



SOS Children's Villages Philippines



The Philippines was forecasted to be the second fastest-growing emerging market after India in the upcoming decade by Oxford Economics, however, the poverty level remains high despite its fast-growing economy. The population has a high percentage of children and young adults, with an extremely high number of abandoned and neglected children. In the Philippines, an estimated 1.8 million children are abandoned or neglected. The proportion of children living in poverty in the country is 31.4%. These same children likely suffer from the lack of access to quality education, nutrition, proper hygiene and sanitation. SOS Children's Villages has been working in the Philippines since 1967, providing support to families who are at risk of breaking down and loving care to children and young people who cannot live with their parents. Now there are in total 8 villages spreading across the country, with almost 1,000 children and young adults living under our care. In the communities, we also provide support and intervention to approximately 5,600 families.

SOS Children's Village Tacloban

- 67 children live in 10 family houses, among which 39 are girls and 28 are boys.

For the year of 2019, the children living at SOS Children's Village Tacloban received basic provisions, such as food, regular health check-ups and food supplement to ensure that they grow up healthy and strong and maintain a healthy lifestyle. At the start of the school year, children also received school uniforms, new bags, and other school essentials that they are always excited about.

In addition to the regular school attendance, extra-curriculum activities were provided as a venue for their personal development, including playing and a summer camp that can contribute to their physical and intellectual development as well as household chores that can develop their life skills and the sense of responsibility. The household chores vary from basic cooking, dishwashing,



cleaning to gardening. The children take turns every day as a form of discipline and accomplish these simple tasks depending on their capacity to perform.

Children were also given time to have home visits to their biological families/relatives, under the coordination of the local Social Welfare and Development Department (DSWD) who assesses this activity. SOS Tacloban also strengthened its partnership with DSWD by joining their training sessions and advocacy activities being a representative to the Regional Sub-Committee for Welfare of Children (RSCWC), the Area-Based Standards Network (ABSNet) and on attending capacity-building activities of Disaster Risk Reduction Management (DRRM) related to Child Safeguarding.

SOS Children's Village Cebu

- In 2019, there have been 83 children living in 11 family houses under the care of SOS Children's Village in Cebu, thanks to the support from Akelius Foundation.

The city of Cebu in the Visayas region is one of the largest cities in the Philippines. Cebu city is a well-developed industrial centre, with growing shipping, IT and tourist industry. The opportunities have attracted people in poverty to migrate to the city for a better life. However, many end up joining the thousands of urban poor and end up living in slum-like conditions. Families living in such conditions struggle constantly to provide adequate care for their children. Children are often exposed to exploitation, violence and human trafficking, and risk dropping out of school. SOS Children's Villages has been working in Cebu since 1980. We work closely with other organisations responsible for protecting the rights of children. In Cebu, we are based near Talambam, one of the areas with urban slums.

During the year, regular tutorial sessions and school visits were conducted to be able to guide the children and youth to pass and complete their education. Several developmental activities such as sports festival and life-skill training were also organized focusing on basic sewing and cooking, as well as financial literacy. Some children and youth also participated in camps conducted by other child-caring agencies. For the Digital Village project, there were 30 children and SOS mothers who completed the module on computer literacy.

SOS Children's Village Calbayog

- In 2019, SOS Children's Village Calbayog has been providing care for 67 children living in 10 family houses.

Calbayog is one of the bigger cities of Western Samar, which is also one of the poorest regions in the Philippines. Life, especially for those living in rural areas, is full of hardships. Many do not have adequate housing, live in makeshift shelters or informal settlements. Very often there is no safe drinking water or proper sanitation facilities. The mortality rate in the region is high, in part due to the prevalence of malnutrition and lack of health care. The illiteracy rate is also above the national average. Families living in these conditions struggle daily to put food on the table and look after their



children, who are often left alone at home, or forced to contribute to the family income by selling or begging. SOS Children's Villages has been working in the Calbayog since 1972, providing necessary care for children and support for their families.

Apart from regular activities in the village to provide the children with a caring and meaningful childhood, one goal for the village this year is to strengthen the safety awareness of children and personnel so that they could protect themselves and know how to react under stressful situations. Therefore, a fire safety month was arranged with a series of educational activities. The village gathered for a fire safety drill, and firefighters from the local fire safety visited the village and gave a simulation drill and lecture on fire safety. Younger children enjoyed the learning in the form of a quiz bee. SOS mothers and aunts tested to use wet blankets and a fire extinguisher to extinguish a fire. We received very positive feedback from children and personnel about the activities and the hope for similar activities in the future.

Testimonial:



It was on a sunny day three years ago when Rara, Rere, and Ruru¹ came home to SOS Children's Village in Calbayog. It was one of the happiest days of Mama Marj for she had three additional SOS sons. The challenge to provide care and proper nutrition for them were at a peak. So Mama Marj wholeheartedly received them and cared for them as if they were her own.

Rara, Rere, and Ruru were all malnourished when they first arrived, skinny and pale. Rara, the eldest, had weak hands and could barely grip a pencil or a glass of water. Rere was susceptible to cough and colds and was also malnourished and very much like his older brother. Ruru, the youngest, could hardly

stand on his own. He needed to hold onto chairs and need help from his Mama Marj to move around.

Reminiscing those days gave painful pinches in our hearts. But seeing the three of them today, going out together every afternoon to play, gives us joy and warmth. The care and nourishment of Mama Marj, their family house, and the whole village contributed a lot to this success.

Mama Marj, being the super mom she always is, can make any vegetable a nutritious dish that the children can heartily enjoy. And along with their favourite dish – chicken soup, fried eggs, and rice – the three brothers grew healthier every day. Mama would also make sure that they drink milk and

¹ Names of the children are changed to protect their privacy.



take their vitamins every day so that they get all the nutrients they need. And in the village, they got enough exercise by playing basketball and other outdoor games with their fellow SOS children.

Because of Mama Marj's care, Rara and Rere became fit enough to finally attend the school where they now both excel as young achievers. The youngest, Ruru, can now walk on his own and even run and play along with other children, even with the bigger ones. Now, Rara, Rere, and Ruru are empowered to shape their futures. Soon, they will also be part of the generation who will bring positive change to society!



Financial report

Donated by Akelius University Foundation, EUR	2019 Budget	2019 Actuals	2020 Budget
CV Tacloban, CV Cebu, CV Calbayog	399 223	399 584	368 332
Total	399 223	399 584	368 332
SEK (using exchange rate at the time of payment)	4 123 702	4 123 710	3 996 404
Average exchange rate	10,32	10,32	10,85

Total budget, Tacloban, EUR	2019 Budget	2019 Actuals	2020 Budget
Investments/maintenance	0	277	677
Current working expenditures	92 786	105 023	91 273
Personnel expenditures	156 745	157 807	174 572
Other expenditures	18 163	15 218	26 049
Total	267 694	278 324	292 570

Total budget, Calbayog, EUR	2019 Budget	2019 Actuals	2020 Budget
Investments/maintenance	0	0	0
Current working expenditures	98 836	88 362	0
Personnel expenditures	146 232	141 932	0
Other expenditures	18 690	17 084	0
Total	263 759	247 378	0

Total budget, Cebu, EUR	2019 Budget	2019 Actuals	2020 Budget
Investments/maintenance	168	352	20 805
Current working expenditures	115 537	134 527	113 453
Personnel expenditures	153 112	154 679	172 945
Other expenditures	25 230	21 177	30 361
Total	294 046	310 735	337 565