate, Iloilo organized a mangrove planting activity. The Barangay Zone Sur Savings and Mangrove Nursery Group sold 500 mangrove seedlings at PHP 10 each. Their perseverance paid off.

The future looks even brighter. Recognizing the potential of this community initiative, the Local Government Unit of

Banate has allocated a half-hectare coastal area for mangrove nursery development. Now, the community groups are eagerly preparing to sign a Memorandum of Agreement with the LGU, ready to manage this new, larger nursery.

From unutilized treasures to community wealth, the story of these mangrove nurseries is one of discovery, resilience, and growth. It stands as a powerful reminder of what can be achieved when communities are empowered to see and harness the potential in their own backyards.



LIBERTAD CHAMP SAVINGS GROUP

“SAAN AABOT ANG 10 PESOS MO?”

(How far can your 10 pesos go?)

A couple of cigarettes, sticks of instant coffee, pang piso-wifi, candies or pieces of bread were common responses from community folks. At first, 10 pesos seemed insignificant to most members of the community group (CG).



However, after introducing the Rapid Savings Mobilization Technique (RSMT), CG members realized that 10 pesos, when combined, could add up to a considerable amount to start group-managed economic activities.

Libertad Champ, a CG organized by Project Champ in February 2023, started with 25 members saving 200 pesos monthly. By November 2023, they began a micro-finance activity with 55,000 pesos as initial capital. Eighteen members received 3,000-peso loans at 3% interest, payable in 3 months.

As of June 2024, Libertad Champ has grown to 90,000 pesos in microfinance capital. They now offer 5,000-peso loans (Window 2) and have organized another group with 30 members to expand their microfinance program.



This success didn't come easily. The group faced challenges like skepticism from others and a lack of accounting and bookkeeping skills. However, the leaders remained patient and worked to learn how to manage the project effectively.

CULTIVATING RESILIENCE: JONNAH DAJAY'S JOURNEY WITH SAO'S PROJECT CHAMP

In Brgy. Carmelo, Banate, Iloilo, lives Jonnah Dajay, a 44-year-old Barangay Kagawad whose dedication has transformed both her life and her community. Her journey with SAO's Project CHAMP demonstrates how grassroots initiatives can advance disaster preparedness and sustainable farming.

The Beginning

In 2021, Jonnah discovered Project CHAMP during one of their activities in Brgy. Carmelo. Her decision to participate would lead to unexpected positive changes in her life.

Community Service

Jonnah quickly became an enthusiastic volunteer in Project CHAMP's initiatives. Through the program, she gained valuable knowledge in child protection and disaster risk management, skills that would benefit her entire community.

Cultivating Success

But perhaps one of the most remarkable outcomes of Jonnah's involvement with Project CHAMP is the transformation of her family's livelihood. Jonnah and her husband are full-time farmers, relying on their crops for sustenance and income. While they were experienced in farming, their skills received a significant boost when the Department of Agriculture in Banate partnered with Project CHAMP to conduct a workshop on efficient agricultural practices.

The workshop brought together local farmers, creating a platform for knowledge exchange and skills enhancement. It was here that Jonnah and her husband learned about advanced strategies for planting vegetables and crops on their land. Armed with this newfound wisdom, they embarked on a journey to establish their sustainable garden, lovingly named "J and J Vegetable Garden."



Model Garden

Today, J and J Vegetable Garden flourishes with diverse crops including eggplants, bitter gourds, and string beans. Their sustainable farming methods provide steady income while promoting healthy eating in their community. The Department of Agriculture has recognized their garden as a model of sustainability, bringing pride to both the couple and Banate municipality.

A Grateful Heart

When asked about her journey with SAO's Project CHAMP, Jonnah Dajay beams with gratitude. She acknowledges the

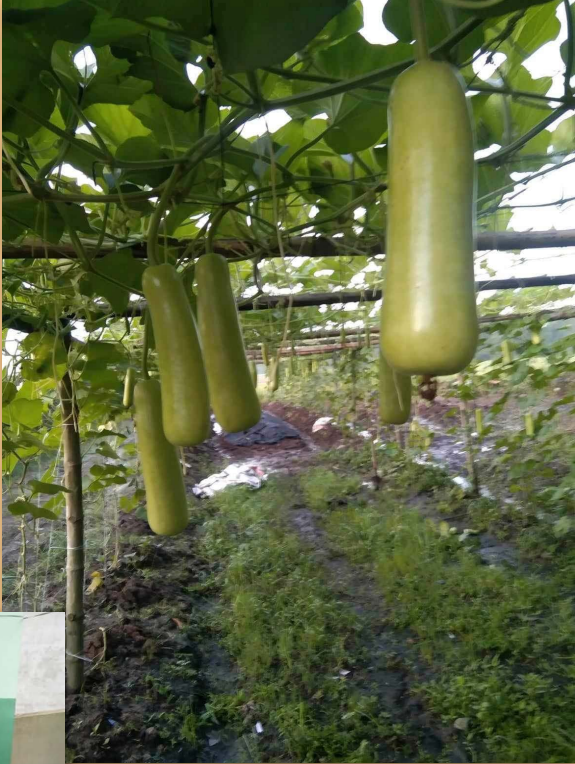


profound impact the project has had on her life and the lives of those in her community. Through the training and experiences offered by the organization, Jonnah's knowledge and skills have grown significantly, empowering her to make meaningful changes in her barangay.

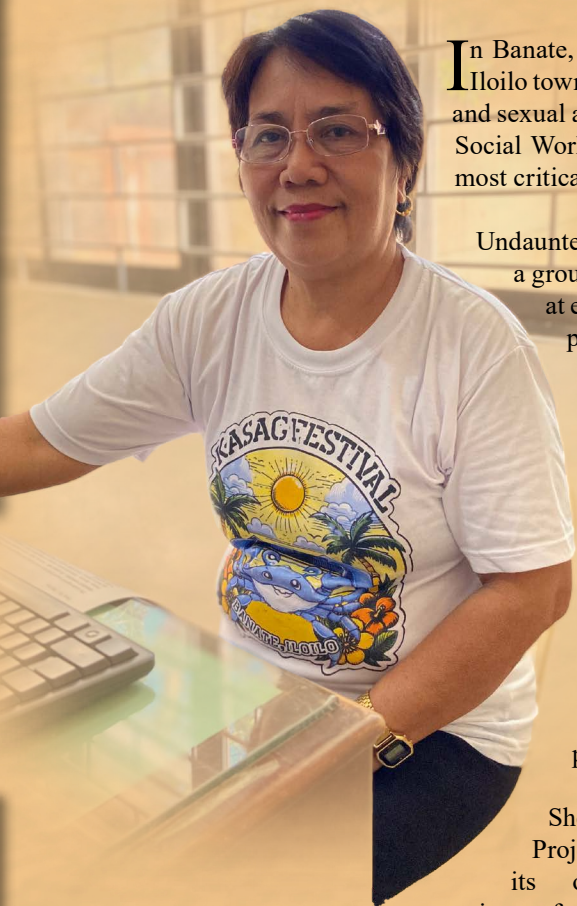
For Jonnah, Project CHAMP is more than just an initiative—it's a lifeline and a catalyst for positive change. Her journey exemplifies the transformative power of community-driven projects that prioritize education, resilience, and sustainability.

As we leave Jonnah Dajay and her flourishing vegetable garden behind, we are reminded that change is not an abstract concept but a tangible reality, achievable through the dedication and collective efforts of individuals like her. Her story serves as an inspiration, inviting us all to reflect on our potential to make a difference in the world, one small garden at a time.

By: Janbeth Alindog



TRANSFORMING BANATE WITH PURPOSE AND IMPACT



In Banate, Iloilo, Project CHAMP has been driving positive change for four years. This northern Iloilo town faces several challenges, including increasing number of out-of-school youth, child labor, and sexual abuse. Mrs. Herminia Sontillanosa, the dedicated Social Worker Officer 3 at the Municipal Social Worker Development Office (MSWDO), identifies abuse against women and children as the most critical issue.

Undaunted by the magnitude of the issue, the MSWDO, under Mrs. Sontillanosa's leadership, signed a groundbreaking resolution to establish Violence Against Women and Children (VAWC) desks at every barangay. This strategic move is a testament to Banate's commitment to ensuring the protection of its most vulnerable members, offering them safe havens to report incidents of abuse.

Mrs. Sontillanosa, a fervent supporter of Project CHAMP, witnessed its profound impact on the five barangays it serves: Libertad, Zona Sur, Carmelo, Alacaygan, and Belen. One of the program's key triumphs is the seamless connection it forged with the community, overcoming the financial constraints faced by the local government unit (LGU).

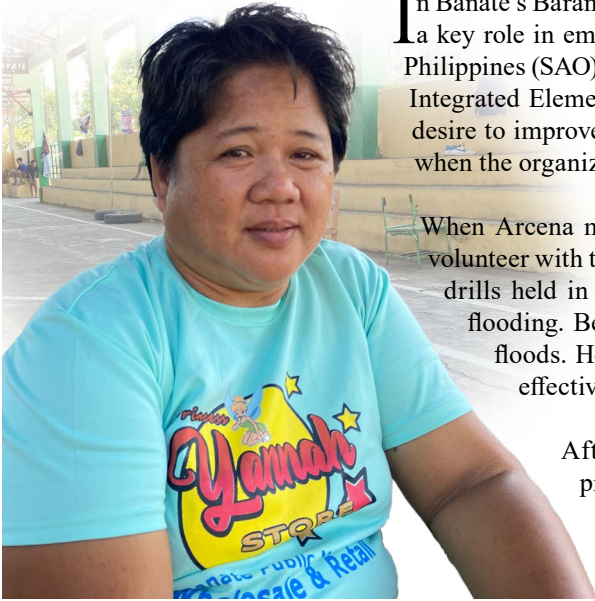
Expressing her gratitude, Mrs. Sontillanosa applauds Project CHAMP for its pivotal role in promoting the protection and empowerment of women and children. Despite the LGU's limited budget, Project CHAMP became the driving force behind initiatives that resonated with the community. She particularly commends the Batang Listo program, a developmental initiative tailored for the youth, as a shining example of the program's positive influence on the younger generation.

She commends SAO Project CHAMP for its outstanding work in safeguarding Banate's women and children. The program not only addresses current problems but also builds the foundation for a stronger, more secure community. Through this collaboration, Project CHAMP demonstrates how partnerships can create lasting positive change in Banate, Iloilo.

By: Janbeth G. Alindog



EMPOWERING LIBERTAD: ARCENA BAGOLCOL'S JOURNEY WITH SAO'S PROJECT CHAMP



In Banate's Barangay Libertad, Arcena Bagolcol, a 48-year-old barangay health worker, has played a key role in empowering the community through her involvement with Share an Opportunity, Philippines (SAO). In addition to her healthcare duties, Arcena runs a food cart in front of Libertad Integrated Elementary School. Her involvement with SAO didn't start with business but with a desire to improve her community. Arcena's journey with SAO's Project CHAMP began in 2020 when the organization arrived in her barangay.

When Arcena met Mr. Gaudencio Boko, Project CHAMP's team leader, he motivated her to volunteer with the organization. Among the activities, she especially valued the flood evacuation drills held in her neighborhood since she lives near a river, making her area vulnerable to flooding. Before Project CHAMP, she and her neighbors had little idea how to respond to floods. However, the drills gave them vital knowledge and skills to prepare and respond effectively to disasters.

After experiencing the impacts of natural disasters, Arcena and her family have taken proactive steps to prepare for future events by packing an emergency "go bag". This has fostered a sense of security and readiness within her community. In addition to disaster preparedness, SAO's initiatives have included educational programs on child protection and women's rights. Arcena has actively participated in these programs, gaining knowledge that she shares with her community.

The project also established a savings group in their community. Through a loan from this group, Arcena improved her food cart business, strengthening her financial position.

Arcena expresses deep gratitude for SAO's impact on both her life and her community. She credits SAO's financial education programs with helping community members better manage their money and achieve greater financial independence.

Beyond practical benefits, Arcena values how the program has fostered empowerment and unity in her community. She eagerly shares SAO's success stories with her neighbors, emphasizing how it has transformed their lives.

By: Janbeth Alindog





FROM A SPARK TO A FLAME:

CHILD ABUSE PREVENTION AND INTERVENTION
NETWORK (CAPIN) PROJECT

From 2020 to 2023, SAO Philippines implemented the CAPIN Project in partnership with the Consuelo Foundation across three municipalities: Lemery, San Dionisio, and Concepcion. The project's primary objective was to promote, establish, and strengthen child-friendly, child-sensitive structures to prevent abuse and exploitation. Through consistent engagement and collaboration with stakeholders, the spark that was started by the grace of God has been set to a flame, illuminating minds and hearts of individuals, families, and the community as a whole to work together to ensure children are protected.

The project key achievements are:

1. Created a network of trained duty bearers
2. Implemented best practices for child-friendly systems
3. Improved processes for managing child protection cases, issues, and concerns

A significant outcome of the project was its influence on local government policy. As a result, CAPIN budget allocations were incorporated into the Annual Investment Plans of all three participating municipalities.

This fiscal year, SAO focused on providing post-project support to maximize project gains and ensure proper functioning of key structures and systems already put in place. Key focus areas included:

1. Aligning CAPIN, and Local Council for the Protection of Children (LCPC) by establishing a Child Protection Center (CPC) that will serve as their hub, a common ground for their mandated tasks. A visioning & planning workshop kickstarted the aspiration.
2. Creating CPC Manual of Operation
 - Develop guidelines for CAPIN members
 - Activities include: a) Manual writeshop b) Monthly consultations c) Simulation exercises d) Manual finalization e) Printing

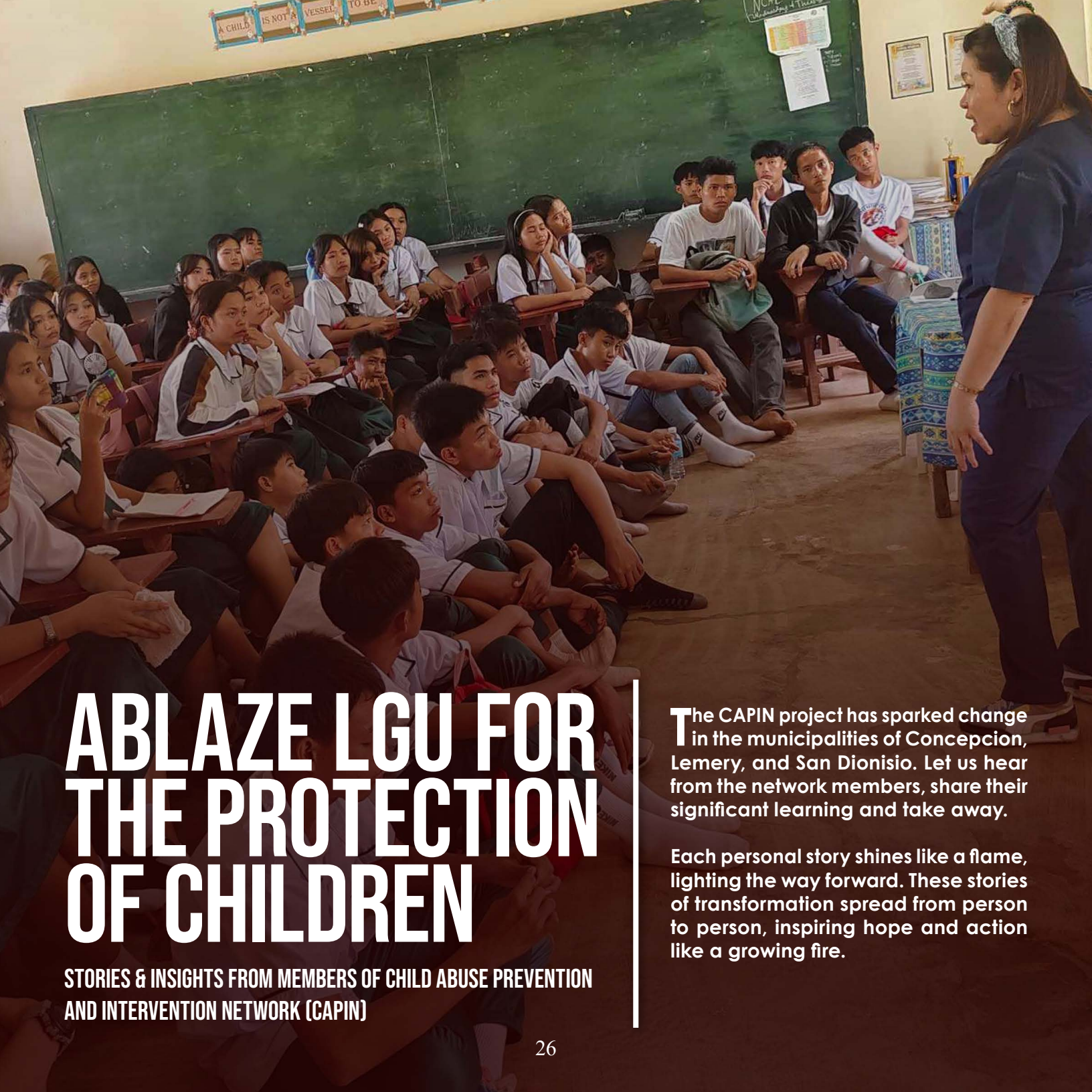


3. BCPC Coaching by Advocacy and Core Team
 - Train new BCPC members
 - Conduct BCPC Self-Assessment Workshops
 - Use results to improve and plan interventions
4. Establishing Regular CAPIN Meetings
 - Schedule inter- and intra-CAPIN meetings
 - Led by MSWD, supported by local CAPIN fund
 - Coordinate with LCPC in respective municipalities



SAO celebrates both significant achievements and modest progress in safeguarding children within these communities. We aspire to see such initiatives spark positive change across the entire region. While the CAPIN project in the three municipalities has officially concluded, its impact endures. The project's influence continues to shape the lives of those who participated, creating lasting change that will benefit both present and future generations of children. This is apparent in the stories that follow. The voices of various stakeholders who have grown in their understanding and commitment to the protection and welfare of children in their midst.





ABLAZE LGU FOR THE PROTECTION OF CHILDREN

STORIES & INSIGHTS FROM MEMBERS OF CHILD ABUSE PREVENTION
AND INTERVENTION NETWORK (CAPIN)

The CAPIN project has sparked change in the municipalities of Concepcion, Lemery, and San Dionisio. Let us hear from the network members, share their significant learning and take away.

Each personal story shines like a flame, lighting the way forward. These stories of transformation spread from person to person, inspiring hope and action like a growing fire.

I am Liza A. Sobrevega, a Master Teacher I and Guidance Designate at Lemery National High School. In my role, I've encountered many student issues, some leading to dropouts or even suicide attempts. Initially, I lacked the training to handle these cases effectively.

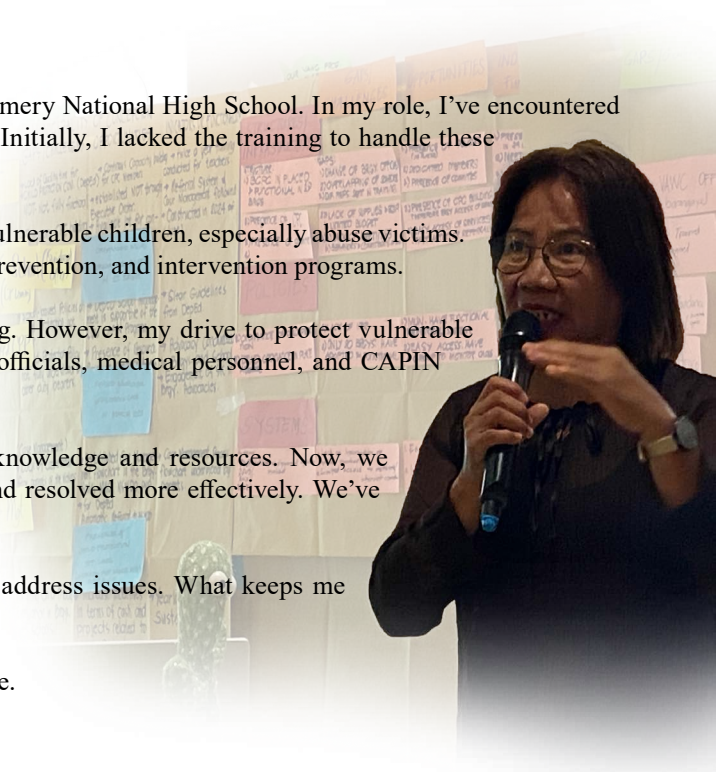
Joining the CAPIN Program changed this. It equipped me to better support vulnerable children, especially abuse victims. I learned proper referral protocols and how to implement child protection, prevention, and intervention programs.

Balancing my teaching duties with CAPIN responsibilities was challenging. However, my drive to protect vulnerable young minds kept me going. The support from MSWD, police, barangay officials, medical personnel, and CAPIN supervisors was crucial.

Before CAPIN, handling child abuse cases was difficult due to lack of knowledge and resources. Now, we have proper coordination with relevant agencies, and cases are reported and resolved more effectively. We've implemented a child protection policy and advocacy program in our school.

The new Child Protection Center is significant, providing a safe space to address issues. What keeps me motivated is the joy of serving and protecting children in our community.

I remain committed to this cause, seeing it as my way of making a difference.



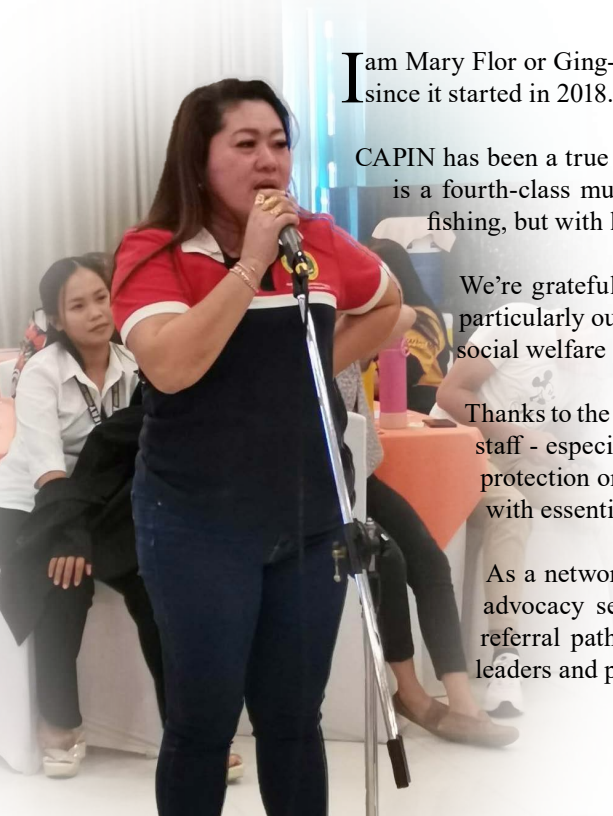
I am Mary Flor or Ging-ging to friends and colleagues. I am a nurse and have been a member of the network since it started in 2018.

CAPIN has been a true blessing for us in San Dionisio. Our beloved municipality, located in northern Iloilo, is a fourth-class municipality comprising 29 barangays. Our economy primarily relies on farming and fishing, but with limited resources, we struggle to meet the needs of our less fortunate constituents.

We're grateful for CAPIN's arrival, which has initiated, guided, and empowered San Dionisians, particularly our local government leaders and staff in crucial departments such as health, education, social welfare and development, the Philippine National Police, and youth services.

Thanks to the passion and determination of Consuelo Foundation, SAO Philippines, and their tireless staff - especially Miss Roj, our focal person - we've strengthened our policies, including the child protection ordinance from barangay to municipal levels. The project has equipped dedicated staff with essential skills like counseling, fostering compassion and quick response to those in need.

As a network member, my nursing skills have been enhanced. I've been empowered to conduct advocacy sessions for students, youth, and parents/caregivers on children's rights and proper referral pathways. We've learned prevention strategies that will serve as our legacy for future leaders and professionals in our municipality.



One of our proudest achievements is establishing the Child Protection Center, which handles cases involving women and children while ensuring confidentiality.

A simple “thank you” isn’t enough for all the help our town received. To show my gratitude, I’m committed to keeping these programs going through talks, seminars, and community meetings.

As the saying goes, “If you can’t do great things, do small things in a great way.” I’ll start at home and extend to the community, striving to be an instrument of peace and love.

Police officer Gerame Bonito from San Dionisio says the best part of being in CAPIN is the helpful training. “The training has been invaluable,” she says. “It has made my job so much easier.”

However, challenges still exist. “As a police officer, one of my roles is advocating for child protection in the community. This presents challenges, like requesting favors from others to benefit my clients and missing family events due to the demanding nature of the work,” Bonito admitted. “I overcome this by remembering that it’s part of my duty and responsibility, and I find joy in helping others.”

Before CAPIN, officers still performed their duties, but the free and accessible training has been a game-changer. “Our job is easier now because we have a Child Protection Center (CPC) where abuse victims can undergo medico-legal examinations, and the Multi-Disciplinary Team (MDT) can convene,” she explained.

Bonito finds deep satisfaction in her work. “Because of CAPIN, we can serve our clients better and provide them with more support,” she shared. “I continue doing what I do not just because it’s my job, but because I know I can make a difference, especially for children.”



Police Senior Master Sergeant Gerame Bonito
WCPD (Women and Children Protection Desk) officer
Municipality of San Dionisio

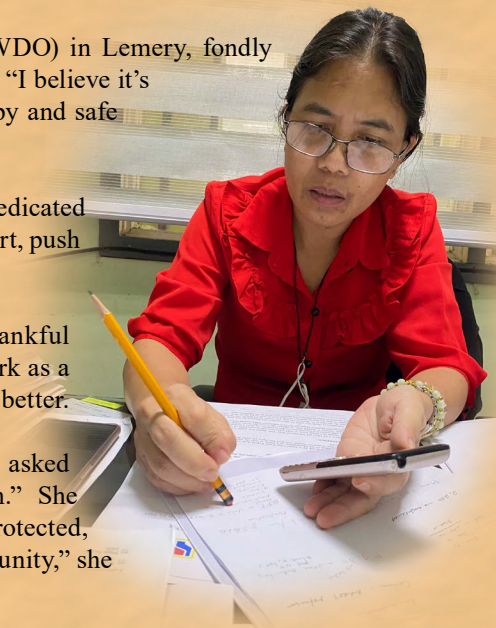
Cerlita Javellana, head of the Municipal Social Welfare and Development Office (MSWDO) in Lemery, fondly recalls her early days as a Social Welfare Officer during CAPIN's initial baseline study. "I believe it's my calling," she says, reflecting on her journey. "One of my biggest passions is seeing happy and safe children in our community. CAPIN's arrival came at the perfect time."

Cerlita, a newly appointed MSWDO head when CAPIN began, believes strongly in having a dedicated champion to advocate for programs like CAPIN. "We need someone who will lobby for support, push for our cause, and be a voice for children," she emphasizes.

Even though it wasn't always easy, her dedication to helping children kept her going. She's thankful for the training and support CAPIN provided, which brought different groups together to work as a team. This teamwork, along with help from the local council, has allowed them to do their jobs better.

Cerlita is particularly grateful for the establishment of the Child Protection Center. When asked what fuels her passion for child protection, she answers without hesitation, "It is my mission." She firmly believes in creating a community where families are strong, children are safe and protected, and everyone has the opportunity to thrive. "A peaceful community is a child-friendly community," she affirms.

She promises to continue advocating for children, supporting the project, and working closely with other towns, especially by sharing what's worked well for them. "I will keep going," she declares, "because I know that as long as it's in God's plan, help will always find its way."



Rubinie V. Paciente serves as the Women and Children Protection Desk (WCPD) officer in the Municipality of Lemery. She is an active member of CAPIN (Child Abuse Prevention and Intervention Network) and part of the Multi-Disciplinary Team.

Most significant learning

"As a WCPD officer, my primary focus has always been on protecting women and children from all forms of abuse. However, through CAPIN, I've been able to strengthen my capabilities and skills in handling abuse cases. The training has made me more resilient in facing the various changes and challenges that come with different types of cases I encounter."

Challenges & motivation

When asked about the challenges she faces as a child protection advocate and what keeps her going, Paciente elaborated:

"One of the major challenges is the limited financial support for our clientele. Government resources are often insufficient, which can discourage victims from pursuing their cases, despite encouragement from our child protection team."



While every municipality has a social worker, there isn't one dedicated solely to women and child protection. This becomes problematic during night rescue operations or cases requiring immediate response. I suggest the government provide us with a dedicated social worker to improve our response times.

As a mother and wife with my own medical issues, it's challenging to separate personal problems from work. However, I believe that my love for both my work and family helps me perform my job effectively. Prayer and trust in God are also crucial in overcoming these challenges.

CAPIN's various training seminars have significantly broadened my understanding of child protection and inspired me to do more for the community I serve."

Rubinie noted several **positive changes after CAPIN's implementation:**

- Increased confidence in presentations and handling abuse cases
- Guidance on proper protocols for dealing with abused children
- Assistance in establishing a municipal Child Protection Policy
- Creation of a Child Protection Center, which has been instrumental in helping abuse victims

Looking ahead, Paciente plans to conduct advocacy sessions in high schools on RA 11648 (the amended law of RA 8353 and RA 7610) due to the growing number of statutory rape cases among children.

Reflecting on her 20-year career as a WCPD officer, Rubinie stated: "What keeps me going is my love for protecting children and women. While I may not have received major recognition, I feel accomplished, satisfied, and proud after filing each case. As a mother of two daughters, I cannot ignore crimes against children. I hope CAPIN will extend its training to all female personnel in the PNP service to show them the beauty and importance of our work."





Gloria Franco, newly appointed Municipal Social Welfare and Development Officer (MSWDO) of Concepcion, reflects on her transformative experience with CAPIN (Child Abuse Prevention and Intervention Network).

For Gloria, the most significant learning was understanding her crucial role as a Local Social Worker in managing child abuse cases. She learned that intervention is required from the beginning and for as long as necessary to monitor, supervise, and follow up on child safety.

“As an implementor of the program,” Gloria shares, “I need to assess families at all stages, advocate for and develop plans to improve clients’ well-being in all aspects.” She emphasizes the importance of coordination with government and non-government agencies to protect needy, less privileged children and families.

When asked about her motivation to continue as a child protection advocate despite challenges, Gloria responds passionately, “Children are one of the vulnerable sectors in society. Strengthening child protection through advocacy campaigns is crucial. It enables our children to express their wishes and feelings, empowering them to uphold their human rights.”

Gloria acknowledges the challenges in implementing child protection programs. These include poor cooperation between government agencies, lack of budget resources, insufficient community care, inadequate child facilities, limited access to victims, and persistent violence against children. She also notes the limited capacities of some duty bearers and insufficient monitoring of programs.

To overcome these obstacles, Gloria emphasizes the need for awareness training of service providers to enhance their knowledge and skills in handling child abuse victims. “Collaboration is key,” she states, highlighting the importance of different agencies working together and strengthening multi-disciplinary teams.

As the CAPIN project progressed, Gloria observed positive changes. The municipality implemented child-friendly policies, including Municipal Ordinance No. 2011-05 establishing VAWC desks in all barangays, Executive Order No. 20 reconstituting the Municipal Committee on Anti-Trafficking and Violence Against Women and Children, and Municipal Ordinance No. 2023-03 updating the Children’s Code.

The Local Government Unit (LGU) also began providing child-friendly services to address and prevent Child Abuse, Neglect, and Exploitation cases.

As a newly appointed MSWDO, Gloria is committed to continuing CAPIN’s work. Her passion for serving as a social worker has intensified, and she pledges to uphold her commitment as a champion for children. “I will do my very best,” Gloria affirms, “to make a difference by recognizing and safeguarding all children and their rights in our community.”





COLLABORATIONS



TANGLAD PROJECT: FUELING CAPACITY BY PROVIDING LOGISTICAL SUPPORT

Share an Opportunity Philippines turned over a motorcycle with a sidecar to Kausahan Magtanum Et Tanglad sa Mindoro (KMTM) in June 2024. This marks a significant step in empowering the Mangyan families of Bulalacao, Oriental Mindoro. The provision of this motorcycle was made possible through SAO's partnership with the Australian Embassy.

The motorcycle will greatly enhance the transportation of their goods, including lemongrass (tanglad) products, purple yam (ube), and bananas. Additionally, it will contribute to the community's health and well-being by improving access to essential services and markets.

KMTM has set guidelines for the motorcycle's proper use, ensuring it serves the organization's needs effectively and responsibly. This proactive approach ensures proper stewardship of the vehicle to maximize its benefit to the community.

Simultaneously, KMTM is pursuing accreditation with the Food and Drug Administration (FDA). This crucial step will enhance their ability to market products and comply with regulatory standards. FDA accreditation is vital for expanding KMTM's market reach and formalizing their business operations, potentially opening doors to new opportunities and partnerships.



TANGLAD PROJECT



Malaking benepisyo po nitong motorcycle sa amin, sa kalusugan at pag-transport ng aming mga kalakal gaya ng ube, saging at iba pa.

Buong puso po kaming nagpapasalamat sa lahat ng walang sawang nagbibigay ng tulong sa aming grupo.

Pastor Hekoy Epper
KAUSAHAN MANUGTANUM ET TANGLAD SA MINDORO (KMTM)

[f](#) [@/ShareAnOpportunityPH](#)

[This motorcycle is a great benefit to us, for our health and for transporting our goods such as purple yam, bananas, and others. We wholeheartedly thank all those who tirelessly provide help to our group.]



Though the pilot project “Empowering Mangyan Families through Tanglad Planting, Processing & Distribution” officially ended last March 2023, SAO continues to find ways to fan the flame and fuel the capacity of KMTM as a community based organization.





De La Salle University students, in collaboration with Share An Opportunity Philippines, have developed an innovative approach to teaching children about emergency preparedness through Project MAGKASAPI (MAGkasamang KAunlaran SA Pag-aaral at Paglalarong Intelektwal).

The project features a specially designed board game that combines reading skills development with disaster preparedness education. This educational tool was successfully piloted among young students in Banate, Iloilo, where it received enthusiastic feedback from daycare center teachers who praised its interactive and educational content.



“The board game teaches children essential responses to various disasters such as storms, floods, earthquakes, and other calamities,” explained the project team.

The project’s innovative approach to building children’s disaster preparedness capacity through play earned it the First Place award in the 2024 Uniservitate Awards for Service-Learning in Catholic Higher Education.

The effectiveness of the tool was evident in how the children eagerly engaged with the learning materials, effectively building their resilience and disaster preparedness skills through an enjoyable, interactive experience .Daycare center teachers from Banate, Iloilo were impressed by its interactive and educational content.

SAO welcomes collaborative initiatives such as this and hopes to build on this initial partnership in the years ahead.



In February 2024, Share An Opportunity Philippines (SAO) signed a Memorandum of Agreement with the Parole and Probation Administration as part of its advocacy to help strengthen families. The goal is to create safe and enabling environments where children can grow and flourish, and contribute to their communities. This partnership signifies a commitment to enhancing the Department of Justice’s Parole and Probation Administration programs for its clients, as well as their children and families.

In June 2024, SAO further advanced this partnership by launching a parenting program for selected clients of the Quezon City Parole and Probation Office (QCPO). Titled “**SIMULAN KO! (PAMILYA: Simbolo Muli Ng Lakas Ng Komunidad)**,” this initiative aims to strengthen families, which together form the foundation of a nation. This activity marks the beginning of a series of sessions for probationers in PPO 1, 2, and 3 of Quezon City.



SAO hopes that this partnership will thrive and be sustained.





ORGANIZATIONAL HIGHLIGHTS



2024 ANNUAL STAFF CONFERENCE

The Annual Staff Conference for the year 2024 was a remarkable event held from May 27 to June 1, 2024, in Boracay, an island paradise known for its unparalleled blend of natural wonders and entertainment. The conference was made even more special by the presence of the Chairman of the Board of Share An Opportunity Philippines, Inc., who traveled to be with the staff.

This year's theme, **HOLDFAST**, was anchored to Hebrews 10:23: "Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for he who promised is faithful." The conference consisted of various activities catering to both spiritual and professional growth. On the spiritual side, staff engaged in guided personal reflection time, praise and worship sessions, theme talks, and prayer triads.

Project updates and evaluations were presented, along with general organizational updates. The conference also introduced various workshops to enhance the capacity and skills of the staff, including Technology of Participation, Module Development, and Project Development.

Creativity was not forgotten, with daily craft time allotted for activities like crochet and bamboo lamp making. To strengthen bonds and working relationships, and to have a bit of fun, team building activities were also conducted on the beach.

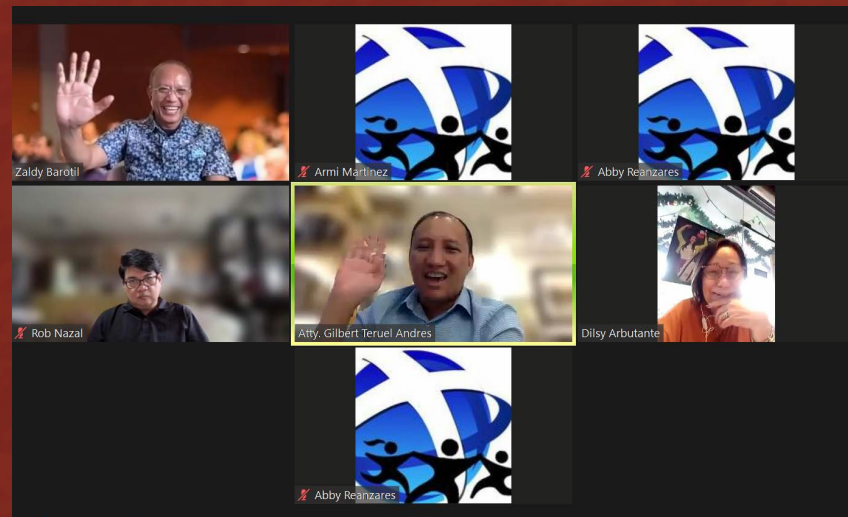
Of course, being in Boracay, one of the world's top destinations famous for its white beaches, the team didn't miss out on rediscovering its beauty! The group's island exploration began with a visit to the Lugutan Mangrove Park, followed by a trip to Newcoast. They also took a dip in the picturesque Puka Beach before ending the day with a dinner fellowship.



The dinner fellowship was a highlight of the conference for many. It wasn't just about receiving and giving gifts, but more importantly, it was an opportunity for staff to show appreciation for each other through heartfelt letters. This activity was particularly touching, making everyone feel valued and appreciated.

Overall, the conference served as a much-needed retreat for the staff. It provided time to reflect, get in touch with their spiritual source, do some grounding, and recharge. Most importantly, it allowed the team to be filled with the Holy Spirit, reinvigorating their commitment to continue with the mission for His people and to be of service to the community.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY 2023



PROSPECTS & PRAYERS

SAFE & RESILIENT CHILDREN & YOUTH

Goal (EO FY2027)

- To have child-mindful, resilience building projects in 5 areas.

Target

- 5 communities
- 1000 families
- 1250 children & youth

Key Activities

- Program evaluation and development
- Proposal making & grant seeking
- Networking & collaboration
- Staff hiring & training

CUTTING-EDGE TRANSFORMATIONAL PROGRAM

Goal (EO FY2027)

- A research-based cutting-edge transformational (CeT) program would have been designed and piloted.

Target

- 1 community
- 50 families
- 300 children & youth

Key Activities

- Conduct of research
- Program development
- Proposal making & grant seeking
- Pilot-test
- Mobilization

TRANSFORMATIVE PARTNER AND PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT

Goal (EO FY2027)

- Various resource mobilization streams such as crowd funding, public offering, farm development, partnership with like-minded organizations would have been established.

Target

- 5 project partnerships
1000 donors
- 50 General Assembly members
- 5 institutional donors
- 10M annual income

Key Activities

- Proposal making & grants seeking
- Annual fund campaign
- Maintained website & social media platforms
- Regular e-Newsletter
- Conduct of CBO Learning Exchange

SAO PH remains to look ahead and look up stepping out in faith for the Filipino children, families, and communities it serves.

RESPONSIVE GOVERNANCE

Goal (EO FY2027)

- SAO PH Board committees are functional and productive, effectively working with management.

Target

- 3 functional committees

Key Activities

- Review of the Articles of Incorporation, Constitution and By Laws and other policies
 - Renewal of relevant registrations, licenses and accreditations
- Board Development
- SAO Polomolok Farm Development
- Review of Sustainability Plan
- Learning Visits

LIFELONG LEARNING ORGANIZATION

Goal (EO FY2027)

- SAO PH would have installed mechanisms for continuous learning

Target

- SAO Training Institute 100% of new staff completed SAO Core Course

Key Activities

- Core Course manual development and implementation
- Conduct of National Staff Retreat/ Conference
- MEAL/Data Recording & management

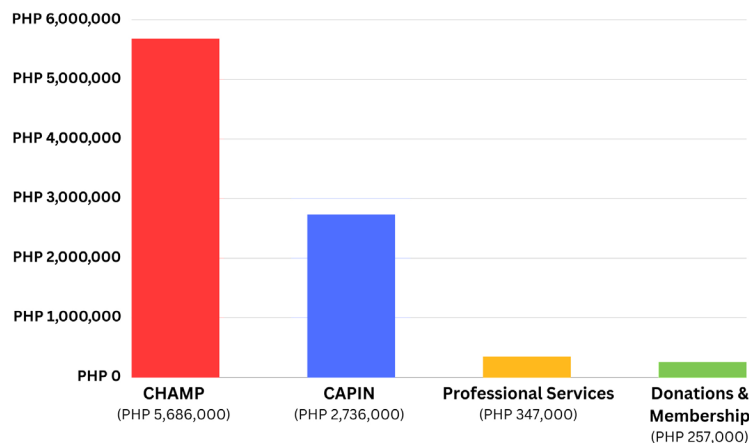
SAO’S 5-YEAR STRATEGIC DIRECTION AND PLAN (2022-2027)

FINANCIAL REPORT

F.Y. 2023-2024

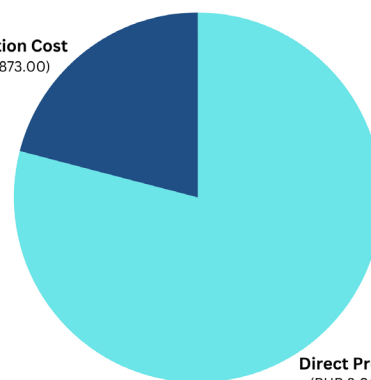
RECEIPTS

(PHP 9,026,000)



COST ALLOCATION

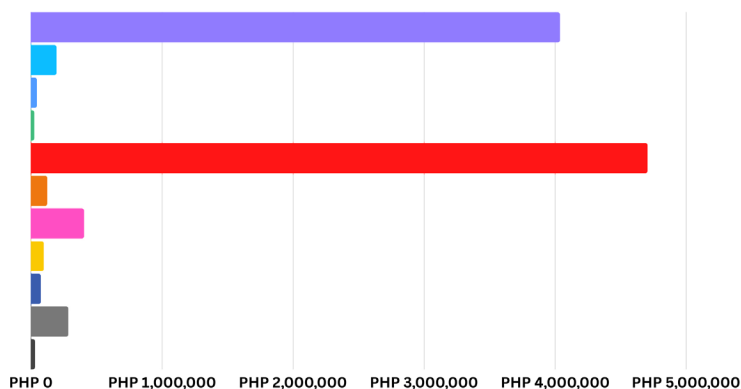
Administration Cost
(PHP 2,121,873.00)



Direct Project Cost
(PHP 8,000,651.73)

EXPENSES

(PHP 10,025,000)



- Salaries, Wages & Allowances (PHP 4,037,000)
- Travel (PHP 124,000)
- Occupancy (PHP 405,000)
- Communication, Telephone & Internet (PHP 98,000)
- Fees & Taxes (PHP 75,000)
- Depreciation Expense (PHP 31,000)
- Ministry Cost (PHP 4,705,000)
- Consultancy (PHP 285,000)
- Office & Non-Consumable Supplies (PHP 25,000)
- Lovegifts, Services & Donations (PHP 45,000)
- Training, Seminars & Workshops (PHP 195,000)

*All figures in 2024 are based on the report submitted by the finance Officer.

MEMBERS OF THE BOARD



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ZALDY V. BAROTIL
Vice President



ATTY. GILBERT T. ANDRES
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LOIDA CABREJAS
Finance Manager



JUNIPER BIBIOLATA
Program Manager



ABEGAIL REANZARES
Admin Generalist

PROJECT STAFF



GAUDENCIO BOKO JR.

Project CHAMP Staff
Community Development Worker



ROGINA CHUA

Project CAPIN Staff
Community Development Worker



EZA PACARDO

Project CHAMP Staff
Community Development Worker

ACKNOWLEDGMENT



MR. JANBETH G. ALINDOG

SAO is grateful for your dedicated work as project staff of CHAMP (Feb 2022 to June 2024). Your valuable contribution is appreciated. Wishing you all the best in your future endeavors.

ACCREDITATION



DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL WELFARE
AND DEVELOPMENT*

AFFILIATIONS



MICAH GLOBAL



PHILIPPINE CHILDREN'S
MINISTRIES NETWORK



ALLIANCE OF CHRISTIAN
DEVELOPMENT AGENCIES



TELUS INTERNATIONAL



AUSTRALIAN EMBASSY

*in the process of renewal.

Vision Statement

Generations of Filipino children nurtured to their God-given potential for nation building.

Mission Statement

We depend on God in engaging children, families and communities of partners for transformation.



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